

THE **New Era**

**NOVEMBER
2011**

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Dieter F. Uchtdorf

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the Twelve Apostles:**

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Cook, D. Todd Christofferson,
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Malm

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New Era
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Prophet

President Thomas S. Monson



You Can Know for Yourself

“In order for us to be strong and to withstand all the forces pulling us in the wrong direction or all the voices encouraging us to take the wrong

path, we must have our own testimony. Whether you are 12 or 112—or anywhere in between—you can know for yourself that the gospel of Jesus Christ is true. Read the Book of Mormon. Ponder its teachings. Ask Heavenly Father if it is true. We have the promise that ‘if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost’ (Moroni 10:4).”

Dare to Stand Alone

“I believe my first experience in having the courage of my convictions took place when I served in the United States Navy near the end of World War II.

“Navy boot camp was not an easy experience for me, nor for anyone who endured it. For the first three weeks I was convinced my life was in jeopardy. The navy wasn’t trying to train me; it was trying to kill me.

“I shall ever remember when Sunday rolled around after the first week. We received welcome news from the chief petty officer. Standing at attention on the drill ground in a brisk California breeze, we heard his command: “Today

everybody goes to church—everybody, that is, except for me. I am going to relax!’ Then he shouted, ‘All of you Catholics, you meet in Camp Decatur—and don’t come back until three o’clock. Forward, march!’ A rather sizeable contingent moved out. Then he barked out his next command, ‘Those of you who are Jewish, you meet in Camp Henry—and don’t come back until three o’clock. Forward, march!’ A somewhat smaller contingent marched out. Then he said, ‘The rest of you Protestants, you meet in the theaters at Camp Farragut—and don’t come back until three o’clock. Forward, march!’

“Instantly there flashed through my mind the thought, ‘Monson, you are not a Catholic; you are not a Jew; you are not a Protestant. You are a Mormon, so you just stand here!’ I can assure you that I felt completely alone. Courageous and determined, yes—but alone.

“And then I heard the sweetest words I ever heard that chief petty officer utter. He looked in my direction and asked,



President Monson said, “It is my prayer that we may be filled with the Spirit of the Lord as we listen to the messages [from this conference] and learn those things the Lord would have us know.”

This section points out some messages especially pertinent to youth and is designed to help you in your study of general conference. You can read all the messages in this month’s Ensign magazine.

*You can also view video, download MP3s, or read the text of conference online at conference.lds.org. **NE***

I really enjoyed President Monson's talk about prayer. Prayer can help us build a strong relationship with our Heavenly Father. Hearing this, I felt the Spirit strongly and realized how blessed I am. I know that Heavenly Father is a real Being and that He knows and loves me. I am thankful for prayer.

Shanalee W., 14, Utah, USA

'And just what do you guys call yourselves?' Until that very moment I had not realized that anyone was standing beside me or behind me on the drill ground. Almost in unison, each of us replied, 'Mormons!' It is difficult to describe the joy that filled my heart as I turned around and saw a handful of other sailors.

"The chief petty officer scratched his head in an expression of puzzlement but finally said, 'Well, go find somewhere to meet. And don't come back until three o'clock. Forward, march!'

"As we marched away, I thought of the words of a rhyme I had learned in Primary years before:

*Dare to be a Mormon;
Dare to stand alone.
Dare to have a purpose firm;
Dare to make it known.*

"Since that day there have been times when there was no one standing behind me and so I *did* stand alone. How grateful I am that I made the decision long ago to remain strong and true, always prepared and ready to defend my religion, should the need arise."

God's Laws Remain Constant

"Although the world has changed, the laws of God remain constant. They have not changed; they will not change. The Ten Commandments are just that—commandments. They are *not* suggestions. They are every bit as requisite today as they were when God gave them to the



children of Israel. If we but listen, we hear the echo of God's voice, speaking to us here and now. . . .

"Our code of conduct is definitive; it is not negotiable. It is found not only in the Ten Commandments but also in the Sermon on the Mount, given to us by the Savior when He walked upon the earth. It is found throughout His teachings. It is found in the words of modern revelation.

"Our Father in Heaven is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The prophet Mormon tells us that God is 'unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity' [Moroni 8:18]. In this world where nearly everything seems to be changing, His constancy is something on which we can rely, an anchor to which we can hold fast and be safe, lest we be swept away into uncharted waters."

How Blessed We Are

"I assure you that our Heavenly Father is mindful of the challenges we face in the world today. He loves each of us and will bless us as we strive to keep His commandments and seek Him through prayer.

"How blessed we are to have the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. It provides answers to the questions concerning where we came from, why we are here, and where we will go when we depart from this life. It gives meaning and purpose and hope to our lives."



See the Full Message

To view President Monson's full address from the Sunday morning session, visit lds.org/go/11A.

PREPARING AND

Serving

President Henry B. Eyring

First Counselor in the First Presidency

**A Sacred Charge**

“Every member of the Church has the same sacred charge. We accepted it and promised to rise to it as we were baptized. [See Mosiah 18:9.] . . .

“First, we promised to become charitable. Second, we promised to become witnesses of God. And third, we promised to endure.”

Drinking Deeply from the Book of Mormon

“The effect of the Book of Mormon on your character, power, and courage to be a witness for God is certain. The doctrine and the valiant examples in that book will lift, guide, and embolden you. . . .

“Prayerful study of the Book of Mormon will build faith in God the Father, in His Beloved Son, and in His gospel. It will build your faith in God’s prophets, ancient and modern.

“It can draw you closer to God than any other book. It can change a life for the better. . . .

“Your copy of the Book of Mormon may be hidden from your view by cares and attention to all you have accumulated in your journey. I plead with you to drink deeply and often from its pages. It has in it the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the only way home to God.”

Blessings of Service

“As you serve others for [the Lord], He lets you feel His love. And in time, feelings of charity become part of your very nature. . . . As you persist in serving others in life . . . all will be well with you.”

Priesthood Preparation

“Most of us wonder to ourselves at times, ‘Am I prepared for this assignment in the priesthood?’ My answer is ‘Yes, you have been prepared.’ . . .

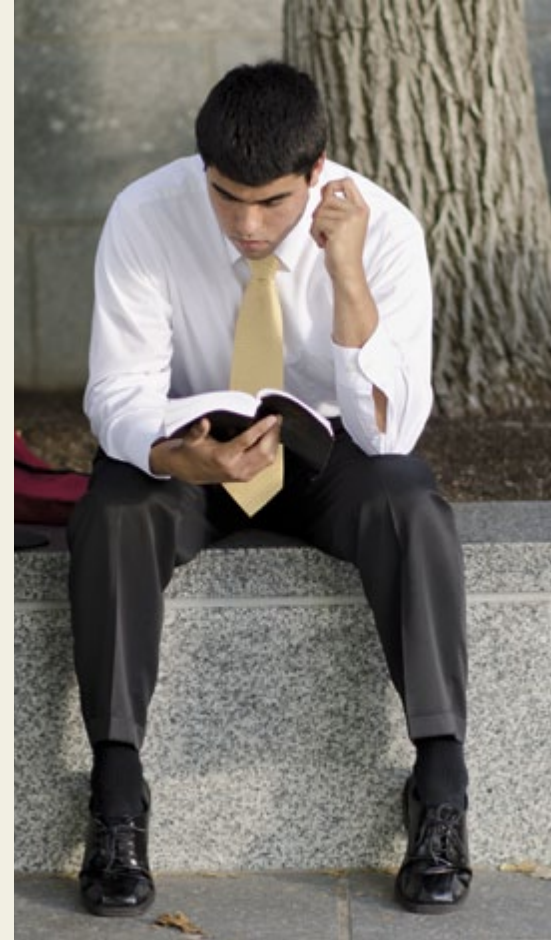
“We may come to think of priesthood preparation as occurring in the Aaronic Priesthood years. But our Heavenly Father has been preparing us since we were taught at His knee in His kingdom before we were born. . . . And He will continue to prepare us as long as we will let Him.

“The purpose of all priesthood preparation, in the preexistence and in this life, is to fit us and those we serve for Him for eternal life. . . .

“Don’t worry about how inexperienced you are but think about what, with the Lord’s help, you can become.”

**See the Full Message**

To view President Eyring’s full address from the Sunday morning session, visit lds.org/go/11B.



I recently received my patriarchal blessing, and I was surprised to hear in conference many of the things addressed in my blessing. I loved President Henry B. Eyring’s talk about standing as a witness of Christ. I felt that phrase was repeated often in conference, and I want to do that now more than ever.

Olivia N., 16, Utah, USA

God's Love

AND OUR DUTY

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Second Counselor in the First Presidency



You Are Not Forgotten

“No matter how dark your days may seem, no matter how insignificant

you may feel, no matter how overshadowed you think you may be, your Heavenly Father has not forgotten you. In fact, He loves you, with an infinite love. . . .

“The love of God is redemptive and saving. If you will only allow His divine love into your life, it can dress any wound, heal any hurt, and soften any sorrow.”

“This is a paradox of man: compared to God, man is nothing; yet we are everything to God. While against the backdrop of infinite creation we

may appear to be nothing, we have a spark of eternal fire burning within our breast. . . .

“The Lord doesn’t care at all if we spend our days working in marble halls or stable stalls. He knows where we are, no matter how humble our circumstances. He will use—in His own way and for His holy purposes—those who incline their hearts to Him. . . .

“God sees you not only as a mortal being on a small planet who lives for a brief season—He sees you as His child. He sees you as the being you are capable and designed to become. He wants you to know that you matter to Him.”

We Must All Help Each Other

“This very hour there are many members of the Church who are

suffering. They are hungry, stretched financially, and struggling with all manner of physical, emotional, and spiritual distress. They pray with all the energy of their souls for succor, for relief.

“. . . Please do not think that this is someone else’s responsibility. It is mine, and it is yours. We are all enlisted. ‘All’ means all. . . . In the Lord’s plan, there is something everyone can contribute. . . .

“The temporal is intertwined with the spiritual. God has given us this mortal experience and the temporal challenges that attend it as a laboratory where we can grow into the beings Heavenly Father wants us to become.”



See the Full Message

To view President Uchtdorf’s full address from the Saturday morning session, visit lds.org/go/11C.



President Dieter F. Uchtdorf’s talk was the one that hit me the most. I now know that there is a Heavenly Father and that He loves and cares for me. There is someone who listens to my prayers and answers them, no matter how messed up I feel. Heavenly Father loves me.

Courtney N., 15, Idaho, USA

Topics

FROM CONFERENCE

SHE KNEW IT WAS TRUE

Some years ago I attended one of our worship services in Toronto, Canada. A 14-year-old girl was the speaker. She said that she had been discussing religion with one of her friends at school. Her friend said to her, “What religion do you belong to?”

She replied, “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or Mormons.”

Her friend replied, “I know that church, and I know it’s not true.”

“How do you know?” came the reply.

“Because,” said her friend, “I have researched it.”

“Have you read the Book of Mormon?”

“No,” came the answer. “I haven’t.”

Then this sweet young girl responded, “Then you haven’t researched my church, because I have read every page of the Book of Mormon and I know it’s true.”

I too have read every page of the Book of Mormon, again and again, and I bear my solemn witness . . . it is from God.

Elder Tad R. Callister of the Presidency of the Seventy

General conference was so wonderful. The Spirit was in abundance. The talks have strengthened my testimony and given me a desire to be a better person.

James D., 16, Wales, UK

After this conference, I felt like I should reach out to more people and share the gospel with them. I also felt that just because people refer to us as Mormons doesn’t mean we can’t explain that the real name is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jessamyne C., 14, Washington, USA



THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

It has been my experience that you who serve as deacons, teachers, and priests are as willing, reliable, and capable in doing your duty as we expect you to be. We admire you. Your vitality is infectious, your abilities astounding, your association invigorating. You and the Aaronic Priesthood office you hold are essential to Heavenly Father’s work with His children and the preparation of this earth for the Second Coming of His holy Son.

Bishop Keith B. McMullin, second counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

AGENCY AND CHOICE

We cannot successfully choose both the safety of righteousness and the dangers of worldliness. . . . Your eternal destiny will not be the result of chance but of choice. It is never too late to begin to *choose eternal life!*

Elder Randall K. Bennett of the Seventy

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS”

Do we realize how blessed we are to take upon us the name of God’s Beloved and Only Begotten Son? Do we understand how significant that is? The Savior’s name is the only name under heaven by which man can be saved (see 2 Nephi 31:21). . . .

