

FOR YOUTH OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

THE **New Era**

MAY 2010



**SPECIAL
SECTION—
GENERAL
CONFERENCE
AND YOU**

The First Presidency:

Thomas S. Monson,
Henry B. Eyring,
Dieter F. Uchtdorf

**The Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles:**

Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry,
Russell M. Nelson, Dallin H.
Oaks, M. Russell Ballard,
Richard G. Scott, Robert D.
Hales, Jeffrey R. Holland,
David A. Bednar, Quentin L.
Cook, D. Todd Christofferson,
Neil L. Andersen

Editor: Spencer J. Condie
Advisers: Keith K. Hilbig,
Yoshihiko Kikuchi, Paul B.
Pieper

Managing Director:
David L. Frischknecht
Editorial Director:
Victor D. Cave
Graphics Director:
Allan R. Loyborg

Managing Editor:
Richard M. Romney
Assistant Managing Editor:
Janet Thomas
Associate Editors:
David A. Edwards,
Paul VanDenBerghe
Publications Assistant:
Sally J. Odekirk
Editorial Intern:
Jourdan Strain
Editorial Staff: Susan Barrett,
Ryan Carr, Jennifer L. Greenwood,
R. Val Johnson, Adam C. Olson,
Laurel Teuscher

Art Director: Brent Christison
Senior Designer: Fay P. Andrus
Design and Production Staff:
Collette Nebeker Aune, Eric P.
Johnsen, Scott M. Mooy, Jane
Ann Peters, Scott Van Kampen
Prepress: Byron Warner

Printing Director:
Craig K. Sedgwick
Distribution Director:
Randy J. Benson

© 2010 by Intellectual
Reserve, Inc. All rights
reserved. Periodicals Postage Paid
at Salt Lake City, Utah. The *New
Era* (ISSN 0164-5285) is published
monthly by The Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 E.
North Temple St., Salt Lake City,
UT 84150-3220, USA.

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to Distribution Services,
Church Magazines, P.O. Box
26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-
0368, USA.

Canada Post Information:
Publication Agreement #40017431.

**GENERAL CONFERENCE IS
FOR YOU p. 2**



General Conference Is for You 2
*Excerpts, quotes, and more from the April
general conference.*

Early Sunday Morning 20
Charles W. Dahlquist II
*Young men in Fiji are devoted to their duty
of collecting fast offerings.*

Questions and Answers 22
*"I try to be nice to my sister, but she treats me
like she can't stand to be around me. How
can I regain the friendship we used to have?"*

Reaching New Heights 24
Loran Cook
*David Foster stands tall both on and off the
basketball court.*

Help Make It Happen 26
Richard M. Romney
*A simple service project got the whole
branch in India enthused about family
home evening.*

When Ducks Don't Float 28
Wendi Wixom Taylor
*She and her sisters had to save their duck-
lings from drowning; something about it
reminded her of their mother.*

Coming Clean 30
Mark L. Allred
*A young lawyer met a young cadet who had
to face the demands of justice.*

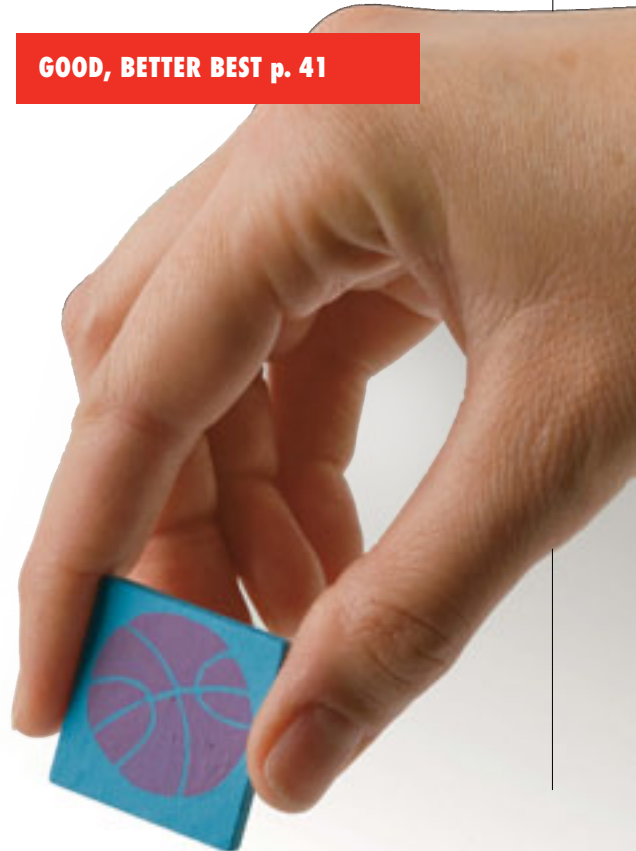
**Mormonad:
Love Grows 33**

Off the Beaten Path 34
Brian Ricks
*Just as these hikers got lost by ignoring the
markers, so can those ignoring the gospel
path.*

I Loved Going to the Temple 36
Meredith Kenney
*This young woman's first time doing bap-
tisms for the dead was a great experience.*

To Go or Not to Go 38
Kenneth Tu'Inukuafu
*Deciding to serve a mission takes prepara-
tion and knowing the Church is true.*

GOOD, BETTER BEST p. 41



**Scripture Lifeline:
Good, Better, Best** 41

Mary-Celeste Lewis
She had to find the best way to spend her time.

I Missed My Flight 42

Julia Woodbury
A problem turned into a blessing.

Instant Messages 44

Ready to give a blessing; singing Grandpa's favorite hymn; learning where I should be.



SURFING OR SEMINARY p. 46

Surfing or Seminary? 46

Wendy Kenney
Sean Kimball had to make a hard choice.

The Extra Smile 47

We've Got Mail 48

**Poem:
A Memory** 49

Danielle Beazer Dubrasky

Photo 49

Mindy Raye Holmes

Text and visual material in the New Era may be copied for incidental, noncommercial church or home use. Visual material may not be copied if restrictions are indicated in the credit line with the artwork. Copyright questions should be addressed to Intellectual Property Office, 50 E. North Temple St., Salt Lake City, UT 84150, USA; e-mail: cor-intellectualproperty@ldschurch.org.

WHAT'S ONLINE

Did you miss some of general conference, or do you want to experience it again? You can



view video, download MP3s, or read the text of the April 2010 general conference online at **generalconference.lds.org**.

Would you like to order your own copy of the general conference issue of the Ensign? Just go to **ldscatalog.com** and order the May 2010 issue.



Have you been asked to help out in family home evening? You can get

resources, including pictures, activities, and lesson topics, at **fhe.lds.org**. You can also find statements by the First Presidency about family home evening.



What's on the New Era Web page?

This month at **NewEra.Lds.org** you'll find more



MP3 Audio

general conference experiences by youth. You'll also find other music, Q&As, access to Mormonads and articles, games, downloads, cartoons and more.

**The New Era Magazine
Volume 40, Number 5
May 2010**

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

Editorial Offices:

New Era
50 E. North Temple St.
Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024,
USA

E-mail Address:

newera@ldschurch.org

To Change Address:

Send old and new address information to:
Distribution Services
P.O. Box 26368
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368,
USA.
Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.

Cover: President Monson walks with his grandson Paul Monson after a conference session. See "General Conference Is for You," p. 2.

Cover photography: Scott Davis (front) and Les Nilsson (back)

TO SUBMIT MATERIAL:

Send stories, articles, photos, poems, and ideas online at **newera.lds.org**. Click Submit Your Material, and fill in the form. Or e-mail or mail them to the Editorial Offices address above. For return, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

TO SUBSCRIBE:

By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express.
Online: Go to www.ldscatalog.com. **By mail:** Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

Visit us online at
www.NewEra.Lds.org

WORDS OF THE

Prophet

President Thomas S. Monson

***For the Strength of Youth***

“There are many tools to help you learn the lessons which will be beneficial to you. . . . One such tool is the booklet entitled *For the Strength*

of Youth, published under the direction of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. It features standards from the writings and teachings of Church leaders and from scripture, adherence to which will bring the blessings of our Heavenly Father and the guidance of His Son to each of us. In addition, there are lesson manuals, carefully prepared after prayerful consideration. Families have family home evenings, where gospel principles are taught. Almost all of you have the opportunity to attend seminary classes taught by dedicated teachers who have much to share.

- “Begin to prepare for a temple marriage as well as for a mission. Proper dating is a part of that preparation.”

- “Servants of the Lord have always counseled us to dress appropriately to show respect for our Heavenly Father and for ourselves.”

- “Everyone needs good friends. Your circle of friends will greatly influence your thinking and behavior, just as you will theirs.”

- “A Latter-day Saint young man lives as he teaches and as he believes. He is honest with others. He is honest

with himself. He is honest with God.”

- “Use language to build and uplift those around you. Profane, vulgar, or crude language and inappropriate or off-color jokes are offensive to the Lord. Never misuse the name of God or Jesus Christ.”

- “Whatever you read, listen to, or watch makes an impression on you. Pornography is especially dangerous and addictive.”

- “Hard drugs, wrongful use of prescription drugs, alcohol, coffee, tea, and tobacco products destroy your physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.”

- “Because sexual intimacy is so sacred, the Lord requires self-control and purity before marriage as well as full fidelity after marriage. In dating, treat your date with respect and expect your date to show that same respect for you.”

- “Spiritual strength frequently comes through selfless service.”

Never Lose Your Faith

“Two weeks ago I received a touching letter from a father of seven who wrote about his family and, in particular, his son Jason, who had become ill when 11 years of age. Over the next few years, Jason’s illness recurred several times. This father told of Jason’s positive attitude and sunny disposition, despite his health challenges. Jason received the Aaronic Priesthood at age 12 and ‘always

President Monson urged us to “study the messages [of this conference], to ponder their teachings, and then to apply them in your life.”

This section can help and encourage you to read and learn from general conference.

You can read the general conference messages in this month’s Ensign magazine, and you can view video, download MP3s, or read the text of the April 2010 general conference online at Conference.lds.org.

I enjoyed conference. The messages seemed to go straight to my heart. I really enjoyed that many people talked of faith. I realized I need a lot more faith in my life, and now I'm more convinced to attain faith. I love conference and know that listening to the prophet will bless my life.

Caleb W., 16, Utah, USA

willingly magnified his responsibilities with excellence, whether he felt well or not.' He received his Eagle Scout Award when he was 14 years old.

"Last summer, not long after Jason's 15th birthday, he was once again admitted to the hospital. On one of his visits to see Jason, his father found him with his eyes closed. Not knowing whether Jason was asleep or awake, he began talking softly to him. 'Jason,' he said, 'I know you have been through a lot in your short life and that your current condition is difficult. Even though you have a giant battle ahead, I don't ever want you to lose your faith in Jesus Christ.' He said he was startled as Jason immediately opened his eyes and said 'Never!' in a clear, resolute voice. Jason then closed his eyes and said no more.

"His father wrote, 'In this simple declaration, Jason expressed one of the most powerful, pure testimonies of Jesus Christ that I have ever heard. . . . As his declaration of "Never!" became imprinted on my soul that day, my heart filled with joy that my Heavenly Father had blessed me to be the father of such a tremendous and noble boy.'"

Reflections on Our Savior

"There was very little written of the boyhood of Jesus. I love the passage from Luke: 'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.' And from the book of Acts, there is a short phrase concerning the Savior which has a world of meaning: '[He] went about doing good.'"

"No words in Christendom mean more to me than those spoken by the angel to the weeping Mary Magdalene and the other Mary when, on the first day of the week, they approached the tomb to care for the body of their Lord. Spoke the angel: 'Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.'"

NEmore

For complete text of President Monson's conference addresses, go to conference.lds.org.



MAKING GOOD

Choices

**Change Is Possible**

“I will tell you one story of a young person who represents many whom I have tried to help over the years.

“She sat across from me at my bishop’s

desk. She spoke to me of her life. She had been baptized and confirmed as a member of the Church when she was eight. There were no tears in her eyes as she recounted the more than 20 years that followed, but there was sadness in her voice. She said that the downward spiral began with choices to associate with what she thought were exciting people. She began to violate what at first seemed to be less important commandments.

“She felt at first a little sadness and a twinge of guilt. But the associations with her friends provided a new feeling of being liked, and so her occasional resolutions to repent seemed less and less important. As the gravity of the commandments she was breaking increased, the dream of a happy eternal home seemed to fade.

“She sat across from me in what she called misery. She wanted me to rescue her from the trap of sin in which she found herself bound. But the only way out was for her to exercise faith in Jesus Christ, to have a broken heart, to repent, and so be cleansed, changed, and strengthened through the Lord’s Atonement. I bore my testimony to her

that it was still possible. And it was, but so much harder than it would have been to exercise faith early in her life on the journey home to God and when she first began to wander.

“So we help God’s children best by providing ways to build faith in Jesus Christ and His restored gospel when they are young. And then we must help rekindle that faith quickly before it dims as they wander off the path.”

