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*Cover: Captain Moroni is a good example of someone to emulate. See "Role Models," p. 24.*

*Cover photography and art: Moroni Holding the Title of Liberty by Walter Rane (front) and Paul VanDenBerghe (back)*

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# LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

BY ELDER NEIL L. ANDERSEN  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

*As you live righteously, you will find that during your lifetime your perspective will enlarge many, many times.*



*As we see through our generations, both backward and forward, we see who we are, and we see more clearly what we must become.*

**A**s a college student, I was taking a class in a large amphitheater classroom. Entering the classroom on one of those first days of the semester, I sat in the very back, far from the professor. As he began writing on the blackboard, and as those around me began taking notes, I realized that I could not see what they could see on the chalkboard. Up until that very moment I had not imagined that I needed glasses. I had not anticipated glasses in my future.

But that experience led me to the optometrist and to a pair of glasses. Suddenly my world improved immensely. I could see many things that I had not been seeing for some time. The world became much more alive for me. I remember asking myself, “Why didn’t I realize before that I needed glasses? How could I have not known that I was not seeing?”

While seeing can be a function of our eyes, we also use the word *see* to mean *understand* or *comprehend*. Have you ever asked, “Don’t you see what I mean?” And

haven’t you responded at some time, “Oh, now I see.”

As you live righteously, you will find that during your lifetime your perspective will enlarge many, many times. Usually this shift in perspective is not a dramatic one that you can see from one day to the next, but over time the advances are significant.

The most important perspective we want to gain was described beautifully by the Savior: “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

### God’s Plan for Us

Let us look more closely at His plan for us—a plan He has called “the great plan of happiness” (Alma 42:8). For this we must speak of His words to both ancient and modern prophets.

You have been who you are for a very, very long time. We are sons and daughters of heavenly parents who love us and who have sent us on a course to become more



*Three thousand years ago the Lord covenanted with a righteous man named Abraham, promising him that “in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 22:18).*

*There was a covenant made, a people established, and a promise that through this people many great things would come to pass in the latter days.*



like Them. We lived in the premortal existence prior to our coming to earth. We were taught of our Heavenly Father’s plan. We would receive a physical body; we would learn to choose good over evil. The Only Begotten Son of the Father offered Himself as the Savior of the world, allowing us a way to return to our heavenly home. We rejoiced in the plan, and we “fought for it. Many of us also made covenants with the Father concerning what we would do in mortality. In ways that have not been revealed, our actions in the spirit world influence us in mortality” (Dallin H. Oaks, “The Great Plan of Happiness,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 72).

We do not have all the answers, but it is very clear that our life is not a

coincidence—and that it is not by chance that we find ourselves here at this time in human history.

#### **Seeing More Clearly**

The Restoration scriptures explain a beautiful linking of the generations that, once understood, opens our view, and we see our lives in a more complete way.

Three thousand years ago the Lord covenanted with a righteous man named Abraham, promising him that “in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 22:18). There was a covenant made, a people established, and a promise that through this people many great things would come to pass in the latter days.

When the Savior visited the Nephites following His Resurrection, He said to them: “Ye are the children of the prophets; and ye are of the house of Israel; and ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham: And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

You and I are “children of the covenant” (see 3 Nephi 20:25–26). The Savior has declared it, and I confirm it to you. As we come to understand what it means, we see more clearly. Mortality comes more into focus. Just like putting on glasses and seeing the blackboard of our mortality, our understanding grows.

The Apostle Peter described members of the Church as “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9).

It is not by chance that we find ourselves within this holy lineage, the blood of Israel, with a promise and a destiny that through our lives and the lives of our posterity all the peoples of the earth will be blessed (see 1 Nephi 15:18; 3 Nephi 16:5–7; D&C 39:11).

When we see ourselves in the perspective of this holy family, those who came before us and those who come after us become very important to us. I heard President Gordon B. Hinckley say on more than one occasion, “I have been thinking a lot about my grandfather and grandmother. I have been thinking a lot about my father and my mother. I have been thinking just a little about myself and my dear wife. And I have been thinking a lot about my children, about my grandchildren, and about my great-grandchildren.” And then he has concluded with this phrase: “And I have been thinking a lot about this wonderful link that binds us all together” (President Hinckley speaking at Vernal, Utah, and Campinas, Brazil, temple dedications).

Now you might say, “But my parents and grandparents were not like President Hinckley’s; they were not members of the Church.” Or, “They were not faithful in the Church.” Or, as a man in Argentina who I called to be a stake president said to me: “I don’t even know who my father is.” He had been given the family name of his mother. He had not heard the name of the Church until he was 18 years old. How could he be part of this royal family?

Through miraculous circumstances—that we will one day appreciate more than we can now explain—each of us has been brought into this covenant family and we

have become children of the covenant. It is not necessary that we be able to explain every detail. Here is where we reverse “seeing is believing” to “believing is the beginning of seeing.” I confirm to you that it is not by chance that we are here and that we are who we are.

Notice in President Hinckley’s words that he looked both back through his generations—his parents, grandparents, great-grandparents—and forward through his generations—his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

This is the major point I want to make: As we see through our generations, both backward and forward, we see who we are, and we see more clearly what we must become.

If we can look back through the generations, we see those who helped us to get where we are now—those who forged the way before us, whether they were members of the Church or not. And in the restored gospel we realize even more deeply our responsibility to link them to us through the ordinances of the temple.

In a letter from the Prophet Joseph Smith to the members of the Church, we read: “These are principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over. . . . For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation, . . . they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect” (D&C 128:15; see also verse 18).

Now let’s see through our generations forward. Who will be your children and your grandchildren? Or, if by chance you do not marry, who will be those you influence in the generations ahead? What is our responsibility for those who follow us?

As we are righteous, there is a power in the priesthood that passes through us into our posterity, shaping their eternity as it shapes ours.

As you can learn to see through the generations—by looking back and by looking forward—you will see more clearly who you are and what you must become. You will better see that your place in this vast, beautiful plan of happiness is no small place. And you will come to love the Savior and depend on Him—as His great gift to us makes this all possible. Your influence will continue generation after generation throughout all eternity. **NE**

*From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University on May 16, 2006.*



BY SHELBY RAMPTON

*A student assembly as a missionary tool? The dare may not have been serious, but I took it.*

I was a little stressed out. It was seventh period, and by the end of school I had to turn in my biography, which would be read to 500 of my classmates at a prom assembly. What did other people honestly want to hear about me? I wasn't popular like everyone else selected for the honor of being on the prom court. Did anyone really care?

Suddenly, a girl named Sammy piped up, "Shelby, you're a funny guy! Just be yourself."

Then Derek chimed in, "You're always talking about your church. Why don't you say something about that?"

Jokingly I responded, "Why don't I just offer everyone a free Book of Mormon? That would be a bit different."

Everyone laughed and dared me into actually doing it.

I scribbled something down and read it to my classmates. They laughed and said they liked it. So, I turned it in.

The day of the assembly came, and I was a bit nervous. I didn't exactly hang out with the "popular crowd" on the weekends. Most of the kids on stage had been royalty on multiple occasions, and they acted like it was routine. I sat back and casually tried to fit in.

Before I knew it my senior class began filing into the auditorium. The class president took care of some class business and

then started introducing the prom court. I sat, nervous and excited, up on the stage and listened as the other biographies were read. The girls stood up one by one and were escorted by guys from the court. They walked into the aisles of the auditorium while someone continued to read their biographies as they made their way around the auditorium and back to the stage.

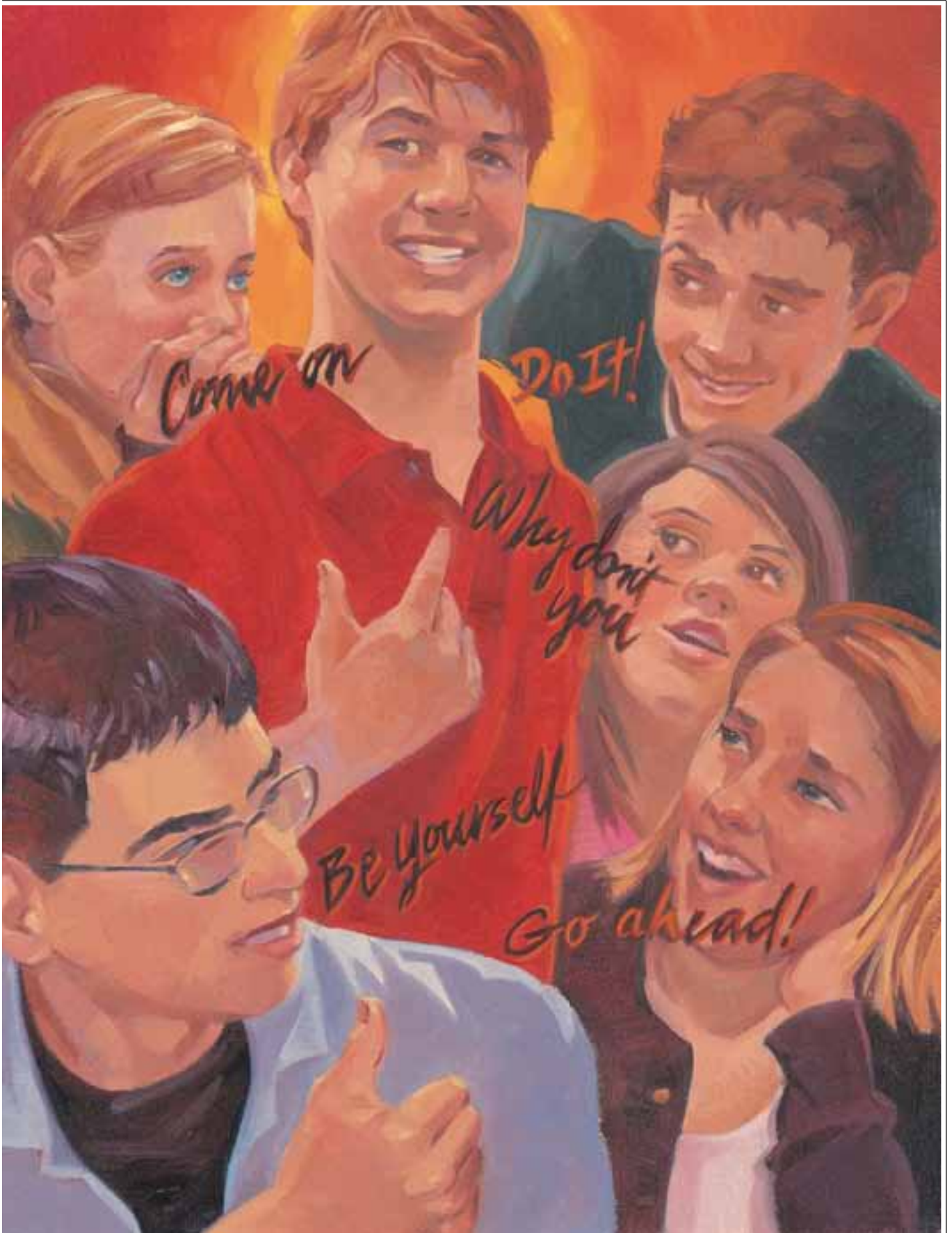
Then my turn came. I escorted a girl and headed for the aisle. I could hardly take the anticipation as I waited for them to get to the part about the Book of Mormon. How was everyone going to react? What would people say about me?

I finally heard the announcer read, "One of the most important things to him is his church. Speaking of which, if anyone would like a free copy of the Book of Mormon, feel free to call him or just ask him, and he'll be more than happy to get you a copy."

There was a slight snicker in the crowd. Some church members might have thought, "If only they knew he wasn't joking!" or maybe, "Shelby's gone a bit overboard this time." Other kids may have groaned, thinking, "There he goes again. He's always talking about his church."

There were, however, a couple of students who took notice. Three friends came up to





ILLUSTRATIONS BY DILIEN MARSH

**A**t the assembly I escorted a girl from the prom court around the auditorium while someone read the biography I'd written about myself. How was everyone going to react to my offer?

*If anyone would like a free copy of...*

me during that next week and asked if they could have a copy of the Book of Mormon. I don't know who was more surprised when I asked for three copies of the Book of Mormon—the missionaries or me. I made sure all three of my friends got a copy and offered to have the missionaries teach them. Only one of my friends, Joel, said yes.

Joel started coming over to my house a couple times a week to meet with the missionaries. It was really fun. The missionaries were such good teachers. The things they taught about—the Apostasy, the Restoration, and the Book of Mormon—just made so much sense. Joel seemed to agree.

One day the conversation moved to baptism. The missionaries turned and looked at Joel and said, "Joel, will you follow the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and be baptized by someone holding the proper priesthood authority?"

Suddenly, I couldn't breathe. My mind started racing. What in the world had I done? Missionaries were talking to my friend about baptism! What would he say or think? Would this affect our relationship forever? All I could do was sit and eagerly await his response.

Joel paused, looked at the missionaries, and said, "That's something I've been thinking about a lot. Yes. I think it's something I want to do."

I really liked what I was hearing. Joel continued to take lessons at my house and was eventually baptized.

Looking back, I wish I had been a better missionary in high school. It's so easy. All I did was randomly ask if anyone wanted a Book of Mormon. Three kids took me up on the offer, and one was baptized.

While sharing the gospel can be easy, it is also a skill. That skill will only come through prayer, scripture study, talking with more experienced members, and plain old practice. All the Lord expects of us is our best. It is His work. We need to pray for those experiences and then follow the Spirit and open our mouths when those opportunities come.

