

NEW

New Era

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2007

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of Salt Lake City. See
"Playing a Familiar
Tune" on p. 24.

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Craig Dimond (front)
and *Rob Meyer* (back)

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PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST: A SPECIAL WITNESS

President James Esdras Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, passed away on Friday, August 10, 2007, after serving as a member of the First Presidency for 12 years. He had served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles since September 1978 and as an Assistant to the Twelve and a member of the Presidency of the Quorum of the Seventy previous to that.

His life of service was crowned by his strong testimony of the Savior. When he was called to be an Apostle he said, "I understand that the chief requirement for the holy apostleship is to be a personal witness of Jesus Christ as the Divine Redeemer. Perhaps on that basis alone, I can qualify. This truth has been made known to me by the unspeakable peace and power of the Spirit of God."¹

His testimony, he said, was always there. "I didn't always understand everything," he said, "but in the early years of my life, my testimony was strengthened as I prayed and my prayers were answered."²

President Faust spent his early years in Delta, Utah, where he was born on July 31, 1920, to George A. and Amy Finlison Faust. He learned to love the gospel from

the teachings of his parents. Later, his family moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he attended Granite High School. While there, President Faust won medals in track and lettered in football.

Sometimes when President Faust would play football, he wouldn't button the chin strap on his helmet, so it didn't always stay on his head. "One time when my helmet came off," he said, "I got hit so hard that I was knocked unconscious. I was terribly embarrassed when



I came to and saw my teammates looking down at me. From that I learned that we always need to keep our physical and spiritual protectors in place. Our spiritual protectors include our obedience to the commandments of God and to the counsel and direction of our parents."³

Although he gave up football, President Faust continued to run track when he was at the University of Utah, where he earned his law degree. He later went on to be a successful Utah lawyer.

President Faust had to leave his studies at the

University of Utah twice. He first left in 1939 to serve as a missionary in Brazil, where he learned to love the people and



strengthened his testimony. It was a hard mission with few baptisms. Speaking of himself and one of his companions he said, "We didn't accomplish much except for the changes in ourselves. I feel it was one of the most productive and valuable times in my life."⁴

He left the university a second time to serve in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II.

At war, President Faust was sometimes lonely. He had left behind his beloved Ruth, whom he had met in high school.



They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on April 21, 1943, while he was on 10 days of military leave.

As the only Church member assigned to his ship in the South Pacific during the war, he would often go to the front of the ship—one of the only places he could find privacy. There

he would sing hymns, study the scriptures, and pray.

He also wrote to his wife every day. Sometimes the letters would not be delivered to her regularly. One day she received



PHOTOGRAPH BY NEWMAN PHOTOGRAPHY ©

90 letters, and her boss gave her the afternoon off to read them.

President and Sister Faust have two daughters and three sons. President Faust always put a high priority on caring for his wife and family. "This is the kind of person he has been all his life," Sister Faust said. "Family and loved ones have come first!"⁵

"We . . . bear our testimonies by our lives," President Faust once said.⁶ Truly, James Esdras Faust bore his testimony of the Savior not only with his words but through his exemplary life. **NE**

NOTES

1. "Response to the Call," *Ensign*, Nov. 1978, 20.
2. "Friend to Friend," *Friend*, Apr. 1998, 6.
3. "Friend to Friend," *Friend*, Apr. 1998, 6.
4. Wm. Grant Bangerter, "Elder James E. Faust: Sharing His Love for the Lord," *Ensign*, Oct. 1986, 8.
5. Neal A. Maxwell, "President James E. Faust: Pure Gold," *Ensign*, Aug. 1995, 12.
6. James E. Faust, "The Importance of Bearing Testimony," *Ensign*, Mar. 1997, 2.

President James E. Faust lived a life of Christlike service and devotion to others. (Clockwise from left) President Faust as a member of the First Presidency; with a companion on his mission in Brazil; with his beloved wife, Ruth; with his family; with Ruth as his bride; and running track as a student.

LET VIRTUE GARNISH THY THOUGHTS UNCEASINGLY



I wish to speak pointedly about how to have a very special kind of confidence—a confidence which, when rightfully earned, does wonders for every other aspect of our lives, especially our self-esteem and how we view the future.

BY ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

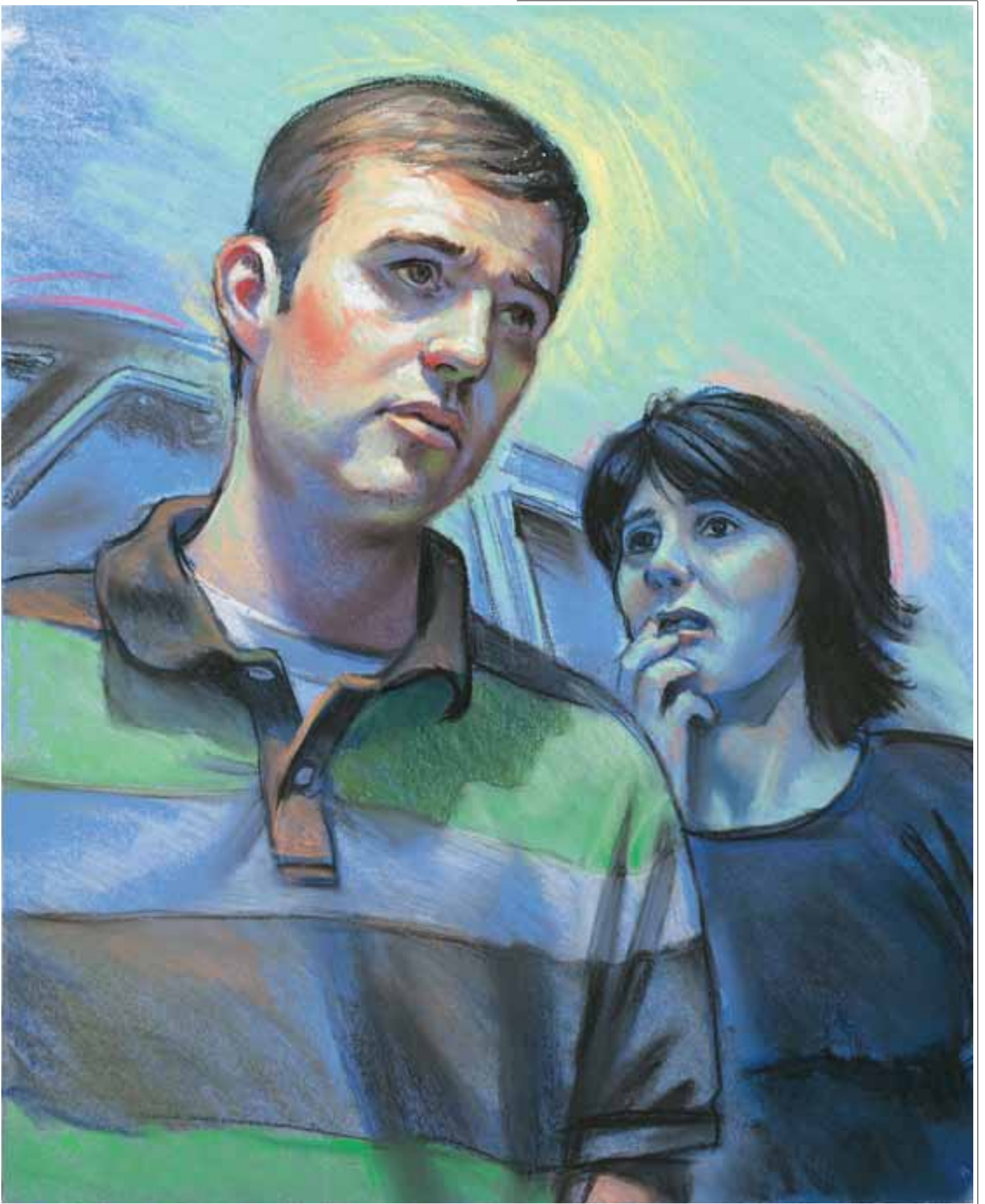
Don't fear the future. Be happy and healthy and optimistic.

My message to you is one of hope and encouragement now and for the rest of your lives. There are plenty of troubles in the world, but there have always been troubles in every age and era. Don't be preoccupied with them, and don't be discouraged by them. The coming years will be filled with wonderful opportunities and great blessings. We will continue to have advances in science and technology, medicine and communication—all the fields that do so much to enrich our lives. You live in the most glorious age the world has ever known, with more of the blessings of the day coming to more people around the world than any other time in history. Remember—your grandmother never dreamed of an iPod when she was your age, and your grandfather still has no idea how to text message. So, be happy and healthy and optimistic.

I say this in part because an article I read recently said the most common illness among young people today is not

diabetes or heart disease or cancer. (Those kinds of problems are usually reserved for people my age, not yours.) No, the illness that those in their teens and twenties suffer from most, it was reported, is self-doubt, fear about the future, low self-esteem, and a general lack of confidence in themselves and in the world around them.

Even though I am very much older than you, I do understand those kinds of concerns because for most of my young life I, too, seemed to face situations in which I didn't have very much self-confidence. I can remember striving for good grades, hoping to win a chance for a scholarship, and wondering why others seemed more gifted in that category than I. I can remember years and years of athletic contests in which I tried to play with the confidence necessary for success in high school and college sports, wanting so desperately to win the big game or bring home a coveted championship. I especially remember lacking confidence with girls, so often the great



anxiety-producer in young men. I am so grateful Sister Holland took a chance on me. Yes, I can remember all the things you remember—not being sure about how I looked or if I was accepted or what the future would hold for me.

My purpose here is not to discuss all those issues a young person faces which bring some self-doubt and some lack of confidence, but I wish to speak pointedly about how to have a very special kind of confidence—a confidence which, when rightfully earned, does wonders for every other aspect of our lives, especially our self-esteem and how we view the future. To make this point, I need to tell a story.

The Value of Personal Worthiness

Many years ago now, long before I was called as a General Authority, I participated as a speaker in a young adult conference. The conference concluded with a testimony meeting in which a handsome, young returned missionary stood up to bear his testimony. He looked good, clean, and confident—just like a returned missionary

should look.

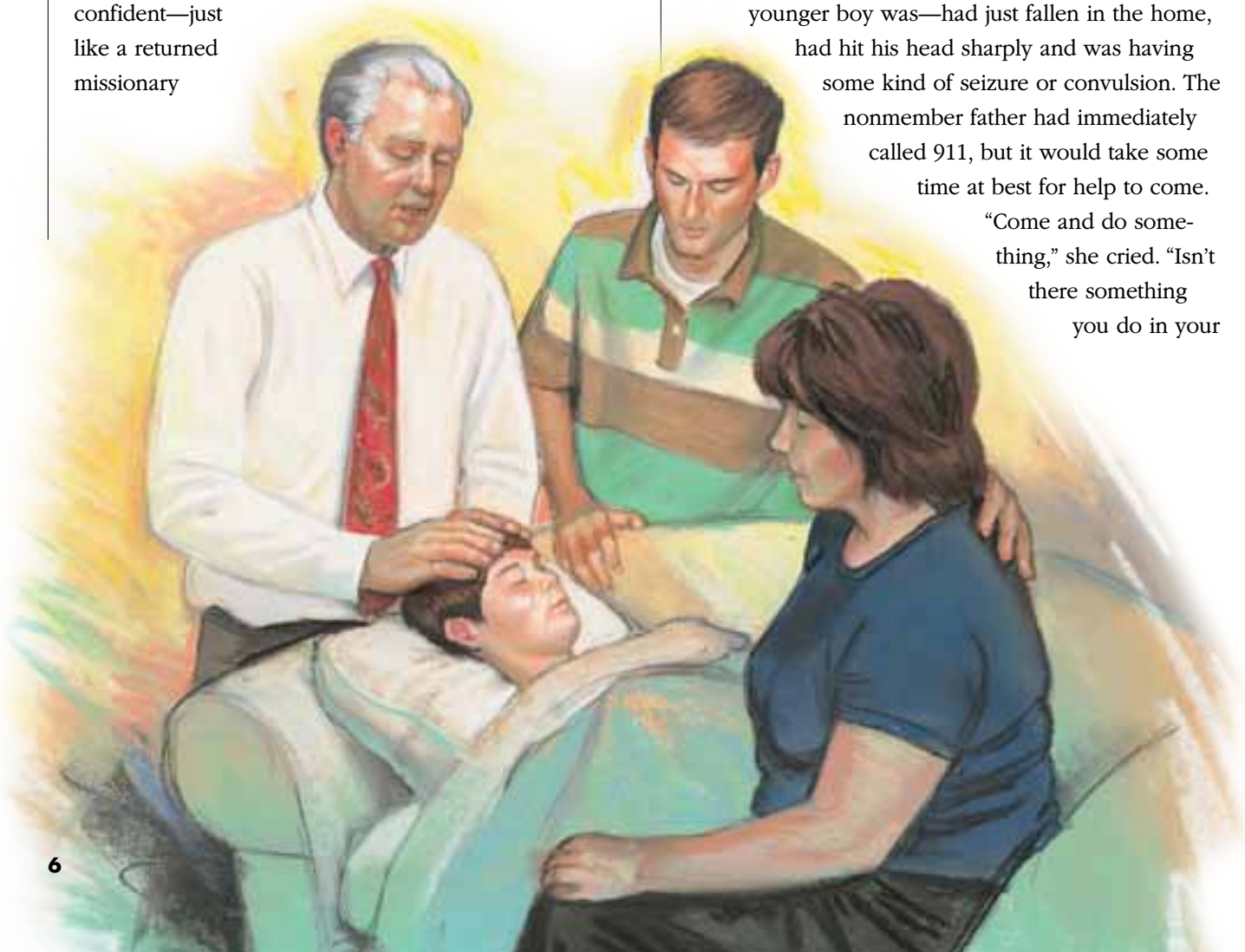
As he began to speak, tears came to his eyes. He said he was grateful to stand in the midst of such a terrific group of young Latter-day Saints and to feel good about the life he was trying to lead. But that feeling had only been possible, he said, because of an experience he had had a few years earlier, an experience that had shaped his life forever.