Two Powerful Programs

“You know of two powerful programs provided by the Lord. One, for young women, is called Personal Progress. The other, for Aaronic Priesthood holders, is called Duty to God. We encourage young people in the rising generation to see their own potential to build great spiritual strength. . . .

“The two programs have been improved, but their purpose remains unchanged. President Monson put it this way: we must ‘learn what we should learn, do what we should do, and be what we should be.’”

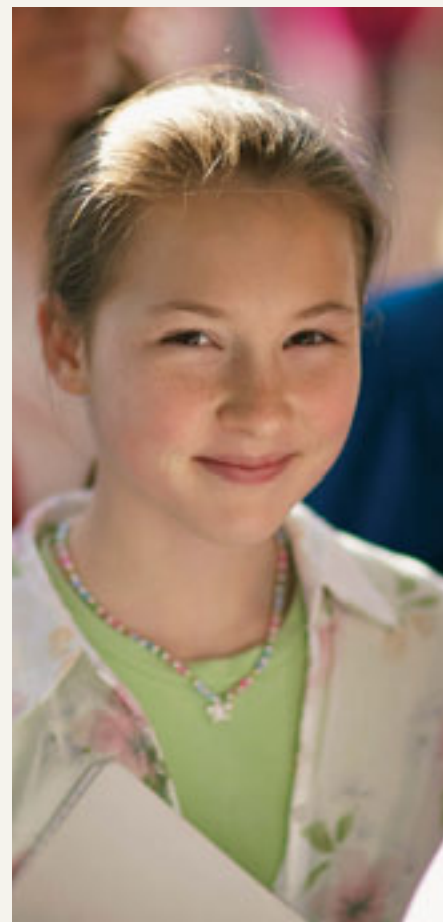
What to Do Next

“Ponder deeply and diligently in the scriptures and in the words of living prophets. Persist in prayer for the Holy Ghost to reveal to you the nature of God the Father and His Beloved Son. Plead that the Spirit will show you what the Lord wants you to do. Plan to do it. Promise Him to obey.

President Henry B. Eyring

First Counselor in the First Presidency

Act with determination until you have done what He asked. And then pray to give thanks for the opportunity to serve and to know what you might do next.”



This conference I had questions, and they were answered without fail. President Eyring answered one of my questions perfectly. I am so grateful for conference and the impact it has on my life.

Ashlee K., 19, Utah, USA

NEmore

For complete text of President Eyring’s conference addresses, go to conference.lds.org.

Love

AND PATIENCE



Loving Others

“As we extend our hands and hearts toward others in Christlike love, something

wonderful happens to us. Our own spirits become healed, more refined, and stronger. We become happier, more peaceful, and more receptive to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit.”

“Let our hearts and hands be stretched out in compassion toward others, for everyone is walking his or her own difficult path. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our Master, we are called to support and heal rather than condemn.”

The Worth of a Soul

“We cannot gauge the worth of another soul any more than we can measure the span of the universe. Every person we meet is a VIP to our Heavenly Father. Once we understand that, we can begin to understand how we should treat our fellowmen.

“One woman who had been through years of trial and sorrow said through her tears, ‘I have come to realize that I am like an old 20-dollar bill—crumpled, torn, dirty, abused, and scarred. But I am still a 20-dollar bill. I am worth something. Even though I may not look like much, and even though I have been battered and used, I am still worth the full 20 dollars.’”

“I hope that we welcome and love

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

I loved what President Uchtdorf said—that everyone is a VIP to God and that we need to seek for others’ happiness. I can see that when I look at others through God’s eyes and have a good attitude in things I do, things go smoother and happier.

Kelli H., 15, Arizona, USA

all of God’s children, including those who might dress, look, speak, or just do things differently. It is not good to make others feel as though they are deficient. Let us lift those around us. Let us extend a welcoming hand. Let us bestow upon our brothers and sisters in the Church a special measure of humanity, compassion, and charity so that they feel, at long last, they have finally found home.”

Perfecting Patience

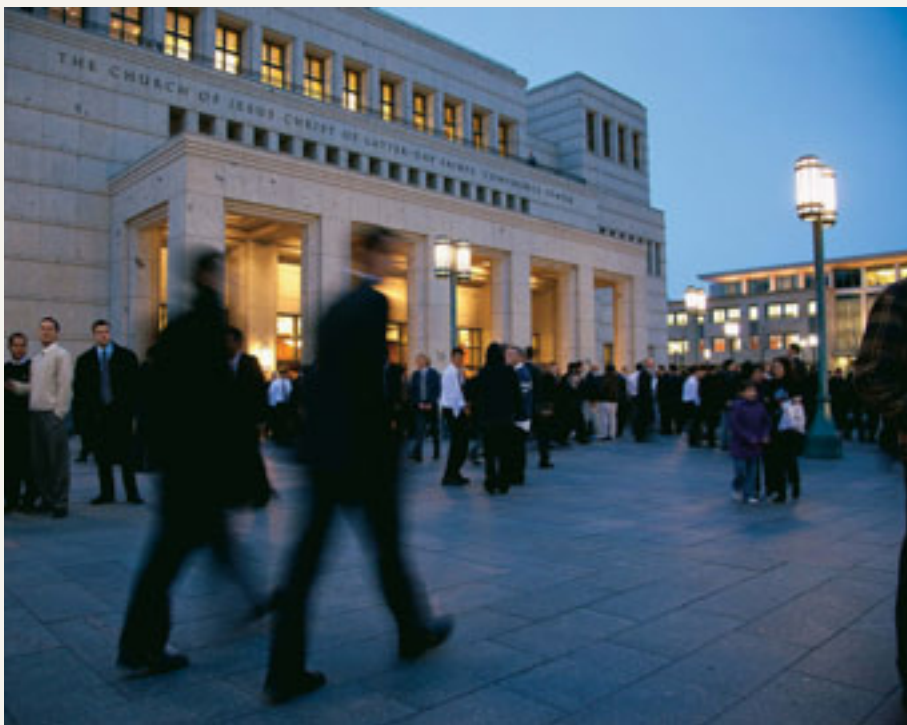
“Waiting can be hard. Children know it, and so do adults. . . . We don’t like to wait. . . .

“Patience—the ability to put our desires on hold for a time—is a precious and rare virtue. We want what we want, and we want it now. Therefore, the very idea of patience may seem unpleasant and, at times, bitter.

“Nevertheless, without patience, we cannot please God; we cannot become perfect. Indeed, patience is a purifying process that refines understanding, deepens happiness, focuses action, and offers hope for peace.”

NEmore

For complete text of President Uchtdorf’s conference addresses, go to conference.lds.org.



Our Families

AND OUR FAITH

FOLLOW YOUR MOTHER

In my profession as a farmer and a rancher, I've had a front-row seat to observe how a mother's natural affection manifests itself even in nature. Each spring we take a herd of cows and

their new calves up along Idaho's Snake River. . . .

. . . On one particularly hot spring day, I was helping with the roundup by riding at the back of the herd as it moved down the dusty road toward the corral. My job was to gather any calves that had wandered from the road. . . .

. . . After several hours of gathering up stray calves . . . , I yelled to the calves in frustration, "Just follow your mothers! They know where they're going! They've been down this road before!" . . .

As soon as we got the herd into the corral, we noticed that three of the cows were pacing nervously at the gate. They could not find their calves and seemed to sense they were back on the road somewhere. . . .

. . . We found our lost calves taking a nap in the shade. Our approach startled them, and they resisted our efforts to round them up. They were frightened because we were *not* their mothers! The more we tried to push them toward the corral, the more stubborn they became. Finally I said to the cowboys, "I'm sorry. I know better than this. Let's ride back and let their mothers out of the corral. The cows will come and get their calves, and the calves will follow their mothers." I was right. The mother cows knew exactly where to go to find their calves, and they led them back to the corral, as I had expected.

Brothers and sisters, in a world where everyone is granted agency, some of our loved ones may stray for a season. But we can never give up. We must always go back for them—we must never stop trying.

Elder Bradley D. Foster of the Seventy



I noticed that most of the talks given by the General Authorities were about families, parents, and youth. I thought this was very inspirational, because in a few years when I am married, I can use what I've learned during conference to teach my children the gospel and show proper compassion towards them.

Kristina G., 17, Alberta, Canada

All the talks in the last session have been what I have been thinking about these past months. I've been really thinking about my future family, and the talks spoke right to me.

Jessica D., 14, Washington, D.C., USA

When we sit down at the dinner table, is our whole family there? I remember as a young man asking permission to play baseball through dinnertime. "Just put my meal in the oven," I said to my mother. She responded, "Robert, I really want you to take a break, come home, be with the family for dinner, and then you can go out and play baseball until dark." She taught all of us that where family meals are concerned, it's not the food but the family interaction that nourishes the soul. My mother taught that the greatest love we give is within our homes.

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

A FATHER'S BLESSING

During the Vietnam War, we held a series of special

meetings for members of the Church called into military service. After such a meeting in Chicago, I was standing next to President Harold B. Lee when a fine young Latter-day Saint told President Lee that he was on leave to visit his home and then had orders to Vietnam. He asked President Lee to give him a blessing.

Much to my surprise, President Lee said, "Your father should give you the blessing."

Very disappointed, the boy said, "My father wouldn't know how to give a blessing."

President Lee answered, "Go home, my boy, and tell your father that you are going away to war and want to receive a father's blessing from him. If he does not know how, tell him that you will sit on a chair. He can stand behind you and put his hands on your head and say whatever comes."

This young soldier went away sorrowing.

About two years later I met him again. I do not recall where. He reminded me of that experience and said, "I did as I was told to do. I explained to my father that I would sit on the chair and that he should put his hands on my head. The power of the priesthood filled both of us. That was a strength and protection in those perilous months of battle."

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



The ultimate end of all activity in the Church is that a man and his wife and their children might be happy at home, protected by the principles and laws of the gospel, sealed safely in the covenants of the everlasting priesthood.

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The health of any society, the happiness of its people, their prosperity, and their peace all find common roots in the teaching of children in the home.

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

While temple and family history work has the power to bless those beyond the veil, it has an equal power to bless the living. It has a refining influence on those who are engaged in it. They are literally helping to exalt their families.

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

TESTIFYING OF

Jesus Christ

TSUNAMI
IN SAMOA

Presiding Bishop
H. David Burton,
Elder Tad R.

Callister, and I were able to meet with the Saints who had lost family members as a result of the tsunami that hit the eastern side of Samoa last September. The chapel was full, and it was an emotional meeting. We were able to assure these choice members that because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, they can be reunited with the loved ones they have lost.

The stake president, Sonny Purcell, was driving his car when he saw the enormous wave coming far out at sea. He honked his horn and stopped children on the road walking to school and warned them to run for higher ground and safety as fast as they could go. The children followed

his instruction. He frantically drove, reached his four-year-old daughter, put her in the car, and then tried to get to his mother. Before he could reach his mother, the wall of water picked up his car and swept it over 100 yards (91 m), where it lodged in a tree. He scrambled to secure his daughter on top of the car and then swam to rescue his mother, who was clinging to a branch of another tree near their house. With great effort he swam with her to the car and safety. Many were not as fortunate. They did not have time to get to higher ground and safety. Many lost their lives, particularly the young and the elderly.

We told the Samoan families that members all over the world expressed love and concern and had prayed for them and contributed fast offerings and humanitarian aid for both the members and their neighbors. The same is true for the members and their neighbors in Chile and Haiti. We do this because we follow Jesus Christ.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Hope comes from faith in Jesus Christ. . . . Some who at this very moment feel desperate or discouraged may wonder how they can possibly regain hope. If you are one of those, remember that hope comes as a result of faith. If we would build our hope, we must build our faith.

Elder Wilford W. Andersen of the Seventy

Atalk I really enjoyed was Elder Neil L. Andersen's. Although it was directed to the parents and leaders of children and youth, I felt I could apply his talk to my life. It is now my goal to keep Jesus Christ in my mind at all times and contemplate on His life before making decisions for my own. Throughout the day I imagine that Christ is at my side. It changes my behavior.

Elisabeth H., 15, New York, USA



I saw the conference from my stake center. It was a wonderful experience. I learned once again that the Savior has taught and spoken about how I can return to the presence of the Father. Without a doubt I know now more than ever that He lives and loves us.

Marin C., 17, Peru



We manifest our love for God when we keep His commandments and serve His children. We don't fully comprehend the Atonement, but we can spend our lives trying to be more loving and kind, regardless of the adversity we face.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The best way to make a permanent change for good is to make Jesus Christ your model and His teachings your guide for life.

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

With all my heart and soul I give thanks . . . for the life and example of Jesus the Christ, and for His sinless and selfless sacrifice. I rejoice in the fact that Christ is not dead but risen from the grave! He lives and has returned to the earth to restore His authority and gospel to man. He has given us the perfect example of the kind of men and women we should be.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Being Steadfast

AND DILIGENT

LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD

A month ago I visited a group of young women. I asked the older girls what advice they would give a new Beehive to help her to remain faithful and virtuous in every setting that she may encounter. One young woman said, “When you walk down the halls of your school, you might, out of the corner of your eye, see something that catches your attention, something that doesn’t seem right. You may be curious and want to look. My advice to you is this: Don’t look. I promise you’ll regret it if you do. Believe me; just look straight ahead.”