After seeing the excitement missionary work can cause, I want to share the gospel with people for the rest of my life. **NE**

# Too HOLY?

*Ian Caloobanan changed when he joined the Church. His friends noticed.*

BY R. VAL JOHNSON

Church Magazines

**Y**ou're too holy."

Twelve-year-old Ian Caloobanan was astounded at his friend's words. He didn't consider himself holy.

His friend continued, "Ever since you joined the Mormons, you've become a killjoy. You don't drink with us anymore. You don't have fun with us on Sunday. You're too holy."

The words hurt, and yet . . . what else could he do? He had been baptized and now held the Aaronic Priesthood. He had changed, and as far as Ian was concerned, he had changed for the better. But holy? Well, maybe not yet.

Ian, who lives in the Las Piñas

Philippines Stake, was baptized when he was 10. When the elders gave him the lessons, they asked him to pray to know that the Church was true. He did. "I felt happy and very light," he says. He realized later that it was the Holy Ghost bearing testimony of the truth to him.

Before he joined the Church, Ian used to drink tea with his friends. He also went to cheering practice on Sundays, preparing to lead cheers at his school's sporting events. But he stopped doing those things. Instead, he started going to church, even though he is the only one in his family who does. His father supports Ian in his Church attendance, and his stepmother, who is not a member, takes him to church and then picks him up afterward.

When asked why he comes to church when it would be easier to stay home, he says simply, "I come because I want to keep my faith strong."

"Ian is a good example of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ," his bishop says. "He faithfully comes to church, and he doesn't get upset. He has many friends here. He was excited to receive the priesthood and asked his father to buy him a white shirt so he could wear it when he passes the sacrament."

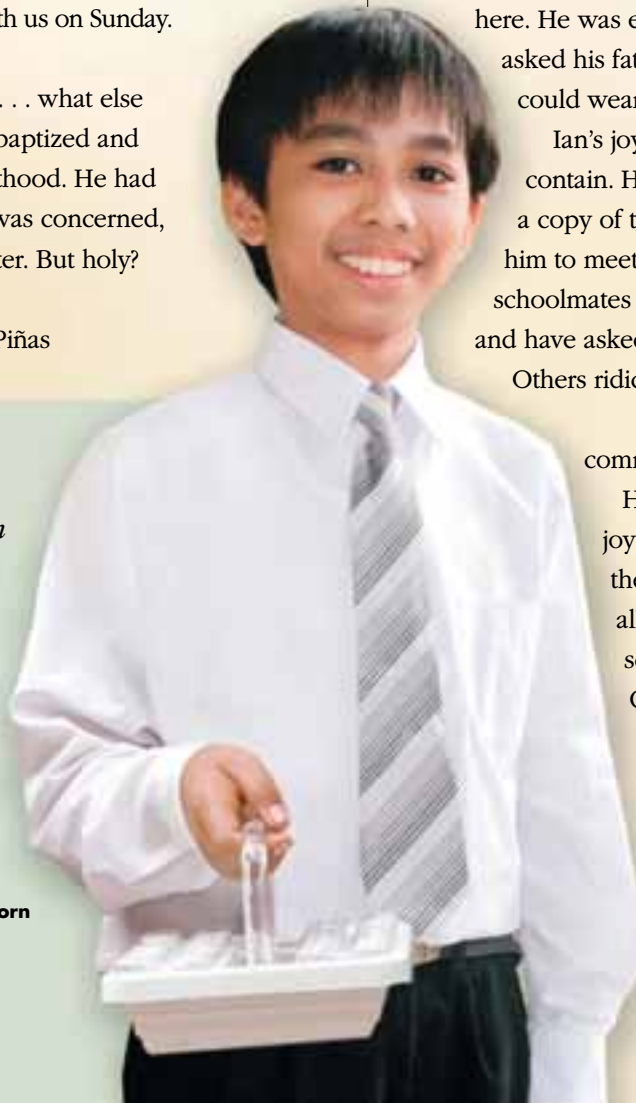
Ian's joy at finding the gospel is hard to contain. He has given one of his teachers a copy of the Book of Mormon and invited him to meet with the missionaries. Some of his schoolmates respect him for his new standards and have asked him questions about the gospel. Others ridicule him.

Ian just keeps on keeping the commandments the best he can.

Having experienced a measure of joy as well as persecution in joining the Church, Ian has wise counsel for all of us: "Keep the faith. Study the scriptures. Pray. Trust in Jesus Christ. Commit yourself to living the gospel. Change for the better."

And isn't that what Church membership is supposed to do? Help us change for the better. Help us, eventually, become what Jesus wants us to be—holy. **NE**

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWIN REDRINO



## IT STARTS WITH FAITH

*"Spiritual rebirth originates with faith in Jesus Christ, by*

*whose grace we are changed. More specifically, it is faith in Christ as the Atoning One, the Redeemer, who can cleanse from sin and make holy."*

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Born Again," *Ensign*, May 2008, 78.

# When Should I Get My PATRIARCHAL BLESSING?

BY ROBERT K WAGSTAFF

Patriarch, Springville Utah West Stake

**J**anet was 17 when she came to my home to receive her patriarchal blessing. As we talked before her blessing, I learned that she had had her bishop's recommend for a few months before she called me to make the appointment. She had waited

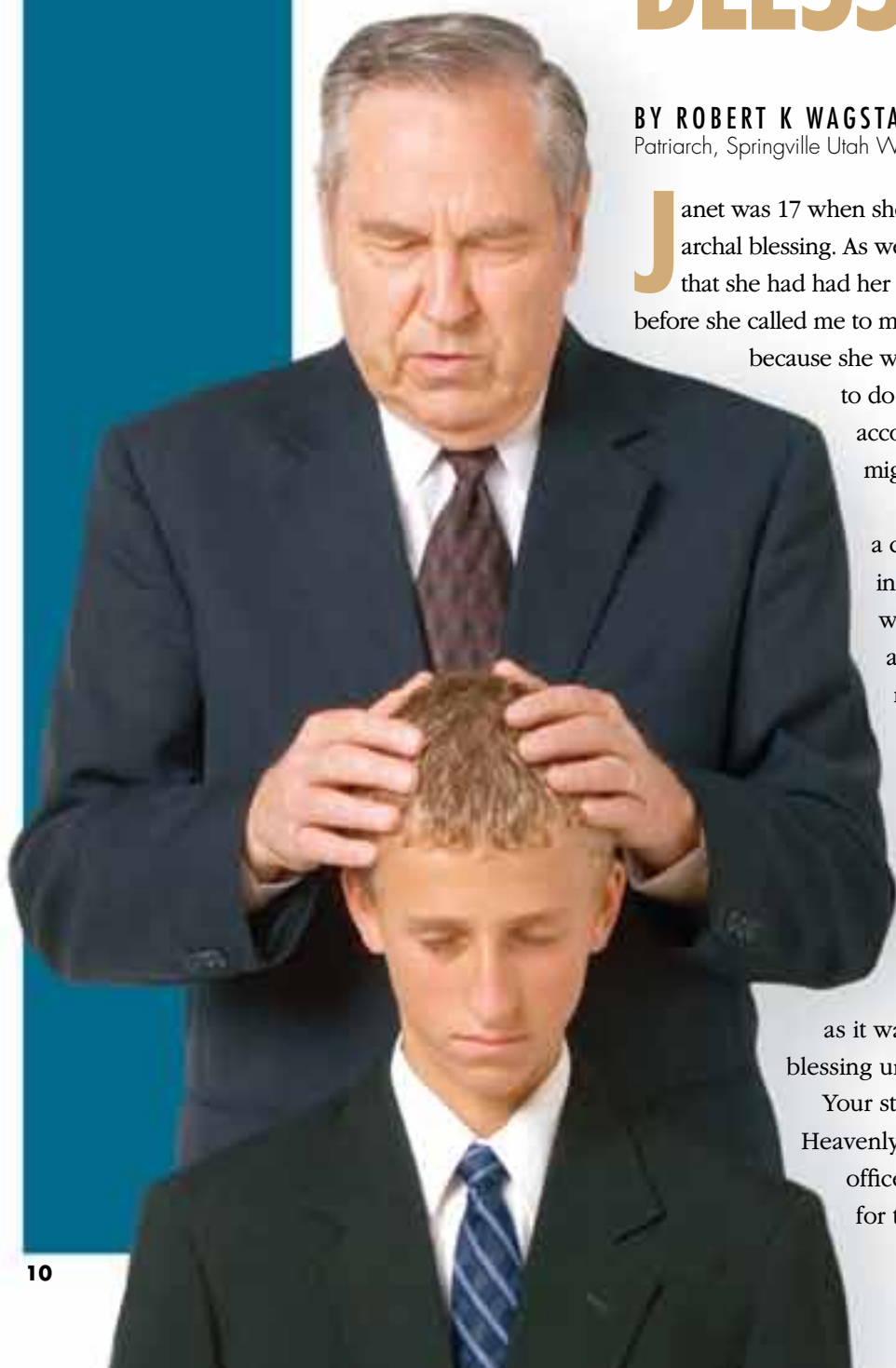
because she was afraid that her blessing would ask her to do things that would be too hard for her to accomplish. She was also worried that she might not be ready.

"A promise from Heavenly Father is not a commandment," I told her. "The promises in your blessing will be fulfilled only if you want and work for them to happen." I also assured her that as a patriarch, I would not judge her or reprimand her. I would give her a blessing.

## What Is a Patriarch?

The Prophet Joseph Smith explained, "Wherever the Church of Christ is established in the earth, there should be a Patriarch for the benefit of the posterity of the Saints, as it was with Jacob in giving his patriarchal blessing unto his sons."<sup>1</sup>

Your stake patriarch is a dedicated servant of Heavenly Father. He has been ordained to the office of patriarch and will hold that office for the rest of his life. He is usually an



older man who knows many things that you will face as you grow older.

His calling is to give blessings. He is not a counselor, so he does not counsel. He is not a bishop, so he does not judge. When he places his hands on your head to give you a blessing, Heavenly Father, through the promptings of the Holy Ghost, gives the patriarch ideas, concepts, and sometimes even specific words for you. The patriarch then includes those concepts and ideas in your blessing.

### What Is a Patriarchal Blessing?

President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) described a patriarchal blessing as a “[paragraph] from the book of your possibilities.”<sup>2</sup> As your patriarch places his hands on your head, you will find that your blessing will usually include:

***A statement of the authority of the patriarch.***

Blessings are given by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood and through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

***A declaration of lineage.*** Each member of the Church inherits spiritual blessings and responsibilities through one of the twelve tribes of Israel. By inspiration from the Spirit, the patriarch declares the tribe through



### A BLESSING AND TESTIMONY

*“A patriarchal blessing is a very unique and remarkable privilege that can come to the faithful members of the Church having sufficient maturity to understand the nature and the importance of such blessings. These privileged blessings are a powerful witness of the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ in bringing exaltation to each of us. . . . Our testimonies can be strengthened and fortified and our lives given greater purpose every time we read and reread our patriarchal blessings.”*

**President James E. Faust (1920–2007), Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Your Patriarchal Blessing,” *New Era*, Nov. 2005, 4.**

which you will receive these blessings. This lineage is not determined simply by your race or nationality. Members of the same genetic family can be from different tribes of Israel. This lineage often has to do with your responsibilities in the Lord’s kingdom. Many members of the Church are of the lineage of Ephraim, Manasseh, or Judah, which are the most common tribes of Israel at this time in our progress of preaching the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.<sup>3</sup>

***A personal blessing.*** In this portion of your blessing, you will receive inspired and prophetic statements about your life. Your blessing may also include various accomplishments to be realized, promises the Lord has for you, and admonitions and warnings to help protect you from harm or adversity. Your blessing will not include every event that will happen to you, but it will include those that you need to be especially mindful of. If fulfilling a mission is not mentioned, it does not mean that you cannot fulfill a mission. It may indicate only that fulfilling a mission is something God feels you can do without special emphasis in your patriarchal blessing.

Your blessing may be long or short. The length of your blessing is not a measure of your worthiness.

Reading your blessing is much like reading the scriptures. As you read it, new ideas about what you should do and good feelings about your life will come to you. The more you read your blessing, the more you will understand its meaning for you.

Your patriarchal blessing is a revelation given just to you. It is personal, sacred, and confidential. You should not share it just to satisfy another's curiosity. "It is given under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and should be read and interpreted under the influence of that same Spirit."<sup>4</sup>

### When Should I Get a Patriarchal Blessing?

Simply stated, the best time for you to receive a blessing is when you are ready.

Being "ready" means being emotionally as well as spiritually prepared.

This will probably be during your teenage years. This is when you start to become independent and begin to wonder about life and what will happen to you.

You will reach the point when you truly desire to have a blessing—not because your friends are getting theirs but because you desire it for yourself. This may happen when you see others do things that you know are wrong. It may happen when a friend

or relative dies. It may happen when you hear a talk in church that touches your heart. It may happen as you read the scriptures and learn more about the Savior. It may happen when you are alone and begin to feel God's love for you. It may happen as you approach the age to serve a mission, go away to college, enter military service, or marry in the temple.

