



THE
New Era

JULY

2002

COVER STORY:
WALKING THE
WALK, P. 20

10 THINGS TO
KNOW BEFORE
YOU GO, P. 4

TV GUIDANCE,
P. 38

**The New Era Magazine
Volume 32, Number 7
July 2002**

Official monthly publication
for youth of
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

Editorial Offices:

New Era
50 E. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3225

E-mail address:
cur-editorial-newera
@ldschurch.org

To Subscribe:

Send \$8.00 check or money
order for the *New Era* to
Church Magazines
Salt Lake Distribution Center
P. O. Box 26368
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368

Subscription helpline:
1-800-537-5971. Credit card
orders (Visa, Mastercard,
American Express) may be
taken by phone.

Cover: This young
woman from
Westminster, Colorado,
got a taste of what it was
like to be a pioneer at
Martin's Cove. See
"Walking in
Remembrance" on p. 20.

Cover photography:
Caroline H. Benzley
(front), Eleanor S. Carter
(back).

They got
closer to the
handcart
pioneers.
See "Walking in
Remembrance,"
p. 20.



C O N T E N T S

**The Message:
Ten Things to Know
Before You Go** 4
President James E. Faust
*Before you head out on a mission,
there are some things you should know.*

**Idea List:
More Than Silence** 9
*Reverence is more than not
making noise. Here are some ideas
from young women in Merced,
California, on how to show reverence
in our thoughts and behavior.*

Watch Out! 10
Elder Adelson Parrella
*If we don't constantly pay attention
to the words of the prophets, we
become desensitized, and we don't
recognize the dangers of the world.*

Be Clean 12
Caroline H. Benzley
*What are you doing to follow the
prophet's counsel to be clean? Find
out what other teens have done and
what they have learned from
doing it.*

**Q&A:
Questions and Answers** 16
*Every time I ask my friend a tough
question, he answers by saying I need
to pray about it. He says he receives
immediate answers to his prayers, but
it just doesn't work for me. What am I
doing wrong?*

**New Era Poster:
Search and Rescue** 19

Walking in Remembrance 20
Caroline H. Benzley
*Why would teens choose to give up the
comforts of home and walk as far as 30
miles under the hot Wyoming sun?*

Service with a Twist 26
Aaron J. Tolson
*These teens in Oklahoma wouldn't let a
tornado stand in their way.*

Tonga: True to the Faith 28
Janet Thomas
*The youth in Tonga get a lot of support
from other Church members. But they
still must do the studying and praying
to gain their own testimonies.*

Mirror Image 34
Julie K. Kennard
*I knew the Lord didn't care what size
dress I wore. He cared that I was
clean and worthy.*

The Extra Smile 37

A Question of Time 38
Elder F. Burton Howard
*Does TV prevent you from doing things
that you should do? If it does, do you
think it's really your friend?*

Of All Things 42

Speaking of Miracles 44
Shallin Duncan
*I knew I wasn't much of a translator.
But with the Spirit, I was able to help
my Venezuelan friend in the temple.*

**New Era Classic:
Of the Most Worth** 46
President Ezra Taft Benson
*Missionaries are engaged in the
greatest work in all the world—
saving the souls of our Father
in Heaven's children.*

Reader's Guide 49

We've Got Mail 50

**Poem:
Taste Summer** 51
Callie Taggart

Photo of the Month 51
Niel Hayes

*Everything in the New Era may be copied for
incidental, noncommercial Church or home
use unless otherwise indicated. Other uses
require permission of the copyright owner.*

The First Presidency

Gordon B. Hinckley
Thomas S. Monson
James E. Faust

The Quorum of the Twelve

Boyd K. Packer
L. Tom Perry
David B. Haight
Neal A. Maxwell
Russell M. Nelson
Dallin H. Oaks
M. Russell Ballard
Joseph B. Wirthlin
Richard G. Scott
Robert D. Hales
Jeffrey R. Holland
Henry B. Eyring

Editor

Dennis B. Neuenschwander

Advisers

J. Kent Jolley
W. Rolfe Kerr
Stephen A. West

**Curriculum Department
Administrators**

Managing Director
Ronald L. Knighton
Editorial Director
Richard M. Romney
Graphics Director
Allan R. Loyborg

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor
Larry Hiller
Assistant Managing Editor
Janet Thomas
Assistant Editor
Laury Livsey
Editorial Associates
Shanna Ghaznavi
Matthew Baker
Publications Assistant
Julie K. Kennard

Design Staff

Magazine Graphics Manager
M. M. Kawasaki
Art Director
Bryan Lee Shaw
Senior Designer
Brent Christison

Printing Director

Kay W. Briggs

**Distribution Director
(Subscriptions)**

Kris T. Christensen

© 2002 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah, and at additional mailing offices. U.S. subscription rate \$8.00 yearly, in advance. Non-U.S. subscription rate is the U.S. equivalent in local currency. THE NEW ERA (ISSN 0164-5285) is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3225. Sixty days' notice required for a change of address. Include address label from a recent issue. Changes cannot be made unless old address, as well as new one, is included. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed, but no responsibility is assumed for them. Sufficient postage and self-addressed envelope must accompany all manuscripts.

Canada Post Information
Publication Agreement #40017431
POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Distribution Services,
Church Magazines,
P. O. Box 26368,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84126-0368.

10 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Whether you're getting ready or already serving, follow this checklist to make your mission all it should be.

These are 10 things I would like the Church's wonderful young men to know before they leave on their missions.

1. You will be under call from the Lord Jesus Christ. What a marvelous thing it is to have the confidence of the Lord, your bishop, stake president, all of the General Authorities, and President Gordon B. Hinckley to honor you with a call. You will be a servant of the living God and an ambassador of the Church.

Most missionaries are young and inexperienced in the ways of the world. Nevertheless, the Lord said: "He that is ordained of God and sent forth, the same is appointed to be the greatest, notwithstanding he is the least and the servant of all" (D&C 50:26).

Despite our shortcomings and our inadequacies, we need to be reminded that the God who called you to serve is the "possessor of all things; for all things are subject unto him, both in heaven and on the earth, the life and the light, the Spirit and the power, sent forth by the will of the Father through Jesus Christ, his Son" (D&C 50:27).



By President James E. Faust
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Above all, remember that you represent and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Your mission president is the Lord's representative. Do not criticize or demean him, privately or publicly. If you will respect his authority, be obedient, humble, teachable, and follow the mission rules, you will be a successful missionary. For instance, one of the hardest rules to follow is to get up in the morning when your mission president directs. Many young men think the best time to sleep is in the morning. I'm grateful to my obedient senior companion, Elder William Grant Bangerter, who would set the alarm clock to get up early. When the alarm went off, it would jangle my nerves. In the winter it was dark, damp, and cold, and we never had any hot water for bathing or showering. He would cheerfully shower in that cold water; I would start to shiver as soon as he got out of the shower. I could not do anything but follow his example, but I have to confess that I was not quite as cheerful because my teeth were chattering.

3. Hard work is more important than intellect. Remember the Lord's words in the Doctrine and Covenants: "Wherefore, I call upon the weak things of the world, those who are unlearned and despised, to thrash the nations by the power of my Spirit;

"And their arm shall be my arm, and I will be their shield and their buckler; and I will gird up their loins, and they shall fight manfully for me" (D&C 35:13–14).



Forget yourself in His service. Don't let anything get in the way of your important message. Also, never permit contention in your companionship. Work as a team.

President Ezra Taft Benson once said: "One of the greatest secrets of missionary work is work. If a missionary works, he will get the Spirit; if he gets the Spirit, he will teach by the Spirit; and if he teaches by the Spirit, he will touch the hearts of the people; and he will be happy. There will be no homesickness, no worrying about families, for all time and talents and interests are centered on the work of the ministry. That's the secret—work, work, work. There is no satisfactory substitute, especially in missionary work" (*Missionary Guide*, 32).

4. Forget yourself in His service. The Lord said, "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 10:39). If you will lose yourself in missionary service, you will find indescribable joy.

Nothing you do as a missionary should get in the way of your important message: not your dress, not your hair length, your attitude; not your deportment; and not your girlfriend at home.

You young men are properly concerned about finding your place in this unsettled world. However, when you are called as a full-time representative of the Lord, you should "serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength,



that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day" (D&C 4:2).

5. Never permit contention in your companionships. Some of your missionary companions will be your life's dearest friends. Be the kind of companion you would like to be with. Be unselfish in your relationship with your companions. When there is contention, the Spirit of the Lord will depart, regardless of who is at fault.

Each of us is an individual with unique strengths and talents, different from any other person in the world. Each of us has weaknesses. In a harmonious companionship, there is teamwork—where one is weak, the other is strong. As a boy, I learned to drive a team of horses. If one horse was balky, the other could not pull the load alone. So it is in a missionary companionship. Each must pull his share of the load.

6. Keep your bodies clean and healthy and your living quarters clean. It is very important that you eat properly and get adequate sleep so that you can maintain good health. If you become ill,



not only can you not do the work, but you will also become a burden on your companion. Remember, also, that keeping your person and your living quarters neat and clean is conducive to enjoying the Spirit.

As a representative of the Lord, your personal appearance is very important. You, the Church, and your message will be judged in part by your cleanliness and neatness. People will be reluctant to invite you into their homes if you are unkempt.

7. *Learn to love and serve the people among whom you work.* You should pray daily for them that the Lord will fill you with love as you serve them. If you do not love them, you will have difficulty teaching them.

8. *Study, ponder, and teach from the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon and the New Testament.* Know the truth so well that you can state it clearly. Elder B. H. Roberts wrote, “To be known, the truth must be stated and the clearer and more complete the statement is, the better the opportunity will the Holy Spirit have for testifying to the souls of men that the work is true” (*New Witnesses for God*, 2:vii). You

cannot convert people beyond your own conversion. The Book of Mormon, together with your testimony of it, is a powerful instrument of conversion.

Elder F. Burton Howard of the Seventy acquaints us with a strong testimony of the converting power of the Book of Mormon: Sister Celia Cruz Ayala of the Puerto Rico San Juan Mission decided to give the Book of Mormon to a friend. She wrapped it in attractive paper and set out to deliver her present.

On the way she was attacked by a bandit who stole her purse and with it the wrapped copy of the Book of Mormon. A few days later she received this letter:

Mrs. Cruz:

Forgive me, forgive me. You will never know how sorry I am for attacking you. But because of it, my life has changed and will continue to change. That book [the Book of Mormon] has helped me in my life. The dream of that man of God has shaken me. . . . I am returning your five pesos for I can't spend them. I want you to know that you seemed to have a radiance about you. That light seemed to stop me [from harming you, so] I ran away instead.



Take care of your body. Eat properly and get enough rest. Be clean and neat. Study, ponder, and teach from the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon.

Your personal testimony is the strongest arrow in your quiver. If you have the Holy Spirit resting upon you and you speak by that Spirit, God will ratify your message in the hearts of those who are hearing you.



I want you to know that you will see me again, but when you do, you won't recognize me, for I will be your brother . . . Here, where I live, I have to find the Lord and go to the church you belong to.

The message you wrote in that book brought tears to my eyes. Since Wednesday night I have not been able to stop reading it. I have prayed and asked God to forgive me, [and] I ask you to forgive me. . . I thought your wrapped gift was something I could sell. [Instead,] it has made me want to make my life over. Forgive me, forgive me, I beg you.

Your absent friend (Church News, Jan 6, 1996, 16).

Such is the conversion power of the Book of Mormon.

9. *You must know that Satan will oppose you, and be prepared for his opposition.* Do not be surprised. He wants you to fail. Discouragement is one of the devil's tools. Have courage and go forward. Recognize that the gospel has been preached with some pain and sorrow from the very beginning of time. Do not expect that your experience

will be otherwise.

10. *Your own personal testimony is the strongest arrow in your quiver.* I have often related that in the early days of the missionary work in Brazil, where we now have over half a million members of the Church, we did not have the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price, or the Doctrine and Covenants translated into the Portuguese language. All we had were the Bible, a few tracts, our personal testimonies concerning the Restoration of the gospel and the Joseph Smith story, and our testimony of the living prophet. The harvest was not great. However, some of those who were baptized have for three generations remained faithful because they were touched by the powerful testimonies of humble missionaries almost 60 years ago. Now, you cannot be responsible for whether or not those you teach will accept your testimony and join the Church. Do not feel that you must obtain a quota of baptisms to be successful. An old saying teaches that you can count the number of seeds in a single apple, but you can't count the number of apples in a single seed. The harvest is the Lord's. Your responsibility is to thrust in the sickle.

If you have the Holy Spirit resting upon you, and you speak by that Spirit the words of the Lord as contained in the holy scriptures and as outlined by His living prophets, God will ratify your message in the hearts of those who are hearing you.

Now, my dear young friends, missionary work is not easy. In fact, it is often quite difficult, but the Lord is the greatest paymaster in the world. Dedicated missionary service is one of life's most fulfilling experiences. This is in large measure because of the divine agency which flows so richly from the Lord to His humble and obedient servants to bless the lives of others. I know this because I have seen it manifested in the lives of thousands and have felt it in my own life. **NE**

Adapted from an April 1996 general conference address.

