



THE
New Era

JANUARY

2005

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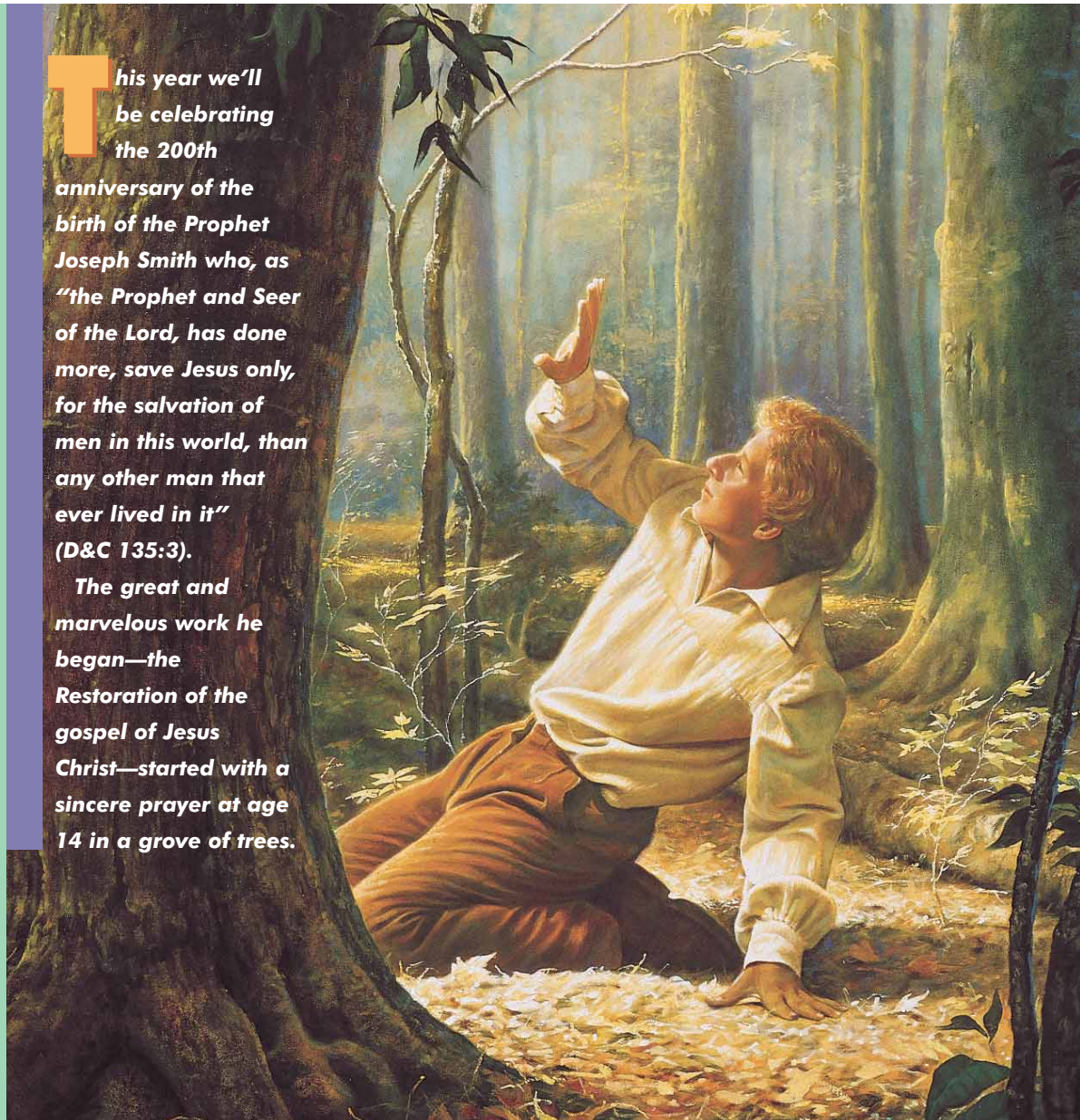
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"A Great and Marvelous
Day" on p. 8.

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Still photo from
Restoration of the
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PhotoDisc (back)

This year we'll
be celebrating
the 200th
anniversary of the
birth of the Prophet
Joseph Smith who, as
"the Prophet and Seer
of the Lord, has done
more, save Jesus only,
for the salvation of
men in this world, than
any other man that
ever lived in it"
(D&C 135:3).

The great and
marvelous work he
began—the
Restoration of the
gospel of Jesus
Christ—started with a
sincere prayer at age
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THE Gift OF THE Holy Ghost

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

Remember the story of one of our LDS chaplains, a man of great faith, devotion, and courage. For a year or more he had been in the central highlands of South Vietnam during the war there. . . .

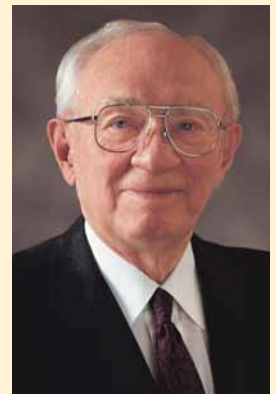
He was not always a member of this Church. As a boy in the southern U.S. he grew up in a religious home where the Bible was read and where the family attended the little church of the community. He desired the gift of the Holy Ghost of which he had read in the scriptures but was told that it was not available. The desire never left him. He grew to manhood. He served in the U.S. Army. He searched but never found the thing he most wanted. Between military enlistments, he became a prison guard. While sitting in the gun tower of a California prison, he meditated on his own deficiencies and prayed to the Lord that he might receive the Holy Ghost and satisfy the hunger which he felt in his soul. That hunger had not been fully satisfied with sermons to which he had listened.

One day two young men knocked at his door. His wife invited them to return when her husband would be at home. These two young men taught that family by the Holy Spirit and they were baptized. I have heard this man testify to the effect that as he was taught by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was edified and rejoiced with those who taught him. Out of that marvelous beginning, with the gift of the Holy Ghost, came a shedding forth of light and truth that gave peace to the dying, comfort to the bereaved, blessings to the wounded, courage to the timid, and faith to those who had scoffed.¹

You Are Not Alone

If we keep the commandments “the Holy Ghost shall be [our] constant companion” (D&C 121:46) to buoy us up, to teach us, lead us, comfort us, and sustain us. To obtain this companionship, we need to ask for it, to live for it, to be loyal to the Lord.

I think Mormon knew very well from his



If we keep the commandments “the Holy Ghost shall be [our] constant companion” to buoy us up, to teach us, lead us, comfort us, and sustain us.



own experience the truth of his words that the “Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God” (Moroni 8:26). Though we may sometimes be alone while among those of the world, we need not be lonely,

for the Lord has given us the Holy Ghost to be our companion to walk with us.²

Is It the Spirit?

How do we recognize the promptings of the Spirit? That which is of Christ does edify, and if we have that feeling of edification, then we may know that the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, is speaking to us. If we are in an attitude of prayer, if we are in an attitude of anxiously seeking the direction of the Spirit, we will receive it. There isn’t the slightest doubt in my mind concerning this.³

The Third Member of the Godhead

I believe in the Holy Ghost as a personage of spirit who occupies a place with the Father and the Son, these three comprising the divine Godhead.

The importance of that place is made clear from the words of the Lord who said:

“All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come” (Matthew 12:31–32). . . .

The Holy Ghost stands as the third member of the Godhead, the Comforter

Though we may sometimes be alone while among those of the world, we need not be lonely, for the Lord has given us the Holy Ghost to be our companion to walk with us.

promised by the Savior who would teach His followers all things and bring all things to their remembrance, whatsoever He had said unto them (see John 14:26).⁴

A Teacher of Truth

There is a continuity and consistency in this work that is remarkable to witness and experience. Its strength and power lie in the ability of every member and every earnest investigator to know for himself or herself by the power of the Holy Spirit that it is true. Critics may wear out their lives in trying to deny or demean or cast doubt, but all who ask of God in faith have the assurance that by the voice of the Spirit will come the certainty that this work is divine.⁵

The Holy Ghost is the Testifier of Truth, who can teach men things they cannot teach one another. In those great and challenging words of Moroni, a knowledge of the truth of the Book of Mormon is promised “by the power of the Holy Ghost.” Moroni then declares, “And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:4–5).⁶

Sacramental Promise

The sacrament and the partaking of these emblems is the very heart of our sabbath worship. It includes a renewal of covenants with God. It carries with it a promise of His Holy Spirit to be with us.⁷

Learning from the Spirit

The things of God are understood by the Spirit of God. That Spirit is real. To those who have experienced its workings, the knowledge so gained is as real as that which is acquired through the operation of the five senses.



I testify of this. And I am confident that most members of the Church can so testify. I urge each of us to continue to cultivate a heart in tune with the Spirit. If we will do so, our lives will be enriched. We will feel a kinship with God our Eternal Father. We will taste a sweetness of joy that can be had in no other way.⁸

Simply “do what is right [and] let the consequence follow” (*Hymns*, no. 237). So live that each morning you may kneel in prayer, seeking the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit, as well as its protective power, as you go about your work of the day. So live that each night,

before retiring, you may come before the Lord in prayer without shame or embarrassment or the need to plead for forgiveness. I do not hesitate to say that God will bless you if you will do so.⁹

I wish you—each of you, wherever you are—to know that you are loved. You are loved by your Father in Heaven, of whose divine nature you have partaken. And He desires that His Holy Spirit will be near you wherever you go if you will invite it and cultivate it.¹⁰ **NE**



NOTES

1. “Feed the Spirit, Nourish the Soul,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1998, 4.
2. “Living with Our Convictions,” *Ensign*, Sept. 2001, 5.
3. “Inspirational Thoughts,” *Ensign*, Aug. 2000, 2.
4. “The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 51.
5. “He Slumbers Not, nor Sleeps,” *Ensign*, May 1983, 7.
6. “The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 51.
7. “Priesthood Restoration,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1988, 72.
8. “The Continuing Pursuit of Truth,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1986, 6.
9. “The Shepherds of the Flock,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 51–52.
10. “The Light within You,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 99.

A photograph of a person standing in a forest, seen from behind. The person is wearing a dark vest over a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and has their right arm raised, hand open, reaching towards the sunlight. The scene is filled with warm, golden light, with rays of sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a hazy, ethereal atmosphere. The trees are thin and their leaves are partially visible, some in shadow and some catching the light.

A GREAT AND

Marvelous Day

BY PRESIDENT HOWARD W. HUNTER
(1907–95)

Fourteenth President of the Church

“A great and a marvelous work” (1 Nephi 14:7) is this year’s Mutual theme. President Hunter testifies of that work.

*O*n the sixth of April 1830, [175] years ago, a group of men and women, acting in obedience to a commandment of God, assembled in the house of Mr. Peter Whitmer to organize The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This church, . . . prophesied to be a latter-day marvelous work and a wonder, has come forth from the most humble of beginnings.

Six men comprised the total membership of the Church that day. None of them laid any claim to special learning or significant leadership. They were honorable people and respectable citizens but were virtually unknown outside of their own immediate neighborhood. . . .

The Truth of the First Vision

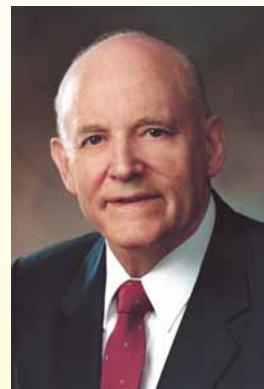
These humble, ordinary men gathered because one of them, Joseph Smith Jr., a very young man, had set forth a most remarkable claim. He declared to them and all others who would listen that he had received profound and repeated heavenly communications, including an open vision of

God the Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

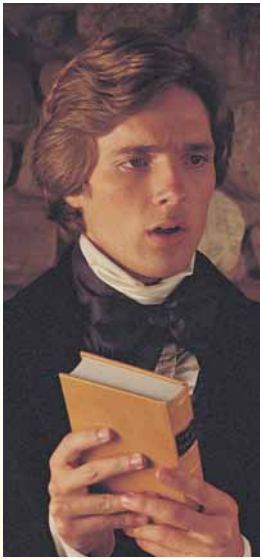
As a result of these revelatory experiences, Joseph Smith had already published the Book of Mormon, a record of Christ’s dealings with the ancient inhabitants of America. Furthermore, the Lord had commanded this young man, by now only 24 years of age, to reinstitute the Church that had existed in New Testament times and that in its restored purity should again be designated by the name of its chief cornerstone and eternal head, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Thus, humbly but most significantly was opened the first scene in the great Church drama that eventually would affect not only that generation of men but the entire human family. . . . A humble beginning, yes, but the claim that God had spoken, that Christ’s Church was again organized, and that its doctrines were reaffirmed by divine revelation was the most outstanding declaration made to the world since the days of the Savior Himself. . . .

Joseph Smith was not only a great man, but he was an inspired servant of the Lord, a prophet of God. His greatness consists in . . . the truthfulness of his declaration that he saw the Father and the Son and that he responded to the reality of that divine revelation. Part of the divine revelation was instruction to reestablish the true and living Church, restored in these modern times as it existed in the day of the Savior’s own mortal



Joseph Smith’s greatness consists in the truthfulness of his declaration that he saw the Father and the Son and that he responded to the reality of that divine revelation.



Joseph Smith published the Book of Mormon, a record of Christ's dealings with the ancient inhabitants of America.

ministry. The Prophet Joseph Smith said the Church of Jesus Christ was “organized in accordance with commandments and revelations given by Him to ourselves in these last days, as well as according to the order of the Church as recorded in the New Testament” (*History of the Church*, 1:79).

Faith in a Personal God

For the first time in 1,800 years, God had revealed Himself as a personal being. Furthermore, the Father and the Son demonstrated the undeniable truth that They are separate and distinct personages. Indeed, the relationship of the Father and the Son was reaffirmed by the divine introduction to the boy prophet, “This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17). Those who were baptized into the Church on the sixth of April 1830 believed in the existence of a personal God; they believed that His reality and the reality of His Son, Jesus Christ, constitute the eternal foundation upon which this Church is built.