### How Do I Get a Patriarchal Blessing?

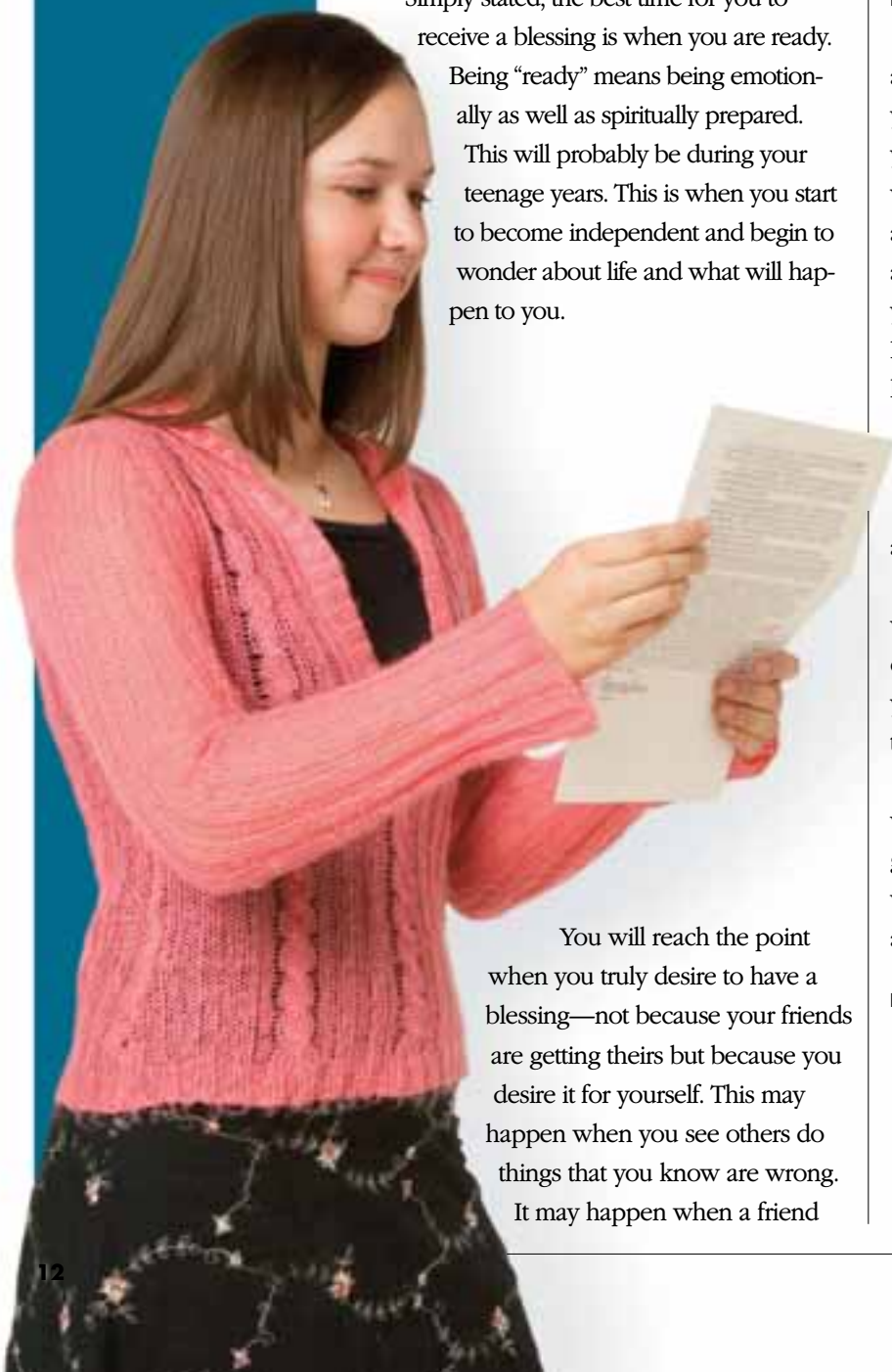
When you are ready to receive a patriarchal blessing, you will be interviewed by your bishop or branch president. He will ask you questions about your worthiness, such as whether you live the Word of Wisdom, pay a full tithe, live a morally clean life, and are an active member of the Church. However, you do not need to be perfect to be worthy. Desiring a blessing and wanting to know how you can live closer to your Heavenly Father are also as important as being worthy. You can increase your desire for a blessing by personal prayer, gospel study, and by striving to listen to the Spirit.

After you receive your blessing, the patriarch will provide you with a written copy. Keep this copy in a safe place. Do not lose it. However, if you ever need to obtain a copy, you can contact Church headquarters in Salt Lake City.

A patriarchal blessing is available to every worthy member of the Church. It is a personal gift to you from your loving Heavenly Father, who desires to enhance and guide your life and to help you return to live with Him. **NE**

### NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study, 2007), 140.
2. Karl G. Maeser, quoted in Harold B. Lee, *Stand Ye in Holy Places* (1975), 117.
3. See Dallin H. Oaks, "Patriarchal Blessings," *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Jan. 8, 2005, 8.
4. Dallin H. Oaks, "Patriarchal Blessings," 10.



# CHARITY

*Charity and Christlike love were taught and exemplified by the Prophet Joseph Smith.*

**T**hroughout his life the Prophet Joseph Smith showed his love for others in both word and deed. He performed kind acts and displayed deep compassion and warm affection for those around him, particularly those who were in need. Here are some of Joseph Smith's teachings on charity, the pure love of Christ.\*

## Our Duty to Love Others

*"Love is one of the chief characteristics of Deity, and ought to be manifested by those who aspire to be the sons of God. A man filled with the love of God, is not content with blessing his family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race."*

*"Observe charity, wisdom and fellow-feeling, with love one towards another in all things, and under all circumstances."*

*"Consider the state of the afflicted and try to alleviate their sufferings; let your bread feed the hungry, and your clothing cover the naked; . . . do good to all men . . . that you may be harmless and blameless, the sons of God without rebuke."*

## Charity Is Humble and Kind

*"Beware of self-righteousness, and be limited in the estimate of your own virtues, and not think yourselves more righteous than others; you must enlarge your souls towards each other, if you would do like Jesus."*

*"Wise men ought to have understanding enough to conquer men with kindness."*

*"When persons manifest the least kindness and love to me, O what power it has over my mind, while the opposite course has a tendency to harrow up all the harsh feelings and depress the human mind."*



\* From *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 426–28.

# “My friend has started smoking. How can I offer to help her quit without offending her?”

**Y**our friend probably knows it’s not healthy to smoke. And if she’s a member of the Church, she knows smoking is against the Word of Wisdom. So the best way to help her is not to criticize her but to encourage her to overcome the habit.

When you discuss this problem with her, let her know you are doing so because you care about her, her health, and her spiritual well-being. If you find that she wants to quit smoking, be supportive and encouraging. You may want to read *Preach My Gospel*, page 189, which gives several ideas for helping people overcome addictions.

Many investigating the Church have been able to quit smoking when they learned about the Word of Wisdom. This change came not only because of their increased motivation but also because of spiritual blessings. The Lord blessed them to lose the desire to smoke and to gain the desire to be obedient. Consider inviting your friend to fast and pray with you for this blessing. **NE**

## Ask How You Can Help



Alysha S., 13, Utah, USA

Tell her that you love and care about her. In a nice way, remind her that smoking is not healthy for the body. Tell her that you would love to help her in any way you can, and ask what you can do.

## Be an Example

When I was in high school, many of my friends started smoking. I was the only member of the Church who belonged to that group of friends. They knew that I am a member of the Church. One time they asked me why I didn’t smoke. I just smiled and humbly answered, “We know that the Bible says our body is a temple, and it is a special gift given to us. Therefore, we need to love and care for the gift given to us because it comes from God.” They responded by saying that maybe I was right and that we need to care for our bodies. I shared my testimony about the Word of Wisdom with them. If we show care for our bodies, we will be blessed with good health and knowledge. I knew because of the expressions on their faces that they believed what I had shared with them. Since that day I have seen an improvement in them. Sharing your testimony with those who struggle with smoking can help them to choose the right.

Michael T., 18, Palawan, Philippines



### Encourage Her to Pray



First, I would pray to Heavenly Father to touch her heart, to help her understand the importance of the Word of Wisdom, and to help her change. I would remind her of the adverse effects of smoking, both spiritually and physically. I would also remind her of her worth as a potential mother and that her body is the temple of God and that Heavenly Father will not be happy if she defiles it. I would encourage her to pray for help.

*Daniel C., 17, Rivers, Nigeria*

### Gain Trust



I've always thought that talking with friends about problems they are facing is the best way for them to trust you. Showing concern lets them know that you care about them and what they are going through. Once you have a better knowledge of what they're facing, you can give suggestions and offer to help. This will show your friends that someone cares enough to tell them to stop harming themselves.

*Blaine L., 18, Arizona, USA*

### Show Love

The first thing you need to do is show your love for and sincere interest in her. Once she knows that you care about her, you need to speak with her politely and humbly about her decision to start smoking. Remind her who she is and her worth as a person and the harm that smoking will bring her. You could

also quote the scripture passage that talks about the Word of Wisdom and the blessings that it brings (see D&C 89). If we avoid judging, it will be easier to reach people's hearts.

*Mariana S., 18, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

### Care for Our Bodies



A friendship is such a delicate area to impose your personal feelings and opinion on. It is even more difficult when matters of the gospel are involved. I encourage you to express your care for your friend and explain to her that smoking is unhealthy. Express that you wish no harm to come to her on the physical level; and when the moment presents itself, share your personal feelings regarding the Word of Wisdom. Heavenly Father blesses us when we take care of one of His most precious gifts to us: our bodies.

*Kent P., 21, Alberta, Canada*

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

### NEXT QUESTION

***"How should I react when I'm ridiculed for being a member of the Church and for trying to maintain my standards?"***

***Send us your answer and photo by September 15, 2009.***

***Go to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org), click Submit Your Material, and then select Questions and Answers.***

***You can also write to us at:***

***[newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:newera@ldschurch.org)***

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***Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024***

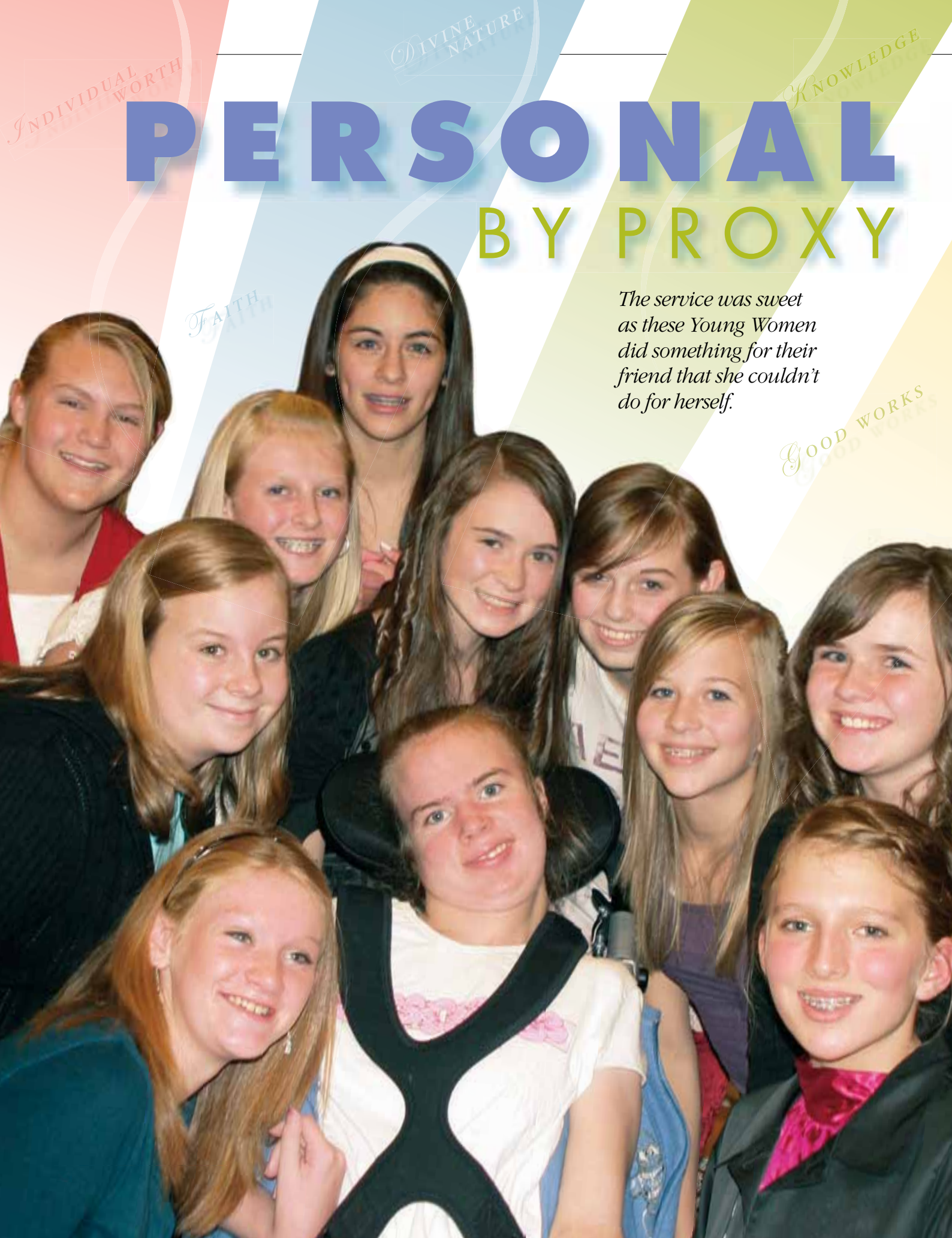
***USA***



### EXTEND A HELPING HAND

*"Many of our young people are tugged in the wrong direction and enticed to partake of the sins of the world. Yearningly such individuals seek for the strength of those who have the ability to stand firm for truth. Through righteous living and by extending the helping hand and the understanding heart, you can rescue, you can save. How great will then be your joy. How eternal will be the blessing you will have conferred."*

***President Thomas S. Monson, "An Example of the Believers," Ensign, Nov. 1992, 98.***



INDIVIDUAL WORTH

DIVINE NATURE

KNOWLEDGE

# PERSONAL BY PROXY

FAITH

*The service was sweet as these Young Women did something for their friend that she couldn't do for herself.*

GOOD WORKS

# PROGRESS

INTEGRITY

BY JANET THOMAS  
Church Magazines

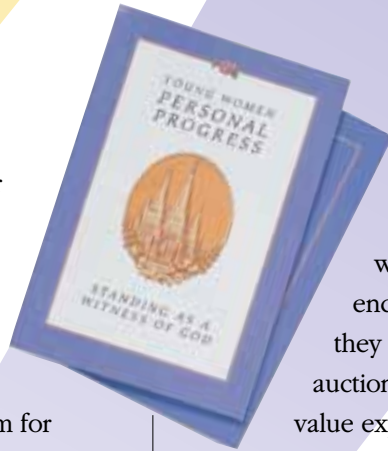
A group of young women came to the Jordan River Utah Temple to do baptisms for the dead. As they were waiting, their leader started thinking. That day they were doing baptisms by proxy for people who could not do them for themselves. She started thinking about a Laurel in her ward who, because of a terrible traffic accident, was not able to earn her Young Womanhood medallion for herself.

