

THE **New Era**

JUNE 2012

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By Elder
Neil L. Andersen
Of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles



You Know Enough

Our conversion comes step by step, line upon line. We first build a foundation of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

More than 40 years ago as I contemplated the challenge of a mission, I felt very inadequate and unprepared. I remember praying, “Heavenly Father, how can I serve a mission when I know so little?” I believed in the Church, but I felt my spiritual knowledge was very limited. As I prayed, the feeling came: “You don’t know everything, but you know enough!” That reassurance gave me the courage to take the next step into the mission field.

Our spiritual journey is the process of a lifetime. We do not know everything in the beginning or even along the way. Our conversion comes step by step, line upon line. We first build a foundation of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We treasure the principles and ordinances of repentance, baptism, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. We include a continuing commitment to prayer, a willingness to be obedient, and an ongoing witness of the Book of Mormon.

We then remain steady and patient as we progress through mortality. At times, the Lord’s answer will be, “You don’t know everything, but you know enough”—enough to keep the commandments and to do what is right. Remember Nephi’s words: “I know that he

loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things” (1 Nephi 11:17).

We each have moments of spiritual power, moments of inspiration and revelation. We must sink them deep into the chambers of our souls. As we do, we prepare our spiritual home storage for moments of personal difficulty. Jesus said, “Settle this in your hearts, that ye will do the things which I shall teach, and command you” (Joseph Smith Translation, Luke 14:28 [in Luke 14:27, footnote *b*]).

Several years ago a friend of mine had a young daughter die in a tragic accident. Hopes and dreams were shattered. My friend felt unbearable sorrow. He began to question what he had been taught and what he had taught as a missionary. The mother of my friend wrote me a letter and asked if I would give him a blessing. As I laid my hands upon his head, I felt to tell him something that I had not thought about in exactly the same way before. The impression that came to me was: Faith is not only a feeling; it is a decision. He would need to choose faith.

My friend did not know everything, but he knew enough. He chose the road of faith and obedience. He got on his knees. His spiritual balance returned.



Some years after the blessing to my friend, I received a letter from his son who was serving a mission. It was full of conviction and testimony. As I read his beautiful letter, I saw how a father's choice of faith in a very difficult time had deeply blessed the next generation.

Challenges, difficulties, questions, doubts—these are part of our mortality. But we are not alone. As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have enormous spiritual reservoirs of light and truth available to us. Fear and faith cannot coexist in our hearts at the same time. In our days of difficulty, we choose the road of faith. Jesus said, “Be not afraid, only believe” (Mark 5:36).

Through the years we take these important spiritual steps over and over again. We begin to see that “he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day” (D&C 50:24). Our questions and doubts are resolved or become less concerning to us. Our faith becomes simple and pure. We come to know what we already knew. **NE**

From a talk given at the October 2008 general conference.

Your **AARONIC PRIESTHOOD** Duties

You have been ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood.

What are you supposed to do now?

By Paul VanDenBerghe

Church Magazines

You may be a brand new deacon, newly ordained last Sunday, or a teacher helping prepare the sacrament each week. Or you may be a well-seasoned priest, wise in the ways of service projects and in guiding the younger teachers and deacons in their new responsibilities. But all priesthood holders have a common call from the Lord: “Let every man learn his duty, and . . . act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence” (D&C 107:99).

But where can you go to learn about this duty? The first place to look should be the scriptures. Specifically, you’ll want to study the sections in the Doctrine and Covenants where the duties of the Aaronic Priesthood are outlined: section 20:46–60, 72–79; and section 84:111.

Another great resource is the booklet *Fulfilling My Duty to God: For Aaronic Priesthood Holders*. This booklet divides your priesthood responsibilities into three sections: (1) “Administer Priesthood Ordinances,” (2) “Serve Others,” and (3) “Invite All to Come unto Christ.”

In the “Priesthood Duties” section for each office—deacon, teacher, and priest—you’ll find additional scriptures to study and suggestions for making your own plan to help you better understand your priesthood duties.

Let’s take a brief look at some of the main duties of Aaronic Priesthood holders.

Deacons

A deacon sets a good example for fellow quorum members and other Church members. He lives a righteous life and remains worthy to exercise the priesthood.

He passes the sacrament. This is one of the most sacred duties of a deacon. As a deacon performs this duty, he is a representative of the Lord. He should be worthy to give the emblems of the sacrament to the members of the Church. He should dress and act in a way that will reflect the sacred nature of the sacrament. If possible, he should wear a white shirt.

A deacon serves as a standing minister, “appointed to watch over the church” (D&C 84:111). He is

Being ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood brings specific rights, responsibilities, and duties. To learn what these are, turn first to the scriptures. Another great resource is the booklet Fulfilling My Duty to God: For Aaronic Priesthood Holders.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY CODY BELL



also to “warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ” (D&C 20:59). This responsibility includes fellowshipping quorum members and other young men, notifying members of Church meetings, speaking in meetings, sharing the gospel, and bearing testimony.

He assists the bishop in “administering . . . temporal things” (D&C 107:68). This responsibility may include gathering fast offerings, caring for the poor and needy, caring for the meetinghouse and grounds, and serving as a messenger for the bishop in Church meetings.

He participates in quorum instruction by being an active student of the gospel. Other duties include helping members meet their temporal needs, preparing for and giving missionary service, supporting and helping the quorum president, activating young men of quorum age, and learning the gospel.

Teachers

A teacher has all the responsibilities of a deacon. He also has the following responsibilities:



RISE TO YOUR NOBLE STATURE

"We call upon you wonderful young brethren to diligently strive to be 'born again' [see John 3:3–7]. Pray for this mighty change in your life. Study the scriptures. Desire more than all else to know God and to become like His holy Son. Enjoy your youth but 'put away childish things' [1 Corinthians 13:11]:

"Shun profane and foolish chatter.

"Flee all evil.

"Avoid contention.

"Repent where needed.

"This will help you rise to the noble stature of your manhood. The qualities of courage, trustworthiness, humility, faith, and goodness will be yours. Friends will admire you, parents will praise you, brethren in the priesthood will depend on you, and the young women will adore you and become even better because of you. God will honor you and endow your priesthood service with *power from on high*."

Bishop Keith B. McMullin, former Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, "The Power of the Aaronic Priesthood," *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 48–49.

He prepares the sacrament. It is the responsibility of the teachers to always have the sacrament ready for sacrament meeting. Preparing the sacrament is a good example of doing service without expecting praise for doing it. Members often do not realize that the teachers prepare the sacrament, but the service is performed nevertheless, and the Lord is pleased because it is true service.

"The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and be with and strengthen them" (D&C 20:53). One way he does this is by serving as a home teacher.

He is to "see that there is no iniquity in the church, neither hardness with each other, neither lying, backbiting, nor evil speaking" (D&C 20:54). This responsibility includes being a peacemaker by helping the members get along with each other. He should encourage those around him to always see the good in others.

He is to "see that the church meet together often, and also see that all the members do their duty" (D&C 20:55). Part of this responsibility is inviting others to attend church.

Priests

A priest has all the responsibilities of a deacon and teacher. He also has the following responsibilities:

He officiates at the sacrament table. The honor of administering the sacrament is given to the priests, who offer the sacramental prayers. A priest should be familiar with the



sacramental prayers, dress appropriately, and wash his hands before performing this ordinance. Above all, priests should be worthy to perform this sacred ordinance as the Savior's representatives.

Another duty of priests is to baptize when authorized by the bishop or branch president (see D&C 20:46). Baptism by the proper authority is one of the most important and sacred ordinances in the Church, for it is the ordinance by which we become members of the Church, are forgiven of our sins, and enter the path to the celestial kingdom.

"The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, [and] exhort" (D&C 20:46). This means that a priest is

called to teach others the principles of the gospel. And in order to teach the principles of the gospel, of course he must first learn what they are. This responsibility will be a great help as he prepares to serve a full-time mission.

He is to “visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret and attend to all family duties” (D&C 20:47). A priest does this as he fulfills his responsibility to be a home teacher and visits his assigned families.

He has the authority to confer the Aaronic Priesthood and ordain other priests, teachers, and deacons but only when authorized by the bishop or branch president (see D&C 20:48). The power to confer the Aaronic Priesthood is sacred.

Heavenly Father Will Help You

As you deacons, teachers, and priests come to understand and fulfill your priesthood duties, you will experience the joy that comes from administering priesthood ordinances, from serving others, and from inviting all to come unto Christ. In their message to Aaronic Priesthood holders, the First Presidency wrote: “Heavenly Father has great trust and confidence in you and has an important mission for you to fulfill. He will help you as you turn to Him in prayer, listen for the promptings of the Spirit, obey the commandments, and keep the covenants that you have made” (*Fulfilling My Duty to God* [2010], 5). **NE**

YOUNG WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD

Even though the authority of the priesthood is bestowed only on worthy male members of the Church, the blessings of the priesthood are available to everyone—and these blessings are the same for men and women, girls and boys, rich and poor. All of God’s children have the privilege of receiving the same saving ordinances of the priesthood.

As chosen daughters of God, all young women who have been baptized have also received the gift of the Holy Ghost. They have the right to seek and be blessed by spiritual gifts, such as “the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth” (Articles of Faith 1:7). As young women live righteous lives and strive to serve others by receiving and developing these gifts of the Spirit, their example for good will be a strong influence on the young men around them.

How can young women help young men be worthy priesthood holders? One young man answered: “I think two of the biggest things they do are to dress modestly and be kind to everyone. The modest dress helps me keep my thoughts in check, and I can actually look at them while talking!”



Even though the authority of the priesthood is bestowed only on worthy male members of the Church, the blessings of the priesthood are available to everyone, male or female.

More on Priesthood Duties

Visit DutytoGod.lds.org for information, videos, and stories about priesthood duties and Duty to God.



FROM A TEACHER: PARTNERED WITH THE SPIRIT

By Caleb I.

Being introduced to the responsibility of home teaching at such an early age made me feel like I was special, and it helped me to feel the Spirit. One of the people we home taught was a widow who lived alone. She struggled with various medical problems and always appreciated our visits and our company. Knowing that we were there to bring her happiness and to bring the priesthood into her home was a witness to me of how important our responsibility is.

FROM A DEACON: LEARNING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD KEYS

By Dallin H.

One experience I had with the *Duty to God* book was when I was working on the section titled “Doctrinal Topics.” During that time I was called as deacons quorum president. I didn’t know what to expect, and I didn’t know if I was qualified to hold the sacred keys of the Aaronic Priesthood. Through “Doctrinal Topics” I studied “Priesthood and Priesthood Keys.” It taught me how these keys came to the earth and how I should use them to receive revelation

from Heavenly Father.

I was stunned by how much knowledge was at my fingertips. I searched many books about this topic and received many useful things from them. I eventually prayed to know if I was worthy to hold these sacred keys.

Instantly the Spirit fell upon me gently but with a strong witness that Heavenly Father loved me and that He had a work for me to do in this quorum at this time. I felt I was ready and worthy to hold the sacred keys of the priesthood. *Duty to God* is not just a book. It is a blessing. And I want to share this blessing with my quorum members. **NE**



Home teaching has also helped me get a head start on learning how to prepare lessons and schedule appointments with families. Learning and fulfilling the duties of priesthood callings isn't as hard as it sounds. Our duty to magnify our callings is one that we don't have to tackle by ourselves. As long as we do our part and prepare, we'll never be left alone. Sometimes I find that I prepare a message for home teaching, and when it's time to present it, I'm prompted to talk about something totally different. The message ends up being even better than I had planned. The Holy Ghost will be there for you, and if you ever feel like you don't know how to handle the responsibility of holding the priesthood, just listen for the Spirit. The Holy Ghost will tell you what you need to say at the exact moment you need to say it (see D&C 100:5–6). **NE**

FROM A PRIEST: ON THE LORD'S ERRAND

By Brian L.

