

# THE New Era

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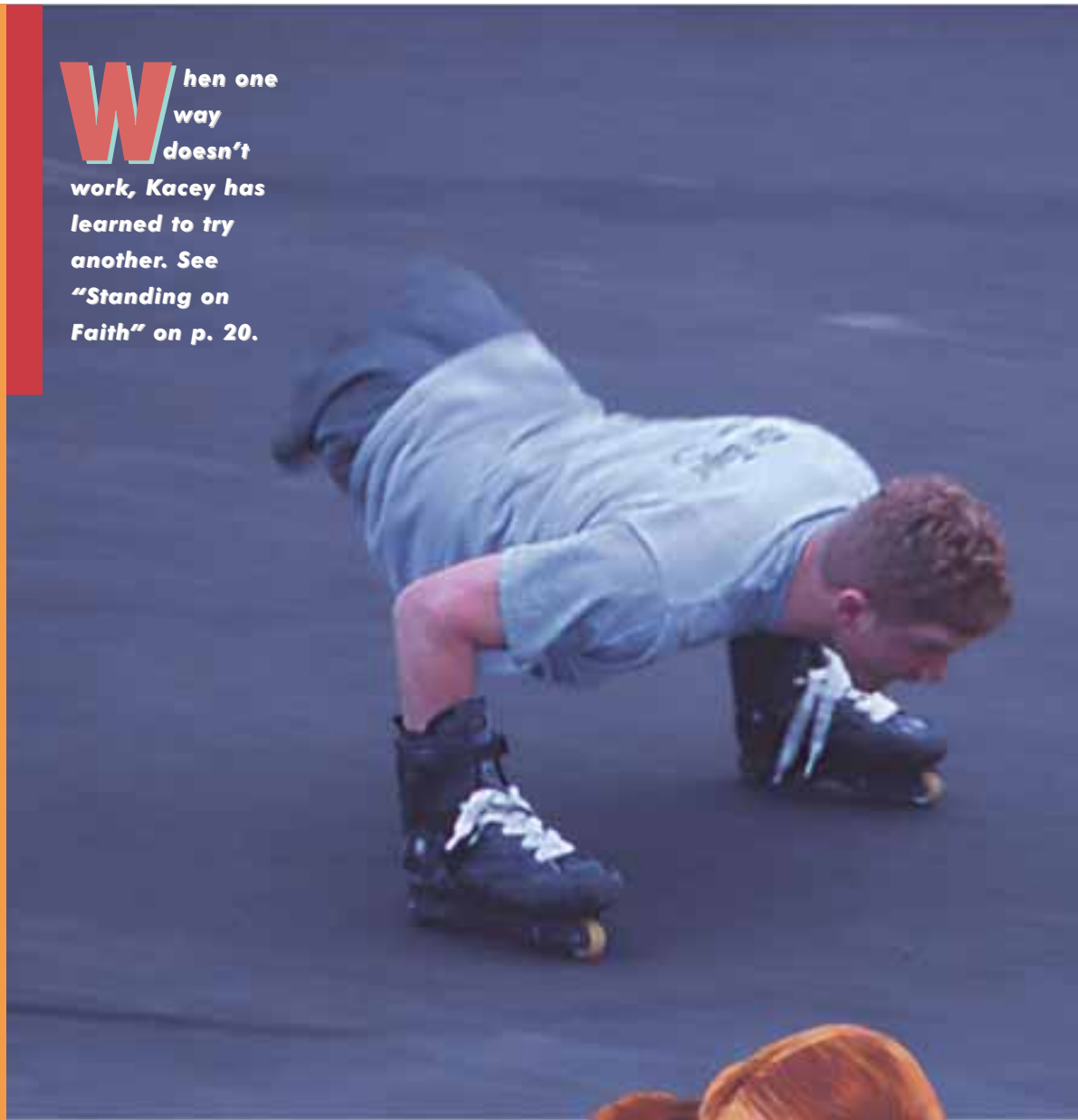
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of Keizer, Oregon, knows  
the Lord has a plan for  
his life. See "Standing on  
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Cover photography:  
Courtesy of the  
McCallister family (front)  
and Christina Smith  
(back)

**W**hen one  
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doesn't  
work, Kacey has  
learned to try  
another. See  
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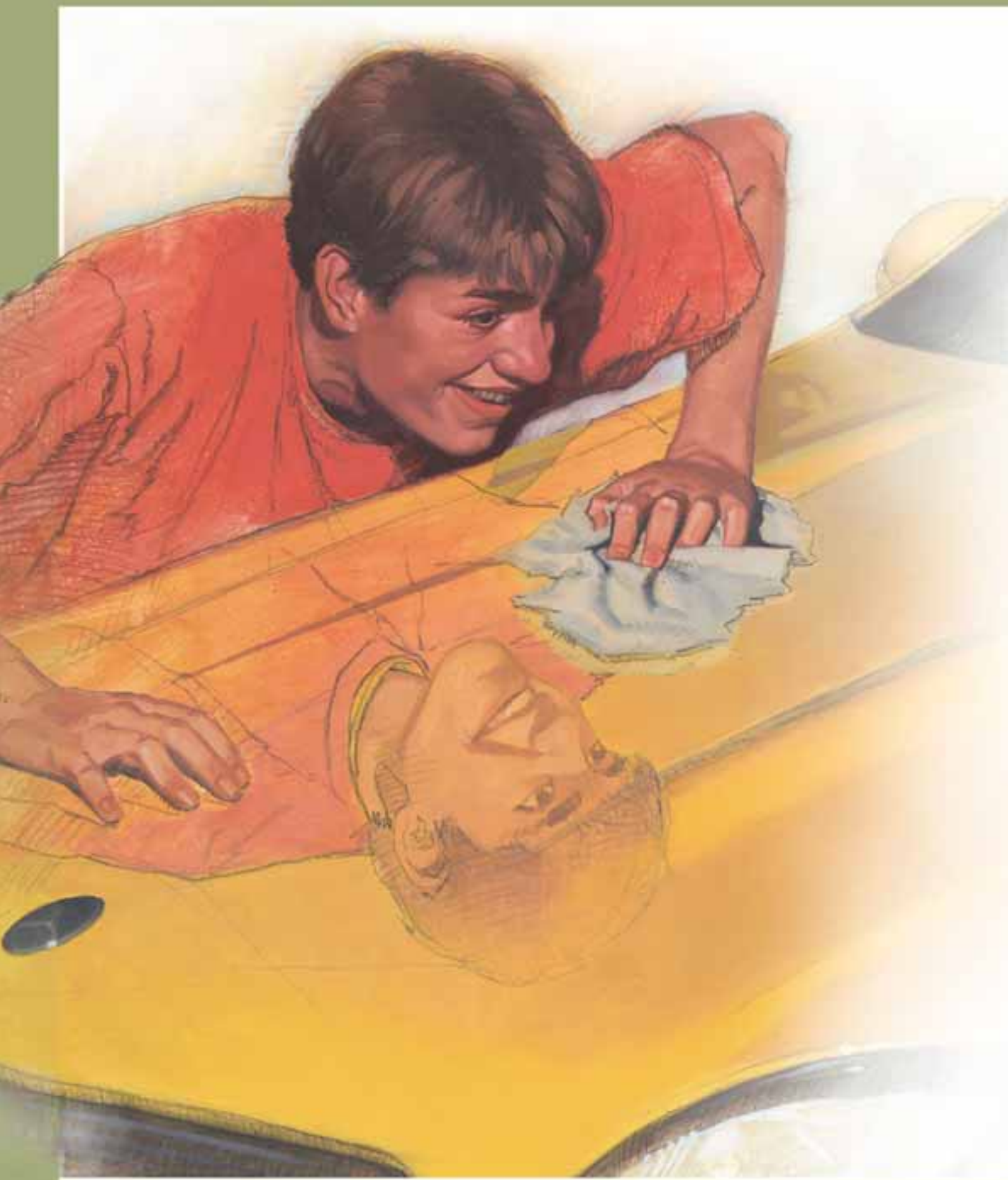
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# YOU'RE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

BY PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER

Acting President of the Quorum  
of the Twelve Apostles

**S**everal years ago I visited a large automobile dealership and looked at many new automobiles. One in particular caught my eye—a convertible sports model with all of the fancy equipment you could imagine. It had push-button everything and more horsepower than a division of cavalry. How I would have enjoyed a car like that when I was in high school! It occurred to me that you of high school age may be interested in owning such a car.

## Lending Your Treasure

Will you imagine something with me? Imagine that I have decided to present to a typical teenager a car such as this, and you are the one who has been chosen. On the evening of the presentation, I see that you are not quite financially able to run such a car, so I generously include free gas, oil, maintenance, tires, anything your car will use. I'll give you all of this, and the bills

will come to me.

How you will enjoy that car! Think of driving it to school tomorrow. Think of all the new friends you will suddenly acquire.

Your parents may be hesitant to let you use this car freely, so I will visit with them. I am sure they will be reluctant, but because of my position as one of the leaders of the Church, they will consent.

Let us imagine, then, that you have your car, everything to run it, and freedom to use it.

Suppose that one evening you are invited to attend a Church social. "There are just enough of you to ride in my station wagon," your teacher says. "You may leave your car home." When they come to take you to the party, you suddenly remember your new convertible, with the top down, parked at the curb. You run back in the house and give the car keys to your father, asking that he put it in the garage, for it looks as if it may



*Imagine that I have decided to give you a convertible sports car. I'll pay for the gas, oil, tires, maintenance, anything your car will use.*

**Y**our parents  
love you  
so deeply.  
*They may become  
vigorous as they  
set their guidelines  
for you to follow.  
But such discipline  
may set you on the  
path to greatness.*

rain. Your father, of course, obediently agrees.

Later you come home and notice your car is not at the curb. “Dear old Dad,” you muse, “always willing to help out.” But as the station wagon pulls into the driveway and the lights flash into the garage, you see it stands empty.

You rush into the house, find Father, and ask where your car is.

“Oh, I loaned it to someone,” he responds.

Then imagine a conversation such as this.

“Well, who was it?” you ask.

“Oh, that boy who comes by here regularly,” Dad says.

“What boy?”

“Oh, that . . . well, I have seen him pass here several times on his bicycle.”

“What is his name?”

“Well, I’m afraid I didn’t find out.”

“Where did he take the car?”

“That really wasn’t made clear.”

“When will he bring it back?”

“Well, there really wasn’t any agreement on that.”

Then suppose that your father should say to you, with some impatience, “Now you calm down. He rushed in here. He needed a car. You weren’t using it. He seemed to be in a frantic hurry over something, and he looked like an honest boy, so I gave him the keys. Now relax. Go to bed. Calm down.”

I suppose under the circumstances you would look at your father with a puzzled expression and wonder if some important connection had slipped loose in his thinking mechanism.

It would take a foolish father to lend such an expensive piece of equipment on an arrangement such as that—particularly a

car that belonged to you.

### **Parents Lend Their Treasures**

I am sure that you have anticipated the moral of this little illustration, you of high school age. It is in these years that dating begins—this custom of two sets of parents lending their teenagers to one another for the necessary and the important purpose of their finding their way into maturity and eventually into marriage. Perhaps for the first time you notice and begin to resent the interest of your parents in and their supervision of your activities.

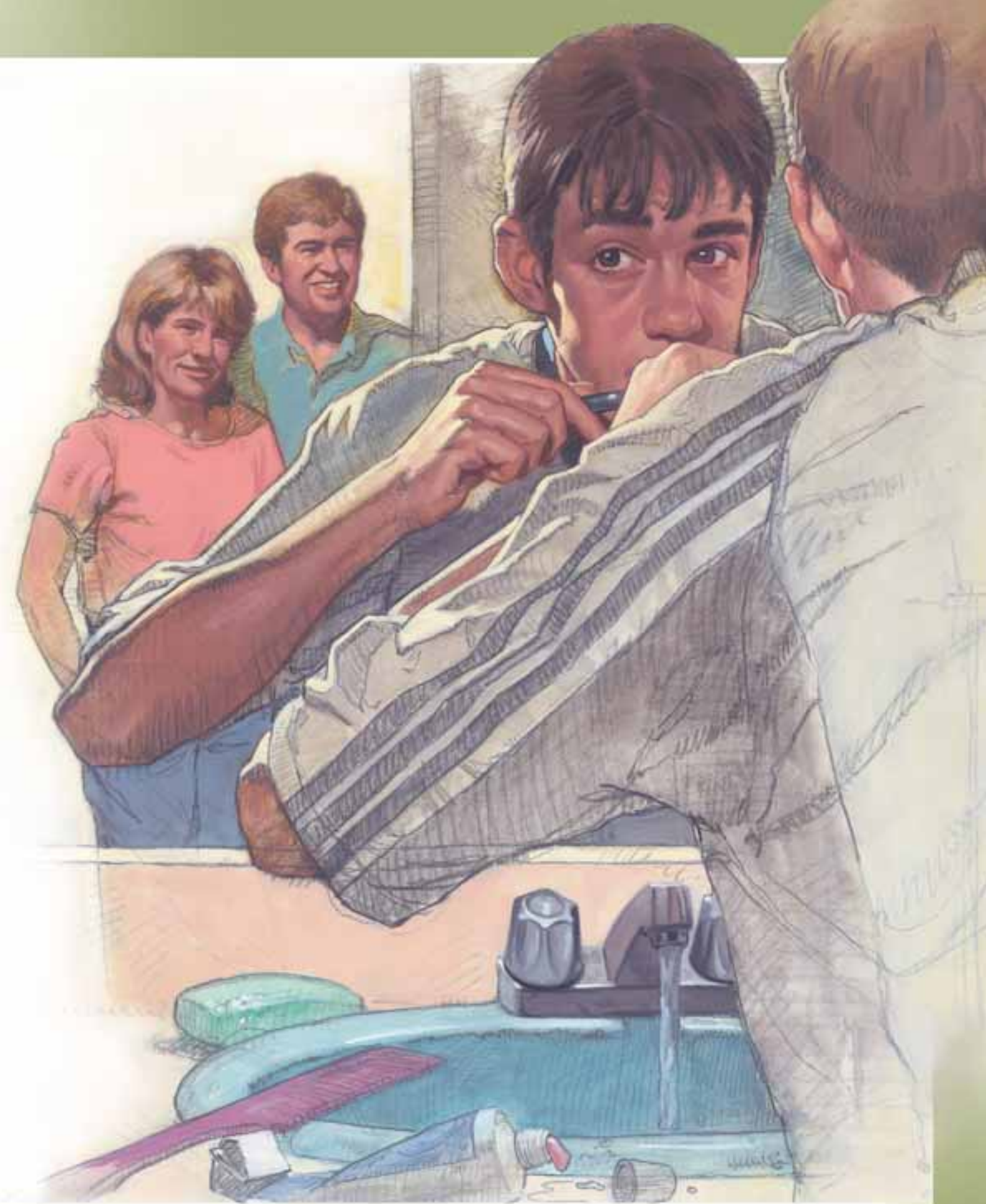
Dating leads to marriage. Marriage is a sacred religious covenant and in its most exalted expression may be an eternal covenant. Whatever preparation relates to marriage, whether it be personal or social, concerns us as members of the Church.

If you are old enough to date, you are old enough to know that your parents have not only the right but the sacred obligation, and they are under counsel from the leaders of the Church, to concern themselves with your dating habits.

If you are mature enough to date, you are mature enough to accept without childish, juvenile argument their authority as parents to set rules of conduct for you.

No sensible father would lend your new convertible to anybody, to go anywhere, to do anything, to come back anytime. If you are old enough to date, you are old enough to see the foolishness of parents who would lend their children on such an arrangement. Don’t ask your parents to permit you—their most precious possession—to go out on such flimsy agreements.

Actually, the loan of the car would not be so serious as you suppose; for should it be



completely destroyed, it could be replaced. There are some problems and some hazards with dating for which there is no such fortunate solution.

### **Some Dating Guidelines**

When you are old enough, you ought to start dating. It is good for young men and young women to learn to know and to appreciate one another. It is good for you to go to games and dances and picnics, to do all of the young things. We encourage our young people to date. We encourage you to set high standards of dating.