The name the Savior has given to His Church tells us exactly who we are and what we believe.

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

COVENANTS

At baptism we covenant to serve the Lord and keep His commandments. When we partake of the sacrament, we renew that covenant and declare our willingness to take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ. . . .

The greatest compliment that can be earned here in this life is to be known as a covenant keeper.

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Keeping covenants is true joy and happiness. This is comfort and peace. This is protection from the evils of the world.

Barbara Thompson, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency

EXAMPLE

Our lives should be examples of goodness and virtue as we try to emulate His example to the world. Good works by each of us can do credit both to the Savior and His Church. As you are engaged in doing good, being honorable and upright men and women, the Light of Christ will be reflected by your lives.

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



**"IT IS BETTER
TO LOOK UP!"**

At the end of a particularly tiring day toward the end of my first week as a General Authority, my briefcase was over-

loaded and my mind was preoccupied with the question "How can I possibly do this?" I left the office of the Seventy and entered the elevator of the Church Administration Building. As the elevator descended, my head was down and I stared blankly at the floor.

The door opened and someone entered, but I didn't look up. As the door closed, I heard someone ask, "What are you looking at down there?" I recognized that voice—it was President Thomas S. Monson.

I quickly looked up and responded, "Oh, nothing." . . .

But he had seen my subdued countenance and my heavy briefcase. He smiled and lovingly suggested, while pointing heavenward, "It is better to look up!" As we traveled down one more level, he cheerfully explained that he was on his way to the temple. When he bid me farewell, his parting glance spoke to my heart, "Now, remember, it is better to look up." . . .

President Monson's encouragement to look up is a metaphor for remembering Christ. As we remember Him and trust in His power, we receive strength through His Atonement. It is the means whereby we can be relieved of our anxieties, our burdens, and our suffering. It is the means whereby we can be forgiven and healed from the pain of our sins. It is the means whereby we can receive the faith and strength to endure all things.

Elder Carl B. Cook of the Seventy

General conference really gave my week a nice wrap-up and a great start to this week. All the General Authorities covered everything I needed to hear—from making the right choices to prioritizing, fulfilling responsibilities, and magnifying our callings. It reminded me of the things I need to do as preparations to serving a mission. Thanks for all the wonderful talks. I am proud to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!

Meise P., American Samoa

This general conference was one of the best I have ever listened to. I had the opportunity to get an answer to my prayers summarized all in one talk during the very first session. I hope to continue to strive to follow President Monson and all of the General Authorities' counsel in my daily life.

Nathan P., 15, Utah, USA



FAMILY

It is a crowning privilege of a husband and wife who are able to bear children to provide mortal bodies for these spirit children of God. We believe in families, and we believe in children.

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



FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

We are followers of Jesus Christ. Our citizenship is in His Church and His gospel, and we should not use a visa to visit Babylon. . . . We should honor His name, keep His commandments, and “seek not the things of this world but seek . . . first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33, footnote a; from Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 6:38).

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

HEAVENLY FATHER

We are Heavenly Father’s children. He wants to be a part of our lives, to bless us, and to help us. He will heal our wounds, dry our tears, and help us along our path to return to His presence. As we look to Him, He will lead us.

Elder Carl B. Cook of the Seventy

JESUS CHRIST

We declare our belief in Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Savior. He will bless us and guide us in all of our efforts. As we labor here

in mortality, He will strengthen us and bring us peace in the time of trials. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints walk by faith in Him whose Church it is.

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Our most important message, which we are both divinely commissioned and commanded to take everywhere in the world, is that there is a Savior. He lived in the meridian of time. He atoned for our sins, was crucified, and was resurrected.

Elder L. Whitney Clayton of the Presidency of the Seventy

JOY

I have found that one of the secrets to a joyful life is to recognize that doing things the Lord’s way will make me happier than doing things my way.

Elder J. Devn Cornish of the Seventy

MISSIONARY PREPARATION

In almost all athletic contests of which I know, there are lines drawn on the floor or

the field within which every participant must stay in order to compete. Well, the Lord has drawn lines of worthiness for those called to labor with Him in this work. No missionary can be unrepentant of sexual transgression or profane language or pornographic indulgence and then expect to challenge others to repent of those very things!

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

As you prepare to serve, there is much to do. . . .

Arrive on your mission with your own testimony of the Book of Mormon, obtained through study and prayer. . . .

Arrive on your mission worthy of the companionship of the Holy Ghost. . . .

Arrive on your mission ready to work.

Elder W. Christopher Waddell of the Seventy

I speak to . . . all of you preparing to serve missions. . . .

People all over the world are waiting for you. Please go quickly to where they are.

Elder Kazuhiko Yamashita of the Seventy

THE LORD KNEW WHERE TO SEND HIM



I love the fact that conference is for everyone but that you can get something just for you out of every talk. I've been struggling with forgiving someone, and the talk by Elder J. Devn Cornish of the Seventy helped remind me that if I truly want to get over it, I need to ask the Lord for help and He will take away the burden.

Kelsey R., 16, Wyoming, USA

The words of the Lord's prophets and apostles are true. There is no doubt in my mind that these men are called of God to lead our generation into the events preceding the Second Coming.

Brandon C., 14, New Jersey, USA

Prophets, seers, and revelators assign missionaries under the direction and influence of the Holy Ghost. Inspired mission presidents direct transfers every six weeks and quickly learn that the Lord knows exactly where He wants each missionary to serve.

A few years ago, Elder Javier Misiego, from Madrid, Spain, was serving a full-time mission in Arizona. At that time, his mission call to the United States appeared somewhat unusual, as most young men from Spain were being called to serve in their own country.

At the conclusion of a stake fireside, where he and his companion had been invited to participate, Elder Misiego was approached by a less-active member of the Church who had been brought by a friend. It was the first time this man had been inside a chapel in years. Elder Misiego was asked if he might know a José Misiego in Madrid. When Elder Misiego responded that his father's name was José Misiego, the man excitedly asked a few more questions to confirm that this was *the* José Misiego. When it was determined that they were speaking about the same man, this less-active member began to weep. "Your father was the only person I baptized during my entire mission," he explained and described how his mission had been, in his mind, a failure. He attributed his years of inactivity to some feelings of inadequacy and concern, believing that he had somehow let the Lord down.

Elder Misiego then described what this supposed failure of a missionary meant to his family. He told him that his father, baptized as a young single adult, had married in the temple, that Elder Misiego was the fourth of six children, that all three boys and a sister had served full-time missions, that all were active in the Church, and that all who were married had been sealed in the temple.

The less-active returned missionary began to sob. Through his efforts, he now learned, scores of lives had been blessed, and the Lord had sent an elder from Madrid, Spain, all the way to a fireside in Arizona to let him know that he had not been a failure. The Lord knows where He wants each missionary to serve. . . .

Now, to the young men who have yet to serve a full-time mission, . . .

Just as with missionaries past and present, the Lord knows you and has a mission experience prepared for you. He knows your mission president and his wonderful wife. . . . He knows each of your companions and what you will learn from them. He knows each area in which you will labor, the members you will meet, the people you will teach, and the lives you will impact for eternity.

Elder W. Christopher Waddell of the Seventy

MISSIONARY WORK

Missionary work isn't the only thing we need to do in this big, wide, wonderful Church. But almost everything else we need to do depends on people first hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ and coming into the faith.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Today's "manner of conversation" seems to involve the Internet more and more. We encourage people, young and old, to use the Internet and the social media to reach out and share their religious beliefs.

As you utilize the Internet, you may come across ongoing conversations about the Church. When directed by the Spirit, do not hesitate to add your voice to these conversations.

The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is unlike anything else you will share with others. In the information age, it is the most valuable information in all the world.

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Righteousness, prayer, and faithfulness will not always result in happy endings in mortality. Many will experience severe trials. When this happens, the very act of having faith and seeking priesthood blessings is approved by God. . . .

. . . Adverse results in this mortal life are not evidence of lack of faith or of an imperfection in our Father in Heaven's overall plan. The refiner's fire is real, and qualities of character and righteousness that are forged in the furnace of affliction perfect and purify us and prepare us to meet God.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

PRAYER

We must not imagine that any kind of prayer, no matter how sincere, will be very effective if all we do is to say the prayer. We must not only say our prayers; we must also live them. The Lord is much more pleased with the person who prays and then goes to work

than with the person who only prays. Much like medicine, prayer works only when we use it as directed.

Elder J. Devn Cornish of the Seventy

PROPHETS

Our living prophets, seers, and revelators both see and seek to warn us of the often subtle but dangerous worldly currents that threaten us. They lovingly invite, encourage, teach, remind, and warn us. They know that our safety depends on choosing to follow (1) the insights we gain during daily scripture study, pondering, and prayer, (2) the guidance of the Holy Ghost, and (3) their prophetic counsel. They know that there is safety and ultimately joy only in and through our Savior, Jesus Christ, and living His gospel.

Elder Randall K. Bennett of the Seventy



REAL MISSIONARIES

Many years ago I was with my companion at the missionary training center when I heard the voice of a child say, “Grandma, are those *real* missionaries?” I turned to see a young girl holding her grandmother’s hand and pointing at me and my companion. I smiled, extended my hand, looked her square in the eye, and said, “Hello, I am Elder Richardson, and we are *real* missionaries.” Her face beamed as she looked at me, thrilled that she was in the company of genuine missionaries. I walked away from that experience with renewed dedication. I wanted to be the type of missionary that the Savior, my family, and this young girl expected me to be. For the next two years, I worked hard to look like, think like, act like, and especially to teach like a *real* missionary.

Upon my return home, it became increasingly apparent that even though I had left my mission, my mission didn’t leave me. In fact, even after all these years, I still feel that my mission was the best two years *for* my life.

Matthew O. Richardson, second counselor in the Sunday School general presidency

REPENTANCE

Without repentance, there is no real progress or improvement in life. Pretending there is no sin does not lessen its burden and pain. Suffering for sin does not by itself change anything for the better. Only repentance leads to the sunlit uplands of a better life. . . . Rather than interrupting the celebration, the gift of repentance is the cause for true celebration.

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

If we repent, we can be forgiven of our sins, the price having been paid by our Redeemer. . . . Those who have strayed significantly from the paths of righteousness desperately need this redemption, and if they fully repent, it is theirs to claim. But those who have worked hard to live good lives also desperately need this redemption, for none can get to the presence of the Father without Christ’s help.

Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr. of the Seventy

SCRIPTURES

Scriptures are like packets of light that illuminate our minds and give place to guidance and inspiration from on high. They can become the key to open the channel to communion with our Father in Heaven and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. . . .

Scriptures can communicate different meanings at different times in our life, according to our needs. A scripture that we may have read many times can take on nuances of meaning that are refreshing and insightful when we face a new challenge in life.

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



SERVICE

For many who have need of our help, it is not necessary to create new programs or take actions which are complicated or costly. They only need our determination to serve—to do the right thing at the right time, without delay.

Elder José L. Alonso of the Seventy

Providing service and extending charity toward others helps us overcome our own difficulties and makes them seem less challenging.

Silvia H. Allred, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency

TECHNOLOGY

Electronic games and cyber acquaintances are no lasting substitute for real friends who can give an encouraging hug, who can pray for us and seek after our best interest. . . .

I know our greatest happiness comes as we tune in to the Lord (see Alma 37:37) and to those things which bring a lasting reward, rather than mindlessly tuning in to countless hours of status updates, Internet farming, and catapulting angry birds at concrete walls. I urge each of us to take those things which rob us of precious time and determine to be their master, rather than allowing them through their addictive nature to be the master of us.

Elder Ian S. Ardern of the Seventy

TEMPLE MARRIAGE

A temple marriage for time and all eternity is worthy of your greatest efforts and highest priority.

Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president

WOMANHOOD

From the day the gospel began to be restored in this dispensation, the Lord has needed faithful women to participate as His disciples.

Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president



Conference made me more motivated to memorize scriptures and work on family history. I like conference because it helps me to do better.

