

# Ensign



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**Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, by Harry Anderson**

*“On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord” (John 12:12–13).*



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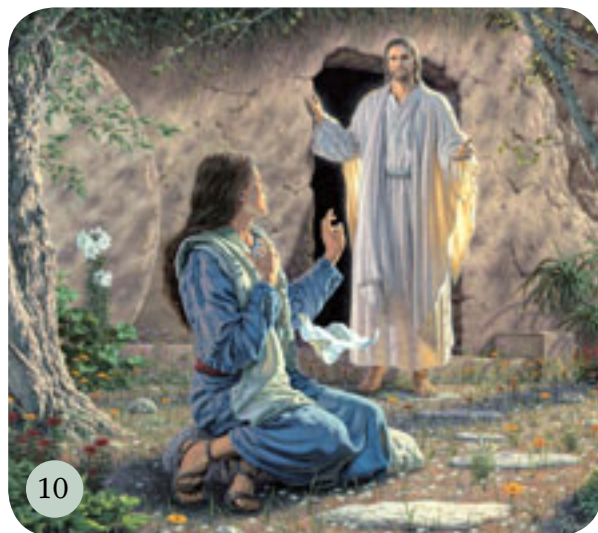
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**ENGAGING IN EDUCATION**

Richard McDermott and Lindsey Reese talk about the value of education in their article on p. 64. If you are thinking about furthering your education, the resources available at [education.lds.org](http://education.lds.org) may be helpful.

**NEW YOUTH WEB SITE**

**Youth.lds.org** is a site designed especially for youth of the Church; it provides a unique place on the Web where youth uplift and strengthen one another and receive messages from the prophet and other Church leaders. The initial version of the site features five areas:

*For the Strength of Youth* supports A Brand New Year 2010, emphasizing the annual Mutual theme, "Be strong and of a good courage . . ." (Joshua 1:9).

*We Testify* contains a uniquely designed "wall" displaying faces of LDS youth. Behind each face is a testimony from that young woman or young man. Youth add new testimonies and share insights daily.

*For Youth Today* relays messages from Church leaders.

*Mormon Messages for Youth* contains videos featuring the words of the prophets and highlights other significant, timely themes addressing the needs of young people today.

*From Every Nation* shares video, audio, and photo stories of Latter-day Saint youth from around the world and tells of their thriving as they live the gospel.

**GEMS IN YOUR INBOX**

You can regularly receive uplifting quotes from Church leaders on a variety of topics—right to your computer or mobile device. Subscribe to e-mail or RSS at [gems.lds.org](http://gems.lds.org). LDS Gems are great for brightening any day.



**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?**

Do you have a favorite family home evening? Has your family had a memorable lesson that helped to teach a gospel principle? Please share your story with us. Submissions should be between 300 and 500 words. Please label your manuscript "Family Home Evening Idea" and submit it by May 31, 2010.

We also welcome submissions on other topics showing the gospel of Jesus Christ

at work in your life. On each submission, please include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and the name of your ward and stake (or branch and district).

**Please submit articles through [ensign.lds.org](http://ensign.lds.org)**, or send them to Ensign Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT, 84150-0024, USA. We regret that we cannot acknowledge receipt or return manuscripts. Authors whose work is selected for publication will be notified.

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**By President  
Dieter F. Uchtdorf**  
Second Counselor in  
the First Presidency



# A Great Work of GOD

**April 6, 1830**

**O**ne hundred eighty years ago, Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and a handful of others gathered together to organize The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. By all accounts it was a simple but spiritual meeting. Joseph records that following the sacrament, “the Holy Ghost was poured out upon us to a very great degree—some prophesied, whilst we all praised the Lord, and rejoiced exceedingly.”<sup>1</sup>

The events of this day went unnoticed by the world; they were not accompanied by headlines or heralds. Nevertheless, how the heavens must have rejoiced and glorified God—for on that day, the Church of Jesus Christ returned to earth!

## **Solomon Chamberlain**

From that day to this, millions of faith-filled sons and daughters of Heavenly Father have followed the promptings of the Holy Ghost and entered the sacred waters of baptism. One such man was Solomon Chamberlain.

Solomon was a spiritual man and had spent many hours in prayer, seeking for the remission of his sins and pleading with Heavenly Father to lead him to the truth. Sometime around 1816, Solomon was promised in a

vision that he would live to see the day when the Church of Christ would be organized after the apostolic order was established once again on the earth.

