



## NEVER ALONE

I was having a difficult time in school one year. I was shy and didn't make friends easily. One evening, I decided to go for a walk to find some relief.

I found a secluded corner and spent some time pondering and praying about what I wanted. Feeling as if no one understood me, I desperately longed to have someone in my life who could see me for what I was inside, for what I could be. I wanted someone who knew all my faults yet

still loved me. I wanted someone who realized that I was (and still am) trying so hard to be better. I didn't want to feel so alone all the time.

I don't know how long I was there, but I poured my heart and soul out to Heavenly Father. I cried until I didn't think I could cry anymore. Then I stood up and started walking back home. As I was walking, I looked down at my shadow. Instead of the usual one shadow, I had two. It wasn't a miracle or anything; it was just the effect of multiple streetlamps. But when I saw those two shadows, the

thought came into my head: "You are never alone. You'll never walk alone." I know now that this thought came from the Holy Ghost and that this experience was a blessing to comfort me. That one simple thought reminded me that things would work out and that Heavenly Father knows me perfectly.

Since that day, there have been many more instances where those exact words have reminded me of what God has already told me. For example, once when I asked a priesthood holder to give me a blessing of comfort after the death of

a friend, without knowing about my previous experience, he told me in the blessing, “You are never alone.” The exact same words! It was such a sweet and gentle reminder to trust Him and remember that everything will be all right.

Through prayer and the Holy Ghost, Heavenly Father can always be with me, so I always have someone I can rely on. Because of these wonderful experiences, I know of God’s great love for me.

**Whitney H., Utah, USA**

## FAITH, NOT FEAR

**O**ne night after a conversation with a close friend, I was feeling fearful about the future. The more I thought about life, the more uncertain and worried I felt. These feelings stayed with me until the next day when I flipped through a hymnbook while at a Church meeting. I came across a hymn I’d never heard before: “When Faith Endures” (*Hymns*, no. 128). I read:

*I will not doubt, I will not fear;  
God’s love and strength are always near.  
His promised gift helps me to find  
An inner strength and peace of mind.  
I give the Father willingly  
My trust, my prayers, humility.  
His Spirit guides; his love assures  
That fear departs when faith endures.*

The lyrics calmed me, and my worries faded instantly. Through the words of a hymn, I learned to trust in the plan that Heavenly Father has lovingly designed for each of us. As I strengthen my faith, I am able to overcome anything, including fear.

**Susan S., South Africa**

## FROM CORN MAZE TO CONVERSION

**T**wo summers ago I heard someone talk about missionary work for those who aren’t serving a full-time mission. The speaker told us how important members of the Church are for the Churchwide missionary effort. He asked us to make a focused effort to help the missionaries in our wards by bringing a friend to Church activities and Sunday meetings. I decided that I would pray for missionary opportunities and make an effort to act on the promptings I would be given.

I started my first week of school and met a new guy named Chris, who had moved from across town. Chris was really cool and we soon became friends. One day I invited him to a combined youth activity at a corn maze. On the drive to the corn maze, Chris started asking questions about the Church. As I answered his questions, he asked me how I knew so much. I told him that we learn about the gospel in Church meetings and in seminary. To my surprise, Chris asked when seminary was. I told him it was every morning at six. I thought for sure that he would not be interested in waking up that early, but he surprised me again by asking me to pick him up on my way there.

Chris began attending seminary and church. He also started to meet with the missionaries. And a year later he was baptized. I had the opportunity to baptize Chris, and it was an amazing experience that I will never forget. I believe this would not have happened if I had not prayed for missionary opportunities. Heavenly Father knows each of us, and He helps us if we ask for it.

**Taylor P., Montana, USA**