IDEA LIST

MORE THAN

Silence

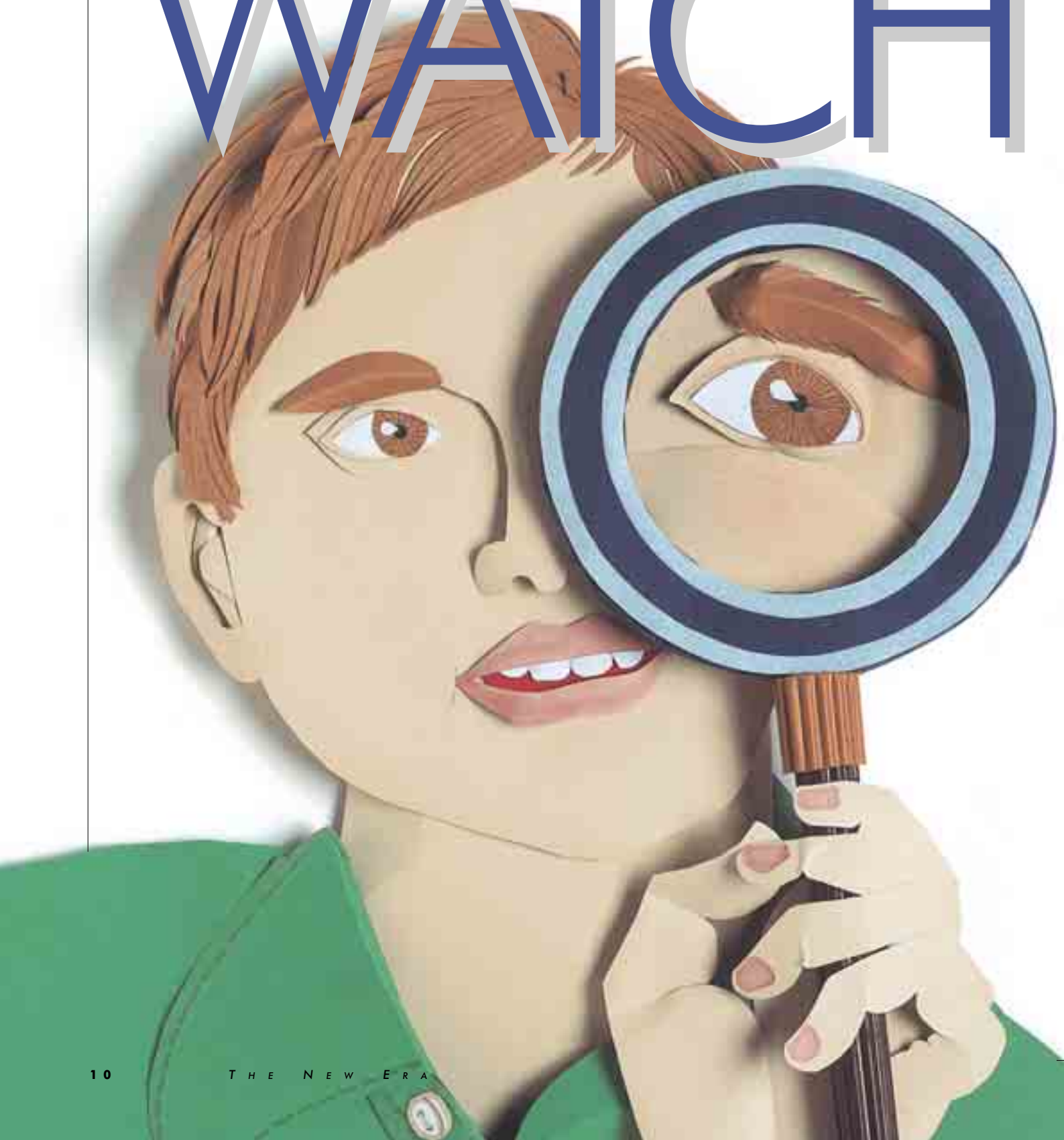
Elder M. Russell Ballard, of the Quorum of the Twelve, defines reverence as “a profound respect mingled with love and awe. Other words that add to our understanding of reverence include gratitude, honor, veneration, and admiration” (*Ensign*, May 1988, 57). If we respect and love God, it will show. Here are some ideas from young women in Merced, California, on how to show reverence in our thoughts and behavior.

- ◆ Always keep in mind the goal of attending the temple.
- ◆ Take time to appreciate the beauty of nature.
- ◆ Dress modestly. Be neat and clean.
- ◆ Listen to hymns and other uplifting music. Sing a hymn if your thoughts are wandering into dangerous territory.
- ◆ Express gratitude to your Heavenly Father and others often.
- ◆ Eliminate Sunday activities that are not in keeping with the spirit of the Sabbath day.
- ◆ Read the scriptures to set the mood of your day. Pray before you read, and read daily.
- ◆ Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you to right decisions and to be your constant companion.
- ◆ Speak to your family and friends using kind words. Anger or yelling is sure to drive away the Spirit.
- ◆ Use your energies and time wisely to prepare for a mission, improve in your schoolwork, serve others, and accomplish other worthy goals.
- ◆ Have a strong desire to please and obey Heavenly Father.
- ◆ Clean your room. If your surroundings are clean, it's easier to be at peace.
- ◆ Be around friends who have the good values you want to emulate.
- ◆ If you are in a temple or chapel, be sure to practice self-discipline and reverence. **NE**



Ideas by the Young Women of the Merced California First Ward

WATCH



Some of the scary things out there are even more dangerous because it's easy to get used to them. The safest thing to do? Keep your eyes on the people who offer safety.



As a group of engineers began construction of a new building in the heart of our city in Brazil, there was a need to blast the bedrock to open room for the building's foundation. A siren was installed at the construction site, and the neighbors were informed that the siren would precede the explosions, and the duration of the siren would indicate the intensity of the explosion.

At first, the power of the explosions caught me by surprise. It felt like the building I was in would come down on our heads. However, as days went by, the siren and the explosions were so frequent that we became desensitized, and the danger became acceptable.

Knowing our great capacity to adapt and become careless, the Apostle Paul taught: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be

sober" (1 Thes. 5:4-6).

Both prophets of old and living prophets have reminded us of the spiritual sirens the Lord gives us in order for us to be always watchful. In the April 1987 general conference, President Ezra Taft Benson (1899-1994) declared that "The record of the Nephite history just prior to the Savior's visit reveals many parallels to our own day as we anticipate the Savior's Second Coming" (*Ensign*, May 1987, 4).

In those days, the Nephites' conditions included prosperity, industriousness, many cities connected by roads, strong commerce, navigation, and construction of buildings, just to mention a few. On the other hand, there was abundant pride, rejection of the prophets, dishonesty, immorality, secret combinations, and a horrible division in social classes (see 3 Ne. 6:12, 15-16).

Clearly, the similarities between our time and the time of the Nephites are greater than the differences. Even though we do not have an alarmist attitude, we need to be on guard, continually watching and praying (see Mark 14:38), so our ability to adapt to conditions does not allow us to become desensitized.

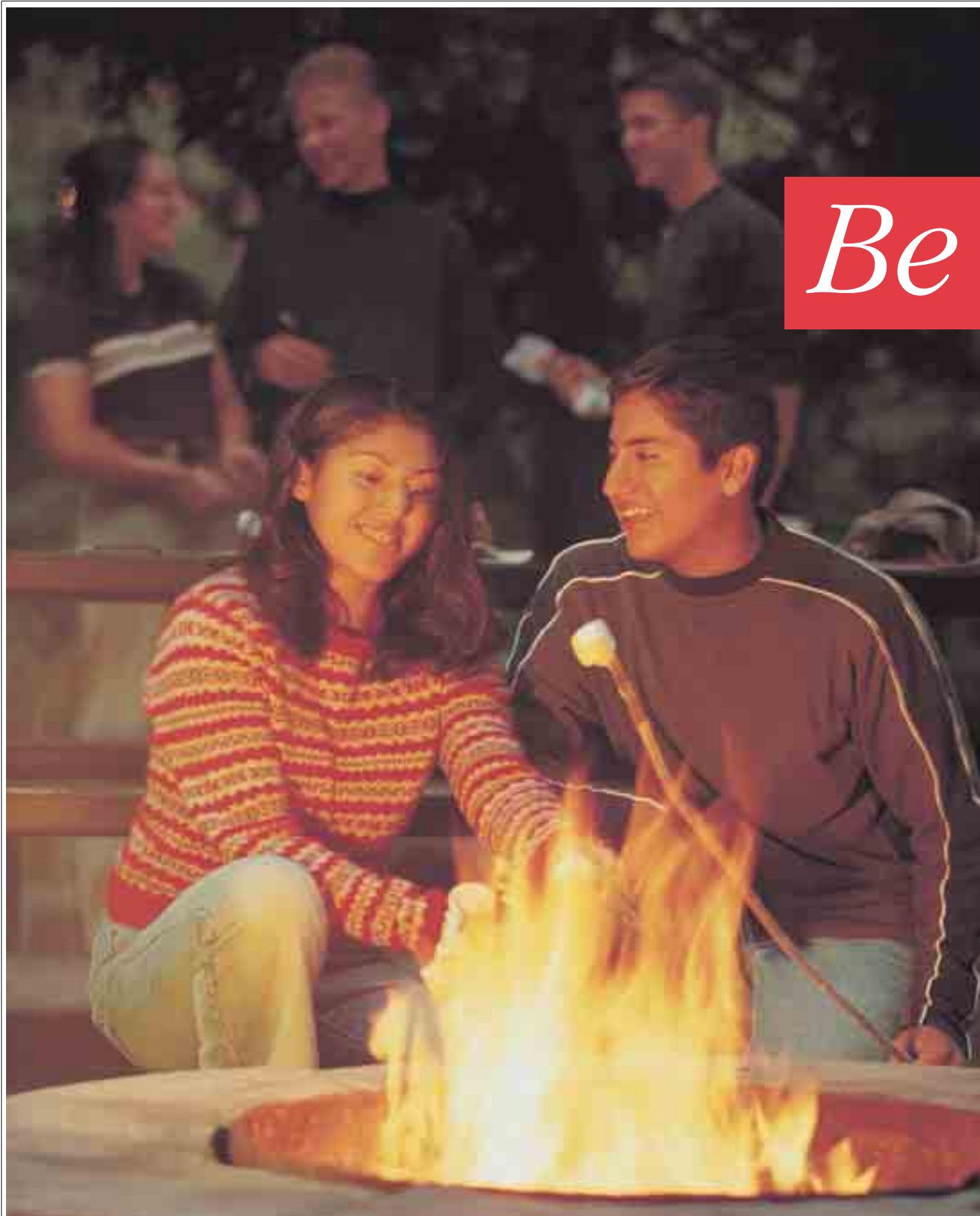
Satan's plan for men is to lead "them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords forever" (2 Ne. 26:22). He will "pacify" them and "lull them away into carnal security" so that he can lead them "carefully down to hell" (2 Ne. 28:21).

Our sure defense against Satan's power is to live our lives under the influence of the Holy Ghost, with the firm purpose to imitate the perfect example of the Lord, Jesus Christ. As overwhelming as the task of becoming more like Christ may seem, the steps are simple: keep all the commandments; study the scriptures consistently; and keep our eyes on the living prophets, especially our beloved prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley.

By giving the principles of the gospel practical application in our lives through personal and family prayer, scripture reading, family home evening, attendance at church meetings, partaking of the sacrament, temple attendance, and giving Christian service, we may take the challenge to "work out [our] salvation with fear before God" (Alma 34:37). **NE**

The explosions in the heart of the city were so frequent that, pretty soon, everyone was used to them. But that didn't make them less dangerous.

**By Elder
Adelson Parrella**
Area Authority Seventy
Brazil South Area



Be



CLEAN

What happens when you apply the prophet's counsel? Here are reports from some teens.

We live in a world that is filled with filth and sleaze, a world that reeks of evil," President Gordon B. Hinckley said in his November 2000 fireside for youth (see *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 4). "You cannot afford that filthy poison to touch you. Stay away from it. Avoid it."

Although it is not easy to avoid the evil of this world, many youth have increased their efforts to be clean since President Hinckley's talk on the six B's.

Media and entertainment

Many young men and young women have started avoiding the inappropriate things found on television, in movies, in music, and on the Internet. Monica Peterson, from Mesa, Arizona, and her family have tried to specifically avoid unclean television shows.

"For family home evening, we chose to work on *Be clean*. We wrote down television shows that weren't appropriate to watch. A show that makes me feel uncomfortable I know shouldn't be watched. Now, when that show comes on, I have a feeling to change it. It was hard at first, but Heavenly Father helped not only me but my family also."

The music we listen to can also have an effect on our lives. Listening to uplifting music will help us keep our thoughts and actions clean.

Tania Finn from Pocatello, Idaho, wrote about her experience of changing the kind of music she listens to.

"While on my drive to school every day, I played some instrumental music that allowed me to clear my thoughts and receive revelation for my life from my Father in Heaven. It was a testimony builder for me because I knew I was starting off every day feeling the Spirit.

"As I look back on the month of December (2000), I can see the Lord's hand guiding me through my life. I know that it was because my spirit was prepared to listen to the Holy Ghost. I know what an important part the Holy Ghost plays in our lives, and I was glad to know that I was able to have the influence of the Holy Ghost in my life by choosing good music."

Avoid evil talk

When we are careful to avoid unclean media and entertainment, we will be more likely to develop good habits. One of these habits is using clean language. "Avoid evil talk," said President Hinckley. "Do not take the name of the Lord in vain. . . . It is not a mark of manhood to carelessly use the name of the Almighty or of His Beloved Son in a vain and flippant way, as many are prone to do."

Even though one young woman struggled with swearing, President Hinckley's talk helped her change.

Choose your friends carefully,"

President Hinckley counseled. One young woman reports that leaving unwholesome friends was very difficult, but it became a defining moment in her life. "I think differently, and most importantly I act differently because of my change of friends."

By Caroline H. Benzley

The counsel regarding such things as tattoos and multiple earrings was a challenge for some, but they found peace in following the prophet. Others report that they have turned away from problems with pornography or with drugs and have become free from things that were enslaving them.