Once we accept Christ as divine, it is easy to visualize His Father as being just as personal as He. Christ said, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). Faith in the existence of a divine and real and living personal God was the first element that contributed to the durability of the Church of Jesus Christ in ancient times, and it is the everlasting foundation upon which The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is built today.

A Worldwide Church

On April 6, 1830, the Church was officially organized with its six members. That action was largely unknown to the world at that time and would come to be known only to the extent that it contained and radiated eternal principles that harmonize with all other truth coming from God, the author of

all truth. Only thus, through its truthfulness, could it and would it ever become a marvelous work and a wonder.

Today, from those humble beginnings those many years ago, there are units and members of that Church almost literally around the face of the earth. The marvelous progress in transportation and communication has made possible the spreading of these truths of the restored gospel to the children of men nearly everywhere in the world. Millions in America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the islands of the sea not only have been able to hear but, in millions of cases, to accept and commit to these saving principles of the gospel of truth.

We represent and speak today for a worldwide Church, the organized and established kingdom of God on earth. I bear you my testimony that the church organized in obscurity [175] years ago is indeed the Church of Jesus Christ. I declare that God lives, that He is a personal God who hears and answers our prayers, that He is the Father He has always declared Himself in scripture to be. He is undoubtedly more than we can fully understand Him to be, but He is certainly not less than we understand.

I testify that Jesus Christ is His Only Begotten Son, the Savior of the world, and that the Father and the Son did appear to the Prophet Joseph Smith to begin this great rolling forth of the latter-day.

I testify that the boy prophet, who in so many ways remains the central miracle in the [175] years of this Church’s experience, is living proof that, within God’s hands and under the direction of the Savior of the world, weak and simple things should come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones. On this anniversary season of the organization of the Church, I bear testimony of its truthfulness. **NE**

From an April 1991 general conference address; capitalization modernized; subheads added.

2005 Mutual Theme:

"A GREAT AND A MARVELOUS WORK"

(1 Nephi 14:7)

The Young Men and Young Women general presidencies discuss the 2005 Mutual theme.

In the spring of 1820, the sincere prayer of a 14-year-old young man opened the door to "a great and a marvelous work" (1 Nephi 14:7). It is through the Prophet Joseph Smith that the Restoration of the gospel occurred. It is because of this restoration that you can receive all the blessings that were absent from the earth for almost 2,000 years. It is because of this restoration that we have the Book of Mormon and the privilege of being guided by living prophets. The priesthood power is again on the earth. It is through the priesthood that ordinances can be performed in holy temples to bind families together for eternity.

The Lord loves and trusts the youth. You are privileged to have the opportunity to live on the earth at this time, when the fulness of His gospel has been restored. Each of you can and should have your own testimony of this great and marvelous work. President Gordon B. Hinckley has said: "It is this conviction, this quiet inward certainty of the reality of the living God, of the divinity of His Beloved Son, of the restoration of Their work in this time, and of the glorious manifestations which have followed which become for each of us the foundation of our faith. This becomes our testimony" ("Testimony," *Ensign*, May 1998, 71). As you follow the Savior's example of selfless service

and make righteous choices, your testimony will be strengthened, you'll be blessed to do your part, and you will be protected from worldly influences. As a result, you will feel a sense of belonging and great joy. What a blessing it is to be involved in many aspects of this work!

We testify that the Savior directs His work today through His prophets and the leaders of the Church. We also testify that the Lord loves you, trusts you, and has revealed the plan of salvation and happiness to guide you in your life. In addition, we love you, we trust you, and we feel blessed to be a part of this great and marvelous work with each of you. **NE**

Young Men general presidency

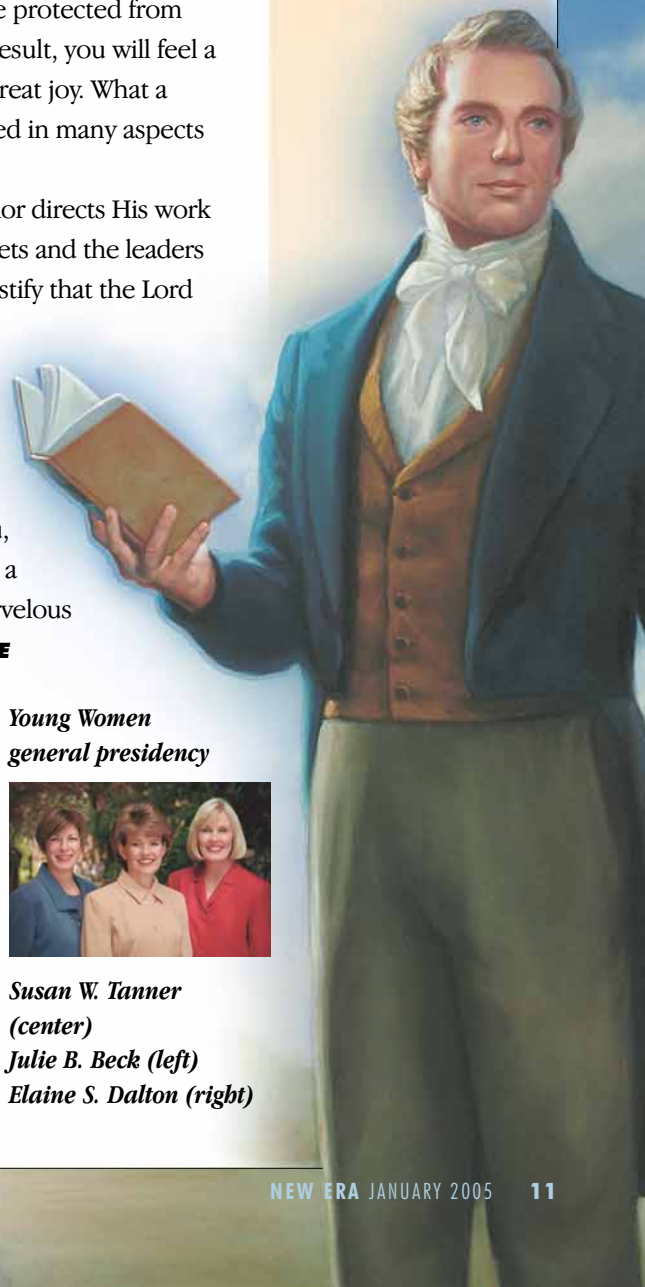


Charles W. Dahlquist II
(center)
Dean R. Burgess (left)
Michael A. Neider
(right)

Young Women general presidency



Susan W. Tanner
(center)
Julie B. Beck (left)
Elaine S. Dalton (right)



THE DEACONS

BY CHRISTINE REID

The deacons quorum of the Coventry Ward, Coventry England Stake, feel a strong bond of brotherhood, unity, and friendship. Their friendship and togetherness in the quorum are vital to them, especially since the young men and women in their schools don't share their standards. Their quorum bonds help the deacons stay close to the Lord and His teachings.

"As quorum members," Josh Taroni says, "we are all on the same level and can really relate to each other. It's great to be able to talk about Church things together." Jacob Mytton adds, "School friends don't understand how important the Church is to us in our lives."

Josh Reynolds, another deacon in the ward, says, "In our quorum we talk about Church things. It's nice to be the same and share things together."

Temple Trips

The service these young men perform for others is an important part of their deacons quorum activities. They especially like to travel the 110 miles (177 km) to the London England Temple to perform baptisms for the dead. Sometimes they are able to act as proxies for ward members' ancestors.

"It's so special to go to the temple and give others the chance of accepting the gospel as we're baptized for



them," says Lewis Reynolds.

Josh also enjoys visiting the temple and says, "I feel that I'm doing some-

thing that the Lord has asked me to do, and I can share that with my quorum friends."

Sacrament Blessings

These young men take their priesthood responsibilities very seriously. When the ward meeting times changed so that sacrament meeting was first, the young men found it difficult to get to church on time to pass the sacrament. With some extra effort, they are now fulfilling their duty well. Their Young Men president, Steve Martin, says, "They have all made a great effort to get here on time so that they can pass the sacrament. They always arrive smartly dressed with a white shirt and tie and pass the sacrament reverently."

Lewis says, "I know that as we're passing the sacrament we're giving the members the chance to repent."

Anoop Sidhu says, "I feel like I'm representing the Savior when I'm passing the sacrament. It helps me to think of His body and His blood."

Quorum Brotherhood

These young men just enjoy being together. If one of them is missing from church, the others contact that

OF COVENTRY



"I know that we get blessings from doing things for other people."
— Anoop Sidhu



“Going to the temple makes me feel special because it’s the right place to go, and we’re all together as friends.”

— Tallis Caughey

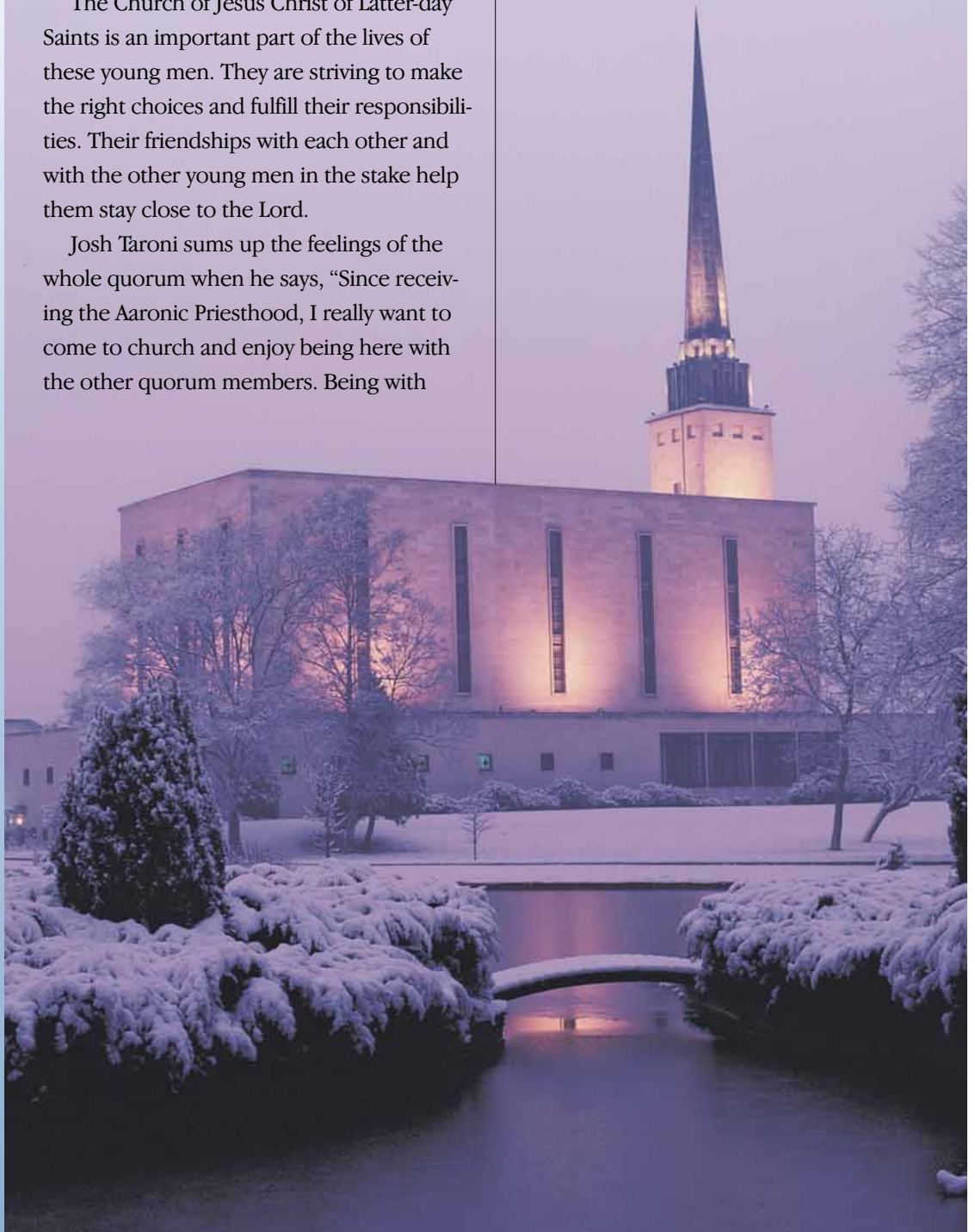
person. Lewis says, “I would phone them and talk to them.” Jacob says he “would go round to their houses and tell them what they missed.”

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is an important part of the lives of these young men. They are striving to make the right choices and fulfill their responsibilities. Their friendships with each other and with the other young men in the stake help them stay close to the Lord.

Josh Taroni sums up the feelings of the whole quorum when he says, “Since receiving the Aaronic Priesthood, I really want to come to church and enjoy being here with the other quorum members. Being with

them has made me stronger. We all talk to and support each other.” **NE**

Christine Reid is a member of the Solibull Ward, Coventry England Stake.



JAZZ

UP YOUR JOURNAL

It's a new year and a great time to recommit to writing in your journal. Here are some ideas for when you just can't think of anything to write about:

- ◆ Count your blessings—including your family and your temporal and spiritual blessings.
- ◆ Describe your earliest memory.
- ◆ List some of your family traditions.
- ◆ Tell about your favorite food or recipe.
- ◆ Write about your favorite hymn or song.
- ◆ Write a letter to your future spouse or children.
- ◆ Write about how you *felt* during the day even if you don't think you *did* anything momentous.
- ◆ Tell a story your mom or dad has told you about when you were a baby.
- ◆ Write an account of something you saw or did, instead of just saying you did it. Details are great; they capture the experience better than general statements.
- ◆ Explain your goals and aspirations and how you plan to achieve them.
- ◆ Pick someone who is a hero in your life, and write about him or her.
- ◆ Draw a picture of your pet, and write about it.

