

THE New Era

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Hard work
combined
with
faith-promoting
missionary
experiences at
the Hill Cumorah
Pageant makes for
an unforgettable
summer. See "The
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THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME



During His lifetime the Lord instructed the Twelve Apostles not to preach to the Gentiles. Yet later, at the appropriate time, the Lord reversed this instruction and directed the Apostle Peter to share the gospel with Cornelius (opposite page) and other Gentiles. Continuing revelation is how the Lord administers His timing.

BY ELDER DALLIN H. OAKS
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

In all the important decisions in our lives, what is most important is to do the right thing. Second, and only slightly behind the first, is to do the right thing at the right time.

Life has some strange turns. When I was a young man I thought I would serve a mission. I graduated from high school in June 1950. Thousands of miles away, one week after that high school graduation, a North Korean army crossed the 38th parallel, and our country was at war. I was 17 years old, but as a member of the Utah National Guard I was soon under orders to prepare for mobilization and active service. Suddenly, for me and for many other young men of my generation, the full-time mission we had planned was not to be.

Another example: After I served as president of Brigham Young University for nine years, I was released. A few months later the governor of the state of Utah appointed me to a 10-year term on the supreme court of this state. I was then 48 years old. My wife June and I tried to plan the rest of our lives. We wanted to serve the full-time mission neither of us had been privileged to serve. We planned that I would serve 20 years on

the state supreme court. Then, at the end of two 10-year terms, when I would be nearly 69 years old, I would retire from the supreme court, and we would submit our missionary papers and serve a mission as a couple.

Four years after we made that plan I was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—something we never dreamed would happen. Realizing then that the Lord had different plans and different timing than we had assumed, I resigned as a justice of the supreme court. But this was not the end of the important differences. When I was 66, my wife June died of cancer. Two years later I married Kristen McMain, the eternal companion who now stands at my side.

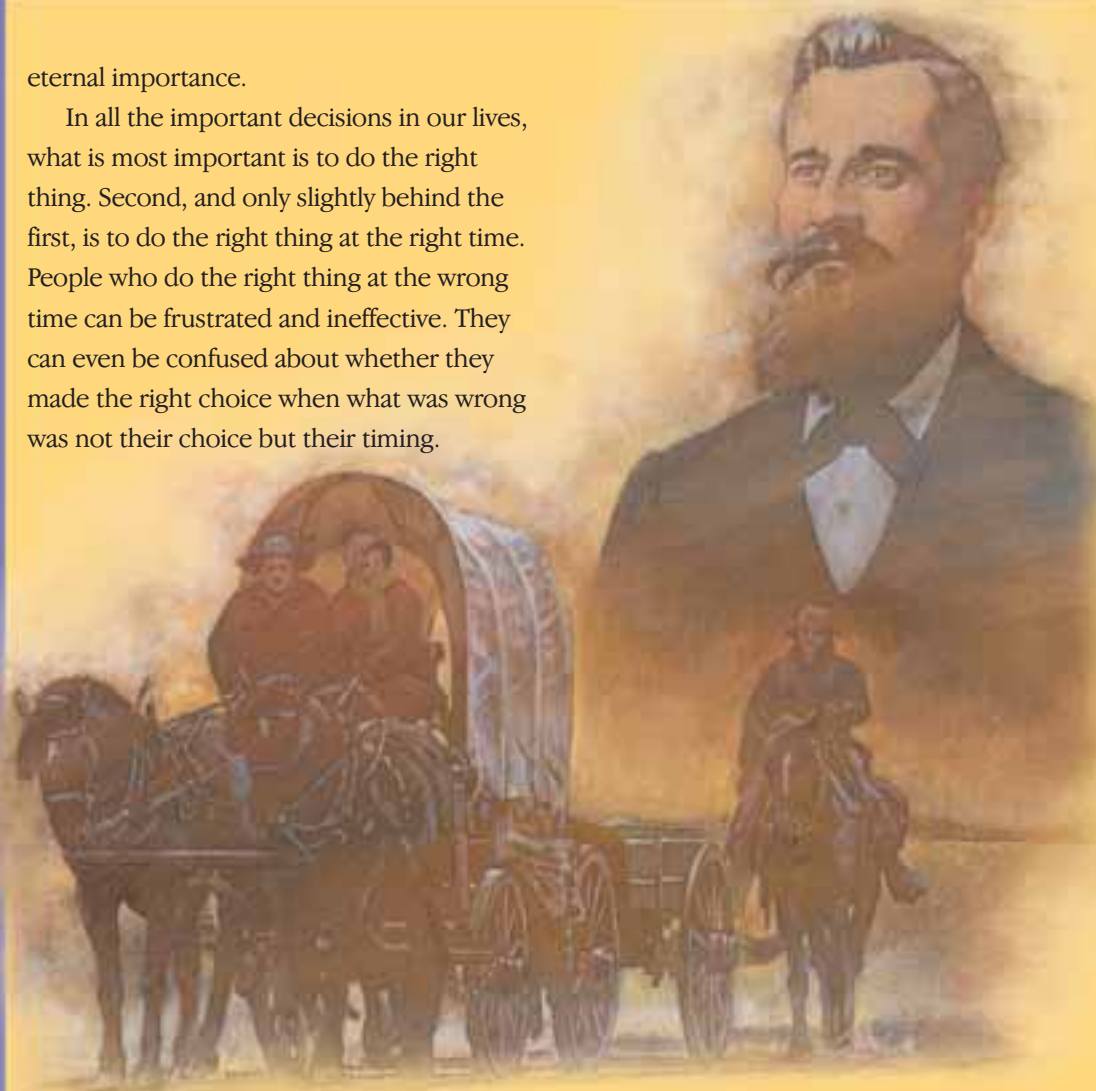
How fundamentally different my life is than I had sought to plan! My professional life has changed. My personal life has changed. But the commitment I made to the Lord—to put Him first in my life and to be ready for whatever He would have me do—has carried me through these changes of



As with Anson Call (right) and his pioneer family, it is not enough that we are under call, or even that we are going in the right direction. The timing must be right, and if the time is not right, our actions should be adjusted to the Lord's timetable.

eternal importance.

In all the important decisions in our lives, what is most important is to do the right thing. Second, and only slightly behind the first, is to do the right thing at the right time. People who do the right thing at the wrong time can be frustrated and ineffective. They can even be confused about whether they made the right choice when what was wrong was not their choice but their timing.



The Lord's Timing

The Lord has His own timetable. "My words are sure and shall not fail," the Lord taught the early elders of this dispensation. "But," He continued, "all things must come to pass in their time" (D&C 64:31–32).

The first principle of the gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith means trust—trust in God's will, trust in His way of doing things, and trust in His timetable. We should not try to impose our timetable on His. As Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said:

"Since faith in the timing of the Lord may be tried, let us learn to say not only, 'Thy will be done,' but patiently also, 'Thy timing be done.'"¹

Indeed, we cannot have true faith in the Lord without also having complete trust in the Lord's will and in the Lord's timing.

For a vivid illustration of the importance of timing we can look to the earthly ministry of the Lord and His succeeding instructions to His Apostles. During His lifetime the Lord instructed the Twelve Apostles not to preach to the Gentiles but "rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:5–6; also see Matthew 15:22–26). Then, at the appropriate time, this instruction was reversed in a great revelation to the Apostle Peter. Only then, at the precise time dictated by the Lord, was the gospel taken to the Gentiles (see Acts 10–11). As this example shows, continuing revelation is the means by which

the Lord administers His timing. We need that revelatory direction.

The Lord's timing also applies to the important events of our personal lives. A great scripture in the Doctrine and Covenants declares that a particular spiritual experience will come to us "in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will" (D&C 88:68). This principle applies to revelation and to all of the most important events in our lives: birth, marriage, death, and even our moves from place to place.²

A Pioneer Experience

Anson Call was in the initial exodus from Nauvoo. He and his family crossed Iowa in the spring of 1846 and reached Council Bluffs, Iowa, that summer. There Brigham Young was organizing wagon companies. He appointed Anson Call captain of the first 10 wagons. The Twelve ordered his wagon train to move west. It left the Missouri River for the West on July 22, 1846. Organized by priesthood authority, they were directed toward the Rocky Mountains, and they went westward with great energy.

After traveling more than 130 miles through what is now Nebraska, this first wagon train was overtaken by new instructions directing them not to proceed further that season. They found a place to winter and then, in the spring of 1847, returned east and rejoined the main body of the Church on the Iowa side of the Missouri. There Anson Call and his family remained for a year, making further preparations and helping others prepare for the trip west. It was two years after their initial start westward in 1846 that Anson Call and his family finally journeyed to the valleys of the mountains. There the obedient and resourceful Anson Call was frequently used by Brigham Young to begin new settlements in the Intermountain West.³

What is the meaning of this pioneer experience? It is not enough that we are under call, or even that we are going in the right direction. The timing must be right, and if the time is not right, our actions should be adjusted to the Lord's timetable as revealed by His servants.

Applications to Your Life

The achievement of some important goals in our lives is subject to more than the timing of the Lord. Some personal achievements are also subject to the agency of

others. Someone has said that life is what happens to us while we are making other plans. Because of things over which we have no control, we cannot plan and bring to pass everything we desire in our lives. Many important things will occur in our lives that we have not planned, and not all of them will be welcome. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, and their revolutionary consequences provide an obvious example. Even our most righteous desires may elude us, or come in different ways or at different times than we have sought to plan.

So what should be done in the meantime? Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ prepares us for whatever life brings. This kind of faith prepares us to deal with life's opportunities—to take advantage of those that are received and to persist through the disappointments of those that are lost.

Wise are those who make this commitment: I will put the Lord first in my life and I will keep His commandments. The performance of that commitment is within everyone's control. We can fulfill that commitment without regard to what others decide to do, and that commitment will anchor us no matter what timing the Lord directs for the most important events in our lives.

Commit yourself to put the Lord first in your life, keep His commandments, and do what the Lord's servants ask you to do. Then your feet are on the pathway to eternal life. You do not know what will happen. Do your best on what is fundamental and personal and then trust in the Lord and His timing.

Do not rely on planning every event of your life. Stand ready to accept the Lord's planning and the agency of others in matters that inevitably affect you. Plan, of course, but fix your planning on personal commitments that will carry you through no matter what happens.

The most important principle of timing is to take the long view. Mortality is just a small slice of eternity, but how we conduct ourselves here—what we become by our actions and desires, confirmed by our covenants and the ordinances administered to us by proper authority—will shape our destiny for all eternity. **NE**

From a Brigham Young University devotional address given on January 29, 2002.

NOTES

1. "Plow in Hope," *Ensign*, May 2001, 59.
2. See "Teaching and Learning by the Spirit," *Ensign*, Mar. 1997, 11.
3. See *The Journal of Anson Call* (1986), 36.

IF YOU *Listen*



BY ELDER LINDSAY T. DIL

Area Seventy
Australia/New Zealand Area

I grew up in Auckland, on North Island, New Zealand. I was a student at the Church College in Hamilton, and I had a lot of good experiences there. I played rugby on an undefeated team. I went to deacons quorum presidency meetings in the office of the school treasurer, who was our bishop. I learned a lot about the priesthood from good teachers who showed us how to sit in council and consider the needs of the other boys. But one of the most important things I learned was about following the Spirit.

We didn't have seminary in those days, but we did have religion classes at the college. One year the requirement was to read the Book of Mormon. It was getting near the end of the year, and I hadn't finished reading it, so I stayed up one night to read. That was the first time I recognized the Spirit while I was reading the Book of Mormon. Suddenly I realized that the Book of Mormon is not just a book; it is what we say it is—the word of God. I learned to associate reading the scriptures with feeling the Spirit. I also learned there is a difference between just feeling the Spirit and being able to recognize the Spirit and act upon it. Once you put that combination together, then you learn to make that your guideline for making right choices in your life.

Later, when I was 19, I was a missionary in French Polynesia, and I had to learn to

speaking two languages, French and Tahitian, without the benefit of the Missionary Training Center. It humbled me to the depths of my soul. I learned that missionaries did better when they would do everything they could to learn. Even though they made mistakes, the Spirit helped them. I found that without the Spirit, we couldn't do anything. But when we had the Spirit, the languages, as well as the missionary work, started to unfold.

Still later, when I was in my last year at Auckland University Law School, I had one exam left to finish my degree. I was married with two children, working, and second counselor in a bishopric at the same time. So life was fairly busy, and I was looking forward to being done with college so some of the pressure would be gone.

At 9:30 in the morning, I went to the law library to get “warmed up” for the exam at 2:30 that afternoon. As I was sitting there studying, I looked around. I couldn't see anybody from my class there, and I thought that was a bit unusual. The Spirit said to me, “Your exam is about to start.”

I thought, “That can't be right, because my exam is at 2:30.”

I ignored what I had heard and carried on studying. Fortunately for me, about five minutes later the Spirit said, “Your exam has just started.” I didn't wait for a third prompting.

I ran down to the basement of a building where a board displayed all the exam times.

At 9:30 I went to the law library to get “warmed up” for a 2:30 exam. The Spirit said to me, “Your exam is about to start.”



EXTRA! EXTRA!