“When I heard President Hinckley talking about the six B’s, the one that stuck out to me the most was *Be clean*—not only in keeping your body clean, but your spirit. Since that day I have not said one bad word.”

Chose your friends carefully

Our friends have a great influence on our habits and on our ability to stay clean. President Hinckley warned the youth to “Choose your friends carefully. It is they who will lead you in one direction or the other. . . . While you should be friendly with all people, select with great care those whom you wish to have close to you.”

One young woman had an experience soon after President Hinckley’s fireside when she began to question her friendship with some people.

“As I approached this group of people that I called my friends and that I had spent half my life with, their aura seemed different, confusing, and unappealing. They were taking turns telling bad jokes and the spirit that I encountered there was one I did not want to be a part of. I hesitated to leave my friends and stayed for half a joke and then made up my mind to not be a part of this demeaning situation.”

She went on to explain that although it was difficult leaving her group of friends, it was well worth it.

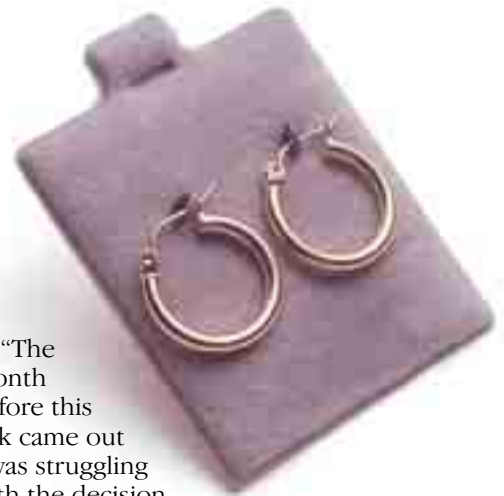
“As I look back on that minute in time, that thought of walking away was probably the hardest thing I have ever had to do. Now I find it to have been the single most important event in my life. I am now in a different crowd of people. I think differently, and most importantly I act differently because of my change of friends.”

Clean in body

“Did you ever think that your body is holy?” President Hinckley asked in his talk. “You are a child of God. Your body is His creation.”

President Hinckley asked all the youth to avoid tattoos, the young men not to have earrings, and the young women to have no more than one earring in each ear.

This counsel from the prophet helped one young man make an important decision.



“The month before this talk came out I was struggling with the decision of getting a tattoo,” he wrote. “I knew that it wasn’t a choice thing to do, but I still wavered in the thought of it being a sin. When the talk came out I knew there would be a wise purpose behind not getting a tattoo. I am so thankful the Lord would care enough about my friends and me that He would send a prophet to give us this message. Because of that talk I now enjoy having a body with no markings, and I have no regrets.”

Many young women around the world followed the prophet by taking out their multiple earrings. For some it was difficult, but they discovered the peace that comes from following the prophet.

“How truly beautiful is a well-groomed young woman who is clean in body and mind,” said President Hinckley. “She is a daughter of God in whom her Eternal Father can take pride. How handsome is a young man who is well-groomed. He is a son of God, deemed worthy of holding the priesthood of God. He does not need tattoos or earrings on or in his body.”

Keep yourselves from evil

President Hinckley went on to discuss with the youth the importance of staying away from pornography and sexual sin. About pornography he warned, “Stay away from it. It is exciting, but it will destroy you. It will warp your senses. It will build within you an appetite that you will do anything to appease.”

Later in his address President Hinckley spoke of sexual sin. “I plead with you to be careful, to stand safely back from the cliff of sin over which it is so easy to fall. . . . Keep yourselves clean from the dark and disappointing evil of

sexual transgression.”

One young man was very impressed with the prophet’s counsel to avoid such sins. The inspiring words of the prophet helped him begin the process of repentance.

“My life has been full of sexual transgression and pornography,” he wrote. “So when I saw the fireside of the B’s, I felt the prophet was talking right to me. I needed to change my life; it was not going the way it should. This counsel, and my willingness to change and come unto the Lord, was very great. So I did.”

You will become their slave

Drugs will also destroy those who are trapped by their influence. “You will become their slave,” warned President Hinckley. “Once in their power you will do anything to get money to buy more. . . . There is no need for any Latter-day Saint boy or girl, young man or young woman, to even try them. Stay clean from these mind-altering and habit-forming addictions.”

President Hinckley’s words inspired one teen to stop using illegal drugs.

“Not too long ago I was deeply entrenched in the underground rave scene. With my involvement in this not-so-wholesome activity came abuse of a drug known as ecstasy. My life got to the point where I was rolling every weekend and spending all my money on illegal drugs. It wasn’t until the prophet spoke out against illicit drug use to the youth of the Church that I realized I was in big trouble. Listening to his counsel to be clean, however, helped motivate me and give me courage to stop using drugs.”

The most powerful of human instincts

Concerning relationships between young men and young women, President Hinckley warned the youth: “You are dealing with the most powerful of human instincts. Only the will to live possibly exceeds it. . . . Steady dating at an early age leads so often to tragedy.”

After President Hinckley’s fireside one young woman decided to stop steadily dating a close friend.

“It was one of the hardest things I have had to do,” she writes. “But my understanding of why we are counseled

to not steady date has been increased. I know we did the right thing and that we both needed that experience. I don’t know if I would be as happy as I am now without that experience to help my testimony of the prophet and the gospel grow.”

Walk in the sunlight

“Walk in the sunlight of that peace which comes from obedience to the commandments of the Lord,” said President Hinckley.

As we follow the prophet’s counsel to be clean we will have the strength to avoid the dark things of this world. With this evil behind us we can turn our hearts to the light of the gospel. **NE**

S till others report that choosing the right kind of music has helped them invite the Spirit into their lives.



Q & A

It seems every time I ask my friend a tough question, he answers by saying I need to pray about it. He says he receives immediate answers to his prayers, but it just doesn't work for me. What am I doing wrong?

NEW ERA

The Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began with the prayer of a 14-year-old boy. Looking closely at the scripture that inspired Joseph Smith to pray may give you some insight into how you can get answers to your prayers:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” (James 1:5–6).

You must not only ask, but you must ask with faith. Joseph was also actively studying and looking for the true church when he prayed. Likewise, you should do all you can to find an answer to your questions before you pray. Study your question by reading your scriptures and talking with people you trust. Also, you must try your best to live worthy to receive an answer. No one is perfect, but if you are trying to improve your life, God will help you.

You must not only ask, but you must ask with faith.

Do all you can to find an answer to your questions before you pray.

Study your question by reading your scriptures and talking with people you trust.

Live worthy to receive an answer.

Everyone receives answers in different ways.

Don't give up. If you try to live your life as you should, and pray with faith, the Lord will guide you.

READERS

Imagine that you are on the phone with a friend who is asking your advice, and every time you try to answer, your friend interrupts you with another question or comment. Before you know it, it's time to hang up, and your friend didn't get an answer to anything. When you are praying, don't just hurry through everything. Stop and ponder after each question.

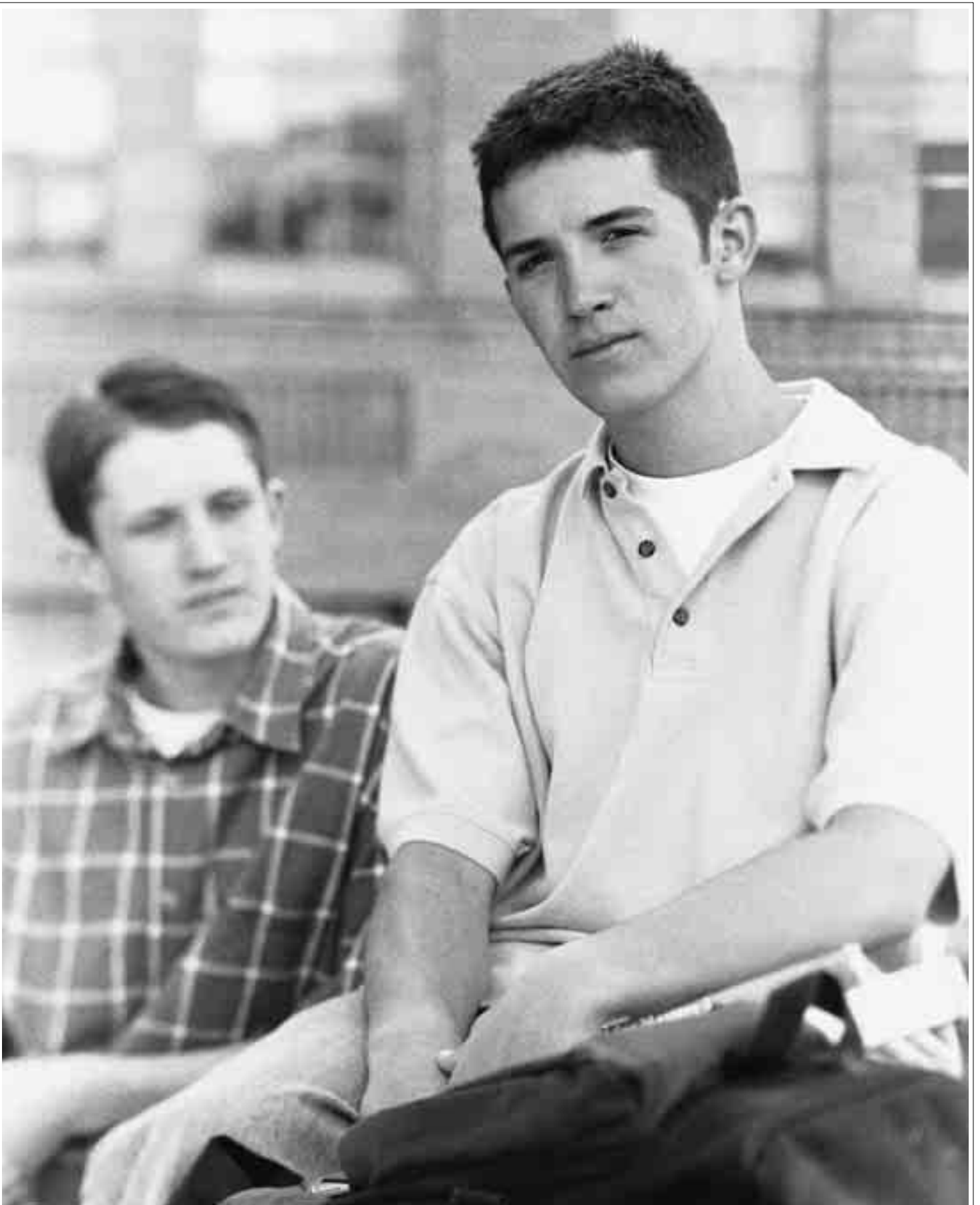
Ray Hullinger, 12
Riverton, Utah



Sometimes you have to do more than just ask—you have to try to find the answer on your own. Trust in the Lord's timing and in His love for you. If you're asking a valid thing, and you have faith, then He has promised to answer you.

Anna Hansen, 15
Salt Lake City, Utah





People receive answers in different ways. Chances are you won't receive a vision, and maybe your answers won't come in the same ways as your friend's either. Your answer could come in the form of a Sunday School lesson, a talk in general conference or sacrament meeting, or a scripture you find during your daily studies.

"The Lord will hear your prayers in time of need," said Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve. "He will invariably answer them. However, His answers will generally not come while you are on your knees praying, even when you may plead for an immediate response. . . . You are asked to look for an answer to your prayers, then confirm that it is correct. Obey His counsel to 'study it out in your mind' (D&C 9:8). Often you will think of a solution. Seek confirmation that your answer is right. His help can come from prayer and from pondering the scriptures, at times by the intervention of others, or from your own capacity, through the guidance of the Holy Ghost.

"At times the Lord will want you to proceed with trust before you receive a confirming answer. His answer generally comes as packets of help. As each piece is followed in faith, it will unite with others to give you the whole answer. . . . At times the Lord will give you an answer before you ask. This occurs when you are unaware of a danger or may be doing the wrong thing, trusting that it is correct" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 88).

Don't give up. God wants what is best for you, and He will answer your prayers. He knows your needs. If you try to live your life as you should, and ask in faith, He will guide you. **NE**

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



Don't be discouraged if the answer to your prayer does not come immediately. Study, ponder, and pray, sincerely having faith, and live the commandments" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 23).

—Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin
Of the Quorum of the Twelve

I have found that answers come in many ways. You should be ready to receive inspiration and guidance. Remember that prayers are not always immediately answered. It always helps to listen to things like church talks, read your scriptures, talk to your parents, and listen for promptings from the Spirit.



Rachel Welling, 14
Beaverton, Oregon

Just because you don't get immediate answers like your friend doesn't mean you are doing something wrong. Remember to ask with faith and be patient, and you will receive your answer.



Elder Eze Chinedu, 21
Ghana Accra Mission

If you are not getting answers to your prayers, maybe you are not listening closely enough for answers. Also, answers can come in hidden ways. So be righteous and watch and listen closely.



Karin Rowan, 12
Merced, California

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send us your answer to the question below, along with your name, age, and where you are from. Please include a snapshot of yourself that is 1 1/2 by 2 inches (4 by 5 cm) or larger.

Q&A, New Era
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

QUESTION

My Sunday School teacher told us we should pay an honest fast offering. But my honest offering isn't enough to make much of a difference. Do I really need to pay a fast offering if I give so little?

Please respond by September 1, 2002

SEARCH AND RESCUE



MILLIONS ARE WAITING TO BE FOUND.
SOME OF THEM ARE WAITING FOR YOU.
(See Ezek. 34:11-13.)