When are you old enough? Maturity may vary from individual to individual, but we are convinced that dating should not even begin until you are 16. And then, ideal dating is on a group basis. Stay in group activities; don't pair off. Avoid steady dating. Steady dating is courtship, and surely the beginning of courtship ought to be delayed until you have emerged from your teens.

Dating should not be premature or without supervision. You should appreciate your parents if they see to that.

Young people sometimes get the mistaken notion that spirituality and the religious attitude interfere with youthful growth. They assume that the requirements of the Church are interferences and aggravations that thwart the full expression of young manhood and young womanhood.

How foolish is the youth who feels that the Church is a fence around love to keep him out. Oh, youth, if you could know! The requirements of the Church are the highway to love and to happiness, with guardrails securely in place, with guideposts plainly marked, and with help along the way.

How unfortunate to resent counsel and restraint. How fortunate are you who follow the standards of the Church, even if just from sheer obedience or habit. You will find a rapture and a joy fulfilled.





### Parents Love You

Be patient with your parents. They love you so deeply. They are emotionally involved with you, and they may become too vigorous as they set their guidelines for you to follow. But be patient. Remember, they are involved in a big do-it-yourself child-raising project, and this is their first time through. They have never raised a child just like you before.

Give them the right to misunderstand and to make a mistake or two. They have accorded you that right. Recognize their authority. Be grateful for their discipline. Such discipline may set you on the path to greatness.

Be open with your parents. Communicate

with them. Discuss with them your problems. Have prayer with them before a date.

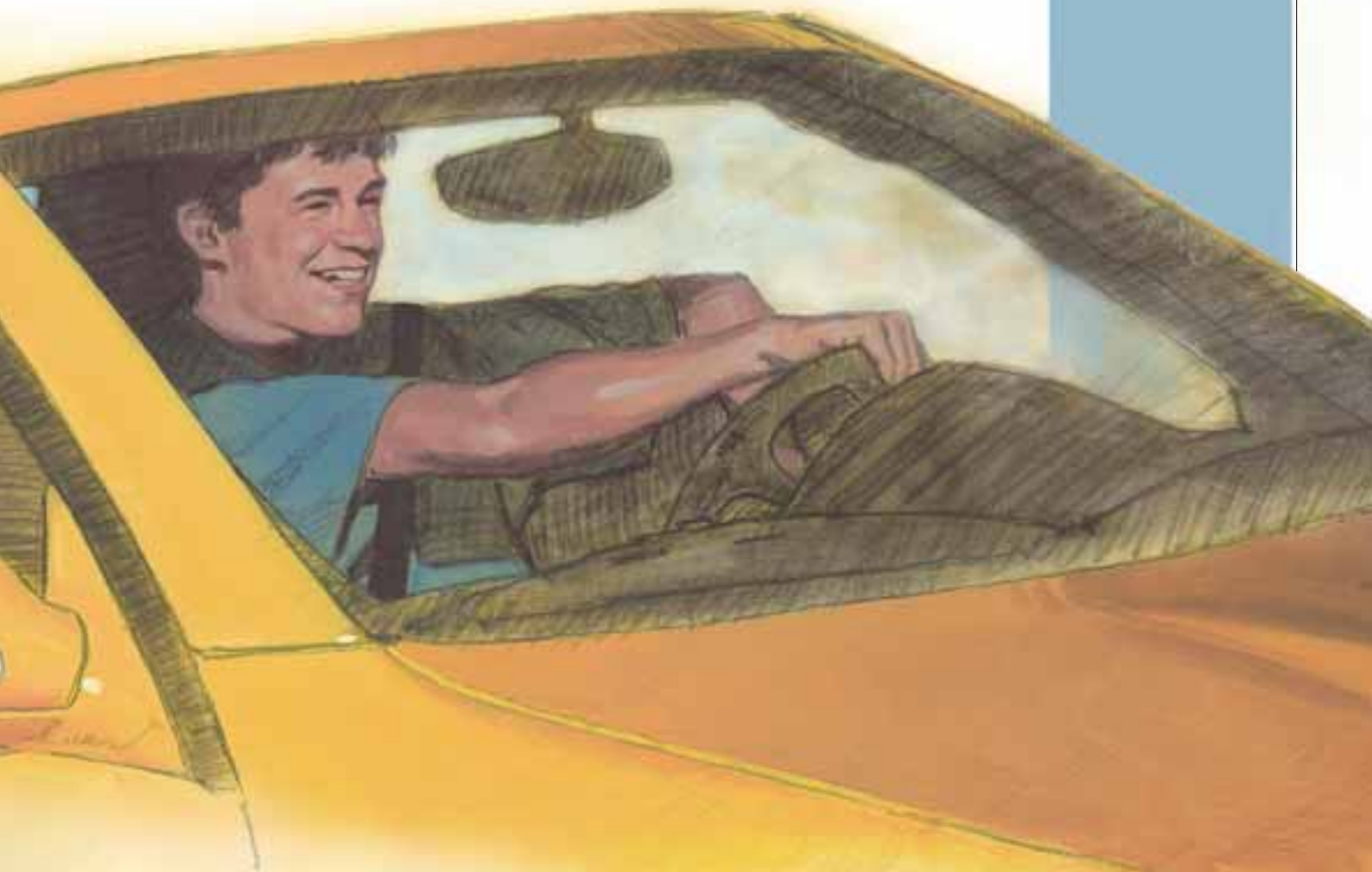
Heed the counsels from your bishop, from your priesthood and auxiliary teachers, from your seminary teacher.

Young people, "Honour thy father and thy mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: "That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12).

I bear witness that God lives. You are old enough now to be told that we, your parents, are children also, seeking to follow the authority and to relate to the discipline of Him. We love you, our youth. But more than this, we respect you. **NE**

*From an April 1965 general conference address.*

**W**hen you are old enough, start dating. Go to games and dances and picnics. Ideal dating is on a group basis.



# FINDING A

*I taught others about Christianity, but it wasn't until I met a man with a special book that I became converted myself.*

BY GILBERT NDALA MINGOTYI

I am a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and my father felt that it was my duty as the oldest boy to master his Christian church's doctrine. By the time I was five years old, I was accompanying him when he would preach door to door.

When I was nine, my father took our whole family to a region of high mountains. Often he and I would travel on foot for days to reach villages where we were to preach.

People were always amazed to see such a young child preaching. But I kept telling my father I was not ready to be baptized myself. I was not convinced that his religion answered the most important questions.

But I went on as an obedient son, converting people to a church I was not converted to myself. When I turned 18 I began looking for something more.

One Saturday a schoolteacher knocked on our door to talk to my father about my nephew. I found myself looking at a book he held, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. Seeing my interest, he offered to leave the book. He also said I could attend a study group.

I spent almost the whole night scanning the book, stopping to take notes whenever I came across something new. Although I did not fully understand the doctrine, I felt no doubt about its truthfulness. I had a

feeling of joy—as if I were discovering a genuine gem among thousands of imitations.

The next evening I joined five other people in a study group at the home of Mr. Kasongo. He had been doing research when he came across a book about American churches. “My heart pounded as I read the name of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” he said. After writing to the Church's headquarters, he received some literature—including *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder* by Elder LeGrand Richards (1886–1983) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

For two years, our group met twice a week. When missionaries, Elder Roger L. and Sister Simonne B. Dock, arrived in March 1987, 50 people were studying together.

The Docks began teaching the missionary discussions in French in the public school. Because some people spoke only Swahili, I interpreted. I heard the missionary discussions for the first time myself while interpreting.

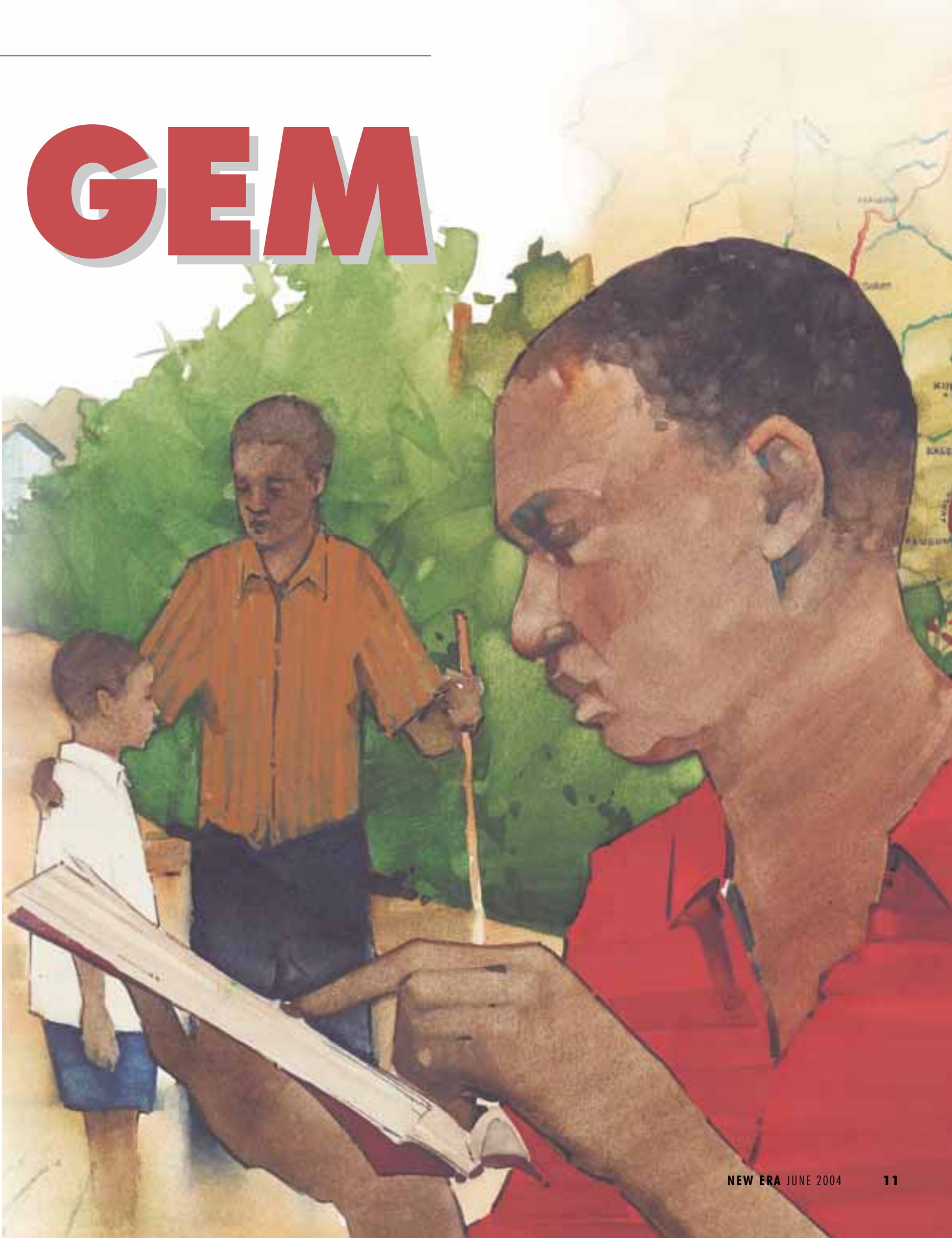
On 9 May 1987 I was one of 80 people baptized in a pool at an abandoned copper mine. For me, baptism was an outer confirmation of an inner conversion that had taken place years earlier. I had been waiting for this sacred ordinance so I could become a member of the Church.

I have received so many blessings—among them the time I spent translating for couple missionaries. They are as dedicated as if the Master Himself were physically beside them.

I thank my Heavenly Father for these rich experiences and for the opportunity my wife, Jolie Mwenze, and I have to raise our son in the Church. And particularly I thank Him for sending me the gospel—a gem beyond price. **NE**

*Gilbert Ndala Mingotyi is a member of the Lubumbashi First Ward, Lubumbashi Democratic Republic of Congo Stake.*

# GEM



# MISSION MADE POSSIBLE

BY SHANNA BUTLER  
Church Magazines

*Young men in Illinois are making their future missions possible through planning and saving in their own unique ways.*



Welcome to the *New Era* files. Go ahead. Walk into our make-believe room full of filing cabinets, and pull open a few drawers. You'll notice some of the drawers are labeled "Good Examples" or "Activity Ideas" or "How I Gained My Testimony." Now go to the file drawer labeled "Saving Money for a Mission."

It's time to take a look into the files of a few Latter-day Saint young men in the Chicago, Illinois, area. These young men have two things in common with each other: They are saving for their missions, and they're doing a great job.

**Name: Adam Sessions**  
**Age: 12**  
**Ward: Morgan Park Ward, Chicago**  
**Illinois Stake**  
**Preferred Title: Service Man Adam**

As you look in the first file you'll see Adam's plan. It's simple: "For every five dollars I get, I give two to my mission fund," he says. He also always makes sure to pay his tithing before he sets aside the 40 percent for his mission.

Adam started saving while trying to fulfill his goals in the Duty to God program. One of the goals is to start saving money for a mission. "I just opened a bag, stuck some money in, and started," he says. He plans on opening a bank account right away.

Starting at 12 might seem early, but Adam's really excited that he has seven years to save for his mission. He's not old enough to have a part-time job, but he does jobs for people in his neighborhood, such as emptying recycling bins, shoveling walks, and putting newspapers on the front doorsteps of a few elderly widows. He's up early in the morning to get his jobs done, and he counts his jobs as small blessings that will one day help his mission fund add up.

"A mission is one of the most important parts of your life. Save up now, and go for

two years to help people come to the gospel, and you will be blessed," Adam says.

Along with his financial preparation, Adam has also set a goal to finish reading the Book of Mormon by the time he's 13. He reads every day. He's also trying to magnify his calling as a deacon, so he will be prepared to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood when the time comes. His dad went on a mission, as did his grandpa and great-grandpa Sessions. He's looking forward to following in their footsteps.

**Name: Nathan Neeley**  
**Age: 15**  
**Ward: Westchester First Ward, Chicago**  
**Illinois Stake**  
**Preferred Title: Babysitter Extraordinaire**

Nathan started saving when he was even younger than Adam. When he was 10, he began delivering papers, shoveling snow, and mowing lawns. Now that he's 15, he's what he likes to call a "Babysitter Extraordinaire" for some of the families in his ward. He loves spending time with children, so it's a great job for him. After paying tithing, he puts away 10 percent of each paycheck for his mission.



**A**dam Sessions  
and Nathan  
Neeley do  
odd jobs and babysit  
to earn mission  
money.

**D**avid Montoya's money magically appears when he performs his magic shows. He also works as a bank teller. Anthony Haga earned his mission money cleaning cars. His hard work will pay off on his mission in Boise, Idaho.

He's had the desire to serve since Primary when he sang "I Hope They Call Me on a Mission" (*Children's Songbook*, 169). "And when my brother went," he says, "that made me want to go even more. It made a big difference for me. He set the example. He really changed his attitude toward life because of his mission."

Going on a mission is really important to Nathan, not only because his dad thinks it's really important or because his older brother set the example. He says, "It's a commandment. I really need to go on a mission. It's an important thing."

**Name: David Montoya**  
**Age: 17**  
**Ward: Orland Park Ward, Chicago**  
**Illinois Stake**  
**Preferred Title: Magician Monte**

Now you see it; now you don't. David's paycheck disappears into his mission fund so fast you'd think it was one of the coins he can make appear or disappear at will. A master of the sleight of hand, David turned his magic hobby into mission dollars when he started working at a magic store and later performing as "Magician Monte" at local restaurants and birthday parties on weekends. Now that he's attending a local community college, he has a job as a bank teller and only does his magic show on the side.

"Your mission starts way before your mission," David says, as he looks sage-like over the top of his glasses. He's been preparing since he was 12, when he decided he wanted to go on a mission. Sacrifice and discipline are what David credits with his successful mission-savings plan. He started putting away half his paycheck when he was 14. At 17, he almost has all his mission money saved.

