

*“In all of our stewardship efforts, we follow Jesus Christ.”*

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Stewardship—a Sacred Trust,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 93.



### YOU'VE BEEN SERVED

**M**ore than 200 youth from the Las Cruces New Mexico and El Paso Texas Stakes came together last summer for one purpose—to help those in need. Armed with gloves, water bottles, and sunscreen, they came eager to serve.

Some of the youth painted houses, some moved mounds of gravel, some pulled weeds, mowed lawns, and pruned trees and bushes, while others cleaned up loads of garbage. In all, 4 churches and 57 homes were transformed and beautified during the two-day “Helping Hands” youth conference. Rebecca Daw, a member of the youth committee that organized the conference, said “Service helps both the giver and the receiver. It helps us become better, stronger, more loving people. We need to be out doing stuff, doing hard work.”

Of the 57 families that benefited from the service projects, 52 were not members of the Church. By the time the service projects ended the second day, 7 of these families had requested copies of the Book of Mormon. Along with all the service projects, the youth also enjoyed food, activities, and a closing fireside with a slideshow and testimonies on the second day of the conference.



### PRACTICE AND PREPARATION

**O**ne Sunday I was asked to play my violin during sacrament meeting.

I was very nervous playing, and my hands and legs were shaking. People in the congregation thought that I played very well, but I felt that I could have done better. As Doctrine and Covenants 38:30 says, “If ye are prepared ye shall not fear.” I learned from this experience the importance of practice.

This applies not only to an instrument but to anything in life. For example, in geometry class I did not understand the material very well. When I practiced hard, it paid off in the end, and I was able to keep up with the material. It is the same with the gospel. If we practice bearing our testimonies, we will do better and not be so nervous or hesitant in sharing them. In fact, I sometimes share my gospel knowledge with my atheist friend at school.

I know that we will do better in life when we practice.

**Tifare C., 15, Virginia**



## HYMN VOCABULARY #5

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

- A. Despot (*Hymns*, no. 272)
1. A large cooking container
  2. A ruler with absolute power
  3. A designated location
  4. A song of praise
- B. Flail (*Hymns*, no. 197)
1. To beat or flog
  2. To run swiftly
  3. To shout or scream
  4. To be unsuccessful
- C. Crag (*Hymns*, no. 97)
1. To complain excessively
  2. A tall tree
  3. A thief
  4. A steep, rugged cliff
- D. Providence (*Hymns*, no. 108, 149)
1. On time or punctual
  2. Adept or skilled
  3. The protective care of God
  4. Feeling great happiness
- E. Reproved (*Hymns*, no. 273)
1. Hindered or slowed down
  2. Repaired or reconditioned
  3. Turned upside down
  4. Reprimanded or punished

To do the quiz online, go to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org).

ANSWERS: A2, B1, C4, D3, E4



MOLAS ARE A TRADITIONAL FOLK ART IN PANAMA MADE FROM LAYERS OF DIFFERENT-COLORED CLOTH. THE DESIGN IS FORMED BY CUTTING AWAY PARTS OF EACH LAYER TO REVEAL THE COLOR UNDERNEATH.

## THE CHURCH IN PANAMA

In 1941, the first branch was organized for military personnel stationed in the Panama Canal area. Church membership at that time was 100.

In 1961, Elder Marion G. Romney of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles gave Church literature to the president, Roberto F. Chiari. When the government officially recognized the Church in 1965, missionary efforts began.

The first meetinghouse was completed in April 1970 on the Ustopo island. In 1989, when the Panama City Mission was created, there were 10,400 members in Panama.

Here are a few facts about the Church today in Panama:

<b>Membership</b>	<b>43,703</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Temples</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Wards &amp; Branches</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Family History Centers</b>	<b>13</b>



**BY THE NUMBERS**  
**11,623**  
 Number of sound-producing pipes  
 in the Tabernacle organ.

## MY FAVORITE ARTICLE

Tell everyone what your all-time favorite *New Era* article is. To share your favorite article with other readers go to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org) and click Submit Your Material.

And as long as you're online, do a search by title and author to find some of these favorites from other readers. Either way it's a win-win deal: you get to share your favorites with other teens, and you just might discover some new favorites recommended by others.

"The Visitor" by Ken Merrell  
 —Janet T.

"Man's Dominion" by Hugh W. Nibley  
 —David E.

"House of Holiness" by Richard M. Romney  
 —Annalisa D.

"Me and the Marry-Go-Round"  
 —Wendy T.

"The Child, the Boy, the Man Few People Know"  
 by Elder Bruce R. McConkie  
 —Marjorie R.

## MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

I like to read **1 John 2:25** because it reminds me that Heavenly Father has promised we can live forever. And because of the restored gospel, I know that I can live forever with my family if we stay worthy, go to the temple, and keep the promises we make there.  
**Celesta P., 12, India**

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.