As I listened to this young woman, I knew I was hearing the Lord’s advice to Joshua, “turn not from it to the right hand or to the left” (Joshua 1:7), applied to an everyday setting in these latter days. . . . Avoid the temptations that surround you by strictly following the commandments. Look straight ahead at your eternal goal.

Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency

If you feel you have been wronged—by anyone (a family member, a friend, another member of the Church, a Church leader, a business associate) or by anything (the death of a loved one, health problems, a financial reversal, abuse, addictions)—deal with the matter directly and with all the strength you have. “Hold on thy way” (D&C 122:9); giving up is not an option. And, without delay, turn to the Lord. . . . Never let an earthly circumstance disable you spiritually.

**Elder Donald L. Hallstrom
of the Seventy**

Like thieves in the night, unwelcome thoughts can and do seek entrance to our minds. But we don’t have to throw open the door, serve them tea and crumpets, and then tell them where the silverware is kept! (You shouldn’t be serving tea anyway.) Throw the rascals out! Replace lewd thoughts with hopeful images and joyful memories, picture the faces of those who love you and would be shattered if you let them down.

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles**

In our world today, each child, each young man and young woman needs his or her own conversion to the truth. Each needs his or her own light, his or her own “steadfast and immovable” faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, independent of parents, youth leaders, and supportive friends.

**Elder Neil L. Andersen of the
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles**

I wasn’t having the greatest week, and I wasn’t looking forward that much to conference. But on Saturday and Sunday when I watched it, I felt a whole lot better. Conference really does make a difference in my life!

Rachel A., 14, Arizona, USA

NEmore

For short video clips of conference messages for youth, go to youth.lds.org.





SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SACRAMENT

[One young man] and another Aaronic Priesthood holder were assigned to administer the sacrament to a man who was homebound and very sick. They

arrived at his home not realizing that recent medical treatments prevented him from eating any food—even a piece of the sacrament bread. After blessing the bread, the young man presented the sacrament to the frail man. He took a piece of the blessed bread, waited a moment, and then held it against his lips. The young man said when he saw this faithful brother express his reverence for the sacrament, he felt as though he were watching him kiss the feet of the Savior. He could tell that he loved Him.

The significance of the sacrament was impressed upon that young man in an unforgettable way that day. You will have sacred experiences, just as this young man did.

David L. Beck, Young Men general president

When we choose to disobey a commandment, it is usually because (1) we have convinced ourselves that the commandment does not apply to us; (2) we do not believe that it is important; or (3) we are certain that it is too difficult to obey. . . .

. . . The Lord's response when we obey His commandments is sure. He has promised us, "If you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life."

Elder Bruce A. Carlson of the Seventy

All youth will be more likely to make and keep covenants if they learn how to recognize the presence and the voice of the Spirit. Teach your daughters [and sons] about things of the Spirit. Point them to the scriptures. Give them experiences that will help them cherish the blessing of priesthood power in their lives. Through keeping covenants they will learn to hear the voice of the Lord and receive personal revelation. God will truly hear and answer their prayers. The Mutual theme for 2010 applies to our youth as well as to all of us: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9). This will lead them safely to the blessings of the house of the Lord.

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Before conference I prayed to the Lord telling Him of my doubts and hopes. During each and every talk I received personal revelation and I am now taking practical decisions to apply those teachings into my personal life. I am so grateful for all the inspiring and inspired messages. I love general conference!

Camilla A., 17, Argentina

FINDING

Answers

General conference approached as I struggled to find and understand answers to my questions. Most of the talks seemed to be specifically for me. Especially as I heard the prophet's talks, I know that God has been listening to my prayers and that He is aware of everything that I have been going through. I gained a desire to study and better understand the Atonement. Most importantly, my testimony has been edified. I can now say bravely and boldly that I know with every inch of me, with every little atom of my body and with all of my spirit, that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love me. This general conference has helped me to rededicate myself to living the gospel, and I am truly grateful that I was able to listen and learn.

Sophia B., 17, California, USA

Temptation is so strong. Can I really resist it and repent?

We can reject the evil one. If we want it dearly and deeply enough, that enemy can and will be rebuked by the redeeming power of the Lord Jesus Christ. . . . The light of His everlasting gospel can and will again shine brightly where we feared life had gone hopelessly, helplessly dark.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

What is a testimony, and how can I gain one?

Testimony is personal knowledge, based upon the witness of the Holy Ghost, that certain facts of eternal significance are true. The Holy Ghost is the messenger for the Father and the Son and the teacher of and guide to all truth (see John 14:26; 16:13). Thus, “by the power of the Holy Ghost [we] may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:5).

. . . Seeking for and obtaining these blessings require a sincere heart, real intent, and faith in Christ (see Moroni 10:4).

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

How can I truly feel that I am beautiful?

I learned about what I now call “deep beauty”—the kind of beauty that shines from the *inside* out. It is the kind of beauty that cannot be painted on,



surgically created, or purchased. It is the kind of beauty that doesn't wash off. It is *spiritual* attractive-

ness. Deep beauty springs from virtue. It is the beauty of being chaste and morally clean. . . . It is a beauty that is earned through faith, repentance, and honoring covenants.

The world places so much emphasis on physical attractiveness and would have you believe that you are to look like the elusive model on the cover of a magazine. The Lord would tell you that you are each uniquely beautiful.

Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president

How can I make good judgments?

Good judgment is needed not only in understanding people but also in facing decisions that often lead us to or away from our Heavenly Father. . . .

. . . The standards of morality are eternal and have not changed; neither should we try to discover a new interpretation of them. For the youth these standards are written in the pamphlet *For the Strength of Youth*. These standards are clearly aligned with the gospel of Jesus Christ and are intended to continue through adult life. . . .

. . . We are given the gift of the Holy



Ghost after our baptism, but often we leave this gift on the shelf, forgetting that He will help us



If you listen to general conference, you can often find answers to the questions that concern you.

in the most important judgments of our lives. The Lord gave us this gift, knowing we would face difficult decisions in life. Listening to this voice is vital in developing good judgment.

Elder Gregory A. Schwitzer of the Seventy

What things will help me develop real faith?

Faith will not come from the study of ancient texts as a purely academic pursuit. It will not come from archeological digs and discoveries. It will not come from scientific experiments. It will not even come from witnessing miracles. These things may serve to confirm faith, or at times to challenge it, but they do not create faith. Faith comes by the witness of the Holy Spirit to our souls, Spirit to spirit, as we hear or read the word of God. And faith matures as we continue to feast on upon the word.

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

How serious is it, really, to break the Church’s moral standards?

In a complete reversal from a century ago, many today would dispute . . . about the seriousness of immorality. Others would argue that it’s all relative or that God’s love is permissive. If there is a God, they say, He excuses all sins and misdeeds because of His love for us—there is no need for repentance. Or at most, a simple confession will do. They have imagined a Jesus who wants people to work for social justice



but who makes no demands upon their personal life and behavior. . . . The scriptures are . . . clear that real happiness lies not in denying the justice of God or trying to circumvent the consequences of sin but in repentance and forgiveness through the atoning grace of the Son of God (see Alma 42).

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Why me?

We must always attempt to correct the problem and overcome the trial, but instead of asking “Why me?” or “What did I do to deserve this?” maybe

the question should be “What am I to do? What can I learn from this experience? What am I to change?”

Elder James B. Martino of the Seventy

***B**efore conference I wrote down gospel questions I had. Through the sessions I got a lot of advice that applies to what I had written down and advice about other things too. I’m grateful for conference, and I love our Church leaders and their counsel.*

Hannah G., 15, Utah, USA



Why are some people who receive priesthood blessings not healed?

If faith is sufficient and if the Lord wills it, the afflicted person will be healed or blessed whether the officiator speaks those words or not. Conversely, if the officiator yields to personal desire or inexperience and gives commands or words of blessing in excess of what the Lord chooses to bestow according to the faith of the individual, those words will not be fulfilled. . . . The words spoken in a healing blessing can edify and energize the faith of those who hear them, but the effect of the blessing is dependent upon faith and the Lord's will, not upon the words spoken by the elder who officiated.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

What should I do if my prayers seem unanswered?

Heavenly Father does hear and answer our prayers. But often patience is required when we are “wait[ing] upon the Lord” (Isaiah 40:31). As we wait, we may begin to believe that we have been forsaken or that our prayers were not heard or that possibly we are not worthy to have them answered. This is not true. I love King David's comforting words: “I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry” (Psalm 40:1).

Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency



What is true love?

True love requires action. We can speak of



love all day long—we can write notes or poems that proclaim it, sing songs that praise it, and preach sermons that encourage it—but until we manifest that love in action, our words are nothing but “sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

True love endures. But lust changes as quickly as it can turn a pornographic page or glance at yet another potential object for gratification walking by, male or female. True love



we are absolutely giddy about—as I am about Sister Holland; we shout it from the housetops. But lust is characterized by shame and stealth and is almost pathologically clandestine—the



later and darker the hour the better, with a double-bolted door just in case. Love makes us instinctively reach out to God and other people. Lust, on the other hand, is anything but godly and celebrates self-indulgence. Love comes with open hands and open heart; lust comes with only an open appetite.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

What is the Atonement, and what is its role in my life?

The Atonement gives all the opportunity to overcome the consequences of mistakes made in life. When we obey a law, we receive a blessing. When we break a law, there is nothing left over from prior obedience to satisfy the demands of justice for that broken law. The Savior's Atonement

permits us to repent of any disobedience and thereby avoid the penalties that justice would have imposed.

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Why should I read the scriptures so often?



Many answers to difficult questions are found by reading the scriptures because the scriptures are an aid to revelation. Insight found in scripture accumulates over time, so it is important to spend some time in the scriptures every day.

Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president

What am I really in control of in my life?

Remember that the only real control in life is self-control. Exercise more control over even the marginal moments that confront you. If a TV show is indecent, turn it off. If a movie is crude, walk out. If an improper relationship is developing, sever it. Many of these influences, at least initially, may not technically be evil, but they can blunt our judgment, dull our spirituality, and lead to something that could be evil. An old proverb says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step, so watch your step.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

What is the difference between the authority and power of the priesthood?

The authority of the priesthood is with us. After all that we have correlated and organized, it is now our responsibility to activate the *power* of the priesthood in the Church.

Authority in the priesthood comes by way of ordination; *power* in the priesthood comes through faithful and obedient living in honoring covenants. It is increased by exercising and using the priesthood in righteousness.

President Boyd K. Packer President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

If I'm sick, should I go to the doctor or just get a blessing?

The use of medical science is not at odds with our prayers of faith and our reliance on priesthood blessings. When a person requested a priesthood blessing, Brigham Young would ask, "Have you used any remedies?" To those who said no because "we wish the Elders to lay hands upon us, and we have faith that we shall be healed," President Young replied:

"That is very inconsistent according to my faith. . . ."



. . . Of course we don't wait until all other methods are exhausted before we pray in faith or give priesthood blessings for healing. In emergencies, prayers and blessings come

first. Most often we pursue all efforts simultaneously.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



I was touched during Elder Holland's talk. This is a subject that was taught about in our ward conference recently. We need to stand up against this weapon of Satan's and put our trust in the Lord.

Adam K., 15, Washington, USA

When Elder Holland took his place at the pulpit and explained that the subject he would talk on was very serious, it caught my attention. He looked as though he carried the weight of the world on his shoulders. I knew he had something important to say. He talked of true love and chastity and self-control. "The only real control in life is self-control," said Jeffrey R. Holland. It hit me. I knew what I needed to work on—self-control.

Eva S., 14, Utah, USA

This conference was especially wonderful for me. Before conference, I had been praying with some questions. Throughout the four sessions, I felt the spirit so strongly and knew with all my heart that what they were saying was true. I couldn't deny the truth because all of the questions I had were answered. I know that Thomas S. Monson truly is a prophet of God and that what he tells us is true.

Bailey F., 13, New York, USA

Learn, Act, and Share

DOING YOUR DUTY TO GOD

I have a new motivation to be a better priesthood holder and serve the Lord. I love quotes like “True love requires action,” or “If there is a design in this world there must be a designer,” and also “The Church proclaims, promotes, and protects the truth.” Quotes like these help me remember to be a better young man.

Jesse M., 18, Utah, USA

I liked the fact that many of the speakers chose to direct their remarks to us, the youth. I especially liked when President Eyring spoke of the importance of the youth programs.

Zachary S., 13, North Carolina, USA

General conference has helped me to increase my desire to serve a mission. So many talks addressed missionaries or even missionaryary work. I liked Elder D. Todd Christofferson’s talk about the scriptures, because I never had before considered that the people of the world didn’t have access to scripture quite like what we have today.