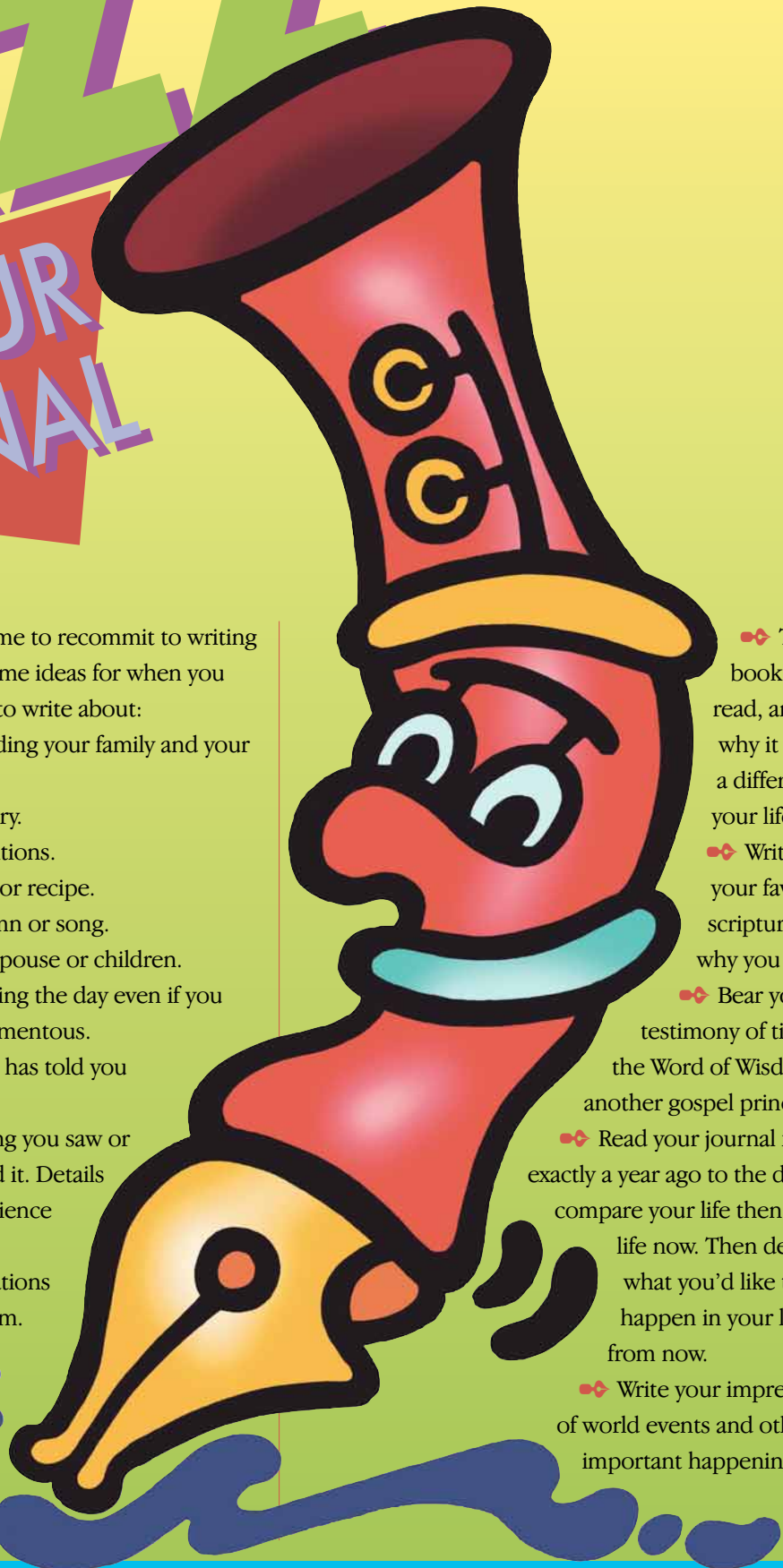
◆ Think of a book you've read, and explain why it has made a difference in your life.

◆ Write about your favorite scripture and why you like it.

◆ Bear your testimony of tithing, the Word of Wisdom, or another gospel principle.

◆ Read your journal from exactly a year ago to the day, and compare your life then with your life now. Then describe what you'd like to see happen in your life a year from now.

◆ Write your impressions of world events and other important happenings. **NE**



Q & A

“Every year I resolve to think about Jesus Christ all day, then struggle to do it. How can I ‘always remember him?’”

NEW ERA

Asking this question means you’re trying to keep the promise you make as you take the sacrament. During the sacrament we promise to “always remember” (D&C 20:77, 79) the Savior.

Other scriptures ask us to remember Him: “Remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation” (Helaman 5:12). The Savior Himself said, “Look unto me in every thought” (D&C 6:36).

To remember Him, think of His teachings, perfect example, and Atonement. The Savior did His Father’s will. He loved, served, taught, and healed others and “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). The more you learn about His life, the more you will appreciate and remember Him. To learn more about the Savior, attend church, seminary, Mutual, and, where possible, the temple.

Remembering the Savior also means following His example and teachings. Choosing the right will invite His Spirit into your life.

■ **The Lord commands us to remember Him. As we take the sacrament, we promise to do so.**

■ **Learn about the Savior’s life, teachings, and Atonement.**

■ **Remember the Savior by living His teachings, such as praying, studying the scriptures, and taking the sacrament.**

■ **As you remember Christ by living the gospel, you will invite the Spirit into your life.**

When faced with temptation, ask yourself, “What would the Lord have me do?” Doing what the Holy Ghost inspires you to do in answer to that question will help you remember the Savior.

In addition, try the following suggestions. You’re probably doing them already, but getting more from them will help you remember Christ and feel the Holy Ghost, who testifies of the Lord.

Pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Every time you pray, you will remember the Savior because, as Jesus taught, “Ye must always pray unto the Father in my name” (3 Nephi 18:19). You can even pray for help to remember Him.

Study the scriptures every day. Jesus taught, “Search the scriptures; for . . . they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). You will remember Jesus as you read about Him. His words will help you answer the question, “What would the Lord have me do?”

Take the sacrament each week. This ordinance will help you remember the Savior.



READERS

Prepare for it during the week by obeying and repenting. As you take the bread and water, think about His Atonement and Resurrection and recommit to follow His teachings.

Because your thoughts and actions determine who you become, remembering the Lord will help you become like Him. The more you think of and follow the Savior and His teachings, the more you will invite the Spirit into your life and the easier it will be to always remember Him. **NE**



Sometimes it's hard to remember to think of Christ, especially with different activities and school going on. What helps me is to

place pictures of Him where I usually look every day, like on my door. So when I go out the door, I start the day thinking of the Savior. You could even put a picture of Him in your binder or locker to remind you to think of Him at school.

Britanni Good, 13, La Grande First Ward, La Grande Oregon Stake



Jesus taught, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

While I am serving someone, though I may not be thinking of the Savior at that very moment, I am remembering Him. We can remember Him by keeping the commandments, by going to church, and by reading scriptures.

Daniel Hinkson, 18, Canon City First Ward, Colorado Springs Colorado Stake



To always remember Jesus doesn't mean we are constantly thinking about how He died for us or how He lived for us. All we have to do is dress modestly, not swear, and keep

His other commandments. To remember Him, keep His Spirit with you at all times and in all places.

Jordan Budd, 16, Kaysville 14th Ward,
Kaysville Utah South Stake



Remembering the Lord comes from obeying the gospel and letting the Spirit guide our lives. I have noticed that when I am doing what is right and following the words of the

prophet, it is a lot easier to have the Spirit with me when I need it most.

Lauren Fox, 16, Pasco Sixth Ward, Pasco Washington Stake



Pray always and do something that can remind you of Christ. You could sing a hymn in your head or look at your CTR ring. Watching what you say, do, wear, watch, and listen to

can remind you of Him.

Sussan Hila, 21, Tokarara Branch,
Gerehu Papua New Guinea District



If you really want to keep the Lord in mind at all times, your actions will reflect that. Our lives should reflect Jesus's countenance in them. When we do this, we will be prepared to "stand

as witnesses of God at all times" (Mosiah 18:9).

Jamelyn Johnson, 15, Cowley First Ward,
Lovell Wyoming Stake



There are many ways to remember Him throughout our busy lives. Simple things could be keeping a scripture verse in your locker or wearing a CTR ring. More challenging



When we . . . always remember Him and keep His commandments, He gives us the greatest blessing He can give us: that is to always have His Spirit to be with us."

—Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "In Remembrance of Jesus," *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 25.

ways could be reading your scriptures 30 minutes daily or working on Personal Progress daily.

Audrey Blake, 13, Hermann Park Ward,
Houston Texas South Stake



The atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ always reminds us about what He did for us. As I partake of the sacrament, I visualize His love for me. I'm grateful for the gospel that I

have embraced, for it always reminds me of Him.

Sister Iris Mandonahan, 23, Philippines Naga Mission



You can always remember Him by thinking, "What would the Lord have me do?" and then do what He would have you do or say. The more you do this, the more you'll

remember Him and His actions, and you will appreciate Him even more.

Gabe Hathaway, 14, Rigby Eighth Ward,
Rigby Idaho East Stake

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send your answer to the question below, along with your name, birth date, ward and stake (or branch and district), and a photograph to:

Q&A, New Era

50 East North Temple Street, Floor 24

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

Or e-mail:

cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org

Please respond by February 15, 2005.

QUESTION

"How can I prepare to teach the gospel on my mission?"

BELIEVE

A painting of a man with reddish hair, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and brown trousers, kneeling on a bed of fallen leaves in a forest. He is looking upwards with his right hand raised in a gesture of prayer. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The forest is filled with tall, slender trees and dense foliage.

JOSEPH'S PRAYER WAS ANSWERED. YOURS WILL BE TOO.
(See James 1:5-6.)

VALIANT *in* VENEZUELA

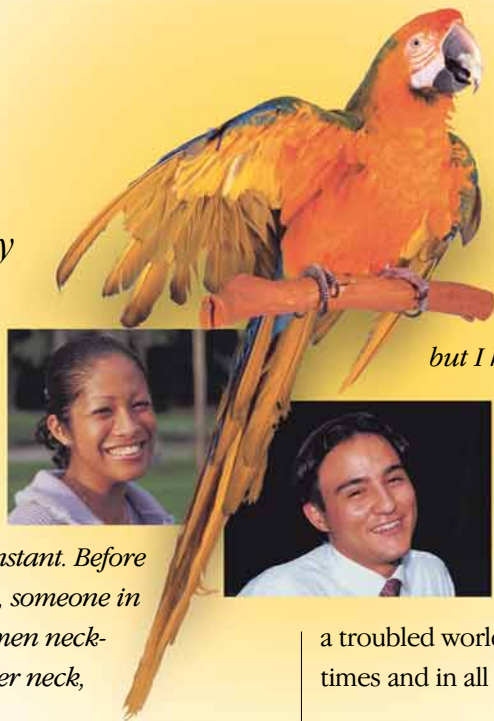
These young men and young women are truly standing as witnesses.

BY MARVIN K. GARDNER
Church Magazines

Rubí's necklace. *It started out as an ordinary day. But the routine of Rubí's daily trip to high school was shattered in an instant. Before she realized what was happening, someone in the crowd grabbed the Young Women necklace she was wearing, tore it off her neck, and disappeared into the crowd.*

Rubí found herself trembling with fright. How could someone have invaded her privacy and ripped away something so precious? Although the thief had snatched her necklace, he hadn't taken away what was even more precious—the standards and values the necklace represented. Soon after the incident, Rubí got another Young Women necklace. "I always wear it," she says. "If someone steals it again . . . I'll buy another one!"

Jimmy's refusal. *One evening when Jimmy went with friends to a party, "a girl came up and offered me alcohol," he says. "I said no and didn't pay any attention to her, but she kept offering it to me. And it wasn't just*



alcohol—there were invitations to do other things. I didn't agree to any of it, and I pulled away from the group. Some of the kids said I was antisocial, but I knew I couldn't stay there. Every time I have a trial like this and overcome it, I become stronger."

Rubí Cornejo, 17, and Jimmy Flórez, 17, both of Caracas, are two of many valiant Latter-day Saint youth in Venezuela who are finding ways in

a troubled world "to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places" (Mosiah 18:9).

Maintaining Standards

"We have pretty tough challenges at school," says David Javier Franco, 17, of Caracas. "But we have been taught to be like Joseph in Egypt. Joseph stayed away from evil things. When Potiphar's wife tempted him to do something that wasn't right, he got out of there! He fled from her! We can have the same strength he had."

Praying and studying the scriptures aren't new or original ways to stay strong, but they're effective. "I live in a part of town where I'm the only member of the Church," says Fátima Moutinho, 15, of Barcelona, "and every Sunday there are parties and lots of drinking. There are great

temptations to miss church. But the gospel has helped me be faithful and steadfast. When concerns and temptations are having an effect on me, the first thing I do is pray and read the scriptures.”

The Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God and Young Women Personal Progress programs are also essential tools in maintaining standards. “Our leaders have taught us not to just set a goal—but to reach the goal and then keep on going and never be done,” says Fátima. “So we are trying to progress each day.”

It takes courage to stand up for your standards. “Every time I do,” says Norelia Reyes, 17, of Caracas, “I discover something about myself—that I do have courage to say no and reject things that are not right. I think, ‘Wow, I have potential!’ And I feel joy.”

Being an Example

When you’re the only member of the Church in your school, it can be difficult to find friends with your values. But it’s not impossible. And others may choose to follow your lead.

Rubí Cornejo and Jimmy Flórez (far left) join youth in Parque del Este (East Park) in Caracas (below). **Standing:** Adriana Angulo, Mariela Ruiz, Luciano Fernández, Rubí Cornejo, Enrique López, and Norelia Reyes. **Kneeling:** Jimmy Flórez, David Javier Franco, and Gerald José López.



At an old
fortress
overlooking
the Caribbean Sea,
youth from
Barcelona and
Puerto La Cruz
talk about building
their testimonies
on a strong
foundation. From
left: Ebert Sifontes,
Ingrids Rodríguez,
Fátima Moutinho,
Daniela Macadán,
Eduarw José Silva,
Yosi Contreras, and
Xavier Carias.