He's been preparing in other ways, too, like staying fit, studying the scriptures, and learning how to talk to people about the gospel. "Saving money is very important because it gets one thing out of the picture so you can focus on the spiritual things,"



David explains. He also tries to magnify his callings and set an example. "I think it's very important as a priest to set an example for the teachers and the deacons."

David's dad set the example for him. He loves to hear his dad's mission stories and enjoys setting an example for others. But "even if they weren't in my life," he says, "I'm sure I'd want to go on a mission because it's a commandment." He also makes sure he fulfills another commandment by faithfully paying his tithing.

**Name: Anthony Haga**

**Age: 19**

**Ward: Rock Island Ward, Davenport  
Iowa Stake**

**Preferred Title: Elder Haga**

The last file we'll look at is probably the biggest. It's been around the longest. Anthony's first job was as a bagger at a grocery store on an air base. He saved 25 percent of his money for his mission fund at first. He later got a job at a car wash through a friend in his seminary class. He's been working there ever since and has been saving half his earnings for his mission. A few months ago, however, Anthony realized he wouldn't meet his goal if he maintained this saving pattern. He would have to step it up. So he cut his other expenses and started putting away much more money. And he counts it as a blessing of paying tithing that he also got a raise at work. He's going to make it.

And it's a good thing too, because he just got his mission call to Boise, Idaho. Because he's been through saving for his mission, Anthony has some advice: "Be prepared to work for your money, but I can testify that when you work to earn as much as you can, then the Lord will take care of the rest."

He also counsels other young men and women preparing for missions to be



spiritually ready. He reads his scriptures every night and morning, studies Church history, memorizes the scripture mastery scriptures, and listens to advice from his parents, among other things, all in preparation for his mission.

Like Nathan Neeley, Anthony also remembers being inspired when he sang "I Hope They Call Me on a Mission" in Primary. Through his faith, diligence, and preparation, the hymn he's singing now is "Called to Serve" (*Hymns*, no. 249).

#### **Your Mission**

As you close the filing cabinet on these Illinois young men and walk out of the room, don't forget their examples of hard work as they prepare for their missions by saving and becoming spiritually and physically prepared. Oh, and on your way out, don't try to peek in the "Tips for Finding an Eternal Companion" files . . . they're not accessible until you come back. **NE**

## **HOW MUCH DOES A MISSION COST?**

Missionaries have a set amount of money each month for rent, travel, food, etc. Besides the monthly cost, however, there are some other expenses you might need to consider as you plan for your mission. (Amounts listed in U.S. dollars.)

*Monthly cost:* \$375  
(That adds up to \$9,000 for 24 months and \$6,750 for 18 months.)

*Immunizations:*  
Anywhere from \$50 to more than \$200

*Passport:* \$80

*Emergency cash:* \$60 for Missionary Training Center, \$100 for mission

After you receive your mission call, you will be sent a list of necessities such as luggage, a shoulder bag, the missionary library, a first-aid kit, a sewing kit, bedding, and clothing (for men: a suit or two, white shirts, ties, shoes, coat, work clothing, and baptismal clothing; for women: dress shoes, nylons, coat, work clothes, and dresses or shirts and skirts).

# Q & A

*“I need to earn money for a mission and college. The Church teaches that we shouldn’t work on the Sabbath, but almost all the jobs I am qualified for require Sunday work. What should I do?”*

## NEW ERA

**A** recurring theme in the Book of Mormon is this: the Lord will “prosper” the obedient (see 1 Nephi 2:20; 4:14; 2 Nephi 1:20; Jarom 1:9; Omni 1:6).

This is not a guarantee that you will be wildly rich or that you will immediately experience financial success. But if you want to serve a mission and the Lord wants you to serve, He will help you find a way to pay for it if you keep His commandments. The same is true of any worthy goal.

If you choose to work on the Sabbath day, not only are you forfeiting blessings, but you won’t be prepared to testify about one of the most important commandments you will teach on your mission.

Of course, some jobs *require* Sunday work—jobs such as emergency or medical positions, police, security, and so on. But as President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) taught: “In such activities our motives are a

**The Lord can bless you financially for keeping His commandments.**

**On your mission you won’t be able to testify about the blessings of keeping the Sabbath day holy if you don’t keep it holy yourself.**

**Tell Heavenly Father you want to keep His commandments; then show Him by doing your best to find a job that doesn’t require Sunday work.**

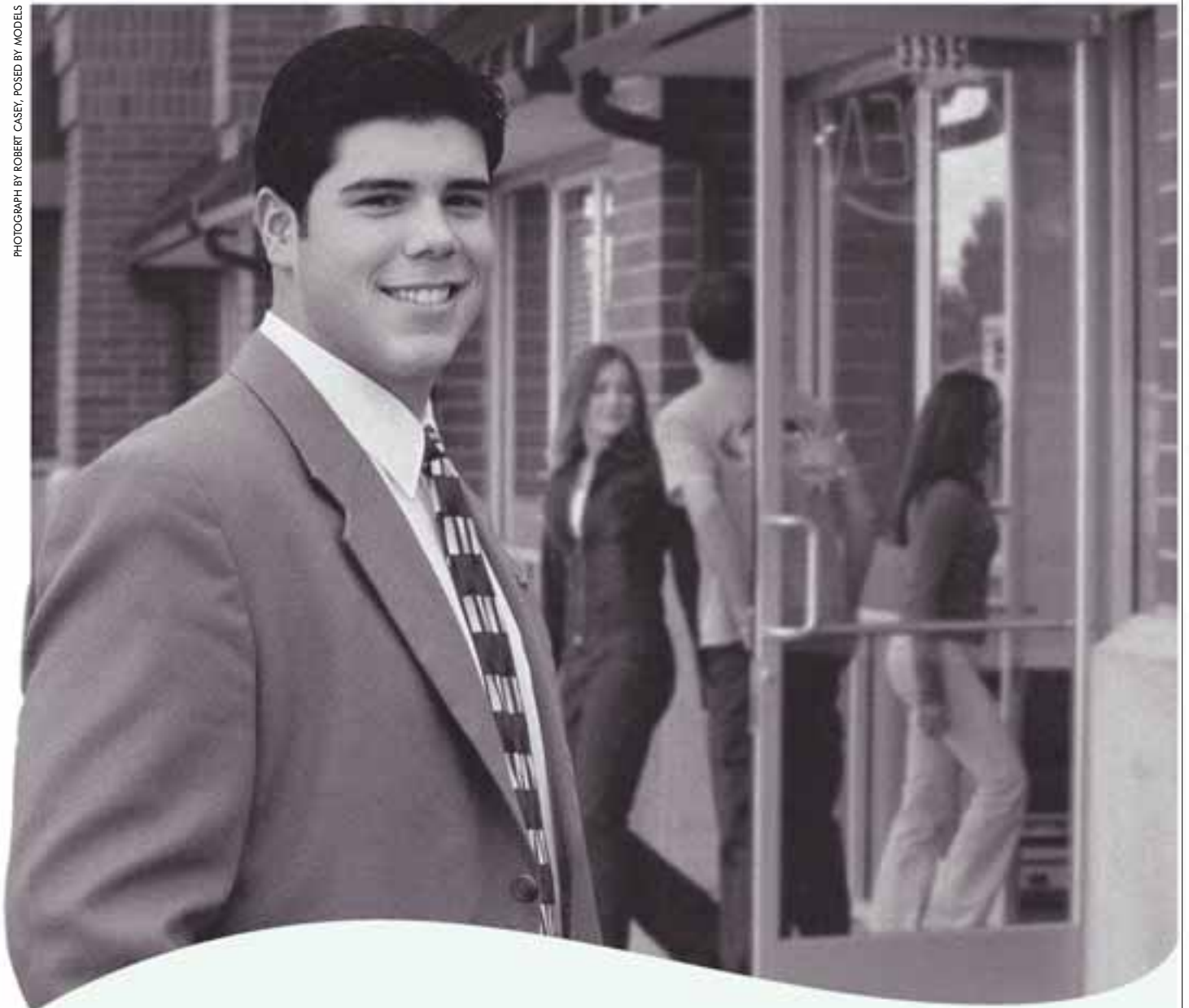
**The Lord wants you to serve Him and be educated. He will help you find a way if you have faith and do your part.**

most important consideration. When men and women are willing to work on the Sabbath to increase their wealth, they are breaking the commandments; for money taken in on the Sabbath, if the work is unnecessary, is unclean money” (“The Sabbath—A Delight,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1978, 5).

Let Heavenly Father know through prayer and fasting that you want to keep His commandments, that you want to find honorable work, and that you want to keep the Sabbath day holy. Then go to work looking for that job. It might not be the job you dreamed of, but we must be willing to sacrifice for the blessings we desire.

Show the Lord through paying regular and honest tithes and offerings that He can trust you with money. And whatever you do, don’t lose faith. As Nephi learned, “The Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them” (1 Nephi 3:7). **NE**





## READERS



**One of God's commandments is to keep the Sabbath day holy. If you put the Lord and His commandments first, there will be a way to**

**go on a mission and get a good education. If we trust in the Lord, everything will work for our good (see Romans 8:28).**

*Elder Henricus Antonius Kroon, 20,  
Belgium Brussels/Netherlands Mission*

**Maybe this is a trial to prepare you for your mission, to prove that you will follow the commandments. Your Heavenly Father will help you find a job, and you won't regret keeping the Sabbath day holy.**

*Nahomie Lambin, 15, Epinal Branch,  
Nancy France Stake*

**I have had to search long to find a job. I have realized that I have to include the Lord in my decision. I know that if I trust**

**the Lord and do my best, He will bless me with the right job at the right time.**

*Catherine Leddin, 19, Lauenburg Ward,  
Hamburg Germany Stake*



**"He has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land; and he never doth vary from that**

**which he hath said" (Mosiah 2:22). A few weeks after I turned down my dream job,**

**another position opened, and I was given the job without Sunday in my work schedule.**

Elder Thomas George Haroldsen, 20,

Sweden Stockholm Mission



**I looked for work for two summers, and every time I mentioned I wouldn't work Sundays, my interviews ended. However, I trusted in the Lord. Then an office job without**

**Sunday work was offered to me. The Lord watches out for you when you obey His words.**

Whitney Olson, 17, Queensland Ward,

Calgary Alberta South Stake

**I had to choose between a high-paying job and keeping the Lord's day holy. I chose to keep the Sabbath holy, because the Lord promises that if we keep His commandments, we will prosper in the land. After a time, during which He proved my faith, I was blessed with a job not requiring Sunday work.**

Rafael Dias de Moura, 18, Matinhos Ward,

Paranaguá Brazil Stake



**I had trouble finding a job that didn't require Sunday work. I often got discouraged but knew I was doing what the Lord would have me do. It took a while for me to see it,**

**but the Lord did provide a way for me to prepare financially for my mission without Sunday work.**

Elder Jeremy Gohier, 20,

Georgia Atlanta Mission

**Golden nuggets aren't found on the surface. We must dig to find them. Maybe those jobs that we**



**W**hat is worthy or unworthy on the

*Sabbath day will have to be judged by each of us by trying to be honest with the Lord. On the Sabbath day we should do what we have to do and what we ought to do in an attitude of worshipfulness and then limit our other activities."*

—President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Lord's Day," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 35.

**find first require Sunday work, but if we make the effort, we will find one that respects the day of rest.**

Cristina García Adum, 17, San Camilo Ward,

Quevedo Ecuador South Stake



**My friend looked everywhere for a job he liked, but all the jobs required him to work Sundays. Finally he realized that maybe he needed to look for a job that wasn't**

**as "fun" as he had wanted. Once he did, he found a job and is now prepared for his mission.**

Amanda Lung, 16, Orchard View Ward,

Fresno California North Stake

*New Era and readers' responses are intended for help and perspective, not as pronouncements of Church doctrine.*

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

**Q&A, New Era**

**50 East North Temple Street, Floor 24**

**Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA**

**Or e-mail:**

**cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org**

**Please respond by 15 July 2004.**

## QUESTION

**"I try to read my scriptures every day, but I don't really learn much. How can I get more out of my personal scripture study?"**

# SUPER!

ELDER KENT  
THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

CHOOSE TO BE A HERO.  
PREPARE TO SERVE A MISSION.  
(SEE D&C 71:3-6.)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT CASEY

# STANDING ON FAITH

BY ADAM C. OLSON, Church Magazines



**K**acey McCallister stands out. He's the only person in his family with red hair. His laugh and can't-get-me-down attitude are contagious. His smile has been outlawed at night in six states because it's so bright.

The handsome 17-year-old is broad-shouldered and built like a rock. He recently graduated from McNary High School, where he stood out athletically in cross country, track, and his beloved wrestling. In March he took second in his weight class at the state wrestling tournament.

But none of that is what makes this priest in the Keizer Ward, Keizer Oregon Stake, so remarkable. Kacey really stands out for two reasons. First is his unwavering testimony that God has a purpose for him. Second is that, without his prosthetic legs, he technically can't stand at all.

### Modern Miracles

Kacey doesn't remember the accident that took his legs and changed his life. He remembers attending a sacrament meeting as a six-year-old with his cousins in rural Utah. He remembers waiting to cross the highway between the church and his grandmother's house. And he remembers waking up in the hospital—without his legs.

His parents, on the other hand, probably wish they could forget. As they waited for an 18-wheeler to pass so the family could cross, Kacey suddenly darted into the highway to catch up with his brother, who had crossed moments earlier. Kacey almost made it.

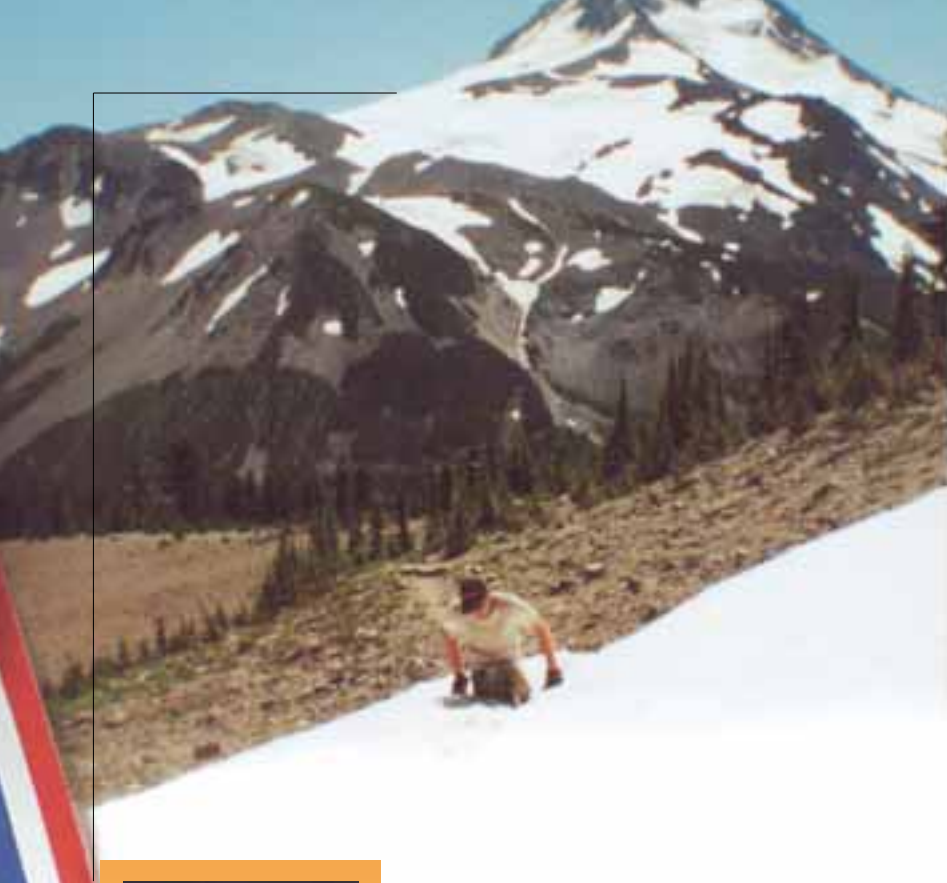
"He shouldn't have lived," says Julene McCallister, Kacey's mom.