Steven M., 20, Missouri, USA

As a deacon, teacher, and priest, you will participate in activities that will help you build spiritual strength and learn and fulfill your priesthood duties. Each activity follows this simple pattern:

First you **learn** about a gospel principle or a priesthood duty. You discover what Heavenly Father wants you to do, and you strive to gain a spiritual witness about why it is important.

Next you make plans to **act** on what you have learned. You are encouraged to base your plans on your own needs, circumstances, and opportunities to serve others. This is a wonderful chance to take responsibility for your own growth and develop spiritual self-reliance.

Then you **share** what you learn and experience with others. As you do so, you will strengthen your testimony and build faith in those around you. You will increase your ability to talk about the gospel with others. . . .

. . . I testify that your faithful service in the Aaronic Priesthood will change the lives of those you serve. There are people who need your priesthood service. Your family needs you. Your quorum needs you. The Church needs you. The world needs you.

David L. Beck, Young Men general president

“Come all ye sons of God who have received the priesthood.” Let us consider our callings, let us reflect on our responsibilities, and let us follow Jesus Christ, our Lord.

President Thomas S. Monson

The stage is yours, my dear Aaronic Priesthood boys. Are you ready and willing to play your part? The Lord needs every able young man to prepare and recommit, starting tonight, to be worthy of a call from the prophet of God to serve a mission.

Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Seventy

Just a few weeks ago, I saw a new deacon start on that path of diligence. His father showed me a diagram his son had created that showed every row in their chapel, a number for each deacon who would be assigned to pass the sacrament, and their route through the chapel to serve the sacrament to the members. The father and I smiled to think that a boy, without being asked to do it, would make a plan to be sure he would succeed in his priesthood service.

I recognized in his diligence the pattern from the new *Duty to God* booklet. It is to learn what the Lord expects of you, make a plan to do it, act on your plan with diligence, and then share with others how your experience changed you and blessed others.

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

Adult members of the Church should understand that Personal Progress and Duty to God requirements are not just lengthy lists of items to check off. They are personal goals set by each young man and young woman to help them become worthy to receive temple ordinances, serve missions, enter into eternal marriage, and enjoy exaltation. *But let it be understood: for young men and young women to try to accomplish these goals alone would be a great loss and tragedy!*

Fathers, mothers, and leaders of youth, we urge you to participate in Personal Progress and Duty to God with your children and with the youth. Not only will they grow; you will grow too. And just as importantly, you will grow together in a bond of faith and friendship that will allow you to strengthen each other and stay on the gospel path forever.

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

NEmore

For more information about the new Duty to God program, go to DutyToGod.lds.org.

AS DAUGHTERS OF GOD, Stand Out

Young women of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, remember who you are! You are elect. You are daughters of God. You cannot be a generation of young women who are content to fit in. You must have the courage to stand out, to “arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations.” The world would have you believe that you are not significant—that you are out of fashion and out of touch. The world calls to you with unrelenting, noisy voices to “live it up,” “try everything,” “experiment and be happy.” Conversely, the Holy Ghost whispers and the Lord invites you to “walk in the paths of virtue,” “lay aside the things of this world,” “and cleave unto [your] covenants.”

Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president

Personal Progress provides a wonderful way for you to nourish your testimony step by step. Value experiences and projects are small steps that will nourish your testimony of Jesus Christ as you learn His teachings and regularly apply them in your life. This constant nourishment will keep you safely on the path.

Mary N. Cook, first counselor in the Young Women general presidency

As one of His precious daughters, you have access to His assurance and guidance through the power of prayer.

Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency

On the first page of your *Young Women Personal Progress* book you will find these words: “You are a beloved daughter of Heavenly Father, prepared to come to the earth at this particular time for a sacred and glorious purpose.”

Sisters, those words are true! They are not made up in a fairy tale! Isn't it remarkable to know that our eternal Heavenly Father knows you, hears you, watches over you, and loves you with an infinite love? In fact, His love for you is so great that He has granted you this earthly life as a precious gift of “once upon a time,” complete with your own true story of adventure, trial, and opportunities for greatness, nobility, courage, and love. And, most glorious of all, He offers you a gift beyond price and comprehension. Heavenly Father offers to you the greatest gift of all—eternal life—and the opportunity and infinite blessing of your own “happily ever after.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

I really appreciated the many talks on motherhood because it showed how much young women need to learn to become great mothers. It also showed me that even though young men have the priesthood, young women have an equally important role in becoming nurturers and mothers in the home.

Jamie H., 13, California, USA

At a time when evil tries to destroy our families, this conference was inspiring and exciting. It reminded us that we must take care, live the gospel of Christ, and reach exaltation together! I love learning from the Apostles and the prophet. It is wonderful, and I am very grateful for that opportunity!

Brenda S., 16, Brazil

I think it's wonderful how all of the speakers at general conference always have a smile and a happy attitude. It is nice to be able to listen to Church leaders who believe in us youth and have faith that in this crazy world we can stand firm as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Ivy O., 14, Arizona, USA



NEmore

For more information on Personal Progress, go to PersonalProgress.lds.org.

Learning

FROM CONFERENCE

Here are some things that can enhance your study of general conference.

STORY INDEX

Speakers in general conference often use stories to illustrate the principles they are teaching. You might consider using these stories in a talk or a lesson. Here are some of the stories that were told in conference. You can find them by looking up the speakers' talks in the *Ensign* or at conference.lds.org.

1. A hike to a cave becomes an example of overcoming adversity. (Mary N. Cook)
2. Scripture study helps a youth forgive friends. (Mary N. Cook)
3. Youth of a noble birthright. (Elaine S. Dalton)
4. Not judging a book by its cover. (Elder Gregory A. Schwitzer)
6. Mother knows best. (Elder Bradley D. Foster)
7. The life and trials of William Tyndale. (Elder D. Todd Christofferson)
8. How we react to adversity. (Elder James B. Martino)
9. The plan of salvation comforts a family dealing with cancer. (Elder Wilford W. Andersen)
10. An experience assigning missionaries to missions. (Elder Ronald A. Rasband)
11. A concentration camp survivor practices forgiveness. (Bishop Keith B. McMullin)
12. A personal conversion story. (Elder Koichi Aoyagi)
13. Reacting to problems the right way. (Elder Donald L. Hallstrom)
14. Never being old enough to watch certain movies. (Elder Robert D. Hales)

LOOK FOR LISTS

You can learn a lot by looking for lists, both in the scriptures and in general conference talks. Such lists of commandments, principles, or counsel, are often paired with or followed by promised blessings. Here are some examples from this conference. Find these lists, or others, then share what you discovered with us at newera@ldschurch.org.

President Thomas S. Monson—how to prepare for a full-time mission

President Henry B. Eyring—ways to learn, act, and share, based on new Duty to God materials

Elder Richard G. Scott—challenges faced by the Savior

Elder David A. Bednar—components of a spiritual early warning system

Elder D. Todd Christofferson—blessings from the scriptures

Bishop Keith B. McMullin—our duty as Church members

David L. Beck—blessings that come by doing your duty to God

Ann M. Dibb—four guides from Joshua

Elder James B. Martino—ways to overcome trials in life



THE SCRIPTURES IN GENERAL CONFERENCE

As you study the messages from general conference, you might want to look up the following scriptures, which were referred to most often in the conference:

- Moses 1:39
- D&C 13:1
- D&C 25:13
- John 14:27
- 2 Nephi 2:11
- D&C 19:16
- Helaman 5:12
- John 19:30
- Joshua 1:9
- D&C 20:77
- John 14:6
- Mosiah 18:9

Here are some other scriptures that were referred to more than once:

- Psalm 40:1
- John 11:25
- Alma 56:48
- D&C 88:90–91
- Ecclesiastes 12:13
- John 19:30
- 3 Nephi 17:11
- D&C 90:24
- Isaiah 40:31
- Galatians 5:22
- Moroni 10:4
- D&C 107:3
- Matthew 5:44
- Ephesians 6:18
- Moroni 10:5
- D&C 121:45
- Matthew 11:28
- 1 Nephi 2:10
- D&C 11:13–14
- D&C 138:31
- Luke 18:35–43
- 2 Nephi 2:25
- D&C 19:18
- JS—H 1:17
- Luke 23:34
- 2 Nephi 32:3
- D&C 20:77
- Luke 23:46
- Mosiah 3:19
- D&C 84:38
- John 3:16
- Alma 36:18
- D&C 87:8

Here are some seminary scripture mastery verses that were mentioned in general conference:

- Moses 1:39
- John 7:17
- Mosiah 3:19
- D&C 18:10
- Genesis 39:9
- John 17:3
- Alma 37:6
- D&C 19:16–19
- Job 19:25
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Alma 41:10
- D&C 25:12
- Proverbs 3:3–5
- 1 Corinthians
- Helaman 5:12
- D&C 76:22–23
- Isaiah 1:18
- 15:21–22
- Moroni 10:4–5
- D&C 82:10
- Isaiah 53:4–5
- 2 Nephi 2:25
- JS—H 1:17
- D&C 84:33–38
- Matthew 25:40
- 2 Nephi 32:3
- D&C 14:7

Here are some stories from the scriptures that were told in general conference:

- Gideon (President Packer)
- Alma and Korihor (Elder Christofferson)
- Jeroboam (Elder Carlson)
- Naaman (Elder Carlson)
- Laman and Lemuel (Elder Carlson)
- Parable of the Pharisee and the publican (President Uchtdorf, Sunday morning)
- Easter and the Atonement (Elder Scott and President Monson, Sunday morning)
- Joseph Smith in Liberty Jail (Elder Hallstrom)
- Jesus and the Nephite parents (Sister Lant)
- Last Supper (Elder Cook)
- Jesus and His mother (Elder Foster)
- Mary and Martha (Elder Schwitzer)

NEmore

Check out a beta version of the conference Web page at beta.lds.org/general-conference.



I learned so much about how integral the family is to Heavenly Father's plan for us on earth. I learned how to more easily get through trials or struggles that I go through in my life by leaning on the Savior and turning my heart towards Him. The scripture mastery Helaman 5:12 was used by Church leaders, and now I understand just how incredibly important it is: building our foundations on Christ means we cannot fall.

Heather H., 16, Utah, USA

The most important values and virtues that you will learn are taught at home. General conference is the best way to learn how to serve the Lord and teach the gospel. My family uses conference week-ends to invite less-active members to experience the words of the prophet and the General Authorities.

Thomas R., 14, Missouri, USA



By Charles W. Dahlquist II

Served as Young Men general president from 2004 to 2009

EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

These young men in Fiji get up early and walk a long way, but they eagerly do their duty.

It's Saturday evening in the Waila Ward of the Nausori Fiji Stake. The responsibilities of the day are fulfilled, and holders of the Aaronic Priesthood have prepared for the Sabbath and are now gathered at the home of Brother and Sister Maiwiriwiri. It is an opportunity for them to have a small meal before beginning their fast—followed by an evening sleeping on mats in the Maiwiriwiris' home.

Morning for these young men of the Aaronic Priesthood comes early. Long before daybreak, they quickly arise, don their white shirts and ties and their dark slacks, and by 6:00 a.m. they have left the home of Brother and Sister Maiwiriwiri in pairs—much like missionaries. Each of these companionships has a specific route to take in order to get to the chapel by 10:00 a.m., when priesthood meeting begins. Their

responsibility is to stop at each member's home on their route and invite them to contribute fast offerings.

These young men walk three miles (5 km) from the Maiwiriwiris' home at one end of the ward to the meetinghouse at the other end of the ward. This is an opportunity to fulfill their duty and invite members of the Church to participate in the great work of caring for the widows and for their brothers and sisters by contributing fast offerings. President Alipate Tagidugu of the Nausori Fiji Stake commented that as

The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and to be with them and strengthen them; . . . and also see that all the members do their duty" (D&C 20:53, 55).

a result of this effort by the Aaronic Priesthood, fast offering contributions have gone up 20 percent.

Just as important, these young men have an opportunity to fulfill their duty and help the members of the ward keep their covenants made at baptism:

"As ye are desirous to come into





What a blessing for these priesthood bearers to know they have invited members to come closer to the Savior.

The day starts early, but with smiles these young men walk from one end of the ward to the other, gathering fast offerings along the way.

the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light;

“Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life” (Mosiah 18:8–9).

For these great young men, collecting fast offerings is not a burden but a blessing. They gladly wear their white shirts and ties, eagerly rise early, and willingly knock on the doors of the members in the early-morning hours to invite them to partake of the blessings that come from giving a

generous fast offering.

As I watched these young men prepare for and fulfill their duty as priesthood holders, I thought what a wonderful blessing it will be to them throughout their lives to understand the significance of their efforts in inviting members of the Church to come closer to the Savior through giving fast offerings. How much better missionaries they will be, and how much better husbands and fathers they will be as a result of their priesthood efforts.

They will better understand this scripture about the Lord's people: “The Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them” (Moses 7:18). **NE**

“I try to be nice to my sister, but she treats me like she can’t stand to be around me. How can I regain the friendship we used to have?”