To learn more about the Holy Ghost, read these scriptures: John 14:26; Galatians 5:22–23; Mosiah 4:20; 5:2; D&C 6:15–16, 22–23; 9:8–9; 11:12–14.

There it was: “Company Law, B-28, 9:30.” I met the two examiners coming off the lift—the elevator. I said, “I know I’m late; I have made a mistake. Can I still get in?” They let me in even though I was 40 minutes late for the three-hour exam. I sat down, my heart pumping. I looked at the questions and thought, “I can’t do any of this!”

So I said a silent prayer: “Heavenly Father, I’m grateful for Thy promptings. Forgive me for ignoring the first prompting, but please bless me now so that I can finish.”

Peace descended upon me. I looked again at the exam and thought, “Ah, I know that one,” and I started writing. I stopped writing

when the examiner said, “Time to finish.” Later, when I found out I had passed the exam, all I could feel was gratitude.

These experiences and others like them have taught me that Heavenly Father knows us individually and will bless us if we are trying to make the right choices. In D&C 84:88 the Savior says: “I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.”

It is my testimony that He will send the Spirit to you and that if you listen, He will guide you. **NE**



THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY



JOHN THE BAPTIST BAPTIZING JESUS, BY GREG OLSEN

*“We believe in God, the Eternal Father,
and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.”*
—Articles of Faith 1:1

The first article of faith is familiar to all members of the Church. It is the pivotal position of our religion. It is significant that in setting forth the primary elements of our doctrine, the Prophet Joseph put this number one:

“We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost” (Articles of Faith 1:1).

I believe without equivocation or reservation in God, the Eternal Father. He is my Father, the Father of my spirit, and the Father of the spirits of all men. He is the great Creator, the Ruler of the Universe. He directed the Creation of this earth on which we live. In His image man was created. He is personal. He is real. He is individual. He has “a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s” (D&C 130:22).

In the account of the Creation of the earth, “God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26).

Could any language be more clear? Does it demean God, as some would have us believe, that man was created in His express image? Rather, it should stir within the heart of every man and woman a greater appreciation for himself or herself as a son or daughter of God.

God Has a Body

I remember the occasion of more than 50 years ago when, as a missionary, I was speaking in an open-air meeting in Hyde Park, London. As I was presenting my message, a heckler interrupted to say, “Why don’t you stay with the doctrine of the Bible which says in John [4:24], ‘God is a Spirit?’”



The individuality of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost was made apparent when Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan. There in the water stood the Son of God. His Father’s voice was heard declaring His divine sonship, and the Holy Ghost was manifest in the form of a dove (see Matthew 3:16–17).

I opened my Bible to the verse he had quoted and read to him the entire verse: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

I said, “Of course God is a spirit, and so are you, in the combination of spirit and body that makes of you a living being, and so am I.”

Each of us is a dual being of spiritual entity and physical entity. Jesus’s declaration that God is a spirit no more denies that He has a body than does the statement that I am a spirit while also having a body.

I do not equate my body with His in its refinement, in its capacity, in its beauty and radiance. His is eternal. Mine is mortal. But that only increases my reverence for Him. I worship Him “in spirit and in truth.” I look to Him as my strength. I pray to Him for wisdom beyond my own. I seek to love Him with all my heart, might, mind, and strength. His wisdom is greater than the wisdom of all men. His power is greater than the power of nature, for He is the Creator Omnipotent. His love is greater than the love of any other, for His love encompasses all of His children, and it is His work and His glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of His sons and daughters of all generations (see Moses 1:39).

Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ

I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the eternal, living God. I believe in Him as the Firstborn of the Father and the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh. I believe in Him as an individual, separate and distinct from His Father. I believe in the declaration

of John, who opened his gospel with this majestic utterance:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

“The same was in the beginning with God. . . .

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1–2, 14).

I believe that He was born of Mary of the lineage of David as the promised Messiah, that He was in very deed begotten of the Father. I believe that in His mortal life He was the one perfect man to walk the earth. I believe that in His words are to be found that light and truth which, if observed, would save the world and bring exaltation to mankind. I believe that in His priesthood rests divine authority—the power to bless, the power to heal, the power to govern in the earthly affairs of God, the power to bind in the heavens that which is bound upon the earth.

I believe that through His atoning sacrifice, the offering of His life on Calvary’s hill, He atoned for the sins of mankind, relieving us from the burden of sin if we will forsake evil and follow Him. I believe in the reality and the power of His Resurrection. I believe in the grace of God made manifest through His sacrifice and redemption, and I believe that through His Atonement, without any price on our part, each of us is offered the gift of resurrection from the dead. I believe further that through that sacrifice there is extended to every man and woman, every son and daughter of God, the opportunity for eternal life and exaltation in our Father’s kingdom, as we obey His commandments.

None so great has ever walked the earth. None other has made a comparable sacrifice or granted a comparable blessing. He is the Savior and the Redeemer of the world. I believe in Him. I declare His divinity without equivocation or compromise. I love Him. I speak His name in reverence and wonder. I worship Him as I worship His Father, in spirit and in truth.

This is the Christ in whom I believe and of whom I testify.



The Holy Ghost Is the Third Member of the Godhead

That knowledge comes from the word of scripture, and that testimony comes by the power of the Holy Ghost. It is a gift, sacred and wonderful, borne by revelation from the third member of the Godhead. I believe in the Holy Ghost as a personage of spirit

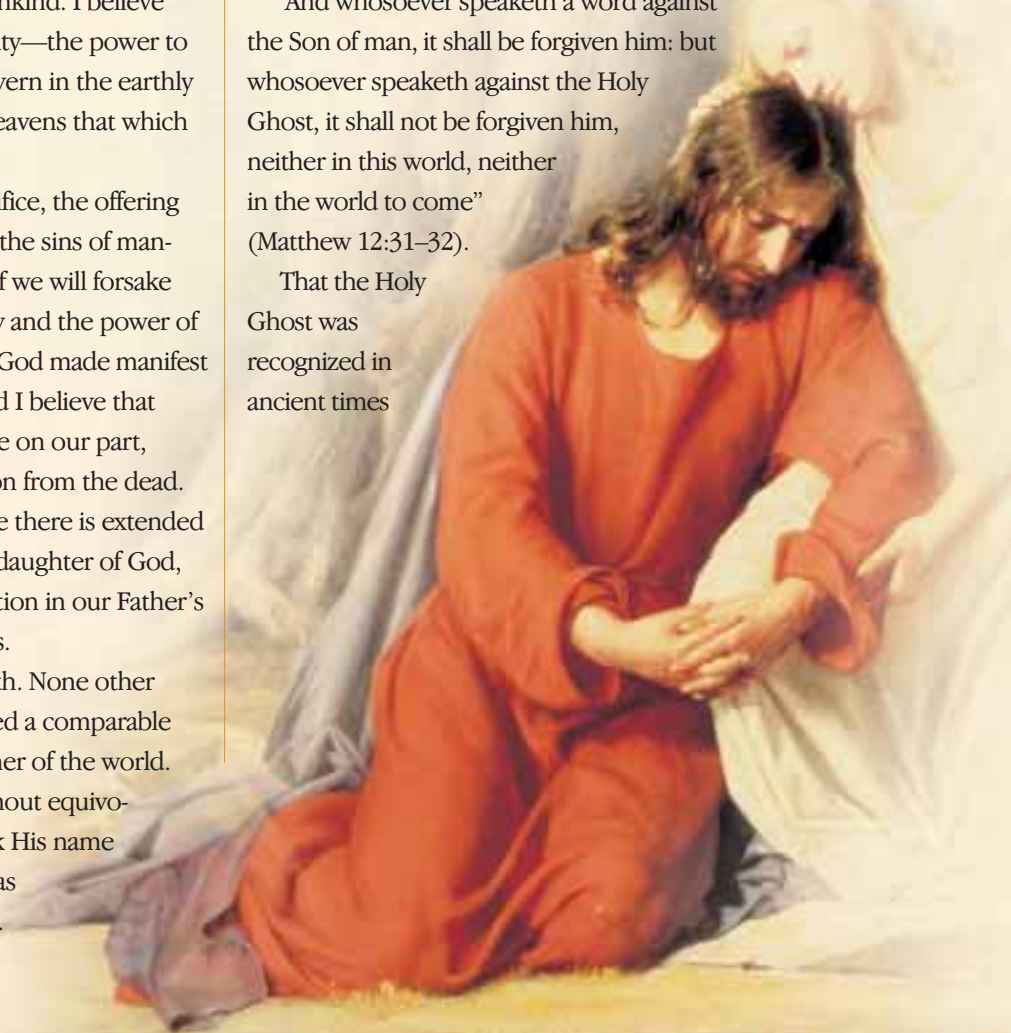
who occupies a place with the Father and the Son, these three composing the divine Godhead.

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).

That the Holy Ghost was recognized in ancient times



as a member of the Godhead is evident from the conversation between Peter and Ananias when Ananias held back a part of the price received from the sale of a piece of land.

“Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost . . . ?

“ . . . Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God” (Acts 5:3–4).

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

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).

I believe this power, this gift, is available to us today.

Members of the Godhead Are One in Purpose

I believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

I was baptized in the name of these three. I was married in the name of these three. I have no question concerning Their reality and Their individuality. That individuality was made apparent when Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan. There in the water stood the Son of God. His Father’s voice was heard declaring His divine sonship, and the Holy Ghost was manifest in the form of a dove (see Matthew 3:16–17).

I am aware that Jesus said that they who had seen Him had seen the Father (see John 14:9). Could not the same be said by many a son who resembles his parent?

When Jesus prayed to the Father, certainly He was not praying to Himself!

They are distinct beings, but They are one in purpose and effort. They are united as one in bringing to pass the grand, divine plan for the salvation and exaltation of the children of God.

In His great, moving prayer in the garden before His betrayal, Christ pleaded with His Father concerning the Apostles, whom He loved, saying:

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us” (John 17:20–21).

It is that perfect unity between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost that binds these three into the oneness of the divine Godhead.

Miracle of miracles and wonder of wonders, They are interested in us, and we are the substance of Their great concern. They are available to each of us. We approach the Father through the Son. He is our intercessor at the throne of God. How marvelous it is that we may so speak to the Father in the name of the Son.

I bear witness of these great, transcendent truths. And I do so by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. **NE**

From an October 1986 general conference address.

Next month in this series, read how one young woman comes to realize what it means to take responsibility for her own sins.

Jesus Christ was born of Mary and was the Only Begotten of the Father (opposite page, top). Through the Savior’s Atonement, we can overcome death and sin (opposite page, bottom). The Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit who occupies a place with the Father and the Son, these three composing the divine Godhead. Each of us can receive the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands (above).



TOP: LEFT, THE BIRTH OF JESUS, BY CARL BLOCH; CENTER, IN THE GARDEN OF GETSESEMANE, BY CARL BLOCH; TOP RIGHT, JOSEPH AND OLIVER CONFIRM JOSEPH SMITH, SR., BY WILLIAM F. WHITAKER, JR.



THE DEACON WITH THE BIG SMILE

BY FAY WALDEMAR MCCRACKEN

The first thing Zayne Callahan can remember is living in the basement of an orphanage in China. He had been there since he was a baby. Zayne later learned that he was kept in the basement so people who came to the orphanage to adopt children wouldn't see him.

"I was considered an embarrassment because I was born with spina bifida," Zayne says. Spina bifida is a birth defect that made his legs weak and prevented him from walking normally. "I wasn't able to go to school or hardly even learn the Chinese language because the people at the orphanage didn't think it was important to teach a child with a disability."

Zayne was seven years old when John and Wendy Callahan—his future parents—first saw him on a videotape of Chinese children waiting to be adopted. When the photographer passed the camera over Zayne briefly, he smiled and waved. That action

won the hearts of his future parents who recognized his brave, strong, intelligent spirit.

That was five years ago. Now, Zayne is a deacon in the Lolo Ward of the Stevensville Montana Stake. When he turned 12, he wanted to fulfill his priesthood responsibilities by passing the sacrament. That was a big challenge for a boy who must use crutches to walk.

Originally, Zayne tried to pass the sacrament while balancing on his crutches. When that didn't work, he decided to use his wheelchair instead. Now Zayne passes the sacrament by placing the trays on his lap and wheeling down the aisles.



Zayne works hard to fulfill his other priesthood duties too. An older member in his ward says she was impressed when the young men went to

her home to pick up rocks as a service project. She found Zayne sitting on the ground putting rocks into a wheelbarrow. He had laid

his crutches down because they were in the way, but his



disability didn't stop him from serving just like the other boys.

According to his father, Zayne doesn't waste time feeling sorry for himself. If he wants to do something, he figures out a way to do it. He played a lead part in the school production of Red Riding Hood. He was the head wolf and led a pack of wolves onstage, his crutches keeping time to the music. He is also an accomplished violinist and pianist. While playing his violin, he has to sit on a high stool rather than stand like most violinists, but that doesn't distract from the beauty of his music.

No matter where Zayne goes or what he does, people notice his good example. One classmate summed it up by saying, "He's that boy with the big smile." **NE**

Fay Waldemar McCracken is a member of the Lolo Ward, Stevensville Montana Stake.