Walking in

REM



These teens get a taste of handcart pioneer life and gain new respect.

What do you picture in your mind when you think of Wyoming? If you are driving through this part of the United States, you will not see a lot of big cities. Instead, you will see a big, beautiful sky, prairie, lots of rocky mountains, and antelope darting through the vast landscape.

But if you are driving near Independence Rock, Wyoming, during the summer, you may notice on the horizon something a little unusual—a line of handcart pioneers walking along a dry, dusty Wyoming trail. On closer examination, these “pioneers,” even though they are dressed in the style of the 1850s, are really very modern teens and their leaders. Despite the intense heat, the young men have on long trousers and long-sleeved shirts. Many of them are also wearing hats to keep the sun off their faces. The young women are in equivalent attire—long dresses, aprons, and sunbonnets.

In our day of automobiles and airplanes, it's hard to imagine why these people have chosen to haul their food, water, and other supplies in wooden handcarts. But there they are. These young people have chosen to take time off from their summer jobs and other activities to give up the comforts of their

Both the young man from Colorado Springs (above) and the cousins attending a family reunion (right) will carry with them lifelong memories of their visit to the Mormon Handcart Visitors' Center in Wyoming.

By Caroline H. Benzley



EMBRANCE





Putting on pioneer clothes and reenacting a day or two in the lives of their ancestors gives those who visit this historic spot a new way to think about Church history. Teens pictured here are from the Pueblo Colorado Stake (above and far right, inset), Colorado Springs Colorado Stake (right), and the Westminster Colorado Stake (right, inset).

homes and to walk as far as 30 miles under the hot Wyoming sun—all for one reason. They think it’s worth it just to have a taste of what some pioneers went through in the early days of the Church.

A walk through history

In 1855, Brigham Young counseled converts who were unable to outfit themselves with teams and wagons to walk the 1,300 miles across the plains pulling handcarts rather than delay, wait, and work to earn enough to buy expensive wagons. In all, 10 handcart companies traveled this way, 8 of which were very successful and had few casualties. However, two handcart companies, led by James G. Willie and Edward Martin, experienced suffering and heartache as they left too late in the year and ran into unexpectedly early snowstorms. Both companies were in grave danger of not surviving. The Willie Company was a few days ahead of the other company and was rescued first by wagons sent from Salt Lake City. Those in the company were frostbitten and starved. Sixty-eight of 404 in the company died.

The Martin Handcart Company, however, was forced by the storm to stop in a small valley on the side of a mountain with very little shelter. After wading through deep snow up to this point, the pioneers stopped in a cove, formed by rock outcroppings. Trees provided protection and fuel. There they waited for help and supplies from Salt Lake City. In just five days, 56 of the 145 total who died in the crossing perished. But thanks to heroic rescue efforts of Church members sent by Brigham Young, the majority, 431 of the Martin handcart pioneers, survived the trip.

Today the Mormon Handcart Visitors’ Center, near Martin’s Cove, is a reminder of not only the ill-fated handcart companies but also a tribute to the many pioneers who traveled with handcarts across the plains. Each summer hundreds of visitors come to learn more about these people, many of whom left their homes and relatives behind, bringing little more than the clothes on their backs. The pioneers sacrificed much in order to bring themselves and their families across the plains to Utah where they could live in peace, without

persecution.

While some Church members today have direct pioneer ancestry, many do not. Yet all of us are indebted to the pioneers who helped establish the Church in its early days, and their sacrifices are part of every member’s heritage.

Walking in remembrance

This debt is part of the reason the youth of many area stakes come to Martin’s Cove to walk miles through the hot desert dressed as pioneers, pulling their camping equipment and food in handcarts.

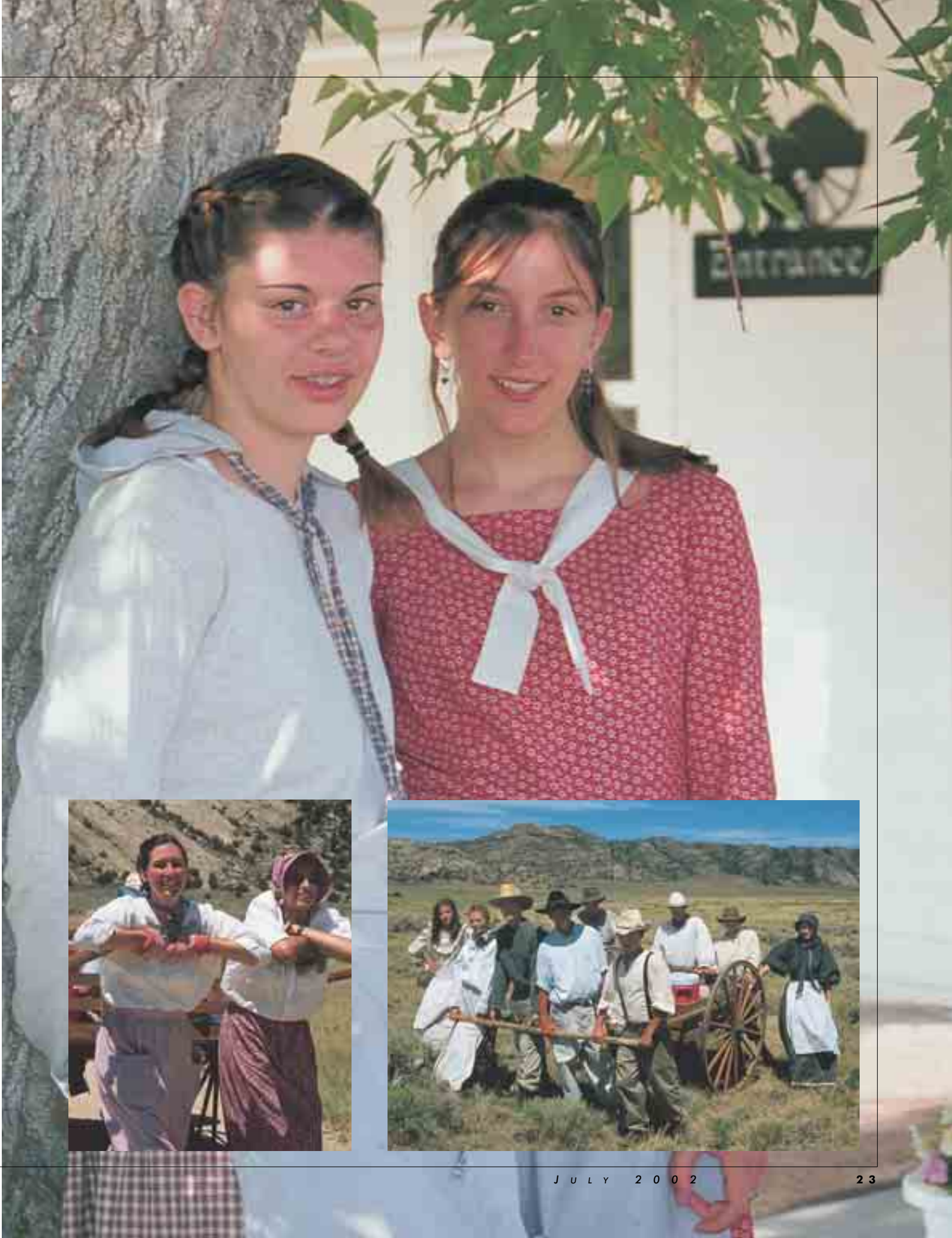
For many teens from the Pueblo Colorado Stake, for example, walking where the pioneers walked helped them realize the dedication and sacrifice of the early pioneers. Hearing the stories of the pioneers and the experiences they went through helped strengthen the testimonies of those who walked just a small part of the trail.

Other groups walking the trail at the same time had similar experiences. Christine Johnson from Orem, Utah, reflected upon the experience of the Saints as they traveled: “I wonder what they would have thought when they were looking around and saw just miles and miles of nothing.”

Adam Pinegar, also from Orem, said his trek gave him a feel for how difficult it was for the handcart pioneers. Although it was tough, Adam said he would do it again. “It was worth it. I thought of my ancestors who actually came across with the Martin Company. They suffered so much to get to the Salt Lake valley, so I could live where I do and have the gospel.”

Erin Woodward’s sixth great-grandfather walked across the plains. Erin, from Westminster, Colorado, thought of this grandfather and his family as she participated in the trek with her stake.

“Now I feel like the silliest girl in the whole world,” she said. “I mean, I have been so into my materialistic things. Seriously, I have a curling iron in my pocket. I even have makeup and everything. I feel horrible because the real pioneers didn’t live as well as I do. Before this I never really understood how blessed I am.”





In this place, the Martin and Willie Handcart Companies suffered terribly from the cold. But now, hats and long sleeves protect from hot summer sun. Teens pictured here are from Orem, Utah (above), Powell, Wyoming (right), and Roy, Utah (right, insets).

Shelter from the storm

These young men and women walk through the desert with a backdrop of significant Church history sites—Devil’s Gate, Independence Rock, and Martin’s Cove.

For many, Martin’s Cove is a sacred spot. It is beautiful, with many trees. The feeling is peaceful and calm. The pioneers camped on one side of the cove and buried their dead in shallow snow graves on the other. As the youth walk through the area, they take off their hats and whisper out of respect for those who died.

Tiffany Campbell from the Pueblo stake said the cove made her think a lot about those people and their determination to get to the Salt Lake valley.

The teens from Christine’s Orem ward walked to the cove last, after they had already walked the majority of their trek. “Once we got up there it hit us that this was really the place where they couldn’t go anymore, where they had to stop, and where so many died. It was amazing to be up there after doing the rest of our trek. It was kind of quiet and peaceful and spiritual.”

The end of the journey

As their journey was ending, Stephanie Stewart, also from Pueblo, described what she learned from the miles and miles of walking: “I am going home with a better understanding of how hard it was and what the pioneers did so that we could be free of persecution.”

Many other youth echoed her feelings: “I just think it is really neat to see what they did and what they gained from it,” said Michael King from Roy, Utah. “Of course we can get a little taste of it, you know, but we cannot fully understand.”

After visiting Martin’s Cove, these young people freely admit they cannot completely comprehend what the early handcart pioneers went through. But their reenactment experience has changed their attitudes. They know they face storms of another kind in modern life. But learning to survive is a lesson that was taught by those who have suffered before us. These modern teens also learned that we can all follow the example of faith and determination set by the pioneers. The handcart companies passed their tests. Now it’s our turn. **NE**





Robert Whittier



SERVICE WITH A

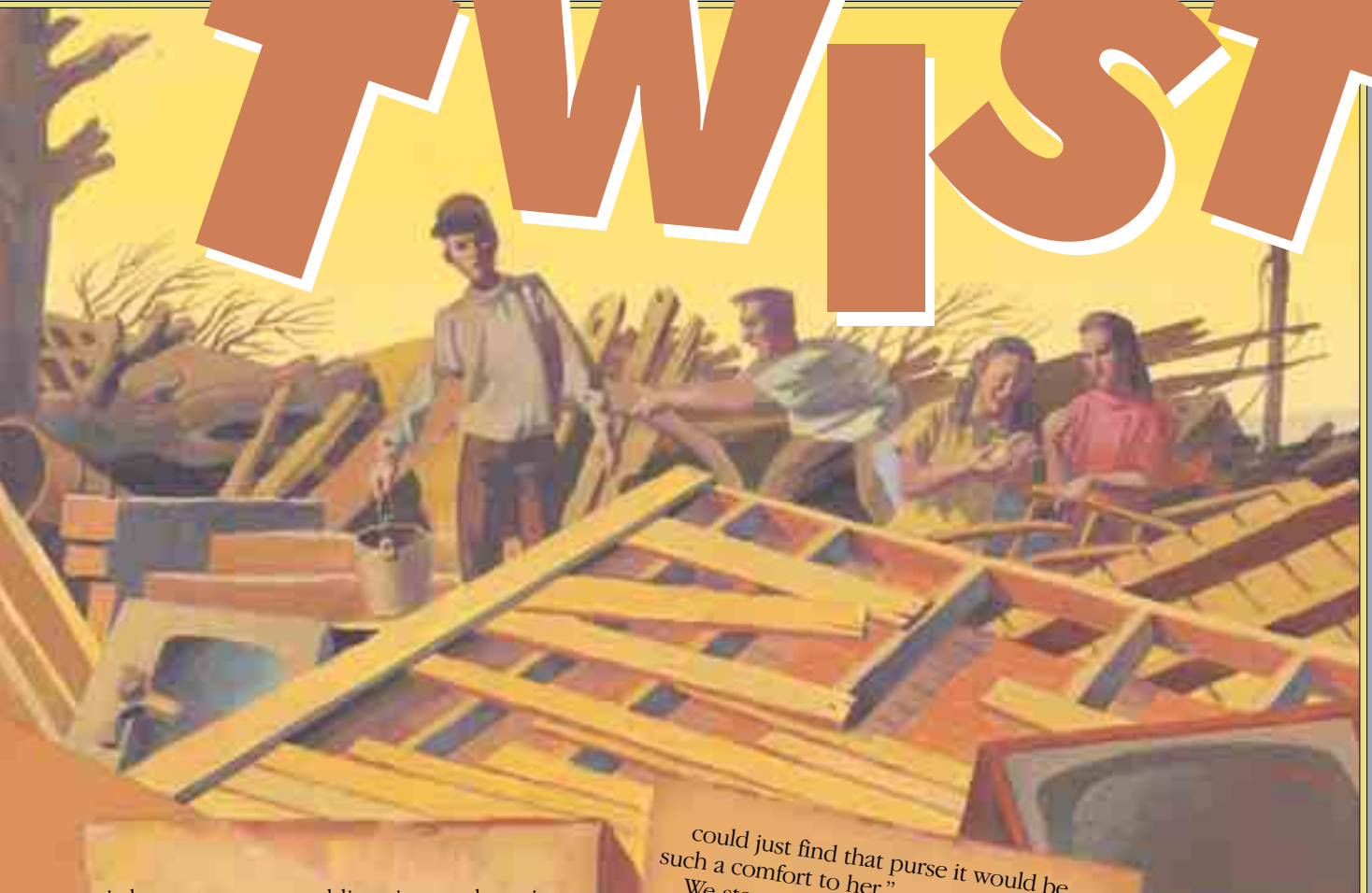


It was like looking for a needle in a haystack—a big, dirty, dangerous, smelly haystack.