Emily P., 16, Oregon, USA

I have noticed that when I take notes on the general conference talks I get more out of them. I loved how Elder Richard G. Scott considered the scriptures as friends and how they can be with you forever. I am going to try hard to memorize each scripture mastery in seminary so I can better understand the gospel and teach others about it.

Cassandra A., 14, New York, USA

I loved what Sister Dalton said to the men about raising daughters. That's exactly what every girl needs—a man who will love his family unconditionally and lead them to the temple!

Jacie R., 14, Utah, USA

Before I started watching conference, I wrote down some topics I wanted to learn about. One of the topics I wrote down was time. I was really grateful for Elder Ardern's talk about prioritizing my time. This talk taught me things I can do to save more time. I also liked Sister Dalton's talk. I hope the relationship between me and my father will continue to grow as we follow Sister Dalton's counsel.

Jamie H., 14, California, USA

FINDING

Answers



In my seminary class we were told to write down a few questions we wanted answered during general conference. I'm so glad we did, because all of my questions were answered! A lot of the talks focused on how important the Holy Ghost is in our lives. I think it is a huge blessing to have the Holy Ghost, and I really want to start paying more attention to His guidance in my everyday life.

Katie M., 15, Texas, USA

When we pray for a desire to learn and put forth effort to get something out of conference, we can gain precious truths that will help us in our everyday struggles!

Brandon R., 16, Arizona, USA

What do I do if I feel lonely or unimportant?

No matter where you live, no matter how humble your circumstances, how meager your employment, how limited your abilities, [or] how ordinary your appearance, . . . you are not invisible to your Heavenly Father. He loves you. He knows your humble heart and your acts of love and kindness. Together, they form a lasting testimony of your fidelity and faith.

Please understand that what you see and experience now is not what forever will be. You will not feel loneliness, sorrow, pain, or discouragement forever. We have the faithful promise of God that He will neither forget nor forsake those who incline their hearts to Him. Have hope and faith in that promise. Learn to love your Heavenly Father and become



His disciple in word and in deed.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

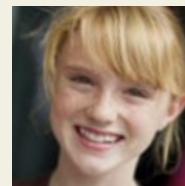
I've made a big mistake, and I feel like I'm lost and can't repent. What can I do?

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! Only repentance can heal what hurts. But repentance *can* heal what hurts, no matter what it is.

If you are slipping into things that you should not slip into or if you are associating with people who are pulling you the wrong direction, that is the time to assert your independence, your agency. Listen to the voice of the Spirit, and you will not be led astray.

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Why do I sometimes not get answers to my prayers?

In my life I have



If you listen to general conference, you can often find answers to the questions that concern you.

learned that sometimes I do not receive an answer to a prayer because the Lord knows I am not ready. When He does answer, it is often “here a little and there a little” because that is all that I can bear or all I am willing to do.



... As a young man, President David O. McKay prayed for a witness of the truthfulness of the gospel. Many years later, while he was serving his mission in Scotland, that witness finally came. Later he wrote, “It was an assurance to me that sincere prayer is answered ‘sometime, somewhere’” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* [2003], xviii).

We may not know when or how the Lord’s answers will be given, but in His time and His way, I testify, His answers will come. For some answers we may have to wait until the hereafter. This may be true for some promises in our patriarchal blessings and for some blessings for family members. Let us not give up on the Lord. His blessings are eternal, not temporary.

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

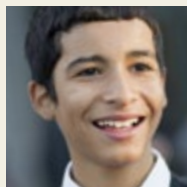
Sometimes we seem to get no answer to our sincere and striving prayers. It takes faith to remember that the Lord answers in His time and in His way so as to best bless us. Or, on further reflection, we will often

realize that we already know full well what we should do.

Elder J. Devn Cornish of the Seventy

What do I need to know about Satan?

Number one, Satan or Lucifer or the Father of Lies—call him what you will—is real, the very personification of evil. His motives are in every case malicious, and he convulses at the appearance of redeeming light, at the very thought of truth. Number two, he is eternally opposed to the love of God, the Atonement of Jesus Christ, and the work of peace and salvation. He will fight against these whenever and wherever he can. He knows he will be defeated and cast out in the end, but he is determined to take down with him as many others as he possibly can. . . .



Satan cannot directly take a life. That is one of many things he cannot do. But apparently

his effort to stop the work will be reasonably well served if he can just bind the tongue of the faithful.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Why do we need the Book of Mormon when we have the Bible?

The Bible is one witness of Jesus Christ; the Book of Mormon is another. Why is this second witness

so crucial? The following illustration may help: How many straight lines can you draw through a single point on a piece of paper? The answer is infinite. For a moment suppose that single point represents the Bible and that hundreds of those straight lines drawn through that point represent different interpretations of the Bible and that each of those interpretations represents a different church.



What happens, however, if on that piece of paper there is a second point representing the Book of Mormon? How many straight lines could you



Elder Tad R. Callister's talk made me realize that when someone questions me about the Church, it could be because they view the Bible differently and don't have the Book of Mormon, so they don't have the same interpretation as me.

Cassandra H., 13, Alabama, USA

I took notes while listening to all of the speakers. I love doing this because I'm able to feel an added measure of the Spirit, and because of this I'm able to have amazing spiritual experiences and receive new revelation in my life.

Aaron F., 18, Virginia, USA

I felt that general conference has been spiritually edifying, because the General Authorities of the Church have such a positive attitude towards us and are always there to lift us up in comfort.

Sean F., 16, Illinois, USA

draw between these two reference points: the Bible and the Book of Mormon? Only one. Only one interpretation of Christ's doctrines survives the testimony of these two witnesses.

Elder Tad R. Callister of the Presidency of the Seventy

How can I teach by the Spirit in sacrament and quorum meetings?

Real learning . . . depends on real teaching. . . .

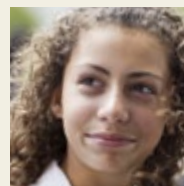
. . . We must fully realize that it is the Holy Ghost who is the real teacher and witness of all truth. Those who do not fully understand this either try to take over for the Holy Ghost and do everything themselves, politely invite the Spirit to be with them but only in a supporting role, or believe they are turning all their teaching over to the Spirit when, in truth, they are actually just "winging it." All . . . teachers have the responsibility to teach "by the Spirit." They should not teach "in front of the Spirit" or "behind the Spirit" but "by the Spirit" so the Spirit can teach the truth unrestrained. . . .

The Holy Ghost teaches individuals in a very personal way.

Matthew O. Richardson, second counselor in the Sunday School general presidency

How can I receive personal revelation?

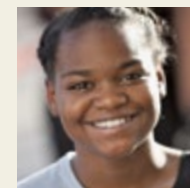
The way to receive personal revelation is really quite clear. We need to desire to receive revelation, we must not harden our hearts, and then we need to ask in faith, truly believe



that we will receive an answer, and then diligently keep the commandments of God.

Following this pattern does not mean that every time we ask a question of God, the answer will immediately appear with every detail of what to do. . . .

Most often personal revelation will come as we study the scriptures, listen to and follow the counsel of prophets and other Church leaders, and seek



to live faithful, righteous lives.



Sometimes inspiration will come from a single verse of scripture or from a line in a conference talk. Perhaps your answer will come when the Primary children are singing a beautiful song.

These are all forms of revelation.

Barbara Thompson, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency

What should I look forward to in Relief Society?

One of the Lord's primary purposes in organizing the Relief Society was to give the women the responsibility to help each other prepare "for the greater blessings of the priesthood found in the ordinances and covenants of the temple" (*Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* [2011], 131).

[You] should also know that the sisterhood of Relief Society can provide a place of safety, refuge, and protection. As our times become ever more difficult, the faithful sisters of Relief Society will help protect the homes of Zion from the shrill voices of the world

and the predatory and provocative influence of the adversary. And through Relief Society, . . . the influence of righteous women can bless many more of our Father's children.
Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president

What if I don't feel worthy to pray?

There is a risk that a person may not feel good enough to pray. This idea comes from that evil spirit, who is the one who teaches us not to pray (see 2 Nephi 32:8). It is as tragic to think we are too sinful to pray as it is for a very sick person to believe he is too sick to go to the doctor!

Elder J. Devn Cornish of the Seventy

Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?



Among the most frequently asked questions of Church leaders are: Why does a just God allow bad things to happen, especially to good people? Why are those who are right-

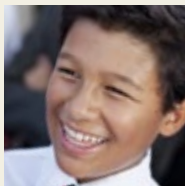


eous and in the Lord's service not immune from such tragedies?

While we do not know all the answers, we do know important principles that allow us to face tragedies with faith and confidence that there is a bright future planned for each of us. Some of the most important principles are:

First, we have a Father in Heaven, who knows and loves us personally and understands our suffering perfectly.

Second, His Son, Jesus Christ, is



our Savior and Redeemer, whose Atonement not only provides for salvation and exaltation but also will compensate for all the unfairness of life.



Third, the Father's plan of happiness for His children includes not only a premortal and mortal life but also an eternal life as well, including a great and glorious reunion with those we have lost. All wrongs will be righted, and we will see with perfect clarity and faultless perspective and understanding.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Why can't I do some of the things my nonmember friends are doing? They seem to be happy.

It may appear to you at times that those out in the world are having much more fun than you are. Some of you may feel restricted by the code of conduct to which we in the Church adhere. My brothers and sisters, I declare to you, however, that there



is *nothing* which can bring more joy into our lives or more peace to our souls than the Spirit which can come to us as we follow the Savior and keep the commandments. That



Spirit cannot be present at the kinds of activities in which so much of the world participates.

President Thomas S. Monson

The Apostles love us because they know who we are and they know our potential. I hope to someday be as great as they are and have their faith.

Sariah W., 18, Utah, USA

There were many things I learned and felt at general conference—and some things I felt were directed straight at me. I am excited to continue to grow and learn in the gospel and prepare myself for life after high school, which is fast approaching. Our leaders are truly inspired men and women, and I am so grateful for their love for us and of the Savior's love for me.

Victoria S., 17, Washington, USA



Two Calls

TO YOUTH

Elder David A. Bednar talked to the youth about how we should do family history. I went to the website he gave for the tutorial and got to work with my mom. We stayed up late, looking for our lost ancestors and finding temple work to be done. We are still finding people and are on the hunt for more. It feels so good to help our ancestors get their work done and, for the first time, be able to go to the temple for family members soon. I know they are on the other side of the veil encouraging us and helping us find them.

Bailey Y., 13, Alaska, USA

TO THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

There are thousands of Aaronic Priesthood—age young men already on the records of this Church who constitute our pool of candidates for future missionary service. But the challenge is to have those deacons, teachers, and priests stay active enough and worthy enough to be ordained elders and serve as missionaries. . . .

But there is an answer to this challenge for you every bit as much as there is for that investigator to whom you will go. Whoever you are and whatever you have done, you can be forgiven. Every one of you young men can leave behind any transgression with which you may struggle. You can do that. It is the miracle of forgiveness; it is the miracle of the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. But you can't do it without an active commitment to the gospel, and you can't do it without repentance where it is needed. I am asking you young men to be active and be clean. If required, I am saying *get* active and *get* clean. . . .

My young friends, we need tens of thousands of more missionaries in the months and years 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

AN INVITATION TO THE RISING GENERATION

It is no coincidence that FamilySearch and other tools have come forth at a time when young people are so familiar with a wide range of information and communication technologies. Your fingers have been trained to text and tweet to accelerate and advance the work of the Lord—not just to communicate quickly with your friends. The skills and aptitude evident among many young people today are a preparation to contribute to the work of salvation.

I invite the young people of the Church to learn about and experience the Spirit of Elijah. I encourage you to study, to search out your ancestors, and to prepare yourselves to perform proxy baptisms in the house of the Lord for *your* kindred dead (see D&C 124:28–36). And I urge you to help other people identify their family histories.

. . . Any young person can do what I am suggesting, using the modules available at lds.org/familyhistoryyouth.

