



ILLUSTRATION BY BROOKE SMART; DETAIL FROM CHRIST AND THE RICH; YOUNG RULER; BY HEINRICH HOFMANN

ONE MINUTE MADE THE DIFFERENCE

Forty-five minutes after boarding the plane that would take me to Dallas, where I would meet with other missionaries en route to the Brazil MTC, we had yet to leave the gate. Finally the pilot came over the speaker and told us the plane had a mechanical problem that would take 15 minutes to fix. We were taken off the plane so work could begin.

Fifteen minutes soon turned into three hours. With each passing hour I began to worry I would miss my next layover, and I'd have to fly to Brazil alone, not knowing a word of

Portuguese and running the risk of having nobody there to pick me up.

I started to get scared. I knew I was doing the right thing going to Brazil to serve a mission, but why couldn't it go smoothly? Why was this happening?

I called my house from a pay phone. With tears in my eyes I asked my mom to contact the Church's travel office to tell them I would miss my flight in Dallas. I wanted so badly to ask her to make the drive down to the airport to pick me up. I caught myself thinking, "Maybe I can leave

for my mission next week." But I knew that wasn't the right thing, so I held my tongue. It was hard to say goodbye and hang up the phone.

I sat there for a second trying to collect myself, and I turned around. Just then a woman passed by me, holding her little boy's hand. She saw my name tag and immediately stopped.

"Elder! Are you coming home or just leaving for the field?"

I told her I was just leaving, and with a smile she told me her little boy looked up to us missionaries. She wished me luck and left.

I don't even know her name, but that conversation of less than one minute gave me the strength I needed to continue. It is one of the most memorable tender mercies I have experienced. I knew God was aware of me. He wanted me to do this—and I knew that I could.

Steven C., Michigan, USA

WHO'S CALLING?

In the mornings, my dad calls us for scripture study and family prayer.

It sometimes takes us half an hour or more to finally get up and move to the living room. One morning, instead of calling us with his voice, he called our cell phones. Before my sister's phone even rang three times, she was up, and she responded to the caller in a soft and sweet voice only to find out it was my father calling from the living room.

Can you see how we sometimes follow the wrong influence? How much easier it is for us to respond to the ring of the mobile phone than to be on our knees praying to our Heavenly Father. We enjoy a long conversation on our phones but don't want long prayers. We enjoy a text message from friends but neglect the written message of a loving Heavenly Father through the scriptures. We must listen to our prophet and leaders and give heed to their message.

Chaille K., Tonga

UNDERSTANDING THE FATHER AND THE SON

I was reading my scriptures one day when, for about the hundredth time, I read that Christ was the Father and the Son. Having been raised in the Church, I know that God and Jesus Christ are two separate beings. I had always been confused when the scriptures referred to Christ as the Father, but I never had tried to figure out what it meant. However, for some reason, this time I really wanted to know. I went and asked my mom if she knew, but she didn't either. We researched it, using the scriptures and an article called "The Father and the Son," which was published by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 1916 and reprinted in the April 2002 *Ensign*.

We already knew that Christ is the Son because He is the Son of God. We learned He is called the Father for at least three reasons: because He is the Creator (or "Father") of the earth, because we take upon us the name of Christ when we are baptized (just like a baby takes his or her father's name), and because Christ does His Father's will, which means He has the authority of the Father and is therefore called Father. That explained why the scriptures sometimes refer to Christ as both the Father and the Son. I know that God loves us and wants us to understand things, so He blessed my mom and me so that we were able to understand the scriptures.

Nicole T., Washington, USA