When someone treats us badly, it’s easy to want to give them “a taste of their own medicine.” But remember that copying bad behavior has never resolved a conflict and never will. If you feel tempted to be rude in return, think of Jesus Christ, who was kind to all people, even those who ridiculed and persecuted Him. The Savior said, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you” (Matthew 5:44).

Make the first step by praying for guidance and then talking to your sister. Tell her that you’re not happy that things aren’t good between you and that you’re sorry if you did anything to make it that way. You are partially in control of the relationship, so sincerely act how you want the relationship to be. Try to do nice things for her when you see the opportunity and let her know how much you love her.

It is our responsibility to respond to anger with kindness and service, just as the Savior did. The more your sibling realizes you love and care about her, the more she will want to be closer to you as a friend. **NE**

Give Service



I have three sisters, so I know how it feels when they get mad at me. I have found a few things that are helpful in gaining a good relationship with them. It is essential that

they know you love and care about them. You could write down the good things you see in your sister in a letter and give it to her. Also, set aside a part of the day to spend time with her doing things she likes to do. Perform little acts of service to let her know that you love her. If she gets mad at you, just smile. The only way to gain love and respect is to give it.

Becky D., 15, Utah

Write a Kind Note



In the Personal Progress book, one of the requirements is to get closer to a family member and write kind letters to them for two weeks. I was having a hard time getting along with my brother, so I decided to give it a try. In the first note that I sent, I explained to him that I didn’t like the way we were treating each other and that I would like to work harder on trying to be nicer to one another. Right after the first note I sent, I found a note from my brother explaining that he felt like that too. After that our friendship got a whole lot better, just from a simple loving note.

M'Lynn Y., 13, Idaho

Mind Your Actions



You can’t really control the way your sister treats you, but you can control your actions. One way to help your sister soften her heart is to serve her in any way you can

think of. Also, pray for your sister. As you do so, your love for her will grow. The reason why this will happen is because charity is the pure love of

Christ, and with love, contention leaves. I know this will work, because I have been that person who was rude, and I was changed through the thoughtful service and love of another person.

Elder Lennberg, 20, Canada Halifax Mission

Adjust Your Attitude



My sister and I bicker. Whenever I feel particularly stressed about our fight, I walk away and go to a private place that is quiet. I read verses from my scriptures or turn on soft music or bow my head in prayer. After a few hours, things calm down, and my sister and I talk about who was hurt and why.

Megan G., 14, Arizona

Pray for Guidance

My brother and I never used to get along. Then one day when I was on a vacation, he gave me a call to check on me. From then on, we both got along. All it took was one nice gesture at the right time. We talked about it later, and we just agreed that we both had stopped making an effort not to be rude. Discussing it helped strengthen our friendship, and though it took time, once we realized it took effort from both of us, we began becoming much closer.

Megan G., 19, Virginia

Ask for Help



Strive and continue to be kind and nice to your sister even though she doesn't show you respect back. Try and look for

guidance. Ask the Lord in prayer to soften the heart of your sister. Ask your parents and discuss with them how you can resolve the situation. You can regain friendship by doing what Jesus Christ wants you to do.

Ethan G., 17, California

Encourage Righteous Living



I used to have that situation as well. My sibling and I didn't get along at all. Getting back and tattling never worked and made me feel worse, and it didn't help get the friendship back. As time passed, I realized that I should start to be an example. I wasn't rude as often, and I started to be more Christlike toward my sibling by helping out and encouraging scripture study and uplifting music. My sibling started to take me seriously and started being more like a friend to me.

Alex P., 14, Idaho

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



HAVE CHRISTIAN COURAGE

When we do not retaliate—when we turn the other cheek and resist feelings of anger—we too stand with the Savior. We show forth His love, which is the only power that can subdue the adversary and answer our accusers without accusing them in return.”

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “That Is Christian Courage,” *New Era*, July 2009, 4.

NEXT QUESTION

“Whenever I invite my friend to come to church and activities, she wants to come, but her parents won't let her. Is there anything I can do?”

Send us your answer and photo by June 15, 2010.

Go to newera.lds.org, click Submit Your Material, and then select Questions and Answers.

You can also write to us at:

newera@ldschurch.org

or

New Era, Q&A, friend

50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

David Foster stands tall, but not just on the basketball court.

It's not hard for 7-foot-3-inch (2.8-meter) David Foster to stand out in a crowd.

But standing up for what he believes in is something he has grown into his whole life. A recently returned missionary, David attends the Salt Lake University 28th Ward. In addition to playing college basketball, he serves as president of the LDS Athletes Association at the institute of religion, where he encourages other athletes to be involved in gospel study. In addition, David is a mentor for student athletes who need to improve their grades.

Your family lives in Lake Forest,

California. Do they miss you? I have eight brothers and sisters; three are under five years old. We got to do a Web chat yesterday, and they miss me like crazy.

You are a returned missionary and a successful basketball player. Do your younger siblings look up to you? Both my older sister and I served missions, and my dad has always made serving a mission a point with us kids. He tells the younger ones that they have to look up to our examples and that they should do the same thing.

Did you always want to play basketball? I actually grew up as a soccer player. I found I had more passion kicking the ball around with my feet. I loved it. I still do, but I just don't have much of an opportunity to play soccer right now.



REACHING

NEW HEIGHTS

As a student athlete do you find it hard to fit everything in? It can be. I need to be better at using a planner, but I have a pretty good memory. I just need to prioritize things now even more because I plan to be married in the temple in May.

What are you doing to prioritize right now? Setting goals is really the most important thing right now. Church, taking care of things in the classroom and on the court, and of course being with my fiancée. I think that falls under church and preparing ourselves.

Do you think your mission prepared you for what you are doing on court? Absolutely. I think the difference between leadership in the mission and leadership in basketball is trying to get into the rhythm of things in basketball and learning the game and being able to speak up and be a voice on the team.

Do you have any advice for those preparing to go on a mission? Yes. Learn to communicate and develop people skills. Also, drench yourself in the *Preach my Gospel* manual. It's inspired writing from Church leaders, and our mission focused heavily on that manual.

What have you learned since coming home from your mission? Do the simple things. Success lies in those details. If I continue to read my scriptures, pray daily, pay my tithing, and attend the temple, the Lord is going to take care of me. Just the simple things like that add up. **NE**

—As told to Loran Cook

Name:

David Foster

Location: Salt Lake City, Utah

Major Accomplishments: David has shattered the University of Utah record for blocked shots per season and is fourth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association for blocks per game.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL VANDENBERGHE

Help Make It Happen

That's what these young women from India say since their simple service project got their whole branch excited about family home evening.

By Richard M. Romney

Church Magazines

The young women of the Chennai Second Branch, Chennai India District, wanted to encourage branch members to hold family home evening. It didn't take them long to come up with a simple but practical idea. They made family home evening wheels: charts with a spinner to keep track of assignments like saying prayers, giving the lesson, and preparing a "sweet."

The paper wheels were simple but colorful. They were assembled at a Young Women activity at the meeting-house one night, each one personalized with photos of the family it was made for. Two of the young women, Sushmitha Santhosh Kumar, 15, and her sister Sujeetha,

14, were especially excited when they learned that as new members of the Church, they and their family would receive the first wheel.

"After Mutual we went as a group to their apartment and presented the wheel to their father," says Daisy Daniel, 16. "The whole family seemed pleased." The family had already talked about family home evening with the full-time missionaries, and the wheel gave them an added incentive to follow up on what they had learned.

The young women also made enough wheels to give one to each of the families of the Primary children in the branch. Then they made additional wheels for the full-time missionaries to give to new converts.

"Many of us in the branch are new members, and we aren't used to holding family home evening," Daisy says. "But I have a testimony that family home evening will help children and parents to pull together, and I hope that whenever these families see the family home evening wheel, they will think, 'OK, our Church members love us, and they gave us this reminder, so let's have our



HIGHEST PRIORITY

We counsel parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family home evening, gospel study and instruction, and wholesome family activities. However worthy and appropriate other demands or activities may be, they must not be permitted to displace the divinely appointed duties that only parents and families can adequately perform.”

First Presidency letter, Feb. 11, 1999; see *Ensign*, June 1999, 80.

lonely, the young women decorated a basket and filled it with lots of short, happy handwritten notes. “No one is there to take care of her,” Daisy says. “So we wanted to remind her that members of the branch are thinking about her.” The young women delivered the basket in person and explained that she could read a note each day to bring a smile to her face.

The basket of notes inspired another idea. The young women decided to write letters of appreciation to each other. “Each of us is writing a beautiful letter to each of the others,” explains Monisha Kalai Selvam, 13.

Long Live Family Home Evening!

Through these and other activities, the young women of the Chennai Second Branch are learning that even simple acts of service can bring people closer to the Savior. It may be that branch members will long remember the family home evening wheels because so many received them and are using them already. But even if the wheels are a temporary reminder, that’s all right too.

“Anyone can make their own wheel or chart or just sit down with pencil and paper and make plans,” Daisy says. “We just know that family home evening is important for everyone, and we wanted to help make it happen.” **NE**

family home evening.’”

She predicts that soon family home evening will be a weekly event for many people in the branch.

One Good Service Leads to Another

The family home evening wheels are just one of several service projects these young women have completed. In an effort to help a widow from the branch feel a little less

SCRIPTURES HELP TOO

Scriptures are a great part of family home evening too—just ask the young men of the Chennai Second Branch. When they heard about the growing interest in family home evening in their branch, they decided to look for scriptures that could, with parents’ guidance, be used in lessons. Here are some they recommend:

Karthikeyan Venkatesan, 18, says Alma 32:21, 28 are great scriptures for a lesson about faith. “Alma compares the word of God to a seed, so it’s easy to talk about seeds and how they grow,” he says. “This scripture has helped me to increase my faith, so I can bear testimony of it to others.”

His 16-year-old brother, Meganathan, turns to Alma 36:3, a scripture that teaches about trust. “Alma says that if you put your trust in God, He will help you,” Meganathan says. “We should put our trust in Heavenly Father. There is nothing too big for God; He can help you with any problem.”

Daniel Stephen, 15, reads 3 Nephi 18:20 and says it could be used in a lesson about prayer. “I like that scripture because it says that whatever you ask the Father for, in Jesus Christ’s name, that is right, you will receive it. Don’t ask for bad things or foolish things; ask for good things. If you’re following the Spirit, that will help you to know what to ask for.”

Young Men president Bharath Raj Ramesh Babu, 19, says he would use 1 Nephi 19:9 in a lesson about Jesus Christ. “This scripture says the world will judge Christ to be nothing but that He will be kind and long-suffering toward them. He showed love toward everyone, no matter what they did to Him, and that has taught me to be kinder.”

There are, of course, many scriptures that can be used as part of a family home evening lesson. Talk it over with your family. Which scriptures would you use?

Has your family had a great family home evening based on a scripture? Tell us about it via newera@ldschurch.org.

Karthikeyan



Meganathan



Daniel



Bharath Raj



It all started with the surprise gift Dad brought home to his three daughters. Peering inside a chirping cardboard box, we girls squealed with delight. Baby ducklings! We couldn't wait to reach in and grab one. We jostled Dad so much, he almost dropped the box.

"Take it easy, girls!" he chuckled. "There's one for each of you!"

I was surprised at how tiny that little duckling felt in my hand. In my gentle clasp, its warm body felt like the size of a quarter, and it weighed about as much too.

"Wow, it's so light!" I exclaimed. "No wonder baby ducks can float!"

Dad laughed again as he walked off to join Mom in the kitchen. Dad was big on surprises, especially the ones that made his family smile. That's when I remembered the wading pool. It would be the perfect home for our new ducks.

"Nora, get that old plastic pool out of the garage," I ordered my sister.

With our backyard hose pumping clear, cool water into the pool, we began to examine our ducks and set about to name them. Mine had a little speck of brown on his rounded bill and ridiculously giant webbed feet.

Suddenly I remembered my friends. They would laugh at how enthusiastic I was over these new pets. Then I realized my friends wouldn't be by for the next few days. Their parents had given them permission to go camping in the nearby mountains. Bike riding on an old dirt trail, choosing a campsite, pitching a tent. They'd have a ton of fun and be home the next day, laughing and talking about their campout. My mom hadn't given me permission. She said I was too young!

With the wading pool full, we girls gathered around, greatly anticipating this moment. We set our flapping, quacking birds on the water and ZOOM, right to the bottom. All three sank!

We plunged our hands into the pool

and rescued the poor choking birds. What had gone wrong? We weren't asking them to do something difficult, like swim. All they had to do was float. Isn't that easy for a duck?

"What happened?" my sister wondered.

"Maybe we surprised them!"

We all agreed it was like babies when they learn how to walk. They just have to fall sometimes. We agreed to give it another try.

"One, two, three, go!"

Plunk! Plunk! Plunk! straight down like balls of lead.