"He had zero blood pressure," his father, Bernie, says. "He lost massive amounts of blood."

But then the miracles began. Amazingly, local paramedics had recently learned



**T**hough he lost both legs at age 6, Kacey McCallister has enjoyed participating in cross country (opposite page), track (left), wrestling, and other activities. His positive attitude earned him the opportunity to carry the 2002 winter Olympic torch in Oregon (below).



“I am persuaded that these extraordinary challenges are, as the Savior himself said, that ‘the works of God should be made manifest’ (John 9:3). How these challenges are met can often be the expression of the very essence of the gospel of Christ.”

—President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “The Works of God,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1984, 54.



emergency procedures for treating critically injured children. And despite stormy December weather, Kacey made it—first by plane, then by helicopter—to one of the top children’s hospitals in the nation, where the medical staff was able to save him.

“It’s most definitely a miracle, a modern miracle,” says Brother McCallister.

“There’s some purpose Heavenly Father has him here for,” Sister McCallister says. “In the hospital, the Holy Ghost told me, ‘Sit back and watch Heavenly Father work.’ We’ve been watching the miracles ever since.”

### Meeting Every Challenge

Taking second place at the state wrestling meet without legs was a challenge. But so was learning to walk on prosthetics, and doing a hilly paper route in a wheelchair, and completing a 50-mile hike on his hands.

Kacey can’t remember a time when there weren’t challenges. But if there’s anything he’s learned from wrestling, it’s that eating the mat isn’t any fun. He’d much rather come out on top.

The first year Kacey wrestled, he won only once. Some thought he should give up. Others doubted he’d ever be very competitive. “I wasn’t very good at first,” he laughs. “But I stuck with it and got a little better every year.” After years of hard work and a lot of time in the weight room, he won 39 matches during his final year and lost only one.

“He’s finished everything I’ve seen him start,” says Kacey’s wrestling coach, Tony Oliff. “Kacey’s got that attitude. He’s upbeat, and a lot of kids lean on it. He’s positive about life and fun to be around.”

### A Headlock on Discouragement

It's rare to see Kacey discouraged. Ask his family about the last time he was down, and there's a long pause.

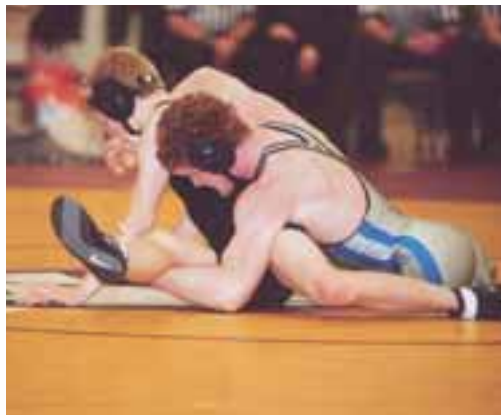
"There was that one time," says 13-year-old Kirt, Kacey's brother. "Oh, no, never mind."

"Oh yeah . . ." begins older brother, Keith, 19. "Wait, no."

Finally his mom remembers one. "He was discouraged about having to ride the handicap bus when he was little," she recalls. "He'd rather wheel to school through the snow."

Kacey admits that sometimes discouragement tries to get him in a reverse body lock, but he's never been pinned. "There have been times I've imagined what it would be like to run and jump. But being discouraged about it wouldn't help much. I still wouldn't be able to do those things.

"When I start getting discouraged, it's usually when I haven't been reading my

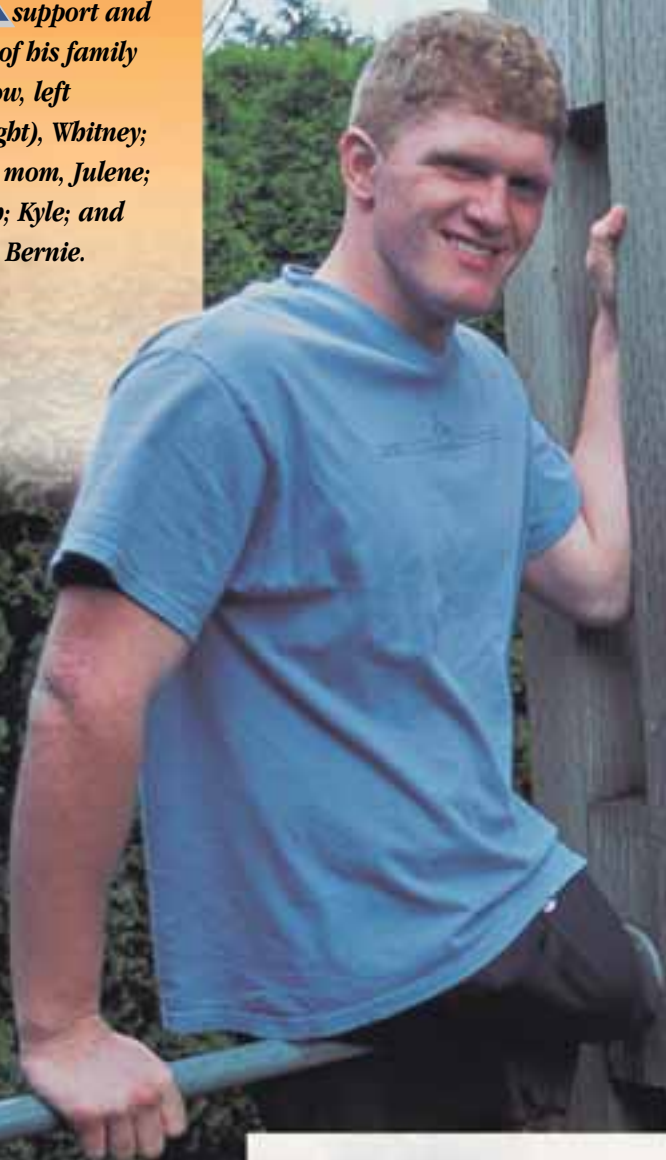


**A**t McNary High, Kacey is known for his friendliness off the mat (top) and his determination on it (below).

Kacey enjoys a challenge. After being carried for the first few miles of his Scout troop's 50-mile (80 km) hike, he decided he'd rather hike it himself (opposite page, top), wearing through a pair of gloves and four pairs of pants.

He isn't bashful either. Kacey made regular appearances on the sidelines as McNary High School's mascot while his older brother, Keith, appeared on the field (opposite page, bottom).

**K**acey appreciates the support and love of his family (below, left to right), Whitney; Kirt; mom, Julene; Keith; Kyle; and dad, Bernie.



scriptures or saying my prayers, so I start again, and by the next day everything is better.”

One scripture in particular has helped Kacey take down challenges. “Ever since I was little, my favorite scripture has been 1 Nephi 3:7. If the Lord says something needs to be done, there’s always, *always* a way to fulfill it. We just have to find it. That’s been my motivation.”

### **Never Give Up**

Driven by challenges, buoyed by a good attitude, and strengthened by faith, Kacey has been able to do just about anything he’s ever wanted to. Not having legs doesn’t keep him from playing roller hockey with the priests quorum (he laces the skates onto his hands). He gets around the kitchen by pulling himself up on the countertops. He climbs trees, acts in school plays (where he “lost his legs” during a battle scene in Shakespeare’s *Richard III*), and hopes to do a marathon soon.

“After a while you realize he can do everything you can do and more,” says classmate and fellow priests quorum member, Chris Nelson.

Along the way he has surprised everyone. “I didn’t think you could play baseball without legs,” laughs Eric Goesch, a friend and quorum member. “Pitchers hated pitching to him; there’s no strike zone.”

“One time we had to go down two long flights of stairs,” recalls Brother McCallister. “He looked at it and took the whole thing in his wheelchair by himself. I thought, ‘Huh. I didn’t know you could do that.’ ”

“He surprises me every day,” says Whitney, Kacey’s 14-year-old sister.

“That’s because he fits under your bed,” laughs their dad, who explains, “He likes to scare her.”





### Different Isn't Bad

How would you answer this question if it were on your next test: How does a six-year-old survive being hit by an 18-wheeler traveling at highway speed? Or better yet, *why?*

If life is a test, then this is one of Kacey's story problems. Your test may be different, but his answer may help you.

"We came to earth to be tested," he says. "The point of coming was to grow and progress. I know it's with the Lord's help that I survived because there's no way a six-year-old kid is going to stand up to a semi. Heavenly Father has a purpose for me here. There's more for me to learn and more for me to do for others."

Kacey has tried to live his life accordingly, looking for ways to grow and for people to help. He has spoken to youth groups and elementary school children about overcoming challenges. He has helped make a difference for people with disabilities in his community, fighting for the right to compete in sports. And he has tried to be a good example. His friends say almost everyone at McNary High knows him, and most people who know him know he's a member of the Church.

"His faith means a great deal to him," says Coach Oliff. "His family has strong values. That's a great building block for a good kid. The fact that he takes those values seriously is a big asset. I've learned a great deal from Kacey."

But Kacey characteristically shrugs off the praise because he understands he's not better than anyone. He's different, but that's the way God made us.

"Heavenly Father knows us and loves us. I know He has a plan for each of us individually," Kacey says. "Each of us has different talents that will help move the kingdom



**K**acey doesn't know all the reasons God spared his life, so he tries to do the best he can at everything he can, including school plays (above and left) and roller hockey with his quorum (below).

forward. His plan for me is different from everyone else's. I don't know everything I'm supposed to do yet. But He'll help me figure out the details." **NE**



BY MARLENE NOLTE

*I loved horseback riding more than anything, but did I love it more than church?*

I have always loved horses. I grew up riding them. My family owned a dairy ranch where we had a few horses. When I was seven years old we moved to the city. Because we didn't have horses there, I rode them whenever I had the chance.

When I was young, my father would take me to church. He and I were the only ones in my family who went to church. But my father died when I was just 13 years old. I continued to go to church after his death, but I didn't have a lot of friends to go to church with, so I usually walked alone.


I was walking to church one Sunday morning soon after my father died. I passed the house of my friend whose family owned some horses. I had been riding with them

before, and we had so much fun. My friend came outside to tell me that her family was about to go ride their horses and wondered if I would like to come along.

Time seemed to stand still as I tried to decide what to do. I loved riding and wanted to go with them. But I could see the church building from



I Chose the



where I stood. As I looked at that building, a voice seemed to say to me, “Marlene, if you choose to go horseback riding this day, you will be making a wrong choice. You can go to church even if your father is not here to take you.”

I knew in my heart that going riding would not be the right choice.

At that moment I said to my friend, “Thanks for the offer, but I am going to church instead.”

I have never regretted that choice. It has turned out to be one of the most significant

decisions I have made in my life. It’s the good choices we make that keep us on the straight and narrow path. From that moment until this day, I can count on one hand the number of times I have missed church.

Diligent church attendance is important to me, so important that wild horses can’t keep me away. I love to associate with my ward family and find joy in serving in my calling. I am so thankful for the blessings I have received from attending my meetings and from having the gospel in my life. I am grateful to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and for the guidance of the Holy Ghost. **NE**

*Marlene Nolte is a member of the Gleneagle Ward, Colorado Springs Colorado North Stake.*

# Sabbath

# Easier

## THAN YOU THINK

BY RYAN CARR  
Church Magazines

*You can succeed in sharing the gospel. Just follow the example of the teens in the Danville California Stake. You'll find that missionary work is not as hard as you might think.*

**A**fter work one evening, Kylie Laney said to her coworker Mike Comfoltey, "I'm speaking in church tomorrow. Do you want to come?"

Mike, who is not a member of the Church, agreed to attend.

Kylie gave her talk, but Mike didn't make it to church that Sunday. At work the next day, she joked with him, "You have to come next week then!"

He did. The priests made him feel welcome in their quorum. He enjoyed church and kept going. Then Mike started going to Mutual with Kylie and his new friends from the Danville (California) Second Ward. On Kylie's invitation, he took the missionary lessons.

"I liked the feeling of being at church," Mike says. "I liked being with the missionaries. It just felt right." He prayed about the Church, received an answer, and was baptized last month.

In the Danville Second Ward, it's not just Mike Comfoltey who joined the Church because of a friend's invitation. Janie Hart, Nick Turpin, Beth Lancaster, Tenaya Dunbar, and John Martin have all been baptized in the last couple of years because their friends invited them to church, seminary, Mutual, youth conference, and to meet with the missionaries.

### **Success in Sharing the Gospel**

It would be easy to do missionary work if you were fearless and all of your friends accepted your invitations to

meet the missionaries. But that's not reality. Even with all the good experiences the youth in the Danville stake have had, they still feel nervous before asking a friend to come to church or take the missionary lessons. But any nervousness they feel is overcome with joy when their friends accept their invitations.

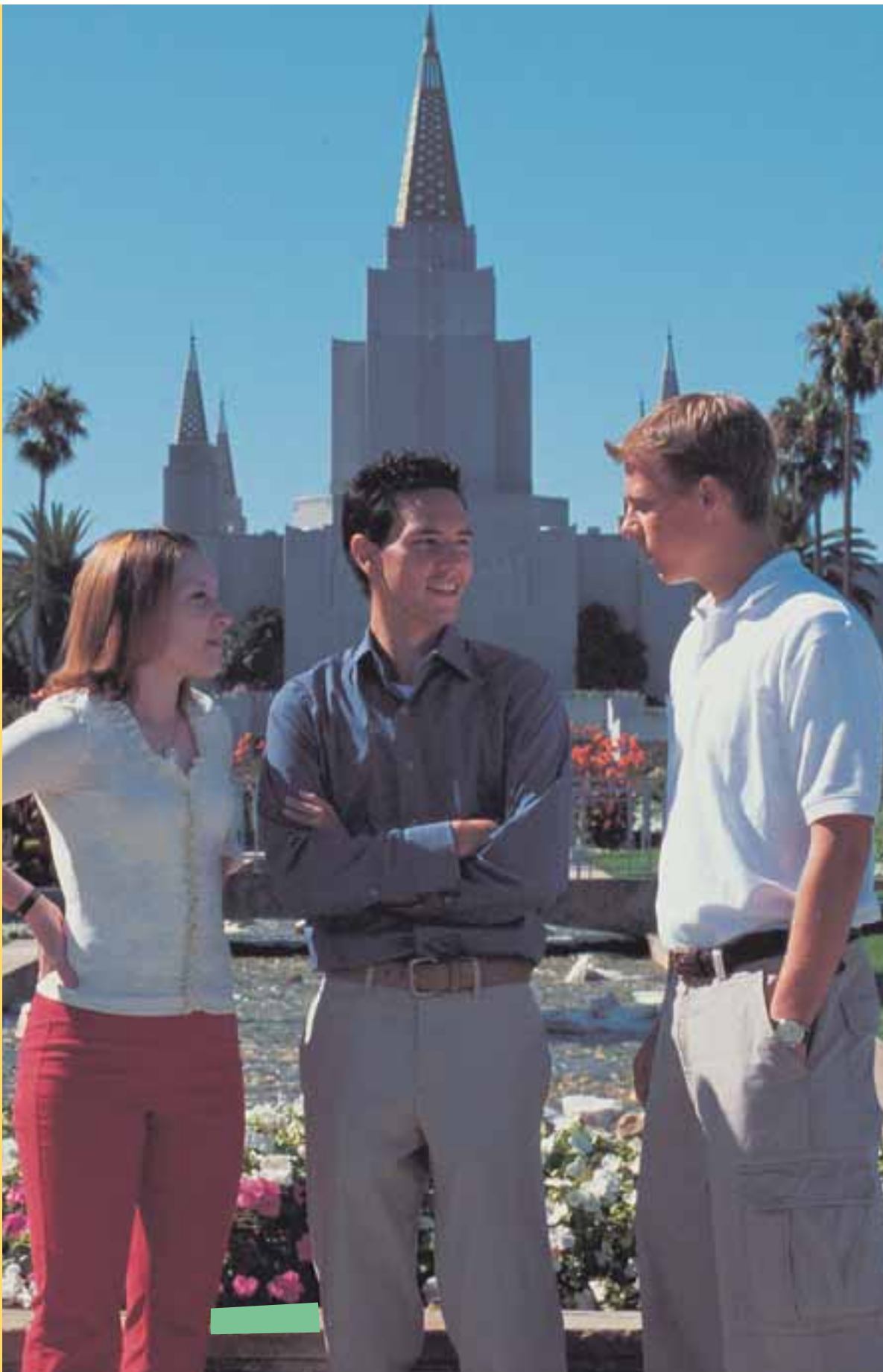
Vindie Rosdahl, a Mia Maid, remembers overcoming her nervousness to talk with a friend about the Church. Vindie says, "I was so glad we talked about it. The times we talk about the gospel and feel the Spirit strengthen our friendship."