As a member of our ward's priests quorum, I had the responsibility to visit many members of our ward who were shut-ins and could not come to church. Every Sunday, another priest and I would pack up a tray, white cloths, small cups, and bread, and go to each of the members' homes who couldn't make it to church but still wanted to take the sacrament.

For the first few weeks I viewed



this duty as me giving up precious napping hours every Sunday afternoon. But as I watched the deep reverence these elderly members displayed for the sacrament, my entire demeanor changed. I began to see myself as a servant who helped bless the lives of many who could not receive those blessings otherwise. As I blessed the sacrament each week, I felt greater gravity and peace in the words to “remember Him” and “keep His commandments.”

One woman in particular, Sister Fischer, who was so weak she could barely move her head, always greeted us with a smile and often expressed her gratitude through tears. These experiences allowed me to see that it was not me she was grateful for;

she was grateful for the priesthood of God, for the sacrament, and for the principle of service.

Many youth today see the teenage years as a time to have fun, live it up, and party. As young men of the priesthood, we can't afford to participate in anything that inhibits us from being clean and pure. Being called upon regularly to exercise my duties as an Aaronic Priesthood holder changed my life forever and instilled in me a profound desire to always remember who I am and to live a life of worthiness and service.

Knowing that it was up to me, a 16-year-old young man, to be the vessel to provide the sacrament to many who needed help urged me to live up to my full priesthood potential. **NE**

SPRINTING IN MY SUIT

*My companion told them
I was the fastest man in
New York City.*

By Jason Hinds

I trained with some of Jamaica's top runners before serving a mission. I was called to serve in the New York New York North Mission. My coach told me I should stay home and train for the Olympics instead, but I was incredibly excited to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to find ways of using my talents to further His work.

Once, on a very nice day in Washington Square Park in New York City, my companion and I were contacting in the park with little success. In the park, people were watching some Broadway-quality street dancers. At the end of the performance, my companion approached the dancers with a challenge: "We have the fastest man in NYC with us today, and he would like to have a race. Which one of you is the fastest?" One of them came out and said, "That's me, bro. I'm a runner too." The other dancers blocked the street, and the crowd leaving the dance performance was called back. Someone exclaimed, "It's the Mormons!" Soon we had a large audience for the race.

My opponent was in athletic dancing clothes. I was in my suit, holding my Book of Mormon. The dancer asked if I wanted to give my suit coat and Book of Mormon to my companion, but I said, "I'm good. I will run with them." He started the race with, "On your mark, get set, go," and took off. I gave him a head start of a couple seconds, and then I began to chase him down. As I passed the dancer, I held up the Book of Mormon and said, "The Church is true, bro!" and ran on to win the race. Because of this performance, we became very popular in the

neighborhood.

Many people immediately took pass-along cards, and we made several return appointments. Gospel seeds were planted.

I contacted people on the street and invited them to race me—if I won, they would agree to come to church. I ran in 77 races on my mission and never lost.

I testify that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. He died that we might live. As my testimony has grown, I have been better able to see the light of this profound gospel brought back through the Prophet Joseph Smith. I am happy to be a part of this gospel. It has helped me in many ways. It is by obedience that we can build upon the Lord Jesus Christ as our sure foundation. I have a deep love for Him. He lives. He is my cornerstone, my all, my everything. **NE**



Doctrine and Covenants 135:3

Before he was martyred, the Prophet Joseph Smith brought about many things to bless all humankind.



Fame and Name That Cannot Be Slain

“Although the events of June 27, 1844 [the Martyrdom of Joseph

and Hyrum Smith], were tragic, we are provided comfort as we realize that Joseph Smith’s Martyrdom was not the last chapter in this account. Although those who sought to take his life felt that the Church would collapse without him, his powerful testimony of truth, the teachings he translated, and his declaration of the Savior’s message go on today in the hearts of [Church] members throughout the world, who proclaim him a prophet of God.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “The Prophet Joseph Smith: Teacher by Example,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 69.

Gift and Power of God

Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon “through the mercy of God, by the power of God” (D&C 1:29) and “by the means which were before prepared” (D&C 20:8), including the Urim and Thummim.

3 Joseph Smith, the ^aProphet and ^bSeer of the Lord, has done more, ^csave Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it. In the short space of twenty years, he has brought forth the Book of Mormon, which he translated by the gift and power of God, and has been the means of publishing it on two continents; has sent the ^dfulness of the everlasting gospel, which it contained, to the four quarters of the earth; has brought forth the revelations and commandments which compose this book of Doctrine and Covenants, and many other wise documents and instructions for the benefit of the children of men; gathered many thousands of the Latter-day Saints, founded a great city, and left a fame and name that cannot be slain. He lived great, and he died great in the eyes of God and his people; and like most of the Lord’s anointed in ancient times, has sealed his mission and his works with his own ^eblood; and so has his brother Hyrum. In life they were not divided, and in death they were not ^fseparated!

Seer

A seer:

- Is authorized to see with spiritual eyes “things which were not visible to the natural eye” (see Moses 6:35–38).
- Is a revelator and a prophet (see Mosiah 8:13–16).
- Knows the past, present, and future.

See Guide to the Scriptures, “Seer,” under “Study Helps” at scriptures.lds.org.

Has Done More

“The work in which Joseph Smith was engaged was not confined to this life alone, but it pertains as well to the life to come, and to the life that has been. In other words, it relates to those that have lived upon the earth, to those that are living and to those that shall come after us. It . . . relates . . . to the whole human family from eternity to eternity.”

President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918), *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* (1998), 13–14.

Sealed His Mission and His Works with His Own Blood

Read the lyrics to the hymn “Praise to the Man” (*Hymns*, no. 27) and then write in your journal your feelings about the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Editors’ note: This page is not meant to be a comprehensive explanation of the selected scripture verse, only a starting point for your own study.



WHERE WILL MY CHOICES LEAD?

By Adam C. Olson
Church Magazines

Could Karina change her direction by changing her decisions?

Karina's smile faded. She began to sweat—and not because it was unusually hot that week. She looked around for help. But in spite of the crowd at the open house, no one seemed to notice her alone with the reporter and all her questions.

Until that moment, 17-year-old Karina had enjoyed volunteering at the Kyiv Ukraine Temple open house. Now, with the newspaper reporter waiting expectantly, her tongue seemed stuck.

Karina was afraid that because of past mistakes she was trying to overcome, God wouldn't help her.

Where Following the Crowd Leads

Growing up in the Church, Karina had dreamed of a temple marriage. But like many teens, she craved acceptance.

She wanted to be beautiful and popular like her older sister. She dreamed of standing out and being admired, but she was afraid of sticking out and being ridiculed. Wanting to follow in her father's footsteps at the police academy only increased the pressure. Out of 2,000 students, there were only 70 women. She both enjoyed the attention and dreaded it.

In her desire to fit in, she made some poor choices. "The pull of the world was strong," Karina says. "People around me drank and smoked. They pushed and I gave in. I enjoyed being part of a group that felt so carefree."

She knew what she was doing was wrong, but she wasn't thinking about where her choices would lead as she followed the crowd away from God (see Matthew 7:13–14).

Choosing to Change Means Changing Your Choices

One day a young man she liked said he respected her church's beliefs.

Ashamed that she wasn't living those beliefs better, Karina finally stopped to consider the path she was on (see Haggai 1:5–7). She realized that her decisions were leading her away from God, the companionship of the Holy Ghost, and her dream of an eternal family.

The only way to change her direction was to change the decisions she was making each day.¹ But she wondered if she was already too far down the wrong path. Was it too late to change?

Karina decided to begin changing by praying and reading the scriptures daily. She started writing in her journal,



CHOOSE TO REPENT

"If the adversary should take you prisoner due to misconduct, I remind you that you hold the key that will unlock the prison door from the inside. You can be washed clean through the atoning sacrifice of the Savior Jesus Christ.

"You may in time of trouble think that you are not worth saving because you have made mistakes, big or little, and you think you are now lost. That is *never* true! . . . Repentance *can* heal what hurts, no matter what it is."

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Counsel to Youth," *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 18.

which helped her recognize Heavenly Father's help each day. She changed the topic if conversations turned bad.

Her most difficult decision was to choose no friends for a time rather than choosing friends with a negative influence. She began looking for friends with higher standards.

The Importance of Hope

Over the months that followed, the adversary threw doubt and fear in her face at every decision. Sometimes she wondered if the effort to follow the Savior was worth it. Who she wanted to be seemed out of reach.

But as she watched how her parents and others with strong testimonies lived, she learned that there is something more powerful than doubt and fear—she learned that because of repentance, there is hope.

"I saw it was possible to live the right way," she says. "We aren't condemned by our mistakes. Heavenly Father has given us the chance to repent and change direction."

Turning away from her old choices and trying to follow the Savior each day have taught her that Heavenly Father is patient. "He has given me one chance after another to change and become a better person," she says. "He has helped me through difficult times."

Help Is There If We Choose to Follow

Karina squared her shoulders and turned back to the reporter. Her smile brightened. Heavenly Father had done so much for her already that she knew He would help her now.

After the reporter finished asking questions, Karina smiled and waved. The reporter smiled back and walked away. Karina couldn't remember much of what she said, but she would remember for a long time how she felt, knowing Heavenly Father is always within reach of those who choose to follow Him. **NE**

NOTE

1. See Thomas S. Monson, "Pathways to Perfection," *Ensign*, May 2002, 99–101.

**“Sometimes I feel overwhelmed
when I think about
all the things
I need to do
to live
the gospel.
Where do I start?”**

Life can be overwhelming when you try to do too much at once. For example, if you tried to go to seminary, school, work, the temple, and Mutual all in one day, you would feel overwhelmed. But if you prioritize gospel activities and plan time for them, you will make progress. Gospel activities such as seminary, prayer, and Duty to God or Personal Progress are some of the most important things you can do as a teen. Yes, they take some extra time, but you will be blessed for every sacrifice you make to be obedient.

To learn how to make time for these activities, seek inspiration through prayer and by thinking about how you spend your time. Sunday is a good day to plan gospel and other important activities for the week. It would also be helpful to discuss this question with your parents and Church leaders.

When you think about everything you need to do, remember that Church classes, programs, and activities are inspired—they will help you strengthen your testimony, keep the commandments, and prepare to serve a mission and be married in the temple.

As you try to be faithful in the gospel, the Lord will “prepare a way” (1 Nephi 3:7) to help you keep His commandments, even if you feel overwhelmed. Keeping the commandments will invite the Spirit into your life. And feeling the Spirit will let you know you’re on track spiritually. **NE**

Do the Small and Simple Things



The Lord isn’t looking for us to be perfect in all things yet, but He wants us to do as much as we are able. If that means starting with the basics like daily scripture study and prayer, He will be pleased with our efforts. As we are willing to live the gospel and do the small and simple things that are required of us, all the seemingly overwhelming things He asks us to do won’t be so overwhelming anymore.

Hunter D., 17, Tennessee, USA

Live the Gospel with Your Family



It is very important to live the gospel together with our family. We can start living it with them through family prayer, family scripture study, family home evening, and doing family history. These basic principles are of great help in understanding deeply what the gospel of Jesus Christ can do in our lives.

Cherry O., 19, Davao, Philippines

Do Your Best



I’ve learned that when you try to do everything, you can become stressed. If you just try to do your best each day, you’ll be fine. If you listen to the Holy Ghost and stay close to the Lord through prayer and scripture study, things will fall into place and soon you will be the person the Lord intends you to be. I tried to be almost perfect and I worried about not being good enough, but that isn’t what the Lord wants. Feeling inadequate and down on yourself is not of the Lord. So just give Him

your best, and you will find peace and joy in your life.