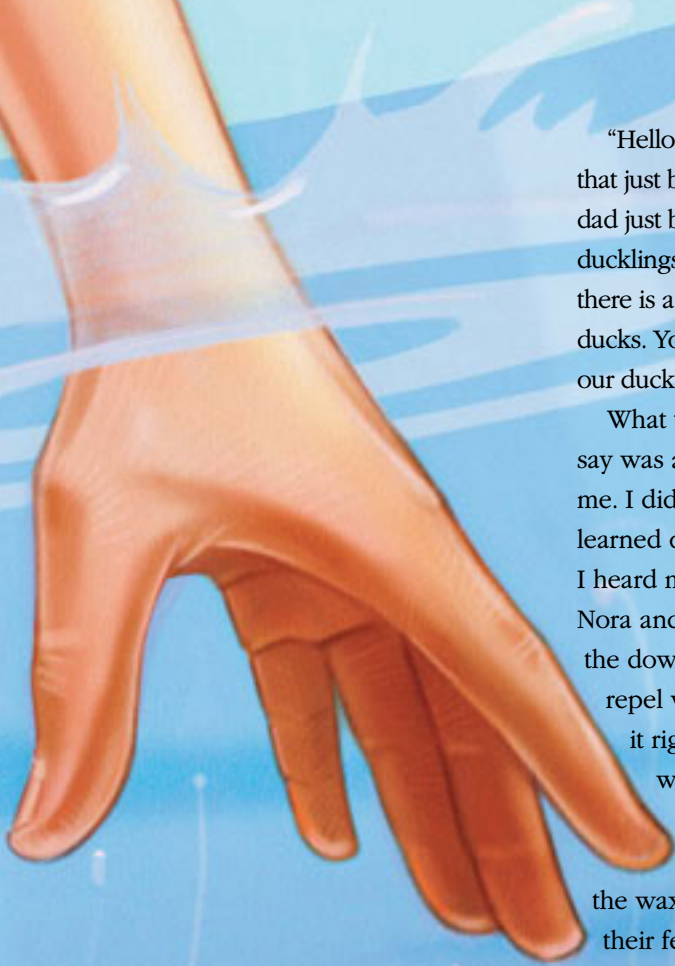
Fortunately for the ducklings, none of us had the heart to follow through on our theory that they just needed practice. When Nora suggested we use the blow dryer on their feathers, we all scrambled into the house. Gently, my two sisters aired out the poor birds with my pink blow dryer while I looked up the phone number from the name on the cardboard box.

WHEN DUCKS DON'T FLOAT

We just assumed our ducklings would take to the water. We were in for a surprise.

By Wendi Wixom Taylor

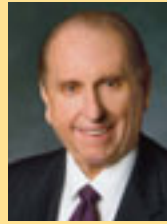




“Hello, sir? We’re the ones that just bought—well, our dad just bought—three little ducklings. Yes, sir. Well, there is a problem with our ducks. You see, we prefer our ducks to float.”

What this man had to say was an eye-opener for me. I didn’t realize I had learned quite so much until I heard myself explain it to Nora and Suzy: “You see, the downy feathers do not repel water. They soak it right up. We have to wait another week or two for their bodies to make the waxy oil that will waterproof their feathers.”

“But that’s not true,” Nora argued. “I’ve seen baby ducks follow their mother on the river. They were just a few days old.”



“There are countless ways in which you can show true love to your mothers and your fathers. You can obey them and follow their teachings, for they will never lead you astray. You can treat them with respect.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Be Thou an Example,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2005, 112.

“The man explained that to me. When ducks are born, the mother wraps her wings around the babies to keep them warm. The oil from the mother’s wings rubs off onto her babies. With their mother, they can stay afloat. On their own, they need to get a little older before they’re safe in the water.”

That’s when my brain trailed off to the mountains somewhere, thinking about my friends in their tent. Maybe Mom just wanted to keep me under her wings for a little while

longer. I stroked my duckling’s tiny back with one finger.

“We’ll keep you out of the pool for now, little one,” I promised him. Then, as an afterthought, I added, “Do you miss your mom?” **NE**



C O M M I N G

CLEAN

By Mark L. Allred

The cadet learned about justice the hard way. But Heavenly Father's plan offers mercy as well as justice.

I have served as an Air Force attorney and military officer for over 20 years. Some time ago, I had an experience that taught me something about the Atonement.

One day Cadet Smith* knocked at my office door. Like many at the Air Force Academy, Cadet Smith had long held the dream of flying as a pilot for the Air Force. It was spring, and he was now within a few months of graduating, receiving his commission as a second lieutenant, and going on to pilot training.

Cadet Smith sat down and said, "You're a lawyer. Anything I tell you is confidential—it won't go anywhere—right?"

"Yes. You know that," I replied. Cadet Smith then explained his problem. A few months earlier, during the Christmas holidays, Cadet Smith had been away from the Academy in a nearby community. After an evening of partying, he had been arrested for driving drunk. As I recall, there may have been a minor accident. But there was no serious damage to property, nor injuries to any person. Some weeks after his arrest, Cadet Smith went to court in that local community where he pleaded guilty and received a sentence that included a stiff monetary fine and a period of probation. As far as the civilian community

* Name has been changed.



*We all have great
reason to fall
on our knees
in fervent gratitude
for the forgiveness
the Lord offers.*

was concerned, the matter was basically over.

However, the situation had not been settled with the Air Force. Cadet Smith had not yet informed his commander or any military authority. He feared the impact his drunken driving might have on his Air Force career.

“Should I come clean, and tell the Air Force?” he wanted to know. “What should I do?”

After some thought, I explained to Cadet Smith that I was required to speak to him candidly and directly. “Basically, you have two options. Option 1 is to play by the rules. Turn yourself in, explain everything to your commander, and face the consequences. In all likelihood that dream of becoming a pilot will be lost. The Air Force will not offer extremely expensive pilot training and control of multi-million dollar aircraft to a person with a drunk driving arrest. Worse still,” I continued, “once your arrest becomes known, your entire standing at the Academy will be in jeopardy.”

Cadet Smith waited for me to continue. “Let us now look at the alternative, Option 2. On this path, you say nothing to your commander. You continue to lie low, hoping your drunk driving conviction will never be discovered.

“The problem, of course, is that you have a duty to report the matter. You know you do. And every day you fail to do so you are making matters worse. You will continue living under the fear of being found out. Waiting and wondering will be miserable for you.

“In the near future, and repeatedly throughout the years of your service, you will be required to fill out official questionnaires. You will have to declare, under oath, whether there has ever been an arrest or conviction by civilian authorities. If you deny this, you will be committing an integrity violation and further serious crime under federal law.”

I sensed his distress, and I felt bad for Cadet Smith. From what I knew of him, he was a decent young man who had made a mistake. He left my office alone, in a state of confusion and sorrow.

*It occurred to me
that if Jesus
Christ were
involved, . . .
there would
be mercy
as well as justice.*

I could not fault the Air Force for its rules and standards. Here was a manmade system where the young man faced only harsh, negative consequences for his transgression. All he had was justice.

It occurred to me that if Jesus Christ were involved, if we had divine law rather than merely that of men, there would be mercy as well as justice. The Lord would know this young man’s heart. If he were truly penitent and fully resolved to do nothing like this again, there would be a way out.

I recognized that we are all Cadet Smiths in one way or another. We all, with our own faults, are sinners like this young man. The Lord has promised, “For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent” (D&C 19:16). We are all in great need of His mercy. We all have great reason to fall on our knees in fervent gratitude for the forgiveness the Lord offers. **NE**

NEmore

To learn more about mercy and justice, see “The Mediator,” by President Boyd K. Packer (*Ensign*, May 1977, 54).



LOVE GROWS

When your family
works and
plays together.
(*Hymns*, no. 294.)

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA SMITH



OFF THE



The Lord knew how easily the path to happiness could be obscured, so He provided sure markers.

BEATEN PATH

Getting lost can happen by ignoring the markers that can lead the way.

I never got lost in a supermarket as a child. I never was so turned around in a building that I couldn't find my way out, and I never had trouble finding my way home after dark. With a perfect never-lost track record, losing my way didn't even occur to me one Saturday as I began hiking to Heather Lake in western Washington.

The trail was surrounded by moss-covered redwoods and pines. As my best friend Jenn and I started out, we didn't pay much attention to the orange tags marking the trail because the well-worn path was so obvious. However, conditions changed as we climbed higher. We hadn't expected to see anything but summer foliage, but soon occasional patches of snow turned into a layer of ice crunching beneath our boots. We were heartened by a hiker returning from the top who assured us that the view was worth the effort. We hurried on, hoping our speed would warm us.

As we continued into deeper snow and lowering temperatures, our path forked. We assumed the most worn path would be the right way to the lake. The path forked again and then again. We kept following what looked like the most worn path until the trail stopped. Jenn and I looked at each other in surprise. We thought that our path would lead us to the lake, but instead we were at the end of a trail next to a freezing river. I quickly looked around to get my bearings, but the clouds obscured the sun. We didn't have a compass or even a map. As we looked around, I realized that we were lost.

Just as I began to feel a swell of panic, Jenn had an idea. "All we have to do is find an orange marker," she said. After a minute of looking around, we saw a marker

tied to a distant tree. In my rush to get my bearings, I hadn't even noticed them. Jenn was right. By following the markers, we finally reached our destination.

The lake was beautiful, but I still felt unsettled. How had I become lost following the trail of hikers who were all trying to get to the same place I was? As I thought about this, I remembered Lehi's dream as recorded in 1 Nephi 8. Lehi saw numberless people heading for the same destination—the tree of life. When mists of darkness obscured their path, those who followed the iron rod were safe, but those who ignored it "did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost" (verse 23).

In this same way, Jenn and I headed towards something joyful only to have our path obscured by lingering snowbanks. We assumed that following the trail left by others would lead us to our goal. But we were lost. The park rangers knew this could happen and provided a sure way of determining the route under all conditions. Only by following these markers, placed by those who had made the trail, could we reach Heather Lake.

We face a similar situation today. Most of the people around us are seeking for happiness, but following the trends of the world can lead us off the true path. The Lord knew how easily the path to happiness could be obscured, so He provided sure markers. These markers—the scriptures, Church leaders, and the gift of the Holy Ghost—show us the right path no matter how bewildering our surroundings. These are sure guides, whether we are continuing on the trail or finding our way back, we can always trust them.

The other hiker was right. Heather Lake was the most beautiful place we had ever seen. Likewise, if we hold to the rod and endure to the end, we will receive "eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God" (D&C 14:7). **NE**



A new Beehive tells about her first time performing baptisms for the dead.

I LOVED GOING TO THE TEMPLE

By Meredith Kenney,
as told to Wendy Kenney

When my Beehive leader told us that we were going to the Ogden Utah Temple to do baptisms for the dead in a few days, I was suddenly both very excited and very nervous.

It would be my first time doing baptisms for the dead, and I wasn't sure what to expect. For one thing, I couldn't remember the special way you were supposed to hold the arm of the person baptizing you. It had been over four years since my own baptism. What if I did it wrong? And what if I couldn't find my recommend that day? There were so many worries going through my head that I couldn't concentrate on the lesson.

That night at dinner I told my family the news. My brother, who is 14 and has done baptisms for the dead before, told me I would love it. "It's really cool," he said.

My brother was right, it was cool, *very* cool!

There were a lot of things that made it special. The thing that I will always remember about that first time in the temple was feeling the Spirit. I've heard that the temple is a sacred place, but now I better understand what that means, because I felt that sacredness through the Spirit.

I loved how friendly the temple workers were. They made me feel welcome and showed me exactly what to do while I was there. I don't know why I was worried about doing something wrong. They helped me do



everything the right way.

While we waited for our turn, we watched the group ahead of us through the windows overlooking the font. I had seen pictures of temple fonts, but seeing one in real life was a lot different. I was surprised how big the 12 oxen figures were.

I had never thought about how the people on the other side of the veil feel when their work is done. The person who spoke to us before we did the baptisms said that those people have been waiting a long time for this day. We were also told that we might get to meet them in the next life because they would appreciate our doing their temple work. That made me want to take each baptism seriously, even if I knew I couldn't possibly remember the name of every person.

Another thing that was especially memorable that day was that the person performing the baptisms and confirmations for our group was a returned missionary from our ward. He hadn't even been home a week, and he came to the temple with us. He even provided the names. He had brought them home from France, and he pronounced each name with a perfect French accent.

Later, when I got home and walked through the door, I yelled, "That was so totally awesome!"

I didn't quite know what to expect when I went to the temple for the first time, but I definitely didn't expect to be so eager to go back. I now realize that while I was in the temple, I left the world behind. That's why I could feel the Spirit so strongly. That must be why our bishop was so happy to know we went to the temple. He wants everyone to feel that Spirit.

My brother was right. I loved the temple, and I can't wait to return! **NE**

NEmore

For more information on this topic, read "Baptisms for the Dead: What to Know Before You Go" (*New Era*, Apr. 2004, 34).