Like Vindie, these Danville teens have worked for years at sharing the gospel. Some of their friends had to wait until they were 18 to get baptized. In the meantime, the member friends of these converts have prayed and fasted for them, sat with them at church and at activities, answered their questions, and offered encouragement.

They are happy to share the gospel with friends, even if some of them don't accept their invitations. But they keep asking, and they keep being friends.

### **Being a Good Friend**

When Nick Turpin was 14, the only thing he knew about the Church was that his friends Steve Andersen and Jason Farrell were members. That's when they gave Nick a Book of Mormon with their testimonies written in the front of it. Then they invited him to seminary, telling him their teacher was cool and they wanted Nick to learn



*n the grounds  
of the  
Oakland*

*California Temple, Mike  
Comfoltey (center)  
visits with two of  
his member friends,  
Kylie Laney and  
Matt Peterson. Mike  
first attended church  
because Kylie invited  
him. Members of the  
priests quorum, like Matt,  
made Mike feel welcome in  
the ward.*

**E**ach of the recent converts in the Danville

Second Ward has good friends in the ward. John Martin (right, center) visits with the missionaries and his friend, Matt Peterson. Nick Turpin (below, center) has known Steve Anderson and Jason Farrell for years. And Beth Lancaster (opposite page, left) was impressed with the good examples of her member friends like Jake Bromley and Vindie Rosdahl.



more about the Church. That was February of 2002. Nick was baptized three months later.

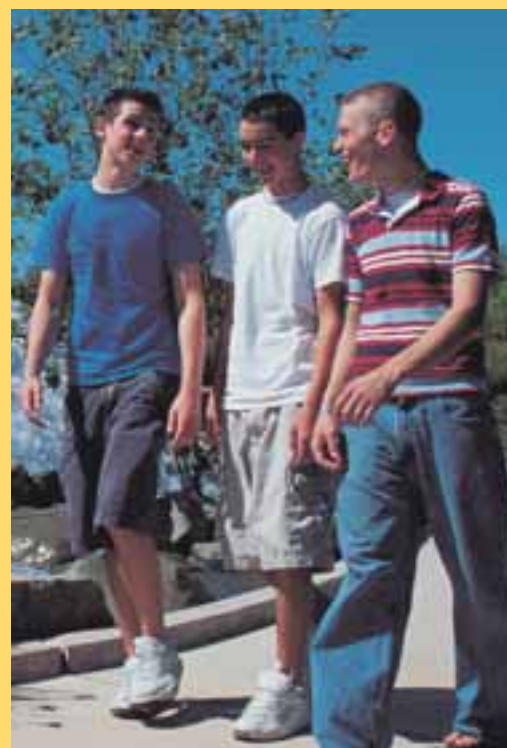
That may seem quick, but Nick's testimony didn't come from one overwhelming spiritual experience. It came quietly, gradually. He says, "It just felt right at seminary and at church." He says he always figured there was a purpose to life, and the missionaries explained what that purpose was. Reading the Book of Mormon also helped his testimony grow, and, pointing to Steve and Jason, he says, "These guys helped me to join the Church. When I was with them before I joined the Church, it was great to know that we were doing the right thing and still having loads of fun."

Steve says, "Our friendship wasn't based on Nick taking the discussions. We just wanted him to know more about the Church. If he had said no, our friendship wouldn't have changed."

Nick's friends introduced him to the gospel, but it was the Spirit who converted him. Nick says, "In my heart, I know that if I didn't believe that the Church was true, I wouldn't have joined just because my friends wanted me to."

### Inviting Your Friends

John Martin is one who had to wait until he was 18 to get baptized. Unlike most of these recent converts, however, some of John's family—his dad, grandmother, and some cousins—are members of the Church. With their support and the help of two friends in the Danville Second Ward, Adam Broderick and Matt Peterson, John started



going to church a couple years before he was baptized.

John ran on the cross-country team with Adam, who encouraged him to read the Book of Mormon. At school, John occasionally talked to Matt about the Church. One summer, they invited John to attend youth conference.

After the conference, John's friends invited him to church. He went and kept going because "it was a good atmosphere, and I learned a lot," John says. "They also talked about values I believed in, like not drinking or swearing."

That summer John was working at a grocery store until 10 p.m. each night. Before and after work, he'd read the Book of Mormon for an hour or two. He thought, "There's something to this book, because it gives me a good feeling." During that summer, he and Matt would talk about verses they liked.

The day before school started, John began taking the discussions, with Matt there to

support him. At the first discussion, the missionaries invited John to be baptized. Though he wanted to say yes, his mom objected. But he was allowed to attend church and seminary, where they studied the Book of Mormon that year.

The Book of Mormon is the foundation of John's testimony. He says, "The missionaries told me that if I have a testimony of the Book of Mormon, everything else falls into place." John has a strong testimony of the Book of Mormon, so he believes the Church is true and that Joseph Smith was a prophet.

A month after he turned 18, John was baptized. About 100 people were there, including his friends in the ward and relatives from as far away as Michigan.

In addition to the gift of the Holy Ghost, John has noticed some other blessings: "Since I've been interested in the Church, things have gone well, like school and family and deciding everyday things. Most things have improved."

## ON A MISSION ... AT HOME

**T**he teens in the Danville California Stake

have found that sharing the gospel not only blesses the converts' lives but also strengthens their friendships and testimonies and gets them excited to serve missions. Here's how they do it:

- ✿ Be a good example. Don't be afraid to live the gospel and your standards around your friends.
- ✿ Be a good friend. Enjoy friendships with those not of our faith.
- ✿ Invite your friends to church, seminary, Mutual, or other Church activities.
- ✿ At Church meetings and activities, introduce yourself to visitors. Help them feel comfortable and welcome there.
- ✿ As a group of youth in your ward or branch, fast and pray for your friends who are taking the discussions.



**B**y welcoming and befriending new people in the ward, Kelli and Brie Saunders (below) help move missionary work forward.

### The Blessings of the Gospel

John and the other new members in the Danville Second Ward are grateful for the Church in their lives. They're happier now; many of their questions about life have been answered; and they can have the Spirit's constant companionship.

Sharing the gospel also blesses the sharer. Kylie Laney says, "The best feeling I've ever had is when friends accept an offer to hear the gospel. Sharing the gospel is not only a duty, but it makes you happy too."

Kelli Saunders, a Laurel, shares the gospel "because it makes me so happy. Some of my friends aren't happy, but I know the Church can make them happier. We're so blessed to be members of the Church."

Clearly, the Danville teens don't stop doing missionary work after one friend has been baptized. Yet none of these teens calls sharing the gospel "missionary work." For them it's not work—it's a way of life, part of being a good friend. Jason Farrell, remembering Nick's baptism, says, "It's not that hard to invite someone to take the discussions. Steve and I invited Nick because we thought he'd enjoy learning more about the Church."

### Being a Good Example

These youth are good friends and good inviters, but the best thing they're doing is living the gospel. Their lives show how happy they are, how much fun they can have while living high standards, and how much the gospel means to them.

Beth Lancaster, a Mia Maid, had been going to church for years with her member friends before she was baptized. One day, when Beth was 13, she asked her friend, Megan Rasmussen, if she could take the discussions. Beth says, "I wouldn't have asked her if it hadn't been for all my friends' examples and the joy they had in their lives."

"I saw the examples of the Rasmussen family and the Bromley family and how happy they were and how much love they had in their lives," Beth says. "I decided I wanted some of that."

Sixteen-year-old Jake Bromley, one of Beth's good friends, says, "You never know when somebody will be looking at you, wondering why members of the Church are so good and what makes them so happy. Be a good example 100 percent of the time." **NE**





# SCRIPTURE Study Tips

**P**resident Hinckley has asked “every boy and girl who is old enough to again read the Book of Mormon. . . . There is nothing we could do of greater importance than to have fortified in our individual lives an unshakable conviction that Jesus is the Christ.” He suggested putting a little red check mark in the margin beside every reference to the Savior in the Book of Mormon. If we do, “There will come to you a very real conviction as you do so that this is in very deed another witness for the Lord Jesus Christ” (*Ensign*, July 1997, 72–73).

Here are some more scripture study ideas for you to try:

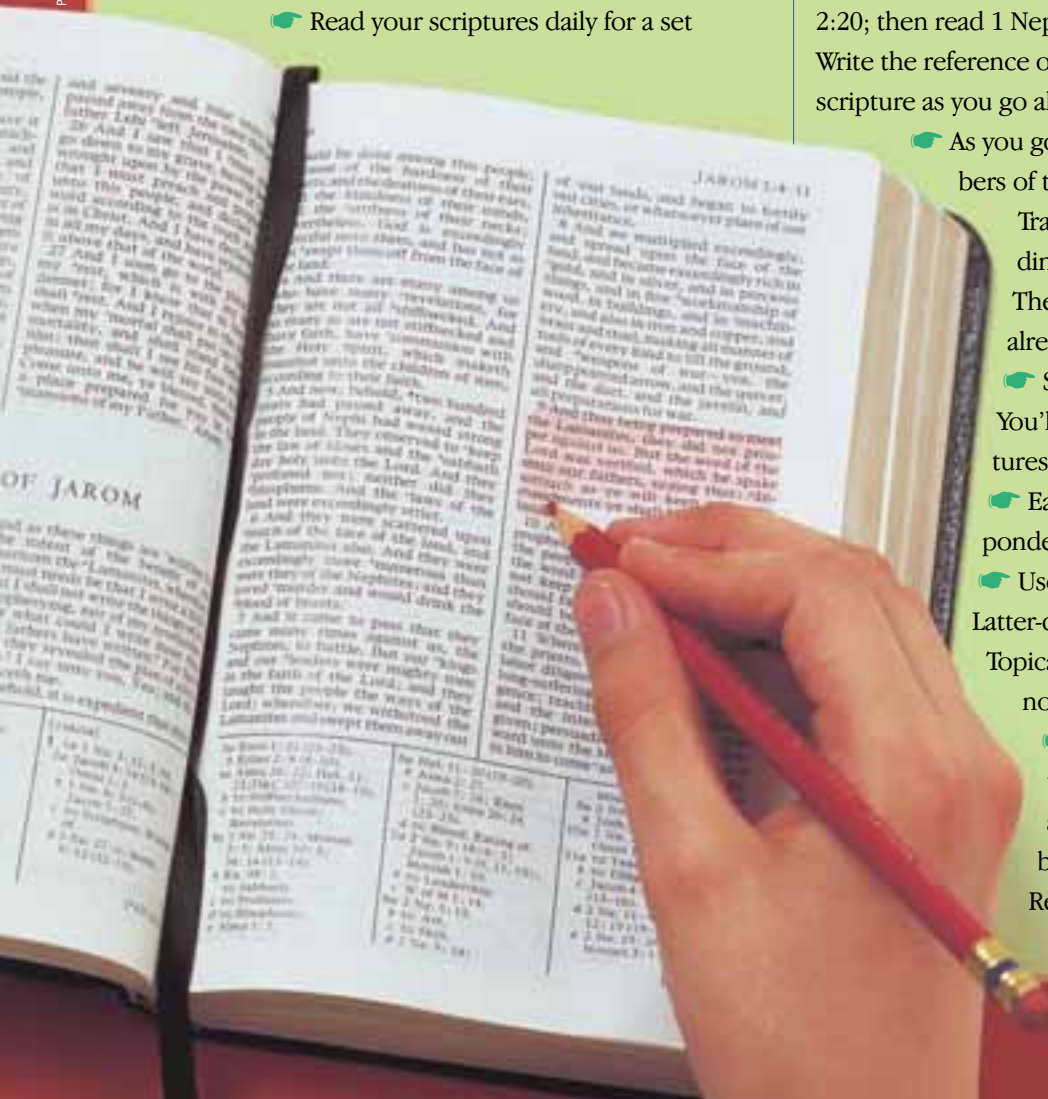
- Read your scriptures daily for a set

amount of time, and try to read when you’re alert.

- Mark your scriptures with pencil or something that won’t show through on the other side. Writing with something erasable is a good idea too.
- You could color code your markings. You could use one color for references to the Savior; select another color for scriptures on repentance, and so on.
- Keep a scripture journal to record your inspiration and what you learn as you read.
- Scripture chains link from one scripture to another on the same topic and can help you pick out themes in the scriptures. For example, to study obedience, see 1 Nephi 2:20; then read 1 Nephi 4:14; 2 Nephi 4:4; and Jarom 1:9. Write the reference of the next scripture beside each scripture as you go along.

- As you go through the Bible, circle the numbers of the verses that have Joseph Smith Translations, then circle the corresponding JST note at the bottom of the page. The next time you read the Bible, you’ll already know where all the JSTs are.
- Study both sequentially and topically. You’ll always find new things in the scriptures as you look at them in new ways.
- Each time you read, find something to ponder.
- Use the tools provided for you in the Latter-day Saint edition of the scriptures: Topical Guide, Bible Dictionary, maps, footnotes, Index, and Pronouncing Guide.
- Finally, remember that no matter what system you use to study your scriptures, it is the Holy Spirit who brings us light and understanding. Remember to pray for His guidance as you study. **NE**

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINA SMITH





# HOW TO **BEAT** **BULLYING**

BY REBECCA M. TAYLOR  
Church Magazines

*Bullying isn't something you can just "get over." It can make people feel worthless, friendless, and alone.*

It's been many years since Greg [names have been changed] was in junior high school, but he can still vividly remember how it felt when his tormentors would chase him as he tried to walk home from the school bus. If they caught him, sometimes they would grab his trombone case and throw it into the snow, or they would toss his homework into the pond by his house. Other times they would become more violent, pushing and hitting him, even knocking him to the ground.

"I felt powerless and scared," he says now. "I didn't know what to do."

Bullying has received a lot of media attention in recent years, but it continues to be a serious problem for many teenagers. What exactly is bullying? If you see someone being picked on, what can you do? And what if you're the one being bullied?