He then told of coming home from a date shortly after he had been ordained an elder at age 18. Something had happened on this date of which he was not proud. He did not go into any details, nor should he have done so in a public setting. To this day I do not know the nature of the incident, but it was significant enough to him to have affected his spirit and his self-esteem.

As he sat in his car for a while in the driveway of his own home, thinking things through and feeling genuine sorrow for whatever had happened, his nonmember mother came running frantically from the house straight to his car. In an instant she conveyed that this boy's younger brother—I do not know what the age of the younger boy was—had just fallen in the home,

had hit his head sharply and was having some kind of seizure or convulsion. The nonmember father had immediately called 911, but it would take some time at best for help to come.

“Come and do something,” she cried. “Isn't there something you do in your



Church at times like this? You have their priesthood. Come and do something.”

His mother didn’t know a lot about the Church at that point, but she knew something of priesthood blessings. Nevertheless, on this night when someone he loved dearly needed his faith and his strength, this young man could not respond. Given the feelings he had just been wrestling with, and the compromise he felt he had just made—whatever that was—he could not bring himself to go before the Lord and ask for the blessing that was needed.

He bolted from the car and ran down the street several hundred yards to the home of a worthy older man who had befriended him in the ward ever since the boy’s conversion two or three years earlier. An explanation was given, the older brother responded, and the two were back at the house still well before the paramedics arrived. The happy ending of this story as told in that testimony meeting was that this older man instantly gave a sweet, powerful priesthood blessing, leaving the injured child stable and resting by the time medical help arrived. A quick trip to the hospital and a thorough exam there revealed no permanent damage had been done. A very fearful moment for this family had passed.

Then the returned missionary of whom I speak said this: “No one who has not faced what I faced that night will ever know the shame I felt and the sorrow I bore for not feeling worthy to use my priesthood. It is an even more painful memory for me because it was my own little brother who needed me, and my beloved nonmember parents who were so fearful and who had a right to expect more of me. But as I stand before you today I can promise you this,” he said. “I am not perfect, but from that night onward I have never done anything that would keep me from going before the Lord with confidence and asking for His

help when it is needed. Personal worthiness is a battle in this world in which we live,” he acknowledged, “but it is a battle I am winning. I have felt the finger of condemnation pointing at me once in my life, and I don’t intend to feel it ever again if I can do anything about it. And, of course,” he concluded, “I can do *everything* about it.”

He finished his testimony and sat down. I can still picture him. I can still see the setting we were in. And I can still remember the stark, moving silence that followed his remarks as everyone in the room had occasion to search his or her soul a little deeper, vowing a little stronger to live by these powerful words given by the Lord: “Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; *then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God*; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dew from heaven. The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth” (D&C 121:45–46; emphasis added).

Enjoying the Spirit of God

My beloved young friends, have a wonderful life. Think the best and hope the best and have faith in the future. You have a great life ahead of you. Your Heavenly Father loves you. If any mistakes have been made, they can be repented of and forgiven just as they were for this young man. You have everything to live for and plan for and believe in. To have the approval of your conscience when you are alone with your memories allows you to feel the Spirit of God in a very personal way. I want you to enjoy that Spirit, to feel that confidence in the presence of the Lord always. May virtuous thoughts keep our actions pure today and tomorrow and forever. **NE**

From a youth fireside given on December 31, 2006.

For more on this theme, read “Real Confidence,” *New Era*, Jan. 2007, p. 8.

No one who has not faced what I faced that night will ever know the shame I felt and the sorrow I bore for not feeling worthy to use my priesthood.”



TESTING THE TRUTH

BY BART J. KOWALLIS

Whether in science or religion, truth will stand up to the test.

In the hills and narrow canyons around the place where I grew up, I discovered something magnificent—rocks.

My mother and father bought me books and kits on mineral and rock identification, took me to rock shops and to gem and mineral shows, and made stops of geologic interest a regular part of our family vacations. At age 14, I went to receive my patriarchal blessing, and the patriarch asked me, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” My answer was “I am going to be a geologist.”

And here I am today, having taught geology at Brigham Young University for over 25 years—still teaching, practicing, and believing in the principles I have learned in my study of geology, but also having a testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and a knowledge of its power and truthfulness.

Some would ask, “Aren’t most scientists atheists or at least agnostic?” In fact, most scientists believe in God and find no significant contradictions between their belief in God and their belief in science.

I accept both the things I have been taught and learned as a scientist and the things learned from the scriptures and prophets because both of them work. Let me share with you two examples of what I mean.

My First Test

One day during a deacons quorum meeting our adviser decided that we would have a testimony meeting. It wasn’t that I hadn’t shared my testimony before. In fact, I was one of those kids who thought that bearing testimony was what one was supposed to do at every testimony meeting. But it wasn’t the cool thing to do at age 12.

I suppose that we had about 8 or 10 deacons in our quorum, and slowly (although not slow enough, it seemed to me) one boy after another stood to share his testimony. I was almost panicky because I just didn’t know what I would say. I hoped that maybe the time would run out, and I wouldn’t feel obligated to stand, but it did not. A small group of 10 deacons sharing their testimonies doesn’t take long, so plenty of time still remained when all of the other boys had finished standing and sharing their testimonies. I stood awkwardly and recited the same basic things most of the others had said: “I love my mom and dad. I know the Church is true. I know Joseph Smith was a prophet. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”

The thing was done, but for the first time in my life I realized that it was a lie. The only thing I had said that I knew to be true was that I loved my mom and dad. I really did not know if the Church was true or if Joseph Smith was a prophet, but I knew then that I had to find out. I had to know for myself.

I don’t remember exactly when I finally asked, but I do remember that one night I knelt by my bed and pleaded with my Father in Heaven to forgive me for my weaknesses and to let me know if this church I belonged to was truly His Church. I had never prayed with such intent before, and I am not sure I have ever prayed with more fervor since. I was only about 12 or 13 years old, and yet I can still feel to this day the power of the spiritual witness that came to me that night confirming that this was indeed the Church of Jesus Christ and that my Father in Heaven knew me and loved me. The test had worked, just as the scriptures promised.

A Field Test

In my graduate program, my major professor spent summers working in Antarctica, in Alaska, or in the islands of the Arctic. I signed on to work with him in Svalbard, a group of islands about 500 miles north of Norway. It was a spectacular and wonderful place. Four of us were deposited on the shore of an island called Spitsbergen.

During the first month we worked in teams of two as we examined the rocks and collected samples. The Norwegians who transported us to the island warned us to be on the lookout for polar bears (and for seals, the polar bears' main food). They explained that almost every year someone in Spitsbergen was killed and eaten by a bear.

Needless to say, we were always looking out to see if a bear was approaching. We were particularly cautious when seals came into the bay. We carried rifles and revolvers wherever we went and slept with them at our sides. There was no place to run or hide if a bear decided that we would be its next meal.

Polar bear attacks were common, so we were alert and prepared with our guns. But when I was alone one night, I was sure I heard something, so I prayed for protection.

About midway through the field season, three of us students were left to work for a month on our own. The problem was that we needed to work in different areas about 25 kilometers apart. The decision was made that the other two would pack out together to work for two weeks in the more distant area and leave me by myself.

I was doing pretty well and feeling that being alone wasn't all that bad when one evening the fog rolled in off the ocean. As I lay in bed, the sounds of the ocean, which were usually so pleasant and comforting, were now muffled by the fog and seemed different. My mind began to interpret them differently. I was sure I heard something moving along the beach. Fear slowly crept into my heart and soul. I was sure the sounds were the padding of a polar bear coming along the beach.

I sat up in a state of panic, with the rifle in one hand and the pistol in the other, waiting for the inevitable to happen. It was then that I remembered I was not alone. I bowed my head and prayed fervently to my Father in Heaven to calm me and protect me. And He did. His Spirit engulfed me, the fear was gone, and I lay down and fell into a peaceful slumber. Once again the test had worked. I opened the door, and He entered.

Further Testing Required

I have found that prayer works, that God never fails in His promise to us, that He will be there waiting, knocking, hoping that we will open the door. It is a test that each of us can make. The results gained by experimenting on the Lord's word will have consequences that reach far beyond this world into the eternities.

From an address given at Brigham Young University on October 14, 2003.





ENDURING *to* *the* BEGINNING

It took seven years, but it was worth the wait.

BY MARIA KANEVA

“Who are the teachers?” I asked my friend as we were walking down the street on a Saturday morning in February 2000. We were 14 then.

“They are my friends and are here on something like a mission,” she said. We had never talked about religion before, even though we were best friends. She told me we were going to attend English classes that her friends were teaching for free. She knew I would be interested because I was going to an English high school.

When we entered the building, my eyes riveted on the pictures on the walls. Was this a church? It didn’t look like a Bulgarian Orthodox Church, the only one I had visited before. Most people consider any other church a cult. Also, when Bulgaria was under communism until 1989, religious beliefs were condemned, and many people still look at religion as something not right.

My friend asked me whether I wanted to come to church the next day. I answered yes, more out of curiosity than piety. I knew that if she was going, there wasn’t anything wrong with it.

I started going to church regularly. I wanted to know more about its teachings. I wanted to know why those young people with the name tags had left their country to come to Bulgaria and plunged themselves into the hostile religious atmosphere here. Even though I wasn’t religious at that time, something made me keep going to Church activities.





It was a long journey to my baptism day (above), but I received strength from the scriptures, Personal Progress projects such as memorizing “The Living Christ” (opposite page), and branch members in my hometown of Sliven (opposite page).

I loved the friendly spirit of the missionaries and the warm smiles of the members.

I became friends with the young women in the branch. I was amazed by their faith and great desire to serve others. I remember when I said my first prayer at a Young Women class. I had never prayed before, and I didn’t know how powerful a prayer could be. I hadn’t felt the strong connection with our Heavenly Father that a prayer brings. I hadn’t known I was His daughter. I never quit praying after that. Every time I had to overcome a hardship, I knew I could ask my Heavenly Father for guidance. Often, those prayers would bring tears to my eyes because I could feel the assurance of the Holy Spirit that God loves me. I started trusting the Lord.

When the temptations of the teen years

came along, I already had firm faith in Jesus Christ, which gave me strength to overcome these temptations. I could see how Satan tempted my peers with worldly things and how small compromises led to bigger ones. It was hard to stand for my principles, but the connection I had with my Father in Heaven through prayer helped me stay away from temptations. I had decided to live by the principles of the plan of salvation. I knew without a doubt that one day I was going to be blessed.

Unfortunately, I couldn’t join the Church at that time. My parents strongly objected, especially my father. But I could understand him. His parents never took him to church; he was brought up when the country was under communist rule. Nevertheless, I knew the Lord had prepared a way for me to join the Church someday. I already knew that way would be very hard. But I had learned from the scriptures that tribulations can be for our good.

I went to seminary and later to institute, I attended Church activities, and I even started my own Personal Progress. I couldn’t wait to go to Young Women activities. I will never forget the hours we spent cooking, making postcards or bookmarks, decorating our classroom, or playing games, as well as the wonderful spirit of friendship between us. Each activity helped me understand my divine nature and role in life.



DETAIL FROM CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER, BY HEINRICH HOFMANN, COURTESY OF C. HARRISON CONROY CO.

One of the most difficult Personal Progress projects was memorizing "The Living Christ."¹ When I looked at the text, I thought it would be a great challenge to memorize it. After a couple of weeks, I already knew why that project was in the Faith value. It was a test of faith and patience, a test with rewarding consequences. The testimony of the Apostles helped strengthen my faith and testimony. By remembering their inspiring words of Christ's divine life and ministry, I got the courage to testify of Him myself.

When I was about 16, we had an activity about being a full-time missionary. We divided into pairs and lived like missionaries for a week. That was the first time I learned how important it is to share our testimonies with others. This activity helped me realize not only how hard it is to serve the Lord, but also the joy we feel by sharing the gospel and seeing how Christ's teachings change someone's life. It helped me understand what it is like to "stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places" (Mosiah 18:9).



ЖИВИЯТ ХРИСТОС

СВИДЕТЕЛСТВОТО НА АПОСТОЛИТЕ
ЦЪРКВАТА НА ИСУС ХРИСТОС НА СВИДЕТЕТЕЛИТЕ ДНИ

Делото обхващава разказването на Иисус Христос преди неговото възнесение. Това е историята на великия Спасител, който доведе до светлината на Истината всички народи и безбройните ангели на Небесата, които са живели преди Него. Той е единственият човек, който е живял и умрял, за да спаси всички хора. Той е единственият човек, който е живял и умрял, за да спаси всички хора. Той е единственият човек, който е живял и умрял, за да спаси всички хора.

Историята на Иисус Христос е описана в Библията. Той е синът на Бога, който е живял и умрял, за да спаси всички хора. Той е единственият човек, който е живял и умрял, за да спаси всички хора. Той е единственият човек, който е живял и умрял, за да спаси всички хора.

1 януари 2000

As an "active nonmember," as everyone called me, I learned to have patience and hope that one day I would become a member of the Church. I knew it was a test of my faith and patience. I wondered how long it would take to be cleansed and start a new life.

That day came almost seven years after my friend took me to church on that cold February morning in 2000. I was baptized at 21 at the mission home in Sofia. My baptism day was one of the happiest days of my life. At that moment I felt the great redeeming love Heavenly Father has for me. I felt that even more when I partook of the sacrament the next day. I couldn't hold back the tears. The Spirit burning inside me was telling me it was worth waiting for. I could finally enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and other blessings of being a member of the Church.