Could they all help? Could they do something like Personal Progress by proxy?

The leader, Suzanne Rentmeister, and the Young Women of the Praire 13th Ward in the West Jordan Utah Prairie Stake, made a plan. First they went to their bishop and stake president. After receiving an enthusiastic OK, they felt they needed to talk to Laura White, the Laurel who would be the one to receive their gift of service.

Even though Laura cannot speak, her bouyant smile answered louder than words that she loved the idea. The other girls in Young Women were asked if they wanted to participate but were told they didn't need to if they were too busy or did not feel the desire.

Every girl and every leader wanted to be involved.



## Getting Started

The Young Women leaders created a chart with all the value experiences and projects on it. Then they held something like an auction. Girls could pick which value experiences and projects they wanted to do.

"Who wants Good Works #7? Who will take Divine Nature #1?" The chart filled up as fast as they could write. Taylor Ligman, 13, remembers that Sunday. "Our leaders pulled out this chart. It was like names were everywhere. I signed up for four of the experiences."

Before things got going in high gear, they all agreed on three rules: (1) The girls could not do double duty; (2) working on the experiences they chose could not count towards fulfilling their own Personal Progress—they had to sacrifice their time; and (3) they had to keep it a secret from Laura's parents. Laura's younger sister, Amy, a Beehive, agreed that doing the project as a surprise for her parents was a fun idea.

"We were really excited," said Bailee Bloomquist, 14. "I haven't had a lot of opportunities to do much service. This was a cool experience. I had to spend 10 hours on a talent. I practiced a piece on the piano to play for the program when Laura would receive her medallion."

Alexa Pengue, 14, said, "I chose to focus on living righteously following *For the Strength of Youth* for three weeks. I just wanted to keep going." Alexa will get the chance because she did this experience for Laura and has yet to

CHOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*The Beehive class of the Praire 13th Ward surround Laura White. Even though most of these girls have not completed their own Personal Progress yet, they donated time and effort on completing experiences for Laura's benefit.*

VIRTUE



do it for her own Personal Progress.

“It feels good to do this for Laura,” said Arienna White, 13. “It makes you feel good that you’re helping someone who couldn’t do it for herself.”

“It doesn’t seem fair that we can just pass things off and get it done and Laura can’t,” said Braygan Berrett, 15. “I thought our Young Women president was totally looking out for her. The only way she could earn it was through us.”

Actually Laura was able to do one Personal Progress experience for herself. She was able to participate in family home evening and family scripture reading. Her leaders were thrilled to sign that off for her.

#### **How Do the Young Women Feel about Service?**

When the girls all volunteered to help and as they were dividing up the experiences, Sister Rentmeister said, “Laura was with us in that meeting, and she was just beaming. She lit up.”

This experience has brought all sorts of blessings to these Young Women. For example, all the other Laurels in the class wanted to receive their medallions at the same time as Laura, so they went to work and finished the requirements for their medallions.

The Mia Maids reported having some of their most spiritual experiences working on the experiences they volunteered to complete for Laura.

And the Beehive leader reports that the Beehives have been “just crazy” about service ever since. They want to do something every



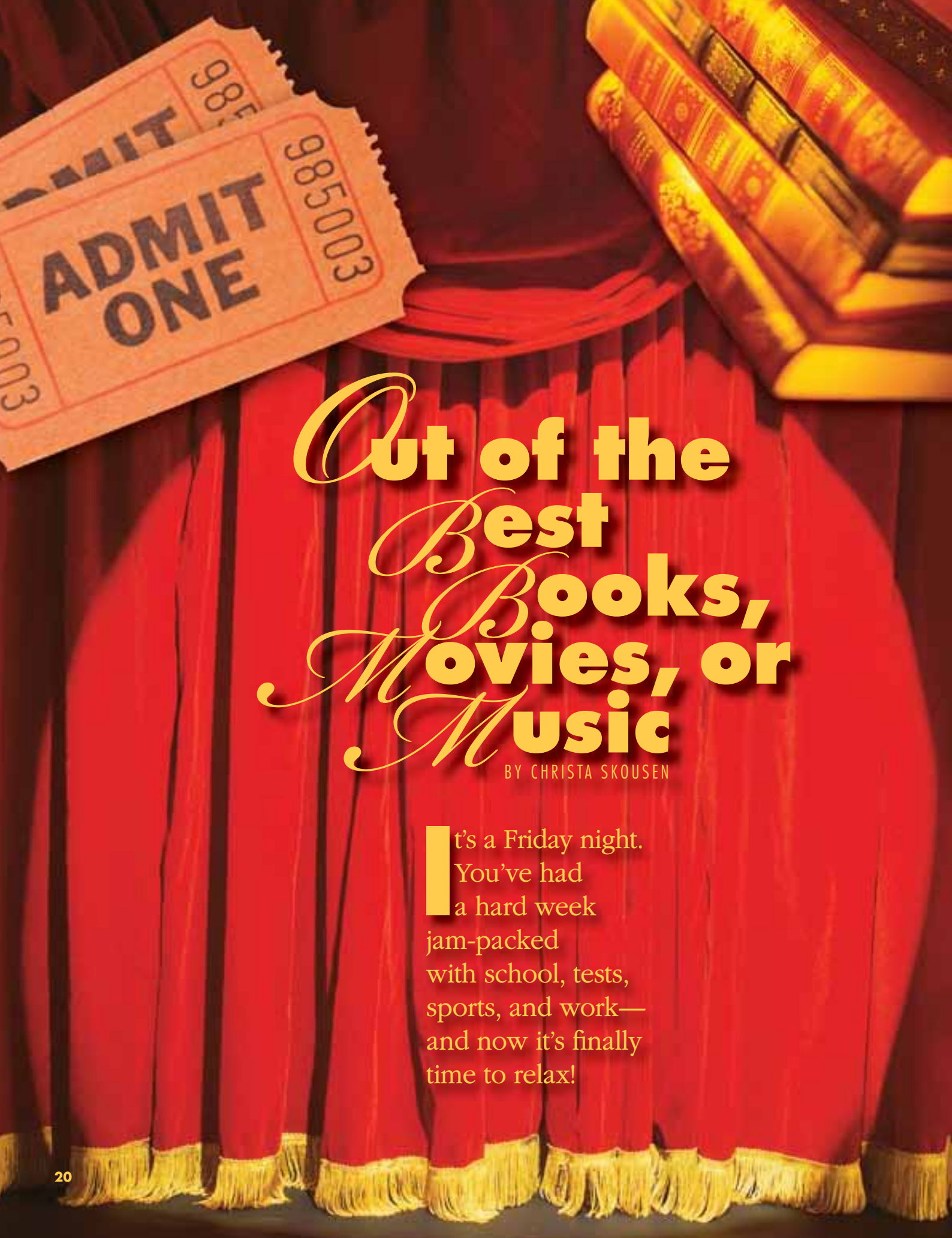
week—pull weeds, help with the food drive, anything anyone needs done.

On the ward's Night of Excellence, Laura and Amy's parents wondered why their six sons with daughters-in-law and grandchildren had traveled into town for the program. When Laura was wheeled to the front and lined up with those who were to receive their medallions, everyone in the room understood. It was a visible lesson of what it means to do something by proxy, doing something for someone who cannot do it for themselves. **NE**



**L**aura was presented her Young Womanhood medallion at her ward's Night of Excellence. (Below) The Laurels who received their medallions with Laura.





# Out of the Best Books, Movies, or Music

BY CHRISTA SKOUSEN

It's a Friday night. You've had a hard week jam-packed with school, tests, sports, and work—and now it's finally time to relax!



And what could sound more appealing than sitting down with a big bowl of popcorn, hanging out with some friends, and watching a movie? Only there is one problem: You don't know what movie to watch. Your friend suggests a film that has received several awards, and all the movie critics are raving about it. So you go ahead and flip it on—only to discover it isn't what you thought. Sure the cover looks interesting, the summary on the back seems OK, but once you start watching it, the subject matter, language, or images make you uncomfortable.

Does it ever seem impossible to find a source of entertainment that is both interesting and in line with your standards? Today TV networks, movie producers, and even book authors continue to push the edge of appropriateness to create more shocking material. Never before in history have violence, bad language, and pornography been so pervasive in our media. So what do we do? Do we avoid all forms of media and entertainment altogether?

President Brigham Young offered some advice to his own children that could also be applied to situations you may face today. He encouraged his children to study music and dance, to attend the theater, and to read novels—things that, he said, “expand their frames, add fire to their spirits, and improve their minds” (quoted in Q&A, *New Era*, Sept. 1993, 17).

Despite the rampant inappropriate material, there are still many books, films, and

music selections that are wholesome and can “add fire to our spirits and improve our minds.” You will become informed and more well-rounded by surrounding yourself with material that is both uplifting and inspiring.

But how do you know where to find the good material, especially when there are so many not-so-good options to choose from? As an LDS youth, what you might consider uplifting and worthwhile might be different than what a friend or movie critic might consider. This makes the selection process a little more challenging, but not insurmountable. Consider the following elements when choosing between different media and entertainment sources.

#### Check the Rating

A movie's rating may serve as a jumping off point as you consider different entertainment options.

- Whether it is the G-to-R rating system in the U.S., or another system, consider the reasons for the movie's rating.
- Movies are granted a rating because of such things as language use, crude humor, thematic elements, sexual content, depictions of drug use, violence, etc.
- Steer clear of films that are “unrated,” “uncensored,” or “uncut” versions.

#### Look up the Review

Neither CDs nor books are subject to the kinds of rating standards movies have. And many times a movie with an “OK” rating does not necessarily mean that the subject matter is appropriate for you. But there are reviews and other resources you can go to for help.

- Certain Web sites can describe the plot of a movie or book, or the content of a CD or song.

**T**he ticket to choosing uplifting entertainment and media is often challenging but not impossible. Here are some guidelines.

**W**hen you choose music and other media carefully and with a pure heart, the Holy Ghost will guide you.

- Watch for key words (“coming-of-age,” “edgy,” or “dark”) that might clue you into inappropriate content.

#### Sample a Different Genre

If you ever feel fed up with your entertainment choices, try branching out. There are numerous genres to choose from that maybe you haven’t looked into before.

- Sample different music selections from various artists or composers.
- Try reading a classic work of literature that has stood the test of time.

#### Talk to Someone You Trust

When it comes to making entertainment choices, talk to someone who knows your standards, and ask for their advice.

- A parent or family member is always a good person to talk to.

- Ask for a suggestion from a well-read person in your ward.
- If a class assigns you a book to read that has questionable material, talk to your teacher and ask if there is another book that you can substitute.

#### Pay Attention to Your Feelings

There isn’t one perfect method for rating or reviewing entertainment material, so even after you have done your research, much of the choice is still left up to you.

- As you read, watch, or listen to media, pay close attention to how you feel.
- If you experience inappropriate thoughts or feelings, stop reading, watching, or listening.
- “In short, if you have any question about whether a particular movie, book, or other form of entertainment is appropriate, don’t see it, don’t read it, don’t participate” (*For the Strength of Youth* [2001], 12).

