

VOLUNTEER, MISSIONARY, AND SCHOLAR

“As the only Latter-day Saint teenager at my school I tend to stand out,” says Tania Jane of Houston Texas. “But I use that as an advantage to let people see that I am different and ask questions that will eventually lead to a discussion about the gospel.” Something else unique about Tania is that when she graduated from high school this past year she did so with an Associates Degree from college.

Tania Jane also volunteers at the local YMCA. She loves teaching, interacting, and just joking around with the children there.

When obstacles stand in her way Tania works to overcome them. “This past year was a challenge for me to go to seminary,” she says. “My ward did not have seminary classes because there were not enough students. I was the only one.” She was finally able to find a stake home study seminary class. She says participating this year was a lot harder than her first year, but it was definitely worth the effort.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SUSAN JONES

BY THE NUMBERS

2,001

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PERSONAL PROGRESS X 3

In May, 2009, Kelsey Briggs of Bend, Oregon, received her Young Womanhood Recognition at the same time as her grandmother, Jeanie Bean. Then, just under a year later, Kelsey's mother, Cindy Briggs, received her recognition: it was three generations of women in the same family in the same ward growing spiritually—and growing together.

Kelsey, who fulfilled her Good Works project by serving about two hours a week for two years as a “big sister” at the local Boys & Girls club, said, “This program has been enlightening for all three of us. It's a lot of work, but the rewards are great.”

Kelsey's mother, who is a Young Women leader in her ward, said, “When I received the new materials and booklets last year I was determined to finish up the Personal Progress program, not only to satisfy my own objective but to set an example for the girls I'm privileged to work with in our ward, and keep pace with my own daughter and mother.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY VAUGHN R. BRIGGS



“**LEARN WHAT THE LORD EXPECTS OF YOU, MAKE A PLAN TO DO IT, ACT ON YOUR PLAN WITH DILIGENCE, AND THEN SHARE WITH OTHERS HOW YOUR EXPERIENCE CHANGED YOU AND BLESSED OTHERS.**”

THE CHURCH IN USA—ALASKA



PHOTOGRAPH BY BYRON WARNER

The first members of the Church came to Alaska with the gold rush in 1898. One of them, Dr. Edward G. Cannon, was a 79-year-old convert. In his attempt to establish the Church in Alaska, he maintained a movable “tabernacle” that he transported from settlement to settlement. The first official congregation in Alaska was organized in 1938, and by 1961, there were 3,050 members there.

Church growth continued with Alaska’s population growth in the late 1960s. Growth was spurred by extensive rebuilding following earthquake damage and by an oil discovery. In 1981, the Church built several special Church buildings designed for the Arctic weather.

One of the first smaller Church temples was built and dedicated in Anchorage in 1999.

Here are a few facts about the Church today in Alaska:

Membership	31,268
Missions	1
Temples	1
Wards & Branches	82
Family History Centers	21

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency “Act in All Diligence,” *Ensign*, May 2010, 60.

HYMN VOCABULARY #6

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

- A. Fraught (*Hymns*, no. 5)
 - 1. Steam or smoke
 - 2. To battle or wrestle
 - 3. Full of or filled with
 - 4. Tightly wound
- B. Approbation (*Hymns*, no. 292)
 - 1. Exhaustion
 - 2. Surety or conviction
 - 3. Restrictions or rules
 - 4. Approval or praise
- C. Reposes (*Hymns*, no. 340)
 - 1. Lies down in rest or in death
 - 2. Stands up straight and tall
 - 3. Clarifies or explains
 - 4. Takes back or confiscate
- D. Vex (*Hymns*, no. 147)
 - 1. Having five sides
 - 2. Stamina and strength
 - 3. Build up
 - 4. Cause distress to
- E. Resplendent (*Hymns*, no. 87, 248)
 - 1. Attractive and impressive
 - 2. Joyous
 - 3. Expensive or costly
 - 4. Repaired or reconditioned

Answers: A3, B4, C1, D4, E1

GOOD COURAGE

“At a Young Women activity we made these necklaces to wear as a reminder of this year’s Mutual theme, ‘Be strong and of a good courage’ ” (Joshua 1:9).

Nicole Cunningham, Davenport First Ward, Davenport Iowa Stake

PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLE CUNNINGHAM

MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

Exodus 14:14 This is my favorite scripture, because it’s short yet so powerful! If we are on the Lord’s side, he will help us fight our battles!

Lauren M., age 17, Idaho, USA

Tell us about your favorite scripture in one or two sentences. Go to newera.lds.org and click on Submit Your Material.