Zayne Callaban's big smile reflects his brave, strong, intelligent spirit. He doesn't let spina bifida stop him from passing the sacrament, playing the violin, and participating in school productions.



Q & A

*“I’m 18 and I just graduated.
But I don’t know what my next step should be.
What should I do with my life?”*

NEW ERA

Your next step is a big decision. You have a variety of exciting options such as getting a job, going to college, or preparing for a mission. As you decide what’s next for you, think about these questions:

Where can I best serve? What would I like to do? What do I feel the Lord would have me do? In what order should I do these things?

Education. After high school, you could continue your education or get job training. The prophets have always emphasized getting a good education. The Church has two Web sites you can look at about education and jobs: www.besmart.com and www.providentliving.org.

A mission. Many young men your age are preparing for missions. A full-time mission is a privilege and a wonderful opportunity. Because it is physically, emotionally, and spiritually demanding, however, those who are not able to serve a full-time mission can serve in other rewarding ways. Your bishop can tell you about a full-time mission and other opportunities to serve and how you can prepare.

■ *Think of some possible next steps, like serving a mission, continuing your education, or finding a job.*

■ *Pray and fast for the Lord’s guidance in your decision, and remember that spiritual confirmation often comes as you move ahead with faith.*

■ *Your parents, Church leaders, or school counselors may have some helpful ideas.*

■ *Above all, let the Spirit guide your decisions, and be faithful no matter what you choose to do.*

Marriage. When the time is right, a temple marriage is a worthy goal for young men and young women. For now, prepare to make temple covenants by keeping your baptismal covenants (see Mosiah 18:8–10; D&C 20:77).

Making good decisions. You will make some important, and sometimes difficult, choices in the next few years. Heavenly Father will lovingly guide you if you ask Him. You may be guided to a career that best fits your talents. Or you may do well in any job of your liking. *The important thing is to be true to the gospel, no matter what path you choose.* For instance, almost any college you attend could be fine as long as you keep Church standards.

The best decision will be a prayerful one. Fasting can help, and your family could fast and pray for you as well. If you feel you don’t get a clear answer, move ahead with faith. If you’re worthy of the Holy Ghost’s guidance and you feel at peace with your choice, you are heading in the right direction.

In addition to your prayers and pondering,



READERS

other guidance can come from your parents, leaders, the scriptures, and your patriarchal blessing. Your school's guidance counselors may also be able to help. They can show you how to identify your abilities and interests.

Right now you might feel like Nephi when he said, "I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do" (1 Nephi 4:6). As you prayerfully search for the next steps in your life, you too can be led by the Spirit. **NE**



Including Heavenly Father in your plans for your future is really important. He has a plan for us to become our best, and often we can't see

what He has in store for us if we don't pray and fast to know it. My patriarchal blessing helped me realize some of the things Heavenly Father wants me to do, and it helped me see things in more of an eternal perspective.

Nicole Rawlins, 17, Fair Oaks Third Ward,
Fair Oaks California Stake



I was in the same position. The first thing I did was try to find as many options as I was interested in. I researched a little about each option. Then I asked

myself, "If I choose this, where will I be in 10 years?" Many of my options led me where I wanted to be. So I chose one I thought would be best for me, and I prayed and thought about it. If it didn't seem to be the right one, I chose another and did the same process.

Nick Parkin, 18, Salmon Creek Ward,
Vancouver Washington West Stake



You can look to your patriarchal blessing for guidance. Normally, continuing your education or going on a mission is the best choice.

To make the right choice, you can pray for guidance from the Lord.

April Byington, 17, Benton Ward,
Little Rock Arkansas Stake

“Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good” (Alma 37:37). If you pray and counsel with the Lord, you will be able to do great things! A couple of things that all young people should consider is that after high school, we should seek higher education. President Hinckley has said, “Get as much education as possible.” That’s something that will be very important. Also, we young men have a glorious duty to serve a mission. We should be preparing as much as possible to be ready to serve.

Joseph Blanch, 17, Liberty Second Ward,
Independence Missouri Stake

There are many important things to do in our lives after we graduate from high school, such as going to college, working, going on a mission, or marrying in the temple. These are the right things to do. But we need to do the right things not only for the right reason, but at the right time as well. So ask yourself what you want to do, then pray and ask for guidance, and do what the Spirit tells you to do at this time. Doctrine and Covenants 9:7-9 explains more about this.

Vanny Roth, 21, Cambodia Phnom Penh Mission

College is very beneficial. It is a great way to strengthen your skills and talents and gain new insights about the world. If you decide to pursue further education after high school, be prepared to work hard. Or maybe you could attend a two-year college or trade school or maybe even serve in the military. These are great ways to prepare to better serve your fellowmen. If you have other ideas as to what you’d like to do after high school,



As we study our problems out in our minds, patience and pondering should have an important place in our decision-making process. We should reflect on our eternal goals.”

—Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Making Righteous Choices at the Crossroads of Life,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 11.

think about them prayerfully. Talk to your parents, siblings, and bishop. Above all, ask Heavenly Father what the right path is for you. He will help guide you as you take your next step into adulthood.

Emily Pyeatt, 21, Yorktown Ward,
Newport News Virginia Stake



After graduating, get involved with your stake’s young single adult program. There are institute classes you could attend. Attending institute and going to young single adult

activities can help you feel the Spirit and make a world of difference in your life.

Emily Craighead, 19, Oak Woods Ward,
Kaysville Utah Crestwood Stake

Avoid being idle. Participate in Church functions, develop new talents, and bask in favorite hobbies.

If you search for employment, save your money towards further education or a mission. Whichever you choose, you can find help from the Lord.

Cassie Crapo, 18, Franklin Park Ward,
Calgary Alberta 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 (including your parent’s written permission to print the photo) to:

Q&A, New Era

50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

Or e-mail:

cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org

Please respond by August 15, 2005.

QUESTION

“How can I repent and be forgiven if I don’t really feel sorry for what I’ve done?”

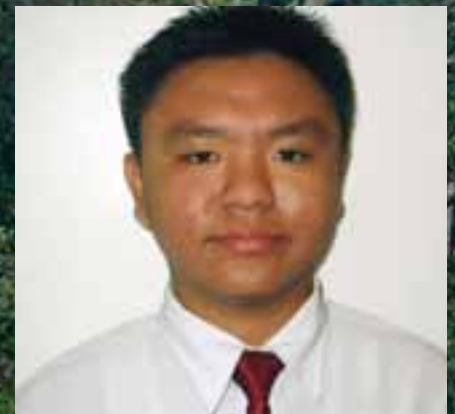
DEVELOP A GOOD ATTITUDE



FEELING NEGATIVE?
LIFE MIGHT NOT BE PICTURE-
PERFECT, BUT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
WILL ALWAYS GIVE YOU SOMETHING
TO SMILE ABOUT.

(See D&C 78:18.)

The teens in Malaysia are involved in a lot of firsts as the Church grows in their nation. Clockwise from top: Goh Wei Shieng, Tian Ming, Lau Kar Yee Amie, Goh Wei Seng, Toren B. Parsons, Ariana Dabier, branch president Steven C. Parsons and teens from the Penang Branch.





Young Pioneers in

MALAYSIA

BY HENRY AND JENEAL CALL

Being first means different things to different people. First may mean crossing the finish line just ahead of the nearest competitor or being the first child in the family, the first to leave on a mission, or the first to graduate from school.

For the past couple of years, the lives of Latter-day Saint youth in Malaysia have been filled with a different kind of firsts—gospel firsts. The Ipoh Malaysia District was organized in 2003. And since then youth here have planned and participated in their first-ever youth conference and attended their district’s first seminary graduation. There are only three branches in the Ipoh

Malaysia District, but the youth are determined to share their testimonies with others so they can help the Church grow. They hope they will one day belong to the first ward in western Malaysia.

“You don’t always get to be first in everything,” says Malvinder Singh, 16, who joined the Church in 1998. “But we are pioneers here.”

Strengthening Each Other at Youth Conference

At a youth conference last year, the air was filled with cries of excitement as the teens experienced yet another first—

These pioneers are still in their teens, but they are building a new way of life in their own country.

PHOTOGRAPHY (EXCEPT AS NOTED) BY HENRY AND JENEAL CALL AND KENT AND GLORIA ROBERTSON; LEFT AND RIGHT BACKGROUND, PHOTOGRAPHY BY GETTY IMAGES

MALAYSIA

A country in South-east Asia, Malaysia is almost completely covered with dense, green jungle. The Ipoh Malaysia District is on the western side of the country, nestled on the end of the peninsula south of Thailand. The western and eastern halves of Malaysia are separated by more than 400 miles (650 km) of sea. Malaysia escaped widespread damage from the December 2004 tsunami as the nation was protected by the island of Sumatra.

Malaysia is home to more than 60 nationalities. Most of the youth speak at least three languages, including Malay, Chinese, and English. Some of the youth speak as many as four or five languages.



baseball. Only two or three of the youth who attended the conference had ever played the game before, so they were asked to explain the rules to the others.

“It was a brand-new experience to learn how to play baseball, since soccer and badminton are the sports we play here,” says Malvinder.

In addition to baseball, youth conference was filled with other fun games and activities. Although the youth enjoyed the activities, they say what they will remember most about the experience was the opportunity to meet people with similar beliefs and to draw courage from knowing they are not alone.

Ariana Dabier, a Mia Maid, says, “It was great to see so many Malaysian youth who are just like me—faced with similar trials and temptations—yet they stand firm in their faith. I now know that no matter where I go on this earth, the gospel will be the same.”

Learning from Seminary Graduates

Another gospel first the youth recently experienced was the opportunity to attend their district’s first seminary graduation ceremony. Three Malaysian youth—Kelvin Anand Kumar, Aun Luck Tan Ernest, and Hamish Steven Parsons—earned seminary diplomas.

Kelvin, who was baptized in 1999, attended seminary during the first four years he was a member of the Church. He says the knowledge he gained there increased his testimony. “I am glad I graduated from seminary,” he says. “Seminary helped me to make correct decisions and plan my education. Because of the things I learned in seminary, I know someday I will marry in the temple.”

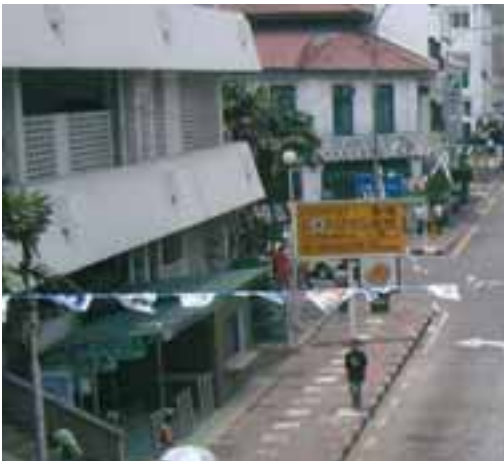
The youth say the examples of Kelvin and other graduates encourage them to attend seminary faithfully. Attending seminary is difficult for Malaysian teens because studies and homework take up most of their free time. They go to school six days a week, and most students also study with a private teacher after school ends for the day.

Jaslinder Kaur, a Mia Maid in the Ipoh Second Branch, says most of her friends don’t understand her decision to attend seminary. “When I told my friend I was going to church early in the morning to learn more about our Heavenly Father and His Son, she told me I was crazy and my grades would drop,” she says. “But seminary helps me do well in school because I have sacrificed my time for our Father in Heaven. When I go to school, my mind is fully awake, and I can



concentrate better on my studies.”

Malvinder Singh also says attending seminary has helped him succeed in school. Malaysian students must complete rigid testing twice during their school careers. Test results determine which colleges students can attend and which professions they can pursue. Although this year was an important exam year for Malvinder, he still chose to go to seminary. He says he knows Heavenly Father blessed him for this



decision by helping him do well on his tests. “Faith is the most important thing I have learned in attending seminary,” he says.

Like the Pioneers

Missionaries have been a permanent presence in western Malaysia only since 1980, so there aren’t many members there yet. In fact, only 1 in 12,015 people in Malaysia—or .01 percent of the population—belongs to the Church. Like the early pioneers, the young men and young women in Malaysia know that many of their peers have not had an opportunity to hear the gospel. These youth know they can help the Church grow when they share their testimonies with their friends.

The youth also know that before they will be prepared to share the gospel with others, they must work hard to develop testimonies of their own. Aun Luck Tan Ernest’s parents taught him the gospel when he was young,

but he always knew he needed to find out for himself if the gospel was true.


“I wanted to learn more about Jesus Christ when I was baptized,” Ernest, 17, says. “I knew He was the Son of God when I first bore my testimony in sacrament meeting. It was the happiest moment in my life, and I am still trying my best to strengthen my faith and grow in my testimony of Christ.”

Ernest and the other youth in the Ipoh district know that their testimonies will grow as they are shared. There are approximately 10 young men and 10 young women in the Ipoh Second Branch, and when possible they share their testimonies in testimony meeting. Young Women president Liew Siew Ling Chris says, “Hearing their testimonies is the greatest blessing I have.”