I'm grateful to be blessed with knowledge of the restored gospel. I know we can overcome the tribulations of life through faith and patience. We have no greater and more rewarding privilege than being a member of the only true Church on earth. Nothing brings greater happiness than the knowledge we have that as worthy members of the Church, we can live with God again. **NE**

NOTE

1. See "The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles," *Ensign*, Apr. 2000, 2.



Q & A

“One day I read 1 Nephi 7:12, which says that the Lord is able to do all things for us if we exercise faith in Him. How do we exercise faith in Christ?”

NEW ERA

Faith is having trust and confidence in the Lord. Your faith in Him is a power that will lead you to obey His gospel, and your obedience will help you have more faith, which is a gift from God.

As the scriptures say, if you have faith in the Lord, He can do all things for you, such as heal, forgive, comfort, and convert you. But having faith doesn't mean telling God what to do. It means trusting Him and understanding that all blessings come “according to his will” (1 Nephi 7:12) and “in his own time, and in his own way” (D&C 88:68). For example, you may not receive an immediate answer to your prayers. But your faith assures you that Heavenly Father hears your prayers and will answer at the right time.

To develop and exercise your faith, (1) learn the word of God, whether by reading the scriptures or listening to those who have the authority to teach it (see

■ **Exercising faith in Jesus Christ means having trust and confidence in Him.**

■ **Faith is the power to manifest His will in your life.**

■ **Faith, a gift from God, comes as you are righteous.**

■ **Three must-read chapters on faith are Hebrews 11, Ether 12, and Moroni 7.**

Romans 10:17). Knowing the word will help you see that God always keeps His promises.

(2) Act on what you learn, or as Alma says, experiment on the word. The word is like a seed. If it is good, it will enlarge your soul, enlighten your understanding, and begin to be delicious to you (see Alma 32:28). That is your spiritual confirmation that the word is true, which will build your faith.

(3) Obey the commandments. Your righteousness allows the gift of faith to grow in your life. Show your belief in Jesus Christ by following His example and teachings. Do what He asks of you through the scriptures, the teachings of living prophets, and the promptings of the Holy Ghost. Did you, for instance, accept President Gordon B. Hinckley's invitation to read the Book of Mormon by the end of 2005? Those who did acted with faith and received the promised blessings.



READERS

(Of course, if you didn't finish reading the Book of Mormon then, you still can!)

While many people get through life without faith in the Lord, they can never inherit eternal life without faith in Him. Only through the gospel of Jesus Christ—with faith in Him as the first principle—can we enjoy “eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God” (D&C 14:7). **NE**



I believe our devotion to Christ and to His gospel is the best way of showing our love for and faith in Him.

When we live His principles

and standards and walk steadily in the way He has shown us, we are bearing witness not only to Him but also to other people in our life. We bear witness of our gratitude for His sacrifice for us and also for the Restoration of the gospel.

Jan V., 17, Moravia, Czech Republic



Having faith in Jesus Christ means trusting completely in Him and being sure in your mind and heart that He exists and that He is our

Savior. We must place our trust in Christ because He knows how to help us overcome the difficulties in our lives. Our lack of faith in Him causes us to be worried about our spiritual state and to doubt God's promises. Focusing on the Savior has helped me remain firm in the gospel,

control my fears, and overcome obstacles.

Natalia N., 19, Chimborazo, Ecuador

Exercise faith in Christ by obedience. Faith without works is dead. By obeying when we don't know why, we show our trust and faith in Him.

Obedying commandments shows that we trust Him and have faith in what He tells us to do.

Prayer and reading the scriptures daily strengthen my relationship with Heavenly Father, giving me more faith in Him. Also, you have to expect answers to your prayers. Pray for help to obtain faith.

Meghan S., 18, Missouri



We can exercise faith by allowing the Lord to lead our lives. By trusting God, following Him, and by working diligently to keep the commandments, we can exercise faith

in Him. After submitting our will to His, we can witness great miracles in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Dmitriy Z., 21, Donetsk, Ukraine



We have many ways to exercise faith in God such as reading the scriptures and praying every day, keeping the Sabbath day holy, giving tithes and fast offerings,

serving others, and being willing to keep other commandments.

Seng S., 18, Battambang, Cambodia

If we have a knowledge of the gospel and have faith in its truth, we need to experiment living it to receive the blessings. Faith without works is dead. If there is faith with works, then faith becomes more and more firm. In 1 Nephi 7:12, we are reminded that we must be faithful to God. Being faithful is the first part of developing faith.

Otgonchimeg B., 15, Töv, Mongolia



Every time you try your faith, that is, act in worthiness on an impression, you will receive the confirming evidence of the Spirit. Those feelings will fortify your faith. As you repeat that pattern, your faith will become stronger. . . . With consistent practice, faith will become a vibrant, powerful, uplifting, inspiring force in your life."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Sustaining Power of Faith in Times of Uncertainty and Testing," *Ensign*, May 2003, 76.

When we believe in the help and the power of the Lord, then we can go forward having trust in Him.

Our obedience to the commandments shows that we have faith in Him. I know with all my heart that He wants to give us great blessings and that faith and obedience are essential to obtain them.

Marco C., 18, Liguria, Italy

We can exercise faith in Jesus Christ by relying on and trusting completely His omniscience and omnipotence. A nice way to do this is by paying tithing, for through it we can show that we are willing to give up worldly things for greater promised blessings.

Samantha L., 15, Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines

We exercise faith in Christ by coming to church, saying our prayers, reading the scriptures, accepting callings, repenting of our sins, taking the sacrament, and magnifying our callings.

Adam N., 18, Georgia

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

NEXT QUESTION

"My friends and I have a problem with gossiping and saying mean things about others. What can I do to stop and help them stop?"

**Send your answer by November 7, 2007, to:
New Era, Q&A, 11/07
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA
Or e-mail: newera@ldschurch.org**

The following information and permission must be included in your e-mail or letter:

FULL NAME _____

BIRTH DATE _____

WARD (or branch) _____

STAKE (or district) _____

I grant permission to print response and photo:

SIGNATURE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE (If you are under 18) _____

PEACE ON EARTH



FIND IT IN THE LORD'S HOUSE.
(See Haggai 2:9; *Hymns*, no. 247.)

GOING SOMEWHERE?

BY RILEY M. LORIMER

If you want a rewarding future, get an education!

How many times in your life have you been asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” As a child you could have replied with anything from “A veterinarian” to “I’m going to be the first person to set foot on Pluto,” and people would have smiled and said how bright you were. Now that you’re a bit older and the “growing up” part of the question is quickly approaching, Pluto is probably drifting further from your mind, and your real future may seem more important than ever. Because before you can blast off for any future, you need fuel in your rocket. And the fuel that will take you to your dreams faster than the speed of light is education.

President Hinckley has said, “The Lord wants you to educate your minds and hands, whatever your chosen field. Whether it be repairing refrigerators, or the work of a skilled surgeon, you must train yourselves. Seek for the best schooling available. Become a workman of integrity in the world that lies ahead of you” (“A Prophet’s Counsel and Prayer for Youth,” *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 10).

There are many different ways to pursue education. And as President Hinckley said, all worthy forms of education are valuable. Your future is incredibly important—to you and to the Lord—so consider carefully what path you might pursue. But don’t worry! Choosing a way to continue your education doesn’t have to be a stressful or frightening process. Consider your choice prayerfully and do some research on what options are available to you. Three relatively common paths are: (1) college education, (2) vocational training, and (3) apprentice-



ships and internships. Take a look at a couple of LDS youths who have chosen these routes. Perhaps their experiences will help you to make some decisions of your own.

College: A Major Decision

For Chelsea Baugh, going to college was never really a question. “Education has always been important in my home,” she says. “My parents have encouraged college since we were toddlers.” So from the time she learned what college was, Chelsea worked hard to achieve her dream of attending a university.

Now a student in a four-year university undergraduate program, Chelsea is realizing that the hard work has just begun. Between classes, homework, friends, and the LDS institute of religion council (of which she is the youngest member), she is busy all the time. But Chelsea loves her college experience and is excited about the education she is receiving. “Education is important because even if you don’t get a job—if you decide to be a stay-at-home mom for example—you’re going to use your education in every aspect of your life.”

Life in college has been challenging at times. At one point, Chelsea decided to change her major, which can be a frightening choice because it will affect your entire future. “My decision involved a lot of pondering, a lot of thinking about what I wanted in life, and a lot of praying,” she says.

If you’re planning on going to college, Chelsea has some good advice: “Plan early. Start disciplining yourself in junior high school to study. Get involved in high



school with athletics, clubs, friends—whatever you're interested in. And take seminary and gain a testimony of it so that when you go to college you'll have a desire to go to institute. That gospel learning will help you keep your life in balance."

Vocational Education: A Practical Approach

Somner Price had always known that he wanted to spend his life in a profession where he could help people. He thought about becoming a doctor but wasn't sure that the years of schooling required were for him. So when Somner, who is now 18, learned that his high school offered the option of taking vocational education courses in nursing at a local applied technology college, he jumped at the chance.

For his entire senior year, Somner spent his mornings in regular classes at his high school and his afternoons at an applied technology college. Some days on the road to becoming a certified nursing assistant (CNA) were more fun than others, and it certainly wasn't all easy. Somner did his clinical practice work in a nursing home for elderly people. His duties included feeding, bathing, and taking the blood pressure of the patients. And while it was sometimes difficult, he found it very rewarding. "I decided to be a nurse because I wanted to help people," he says. "And I felt like I was doing that."

In addition to the blessings of serving others, Somner sees very practical benefits to his decision—when he graduated

From the time she learned what college was, Chelsea Baugh worked hard to achieve her dream of attending a university.





For his entire senior year, Somner Price (right) spent his mornings in regular classes at his high school and his afternoons at an applied technology college.

In addition to her painting, Ellesse Sorbonne (opposite page), seated next to her self-portrait, is now pursuing an interest in photography through an internship with a portrait studio in her hometown.



from high school, he left with a diploma and the certificate of a nursing assistant. "I feel like my vocational training has put me a step ahead. Now when I come home from my mission, I'll be able to start into the next levels of nursing with some experience."

Vocational education and applied technology will give you training in a particular profession, and nursing certainly isn't the only option available. Computer technology, media design, cosmetology, auto mechanics, and welding are just a few of the professions that you can pursue through vocational education.

Somner's advice for choosing an educational route? "Make it something you know you'll enjoy and something that fits your personality. I talked to my parents and other people I trusted, and they all had good advice. Just do what you love. Do what you're good at."

Apprenticeships and Internships: Learning on the Job

Doodles covered every scrap of paper in the Sorbonne home from the time Ellesse, now 20, could hold a crayon. Recognizing her talent, Ellesse's parents enrolled her in art lessons at age five, and she began to develop her skills in drawing and painting. During junior high, Ellesse began her first apprenticeship as a painter, and that's where her real education began.

"I remember the first time I went to my teacher's studio," she recalls. "He told me I needed to start to relearn how to draw, and I was a little offended because I felt like I had been studying art forever. But actually, I could never be more grateful for that. Having to go back to the basics was very humbling. The experience was so good for me."

Eventually, Ellesse left that studio and went on to apprentice with another painter.





Her experience there proved equally valuable. She came to appreciate the value of watching a master at work. Her new teacher, who is also a member of the Church, helped her to recognize the source of true beauty. “Everything he taught me was an acknowledgement of truth and beauty and how that’s not just within us. It’s from a greater source—from the Greatest Master.”

In addition to her painting, Ellesse is now pursuing an interest in photography through an internship with a portrait studio in her hometown. As evidenced by Ellesse’s experience, apprenticeships and internships are available in a very broad range of fields. Apprenticeships and internships are often part of a school program to enhance in-class learning. They can take place in your hometown or halfway around the world, and you can gain experience in teaching, public affairs, carpentry, journalism, fashion design, and accounting, just to name a few of the choices.

“Anyone who has the opportunity to apprentice or intern should go for it,” says Ellesse. “There’s so much you learn from doing and observing that you can’t get from books.”

It’s Your Future—Be Smart

However you choose to pursue your education, be certain that you are always learning. Study the scriptures and the words of the prophets. The Lord also tells us to study “things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms” (D&C 88:79).

And if you’re not sure yet what you want to do, don’t worry. “Take whatever you’ve been given and learn more about it, because the intelligence you gain will take you places,” says Ellesse.

Counsel with the Lord and with your parents, and you will be guided in the right path. Take advantage of every opportunity to educate yourself. Reach for your dreams and believe in yourself, and who knows? Maybe one day you’ll get to Pluto. **NE**

Where is your education going? Find helpful resources at www.besmart.com.

AN EXCEPTIONAL BOOK, AN EXCEPTIONAL ANSWER

BY GRIGOR A. TADEVOSYAN

My concerns were troubling, but their resolution was quick, inspired, and, I think, no coincidence.

When I was going to be baptized and confirmed a member of the Church, I felt very troubled about whether I was choosing the right path. Our branch missionaries in Gyumri, Armenia, realized I had some doubts about the Book of Mormon and joining the Church, so they invited me to go with them while they taught some missionary lessons.

When we got to the first home, Elder Perrin asked Anichka if she had read the assigned chapters. “No,” she said, “I forgot.” So we read 2 Nephi 29–33 together. While reading chapter 29, we studied the prophecies about the Book of Mormon and the Gentiles rejecting it in the latter days by saying, “A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible” (v. 3). That chapter left an impression on me throughout the lesson.

Next we went to another home. When we were reading from the Book of Mormon there, the father of the woman we were teaching asked, “What is that book?”

I explained that it was the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ. He became angry and said, “We already have the Bible, and there can’t be another Bible.”

I remembered the chapter we had read just 10 minutes earlier with Anichka.