Years later Solomon was traveling by boat toward Canada when his vessel stopped in the small town of Palmyra, New York. There he felt a compelling force urging him to disembark. Not knowing why he was there, he began speaking with the townspeople. It wasn’t long before he heard talk of a “gold Bible.” He said those two words sent “a power like electricity [that] went from the top of my head to the end of my toes.”

His inquiries led him to the Smith home, where he spoke with those present about the wonderful news of the restored gospel. After spending two days there and receiving a testimony of the truth, Solomon resumed his journey to Canada, taking with him 64 newly printed, unbound pages of the Book of Mormon. Everywhere he went, he taught the people, “both high and low, rich and poor, . . . to prepare for the great work of God that was now about to come forth.”<sup>2</sup>

## **A Great Work of God**

Since that day in April 1830, millions have discovered the truth of the restored gospel and have entered



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW REIER TAKEN ON THE SET OF JOSEPH SMITH: THE PROPHET OF THE RESTORATION

the waters of baptism. I testify that this “great work of God” is on the earth today. I bear witness that the Lord watches over His Church and directs it through His prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. It is no ordinary blessing to live in these latter days. These are glorious times, foreseen by ancient prophets and attended by watchful, angelic hosts. The Lord is mindful of His Church. He is also mindful of those who, like Solomon Chamberlain, follow

the promptings of the Holy Ghost and join with their brothers and sisters the world over in helping to bring forth this great work of God. ■

**NOTES**

1. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 1:78.
2. “A Short Sketch of the Life of Solomon Chamberlain,” typescript, Church History Library (on the Internet at [www.boap.org/LDS/Early-Saints/SChamberlain.html](http://www.boap.org/LDS/Early-Saints/SChamberlain.html)); see also William G. Hartley, “Every Member Was a Missionary,” *Ensign*, Sept. 1978, 23. A few days after the organization of the Church, Solomon Chamberlain was baptized by Joseph Smith in the waters of Seneca Lake, New York.

**TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE**

**P**ersonal example is one of the most powerful teaching tools we have” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 18). As you share the story of Solomon Chamberlain, invite the family to look for times that he followed the promptings of the Spirit. Discuss how his example may have helped others. Invite family members to share a time when someone’s good example has helped them.

# YOUTH

## My Faith Experiment

*When I was 13, I began to read the Book of Mormon every day, and I have been blessed every day since.*

By Jason Young

Our Sunday School class of 13-year-olds was not exactly known for our reverence. However, we had a wonderful teacher who tried her best to teach each lesson by the Spirit. One such lesson was on reading the scriptures.

At the end of the lesson she gave us a challenge. It was meant for all of us, but for some reason she looked directly at me as she said, "I challenge you to read from the Book of Mormon every single day!" I thought to myself, "I will show you. I will do it!"

I began 1 Nephi chapter 1 that very night and continued reading every day. I probably did not have a proper attitude when I began, but over time I began to like the way reading the Book of Mormon made me feel. Reading each night became an enjoyable habit.

Months later I came to Alma 32 and was impressed by the idea of a faith experiment. In school we had just learned about conducting scientific experiments, so I kneeled down and told Heavenly Father that I was beginning the experiment. I asked that I would come to know whether the Book of Mormon was true.

In hindsight, I know that Heavenly Father answered my prayers many times. Reading daily from the Book of Mormon gave me increased capacity to overcome evil. I felt closer to my Father in Heaven. I felt strengthened by the power of the Holy Ghost to overcome obstacles. What Alma said about experimenting with God's word is true: "It beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me" (Alma 32:28).



# CHILDREN

## No Ordinary Blessing

The Church was organized 180 years ago this month. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf said it is "no ordinary blessing" to live today, when the Church has been restored. To find some of the great blessings Heavenly Father gives to people through the Church, look up the scriptures below. Then find the picture that matches each scripture.

Acts 22:16  
2 Nephi 32:5  
James 5:14-15

D&C 20:8-12  
Amos 3:7  
D&C 110:7-10



**KIDS' ZONE**

*President Uchtdorf said that everyone can help in the "great work of God." How can you help?*



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW REIER; ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARYN ROOS



# Seeking and Receiving Personal Revelation



*Teach these scriptures and quotations or, if needed, another principle that will bless the sisters you visit. Bear testimony of the doctrine. Invite those you visit to share what they have felt and learned.*

## How Can I Seek Personal Revelation?

“We prepare to receive personal revelation as the prophets do, by studying the scriptures, fasting, praying, and building faith. Faith is the key. Remember Joseph’s preparation for the First Vision:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. . . .