Youth in western Malaysia have been blessed with many gospel firsts. Through experiences like youth conference and seminary, they have learned they are not alone in their beliefs. And now they are determined to develop lasting testimonies of their own and help spread the good tidings of the gospel throughout Malaysia. **NE**

Henry and JeNeal Call are members of the Spanish Hills Ward, Las Vegas Nevada Lakes Stake. They served in the Singapore Mission.

Opposite page:
Esme Tan, Lau Kar Yee Amie, and Yoon Kbee Chin on the grounds of the meetinghouse. Left: Youth from the Ipoh Second Branch. Top: The busy streets of Ipoh in western Malaysia. Inset: Christie Helen.



RESCUED AT CAMP

BY MARÍA ESPINOZA ALVEAL

We'd had a lot of fun but needed to be rescued at the end of camp.

I remember one year when our Young Women camp had been almost perfect. Our camp, named Mirror of the Moon, took place at the foot of a mountain in central Chile. A special atmosphere prevailed, and our happiness and love highlighted the natural beauty of the place. Looking at the mountains, listening to the cascading waterfalls and the songs of birds, seeing the sun in the morning and the stars and moon at night all

caused us to acknowledge the existence of our divine Creator. We appreciated more than ever Heavenly Father's great love for us.

During the week, our testimonies had been strengthened as had our bonds of friendship. We had learned to do so many things—to build, to cook, to believe in our own abilities. Plus, we had been happy.

Now it was our fourth and final day, the one we had



looked forward to. We were going to have a testimony meeting at sunrise. We had to get up very early, but we were eager for this experience. Before the testimony meeting, we received letters that our parents had written. Many of us cried as we read them, and we felt a spirit of gratitude for those moments.

Later as we shared our testimonies, the stars disappeared and the sun rose above the mountains. What a beautiful morning! The meeting ended, and we were preparing to go on with the day when the sky became clouded. A light drizzle began.

As the rain began to fall, we gathered together to pray and ask Heavenly Father to stop the bad weather so we could complete our camping experience. Of course, we prayed that His will would be done. If He felt the rain should continue, we would accept it cheerfully.

The rain began to fall harder, and it became much colder. We started to pack up the tents and put everything away.

Then the camp leader and I went down beside a waterfall, and there in the rain, we knelt and asked Heavenly Father to help us be all right. Rising from our knees, we felt a peace and confidence that everything would be fine.

A few minutes after we returned to camp, a man who lived a few miles away drove up. He had seen us as we traveled to our camp four days before. Now he had come to help us. He asked for a telephone number so he could call into the city to have our bus come and get us earlier than planned.

After getting the information he needed, he left, made the phone call, and returned to take us to his house and give us shelter. He had to make a lot of trips, but he didn't seem to be bothered. Although not a member of the Church, he was truly an angel to us.

We realized that God really was watching over us and was concerned about us. He met our needs through this kind man. "God did hear our cries and did answer our prayers" (Mosiah 9:18).

For us, this was a great way to finish camp. **NE**
María Espinoza Alveal is a member of the Antártica Chilena Ward, Chillán Chile Nuble Stake.

PLANNING A GREAT YOUNG WOMEN CAMP

Camp can be a wonderful place where young women learn about our Heavenly Father and His plan for them. A good way to make the camp meaningful is to choose a theme, which "can be a scripture, a name for the camp, or a slogan or phrase that supports gospel principles, the Young Women values, or camp goals" (*Young Women Camp Manual* [2002], 81).

Here are some guidelines for using the certification requirements in the camp manual. Plan activities that help young women to:

- **Serve.** At least nine certification requirements center on service to others. Young women "can find joy in an outdoor setting that will strengthen their love for each other and the gospel and their commitment to stand together as 'witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places' (Mosiah 18:9)" (*Camp Manual*, 1).

- **Have spiritual experiences.** At least 19 certification requirements in the camp manual encourage young women to seek the Spirit. "Somewhere in nature you will find a surprise, and it will lift and inspire you for days to come" (*Camp Manual*, 1).

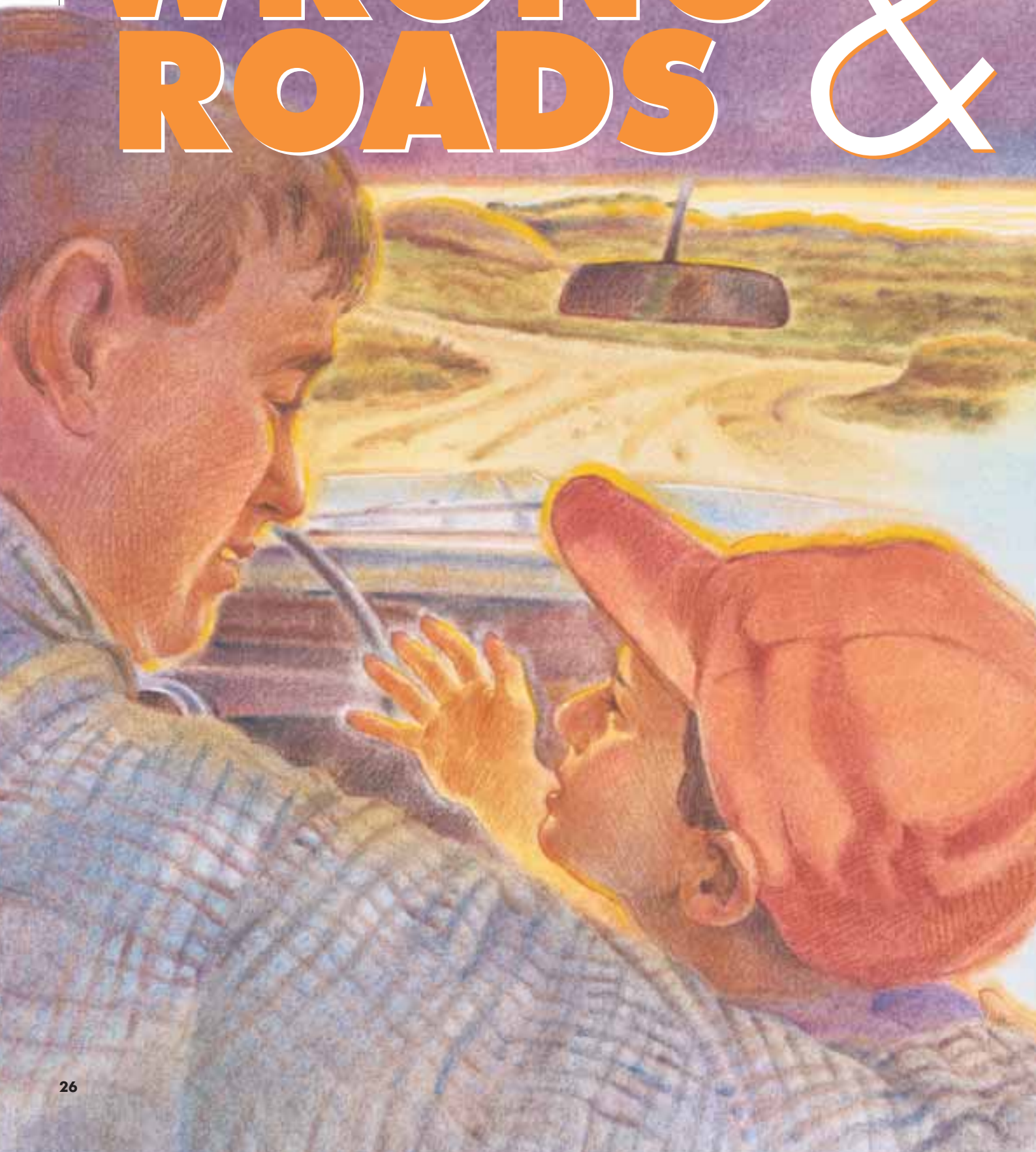
- **Prepare to be wives, mothers, homemakers, and leaders.** At least 42 certification requirements involve skills young women can use in future roles. Imagine young women "returning home knowing how to do things [they] have never done before" (*Camp Manual*, 7).

- **Understand their identities as daughters of God.** At least 12 certification requirements give young women experience with work and physical activity, and 16 requirements help young women discover who they are through leadership. "Physically demanding

activities . . . can help young women develop self-confidence and enjoy a sense of accomplishment" (*Camp Manual*, 52).



WRONG ROADS &





REVELATION

BY
MATTHEW
HOLLAND

We were running out of daylight. Why would the answer to our prayers send us down the wrong road?

Matt, let's go to the Colorado River," Dad suggested. I was seven years old, and my family was visiting both sets of grandparents in St. George, Utah. Eager to see the mighty Colorado, I yelled, "Great! Let me get my skipping stones."

Little did I know that he meant we were going to the Grand Canyon traveling over cow trails. Yes, we would see the Colorado River, but we would be on a cliff about a mile (1.5 km) above it. There would be no skipping of stones.

Grandpa Holland loaned us his truck and gave us a homemade map and a set of directions to help us find our way on a little-used dusty path along the back roads of the Utah-Arizona border. As we turned off the paved road, lumbered through the desert, climbed a set of hills, crossed another desert, went up another set of hills, I wondered how Grandpa or anyone else ever found this place.

We reached the overlook of the Grand Canyon late in the afternoon. After looking at the spectacular view and launching a few stones as far as I could throw, we got back into Grandpa's old truck and started the trek home.

It was dusk, and we had only gone a bumpy mile or two when we came to a fork in the road. We stopped. Dad was not certain which trail we had come in on. He knew he had to make the right decision. There wasn't much light left, light he desperately needed to ensure he could make the correct turns the rest of the way home.

Wasting time on a wrong road now meant we would face the difficult task of making our way home in the dark.

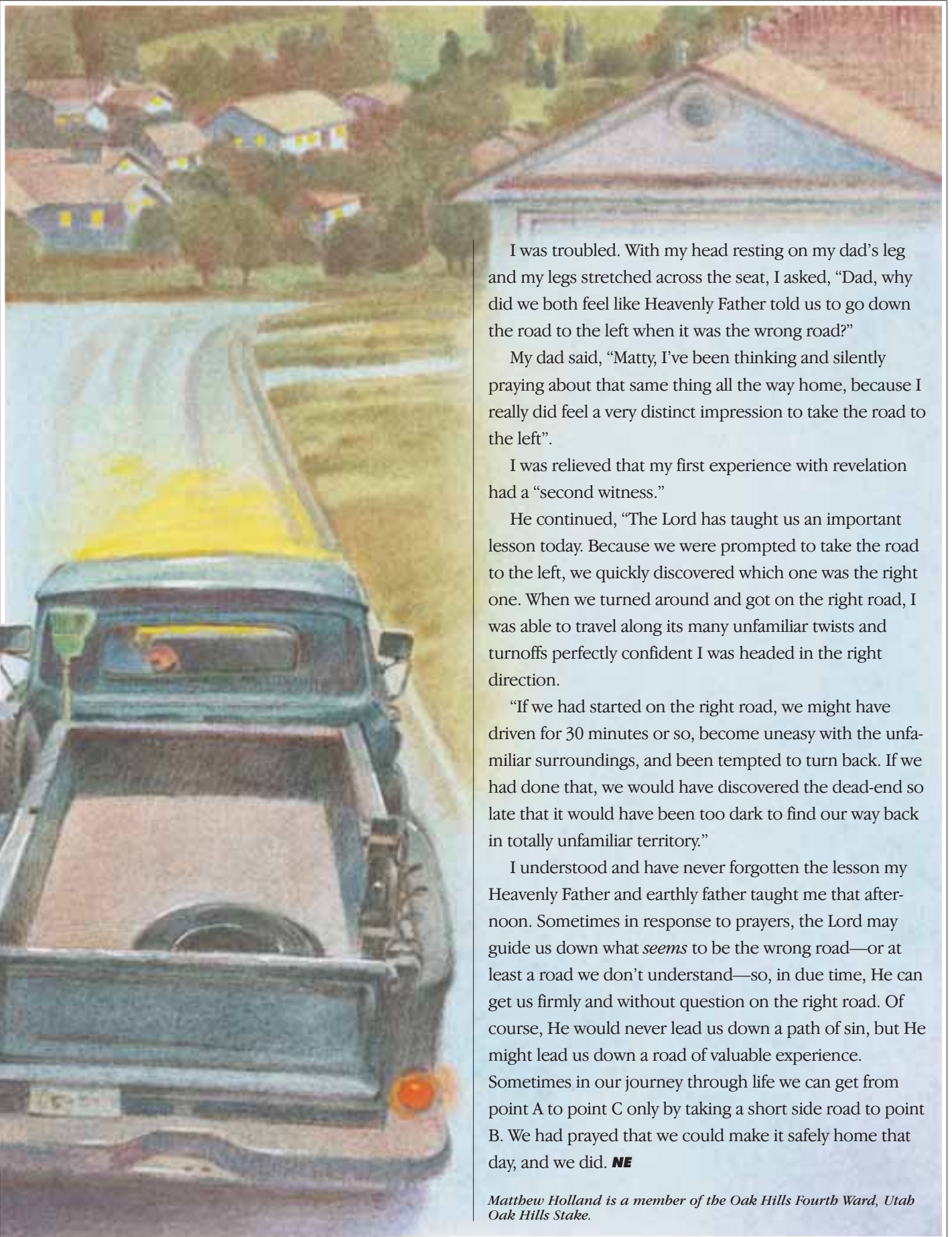
As we did whenever we had a family problem or concern, we prayed. After we both said amen, Dad turned and asked me what I thought we should do. I answered and said, "All during the prayer, I just kept feeling, 'Go to the left.'"