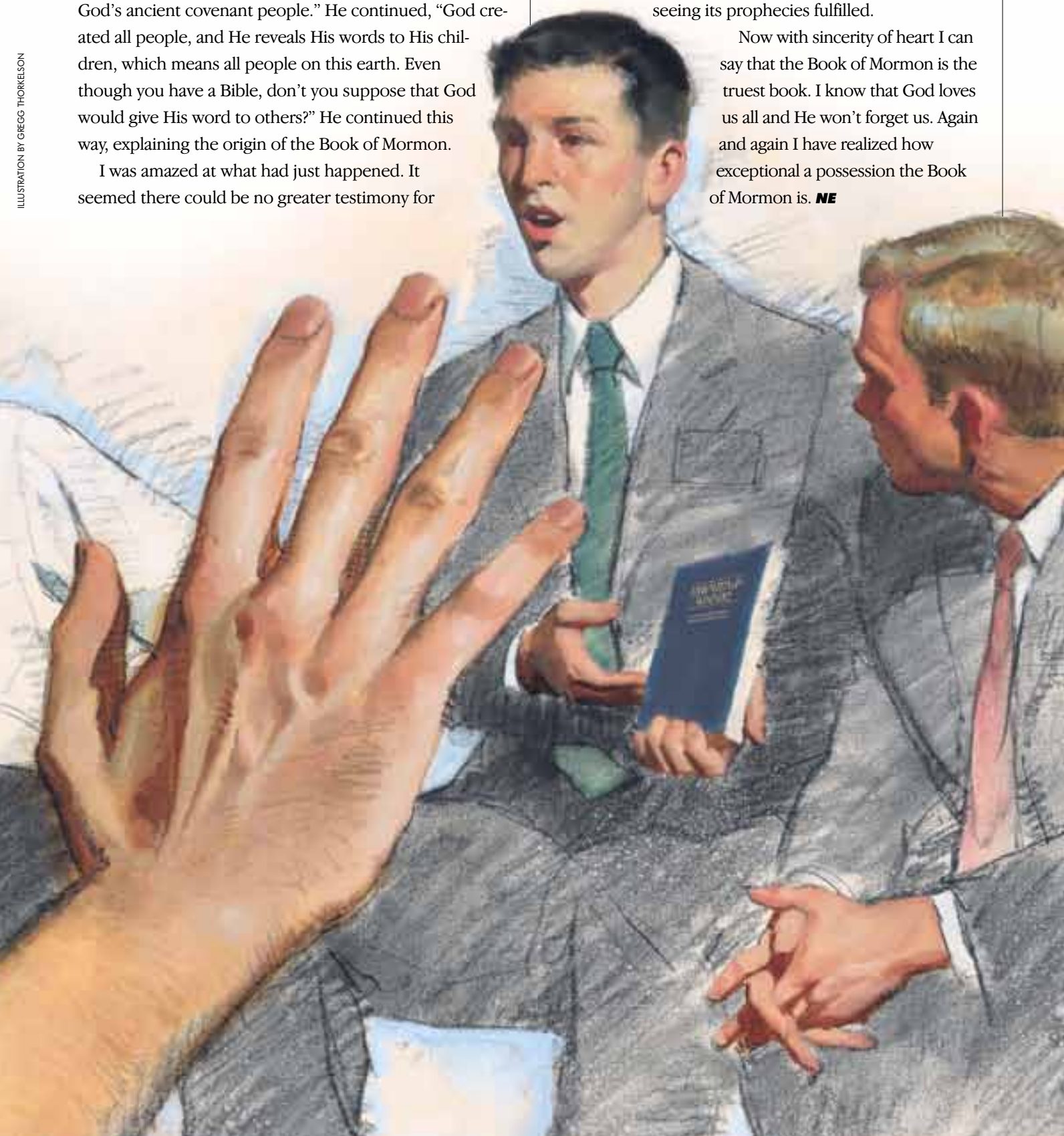


Elder Perrin spoke up: “You have a Bible, and it is from God’s ancient covenant people.” He continued, “God created all people, and He reveals His words to His children, which means all people on this earth. Even though you have a Bible, don’t you suppose that God would give His word to others?” He continued this way, explaining the origin of the Book of Mormon.

I was amazed at what had just happened. It seemed there could be no greater testimony for

resolving my concerns about the Book of Mormon than seeing its prophecies fulfilled.

Now with sincerity of heart I can say that the Book of Mormon is the truest book. I know that God loves us all and He won’t forget us. Again and again I have realized how exceptional a possession the Book of Mormon is. **NE**





Playing a Familiar Tune

BY JADE SWARTZBERG

For the Brinton family, the joy of music and the love of the gospel blend in perfect harmony.

Nestled in a quiet neighborhood in Salt Lake City, Lindsey Brinton's home is alive with the sound of music. Perhaps this is only to be expected when your mother is a concert pianist. But 16-year-old Lindsey and her 18-year-old sister, Stephanie, who have studied the piano since they were 5 and performed in competitions and concerts across the world, appear to be following in the footsteps of their mother, Sally—and the three of them love to play together.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CRAIG DIMOND



For example, last year, on September 11th, they performed together at Carnegie Hall in New York City. “It’s the best feeling to be sitting at the piano and look across to the other piano and see either my mom or my sister playing with me,” says Stephanie.

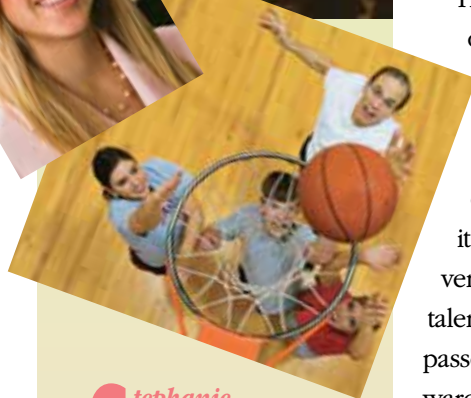
Lindsey says hearing her mom and sister play pushes her to do better. “It gives me motivation to continue practicing and learning because I have to be on par with them to play together.” And spending all that practice and performance time together has drawn them closer.

For the Brintons, music has been a family affair. There are seven children in the family, and all of them know how to play the piano, although only Stephanie and Lindsey chose to focus on it as their main instrument. From oldest to youngest: Jonathan plays the cello, Jason the trumpet, Erica the clarinet, Jessica the harp, Stephanie and Lindsey the piano, and Sam the cello—almost enough to start their own symphony.

As for their father, Gregory Brinton, if you ask him what he plays, he’ll tell you—basketball. And it seems Lindsey and Stephanie inherited that from him. Both have played on teams in high school and love to practice at home with their dad, although they have learned from experience that jammed fingers don’t do well on piano keys.

Family Traditions

Actually, the musical tradition started with Sally’s mother. As a little girl her mother lived in a rural area in Idaho, and she sold milk to earn money for piano lessons. She also managed to earn enough money to buy her first piano. Knowing that her mother had made sacrifices in her



Stephanie (above) and Lindsey love to share their music with each other and to perform with their mother. Their sports enthusiasm comes from their father, who gives them basketball tips they can use while playing on their school teams.

The Brinton family loves to play together (far right) even if it’s just for family home evening.

life to play the piano, Sally grew to love music as well, and she has passed this love of music on to her own children.

But mother and daughters agree that one of the main reasons they continue to play the piano is because of the joy it brings to others. “You have to make so many sacrifices to play the piano at high levels that it wouldn’t be worth it unless you have the reward of blessing other people’s lives,” says Stephanie.

This is why Lindsey can claim a standing ovation not only from a New York audience in Carnegie Hall but also from the Young Women and Young Men in her ward after she performed for an etiquette night activity. To the Brintons, it doesn’t matter how big or small the venue is as long as they can share their talents with others—another tradition passed down from Sally’s mother, who was ward organist for 30 years and never turned down an invitation to perform, including for the ward Christmas party.

That’s not to say the venues they play in aren’t prestigious. The trio has performed in major cities around the world—Cairo, Egypt; Naples, Italy; and Washington, D.C.—but they are also happy to play at a local nursing home and in church on Sunday. Some of their sweetest memories have come during these times.

For Lindsey, Stephanie, and Sally, playing music is a spiritual experience as well. They pray before performances not only that they will feel good about the way they played but also that others will feel the Spirit through their music.

“I like to think I may have influenced someone through my music, even in a small way, like if they are having a hard day and it helps them think about other things or think about how they can help others,” Lindsey says.

Family Support

Relying on prayer doesn't mean that Lindsey and Stephanie don't prepare for performances. Lindsey says she typically practices about two hours every day, but if she has a competition or performance coming up, she pushes it to three or four hours. As well as playing solos, the sisters play duets with each other or with their mother, so they need to practice together. Now that Stephanie is away from home at Harvard, coordinating their practicing is a challenge. They practice their pieces separately but make use of holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas when they are together to play their two-piano pieces. "A lot of two-piano playing isn't just knowing the notes; it's feeling the music together," says Lindsey.

With that much practicing, it isn't surprising that Lindsey's youngest brother, Sam, can whistle or sing every musical theme to every song that she plays. But even though the rest of the family hears Lindsey every day (and Stephanie when she's home), they are still supportive and go to all the concerts they can. This can be hard now that many of the Brinton children are married and have other

responsibilities. However, all except one were able to come with their spouses to the Carnegie Hall performance.

And Lindsey says that part of the fun of performing is knowing that her family will often be there to watch her.

As they have been blessed with opportunities to perform, Lindsey, Stephanie, and Sally have been able to attend Church meetings around the world. They find the same spirit in each setting. "It's wonderful to see that it is the same true Church in all areas of the world and that music has a powerful influence on everyone," says Stephanie. "Music crosses cultural boundaries, and so does the gospel. That's why they are complements of each other."

Any of the Brintons will tell you that music has enriched their lives. "There are profound spiritual experiences that come through beautiful music," Sally says. "It really is a wonderful feeling being able to share our love of music and our love of the gospel, and playing together is just so much fun."

Because of the gospel, the Brintons know they have the potential to be together forever, and that's another incentive to stay in tune, not only with each other but with the Spirit as well. **NE**



A TESTIMONY OF PROPHETS

BY ELDER CLAUDIO R. M. COSTA

Of the Presidency of the Seventy



The missionaries were helping build a chapel. I was so impressed with them that I introduced them to my parents.

When I was 12, I introduced the missionaries to my family. I had met them on the street, and they were friendly to me. They were helping the Church build a chapel in my city in Brazil, and they invited me to help them, which I began to do in my free time. I had never heard of young men who would choose to spend their time building a church.

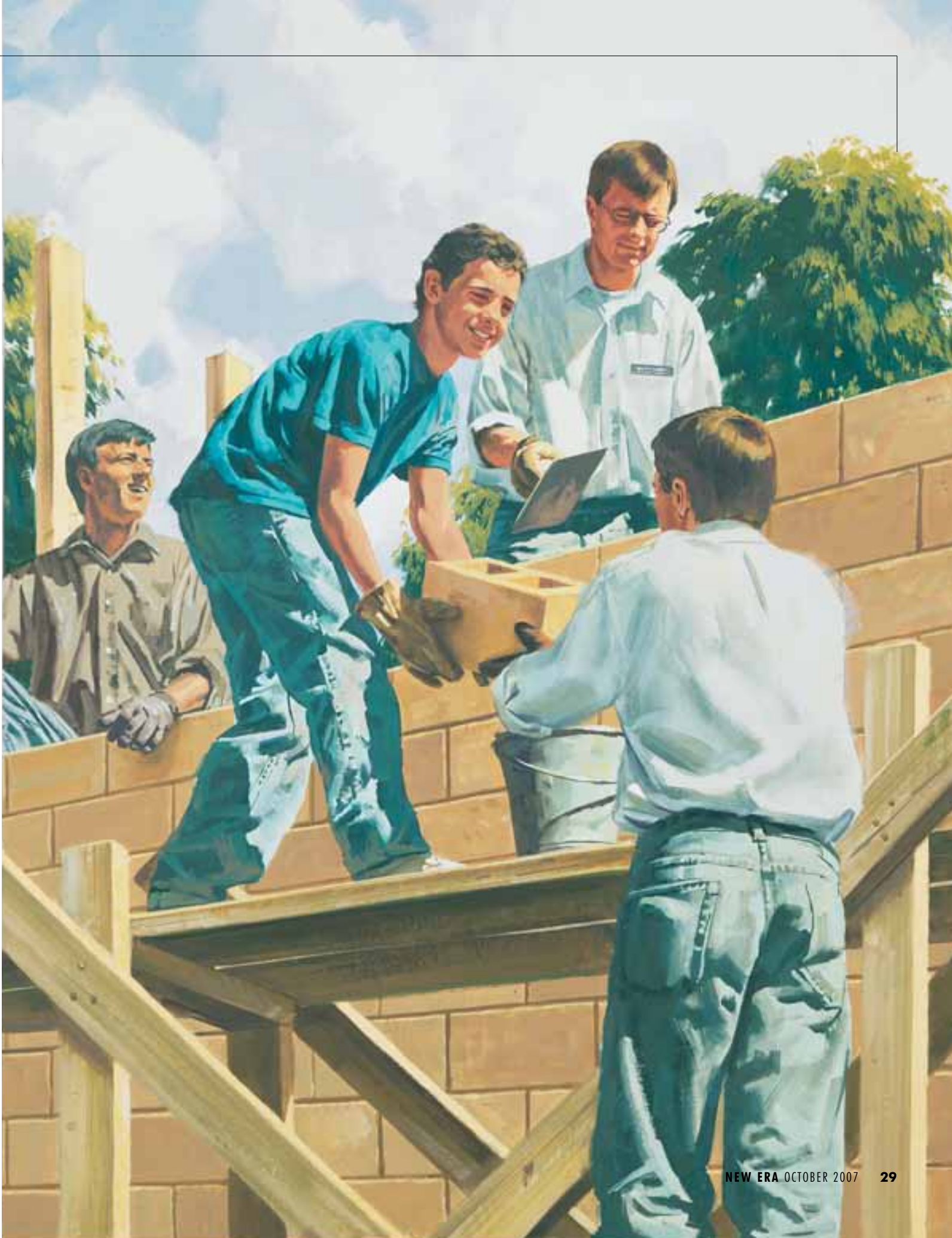
I was so impressed with them that I decided to introduce them to my parents, and we invited them to come to our home. The missionaries gave our family the first discussion. We hadn't ever smoked, so our family was already keeping that part of the Word of Wisdom, and we had family home evening every night in our home. We didn't call it family home evening, but that's what we were doing. We were Catholics, and we attended our church regularly, so my father told them we felt comfortable with our religion.