The scene was not easy to comprehend. People walked in a daze through their former neighborhoods. Not a house stood in any direction. The smell of rotting refrigerator contents made an almost unbearable stench, and broken glass, nails, and other dangers were everywhere. But the young men and young women of the Norman Oklahoma Stake never complained or quit. After the most deadly and destructive tornado in Oklahoma in 50 years, the youth were ready to work.

“This is my grandma’s house. She’s 71 years old,” said a woman who was overseeing the beehive of activity where her grandma’s house once stood. “She’s still so confused by it all. I didn’t even bring her out here. All she wants to find

TWIST



is her cat, purse, wedding ring, and a coin collection.

"I'm so grateful you all came," she continued. "It's too big a job for me."

"How did your grandma get out?" we asked.

"Don't ask me how," the woman said, slowly shaking her head. "She crawled out of there." She pointed to a pile of junk, and we all knew that Heavenly Father had preserved her grandma's life.

We got to work. "Found some coins," someone yelled. I watched as the young men and women dug on their hands and knees through the rubble. The Arden brothers said something about needles in haystacks, which was a pretty accurate statement. We started filling a couple of boxes with papers, birth certificates, and anything else that looked important.

The youth and their leaders were covered in grime and dust, but no one seemed to give it a second thought.

"Found a ring and some pictures," said another girl. She handed it to the woman.

"That's it! She'll be so happy to have her ring back. I don't know that we'll find the cat, but if we

could just find that purse it would be such a comfort to her."

We started silently praying that we could locate her purse. "It has to be in there somewhere," called the woman anxiously. The sun was starting to set. The longer we worked, the more grateful we became for the comfortable homes we would return to that night.

"This looks like it might be important," said Kendall Michaelson, holding a piece of jewelry. You could tell the granddaughter was trying to save everything she could, trying to recover 71 years of her grandma's memories.

Finally, someone pulled out a battered purse buried in the debris. "Is this it?" she called out, holding up the symbol of our efforts.

"That's it! That's the purse!" The woman almost tripped as she walked over boards to get the purse. She opened it, rummaged around, and then happily called her grandma on a cellular phone. "I have it. We found the purse and everything is still in there," she said excitedly.

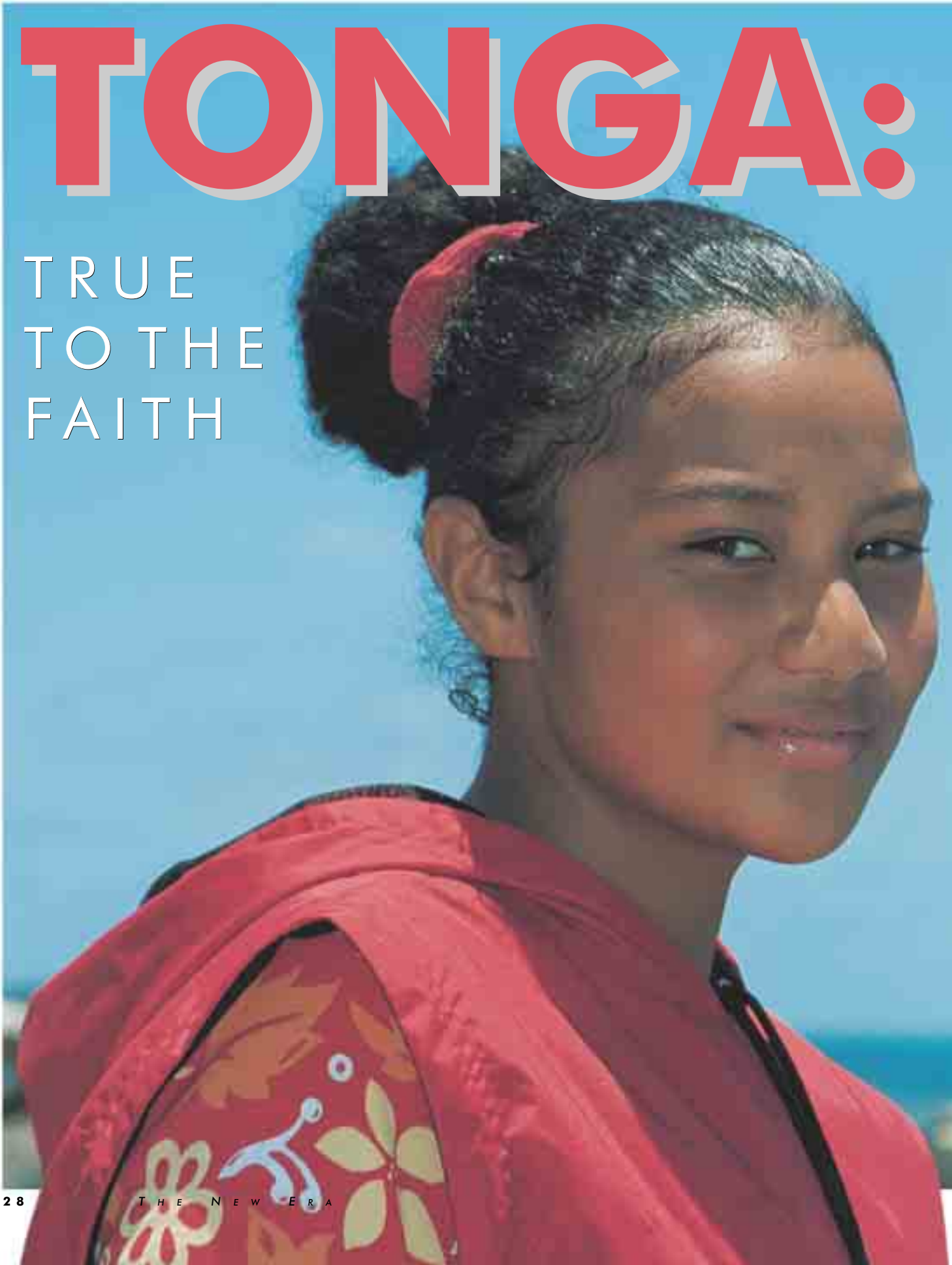
It was only a small thing, but we had made a difference. The woman was obviously happy, and so were we. **NE**

The tornado cut a wide path of death and destruction. All that remained was rubble. How could an elderly widow recover her few small treasures from what was once her home?

By Aaron J. Tolson

TONGA:

TRUE
TO THE
FAITH



Surrounded by members and living on their beautiful islands, teens in Tonga are thriving.

Imagine living in a place where graduating from seminary is cause for a big celebration—a huge party not just for your family or seminary class but for practically everyone in your ward and neighborhood. Imagine a place where seminary graduation is time for a feast, where the food is amazing and it's all for you and your fellow graduates.

After you eat, there will be dancing—big dances held in every stake center. Everyone will be so proud of you, and to show how pleased they are with your graduation from both high school and seminary, they will pile leis around your neck so high you can hardly see over them. And they're not just leis made of flowers but leis made of candy. Graduation from high school is a big time for celebrating, but graduating from seminary is equal in importance.

There is a place where this happens, and it's Tonga, a nation of Pacific islands where nearly half the population belongs to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In every school, every business, everywhere on the islands, these teens get lots of support from other Church members. But they still must do the studying and praying to gain their own testimonies. No matter how strong their parents or friends are, they still have to learn for themselves the truthfulness of the gospel. Seminary helps give them a firm foundation in learning the gospel and understanding the scriptures.

Tonga, in general, is a religious society with Christian beliefs helping the people to be modest, kind, and giving. Living in a place where religion is so important, Tongan youth are not harassed or made fun of when they choose to follow the teachings of the Church.

Becoming converted

At the top of last year's graduating class of Liahona High School, Luseane Kupu of the Liahona First Ward, explains how she knows that God lives.

"Whenever I go to church or am with



The island nation of Tonga is isolated in some ways, but young people like Asinate Makoni (left) and Loto'a Fa'aoso (above) enjoy freedom and safety as they build the foundation of their testimonies. Luseane Kupu gets help from her mother (left, inset) in arranging her graduation leis.



By Janet Thomas



For Salote Mataele (above) and ‘Amanaki Kamisese Jr. and Leroy Lavaki (opposite page, right), the slow pace of life gives them time to enjoy the beauty of God’s creations.

my family, there is a spirit I feel. I don’t feel it any place else. That’s when I know that God lives. I don’t see Him, but I feel His presence there. I can’t deny it when I feel His Spirit.”

Luseane hopes to attend Brigham Young University—Hawaii campus. She wants to become a doctor so she can serve her country, but no matter what happens in her studies, she is determined to marry in the temple and hopes to have many children. At graduation, she advised her fellow classmates. “Obedience brings blessings. Obedience is better than sacrifice. It brings unity, humility, and happiness.”

‘Aisake Lavaka of the Liahona Second Ward, also a top graduate, looks around at the people he knows who have stayed close to the gospel teachings. He likes what he sees in their lives and wants the same. “I look at the Church in the lives of the people. It’s brought joy and happiness. There are no bad fruits from their labor in keeping the commandments and following the doctrines of the Church. I plan to continue on that same road.”

Tonga’s advantages

Tonga’s relaxed pace of life is one thing most of the teens recognize as an advantage. They also like feeling safe all the time. They see and hear about the dangers in other parts of the world on television and in movies, but on their own lovely islands, they find they have little to fear. Everyone seems to enjoy a family feeling and uses it to help take care of each other. Luseane says, “Here you can just go to any neighbor and ask them for something or talk to them. They accept you. You just feel like you belong. That’s what I’ll miss. You mind your own business when you go out into the world. You don’t talk to people unless you know them. You have to knock on their doors before entering their homes.”

One way this caring feeling spreads from parents to children is in family home evenings and in reading scriptures together. ‘Amanaki Kamisese Jr. says his family helps his testimony grow. “Sometimes we get up early and read scriptures. It’s pushing my testimony to grow up. My favorite section of the scriptures is in 1 Nephi 3:7. I’m getting ready to go on my mission. I can’t wait.”





They enjoy the freedom offered in their country. They appreciate the importance of choosing wisely. And many LDS teens choose to be Christlike examples. Mumui Tautua'a of the Tokomololo Second Ward said his dad gave a family home evening lesson on the sacrament. It had a big impact on him. Mumui says, "Whenever I take the sacrament, I take upon me the name of Christ. Whatever I do, I am representing Him. From that day on, I always tried to be a gentleman."

Two temptations overcome

Tongan teens are fortunate that two temptations which exist in other places really are not much of a problem for them. The first is modesty. Even though they live on tropical islands where it can be hot, they don't wear immodest clothing. The other major religion on the islands, Wesleyan Methodist, also encourages modesty, so essentially everyone, including adults, chooses to wear conservative clothing. Students are also required to wear uniforms to school. But after-school clothing choices



Missionaries at the MTC (below) wear traditional dress as a show of respect while serving their missions. Aisake Lavaka (above) will soon be joining the missionary ranks.





Happy to have a temple in their country, LDS teens make regular trips to participate in baptisms for the dead. Fualupe Wilma Tangi (above) has set a goal to be married in the temple. As a Beehive, Rosita Tangi (right) is following the good example set by the older girls.

are casual shirts with long shorts. 'Aisake says, "You can be yourself. There is no peer pressure to keep up with modern styles if they are immodest."