. . . I know the youth of the rising generation have a key role to play in this great endeavor.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Attending conference in the United Kingdom



Learning FROM CONFERENCE

THE SCRIPTURES IN GENERAL CONFERENCE

Speakers in general conference taught us from the scriptures. You can learn a lot by simply looking up the scriptures they used. The following scriptures were referred to most often:

- 2 Nephi 32:3*
- Acts 10:34
- Mosiah 2:17*
- D&C 58:42*
- Mosiah 18:9
- 1 Timothy 4:12
- Moroni 7:47

Here are some other scriptures that were referred to more than once:

- Amos 3:7*
- John 14:6
- Mosiah 4:26
- Moroni 10:32
- Matthew 6:10
- 1 Corinthians 2:9
- Mosiah 18:8
- D&C 8:2*
- Matthew 6:33
- 1 Nephi 8:28
- Alma 13:2–3
- D&C 19:18*
- Matthew 22:37–40
- 2 Nephi 2:26
- Alma 13:18, 20
- D&C 20:77
- Luke 2:49
- 2 Nephi 25:23
- 3 Nephi 11:11
- D&C 121:46
- Luke 11:2
- 2 Nephi 25:26
- 3 Nephi 18:20
- D&C 122:7
- John 3:16
- 2 Nephi 28:30
- 3 Nephi 20:26
- Moses 1:39*
- John 6:38
- 2 Nephi 31:20
- Moroni 6:4
- Joseph Smith—
- John 7:17*
- Mosiah 3:19*
- Moroni 10:5*
- History 1:33

* Seminary scripture mastery verses



Watch Video Highlights for Youth

At youth.lds.org, you'll find short video highlights from conference made just for youth! Just click on "From Church Leaders" from the youth.lds.org home page, or go directly to lds.org/go/11D.

Find All of the Conference Talks

Read, watch, or listen to the full conference talks at conference.lds.org and in the November 2011 issue of the *Ensign* magazine. You can even download the talks as MP3 files to put on your mobile devices.

I was excited to hear the Church is building several new temples across the world. I am so excited for all of the members around the world who will now get to have the temple a little closer. Heavenly Father's work is amazing, and nothing is stopping it from coming forth!

Heather H., 17, Utah, USA

During conference I focused on what I could learn that would specifically help me in my life right now. I took notes during each of the sessions and tried to listen to the Spirit so I would know what to write down. After conference ended, I compiled a list of things I want to do and things I want to become. I have made a goal to work on one thing from each list each week so I can make sure I act on the words of the prophets instead of listening once and never thinking about it again. I know by focusing more intently on what I can do, I will be able to change and become more like my Savior.

Katie K., 18, Utah, USA

Wow. I can't believe I wrote that when I was 16.





Do You BELIEVE IN GOD



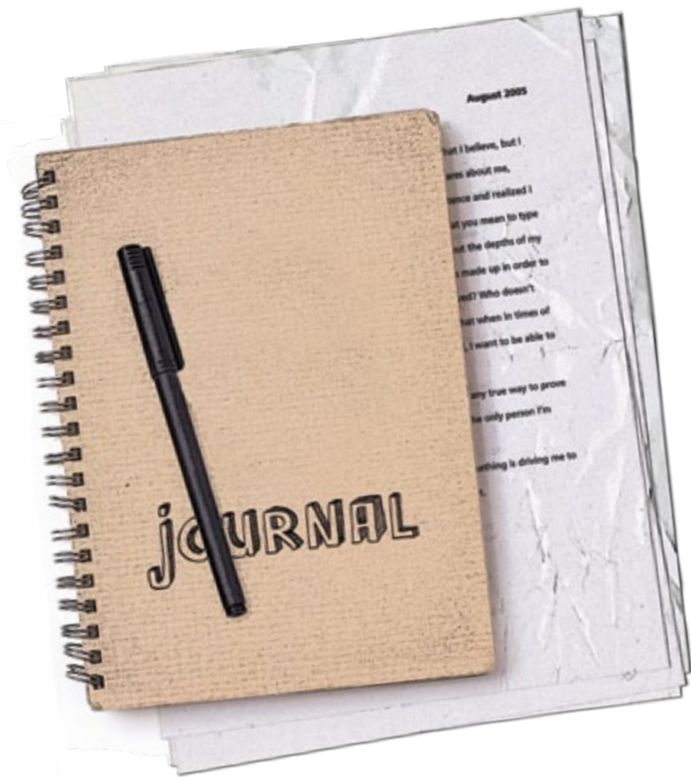
By Alexandria Larsen

My husband and I recently moved, and while unpacking, I came upon a box of my old writings. This is an excerpt from a journal entry I wrote when I was 16 years old. It was about a year after my mother died from cancer and before I was introduced to the gospel.

Do you believe in God, in a power, in a Creator? I don't know what I believe, but I love the idea of God. I love that there is someone who loves me, cares about me, protects me, and wants me to do His work. I look back on the sentence and realized I typed "I love that" instead of "I love the idea that."

It's funny what you mean to type and what you actually end up typing. I can't help but wonder about the depths of my subconscious. Sometimes I think God is just another thing humans made up in order to make themselves feel better, because who doesn't want to be loved? Who doesn't want the safety of a divine force? Who doesn't want to believe that when in times of hopelessness, they can count on God? But if I say I believe in God, I want to be able to say it from the depths of my soul. I want it to be a true belief.

Faith is what all religion is founded on. I don't believe there is any true way to prove



My conversion started long before I met the missionaries or was even introduced to the Church. As my journal entry testified to me, for a long time Heavenly Father had been softening my heart and helping me prepare to receive the gospel.

God exists. I don't need anyone else to believe it or validate it. The only person I'm struggling with is myself.

Now I'm crying. At this point in my life, I want to believe. Something is driving me to think about this so much it's hard for me to get to sleep at night.

After reading this, my eyes wandered to the top of the page where I had written the date, August 2005. I remembered that it was in September of 2005 that I became friends with some returned missionaries who introduced me to the Church. After going to church for several months and asking lots of questions, I decided I wanted to meet with the missionaries. I was baptized about two weeks later; it was the happiest day of my life.

Many people thought my conversion happened quickly—two weeks did not seem long enough. In truth, my conversion started long before I met the missionaries or was even introduced to the Church. As my journal entry testified to me, for a long time Heavenly Father had been softening my heart and helping me prepare to receive the gospel. I now realize more fully the truth in the

words spoken by Alma on faith: “And now as I said concerning faith—faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true” (Alma 32:21).

When I wrote that journal entry, I had far less than a perfect knowledge, but I did have a desire to believe. “But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words” (Alma 32:27).

It is easy to forget the miracles that happen in our everyday lives. It is easy to forget how Heavenly Father answers our prayers. Reading this helped me remember. This excerpt stands as a testimony to me that our Heavenly Father will not forget about us, that He knows us personally, and that He will help us if we will exercise our faith.

I can now say that there is a way to know the truth. I can now say from the depths of my soul that I know that God lives. **NE**

YOU CAN CONQUER
**GIANT
PROBLEMS**



*"With God all things are possible."
(Matthew 19:26.)*

By Mindy Raye Friedman

Church Magazines

*Finishing a 195-mile race isn't
so bad when you do it as a team.*

Running



Together



For a group of young men in Nevada, a journey of 195 miles started with service. It ended with goals accomplished, lessons learned, and bonds formed.

The idea for running the 195-mile relay race came when the young men, as a Scout troop, volunteered to set up and man some stations at the race the previous year.

"We thought it was pretty cool that people were running just for fun," says Carter M., 17. "Our group thought we wouldn't mind doing something like that."

A few months later, their Young Men president, Jon Wayne Nielsen, got serious about the idea and asked the boys if they really wanted to run the race. "He thought that would be something fun for us to do and something that would be a good experience," Andrew B., 18, says. The young men agreed and decided to participate in the race.

Training Time

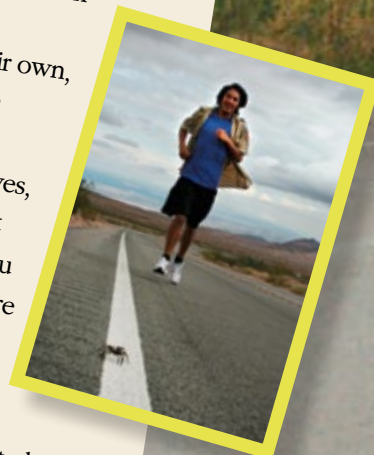
Many of the young men had never run long distances before, so they began training a couple of months before the race. They would train most days of the week.

"Starting out we would do 25 minutes, 30 minutes, or an hour," says Michael W., 13. "Then we started running 3 to 8 miles. Two weeks before the race, we did a qualifying run that was 10 miles, which we had to complete in order to run the race."

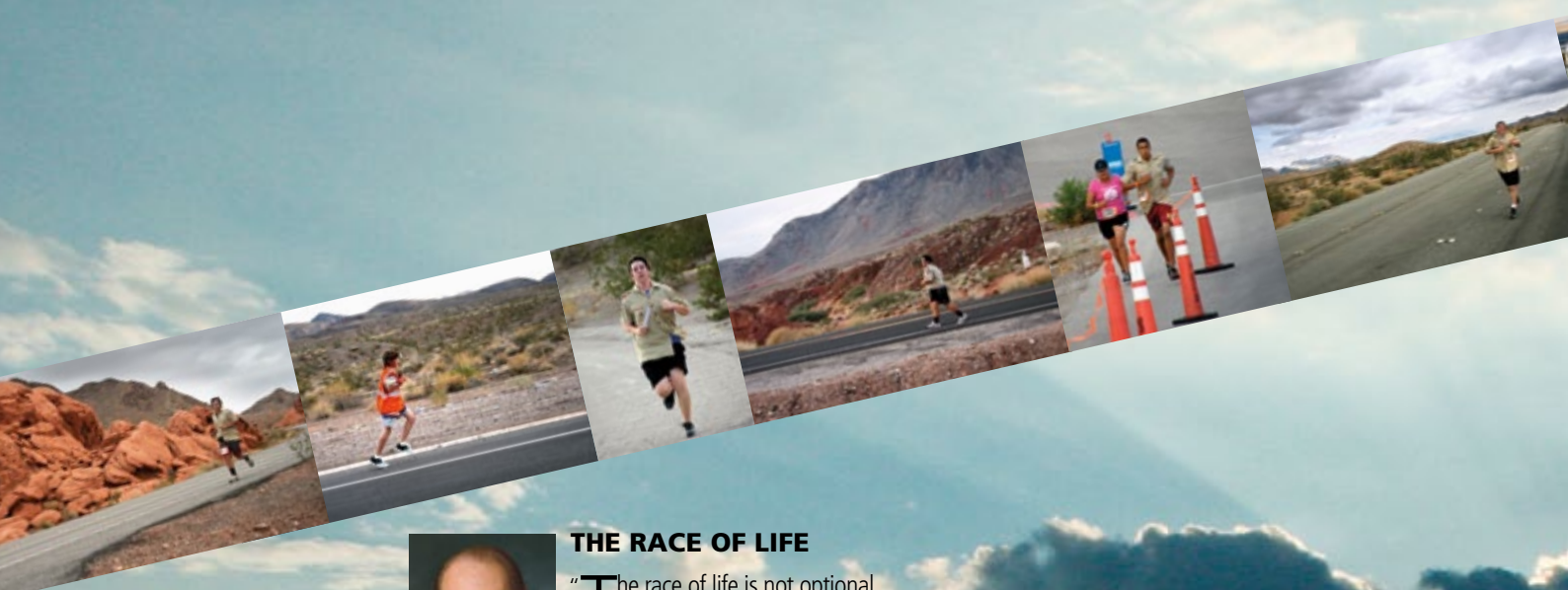
Some of the Scouts did the training on their own, and others ran together. "Having other people helped a lot," says Carson M., 15. "A lot of us thought that when we were running by ourselves, we were doing this all on our own, and it didn't really matter. Having your team running with you is more of a motivation, because you know you're going to be running with them in the race."

Race Day

Finally, the day of the race came, and Carter started off their two-day run at 7:30 a.m. on a Friday morning. Their team of 12 included 10 members of their Scout troop and 2 of their leaders. Each runner completed three legs of the race, ranging between 3 and 12 miles. They all ran in their Scout uniforms.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JON WAYNE NIELSEN



THE RACE OF LIFE

The race of life is not optional. We are on the track and running, whether we like it or not. Some see dimly the goal ahead and take costly detours which lead to disappointment and frustration. Others view clearly the prize for running well and remain steadfast in pursuit. This prize, this lofty and desirable goal, is none other than eternal life in the presence of God."

President Thomas S. Monson, "The Lighthouse of the Lord," *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 8.