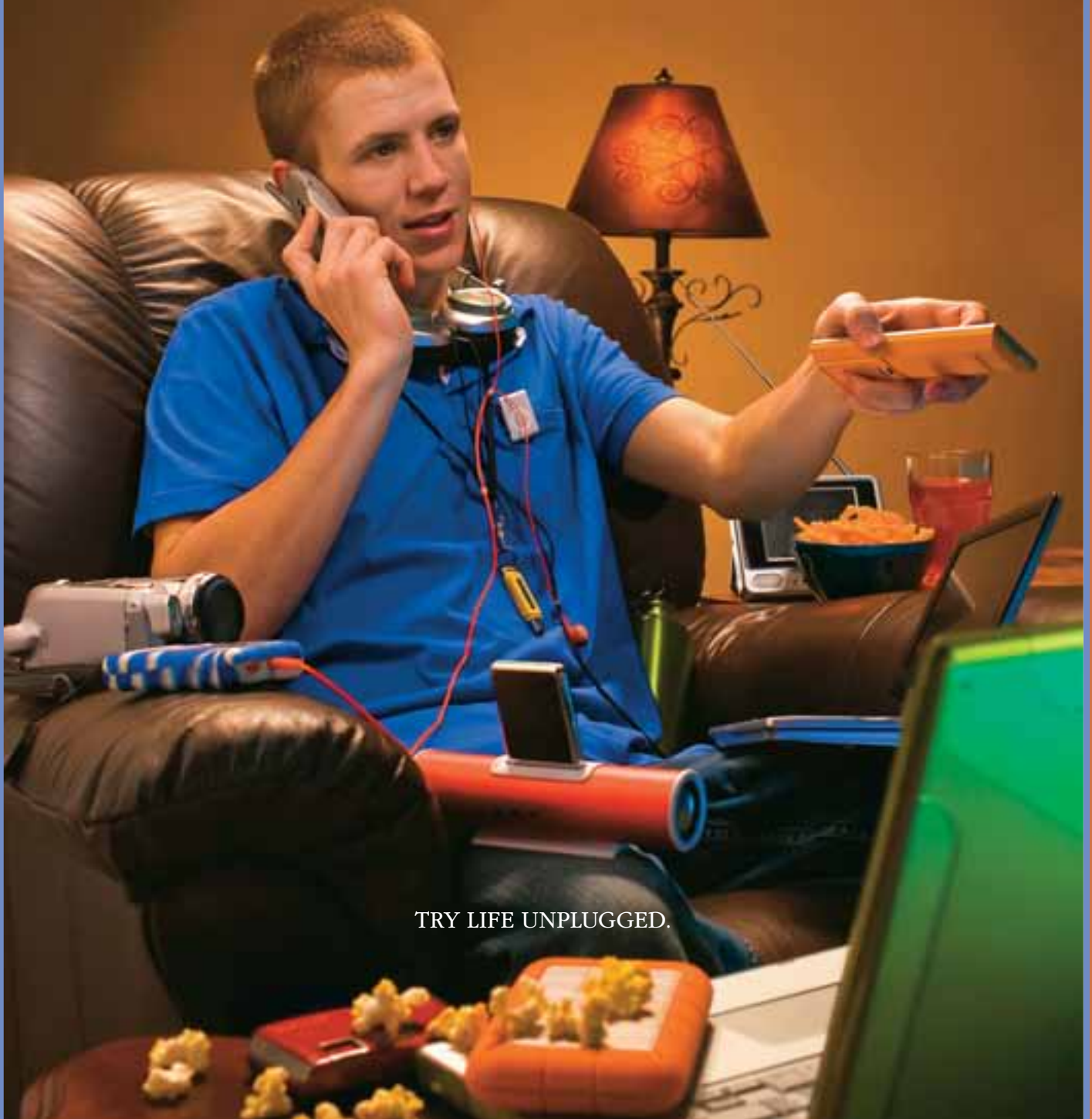
Above all, you can always pray to your Heavenly Father. Ask for the strength to discern good material from bad, and pray for courage to turn away from those things that may seem appealing but are not wholesome or uplifting. When you take the time to study your entertainment options, and you choose carefully, the Holy Ghost will help you to know what is appropriate for you. **NE**





MORMONAD

# TOO MUCH INFORMATION?



TRY LIFE UNPLUGGED.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN LUKE



*Who shows you how to live the gospel? You may have more examples than you realize.*

BY ELDER BENSON E. MISALUCHA  
Area Seventy, Philippines Area

**M**ost testimonies don't happen in a blinding flash of light. You gain gospel knowledge over time, and you learn to rely on good feelings prompted by the Holy Ghost. Along the way, there are many people who serve as role models: those who inspire us to live as we should live. You will strengthen your testimony and learn to be obedient by following their examples.

#### **Missionaries**

The first role models who presented the gospel to me were the missionaries who taught my family in the Philippines. Their example had a lot of influence in our decision to join the Church. They were patient



# ROLE

with us, and they always brought a wonderful spirit with them.

While we were still new members, we encountered a man who had left the Church. He gave us a lot of anti-Mormon literature, and I was shocked. It was my first encounter with opposition to the Church, and my testimony was still tender. While he was confronting us and attacking everything the missionaries had taught us, I was filled with fear. But when the missionaries were with us, they brought peace. Because of the missionaries, our family learned to tell the difference between faith and fear, and we chose faith.

#### **Mission Presidents**

My father and I were soon assigned as home teaching companions. One of our first assignments was to visit the mission president and his wife. They were very gracious. My father brought a lot of traditions from our previous faith. But they were kind, not critical, in explaining why things were done in different ways in the true Church. We were the home teachers, but we learned a lot from the example of our mission president.

Later, when I became a full-time missionary, I continued to learn from mission presidents. My first president always had a firm belief that things would eventually go well, even when times were tough. From him, I learned to be positive.

My second mission president was a former fighter pilot, but as a Church leader, he

# MODELS



was tenderhearted and sensitive, filled with Christlike love for his fellow servants. While I was an assistant to him, I felt that some missionaries were abusing certain privileges and taking advantage of his kindness. I suggested we create stricter rules with stronger enforcement. He said he felt it would be better to trust the missionaries to choose the right rather than doubting their intentions. From this role model, I learned to follow Joseph Smith's advice to teach correct principles and let people govern themselves.



**Left: Missionaries can be great examples to those they teach.**

**Above: King Benjamin was a role model to his people. After he spoke to them, the people had a mighty change of heart.**

### Other Church Leaders

I remember watching Elder Dallin H. Oaks when, as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he served as Area President in the Philippines. I saw him counsel with others about the challenges facing the Church in our country. I saw the great love he has for building the Church and creating opportunities to bless members' lives. From his example I learned that Apostles care not only about the Church as a whole but also about individuals.

Our current Area President, Elder Keith R. Edwards of the Seventy, says that although there is an administrative side to Church work, the Lord wants us to focus on the heart. He reminds us about King Benjamin's experience talking from the tower and how the people responded with a mighty change of heart. They had "no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually" (Mosiah 5:2). From Elder Edwards, I have learned to look at my own heart, to make sure my intentions are pure.



### Captain Moroni

The scriptures are full of great role models. Captain Moroni is one of my personal heroes. Mormon admired Moroni so much that he named his son after him. Mormon wrote of Captain Moroni: "If all men had been, and were, and ever would be, like unto Moroni, behold, the very powers of hell would have been shaken forever; yea, the devil would never have power over the hearts of the children of men" (Alma 48:17). Mormon also said that he admired the sons of Mosiah and Alma and his sons because "they were all men of God" (Alma 48:18). Let your role models be men and women of God!

### Nephi

Another great example from the scriptures is Nephi. From him, I learned to trust the Lord rather than complain. Let me explain. When I left the Philippines to get a master's degree at Brigham Young University, I promised that I would come back. When the time came for my family and me to return, the decision was not easy because I thought that opportunities in my home country were not as promising or rewarding as those in the United States. But because I had given my word, my wife and I decided to exercise faith as Nephi and do what the Lord would have us do.

Even though I had already worked before, I had to start over financially. Money was scarce, and opportunities took time to bear fruit. Then all three of our children got sick, and our savings disappeared. It was one of the toughest times of our lives.

Our youngest son developed a type of tuberculosis. He had to have medicine that was expensive, and he had to take it for nine months. I remember looking in my wallet, and there was no money. My wife asked me how we would be able to feed the children.

During those times, you ask questions. And if you're not careful, you can become like Laman and Lemuel and start murmuring and become bitter. You feel like life is unfair. It would have been easy for me to think: "I'm a returned missionary. I served the Lord. We pay our tithing. We serve in the Church. Where are the blessings?" But we remained active, we served in our callings, and we got by. My brother and his wife helped us financially, and I finally found a job. It was barely enough, and it paid less than what I had earned before I left for school. I felt I was a failure.

Finally, after several years, my wife and I decided that wondering and worrying weren't helping. We said, "Let's stop murmuring, trust in the Lord, and be happy with what we have." And right after that, things turned around. I got several job offers and was able to choose the best one. I was called as the bishop of our ward. It seemed the blessings just flowed.

As bishop I discovered how the difficult times I had been through helped me help others. In particular, I remember listening to a member who was going through tough times financially, and I felt compassion. I could not have had that compassion if I had not gone

through similar things myself. And I remembered what Nephi said: "As the Lord liveth, and as we live, we will not go down unto our father in the wilderness until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us" (1 Nephi 3:15).

I remembered how, when they were in the ship coming to the promised land, that even though he had been bound for days and had swollen wrists and ankles, Nephi said, "Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions" (1 Nephi 18:16). So I told the member that most of us have a long way to go to become like Nephi, but he is a good role model. I was able to help that member see that the answer is not in murmuring but in doing what the Lord has commanded, because He will surely prepare a way (see 1 Nephi 3:7).

**Left: Captain Moroni was such a strong leader that Mormon later wrote, "If all men had been, and were, and ever would be, like unto Moroni, behold, the very powers of hell would have been shaken forever." Below: Nephi's example teaches us to trust the Lord rather than complain.**





***The ultimate role model for our mortal lives is the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. All of our righteous behaviors and actions spring from our faith in our Redeemer.***

### **Parents**

Like Nephi, I was certainly fortunate to be born of goodly parents. My mother was a virtuous and strong woman. I am the kind of person I am today because of the solid gospel foundation she established in our home. My father too, though not perfect, was a great role model for me. He would make sure we were on the right track, but he would always ask us, “What do you think?” And he would listen.

He became interested in the Church because he saw a sign that said “No other success can compensate for failure in the home.” He really believed that. He loved his family and worked hard to provide for our needs.

There was a time when the large pharmaceutical company he worked for kept giving him more and more responsibilities, and that meant more and more travel. It got to the point that he was home only three days a month. Then all of a sudden, we learned that

he had resigned from his longtime job and promising career opportunities.

I remember that at our next family council meeting he said we would need to tighten our belts for the next few months while he looked for a new job. We asked him why he had resigned, and his response will stay with us forever: “You all are growing up to be teenagers already, and that’s a very important time in your lives. I never would like a time to come when you would tell me, ‘Where were you when we needed you?’” He put his family first.

### **Following My Father’s Example**

Because of that example from my father, years later I was able to make a similar decision. I had just been hired by a consulting company, and they flew six of us employees from the Philippines to Sydney, Australia, to join with 400 managers from all over the world for training. We flew first class.

A limousine picked us up at the airport and whisked us away to a five-star hotel, where each room had a big basket of goodies. The company wanted to show us that this was a good company to work for, and it wanted its new hires to stay.

After the first day of meetings, we had a gala dinner, a formal affair. We sat about 12 to a table, each with 10 managers and 2 managing partners who were to be our role models in the company. They told us stories about how they started in the company and grew in their careers with it. They told us of multimillion dollar deals they had closed, important businesspeople they had worked with, and major projects they had directed. I heard the names of Fortune 500 CEOs mentioned frequently and was in awe of these men because of the work they did.

We were all feeling great about our opportunities until one of the people at the table asked, “How does your wife handle all of your traveling? You’re constantly gone.” And one of the partners answered, “I was just divorced two years ago.” And the other partner at our table said, “I’ve been divorced for five years.”

I remember my thoughts: “These are not the men I want to be. I don’t think I want to work for this company because I don’t care much about worldly accomplishments if my family is in disarray.” The example of my father made it easy for me to decide to put my family first, and I found another job that allowed me to do so.

### The Savior

The ultimate role model for our mortal lives is, of course, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was perfect in every way and who gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. All of our righteous behaviors and actions spring from our faith in our Redeemer, and that faith springs from our testimony of who He is and what He has done for us. I am truly grateful for His sacrifice. I testify that He lives and that He wants each one of us to live a worthy life so that we can return and live with our Heavenly Father. If we follow the Savior and become more like our Father in Heaven, we will certainly be blessed.

### Why Role Models?

Following good role models is a key to your future. You will end up being like those you look up to, so find good heroes, and try to live as they would live. Consider eternal things as the measurement of who your role models should be. Look to the good examples in your own family, and pattern yourself after them. Look at others who pattern their lives after the Savior, and pattern your life after them.

Choose your role models wisely because they become your heroes. You will remember what they would do, and that becomes your pattern, enabling you to make wise decisions. And before you know it, others will be looking up to you and patterning their good behavior based on a role model they admire—you. **NE**

## NINE LESSONS I LEARNED FROM MY FATHER

One of my best role models was my father. Here are some of the things he taught me:

1. *Believe in God.* Faith in Him will get you through life’s storms.
2. *Be honest and upright.* Live a clean life, true to your principles and without deceit.
3. *Dream and dream big.* Righteous dreams do come true.
4. *Share inspiring stories.* Stories move us and connect us as human beings.
5. *Read a lot.* If knowledge is power, reading is your access to that power.
6. *Work hard.* Work is a blessing.
7. *Give freely.* What you give or how much matters little, only that you give often and give what you can.
8. *Enjoy clean humor.* Laughter unlocks your heart and makes life fun.
9. *Let music soothe you.* Worthy music speaks to your soul.

# The Unplanned

# DUET

BY TROY LOVE

*I was humiliated and embarrassed, but my bishop came to my aid and helped me learn a valuable lesson.*

**W**hen I was about 12, I was asked to sing a solo in my home ward. My parents encouraged me to memorize the hymn so that I could look out into the audience. I worked on the song for many weeks until I could sing it without looking at the words. When the Sunday arrived, I sat on the stand and felt my heart pounding. I had sung in other wards before, but I felt nervous singing in front of people I knew. My greatest fear was that I would make a mistake.

When it was time, I stood up and walked up to the microphone. I felt my stomach flip. I was too afraid to make eye contact with anyone, so I looked at the clock at the back instead. My accompanist began to play the introduction, and I started to sing. I made it halfway through the hymn without any difficulties when I looked down from the clock to the congregation. Suddenly, I forgot the words to the hymn. My accompanist continued playing for a few more measures until she figured out I had stopped singing. She went back to where I had left off and encouragingly played the melody, hoping to remind me of the words.