The missionaries, both elders and sisters, serving in Tonga stand out by the clothing they wear. They wear traditional formal clothing, with the elders in white shirts and ties, a black tupenu (like a long skirt) and a ta'ovala (woven mat) tied around the waist with a string belt called a kafa. The sisters wear a puletaha (dress with long sleeves and high neckline) and tupenu with a kiekie (woven strips) over the top. By dressing in this formal way, they

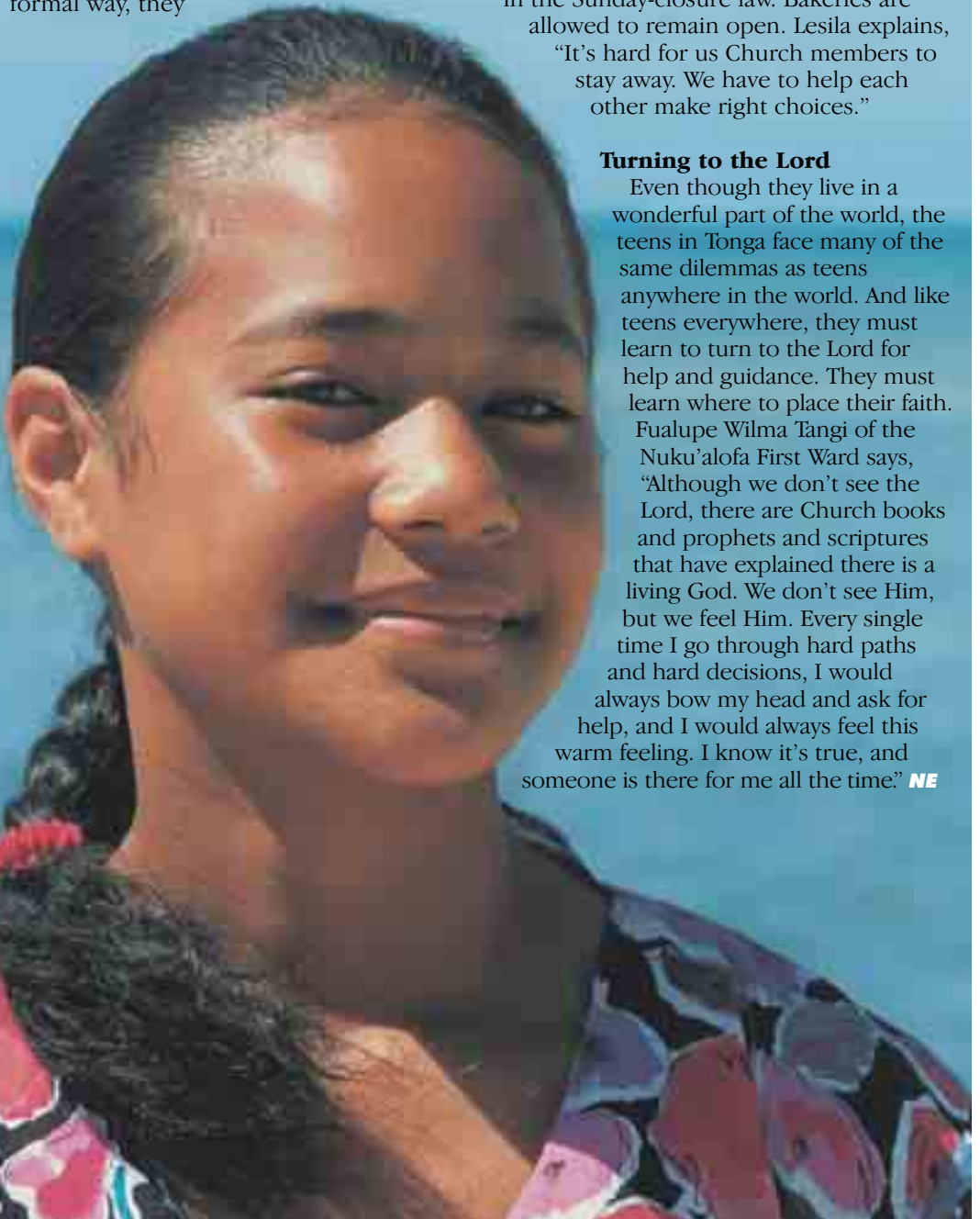
show respect for the message they teach and for the people they meet. Most of the missionaries serving in Tonga are from Tonga. They often are assigned to other islands or other towns than the ones where they live.

The other area of temptation that is not much of a problem in Tonga is keeping the Sabbath day holy. In Tonga, it is written into the country's constitution that businesses must close on Sunday. What does everyone do on Sunday? Lesila 'Alatini of the Ha'ateiho First Ward says, "We go to church. We eat and walk around. It's nice just to relax."

However, one small crack is developing in the Sunday-closure law. Bakeries are allowed to remain open. Lesila explains, "It's hard for us Church members to stay away. We have to help each other make right choices."

Turning to the Lord

Even though they live in a wonderful part of the world, the teens in Tonga face many of the same dilemmas as teens anywhere in the world. And like teens everywhere, they must learn to turn to the Lord for help and guidance. They must learn where to place their faith. Fualupe Wilma Tangi of the Nuku'alofa First Ward says, "Although we don't see the Lord, there are Church books and prophets and scriptures that have explained there is a living God. We don't see Him, but we feel Him. Every single time I go through hard paths and hard decisions, I would always bow my head and ask for help, and I would always feel this warm feeling. I know it's true, and someone is there for me all the time." **NE**



SETTING THE STANDARD

Every Saturday afternoon, without fail, the young people of the Matangiake Ward of the Liahona stake show up at their chapel to prepare it for Sunday. They know what to do. They've done it faithfully for more than four years, ever since they made the commitment to do all the upkeep on the building and grounds themselves. No one has to call with assignments anymore. The older boys teach the younger ones how to handle the mowers and edging equipment. The girls know all the nooks and crannies that need to be dusted and cleaned. The flowerbeds are immaculate. And they do windows too.

"It started with Bishop Sioeli Unga," said stake president Howard Niu. "He wanted something to keep the kids active and involved in all aspects of Church responsibility." And the youth rose to the challenge.

But their service did not stop with their own chapel and grounds. They have confidence that they can do any job given to them. They take care of the widows in their ward. In fact, they help out anyone in need. They have even gone so far as to build small homes, under the direction of their priesthood leaders, for families in their ward in desperate need of housing. The younger boys in Primary look forward to their 12th birthdays, when they are old enough to officially help with the projects the Aaronic Priesthood young men undertake. The younger girls often go with their older sisters, and they learn to serve.

Instead of being too hard for them, these projects have proven to these teens that they can do just about anything by learning from their leaders and being given the opportunity.



MIRROR IMAGE

hated looking in a mirror. I hated meeting old friends. I hated myself. I was stuck in a downward spiral of self-loathing.

I'd been taught that our bodies are temples, but I sure didn't feel that way about mine.

It was stuck, completely, 100 percent stuck. I couldn't pull the knee brace up any farther, but I also couldn't pull it down to get it off. The doctor came back in, and I had to explain my predicament.

"You're bigger than I thought," was his comment.

After successfully wrestling the next larger size up my leg, I was ready to leave. The doctor's nurse stopped me and apologized for the doctor's comment.

"I told him you just don't say things like that to girls. He meant you are tall."

"That's okay," I said. "I get it all the time."

I used to like being tall. Then I got to junior high school. I became very self-conscious about my height and consequently my weight. I always felt fat and out of

shape in gym because I was more awkward than everyone else. I wasn't skinny growing up, but I wasn't fat either. I was just big. Polite people would tell me I had large bones.

My senior year in high school I became obsessed with my weight because the senior choir I was in had a show-choir program at the end of the year where we sang and danced to Broadway tunes. We learned dances for all of our songs, and I was taller than every boy in choir. Because I was taller, I felt bigger too. I felt I couldn't eat in front of anyone because they'd think I was too big already. Somehow I survived that experience. But my weight issues weren't over.

During my third year of college I got sick. Not just the flu-for-a-couple-of-weeks sick. I couldn't get better.

I was finally diagnosed with a chronic illness.

By Julie K. Kennard



The doctor gave me medications that were supposed to help, but this was a really bleak and depressing time for me.

It was then I noticed my clothes getting tighter, but I figured that was because I was sleeping all the time. I hardly ever walked to class. I knew as soon as I started to feel better, I'd be up and about on campus again.

After several months, I started feeling better and walked to campus regularly. But the weight kept coming. I even popped the zipper on my pants one day at work.

My doctor discovered that one of the medications had made my body hold onto the fat. I stopped taking it, but the damage was already done.

I hated looking in a mirror. I hated buying clothes. I hated running into people I knew before I got sick. I hate myself. I was stuck in a downward spiral of self loathing. I was also struggling to accept the fact I couldn't do everything I used to do simply didn't have the health to do everything anymore. I hated this body I had that hurt all the time and kept getting sick. I felt I was stuck with a fat, ugly, sick body.

We hear all the time in Young Women that our bodies are temples. And one day I had a flash of understanding. It didn't matter if my body was fat or skinny, it was a temple. I've never heard anyone make fun of the way the temples look, so why do we do that to our personal temples—our bodies? I realized that every time I felt bad about my body,

I was being ungrateful for and disrespectful to a temple. I remembered that one-third of the hosts of heaven didn't even get mortal bodies.

I thought of the scripture in the New Testament, when devils begged the Savior to let them enter the bodies of

swine, just to have a body (see Mark 5:1–13). I was blessed with a physical body to house my spirit while I'm on this earth, a body patterned after my Heavenly Father's.

Since that realization, I haven't miraculously felt like my body is perfect. It's hard to change old habits and perceptions. Instead of wishing I had someone else's body, I try to remember that my body is a temple.

Recently I was able to go to the temple and receive my endowment. In the celestial room with my family and friends. I noticed mirrors opposite each other that reflect forever, representing eternity. One of the things I will always remember and cherish is in that room I felt beautiful. It wasn't a turn-someone's-head pretty. I just felt beautiful. I knew the Lord didn't care what

size dress I wore. He cared that I was clean and worthy. I had kept my own temple pure. In those mirrors I could appreciate what a beautiful gift my body was.

I am not stuck with my body; I am blessed with it. **NE**

In the celestial room of the temple I felt beautiful. In those mirrors I could appreciate what a beautiful gift my body was.





Val Chadwick Bagley



Ryan Stoeker



Val Chadwick Bagley

A QUESTION OF TIME



By Elder
F. Burton Howard
Of the Seventy

The things you give your time, attention, and money to are the things most important to you. Would the Lord agree with your choices?

Got a friend who always tells you what to think and do, when to eat or sleep? Is that really a healthy relationship?

Who is the most important person in your home? How do you tell who is important? Is it the person who earns the most? Is it the person who has the best room? Is it the person you love the most? Is it the one who gives you the most of his or her time? Who is the most important person in your home? You might say, "Everybody is important in our home." I wonder if that's really true.

Let me ask you another question. How is the TV treated in your home? Does it have its own room? What about the computer? Do you like it better than your brother? How about your mother? Do you like it better than your great-grandfather? Does it get much rest?* Do your parents spend more time with it than they do with you? Do they spend more money on it than they do on you?

Do you follow the TV's opinions more than your parents' ideas? Does it tell you what to eat for breakfast? Does it come to dinner? Often? When it does, does it get the best seat? Do you have to keep quiet when it is talking? Does it ever cause fights in your house? Do you ever get

* Introductory questions taken from Marilyn Burn, *I Am Not a Short Adult*, 90.

sent downstairs when it does? Who's the boss in your family? Is it the TV? Does it tell you when to get up and when to go to school? Does it tell you what to do? How about on Saturday morning? Does it tell you what to do then? Does it tell you when to go out and play? Does it talk during prayers? Does it tell the home teachers when it's time to go? Does it ever keep you from going to church?

How about on Super Bowl Sunday?

Is the computer your best friend? Would you be lonely without it? Would you cry if it broke? Would you miss it more than your brother? If your house were on fire and you could save one thing, would you save the TV? What if you could only save two things? Could you live without TV for a week? How about a month? Who is your favorite teacher? Is it the TV? Do you like TV better than Mutual? How about Sunday School? Does TV teach the same things as your Sunday School teacher? Does it teach different things? Does TV agree with your Sunday School teacher? Who is right?

Does TV make you want things you don't have? Does this make you happy? Does it ever make you mad at your parents? What about when they won't buy you something you have seen on TV? Who do you want to be like when you grow up? Does TV always tell the truth? Somebody once said TV was chewing gum for the eyes. You think about that.

Where your treasure is

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Lay up for yourselves treasures





Is the TV your favorite teacher? Is the computer your best friend? Do they prevent you from doing things you should do, like being a better friend or family member? Then they are not your friends. Maybe the Savior would want you to find better company, at least some of the time.

in heaven, . . . For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:20–21). This means that the things you give your time and attention and money to are the things that to you are really important. Unless these things are important to the Lord, too, they aren’t going to count for very much in heaven.

Does TV prevent you from doing things that you should do like being a better friend, or helping with the dishes, or doing work for your great-grandfather? If it does, do you think it’s really your friend? Maybe it’s not your best friend. Maybe the Savior would want you to try to find better company, at least some of the time.

A great playwright named Henrik Ibsen wrote a play called *Peer Gynt*. *Peer Gynt* is the story of a young Scandinavian man who grows old on the stage. He lives his life by doing whatever he wants to do. Near the end of the play he’s being chased by a button molder who is going to melt his body down and make buttons out of it so he can be used over again for something worthwhile. He runs across

the frozen ground, trying to get away from this man. As he does, some small tumbleweeds get under his feet. He starts to talk to them, and he says: “Get out of my way. Off with you. You block my path.” And then something very interesting happens. The weeds talk back to him and say: “We are thoughts. You should have thought us. Feet to run on you should have given us. We should have soared up like clangorous voices, and here we must roll along as weeds.”

He kicks them out of his way and keeps running. After a while he steps on some leaves. The leaves start to talk to him and say: “We are a watchword. You should have proclaimed us. Your dozing has riddled us. Worms have gnawed us in every crevice, and we have never been able to bear fruit.”

Then the wind blows in his face. It whispers to him and says: “We’re songs. You should have sung us. A thousand times over you have cowed us down

and smothered us. Down in the heart’s pit we have lain and waited, but we were never called forth.”

Peer becomes angry over these accusations, and he says, “Poison you. Have I time for verse and stuff? I am running for my life.” Then he bumps into a tree. There are dewdrops dripping from the branches. They speak to him and say, “We are tears unshed forever. Ice spears sharp and wounding. We could have melted. Now our barb is in the bosom. The wound is closed over and our power to help is gone.” Peer doesn’t like that either, but he keeps on running. Finally, he trips over some straws and falls on his face. As he’s getting up the straws start to speak and they say: “We are deeds. You should have achieved us. Doubt the throttler has crippled and torn us. On the day of judgment, we’ll come aflock and tell the story, then woe to you.”

“We are thoughts. You should have thought us.” “We are words. You should have proclaimed us.” “We are songs. You should have sung us.” “We are tears. You should have shed us.” “We are deeds. You should have achieved us.” “And on the judgment day, woe to you.”