When these young men weren't running a leg of the race, they traveled together in two vans. The experience brought them closer together and taught them how to support one another.



They traveled in two vans when they weren't running. After 34 hours of running day and night, the Scouts finished the race on Saturday afternoon. The young men say the race was hard, but they enjoyed it. They were especially impressed by all the support they got from the other teams in the race.

"We were the youngest group to ever do one of these races," Andrew says. "So it was cool to see all these people who are good runners and do this all the time come up to us and say, 'It's cool that you guys are doing this.' It felt really good."

Lessons Learned

The other thing that felt good was the sense of accomplishment the young men had from training for and completing this race.

"I think the race helped me learn that I can set a goal and actually do it," Michael says. "It really helped me learn that I can do hard things instead of sitting around playing video games."

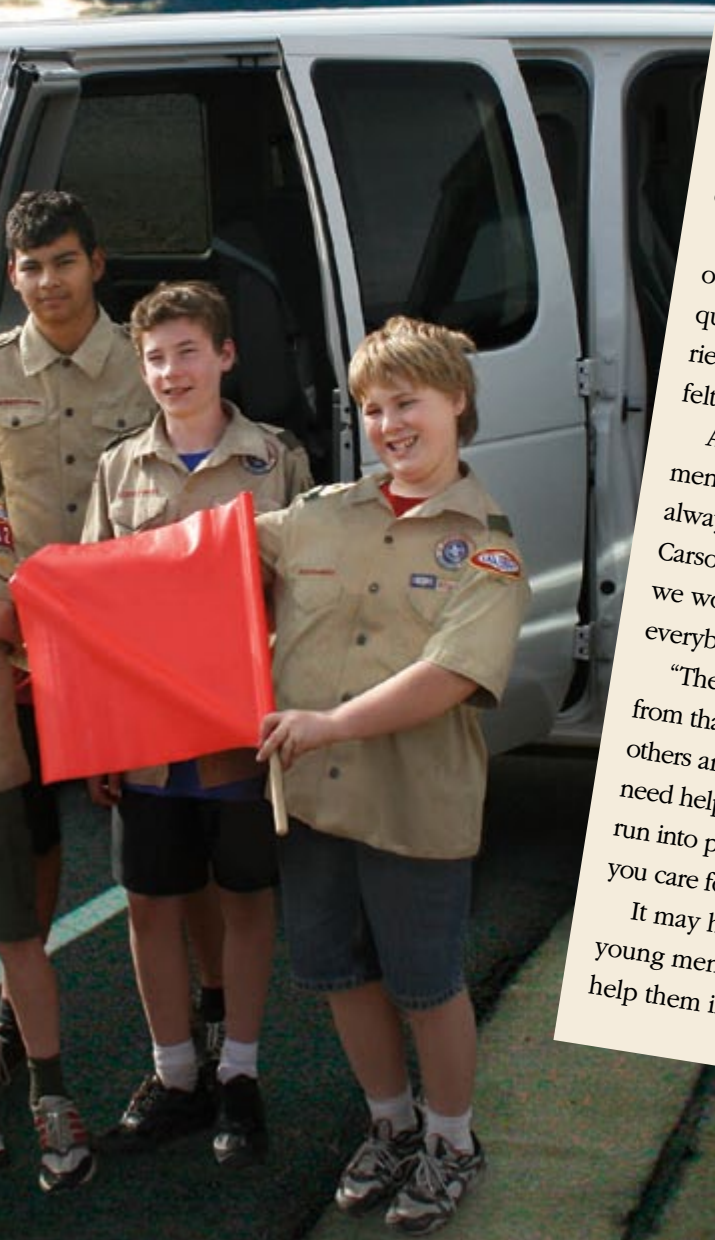
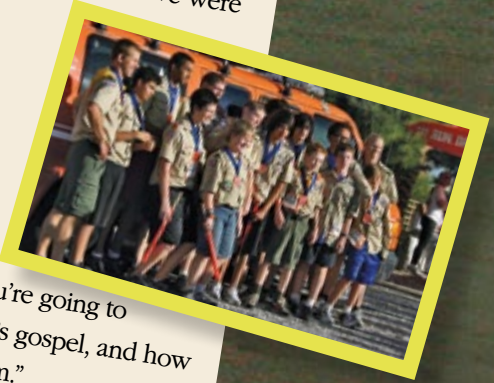
The race also helped the young men get closer to the other members of their troop and their priesthood quorums.

"It's just cool to have fun with people who are members of the Church," Andrew says. "We all got a lot closer as a quorum, as a priesthood body. That was a bonding experience for us. We all hold the same priesthood, and we all felt our struggles together."

Along with getting to know one another better, the young men also learned to help and support each other. "We were always there supporting each other," Carson says. "Everything we did there, we worked as a team. We cheered on everybody as a team."

"The most important thing I learned from that race would be to care for others around you," Carter says. "If others need help, you help them out, because you're going to run into people who want to hear the Lord's gospel, and how you care for them and others will affect them."

It may have seemed like just a long race, but these young men learned valuable lessons and skills that will help them in a more important race—the race of life. **NE**



“I’ve never been really close to my dad. Whenever I am around him, I tend to get grumpy and short-tempered. What can I do to be closer to him?”

It is difficult when you don’t have the kind of relationship you want with a parent. The unfortunate thing is that you both may have fallen into habits regarding how you treat each other. If you want things to change, you’ll have to be brave and try some new approaches.

First, it might be helpful to sit down and write a list of all the good things you admire about your dad. This will help you realize some things you may not have thought about.

Then, start some new habits. For example, when your dad gets home from work, make an effort to greet him pleasantly every day. It may take some time for him to know to expect this from you. Offer to help with jobs around the house. Make an effort to talk to your dad more. It may be a while before things change in your relationship, but being respectful and kind to both your parents will bring positive results.

With the Lord’s help and your own personal courage, you are capable of changing your side of the relationship with your father. If you do everything you should do, then you can be confident that you have made every effort to follow the scriptural encouragement to honor your father and your mother. **NE**

Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother



The Savior set an example for us to honor our parents, and everyone needs to do so for a happier life. Also, our parents have changed diapers, made meals, lost hours of sleep, and done countless other things for us. The least we can do is honor them by showing kindness and obedience.

Katelyn H., 15, Arizona, USA

Make It a Matter of Prayer



Pray to your Heavenly Father often. Ask for inspiration as to how you can become closer to your father. Also, make an effort to reach out to your dad. Show him that you love him.

Alan D., 16, North Carolina, USA

Help Him Out



You can be more active in family activities. Help your dad with work around the house. And pray to Heavenly Father for the help and guidance you might need.

Kasidee R., 14, Texas, USA

Just Talk to Him



Just talk to your dad. Ask him how his day went, and let him know you care. You can also pray for both of your hearts to be softened so that it will be easier to get along with each other. I’m sure he wants to be closer to you just as much.

Shelby T., 16, California, USA

Do Things Together

My best advice is just to do an activity that you and your dad like. For example, my dad and I love football, and that is the best time for me to get

closer to him and talk to him about other things in my life.

Jeffrey O., 19, London, England

Look for the Good



What I do is look at the good things in him and explain to him some of the things that are bothering me when we don't get along. As I have been doing those things, our relationship has been getting so much better. I love my dad and am glad to have him around.

Autumn M., 13, Alaska, USA

Learn about Each Other



Create conversations with your dad, and participate in fun activities you both enjoy. Ask each other questions to keep in touch and learn more about each other. You could also explain to your dad how you feel so that he can make it a point to become closer to you and help you become closer to him. If you lack guidance and are not sure what to do, you can always ask your Heavenly Father for help in your prayers, and if you have faith, you will receive answers.

Todd H., 15, Connecticut, USA

Give Your Time

Give your father one of the greatest gifts we can give—time! Find an activity you both enjoy and spend some time together doing it—just the two of you. Spending one-on-one time with your father will strengthen your relationship with him. Yes, it does require sacrifice, but it will be worth it.

Morgan A., 17, Utah, USA

Set Aside Time Together



My father and I set apart a specific time we can spend together. We cancel everything to do this. In Personal Progress (Divine Nature value experience 3) there is an experience to strengthen a relationship with a family member for two weeks. You could always try that.

Mikaylee G., 15, Utah, USA

Get Interested



Take an interest in what your father does. Ask questions about his life when he was your age.

Try to see things through his eyes. If you strive to get to know him and spend more time with him, your relationship will grow.

Cason S., 17, Arizona, USA

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



PARENTS TRULY CARE

"No parent on earth is perfect. In fact, children are very understanding when they sense and feel that parents truly

care and are attempting to be the best they can be. . . .

"Certainly parents will make mistakes in their parenting process, but through humility, faith, prayer, and study, each person can learn a better way and in so doing bless the lives of family members now and teach correct traditions for the generations that follow."

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "How Will Our Children Remember Us?" *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 9–10.

NEXT QUESTION

"I have a hard time respecting one of my schoolteachers. What should I do?"

Send your answer by December 15, 2011.

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

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Responses may be edited for length or clarity.



BEEES, BEEHIVES, AND YOU

By Annette Murray Wells
and Stephen A. Wells

Because our family has kept hives of bees for five years and because we also care for beehives that belong to others, I am occasionally asked to talk about beehives, especially how they relate to the gospel. I wouldn't call myself an expert, but I've learned a few things.

First of all, women do all the work in the hive. All of the bees that pollinate, collect nectar from flowers, and make honey are girls. So, a beehive is like a colony of young women all working together toward a common goal. It's a fitting representation for the young women of the Church. Because a bee is so small and her lifespan so short (about 30 days) each bee produces only 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. It takes the lifetime of at least two dozen bees just so I can enjoy a little honey on a slice of toast in the morning.

When my family moved to Idaho from Hawaii (after only one year of managing 20 beehives), we brought with

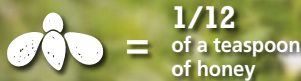
us 1,000 pounds (454 kg) of honey, which is just over 83 gallons (314 L). This gives you an idea of what so many can accomplish when they work together: 1/12 of a teaspoon per bee isn't much, but it adds up quickly.

Be a Part of Something Big

Ardeth G. Kapp, a former Young Women general president, was assigned to attend a national leadership task force in Washington, D.C. Their purpose was to protect the family and society. She reported that, "After an opening prayer, one of the women rose from her seat to make this significant, brief observation, which was felt by everyone present. 'One woman . . . is helpful; ten women are influential; one hundred are powerful; one thousand are invincible'" (*Better Than You Think You Are* [2005], 8).

The *Personal Progress* book says, "As you participate in Personal Progress, you join with thousands of other young women who are striving to come unto Christ and 'stand as

When you participate in Personal Progress, all of the small and simple things add up. Each experience may seem like only 1/12 of a teaspoon in a jar of honey, but each is a part of the whole, and each is important.



How much are your everyday actions like a bee's? Probably more than you think.

witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places' (Mosiah 18:9)" (*Young Women Personal Progress* [2009], 1). You may think, "What's the point? I have so many things to do right now. Personal Progress won't make that much of a difference in the long run." But when you do Personal Progress, you are part of an invincible witness of God, standing for the world to see. It will make a difference because you are a part of something larger than yourself.

Bees are always busy collecting nectar, processing it into honey, storing it in the hive, and preparing for the storm they know will come. Personal Progress will help you weather the storms in your own life. You can turn to Personal Progress to help nourish your testimony of Jesus Christ as you learn His teachings and apply them.

Young Women general president Elaine S. Dalton said this about Personal Progress: "If you do one experience each month and two projects each year, you will

be finished by the time you are a Laurel. Then you will have the privilege and opportunity to mentor other young women who are working on their Personal Progress. When you do this, you may earn an **Honor Bee**, which symbolizes going the extra distance in serving others. The honor bee can be worn with your Young Women medalion" ("What's New in Personal Progress?" *New Era*, Jan. 2010, 32–34). The symbol of the beehive "is a reminder of harmony, cooperation, and work" (32).

Not only are you a necessary part of the whole, but Personal Progress will also make a difference in your life personally. Each personal scripture study session, each prayer, each meeting attended, and each good decision you make are all small and simple things that add up to the whole of your testimony. Each of these things may seem like only 1/12 of a teaspoon compared to 83 gallons, but each is a part of the whole, and each is important.

What Are You Becoming?