Zandi C., 16, Wyoming, USA

Seek the Lord's Help

Read the scriptures and pray daily. Seek to always be in tune with the Holy Ghost. Heavenly Father will help you live the gospel. Always seek His help. Ask His direction so that you can do what He hopes you will do. With each correct choice you make, you will feel the presence of the Spirit. That will make it so you desire to make more correct choices.

Thais S., 15, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Trust in the Lord



The gospel is here to help us, not worry us. If we have trust in the Lord, then we can have trust in His gospel.

When you have trust, living the gospel will not seem so overwhelming because you understand why you are living it.

Charlotte R., 15, Utah, USA

Focus on the Work at Hand



Don't think of all the things you need to get done in your lifetime; think of what needs to be done now. You do

your best, and Heavenly Father will make it work. For example, while I was preparing to teach a seminary lesson about President Thomas S. Monson, I was wondering how I

could keep seven kids (all of whom are older than me) listening, learning, and interested. I decided to try and get as much participation as I could. It turned out fine! So just do your best at the work right in front of you.

Bethany F., 15, Kentucky, USA

Gradually Improve

The Lord has said that He will give us doctrine "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little" (2 Nephi 28:30). We cannot expect to grasp the gospel all at once, but as we start with the basics—charity, faith, and hope—and as we study the scriptures, apply them daily, and pray always, we will gradually improve and find ourselves coming ever closer to Christ.

Riley C., 16, Utah, USA

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



START WITH THE BASICS

"Great sculptors and artists spend countless hours perfecting their talents. They don't pick up a chisel or a brush and palette, expecting immediate perfection.

They understand that they will make many errors as they learn, but they start with the basics, the key fundamentals first.

"So it is with us.

"We become masters of our lives in the same way—by focusing on first things first. We all have a pretty good idea of the most important decisions we need to make—decisions that will improve our lives and bring us greater happiness and peace. That is where we should start. That is where we should place our greatest effort."

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (1917–2008) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Three Choices," *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 80.

NEXT QUESTION

"My brother has a problem with pornography. He is working with our bishop on it, so I want to support him, but it has affected my trust in him. How do I deal with this?"

Send your answer and photo by July 15, 2012.

Go to newera.lds.org, click "Submit Material," and then select "Questions and Answers."

You can also write to us at newera@ldschurch.org

or
New Era, Q&A, pornography
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.



She Needed **OUR HELP**

By Alyx Hoover

It seemed nobody wanted our help, but we were led to somebody who did.

Carrying our brooms, buckets, rakes, and gloves, and sporting bright yellow “Helping Hands” T-shirts to identify us as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we walked through the neighborhoods of my hometown as part of youth conference. Two by two, we went to assigned homes, knocked on doors, introduced ourselves as members of the Church, and asked if there was any service we could perform.

It was scary at first to simply walk up to a house and knock on a door, not knowing whether we would be greeted with an invitation to rake the yard or a door slammed in our faces. With nervous anticipation, I approached the first house and knocked on the front door, only to find no one home. Persevering, my companion and I canvassed the neighborhood in search of a service opportunity. Knock, knock. No answer. Try again. Knock, knock. “No thanks.” Try again. I was beginning to feel discouraged as knock after knock, door after door, our offers to provide service were met with surprise, dismay, and ultimately, rejection.

As my companion and I made our way down the quiet

street, we noticed a home in need of some attention. The grass had been mowed, but piles of trimmings and yard waste were everywhere. The flower beds were overgrown with weeds, moss had crept up the sidewalk and front steps, and the porch was thickly covered with dust. If there were ever a house in need of “helping hands,” this was it. With a silent prayer in my heart that we could be of service, I summoned courage and headed toward the house with my companion.

An older woman in a wheelchair was wheeling up the porch and into the home, but seeing us come closer, she turned and came toward us. As we approached her, I could sense her apprehension and reluctance to allow us to speak with her. My companion and I both smiled, introduced ourselves, and explained to her that we were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and were looking for opportunities to serve in the neighborhood. We asked her if there was anything we could do to help her. Instantly, the woman’s face lit up, and she began listing things we could do to help: weeding, raking grass, sweeping the porch, stacking wood, scraping moss, and washing the driveway. As her list of tasks grew longer and longer, I flagged the other members of our youth group to come join. Members from our group arrived, assignments were made, and we quickly set to work.

Our youth group's offer to help came as a timely answer to prayer.



When I set out that morning to perform service, I expected to use my rake, broom, and shovel to serve others. I had no idea that the Lord would use me as His instrument to fill the needs of another.



More Ideas on Service

Head to lds.org/go/62A to find lots of links about service from youth.lds.org. Just look in the “More on Service” or “From Church Leaders” sections and click “View All” in the “Related” section. You’ll find:

- A huge list of ideas for serving others.
- A video about youth in Guatemala whose service made a big difference in their community.
- A video about young women in Missouri who started a service club at their school.
- Mormonads about service.
- Scriptures and general conference talks about service.
- Questions and answers about serving others.
- And much more!

Performing this service put a smile on my face and made me want to do my very best. While we worked, we enjoyed getting to know this woman and listening to her stories. We learned that our offer to help came as a timely answer to prayer. She explained that she was not the homeowner but was caring for the house for her brother, who was scheduled to have open-heart surgery the next day. The woman knew how much her brother cared for his yard and enjoyed working in his garden, but because he was ill and she was unable to bend down and work, the yard was neglected and had become overgrown. Together, the brother and sister had prayed for someone to help with the upkeep of the yard. I felt the warmth of the Spirit fill my heart as I realized that through our service we were able to be the answer to another’s prayer.

Her brother called on the phone and, with tender emotion in his voice, thanked us for our labors. I was overcome with love for the man whom we had served and also for my Heavenly Father, who is ever mindful of the needs and prayers of His children.

When I set out that morning to perform service, I expected to use my rake, broom, and shovel to serve others, but I had no idea that the Lord would use me as His instrument to fill the needs of another. I am grateful for this experience that taught me the truth of the scripture, “When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17).

I have a testimony of the power of service and how it not only changes our lives but the lives of those around us. Each day I strive to provide service for at least one person; whether I’m offering a simple smile or a good deed, my Heavenly Father knows what I can do to help other people. I have a testimony of the power of service and the strength it can bring as we put forth our best effort and ask for no reward in return. **NE**

MORMONAD

HUMBLY KNEELING

“Humble, trusting prayer brings direction and peace.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
“Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 8.



*Would you give up a chance
to pursue your lifelong dream
in order to serve a mission?*

By Elyse Alexandria Holmes





Time-Out for a MISSION

With sweat pouring down his face, Australian rugby star William Hopoate keeps his eye on the ball. His team, the Blues, representing New South Wales, is facing their rival, the Maroons from Queensland, in the biggest match of the year. After the first 20 minutes, Will's team is behind and has to catch up quickly. Will has a lot to prove because this is his first match with the team. He is also the youngest player on his team and the second-youngest player ever to play in the State of Origin series.

Will watches as the ball is passed to his teammate and then thrown toward him. He jumps up to catch it. Caught! With the ball in hand, Will sprints toward the goal line. With the defense right beside him, he hurtles down the field. Just a few more yards. At the very edge of the field, between landing the goal and going out of bounds, Will is nearly out of time. He pushes himself forward, leaps toward the goal with faith, and slams the ball on the ground. Everyone pauses for a moment. Did he make it? Then he hears the audience erupt into cheers!

Growing Up with Rugby

When Will was 4 years old, his parents enrolled him in the local rugby club. That may seem young, but even then Will loved “footy” (slang for “rugby”). By the time Will was 12, rugby had become more than a game for him and he was chosen to play on a junior league team. By age 16 he was playing for a junior professional league team.

In Australia, when players turn 20, they are old enough

to play professionally in an adult league. Even when Will was 18, offers came in left and right. He was a prime recruit. One team offered him a contract worth 1.5 million Australian dollars—an offer not made often to players his age. But that wasn't what Will saw in his immediate future. Will had decided to serve a mission.

Making the Mission Decision

When Will had to announce whether he was going to serve a mission or accept a rugby league contract, the decision was easy for him. “I set a mission in my mind and heart while I was in my youth, and I promised myself that I wouldn't let the worldly desires take over me,” he says.

The world may ask, What about the money? the contracts? getting to play rugby professionally—his lifelong dream? How would his life have been different had he accepted a professional contract? “It would have helped out my family financially. It would have set my future as well for the next few years,” he admits.

So why didn't he accept the offer? “A mission is something the Lord requires of me, of young males in the Church,” he says. “It's a way to say thanks to the Lord for everything He has done for me in my 19 years here on earth. And at the end of the day, I don't think I would have been as happy if I had stayed. I made the choice to serve a mission because footy will always be there.”

Will's announcement confused and shocked many. In speaking of his nonmember friends, he says, “They don't understand the real reason I'm going; they just see me



See More Online

Watch a video of Will on his [Mormon.org](https://www.lds.org) profile at [lds.org/go/62B](https://www.lds.org/go/62B).

See the story of Sid Going, another rugby player who chose to delay his rugby career for a mission, in a *Mormon Messages for Youth* video at [lds.org/go/62C](https://www.lds.org/go/62C).

walking away from the game for two years.” Will told them, “I’m teaching people about Jesus Christ and serving others. It’s something that I want to do.” After hearing Will’s explanation, his friends became more supportive.

Preparing to Serve

Will recognized that just wanting to serve a mission wasn’t enough. He knew it was important to prepare. One thing he did was go to teaching appointments with the full-time missionaries. “When the missionaries asked me to respond to questions, words seemed to come that I didn’t know could help the investigator understand a bit more,” he says. “And a few of the investigators they were teaching—whom I helped teach—have recently been baptized. It’s been a blessing for me to see that.”



Will is now serving in the Australia Brisbane Mission, but he didn’t leave rugby behind entirely. Even though he is not able to play, he serves as a missionary with the same fervor he has for rugby. Before his mission he said, “The same passion and motivation is there in playing rugby and serving the Lord. In sports you’ve got to work hard to find success. You can relate that to missionary work because I am working hard trying to find people who want to hear the gospel.”

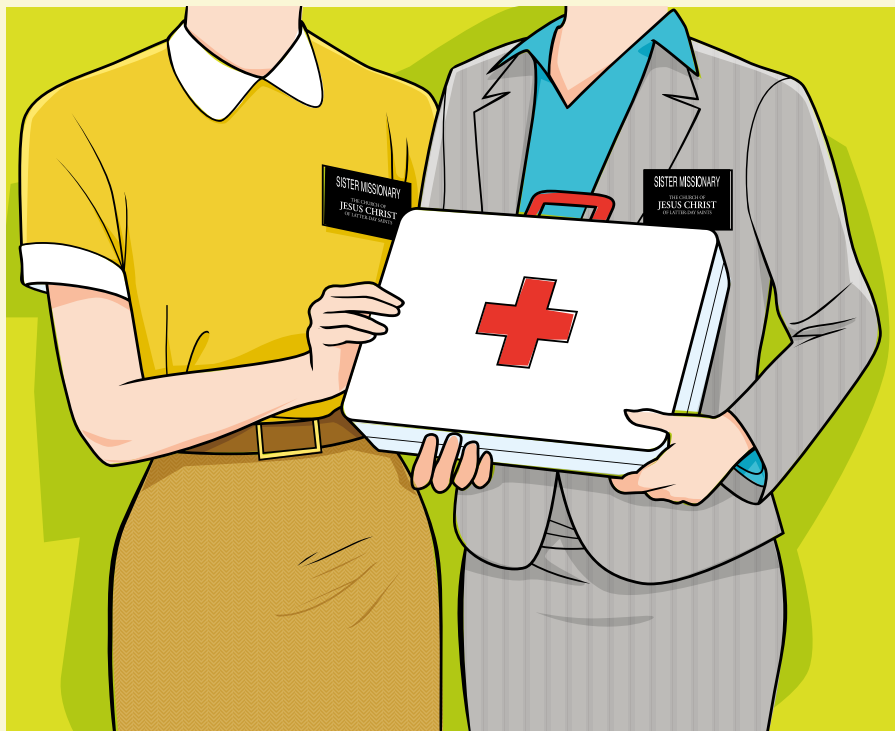
Returning with Honor

Whenever a sports star leaves the scene for any amount of time, and especially for two years, people wonder, what will happen when he comes back? Will knows that by serving a mission, he could be giving up a lot, but he also knows he’s giving it up for something better. “I think it’s a great sacrifice, but it’s one that I’m willing to take,” he says. “Anything can happen, and two years is a fair break from the sport. Personally, I would like to come back and play footy.”

