

A young man with a prosthetic right leg is sitting on concrete steps in front of a wooden door. He is wearing a red and white checkered short-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and black boots. He has a watch on his left wrist and is smiling at the camera. The background is a dark wooden door with a decorative diamond shape on the left side.

THE New Era

NOVEMBER

2002

COVER STORY:
LEAP OF FAITH,
P. 20

**ALSO IN THIS
ISSUE—LOTS OF
GREAT STORIES
FOR YOUNG
WOMEN. HAPPY
BIRTHDAY, YW!**

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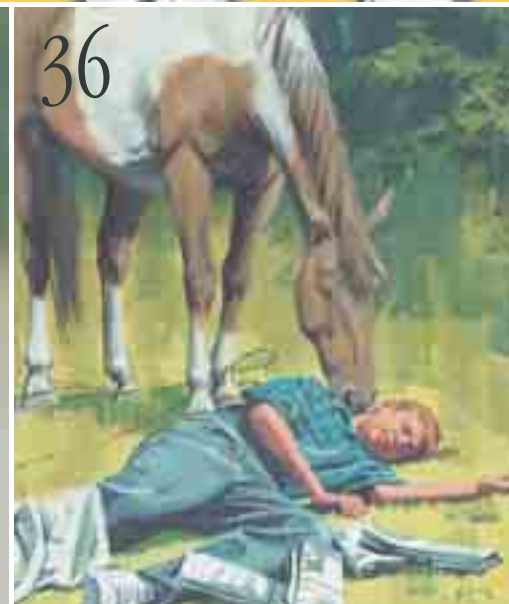
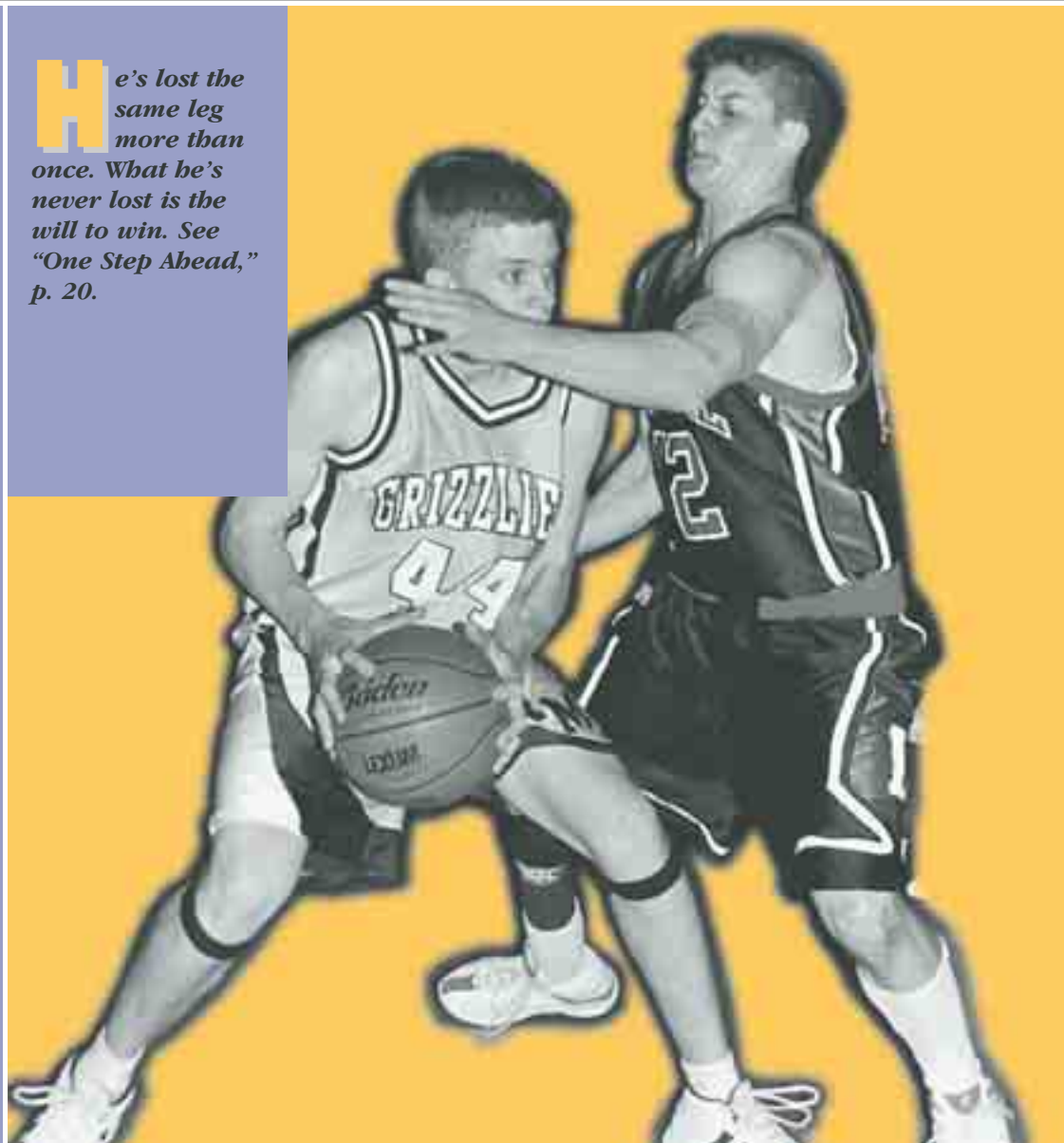
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Cover: *Spence McArthur
of Lovell, Wyoming, isn't
letting anything stop him
from serving a mission.*
See "One Step Ahead" on
p. 20.

*Cover photography:
(front), Janet Thomas,
(back), © PhotoDisc 1995.*

He's lost the
same leg
more than
once. What he's
never lost is the
will to win. See
"One Step Ahead,"
p. 20.



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T H E M E S S A G E

CRISIS

at the

CROSSROADS



**By President
Thomas S. Monson**
First Counselor in the
First Presidency

Eternal decisions have eternal consequences. When you come to turning points in life, how will you know which way to go? Here is a map.

As each Latter-day Saint approaches the crisis at the crossroads of life, he perhaps recalls a particular passage of scripture, a relevant illustration, a testimony of truth heard and felt. As such a thought floods through his memory, that still, small voice will whisper, “Remember, remember, remember to be true!”

Have you ever stopped to consider that the prophet of God is counting on each one of us? Yes, he is counting on our conduct. He is confident of our courage. How I pray that each may declare, “I resolve to merit the prophet’s trust.” “I shall not deviate from my duty.” “I shall not dishonor my divine destiny.”

The way to exaltation is not a freeway featuring unlimited vision, unrestricted speeds, and untested skills. Rather, it is known by many forks and turnings, sharp curves, and controlled speeds. Our driving ability is being put to the test. Are we ready? We’re driving. We haven’t passed this way before. Fortunately, the Master Highway Builder, even our Heavenly Father, has provided a road map showing the route to follow. He has placed markers along the way to guide us to our destination.

Perhaps we may recognize some of

His signs:

- “Honour thy father and thy mother” (Exodus 20:12).
- “Search the scriptures; for they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39).
- “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).
- “Be ye clean” (D&C 38:42).

That evil one, too, has placed road signs to frustrate our progress and to lead us from the path of truth into detours of sin. His detours all lead to a dead end. These are some of his markers:

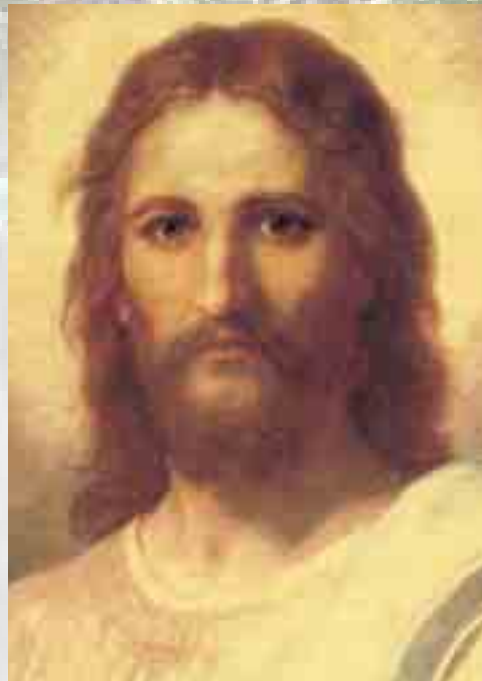
- Times have changed.
- My love is mine to give; my life is mine to live.
- It can’t hurt anyone but me.
- Just this once won’t matter.

Now we see coming into focus the responsibility to choose: that inevitable crisis at the crossroads of life. He who would lead us down waits patiently for the dark night, a wavering will, a confused conscience, a mixed-up mind. Are we prepared to make the decision at the crossroads?

You may ask, “Are decisions really that important?”

Decisions determine destiny. One can’t make eternal decisions without eternal consequences. May I provide a simple formula by which we can measure the choices that confront us? It’s easy to remember; sometimes difficult to apply: “You can’t be right by doing wrong; you can’t be wrong by doing right.”

Some foolish persons turn their backs on the wisdom of God and follow the allurements of fickle fashion, the attraction



The Master Highway Builder, Heavenly Father, has provided a road map and a perfect example to follow.



Choose your friends with caution. We tend to become like those whom we admire. A study has shown that people whose friends marry in the temple usually marry in the temple themselves. Associate with those who are planning for eternal success.

of false popularity, and the thrill of the moment. Their course of conduct resembles the disastrous experience of Esau, who exchanged his birthright for a mess of pottage.

And what are the results of such action? I testify to you that turning away from God brings broken covenants, shattered dreams, vanished ambitions, evaporated plans, unfulfilled expectations, crushed hopes, misused drives, warped character, and wrecked lives.

Such a quagmire of quicksand must be avoided. We are of a noble birthright. Eternal life in the kingdom of our Father

is our goal.

Such a goal is not achieved in one glorious attempt, but rather is the result of a lifetime of righteousness, an accumulation of wise choices, even a constancy of purpose. Like the coveted A grade on the report card of a difficult and required course, the reward of eternal life requires effort. The A grade is the result of each theme, each quiz, each class, each examination, each library project, each term paper. So each Sunday School lesson, each Young Men or Young Women teacher, each prayer, each date, each friend—all precede the goal of temple marriage, that giant step toward an A grade on the report card of life.

Some time ago I returned from a month-long, 30,000-mile journey to the stakes and missions of the South Pacific. As the great jet plane hurtled through the heavens, I gazed out the window and marveled at the stars by which the navigator charted our course. My thoughts were upon our glorious youth; I said to myself: "Ideals are like the stars—you can't touch them with your hands, but by following them you reach your destination."

What ideals when followed will bring to us those blessings we so much seek, even a quiet conscience, a peace-filled heart, a loving husband or wife, a healthy family, a contented home?

May I suggest these three:

- Choose your friends with caution.
- Plan your future with purpose.
- Frame your life with faith.

Choose your friends with caution

In a survey made in selected wards and stakes of the Church, we learned a most significant fact. Those persons

whose friends married in the temple usually married in the temple, while those persons whose friends did not marry in the temple usually did not marry in the temple. The influence of one's friends appeared to be a more dominant factor than parental urging, classroom instruction, or proximity to a temple.

We tend to become like those whom we admire. Just as in Nathaniel Hawthorne's classic account "The Great Stone Face," we adopt the mannerisms, the attitudes, even the conduct of those whom we admire—and they are usually our friends. We should associate with those who, like us, are planning not for temporary convenience, shallow goals, or narrow ambition, but rather for those things that matter most—even eternal objectives.

Beyond the friends of our peer group, even our own age, will we make a friend of our father? Really, each of us has three fathers. First, we have our Heavenly Father. He stands ready to answer the prayers of our hearts. Being the Father of our spirits, and having created us in His own image, knowing the end from the beginning, His wisdom faileth not and His counsel is ever true. Make a friend of Him.

Second, we have our earthly father. He labors to ensure our happiness. Together with our mother, he prays for our guidance and well-being. Make a friend of him.

Third, there is the father of our ward, the bishop. He has been "called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof" (A of F 1:5). In short, he is endowed to provide us with counsel and help. Make a friend of him.

Plan your future with purpose

The great Thomas Carlyle said: "A man without purpose in life is as a ship without a rudder, a waif, a nothing, a nobody. Have a purpose in life, and having it, throw such strength of muscle and brain into your work as God has given you."

Latter-day Saint young men seek for their companions young women who plan with a purpose. They admire such young women when they turn from mediocrity and set their course toward excellence. The Apostle Paul has warned, "Be not unequally yoked together." Today's youth would do well to heed the counsel given by King Arthur in the popular musical production *Camelot* when he cautioned, "We must not let our passions destroy our dreams."

Frame your life with faith

Amidst the confusion of our age, the conflicts of conscience, and the turmoil of daily living, an abiding faith becomes an anchor to our lives.

When I was afforded the privilege to serve as a mission president, I became intimately acquainted with almost 500 missionaries. We had one young missionary who was very ill. After weeks of hospitalization, as the surgeon prepared to undertake extremely serious and complicated surgery, he asked that we send for the missionary's mother and father. He said that there was a possibility that Elder Davidson could not survive the



Plan your future. Thomas Carlyle said: "A man without purpose in life is as a ship without a rudder, a waif, a nothing, a nobody. Have a purpose in life, and having it, throw such strength of muscle and brain into your work as God has given you."



deals are like the stars—you cannot touch them with your hands, but by following them you reach your destination. Plan your future with purpose, and frame your life with faith.

surgery. The parents came; and late that evening, his father and I, in the hospital room in Toronto, Canada, placed our hands upon the head of that young missionary and gave him a blessing. What happened following that blessing was a testimony to me.

Elder Davidson was in a six-bed ward in the hospital. The other beds were occupied by five men with a variety of illnesses. The morning of Elder Davidson's surgery, his bed was empty. The nurse came into the room with the breakfast these husky men normally ate. She brought a tray over to bed number one and said, "Fried eggs this morning, and I have an extra portion for you." Bed number one was occupied by a man who was lying on his bed with his toe wrapped up in a bandage. He had suffered an accident with his lawn mower. Other than his injured toe, he was well physically. He said to the nurse, "I'll not be eating this morning."

"All right, we'll give your breakfast to your partner in bed number two!" As she went over to him, he said, "No, I think I'll not eat this morning."

She said, "That's two in a row. I don't understand you men, and there is no one this morning in bed three." She went on to bed four, bed five, and bed six; and the answer was the same. "No, this morning we're not hungry."

The young lady put her hands on her hips and said, "Every other morning you eat us out of house and home, and today not one of you wants to eat. What is the reason?"

And then the man who occupied bed number six came forth with the answer.

He said, "You see, bed number three is

empty. Our friend Davidson is in the operating room under the surgeon's hands. He needs all the help he can get. He is a missionary for his church; and while he has been lying on that bed while we have been patients in this ward, he has talked to us about the principles of his church—principles of prayer, of faith, of fasting wherein we call upon the Lord for blessings." He said, "We don't know much about the Mormon church, but we have learned a great deal about Davidson; and we are fasting for him today."

I might tell you that the operation was a success. In fact, when I attempted to pay the surgeon, he countered, "Why, that would be dishonest for me to accept a fee. I have never before performed surgery when my hands seemed to be guided by a power which was other than my own. No," he said, "I wouldn't take a fee for the surgery which Someone on high helped me to perform."

Elder Davidson framed his life with faith.