The words did not come. Fear began to rise within me. My face flushed with heat, and I could feel my ears turning red. My mind raced through the words of the hymn trying to remember what came next, but the words did not

come. I looked out into the audience feeling humiliated and embarrassed. My heart crumpled with disappointment and embarrassment. I began to cry. Tears rolled down my cheeks, and I hung my head, burying my face in my hands. I felt everyone staring at me. I wasn't sure whether I should sit down or stand there until I could remember the words.

Suddenly, I felt a firm hand on my shoulder. I looked up through teary eyes to see my bishop, Bishop Smith, smiling at me. He leaned down and told me that he would sing with me. He then nodded to the sister to begin playing. Bishop Smith's beautiful baritone voice filled the chapel as he began to sing. He knew the words! As soon as he sang them, I remembered them as well. With his arm around my shoulder, I felt the courage to begin again, and together we finished the song.

I have reflected upon my experience with Bishop Smith many times since then. For me, one powerful lesson has been how Bishop Smith's act of standing beside me represents the way Jesus Christ strengthens us in our times of need.

As Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught: "Many carry heavy burdens. . . . In one way or another, many are heavy laden. . . . [The Savior] knows of our anguish, and He is there for us" ("He Heals the Heavy Laden," *Ensign*, Nov. 2006, 6–7).

And as the Savior Himself said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). **NE**





# THE CHURCH IN USA — CALIFORNIA

**L**atter-day Saint immigrants first arrived in San Francisco in 1846. One year later the Mormon Battalion arrived in San Diego. Six Battalion members were at Sutter's Mill in January 1848, when gold was discovered.

The Church colony of New Hope was founded in 1850, and the first Church building was completed that same year. The land boom of the 1920s attracted many members to California. Today California has more missions than any other state in the U.S.

Here are a few more facts about the Church today in California:

<b>Membership</b>	<b>755,747</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Temples</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Wards &amp; Branches</b>	<b>1,356</b>
<b>Family History Centers</b>	<b>198</b>

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES BAIRD

*“Just as we must look to God to live well, so we must look to God to serve well.”*

**Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Which Way Are You Facing?” *New Era*, Mar. 2002, 8.**

## WHAT'S UP?

# COULD YOU QUILT THAT, PLEASE?

Recently the Young Women of the Leavenworth Second Ward in Kansas, came up with a super service activity. They decided to make children-size quilts to donate to Humanitarian Services. The girls spent several nights working on their quilts. They learned to cut fabric and batting, how to pin them together, how to stitch around the perimeter, and finally how to finish it off using a quilting machine.

Hannah Fowles, a Beehive, said, "I learned how much fun it can be to help other people. Not only did I learn to quilt, but it was spiritual and beneficial as well as being fun."



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE LEAVENWORTH SECOND WARD

## IN A WORD

### Amen

Why do we say "amen" at the end of our prayers, talks, and testimonies? *Amen* is a Hebrew word that means "may it be so" or "so it is." We say it to show that we accept or agree with what has been said.

In Old Testament times, people said "amen" when they took an oath. And in the New Testament, Jesus Christ is called "the Amen, the faithful and true witness" (Revelation 3:14).

The next time you say "amen," say it with meaning—now that you know what it means.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE RENO NEVADA NORTH STAKE

## EVERYBODY CLEAN UP

Taking to heart the theme of their youth conference, Be Thou an Example—Strength through Service, youth from the Reno Nevada North Stake showed a lot of strength. One day of the conference was spent on a spring cleanup project at the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. More than 134 youth were grouped in "families" and worked a total of 670 hours and filled 225 large garden bags with leaves and debris.

That evening youth-conference "families" performed cultural presentations from various countries or regions around the world to reflect the theme of being an example to all the world. The conference concluded with a testimony meeting.

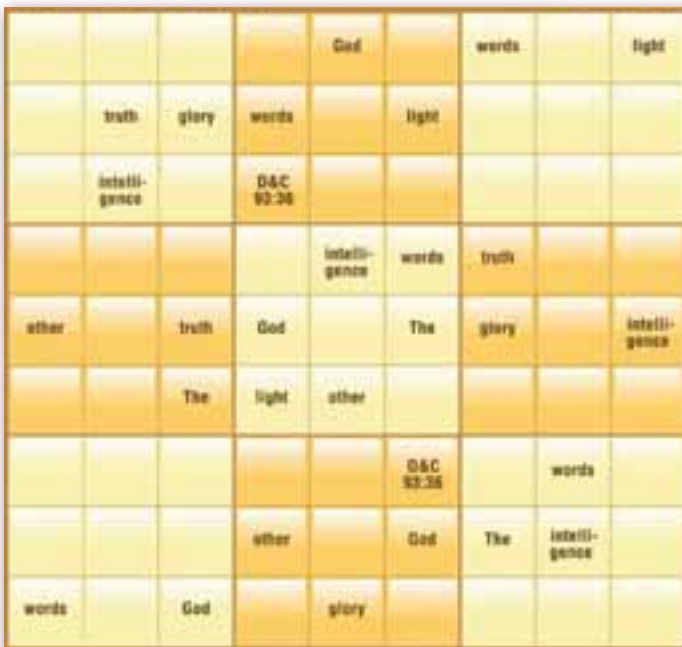


ILLUSTRATION BY NEIL BROWN

## D&C 93:36 SUDOKU

The objective of a regular Sudoku is to fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time. For this puzzle, instead of numbers, use the scripture reference and the eight words in bold to complete the puzzle.

### D&C 93:36

**The glory of God is intelligence**, or, in **other words**, **light and truth**.

If you'd like to do an online version of this puzzle visit our Web site at [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org).

## BESMART FIRESIDES

Wondering about what high-school classes you should be taking this year to get ready for college? Would you like some tips on getting higher test scores? What if you've just graduated and now you want to know about college admissions or scholarship opportunities? Find answers to these questions and a whole lot more, mixed in with a dash of fun at the next BeSmart fireside.

There could be a BeSmart fireside coming to a stake center near you this fall. They will be held in 19 states at 37 different locations. So why should you attend? It will be fun to meet with a couple hundred other youth, there will be valuable information, and you'll learn that there are opportunities for everyone. You may even come away from the fireside with a new T-shirt.

Go online to [BeSmart.com](http://BeSmart.com) to find the date and location of your nearest BeSmart fireside. While you're there, check out all the great information on preparing youth for higher education.

## MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE



**JS—H 1:16–17** is my favorite scripture because Joseph Smith really did see Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and I know that I too have a Heavenly Father.

**Zama M., 14,**  
**Johannesburg, South Africa**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ZAMA M.

Tell us about your favorite scripture in one or two sentences. Go to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org) and click on Submit Your Material.

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 1,306

Number of subscribers who have joined the *New Era* e-mail group.

If you'd like to join our e-mail list and get regular NEmail newsletters, just say so in an e-mail to [newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:newera@ldschurch.org).



# PITCHER PERFECT



**Name:**  
Lindsey Palmer  
**Age:** 20  
**Location:** Salt  
Lake City, Utah  
**At a glance:**

Her high school team won the state championship three times and went undefeated one season. For 2008, she threw 309 strikeouts, 4 no-hitters, and 11 shutouts. Named First-Team NJCAA All-American and the 2007–2008 NJCAA Betty Jo Graber National Female Athlete of the Year. Currently playing for the University of Utah.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE PALMER FAMILY AND JAYLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

### **Why do you like softball so much?**

I love to pitch. I love working hard toward a goal and accomplishing it by getting better and better every day.

**Who are the big helps in your life off the field?** My parents. They have never told me I couldn't do something. They taught me gospel principles I need to know to be successful. Off the field, they're my biggest influences. There's no way I would be *here* without them.

**How do the things your parents taught you help in life?** When I got older and all of a sudden had to deal with things by myself, I had those principles to rely on because I had practiced living them. My parents taught me to rely on the Savior because He will always be there. That

has been the one constant in my life. When everything else might not be there, I know He is.

**Your team had a perfect season once. Why do you think the Savior asks us to be perfect? Is it possible?**

A perfect season is not perfect. In a perfect season, you still strike out. You still get home runs hit off of you. But it's the final outcome, how you respond and come back, that makes the end result a win. Even when you personally have a bad game, you still have a team behind you and can pull out a win. I think that correlates to the Savior. We strive to be perfect, and we may be doing everything in our power, but sometimes it's just not enough. We can't do it by ourselves. We need the Savior to help us.

**Anything else?** There are so many life lessons I have been taught through playing the game, and there's also the flip side of how much living the gospel has helped me in softball. They go hand in hand. I feel Heavenly Father has helped me and blessed me because I try to live the gospel. **NE**

—As told to Jacob S. Fullmer

THE EXTRA SMILE

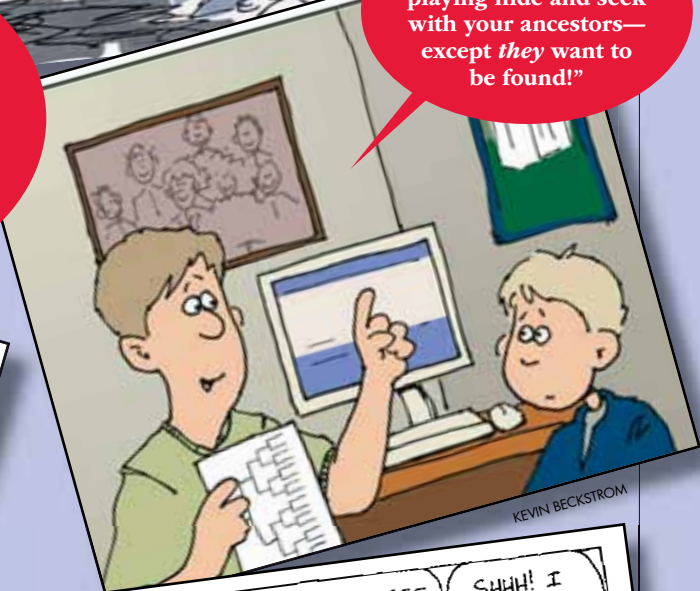
"Yes, I am the Scoutmaster. How did you know?"



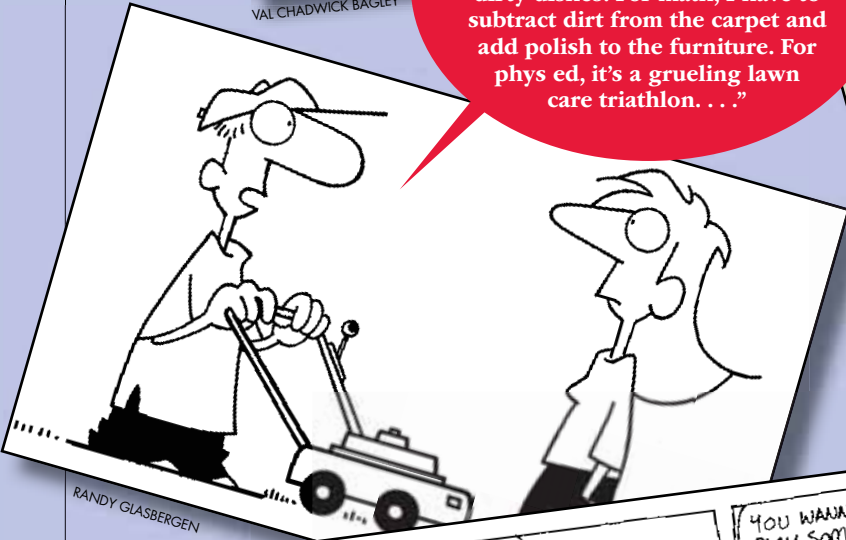
VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

"Home schooling isn't as great as I thought it would be. For chemistry class, I have to test the chemical reaction between liquid soap and a pile of dirty dishes. For math, I have to subtract dirt from the carpet and add polish to the furniture. For phys ed, it's a grueling lawn care triathlon. . . ."

"Doing family research is like playing hide and seek with your ancestors—except *they* want to be found!"



KEVIN BECKSTROM



RANDY GLASBERGEN



RYAN STOKER

**NEmore**  
See a different Extra Smile online every week at [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org).

# Better Than an A

*What kind of hero would ignore an adorable seven-year-old?*

BY SHANDA STEPHENS

Words jumbled in my mind as I desperately tried to concentrate on Dante's *Inferno*. I gazed at the living room clock. It was already 10:00 p.m. I had a quiz in the morning on eight chapters of the *Inferno* that I had not read yet, I needed to write an outline for my English class, and I also had a 6:00 a.m. meeting in the seminary building. I needed to go to bed soon. I read:

*Soon as the charity of native land  
Wrought in my bosom, I the scatter'd leaves  
Collected, and to him restored, who now  
Was hoarse with utterance.<sup>1</sup>*


I was finally grasping the concentration needed to endure this dragging night.

*. . . To the limit thence  
We came, which from the third the second round  
Divides, and where of justice is display'd  
Contrivance horrible.*

"Hi, Shan," my seven-year-old sister, Shallen, uttered. I mumbled a little humph and hoped she would go away. Where was I? Hmmm . . . *horrible . . . horrible . . .* Aha!

*. . . Things then first seen  
Clearlier to manifest, . . .*

I couldn't concentrate. I felt Shallen's baby doll face examining my every move. I felt like a prisoner under the



careful eye of my annoying little sister. Her sparkling, emerald eyes ignited with excitement when she saw me look at her.

"Today in school my teacher told us that all the second graders are going to have a hero day, and we get to dress up as our hero, and we get to give a report, and it is going to be fun, and we get to wear our hero outfit all day even at recess, and we . . ."