Dad responded, "I had the exact same impression."

This was my first experience receiving and recognizing revelation.

We started down the dirt road to the left. We had traveled only about 10 minutes when our road came to a sudden dead-end. My father promptly whipped the truck around, roared back to that fork in the path, and started down the road to the right. Fortunately, there was still just enough light to help us navigate the web of dirt roads that would take us home.

We were almost back to St. George, now on roads my father knew well, and the thick darkness of the night was lit by pinholes of thousands of stars.



I was troubled. With my head resting on my dad’s leg and my legs stretched across the seat, I asked, “Dad, why did we both feel like Heavenly Father told us to go down the road to the left when it was the wrong road?”

My dad said, “Matty, I’ve been thinking and silently praying about that same thing all the way home, because I really did feel a very distinct impression to take the road to the left”.

I was relieved that my first experience with revelation had a “second witness.”

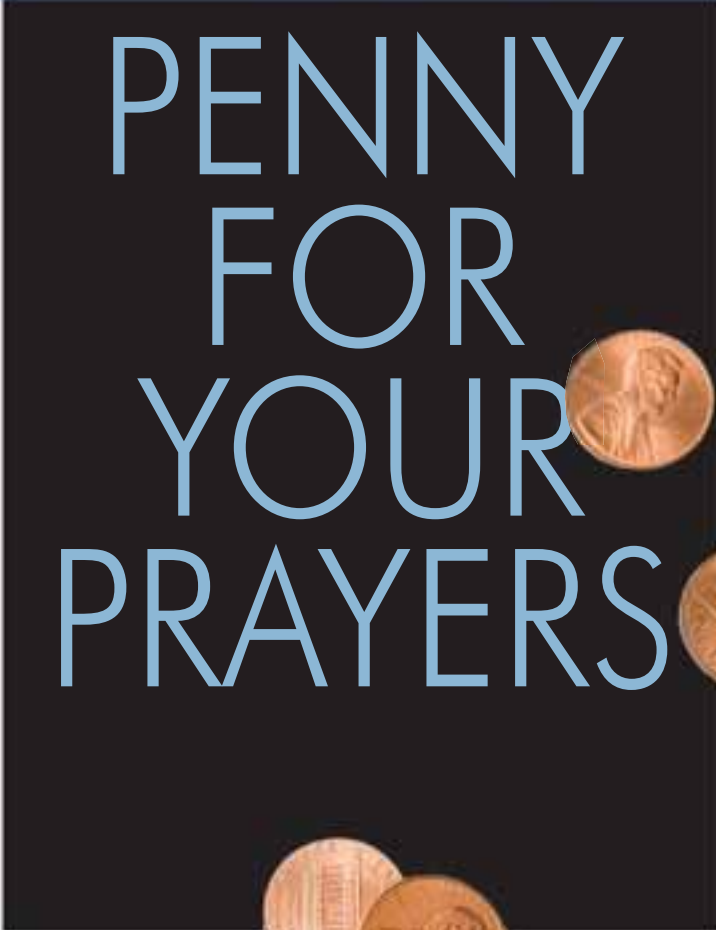
He continued, “The Lord has taught us an important lesson today. Because we were prompted to take the road to the left, we quickly discovered which one was the right one. When we turned around and got on the right road, I was able to travel along its many unfamiliar twists and turnoffs perfectly confident I was headed in the right direction.

“If we had started on the right road, we might have driven for 30 minutes or so, become uneasy with the unfamiliar surroundings, and been tempted to turn back. If we had done that, we would have discovered the dead-end so late that it would have been too dark to find our way back in totally unfamiliar territory.”

I understood and have never forgotten the lesson my Heavenly Father and earthly father taught me that afternoon. Sometimes in response to prayers, the Lord may guide us down what *seems* to be the wrong road—or at least a road we don’t understand—so, in due time, He can get us firmly and without question on the right road. Of course, He would never lead us down a path of sin, but He might lead us down a road of valuable experience. Sometimes in our journey through life we can get from point A to point C only by taking a short side road to point B. We had prayed that we could make it safely home that day, and we did. **NE**

Matthew Holland is a member of the Oak Hills Fourth Ward, Utah Oak Hills Stake.

PENNY FOR YOUR PRAYERS



BY SHANNA BUTLER
Church Magazines

Morningsides were our seminary's version of firesides. They were really early in the morning, but I was always glad I went.

At one of those early morning meetings, the speaker gave each of us a penny as we entered the chapel. We held the pennies throughout his talk, and at the end he challenged us to put our pennies in our shoes. His suggestion, at first, sounded like one of those things people do for good luck, like keeping a rabbit's foot in your pocket. But then he explained his strange request.

The speaker asked us to pray every time we felt the pennies in our shoes. It didn't sound too hard, but when I got up I realized that a penny in your shoe is only slightly less annoying than a rock in your shoe. Still, I decided to take the challenge.

During the day at school, the penny would slide around as I walked. And when I felt it, I remembered to offer a

silent prayer. I forgot about the challenge after I took my shoes off until I wore those shoes again later in the week. I didn't take the penny out

but decided to pray again throughout that day. My day went so well I decided to put a penny in every pair of shoes I owned.

Those pennies changed me. Their effect was much better than good luck. They taught me how to pray and communicate with my Heavenly Father. Now I know how it feels to pray without ceasing and to always have a prayer in my heart (see Alma 34:27; 3 Nephi 19:24, 30).

I don't keep pennies in my shoes anymore. After a few months, I didn't need the reminder to thank Heavenly Father for my many blessings or to ask for His help when I needed it. I feel like I know Him better now, and I know He is always there to listen to and answer my prayers. **NE**



THE CUMMO

BY HARRIET SUTHERLAND

Young men serve as the Hill Cumorah Pageant's work crew for a few weeks each summer. What they do is essential to the pageant's success.

Tension mounts as a young man slowly ascends the 50-foot light tower. His safety harness is securely fastened, and his body is silhouetted against the night sky.

Questions fill his mind: Will I be able to precisely follow the cues given to me through the headset? Will I be able to remember all that I've learned? Can I succeed in something I have never done before?

These are questions which any of the 26 young men, ages 17 to 19, might ask who leave family and friends for a month to be the work crew for the Church's Hill Cumorah Pageant in western New York.

The Work Crew Is Chosen

To be part of the work crew, young men first submit an application. To be eligible, they must be able to pay their own way, do physical work, and observe missionary standards at all times. They must be obedient and willing to follow direction, have strong physical endurance, and be able to peacefully reside with 25 other young men in a bunkhouse.

Applicants also write a letter saying why they want to be on the work crew and what skills and experiences they have to be eligible. They also bear testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ in writing.

Each application is prayerfully considered by the Hill Cumorah Pageant's president, technical director, and work-crew director. "The boys understand that they are chosen by the Lord for this assignment," says Cheryl Ganoë, the work-crew director's wife. "And they take their responsibilities seriously."

Getting Acquainted

When the 26 members of the work crew arrive at the Hill Cumorah a few weeks before the pageant begins, they discover among themselves many different personalities, backgrounds, and interests. Being away from home may seem strange to some, and they might feel out of place. But in this loving environment, it doesn't take long to make friends, develop new skills, and become part of an essential team for the pageant.

"There is such a spirit of love here, and I've only known these fellows for a short time," says Jim Puida, from the Hartford Connecticut Stake. "Already I feel like I've known them all my life."

Missionary Life

There is great spiritual preparation during the work assignments at the Hill Cumorah. Like full-time missionaries, crew members are assigned to districts of six to eight young



RAH CREW

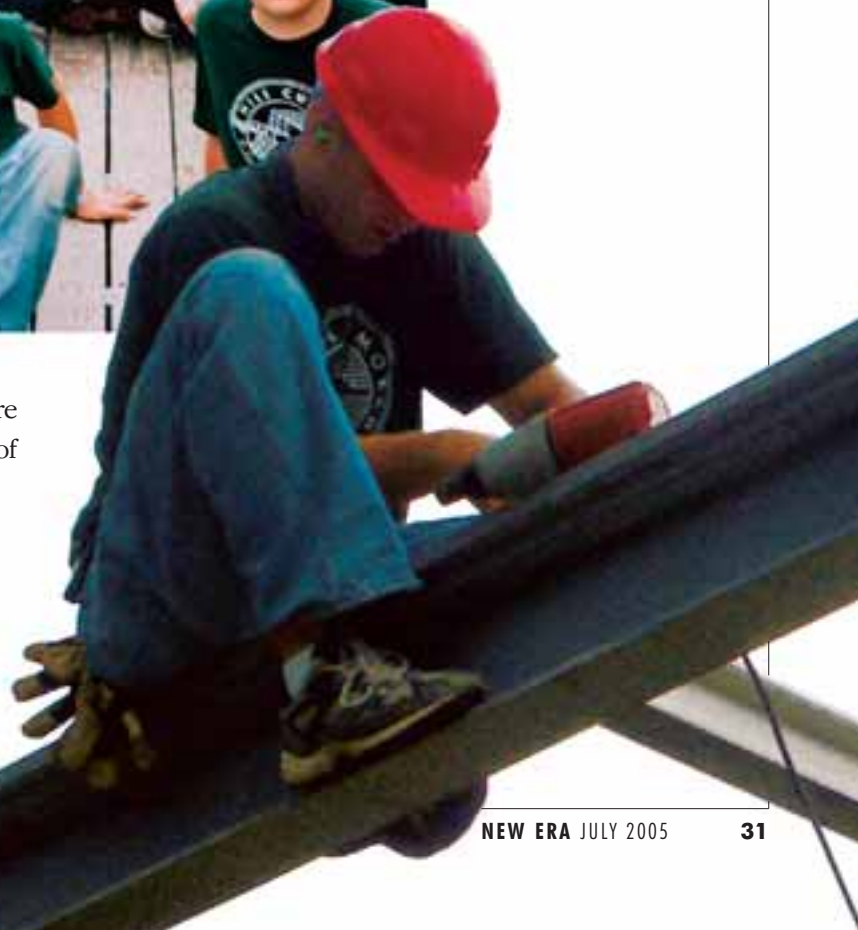



Last year's work crew thrived in the missionary-like environment of rising early, praying often, and working hard.

men. District leaders have been on the work crew before and are chosen to return to the Hill Cumorah because of their leadership skills, spirituality, and work ethic.

Rather than wearing white shirts and ties like a missionary, the work crew are recognized at the hill by their dark green shirts and denim pants. From now on, they will be called "Brother" before their last names. They are expected to live a high standard of conduct for the month they are here.

"The new missionary standard of 'raising of





the bar' is definitely manifest," says Clark VanDenBerghe, 18, a returnee and new leader from the

Rochester New York Stake. "The caliber of the young men is impressive. There's lots of teamwork and an air of brotherly kindness. I really like it."

Each morning at 6:30 they awaken to the work crew director's cheerful voice: "Good morning, Hill Cumorah Pageant work crew." Even though they may feel semi-awake and half disgruntled, the aroma of a hearty breakfast entices them to rise from their beds. They have daily personal scripture study and then eat at 7:00 a.m. Before each meal they sing a hymn, recite Doctrine and Covenants 4 or an inspiring quotation on missionary work, and then offer prayer.

After breakfast, they have companionship study in each district to help prepare them for proselyting in the audience before each pageant performance. At 8:00 a.m. they leave for the day's work, returning after dark upon completion of that day's varied assignments.

Preparing for the Pageant

Before the cast arrives, the area around the Hill Cumorah needs to be prepared for the pageant. The crew must assemble eight gigantic outdoor stages on the west side of the hill. Most have never done any work like this before.

"It's like putting together a giant Erector set. Each piece must be removed from a huge crate and assembled. You have to determine how each piece fits, and it has to be done correctly according to a map of the stages they give you," says Jesse Heick, from Delaware.

They learn to work with different tools as they set up poles, siding, lights, and aluminum I-beams, and lay lots of cable, tubing, and pipes. "Working with all these things will definitely help with getting a part-time job," says Steven Morley, from the Palmyra New York Stake.

"Working together as a team makes it all happen. It's physically demanding but rewarding."

Upon reflection he adds, "I always seem to have plenty of energy, even with little sleep."

Choices Made through Prayer

The second week, when the cast arrives, the work crew divides into two groups: the stage crew or the lighting crew. It's their choice. "The responsibilities of each group will be explained, and the boys will learn to govern themselves," says Sister Ganoë. "The influence of the Spirit plays a big part in that."

Members of the stage crew do the special effects on or under the stage. They set off live fireballs and operate a 24-foot waterfall and water curtains. They also provide the flames when Abinadi is martyred and create the "destruction" scene with water cannons and smoke before the Savior visits the Americas.

Members of the light crew climb the ten 39- to 50-foot light towers to shine the spotlight on the actors as they move around the stage after dark.

Brother Ganoë invites the 26 crew members to make this decision a matter of prayer. They reflect on this decision while they are busy working.