Another product of beekeeping is beeswax. New beeswax comb is white and clean. Older comb that has been heavily used is stained dark and is impure. We can melt it and filter it to remove the impurities, but the only way to turn it white again is in the light of the sun.

We come to this earth as children of our Heavenly Father, worthy to be in His presence. Over time we become stained by sin and the impurities that surround us. The only way to become white again is in the light of the Son! He died to take upon Himself our sins so that we can be pure again and return to the presence of our Father.

You may have heard of President Gordon B. Hinckley's (1910–2008) six B's: be grateful, be smart, be clean, be true, be humble, be prayerful (see "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 7). Maybe we could add another: becoming. What are you becoming? There is a big difference between doing and being. Perhaps that's why President Hinckley talked about the six B's and not the six to-dos. Personal Progress challenges you to do a lot of things, but the important thing is not so much what you're doing; it's the kind of person you're

becoming. I hope you're becoming kind, talented, full of testimony, and like the Savior.

In a beehive there is one queen and between 40,000 and 80,000 bees. All of those bees are offspring of the queen. As young women, we are royalty, the daughters of a King. Sister Dalton said, "Remember who you are! See yourself as our Heavenly Father sees you. You are elect. You are of noble birth. Don't compromise your divine inheritance. You were born to be a queen. Live so you are worthy to enter the temple and there receive 'all that [the] Father hath' (D&C 84:38)" ("Remember Who You Are!" *Ensign*, May 2010, 122).

On the doorknobs of the Salt Lake Temple you'll find the symbol of the beehive (see lower right). To Brigham Young, the beehive represented industry or diligence.

Young women, you can become a queen. Your Heavenly Father can be and wants to be a part of your life right now, and you can return to live with and become like Him when your mission on earth is done. If you don't have a testimony of that, get one. When you understand your divine potential, the day-to-day decisions are so much easier to make. **NE**

More on the Honor Bee

Read about the honor bee in the *Personal Progress* book, page 83, or online at PersonalProgress.lds.org.



Be true



Be grateful

MAKE A TO BE LIST

“Many of us create *to do* lists to remind us of things we want to accomplish. But people rarely have *to be* lists. Why? *To do*'s are activities or events that can be checked off the list when *done*. *To be*, however, is never done. You can't earn checkmarks with *to be*'s.”

Elder Lynn G. Robbins of the Seventy, "What Manner of Men and Women Ought Ye to Be?" *Ensign*, May 2011, 104.



BE SMART

BE PRAYERFUL

BE CLEAN

BE HUMBLE

What are you becoming?

6

B's



"I don't know, Elder . . .
is there such a word as
spagheticide?"



KEVIN BECKSTROM



RYAN STOKER



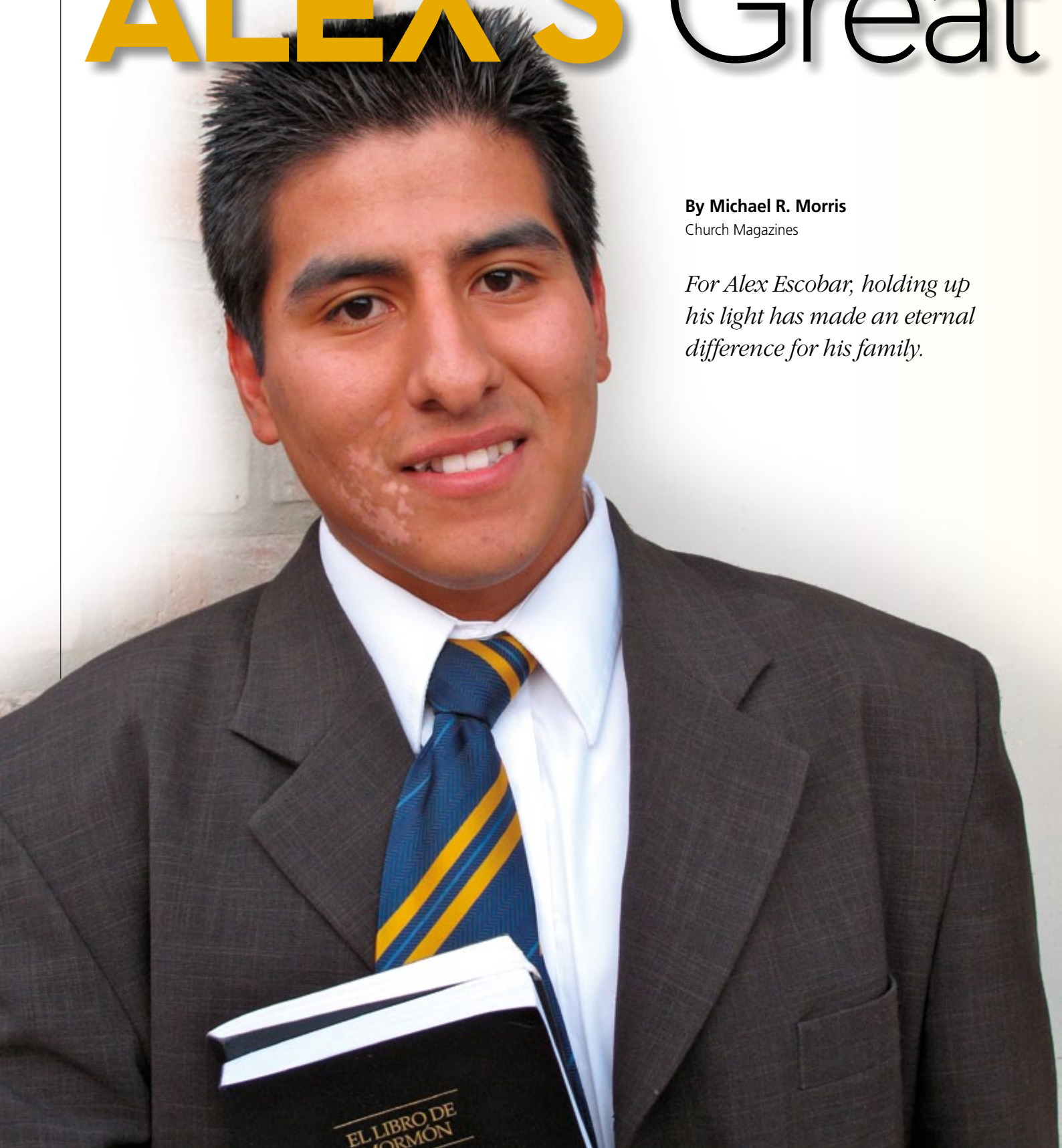
VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

Before the invention of television.

ALEX'S Great

By Michael R. Morris
Church Magazines

*For Alex Escobar, holding up
his light has made an eternal
difference for his family.*



Example

Seven years ago, when Alex Escobar, as a teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood, committed to serve a full-time mission, he never could have imagined that his father would be his bishop when he prepared to enter the mission field.

That's because Alex's father hadn't been to church for almost a decade. But Alex, who at the time was attending Sunday meetings by himself, never gave up on him—or on the rest of his family.

"I've learned for myself how important example can be," he says.

My Leaders Came Looking for Me

How does a young man stay active in the Church without support from his family? Mario Sayas, who was serving as bishop when Alex was a young Aaronic Priesthood holder, credits Alex's testimony and his dedicated Young Men leaders, who took a special interest in him. Alex agrees.

"If I didn't show up on Sunday, my leaders came looking for me at home," he says. "Little by little I learned about the gospel until I had a strong testimony. Another reason I kept going to church is that I knew that only through the gospel of Jesus Christ could we be happy forever as a family."

Achieving that goal meant staying strong even when some of his church friends in Córdoba, Argentina, wavered.

"There's a lot of temptation to break the Word of Wisdom and the law of chastity," says Alex, who drew strength from counsel he received from Bishop Sayas. "He said, 'The only way to qualify for a worthy wife is to be worthy yourself.' That has helped me a lot."

Alex's testimony was strengthened further following a dream he had in which he was called on a full-time mission and given a missionary name tag. "That surprised me, and I realized I needed to serve a mission," he says. He began preparing but didn't wait until he was 19 to begin sharing the gospel; he started with his own family. Bishop Sayas says Alex was at the center of ward efforts to help his family return to church.

"Alex always prayed for and encouraged his family," he says. "And he would always encourage his older brothers to attend church. For a while, they listened



"I kept going to church. I knew that only through the gospel of Jesus Christ could we be happy forever as a family," says Alex, pictured below with his sister, Joselina, and his parents, René and Carmen Escobar. Above: La Cañada stream, Córdoba, Argentina.



and attended with him. The effort to bring his family back took a long time, but it succeeded because of Alex.”

Alex also shared the gospel with two of his uncles who had moved to Córdoba from Bolivia. They became interested and were soon baptized with their families.

“I Was the Hardheaded One”

When Alex’s father, René Escobar, thinks back on the 13 years he spent outside the Church, he laments what he missed.

“Those years were very difficult,” he says. “Sometimes I couldn’t help but think about the time I was losing by not enjoying the marvelous life the gospel offers.”

The Escobar family had joined the Church in Córdoba when Alex was a child. They stayed active until moving back to their native country of Bolivia shortly after Alex’s baptism. In Bolivia, René says, they lost



Alex, currently serving in the Argentina Resistencia Mission, realized as a young man the importance of missionary work. He didn’t wait until he was 19, however, before sharing the gospel with others, beginning with his own less-active family. Above: downtown Córdoba.

contact with the Church and forgot “what the gospel means to our lives.”

Upon returning to Córdoba two years later, Alex’s mother, Carmen, occasionally attended church with the couple’s four children. But René, an avid soccer player, spent Sundays sleeping off Saturday’s games and associated activities—activities that often meant breaking the Word of Wisdom.

“I was the hardheaded one,” he says. “Brothers from church often visited me, sometimes finding me in situations that weren’t very good. At times I thought I was completely lost, which we think when we no longer have the companionship of the Spirit. This all contributed to a belief that I couldn’t get back on the Lord’s path.”

What finally turned René around was the realization that his example was hurting his children. “My sons were like orphans who attended church by themselves because their father was not active,” he recalls.

“I began to examine my life and the effect my example was having on my children,” says René, who is grateful that the power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ allowed him to repent and change. “I asked myself, ‘What am I doing to my children?’ I realized I wasn’t living up to my responsibilities as a father. All these things helped me remember the Lord, get on my knees, and ask Him to help me return.”

Carmen and the children were surprised but elated by his turnaround. “One day he announced, ‘I’m going to change my life. From now on, I’m not going to drink, and we’re going to church.’ I couldn’t believe it,” says Carmen.

Alex’s sister, Joselina, is grateful for the unity that has come to the family since her



“If we are happy and content in the Church, others are going to want to partake of our happiness,” says Alex, pictured at left teaching the Ernesto and Nadia Molina family in Resistencia, Argentina, with his companion, Elder Tom Browning. Above: San Martín Square in Córdoba.



father returned to church. “Today he is nothing like he was before,” she says. “He made a 180-degree change.”

As René’s faithfulness and testimony grew, a series of callings followed. Several years after reembracing the gospel, he received an impression that leadership in the ward was about to change and that the Lord had prepared him for an important new calling.

“The result is that today my father is my bishop,” Alex said a few weeks before leaving on his mission.

The Importance of Example

With Alex serving in the Argentina Resistencia Mission in northern Argentina, things aren’t the same in the Escobar home. Everyone misses him, but they’re grateful he is preaching the gospel and sharing his example with others. And they’re grateful to be an eternal family, having been sealed in the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple in 2009.

“It was Alex who was always working with us and with ward members on our behalf,” Carmen says. “They told us he was always praying for his parents to return to church. We’re grateful that he didn’t give up on us and that our brothers and sisters in the Church didn’t forget about us.”

Bishop Escobar is happy that Alex is the first missionary he sent into the mission field after being called as bishop. “It’s exciting to have a son serve,” he says. “We all miss Alex because he is everything to us. But I’m the one who misses him the most. He is one of my anchors. He is the one who supported me.”

If Latter-day Saints are good examples, Alex says, others will eventually take notice. “If we are happy and content in the Church, others are going to want to partake of our happiness. If we endure and move forward, miracles can occur.” **NE**



Watch a Video

To view a video about two young women from Ukraine who also helped bring their family members back to the Church, visit lds.org/go/11E.