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.”<sup>1</sup>

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

“Prayer is *your* personal key to heaven. The lock is on your side of the veil.

“But that is not all. To one who thought that revelation would flow without effort, the Lord said:

“You have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me.

“But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your *mind*; then you must ask me if it be right,

and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall *feel* that it is right.”<sup>2</sup>

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

## How Can I Receive Personal Revelation?

“In its more familiar forms, revelation or inspiration comes by means of words or thoughts communicated to the mind (see Enos 1:10; D&C 8:2–3), by sudden enlightenment (see D&C 6:14–15), by positive or negative feelings about proposed courses of action, or even by inspiring performances, as in the performing arts. As President Boyd K. Packer, . . . President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has stated,

### HELPS FOR VISITING TEACHING

**A**s a visiting teacher, you can receive impressions of the Spirit as to the needs of your sisters and how to meet those needs. As you teach this message, share, as appropriate, any inspiration or help you have received regarding visiting teaching.

### PERSONAL PREPARATION

- 1 Samuel 3:10
- 1 Kings 19:11–12
- Alma 5:46; 26:22
- 3 Nephi 19:19–23
- D&C 8:2–3; 9:8–9; 88:63–64



“Inspiration comes more as a feeling than as a sound.”<sup>3</sup>

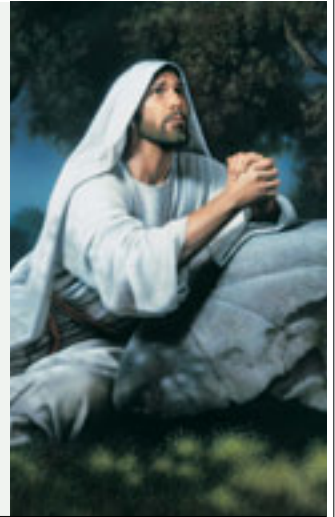
**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.**

“The temple is a house of learning. Much of the instruction imparted in the temple is symbolic and learned by the Spirit. This means we are taught from on high. . . . Our understanding of the meaning of the ordinances and covenants will increase as we return to the temple often with the attitude of learning and contemplating the eternal truths taught. . . . Let us enjoy the spiritual strength and the revelation we receive as we attend the temple regularly.”<sup>4</sup> ■

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

### NOTES

1. “Personal Revelation: The Teachings and Examples of the Prophets,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 88.
2. “Personal Revelation: The Gift, the Test, and the Promise,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 59–60.
3. “Eight Reasons for Revelation,” *Liahona*, Sept. 2004, 8; “Eight Ways God Can Speak to You,” *New Era*, Sept. 2004, 4.
4. “Holy Temples, Sacred Covenants,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 113, 114.



# HHE

## WILL TAKE UPON HIM THEIR INFIRMITIES



**By Elder Jean A. Tefan**

Served as an Area Seventy from 2000 to 2009

A few years after my wife, Gisèle, and I returned from presiding over the Fiji Suva Mission, Gisèle was diagnosed with stomach cancer. The ordeal would eventually include three delicate surgical operations and complications that resulted in the complete removal of her stomach. It was at the height of watching my wife's suffering that I came to better understand the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

I remember feeling completely overwhelmed by what Gisèle was experiencing. What had she done to deserve such an affliction? Hadn't she served the Lord faithfully? Hadn't she lived the Word of Wisdom? Why couldn't He have prevented this illness? *Why?*

One particular night I let my heart and my feelings burst in prayer as I recounted to the Lord all of my frustrations. "I can no longer stand to watch my dear wife endure such pain!" I told Him. Then I decided to turn to the scriptures. I found these comforting verses about Jesus Christ in Alma 7:11–12:

"And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

"And he will take upon him death, that he may loose

*I had not truly realized that Jesus Christ would take upon Him Gisèle's pain—or mine. I shifted my hurt and fear upon Him . . . I felt a heavy burden lifted!*

the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities."

Until that moment I had not considered all that the Savior's wondrous Atonement entailed. I had not truly realized that Jesus Christ would take upon Him Gisèle's pain—or mine. I shifted my hurt and fear upon Him who takes "the pains and the sicknesses of his people." With this new understanding, I felt a heavy burden lifted!

Today, Gisèle is doing very well, as though she never had cancer. At her regular checkups, her doctor tells her that she is "a miracle." I am so grateful for her physical healing, but I am also grateful for the healing that I experienced, a healing of the heart. The comfort that is available only through the Savior gave me a peaceful assurance that everything would be all right.