When we choose our friends with caution, plan our future with purpose, and frame our life with faith, we merit the companionship of the Holy Spirit. Then we can testify through our own experience to the truth of the Lord's promise:

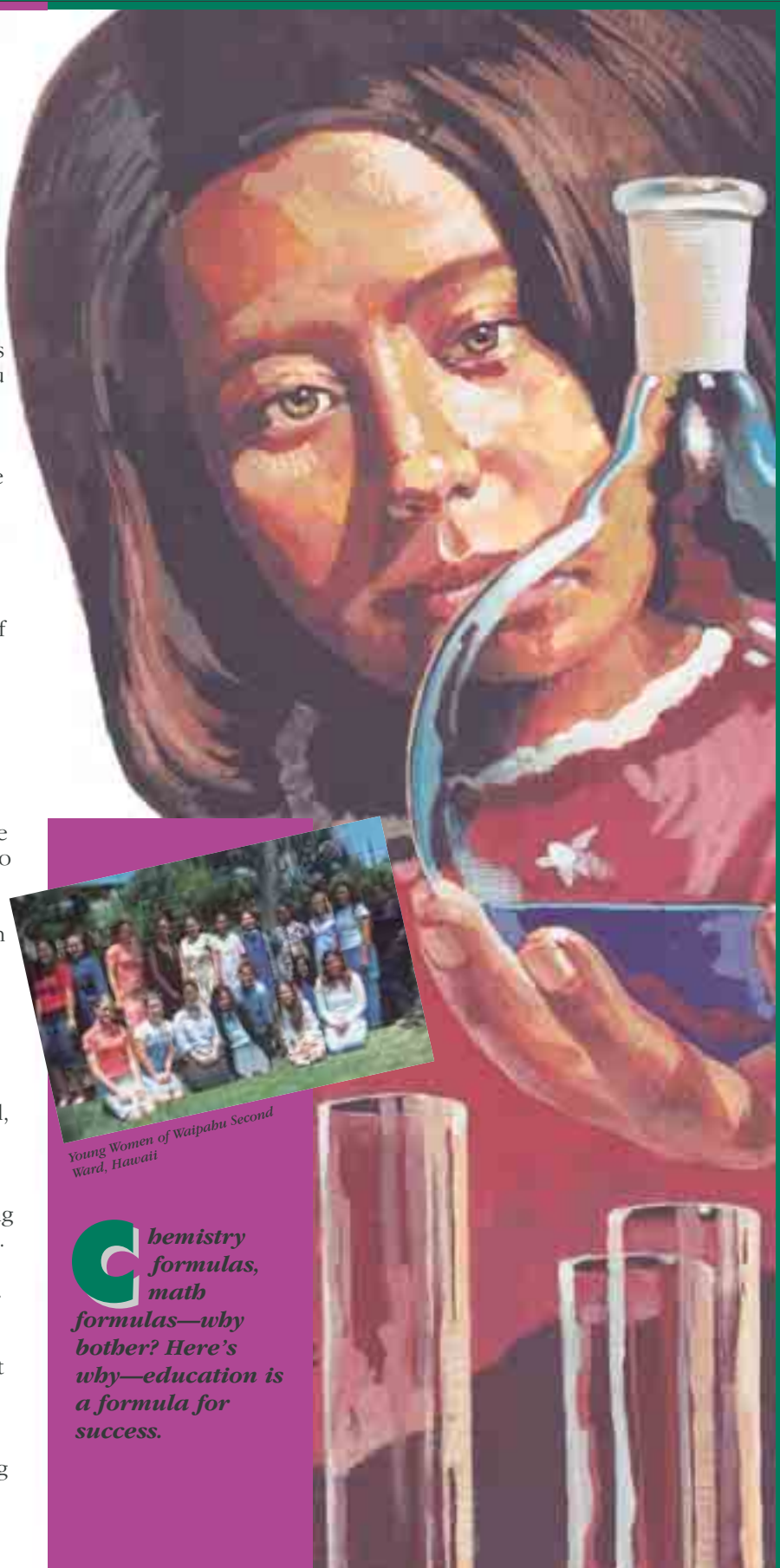
"I will be on your right hand and your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you to bear you up" (D&C 84:88). **NE**

Originally printed in the November 1983 New Era.

LEARNING MATTERS

President Gordon B. Hinckley has asked the youth of the Church to get all the education they can, both in the gospel and in secular matters. If your last chemistry test left you wondering why you even bother sometimes, here are some ideas from the Young Women of the Waipahu Second Ward in Hawaii on how to Be Smart and why it even matters.

- Life is all about learning to choose the right. Being able to make informed decisions means you don't have to go through life saying, "I wish I had known."
- Try your hardest in school. Study, pray for help, and get all you can out of the opportunities you have to become educated.
- Be honest when you are taking tests or doing other kinds of schoolwork. Cheating is a shortcut to nowhere.
- Look it up. If there's something you want to learn more about, do some research on the topic. It doesn't have to be something you are doing in school, just something you are interested in.
- Learn to let the Spirit guide you in all your decisions.
- If you are educated, it is easier to serve and bless others with the talents you have developed.
- Education is preparation for life. Knowing about the things of the world is not only a smart way to be successful, it is also a commandment (see D&C 88:77–80).
- Get involved in extracurricular activities and worthwhile hobbies. Being smart doesn't just mean reading books.
- Schooling or technical training is the way to get a good job in the future. Plan on being able to provide for yourself and your future family.
- Sit down and plan your future. Set goals prayerfully about how and where you want to become educated.
- Most importantly, with all your learning get wisdom and understanding that comes from God. If you put God first in all you do, things will work out for the best. **NE**

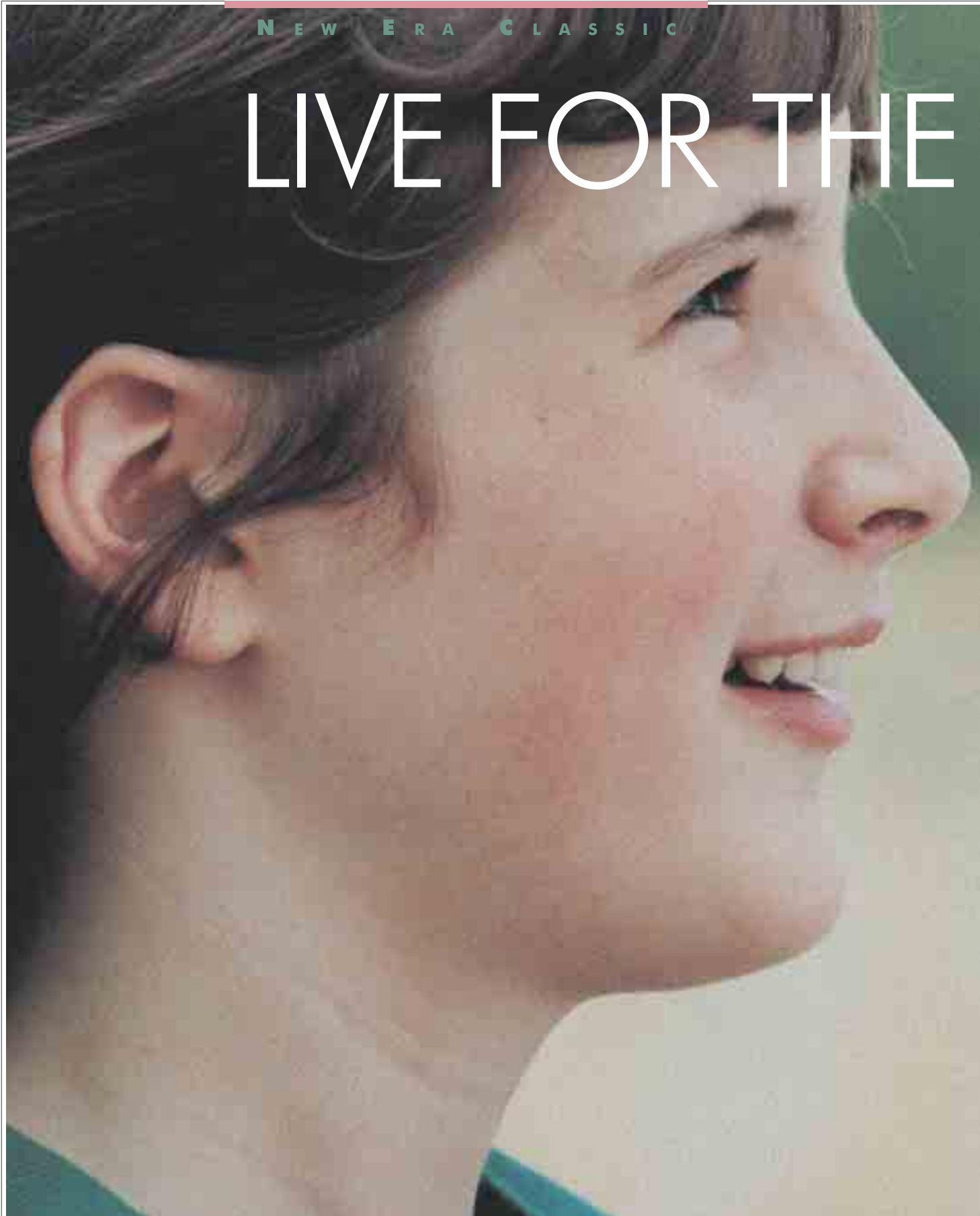


Young Women of Waipahu Second Ward, Hawaii

Chemistry formulas, math formulas—why bother? Here's why—education is a formula for success.

NEW ERA CLASSIC

LIVE FOR THE



Future

Make sure that what you do here and now will not betray you then and there. Live for eternity.

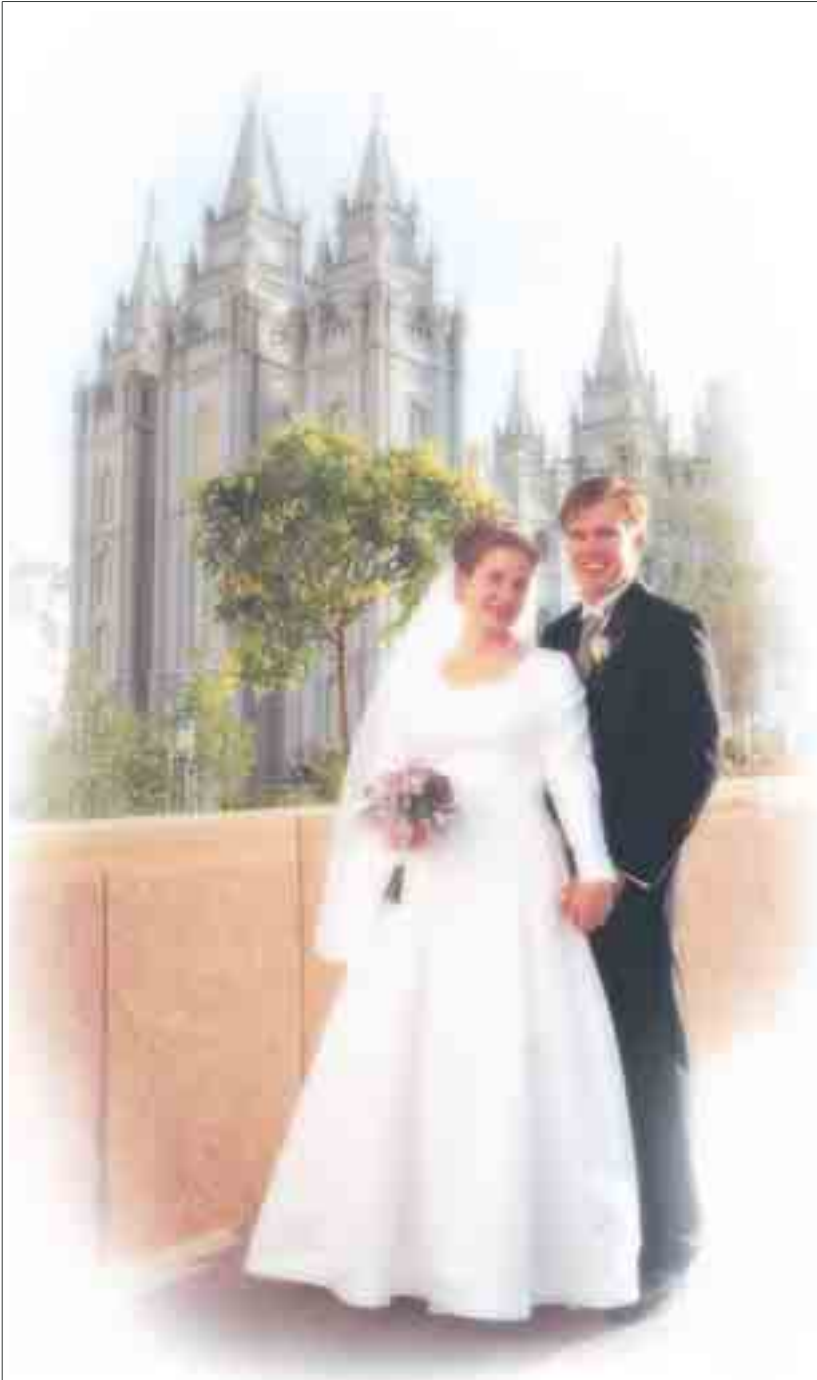
My dear young sisters, we are so very proud of you. We are deeply grateful that the Lord has sent to the Church at this time so many choice young spirits. Surely the Lord has displayed great confidence in you by placing you on the earth at this time, when the Church has so many important things to do and when the challenges are so great. If there should be days when you may be disillusioned or discouraged, remember that our Father in Heaven thought enough of

you to place you here now in these momentous days of great events and great opportunities.

We say to you that the Lord is delighted when we have sisters in the Church who are good scriptioners. Your involvement in many Church activities—in the seminary program, in the Young Women program, and, most importantly, in your family councils—will give you a chance to increase your familiarity with these wonderful records of the Lord's dealings with His people throughout the



**By President
Spencer W. Kimball**
(1895–1985)



If you are now dating—or even if you are not—when the time comes for serious courtship, be sure it reflects the patterns you want in your eternal marriage.

generations of time.

On those days when earthly friends may disappoint you, remember that the Savior of all mankind has described Himself as your friend. He is your very best friend! The best way you can honor your parents is to honor our Savior, for He has said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments (see D&C 42:29; John 14:21). Be a good family member now, and you will be a better wife and mother later!

You are truly “youth of the noble birthright” (*Hymns*, no. 255). Be true to the trust our Heavenly Father has placed in you. Remember that there will be nothing in your life’s experience which is truly lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy (see A of F 1:13) which you will need to reject because you are a member of the Church. But the artificial things, the things that harm the body and the soul, these you and all of us must ever reject and turn away from. Your membership in the Church will multiply and enhance, beyond your fondest dreams, all the truly good and worthwhile things of life.

Joy in righteousness

Remember, there is no happiness in sin. Do not let yourselves become part of the evil ways of the world. That would leave you unhappy and empty, whereas keeping the commandments will give you inner strength and peace, as well as eternal happiness and beauty of body and soul. There is a special light that goes with righteousness, and that can be yours if you keep the commandments of the Lord. By observing the commandments, you can keep faith with your future by shaping it so that it will bring happiness to you and joy to those who know and love you.

If you are now dating—or even if you are not—remember when the time comes for serious courtship that, as someone has said, “Courtship shows the marriage as morning shows the day.” Be sure your courtship reflects the patterns you want in your eternal marriage.

We love you wonderful daughters of Zion and say to you again, the Lord has truly blessed you by placing you upon the earth at this time. But in the midst of the “here and now” don’t forget to live for the “then and there”—for eternity—and the time will come when you will be grateful to the Lord for the challenges He has given you to overcome.

I pray for you daily and leave my blessings with you, and I testify to you that God lives! He is at the helm. This is His Church. **NE**

Originally printed in the July 1980 New Era.

BAKING

a Difference

Ahhh, the warm, comforting smell of bread baking has spread to the homes of several Laurels of the Patuxent Ward, Suitland Maryland Stake. The girls are involved in a service project that helps fulfill a value project for their Young Womanhood Recognition. In order to learn the skill of baking bread and to serve the ward members, they have been taking turns providing homemade loaves of bread for the sacrament.

Each girl takes a turn that lasts for six weeks. This time provides ample experience in improving her bread-making skills. The ward members noticed the change from commercially produced bread, as their bishop announced the service project to the congregation. Bishop Scott Shumway said the practice loaves were a delicious addition to their family dinners.

The homemade bread, blessed and served each

week, has made the girls more aware of roles they can play in providing this service to the members.