CHANGE

OF

PLANS



By Richard F. Ostergaard

I had a solid and logical plan for how my life would proceed, but it wasn't the Lord's plan.

A couple of months into my third season of collegiate football, during a routine five-man sled drill, my life's plan started to unravel. As I hit the blocking dummy, I felt something snap in my neck, and a sharp pain shot down my right shoulder. I stood up and tried to move my arm but realized I had no strength.

I did not know it at the time, but in that instant all my plans and dreams would be altered, and my future would change dramatically. I had dedicated years of my life to football, but as I walked off the practice field that day, that would be the end of it. I would never put on my pads, cleats, and helmet and go out onto the football field again.

After visits with local doctors, I was referred to a neurosurgeon, who explained that I had injured the main nerves coming out of my spinal column going to my right arm. He also said there would be no football for at least a year, and that if I injured the nerves again I may lose the use of my right arm.

With this crushing news, it seemed like my world began to crumble in other areas. My grades rapidly began to go south, and I neither had interest nor ambition to turn them around. I found myself, day after day, lugging my arm in a sling on the sidelines as I watched the guys practice. I finally decided to spend time in the library instead of the football field but found it difficult to concentrate.

The academic quarter seemed to drag on forever, and one frigid, dark November afternoon, I found myself sitting in despair in the old amphitheater on campus. As

I sat all alone, I felt terribly abandoned and depressed. I gazed out into the valley as the cold wind whipped wisps of leaves around my feet. Nothing was going right, and my life seemed to have little meaning or happiness. My athletic dreams and goals had crumbled, my grades were poor, I felt I had few friends at school, and I was far away from my family.

Why me? I thought. Why did this have to happen when things seemed to be going so well? What did I have to look forward to now? As I pondered these questions, I found little solace. The clouds, the cold, and my state of mind seemed to be wrapping over me in darkness as I descended into self-pity.

As I sat, reaching for anything to lighten my mind, a thought came that prayer could bring a little relief. I halfheartedly offered up a few words in a weak plea but was hesitant, as I mistakenly felt the Lord would not want to listen to me. During the past year I had become increasingly distracted by the excitement and prestige of athletics, and my church activity had become sporadic at best. My face cradled in my hands, I tried to hold some composure from my grief. I felt so alone.

After some time, I felt, ever so softly, a warm pressure on the back of my head and neck. I felt immediate relief from my despair and dared not lift my head lest the feeling would leave me. I only knew that whatever this feeling was, I wanted it to continue. After weeks of misery, I felt complete and total relief. What was this? Tears began to fall freely down my cheeks, and soon an undeniable impression came into my mind that I knew the Lord was there for me and it was time for me to go on a mission.

I had turned down my home bishop's invitation to go on a mission 10 months earlier, explaining that my plan was to

As I look back on this memory, I can see the importance of making the right choices at the right times.

pursue my football scholarship for another two years. I told him I might think about a mission afterward. I was confident, if not proud, of my plan and was taken aback when he did not share in my enthusiasm and confidence.

I sat there on the cold bench for a while, contemplating what had just happened to me. Going on a mission had been the furthest thing from my mind that afternoon. Serving a mission right now had definitely not been in my plan. But a mission was the *only* thing on my mind now. I had been given a personal revelation. I could not deny it, and my heart was filled with light and happiness. Serving the Lord was now what mattered most in my life. My mission and future could again be bright and happy. I could not restrain myself as I stood up, crying out as I flung up my good arm in exuberance.

The next few weeks went by quickly, and I gained new enthusiasm for life. I made efforts in correcting my grades in order to finish out the quarter. When it was over, I closed this chapter of my life, leaving my athletic plans and dreams behind. I had no regrets or remorse over my decision. Instead, I felt excited about preparing for a mission and setting my course for a bright future. Cheers from the crowd in a football game were pale compared to the cheers I felt in my heart by going on a mission.

As I look back on this memory, I can see the importance of making the right choices at the right times. Sometimes we feel we have a solid and logical plan for ourselves. But if it's not in accordance with gospel principles and the whisperings of the Holy Ghost, our plan seldom evolves into true happiness and joy. Nor can our own plan replicate

the blessings we receive by living the gospel in faith, with a determination to live the commandments. For young men in particular, the opportunity to serve as a missionary is the right plan. I believe there is nothing that provides more growth than unselfishly serving the Lord and His children. Other self-generated plans, though appealing, will ever fall short in comparison.

This experience was sacred to me, and the chance to redesign my own plan with the Lord's help has significantly changed what I am today. I will ever be grateful to the Lord for the experience on that cold November day that changed my life and helped me understand the Lord's plan for my life. **NE**



BE OF GOOD

A verse on a card changed my fear to courage.

By Jeanne Newman Burgon

My father, Parley W. Newman, served as a paratrooper in World War II. On more than one occasion, he parachuted behind enemy lines in the South Pacific and was under fire. He lost close friends in combat and was eventually wounded himself.

When I was a child, I suffered from excessive fears over the evils that exist in the world. My good parents made great efforts to help me overcome those fears, but the fears persisted.

One night, my father came into my room and told me of the tremendous fear he had daily experienced during the war—an entirely justifiable fear in the face of real and imminent danger. He told me that throughout his time in the war, he carried with him a verse of scripture printed on a card and received comfort from the promise of that verse. He then handed me a card on which he had printed that same scripture, Joshua 1:9.

I slept that night—and for many nights—with that card under my pillow and carried it with me, as my father had, until I no longer needed the card itself, for the Lord’s promise in that verse was imprinted on my mind and heart. My father’s gift of the Lord’s words was the beginning of my learning to replace fear with faith.

As a young woman I searched the scriptures for similar promises and assurances of the Lord and relied upon them with all my heart. I still do. In time, I arranged some of those scriptural promises into a poetic text that my brother, Mark, has set to music—music intended to convey both the power and peace of these promises. **NE**

COURAGE

*"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."
Joshua 1:9*



Get a Free Music Download

To download the sheet music of the song mentioned in this article, go to lds.org/go/11F.

By Jenna Kahn



A series of fortunate events led me to join the Church.

It Started with **A FRIEND**

I first heard about the Church while babysitting. The children I was watching asked me to read out of the *Friend* magazine with them. We read through a few stories together, but then it was time for bed. Once they were asleep, I returned to the brightly colored magazine on the table. The children inside were so happy and lovingly talked about a Heavenly Father.

When I was finished reading, I noticed “The Living Christ” hanging on the wall behind me and beautiful prints of temples in the kids’ rooms. I had such a great feeling in my heart looking at everything, but after I went home, I forgot about my amazing discovery.

I encountered the Church a little while later when I was over at my friend Zach’s house for a movie night with some other friends. While we were choosing a movie, I noticed Zach’s family’s collection of Church materials in an adjacent bookshelf. “Pick something for me, Zach!” I pleaded jokingly.

“These are all lesson manuals,” he explained. “But here—try this instead.” He handed me a book titled *Book of Mormon Stories*. I took it without much thought as we all paraded into the living room. But during a lull in the movie, I decided to open it, and I began reading about Lehi and Sariah’s family. I couldn’t put it down! I felt something stirring in my mind, something I’d never

experienced before—the feeling that what I was reading wasn’t just some made-up story but something more.

Zach let me take the book home, and I read the whole book in two nights. Then I read it again and took notes. When I returned the book to Zach he offered me my own copy of the Book of Mormon, full and unabridged.

The small feeling in my heart continued to grow as I read the Book of Mormon. I finished it in a little over a month. Sometimes I would read for hours at a time. I carried it with me everywhere and read it every time I got a chance.

During this time I started going to church. I cried at my first sacrament meeting—I felt the Spirit so strongly! As I listened to the testimonies of others at that first fast and testimony meeting, I remember wondering if I would ever have my own testimony. Young Women was my favorite meeting. I loved being with other girls who shared my values and some of my interests and learning about how I was a daughter of God. I felt so much love at church.

That night, I asked Heavenly Father in prayer if joining the Church was the right path for me. My mind was filled





with one word: John. I had never read much in the Bible, but I knew I'd find my answer in the book of John. I found John 14:6: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Christ was meant to be the way for me too.

I also prayed to know the truth when I finished reading the Book of Mormon. However, I didn't receive an answer the first time I asked. After nearly a week of frustrated, tearful prayer, I watched *The Testaments of One Fold and One Shepherd*. As I watched the movie, I felt a burning in my heart, and I knew that now was the time to ask. I got



When I asked Zach to pick me out a book at movie night, he handed me Book of Mormon Stories. I started to read about Lehi and Sariah's family and couldn't put it down.

down on my knees and asked in full faith and with an open heart if the Book of Mormon was true. I knew that if I received an answer, I would act upon it, regardless of the consequences. The answer I got was so powerful that I continue to feel it every day.

After I finished the Book of Mormon and received my answer, I began taking the missionary discussions. I am so thankful for the missionaries who taught me. I learned so much and began to prepare for baptism. I also began attending seminary and going to Mutual. My knowledge of and love for the Savior and His Church grew so much during those first few months.

I was baptized on April 26, 2009, by Zach's dad, Brother Simons. I had the support of the entire ward, my family, and my friends. I have never felt so beautiful in my life as I did in my white dress and as I made that wonderful covenant with my Heavenly Father. Afterward, I was given

the gift of the Holy Ghost by Brother Davis, whose entire family was especially supportive of me while I was investigating the Church. I was so touched, and I knew that the words he said were from Heavenly Father.

Every day it's difficult being the only Church member in my family, but they are incredibly supportive of my decision to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They aren't investigating the Church, but they are continuing to have open minds. I have been blessed with a wonderful, loving family, and I love them very much.

Since my baptism, I've moved to a new ward, so I don't get to see Zach and the other families that supported me very often. But I know that friends in the gospel are friends forever. I also know that this is Christ's true Church, we are all Heavenly Father's children, and He loves us very much. I know that the Book of Mormon is true. Joseph Smith was a prophet, and President Thomas S. Monson is our prophet today. I know that Jesus Christ is my Savior and that He lives. Nothing happens without a reason. When I asked Zach to pick me out a book at movie night, I had no idea it would change my life. I am so thankful that I was given the beautiful opportunity to come unto Christ. The gospel has changed me forever. **NE**

BUILDING BUBBLE BALL

Robert Nay is only in ninth grade, but he has already written an app that took the #1 spot on the Apple App Store just two weeks after it was released. His app, *Bubble Ball*, is a challenging game that uses physics and a series of pieces to get the bubble to the end goal.

Robert was in third grade when he designed his first website and has since been teaching himself more about computers and programming. He has learned the importance of making and keeping goals, expanding his knowledge, and listening to his friends.

—As told to Whitney Hinckley

How did you learn about programming and computer design? My older brother Steven, who is in college now, was into computers, and I saw him programming and making websites, and I thought that was pretty cool. So he probably got me interested in computers and programming, and from there I just taught myself.

Why did you decide to make an app? Late last summer a friend's dad said that I should try making an iPhone app, because he knew that I was good with computers and stuff. I thought it would be pretty cool, so I made it a goal to come up with an iPhone app and have it on the App Store. And I finally made it.

How did you come up with the idea for Bubble Ball? When I was looking for an idea, I looked at different games that were kind of similar to it. I saw the different aspects that I liked from those games, and then I just came up with it on my own. But a lot of the game evolved as I created it and changed things.

Do you have any advice for other teens trying to reach their goals? Just try it and go for your dreams, because you can make it. I just tried it and didn't think it would do nearly this well. I just wanted to do it.

Name: Robert Nay

Age: 15

Location: Utah

Hobbies: Reading; playing the trumpet, mandolin, and piano

Accomplishment: Wrote an app that was #1 on Apple's App Store just two weeks after it was released



PHOTOGRAPH BY KARI NAY

GRATITUDE IN AFRICA



I was tired. Desiree, Jenny, and I were worn out from a day of teaching a disease prevention program in Uganda, Africa. Our hosts, the Mayeku family, had a lively bunch of five lovable children. We came home to their warm welcome after walking home from the taxi stop.

We started right away with the nightly chores of peeling potatoes, rolling out dough, squeezing passion fruit for juice, and setting the table. Everything there seemed to take a long time, and dinner was no exception. The charcoal stove, dull knives, and manual labor all contributed to the four hours it took before dinner was on the table.