Now whenever I face tribulation, my thoughts always turn to that powerful lesson and to what the Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith: "The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?" (D&C 122:8). Remembering Jesus Christ's sacrifice invariably comforts me.

I am eternally grateful for our Savior's willingness to go through what He excruciatingly endured. I testify of His love, His mercy, and His watchful care for His children. He is our Savior, and I love Him. ■

More on this topic, see Elder Jeffrey R. Holland's April 2009 general conference address, "None Were with Him," at [conference.lds.org](http://conference.lds.org).



## Meditation on the Sacrament

By Stevens W. Anderson

*How small a sip of water,  
how tiny a crust of bread,  
yet in these emblems we are lifted,  
in them we are fed.*

*As we think of Jesus  
and the sacrifice He gave,  
we feel His constant mercy,  
His loving power to save.*



# HE IS RISEN

By President Thomas S. Monson

Wherever I travel, I try to pay a visit to the town cemetery. It is a time of contemplation, of reflection on the meaning of life and the inevitability of death. In the small cemetery in the town of Santa Clara, Utah, I remember the preponderance of Swiss names which adorn the weathered tombstones. Many of those persons left home and family in verdant Switzerland and, in response to the call “Come to Zion,” settled the communities where they now “rest in peace.” They endured spring floods, summer droughts, scant harvests, and backbreaking labors. They left a legacy of sacrifice.

The largest cemeteries, and in many respects those which evoke the most tender emotions, are honored as the resting places of men who died in the cauldron of conflict known as war while wearing the uniform of their country. One reflects on shattered dreams, unfulfilled hopes, grief-filled hearts, and lives cut short by the sharp scythe of war.

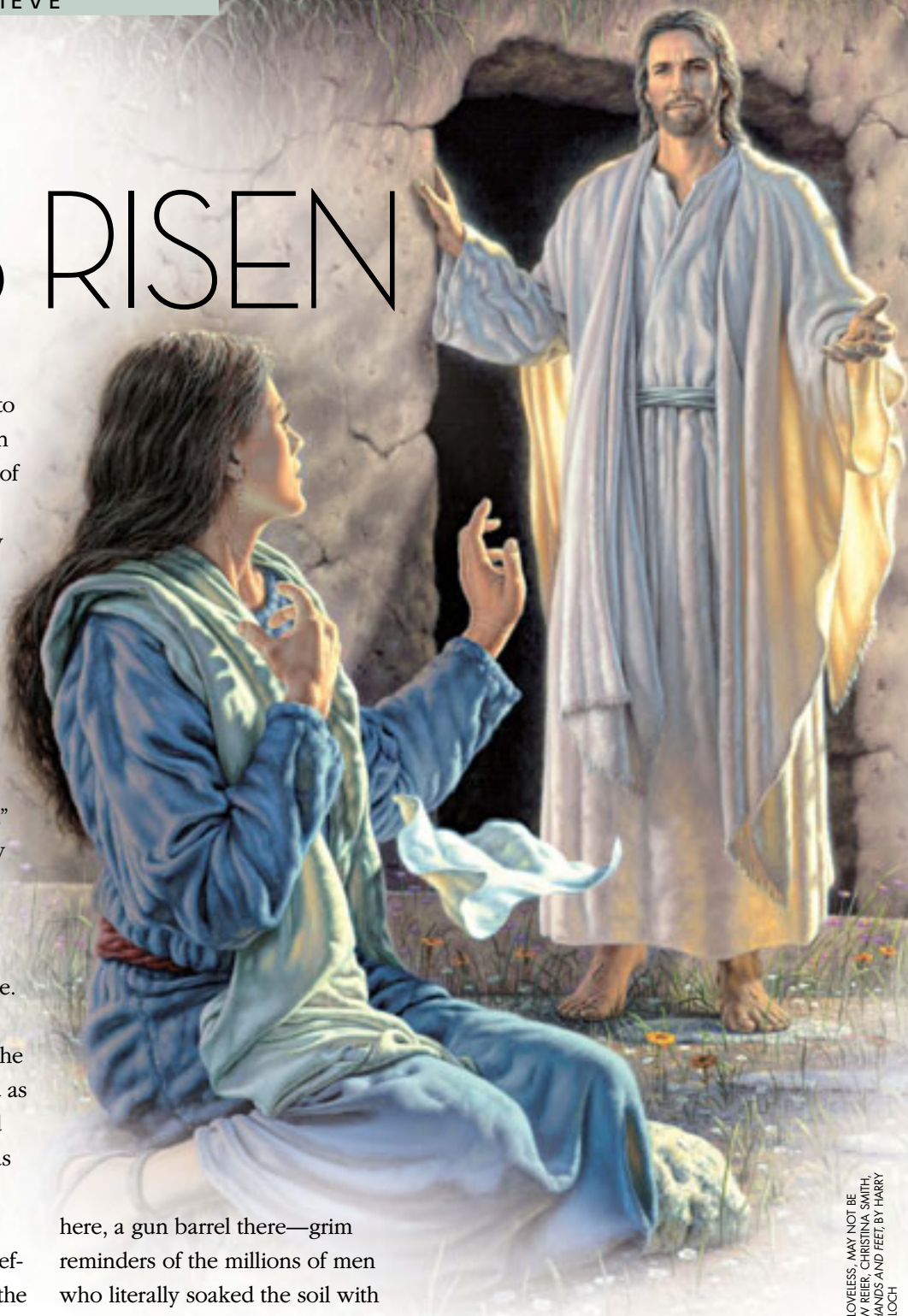
Acres of neat white crosses in the cities of France and Belgium accentuate the terrible toll of World War I. Verdun, France, is in reality a gigantic cemetery. Each spring as farmers till the earth, they uncover a helmet