The missionaries left, but they wrote about our family in the missionaries' area book that remained in the missionary apartment, including their impression that we would join the Church.

Learning about Eternal Families

Ten years later I was living in another city when new missionaries arrived in the area where my family lived. They didn't have a single person to teach and decided to look in the area book. They found the name of my parents and decided to visit. The missionaries prayed before they went, and the Lord inspired them. Despite being very faithful in his religion, my father had a question. He couldn't believe that after death his wife would not still be his wife. He really felt that family ties needed to continue after death. He had asked ministers from different churches about this, and everybody explained to him, "No, after death your wife will be like your sister, and your son will be like your brother."

When these missionaries knocked on my parents' door, my father opened it and told them he had heard their message previously and was not interested. But the missionaries said, "We have another message for you. Do you know that your family can be together forever?" Those words inspired him. My father invited them to come in and teach





That night I began to read the history of Joseph Smith, and I prayed about each paragraph.

him. Guided by the Spirit, the missionaries told my family about eternal marriage and eternal families. With this introduction to the gospel, my family continued to meet with the missionaries until they gained a testimony and decided to be baptized and confirmed.

Gaining My Testimony

Five years later—I was 27 by then—I came back to my father's home for a time. My father was ward mission leader, and the sister missionaries were teaching someone else in my home. I overheard them teaching about the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith, and I decided to pray about it. It made sense in my mind that if Joseph Smith was a prophet, then the Book of Mormon is true and the Church is true.

That night I began to read the history of Joseph Smith and of his vision in the Sacred Grove. Then I stopped, and I prayed to the Lord. I spent the whole night in this manner, reading and praying about each paragraph. It took me 14 hours. Something happened to

me when I began to ponder. It seemed that I was in the grove with Joseph. It was a vivid and real experience. It seemed I could see what happened. When I finished the prayer the next morning, I *knew* Joseph Smith was a prophet.

I went immediately to find the missionaries. At noon, when the sister missionaries came home for lunch, I was sitting in front of their door waiting for them. I asked them to teach me the discussions. After they taught me the seven discussions in a short period of time, I was baptized and confirmed into the Church.

Following the Prophet

About a month after I joined the Church, I met my wife, Magareth, and one year later we got married. While we were dating, I told her that because I knew Joseph Smith was a prophet, I desired to build our family upon the words and teachings of the prophets. For example, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) was the prophet at that time, and he counseled Church members to stay out of debt. In close to 29 years of marriage, my wife and I have never paid one penny of interest. Never.

Since gaining a testimony of Joseph Smith, I have paid attention to every single word of the First Presidency and of the Twelve Apostles, and I put into practice what they teach. Because I know Joseph Smith was a prophet, it has never been difficult for me to follow the Brethren. They can ask me to do anything, and I will do it because I know they are prophets, seers, and revelators.

If you work to have a testimony of the prophets, you will be stronger. That is one of the keys to happiness. When you hear the prophets and do what they counsel you to do, you will be happy being obedient to them. **NE**

ONE WORD AT A TIME

With the help of his quorum, he learned the sacrament prayers . . .

BY TIMOTHY M. WILSON

Everyone looks forward to turning 16, and Evan Wilson was no different. He especially looked forward to the honor and duties that go with being a priest in the Medicine Lake Ward of the Minneapolis Minnesota Stake.

Evan, however, is not your average quorum member. Yes, he plays football, wrestles, and runs track for the junior varsity teams at the local high school. He sings in choir, is an Eagle Scout, and goes to the stake dances. Evan also has Down syndrome. He served faithfully as a deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood, always taking the same position when passing the sacrament because a routine brought comfort and success. He was solemn and respectful while passing the sacrament. Evan was equally successful in the responsibilities of a teacher.

For months before his 16th birthday, Evan practiced reading the sacrament prayers aloud with his family. Evan is not a strong reader or a particularly articulate speaker, and he needed the practice. He turned 16 and became a member of the priests quorum, attended quorum meetings, hung out with the priests, and assisted with the sacrament by distributing and collecting the sacrament trays. But offering the sacrament prayers

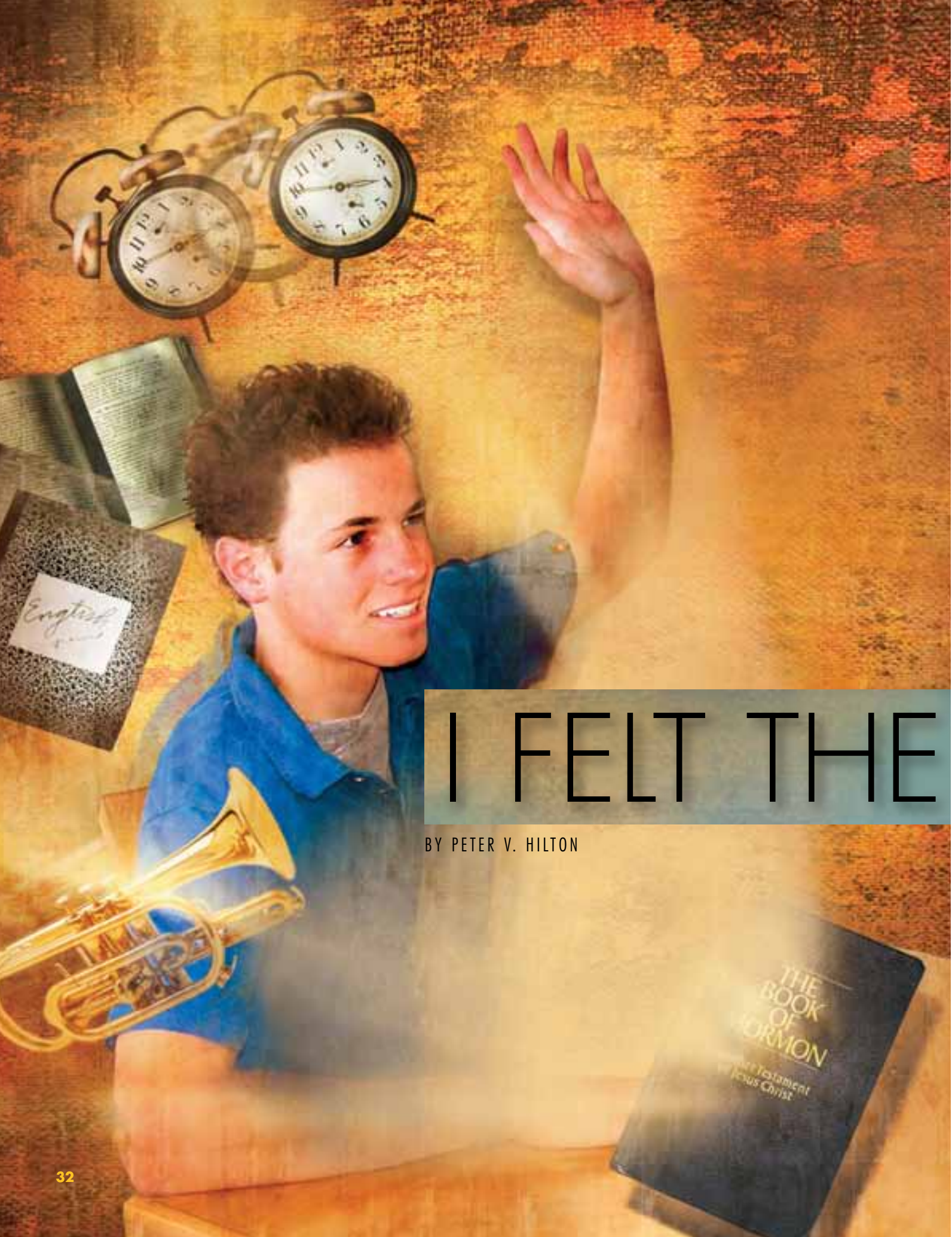
seemed beyond his grasp. He had the prayers memorized, but he rushed, resulting in slurred pronunciation. He was not yet ready to pray before the congregation.

One day Jeff Clark, the priests quorum first assistant, shared an inspired idea with the bishop: help Evan say the prayers more slowly and clearly by using a simple flip-chart. He suggested breaking down the sacrament prayers to one word per page. Evan's basic skills allowed him to read one word at a time, and through practice and pacing (which the flip-chart controlled), the words became more distinguishable. With practice, more reading aloud, more patience, and more prayer, Evan was ready.

Finally, the eagerly-awaited Sunday arrived when Evan would bless the water for the first time. A loving, patient bishop came down from the stand and knelt next to him. While the bishop flipped the cards, Evan painstakingly pronounced the prayer word-by-word, page-by-page, with the bishop's support and approval.

Many were moved while this special young priest uttered his first sacrament prayer. A quorum presidency had demonstrated the reality of modern revelation and what can happen when they acted upon that inspiration. They were given what President Thomas S. Monson called the "privilege to lift" those whom they were called to serve (see "Our Sacred Priesthood Trust," *Ensign*, May 2006, 57). **NE**





I FELT THE

BY PETER V. HILTON

The speed-read-flop-and-drop method of scripture reading wasn't working. I needed something more.

“We’re going to discuss section 64 tomorrow, so you had better read section 64 tonight!” As always, Sister Dorff was adamant.

Early-morning seminary. To my sophomore mind, the idea was laughable. Between writing, directing, and acting in my own play, trumpet lessons, piano practice, and eight high school classes every day, there was barely time to sleep. But guilt won out over math, and I decided to put scripture study in the 25th hour of my daily allotment of 24.

“Who read their scriptures?” Sister Dorff asked the next morning. She was answered by a smattering of raised hands. “Tell me what you read.”

“Well . . .” I blinked away the morning blariness. “It was the word of God, as revealed to Joseph Smith.” Nobody had a better answer; Sister Dorff scowled. More lecture, more please-read-your-scriptures.

It was the same the next morning. “Who read their scriptures?” Again, a couple of hands went up. “Well, our lesson is going to take two days, so congratulations! You have no reading tonight.” Tired cheers went up. “The rest

of hours earlier than normal. That meant I was more awake as Mosiah 6 once again stared back up at me.

“And it came to pass that there was not one soul, except it were little children, but who had entered into the covenant and had taken upon them the name of Christ.

“. . . That thereby they might hear and know the commandments of God, and to stir them up in remembrance of the oath which they had made” (vv. 2–3).

There it was. The sacramental covenant, its elements recorded in Mosiah.

With a few hours of sleep separating me from the next seminary lesson, I realized that I had renewed that same covenant just the day before. Every Sunday, I took the sacrament and promised to take Christ’s name upon me. I really wanted to—that’s why I got up for seminary—but there was a difference between getting up and waking up. I winced, realizing I wasn’t holding up my end of the covenant. Here I was promising to always remember the Lord and keep His commandments, and instead of meditating, I was vegetating.

I started over. After a prayer, I turned to the beginning of the Book of Mormon. “I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father.” The words seemed to be full of meaning. I, Peter, was born of Heavenly Parents and had been taught God’s word, even if it had only begun to sink in. That night, I caught up in my seminary reading all the way to Doctrine and Covenants 84.

“Tell me about what you read.” Sister Dorff’s familiar question greeted us the next morning.

“Mosiah,” I answered, winning a friendly scowl from the teacher. “I mean, I read the assigned Doctrine and Covenant scriptures too, but what I read first last night stuck with me. The Book of Mormon is true!”

Sister Dorff smiled. “What did you read?”

“Well, I started with Mosiah 6, then 1 Nephi, and then I felt the Spirit! It was just like that quote from President Ezra Taft Benson where he says there is a power that will enter our lives the moment we begin a serious study of the Book of Mormon.” I grinned at my classmates. “It was so cool. I felt that power last night.”

From then on, I was glad to tell Sister Dorff about what I had read. I had gained a testimony of scripture study. **NE**

POWER

of you, need to not ‘procrastinate the day of your repentance.’” Then she added, “Please read your scriptures.”

That night, I didn’t feel quite right about going to bed without my nightly chapter of reading, so I grabbed my Book of Mormon and opened to Mosiah 6, a chapter only seven verses long. I was elated! Rather than staying up past midnight to half-digest hefty chunks of doctrine, I could breeze through this chapter in under a minute.

I thought I’d discovered a great way to go to bed. Every night I read the same short chapter. I was reading my scriptures daily. I was a good Church member, I told myself. The speed-read-flop-and-drop worked wonders for fatigue until one Monday night. I got to bed a couple

MISSIONARY

BY PATRICIA AUXIER

Cody, Justin, and Trevor know that when you're a good friend, you're also a missionary.

Cody Petterson met Trevor Olvera in the school hallway in sixth grade in Nyssa, Oregon, and after that, they were almost inseparable. Soon Cody's cousin, Justin Kesler, joined the mix.

The three of them did everything together: sports, bowling, homework. Later on they even worked on Cody's family's farm. And since they shared everything, Cody and Justin couldn't help sharing the gospel with Trevor. Soon Cody and Justin began inviting Trevor to Mutual and stake dances. As Trevor got to know the other youth in Cody and Justin's ward, it made it easier to invite him to church and seminary and then to hear the missionary lessons.

Trevor said, "Cody and Justin weren't perfect, but they were trying to be like the Savior. They talked about reading scriptures and saying their prayers, and I wanted to have that as well."