“It was a time to appreciate the sacrament more. Also, I’ve had lessons about supporting the priesthood, and making the bread for the weekly service seemed like a really good way to do that. It made me happy to make it,” said Bethany Shumway, the bishop’s daughter.

Also, Megan Prettyman felt their bread enhanced her appreciation of the ordinance. “It seemed to make it more personal since I had spent three hours the day before making the bread. I thought about the sacrament all during that time, not just during the meeting.”

Meagan Boswell was impressed with the ward members’ reactions. “People thanked us for taking the time and said how it made them think more about the sacrament that week. It was nice to have something to share with the whole ward.” **NE**

These Laurels kneaded to appreciate the sacrament more.

By Judy Kay W. Frome

I'M WORTH IT

hit rock bottom. I knew Heavenly Father loved me, but I couldn't feel it in my heart. It wasn't until I found the courage to pray that my healing began.

Name Withheld

Individual Worth is one of the seven values in the theme young women repeat every Sunday. For a long time, I didn't believe individual worth applied to me. Just as I knew gravity existed, I thought I knew that I had no worth.

Some of us are left with long-lasting scars from the battle of adolescence, not making it through as gracefully as others. I was among these "casualties," and about three years ago my lack of self-worth became crippling. I felt worse and worse about myself. I was sad a lot more than usual, and I was sleeping almost all day. Some days were better than others, and those days I was able to act like my normal, effervescent self. But other times it was a struggle to drag myself out of bed and brush my hair.

My emotional roller-coaster ride lasted for about two years, then I hit a low.

Depression set in for good this time, and I could see no way out. Some mornings, a problem as trivial as running out of hot water for my shower was enough to make me weepy for the rest of the day. On days like these life seemed to me a cruel fate.

I stopped reading my scriptures and saying my prayers, and my efforts to draw closer to Heavenly Father came to a halt. Why should I pray to a God who didn't care about me anymore? I felt utterly unworthy of asking for help from anyone, let alone my Maker. I believed I was helpless, hopeless, unloved. As a result, I became self-destructive.

When I hit rock bottom, my parents took me to a psychiatric rehabilitation center. Over time I learned to deal with my problems in healthy ways. I was able to reclaim the self-worth and self-confidence I had lost over the last three years.

As I struggled through the slow process of getting better, my mom and my good friend suggested I start praying again. The thought of praying terrified me. I couldn't go to Heavenly Father for help *now*. What if I really wasn't ready? For the longest time, I could not bring myself to address my Heavenly Father. I knew He loved me, but I just couldn't feel it in my heart. Again, doubt about my self-worth blocked my ability to heal until one day I finally realized, "I have to start somewhere, and now's as good a time as any."

I found the courage to get on my knees and pray to my Heavenly Father. As I began confiding in Him about my fears, wishes, and what I was most thankful for, an immense feeling of pure love completely overwhelmed me. All I could do was sob. This was a sensation I hadn't had for years. I had missed it so much, and now it was back, full force, and all I could do was cry and cry. I knew without a single grain of doubt that my Father in Heaven loved me, that I was His prized and precious daughter. Now every time I pray I experience a reaffirmation of that truth. I will never forget that I truly *am* a daughter of God who loves me. And I love Him. **NE**

Editor's Note: For more information about depression you can read "Rising Above the Blues" in the April 2002 New Era.



Q & A

“I will soon turn 12 and receive the priesthood. I know this means I will have more responsibilities even though I’m not sure yet what those responsibilities are. What should I do to prepare?”

NEW ERA

Receiving the priesthood means receiving the greatest power on earth. It is the authority of God delegated to man to act in His name for the salvation of His children. With the priesthood comes great responsibility, something you must prepare to receive.

The most important thing you can do to prepare to receive the Aaronic Priesthood is to live worthily. “Your authority comes through your ordination; your power comes through obedience and worthiness,” said President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “Power in the priesthood comes from doing your duty in ordinary things: attending meetings, accepting assignments, reading the scriptures, keeping the Word of Wisdom” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 32–33).

Preparing for the Aaronic Priesthood, just like holding the Aaronic Priesthood, requires the same obedience in the “ordinary things.” Daily scripture study, prayer, and striving to follow the commandments will prepare you spiritually. You should also prepare

The most important thing you can do to prepare to receive the Aaronic Priesthood is to live worthily.

Prepare yourself mentally by learning as much as possible about what the priesthood is and the responsibilities of priesthood holders.

You may want to ask your parents to have a family home evening lesson about preparing for the priesthood.

Before you receive the priesthood, your bishop will interview you. This is a great time to ask any questions you have.

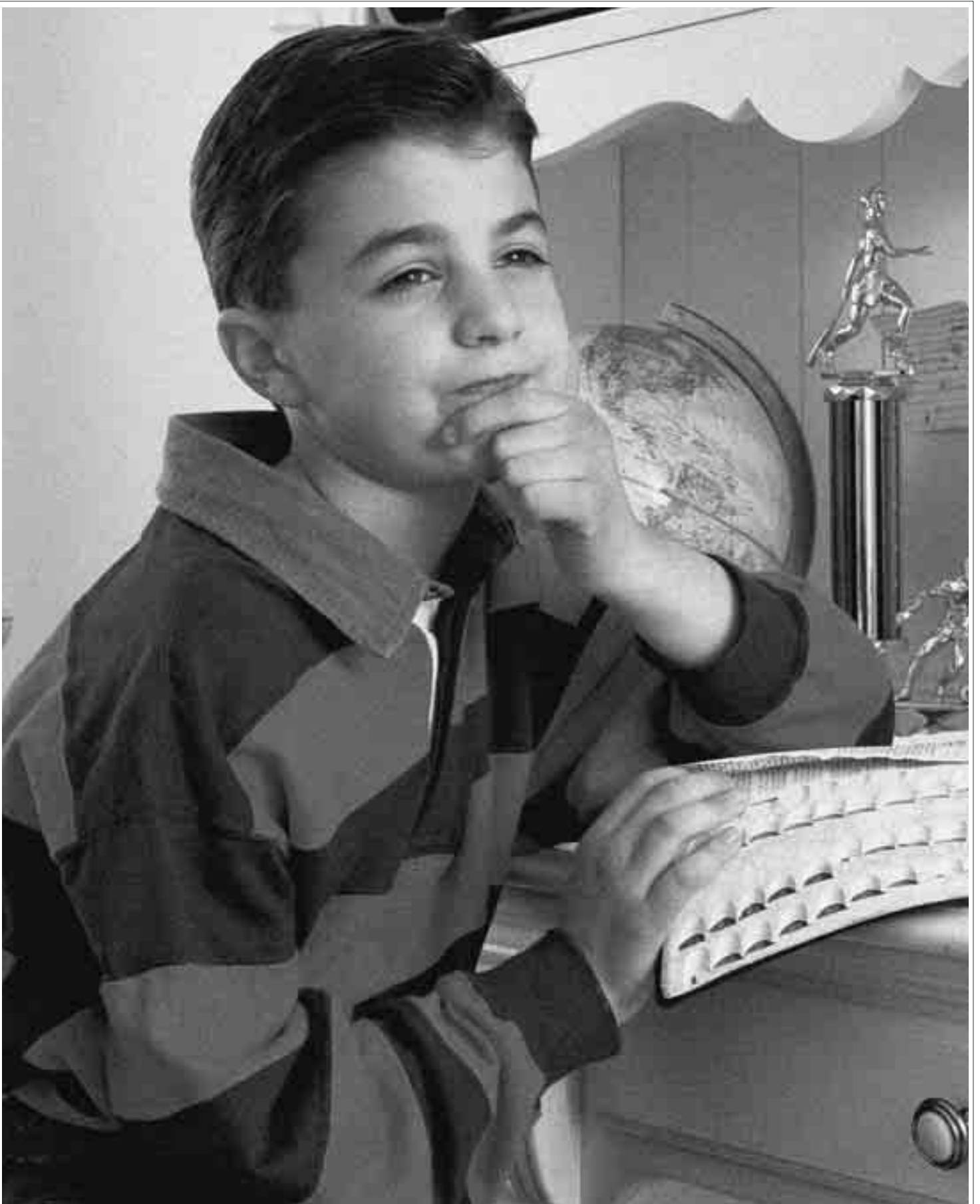
READERS

To know what your responsibilities are, read about them in the Doctrine and Covenants, sections 20 and 84. To prepare, honor your parents, so you will know how to honor your leaders. Read the scriptures, say your prayers, and try to stay worthy to receive answers by obeying God’s laws. You will learn about the priesthood more in your quorum meetings.
Scott Haslam, 15
Magna, Utah



Our bodies are temples of God. The Spirit of God cannot dwell in unclean places. As you are preparing to receive the priesthood, keep the Lord’s temple clean and holy so the Spirit can guide you to use your priesthood authority.
Etukudo Essien Silas, 19
Akwa, Nigeria





yourself mentally by learning as much as possible about what the priesthood is and the responsibilities of priesthood holders.

The scriptures are a great resource. Using the Topical Guide and other study resources, you will find lots of information. We also suggest reading Doctrine and Covenants section 13, an account of the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood. Section 20 describes the duties of the priesthood, and section 84 contains the oath and covenant of the priesthood.

You may want to ask your parents to have a family home evening lesson about preparing for the priesthood.

Many conference talks have been given about the Aaronic Priesthood. You can search for these talks on the Internet at www.lds.org, or you can look up “priesthood” in the index of a conference edition (May or November) of the *Ensign*. Once you are ordained a deacon, you will be able to attend the priesthood session of general conference where Church leaders speak directly to priesthood holders.

Before you receive the priesthood, your bishop will interview you. This is a great time to ask him any questions you have.

One of the most important things you can do to prepare to receive the priesthood is to learn to serve others. “We often define *priesthood* as the power and authority to act in the name of God upon the earth,” said Elder Keith K. Hilbig of the Seventy. “But service to our Savior, our family, and our fellowman also defines our priesthood. The Savior intends that we exercise our priesthood primarily for the benefit of others” (*Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 45).

No matter how much you study, you won’t be able to understand everything about the priesthood all at once. But as you learn about and fulfil your priesthood duties, you will understand more. **NE**

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



“In the eyes of God, there is more power and authority in the hand of an Aaronic Priesthood bearer than there is among all of the world’s rich, famous, and influential people. Their works will end; his will not. They can do nothing in the name of the Lord; he can do whatever the Lord requires of him, for he is on the Lord’s errand” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 41).

—Bishop
Keith B. McMullin
Second Counselor
in the Presiding
Bishopric

Before my 12th birthday, I thought that all a deacon did was pass the sacrament and gather fast offerings. Before I was ordained, my father and I read together about the duties of a deacon and an Aaronic Priesthood holder in D&C sections 13 and 20. I found out there is much more to being a deacon than passing the sacrament and collecting fast offerings. Being a deacon makes me feel like I’m getting ready to serve a mission!
Kevin C. Smurthwaite, 12
Boise, Idaho



You should first talk to your father, bishop, or your Young Men leader to help you learn about your responsibilities. You should then pray and ask for strength to be able to carry out your responsibilities. Reading your scriptures is an excellent way to prepare for the priesthood. If you still feel a little confused on how to start preparing, you can certainly ask for a father’s blessing.
Megan Curtis, 16
Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send us your answer to the question below, along with your name, age, ward, and stake. Please include a snapshot of yourself that is 1 1/2 by 2 inches (4 by 5 cm) or larger.

Q&A, New Era
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

QUESTION

At school dances I feel really uncomfortable with some of the music and the way some people dress and dance. My friends say I’ll get used to it. I don’t want to miss out on the social scene. What should I do?

Please respond by January 1, 2003.



DISCOVER THE
BEAUTY WITHIN

REAL SPARKLE IS NOT SOMETHING YOU PUT ON.
IT COMES FROM THE HEART.
(See 1 Samuel 16:7.)

One Step AHEAD

Losing his leg could have been a handicap, but it hasn't slowed Spence down in sports or on his mission.

When Spence McArthur was three years old, his foot and lower leg were mangled in a lawn mower accident. After Spence barely survived the 90-mile drive from his hometown of Lovell, Wyoming, to the hospital in Billings, Montana, Spence's parents, Susan and Steven, over a period of two years, fasted and prayed often and authorized six surgeries in an effort to save his foot and ankle. But the lower part of Spence's leg had to be removed.

Missing a foot and ankle, their five-year-old son would have some major obstacles to overcome. They wondered what his future would be. Would he have a normal life? Would he be teased? Would

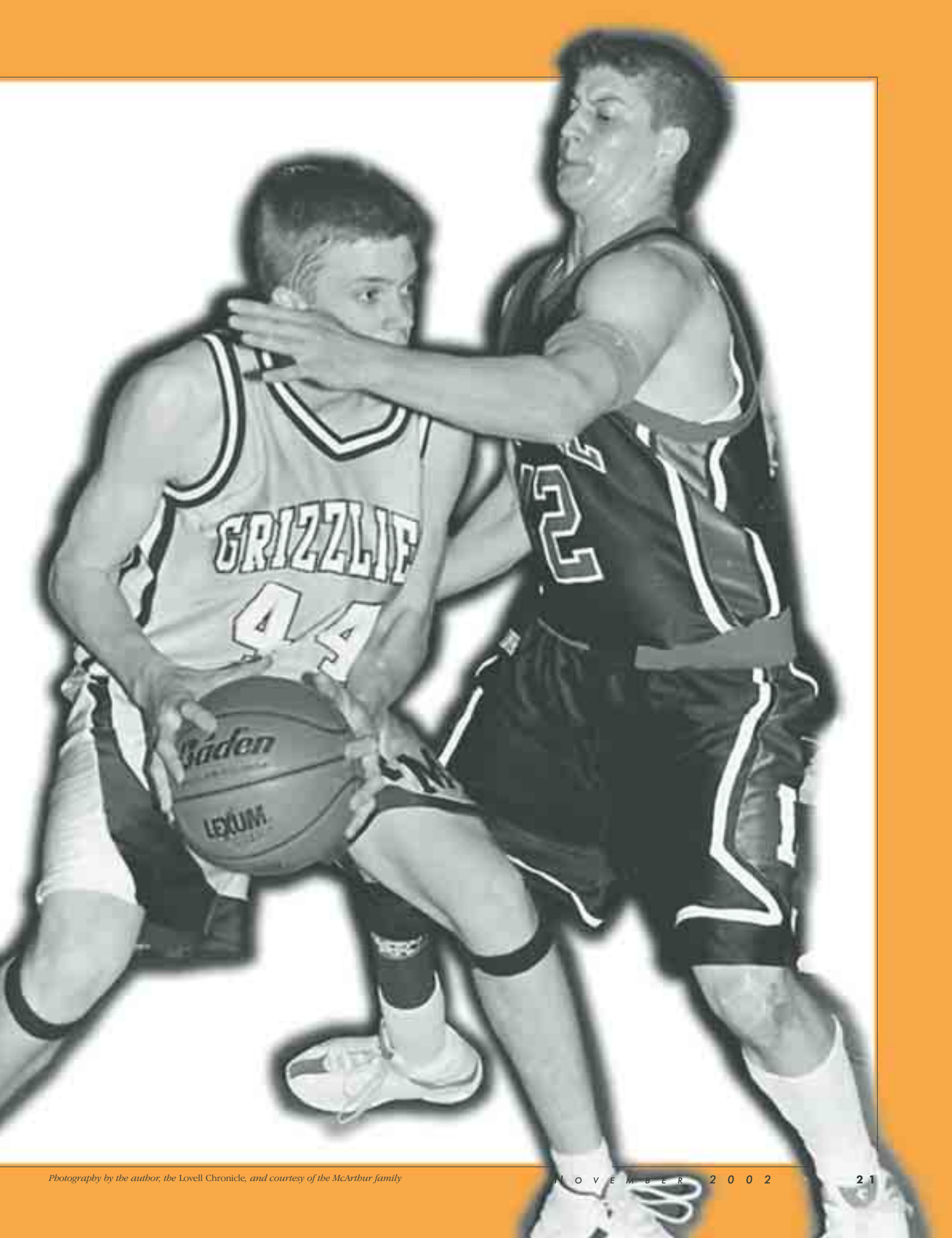


he be able to run? Would he ever walk without crutches? Would he play sports? Would losing his leg ruin his life?