here, a gun barrel there—grim reminders of the millions of men who literally soaked the soil with the blood of their lives.

## Death, a New Chapter of Life

Many years ago I stood by the bedside of a young man, the father of two children, as he hovered between life and the great beyond. He took my

*Christ's Resurrection, as a part of the Atonement, opens the way for all of us to be resurrected.*



FROM LEFT: MY REDEEMER LIVES; BY ROGER LOVELESS; MAY NOT BE COPIED; PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATTHEW REIER, CHRISTINA SMITH, AND WELDEN C. ANDERSEN; BEHOLD MY HANDS AND FEET; BY HARRY ANDERSON; LAZARUS; BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH

1. We have come to earth to learn, to live, to progress in our eternal journey toward perfection.



2. Some remain on earth but for a moment, while others live long upon the land. The measure is not how long we live but rather how well we live.



3. Then comes death and the beginning of a new chapter of life.



4. This new chapter leads to that glorious day of resurrection, when spirit and body will be reunited, never again to be separated.



hand in his, looked into my eyes, and pleadingly asked, “Bishop, I know I am about to die. Tell me what happens to my spirit when I die.”

I prayed for heavenly guidance. My attention was directed to the Book of Mormon on the table beside his bed. I began to read aloud:

“Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection— . . . the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, . . . are taken home to that God who gave them life.

“ . . . The spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow” (Alma 40:11–12).

My young friend closed his eyes, expressed a sincere thank you, and silently slipped away to that paradise about which we had spoken.



**Christ said to the grieving Martha, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11:25–26).**

### Victory over the Tomb

Let Luke, the physician, describe the experience of Mary and the other Mary as they approached the garden tomb:

“And they found the stone rolled away. . . .