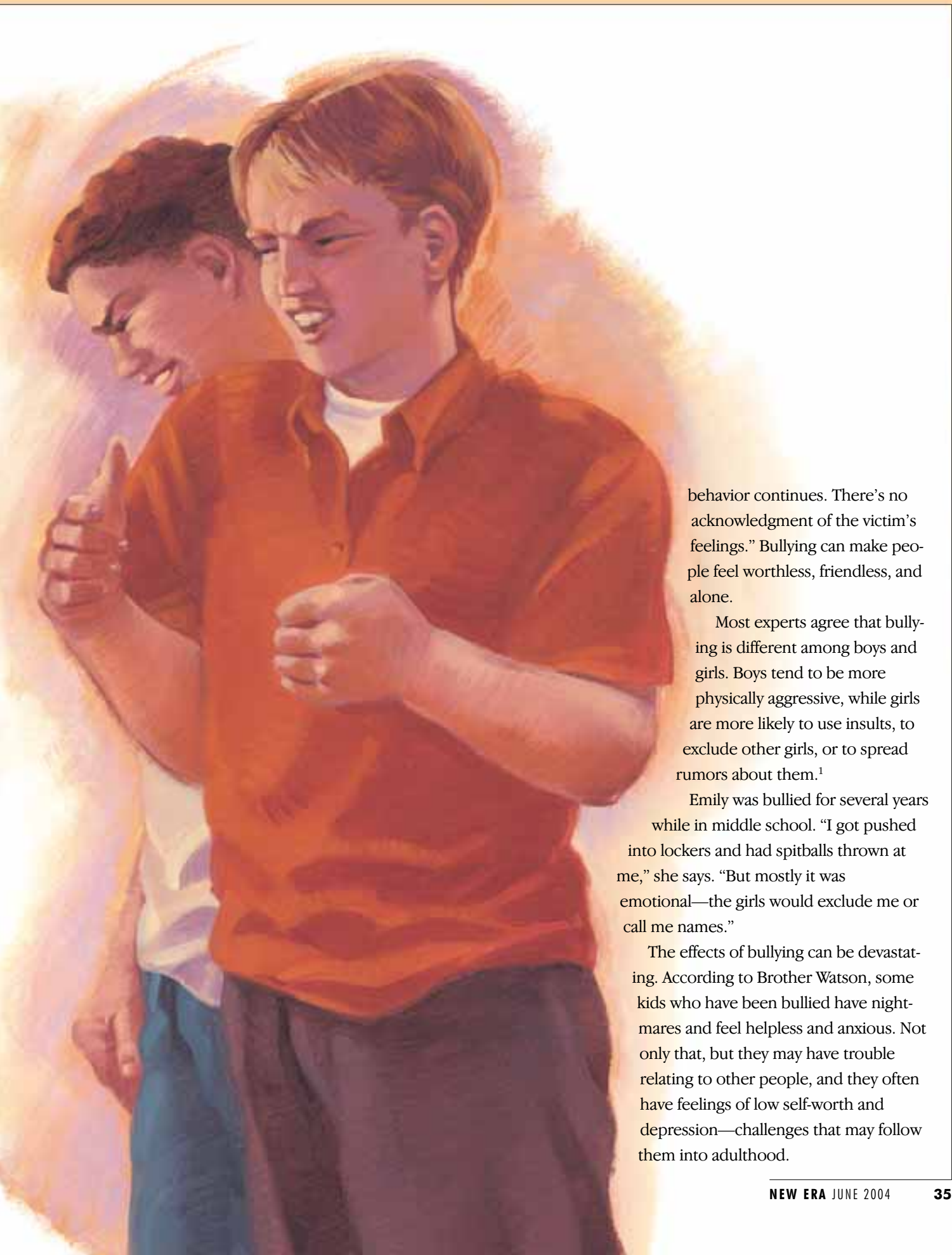
### **What Is Bullying?**

Some people say being bullied is just a normal part of growing up. "Kids will be kids," they say. "They'll get over it." Most teenagers like to joke around and tease each other, but when does teasing cross the line

and become bullying, a behavior that can have serious long-term effects?

Matt Watson, a therapist with LDS Family Services, says a behavior can be called bullying "when there's fear and intimidation or when someone says 'Stop,' but the





behavior continues. There's no acknowledgment of the victim's feelings." Bullying can make people feel worthless, friendless, and alone.

Most experts agree that bullying is different among boys and girls. Boys tend to be more physically aggressive, while girls are more likely to use insults, to exclude other girls, or to spread rumors about them.<sup>1</sup>

Emily was bullied for several years while in middle school. "I got pushed into lockers and had spitballs thrown at me," she says. "But mostly it was emotional—the girls would exclude me or call me names."

The effects of bullying can be devastating. According to Brother Watson, some kids who have been bullied have nightmares and feel helpless and anxious. Not only that, but they may have trouble relating to other people, and they often have feelings of low self-worth and depression—challenges that may follow them into adulthood.

**B**ullying is different among boys and girls. Boys tend to be physically aggressive, while girls are more likely to insult or exclude other girls.

#### What Others Can Do

If you see someone being bullied, it may be tempting to walk away, hoping the situation will take care of itself. But Bob Wiley, also a therapist with LDS Family Services, says bullying rarely stops unless someone else gets involved. “If you see someone being bullied and you do nothing, in some ways you’re contributing to the bullying,” he says.

So what can you do to help?

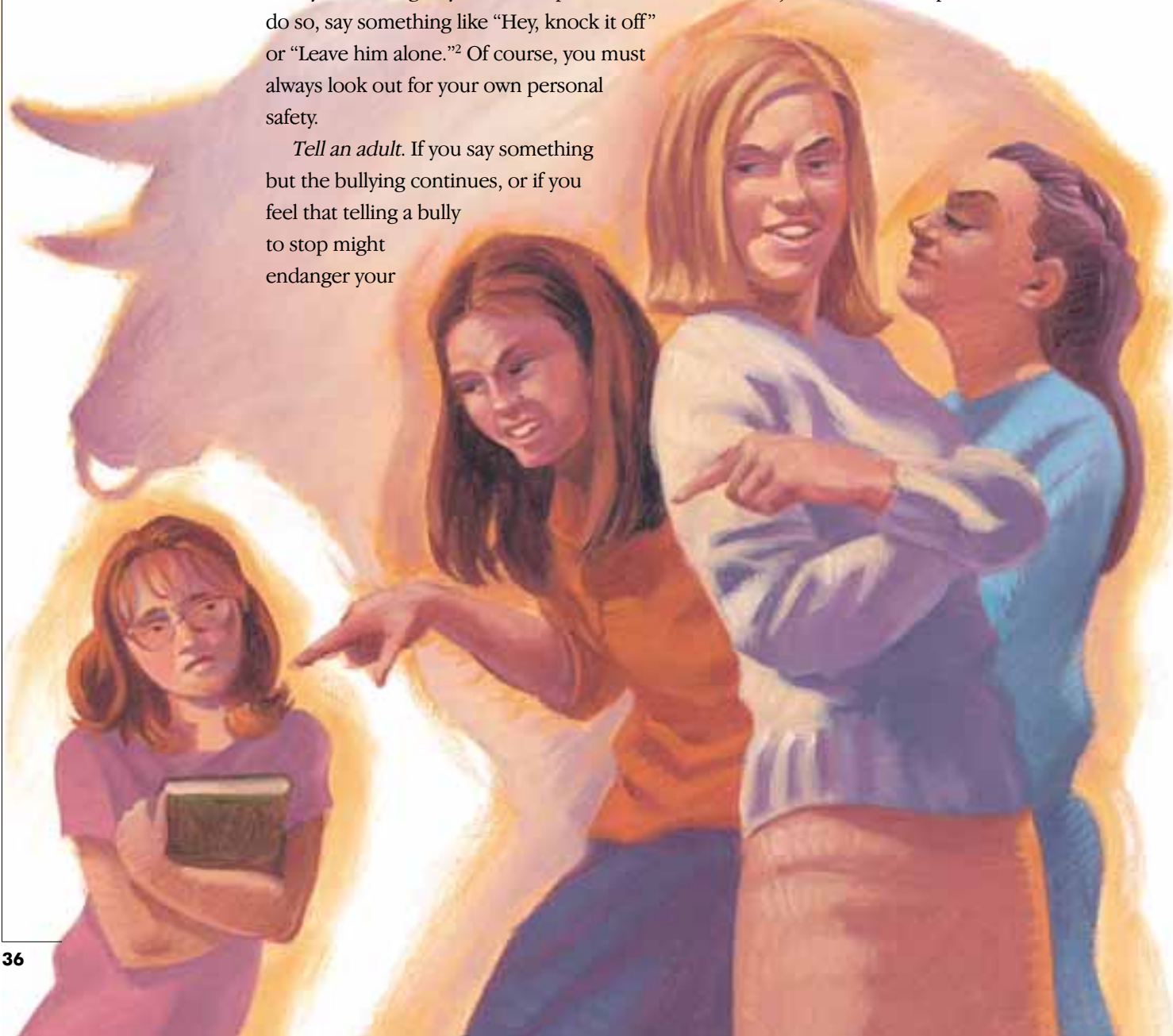
*Say something.* If you are in a position to do so, say something like “Hey, knock it off” or “Leave him alone.”<sup>2</sup> Of course, you must always look out for your own personal safety.

*Tell an adult.* If you say something but the bullying continues, or if you feel that telling a bully to stop might endanger your

own safety, tell a responsible adult: a parent, teacher, principal, school counselor, or anyone else in a position of authority.

Brother Watson explains that telling someone in authority is not the same thing as tattling: “Tattling is to get someone in trouble. Telling is trying to get some help or to solve a problem.”

*Reach out.* Brother Watson points to the example of the good Samaritan, who cared for a man who had been beaten (see Luke 10:30–37). “He wasn’t in a position to



confront the attackers, but he certainly dealt with the aftermath,” he says.

Similarly, we can reach out in kindness to those who are bullied. “Usually the bully picks on someone who’s alone and isolated,” says Brother Wiley. “If you see someone in that situation, try to be a friend.” Not only do friends decrease a teen’s chances of being bullied, but they likely will help the teen feel better about himself or herself.

### If You’re Being Bullied

What should you do if you are the one being picked on?

*Try to appear calm and confident.* Try not to react, because a reaction is what most bullies are hoping for. First try to simply walk away. “To walk away from trouble is not a sign of weakness,” says Brother Wiley.

Stay calm and act confident, even if you don’t feel confident. Stand up straight, and make eye contact. Firmly tell the bully to stop. And don’t lash out physically unless absolutely necessary to protect yourself. “Retaliating physically may make a bully feel justified in his or her behavior,” says Brother Watson.

*Tell an adult.* Many kids who are bullied feel that they should handle the situation by themselves. But bullying often does not stop until an authority figure gets involved. A trusted adult can help you plan a way to avoid being bullied and help provide support along the way. Keep telling until the situation improves. If the bullying is severe, it may be appropriate to inform the police.<sup>3</sup>

*Avoid being alone.* Bullies are more likely to pick on people who are by themselves, so try to stick with friends as much as possible. If you feel threatened and friends are not nearby, follow a group, even if you don’t

know them.<sup>4</sup>

*Don’t blame yourself.* No one deserves to be bullied. “Because you are a victim of bullying does not mean you are a bad person,” says Brother Wiley. “The person who has the problem is the bully, not the one being bullied.”

*Forgive.* Forgiving a bully does not mean thinking that what he or she did was okay. Nor does it mean you shouldn’t stick up for yourself or that you should pretend the bullying never happened. Forgiving does mean letting go of feelings of bitterness and anger—feelings that will damage you far more than they will affect the bully. The Lord said, “I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men” (D&C 64:10).

*Rely on the Savior.* His love, and the knowledge that you are a child of Heavenly Father, is your greatest source of self-worth. The Savior knows what it’s like to be beaten and spit upon, but He never forgot who He is—the Son of God. Because of the Atonement, He understands perfectly the hurt you feel, and He can heal you.

Emily says that gaining a greater understanding of the Atonement helped her heal from the effects of the bullying. She found comfort in Alma’s words:

“And [Jesus] shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

“. . . And he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor [help] his people according to their infirmities” (Alma 7:11–12).



### THE ADVERSARY’S TACTICS

“It should come as no surprise that one of the adversary’s tactics in the latter days is stirring up hatred among the children of men. He loves to see us criticize each other, make fun or take advantage of our neighbor’s known flaws, and generally pick on each other. . . .

“When we truly become converted to Jesus Christ, committed to Him, an interesting thing happens: our attention turns to the welfare of our fellowman, and the way we treat others becomes increasingly filled with patience, kindness, a gentle acceptance, and a desire to play a positive role in their lives.”

—Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915–94), of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Tongue Can Be a Sharp Sword,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 19, 20.



**T**he Savior understands how it feels to be mistreated. Because of the Atonement, He can help and He can heal.

Today, both Greg and Emily agree that the damage caused by bullying doesn't have to last forever. Both have gone on to have successful careers and families of their own. And while neither would wish for such a painful experience again, they agree that in some ways they are better people as a result: they are more understanding of those who are struggling and are more anxious to reach out and help. And they know that their worth does not depend on what others

think of them, for the worth of every soul "is great in the sight of God" (D&C 18:10). **NE**

#### NOTES

1. See Barry E. McNamara and Francine J. McNamara, *Keys to Dealing with Bullies* (1997), 24, 37–38; Michael Thompson, Lawrence J. Cohen, and Catherine O'Neill Grace, *Mom, They're Teasing Me* (2002), 128–29.
2. See SuEllen Fried and Paula Fried, *Bullies and Victims* (1996), 122.
3. See National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, Internet, [www.safeyouth.org](http://www.safeyouth.org).
4. See "You Can Beat Bullying—A Guide for Young People," Kidscape, Internet, <http://ericcass.uncg.edu/virtuallib/bullying/1063.html>.

## THE HAZARDS OF HAZING

Hazing is what older or more experienced kids sometimes do to initiate new kids into a group. You might not think of hazing as a form of bullying—after all, even the most popular teenagers can be victims of hazing. And some people claim that hazing is "fun" and is a "bonding experience." But, like traditional bullying, hazing is an act of control over others; can result in feelings of humiliation, fear, and distrust; and is sometimes physically dangerous.<sup>1</sup>

Hazing activities include making people wear embarrassing clothing in public, perform dangerous or ridiculous stunts, or participate in other activities that are degrading or humiliating. An activity is probably hazing if the answer to any of the following questions<sup>2</sup> is yes:

- Will more experienced members of the group refuse to do what the new members are being asked to do?
- Does the activity involve physical or emotional abuse?

- Could the activity be considered unsafe or dangerous?
- Would you be embarrassed to describe the activity to a parent or teacher?
- Would you not want the activity to be featured in your school newspaper or on the local news?
- Is alcohol involved?
- Is the activity illegal?

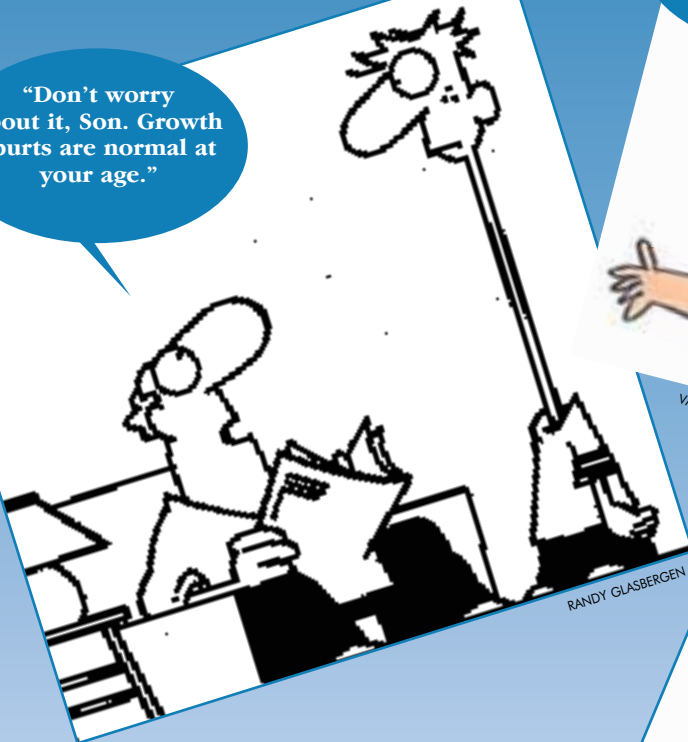
If you are a member of a group that is going to initiate new members, suggest planning positive alternatives to hazing such as a fun social or athletic event that will help old and new members of the group get to know each other.