Fast forward. Right now, somewhere in the Argentina Buenos Aires West Mission,

Playing on a state championship basketball team was one of Spence's dreams. He was the captain and starting guard for Lovell High School in Wyoming.

By Janet Thomas



Elder McArthur is keeping appointments with investigators, teaching discussions in Spanish, playing basketball with his companions on preparation day, and walking the streets with no sign of a limp, nothing to indicate that one leg is really bright blue fiberglass with stickers all over it.

However, for Spence, serving a mission is only the latest accomplishment in a lifetime of defying the odds and being able to do virtually anything he has tried to do. Before he left on his mission, we talked with Spence.

We talked to Spence's best friends from high school, his cousin who is the same age and has grown up with him, and his younger sister, Shalane. What are the things Spence cannot do?

Together they tried to create a list. You could see it in their faces. They really were thinking hard. Is there anything Spence cannot do with a prosthetic leg? Finally, Shalane answered for the group. "No," she said with absolute finality.

In high school Spence excelled at academics. He was valedictorian of his high school graduating class. He never had a B. He was popular with other students and was elected senior class vice president and prom king. He played all the usual sports, plus he was an all-state linebacker on the football team. He was captain of the basketball team, a team that won its first state championship in 10 years.

How about some recreational activities? What about swimming?

"He actually beats me," said Jake Walker, one of his friends. "He's fast. And he's a really good snow skier. Physically he can do anything we can."

Ashlee Mickelsen, Spence's cousin and good friend, said, "I can remember when someone once said that Spence was handicapped. I was so shocked. That word just doesn't apply to Spence."

Since his friends can't think of anything he cannot do, we asked Spence and his parents. They also had a hard time thinking of things. After all, this is the guy who danced with his school's swing choir, worked construction as a summer job, and helped a family move after their home was flooded. Finally, his mother, Susan, remembers that years ago, while in grade school, Spence didn't



jump rope quite as well as the other children. And Spence mentions that he's not that great on ice skates. Oh, he can skate, but he might need a little more practice.

It's obvious that no one, not his friends, not his family, not his teachers, not his opponents on sports teams, thinks of Spence as handicapped.

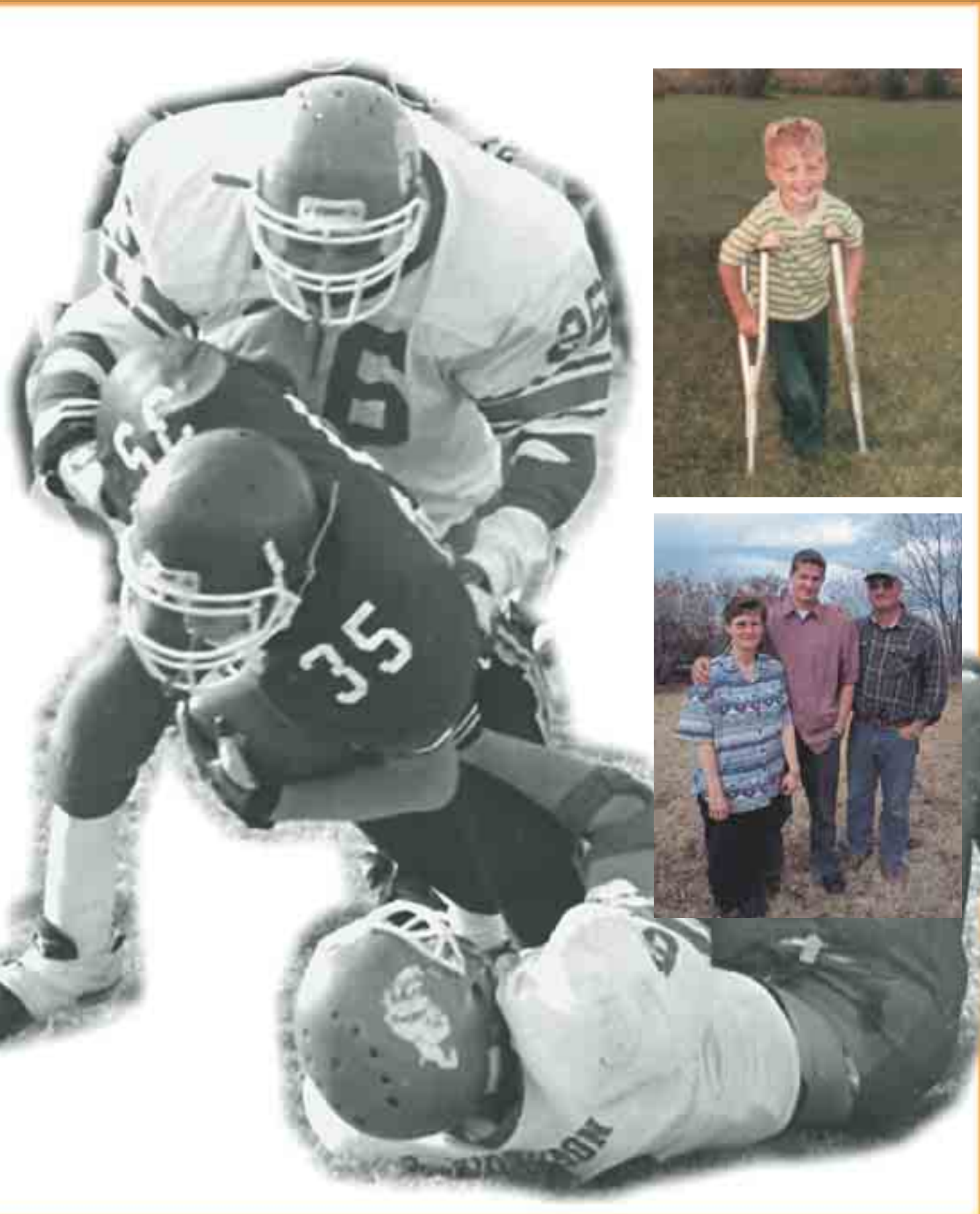
Determined is the right word

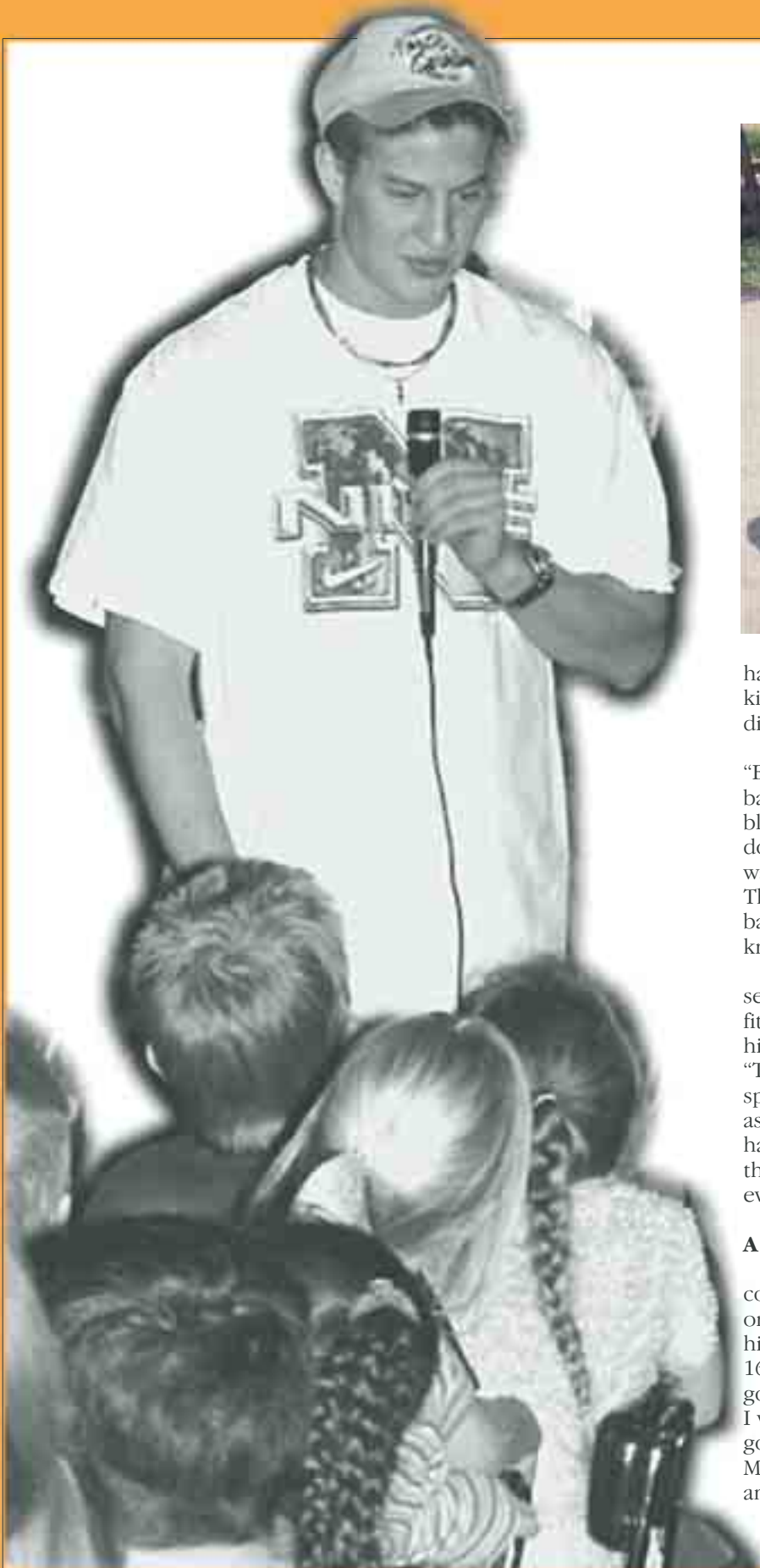
Spence learned determination as a child, racing first on crutches, then on his prosthetic leg, to keep up with his three older brothers and older sister. But, as he grew, he had to face a time when he didn't want to be different. He didn't want anyone to know about his leg. He wanted to keep it hidden.

His friends tell a story about something that happened during that time. Jake said, "He lost his leg in a basketball game."

Steven Hultgren and Stephen Anderson started smiling and began to fill in the details. "Spence used to wear these long socks when we were on the freshman basketball team. We started playing teams from other high schools. No one on the other teams knew he had a prosthetic leg. When Spence was going up for a shot, some kid stepped on his foot right when Spence jumped. He jumped right out of his leg. You should

Posing with his friends and his sister, Shalane (second from left). Spence was also a starting line-backer on the football team. At four, he learned to run on his crutches. (Below, right) Spence and his parents, Steven and Susan, outside their Wyoming home. Following page: (Left) Spence uses the things he has learned about overcoming adversity to talk with children. (Top) Elder McArthur with Elder Grunig at the Missionary Training Center.





have seen the expression on the other kid's face. The ref was so surprised he didn't even blow his whistle."

Spence continued the story: "Everyone was staring at me. I slipped it back on, and since the referee hadn't blown his whistle, I took off running down the court. Everyone on my team was rolling with laughter. I was laughing. The kid who was guarding me stepped back, and his eyes were huge. He didn't know what to think."

After that, Spence became much less self-conscious. The next time he was fitted for a new leg, his doctor offered him a green one. As Spence explained, "The doctor said that I've got something special. I'm like nobody else and I might as well show it off. I don't think I'll ever have a skin-colored leg again. Now I like the other colors. I have stickers and everything else on it."

A spiritual step forward

Even though he seems to have conquered every obstacle in his life, at one time Spence felt his leg would stop him from serving a mission. "I was about 16. I was struggling. I didn't know if I was going on a mission. I have a fake leg, and I was scared. I thought I'd just rather not go. And I was having trouble with sports. My prosthetic legs were breaking a lot, and things were not good.

"One night, after family home evening,

I got a feeling that I needed to read something. I didn't know what. We have a bunch of Church books up on our shelf. I'd never looked at them before. I pulled out a book by Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone. I started reading it. I got to one story when Elder Featherstone was talking to a kid who didn't have a leg. He wasn't going on a mission, but then Elder Featherstone talked to him about it. I put myself into what was happening. The kid came back and told Elder Featherstone that he had a mission call and he was going to go. I just stopped. I realized, 'That's me. He's talking straight to me.' I set the book down. I had found my answer."

But that moment was just the beginning of the changes in Spence's life. For the first time in his life, he started praying on his own. He'd been taught to pray, but up until then, he had only prayed when called on in Sunday School or in his family. "Now I pray all the time in everything, in every sporting event, before every test. I pray for help," says Spence. "My whole life turned around. Church hadn't been my main priority, sports were. Now the gospel is the main thing. I have gained even more of a testimony of the Atonement. What Jesus Christ did for me is unbelievable.

"These past couple of years, I've been a lot happier. Even people at school can see that I'm a lot happier, a lot friendlier. I talk to everybody. If they say hi to me, I'll talk to them. I hardly ever get mad anymore. That's what I try to explain to my friends who aren't members of the Church. It's not that we're out to convert you just to have another member of the Church. We want to make you happier."

In the end, Spence learned what everyone has to learn for themselves—it doesn't matter what you have to deal with in this life; if you turn to the Lord, He will listen and guide you in your decisions. And that's why Spence packed his extra leg and made the commitment to serve the Lord for two years on a mission.

Oh, yes, he finally thought of something he can't do. Being from Wyoming, it's a little bit bigger deal to Spence than if he were from somewhere else.

He can't wear cowboy boots. **NE**



ANOTHER FINE EXAMPLE

With a basketball in his hand and his naturally quick feet, Dax Crum from Kirtland, New Mexico, is a fine shooting guard. He also serves as a great example to other young people in how to deal with obstacles.

When basketball commentators say that Dax Crum of Kirtland, New Mexico, is single-handedly leading the offense, they are telling the truth. Dax was born without a right hand, yet when he was growing up he refused to listen to those who said he would never play basketball. As a high school junior, he scored 22 points in the game leading up to the 2002 state championship and 17 points in the final game. He also has not listened to those who said he wouldn't be able to play baseball (he hopes to earn a college scholarship as a pitcher). In addition, he was the leading scorer on his soccer team, and he runs sprints and anchors the relay team in track.

Dax is a priest in the Kirtland Second Ward in New Mexico and is the fourth of six children. He's a straight-A student, loves to be with his friends, and enjoys playing his guitar. His parents, Richard and Valerie, have always encouraged their son to overcome obstacles, and they saw their son become relentless in learning to do things. Dax says, "I don't let my hand embarrass me. I guess if people feel sorry for me, they can. But I don't feel sorry for myself."

Dax is the perfect person to talk to young kids about facing hard problems. Just like the advice he gave to one young boy, also born without a hand, "I just said, 'You can do anything. Don't let anything get in your way.'"

A TEAR & A ROSE

They couldn't know what I was going through. Their fathers were still alive. But what they brought me was just what I needed at that moment.

By Patricia Reece Roper

I sat on my bed hugging my knees, staring at the walls, but seeing nothing. Although it was the end of July, I felt cold and numb. I wasn't worried about what I would be doing tomorrow, or the next day, or next week even. Everything that had seemed a matter of extreme importance didn't make any difference to me at all now.

"I hope that's not for me," I thought as I heard several car doors slam in the driveway. Smiling and trying to carry on small talk was certainly something I didn't feel up to today. Besides, none of my friends—or anybody my age for that matter—would have even the smallest idea of what I was going through. All their fathers were still alive.

"I'll be right there," I answered when Mother called to me. When I entered the living room, I was a little surprised to find my whole Young Women class, not just the presidency or a chosen few, there to visit me. Somehow, it made me feel special, even important, to know that everyone cared enough to come. They were all standing around looking a bit awkward and embarrassed. It was obvious this kind of visit was something none of them had ever done before.

My adviser stepped forward and spoke for the class. "We just wanted to drop by and let you know we're thinking of you

at this difficult time."