Even though playing rugby professionally has been his lifelong dream, Will recognizes the eternal blessings that come from serving a mission. “In rugby league, there’s always joy in winning and scoring, but that joy only lasts a few weeks or a few days. You can only cherish it for so long,” he explains. “Whereas a friend or investigators coming into the Church and seeing that the gospel can bless their lives forever can put a smile on your face forever.” **NE**



LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK METCALFE © GETTY IMAGES; TOP: PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL RAMIREZ



THE MIRACLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING

By Elizabeth Stitt

One day when my companion and I went to visit a recent convert in Colombo, Brazil, the house was full of family members. It was crowded, but they still invited us to share a message. We were about to start when the convert's brother came in. He was not a member of our Church and was not happy about our visit. He seemed to find any way he could to contradict us.

He had a notebook of all the members of his congregation and their sicknesses. He asked us if we believed in the gift of healing. "Of course we do," we replied. "Well then," he continued, "I've healed all

the people in this notebook. How many people have you healed?"

We tried to explain the priesthood, faith, and how things happen according to God's will, but after a few moments, we felt like we had been cornered and attacked.

Then "in the very moment" (D&C 100:6) we needed it, the Spirit whispered what to say. I explained that while we do believe in healing, our work as missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was to bring spiritual healing to those we taught, which healing is available only through accepting the Atonement of Jesus Christ through faith, repentance,

baptism by immersion, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

So while we believe in physical healing, we explained, the most important healing is spiritual healing. And that kind of healing was the kind we saw every day. It really didn't matter if people were healed physically if they didn't repent and change their lives to follow Christ.

As the Spirit guided us to respond in a calm manner, the tension in the room dispersed, the brother stopped trying to fight, and we were able to share our message.

Months later, after finishing my mission, I read this statement in the *Ensign* from John Tanner's missionary journal: "Conversion is the greatest miracle. It is even more wonderful than healing the sick or raising the dead. For while a person who is healed will eventually fall sick again and ultimately die, the miracle of conversion can last forever and affect the eternities for the convert as well as for his or her posterity. Whole generations are healed and redeemed from death through the miracle of conversion."¹

How grateful I am that the Spirit prompted two somewhat trapped missionaries to remember our purpose was the saving of souls. **NE**

NOTE

1. John Tanner, quoted in Susan W. Tanner, "Helping New Converts Stay Strong," *Ensign*, Feb. 2009, 23.

Celebrating the



Young women around the world are coming closer to Jesus Christ through camp.

By Elaine S. Dalton

Young Women general president

This year we will celebrate a century of Young Women camp. Young Women camp was developed as a response to a need for summer work for the young women of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association (the name of the Young Women organization at the time).

Camp—A Favorite Activity

Since 1912, many Young Women camps have been established and dedicated all around the world. A camp with the most basic and simple accommodations can become a sacred place where the Spirit of the Lord is present, where daughters of God put the principles of the gospel into practice, and the glorious blessings of nature are appreciated in happy ways.

All over the world, young women like yourselves are enjoying the experience of camping. In Africa, one of the first camps was held at a chapel where the young women slept on the grass and learned to cook on an electric stove. In other places, camp is held on the beach or in the jungle or in the mountains. Wherever camp is held, one thing is sure: young women love to go to camp! When asked about the favorite part of the Young Women experience in general, the majority of young women I have visited with say, "Camp!" Why is this a favorite? What happens at camp that makes this such a memorable experience?

Camp has always been a favorite activity because it is at camp that you can establish a mini home. Your tent becomes your home, and there you can gather all the essentials you need to be happy and comfortable and progressing. At camp you can discover that the Lord is great. He has provided this beautiful earth for us to enjoy and preserve. At camp, you learn that you really don't need much to be happy. You leave your makeup

and music behind and learn to become self-sufficient. You learn the importance of a strong, healthy body so you can climb mountains and swim in the ocean or in streams. You learn that the scriptures can speak to you very personally, and you also experience what it feels like to be still and to listen to the song of a bird or to the voice of the Spirit, sometimes for the first time.

Your Camp Legacy

This year as we celebrate 100 years of Young Women camp, you may want to think of some things you can do so that other young women, perhaps your future daughters and granddaughters, will learn about what *you* did as a young woman to contribute to this grand legacy of camp.

THE FIRST YOUNG WOMEN CAMP

In 1912, the Liberty Stake of Salt Lake City, Utah, planned and carried out the first recorded summer camp. The young ladies attended weekly meetings to plan, execute, and report their camp experiences. They engaged in fund-raising activities, including a campfire entertainment to advertise their project. The camp fee was 65 cents per girl! The young ladies tried out nutritious, well-balanced, easy-to-prepare menus in preparation for camp.

To get to the camp, the young ladies traveled south of Salt Lake City by streetcar to a location that is now in the town of Murray, Utah. Here they loaded their bags and bedding onto a wagon and then hiked a little over a mile to the banks of the Big Cottonwood Creek. The stream was widened and deepened in one place to allow for wading and swimming.

During the week, young ladies were taught about flowers, insects, birds, and plants. They cooked and ate in the open. They concluded the week with a hayrack ride and a night to entertain parents and ward friends who visited the camp.

During the summer of 1912, 82 young women and 15 officers attended the camp.



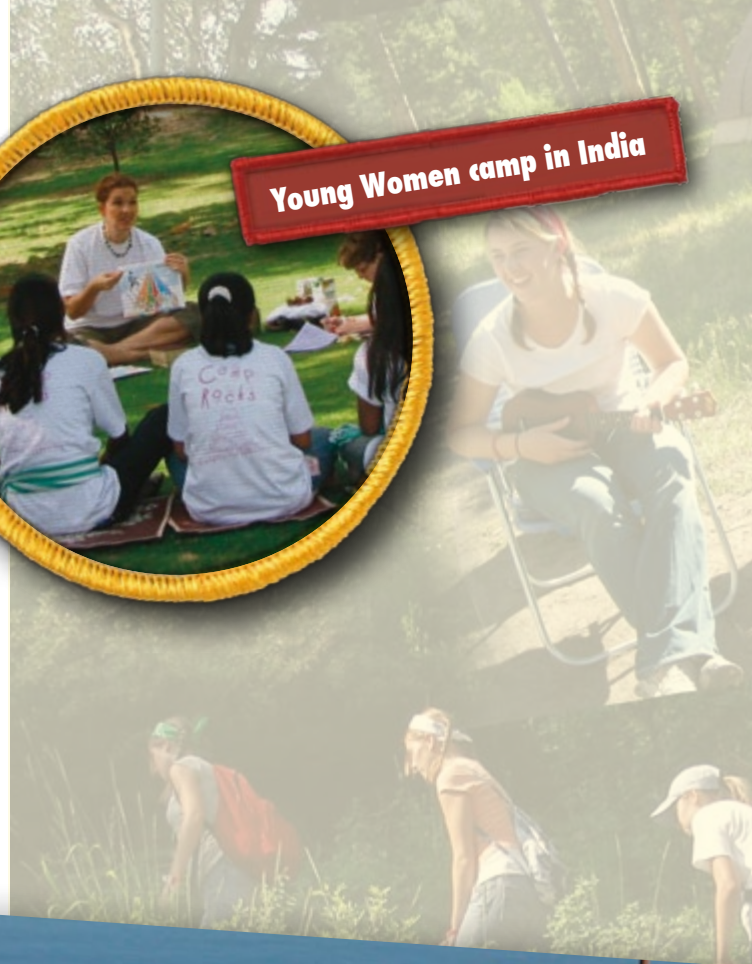
You may want to consider some of the following:

- Read the Book of Mormon and share your testimony of what you learned and felt in a special campfire meeting held during camp.
- Record 100 blessings you have received or felt while at camp.
- Perform 100 acts of service while at camp or in preparation to go to camp.
- Research 100 names to take to the temple in preparation for camp.
- Shine 100 lights from a high place at camp to represent your desire to stand for truth and righteousness and let the light of the Savior shine in your lives.
- Share 100 scriptures with the other young women at camp.
- Think of 100 ways you can bless your family when you return from camp.
- Compose a special song to celebrate camp in your area.
- Perform a skit showing what you think the first camp may have been like.
- Look in the scriptures for people who camped, and share their experiences.

You will think of more things you can do to celebrate this wonderful gift of Young Women camp. As you prepare to go to camp this year, may you always remember that each part of the Young Women experience is to help you grow in your faith and testimony of the Savior, understand your true identity as a daughter of God, and help you feel and recognize the Spirit's guidance in your life. As you participate in this wonderful opportunity and leave the world for a few short days to camp with your friends and your leaders in Young Women, we know you will learn and do things that will help you be prepared for the grand future that is yours, and you will desire to always be worthy to be in the temples and receive the blessings that are waiting for you. Have fun! And remember you are one of God's most precious creations! **NE**



Young Women camp in India



Young Women camp in Zimbabwe



More online

See several more articles celebrating the 100th anniversary of Young Women camp at lds.org/go/YWcamp.





Young Women camp in Mongolia



FIRST YOUNG WOMEN CAMP IN MONGOLIA

By Mary N. Cook

First counselor in the Young Women general presidency

The first Young Women camps in Mongolia were some of the most memorable experiences of my life. While serving a mission, my husband and I assisted the newly baptized leaders and young women. We had just one branch in Mongolia, and most of the people had been members less than one year. Acting as an adviser to the Young Women leaders, I knew camp would be a wonderful way for young women to recognize God's love for them and appreciate His wonderful creations.

Quoting from my August 15, 1995, journal entry:

"Last week we went camping with the young women. It was fun . . . wet, but fun. It had rained the entire week before we left on Friday. That morning it was clear and warm, and we were excited to go. We got four small tents from the Boy Scouts here, and the girls brought two other tents. We had forty-three girls show up, seven leaders, and one other missionary couple.

"Overall, the camp was great. As soon as we pitched our tents, torrential rains came down on us. The Scout tents were less than ideal, and water drenched the heavy woolen blankets and clothes. We had to put 8–9 girls in 4-man tents. They didn't seem to mind. They went hiking, picked baby strawberries by the handful, peeled potatoes in the creek . . . all in the rain. We didn't hear a complaint.

"Friday night, we studied the Book of Mormon by candlelight. It was a great experience. The leaders led a discussion that would have gone on for hours if we hadn't sent them to bed. They went to their wet tents and conducted testimony meetings. They loved every aspect of the evening. Everything is so new to these people. They have so few opportunities, and it is ever so rewarding to provide some worthwhile opportunities for them to learn and grow. I'm sure we have started a tradition of girls' camp in Mongolia."

The Church in Mongolia was in its infancy. They had no scriptures translated into Mongolian, no camp manual, nor even hymns in Mongolian. But for two days in the Mongolian steppe, they enjoyed God's creations, studied the gospel together, became more united, and felt the Spirit as they shared their testimonies of their newfound religion. *ME*

FACING THE STORMS OF LIFE

By Whitney Hinckley

*When trials
come, don't
forget there
is someone
who can bring
you peace.*

After a long day of teaching, Jesus Christ boarded a ship with His Apostles. They were going across the Sea of Galilee to teach the people on the other side. Christ was asleep when a storm came upon them.