If you fear you or a friend might be hazed, or if you have already been hazed, contact an adult—either a parent or school official. Hazing can have serious effects. Saying nothing could mean the activity continues—and someone might get hurt. **NE**

#### NOTES

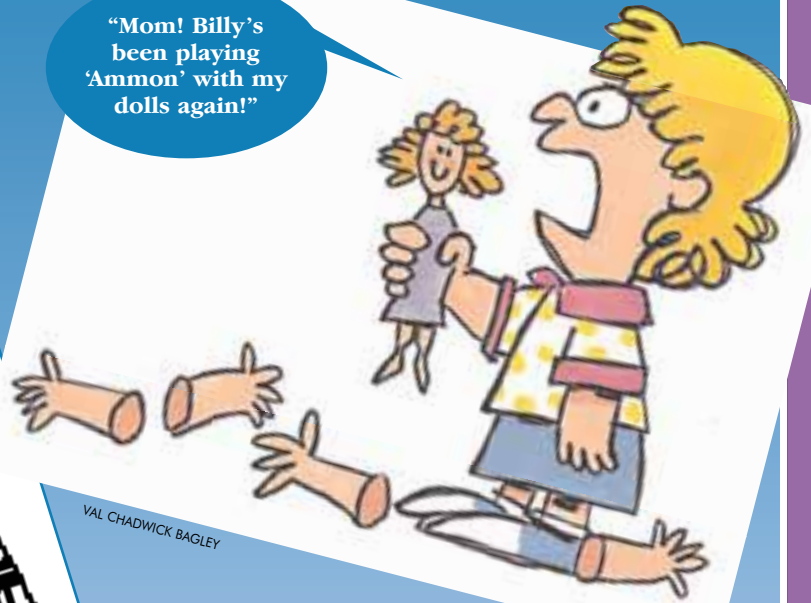
1. See Kevin Bushweller, "Brutal Rituals, Dangerous Rites," *American School Board Journal*, Aug. 2000, [www.asbj.com/2000/08/0800coverstory.html](http://www.asbj.com/2000/08/0800coverstory.html).
2. Questions adapted from *Death by Hazing* (pamphlet), Sigma Alpha Epsilon (1988), cited on [www.stophazing.org](http://www.stophazing.org).

"Don't worry about it, Son. Growth spurts are normal at your age."



RANDY GLASBERGEN

"Mom! Billy's been playing 'Ammon' with my dolls again!"



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

"Elder, when you cook, it's like eating at a fine restaurant—I get reservations!"



KEN CHANDLER

"Okay. Let me do all the explaining."



RYAN STOKER



## TEST YOUR LDS I.Q.

**T**he Prophet Joseph Smith spent many months translating, by revelation, the King James Version of the Bible. We now have part of the Joseph Smith Translation (or JST) included in the Latter-day Saint version of the King James Bible, along with the book of Moses and Joseph Smith—Matthew in the Pearl of Great Price. While he was translating the Bible, the Prophet also received many revelations that are in the Doctrine and Covenants (see sections 76, 77, 86, 91, 107, and 132).

See if you can answer these questions about the Joseph Smith Translation.

**1** Joseph Smith started this translation in June 1830. When did he finish most of it?

- December 1831
- June 1832
- July 1833

**2** How many pages was the JST manuscript when completed?

- 213
- 477
- 628

**3** The Prophet had at least three scribes help him as he was translating. Of the following three

scribes, which one recorded most of the JST?

- Oliver Cowdery
- John Whitmer
- Sidney Rigdon

**4** Which article of faith states, “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; . . .”?

- Fifth
- Eighth
- Eleventh

*Answers: 1c, 2b, 3c, 4b. (To learn more about the JST, see “Joseph Smith Translation,” 717.)*

“Tithing develops and tests our faith. By sacrificing to the Lord what we may think we need or want for ourselves, we learn to rely on Him.”

—Elder Robert D. Hales, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Tithing: A Test of Faith with Eternal Blessings,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 27.



# CAN YOU DIG IT?



## THERE'S A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ... IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO DIG.

**Y**ou already know you can find the scriptures and lots of study helps at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). But if you dig a little deeper in the Gospel Library, you'll discover a lot more.

Click on one of the links under Church Publications to access:

- The *New Era*, *Friend*, *Ensign*, and *Liahona* magazines
- *For the Strength of Youth*
- Personal Progress and Duty to God guidelines

## FAMILY TIME

**B**ack in the year 2000, Christina Jenkins's family had a grand idea for family scripture study: why not read the whole Book of Mormon in a month?! The family, from Yorktown, Virginia, started the month before the school year started, and her dad calculated they would need to read at least 17 pages a day to meet their goal. To help them feel the true spirit of the Book of Mormon, the Jenkins family also decided not to watch television for that month.

"The events that



occurred and the lessons we learned became so much clearer," Christina says. "Reading the Book of Mormon personally and with my family each year has strengthened my testimony of the Book of Mormon and of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Christina's family enjoyed their month-long reading of the Book of Mormon so much they have done it every year since.

## LEADING WITH HUMILITY

**D**uring the early years of the reign of the judges, Alma and the other Church leaders worked hard to lead and guide the people of Nephi. Their examples of leadership still apply today. You can read about them in Alma 1:26:

"And when the priests left their labor to impart the word of God unto the people, the people also left their labors to hear the word of God. And when the priest had imparted unto them the word of God they

all returned again diligently unto their labors; and the priest, not esteeming himself above his hearers, for the preacher was no better than the hearer, neither was the teacher any better than the learner; and thus they were all equal, and they did all labor, every man according to his strength."

Being an effective leader takes great humility and hard work. As you read the Book of Mormon, notice the qualities of successful leaders, and try to bring them into your life.



**reluctantly got on the soapbox. There, in front of that large, agitated crowd in London, I bore my testimony of the gospel. I declared that God had spoken again and that there was a living prophet on the earth.**

It was a cold winter night in London, England, and my first night in the British Mission. Our group of new missionaries was taken to Speakers' Corner in London's Hyde Park to experience our first "street meeting." By the time we sang a hymn and heard a rousing speech by one of the more experienced missionaries, about 100 people had gathered to hear what we had to say. In this crowd were several hecklers with strong anti-Church and anti-American sentiments. The atmosphere was very hostile.

Each new missionary took his or her turn declaring the gospel, standing on a collapsible box, called a soapbox. As a new missionary, I was scared to take my turn. I was fresh off the farm in northern Utah and frightened by the hecklers in the crowd.

The missionary who spoke before me was a wonderful new sister missionary from England. She was verbally attacked by a heckler about a world event that affected the United States but had nothing to do with the Church. The crowd became quite inflamed and unruly.

As she stepped down, the atmosphere



was electric. It was my turn to speak. I reluctantly took her place on the soapbox. There, in front of that large, agitated crowd in London, I bore my testimony of the gospel. I declared that God had spoken again and that there was a living prophet on the earth. I added a few other basics of my testimony, and in a state of shock, quickly stepped down before the hecklers could ask me any questions. I would not have dreamed that among that crowd was even one person who had listened to what I said, but I was soon to find out differently.

### **The Holy Ghost Shall Bear Record**

A young man had been doing his school homework in his family's apartment located not far from Hyde Park. For some reason, he felt prompted to go to Speakers' Corner. This was not his usual hangout, so the feeling was a little surprising to him, but he went anyway. Once he got there, he was drawn immediately to our particular street meeting just as I began to speak. He listened to my simple testimony. As he explained later, "I



felt something that I had never felt before in my life. I can only describe it as if I were floating about a foot off the ground. I didn't know what it was, but I felt something, and I needed to know more."

I was still recovering from my frightening experience when this young man came up to me and asked, "Do you mind if I ask you a question?" I could hardly believe that he wanted to ask me, a brand-new missionary, a

**E**lder Kerr taught the gospel to many crowds in England, sometimes on a soapbox and sometimes just on a wall like this one in Nottingham (opposite page). During one of those outdoor meetings, a young man (below, center, with Elder Kerr, right) was touched, and he was baptized. Elder and Sister Kerr visited this man many years later in England (top).



**E**ven though the street meetings Elder Kerr and his companions held were inspired and well received by some, the meetings usually drew hecklers (right). Elder Kerr found friendship, though, with the members in Edinburgh, Scotland (opposite page).



question. Of course I was more than happy to talk to him. We began a conversation that led to an invitation for him to come to the mission office and an opportunity for me to teach and ultimately baptize him.

I opened my mouth that night, and this young man felt something. The Spirit had touched his heart. This was evidence of the Lord's promise in D&C 100:5–6 and 8:

“Therefore, verily I say unto you, lift up your voices unto this people; speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men;

“For it shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say. . . .

“And I give unto you this promise, that inasmuch as ye do this the Holy Ghost shall be shed forth in bearing record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say.”

#### **The Power of Prayer**

Probably the most significant thing I learned while on my mission, other than the gospel, is the importance and power of prayer in missionary work—prayer plus appropriate and timely fasting.

While serving in Edinburgh, Scotland, my companion and I had decided not to proselyte in a certain area of the city because we thought other areas would be more

productive. There were only two missionaries in all of Edinburgh, a city of about a half a million people. We went about our work in other areas of the city, but we had a feeling that there may be someone we needed to teach who lived in the area in which we had chosen not to proselyte. We decided to set aside a certain day to fast and pray for that area and to proselyte there. We prayed that we would find someone who was prepared for the gospel.

On that day we knocked on the door of Alex and Lilly Clark, a young couple who invited us in right away. We taught them the first discussion and gave them a copy of the Book of Mormon. We asked them to read it and pray about it. We asked if we could return to share more of our message.

They told us that Alex was leaving the next day for a six-month military assignment. Feeling it inappropriate to meet with Lilly in Alex's absence, we gave them each a copy of the Book of Mormon and repeated our challenge to read and pray about it. We also gave them the address of our chapel.

My companion and I were impressed by them and hopeful for them, but we were not optimistic, knowing what often happens when investigators go for such a long time without contact with the missionaries.

In the meantime I was transferred from

Edinburgh to Nottingham, England. About six months after our visit with the Clarks, the mission president asked me to travel back to Edinburgh to handle some mission business. While there, my companion and I attended Sunday services at the Edinburgh branch. You can imagine my surprise and thrill when I saw Alex and Lilly Clark walk into the chapel.

Alex had just returned from his military assignment, and the two of them were soon on their way to baptism. The Clarks became active members of the Church in Edinburgh. When the Edinburgh Scotland Stake was created, Alex Clark was called to be its first stake president.

Forty-one years later, Lilly told my wife and me and two of our grown children that when my companion and I knocked on their door that day, she and Alex were busy getting him ready for his assignment. They didn't think they had time for one more thing. But when she opened the door, she was overcome with the thought: "You've come! It's you, and you've come."

Alex and Lilly were not looking for religion that day, but when we knocked on their door, Lilly knew she had to let us in. Because

she followed this prompting, her family's lives were changed forever. And so was mine!

As the Lord states in D&C 31:7: "Yea, I will open the hearts of the people, and they will receive you. And I will establish a church by your hand."

Truly the Clark's hearts were opened that day by the power of prayer in missionary work.

#### **Out Doing the Work**

There is no substitute for hard work on a mission, whether it means speaking at a street meeting, knocking on doors, or helping members to prepare friends to be taught. Nothing happens while sitting in an apartment. Missionaries have to be out doing the work.

I had a testimony before I went on a mission, but a greater spiritual witness and a greater grasp of the scriptures and the gospel came as a part of my missionary experiences. Those experiences shaped my testimony, my lasting commitment to the gospel, and my goal of an eternal family. Without my mission, my life would not be what it is today. **NE**

## **EXTRA! EXTRA!**

**T**o learn more about succeeding in missionary work, read these scriptures: D&C 43:15–16; 50:13–14; 100:4–8.

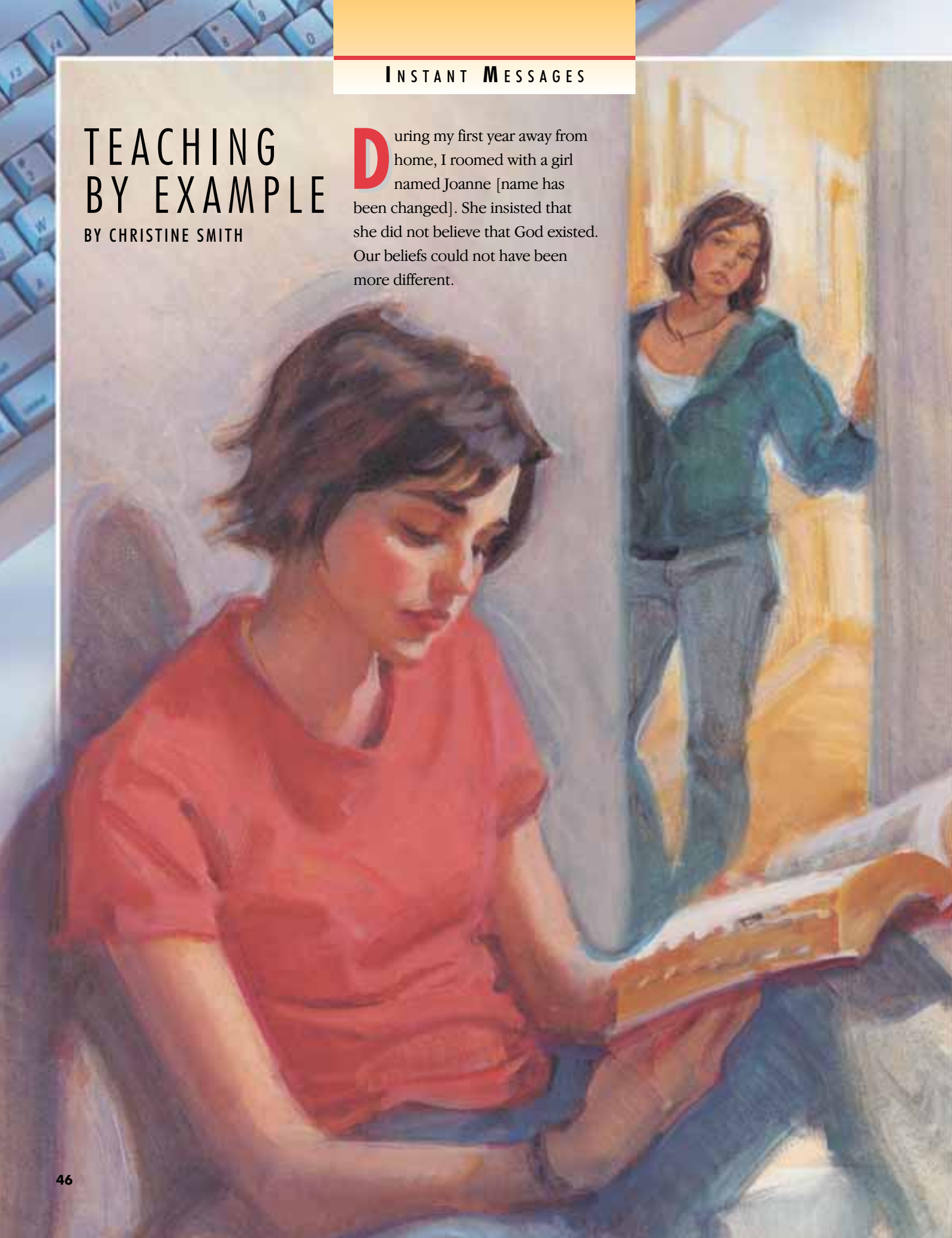
*In site:* Also read the following talks on this topic in the Gospel Library at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org): "Realize Your Full Potential," by Elder Richard G. Scott (*Ensign*, Nov. 2003), "Sharing the Gospel," by Elder Dallin H. Oaks (*Ensign*, Nov. 2001), and "Young Men—Holders of Keys," by Elder Monte J. Brough (*Ensign*, Nov. 2003).



# TEACHING BY EXAMPLE

BY CHRISTINE SMITH

**D**uring my first year away from home, I roomed with a girl named Joanne [name has been changed]. She insisted that she did not believe that God existed. Our beliefs could not have been more different.



Everything I did amazed Joanne. She wondered how I could fast on Sundays and sit through hours of Church meetings, why I dressed modestly, why I studied my scriptures, and why I woke up early to attend early-morning institute classes. She asked me lots of questions, and we had many late-night discussions about my beliefs.

Joanne started to change. She started dressing more modestly whenever she went with me to a Church activity or out with my friends. She didn't swear as much. She started attending activities with my singles ward. She talked about how welcome she felt and how kind my friends were. She wanted to know everything about their lives and our beliefs. She loved how we were able to have a great time without alcohol or drugs.

Joanne, however, still didn't understand my faith in God. One night she suddenly spoke up and asked, "What would you do if someone came up to you with absolute proof that God does not exist?"