I nodded, forcing a phony smile on my lips. I hadn't been able to really smile, or cry for that matter, since the funeral. She ended with the usual, "If there's anything we can do, please let us know."

Bev, one of my classmates and a pretty good friend, stepped forward to hand me a single red rose. As I reached out to take it, mumbling my gratitude for their kindness, something unexpected happened. Instead of letting go of the rose, Bev held on to it. Drawing me closer, she wrapped her arms around me and began sobbing. Her crying shattered my resistance, and I threw my arms around her and broke down with weeping of my own. All the pain and grief I had tried to store came flooding out. I hadn't allowed myself to cry so hard, but with Bev's arms around me, it was suddenly easy to do.

Then another of my classmates stepped forward and took Bev's place. It was then that I realized they were all huddled together, wiping tears, and saying nothing. I was amazed at how much better such a good cry was making me feel. Without saying anything, they seemed to be providing just what I needed most. When they had each taken a turn at my side, they quietly whispered good-byes and left.

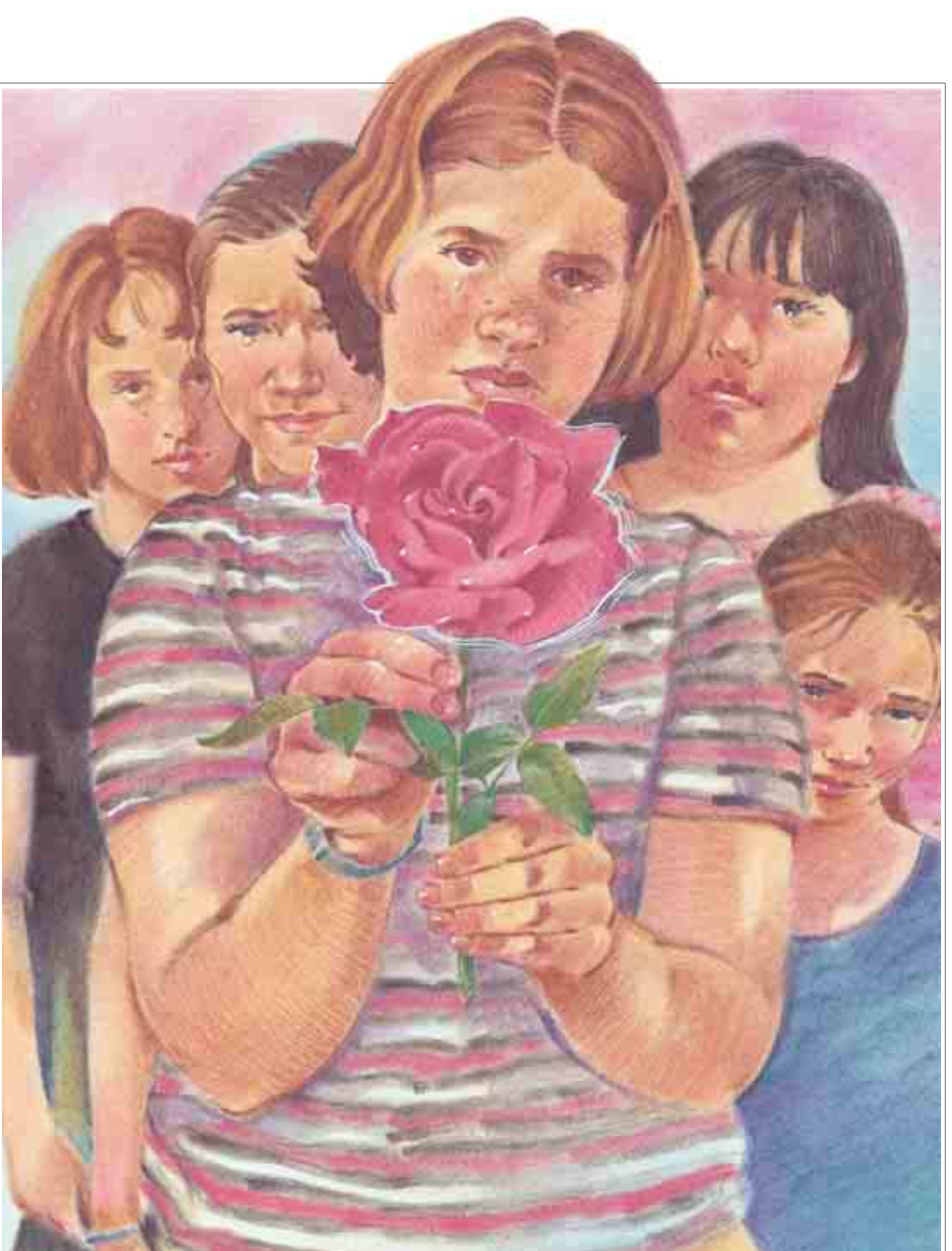
After the door closed behind them, I still stood where they had left me, clutching the rose.

"That was a wonderful thing they did," my mother said from behind me. It was then I remembered she had been there, a witness to the whole beautiful scene.

"I didn't know I needed that," I quietly mumbled.

Each time I looked at the rose in my vase, I remembered the young women from my class and the supporting embraces they gave me. If there was something to be grateful for during this trying time, it was the feeling of knowing I did not have to endure this suffering alone.

Before my own experience with death, I had often wondered what to say and do for someone at such a time. For me the answer was pretty simple: don't say anything; just be there. The greatest comfort I received was a shoulder to cry on, arms to hold me, tears of sorrow, and a single red rose to cherish. **NE**



DOUBLE DOUBLE DUTY



Earning your Young Womanhood Recognition is very rewarding. So Chanelle did it twice.

It's nice to get the chance to do things over again, wouldn't it? Well, some things. You might like to relive your happiest birthday or avoid your most embarrassing moment, but would you jump at the chance to repeat a project that involved around 100 hours of hard work?

Chanelle Cann of West Jordan, Utah, did. After finishing years of work to earn her Young Womanhood Award, she turned around and did it all over again. The revised Personal Progress book and new medallion were her inspiration.

The General Young Women presidency encouraged young women already working on the old program to transfer their hours and finish up with the new

program. They didn't expect young women to earn both awards. After doing all the work once, what was Chanelle thinking?

Actually, she was thinking ahead. She wanted the chance to grow with the right attitude, so she'd be more prepared for her future.

"When I was younger I worked on the Personal Progress program because it was there. When I got to be a Laurel, I did it because I wanted to," she said. "I wanted to do the new program because I knew I would be doing it for the right reasons."

Chanelle was proud of her first award, but she understood that personal progress isn't something you need a book to do.

When her stake president introduced the changes to the Young Women program, Chanelle picked up a copy of the new Personal Progress book and headed straight home to plan.

Her mom, Evelyn, said Chanelle stayed up well past midnight that night mapping out how she could earn the new award and how many hours per week she could

By Arianne Baadsgaard





Chanelle did over 100 hours of projects, including hand stitching a temple-themed quilt (above) and composing songs on her guitar (right). But she saw the work as more than a chance to earn another necklace. She's preparing herself for the future that's just around the corner.

work on it, starting the next day.

"I told her you could just pay and get the other necklace instead," Chanelle's mom said, "but she said, 'No, I want to really earn it.'"

Chanelle didn't want another necklace, she wanted a chance for growth. She would be graduating from high school soon and wanted to be prepared for the future. But she didn't need a book to get what she wanted.

"All the things I did were things I needed to learn for the future anyway. I used the new program because I knew something that came from the prophet could give me good direction," she said.

Her projects included attending the temple several times a week to do baptisms for the dead, volunteering at an elementary school, writing poetry about the Savior, recording songs with her guitar, hand stitching a temple quilt, serving at a rest home, making family home evening files for her future family,

and learning to cook.

Chanelle said the cooking project didn't turn out so well. She made some pies that were more of a learning experience than a gourmet dessert. She's going to keep trying anyway.

As it turns out, Chanelle makes a better writer than a chef. Her favorite project was writing poetry. She also loved writing about her experiences in her journal because it helped her realize how much she actually learned from doing the projects with the right attitude.

"Putting my feelings down on paper helps me recognize what I believe in and makes me more grateful," she said.

To earn the second award, Chanelle did 70 hours of projects and completed 42 other value experiences, on top of school and work.

"It took a lot of time, but it was worth it," she said.

It isn't her two medallions hanging around her neck on the same gold chain that light up her face, though. Her glittering smile reveals how much she's grown. She said doing both programs strengthened her testimony, helped her recognize her potential, made her aware of all her blessings, and prepared her for the future.

"I think I try harder now to keep the Spirit with me and recognize what I do in my life really does affect me," she said.

Chanelle has a lot of goals for the future, including an education, a mission, and getting married in the Salt Lake Temple. She said she's grateful for the chance she had to earn the Young Womanhood Award—twice, because it prepared her to accomplish those goals.

Perhaps one of Chanelle's poems said it best:

"The simple things you do

Determine what the future will bring to you."

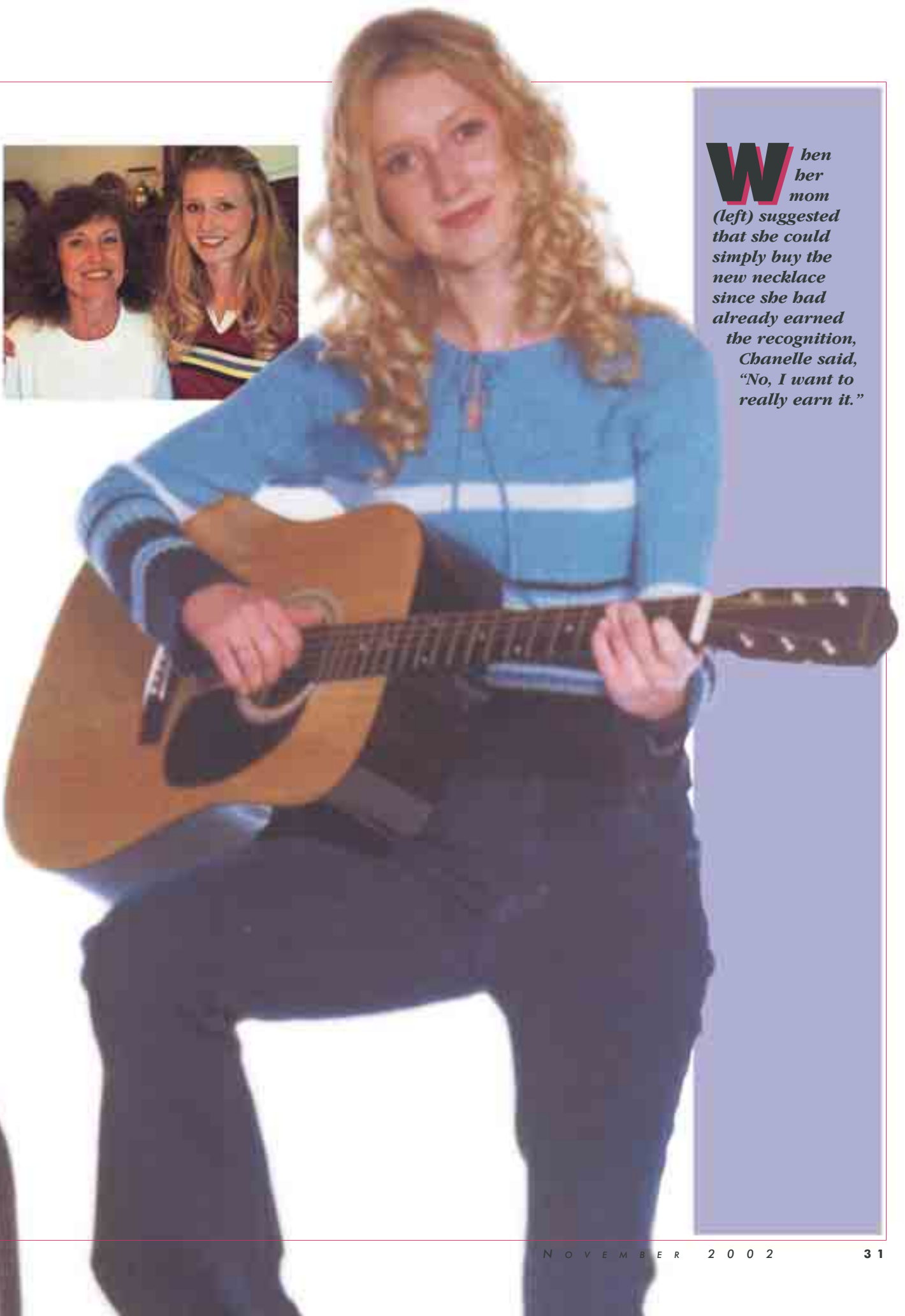
Now, Chanelle is always looking for new ways to grow.

Earning both awards helped set a pattern of personal progress that will last her a lifetime. **NE**





When her mom (left) suggested that she could simply buy the new necklace since she had already earned the recognition, Chanelle said, "No, I want to really earn it."





FORMULA FOR SUCCESS



By Elder
Earl M. Monson
Of the Seventy

A valid formula will produce successful results every time and for everyone. You just have to follow it. Try this one and see.

Life provides a wonderful opportunity to seek our talents and interests. It is well to remember, however, that “all have not

every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God” (D&C 46:11). In our searching, it is important to seek guidance of the Spirit to discover skills we should develop.

Once we’ve decided what we really want to do, the Lord has given us a formula for achieving our eternal and temporal goals: “For he will give unto the faithful line upon line, precept upon precept; and I will try you and prove you herewith” (D&C 98:12).

Four parts

There are four parts to this wonderful formula for living.



First, the Lord reminds us that real success will only come only to the faithful—those who have sincere determination to achieve their goal.

The second part of the formula reminds us that learning is often a slow process and comes line upon line, one step at a time. The Lord offers kind encouragement when He says, “Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great” (D&C 64:33). We must learn to be patient with ourselves while pushing to new levels of achievement or knowledge. It is important to take time occasionally to remind ourselves of what we are trying to do.

Third, we are to be tried. As we pursue our goals, we may meet difficulties or distractions. Other people may ridicule our efforts. Or maybe we will find it difficult to understand or use what we have learned. There may even be temptations to give up.

But, if we can just persist, the proof or benefits of our efforts will eventually come to us, which is the fourth part of the formula. In some cases the rewards may be improved skills or greater

knowledge. Perhaps we will be better qualified for a good job.

Following the formula

It is interesting to note this formula can be used in almost any type of development. A young man may yearn for bigger muscles. If he persists in a good exercise program, he will find his muscles will develop slowly and sometimes painfully. Many young women want to be able to prepare a lovely meal only to find they must learn several skills, practice them, and perhaps experience some failures before they succeed. They are tried before the proof of their efforts is apparent.

Of utmost importance in using this process is when we use it to live as the Lord has taught us. Those who first seek the kingdom of God can “receive revelation upon revelation, knowledge upon knowledge, that thou mayest know the mysteries and peaceable things—that which bringeth joy, that which bringeth life eternal” (D&C 42:61).

Begin with some vision and much determination to do good. Be patient and humble as you try to learn one true precept after another. As you do so, you



As you are faithful, the Lord will give you “line upon line, precept upon precept.”



He truly lives and loves us far more than most of us can even imagine. He has done everything He can to help us know how to live our lives well.

will find more self-confidence and increased faith in the Lord. You will find you don't really understand a gospel principle until you live it. Paying tithing may be difficult for some even though the Lord has made great promises to those who do so. When it comes into a person's mind and heart to pay an honest tithing out of appreciation, love, and obedience, then he begins to understand what the Lord has been promising him.

A life of inner peace

Although we may be tried to see how determined we are to live each new principle, if we persevere, the windows of heaven truly open in many ways and our proving takes place. Our faith in the Savior and trust in His words will continue to grow. We will find the most desirable of all our goals will take the most determination to achieve but will be worth every effort.

The most important thing in using this wonderful formula is deciding what it is we want to achieve. This process can work in reverse and bring loss of spirituality if we are not careful. If we commit sins, we are tried with feelings of regret and remorse. And if we don't heed those feelings and change, further sins

come more easily. The result is withdrawal of the Spirit and loss of potential blessings.