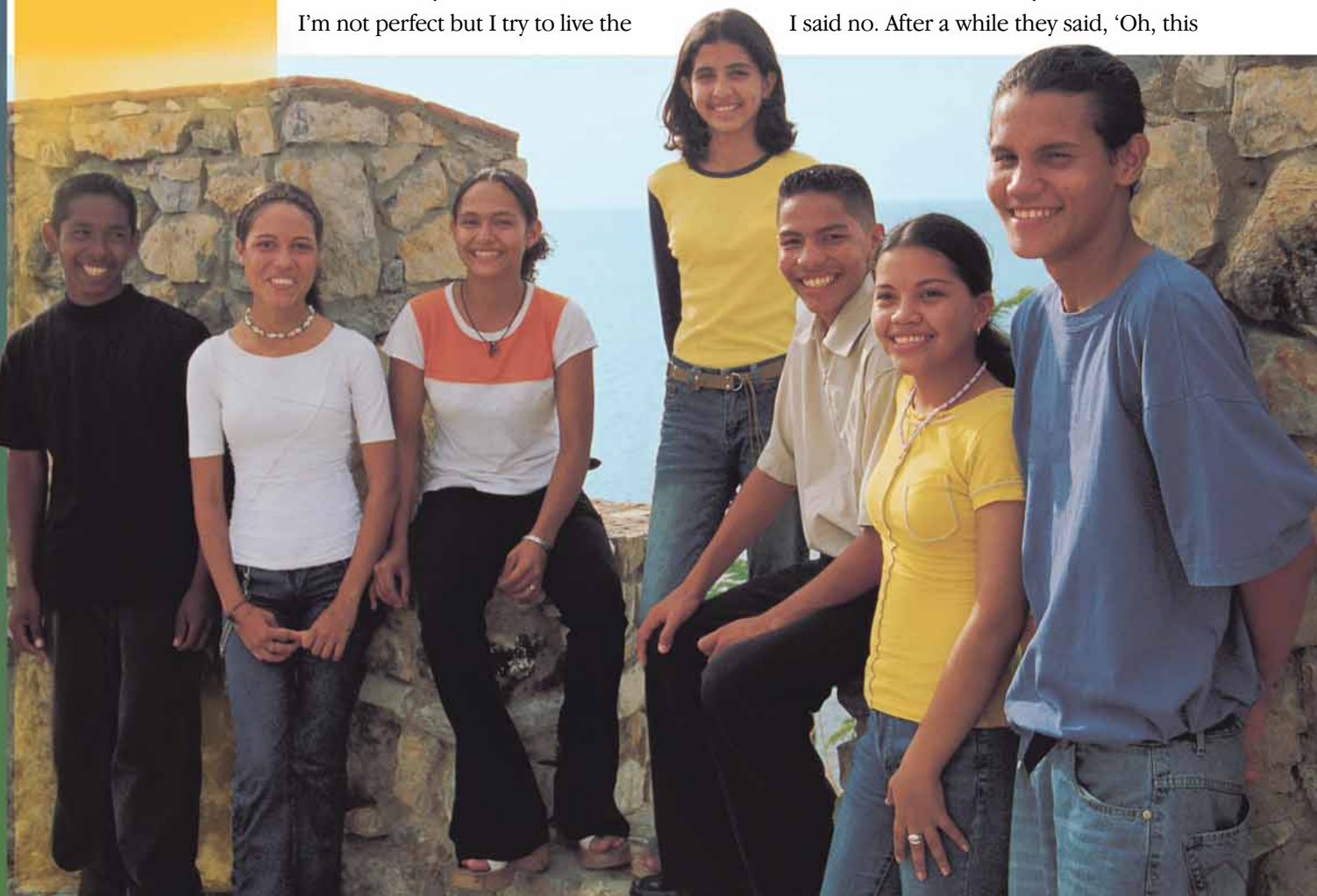
"I'm with my classmates from 7:00 in the morning until 4:00 in the afternoon," says Luciano Fernández, 16, of Caracas. "Most of them smoke, party, drink, and use vulgar language. I'm the only one they know who can set the right example for them. That's a lot of responsibility. Many of them see me as a person they can trust."

"One time my friends were going somewhere to smoke," says Norelia, "and I said, 'Remember what my religion is? I don't do those things.' Some of them have come to understand that smoking is a dirty habit and have tried to stop. They call me 'the perfect one' and always ask me for advice. I tell them I'm not perfect but I try to live the

standards of my church. They respect my beliefs, and I think I have sown a few seeds that may be a source of strength to them someday."

Once when Enrique López, 16, of Caracas, and four of his friends had a free period during school, they went to a friend's house. "Someone took out some beer. I didn't think they would try to get me to drink, because they all know about my religion—but they did. I said, 'No, I don't drink that stuff.' They started criticizing me and saying there was nothing wrong with drinking and a little bit wouldn't hurt. But even a little bit does hurt you in the end.

I said no. After a while they said, 'Oh, this



is a waste of time.' So they stopped, and we went back to class. I think they respected me."

Some of the youth find that being an example is especially important in their own homes. "Although my dad is not yet a member of the Church," says Jackelin García, 17, of Maracaibo, "I haven't lost hope that he will be and then we can be sealed in the temple as a family. I always pray and fast for this. I hope that my faith, patience, and example can help my dad."

Choosing Friends Wisely

These Venezuelan young men and young women are learning something about friends. "People who try to get us to do wrong things are not really friends," says David. "Usually they try to get us to think that bad things aren't that bad, but they really are. The scriptures say we need to be steadfast in our faith in Christ so the Lord can guide us and teach us what to do" (see 2 Nephi 31:20).

Most are finding that their best friends are active members of the Church. In many wards and branches, seminary is held three evenings each week—from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday. Mutual is sometimes on Friday and may include combined Young Men and Young Women activities, such as dances or parties. Saturdays often include recreational activities or service projects. On Sundays there are, of course, Church meetings. Some of the youth spend time each week working with the full-time missionaries or helping teach discussions to new members. And there are occasional temple trips, youth conferences, and Sunday evening devotionals.

"Church is where my friends are," says Jimmy. "In addition to learning about doctrine, I'm with my



BRINGING MOM BACK

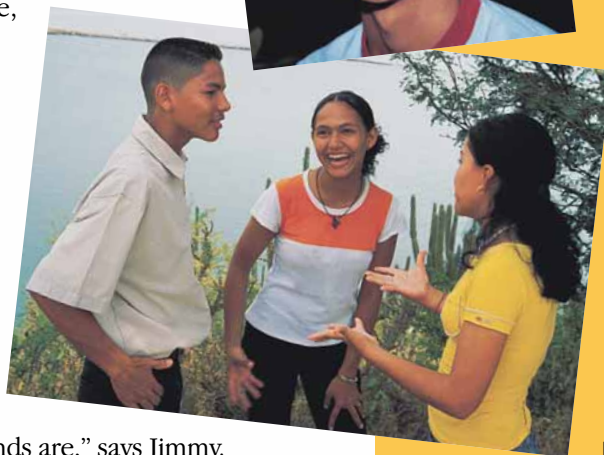
Is it true that "with God nothing shall be impossible"? (Luke 1:37). José Javier Alarcón, 16, of Maracaibo, has tested this scriptural promise.

"When I was eight or nine years old, my parents divorced. Later a friend invited me to church, and eventually I wanted to be baptized. But my mother, who had been baptized but hadn't been active for many years, wouldn't let me. When I was 12, she finally allowed me to be baptized. As I grew in the gospel, I started to pray that my mom would come back to the Church. A couple of years later, she did!"

José Javier's mother, Miriam, admits that she had been apart from the Church for eight years and "didn't ever intend to come back. But when my son began praying with great faith for me . . . something started to happen inside me. I began to feel a strong desire to pray and read the scriptures. One night the Lord changed my heart, and from that night I changed completely. So I owe it to my son. I thank the Father for giving me such a wonderful son!"

"It's a gift from God," says José Javier. "I had to do part of it. But it was actually God who did all of these things."

Now José Javier, his mother, and his younger brother, Jesús David, 10, have visited the temple. José Javier has been baptized for the dead, and their mother has received her endowment.





IN FRONT OF 500 CLASSMATES

Gladys Guerrero, 16, was the only Latter-day Saint attending a military high school in Maracaibo. During the first week of school, she was forced to stand in front of all 500 students and explain why she wouldn't drink coffee. Although

many students ridiculed Gladys for her lifestyle, others started watching her closely. "When they saw that I didn't do certain things, such as drink alcohol or go to some parties, some of them became interested in the gospel," she says. "The missionaries passed by the school one day, and I called to them. I introduced them to some of the students, and they got many referrals." Ten of Gladys's classmates were baptized during the next several months.

friends, and I meet new friends. They believe the same principles I do."

Fellowshipping Others

Some of these new friends are actually old friends who have returned to Church activity. "We often visit less-active youth," says Anángelys Golindano, 15, of Maracaibo. "We divide into districts, three or four people to a district, and then we visit and tell less-active members that we miss them. Some have accepted our invitation to return. There used to be 14 of us in our ward's seminary class, and now there are 20."

Josué Díaz, 15, of Maracaibo, saw similar results in his ward. "Last year there were only 9 of us in seminary with two wards combined. We fasted and visited people, and our class had to be divided. Now one ward has 16 and the other has 15!"

Another successful project has been to take a family home evening to the home of less-active youth on Wednesday evenings. "Some of the parents aren't members," says Jackelin. "In fact, many of these youth are the only Church members in their families. But usually their parents let us come in. When the kids see us, they're surprised. But they can see the interest we have in them. One of us gives the lesson, and we encourage questions and comments. You can really feel the Spirit. Usually the things of the world are what keep them from returning to church. Many of them say they're happy we've come and that they still have testimonies."

But expressions of friendship must be genuine, Jackelin says. "Sometimes when they see us, youth who are not active try to hide because they think we're always going to talk to them about the Church. But we try to be aware of their lives and talk to them about other things too. We want them to see we're interested in them and happy to be their friends."

David saw a miracle in the life of a good friend. "A friend who was the most help to me when I was new in the Church became less active," he says. "The Lord blessed me to have a chance to see and talk to him again. I told him all the things he had done to help me—and that I wanted to pay him back. I tried to be his friend. Now he's an active member of our priests quorum."

Attending the Temple

Many Venezuelan teens traveled long distances to attend a temple before the Caracas Venezuela Temple was built. And some still have to travel long distances to get to Caracas. For example, bus trips from Barcelona and Puerto La Cruz take about 6 hours, and trips from Maracaibo can take up to 10 hours. Sometimes the youth and their leaders leave at night and arrive at the temple early the next morning. Then after serving in the temple, they get back on the bus and arrive home late that evening.

Many of the youth have been baptized for their own ancestors. "The last time I went to the temple," says Gustavo Medina, 14, of Maracaibo, "I was baptized for both my grandfathers, for my great-grandfather, and for other people!"

Although the family circumstances of some do not allow them to be sealed as a family, they do all they can to enjoy temple blessings. "My mom, my brothers, and I haven't been able to be sealed in the temple," says Anángelys, "because my mom and dad are divorced. But two years ago I was baptized for eight of the women in my family. And I'm looking forward to being sealed to my future husband."

Ingrids Rodríguez, 15, of Puerto La Cruz, remembers how it felt to be sealed to her parents. “I cried so much,” she says. “I could not hold it in. I told myself, ‘From now on I’m going to support my parents because we’re sealed for eternity.’”

Likewise after the Moutinhos were sealed, Fátima and her family also savored the moment. “We looked at ourselves in the temple mirrors,” she says, “and promised that we would be together like this forever. Whatever happens, we support each other.”

Bearing Testimony

“I’m grateful to be a member of the Church,” says Rubí, who proudly wears her replacement Young Women necklace. “As young people, we have a lot of temptations. If I weren’t a member of the Church, maybe I would be making a lot of the mistakes we see some of our friends making. None of us is perfect, but because Jesus Christ took our sins upon Him, we can repent. That’s a gift we really have to be grateful for.” **NE**

Standing as witnesses in Maracaibo.

From left: Gustavo Medina, José Javier Alarcón, Gladys Guerrero, Jackelin García, Anángelys Golindano, and Josué Díaz.



SERVICE WITH A Wink



BY MEGAN WILLIS

Sometimes even a simple gesture can make someone's day.

The summer before my junior year of high school, I took my first job as a cashier at a fast-food restaurant. The first couple of days were a little shaky. But as time passed, I became one of the fastest button pushers and food gatherers you've ever seen.

One day halfway through the summer, it seemed like nothing was going right. Some orders had come out wrong, and the customers were not happy. I had been yelled at more than once. Several times, customers demanded to see my manager. I worried that this one bad day would get me fired.

Soon after the crowds had gone, two young boys came in. When I read their order back to them, the older boy used the Lord's name in vain and said, "Can't you get anything right?" I apologized and fixed the mistake. When he handed me a ten-dollar bill, I realized there weren't enough one-dollar bills to make change. I explained this to the boy, and he cursed again.

As I was putting their order together, I noticed an elderly woman in line talking to the older boy. When I

handed him his order, he looked down and apologized for what he had said.

When the woman reached the counter, she said, "I can't believe how that boy treated you. There was no reason for such behavior."

I smiled and told her it didn't bother me. "It's all right; I'm used to it." I turned to put the lid on her drink and was surprised that I felt like I was going to cry. I guess it was because someone



understood and took the time to talk to me decently.

When I gave her the order, she handed me one-dollar bills to pay for it. I looked up at her, and she said, "I overheard you say you needed one-dollar bills." Then she winked at me and left.

The rest of the day didn't seem so bad. I never saw her again, and I don't think she knew how much she helped me that day. We don't always know why certain people come into our lives, but this woman was there to help me when I needed it.

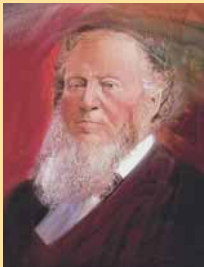

No one should ever have to say "It's all right; I'm used to it." Now I try extra hard to be nice to people every day. Then, before I go to bed, I ask myself, "Was someone's day made better or a burden made lighter because of coming in contact with me?" When the answer is yes, the feeling is wonderful. **NE**

Megan Willis is a member of the Cedar City University 19th Ward, Cedar City University Second Stake.