A BEAUTIFUL SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE

“We hope that you, as young members of the Church, will go often to the temple to perform baptisms for the dead. When the time comes for you to go on a mission or be married, we pray that you will go to the temple worthily and feel the beautiful spiritual atmosphere that is present in the temple.”

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95), “Your Temple Recommend,” *New Era*, Apr. 1995, 6.

TO GO *or not*

I wasn't sure I knew the gospel well enough to serve a full-time mission. Then my brother gave me a simple suggestion.

TO GO

Since I was a youth, serving a mission was always something I wasn't too sure about, but as I neared the age of 19, I knew I had to make a decision. My parents suggested I visit the islands they were originally from and focus on whether I really wanted to serve a mission or pursue a different path.

When I arrived in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, I was happy to see my extended family and visit with them. I wasn't always thinking about serving a mission, but it was still in the back of my mind. I got to stay with my grandparents, who live in a village called Pahu. I love my grandparents and my relatives I stayed with. They are the nicest people and are very caring. They are also members of another faith.

As time passed and I stayed with them longer, I began to recognize differences between their religion and mine. A lot of times my relatives would tease me about certain things I believe in as a Latter-day Saint. Sometimes they would tell me that instead of serving a mission I should enroll in school.

I started to feel that I really did need to make a decision about a mission, but for me it wasn't an easy decision to make. One of the reasons I was always scared about serving a mission was that I felt I'd never really known enough about the gospel. I pictured myself standing in front of an investigator and not knowing how to answer his questions. To make matters worse, I wasn't really sure that I even had a testimony of the gospel.

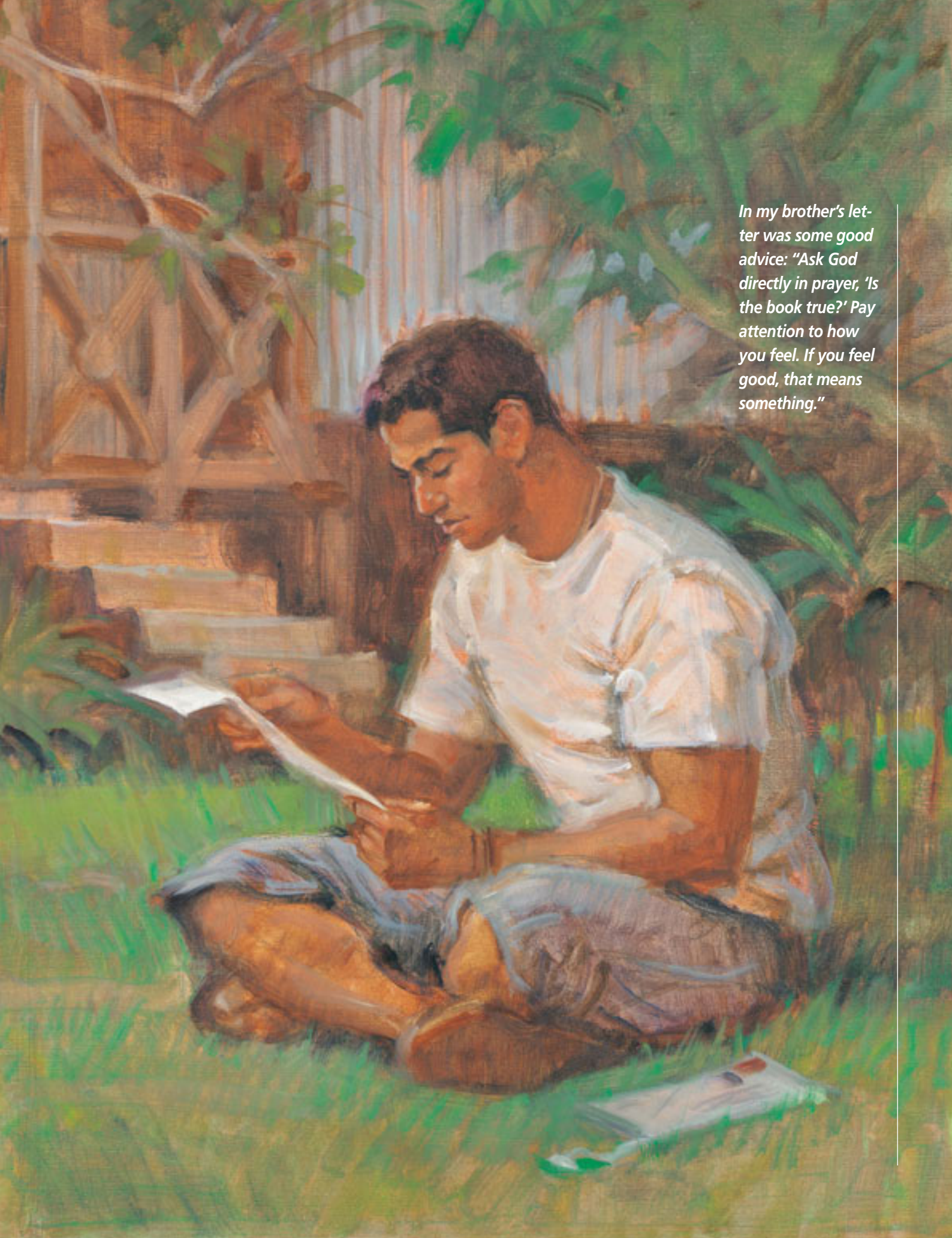
One morning I received a letter from my older brother Atolo Si'i, who had recently returned from a mission. I had written him a few weeks earlier asking him for advice in gaining a testimony. I wanted to know if the gospel was true. I felt that if I were to serve a mission, even if I didn't know everything about the gospel, if I at least had my own testimony of the Church and of the Book of Mormon, no one could disagree with me about that.

My older brother, Atolo Si'i, has always been a good example to me. I read the letter and the advice he gave me. I took it seriously. In the letter, after telling me how the family was and how everything was going with him, he said:


"I was thinking of advice I could give you. One thing I think you could do is: while reading the Book of Mormon, ask God directly in prayer, 'Is the book true?' Pay attention to how you feel. If you feel good, that means something." After I read what he had written, it seemed quite simple: read the Book of Mormon and pay attention to the way I feel, and I would receive my answer.

That afternoon, after I returned from work, I went to my room and read over my brother's letter again. I read over his simple advice a few times. Then, after opening with prayer, I began to read in the Book of Mormon. When I had read a few chapters, I knew it was time for me to kneel and ask my Father in Heaven if this book was indeed true and to know if the Church was true.

When I finished praying, I paid close attention to the



In my brother's letter was some good advice: "Ask God directly in prayer, 'Is the book true?' Pay attention to how you feel. If you feel good, that means something."



I remember lifting my head up toward the end of the road and smiling and just knowing inside that the Book of Mormon was true.

way I was feeling and tried to recognize anything different. I stood for a while in the center of my room just waiting, but nothing came. I hadn't eaten yet, so I decided to walk to the store down the road and grab some food.

As I walked down the road, I suddenly felt this warm feeling inside. I remember lifting my head up toward the end of the road and smiling and just knowing inside that the Book of Mormon was true and that this Church was the same Church Jesus Christ established while on the earth.

After returning from the store I had the thought: I truly believe right now that the gospel is true and that the Book of Mormon is true. I realized that right then in my life I could actually be part of our Heavenly Father's plan and help build the kingdom of God. I could share with others the exact feelings I had felt while walking down the road.

After that day I continued to prepare myself and do all I could to study the gospel and build my testimony. I sent in my mission papers and eventually received my call and left on my mission.

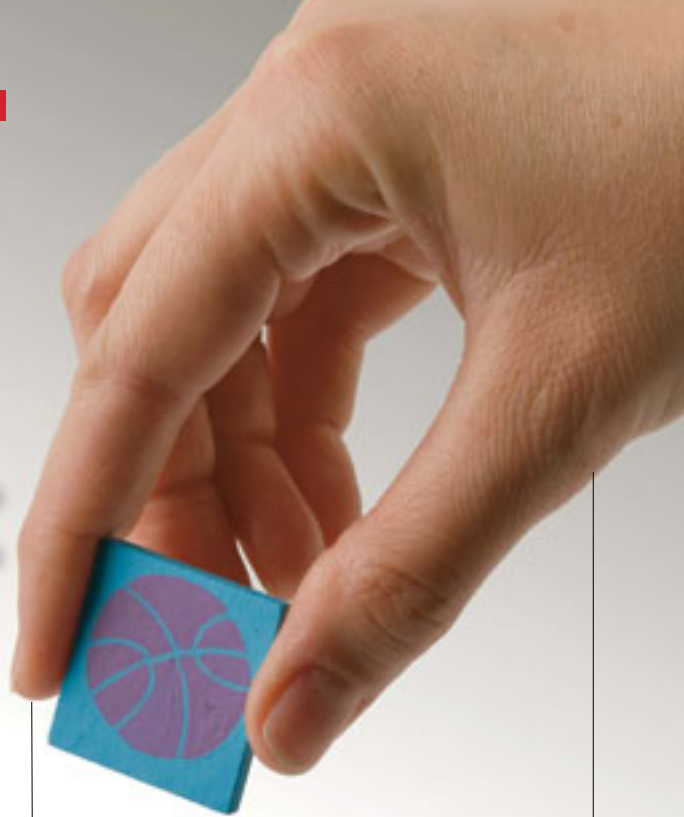
I was continuously blessed by the people I worked with and by my Heavenly Father, who guided me every step of the way. I was able to explain the gospel when I needed to. I could tell others about the Book of Mormon and why I believe it is true. I bore testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet and that he really did see God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

I know I was blessed to serve a mission. We may not know everything about the gospel, and our testimonies may not be as strong as we'd like, but as we nourish what we have and continue to study and prepare ourselves, as we lean toward our Heavenly Father in faith and in prayer, we can be assured that when we need Him the most, He will always be right there. **NE**

NE*more*

For additional information about serving a full-time mission, talk to your bishop or branch president. Also, see the March 2007 *New Era*.

Good, Better, **Best**



THE BEST USE OF TIME

"In choosing how we spend time as a family, we should be careful not to exhaust our available time on things that are merely good and leave little time for that which is better or best. . . . The amount of children-and-parent time absorbed in the good activities of private lessons, team sports, and other school and club activities also needs to be carefully regulated. Otherwise, children will be overscheduled, and parents will be frazzled and frustrated."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Good, Better, Best," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 105.

By Mary-Celeste Lewis

I had to do something about being too busy.

In Elder Dallin H. Oaks's talk in the October 2007 general conference, he talked about things that are "good, better, and best." When he got to the part about "the over-scheduling of children," I squirmed guiltily in my seat.

I *knew* I was doing too much. I was in school plays, taking challenging classes in school, and was involved in several other activities. I hadn't been attending Young Women activities faithfully, and my Sundays were filled with the stress of trying to complete last-minute homework. Practicing music and editing the school newspaper had lost

their element of fun and had become work.

That talk made me take a good look at my schedule. As I tried to organize my schedule and decide which activities to forsake, I was reminded of a scripture-mastery verse from seminary: "Remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation" (Helaman 5:12).

This scripture always helps remind me that when we do what the Lord wants us to do *first*, everything else will fall neatly into place. If I study my scriptures before I play games or even before I do my math homework, everything will get done. When I base my life around the Lord, instead of adding Him in as an afterthought, my life has an added measure of peace and

success. **NE**



PHOTOS BY SHAUNA M. KAWASAKI; PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN LUKE

I M I S S E D





By Julia Woodbury

My plane wasn't getting ready to take off; it was already hundreds of miles away.

The sky was a crisp blue the morning I planned to fly out. After weeks of hard work, I had finally earned enough money to take a trip and visit one of my friends in another state. I was a little nervous. This would be my very first flight alone, so I tried to plan the trip down to every last detail, just so I could be sure I wouldn't forget anything.

I fidgeted excitedly in the passenger seat as my mom drove me to the airport. When she asked when my departure time was, I read it to her off my travel itinerary. Then I took a closer look. The time I had boxed and starred as my departure was actually the arrival time at my destination. My heart sank, and I felt sick. My plane wasn't getting ready to take off, it was already hundreds of miles away getting ready to land, and I wasn't on it!

Dejected, I told my mom to just turn around and take me home, but she insisted on taking me to the airport, hoping that I might be able to catch a flight on standby.

I wasn't very hopeful when I approached the ticket desk agent and explained my

dilemma. To my surprise, the woman offered me a space on the next flight out, free of transfer charges. I was overjoyed. There was little I could have done to fix my predicament, but with the help and kindness of others, I was able to continue on my journey. I later found that the blessings didn't end there.

As I was walking to my gate, I received a phone call from the temp agency I worked for. They offered me the best job opportunity I had received all summer. I happily accepted.

I didn't think much of the call's connection to my missed flight until months later when I was actually sitting at the job. It hit me then that the only way I could have possibly accepted the job was by missing my flight. In the past I had learned that calls from this temp agency were one-shot deals. If you answered the phone, the job was yours. If you didn't answer, the agency would move on. If I had caught my flight that summer morning, I would have been in the air and out of reach when the call came. The job opportunity would have been lost. In the end my seemingly disastrous oversight blessed the rest of my summer.