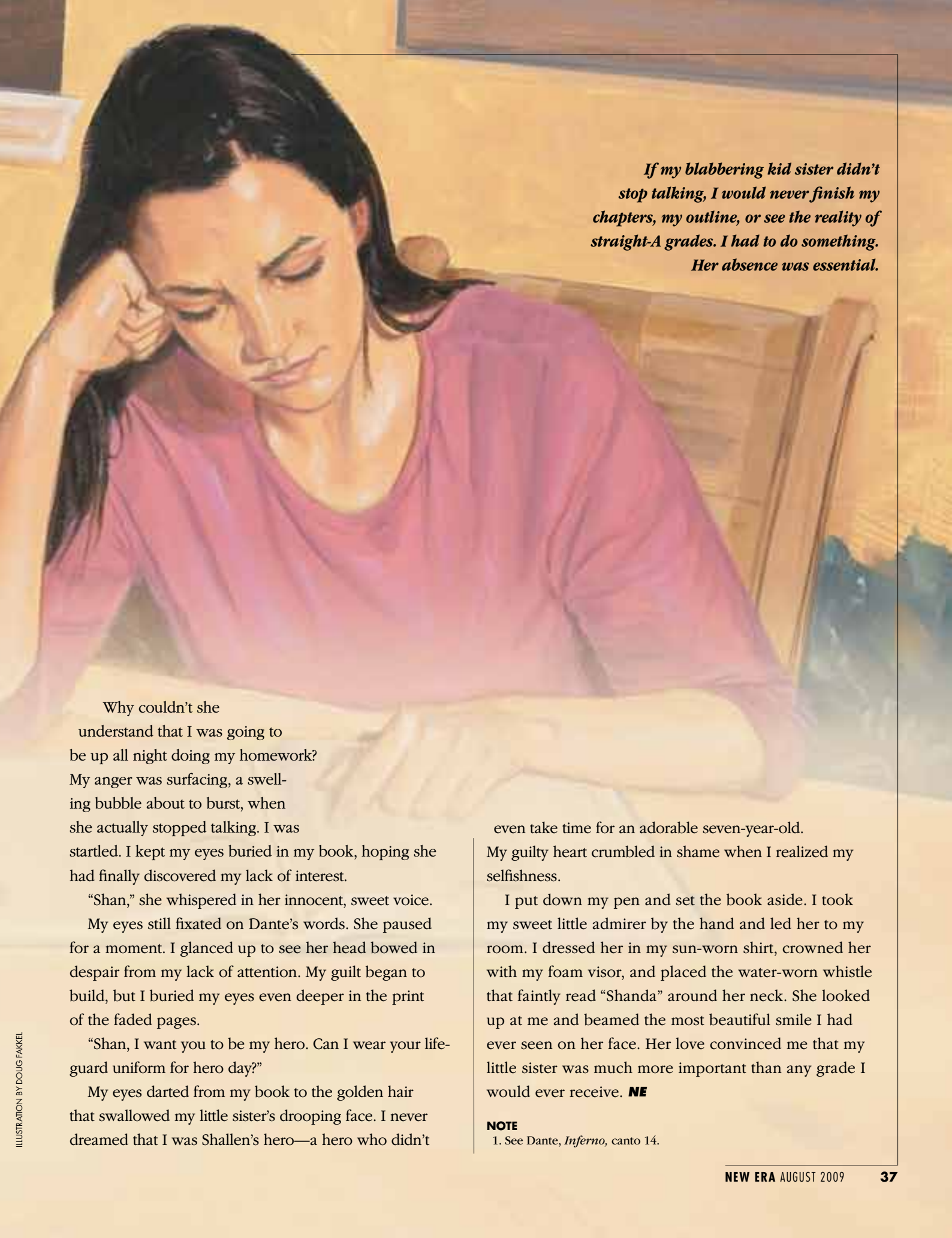
I knew if my blabbering kid sister didn't stop talking, I would never finish my chapters, my critical outline, or see the reality of straight-A grades.

I had to do something. Her absence was essential. Neglecting her would hopefully bore her, and she would redirect the "hero day" story to another family member.

My index finger guided me back to my place in the *Inferno*:

*. . . I tell how next  
A plain we reach'd, that from . . .*

"And we get to draw pictures of our hero and . . ."



*If my blabbering kid sister didn't stop talking, I would never finish my chapters, my outline, or see the reality of straight-A grades. I had to do something. Her absence was essential.*

Why couldn't she understand that I was going to be up all night doing my homework? My anger was surfacing, a swelling bubble about to burst, when she actually stopped talking. I was startled. I kept my eyes buried in my book, hoping she had finally discovered my lack of interest.

"Shan," she whispered in her innocent, sweet voice.

My eyes still fixated on Dante's words. She paused for a moment. I glanced up to see her head bowed in despair from my lack of attention. My guilt began to build, but I buried my eyes even deeper in the print of the faded pages.

"Shan, I want you to be my hero. Can I wear your life-guard uniform for hero day?"

My eyes darted from my book to the golden hair that swallowed my little sister's drooping face. I never dreamed that I was Shallen's hero—a hero who didn't

even take time for an adorable seven-year-old.

My guilty heart crumbled in shame when I realized my selfishness.

I put down my pen and set the book aside. I took my sweet little admirer by the hand and led her to my room. I dressed her in my sun-worn shirt, crowned her with my foam visor, and placed the water-worn whistle that faintly read "Shanda" around her neck. She looked up at me and beamed the most beautiful smile I had ever seen on her face. Her love convinced me that my little sister was much more important than any grade I would ever receive. **NE**

**NOTE**

1. See Dante, *Inferno*, canto 14.

# TIES *and* TRADITIONS

BY MINDY RAYE HOLMES

*What holds a ward together? These teens in Solvang, California, say it has to do with building a feeling of family.*



**E**ntering Solvang, California, is like traveling through time and space. One minute you are in California, and the next you are in an old Danish village. This unique town is maintained by tradition and by family ties. The Solvang Ward of the Santa Barbara California Stake also has many ties and traditions, and although most of the members aren't literally related, their ward feels like a family in many ways.

## Feeling Comfortable

One thing that makes the Solvang Ward members feel like they are related is how the members feel around one another. "When I come to church I want to see people," says Sharilyn Millet, 15, who has been in the ward her whole life. "I feel comfortable talking

with people and sharing things with them."

That comfortable feeling is something visitors to the ward also experience. Because Solvang is a tourist destination, the ward often has visitors, who are welcomed with open arms. "When new people come to the ward they are surrounded by members who want to meet and get to know them," says Bishop Peter Haws. Everyone is welcome in this ward family.

## Friends of All Ages

Like a real family, every member of the Solvang Ward is unique. Some are old, and some are young. Some have been in the ward their whole lives, and some have just moved in. But although they are different, they have still become close friends because







*To Katy Leonard,  
Jordan McCleary,  
and Lance Hansford  
of the Solvang Ward,  
Santa Barbara  
California Stake,  
ward members  
almost feel like fam-  
ily because of close  
friendships they've  
developed over the  
years.*

**R**obert Park appreciates older ward members who have helped him grow in the gospel and who he now calls his friends.



the gospel ties them together.

And it doesn't matter how old or young another member is, the youth can make friends with people of all ages. It's something that Lance Hansford, 14, likes about the Church.

"It's kind of cool because you get to meet people that you normally wouldn't," Lance says. "You don't just walk up to an older person on the street and say, 'Hey, what's up?' They would have no clue who you are. But in the Church it's easier because they could have babysat you when you were little."

Several of the youth in the Solvang Ward talk fondly of older members who are their friends. Robert Park, 14, says that kind of friendship, despite the age differences, helps him to learn more about the gospel and unifies the ward.



### Traditions

Katy Leonard, 14, says the best way to make your ward like a family is "just getting together a lot and having fun doing activities."

In the Solvang Ward, getting together has become a tradition as deeply rooted as the traditions in the Danish village. Every year there are traditional festivals, and there are members in the ward who always do certain things. One sister always makes pastries. One brother always plays in a band. Another member acts as the grandpa of the ward.

"Everyone has their little roles they play," Sharilyn says. "You know you can rely on people because it's just built that way."

### Helping Each Other and Getting Along

Another thing the youth of the Solvang Ward say makes their bonds strong is how the members help and care for one another. They know that one role every member can play is helping others.

### WHAT TO TALK ABOUT?

**K**aty Leonard says a good way to get closer to people in your ward is "by talking and socializing." This can be hard if you don't know the person or if they are a lot older than you. So what can you talk about?

"Well, you have the connection of the Church always," Katy says. "You can talk about the Church with other people." You can also just get to know them by asking about their family, interests, and hobbies. Who knows, you might find something you have in common!



“That seems to be going on in our ward,” Lance says. “It is like a family because we all help out each other, and we all get along.”

So what’s it like to live in the “Danish capital of America?” For youth in the Solvang Ward it means living in a ward family, enjoying the gospel bonds they have formed with other members. **NE**

### JOIN THE FAMILY

*“We hope each of you feels the need to join with the whole ward or branch family and use your unique gifts and talents to touch the lives of all of our brothers and sisters. The opportunities we all have for caring and fellowshiping in the ward or branch are boundless if we are willing to give of ourselves in love and service.”*

**Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Belonging to a Ward Family,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1996, 15.**



What helps your ward or branch family feel closer to each other? Let us know at [newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:newera@ldschurch.org).

**S**harilyn Millet looks forward to seeing ward members every week and welcoming the many tourists who visit her ward while in Solvang.



# One Sunday WAS THE DIFFERENCE

NAME WITHHELD

*A lesson I had heard many times before suddenly changed my life.*

**A**s a child I believed what my parents and Primary teachers taught me about the gospel. I was excited to be baptized and go to church. But as I grew older, things began to change.

My dad was in the Air Force, and so we moved every three years. Usually, there were only a few members of the Church; often I was the only one. When we moved to Pennsylvania, there was only one other member of the Church my age at my new school. It seemed like everyone used bad language, smoked, and drank. I was different, and I didn't know how I could get them to accept me as a Mormon.

A group of girls eventually did accept me. Although they drank, smoked, and did drugs, they didn't pressure me to join in, so I figured it was OK. But just by being with them, I started developing bad habits. I went behind my parents' backs to do things I knew I shouldn't, like watching inappropriate movies, dating earlier than I was allowed, and using bad language.

My mom, realizing what was happening, tried to get me to stop hanging out with these people. But instead of seeing her love and concern, I resented her for it. I became disrespectful and defied her and the Church at every turn, putting down gospel teachings and being rude to the girls in my branch. I told myself I didn't care that I was unhappy. But I did care.

I thought I couldn't change, and I began to lose hope. Then one Sunday, a new Young Women leader gave her first lesson. As a complete stranger was teaching me things so many had taught before, something made me listen. She spoke about the importance of temple marriage and eternal families, and her lesson gave me a reason to

change. That Sunday I realized why the Church should be important in my life.

I had burned a lot of bridges, and although I had been a member of the Church my whole life, there was still much I didn't know. But that Sunday my conversion began. While the road ahead of me was hard and sometimes discouraging, with the love and guidance of those around me, I made progress. I learned that I am a child of God and that He loves me and wants me to return to Him.

The temple meant a lot to me during this process and showed me the path I needed to follow. When a sister in my branch asked me if I could do a family baptism for her, I could tell how much it meant to her. I knew that I could not take this temple trip for granted, and I wanted to be worthy.

Although it was difficult, I severed ties with friends who brought me down. I needed friends who would uphold my standards. I got rid of music that contained foul language and stopped using that language myself. I had scripture study and personal prayer daily. Until it became a part of my life, I never knew how much the gospel could help me. Now I find my days less hectic, and I am able to live in a more Christlike manner.

As I sat in the temple, waiting to do the work for that sister's ancestor, I knew why I was there and how important it all was. I now look forward to temple trips, and I am not ashamed to tell my friends about them.

I regret so many past mistakes, but now I know that I am on the right track. I'm not perfect, and I know I still have a lot to learn. But the gospel has brought happiness into my life once again, and even though it was delayed for a while, I am truly converted. **NE**



**I**f we will turn to the Lord and believe on His name, we can change. He will give us the power to change our lives. . . . We can be taken from 'the darkest abyss' to 'behold the marvelous light of God' (Mosiah 27:29). We can be forgiven. We can find peace."

President James E. Faust (1920–2007), Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Power to Change," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 123.

# THROUGH THE STORM

BY JANESSA CLOWARD

I watched through the window as lightning flashes illuminated the valley below me. I had to drive home soon, but as the storm raged outside, driving was the last thing I wanted to do.

Finally I left, knowing that the weather would not improve and that I needed to get home. The short walk from my friend's door to my car left my clothes and hair dripping. Lightning was still flashing several times a minute, and thunder droned ominously in the background.

I began the familiar drive home. A few moments later, I realized I had missed the road to the main highway. I was alone in unfamiliar territory, with only the glare of my headlights to light the way.

I reached for my cell phone, only to find its battery had died. Thunder boomed so loudly my car actually shook, and a bolt of lightning struck the hilltop to my right. Then I noticed

a set of headlights coming straight at me.

I swerved back into my lane seconds before the other car zoomed past. My entire body was shaking, and tears poured down my cheeks as heavily as the rain poured down my windshield. I just wanted to be home, but I had no idea how to get there.

Without thinking about it, I started to sing the words from one of my favorite Primary songs: "Heavenly Father, are you really there?" My shaking and tears subsided, even though the storm did not. I prayed to find a familiar road and to be protected as I drove. I started to sing again, and as I sang, I knew the Lord would lead me home.