THE *Times* OF

President Gordon B. Hinckley is not the only prophet who has presided over interesting times in the world. All the latter-day prophets have seen the world go through many

changes in their lifetimes. We sometimes think of Church history separate from world history or from the other events during those times. This time line of the prophets' lives not only contains fun

Prophet	During His Lifetime	News
<p>Joseph Smith (1805–44)</p> 	<p>1827–29 Translates the Book of Mormon in about 60 working days</p> <p>1830 Organizes the Church of Christ</p> <p>1842 Organizes the Female Relief Society of Nauvoo</p> 	<p>1805 Napoleon (right) is crowned king of Italy</p> <p>1812–14 Americans and British fight the War of 1812 over freedom of the seas</p> 
<p>Brigham Young (1801–77)</p> 	<p>1844 Becomes the head Apostle of the Church when the Prophet Joseph Smith is martyred</p> <p>1847 Comes to the Salt Lake Valley with the first party of Saints. A few days after his arrival, he indicates where the Salt Lake Temple will be built</p> <p>1851 Becomes governor of the Utah Territory</p> 	<p>1815 Napoleon is defeated at Waterloo</p> <p>1845 James K. Polk becomes the 11th U.S. President</p> <p>1854 Crimean War begins</p> 
<p>John Taylor (1808–87)</p> 	<p>1836 Is baptized a member of the Church</p> <p>1842 Becomes the editor for the <i>Times and Seasons</i>, a Church newspaper</p> <p>1880 Is sustained as the President of the Church. As an Apostle he had helped organize Church branches all over England</p> 	<p>1861–65 American Civil War (below)</p> <p>1882 Italy, Austria–Hungary, and Germany form a Triple Alliance</p>

THE Prophets

and interesting facts, it will help you learn more about the latter-day prophets and the times they lived in. Who was the prophet when the *Titanic* sank? What was the most popular

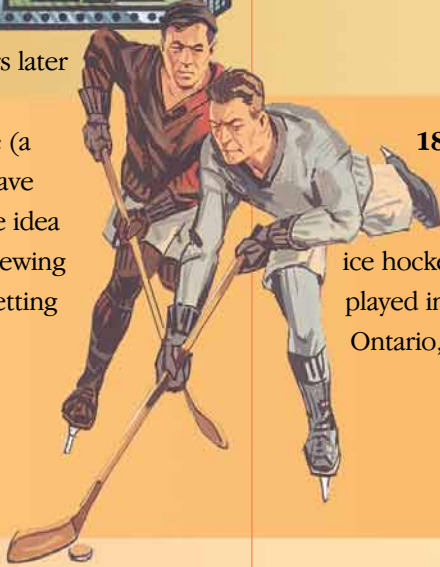
music when George Albert Smith was prophet? And who was the LDS farm boy who thought up the idea of television? Keep reading to find out.

Inventions

1810 Tin cans are invented. You had to use a hammer and chisel to get them open. Can openers didn't come along until about 50 years later



Late 1840s Chicle (a kind of tree sap) gave Thomas Adams the idea for modern-day chewing gum. We started getting it stuck in our hair shortly after that



1876 Alexander Bell patents the telephone (to the delight of teenage girls everywhere)

1876 Melvil Dewey's decimal system is introduced (to the delight of librarians everywhere)



Sports

1823 Legend has it that when a player at the Rugby School of England picked up a soccer ball mid-game and ran with it, the idea for rugby was born

1855 The first modern game of ice hockey is played in Ontario, Canada

1877 The first Wimbledon tennis championships are held in England. Smashing!

1883 The Metropolitan Opera House opens in New York City



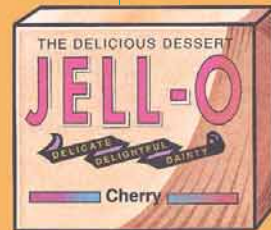
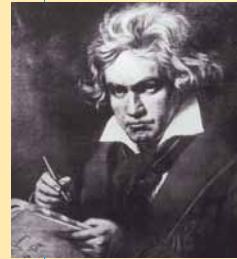
Entertainment

1805 Hans Christian Andersen, famous fairy tale writer, is born

1808 Ludwig Von Beethoven's (right) Fifth Symphony premiers in Vienna, Austria

1813 Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is published

1876 Peter Tchaikovsky composes *Swan Lake*



Food and Fashion

Early 1800s Ponytails and powdered wigs for men are going out of style

1842 A gelatin dessert, which later evolved into Jell-O, is patented in LeRoy, New York. Lime flavoring didn't come along until 1930

1865 Beards are popular, as are collars, cravats, and waistcoats, no matter how hot it is

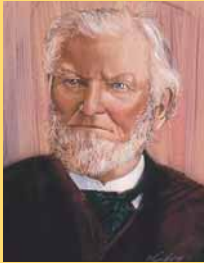
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Prophet

During His Lifetime

News

Wilford Woodruff (1807–98)

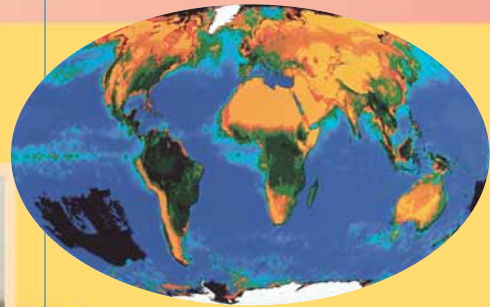


1834 Travels with Zion's Camp

1889 Is sustained as fourth President of the Church

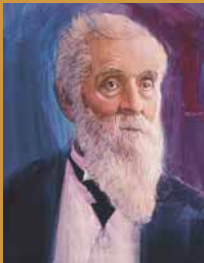
1890 Receives the revelation ending plural marriage among the Saints

1893 Dedicates the Salt Lake Temple



1884 Greenwich mean time is adopted. The International Date Line and 24 time zones are set

Lorenzo Snow (1814–1901)



1849 After being ordained an Apostle, he is the Church's first missionary to Italy

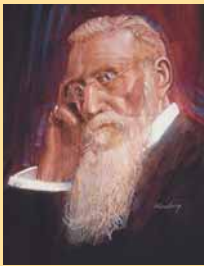
1898 Is sustained as Church President. He emphasizes the importance of paying tithing during his presidency

1901 Dies, having seen Church membership reach almost 300,000



1894 Nicholas II (left) begins his reign as Russia's last czar. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 follows his overthrow

Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918)



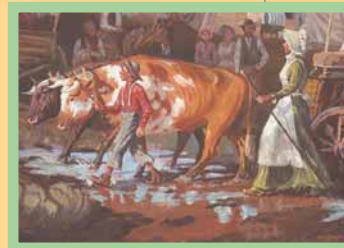
1848 Helps his mother cross the plains in a covered wagon



1854 Receives a mission call to Hawaii when only 15

1901 Is sustained as Church President

1918 Receives a vision of the redemption of the dead (see D&C 138)



1898 Spanish-American war begins

1912 The *Titanic* sinks after colliding with an iceberg



Heber J. Grant (1856–1945)



1856 Is born in Salt Lake City, Utah

1882 Is ordained an Apostle at the age of 25

1901–03 Presides over the mission in Japan (right), before presiding over the British and European missions

1918 Is sustained as seventh Church President. He also becomes the editor of the *Improvement Era*



1914 World War I starts in Europe. It ends in 1918

1918 An influenza pandemic—the worst disease outbreak since the Black Death—kills more than 20 million people worldwide

Inventions

1879 Light bulbs could start going off over other inventors' heads because they are finally invented by Thomas Edison (right)



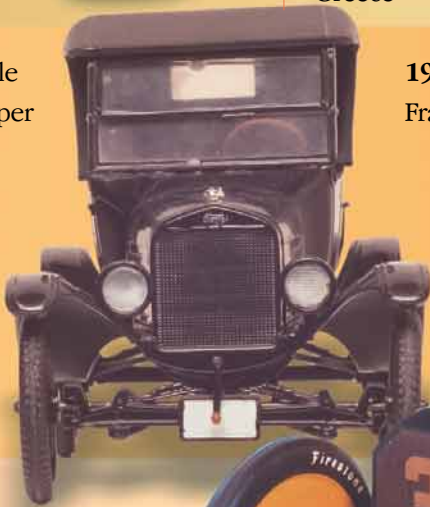
1878 The microphone is invented



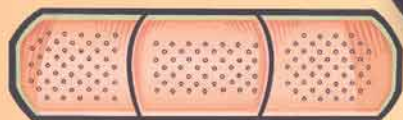
1898 Put your hands in the air for Edwin Prescott, who patented the roller coaster

1899 The simple but effective paper clip is invented

1908 Henry Ford's Model-T cars start rolling off the assembly line



1920 Earle Dickson invents adhesive bandages to cover the cuts of his accident-prone wife



Sports

1891 Basketball is invented by James Naismith



1895 Volleyball is invented in Holyoke, Massachusetts

1896 First modern Olympics are held in Athens, Greece



1903 First Tour de France bicycle race

1911 First Indianapolis 500 race. Gentlemen, start your engines!

Entertainment

1887 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle writes his first book featuring Sherlock Holmes

1889 Vincent VanGogh paints his *Starry Night*

1897 The first color comic strip, *The Katzenjammer Kids*, is published in New York

1905–15 Lots of "animal dances" start to show up—the fox trot, the bunny hop, the snake dip . . .

1920s Cool cats all over the United States start to dig Jazz music

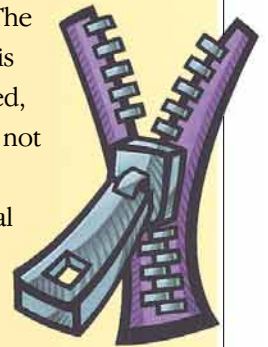
Food and Fashion



1873 Levi Strauss makes jeans out of a new fabric from Genoa, Italy. They become

popular with miners and cowboys

1893 The zipper is patented, but it's not put to practical use until about 1919



1905 Charles Nestle introduces the permanent wave (or "perm," to make your hair curly) in London

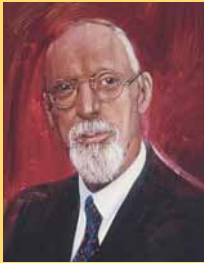
1909 Talk about a sugar rush! In the early 1900s Americans ate about 65 pounds (30 kg) of sugar per person each year! Unfortunately, that number doubles by the end of the century

Prophet

During His Lifetime

News

George Albert Smith (1870–1951)



1892 Receives a call to the Southern States Mission. Before that, he worked as a traveling salesman in his youth

1945 Is sustained as Church President. He helps Church members in Europe to recover from World War II. He also builds up the Church's family history program

1951 Dies after many years of service. He was known for his kindness and was featured in *Time* magazine in 1947



1929 A stock market crash on "Black Tuesday" signals the start of America's Great Depression

David O. McKay (1873–1970)



1897 Is called on a mission to Great Britain

1899 Begins teaching at Weber Academy in Ogden, Utah. He loves to teach and always stresses the importance of education

1951 Becomes ninth Church President and emphasizes that every member should be a missionary

1941 Pearl Harbor (below) is bombed, bringing the U.S. into World War II, which doesn't end until 1945



Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972)



1910 Is ordained an Apostle by his father, Joseph F. Smith

1972 Dies two and a half years after being sustained President of the Church. He is remembered for his great gospel knowledge and the many books he wrote

1950–53 Korean War

1957 Laika, a small dog, becomes the first living creature in space when the Soviet Union launches *Sputnik II*



Harold B. Lee (1899–1973)



1941 Is 42 when ordained an Apostle. The other Apostles call him "the kid" because he is so young

1972 Is sustained as the 11th President of the Church. He emphasizes the home and family. Under his direction, the Church's correlation program and welfare system are developed



1961 Berlin Wall is built to prevent East Germans from fleeing west

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis



Inventions

1927 Philo T. Farnsworth, an LDS farm boy, patents the television. He invented the idea when he was a teenager



Sports

1930 Uruguay hosts the first World Cup soccer competition

1934 Babe Ruth (right) hits his 700th home run



Entertainment

1935 Swing is fast becoming the popular music among the younger generation

Food and Fashion

1940–42 U.S. begins to ration sugar. Britain also rations food and clothes in war time

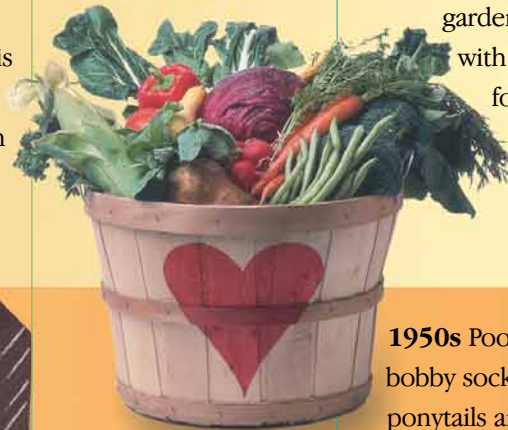
1946 Hungry children everywhere are now fed hot food because of Percy Spencer's invention—the microwave oven



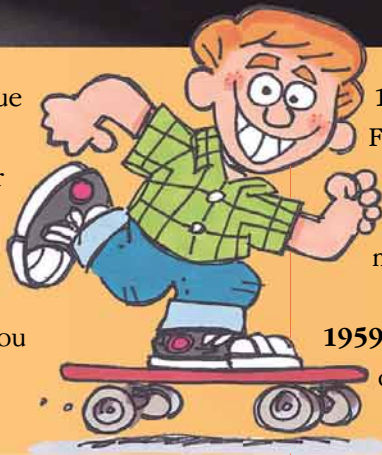
1947 An English race car (below) driver sets a ground speed record of about 394 mph (634 kph). Today's ground speed record is more than 700 mph (1,120 kph)

1951 The U.S. has its first color television broadcast

Early 1940s People all over the U.S. and Canada planted victory gardens to help with war-time food production



1951 Super glue starts to stick things together



1958 Bobby Fischer becomes the youngest chess grand master



1958 The modem is invented. Do you have mail?

1959 The first commercial skateboards are sold

1950's Rock n' Roll isn't called "oldies" in the 50s. The cha-cha and the stroll are popular dances