We see evidence of the successful use of this formula all around us. There are many examples in the scriptures, in the lives of our ancestors, and in many great people living today. A life with inner peace and happiness can also be ours if we are willing to earn it. It is marvelous to develop this way of living while you are still very young. You have many years to develop even further great spiritual strength and understanding by applying what the Lord has taught us.

My prayer for you is that you will understand how you can earn the remarkable blessings awaiting you by using the help given by our dear Savior. He truly lives and loves us far more than most of us can even imagine. He has done everything He can to help us know how to live our lives well. We just need to be determined, learn truth step by step, be patient but persevere, and then eventually we will enjoy His blessings. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor. 2:9). **NE**

T H E E X T R A S M I L E

A tall companion can be a great blessing.



Brandon Dorman

"This is great popcorn! Which apricot tree did we get it from?"



Chris Deaver

"Read that part again about not one hair being lost."



Val Chadwick Bagley



TRUE FRIENDS



By Elder
Monte J. Brough
Of the Seventy

My dog, Pepper, walked with just one of his front legs. My friends all made fun of him, but my brother and I loved him. He was willing to stand up for me against great odds.

Two of my best friends were the four-legged variety, but they taught me a lot about being a loyal and responsible friend.

Two of my best friends were animals. I have had plenty of people in my life who qualify as significant heroes and who have taught me important lessons or assisted me in significant ways. But two great examples of friendship to me were a little black cocker spaniel named Pepper and Trixie, a brown-and-white pinto.

I remember the day my Aunt Madge gave Pepper to my brother Max and me. He was a coal-black puppy, and we were thrilled to have him. We didn't know a cocker spaniel's tail was supposed to be clipped while it was small. So, as he grew, Pepper didn't look like most cocker spaniels. He had a long, heavy tail and long ears which nearly touched the ground. He was seriously injured by an automobile but survived with a crushed shoulder that affected his mobility. He walked with just one of his front legs and was a funny little dog. My friends all made fun of him, but my brother and I loved him. He was our loyal, wonderful friend.

I was born in Randolph, a little town in the mountains of northern Utah. Some

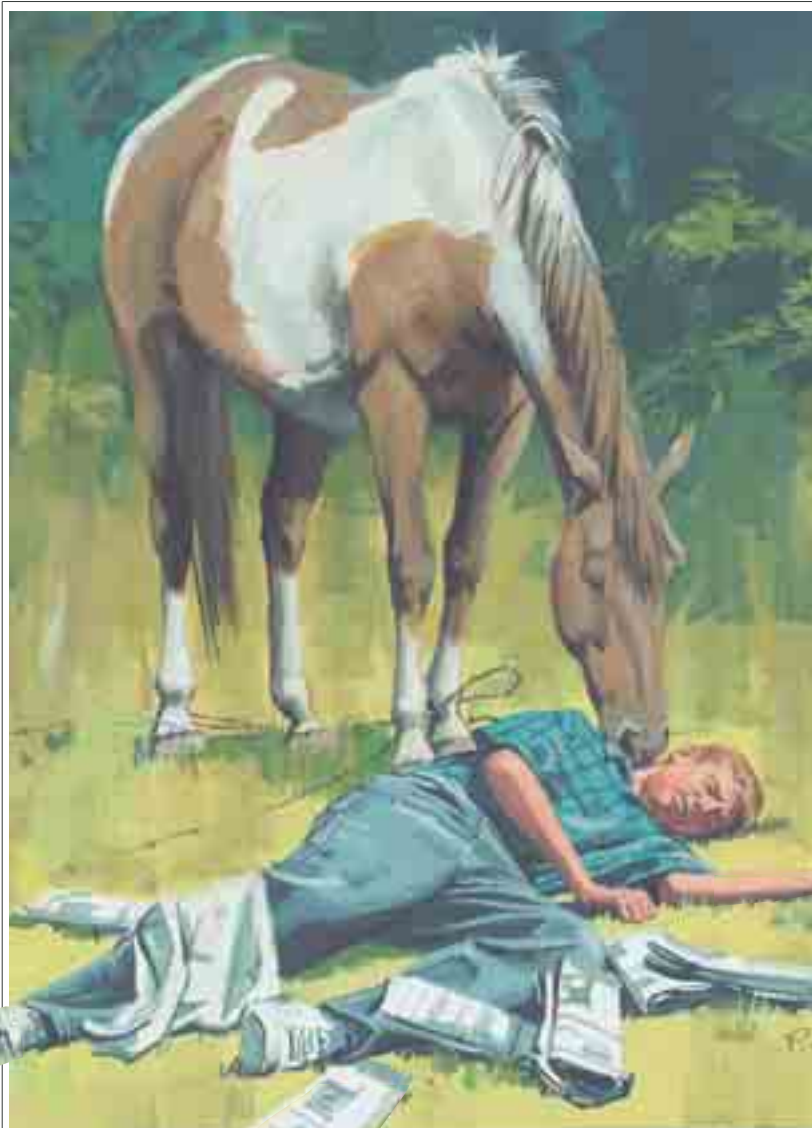
birth defects required that I have several major surgeries on my left leg during the early years of my life. I didn't run and play as most other boys did. My father died when I was 22 months old, leaving Mom a young widow with four small children. As soon as we could, it was necessary that each of us find jobs which would provide assistance with our family's needs.

I started my first job delivering papers for the *Deseret News* the year I turned 12, the same year I was ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood. I was very excited to be a deacon and to be able to attend priesthood meeting. Our mother loved the Church and was so pleased when her boys could be ordained to the priesthood.

She stood by me

There is quite a distance between homes in Randolph, which required a lot of effort to deliver only a few papers. Early every morning for several years, I rode Trixie to deliver the newspapers. She carried me many miles at a full gallop during all kinds of weather on my route. I always rode bareback so that the warmth of the horse's body would help keep me warm. She was also one of my valued and trusted friends. Trixie was always willing and even excited to do her work.

On the second Sunday in July, just three weeks after I had received the Aaronic Priesthood, Trixie and I were rushing to complete my paper route so I could attend priesthood meeting. At a full gallop, she ran into some fencing wire



Our pinto horse, Trixie, carried me miles every morning. She was always willing and excited to do her work. She stood by me when I was injured. Her friendship made my life better.

which had been carelessly left on the ground. Her feet tangled, and she fell down with me. Newspapers were scattered all over. Yet Trixie stood by until the milkman found me some time later lying unconscious on the ground. I woke up 18 hours later in a hospital in Evanston, Wyoming, the closest hospital to our home. My leg had been badly broken, which forced me to use a wheelchair and crutches for the next six months. Trixie willingly continued her work during the next months with my younger brother on her back. He and she filled my responsibility to my newspaper customers without a single complaint from either.

Pepper's defense

One day, as I was walking on my crutches to the local grocery store, I was

attacked by a large dog. It bit me on the legs and the arms and knocked me to the ground. I remember screaming for help. Suddenly, a little black shape came flying into the fight and began to help me. It was a savage battle between a crippled cocker spaniel and this much larger, ferocious animal. Pepper's efforts gave me enough time to get one of my crutches and join in the battle. Together, Pepper and I were able to chase the dog away.

We were both hurt, Pepper much more than I. Soon, my brother arrived to help us. Pepper suffered from his injuries for a few weeks but overcame them and lived for several more years. Little Pepper saved me from potentially serious injury.

I have learned much from the example of a little black dog and a small pinto. Pepper didn't require a single thing in return for his friendship. His love and loyalty were a freewill offering. As with many dogs, he was pleased just to be patted on the head occasionally and treated with some kindness. When he died, I hoped Heavenly Father would value his life as my brother and I did.

Trixie and Pepper worked alongside me, played with me, and accepted me regardless of my limitations. And if a dog and a horse can be such examples of friendship, what about our relations with our fellow human beings? Do we make others' lives better because of our friendship with them? Do we offer friendship to those who are struggling or who have limitations?

I believe true friends not only make life more enjoyable, but they help each other become worthy of the greatest friendship of all. We learn from the scriptures that the Lord referred to righteous Abraham as His friend (see James 2:23). And in this dispensation He bestowed the title of "friend" on his Apostles (see D&C 84:63, 77; 93:45).

Friendship is a wonderful gift. The more often we give it, the more often we receive it. I hope we are all grateful for quality friends. And may we all seek to be truly good friends—to bring out the best in each other and help each other live righteous lives. Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear the Savior call us "friend" someday? **NE**

Sweet Comfort

My first week at college was difficult. I had never been away from home before, and now I was living in a different state. I was away from family, friends, and everything familiar to me. To make matters worse, my new roommate had yet to arrive. I was lonely—very lonely. I missed my family a lot.

Most of all, I missed my mother's hugs. Each day before I went to school, and each day as I returned home, my mother embraced me. Her hugs reassured me of her love, made me feel safe, and reduced all the stresses I had felt during the day. I would then talk with her about all that had happened. She was always there to listen to me and help me feel better.

Now, when I came home from school, all I found was an empty apartment. I would sit on the edge of my bed and cry because I felt so alone. I longed for her hugs.

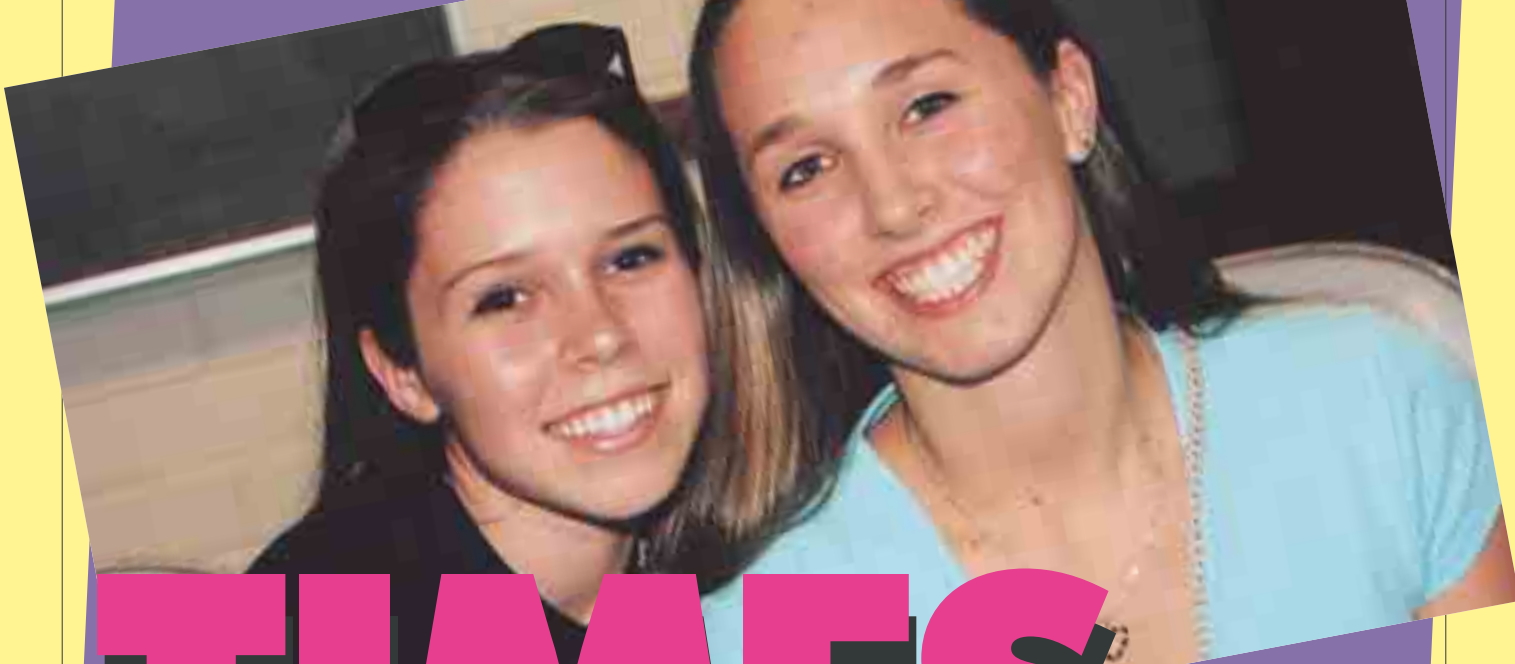
The only thing I felt I could do was pray. I knelt and explained to my Heavenly Father how I felt. I talked with Him as I had with my mother and told Him of all the events in my day—of the new and exciting things, the stresses I felt, and the worries I had. I then told my Heavenly Father I desperately needed a hug. I felt the warmth of His Spirit flow through me. And although I could not see His arms, I knew they encircled me. I felt as though my mother had just hugged me. All the fear and loneliness was washed away, and I felt loved. The scripture from 2 Nephi 1:15 came into my mind: "I have beheld his glory, and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love."

After that day, whenever I feel lonely or need someone to talk to, I talk to my Heavenly Father. I gained a testimony of the power of prayer and the reality of the knowledge that my Heavenly Father really listens. I know I am never alone. No matter what my needs are, my Father in Heaven will help me. **NE**

I was far from family and friends and very lonely. Most of all I missed my mother's hugs. There was only one place I could turn for help.

By Wendy Kathryn Bouton

PROGRESS



TIMES TWO

By Anita Schiller



Stephanie and Tiana find that teaming up with a friend to work on Personal Progress can be lots of fun.

Stephanie Cole and Tiana Karren have been close friends since they were two years old. Even going to different schools hasn't gotten in the way of their friendship. This year, the two

Laurels from the Saratoga Ward, in the California Saratoga Stake, decided to turn that friendship into good works with a joint Personal Progress project.

One day last fall, Stephanie was talking about how much her younger cousins like to sing and how they wanted to be in a choir. Stephanie, who loves music and has played piano since kindergarten, suggested she might organize a children's choir. When her mom casually mentioned the conversation to the ward Primary chorister, the chorister jumped at the opportunity and signed Stephanie on in short order.

The children's choir seemed like the perfect Value Project—until Stephanie counted the children in the Primary. “I knew right away that this was a bigger task than I could handle on my own,” says Stephanie.

Knowing that her friend Tiana loved music, she enlisted her help. “Sometimes



When trying to organize a children's choir in her ward for a Value Project, Stephanie realized she might need some help. Knowing that her friend Tiana also loved music, she enlisted her help. The two girls worked with the Primary children through many challenges to form a successful choir.



Since their first collaboration was a success, the girls decided coaching Stephanie's little sister's basketball team would make another good Value Project. But what started off as a project became a real labor of love that took much more than the required number of hours.

it was really challenging to get the children to even listen and pay attention," says Tiana.

When the day finally arrived for the program, Stephanie accompanied the

children on piano, and Tiana directed. The children sang beautifully!

"Our teamwork really paid off," says Stephanie. "So many people came up after and told us how much they enjoyed the program."

After 12 hours of work, the Primary program was done. The girls continued to hold practices with the children's choir to finish the project's needed hours—and for fun! But they didn't stop there.

"Ashley, my younger sister, was always trying to talk me into coaching her basketball team," says Stephanie. "I've been playing on a basketball team since fourth grade, and I love the game so I figured, why not?" Once again Tiana responded to Stephanie's call for help. At first, it looked like another good opportunity for a Personal Progress project. In the end it became a labor of love in which they ended up working beyond their required hours.

"Not only did we get to be involved in something we both love," says Tiana, "but it was even more fun when we found out that all but three of the girls on the team are members of our ward and the other girls are all their friends."

Needless to say, coaching the young team has not been without challenges. For starters, Tiana and Stephanie had to make time in their busy schedules for

three full months of weekly practices and Saturday games, not to mention time spent making phone calls to keep parents updated.

Tiana laughs when asked about the other challenges they faced, noting that "the players are the best of friends, and sometimes they

love talking even more than they love basketball!"

Stephanie says the hardest part of coaching was teaching basketball skills that are second nature to her and Tiana but are new to the team and especially the younger girls who have never played before.

Tiana added that coaching this team has made her think about what it means to be a good example. "We had to be careful to treat each player fairly and impartially even though we both have younger sisters on the team," she says.