The Apostles began to fear the storm as they were tossed by the winds and water filled their boat. They awoke Jesus, crying, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38).

Christ arose and calmed the winds and waves with His power, saying "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39). He turned to His Apostles and asked, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25). Christ gently chastised them for being fearful and not remembering that He can calm the tossing seas during a storm.

I recently heard a friend say that "life is a storm sometimes." How true that is! Life can be tempestuous, tossing us with winds of misfortune, grief, shame, or stress.

In the hymn based on the experience on the Sea of Galilee, we sing:

*Master, with anguish of spirit
I bow in my grief today.
The depths of my sad heart are troubled.*

*Oh, waken and save, I pray!
Torrents of sin and of anguish
Sweep o'er my sinking soul,
And I perish! I perish! dear Master.
Oh, hasten and take control!
("Master, the Tempest Is Raging,"
Hymns, no. 105)*

Christ not only calms the physical seas, but He can also calm the seas within our minds and souls. Do we call on Heavenly Father and His Son when the waters of anguish begin to fill our ship? Do we have the faith to trust in Christ?

It's hard to remember there is someone who can bring peace when we are being tossed so hard that we feel like we can barely hang on. Sometimes in life we just try to outlast the storm, forgetting to call on the One who can calm it.

Peace may not always come as it did that long-ago day on Galilee—the storms and winds may not be replaced by perfect calm. Instead, when we hasten to call on the Master and allow Him to bear our burdens, our peace may come in small reminders of His love and care, giving us strength to *get through* the storm.



JOY CAN BE OURS

“My brothers and sisters, however dark conditions may seem in this world today, whatever the storms we are facing personally, in our homes and our families, this joy can be ours now. . . .

“ . . . Our faith in Him and obedience to His commandments will bring ‘a perfect brightness of hope’ [2 Nephi 31:20] and dispel the darkness and gloom of despair in these troubled times. The One who had power to calm the elements of earth has power to calm our souls, to give us refuge from the storm.”

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Faith through Tribulation Brings Peace and Joy,” *Ensign*, May 2003, 18.

That is what happened to me one April. The end of another school year was fast approaching—and with it came the cares, worries, and work I had experienced during the past nine months. I was exhausted, emotional, and lonely. I felt like I was being tossed by the storms of life. General conference was coming up, and I looked forward to hearing the prophets of God speak to me, hoping to feel a calmness enter my “sinking soul.”

A closing hymn brought great peace. As the choir sang the third verse, I felt the Spirit calm the seas inside me:

*Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee
to stand, . . .
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
 (“How Firm a Foundation,” Hymns, no. 85)*

My storm may not have been as tempestuous as the storms others face, but it is not the velocity of the storm that makes our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ willing to help us. It is our faith in Christ’s calming power and our hastening to call for His help that allows Him to calm our hearts during life’s storms. **NE**

Agency *and* Inspiration



Bruce R. McConkie was born on July 29, 1915, in Michigan, USA. He was sustained to the First Council of the Seventy in 1946 and ordained an Apostle in 1972. He died on April 19, 1985. This address was given at Brigham Young University on February 27, 1973.

By Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–85)
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

We're expected to do everything in our power that we can and then to seek an answer from the Lord, a confirming seal that we've reached the right conclusion.

When we dwelt in the presence of God our Heavenly Father, we were endowed with agency.

This gave us the opportunity, the privilege, to choose what we would do—to make a free, untrammelled choice. . . . We're expected to use the gifts and talents and abilities, the sense and judgment and agency with which we are endowed.

But on the other hand, we're commanded to seek the Lord, to desire His Spirit, to get the spirit of revelation and inspiration in our lives. We come unto the Church and a legal administrator places his hands upon our head and says, "Receive the Holy Ghost." This gives us the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is the right to the constant companionship of that member of the Godhead, based on faithfulness.

And so we're faced with two propositions. One is that we ought to be guided by the spirit of inspiration, the spirit of revelation. The other is that we're here under a direction to use our agency, to determine what we ought to do on our own; and we need to strike a fine balance between these two. . . .

Well, I'd like, if I may, to present three case studies, out of which, perhaps, we can draw some very realistic and sound conclusions as to what ought to be in our lives. I'll take these illustrations out of the revelations that the Lord has given us.

"You Have Not Understood"

Case study number 1: There was a man named Oliver Cowdery. . . . He wrote down the words that the Prophet dictated while the Spirit rested upon him in the translation processes (the Book of Mormon was then being translated). Brother Cowdery was relatively spiritually immature at that time, and he sought and desired to do something beyond his then present spiritual capacity. He himself wanted to translate. And so he [asked] the Prophet, the Prophet took the matter up with the Lord, and they got a revelation. The Lord said, "Oliver Cowdery, verily, verily, I say unto you, that assuredly as the Lord liveth, who is your God and your Redeemer, even so surely shall you receive a knowledge of whatsoever things you shall ask in faith, with an honest heart, believing that you shall receive." And then one thing he might receive is defined as "a knowledge concerning the engravings of old records, which are ancient, which contain those parts



of my scripture of which has been spoken by the manifestation of my Spirit” [D&C 8:1].

Having thus dealt with the specific problem, then the Lord revealed a principle that applies to it and all other like situations:

“Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart. Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation” (D&C 8:2–3). . . .

. . . And so he asked. And as you know, he failed; he was totally unable to translate. . . . The matter was referred back to the Lord, whose promise they had been attempting to conform to; and the answer came, the reason came, why he couldn’t translate: “You have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me” (D&C 9:7).

Now, seemingly, that’s all he’d been instructed to do, to ask in faith; but implicit in asking in faith is the precedent requirement that we do everything in our power to accomplish the goal that we seek. We use the agency with which we have been endowed. We use every faculty and capacity and ability that we possess to bring about the eventuality that may be involved. Now, this is translating the Book of Mormon, it’s choosing a wife, it’s choosing employment, it’s doing any one of 10,000 important things that arise in our lives. . . .

“Why Are You Asking Me?”

Now, case study number 2: . . . [The Jaredites] got to the waters that they were going to cross, and the Lord said to [the

As we become spiritually mature, we learn to strike a balance between using our agency to decide what we should do and being guided by the spirit of inspiration.

brother of Jared], “Build some barges.” . . .

[The barges] were going to be used under some peculiar and difficult circumstances, and [the brother of Jared] needed something more than was now present in them: he needed some air. And this was a problem that was beyond him. So he took that matter up with the Lord, and because it was totally beyond his capacity to solve, the Lord solved it for him and said, “Do thus and so and you’ll have air.”

But then the brother of Jared—having confidence because he was talking to the Lord, because he was communing and getting answers—asked another question: . . . “What will we do for light in the vessels?”

And the Lord talked to him about it a little, and then He said this: “What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?” (Ether 2:23). In other words, “. . . I’ve given you your agency; you are endowed with capacity and ability. Get out and solve the problem.”

Well, the brother of Jared got the message. He went up into a mount called Shelem, and the record says he “did molten out of a rock sixteen small stones; and they were white and clear, even as transparent glass” (Ether 3:1). . . .

And the Lord did what the brother of Jared asked, and this is the occasion when he then saw the finger of the Lord; and, while he was in tune, he received revelation that exceeded anything that any prophet had ever gained up to that moment. The Lord revealed more to him about His nature and personality than ever theretofore had come forth, and it all came about because

he’d done everything that he could do and because he counseled with the Lord.

There’s a fine balance between agency and inspiration. We’re expected to do everything in our power that we can and then to seek an answer from the Lord, a confirming seal that we’ve reached the right conclusion; and sometimes, happily, in addition, we get added truths and knowledge that we hadn’t even supposed.

“They Shall Counsel between Themselves and Me”

Now, case study number 3: In the early history of the Church, the Lord commanded the Saints to assemble in a certain place in Missouri. . . . Now notice what happened. The Lord is talking:

“As I spake concerning my servant Edward Partridge, this land is the land of his residence, and those whom he has appointed for his counselors; and also the land of the residence of him whom I have appointed to keep my storehouse;

“Wherefore, let them bring their families to this land, [and here’s the point] as they shall counsel between themselves and me” [D&C 58:24–25; emphasis added]. . . .

You see, the Lord said “assemble” to Zion. The details and the arrangements, however, the *how* and the *when* and the *circumstances*, are to be determined by the agency of those who are called to assemble, but they are to counsel with the Lord. . . .

Now, after the Lord had said this to the Presiding Bishopric of the Church, He gave the principle that governed in that situation, and it governs in all situations. And this is

one of our glorious revealed truths.

He said:

“For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

“Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness” [D&C 58:26–27; emphasis added]. . . .

Now, those are the three case studies; let us come to the revealed conclusion. . . .

. . . If you learn how to use the agency that God has given you, and if you try to make your own decisions, and if you reach conclusions that are sound and right, and you counsel with the Lord and get His ratifying seal of approval upon the conclusions you’ve reached, then you’ve received revelation, for one thing; and for another thing, you’re going to have the great reward of eternal life, be lifted up at the last day. . . .

God grant us wisdom in these things. God grant us the courage and the ability to stand on our own feet and use our agency and the abilities and capacities we possess; then let’s be sufficiently humble and amenable to the Spirit to bow our will to His will, to get His ratifying, confirming seal of approval, to get in our lives, in that way, the spirit of revelation. And if we so do, there’s no question about the result: it’s peace in this life; it’s glory and honor and dignity in the life to come. **NE**

Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization standardized.



A BETTER Example

By Shaneen Cloward

Our Young Women leaders decided that an overnight trip was just the thing to get us ready for camp. They chose the banks of the San Pedro River in southern Arizona, USA, to set up our practice camp.

After rolling out the sleeping bags, the other girls and I wanted to explore and get into the water. The leaders thought some discussions on safety and first aid should come first. So we all sat in a shady spot near the river for the lesson.

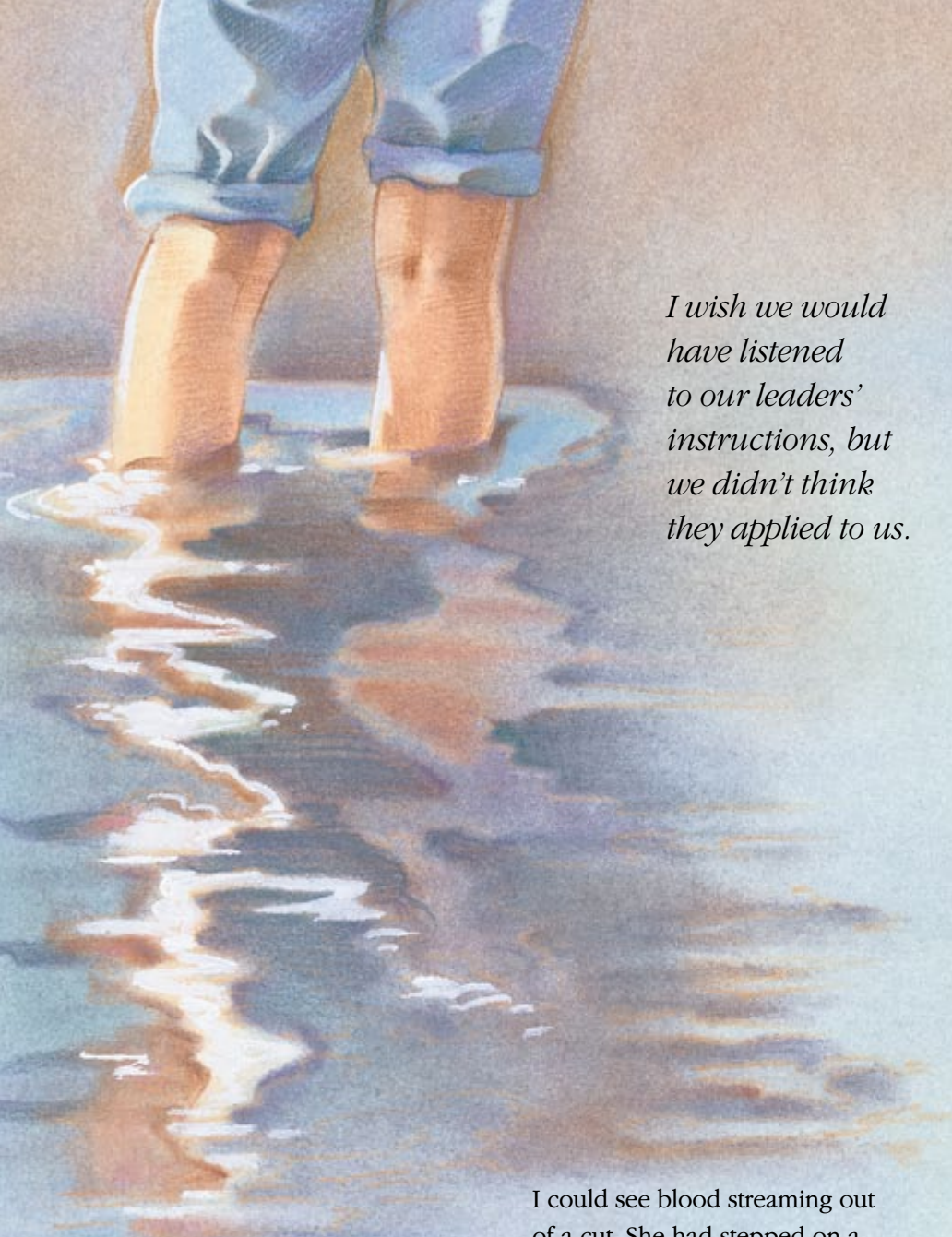
Paying attention wasn't easy when we could see the river shining in the sun. The breeze was playing in the cottonwood trees as Sister Brown^{*} talked. We had all heard the lesson before, and I just couldn't understand why we needed it now. We knew all about putting pressure on a wound to stop the