1950s Poodle skirts, bobby socks, and ponytails are cool

1963–64 The first prototype for a computer mouse is developed

1961 Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle make headlines as they hit one home run after another. Maris came out on top with 61 home runs



1960s British musicians invade the American music market

1967 More than 5 billion cans of soda are consumed in the U.S. alone



Prophet

During His Lifetime

News

Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985)



1914 Serves in the Central States Mission

1973 Is sustained as Church President. He is known for encouraging Church members to “lengthen your stride” and to do family history work

1978 Receives revelation that all worthy males can be ordained to the priesthood (see Official Declaration 2)



1974 U.S. President Richard Nixon resigns

1973 Energy crisis in England, U.S., and Japan causes cuts in heating and transportation

Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994)



1943 Is ordained an Apostle and sent to Europe to help Church members recover from WW II. He encourages Church members to read the Book of Mormon

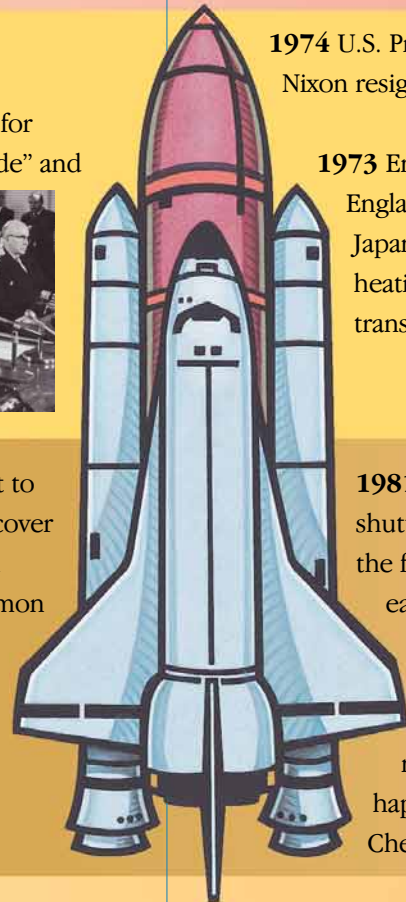
1952 Becomes U.S. National Secretary of Agriculture, making the cover of *Time* magazine

1985 Becomes 13th Church President



1981 The space shuttle *Columbia* is the first to orbit the earth

1986 The world’s worst nuclear disaster happens at Chernobyl, USSR



Howard W. Hunter (1907–95)



1939 Graduates from law school

1959 Is ordained an Apostle. He oversees the building of the BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies (right)

1995 Dies after serving as President of the Church for only nine months. But during that time he pleaded that all Church members be temple worthy, even if they did not have a temple close by



1989 The fall of the Berlin wall signals the eventual breakup of the Soviet Union

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–)



1933 Is called to serve a mission to England

1961 Is ordained an Apostle. He served as a counselor to three Church Presidents.

1995 Is sustained as President of the Church. Under his leadership, more than 70 temples have been built (right: Monticello Utah Temple). He is known for his tremendous optimism, faith, and sense of humor



1997 England turns Hong Kong over to China

2001 Terrorists crash planes into the World Trade Towers in New York City

Inventions

1972

The first video game is invented and marketed to the public



1979 Scott Olson creates modern in-line skates



1988 Doppler radar is refined. Weather is still not predictable



Early 1990s

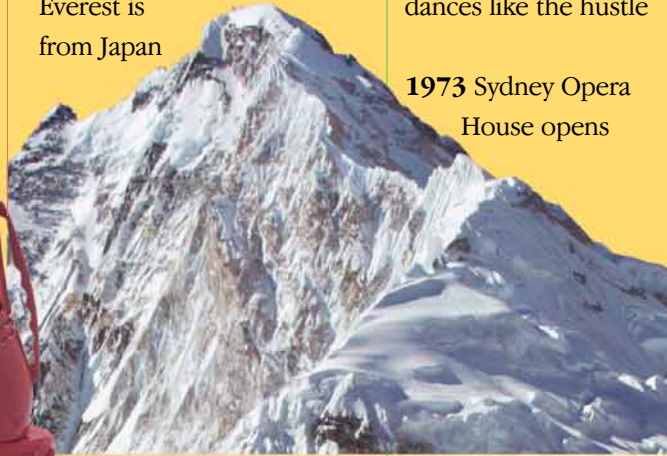
The protocol and language for the World Wide Web are created

1995 DVDs are invented



Sports

1975 The first woman to reach the top of Mt. Everest is from Japan



1984 Viv Richards, of the West Indies, scores the highest-ever innings in a limited-overs international cricket game—189 not out

1990 Ty Detmer, then quarterback for Brigham Young University, wins the Heisman Memorial Trophy for being the best college football player in America



1998 The home run race between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa (left) results in both men breaking Roger Maris's 1961 record

Entertainment

1970s Disco reigns supreme, and teens do dances like the hustle

1973 Sydney Opera House opens

1980s Rap music and break dancing become popular, and they're still around

Early 1990s CDs replace vinyl albums on a large scale

Late 1990s MP3 and other digital music formats become popular with help from the Internet

Food and Fashion

1970s Bell bottoms, large floral prints, clogs . . . need we go on? You could probably just go look at some of your parents' high school yearbooks

1980s Stonewashed jeans are new! Tube socks, leg warmers, argyle sweater vests . . . Aren't you glad it's 2005?

1990s Fashionable items include baggy jeans, baby doll dresses, and cargo pants



Now you've seen today's fashions, and you only wear the good stuff. And one day your children will look at your yearbooks and laugh too **NE**



BY JACQUELYN BENSON,
MARY LEE CALL,
AND EMILY O. JENNINGS



LDS youth in Arizona and Illinois wear cute clothes while promoting modesty in their communities.

CUTE *and* Modest

The modesty movement is, well . . . on the move! After many years of going from store to store to find acceptable clothing, Latter-day Saint youth and others who want to dress modestly have finally had enough. Two great examples of how LDS youth are fighting the increasingly fashionable battle for more modest clothing come from Arizona and Illinois.

The youth of the Tucson Arizona East Stake have great taste in clothes. They also have something much more important—a strong commitment to Church standards. They youth received a lot of attention when they put on a local fashion show that not only displayed modest fashions, but demonstrated their love for the gospel.

was no use to try to influence fashion, and what did we think a bunch of teenagers could do anyway.” But, she adds, “I was actually surprised at how many people were supportive and commended us for our efforts.” Wallis



The fashion show came after the young women and young men in the stake spent a year preparing and building community support for their efforts to promote modesty. More than 4,000 community members signed a petition encouraging stores to provide more modest clothing options, and more than 500 attended the fashion show, which was held at the stake center.

The youth met varied responses as they took the petition around. “I went to a public library to get signatures,” says Sydni Dunn, 13. “One woman I asked even started to cry because she so appreciated what I was doing.”

Not everyone cried when they heard about the petition; some people laughed. Wallis Rothlisberger, 15, says, “Some people said it

explained to people that the petition did not mean that Latter-day Saints are trying to impose their standards on others; they only want local retailers to increase their selection of modest clothing.

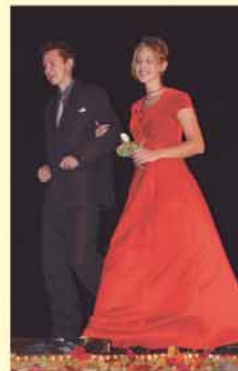
The theme for the stake’s fashion show was “Discovering the Beauty Within.” Ward and stake leaders worked with the young women and young men to make the show a success. The youth were also joined in their efforts by several girls of other faiths.

In the show, the Laurels modeled, and the priests were ushers and escorts. On the runway the young women wore clothes from their own closets to show others it is possible to find modest, stylish clothes without spending purse-loads of money.

Through your dress and appearance, you can show the Lord that you know how precious your body is. You can show that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.”

—For the Strength of Youth (2001), 14.

Youth anywhere
can find
strength in
banding together
in a common
righteous cause.



As the youth prepared for the show, local newspapers and TV and radio stations interviewed many of them and their leaders. “The fashion show was a blast,” says Ed Rothlisberger, 17, who spoke to the media. “I felt we were being an example—a light on the hill for Tucson.”

Ed helped get petition signatures and escorted some of the girls in the fashion show. So did Sam Rogers, 17. He told the media: “Girls think they have to wear certain clothes to interest us, but they don’t. I just like to see girls dressed modestly.”

Besides the petitions and the fashion show, the youth and their leaders also set up a Web site called “Modesty Turns Heads.” It includes helpful resources, like a link to *For the*

Strength of Youth at www.lds.org and information on how others can get involved in promoting modest dress standards.

“After doing so much work to promote modesty in our community, I have come to recognize that I am not weird or out of fashion for dressing the way that I do,” says Lindsay Orton, 17.

Stylish Modesty

The modesty movement is catching on in a lot of places. Youth in the Naperville Illinois Stake also recently organized a modesty fashion show in their area. The youth and their leaders worked with local and online vendors of modest clothing to put on their show of beautiful dresses with appropriate necklines, lengths, and fits. (For dress and appearance guidelines, see *For the Strength of Youth*, 14–16).

The Naperville stake also has a “style committee” that works to help adults and youth in the stake learn how to dress modestly and where to find helpful community resources. This committee, along with the youth, organized a fashion show titled “Modest Elegance: It’s for ME.” Committee members Josetta Nair, Julie Koch, and Hillary Kennefick all have experience in sewing and fashion design.

“The style committee teaches us about fashion,” says Lauryn Moon, 17. “They weren’t just helping us find modest dresses, but *cute* modest dresses.”

“Dressing modestly gives me self-respect,” Amelia Weinert, 17, said. “I want boys to like me





for me. Wearing the kind of dresses you find in most stores, you get attention for the wrong reason.”

For the Strength of Youth spells out what the youth from Illinois and Arizona are trying to express when they promote modesty: “When you are well groomed and modestly dressed, you invite the companionship of the Spirit and can exercise a good influence on those around you. . . . Through your dress and appearance, you can show the Lord that you know how precious your body is. You can show that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ” (14–15).

The youth in Arizona and Illinois found strength in banding together for the righteous cause of modesty in dress. Ariel Lewis, 15, from Tucson, says, “Every time I told someone why I wanted them to sign the petition, it strengthened my testimony that modest clothes really matter. I stood stronger for what I believed in. This experience has really strengthened me.”

Brittany Blotter, 17, from the Naperville stake, agrees: “I have completely changed,” she says. “The way I feel is different. The way I act is different. I’m just so happy!”

In their quest for more modest clothing options, Latter-day Saint youth have made people in their communities more aware and supportive of modest clothing, but, more importantly, they have also made a difference in their own lives by strengthening their testimonies and their commitment to being modest. **NE**

EXTRA! EXTRA!

To see how other teens have stood up for modesty, read these articles in the Gospel Library at www.lds.org: “Dressed Up!” (*New Era*, May 2003), by Nikki Miner and “Evaluate Your Style” (*New Era*, Jan. 2002), by Caroline H. Benzley.

Jacquelyn Benson is a member of the Fairmount Ward, Tucson Arizona East Stake; Mary Lee Call is a member of the Hidden Valley Ward, Tucson Arizona East Stake; Emily O. Jennings is a member of the Prestbury Ward, Naperville Illinois Stake.



ME? GIVE A BLESSING?

“What would I say?” I wondered.

BY BRAD LARSEN

Will you give the blessing if she wants you to?” asked Jacob on the other end of the phone line. Jacob, my home teaching companion, explained that one of the people we home taught wanted a blessing.

“What would I say in a blessing?” I wondered. I was only 18, and I’d just become an elder and moved away to college. I had prepared my whole life to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, but I had never thought about the day when I would really need to use it.

I hesitated, swallowed hard, and then heard myself say reluctantly, “Yes.” As soon as I realized what I had said, I cut the word so short that it was hardly audible. I hadn’t meant to say it, but somehow it had popped out of my mouth.

“Great!” cheered the enthusiastic voice. “I’ll be over in a couple of minutes.”

I stood by the phone in my basement apartment, considering calling Jacob back to tell him I couldn’t do it. Then I remembered my dad. Whenever he had to give a blessing, he went quietly into another room and prayed first. He would always say, “Just a second,” and then go say a prayer without anyone noticing. I had noticed though.

Alone in my apartment, I knelt down next to the couch. I bowed my head and started to pray: “Heavenly Father, I might be giving a blessing in a few minutes, and I’ve never done it before. If it be Thy will, help me to have my mind clear of my own thoughts and help me to know by the Spirit what I should say.”

As I stood up, I had a peaceful feeling that I was worthy and that the Spirit would tell me what I needed to say when I needed to say it. I didn’t know what I was going to say, but it didn’t seem to matter.