What was normally a 20-minute drive took 45 minutes that night, but I made it. When I locked my door behind me, safe at last, I sank to my knees. The shaking was back, and I sobbed a prayer of gratitude. I might have been driving in dangerous weather on an isolated road, but I hadn't been alone. **NE**

# I BELIEVE IN CHRIST

BY LEILANI IAULUALO

**T**here are two main experiences that led to my testimony of Christ. The first happened the day my big brother died. He passed away on a Scout outing in eastern Arizona. I was 14 years old. When my parents and I found out, we were heartbroken.

At first, it was hard to imagine that I would be living the rest of my life without my big brother. But I was wrong. From the moment I heard of his death, I felt peace. I was at peace because Christ was there to mourn with me when I mourned and comfort me when I needed comfort. Never for one minute did I feel alone.

More than a year later, I participated in the Mesa Temple Easter Pageant. It depicts Christ's life on the earth and plays six nights during the week of Easter. The best part was that it took place on the temple grounds. I was just one of the crowd in a cast of



300. For several weeks, I was able to spend hours near a house of the Lord.

As I watched Christ's life portrayed to thousands of people, I was able to witness a representation of His birth. I was feet away when He was shown healing the sick and raising the dead. I watched when He was portrayed

suffering and atoning for the sins of the world, and I was there when He was depicted dying on the cross for all. I was there and saw the portrayal of Him rising from the dead three days later, and I saw the representation of Him ascending to His Father.

The feelings I had at that time are indescribable. It seemed so real to me. I was able to testify of Christ's message many times to those who had never heard it—that He lives!

I know that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

Because of Him I can be with my brother again. Because of Him, I can be with Heavenly Father. This message is what will save the world in the last days. If we have faith in Him, we can receive blessings beyond measure. If we follow Him, we can become like Him. **NE**

## I AM LOVED

BY JESSICA L. HARDY

**M**y sophomore year of high school was really hard for me. I was struggling—I needed to know that someone loved me. We were studying the Book of Mormon in seminary that year. One day, I had to give a devotional thought, and I decided to give one on love. To make a point, I replaced some words in verses 10 and 12 in 1 Nephi 8, which talk about the tree of life and its

fruit, but I paid no particular attention to the words I wrote.

The day of my devotional came, and I didn't want to go to seminary. I had had a really bad morning, and all I wanted to do was feel sorry for myself and stay home. I went anyway and prepared for my devotional. When the time came, I read what I had written:

"And it came to pass that I beheld [God's love, and it] was desirable to make one happy.

"And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceedingly great joy; wherefore, I began

to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit."

As I read those words, the Spirit testified to me that they were true, and I was overcome with tears. The spirit of love and peace was so great! He really is aware of our problems, and He will help us through them. I know that Heavenly Father and Jesus love me, and Their love is greater than any other! Anytime I feel like I need a boost and need to feel Their love, I just read this scripture, and it helps me to remember that I am loved. **NE**

# A SCRIPTURE FOR CHANGE

BY CHERISE LARSEN

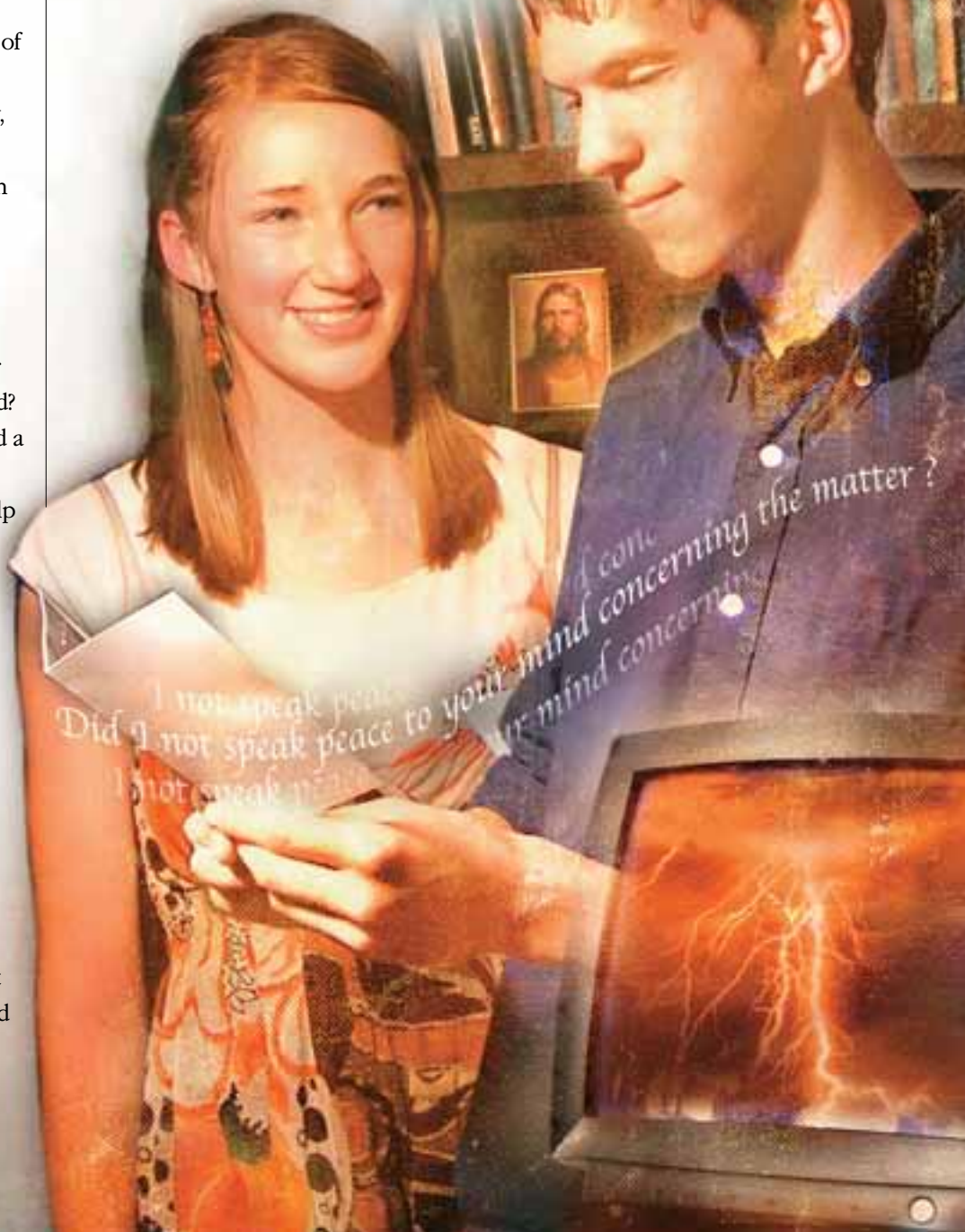
I have a good friend who was struggling in his spiritual life. He is a good person, but he was drifting into inactivity in the Church. His testimony was wavering. He was struggling to break his bad habit of swearing. He'd watch violent movies and spend time playing violent video games. I really wanted to help him, but I wasn't sure how.

One Sunday during testimony meeting, a priest in our ward spoke of a scripture that had helped him in a time of doubt and confusion: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, if you desire a further witness, cast your mind upon the night that you cried unto me in your heart, that you might know concerning the truth of these things. Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God? And now, behold, you have received a witness" (D&C 6:22-24).

I thought this scripture might help my friend. So in class on Monday I wrote down the scripture and suggested he read it. The next day he thanked me, telling me he had read it and that it had helped a lot.

But he hadn't told me half of it. A few days later, he told me just how this scripture had affected him. He told me that his mind had been continually turning to violent thoughts and that it was almost beyond his control. It was also beginning to become more difficult to control his actions. When he read the scripture I gave him, he got rid of his worst video games.

I was astonished at what my friend told me. Although he is still striving to put his life back in order, that one scripture I shared helped him a great deal at the time he needed it most. I know that if you are always a good example and you follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to help others grow closer to Heavenly Father. **NE**





# NewEra.Ids.org

## What's New?

Go to the *New Era* online to:

- Read additional comments from teens posted only online.
- Search the *New Era* for other articles about receiving your patriarchal blessing.
- Listen to testimonies in Spanish from the Dominican Republic.

### RESOURCE LINKS

If teachers need additional articles to use in preparing lessons for Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood, look online under Lesson Helps for suggestions. Each month we'll add more lessons to the list.

### New Era Favorite

*"When I was 18, as I was preparing to serve a mission, my bishop called me to teach the Sunbeams. I had never before learned to love others more than myself until I had served those children in such a simple assignment. . . ."*

*"One day I invited Mike to come to church and sit in my class. Mike was my age but had stopped attending church completely by the time he was 12. . . . Once in a while Mike would accept my invitations to come to an activity. It always surprised me when he did, so I kept inviting him."*

*"At that time, Mike had long, black hair and a beard. His complexion was dark and pleasant. I don't remember when I invited him to my Primary class, but one day he showed up."*

*"Class, I would like to introduce you to my friend Mike," is how I began my lesson.*

*"He is visiting us today."*

Read the rest of *"The Visitor,"* by Ken Merrell, in the May 2000 *New Era*.

### TOP FIVE

If you want to read some great articles about not using bad language and swearing, read these five. Look them up in past issues online.

Q&A (swearing is addicting) Mar. 2001

Brian D. Stenquist, "This Recruit Does Not Swear, Sir!" Oct. 2005

L. Tom Perry, "Thy Speech Reveals Thee," July 2007

Mormonad: "Trash Talk," Nov. 2000

Annette Antonelli, "Example Speaks Loudest," Mar. 1994

### BEHIND THE SCENES

First, read the article "Personal Progress by Proxy" on page 16. The *New Era* got to attend the Night of Excellence where Laura was presented with her medallion. Amy, Laura's sister, said she had the hardest time keeping the secret from her parents. A few other girls in the ward confessed that their parents just had to know what was going on and were let in on the secret. Laura herself knew that the Young Women had all helped her earn her Personal Progress, but her parents didn't find out until that night.



**SCRIPTURE READING**

I really liked the article "Scripture Reading Adds Up" (Sept. 2008). It inspired me to start daily scripture reading. I want to start daily reading so that I can learn and remember the stories better, too. Thank you for all of your other stories. They are enjoyable to read and uplifting.

*Carson C.*

**CAN'T PUT IT DOWN**

The story "I Couldn't Put It Down" (Jan. 09) touched my heart and caused me to think about the Book of Mormon. It made me think about how the book is really true and that it is made up of real people and real experiences that help us learn of the commandments and the gospel. When I thought about the Book of Mormon in the way the author did, the stories came to life, and I realized it was real and true. Thank you for helping me realize that I needed to change the way I read the Book of Mormon and other scriptures and not take them for granted.

*Katrena W., Utah*

**TO THE POINT**

Thank you for including the "To the Point" answer about temple questions (Jan. 09). My nonmember friend and her mom have been asking me about sacred things that go on inside the temple. I know now that if someone asks those kinds of questions, I will be able to answer them.

*Madi H., Utah*

**SANCTITY OF WOMANHOOD**

The article "The Sanctity of Womanhood" (Nov. 2008) is one of my

*Thank you for helping me to change the way I read the Book of Mormon and other scriptures and not take them for granted.*

favorite articles the *New Era* has ever published. It opened my eyes to how special I am, not only as an individual, but also as a daughter of God. It made me happier and helped my testimony grow stronger.

*Ashley A., Utah*

**MORMONADS**

Thank you so much for putting the Mormonads online by topic. It is hard to find the one(s) you like or would like to show someone. Now I can just look under that topic and

it is right there. Even though I am not in the Young Women program anymore, they are a good reminder to help me know who I need to be: a daughter of God.

*Rebecca V., California*

**READING PAST ISSUES**

I really like reading past issues of the *New Era* as well as the current ones. Doing so draws me closer to the Spirit and knowing the teachings will always be with me makes me happy and want to share the gospel.

*Ayanda, Zimbabwe Africa*

*Editor's note: Past issues of the New Era can be found online at [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org).*

**SUNDAY OBSERVANCE**

I wanted to write and tell you how much I enjoy reading the *New Era* each month. Reading it is one of my favorite Sunday activities. I especially am thankful for the article "The Sabbath: A Personal Priority" in the March 2009 issue. I enjoy playing sports and quite a few times I have been asked to play or practice on Sundays. Most of the time I have said no, and I am more happy when I don't play on Sundays than when I do.

This was a very good article that was very easy for me to relate to. Thanks for putting it in your issue.

*Mitch S., Montana*

*We love hearing from you. Write to us by going online to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org) and clicking Submit Your Material.*

*Or you can e-mail us at [newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:newera@ldschurch.org) or write to New Era, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024.*



ILLUSTRATION BY MARK SHAWER



## STORM

BY JESSICA HOUSER

The pitter-patter of rain  
Falling to the ground  
Wetting my hair  
Bringing joy to my soul  
Cleansing the earth.

Lightning flashes  
Thunder booms  
Bringing fear to some  
Exhilaration to others  
Music to my ears.

The storm slows  
Then fades away  
A fresh smell  
Fills the land  
A stripe of colors  
Lights the sky.

The colors will fade  
The smell covered  
Till the rain comes again  
To make the earth  
Clean again.



### **COMING NEXT MONTH**

- *A story you'll never forget about a girl who has her high school dream come true.*
- *An Apostle answers the question: Why do we do missionary work?*
- *Talking to teens from Aberdeen, Scotland.*
- *What one boy did with his prized baseball.*
- *What a girl with a broken leg learned by reading a single sentence in the Book of Mormon.*

*Read these articles and more in the September issue of the New Era.*

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