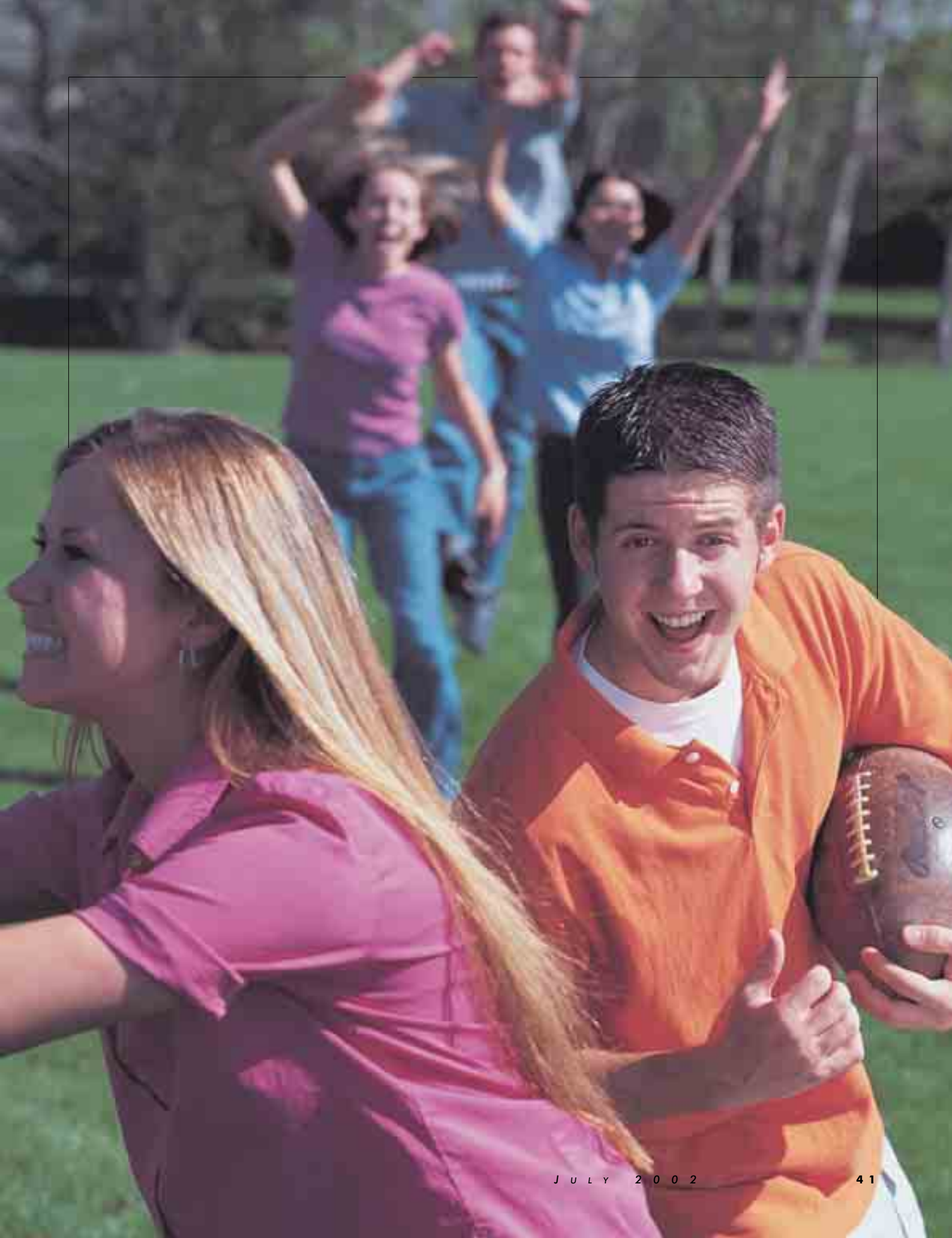
Priorities

One of the great cries of modern man is we don’t have time to do the things we should do. We don’t do our genealogy because we don’t have time. We don’t love our neighbor because we don’t have time. And yet we spend more time watching television than any other single elective thing in this world. I don’t believe the excuse is going to hold any water with the Lord. I don’t believe that we can ever say we didn’t have time. I think all we’ll be able to say, rather lamely, is that our priorities were not the same as the Lord’s.

May the Lord bless us all to magnify the things we know, to seek to know more, and to order our priorities so as to lay up treasures in heaven. **NE**

Adapted from an article printed in the September 1979 New Era





WRITE AWAY!

The *New Era* wants to hear your Mutual success stories. Write and tell us about great ideas that have worked for your ward's Mutual activities so we can share them with others. Send your submissions to:
New Era
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150



¿SE HABLA ESPAÑOL?

When the U.S. Army came to Puerto Maldonado, Perú, it brought doctors, medicine, and other medical help for residents of the area. Communicating with the people the Army was trying to diagnose and treat, however, was trickier than pulling teeth (which they also did). So missionaries from the Perú Lima Central Mission, with permission from their mission president, volunteered to play a key role translating between the Army and its patients. More than 8,000 residents received the medical aid they needed at the Army's health clinic over a 10-day period.



THE BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS

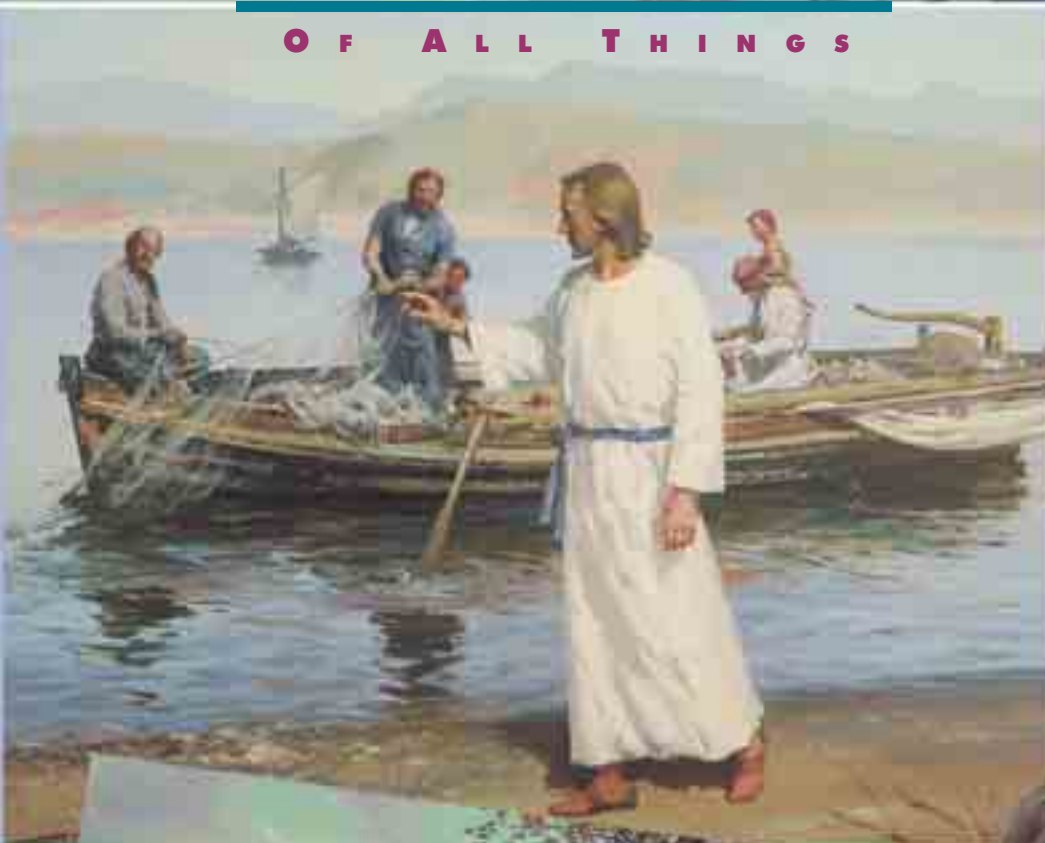
The Book of Commandments, published in 1833, was much like our modern-day Doctrine and Covenants, except it included fewer revelations. The Prophet Joseph Smith had received more than 60 revelations for the Church, and they were recorded, but only a few people had access to them. A conference was held in the office of the *Evening and Morning Star* at Independence, Missouri, on May 29, 1832 to dedicate the printing establishment. Bishop Edward Partridge offered the dedicatory prayer (see *Journal History*, May 29, 1832). With the establishment of a printing press, it was possible to publish the revelations so more of the Saints could have access to them.

On July 20, 1833, during the printing of the Book of Commandments, mobs trying to force the Saints out of Missouri demolished the printing press. The mob nearly destroyed all the unbound sheets of the Book of Commandments that had been printed. Fortunately, Caroline and Mary Elizabeth Rollins, sisters who were 12 and 14, saved some of the unbound sheets that they saw the mob throw on the ground outside the printing office. They grabbed as many of the sheets as they could and ran, escaping from the mob through a gap in a fence and running into a cornfield. Later, the saved copies were bound, and each of the girls received her own copy of the Book of Commandments.

LEADERSHIP TIP:

“Jesus believed in His followers, not alone for what they were, but for what they had the possibilities to become. While others would have seen Peter as a fisherman, Jesus could see him as a powerful religious leader” (*Ensign*, Aug. 1979, 6).
—Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985)

As a leader you can inspire those around you to be better. Expect people to do good things, believe in them, and help them to accomplish their righteous goals.



THE FAITH OF THE PIONEERS

“It is good to look to the past to gain appreciation for the present and perspective for the future. It is good to look upon the virtues of those who have gone before, to gain strength for whatever lies ahead. . . . Their tremendous example can become a compelling motivation for us all, for each of us is a pioneer in his own life, often in his own family, and many of us pioneer daily in trying to establish a gospel foothold in distant parts of the world” (*Ensign*, July 1984, 3).

—President Gordon B. Hinckley

ITSABOUTLOVE.ORG

A new Web site from LDS Family Services provides valuable help for unwed birth parents. The site, www.ItsAboutLove.org, offers information about how to contact LDS Family Services and how it can help make important decisions about an unplanned pregnancy.

LDS Family Services gives free and private counseling services, helps birth parents place their children for adoption, and provides education, among other services. To find out more about LDS Family Services read “What’s Best for My Baby” (*New Era*, Nov. 2001, 40) or log onto www.lds.org to see the LDS Family Services Web site.

SPEAKING OF



She spoke no English. But as we tried to communicate, we discovered that we had a third language in common.

It was late in the evening, and I had just begun to work on homework due the next day. The phone rang while I was in the middle of a particularly difficult calculus problem. The call was for my dad, as most of our calls have been since he was called as our ward bishop. I handed the phone to him and sat down again. I was so engrossed in my work that I was not aware of his conversation.

"Shallin," my dad said, bringing me out of my deep concentration, "do you know anyone in the ward who speaks Spanish?"

"Nope," I answered.

"Well, someone from the temple just called and asked if a Venezuelan girl who speaks only Spanish could do baptisms for the dead with our ward tomorrow night. They want me to find someone to translate for her," he continued.

"I can't think of anyone," I said.

"Neither can I. Do you think you could help her?"

Immediately I started to explain that

taking Spanish in high school did not exactly make me a fluent speaker. But before I could think of any more excuses, I remembered some of the wonderful experiences I have had at the temple. I did not even know the girl, but I imagined how anxious she must be to come to the temple and I knew I could not let her down.

"I'll try," I responded.

As we left for the temple the following day, I became really nervous. I could hardly remember any Spanish at all. I wanted so badly for this young woman to have a wonderful experience, and to feel the spirit of the House of the Lord. I said a silent prayer that she and I would be able to understand what was necessary and that her expectations would be met.

At the temple, a beautiful young woman waited for us, already dressed in white. She was calm and glowed with happiness. I explained to her in broken Spanish that

MIRACLES



I was a sorry excuse for a translator. She smiled and expressed her gratitude for my efforts. I offered one more silent prayer, and I immediately began to feel the powerful Spirit of the Lord.

In the baptismal chapel waiting for the rest of the group, I opened a set of scriptures. Not looking for anything particular I turned to Doctrine and Covenants 6:32: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, as I said unto my disciples, where two or three are gathered together in my name, as touching one thing, behold, there will I be in the midst of them—even so am I in the midst of you.”

Throughout the next hour, I felt the Spirit help us communicate. We laughed at my many mistakes, and she was patient with me as I tried to understand and answer her questions. When the temple trip was over, it was hard to say good-bye. We knew we had shared a small miracle.

Later that night, I began my daily scripture study, as always, with a prayer.

After I prayed to understand what I would read, the words meant more to me than ever before. I realized the same miracle that happened in the temple takes place in my bedroom each night. I thought of the words of Moroni as he prayed for the ability to write, and I sympathized with his “stumbl[ing] because of the placing of [his] words” (Ether 12:25). He feared the Gentiles would mock his weakness in writing and that the power of the Lord would be lost. This was similar to the way I felt about being a Spanish translator at the temple.

But just as the Lord helped me communicate with someone from a distant land, I know He will help me understand His words recorded in distant times. The prophets of old and I are also “gathered together in [His] name.” And though I have little in common with the valiant men of the scriptures, I am better able to understand the words of God because He is, as He promised, “in the midst of [us].” **NE**

Translate? Me? My high school Spanish was so shaky. How could I possibly help this young woman have a good experience in the temple?

By Shallin Duncan

OF THE MOST WORTH



By President
Ezra Taft Benson
(1899–1994)

It is not enough just to be members and go to sacrament meeting. The Lord expects us to be missionaries and to help build up His kingdom.

Missionaries are engaged in the greatest work in all the world—saving the souls of our Father in Heaven’s children. There isn’t anything so important, so precious, so enjoyable, so soul-satisfying. Through the Prophet Joseph Smith the Lord proclaimed, “The thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people, that you may bring souls unto me” (D&C 15:6).