bleeding, but there she was telling us again.

Before they let us go, the leaders repeatedly told us not to go in the river without shoes. "You never know what's in there, and you've got to protect your feet."

As I got to the edge of the river, some of the other girls were already splashing in the water. The water was brown with mud. It was less than a foot deep all the way across, and I couldn't believe that it was dangerous.

I decided to take off my shoes. I had brought only one pair, and I didn't see the sense in getting them wet and having soggy shoes all day. My two best friends, Martha



I wish we would have listened to our leaders' instructions, but we didn't think they applied to us.

The lesson of 10 minutes before began to sink in. The girls, who had been standing around Elizabeth and watching her bleed, elevated her foot and put pressure on the wound.

Elizabeth was taken to the hospital, where she was told that she had almost cut her foot in half. It required numerous stitches and would take a long time to heal. The next time I saw her she was using crutches.

I never thought I could or would ever convince my best friend to do something that would hurt her that badly. I had never seen myself as a bad influence before.

Now I'm trying to be a better example to my friends, and I'm more willing to listen to my leaders. They know what they're talking about. **NE**

**Names have been changed*

and Elizabeth, both reminded me of what the leaders had said. I took my shoes off anyway and explained my reasons. Martha took hers off too. Elizabeth was more hesitant. I waded out into the water and with a sarcastic tone said, "Keep them on if you want to."

She sat down, took off her shoes, and ran into the water. After about five steps she stopped, turned pale, and calmly said, "Oh, no." When she pulled her foot out of the water,

I could see blood streaming out of a cut. She had stepped on a broken bottle.

The sight of blood made my brain go numb. Even though I had just been listening to a lesson on first aid, I had no idea what to do. I decided to run for help. Two others helped her out of the water.

I found Sister Brown and told her what had happened. She thought I was kidding. But when she saw Elizabeth sitting in the trail with blood gushing from her foot, she ran toward her shouting, "Put pressure on that cut!"



LISTEN

"Please don't reinvent the moral wheel! Don't feel that you have to learn every tragic lesson in life personally.

"Listen to the words of the Lord. Listen to your leaders. Listen to your parents. Listen to the best that is within you. Above all listen to the sweet, soft, undeniable whispering of the Spirit which will teach you all things."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "We Want the Best for You," *New Era*, Jan. 2010, 5.

WHAT WE REALLY THINK OF YOUTH

“Have you ever thought of yourself as a junior angel crowned with glory and honor? Every one of our Father in Heaven’s children is great in His sight. If the Lord sees greatness in you, how then should you see yourself?”

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Youth of the Noble Birthright,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 74.

WRITE AWAY

Tell Us What’s Up

We’d love to have you share the interesting ideas and events that are going on in your classes and quorums with other readers of the *New Era*. Write in and tell us about what you and your friends are doing at Mutual or in seminary. Along with your story, remember to include some photographs of the activities too.

Send in your stories and photographs by going to newera.lds.org and clicking “Submit Material.”

Or send them by mail to:
New Era, What’s Up?
 50 E. North Temple Street., Rm. 2420
 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
 USA



DANCE FOR CHARITY

Feeling the urge to get up and dance, friends Reagan N. and Lauren A. of Pennsylvania, USA, came up with the idea to organize a dance for all their friends. They also thought this would be a fun opportunity to fulfill a 10-hour Personal Progress value project for Choice and Accountability. They planned and organized everything needed, from invitations and decorations to refreshments and a disc jockey. But what made this dance stand apart from others is that this was a dance for charity.

Everyone attending the dance brought a nonperishable food item to act as an admission ticket. There was even a prize for the person who brought the most cans. The dance was a big success. Reagan and Lauren collected over 180 cans of food, which they donated to a local homeless shelter. They also completed a 10-hour project that helped the community and provided a fun evening for everyone who attended the dance.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF REAGAN N.

MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE



D&C 121:7-9 “My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; and then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes. Thy friends do stand by thee, and they shall hail thee again with warm hearts and friendly hands.”

These verses are comforting to me when I am going through a trial that seems unbearable. It says, “Peace be unto thy soul,” so that tells me that Heavenly Father cares about me and wants me to be at peace.

Carly C., 16, Idaho, USA

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CARLY C.

Tell us about your favorite scripture in a paragraph or two. Send it to us, along with a photo, by going to newera.lds.org and clicking “Submit Material.”

IN A WORD

Humility:

To be humble is to recognize gratefully our dependence on the Lord—to understand that we have constant need for His support. Humility is an acknowledgment that our talents and abilities are gifts from God. It is not a sign of weakness, timidity, or fear; it is an indication that we know where our true strength lies. We can be both humble and fearless. We can be both humble and courageous.

QUOTE FROM CONFERENCE

“My young friends, we need tens of thousands of more missionaries in the months and years that lie ahead. They must come from an increased percentage of the Aaronic Priesthood who will be ordained, active, clean, and worthy to serve.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “We Are All Enlisted,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 46.

BEING WORTHY FOR AN ETERNAL MARRIAGE

To achieve your goal of being married in the temple, you will need to be worthy of and obtain a temple recommend. To get your recommend, you'll have an interview with a member of your bishopric or branch presidency and a member of your stake or mission presidency. They will ask you about:

- Your testimony of Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.
- Whether you sustain the President of the Church.
- Whether you live the law of chastity, pay tithing, are honest with others, and keep the Word of Wisdom.
- Whether you strive to attend church, keep the covenants you have made, and keep your life in harmony with the commandments of the gospel.

If you have a problem with any of the things you will be asked about, then that is a good place to start in your preparations for an eternal marriage. (For more ideas, see page 42.)

Also consider that one advantage to marrying in the temple is that your spouse will also have answered all of these questions. You then know that you are both committed to living the gospel. This commitment will be a great blessing in your marriage.

SEARCHING FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH

See if you can find each of these topics discussed in *For the Strength of Youth*.



- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Agency | Emotional Health | Integrity | Sabbath Day |
| Accountability | Entertainment | Language | Self-Reliance |
| Appearance | Faith | Media | Service |
| Dancing | Family | Music | Sexual Purity |
| Dating | Friends | Offerings | Tithes |
| Dress | Gratitude | Physical Health | Work |
| Education | Honesty | Repentance | |

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

June 29, 1844 Before a public funeral begins, about ten thousand Saints come to view the bodies of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum at the Mansion House in Nauvoo, Illinois. Both had been killed two days earlier at Carthage Jail. After the funeral, two decoy coffins filled with sand are buried in case mob members tried to steal or desecrate the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum. Later that evening around midnight, the coffins containing the bodies are buried secretly in the basement of the unfinished Nauvoo House.

5 SCRIPTURES ABOUT WAKING UP

- Romans 13:11
- Isaiah 51:9
- 1 Corinthians 15:34
- Ephesians 5:14
- 2 Nephi 4:28



Service Project

I really liked the story in the December 2011 *New Era* about LDS youth planting trees for a service project. I happened to be at that activity, and it helped me to understand how our service project affected the community.

Noah G., 14, Washington, USA

Reading the Old Testament

I am studying the Old Testament for seminary this year. At first it seemed that the gospel was so different back then. But then I read about the dedication for the temple King Solomon built (2 Chronicles 5–7). I felt the Spirit so strongly. I realized how much God loved His children then, just like He does now. Even though the times have changed, God's gospel has remained the same and so has His love.

Esther D., 16, Georgia, USA

We love hearing from you, whether it's sending us a message or leaving a comment online. Write to us by going online to newera.lds.org and clicking "Submit Material."

Or you can e-mail us at newera@ldschurch.org or write to *New Era* 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024.



FAMILY INCLUDED

THINK ABOUT IT

Heavenly Father wants all of His children to receive the gospel, and He will give you opportunities to share it if you pray for them. Think about someone you can share the gospel with. Write down his or her name, and pray that the Spirit will help you tell that person about the gospel and the Church.

