



ARE MORMONS Christians?

Have you heard this question? It's one people often ask of Church members. This month's issues of the *Liahona* and *Ensign* answer the question—every article focuses on our beliefs about the Savior Jesus Christ. Some articles in the issue include the following:

📖 President Gordon

B. Hinckley testifies of the Savior, including His roles as God of the Old Testament and as resurrected Lord, the focus of our faith.

📖 Elder Russell M. Nelson explains what it means to have a dynamic faith in Jesus Christ.

📖 Elder D. Todd Christofferson teaches us how to become witnesses of the Lord.



THE CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND

The first Latter-day Saint missionaries in New Zealand arrived in Auckland in October 1854 from Australia. The first 10 converts in New Zealand were baptized five months later.

Before the missionaries arrived in the southern part of the North Island, at least five Maori leaders, some of whom were Tohungas (spiritual leaders) or other tribal wise men, had told of a “true religion” that

would come. Because many beliefs of the Maoris and missionaries were similar, a number of Maoris were converted. Here are some facts about the Church in New Zealand today.

Membership	97,474
Missions	2
Temples	1
Congregations	202
Family History Centers	56

Information from Newsroom at lds.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

362,756

Number of seminary students worldwide.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS A PLAN THAT SHOWS US HOW TO BECOME WHAT OUR HEAVENLY FATHER DESIRES US TO BECOME.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Challenge to Become," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 32.



PJ'S AND PRAYER RUGS

The Mia Maids of the Academy Park Ward in Kearns, Utah, recently held a combined Young Women activity called a PJ's party. The idea was to help the young women think about three important things to remember before going to bed each night: Prayer, Journal, Scriptures. Each girl wore a pair of pajama pants they had made the previous

month. They put together folders with scripture-study and journal-writing suggestions, and then each girl painted a prayer rug to place by their beds.

"My prayer rug is inspirational," says Holly, one of the Mia Maids. "Every night my prayer rug is there reminding me to say my prayer before getting into bed. It really has changed my praying habits."



MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

D&C 122:7-8 I love these verses! Especially verse 8. This scripture helps me realize how much Jesus Christ actually suffered for us; it is great to read when you are having trials and need help coping with them.

Sadie H., 16, Illinois
Tell us about your favorite scripture in one or two sentences. Send it to newera@ldschurch.org.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SADIE H.

Hymn Vocabulary

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

- A. BOON**
(*Hymns*, nos. 114 and 144)
1. A thick leather strap
 2. A timely benefit or blessing
 3. A thick, sweet liquid
 4. An inspiring sermon

- B. EFFULGENT**
(*Hymns*, nos. 116 and 187)
1. With great sorrow
 2. Dignified
 3. Shining brightly
 4. Completely satisfied

- C. PLAITED**
(*Hymns*, no. 191)
1. Interwoven or braided strands
 2. Protected with armor
 3. Hungry or starved
 4. Decorated with bright colors

- D. WARBLINGS**
(*Hymns*, no. 232)
1. A musical trill
 2. Young, slender trees
 3. Smooth stones
 4. Military awards

- E. GLEBE**
(*Hymns*, no. 109)
1. A plot of land
 2. A calm stretch of water
 3. Of great value
 4. Glowing or shimmering

Answers: A2, B3, B3, C1, D1, E1