At the end of two days, they decide where they want to serve. As they raise their hands to indicate their choice, they discover that they have chosen the exact number needed for each group: 12 will be on lights and 14 on the stage crew. They are now ready, spiritually and physically, to rehearse with the cast.

Prayer punctuates performance at every turn. "I have never offered so many prayers in my life as I have since arriving," says Paul Kendall, from Utah. "We pray constantly both in our groups and individually for the safety of crew and cast. We ask that our spirits be lifted when we're down. I have gained such a testimony of prayer now."

"You definitely learn to rely on the Spirit through prayer," adds Chris Berrett, 17, from Utah. "One night before working on stage, I felt I should have a kneeling prayer before I worked with the special effects. My headset through which I hear all my cues went out during the

performance. I was blessed to come in on time, even though I couldn't hear any of the instructions."

The crew members feel tremendous support as they strengthen and encourage each other in these new experiences. "We 'circle up' to receive instruction before performances, and we often kneel together in prayers both night and day and many times in between," says Brother Kendall. "We feel such a bond of love. We always give a group cheer before we begin our performances."

During the final week, the work crew takes down the stage and light towers to restore the Hill Cumorah to its previous pristine condition.

After a month of working, praying, studying, playing, attending the temple to perform baptisms for the dead, and just being together as a work crew, these young men feel different. They have learned new skills and increased their testimonies. They have made friends they will never forget.

The words to "Song of Cumorah," sung by cast and crew during devotionals at the hill, could be a good motto for the work crew: "If you have felt the change in your heart and sung the song of redeeming love, then come unto Jesus our Savior."

The work crew has come unto Jesus. **NE**

Harriet Sutherland served full time with her husband, Howard, in the New York Rochester Mission; they are members of the Windsong Ward, Kennewick Washington Stake.



Members of the work crew learned teamwork and new skills as they set up, and later took down, the lighting and multilevel stage for the Hill Cumorah Pageant.

THE HOPE OF A MISSIONARY

BY TAFADZWA TANJANI

When I was a young boy about eight years old, in my small heart swelled a desire to serve a mission. When I was 14, I started going with the elders on exchanges. This increased my desire for the work, and I also developed a love for it.

Who could have predicted that a dark cloud would soon threaten my desire to be a missionary?

When our most precious earthly possessions were taken from us, including our small house in Gweru, Zimbabwe, there was nowhere to go. Our few possessions were soaked by the rains, so everything was rotting. We were destitute, and the load of care hung heavily on my single mother's shoulders.

There was nothing to be done except move to my grandmother's rural homestead. I proceeded to do my advanced-level studies at a local rural high school. Life had changed. School was far away, so I had to walk many kilometers daily. There was no electricity; I had to study by candlelight. Water had to be fetched from a nearby borehole.

In the midst of these tribulations, my family was united in prayer, but we were far away from where the chapel was. We often felt the Spirit in that remote area as we sang hymns and taught one another the gospel. There was little hope, but I found more hope in those moments when the Spirit embraced us so strongly.

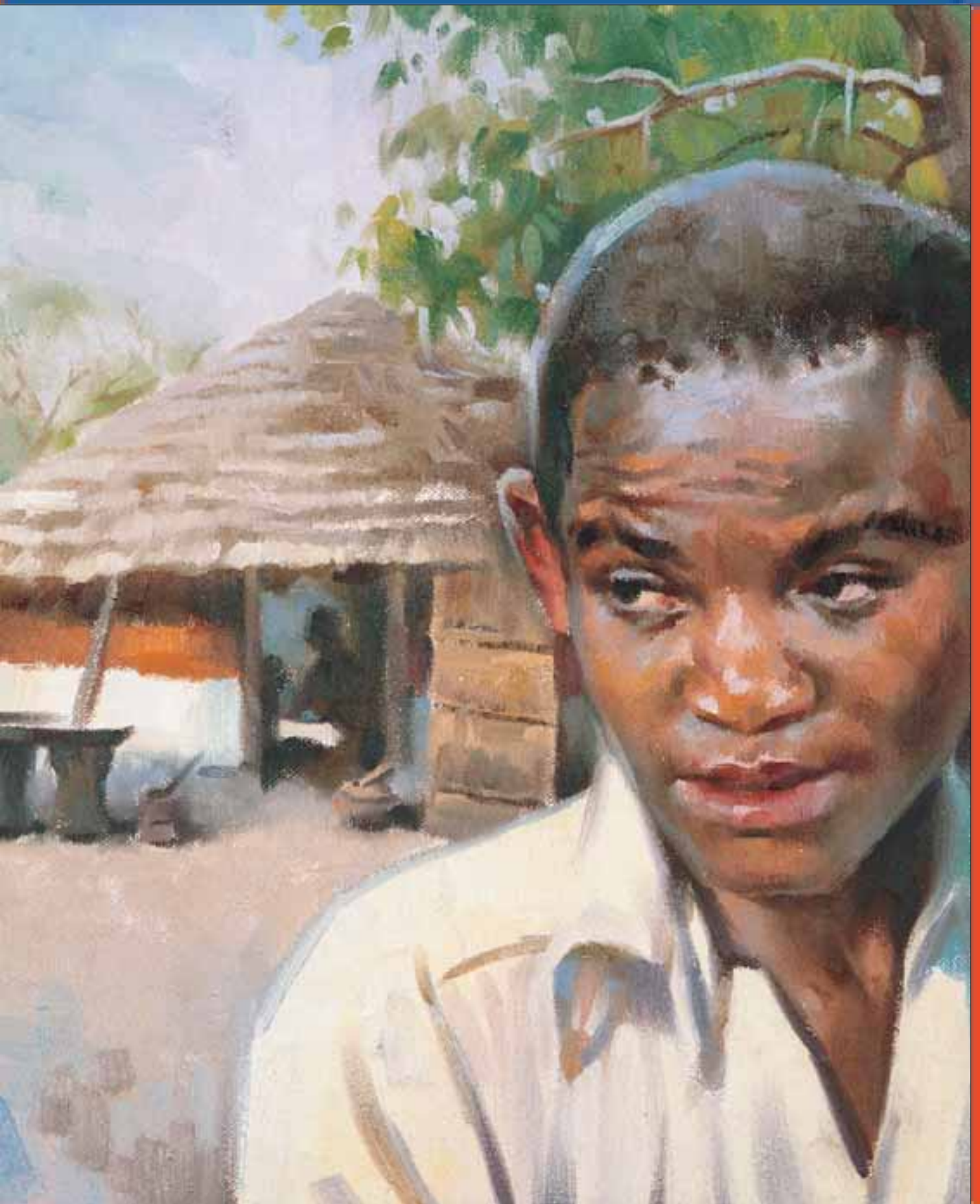
I had been preparing for my mission since I was eight. But how could I leave while my family was suffering?


My flickering hope and desire to serve a mission had to overcome arduous times. My country fell into political turmoil and economic decline. It became expensive for me to travel to my aunt's house in the city, where I could attend church on school holidays. In the midst of all these hardships, I lost view of what I had hoped for—to serve a full-time mission.

After two years of education in my rural area, I went back to Gweru. I started attending church again, and the Spirit I had felt before returned. My family remained in the rural area, and they suffered many problems there.

During that time I submitted my mission papers. The money I used for medical and dental checkups could have been used to sustain my suffering family. But they did not murmur or question my motives. Both my grandmother and mother knew that I had grown in my desire to serve the Lord. My mission call came in February 2003. I was to serve in the South Africa Durban Mission. The preparations were difficult, since I had to do it all on my own.

Time neared for me to leave for the mission field. In April I traveled to the rural area to bid my family farewell. When I walked toward the small hut my family slept in, the gladness I was expecting was not there. My grandma lay on a mattress, ailing. No words could come out of her mouth. Tears welled up in my eyes, and my heart was heavy. Grandma could not even tell I was there.





The next morning before the cock crowed, I woke up to go back to the city. I said my last good-bye to my seemingly lifeless grandma. Then she spoke in Shona—a language of Zimbabwe—in a clear voice: “Tafadzwa, ufambe zvakanaka.” Travel safely. That is all she could say. I knew that she would die while I was on my mission.

That night my grandmother stopped breathing. I went back for the funeral, and my departure to my mission was filled with sorrow, grief, and heartache. There were no smiles that usually accompany someone leaving for the mission field.

As I served, I couldn’t help but imagine what my family was going through back home, where life, at least for the moment, was almost unbearable.

But it was for my family, my country, and

everyone facing hardships that I hoped to continue in faith on my mission. The heavens are not blind. To all who suffer in many nations, remember the words of the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith: “Let your hearts be comforted; for all things shall work together for good to them that walk uprightly, and to the sanctification of the church” (D&C 100:15).

I can’t say that things were easy on my mission or that they were easy when I returned, but I am comforted by the fact that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (see Romans 8:35–39).

I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve a mission. I solemnly testify that Jesus is the Christ and that through Him we can find hope where there is no hope. **NE**

Tafadzwa Tanjani is a member of the Mkoba First Branch, Gweru Zimbabwe District.



A MARK OF GREAT FAITH

“The missionary work of the Church is a panorama of more than a century of service and privations and hardships and sacrifices. The closer one is to the program, the more completely one can understand and appreciate it. When

my grandfather Heber C. Kimball left for his mission, he and Brigham Young left their families destitute and ill and they themselves needed help to get into the carriage which took them from their homes. As they started off they raised themselves . . . and waved back to their weeping wives and children. Thousands of people came into the Church as a result of those missions, and tens of thousands have been benefited indirectly and are now enjoying the blessings of the gospel because of those sacrifices. To one who did not

understand, such devotion and sacrifice on the part of those men would have been considered foolhardy and silly. But to the Young and Kimball families it was a mark of great faith. And to the thousands who will, through the eternities, call the names of those missionaries blessed, the privations and sacrifice were not wasted.”

—President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 253.



IDEA LIST

Making wise media choices is essential to keeping the Spirit with you. Whether you're looking for a library book, picking out a movie, or just browsing the Internet, you can apply these ideas from the youth in the Clondalkin Ward, Dublin Ireland Stake, on how to choose good media. (See also *For the Strength of Youth* [pamphlet, 2001], 17–21.)

- Always let the Spirit guide you as you make decisions about what to watch, play, or read. Follow the promptings you receive.
- Get software that blocks pornography and pop-ups on your Internet service.
- With your parents' permission, place the computer in an open place in your home where others usually walk by.
- Check book reviews, and read book covers before buying books. Avoid books that are obviously inappropriate.
- When you go to the pictures or rent a movie, make sure you know the rating, and read the reviews ahead of time. That way you will be able to make an informed decision about whether to watch the film.
- Don't look at inappropriate

magazine covers in shops. Focus on something else so your eyes won't stray to the section where they are displayed.

- Be aware of the words in the songs you listen to or sing along with. Think about whether the words, message, volume, or beat of the music would be offensive to the Spirit.
- Check ratings on CDs before you buy them.
- Be careful watching television at night when programming tends to be less family oriented.
- If you have seen or heard something you didn't want to see or hear, sing a hymn to yourself and say a prayer to invite the Spirit.
- Have your parents block channels you do not want to accidentally switch to on your television.
- Avoid gossip stories even if they are in what seems to be a reputable magazine or newspaper.
- Stay away from video games that are violent, immoral, or use bad language. Check the ratings of the games you buy or play.
- If you realize you have made a bad media choice, turn it off, put it down, or walk out. **NE**

CHOOSE
THE RIGHT...
MEDIA

ILLUSTRATED BY RANDALL ROYTER





FROM AUSTRALIA TO JAPAN



Ammon Arvidson and Brooke Noble, two youth from the Maitland Ward, Newcastle Australia Stake, were chosen to represent Port Stephens, Australia, at the first World Child Summit, held in Kushiro, Japan, last summer. The theme was “The Natural Environment and Our Future.” To be chosen, they each had to present a 10-minute speech on the environment of Port Stephens, the problems facing the habitat, and their role in protecting the natural beauty of the world.

Speaking of the presentations he made at the

summit, Ammon, 12, said, “It makes me very aware of the beautiful world our Lord has created for us to enjoy.” Then thinking about all the people, languages, and cultures created by the Lord, Ammon added, “It makes me look forward to serving a mission wherever Heavenly Father sends me.”

“It was so amazing to see another part of the world,” said Brooke, 15. “The people there were so kind, and it helped me to see my Heavenly Father’s love for us.” Brooke added that being so far away from home also strengthened her testimony of the gospel: “It really helped me to know that the gospel goes with you wherever you go. It was such a comfort to be able to kneel down and pray to my Father in Heaven.”