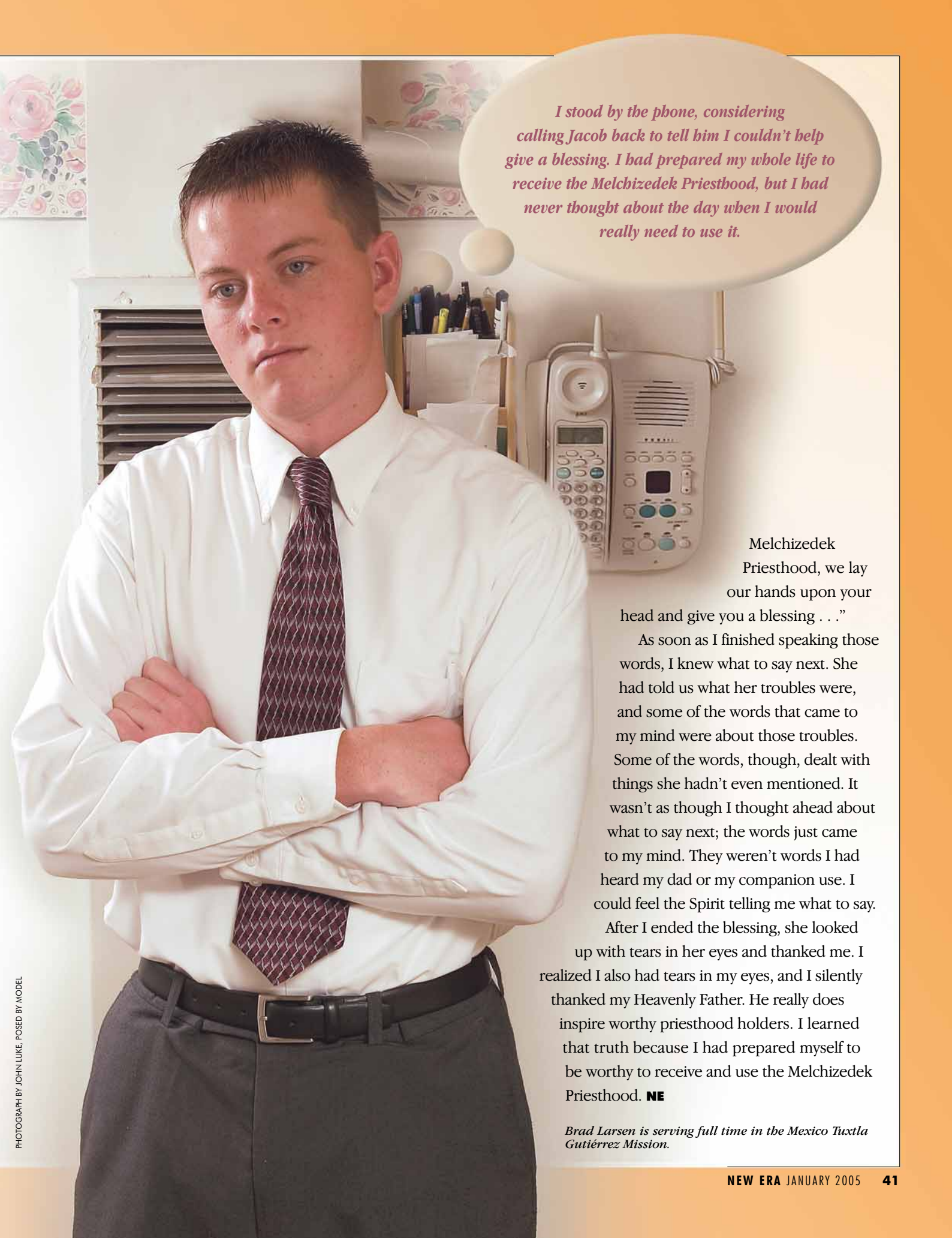
Several minutes later Jacob and I were in our suits and ties, sitting in the home of the young lady we home taught. The three of us talked for a few minutes about how her life was going. She was having a difficult time and hoped a priesthood blessing would help.

“Who would you like to give the blessing?” Jacob inquired.

She turned to me. “Will you give the blessing?” she asked.

“Yes,” I answered, this time without cutting the word short.

We pulled a white metal chair from the kitchen table into the middle of the room. As I laid my hands on her head, I silently repeated my prayer that I would know what to say. Jacob placed his hands on top of mine, and I began speaking: “By the authority of the holy



I stood by the phone, considering calling Jacob back to tell him I couldn't help give a blessing. I had prepared my whole life to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, but I had never thought about the day when I would really need to use it.

Melchizedek Priesthood, we lay our hands upon your head and give you a blessing . . .”

As soon as I finished speaking those words, I knew what to say next. She had told us what her troubles were, and some of the words that came to my mind were about those troubles. Some of the words, though, dealt with things she hadn't even mentioned. It wasn't as though I thought ahead about what to say next; the words just came to my mind. They weren't words I had heard my dad or my companion use. I could feel the Spirit telling me what to say.

After I ended the blessing, she looked up with tears in her eyes and thanked me. I realized I also had tears in my eyes, and I silently thanked my Heavenly Father. He really does inspire worthy priesthood holders. I learned that truth because I had prepared myself to be worthy to receive and use the Melchizedek Priesthood. **NE**

Brad Larsen is serving full time in the Mexico Tuxtla Gutiérrez Mission.

The ONE and ONLY

BY RYAN CARR
Church Magazines



As the only active teen in her branch, Gina Paulino had few Church friends nearby. Here's how she has stayed strong in the gospel.

What if you weren't a member of the Church and you attended different churches with your family when you were young? And what if the teachings you learned there were confusing but you knew they should make sense because you believed that "God is not the author of confusion"? (1 Corinthians 14:33). Then what if you learned about the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and those teachings agreed with what you had always believed? You gain a testimony and want to be baptized, but you can't—yet.

If you can imagine this situation, you can understand a little of what Gina Paulino, of the Hingham Massachusetts Stake, went through before joining the Church.

The Faith of a Child

Years before she was taught the gospel, 11-year-old Gina told her mother she believed that "there has to be just one church that is Jesus Christ's. All these churches can't be true, because they all teach different things."

And she believed that "there must be an existence in heaven before we came here."

And that "there must be different levels in heaven

because not everyone has the same amount of goodness."

And that "people who have died and weren't able to hear the gospel message—someone must be able to stand in for them so they can be baptized."

Young Gina believed all these truths before she had read the Book of Mormon or met with the missionaries or even attended a Latter-day Saint meeting. Gina's mother had learned a little about the gospel more than 20 years ago from her sister. But Gina's mother didn't join the Church then because her husband wasn't ready to do so. So when Gina told her mother about these beliefs, her mom would cry and say, "You're right. There is a church that believes that."

Hoping to Be Baptized

Gina's mother was baptized in 1998, when Gina was 13. Gina knew then the Church is true, but her dad wanted her to wait until she was 18 to be baptized.

At age 15, Gina asked her dad again if she could join the Church. They talked for several hours. She told him how much she wanted to get baptized and that she knew the Church is true. He agreed to let her attend church and Young Women. At that time, only two other teenage girls attended Gina's branch.

Seven months later, Gina's father said she could be baptized.

With that good news, Gina began taking the discussions, which were held at the meetinghouse. Gina's



Gina Paulino
(below, left,
with Andrea
Fogt) loves getting
together with her
friends in the
Hingham
Massachusetts State.





Gina, now 19, and Matt Andrews are engaged to be married in the Boston Massachusetts Temple this month.

mother was there, as were a couple of other members of the branch. Gina's talks with her mother in the past few years had given Gina a basic understanding of the gospel, but the missionary lessons strengthened her testimony of the Atonement and taught her the importance of baptismal covenants. She learned to abide by Church standards like dressing modestly to show respect for her body.

Shortly before Gina was baptized in December 2001, her nonmember friends left her. They thought Gina was joining a cult. But Gina didn't let that stop her, because joining the Church was so important to her.

A couple weeks after her baptism, Gina drove two hours to her first Church activity: a semi-formal dance. Gina knew only one person there. At the next activity, ice skating, she met more Latter-day Saint teens and exchanged e-mail addresses with them. In the months following her baptism, she began to get to know more youth in her stake.

Thirst for the Scriptures

As the only active teen in her branch, Gina took home-study seminary. She started it a few months before she was baptized. She studied the scriptures on her own, then met with her teacher at the church once a week. When Gina's teacher moved out of the state, Gina's mother volunteered to teach. They had seminary every morning at 6 a.m.

Gina enjoyed being the only student because she didn't have to compete with other students to ask questions. "My mom and I grew so much closer," Gina says. "We had that connection. I absolutely loved doing seminary with my mom."

As a new member, Gina wanted to get as much from seminary as possible—to catch up for all those years without the scriptures. What was supposed to be an hour-long lesson sometimes stretched to two hours. Gina says the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants "are the two most important books that I've grown up without. To be able to learn about them in depth was wonderful. To get my mom's insight along with my study was an experience I would never want to give up."

Gina lives in a stake that covers a lot of territory. Her Church friends live about two hours away. Besides the time involved, the cost of gas makes it expensive to drive to see her friends. But it's worth it to Gina because her friends are strong members of the Church and such good influences on her.

Gina was the only active teenager in her branch; she was the only student in seminary; and her Church friends live far away. Why does she go to all the effort? "I know what I know, and I know it's the truth," she says. "To be with people who have a strong testimony of the same things I do is worth driving two hours to have that spiritual backing up."

"There is wear and tear during the week, but you just have to stay strong. When that weekend comes, you're ready for some Latter-day Saint fun and goodness surrounding you," Gina says, laughing. "It's definitely worth it." **NE**

THE EXTRA SMILE

"I think you need more duct tape, Elder."



"Treating every day as a day of rest doesn't make you seven times more religious."

"Sing with me now, Elder! 'Onward, Christian soldiers . . .'"



CHAD STOWELL

KEN CHANDLER



ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF

"I earned my first aid merit badge after I had a little trouble pinning on my mom's mother's pin."



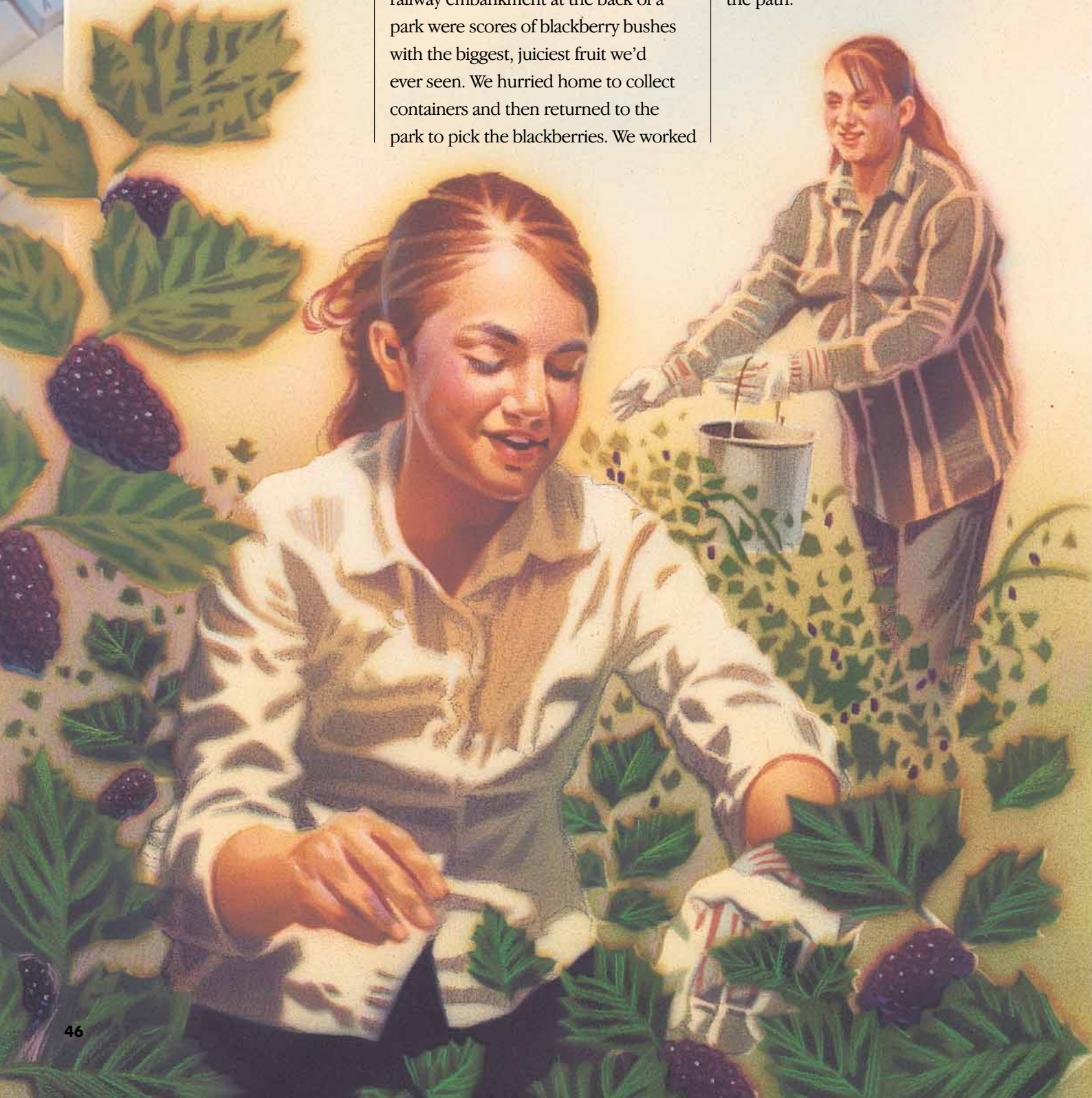
VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

HIDDEN FRUIT

BY RUTH BARDSLEY

On a beautiful afternoon towards the end of August, my friend and I made a discovery. Along the old railway embankment at the back of a park were scores of blackberry bushes with the biggest, juiciest fruit we'd ever seen. We hurried home to collect containers and then returned to the park to pick the blackberries. We worked

methodically in the warm afternoon sun, stripping the bushes bare of their treasures until we reached the end of the path.



MY GREAT-GREAT TEMPLE TRIP

BY RACHELLE SIMONSEN

As we made our way back, we were surprised to see more luscious berries we had not seen before. We stopped and continued to fill our containers, amazed that we could have missed those berries the first time. At last our containers were full, and we were ready to make blackberry pie.

I was disappointed not to be able to pick more of the fruit before the season ended, but school was about to begin again and with it, early-morning seminary. On the first morning of seminary, our teacher welcomed us to the class and went through the requirements for completing the course. I listened with enthusiasm. Knowing that we were required to read the Book of Mormon as part of the course, I had read it all during the summer break.

Following the class, I explained to my teacher that I had already fulfilled the requirement to read the Book of Mormon. My teacher insisted that I would need to read it again. But, I thought, "I don't need to read it again!"

Disappointed, but obedient, I began to read the Book of Mormon a second time. And in reading, I discovered "fruit" I had somehow missed before.

It seemed that the Book of Mormon had more verses since I had last read it, and inspiring new scriptures stood out from the pages. Even characters I did not remember appeared. It was like picking

A few days after my 12th birthday, my grandparents, parents, and I went to the Denver Colorado Temple. My grandma and grandpa had done the family history work for many of my ancestors so I could be baptized for them.