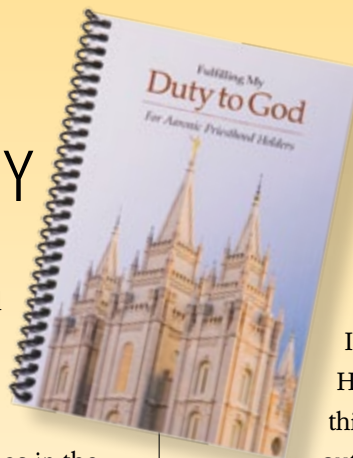
After dinner we washed the dishes, and by then it was 11 o'clock. I was exhausted and ready for bed. But it was Monday, and Rebecca, the oldest child, had prepared a lesson for family home evening. I watched this beautiful family gather around their humble kitchen table to listen. I knew that the Mayeku family was even more drained than I was. They worked so hard to be an obedient, educated, and loving family, and it reminded me of how blessed I was to stay with a family who did so much with the little they had. The Spirit changed my unthankful heart as we all sang "The Spirit of God" (*Hymns*, no. 2). I was overwhelmed by the family's desire to serve and love the Lord. Rebecca's lesson was on God's creations and how He blesses us with what we need, but the greatest lesson I learned that night was the lesson of gratitude.

Camille M., Utah, USA

BLESSINGS FROM DUTY TO GOD

I know that when I fulfill my duty to God, I will receive blessings. I know that when I follow and apply the teachings in the *Fulfilling My Duty to God* booklet, I will become a better person and build good relationships with my friends and teach them things I have learned from it.

When I read the booklet, I often share some of my reading with my family, especially when everyone



is home. I feel blessed that my parents have accepted the lessons from the missionaries.

I know that when I put my faith in Heavenly Father, everything will work itself out. I know that God

answers my prayers. I know that I need to stay in the Church because my knowledge of the gospel and the truthfulness of the Church have grown. I know that my family will continue to progress in the way the Lord wants us to be.

Rahasina A., Madagascar

FINDING THE BEACON

A few months ago I went to Edmonton for work. The weather conditions were bad, and I struggled to get there. I didn't know the city and got lost. I needed to find a gas station that sold diesel.

I started to worry. I was on a tight budget and needed to get home quickly. I started to call friends who were familiar with the area. I talked to a close friend who was able to direct me. I then called my mom who comforted me and helped me feel safe again. I ended my conversation so I could continue driving.

I drove for a while and started to think I had somehow missed my exit. Worry again came to my mind. I began to scan my surroundings to find any clue about where I was or if I was on the right track. As I rounded a corner, the Edmonton Alberta Temple came into view. It

was beautiful and white, with a spire that soared into the air. I could see the golden statue of the angel Moroni. The Spirit flooded my heart, and all fear was swept away. The Spirit seemed to confirm to me that I was going in the right direction.

In my life, I know that sometimes I get scared or worried that I am not going the right way, that maybe I am not even on the right road. But the temple is my beacon, and it helps me to know when I am pointed in the right direction.

When we feel lost, we can look to the Lord and He will show the way. He will be there. He will come in a way that will best serve us.

May we all walk the path with eyes wide open so that we may see the hand of the Lord guiding and watching over our steps.

Robin S., Alberta, Canada

PEACE TO MY SOUL

I was able to attend conference at the Conference Center on Sunday. At first I was nervous to go since there would be so many people. Once I sat down inside I felt an overwhelming love for the prophet and apostles, and I could feel their love. Heavenly Father sent peace to my soul.

Denali L., Alaska, USA

LISTENING TO PRESIDENT MONSON

As soon as President Monson started to announce the new temples, I felt a confirming witness so strongly that he is the prophet and that he is God's mouthpiece. And since that's true, then why not try to follow his teachings completely?

Whitney A., Oregon, USA

I felt the Spirit and understand more about the scriptures. Thanks to President Monson for his words and his teachings.

Cristian L., Cerro Largo, Uruguay

I heard what I needed to hear in President Monson's talk about how all doctrine is still for us today. I thought about it, and now I have downloaded his talk so that I can listen to it whenever I feel that Nephi didn't know what I am going through.

Emma F., Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany

GLAD FOR MESSAGES

The messages at general conference were amazing and definitely inspired, and so many of them spoke to me. I loved the messages about our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father and about receiving inspiration. I am glad I have my notes and will have the *Ensign* so that I'll be able to read them and continue to appreciate the messages.

Hannah T., California, USA



The messages at general conference were amazing and definitely inspired, and so many of them spoke to me.

We love hearing from you. 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*

FAVORITE QUOTE

My favorite quote from conference this time was by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf: "Compared to God, man is nothing; yet we are everything to God." It is just so true and uplifting.

Alexis M., Utah, USA

SPEAKING TO ME

The talks on repentance and the priesthood were amazing, and I felt like they were speaking directly to me. I love general conference.

Michael B., Kentucky, USA

EXCITED ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY

Hearing Elder David A. Bednar's talk on the Spirit of Elijah and how we youth know how to use technology got me all excited about family history work. I already had an LDS Account set up from a Young Women activity. After conference my mother and I sat down together at new.familysearch.org and looked to see what information I already had. I found out that someone had sent in a lot of information about my grandmother's line, and I was able to link them together. I am so excited to start working on my family history, and I hope to find names that I can do baptisms for in the temple.

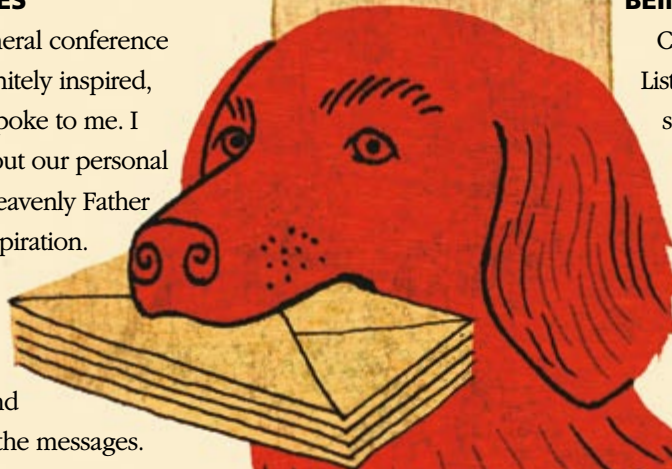
Ashley F., Washington, USA

BEING A REAL MEMBER

Conference is always a real treat.

Listening to our Church leaders left me spiritually satisfied. I especially enjoyed Brother Matthew O. Richardson's talk about being a *real* member of the Church. I think it was a pertinent message. So often we forget to ponder our real duty as a witness of God or as a family member. Are we always trying to be like Christ? Are we truly striving for eternal blessings?

Andie W., Utah, USA



Forgiveness

By Sydni Masoncup

To forgive
Is not to forget.

To forgive
Is really to remember,
That nobody is perfect,
That each of us stumbles
When we want so much to stay
upright,

That each of us says things
We wish we had never said,

That we can all forget that love
Is more important than being
right.

To forgive
Is really to remember,

That we are so much more
Than our mistakes,

That we are often more kind
and caring
Than we think we are,

That accepting another's flaws
Can help us accept our own.

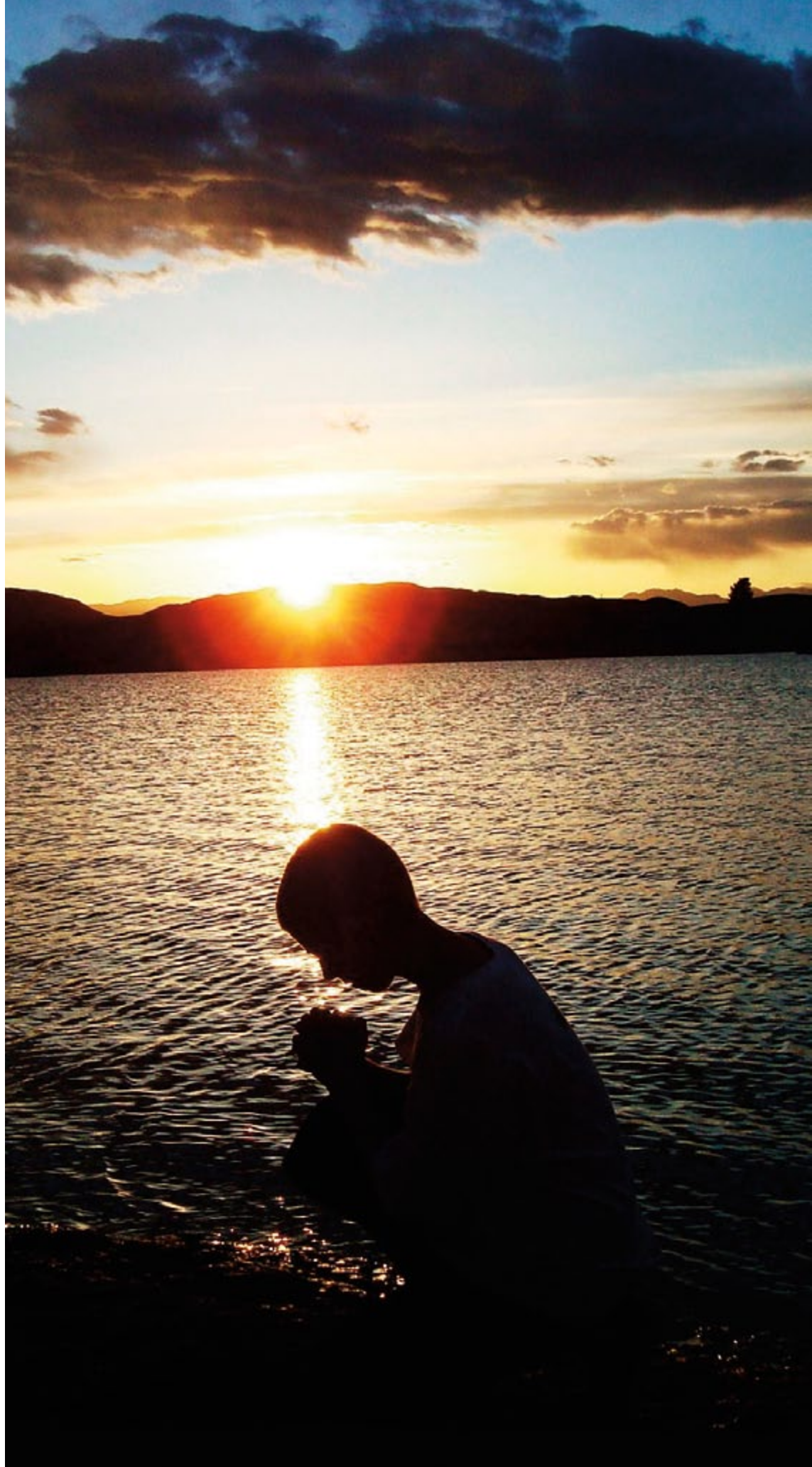
To forgive
Is to remember,

That the odds are pretty good
that
We might soon need to be
forgiven ourselves,

That life gives us more
Than we can handle gracefully.

To forgive
Is to remember,

That we have room in our
hearts to
Begin again,
And again,
And again.



WHAT'S ONLINE



Get Involved in Family History

In the October 2011 general conference, Elder David A. Bednar invited youth to participate in family history work and experience the Spirit of Elijah (see page 18). A website has been created specifically for youth at **Ilds.org/familyhistoryyouth**. Check it out for a video from Elder Bednar and video tutorials to help you get started.

Watch New Videos for Youth

Enjoy recent *Mormon Messages for Youth* videos created specifically for you! Here are just a few you'll find at **youth.lds.org** (click on "Videos").

- "Sanctify Yourselves"—a message about the power of priesthood blessings.
- "The Lost Purse"—the contents of one young woman's purse set a great example.
- "The Sting of the Scorpion"—a desert encounter with a scorpion teaches about blessings of obedience and the healing power of the Atonement.

Join Our E-mail Newsletter

Most of the youth quotes in our "General Conference Is for You" article on page 2 came through youth who responded to our e-mail newsletter. You can sign up for our monthly newsletter by sending an e-mail to **newera@ldschurch.org** with "Newsletter" in the subject line. You'll be able to take polls, share your thoughts, find links to youth content, and more.