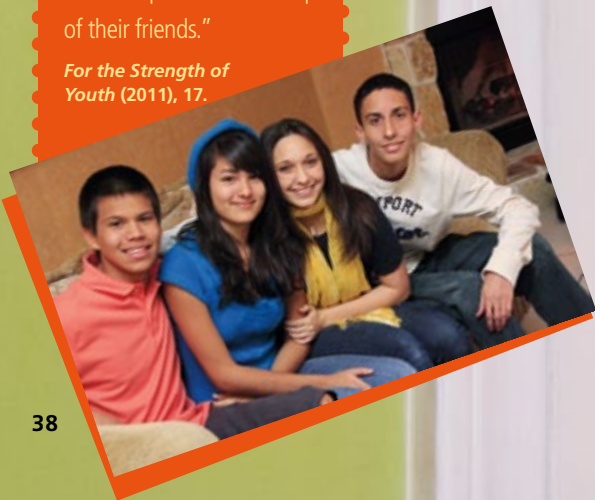
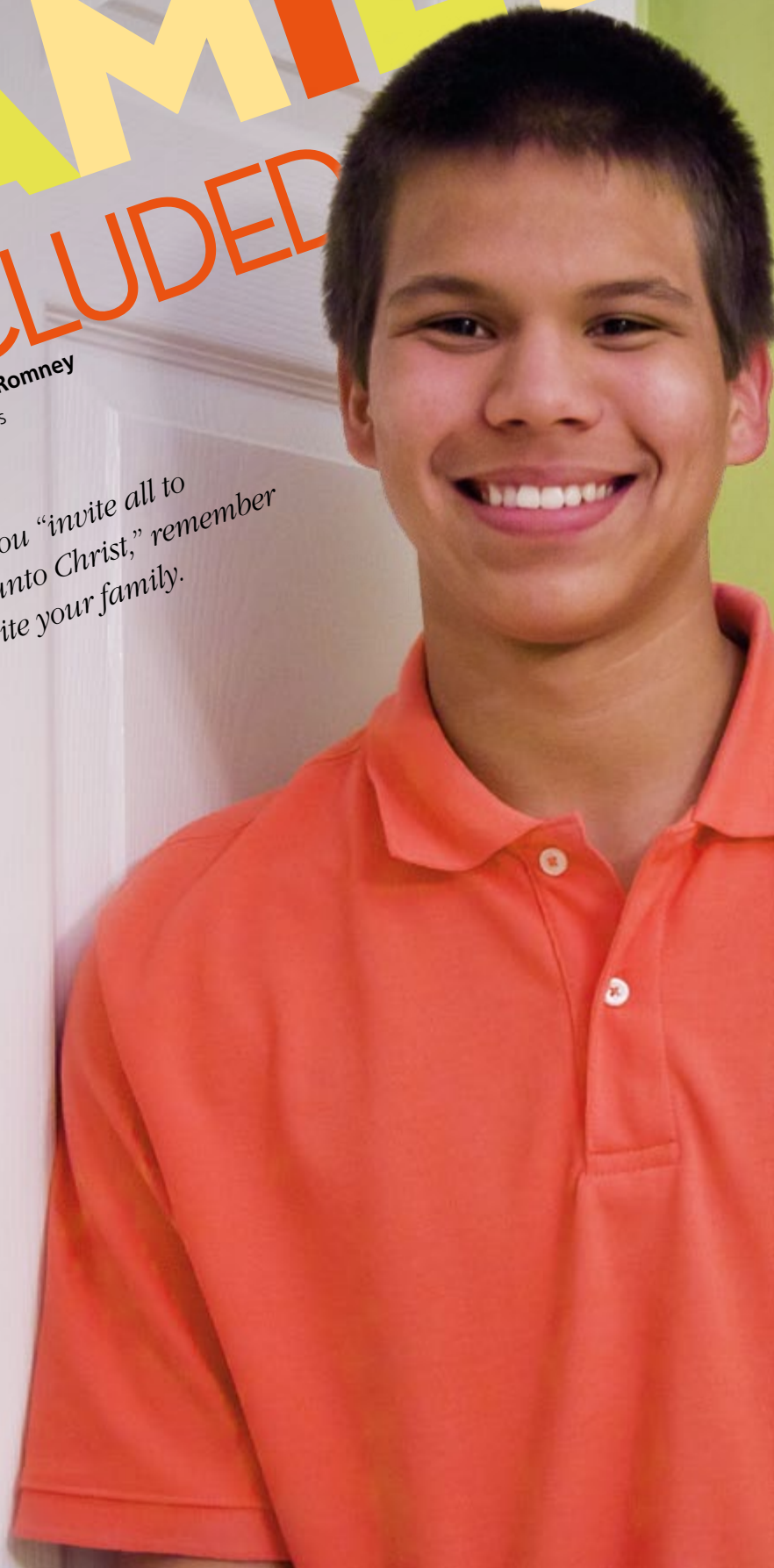
MAKE THE INVITATION

Invoke your friends of other faiths to your Church meetings and activities. Help them feel welcome and included. Many people have joined the Church through the example and fellowship of their friends."

For the Strength of Youth (2011), 17.

By Richard M. Romney
Church Magazines

When you "invite all to come unto Christ," remember to invite your family.

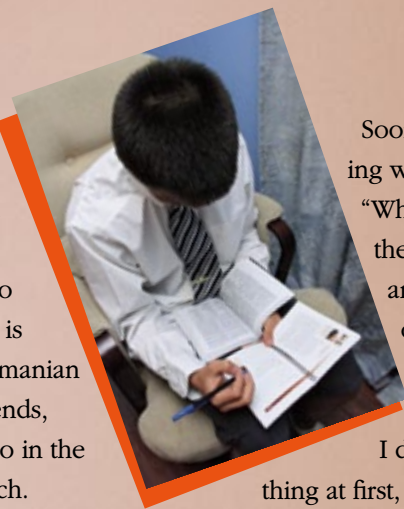


You could say 17-year-old Chris S. of Florida danced his way into the Church, but that's not totally correct. Actually, it was the people he danced *with* who introduced him to the gospel. Chris is part of a troupe that performs Panamanian folk dances, and two of his best friends, Rebecca and Joshua R., who are also in the group, invited him to come to church.

The Invitation

"One time we started talking about the Church, and I just told him more about it, and he seemed really interested," Rebecca says. "I told my parents about it, and they said we should invite him to church." So one day they invited Chris to come, and he accepted.

"I asked my parents, and they said I could go," Chris remembers. He also remembers how well received he was. "I was kind of nervous. But once I came, everyone was so warm and welcoming. It was nice to be there, and I felt comfortable."



Soon Chris began meeting with the missionaries. "When they came over, they taught me a lesson and gave me a Book of Mormon," he says. "They told me to read and pray, and I did. I didn't feel any-

thing at first, but then later on as I prayed, I felt great because it was like something inside of me was really warm. I know that was the Spirit, and it was a great feeling."

Chris continued learning and decided to be baptized. "After being baptized, I received the Holy Ghost, received the Aaronic Priesthood, and was ordained a priest," he says. "I felt special knowing that I am in God's Church and that He loves me."

An Example of the Believers

Rebecca and Joshua's father, Curtis, was the branch mission leader, and he had gospel discussions with Chris. "He told me he wanted his family to be happier and to be able to have the same things in common with them."

"I wanted to share the gospel with my family, but it was tough because my family never went to church," Chris says. "They really didn't have time."

But they did see Chris's example after he was baptized.

"When the missionaries were at our house, I didn't really pay attention," says Chris's stepfather, Terrance. "But as time went on, Chris was baptized, and I saw a lot of changes in him. He seemed to care more and respect everybody a lot more. So my wife and I decided to check out the Church."

Chris was surprised by his family's sudden interest. "When the missionaries told me they were coming to my house to teach my family, I didn't know if my family would be OK with that," he says. "Then the missionaries told

A SECOND OPPORTUNITY

The relationship between these two families goes back further than Chris's involvement with the folk dance group. Both fathers actually knew each other years ago when they were stationed at a naval base in Panama.

"We briefly knew each other because of our jobs," Curtis says. "Being a member of the Church, I wanted to share the gospel." But he didn't get that opportunity until much later.

"If I had the opportunity to go back and talk to Chris's father when I first met him back in Panama, I would be more open about the gospel," Curtis says. "But the second chance came around, and I wasn't going to let it pass by."



DANCING FOR PANAMA

Chris S. and his sister, Ashley R., both dance in the Panamanian folk dance group with their friends Joshua and Rebecca R. They have learned that “dancing can be fun and can provide an opportunity to meet new people” (*For the Strength of Youth* [2011], 23). They also enjoy the opportunity that dancing gives them to express themselves and learn about their heritage.

“We like dancing because it’s fun and you get to do it with a lot of friends,” Rebecca says. “It also teaches you a lot about how to move your body and a lot about your culture as well.”

“I think it’s nice how you dance in front of people and show them what you do,” Ashley says.

Joshua likes the dance group because it is something unique in his life. “I really like it for the simple fact that it’s different,” he says.

me that my parents invited them over, and I thought that was pretty cool.”

A United Family

Chris’s parents had a great experience going to church, and as they learned more, they grew closer as a family.

“When I started going to church, I really liked it,” says Chris’s mother, Anita. “I was very interested. Most people were there as a family, and I’ve learned to be more unified with my family.”

“After seeing the changes in Chris and enjoying church—everybody was friendly, everybody wanted to get to know you and all that—the whole family ended up getting baptized,” Terrance says. “Since joining the Church, we’ve realized family is forever.

What you make of your family is what counts

in life, and Jesus and Heavenly Father help you unite as a family forever.”

Inviting Others to Come to Christ

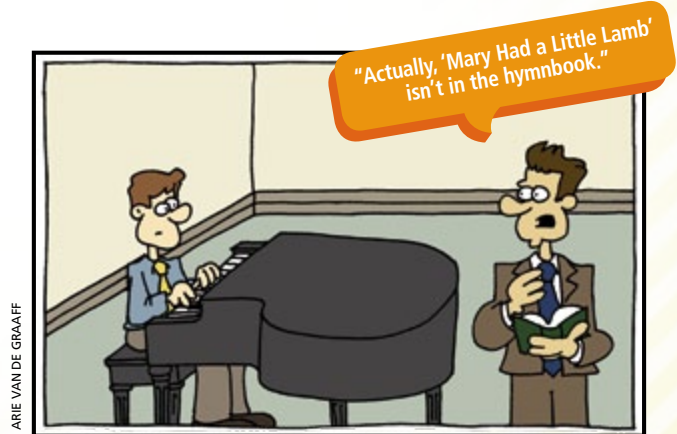
Chris understands why we all need to invite others to come unto Christ.

“It’s important because you want to help as many people as you can to be saved,” Chris says. “It’s good to bring people to God. If Rebecca and Joshua’s family hadn’t done that, I wouldn’t be here right now. I know Jesus Christ put them in my life, and I’m so blessed that I’ve been brought into the gospel and that I could share it with my family.”

Sometimes inviting your family and friends to come unto Christ is as easy as being a good example for them.

“Chris invited us to church not by directly asking us, but he did more by the way his reactions were in life,” Terrance says. “He showed how much enjoyment church brought. He showed what being in church can do for you, how it can change you, make you better, and help you with what’s going on in life. Chris was our wake-up call from the Lord.” **NE**







YOUR Current LIFE,

By Mindy Raye Friedman

Church Magazines

Marriage may seem far away, but what you do now can have a big impact on your future family.

Eternal marriage. You've probably heard a lot about it in your Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood classes. You are constantly reminded how important it is to be married in the temple. The time for you to be married may soon be approaching, or it may be years away. So why talk about it so much when you're still too young? It's because the habits, skills, and attitudes you form now in your teenage years can help or hinder your future marriage and family happiness.

"The Family: A Proclamation to the World" is a good guide for preparing for marriage. It states, "Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129). So if you want to have a happy marriage, focus on the Savior and developing Christlike attributes. The proclamation also says "successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities." Those are all things you can work on in your youth, so let's focus on these principles.

Faith. There is a reason faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the first principle of the gospel (see Articles of Faith 1:4). It's because it is needed in everything you do. Developing faith in Christ will give you hope for the future and a positive attitude. Faith will be required not only in choosing a spouse but in everything you do together after marriage.

To work on developing faith in Christ now, you can:

- Strive to follow Heavenly Father's plan for you.
- Listen to and act upon the promptings of the Spirit.
- Study the scriptures each day.

Prayer. In addition to having faith, you need to learn how to communicate with your Heavenly Father. If you learn in your youth to include Him in all that you do, it will be much easier to continue doing so with your spouse (see Alma

YOUR Future FAMILY



37:37). Praying is also a good way to strengthen relationships by overcoming feelings of anger and resentment.

Starting today, you can:

- Develop a habit of daily prayer—every morning and evening.
- Pray to Heavenly Father about important decisions.

Repentance. There are no perfect people on this earth, which means you are going to make mistakes. Learning how to repent now will help you in your marriage when you make mistakes and must ask forgiveness from your spouse and your Heavenly Father.

Learn now to:

- Ask for forgiveness daily for the mistakes you make.
- Forsake past sins.

Forgiveness. In addition to repentance, it is also important that you learn how to forgive others for their mistakes (see D&C 64:9–11). Just like you, your future spouse will not be perfect and will make mistakes. Being able to forgive will help your marriage stay strong even when challenges arise.

To practice this now:

- Forgive your friends and family members.
- Let things go when others have wronged you.
- Treat everyone with kindness, even your “enemies” (see Matthew 5:44).

Respect. Learn to respect yourself. Putting yourself down is not humility, and disrespecting yourself may lead you to forget your true value. Also, remember to respect your Heavenly Father by keeping His commandments and trusting in His plan. Then learn to respect those around you, including your family members.