Tiana and Stephanie taught the girls to work together as a unit, just as they had to learn to work together as coaches. On this team, no girl is a stranger, and no girl is left out.

When asked about her coaches, 11-year-old Leah Williams says, "I totally look up to them. Not only are they really good basketball players and my coaches, but they are also my best friends. I know that when they tell me what to do I can trust them." She added that someday she would like to coach a team herself.

Eleven-year-old Abby Hulme, who had never played on a basketball team before, said she was more comfortable with Stephanie and Tiana than she would have been with a coach she didn't know.

Linda Williams, the Saratoga Ward Young Women president (and Leah's mom), commented that she was impressed that Stephanie and Tiana are so willing to share their talents and what they love with others.

A Primary choir. A girls' basketball team. Who knows what's next for these two Laurels? One thing is sure, though—they know that when they are in the service of others, they are in the service of their Heavenly Father. Understanding that principle helped them to see that Personal Progress doesn't have to be an unwelcome chore or extra work.

"Find a way to do the things you are interested in anyway," suggests Stephanie.

Of course, not all Personal Progress projects are meant to be done as a team. But as Tiana says, "Doing it with a friend makes it more fun." **NE**





Working together, Tiana and Stephanie learned principles of teamwork that they were able to pass on to their basketball players. And they came to realize that service to others really is service to God—which means that Personal Progress is not just extra work or an unwelcome chore. It's a great opportunity for real spiritual growth.



WHY OBEY?



By Elder
Athos M. Amorim
Of the Seventy

As great as He was, the Savior was still obedient to His Father. As we seek to follow His example, we too must become obedient children.

On an outside wall of the Brazilian Army Academy, cadets can read the words “You will command. So learn to obey!” Early in life I learned that obedience is a great virtue, essential to our progress. I am not talking about blind obedience but the obedience that allows us to reach a higher and more spiritual level in life, using our agency to do the will of the Lord.

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that “when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated” (D&C 130:21). President Gordon B. Hinckley restated in 1982 that “all blessings are [predicated] upon . . . obedience to [the] law” (*What of the Mormons?* 6).

The greatest example of obedience was given by the Lord Jesus Christ when He said, “Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).

Something else I learned in the army is that soldiers in my country do not use the verb *to work* when they talk about their assignments. Rather, they use the verb *to serve*, helping them to always remember the commitment to serve our people and our country. In Church service, this definition is enlarged to include a meaning closer to the teachings of the Lord—that is, to serve His children wherever they may live.

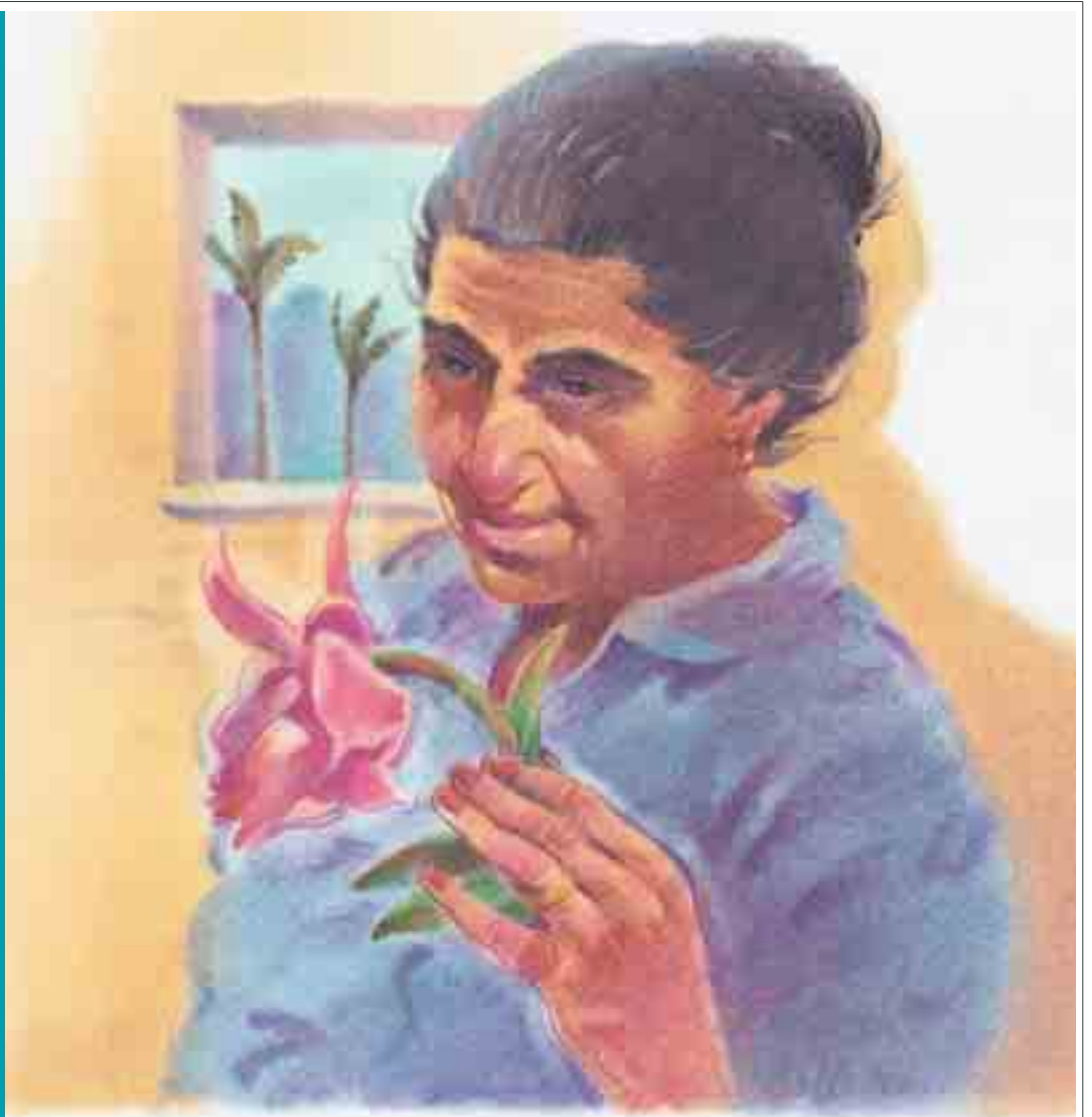
Today, more than 60,000 missionaries serve in countries all over the world, most of them in environments very different from their own. In the São Paulo Brazil Temple in Brazil, as well as in other temples, many brothers and sisters are willing to make any sacrifice to serve in the house of the Lord.

Many times the most beautiful examples of obedience and service are given by ordinary people who live close to us. Sister Ana Rita de Jesus, an elderly widow, lived in Anápolis, Brazil. She could not read or write. The missionaries



Christ in Gethsemane by *Heinrich Hofmann*

Sometimes
her
tithing
and offerings
were not more
than a few cents,
but Sister de
Jesus knew the
law and wanted
to obey it.



would go to her home every week to read the scriptures to her. She was loving and kind. Every Sunday she would ask the missionaries to help her fill out a tithing slip. Sometimes her tithing and offerings were not more than a few cents, but she knew the law and wanted to obey it. After paying her tithing, she would walk into the room where the sacrament meeting was held in the rented house used as a chapel and would place a flower on the pulpit.

In doing so, she served her brothers and sisters, bringing beauty to the place where we worshiped the Lord. That sister, in a very simple way, taught us obedience and service through her faith. She knew obeying the commandments is the best preparation to serve. President Thomas S. Monson advised us to “obey the commandments” and “serve with love” (*Ensign*, May 1998, 47). Sister Ana

Rita did so throughout her life.

When I was called to serve as a General Authority, I had an interview with President James E. Faust. He noticed I was concerned because I felt inadequate for such a call. In his tender way, President Faust told me, “Athos, be yourself. Be yourself.” That night I lay awake in bed, thinking of my new responsibilities and of President Faust’s words. And I prayed. I asked myself, “Who am I?” And the answer came as clear and bright as the dawn of that brand-new day. I am, like each one of you, a child of God who wants to obey the Lord and serve wherever He sends me and thus be a better child of our Heavenly Father and a faithful member of the true Church of Jesus Christ. **NE**

Adapted from an October 1998 general conference address.

WORLDWIDE SISTERHOOD

You've seen it a thousand times—a torch, a flame, a girl's face in profile—the symbol of a young, worldwide sisterhood. But you've probably never seen the Young Women's logo rendered quite like this before. Using a traditional art form, the Young Women of the Hyderabad Third Branch in Hyderabad, India, spent many hours making this version of the logo. They started with a bed of hard-packed earth, then they used rocks, objects, and various colors and textures of sand and color pigments to complete the picture.

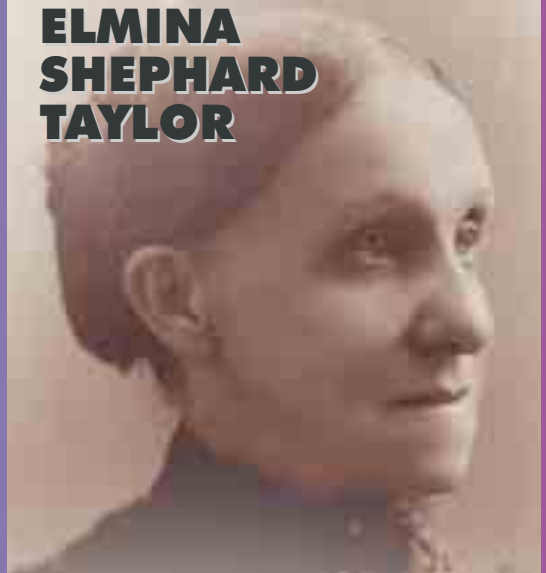


“We stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things—and in all prom dresses.”

—Carol B. Thomas
First Counselor
in the Young Women
general presidency

(*Ensign*, May 1999, 93)

ELMINA SHEPHARD TAYLOR



Elmina was born in Middlefield, New York, in 1830. While teaching school she was taught and accepted the restored gospel. She married George Hamilton Taylor in 1856 and migrated to Utah by ox team in 1859. Susa Young Gates once wrote of Elmina, “By example, by attainments, and the spiritual refinement and elegance in bearing that would denote a Christian lady . . . it seems peculiarly appropriate that [she] was called to preside over the young ladies of Zion” (see *History of the YWMIA*, 5–6, 318–319).

Called in 1880 to be the first general president of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association, Elmina S. Taylor served faithfully in that office for 24 years. During her administration, the YLMIA established uniform classes and programs, designated Tuesdays as Mutual night, and published the *Young Women's Journal*. Elmina traveled by team and wagon to visit hundreds of local organizations

and was much loved by those she served. She was an example of her admonition to young women leaders “to be kind rather than harsh, complimentary rather than critical.”

ASPIRING AUTHOR?

Now's the time to start preparing your entry for the BYU English Department's writing contest for LDS high school students. Cash prizes will be awarded in the categories of fiction (1,000 to 4,000 words), poetry (one poem or more for a total of 25-60 lines), personal essay (700-2,500 words), and critical essay (700-2,500 words). You are allowed to submit only one entry per category. Submit your entries between January 1, 2003 and February 1, 2003. For complete entry rules, contact Professor Elizabeth Wahlquist at RE:WRITING Chair, 3125 JKHB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602. She can also be reached at (801) 422-4938 or at elizabeth_wahlquist@byu.edu. The contest Web site is <http://English.BYU.edu/awards/LDShts.htm>.

Aaronic Priesthood Manual 1 (For use in 2003, lessons 1-24.)

The following resources may be used to supplement, but not replace, lessons 1–24. Please teach the lessons in the order they are printed. The manual does not include a specific Easter lesson. If you want to teach a special Easter lesson (20 April), consider using conference addresses, Church magazine articles, and hymns that focus on the life and mission of the Savior.

**Lesson 1:
The Priesthood**
David B. Haight, "You Are Needed," *New Era*, May 1991, 4–7.
John H. Groberg, "Priesthood Power," *Ensign*, May 2001, 43–44.
J. Richard Clarke, "No Big Deal?" *New Era*, Sept. 2001, 46–48.

**Lesson 2:
The Calling of an Aaronic Priesthood Holder**
Thomas S. Monson, "The Call to Serve," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 47–49.
Caroline H. Benzley, "Missionaries on Board," *New Era*, Feb. 2002, 36–38.
"Called to Serve," *Hymns*, no. 249.

**Lesson 3:
Administering the Sacrament**
L. Tom Perry, "Sacrament of the Lord's Supper," *Ensign*, May 1996, 53–54, 59.
Terrance D. Olson, "Cultivating Respect," Oct. 2001, *Ensign*, 46–49.
Judith P. Taylor, "Here I Come, Dad," *New Era*, Apr. 2001, 26–27.

**Lesson 4:
Gathering Fast Offerings**
Joseph B. Wirthlin, "The Law of the Fast," *Ensign*, May 2001, 73–75.
Mark E. Squires, "You Can't Fit a Chicken in an Envelope," *New Era*, May 2001, 38–43.
"Because I Have Been Given Much," *Hymns*, no. 219.

**Lesson 5:
Faith in Jesus Christ**
L. Tom Perry, "Decisions, Decisions," *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 40–45.
James O. Mason, "Faith in Jesus Christ," *Ensign*, Apr. 2001, 22–27.
"I Believe in Christ," *Hymns*, no. 134.

**Lesson 6:
The Holy Ghost**
James E. Faust, "Born Again," *Ensign*, May 2001, 54–55, 58.
M. Russell Ballard, "Lead Them to Safety," *New Era*, May 2002, 34–37.
Douglas L. Callister, "How the Spirit Works," *New Era*, Oct. 2001, 46–48.
"Let the Holy Spirit Guide," *Hymns*, no. 143.

**Lesson 7:
"A Mighty Change of Heart"**
Neal A. Maxwell, "Plov in Hope," *Ensign*, May 2001, 59–61.
Marlin K. Jensen, "Making a Mighty Change," *New Era*, June 2001, 4–7.
"Lead, Kindly Light," *Hymns*, no. 97.

**Lesson 8:
"Honour Thy Father"**
Dallin H. Oaks, " 'Honour Thy Father and Thy Mother,'" *Ensign*, May 1991, 14–17.
The Quorum of the Twelve, "Father, Consider Your Ways," *Ensign*, June 2002, 12–16.
Dayna Shoell, "That's My Dad," *New Era*, May 2001, 26–27.

**Lesson 9:
Respect for Mothers and Their Divine Role**
Jeffrey R. Holland, " 'Because She Is a Mother,'" *Ensign*, May 1997, 35–37.
Sheri L. Dew, "Are We Not All Mothers?" *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 96–98.
"Home Can Be a Heaven on Earth," *Hymns*, no. 298.

**Lesson 10:
Family Unity**
Russell M. Nelson, " 'Set in Order Thy House,'" *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 69–71.
Marvin J. Ashton, "Friends Forever," *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 8–9.
"Love at Home," *Hymns*, no. 294.

**Lesson 11:
"As I Have Loved You, Love One Another"**
Thomas S. Monson, "To the Rescue," *Ensign*, May 2001, 48–50.
B. H. Moore, "The Scoutmaster," *New Era*, May 2000, 46–49.
"Love One Another," *Hymns*, no. 308.

**Lesson 12:
Following the Living Prophet**
Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 4–15.
M. Russell Ballard, "Follow the Prophet," *New Era*, Sept. 2001, 4–7.
L. Aldin Porter, "Search the Prophets," *Ensign*, Apr. 2002, 30–37.

**Lesson 13:
Every Member Is a Missionary**
M. Russell Ballard, "Members Are the Key," *Ensign*, Sept. 2000, 8–15.
V. Dallas Merrell, "Will You? Implementing the Mission of the Church," *Ensign*, Oct. 2001, 50–56.
"I have been feeling that I should talk to [my friend] about the Church. How can I do this without jeopardizing our friendship?" *New Era*, Mar. 2002, 16–18.
"Come, All Ye Sons of God," *Hymns*, no. 322.