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

Try to see beyond the tasks you do in your quorums or classes and

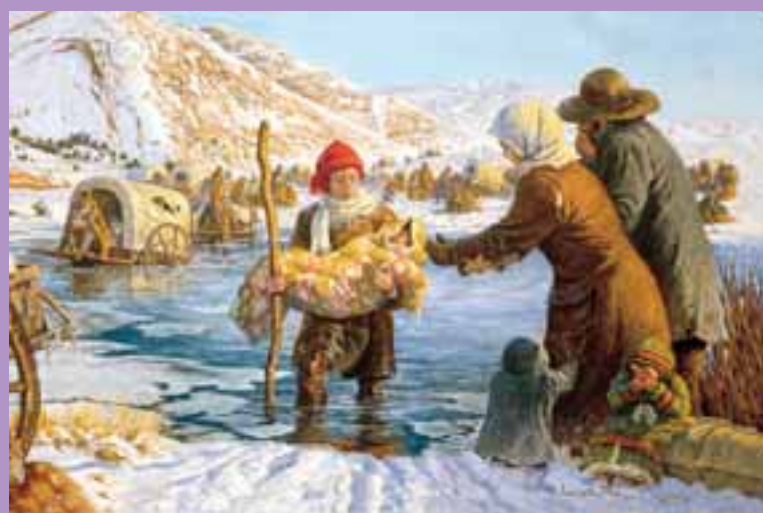
remember the people you are serving. “The Savior’s leadership was selfless,” said President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985). “He put himself and his own needs second and ministered to others beyond the call of duty, tirelessly, lovingly, effectively. So many of the

problems in the world today spring from selfishness and self-centeredness in which too



many make harsh demands of life and others in order to meet their demands. This is a direct reversal of the principles and

practices pursued so perfectly by that perfect example of leadership, Jesus of Nazareth” (“Jesus: The Perfect Leader,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1979, 6).



HONORING THE PIONEERS

Integrity, inclusion, cooperation, unity, unselfishness, sacrifice, and obedience . . . are as vital today as when they guided the actions of our pioneer forebears, early and modern. To honor those pioneers, we must honor and act upon the eternal principles that guided their actions. As President Hinckley [has] reminded us, . . . ‘We honor best those who have gone

before when we serve well in the cause of truth.’ That cause of truth is the cause of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose servants they were, and whose servants we should strive to be. I testify of this and pray that we, too, may be ‘true to the faith that our parents have cherished.’ ”

—Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Following the Pioneers,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 74.



ILLUSTRATED BY SHAUNA MOONEY KAWASAKI

WORD TREK CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1. Woman's hat; or on the front of a British car
- 3. Circle the _____!
- 5. Cricket feasters
- 6. More than one ox
- 8. Warm gathering place
- 9. Sweetwater and Platte
- 10. Non-round jig (two words)

- 13. The direction they trekked
- 15. Pioneer, Oregon, Overland
- 16. Staple food, sometimes rationed
- 17. Some used this instead of a wagon

DOWN

- 2. Inventor of "roadometer" to

- 4. "Come, Come, Ye _____"
- 7. Seagull feast
- 11. Sweet, buzzing symbol of industry
- 12. Pioneer children did this a lot
- 14. Independence stone?

Answers: Across: 1. bonnet, 3. wagons, 5. seagulls, 6. oxen, 8. campfire, 9. Rivers, 10. square dance, 13. west, 15. Trails, 16. flour, 17. bandcamp
Down: 2. Orson Pratt, 4. Saints, 7. crickets, 11. deseret, 12. walked, 14. Rock

IT HAPPENED IN JULY

July 8, 1775:

Lucy Mack Smith (right), the mother of Joseph Smith, was born in Gilsum, New Hampshire.



July 10, 1804:

Emma Hale Smith (right), wife of the Prophet Joseph and first president of the Relief Society, was born in Harmony, Pennsylvania.



July 8, 1912:

The first Latter-day Saint to win an Olympic medal, Alma Richards, won a gold medal in the high jump.



July 31, 1920:

President James E. Faust (left), Second Counselor in the First Presidency, was born in Delta, Utah.

EMMA HALE SMITH, BY LEE GREENE RICHARDS, MAY NOT BE COPIED

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FAUST FAMILY

NEPHITES

in Georgia

BY HEIDI OWEN



Some Georgia Scouts try being Nephites for a week and learn they can do hard things with the Lord's help.

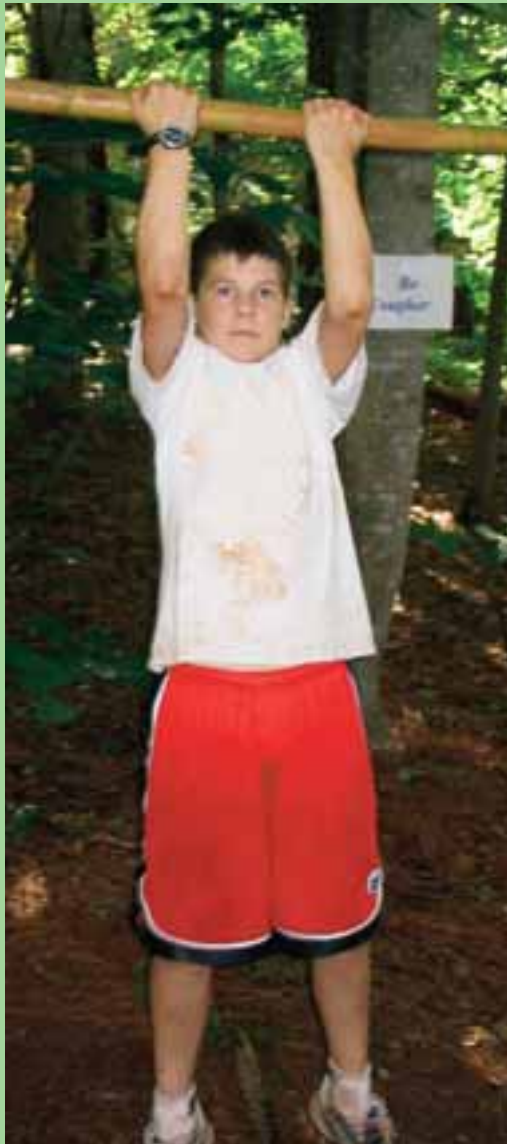
What was it like to be a stripling warrior? Nearly 90 young men from the Powder Springs Georgia Stake learned a little about being stripling warriors when they spent a week reenacting stories from the Book of Mormon during Scout camp.

Camp #175 sits on the shores of Lake Allatoona in northern Georgia. Upon arriving there, the Scouts' first order of business was to construct a fort, similar to those Moroni designed, as described in the Book of Mormon (see Alma 49). Before camp, leaders and young men chopped and cut timber. Eight trailer loads of timber were then hauled into camp. Then on the first day of camp, the work of building the fort began.

The boys lashed together tall timbers with rope. Soon, the trenches around the fort took shape. It was a rainy week in Georgia, but the men and boys worked 4 or 5 hours a day, and sometimes 10, in the mud and rain to finish the fort in three days.

"During the first days of camp when the fort was being built, I would walk by it and see boys working on it, even during their free time. They were determined to get it done!" says Brett Cannon, first counselor in the stake Young Men presidency.

"Building the fort helped me get a better understanding of what it was like when the stripling warriors lived," says Andrew Carter, a priest in the Mars Hill Ward.



army's three-day march (see Alma 56).

"We learned how Antipus and the stripling warriors lured the Lamanites out of their fortress," said Harrison Snyder, a deacon in the Ensign Ward. "We have to be strong and keep our fortress of righteousness around us. If we do, it will be easier to stay



The Scouts built a Nephite fort (opposite page and above), participated in an obstacle course (left), and had lots of fun playing in the mud on the shores of Lake Allatoona, Georgia.

Bryon Cheney, a priest from the Lost Mountain Ward, also worked many hours on the fort. He said, "Doing the physical labor of building the fort made me realize how much the stripling warriors had to go through. It definitely made me want to be like them. They were not only physically strong, but spiritually strong."

Overcoming Obstacles

The Scouts participated in many other activities, like the "Teancum Challenge," which involved scaling the fort and throwing a spear at a target (see Alma 51:31–37), and the "Antipus Course," an obstacle course teaching the Young Men about Antipus's



Earning what it was like to be a Nephite warrior wasn't easy. The Iron Warrior Competition tested the young men's stamina in more ways than one. Those who completed the competition and read the entire Book of Mormon by the end of camp received iron warriors for awards (right).



on the path and return to our Father in Heaven.”

As the young men went through the challenging obstacle course, they gained a greater appreciation for the Nephite warriors in the Book of Mormon. Bobby Blind, a teacher in the Powder Springs Ward said, “I started to understand what they did and why. They were defending their families, homes, friends, and freedom.”

Throughout the camp, signs were posted to instill confidence and remind the young men of their potential. Moroni’s “Title of Liberty” hung in a prominent place (see Alma 46:11–20). And each evening, they were treated to firesides where they learned about family life, Native American lore, the Savior’s visit to the Americas, and other subjects.

They also worked on Scouting merit badges and Duty to God requirements; many activities at camp helped them accomplish both. There was even some free time each day and an occasional mud fight.

Doing Hard Things

Bright and early on the last day of camp,



about 30 young men chose to compete in the “Iron Warrior Competition.” Participants swam one mile in Lake Allatoona and then ran two miles through the woods. Like other activities at camp, this one could be used to fulfill both Scouting and Duty to God requirements.

At the beginning of the year the boys received the challenge to read the Book of Mormon. If a young man completed both the Iron Warrior Competition and read the entire Book of Mormon by the end of Scout camp, he received the Captain Moroni award—a five-foot high metal sculpture of a man in armor. “It was taller than I am!” says Max Carter, a deacon from the Mars Hill Ward who earned the Captain Moroni award. “The Iron Warrior Competition was hard. I

was just happy to accomplish it.”

Matthew Clough, a deacon from the Ensign Ward, also earned the Captain Moroni award. “It was the first time I had read the Book of Mormon all

the way through. You can read about the warriors in the Book of Mormon, but doing some of



the things they did, like building the fort at camp, made me feel like I was a part of them.”

The Iron Warrior Competition was difficult for Matthew: “I wasn’t sure I could do it, but when one of the boys kidded me about getting picked up and hauled back to camp in a canoe, I knew I had to do it. It taught me that even though I feel like one of the weakest people in my ward, I can do things if I try.”

On the last evening, a tired but happy bunch of young men gathered for awards, the closing campfire, and testimonies. They listened as their stake president, Keith Giddens, spoke to them from a tower made of lashed timbers that had been constructed during the week.

President Giddens reminded the tired Scouts to be “firm and undaunted” (Alma 57:20) in choosing the right and that they could all do hard things if they put their trust in the Lord and made righteous choices.

Now, back at home after a great experience at camp, the young men in the Powder Springs Georgia Stake are busy building their own personal spiritual fortresses. **NE**

Heidi Owen is a member of the Powder Springs Ward, Powder Springs Georgia Stake.



TWO THOUSAND STRIPLING WARRIORS. BY ARNOLD FRIEBERG

STRIPLING WARRIORS

“And they were all young men, and they were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity; but behold, this was not all—they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted.

“Yea, they were men of truth and soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him.”

—Alma 53:20–21

WEARING MILLICENT

BY REBECCA M. TAYLOR
Church Magazines

Her name was Millicent, and she was my closest friend—literally. Millicent was a big, bulky back brace I wore in the ninth grade to help straighten the abnormal curvature of my spine. I called the brace Millicent because—well, because someone suggested I give it a name just for fun, and because that was my least favorite name at the moment.

I just wanted to fit in that year, but my days of melting into a crowd were over, at least until I stopped growing. Now I was stared at—a lot. Most of the time I tried to ignore the extra attention, but inside it really bothered me. And sometimes, more often than I would like to admit, I would even glare back.

But one time was different. I was with my family in the airport, eagerly waiting for my brother to get home from his mission. We talked in excited anticipation before his arrival. As we were talking, I glanced across the airport terminal and saw a woman watching me intently. This time, instead of scowling, I smiled and returned to my family's conversation.

A few minutes later, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned to see the woman standing beside me. "I couldn't help noticing the brace you're wearing," she said. "I had to wear one years ago when I was in high school, only mine was a lot more obvious than yours!" We chatted for a few

minutes about our respective experiences, and then she wished me well and went on her way.

That experience got me thinking. I was encouraged to know there were others who knew how I felt.

But it also made me realize I had

always assumed people had negative reasons for staring at me—that they thought my brace was funny looking or strange. I'm sure some did think that. But there were probably plenty of other people who were not thinking negatively. And maybe I could have made some new friends if I had acknowledged them with a friendly smile.

I realized then how easy it is to jump to conclusions about people. We don't always know what they're really thinking or what their motivations are. And a smile will open more doors than a frown or glare ever will. **NE**


ILLUSTRATED BY NATHAN PINNOCK




THE EXTRA SMILE

While traveling in Yellowstone National Park, my mom was telling my little brother Zach about Old Faithful and how this geyser goes off at about the same times every day. That's why it's called Old Faithful. Since then, whenever Zach is asked about Old Faithful, he tells everyone that it goes off every day except Sunday—because it's faithful.

—Kim Kitchen, Providence 12th Ward, Providence Utah South Stake



“And in further announcements, if anyone is missing a child, please pick him up at the bishop’s office following the meeting.”




“Oh no! You are not going on a date wearing *that!*”

“Uh, Dad, this is my bathrobe.”

KEN CHANDLER

RYAN STOKER



“We’re doing what the song says: ‘Put your shoulder to the wheel.’”

ALL-STAR DAD

BY AMANDA WALLIN

My dad is 6'8" (203 cm) and is a great basketball player! His interest in sports started when he was young. Every chance he got he was out playing with neighborhood and school friends. There was always a ball in his hands or a ball at his feet.