Though Cody and Justin admitted they had to overcome some fears, mostly they said sharing the gospel was easy. Justin puts it this way: "We were just examples at first. And then we asked him questions about what he believed. He already knew what we believed because we acted on what we believed, so it was easy to talk to him about the Church."

One night after Mutual, Trevor remembers telling Cody and Justin that he wanted to get baptized. "When I told them that I wanted to be baptized, they were so happy for me. I knew that I had made the right decision." Even though some others he knew teased him,

Cody and Justin were by his side, literally so—at his baptism Cody was in the font, baptizing Trevor, and Justin was on the stand, giving a talk.

Trevor described his own baptism this way: "I was in the font, and I knew that I could have my sins washed away. And to have my best friends with me was beautiful. I knew I was making the right decision, and they had helped me to make it."

Cody said that it was a powerful experience to use the priesthood to help someone he cared about. He said, "When I pronounced the words 'Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ,' I felt the power of God fall upon me. I felt like my heart would burst. I was baptizing my best friend. He was receiving an ordinance of salvation, and I was the Lord's instrument to carry it out."

Four months later, Trevor entered the font again—this time to baptize his own mother. Once again, his best friends were there for Trevor, with Cody baptizing Trevor's younger sister and Justin baptizing his younger brother.

Seeing Trevor with his mother was a powerful experience for Justin. "There was a glow around them," Justin said. "They were extremely happy because they knew that they were on the path to being together forever."

Although Cody and Justin were the ones to share the gospel with Trevor and his family, it wasn't a one-sided relationship. "Trevor helped me step up to a new standard of living the gospel," Cody said. "He helped me strive to be the example that every member of the Church should be." Cody adds that besides helping him strive to set a good example, Trevor brought "an excitement to learn about the restored gospel that renewed my excitement to learn and study as well."

TRIO



Above: As friends, these three shared everything, so it was easy for Cody (left) and Justin (right) to share the gospel with Trevor (center).

Below: Four months after Trevor's baptism, the trio shared in baptizing the other members of Trevor's family.





Talking about their experiences together has been a powerful teaching tool with investigators on their missions. When Trevor shared a picture of the three friends and their story with his investigator, Thomas, he says it brought the Spirit into the room immediately. “After that,” Trevor says, “we didn’t have to worry about him.”

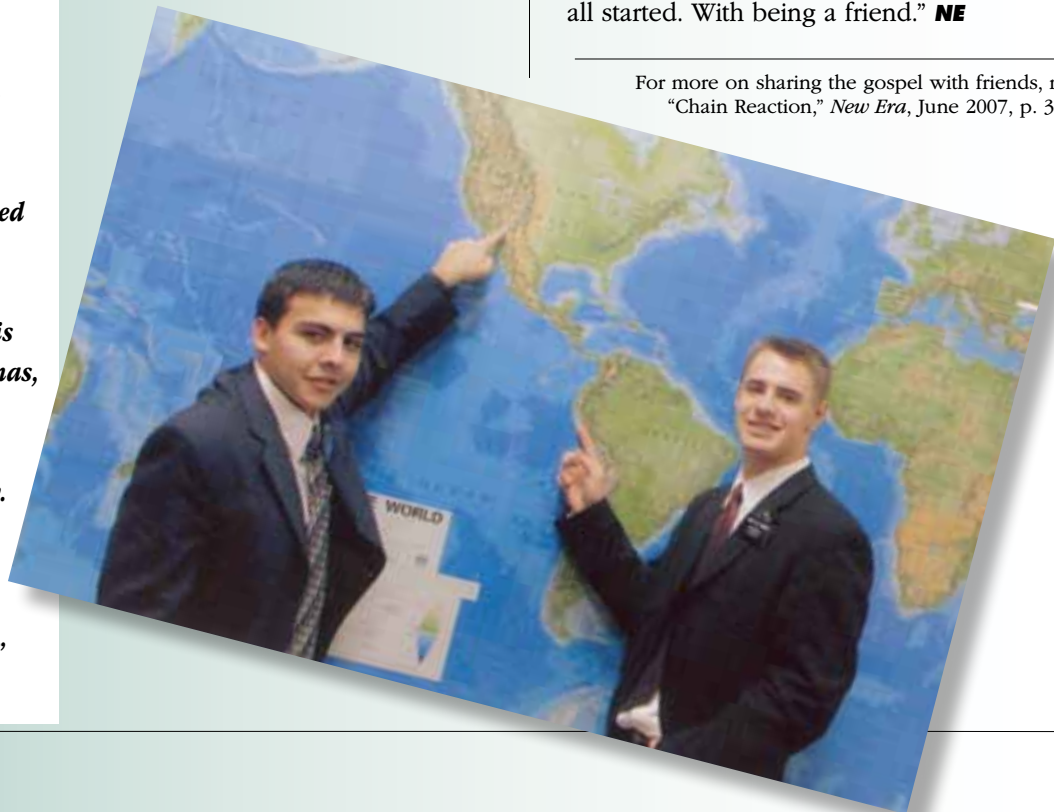
These boys also helped bring each other closer to Christ. Cody compares his best friends to the stripling warriors who were “firm and undaunted” and “did obey and observe to perform every word of command with exactness” (Alma 57:20, 21).

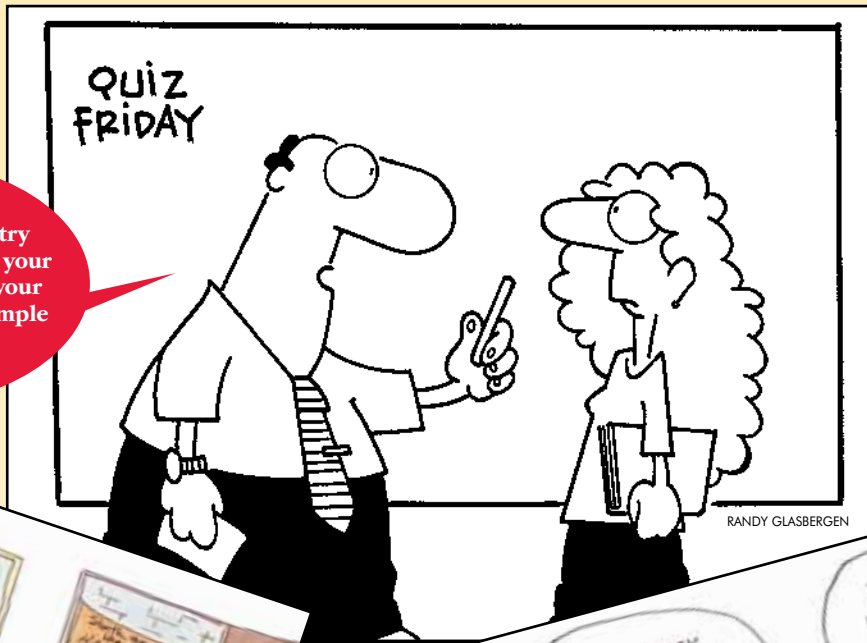
Justin echoes Cody’s sentiments. “We were trying to do the right,” he said. “To have friends who believe the same things I do, who try to choose the right, makes it so much easier.”

Baptism, however, wasn’t the end. Since their childhood, Cody and Justin had planned on serving missions. At 17, Trevor immediately committed to serving a mission as well. Now, though they are serving in different missions—with Cody in the Peru Piura Mission, Trevor in the Arizona Mesa Mission, and Justin in the Maryland Baltimore Mission—they still have the same purpose: bringing more friends to the gospel.

All three elders expressed appreciation that they became missionaries before serving full-time. Trevor’s mother, Terry, said, “Cody and Justin have been missionaries for years. Missionary work doesn’t have to start by teaching somebody about your beliefs. It’s being a friend and living what you believe. To me, that’s where the basis of this all started. With being a friend.” **NE**

For more on sharing the gospel with friends, read “Chain Reaction,” *New Era*, June 2007, p. 34.





RANDY GLASBERGEN

“Of course trigonometry is useful. For the rest of your life, it will make all of your other problems seem simple by comparison!”

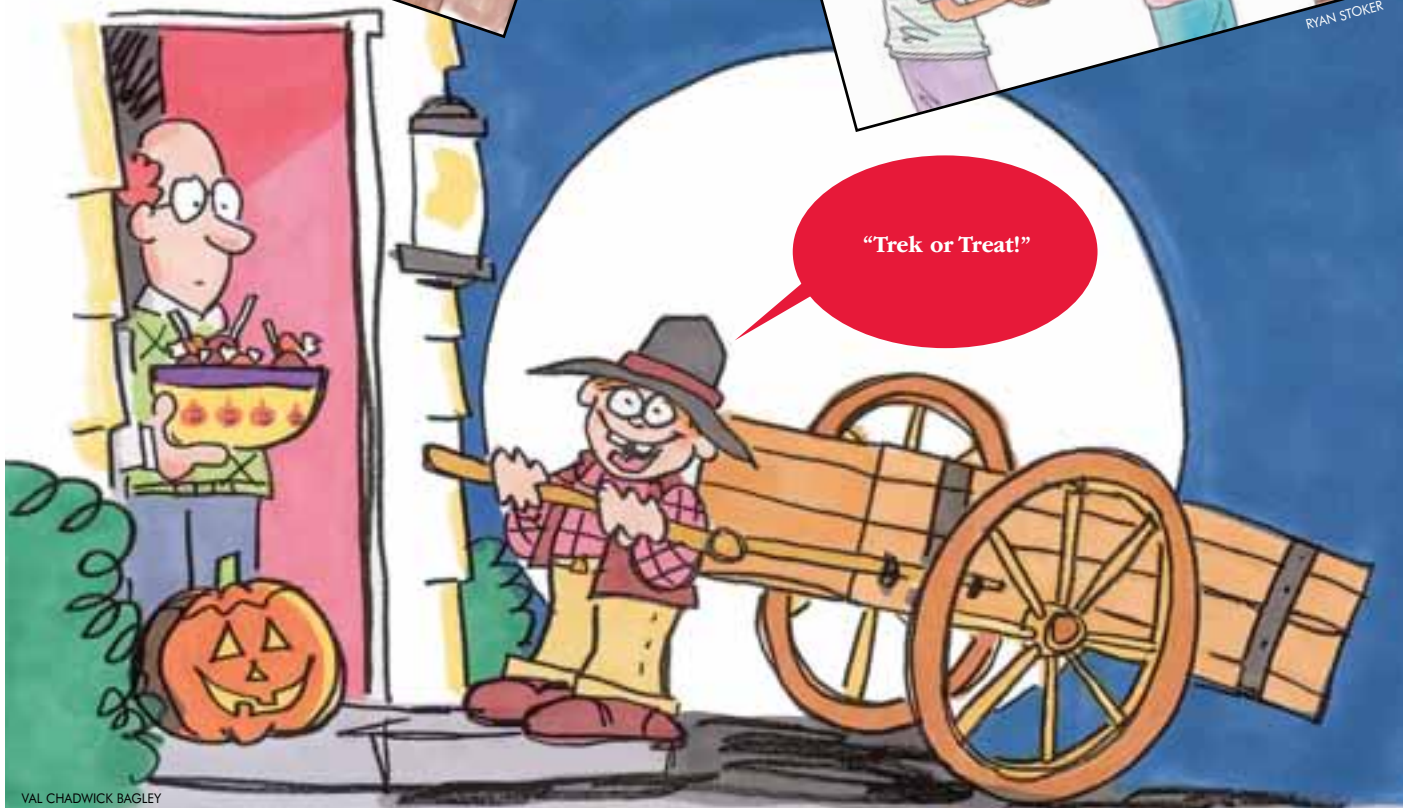


RYAN STOKER

“GASP! I knew it!”



RYAN STOKER



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

“Trek or Treat!”



Forty Hats and More

When the Young Women of the Del Rio First Ward in Chandler, Arizona, heard about an orphanage in Zimbabwe that needed hats, they got right to work and started knitting. The Young Women already had an annual retreat planned to the mountains in northern Arizona, so they decided to knit hats while they enjoyed the fresh mountain air.

"I had a great time sitting and talking with everyone while we made

these hats. We felt a sense of accomplishment," said one of the Mia Maids. Jessica White, another Mia Maid, said she was really glad to make time for service. She says that all the girls became

so engrossed in knitting that when the leaders suggested they go outside for a break, the girls wanted to stay inside and finish their work instead.

The Young Women made 40 hats during the weekend outing and many of the girls have continued knitting more hats since returning home.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE CHANDLER, ARIZONA DEL RIO FIRST WARD

Value Quilts

Like other Young Women groups around the world, the young women in the Wyoming Ward of the Grand Rapids Michigan Stake recently held their Young Women in Excellence. Each young woman and leader made a "Value Quilt" using the value colors in fabrics of their own choosing. This project began last year in March and was completed



in November, so the quilts could be displayed for all to see. The girls learned how to choose fabrics, use a rotary cutter, sew a straight seam, bind and tie a quilt, and, most importantly, work together. The Young Women torch was embroidered or colored in the center of the quilts. Their satisfaction and feeling of having accomplished a major project is obvious from their huge smiles.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN WYOMING WARD

“Love,
patience,
and meek-
ness can be
just as
contagious
as rudeness
and
crudeness.”

Elder Neal A. Maxwell

of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (1926–2004),

“The Tugs and Pulls of the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 36.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT REIER

WRITE AWAY!

What is one of your favorite Mutual activities? You know, the one that was so much fun you've been hoping for a year to do it again. Maybe what stands out in your mind was an especially wonderful lesson. What made it so great, and why did it touch you so deeply? We want to hear from you: tell us what you like about Mutual and what you do to get the most out of going each week.