I know that often, by reflecting on trials we've had in the past, we come to see how the Lord is blessing and shaping us, helping us to have the experiences that we need. I'm so grateful that I have been able to see such clear evidence of the Lord blessing and directing my life. If we are patient in our trials, we may ultimately see how they work for our good. **NE**

ILLUSTRATION BY TALA MORLEY

READY TO SERVE

By Jonathan H. Westover

It was the Saturday night following a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I lived in off-campus housing about a 10-minute walk from Brigham Young University, and few students were around. I didn't have much to do that night, so I was flipping through channels when I came across a movie that had just started. It took a few minutes to realize that the movie was less than appropriate, and for a minute I thought,

"What's the big deal? No one is around. After all, it is on TV, so all of the worst parts must be edited." However, the Spirit nagged me a bit, and I finally relented and decided to turn off the TV and read a book.

About half an hour later I heard a knock at the door. It was one of the other students from my student ward who lived in the neighboring apartment complex. He told me that one of the girls he home taught was sick and needed a blessing. He had spent the last 30 minutes calling members of the elders quorum and knocking on doors, trying to find someone who was both home and able to help give a blessing. Finally he had come to my door. I agreed to help, quickly got changed into Sunday dress, and then walked with him over to the girl's apartment.

When we arrived at the apartment, it was readily apparent that things were not well. Immediately we went over to the ill girl lying on the couch



and prepared to administer a blessing.

As I addressed the girl by name and prayed on her behalf, I found myself making promises of restored health and providing words of comfort that were not my own. I closed in the name of Jesus Christ, and as we opened our eyes, I saw a huge smile on the ill girl's face. She thanked me for the blessing. She soon recovered from her illness and was able to get back to her studies and finish the semester.

As I reflect back on that experience, I feel a great deal of gratitude for the priesthood and the opportunity to be a priesthood holder. I am grateful for the promptings of the Spirit, who knew that I would be needed and helped me remain spiritually ready by making the right choice. I know that as we remain worthy, we will have the Spirit to direct and guide our path, that we might be ready and able to serve those around us. **NE**

SINGING FOR GRANDPA

By Kimberly Reid

When my dad was young, Grandpa taught his family to memorize songs while they drove on long road trips. Grandpa's favorite hymn was "I Stand All Amazed."

That would be the opening hymn the wintry day my family filed into the funeral chapel behind Grandpa's casket. Unlike my dad's family, I have a hard time singing. I don't memorize lyrics easily, and if I can't read the notes, my weak alto voice struggles to stay on key.

I took my seat behind the podium because I would be giving the eulogy after the hymn and prayer. As the music

By Victoria Ison

I arrived home from babysitting expecting to leave again within a few minutes. Some of my friends from school were in a band, and their concert was that night. Walking through the door, I saw my family seated on the couch, watching a movie and sharing a bowl of popcorn. Looking back, I realize it was a beautiful scene, but in that moment the only thought my mind recognized was of the concert that had already begun.

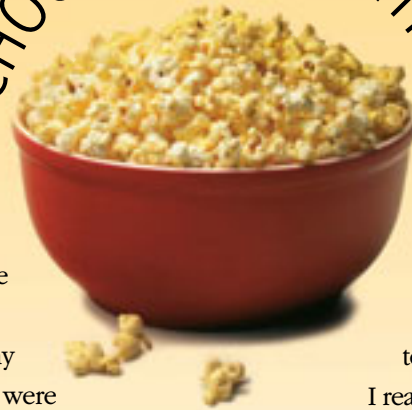
Anxious to leave, I reminded my parents, the only car-key bearing members of our family, of the time. They were not, however, to be moved. Dad said it was too late at night. Mom told me she still had to hem my brother's pants before church the next day. They smiled and invited me to join the movie. I stared in disbelief.

I went to my room. I wanted to stand

began, I looked around, dismayed to realize there were no hymnbooks nearby. I wouldn't be able to sing Grandpa's favorite song as we honored him. This small setback seemed to add to my loss, and I worried I might get too emotional to speak.

Timidly I sang the first phrase, certain I couldn't remember the rest: "I stand all amazed at the love Jesus offers me." Then the words and notes started flowing into my mind. I sang

CHOOSING MY ATTITUDE



there and scream. I wanted to cry, write negative things in my journal, and listen to loud music. But then

I realized that maybe not being able to go to the concert wasn't that big of a deal. Maybe being downstairs with my family and their popcorn was where I needed to be.

A scripture came to my mind, the scripture mastery verse from Joshua that talks about choosing whom we will serve (see Joshua 24:15). In that moment I realized the Lord has given us agency for a reason—that it's not just about making good choices. Sometimes decisions are made for us, and when that happens, the choice we have is how we will handle them.

I knew how I would handle mine. I knew whom I would serve.

I turned off my music and ran downstairs, lacing my hand through my mom's welcoming one. **NE**

all three verses without stumbling or going off-key. As the hymn concluded, I felt the Savior's love—and my Grandpa's. I delivered Grandpa's eulogy, calmed by the Spirit and grateful for the gift I'd just been given.

Though I've needed a hymnbook to sing "I Stand All Amazed" ever since, I'm always grateful when I can sing it. My grandpa's favorite hymn reminds me of the love existing for us beyond the veil. **NE**

Sean Kimball loves to surf. So, naturally, he tried out for his high school surfing team. On the team he was expected to practice before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, even though that meant missing early-morning seminary. After a while, however, Sean noticed that things just didn't go as well for him on those days.

When did you realize that seminary was more important to you than the surf team? I had been torn between surf team and seminary, but I knew then that I needed to give up the surf team so I could go to seminary every day. I talked to the coach. He knows my family, and he understood. My friends told me I was letting the team down, but once I'd made up my mind, nothing stopped me. But a cool thing happened when school started this year. My surf coach called and asked if I'd be willing to compete in the Thursday-morning surfing contests as long as he places me in the heats that are scheduled after seminary. He respects that I'm going to seminary, but he really wants me on the team, so he's going to make sure I can do both.

How will this decision prepare you for serving a full-time mission? Going to seminary puts me in the right place at the right time so that I can have the Spirit with me. I'm learning the scriptures I need to know for my mission. The same people who encouraged me to go to seminary are now helping me prepare for a mission—my family, especially my older brother, my Young Men leaders, seminary teachers, and mission preparation teacher.

You play volleyball, too, and you've helped your team win three championships. How do you handle Sunday tournaments? I don't participate in volleyball tournaments or surfing events on Sundays. After my mission I'd like to get involved in organizing surfing competitions that don't conflict with the Sabbath. That's how I hope to make a difference in the surfing world.

How do you want to be remembered after you graduate from high school? I hope they'll remember me as an athlete who doesn't compete on Sundays and stands up for what he believes in. I want people to know that I have a testimony of the Lord and the Book of Mormon.

What is your favorite scripture? Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth," because, like the Apostle Paul, I will never be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. **NE**
—As told to Wendy Kenney

Name: Sean Kimball

Age: 18

Hometown:

Laguna Beach, California

Accomplishments: First-place finish in National Scholastic Surfing Association Junior Championships;

member of California Southern Section Division III championship high school boys volleyball team; Eagle Scout; priest.

NEmore

To see a video about Sean, go to youth.lds.org.

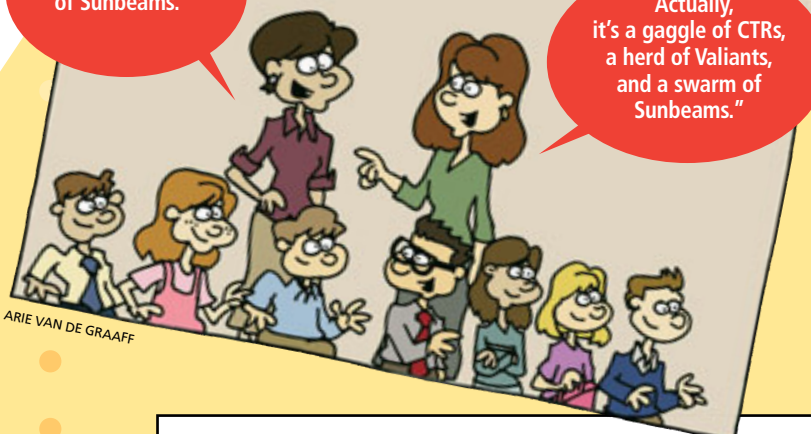
SURFING
or
Seminary?
For Sean, it wasn't really a question.



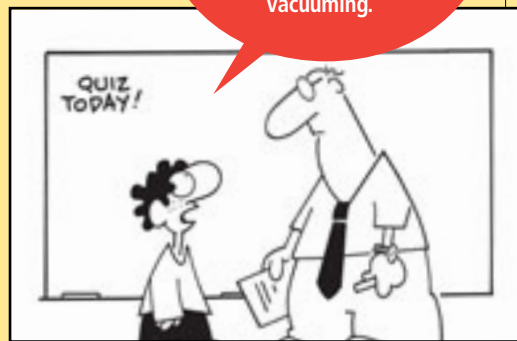


RYAN STOKER

"Look at this gaggle of Sunbeams."



ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF



RANDY GLASBERGEN



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

NEmore
See a different
Extra Smile
online every
week at
newera.lds.org.

POWERFUL MESSAGE

I recently read the December 1994 issue of the *New Era* and came across the story titled “The Lights Still Glow.” It brought me a lot of comfort because I, like the author, have lost my mother. Although it was two years ago, the holidays are still a very hard time for me. As I read this article, I felt a gentle peace as I was reminded that I will see my mother again. Even though the article was printed 15 years ago, its message is just as powerful now as it was back then.

Karen M.

Editor's note: To find past articles from the New Era, go to newera.lds.org. You can search past issues or browse by date.

PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS

I want to thank those who were inspired to put the article “When Should I Get My Patriarchal Blessing?” in the August 2009 *New Era*. It came when I was ready to learn about and receive my patriarchal blessing, and I received it just one month after reading this article. Articles like that have changed my life in the best way.

Sanneke Q., California

INDEXING

I like doing the family history indexing project (see “Indexing Mania,” May 2009 issue). I hope more people get to do it, because it is really fun. You also get to practice your typing skills when you do it.

Alan P., Utah

Teens are mentioned in the scriptures for doing great things.

IS IT REALLY TRUE?

Thank you for the article “Is It Really True?” (Nov. 2009). I also grew up in the gospel, and when I read her prayer, my eyes teared up. I felt the Spirit, too.

Brittany S., Colorado

POSTPONING CHRISTMAS

I really liked the article “Postponing Christmas” from the Dec. 2009 issue because it tells what Christmas is like without family. My family has its own traditions, but none of them would be fun without the family. It also tells people the true meaning of Christmas. Christ was born and died for us, and because of that my family and other families can live together forever.

Spencer H., Oregon

**TEENS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

I was reading the January 2010 magazine, and as I flipped through it, I saw something that caught my eye. The word was *teens* (see “Teens in the Old Testament”). It is good to know that teens are mentioned in the scriptures for doing great things.

Gordon K., Utah

FROM BRAZIL

We don't have the *New Era* here, and I read the magazine on the Internet with the translators online to help. The *New Era* helps me so much, and I am grateful for the opportunity to read it.

Brenda, Brazil

Editor's note: A few of the articles from the New Era are published in dozens of languages each month in the Liahona.

THEY MEAN A LOT TO ME

The stories in the *New Era* mean a lot to me. The one that I recently enjoyed was “Cast Off Thine Afflictions” (Sept. 2009). I can relate to this girl because I have broken my arm three times, and I know what it feels like to be left out. Thank you for choosing these stories.

Elliot P., American Samoa

We love hearing from you. Write to us by going online to newera.lds.org and clicking Submit Your Material.

Or you can e-mail us at newera@ldschurch.org or write to

*New Era
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024*



A Memory

By Danielle Beazer Dubrasky

I and my brother
would run from
the waves
At high tide.
And we loved being scared
by the big ones,
Dodging the creamy-lace foam,
laughing
and falling in the sand
to dig clams
That were so much faster than us,
But we never stopped.
Colors of the sun touched my
brother's hair
And made it look gold
on that day at the beach
when I was five.

BEHIND THE SCENES

For this conference we concentrated on what our General Authorities said to the youth of the Church. In particular we pulled out quotes that answered questions you might be asking. Also included in the quotes are selections from messages given by the Young Women general presidency in the Young Women broadcast. Then we asked you what you thought about conference. We sent



out our *New Era* e-mail newsletter asking for teens' thoughts and feelings. And almost immediately following conference we received comments from our readers from California to Washington D.C. and from Canada to Argentina. We selected some of your thoughts and mixed them throughout the conference pages of this issue. Then we put the rest of your comments online at NewEra.lds.org.

Check out "General Conference Is for You" on pages 2–19.

SEE US ONLINE AT WWW.NEWERA.LDS.ORG