**Lesson 14:
Serving Others**
Gordon B. Hinckley, "Reaching Down to Lift Another," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 52–55.
Matthew Baker, "Submerged in Service," *New Era*, May 2001, 14–16.
Ashley Eggers, "Love, Anonymous," *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 26–27.
"Have I Done Any Good?" *Hymns*, no. 223.

**Lesson 15:
Unity and Brotherhood in the Priesthood**
Henry B. Eyring, "That We May Be One," *Ensign*, May 1998, 66–68.
Keith K. Hilbig, "Create or Continue Priesthood Links," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 45–46.
R. John Walker, "Cold Feet, Warm Heart," *New Era*, Feb. 2002, 42–43.

**Lesson 16:
Charity**
Thomas S. Monson, " 'Be Thou an Example,'" *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 98–101.
"Lord, I Would Follow Thee," *Hymns*, no. 220.

**Lesson 17:
Personal Journals**
Pamela J. Reid, "Pink and White Pages," *Ensign*, Aug. 2001, 59.

**Lesson 18:
The Word of Wisdom**
Boyd K. Packer, "The Word of Wisdom: The Principle and the Promises," *Ensign*, May 1996, 17–19.
Harold G. Hillam, "Not for the Body," *Ensign*, Oct. 2001, 18–21.
"Choose the Right," *Hymns*, no. 239.

**Lesson 19:
Overcoming Temptation**
Gordon B. Hinckley, "Overpowering the Goliaths in Our Lives," *Ensign*, Jan. 2002, 2–6.
Ralph W. Hardy Jr., "Decide to Decide," *New Era*, Apr. 2002, 26–29.
"Sweet Hour of Prayer," *Hymns*, no. 142.

**Lesson 20:
Proper Use of Agency**
L. Tom Perry, " 'Choose the Right,'" *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 66–68.
Harold C. Brown, "The Marvelous Gift of Choice," *Ensign*, Dec. 2001, 46–52.
Sharon G. Larsen, "You Choose," *New Era*, Aug. 2001, 12–14.
"Know This, That Every Soul Is Free," *Hymns*, no. 240.

**Lesson 21:
Pure Thoughts: Clean Language**
Thomas S. Monson, "Pornography, the Deadly Carrier," *Ensign*, July 2001, 2–5.
Robert S. Wood, "Is Your Talk Cheap?" *New Era*, June 2001, 46–48.
Brittany Russell, "On a Slippery Slope," *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 34–36.
"Taking the Words Out of My Mouth," *New Era*, Nov. 2001, 20–21.

**Lesson 22:
Covenants Guide Our Actions**
Robert D. Hales, "The Covenant of Baptism: To Be in the Kingdom and of the Kingdom," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 6–9.
Dennis B. Neuenschwander, "Ordinances and Covenants," *Ensign*, Aug. 2001, 20–26.
"With Humble Heart," *Hymns*, no. 171.

**Lesson 23:
Pray for Guidance**
Henry B. Eyring, "Prayer," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 15–17.
Joel B. Macariola, "Three Centavos," *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 38–39.
"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" *Hymns*, no. 104.

**Lesson 24:
Christ-centered Repentance**
James E. Faust, "The Atonement: Our Greatest Hope," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 18–20.
J. Devn Cornish, "Learning How the Atonement Can Change You," *Ensign*, Apr. 2002, 20–23.
Timothy O'Hara, "The Beat of a Different Drum," *New Era*, Mar. 2002, 12–14.

GUIDE TIP

Here's a good way to get copies of the articles listed in the Resource Guides. Use the Internet.

■ Go to www.lds.org. This is the Church's Web site.

■ Click on **Gospel Library**.

■ Under Church Publications, click on **HTML**. This is only the text of articles printed in the Church magazines. (If you want to see the photos and illustrations, you'll have to click on **PDF**.)

■ Click on either the "2002" button or the "1971–2001" button.

■ Click on the button next to the magazine you want to look in.

■ Click on the button next to the year you want.

■ Click on the button next to the month you want.

■ Click on title of the article you wish to read. You can print a copy at this point.

Young Women Manual 1 (For use in 2003, lessons 1-24.)

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Lesson 1:

A Daughter of God

Gordon B. Hinckley, "How Can I Become the Woman of Whom I Dream?" *New Era*, Nov. 2001, 4-8.
"My New Beginning," *New Era*, June 2001, 37.
"I Am a Child of God," *Hymns*, no. 301.

Lesson 2:

Jesus Christ, the Savior

Gordon B. Hinckley, "My Testimony of Christ," *New Era*, Apr. 2001, 4-7.
Neal A. Maxwell, "Jesus, the Perfect Mentor," *Ensign*, Feb. 2001, 8-17.
Russell M. Nelson, "Jesus Christ, Our Master and More," *Ensign*, Apr. 2000, 4-17.
Richard G. Scott, "To Be Healed," *New Era*, Apr. 2002, 4-8.

Lesson 3:

Following the Example of Jesus Christ

James E. Faust, "The Price of Discipleship," *Ensign*, Apr. 1999, 2-4.
Russell M. Nelson, "Which Way Are You Facing?" *New Era*, Mar. 2002, 4-9.
"Lord, I Would Follow Thee," *Hymns*, no. 220.

Lesson 4:

Seeking the Companionship of the Holy Ghost

M. Russell Ballard, "Lead Them to Safety," *New Era*, May 2002, 34-37.
Douglas L. Callister, "How the Spirit Works," *New Era*, Oct. 2001, 46-48.
Margaret D. Nadauld, "A Comforter, a Guide, a Testifier," *Ensign*, May 2001, 90-92.

Lesson 5:

Finding Joy in Our Divine Potential

Thomas S. Monson, "The Lighthouse of the Lord," *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 4-9.
H. Burke Peterson, "Your Special Purpose," *New Era*, Oct. 2001, 34-36.
Sheralee Bills, "Beauty Tips," *New Era*, Sept. 2001, 40-44.

Lesson 6:

Finding Joy Now

Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Live in Thanksgiving Daily," *Ensign*, Sept. 2001, 6-13.
Peg Fugal, "Sweet Service for Matthew," *Ensign*, Sept. 2001, 52-53.
"I feel overwhelmingly sad all the time. Is there anything I can do to feel better?" *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 24-26.

Lesson 7:

Homemaking

Thomas S. Monson, "Hallmarks of a Happy Home," *Ensign*, Oct. 2001, 2-8.
"Strengthening the Home," *Ensign*, Oct. 2001, 9.
Virginia U. Jensen, "Stand Firm," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 93-95.

Lesson 8:

Attitudes about Our Divine Roles

L. Tom Perry, "An Elect Lady," *Ensign*, May 1995, 72-74.
M. Russell Ballard, "Women of Righteousness," *Ensign*, Apr. 2002, 66-73.
Mary Ellen Smoot, "Rejoice, Daughters of Zion," *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 92-94.

Lesson 9:

Honoring Parents

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Lessons I Learned as a Boy," *New Era*, Oct. 1998, 4-9.
Thomas S. Monson, "Think to Thank," *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 17-20.
Dayna Shoell, "That's My Dad," *New Era*, May 2001, 26-27.
Denalee Chapman, "The Three Questions," *New Era*, Feb. 2000, 26-27.
Terrance D. Olson, "Cultivating Respect," *Ensign*, Oct. 2001, 46-49.

Lesson 10:

Supporting Family Members

Richard G. Scott, "First Things First," *Ensign*, May 2001, 6-9.
Marvin J. Ashton, "Friends Forever," *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 8-9.
Janet Thomas, "My Family, My Friends," *New Era*, Oct. 2001, 20-25.

Lesson 11:

Growing and Maturing in Self-reliance, Part 1

Boyd K. Packer, "Spiritual Crocodiles," *New Era*, Oct. 2001, 8-11.
Robert S. Wood, "On the Responsible Self," *Ensign*, Mar. 2002, 27-31.
Alison Affeltranger, "Ready for an Emergency?" *Ensign*, Oct. 2000, 70.

Lesson 12:

Growing and Maturing in Self-reliance, Part 2

James E. Faust, "Who Do You Think You Are?" *New Era*, Mar. 2001, 4-9.
Russell M. Nelson, "Identity, Priority, and Blessings," *Ensign*, Aug. 2001, 6-12.

Lesson 13:

Sustaining Priesthood Bearers

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Upon You My Fellow Servants," *New Era*, May 2002, 4-7.
James E. Faust, "Them That Honour Me I Will Honour," *Ensign*, May 2001, 45-47.
Robert D. Hales, "Fulfilling Our Duty to God," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 38-41.

Lesson 14:

Patriarchal Leadership in the Home

L. Tom Perry, "Family Traditions," *Friend*, Feb. 2002, 7.
"Strengthening the Home," *Ensign*, Oct. 2001, 9.
The Quorum of the Twelve, "Father, Consider Your Ways," *Ensign*, June 2002, 12-16.
Andra MacDonald, "Words of Faith," *Ensign*, Mar. 2000, 60-61.

Lesson 15:

The Melchizedek Priesthood

Boyd K. Packer, "What Every Elder Should Know—and Every Sister as Well: A Primer on Principles of Priesthood Government," *Ensign*, Feb. 1993, 6-13.
John H. Groberg, "Priesthood Power," *Ensign*, May 2001, 43-44.
J. Richard Clarke, "No Big Deal?" *New Era*, Sept. 2001, 46-48.
Brandon J. Miller, "I Needed a Blessing," *Ensign*, Sept. 2001, 64-65.

Lesson 16:

Women and Priesthood Bearers

Thomas S. Monson, "Priesthood Power," *New Era*, May 2001, 4-7.
Sheri L. Dew, "It Is Not Good for Man or Woman to Be Alone," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 12-14.
Dixie D. Rowley, "It Took a Tragedy," *Ensign*, Mar. 2000, 62-63.

Lesson 17:

The Purpose of Covenants and Ordinances

Russell M. Nelson, "Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings," *Ensign*, May 2001, 32-35.
Dennis B. Neuenschwander, "Ordinances and Covenants," *Ensign*, Aug. 2001, 20-26.
F. David Stanley, "The Most Important Step," *New Era*, June 2000, 20-23.
Greg Burgoyne, "The Temple at 12," *New Era*, May 2001, 8-9.

Lesson 18:

Temple Marriage—Requirement for Eternal Family Life

Joseph Fielding Smith, "Every Soul Is Precious," *New Era*, Oct. 2001, 26-29.
Russell M. Nelson, "Prepare for the Blessings of the Temple," *Ensign*, Mar. 2002, 16-23.
Gale Sears, "The Thirty-Dollar Wedding Dress," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 44-46.
Kersten Campbell, "Becoming Beautiful," *New Era*, Apr. 2002, 46-48.

Lesson 19:

Personal Records

Dallin H. Oaks, "Family History: In Wisdom and Order," *Ensign*, June 1989, 6-8.
Bruce C. Hafen, "Planting Promises in the Hearts of the Children," *Ensign*, June 1994, 46-52.

"Building Unity through Family History," *Ensign*, Sept. 2001, 69.
Pamela J. Reid, "Pink and White Pages," *Ensign*, Aug. 2001, 59.

Lesson 20:

Reach Out to Others

M. Russell Ballard, "Doctrine of Inclusion," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 35-38.
Ben B. Banks, "Feed My Sheep," *New Era*, May 2001, 10-13.
Alison Tanner, "Noticing Sarah," *New Era*, Apr. 2002, 9.
Andrea Nixon, "Dusti's Plan," *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 46-48.

Lesson 21:

A Righteous Example Influences Others

Thomas S. Monson, "'Be Thou an Example,'" *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 98-101.
H. David Burton, "Standing Tall," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 65-66.
Bryant Staples, "Extra Strength," *New Era*, Jan. 2002, 10-11.

Lesson 22:

Repentance

James E. Faust, "The Atonement: Our Greatest Hope," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 18-20.
Alfredo P. Blanc, "A Debt for Half a Bicycle," *Ensign*, Feb. 2000, 63-64.
Timothy O'Hara, "The Beat of a Different Drum," *New Era*, Mar. 2002, 12-14.
"Can I Be Forgiven?" *New Era*, Mar. 2000, 8-10.

Lesson 23:

Forgiveness

Gordon B. Hinckley, "You Can Be Forgiven," *New Era*, Oct. 2001, 4-7.
"And Now He Needed Me?" *Ensign*, Oct. 2001, 16-17.
Tiffany Koch, "Prayer for a Thief," *New Era*, Apr. 2002, 24-25.
"Come unto Jesus," *Hymns*, no. 117.

Lesson 24:

Prayer and Meditation

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Be Prayerful," *New Era*, Oct. 2000, 4-7.
Henry B. Eyring, "Prayer," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 15-17.
H. Kent Rappleye, "No Substitute for Family Prayer," *Ensign*, Feb. 2001, 24-29.
Holly K. Simmons, "Out of This World," *New Era*, Mar. 2002, 26-27.
Raquel Wood, "Lost and Found," *New Era*, May 2002, 26-27.



On second thought

Thank you for the article “Be Clean” in the July 2002 *New Era*. When I was 11 or 12 I got my ears pierced a second time. This was before I heard the prophet counsel against more than one set of ear piercings. Since then, whenever I looked in a mirror and saw my second set, I thought about what the prophet said. I tried to justify my second set by wearing a tiny pair of studs in the second holes. But reading “Be Clean” in the *New Era* helped me realize it’s just a simple question of obedience. Obedience is an excellent way of showing our gratitude to our Father in Heaven. Now I feel that instead of not doing things to be clean, I’ve actually done something to be clean.

*Claire Lynch
Perth, Western Australia (via e-mail)*

Grateful

I love reading your magazine, and it is so inspiring in my life. I am grateful for all the hard work put in to the *New Era*.

*Leilani Blundell
Hamilton, New Zealand*

Not like other magazines

I would like to thank you for such a great magazine. I look forward to getting it each month. Some of the things I like about it are The Extra Smile and the Photo (and poem!) of the Month. I also enjoy the good stories. But my favorite thing in the magazine is the poster, which I hang on my wall. I like how I can pick up the *New Era* and not worry about bad stories or pictures like you find in other magazines.

*Tonya Cox
West Jordan, Utah*

Preparation days

Thank you for publishing the article “Ten Things to Know Before You Go” (July 2002). I am currently dating someone who will be serving a mission in less than six months. He is very prepared spiritually but not in other areas. For example, his mom still does his laundry and cooks all his meals. He relies on

“I like how I can pick up the New Era and not worry about bad stories or pictures like you find in other magazines.”



her for many things. He knows he will have to learn how to do the laundry etc. for his mission, but he procrastinates learning to do so. When I read him the article, it hit him that it is essential to learn soon. Thank you for helping me with this problem and for helping others realize what to prepare for.

*Name Witthbeld
Provo, Utah (via e-mail)*

A new appreciation

I was reading the story “Walking in Remembrance” in your July 2002 issue. While reading this I was reminded of my stake’s pioneer trip and my experience in June 2000. Our trip was to be four days long but was cut short because of a really bad storm. We were awakened at 1 A.M. the first night because our sleeping bags were soaked. We were sent home the next afternoon. I often ponder how fortunate I am because when the pioneers went through rainstorms or snowstorms, they couldn’t pack up and call it quits. Through my experience on the pioneer trek, I have gained a huge appreciation for what the pioneers did.

*Julia Nelson
Spanaway, Washington*

A small feast

Thank you so much for your continuous effort to publish such a wonderful magazine which is surely a lunch for a reader like me. I really love every article in each issue.

*Deepak Shrestha
Thimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal*

*We love hearing from you. Write us at
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cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org

Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

By Lane V. Erickson

One Leaf

By Terry E. Loveless

One dry leaf fell.
No one noticed.
It fell very gently
through the cold morning air,
dipping and swirling,
dancing down to the earth.
It just let go,
the tree of its life
and, putting on the most gay of colors,
died.
One dry leaf fell
through the morning air,
and no one noticed.



“My whole life turned around. Church hadn’t been my main priority, sports were. Now the gospel is the main thing. I have gained even more of a testimony of the Atonement. What Jesus Christ did for me is unbelievable.”

See “One Step Ahead,” p. 20.