Send your submissions by December 30 to:

New Era, Mutual Ideas

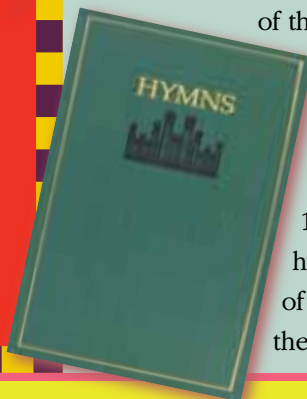
50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2420

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

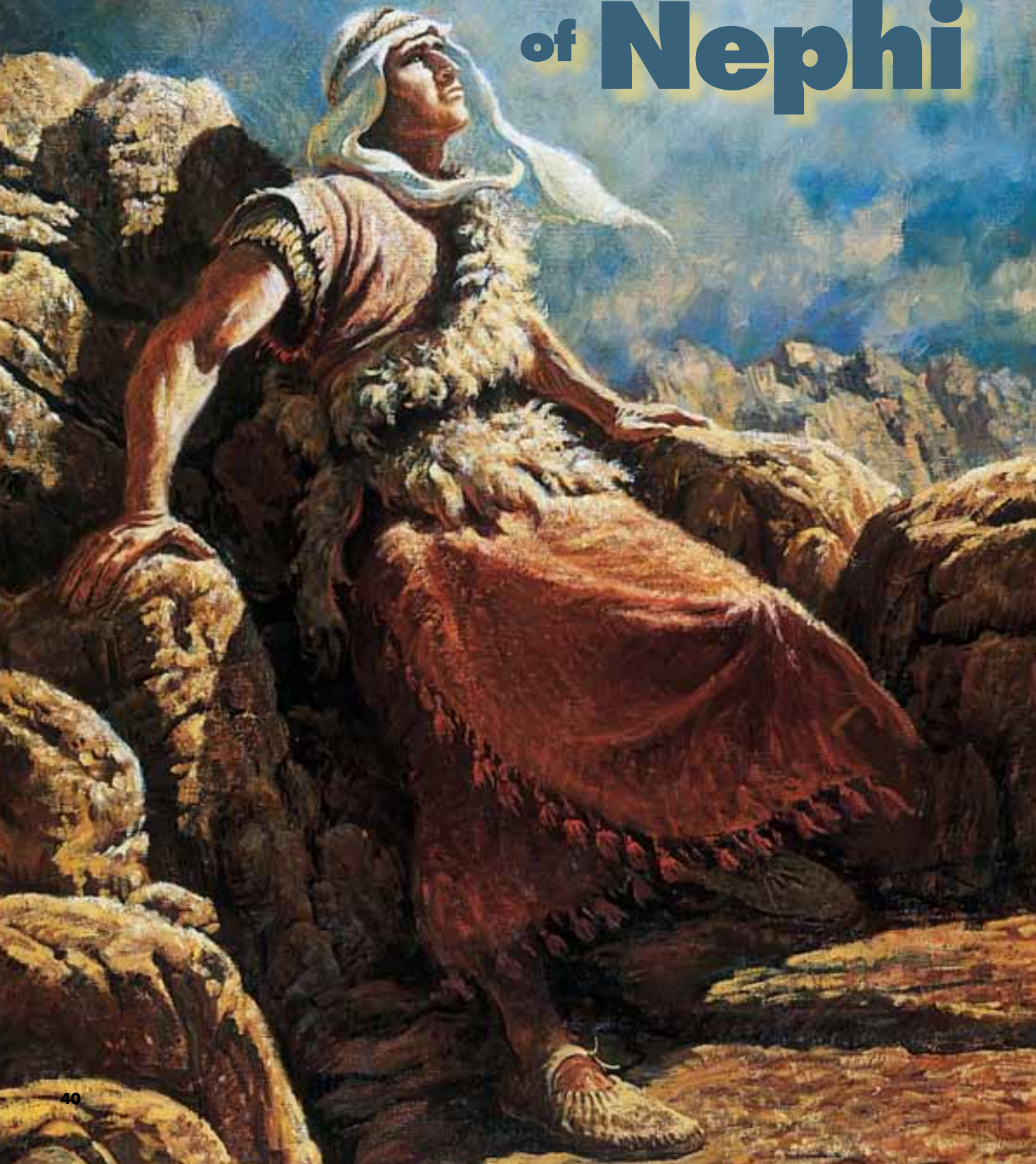
Or e-mail us at: newera@ldschurch.org

BE STILL, MY SOUL

This is one of the oldest songs in our hymnbook (see *Hymns*, no 124). The opening line of the hymn was inspired by Psalm 46:10: “Be still, and know that I am God.” Katharina von Schlegel, the author of this hymn, was born in 1697. Katharina loved the scriptures and knew them well. This song has references not only to the book of Psalms, but also St. John, Matthew, 1 Corinthians, and 1 Thessalonians. Katharina wrote this hymn to remind us to look to a future of “purest joys restored” even amidst the trials and difficulties of this life.



The Education of Nephi



BY DAVID A. EDWARDS
Church Magazines

We can learn a lot by studying how Nephi learned, as well as how he taught.

When we think of Nephi, we often picture him as Lehi's "good" son—the faithful, courageous, and obedient one—and as a great prophet and leader. But have you ever thought about Nephi as a student?

Read the Book of Mormon with this question in mind, and you'll find that Nephi was, first of all, an excellent learner and that he also became a master teacher.

Take a close look at his example, and you'll discover ways to improve your own gospel learning and teaching.

As a Student

1. Be ready to learn new things. When Lehi told his family that they would leave Jerusalem, Laman and Lemuel complained. While Nephi could have had some of the same doubts his brothers had, he had "great desires to know of the mysteries of God," so he prayed, and the Lord "visited [him], and did soften [his] heart that [he] did believe all the words which had been spoken by [his] father" (1 Nephi 2:16). The Lord then told him, "Blessed art thou, Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently, with lowliness of heart" (v. 19).

In this episode we see the four qualities that set Nephi apart as a learner and prepared him to be led by the Holy Spirit: desire, faith, diligence, and humility.

• His *desire* to know the things of God caused him to ponder what he learned (see 1 Nephi 10:17; 11:1–3, 6, 10–11).



• His *faith* strengthened him and led him to pray to the Lord, believing he would receive an answer (see 1 Nephi 7:17; 11:4–5; 15:11; 16:28–29; 2 Nephi 33:3).

• His *diligence* in seeking the Lord and obeying His commandments qualified him for the Lord's trust (see 1 Nephi 3:7; 10:17, 19; 16:28–29).

• His *humility* made him receptive to the Lord's answers (see 1 Nephi 11:17; 2 Nephi 4:17–19).

Nephi had a great desire to know the gospel. He believed in the words of his father, and he sought the Lord diligently and in humility. You can follow this pattern as you kneel in prayer, interact with your family, and ask for answers from the Lord.



ON THE PRACTICAL SIDE

Of course, Nephi's education didn't begin and end with gospel-related subjects. He learned other things, including, possibly, a trade—metalworking. The Book of Mormon tells us that:

- Nephi commented on the craftsmanship of Laban's sword (see 1 Nephi 4:9) and the workmanship of the Liahona (1 Nephi 16:10).
- When the Lord commanded Nephi to build a ship, He showed Nephi how it should be built. But apparently Nephi didn't need to be taught how to make tools; he simply asked the Lord where he should go to get ore to make them (see 1 Nephi 17:9–12).
- In the promised land, Nephi remarked on the metals available and used them to make several plates to keep records on (see 1 Nephi 18:25; 19:1).
- Nephi also made many swords patterned after Laban's sword and taught his people how to work with metals (see 2 Nephi 5:14–15).

See "Recent Studies on the Book of Mormon," *Ensign*, June 1989, 50–51. For more on this topic, look up the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship (www.maxwellinstitute.byu.edu), and read "Metals of the Book of Mormon" by Revell Phillips (*Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*, vol. 9, no. 2 [2000], 36–41).



N*ephi explained to others what he had learned for himself. He found that Sam listened, even though Laman and Lemuel murmured and complained. When you share your gospel knowledge with others, you are following Nephi's example, whether they believe you or not. And as you share your testimony, you will find that it grows.*

When Nephi told his brother Sam about what he learned from the Lord, Sam “believed in [his] words” (1 Nephi 2:17). By contrast, his brothers Laman and Lemuel murmured and complained. After Lehi told them about his dream, they couldn't understand what it meant, and they were “disputing one with another” about it (1 Nephi 15:2). Nephi then asked them a question that seemed obvious to him: “Have ye inquired of the Lord?” (v. 8). They replied that they had not, “for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us” (v. 9). Because they lacked Nephi's desire, faith, diligence, and humility, they were not ready to learn.

2. Take the new things you learn and connect them to what you already know. Nephi “was taught somewhat in all the learning of [his] father” (1 Nephi 1:1), so he already had a solid base of knowledge to build on. With this foundation, he could “liken all scripture” to himself and his family (1 Nephi 19:20). He said, “My soul delighteth in the scriptures,” and on top of that, he said, “My heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard” (2 Nephi 4:15–16).

3. Explain and testify about what you learn. Nephi explained to his brothers what he learned from the Lord and bore testimony to them of its truthfulness (see, for example, 1 Nephi 15). Explaining something to another person helps you understand it even better. And if you testify of gospel

truths, you'll discover that "a testimony is to be found in the bearing of it" (Boyd K. Packer, "The Quest for Spiritual Knowledge," *New Era*, Jan. 2007, 6).

As a Teacher

1. State the truth clearly and plainly.

Nephi believed in the power of stating the truth plainly. He said, "My soul delighteth in plainness unto my people, that they may learn" (2 Nephi 25:4), and "I glory in plainness; I glory in truth" (2 Nephi 33:6).

"The Lord showed [Nephi] great things" (1 Nephi 18:3), including sweeping visions of the future. Nephi, in turn, taught his people plainly so that they could not misunderstand (see 2 Nephi 25:28).

2. Give examples of the truths you teach. Nephi often used stories from the scriptures to illustrate what he taught. For example, when he was trying to persuade Laman and Lemuel to help him build a ship, he told them that they needed to have faith and be obedient. He taught them this lesson by reminding them of specific instances when the children of Israel were blessed for obeying and trusting the Lord (being led out of bondage in Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, being fed with manna, getting water from the rock) and when they were cursed for murmuring against Him and hardening their hearts (plagues of serpents, other destructions; see 1 Nephi 17).

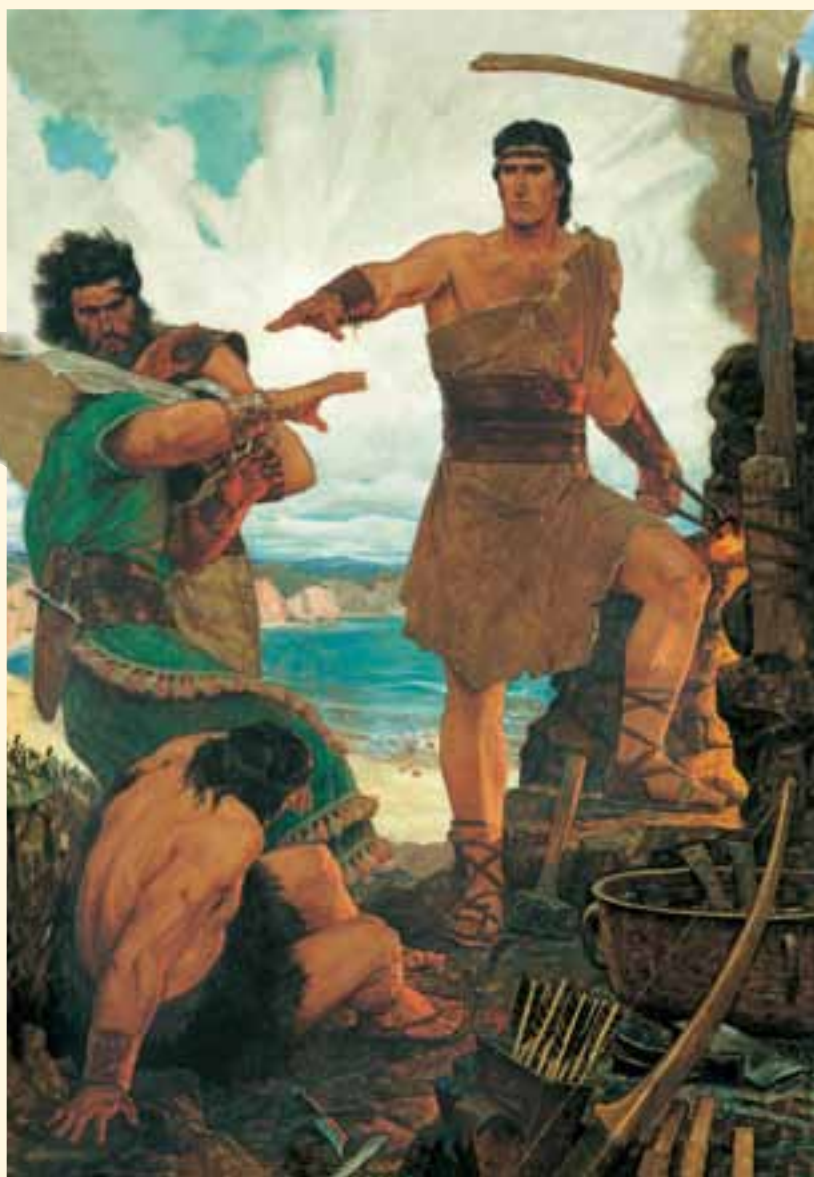
By giving examples of the principle he was teaching his brothers, Nephi made his teaching more powerful and easy to apply.

3. Teach by the Spirit. Nephi knew that the Spirit was essential to teaching the gospel, because "when a man speaketh

Nephi kept his teaching simple. "I glory in plainness," he said. Do the same when you teach so that the power of the Spirit can accompany your words.

by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men" (2 Nephi 33:1). Like Nephi, you can live close to the Spirit and speak when the Spirit prompts you to speak (see 2 Nephi 1:27). **NE**

For more on being a good teacher and learner, read "You're a Teacher Too," *New Era*, Sept. 2006, p. 44.