In high school, he made the basketball team all three years, always working super hard. Because of his efforts, he was offered basketball scholarships to several colleges. He accepted one from a junior college and played for two years.

He was then offered basketball scholarships to some major colleges. That's when he had to make one of the hardest decisions of his life—either to accept one of the scholarships or to go on a mission. He tells us he decided that he could always play basketball, but if he didn't go on a mission then, he would probably never go. So he turned in his mission papers and was called to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He worked hard for the Lord and loved it.

When he returned he played for BYU—Hawaii for one year, then decided that he wanted to move back home. He met and married my mother, Caroline, and our family now consists of four children. He loves us dearly and is happy about the choice he made. He still loves to play basketball with his children.

My dad is my hero. If it weren't for the choices he made, our family might not be the same. He had the chance of a lifetime but chose the route that would lead to eternal happiness.

I love my dad, and I am so happy he went on a mission and got married in the temple. He will always be an all-star in my eyes. **NE**

Amanda Wallin is a member of the Enterprise Second Ward, Enterprise Utab Stake.



IT'S HARD TO FORGIVE

BY AMANDA DENISON

A few months after I started seventh grade, one boy began teasing me and picking on me. He was so mean. It got to the point where I just wished a plague would hit him so he'd be wiped off the earth.

About three months later, he came up to me and asked for forgiveness. I said no and walked away. I didn't trust him. I felt that even if I said yes, I'd be lying.

Then one of my teachers moved my seat, and I ended up sitting by him in that class! In band, the director moved me next to this boy's section. Since he was first chair, I sat next to him in band too.

I was so upset. I could not understand why Heavenly Father was doing this to me. I wondered what Heavenly Father was trying to teach me. What did I need to learn?

One Sunday I attended a bishop's youth fireside. It was on forgiveness and trusting others. One of the scriptures shared was Doctrine and Covenants 64:10: "I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men."

I immediately realized what Heavenly Father wanted to teach me, and I knew what I had to do. I had to let go of my pride and forgive, as well as ask for forgiveness for being stubborn and prideful.

Forgiving, as well as asking for forgiveness, is hard. It can be extremely

SOARING ABOVE TRIALS

BY KIMBERLY WEBB
Church Magazines

When I feel weary or scared,

I think of my great-great-great-grandmother Margaret Ann Griffiths Clegg.

At age 16, she stayed one last time with her favorite relatives. She planned to meet her family at the train station the next morning, ride to Liverpool, England, and board a ship for America.

But she overslept.

"I did not know what to do," she said. "My father, brothers, and sister were on that train and leaving me behind. Oh, it was terrible!"

She arrived in Liverpool late that night, wandered the streets, and asked strangers to help her find her family. At last, around 1:00 a.m., she peered through the window of a house and saw familiar faces. "I tell you, I was happy," she said. "It made my father sick, for he thought he would never see me again."

After five weeks at sea and a train ride to Iowa, she and her family set out across the plains. Members of the Martin Handcart Company "would sit around the campfire and sing and were as happy as larks," Margaret said, "till the snow caught us."

Then there was little singing. Instead, Margaret watched as friends,



overcome by cold, hunger, or illness, slumped over dead. "All we had to eat was four ounces of flour a day," she said. Soon "the snow was so deep we could not go any further." Both her brothers died before reaching Salt Lake, and her father died the day after he reached Salt Lake.

Although Margaret lost family and friends, she didn't lose hope. She married and lived happily. Later she received an interesting birthday gift from her family: an airplane ride. They wanted to say that she had traveled by every mode of transportation, including train, boat, handcart, wagon, automobile, and airplane.

It strikes me that while lost on the Liverpool streets or trapped in the snow, Margaret could never have guessed what her future held—that one day she would fly.

Grandma Margaret's example reminds me to have faith. With the Lord's help, I too can soar above trials and receive the blessings He has in store for me. **NE**

hard when it's forgiving someone you're not sure you can trust or someone who has been mean to you. However, forgiving, no matter how hard, is important.

I felt a lot better after I forgave. It

was like a burden being lifted off my shoulders, like making a new friend and losing an enemy. **NE**

Amanda Denison is a member of the Visalia Third Ward, Visalia California Stake.



TYPHOONS AND TRIALS

BY PERCIVAL TOMMY

In our family there are only three of us, my younger brother, my mother, and me. My brother and I decided to prepare ourselves to go on missions. We had to save our money because my mom did not have any money to help us.

A lot of trials came to us. One day a typhoon in our province caused a big coconut tree to fall down on our house, and our small house was destroyed. My brother and I used the money we had saved for our missions to rebuild our house. We had to start saving our money again.

A few months later I contracted malaria. I had to go to the hospital,

so my mission money had to be spent again.

Discouraged about saving for a mission, I prayed to God and fasted to overcome the trial. Then our Father in Heaven helped me, and I was able to earn the money I needed.

One of my favorite scriptures is a simple verse: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (3 Nephi 13:33). That verse is very encouraging to me. I have overcome trials and challenges in my life because of my faith and desire to go on a mission.

My brother and I are both serving missions now. I know God helps His children if we do His will. **NE**

Percival Tommy is a member of the Roxas Branch, Puerto Princesa Philippines District.

I AM NOT ASHAMED

BY LUIS UBALDO PADILLA ORTIZ

In my school one day my class was talking about religion.

My teacher asked me to read something about the Church that I knew wasn't true. At that moment I remembered a verse in the scriptures: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ” (Romans 1:16).

My teacher again asked me to read. I replied that I wouldn't because the passage spoke many lies. I then took advantage of the opportunity to explain and teach the truth about my beliefs.

After passing through that difficult situation, I felt a warm peace in my heart. Thanks to the scriptures, I learned to defend myself in the world. **NE**

Luis Ubaldo Padilla Ortiz is a member of the Coro Second Branch, Falcón Venezuela District.

INSTANT MESSAGES features personal experiences, insights into 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

*New Era, Instant Messages
50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, USA*

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

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

Mutual Activity

• The stakes in St. Louis, Missouri, have formed a youth choir (see “A Swingin’ Choir,” page 26). For one night, form your own choir. Arrange for an accompanist and a conductor. Learn one or two fun, lively songs. Be sure to include everyone, even those who say they can’t sing. It’s great fun just to get together and sing.

Service Project Suggestion

• The author of the article, “What’s in a Name?” on page 24 learned the problems with defacing property. Under the direction of your leaders, see if the youth in your ward or branch can help clean up graffiti from a business or public area in your community. Make sure you check with the proper authorities first.

Family Home Evening Ideas

• Read the article, “How to Talk to Your Parents,” on page 30. Ask one of your parents to read the article, “Talking with Teens,” on page 32 of the June 2005 *Ensign*. Share the family home evening lesson by taking turns presenting the information.

• Read the article, “Know What We Believe,” on page 10. Have a contest among your family members about the subjects covered in the Articles of Faith. Make two identical cards for each article of faith, with the number and a short description. Mix up the 26 cards, and turn them face down on a flat surface. Take turns turning over two at a time. When a matching pair is uncovered, leave them face up until all the cards are turned over.



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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 21–25.

Young Women Manual 3

Lesson 21: Learning to Share the Gospel

Spencer W. Kimball, “Know What We Believe,” this issue.
 Q&A: “I love the gospel, but talking about it with others terrifies me. . . .” *New Era*, Feb. 2005, 16.

Lesson 22: Eternal Perspective

Q&A: “I have an inferiority complex. . . . What can I do to gain confidence?” *New Era*, Apr. 2005, 16.
 Russell M. Nelson, “Next to the Angels,” *New Era*, Mar. 2005, 4.

Lesson 23: Overcoming Opposition

Brenda Williams, “My Horrible, Terrible Day,” *New Era*, Sept. 2001, 34.
 Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Gift of the Holy Ghost,” *New Era*, Jan. 2005, 4.

Lesson 24: Agency

Rachel C. Murdock, “What’s in a Name?” this issue.
 “Are You Saved by Grace or Works?” *New Era*, Mar. 2005, 38.

Lesson 25: Obedience

Shanna Butler, “How to Talk to Your Parents,” this issue.
 Dee Jardine, “On Top of Old Mossy,” *New Era*, Mar. 2005, 26.
 Kenneth Johnson, “The Proof Is in the Doing,” *New Era*, Mar. 2005, 42.

Aaronic Priesthood Manual 3

Lesson 21: The Role of the Quorum

L. Lionel Kendrick, “The Quorum,” *New Era*, May 1993, 57.
 Mervyn B. Arnold, “Strengthen Thy Brethren,” *Ensign*, May 2004, 46.

Lesson 22: Duties of Priests

Don Searle, “We Stick Together,” *New Era*, Mar. 2005, 20.
 Dallin H. Oaks, “Your Sacred Duty,” *New Era*, May 1999, 4.

Lesson 23: Preparing for the Melchizedek Priesthood

William D. Oswald, “President, I’m Ready for My Missionary Interview!” this issue.
 Bruce R. McConkie, “Only an Elder,” *New Era*, Jan. 2003, 36.

Lesson 24: Follow the Prophet

Robert Marcum, “The Guide,” *New Era*, Mar. 1990, 10.
 Keith Crockett, “Follow the Trail,” *New Era*, Mar. 2004, 42.

Lesson 25: Every Young Man Should Serve a Mission

Richard G. Scott, “Making Hard Decisions,” this issue.
 Idea List: “Ready to Serve?” *New Era*, Feb. 2005, 15.

THE EXACT ANSWER

When I have a question, the *New Era* the next month answers my exact question. Everything in the whole issue is just for me. This has happened every month for more than a year. Thank you for including everything you do. Reading the *New Era* helps me be closer to Heavenly Father.

*Kari Avery, Johnstown Ward,
Greeley Colorado Stake*

GREAT IDEAS

I'd like to thank you so much for the March 2005 Idea List: "Practically Prepared." It has helped me become more determined to serve a mission and know how to take care of myself. I want to be able to learn all the things that my mother helps me with and does for me. I want to be able to say that I was the first person to serve a mission in my family. Thank you again for caring enough to teach us to be more Christlike.

*Cassie Solis, Bourbonnais Ward,
Joliet Illinois Stake*

GRATITUDE FOR THE ATONEMENT

The "Now There Is Hope" poster in the April 2005 *New Era* made me realize something. Even though what Christ had to do was almost unbearable for Him, it had to happen anyway. It had to be done for us to have a chance to return to Heavenly Father. I am glad that Jesus volunteered to atone for our sins.

*Liesl Coyne, North Shores Ward,
Bloomfield Hills Michigan Stake*

POSTER FAN

I want to thank you for the *New Era* Posters. They bring a bigger understanding



"The March Idea List has helped me become more determined to serve a mission and know how to take care of myself."

of a topic. I hear of topics over and over again, and I am bored of it, but when I see the picture, it brings new thoughts and understanding. The poster is the first thing I look for when I get the *New Era*.

*Rebecca Varner, Vista Third Ward,
Vista California Stake*

SUNDAY PAPER

I love to read the *New Era* on Sunday mornings. It helps me get ready for the day. I seem to be happier during the day, after I read it. I have almost all of the posters enlarged and framed on my wall. My room is a better place to be, instead of having pictures of guys. I don't know what I would do if the Church stopped printing the *New Era!*

*Lindsey Davis, Battle Creek Second Ward,
Pleasant Grove Utah East Stake*

FILTERS

I enjoyed reading the article "Internet Café" in the March 2005 issue of the *New Era*. I liked the way this article taught me about Internet safety. Even though many people think Internet filters are safe, some filters aren't as good as you think. A few weeks ago at school some people pulled up inappropriate things on the "filtered" school computers. I'm glad I can protect myself on the Internet.

*Mackenzie Morgan, Arlington Fourth Ward,
Arlington Texas 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).

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THEY ALL CAME THROUGH IN GLORY

BY VAUGHN J. FEATHERSTONE

In July's hot sun
The trek began.
 The handcart companies toiled,
With oxen to goad,
And heavy load,
 Their faces strong and soiled.
But the trials grew,
The windstorms blew,
 Soon came the dreadful foe.
Ice and cold,
Testing young and old,
 In whiteness fell the snow.
Frostbite came
And made some lame;
 Others never walked again.
Laid to sleep,
In snow knee-deep,
 The roughest, toughest of men.
Food grew scarce,
Life more sparse,
 A moment seemed a life.
Yet they lost not faith

While fearing death
 Of daughter, son, or wife.
Then from far away
Came help that day,
 With men, wagons, and supplies.
And great tears shed,
Over loaves of bread,
 While brave rescuers wiped their eyes.

And now as the years
Have dried the tears
 Of the pioneer stories we tell,
Let us not forget
The trials they met
 Were the bitterest tests of hell.
For their faith proved true,
For me and you,
 And they all came through in glory.
The heart doth melt
By the tests they felt,
 In the brave pioneer handcart story.



“We ‘circle up’ to receive instruction before performances, and we often kneel together in prayers both night and day and many times in between. We feel such a bond of love. We always give a group cheer before we begin our performances.”

See “The Cumorah Crew,” p. 30.