KEEP AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

“I would admonish you to maintain an eternal perspective. Make certain that the marriage in your future is a temple marriage. There is no scene so sweet, no time so sacred as that very special day of your marriage. Then and there you glimpse celestial joy. Be alert; do not permit temptation to rob you of this blessing.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Whom Shall I Marry?”
New Era, Oct. 2004, 6.

To practice respect now:

- Remember that you are a child of God, and so is everyone else.
- Practice effective communication by sincerely listening to others and responding with courtesy.

Love. Jesus Christ taught that the two greatest commandments are to “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart” and “love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 22:37, 39). When we love the Lord, we strive to keep all His commandments, which also makes it easier to love others. Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “Pure love is an incomparable, potent power for good. Righteous love is the foundation of a successful marriage” (“The Eternal Blessings of Marriage,” *Ensign*, May 2011, 96).

Right now you can:

- Show the Lord you love Him by following His commandments (see John 14:15).
- Tell your family members that you love them.

Compassion. Loving others leads you to see them for who they truly are: children of God. When you have compassion, you forget yourself and serve. There is no room for selfishness in a happy marriage and family. President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) said, “A happy marriage is not so much a matter of romance as it is an anxious concern for the comfort and well-being of one’s companion” (“What God Hath Joined Together,” *Ensign*, May 1991, 73).

You can learn to have compassion now if you:

- Serve those around you, including your family members.
- Put others’ needs before your own.
- Tune out the world so you can pay attention to the Spirit when He prompts you to help someone.

Work. Marriage and family life involve a lot of hard work. Just think about everything your parents do for you. In a few years, you will be doing all of those things!

You can prepare for those responsibilities if you:

- Help your parents with household duties.
- Keep up with your studies in school.
- Fulfill responsibilities you have been given at home, school, and work and in the Church.

Wholesome recreational activities. Even though family life includes a lot of work, that doesn’t mean you won’t have fun. If you learn to love fun, wholesome activities now, you



can share the things you love with your future spouse and children.

To do this now:

- Don't spend all your time in front of a television, computer, phone, or video game.
- Figure out what kinds of things you like to do.
- Take up a hobby or two.
- Participate in activities at church, at school, and in your neighborhood and community.

This is not a comprehensive list of everything you need to do to prepare for marriage, but it's a good start of things to work on. Another great list of things to help you prepare are the guidelines in *For the Strength of Youth*.

You may have heard someone say that if you want to marry the right person, you need to *be* the right person. This time of your youth, when you're too young to be looking for a marriage partner, is the perfect time for you to start becoming the right person. Start developing Christlike qualities that will help you in your life now and in your future marriage and family. It will give you the best chance for eternal happiness. **NE**

Get More in This Issue

For more information on how to prepare to be worthy for a temple marriage, see page 37 in this issue.

THEY'VE BEEN THERE

We asked some married adults what they learned as youth that has helped them in their marriage. Here are some of their responses:

Follow the Spirit

Staying true to the gospel principles as a youth has helped me to become a stronger married adult. Listening to and acting on spiritual promptings has helped me in my life and especially in marriage.

Ashley Reed, Montana, 1 year of marriage

Work on Yourself

Someone told me if you want to find the right girl to spend forever with, then you need to prepare yourself to be the person that woman wants to marry. I thought it sounded very selfish at first to just work on myself, but the more I thought and prayed about it, the more sense it made. I know I needed to work on daily scripture study and prayer. Once I truly looked inward and thought about what my future companion would want in a spouse, I made sure to become that man and priesthood holder.

Joshua Steward, Virginia, 3 years of marriage

Be Worthy and Prepared

When I was a young woman I made the decision to always be worthy and prepared to enter the temple. The habits my husband and I created separately as youth have continued in our marriage together—prayer, scripture study, following the prophet, and attending the temple—and bless our relationship every day.

Marci Preece, Utah, 5 years of marriage

Appreciate Others, and Serve a Mission

I learned to appreciate other people's perspectives. Once we learn how to listen to someone's concerns, we can address them in an appropriate way. My missionary experience was also the best preparation, because living with another person all the time taught me to be more aware of others' needs. I now put what my spouse or children would want and need before my own wants.

Alan Withers, Michigan, 15 years of marriage

Learn Skills

I learned to sew, and it has blessed my husband and my children in many ways. My husband and I are always looking for ways to save money, and with this talent, I can create or fix things as needed.

Mindy Cuthbertson, Arizona, 21 years of marriage

Choose a Spouse Who Loves Heavenly Father

Growing up, I was blessed with a loving mother and father who helped me to understand how gospel principles made their marriage work. They taught me about loyalty (not speaking down against your spouse), the importance of open communication, and serving for the right reason. Most importantly, I was taught that you should choose someone who loves and reveres Heavenly Father as a child would. There is no greater unity than that which comes from having your hearts, hopes, and lives centered upon Him.

Cammi Larsen, Utah, 30 years of marriage

EXAMPLE MATTERED

Whenever I heard the words “missionary work,” I used to think of giving away a Book of Mormon. While I had previously given away copies of the Book of Mormon, none of the people I gave them to seemed interested. But I didn’t know that for the past year and a half, I have been a missionary just by being who I am and sticking to my standards.

It began on the first day of school one year. I had arrived at my first class early, and so I sat down at a desk

in the middle of the classroom. A girl named Alicia* came in and sat in the far back. Since I was alone, I invited her to sit with me. She had just moved from Mexico over the summer, so she didn’t have any friends yet. I was glad we had most of our classes together. That’s how we became friends.

But our lives were very different. Alicia wore outfits that differed from my standards and used bad language. In her old school, she talked back to her teachers, and grades weren’t important to her. She had a bad family life and



would sneak out and go to parties.

As we have become good friends, I have noticed a good change in her. She no longer wears inappropriate clothing. She is careful to not use bad language. She has improved her grades, even competing for the highest scores. Her family life is getting a lot better too. She never sneaks out anymore or goes to bad parties.

We talk about her changes and improvements. Alicia told me that one night her boyfriend came over and wanted her to break the law of chastity. She was about to give in when she saw in her mind a flashback of all the improvements she's made and how proud she is of herself. She wasn't willing to throw it all away. So she said no and broke up with him. That was the greatest thing for me to hear from her, and I am so proud of her.

Missionary work truly can occur by example as we live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Name withheld

* Name has been changed

STRENGTHENED BY PERSONAL PROGRESS

First finished Personal Progress right before the new value, Virtue, came out. My Young Women leaders encouraged me to wait to get my Young Womanhood Recognition until I completed the new value, so I agreed to do so. I had no idea what was in store for me. We received the new booklet, I completed the Virtue experiences, and then I saw the Virtue project: read the entire Book of Mormon. I hate to admit it, but I had never read the

MY CAMP DECISION

Last August, I had an important decision to make. I could either go to Young Women camp with my ward or attend a volleyball camp. I would be trying out for the volleyball team at school, and the volleyball camp was highly encouraged. It showed you were dedicated if you attended it. I had been praying about whether I should go to Young Women camp or volleyball camp. I had a strong impression to go

to Young Women camp.

The biggest lesson I learned at Young Women camp was about blessings we receive when we follow the Lord. The following week, I went to tryouts. I made the volleyball team and progressed to varsity at the end of the season. My testimony grew immensely.

I know whenever we are faced with decisions, we can pray and receive answers.

Tiare G., Utah, USA

For more on Young Women camp, see page 24.



Book of Mormon cover to cover. This was my new challenge for the year.

Over the year, I read the Book of Mormon from beginning to end. When I completed my reading, my testimony had grown so much! The stories came alive, and reading the scriptures gave me a lot of spiritual advice. I encourage everyone to read it, discover for yourself the blessings, and help your testimony grow. It will change your life. Even if you just read for a set number of minutes every day, you will learn so much. After receiving my Young Womanhood Recognition, I decided I would wear my necklace every day to remind myself of the promises and covenants I have made with Heavenly Father and the many things I learned from reading the Book of Mormon. I am so thankful that my Young Women leaders encouraged me to complete the Virtue value. I hope you will take the challenge to read the Book of Mormon and let it touch your life.

Abbie S., Utah, USA

I SAID HELLO

About a month into the school year, I was sitting in my drama class listening to two young women talk about a new kid in the class. I could see that many students were talking to him. At first I thought nothing of it, but then I had the feeling that I should go over and talk to him. So I sat down next to him and said hello. I found out he was a fellow skateboarder.

We clicked from the beginning, and it didn't take long before we were skateboarding every day after school. He has now become one of my best friends. He even came to seminary once and was able to learn a little more about the Church. I'm glad that Heavenly Father prompted me to simply go over and say hi. I know that Heavenly Father cares about me and will prompt me in little things like that.

Benjamin F., Georgia, USA

HOW TO ENDURE TO THE END



Elder L. Tom Perry

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

I pray, asking for strength.
Delton D.

I read my journals. It reminds me that God has always helped me before when I needed it, and He will help me again.
Louisa Jo S.

I just hang on and know everything must happen for a reason and for the greatest good/teachings/lessons. I also surround myself with loving, supportive, wonderful people!
Michael T.

I look back to the day I got baptized, and that makes me feel inspired.
Carlos D.

Enduring to the end requires faithfulness to the end, as in the case of Paul, who told Timothy, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). Obviously, this is not an easy task. It is intended to be difficult, challenging, and, ultimately, refining as we prepare to return to live with our Father in Heaven and receive eternal blessings.

Enduring to the end is definitely not a do-it-yourself project.

1. It requires the Savior’s redemptive power. We cannot return to our Heavenly Father’s presence unless we are clean, and so we must continue to repent. Ideally, we repent moment by moment, but we also attend sacrament meeting each week to partake of the sacrament and renew our baptismal covenants.

2. Enduring to the end requires the Holy Ghost, who will both guide and sanctify us.



3. We must be an integral part of a community of Saints, serving and receiving service from our brothers and sisters in the gospel. With baptism we become part of the body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:11–13); each of us has a role to play, each of us is important, but in order to succeed we must be unified in our Savior.

4. We must share the gospel with others. The promises of bringing even one soul unto the Lord are profound and eternal (see D&C 18:15). Moreover, the gospel takes deeper root in those who share it frequently.

5. We must always maintain faith and hope in Christ to endure to the end, and among the many ways we do this are praying, fasting, and reading the scriptures. These practices will fortify us against the subtle schemes and fiery darts of the adversary.

I love the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it defines the way we can partake of the fruits of the gospel, experience the “exceedingly great joy” (1 Nephi 8:12) that only it can bring, and endure to the end through all of the challenges of mortal life. The gospel teaches us all we need to know to return to live with our Father in Heaven as resurrected and glorified beings. May all of us maintain in our minds the vision of eternal life. May we be diligent in following the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we endure to the end. **NE**

From the April 2008 general conference address “The Gospel of Jesus Christ,” Ensign, May 2008, 46.

Share Your Experiences

Share *your* experiences in applying this principle and read the experiences of other youth by going to lds.org/go/62D.



Unknown World

By Maryn Plitt

I am like a Butterfly
Ready or not
To spread my wings
Into an unknown world
Of flying
Breaking free of that shell
Transforming me
Into the person I will be
In the unknown world

WHAT'S ONLINE

Restoration of the Priesthood

On pages 4–9 of this issue, you'll learn about the duties of the Aaronic Priesthood.

You can also watch a video about how the priesthood was restored and how it

blesses lives today at mormon.org/restoration. On that website, you'll also find a video about how God speaks to us through prayer.



More on Young Women Camp

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Young Women camp (see pages 24–27), the Mormon Channel created a special episode about the history of these camps. Tune in to hear the episode at lds.org/go/62E.



"The Rescue: Cole's Story"

President Thomas S. Monson frequently invites us to reach out and rescue those who are inactive or need our help. See how young men helped a friend return to activity in the Church both before and after their missions as part of their priesthood duty and their love for that friend. View the video at lds.org/go/62F, and think about whom you can reach out to today.