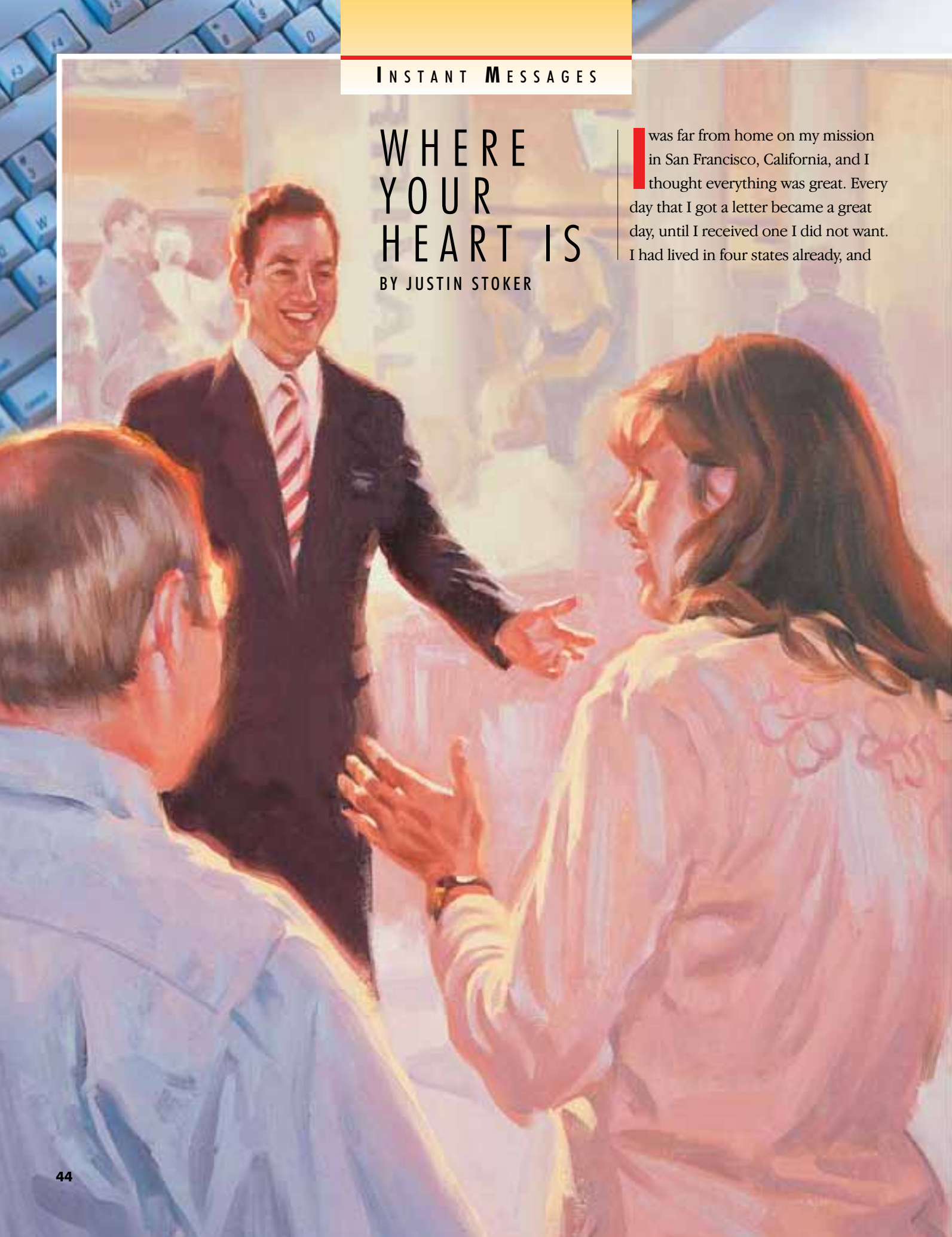


LEFT: NEPHI WRITING ON THE GOLD PLATES; BY PAUL MANN; CENTER: ILLUSTRATION BY JERRY THOMPSON; RIGHT: NEPHI REBUKING HIS REBELLIOUS BROTHERS; BY ARNOLD FRIBERG

WHERE YOUR HEART IS

BY JUSTIN STOKER

I was far from home on my mission in San Francisco, California, and I thought everything was great. Every day that I got a letter became a great day, until I received one I did not want. I had lived in four states already, and



PASS IT ALONG

BY STEPHEN R. BORN

the thought of my family moving to another was almost more than I could bear. Nonetheless, I knew that my parents would soon move our family again.

"I applied for a new job," my father wrote. They would be moving to Virginia.

When the day came that I would leave my mission, I felt awkward going to a "home" I had never been to. When the airplane pilot announced five minutes until arrival, I felt like I was at the circus on opening night. I stepped off the plane, and for the first time in two years I saw my family.

"Justin!" came a shout down the hallway.

Stories were shared. We rambled nonstop as we drove down the strange streets and unfamiliar country. I felt at ease knowing my family was there.

I realized it was not the location that made my home but where my heart would return. And my heart was with my family. Like a flash of lightning, many questions were answered. My family was close because our home was with each other. It was not a house or location that made it home; it was the love of our family. **NE**

ALL IN MY FAMILY

BY JEFF WHITTAKER

In 1995, since our stake youth conference focused on family history work, we decided to do bap-

Our seminary teacher challenged the students to give missionary pass-along cards to people at school or work or during their everyday lives. As I approached the people with the pass-along cards, I was ready to bear my testimony and share with them what I love and cherish about the gospel. Sometimes I didn't have time to say much, but I could still give someone a card.

While none of those people have started seriously investigating the Church yet, when I would talk to them about the gospel, the conversation would lead to more questions. When I gave a girl in my English class a card, she got excited about it, so I gave her a

Joseph Smith pamphlet, too.

I later found out that she gave the pamphlet to a friend at the same time that her friend received a Book of Mormon from another seminary student.

I gave a card to another friend in my history class, and now she is reading the Book of Mormon. She hasn't said much or asked about it, but it still feels good to

know that I've accomplished something by giving her a card.

I don't know where these small efforts will lead, but I'm sure that someday these cards will lead someone to

find out the truth for themselves through the Book of Mormon. **NE**



tisms for the dead, using family names gathered by members of the stake.

Because it was my first time going to the Salt Lake Temple, I was nervous entering the baptismal font room. As I sat on the bench waiting my turn, the Spirit prompted me to let some other youth go ahead of me. When my sister's turn came, she was baptized for names that our grandpa had given us. It was wonderful to see her baptized for members of *our* family.

When my turn came, out of 1,400 names that the stake had submitted, I was also baptized for names my grandfather had gathered.

I felt like the Lord wanted me to wait so that I could do the baptisms for my family members. I have a firm testimony of family history work. I now work in the Salt Lake Temple and I see a lot of youth with family file cards every month. I think that's amazing that people are doing their family history. **NE**

DEVELOPING AN ATTITUDE

BY KIMBERLY WEBB

To me, service meant boxes of hygiene kits, a pile of donated blankets, students heading to a rundown public park with shovels and rakes. And that kind of service was something I did not have time for. I felt bad I didn't do more for other people, but I was barely juggling my classes, part-time job, and calling already. What more could I do?

One day, a phrase popped into my head: "Service is an attitude."

"What?" I silently asked the air. I thought service was a "project," like gathering food for the poor or starting a recycling program.

The next day after class I saw a student cutting across campus with his backpack flopping open. He was too far away for me to yell to

him. "Someone else will tell him," I thought. But he continued power-walking away from me. No one stopped him. "I hope he doesn't lose anything important," I thought.

"Service is an attitude," a voice whispered to my mind.

I broke into a run. "Hey," I called. "Hey, buddy, your backpack is open."

The bewildered student stopped and flipped through his folders and books to make sure nothing had fallen out. He glanced up at me, eyes wide with relief. "Thanks!"

Sometimes service is a project. Other times it's paying attention and taking a small step out of the way to make someone's day better. **NE**

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

newera@ldschurch.org

or send it to

New Era, Instant Messages
50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

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

Mutual Activity Idea

• To encourage and recognize the talents of the youth in your ward, hold an informal talent show for Mutual under the guidance of your youth leaders. Ask those who play an instrument to perform briefly for the group. Then expand the idea of your talent show to include demonstrations of sports, cooking, art, dance, theater, or even fun things like magic tricks.

Personal Progress or Duty to God Idea

• Notice that at the end of each hymn are scripture references. For a month, look up the scripture that goes with each hymn that is sung during Sunday meetings. Select your favorite hymn and memorize the words.

Family Home Evening Idea

• With your parents' permission and help, in the family home evening before general conference, prepare to produce your own family's newspaper on the conference proceedings. Assign different family members to be reporters. Speakers can be divided up ahead of time. Have each reporter take notes on the important points of a talk. Write up a brief summary including a headline. Also include younger siblings by having them draw pictures. Assemble your newspaper on poster board during the family home evening following conference.

SUNDAY LESSON HELPS

In addition to the Resource Guides (printed in the May and November *Ensign*), Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood teachers may find these additional resources helpful in enhancing lessons 42–45.

Young Women Manual 2

Lesson 42: Gratitude and Appreciation

Michelle Glauser, "Small Blessings," *New Era*, Jan. 2006, 43.

Danielle Nye Poulter, "My Gratitude Journal," *New Era*, Nov. 2006, 45.

Lesson 43: Wise Use of Leisure Time

Idea List: "Managing Time and Staying Balanced," *New Era*, Apr. 2003, 39.

Paul VanDenBerghe, "Michael Knows," *New Era*, May 2006, 20.

Lesson 44: Developing Talents

Danielle Nye Poulter, "Shaking Up Shakespeare," *New Era*, June 2006, 40.

Heber J. Grant, "Practice Makes Possible," *New Era*, Feb. 2004, 36.

Lesson 45: Participating in Cultural Arts

Jade Swartzberg, "Playing a Familiar Tune," this issue, 24.

Richard M. Romney, "Symphony of One," *New Era*, Aug. 2007, 18.

Aaronic Priesthood Manual 2

Lesson 42: Follow the Brethren

Robert Marcum, "The Guide," *New Era*, Mar. 1990, 11.

Idea List: "Listen, Learn, Live It," *New Era*, Mar. 2006, 41.

Lesson 43: Spiritual Preparation for a Mission

The March 2007 *New Era* is a special issue on mission preparation.

Q&A (prepare to teach on a mission), *New Era*, Jan. 2006, 14.

Lesson 44: Preparing Now for Temple Marriage

Shanna Butler, "How to Talk about the Temple," *New Era*, Jan. 2006, 44.

The October 2004 *New Era* is on preparing for a temple marriage.

Lesson 45: Effective Home Teaching

Sedley Parkinson, "Knock Again," *New Era*, May 2007, 8.

John L. Haueter, "Junior Companion," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 36.

COMMENTS FROM OUR SURVEY

Thanks for all of the responses to the survey included in the June 2007 New Era and on our Web page (newera.lds.org). Here are some of the comments we received:

I love, love, love this magazine. It's just another reminder for me that teens out there are struggling with their lives also. I'm not alone. We are all together in this—spreading the gospel and living life like the Savior taught, with a strong testimony born out of our hearts.

Mai V., Minnesota

When I'm having a bad day, there it is in the mail. It uplifts me and makes me smile. It also helps me realize the importance of the gospel.

Catherine, Arizona

Keep up the good work. I love what you do. I really like the "To the Point" articles, even though there have only been a few. I like cool missionary experiences, too. They help us get in the mindset for missionary preparation. Thanks again for all the hard work.

Name not given, Utah

GIFT FROM GOD

My favorite part about the *New Era* is the way the stories relate to me personally. "Right on Key" (May 2007), tells the story of William Joseph, who had turned down an offer to perform in a questionable television show. I remember watching William play at the Mormon Tabernacle Choir performance mentioned in the article. His music really touched me with the Spirit. I had the opportunity to attend general conference last April. In the Saturday morning session, Elder Jay E.

Jensen told about the importance of worthy music.

This talk

"We are all together in this—spreading the gospel and living life like the Savior taught, with a strong testimony born out of our hearts."

stood out to me because music has always been a passion of mine, both playing and listening. I realize now that music is a wonderful gift from God and that we should always use it for righteousness.

Scott R., Colorado

A GREAT TREASURE

I really enjoyed the article "The Worth of Weeds" in the May 2007 issue. It really struck me that even when I feel imperfect, the Lord sees me as a great treasure. I sometimes "skim" over people and don't seem to remember that they, too, are important in God's eyes. I feel closer to God when I remember that I am one of His beloved children.

Thank you for the *New Era*. It is a very enjoyable magazine that I look forward to receiving each month. The things I read always have some effect on me afterward. I hope I can continue to learn and grow from the inspiring and spiritual stories I read.

Hannah B., Utah

BLESSING IN MY LIFE

I just want to thank the *New Era*. Receiving this magazine has been a great blessing in my life. The stories and lessons taught in the *New Era* seem to come at the right time to help me through the things I struggle with. I always look forward to the next month's issue. It's a wonderful thing to have in my life.

Tyanna S., Utah

We love hearing from you. Write us at the following address. Please include the names of your ward and stake (or branch and district).

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*Or e-mail us at newera@ldschurch.org
Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.*



EVERYONE . . . AND I

BY SUSAN ST. PIERRE

In every home
along my street
girls giggle,
boys scuffle,
fathers read,
babies cry,
mothers quiet,
children laugh.

In general
people live their lives
and I,
I sit beneath a tarnished sky,
watching the sun
melt into a gold pool.

And I . . .
I live mine.



COMING NEXT MONTH

- *Trekking by handcart in Alaska.*
- *If we have all kinds of rules to obey, doesn't that take away our freedom to choose?*
- *One Irish runner is setting records all around the world.*
- *Several 18-year-olds are not too young to be Relief Society presidents.*

Just a few of the articles waiting for you in the upcoming November 2007 New Era.

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