As members of the Lord’s Church, we must take missionary work seriously. If you are laboring as you should, if you love this work, you will be helping to save the souls of the children of men.

No person can read section one of the Doctrine and Covenants, realizing that the Church accepts it as the word of the Lord, and ask why we send missionaries into all parts of the world. The responsibility, and a major one it is, falls squarely upon the membership of the Church, for “the voice of warning,” says the Lord, “shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days” (D&C 1:4).

One of our best missionary tools is the sterling example of members who live the gospel. This is what the Lord meant when He said to the Church, “Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness; . . . Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments” (D&C 82:14). The Lord will sustain members in their missionary responsibility if they just have the faith to try.



What the Lord expects

It is time to raise our sights, to get a vision of the magnitude of this great work. The Lord expects it of us. It is not enough just to be members of the Church and go to sacrament meeting. That is good—but that is not enough. The Lord expects us to be missionaries, to live the gospel—yes, wholly, and to help to build up His kingdom.

You will not be an effective missionary until you learn to have sympathy for all of our Father’s children—until you learn to love them. People can feel when love is extended to them. Many yearn for it. When you sympathize with their feelings, they in turn will reciprocate goodwill to you. You will have made a friend.

How long has it been since you have invited a neighbor to sacrament meeting





To succeed in sharing the gospel, whether as full-time missionaries or as member missionaries, you must have a burning testimony of the divinity of this work. Your first obligation is to get that testimony.

or to a stake conference, or to come into your home for a home evening? How long has it been since you had a real gospel conversation? These are choice experiences.

I encourage you not only to read the biblical account of Christ's Resurrection, but to read and share with a nonmember acquaintance the Book of Mormon account of Christ's personal manifestation to those in America following His Resurrection. Give them or lend them a copy of the Book of Mormon, even your own copy if necessary. It could bless them eternally.

The Book of Mormon is the great standard we are to use in our missionary work. It shows that Joseph Smith was a prophet. It contains the words of Christ, and its great mission is to bring us to Christ. All other things are secondary. The golden question of the Book of Mormon is, Do you want to learn more of Christ?

The Book of Mormon is for both member and nonmember. Combined with the Spirit of the Lord, the Book of Mormon is the greatest tool which God has given us to convert the world. If we are to have the harvest of souls, we must use the instrument which God has designed for the task—the Book of Mormon.

Better-prepared missionaries

And reading the Book of Mormon is one of the greatest persuaders to get us on missions. We need more missionaries. But we also need better-prepared missionaries coming out of the wards and

branches and homes where they know and love the Book of Mormon. We need missionaries who have a burning testimony of its divinity, and who, by the Spirit, can challenge their investigators to read and ponder its pages, knowing with complete assurance that the Lord will manifest the truth of it to them by the power of the Holy Ghost. We need missionaries to match our message.

Give me a young man who has kept himself morally clean and has faithfully attended his Church meetings. Give me a young man who has magnified his priesthood and has earned his Duty to God Award and is an Eagle Scout. Give me a young man who is a seminary graduate and has a burning testimony of the Book of Mormon. Give me such a young man and I will give you a young man who can perform miracles for the Lord in the mission field and throughout his life.

Remember, young women, you may also have the opportunity to serve a full-time mission. I am grateful my eternal companion served a mission in Hawaii before we were married, and I am pleased that I have had granddaughters serve full-time missions. Some of our finest missionaries are sisters.

To succeed in sharing the gospel, whether as full-time missionaries or as member missionaries, you must have a burning testimony of the divinity of this work. Your first obligation is to get that testimony through prayer, through fasting, through meditation, through study, through appealing to the Lord to give you the testimony, and through responding to calls when they come to you. You must know that God lives; that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer of the world; that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God; and that the priesthood and authority of our Heavenly Father is here.

Not only should sharing the gospel be regarded as a priesthood duty, but we should all look forward to this experience with great joy and anticipation. The real purpose in sharing the gospel is to bring souls unto Christ, to teach and baptize our Heavenly Father's children so that we may rejoice with them (see D&C 18:15) in the kingdom of our Father. **NE**

Originally printed in the June 1989 New Era.

Creative ideas for using this issue of the New Era.

Family Home Evening Ideas

□ Does the television interrupt your family life too much? Read together “A Question of Time” on page 38. Brainstorm ways the family can decrease consumption of television and other media, perhaps by holding a “television fast” for a week or two. With your parents, make a list of activities family members can participate in instead of turning on the television, and post it in a prominent place, perhaps taped right to the television screen.

Young Men and Young Women Activity Ideas

□ As a class or quorum presidency, read President James E. Faust’s article on page 4 about missionary preparation. Use his checklist as the basis for planning several activities. Be sure to balance practical preparation such as ironing, cooking, and housekeeping with spiritual preparation such as scripture study and testimony.

Seminary Devotional

□ Bring a telephone to class and set it up in front without plugging it in. Ask someone to make a call. Have him or her explain to the class why it will not work. Compare the phone to prayer. We need to be “plugged in” to the right source, then we will never get a busy signal. Read Q&A on page 16 and outline for the class what we should do to be in communication with the Lord.

Personal Improvement

□ Do you honor and respect the fact that you are one of our Father in Heaven’s most important creations? Do you sometimes say things to yourself you would never dream of saying to others? Read “Mirror Image” on page 34, then write in your journal about things you are grateful your body can do. Also make a point of sincerely complimenting others to help them feel better about themselves.

□ President Ezra Taft Benson reminded us in the article, “Of the Most Worth,” on page 46, that as Church members we are charged with the responsibility of sharing the gospel. Prayerfully select a friend, neighbor, or family member to present with a copy of the Book of Mormon. Don’t forget to write a note expressing your testimony in the front of the book.

Value Project

□ For the youth in Tonga, seminary graduation is a big deal (see page 28). In addition to the planned graduation ceremony or fireside, ask permission to honor the graduates in your seminary classes. Ask other students what they think would be an appropriate way to recognize such an important accomplishment. It might be fun to take a cue from the Tongan tradition and make a lei for each graduate.

Index of Topics

- Book of Mormon 46
- Chastity 12
- Decision Making 38
- Entertainment 38
- Faith 28, 44
- Jesus Christ 4, 46
- Martin’s Cove 20
- Mission
 - Preparation 4
- Missionary Work 46
- Pioneers 20
- Prayer 16
- Reverence 9
- Resisting Sin 10
- Self-worth 34
- Service 26
- Temple Work 44
- Temptation 10
- Testimony 4, 46
- Time, Use of 38
- Tonga 28
- Worthiness 12



Keeping modesty in mind

Thank you so much for sharing the experience of the Red Bridge Young Women and its Evaluate project (Jan. '02). I have gone shopping with my mom searching for a prom dress for my sister and know what a hassle it can be. Now that I'm looking for a prom dress, I will keep modesty in mind. Thanks for the inspiration to aspire higher and to not settle for something less modest.

*Katie Hickman
Phoenix, Arizona (via e-mail)*

Differences in magazines

I am a sophomore in high school who loves to read the *New Era*. I took a clothing class this last semester. We had to look through many magazines, and then cut out different styles of clothing for different assignments. I was very appalled by some of the clothing I saw. I love the *New Era* because I don't have to see all the immodest clothes and read the vulgar language that is so popular in the world. I also love reading Questions and Answers because I can relate to the questions. Thank you for being here for me and the other youth in the Church.

*Jessica Moore
Thermopolis, Wyoming*

Can't we have both?

I love the *New Era*! I'm upset, though, that you replaced the fiction stories each month with classic stories. Can't we have them both?

*Hannah Saxton
Krum, Texas*

Reverse this decision

I am writing to express my disappointment concerning the apparent elimination of the fiction stories each month in the *New Era*. As far as I can tell, there has been no explanation of this elimination. I believe Church-related fiction helps young people to better understand the principles of the gospel. I would strongly encourage you to review this decision and reverse it.

*Michael R. Gosnell
Crestwood, Kentucky*

"I love the New Era because I don't have to see all the immodest clothes and read the vulgar language that is so popular in the world."



An important article

Thank you so much for your article in Questions and Answers (Jan. '02). It talked about what to do if you sometimes feel sad and unhappy, and it also gave some great advice on what to do if you feel "overwhelmingly sad all the time." It said to tell a trusted adult who will be able to get you some professional help. My 16-year-old son sadly ended his life last year. Our son was a nice, shy, worthy priesthood holder who was active in the Church. He didn't tell anyone how sad he was feeling, and we didn't recognize the subtle signs we now know were caused by depression. Instead, we brushed them off as him just going through the teenage years. We later learned that untreated depression is the number-one cause of suicide. The organs of our bodies, like our hearts, lungs, or kidneys, can become ill. We sometimes don't realize that another organ, the brain, can also become ill. Depression is a chemical imbalance of the brain that can usually be successfully treated with medication and therapy. Maybe if our son would have read your article he would have received the courage he needed to ask for help. I hope there is someone out there who reads this article and then asks an adult for help.

*Stacy Hone
Payson, Utah (via e-mail)*

*We love hearing from you. Write us at
New Era
We've Got Mail
50 E. North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150*

*Or e-mail us at
cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org
Submissions may be edited for length
and clarity.*

Taste Summer

By Callie Taggart

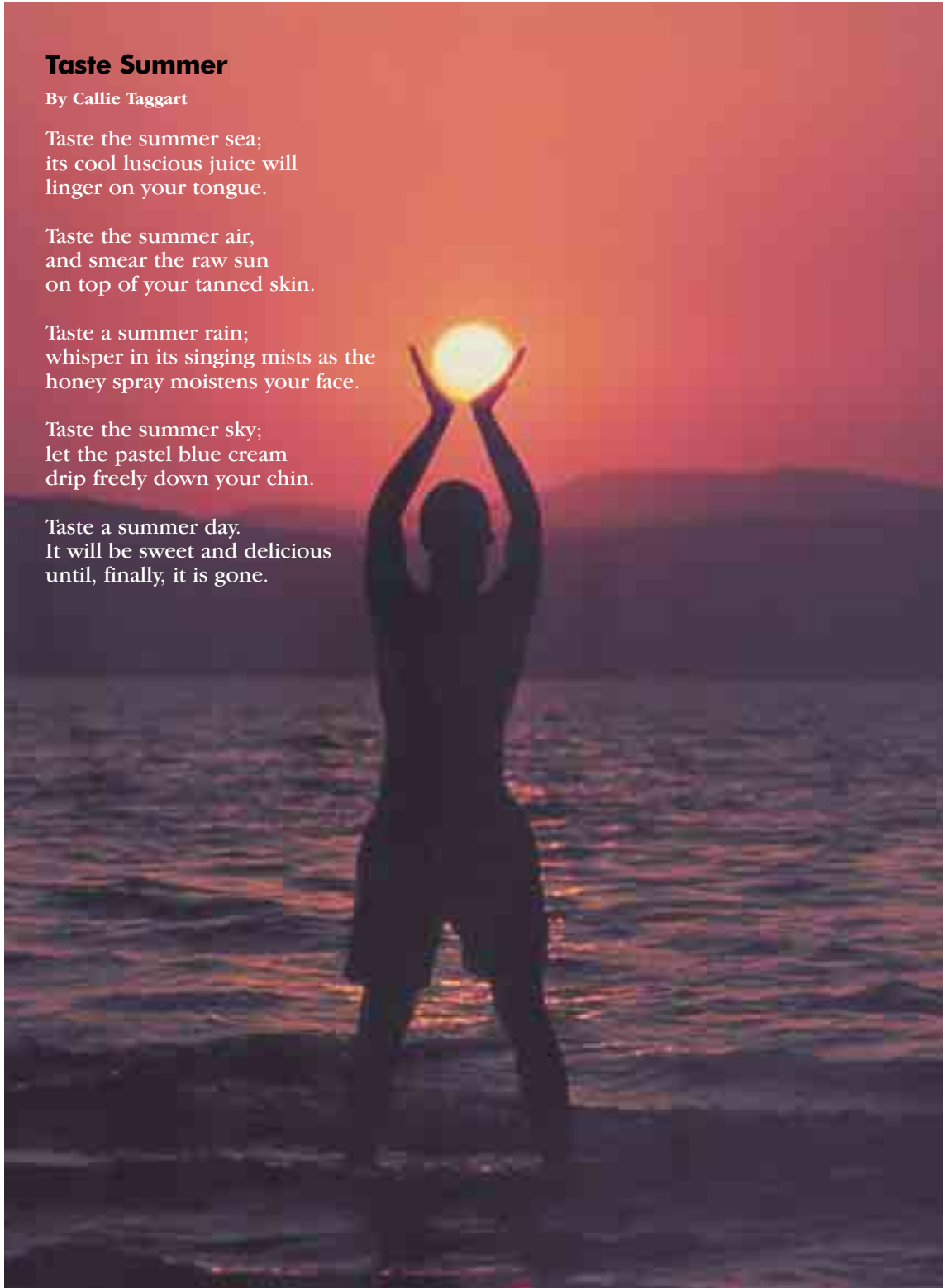
Taste the summer sea;
its cool luscious juice will
linger on your tongue.

Taste the summer air,
and smear the raw sun
on top of your tanned skin.

Taste a summer rain;
whisper in its singing mists as the
honey spray moistens your face.

Taste the summer sky;
let the pastel blue cream
drip freely down your chin.

Taste a summer day.
It will be sweet and delicious
until, finally, it is gone.



By *Niel Hayes*



“It hit us that this was really the place where they couldn’t go anymore, where they had to stop, and where so many died.”

*See “Walking in Remembrance,”
p. 20.*