No one had ever asked me that before. I said, "No one could prove to me that God does not exist any more than I could prove to you that He does. That is what faith is for." I told her that I feel strongly that my Father in Heaven is there and that I can never deny my faith. As I bore my testimony to her, I felt the calming spirit of the Holy Ghost come over me. I also shared some of my spiritual experiences with her and read her some scriptures.

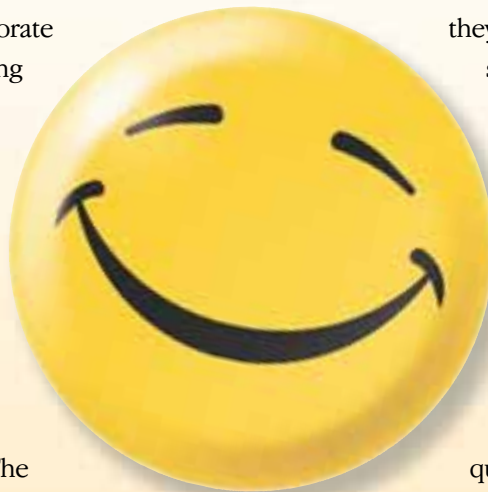
About a week later Joanne asked if she could go with me to family home

# S.M.I.L.E.

BY RYAN MEYERS

To commemorate the beginning of another year of early-morning seminary, a friend and I decided to extend a challenge to the eight students in our seminary class. The challenge was for all of us to wear our youth conference T-shirts on the first day of school.

Our youth conference theme had been S.M.I.L.E., which stands for "Spiritually Minded Is Life Eternal" (see 2 Nephi 9:39), and the youth conference leaders had given us yellow shirts with smiley faces on them. We knew that wearing the T-shirts would be difficult for some of our seminary classmates because



they would really stand out.

With six of us wearing those shirts in the same school, we got odd looks. During the day many teachers and students asked questions about the

shirts, which gave us an opportunity to explain our values and beliefs.

By the day's end, I think we were all standing a little taller. After spending a whole day of standing up for what we believed, we all had smiles on our faces—like the ones on our shirts.

*Ryan Meyers is a member of the Valley Forge First Ward, Valley Forge Pennsylvania Stake.*

evening. I agreed but informed her that we were having a testimony meeting and that she might be uncomfortable. She insisted on attending. That night, Joanne listened intently as my friends and I bore our testimonies about our faith in Jesus Christ. When we talked about what life meant to us and talked about the sacrifice that Christ made for us, I saw that she recognized that we were speaking the truth. Her eyes filled with tears, which she quickly wiped away.

I wish I could say that this story ends with her baptism, but it doesn't—at least not yet. Joanne never talked to me about that night. In fact, she avoided the subject of religion altogether for the rest of the year. However, I know I planted a seed in her heart by living my standards, bearing my testimony, and letting the Holy Ghost work.

*Christine Smith is a member of the Carson Valley Second Ward, Carson City Nevada Stake.*

# LEARNING TO PRAY

BY KUFRE ETIM

I was raised in a family of 11, including my mom and dad. We were well disciplined and religious, but we often fell short of praying as a family.

When I was seven years old, my aunt took me into her home. There I was taught the gospel because she and her husband were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

One night I was invited to pray with them before we went to bed. At first, I was a bit offended because prayer was not part of my life, but I found it easy to pray with them. After the prayer, my uncle taught me how to pray and helped me to understand the importance of praying. He explained that prayer is communication with God and that a relationship with God is impossible without prayer. He taught me that God knows our needs, but we need to ask first.

Talking to my uncle really gave me the desire to learn how to pray. The first time I prayed, I learned that I am a child of God and that He cares about me and wants me to talk to Him always. After that, I knew that when I am looking for God, I must keep calling on Him, even if I am not sure how He will answer.

I know that when we pray to God, He will make Himself known to us. If He answered me, He can likewise answer you.

*Elder Kufre Etim is serving full-time in the Nigeria Uyo Mission.*

# FAMILY PRAYER

BY MICHELLE GUECK

Every night my family and I have a family prayer. This has helped me to stay close to the gospel and the Savior. When we have challenges to overcome, we talk about them before our prayer and then pray about them.

*Michelle Gueck is a member of the Hobble Creek Seventh Ward, Springville Utah Hobble Creek Stake.*



# MESSAGES OF COMFORT

BY SYLVIA BELT

A scripture that I use for comfort is Isaiah 53:4: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows." Jesus Christ not only suffered for our sins but for our pains as well. If we cast our burdens on the Lord, He will sustain us (see Psalm 55:22). These two scriptures have never failed to comfort me.

*Sylvia Belt is a member of the BYU—Idaho 26th Ward, Brigham Young University—Idaho Second Stake.*

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

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

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

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



**Mutual Activity**

- Plan an activity night devoted to gaining an understanding of the needs of those who are dealing with a disability. Borrow crutches, a wheelchair, or other equipment such as a cane used by the blind or earplugs to replicate hearing difficulties. Try maneuvering through doors, up and down stairs, or in and out of classrooms or restrooms as well as participating in a teaching situation. Under the guidance of your youth leaders, invite several ward members, either who deal with a disability personally or who take care of someone with a disability, to talk about what is helpful and comforting and what is not.

**Service Project Suggestion**

- As a quorum or class, ask the bishopric if there is any way the youth of the ward can help other members of the ward in getting to church. Perhaps the quorum or class could arrange rides or make calls when meeting times change or when special meetings such as stake conference or general conference are held instead of regular Sunday meetings.

**Family Home Evening Ideas**

- Read together the article “Mission Made Possible” on page 12. Brainstorm some ways to help members of your family earn and save money for their missions. Consider donating the cost of the evening’s treat to either the Church’s mission fund or to a person who is saving for a mission.
- Using the article “How to Beat Bullying” on page 34 as a guide, talk about how to handle a bully and how not to bully others. Be sure to include a discussion of forgiveness.

# SUNDAY LESSON HELPS

In addition to the Resource Guides (printed in May and November in the *Ensign* and *Liahona*), Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood teachers may find these additional resources helpful in enhancing lessons 22–25.

**Young Women Manual 2**

**Lesson 22 Counseling with the Lord**

Q&A: “How can I feel peace . . . ?” *New Era*, Apr. 2004, 16.  
 Bobby Thurman, “Kneeling to Know,” *New Era*, Mar. 2004, 9.  
 Richard G. Scott, “Recognizing Answers to Prayer,” *New Era*, Aug. 2003, 4.

**Lesson 23 Fasting Brings Blessings**

Esther Hansen, “The Real Fast,” *New Era*, May 2002, 11.  
 Q&A: “Do I really need to pay a fast offering . . . ?” *New Era*, May 2003, 16.

**Lesson 24 Revelation in Our Daily Lives**

Keith Crockett, “Follow the Trail,” *New Era*, Mar. 2004, 42.  
 Marged A. Kirkpatrick, “I Didn’t Want to Die,” *New Era*, Jan. 2004, 15.

**Lesson 25 The Law of Sacrifice**

Taylor Woodruff, “Getting the Point,” *New Era*, Oct. 2003, 46.  
 Poster: “Love God with All Your Might,” *New Era*, July 2003, 19.  
 Kristen Winmill Southwick, “Birthday Temple Trip,” *New Era*, Feb. 2003, 28.

**Aaronic Priesthood Manual 2**

**Lesson 22 Patriarchal Leadership in the Home**

Boyd K. Packer, “You’re in the Driver’s Seat,” *New Era*, this issue, 4.  
 Q&A: “What can I do to stay close to my dad . . . ?” *New Era*, Feb. 2004, 16.

**Lesson 23 Practical Preparation for a Mission**

Shanna Butler, “Mission Made Possible,” *New Era*, this issue, 12.  
 Ryan Carr, “Easier than You Think,” *New Era*, this issue, 28.  
 Richard G. Scott and Charles Didier, “Be One of the Greatest,” *New Era*, Mar. 2004, 10.

**Lesson 24 The Blessings of Work**

Q&A: “Almost all the jobs I am qualified for require Sunday work . . .” *New Era*, this issue, 16.  
 Gordon B. Hinckley, “Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel,” *New Era*, July 2000, 4.

**Lesson 25 Personal Purity through Self-discipline**

Jeffrey R. Holland, “How Do I Love Thee?” *New Era*, Oct. 2003, 4.  
 Neal A. Maxwell, “Reasons to Stay Pure,” *New Era*, Mar. 2003, 42.

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**RECEIVE MY PATRIARCHAL BLESSING?**

I was reading the March 2004 *New Era* when I came across an article titled “About Patriarchal Blessings.” Earlier in the month, I had been asking Heavenly Father if I was prepared to receive my patriarchal blessing. I couldn’t wait to see what tribe of Israel I am in and what blessings I could receive in my life. That article helped me to realize that I am not quite ready to receive my patriarchal blessing, but now I know some ways to help me get ready to receive it. It also made it very clear to me that no matter what, Heavenly Father will answer my prayers in some way, whether it be a small feeling or through a magazine article.

*Kristina Davis, Santa Clara Second Ward, Eugene Oregon Santa Clara Stake*

**THE RIGHT PATH**

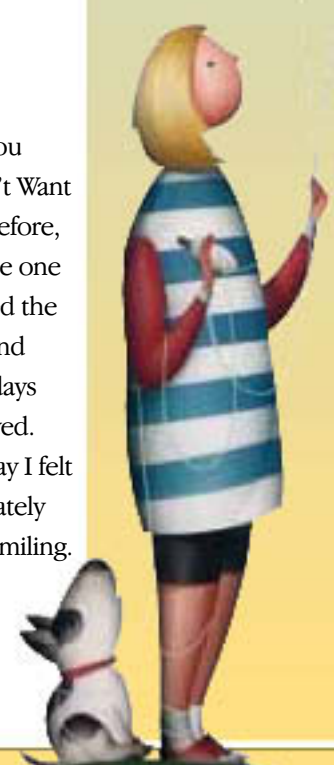
Thank you for writing “Where Is My Iron Rod?” (Jan. 2004). It really helped me through a trying time because I felt like the person in the story, and it helped me find the right path to take.

*Name withheld*

**A SMILE CAME**

I would like to thank you and tell you how much I enjoyed the story “I Didn’t Want to Die” (Jan. 2004). Just a few weeks before, I was struggling with a problem like the one described in the article. When I opened the magazine, I turned right to the story and felt like I needed to read it. For a few days I read it and studied it, and then I prayed. I poured my heart out, and the next day I felt an answer come. I felt a smile immediately come to my face, and I couldn’t stop smiling. I felt warmth and love, and I knew my worries about this problem were over. I know I can always turn to that article to remember the power of prayer and

*“I can always turn to that article to remember the power of prayer.”*



that Heavenly Father truly does love us. Thank you so much.

*Brynn Pehrson, Slate Canyon Third Ward, Provo Utah Stake*

**QUESTION ANSWERED**

Being married with young children, I thought my days of receiving insight from the *New Era* were over, but I was wrong! The Q&A for March 2004 hit a deep chord with me, especially the opening paragraph and the quote from Elder Bruce R. McConkie. Just days before receiving the issue, I was talking with a woman about what I believe in. No matter how much I could explain the doctrine, she just could not understand. I prayed about more ways I could help her understand, but several times I felt that maybe I should just let this one go. I really struggled with that prompting, but Q&A helped me to understand why I should follow that prompting.

*Name withheld*

**HOW TO WIN**

I liked the story “Church-Ball Champ” (Feb. 2004). It reminds me that you can be a winner even though you lose the game and that you need to act like a witness of God at all times and in all places. I also liked the story “Monday, Monday” (Feb. 2004) because family home evening should be a priority above all other things. The Extra Smile is a favorite of mine too. Keep printing these great articles.

*Chris Rae, Victor Falls Ward, Puyallup Washington Stake*

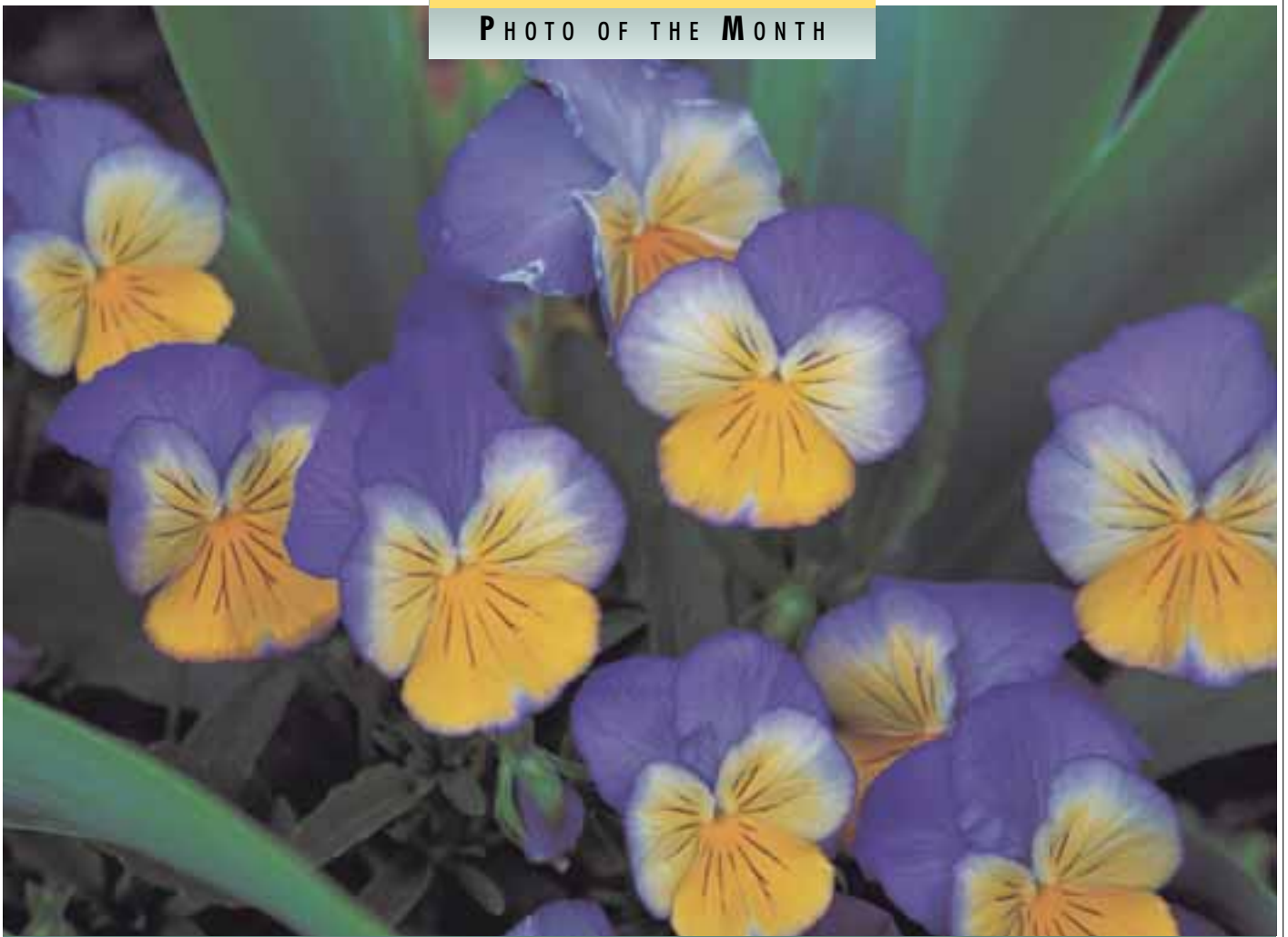
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*Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.*



BY ADAM C. OLSON

## COLORBLIND

BY KIMBERLY STOTTS HINTON

Color blindness  
is not a disability.  
It is the ability to  
see clearly  
opinions,  
beliefs,  
traditions,  
talent—  
to view a colorful world.



*“Ever since  
I was little, my favorite  
scripture has been 1 Nephi 3:7.  
If the Lord says something  
needs to be done, there’s  
always, always a way to fulfill  
it. We just have to find it.  
That’s been my motivation.”*

*See “Standing on Faith,”  
p. 20.*