In the temple everybody was kind to me. There was a reverent feeling, and I could tell the Holy Spirit was there. When I was being baptized, I felt warm inside. Every time I was baptized for one of my ancestors, I could picture in my mind each one of them being set free.

blackberries. Wherever I looked, more fruit seemed to appear.

I realized that if I followed the commandment to "press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ" (2 Nephi 31:20), I would need to read the Book of Mormon over and over throughout my life. But unlike blackberry season,



Since then, I have been able to return and perform more baptisms for the dead. I have even been baptized for my 12th great-grandmother, who lived in Switzerland in the 1600s.

I love going to the temple and the feeling I have while I'm there. I'm glad my grandparents are doing family history work so I can get to know my ancestors and help them receive the blessings of the temple. By doing this, I know my family and I are receiving many blessings. **NE**

Rachelle Simonsen is a member of the Conifer Ward, Golden Colorado Stake.

the season for picking this fruit will not come to an end. **NE**

Ruth Bardsley is a member of the Buchan Ward, Aberdeen Scotland Stake.



WORDS OF WARNING

BY STEPHEN VINCENT

A few years ago, my 10-year-old cousin was in a car wreck. Johnny was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the vehicle. He was in a coma for a few days, and the doctors said he would not live. Aunts, uncles, and cousins joined to fast and pray for him. The day after the fast, he woke up from the coma.

It was a miracle.

A few months later, my teammates on the Dixie State College debate team and I boarded a 15-passenger van, heading to the regional tournament in Casper, Wyoming, hundreds of miles away. After a stop for dinner, I had the backseat of the van all to myself. It was the perfect place to get extra sleep to be ready for the next day's competition. Of course, by lying down I wouldn't be able to wear a seat belt.

I was nearly asleep, when suddenly the Spirit reminded me of a conversation I had had with Johnny earlier in the week. As I drove Johnny and his father home from our house, he told me, "Remember to buckle your seat belt. I wish I had."

At first, I thought I was just being paranoid. But the words kept coming into my mind, over and over, urging me to buckle up.

Finally, I listened. I buckled myself

in and unsuccessfully tried to sleep. Meanwhile, we had entered a late-winter blizzard. As we made our descent into Casper, our van hit a patch of black ice, spun, went off the road, and rolled.

The next thing I remembered was waking up spitting mud and glass and wondering why I was suspended in midair. My seat belt had held me in place and saved me from being thrown from the vehicle. Fortunately, everyone in the van had been buckled in, and only two were slightly injured.

I am grateful on a night when I needed some sleep to get ready for a busy day that I was able to listen to the voice of the Spirit. I'm grateful

I heeded that warning. **NE**

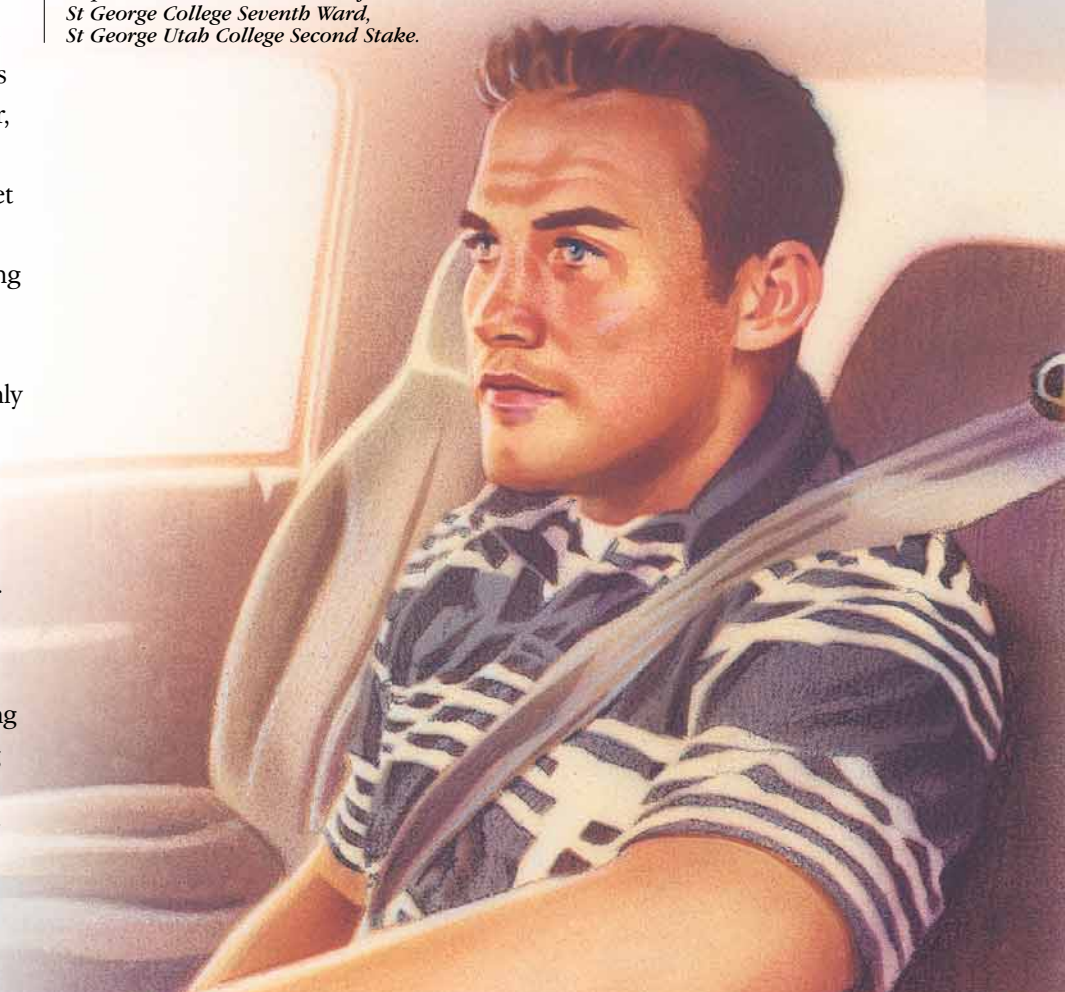
Stephen Vincent is a member of the St George College Seventh Ward, St George Utah College Second Stake.

INSTANT MESSAGES features personal experiences, favorite hymns and scriptures, and other uplifting thoughts. If you have a personal experience that has strengthened your testimony and you'd like us to consider it for *Instant Messages*, please send it to

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, USA

Or e-mail it to
cur-editorial-newera@
ldschurch.org

Please limit submissions to 400 words. They may be edited for length and clarity.



IDEAS FOR USING THE 2005 MUTUAL THEME

These ideas could be used in Mutual classes, as a combined activity, or in family home evening. They may also fulfill experiences in Personal Progress and Duty to God.

- Read Joseph Smith—History in the Pearl of Great Price.
- Memorize the words and melody to “Joseph Smith’s First Prayer” (*Hymns*, no. 26). You may want to ask your ward music director if you can perform it in sacrament meeting.
- Imagine what it was like to live in Joseph Smith’s day. Using simple costumes, act out scenes from the early life of Joseph Smith and his family. Use the book *History of Joseph Smith by His Mother, Lucy Mack Smith* as a basis for the scenes. Divide into groups and rehearse a few times before presenting each scene.
- Resolve to read the Book of Mormon in 2005 either by yourself or with a reading group such as your Mutual class or your family. Make copies of the chart printed in the January 2004 *New Era* on

page 41 to help keep track of your progress.

- Research your family history and learn the story of the first convert to the Church from your family. If it is not written, write it down and distribute copies to your family. If you are the first member of the Church in your family, record your conversion story and testimony for your posterity.
- Get into family history research. With the help of your stake family history specialist, learn how to do research and submit names to the temple. If you discover family members in your history who have not had their temple work done, arrange to perform the baptisms for them.
- Memorize section 4 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
- Study about the prophets who restored priesthood keys to Joseph Smith, as recorded in D&C 110. Who were they, and what did they restore?

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SUNDAY LESSON HELPS

In addition to the Resource Guides (printed in May and November in the *Ensign* and *Liabona*), Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood teachers may find these additional resources helpful in enhancing lessons 1–5.

Young Women Manual 3

Lesson 1 God the Father

Susan W. Tanner, “We Are Daughters of Our Heavenly Father, Who Loves Us,” *New Era*, Oct. 2003, 10.

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Daughters of the Almighty,” *New Era*, Nov. 2003, 4.

Lesson 2 Coming to Know the Savior

Q&A: “. . . How can I ‘always remember him?’” this issue, 16.

Robert D. Hales, “What Think Ye of Christ?” *New Era*, Dec. 2004, 4.

Lesson 3 Living the Gospel Daily

Ryan Carr, “The One and Only,” this issue, 42.

L. Tom Perry, “A Pattern for Living,” *New Era*, Jan. 2004, 4.

Lesson 4 Preparing to Become an Eternal Companion

Thomas S. Monson, “Whom Shall I Marry?” *New Era*, Oct. 2004, 4.

Susan W. Tanner, “Making Dating Smooth Sailing,” *New Era*, Oct. 2004, 28.

Lesson 5 Creating a Spiritual Environment in the Home

Jeremy Robertson, “The Sign on the Wall,” *New Era*,

Aug. 2004, 30.

Julie Baker, “Monday, Monday,” *New Era*, Feb. 2004, 14.

Aaronic Priesthood Manual 3

Lesson 1 The Godhead

Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Gift of the Holy Ghost,” this issue, 4.

Mel Jones, “The Man Upstairs,” *New Era*, July 2004, 42.

Lesson 2 The Plan of Salvation

Adhemar Damiani, “The Merciful Plan of the Great Creator,” *Ensign*, Mar. 2004, 8.

Charity Brunson, “Saving the Bees,” *New Era*, Nov. 2003, 10.

Lesson 3 Sons of the Living God

Marion G. Romney, “Man—A Child of God,” *Ensign*, July 1973, 11.

Lesson 4 I Have the Ability and Freedom to Choose

James E. Faust, “Choices,” *Ensign*, May 2004, 51.

Shirley Bock Testi, “The What-If Question,” *New Era*, Nov. 2003, 40.

Lesson 5 “How Art Thou Fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer!”

Richard C. Edgley, “Satan’s Bag of Snipes,” *New Era*, Sept. 2001, 20.

ElRay L. Christiansen, “Power Over Satan,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1974, 22.

BREAKFAST OF MISSIONARIES

I like your magazine because it's inspiring me to go on my mission. My mom reads it to us every morning while we eat breakfast. Listening to the uplifting stories helps me to be a better person during the day. Thanks for the help, and keep up the good work.

*Paul Nielson, Lakeridge Eighth Ward,
Orem Utah Lakeridge Stake*

DATING ISSUE

Thank you for such a beautiful and inspirational October edition: "From First Date to Eternal Mate." When I came home from school, the first thing I saw was the *New Era*. My mum had placed it on the table so I would not miss it. That day at school all 32 class members bombarded me with questions about my beliefs on dating and marriage. I explained why I'm not going to be dating until I turn 16, and why I don't watch TV programs or movies or listen to music that is suggestive. On my way home I wondered what I could do on a date and how I should go about dating. In answer to my silent prayer, I opened the door and saw the *New Era*! I read it from cover to cover and deeply felt the Spirit, knowing that the things I had shared in class were true.

Rachel Gordon, Oxford Ward, Reading England Stake

TEEN TEACHER

I really enjoyed "Ten Terrific Teaching Tips" (Sept. 2004). They helped me give a more spiritual and more prepared family home evening lesson. They helped me reach out better to my family members. Now I enjoy preparing and presenting family home evening lessons each month.

*Ashlee Edens, Harrisburg Ward,
Harrisburg Pennsylvania Stake*



"I look forward to receiving New Era magazines, as they have many life lessons that help a young person grow in the Lord."

GETTING HER MONEY'S WORTH

I am not a Mormon, but I have a friend who sends me *New Era* magazines. I have grown to look forward to receiving them, as they have many life lessons that help a young person grow in the Lord. I especially appreciate the recent article "Money Matters" (Sept. 2004). I have never been able to save money, but the budget forms are easy to understand and use.

I am grateful to you for printing such articles. They are life lessons that I look forward to reading and implementing in my life.

Caroline Ofa Diloi, Suva, Fiji

HOME STUDY

About one month ago, I got injured quite badly during a sports game. At times this injury prevented me from attending church. I would be lying at home, not being able to sit up for long. One Sunday I picked up the *New Era*. After I had read it, I picked up another and then another. After about two Sundays at home I had read all the copies of the *New Era* that we have in our living room. Even though I missed going to Young Women (and sometimes to Mutual activities), I felt as though I was still learning the Church's principles.

*Jessica Evans, Lake Rotoroa Ward,
Hamilton New Zealand Glenview Stake*

We love hearing from you. Write us at the following address. Please include the names of your ward and stake (or branch and district).

*New Era
We've Got Mail
50 E. North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, USA*

*Or e-mail us at
cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org*

Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.



JONATHAN'S PERSPECTIVE

BY ANNA MARIE MECHAM MURDOCK

Two mornings after Christmas,
I walked while my brother
Pedaled circles in front of me
With his new bike.
It was four miles of time to
Talk about the small mysteries of
Our sunny dome seen by his curious eyes.
The clouds were a tangle of
Shifting cotton that day.
He watched the commotion attentively
When the path was straight and smooth,
Commenting that the little clouds
Flew faster than the big ones
Because they were scared of being eaten.
I smiled and, becoming the

Intelligent older sister, decided to
Describe the formation of water vapor.
Articulating my words for tinier ears,
I explained evaporation, condensation,
And why raindrops come tumbling down.
"Oh!" he exclaimed excitedly,
Understanding lighting his pink face,
"So we really drink clouds!"
I love that morning memory.

*“Joseph Smith was
not only a great man,
but he was an inspired
servant of the Lord,
a prophet of God.
His greatness consists in . . .
the truthfulness of
his declaration that
he saw the Father and the Son
and that he responded
to the reality of
that divine revelation.”*

See “A Great and Marvelous Day,” p. 8.