“ . . . They entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

“ . . . As they were much perplexed

thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

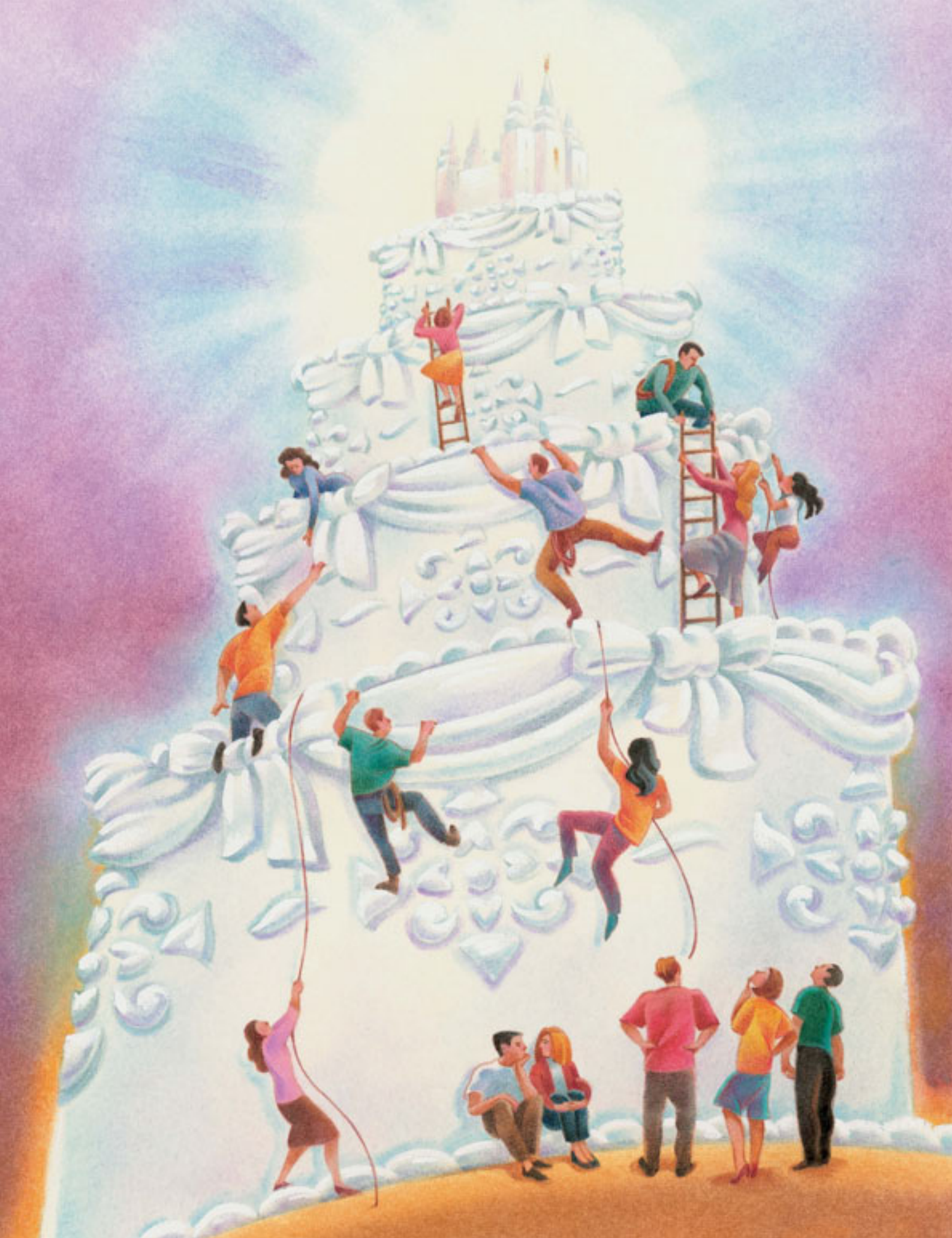
“And . . . said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

“He is not here, but is risen” (Luke 24:2–6).

This is the clarion call of Christendom. The reality of the Resurrection provides to one and all the peace that surpasses understanding. It comforts those whose loved ones lie in Flanders fields or who perished in the depths of the sea or who rest in tiny Santa Clara. It is a universal truth.

As the least of His disciples, I declare my personal witness that death has been conquered, that victory over the tomb has been won. May the words made sacred by Him who fulfilled them become actual knowledge to all. Remember them. Cherish them. Honor them. *He is risen.* ■

From “*He Is Risen*,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Apr. 2003, 2–7.



By Elder  
Lance B. Wickman  
Of the Seventy



# Confidence Tests

## FROM FEAR TO FAITH IN THE MARRIAGE DECISION

After graduating from college in 1964, I was commissioned an officer in the United States Army. I volunteered for training as a U.S. Army Ranger. Ranger training is a grueling course in commando and elite infantry tactics. The goal is to produce highly skilled officers and noncommissioned officers.

My Ranger training included a series of “confidence tests,” as the Ranger cadre called them, which were intended as challenges to physical strength, stamina, and courage. Challenging obstacle courses, scaling and rappelling sheer ice-covered rock faces of 100 feet (30 m) or more, night swamp slogging amid alligators and poisonous snakes, and a night compass course across 10 miles (16 km) of rugged terrain—these are just some of the tests we endured. One purpose of these confidence tests was to teach Rangers that in the difficult and trying circumstances of combat, we were capable of doing more than we thought we could do. Our leaders taught us to have confidence in ourselves and in our own training. More than once during the fiery trials of my combat experience, I drew reassurance from the lessons of those Ranger confidence tests.

Throughout our lives, we face other, more significant confidence tests than those I endured in my training.

These are not so much tests of confidence in oneself but of confidence in what we receive by the Spirit of God. Prophet after prophet has counseled us to remember what we know—to maintain confidence in the Lord. As he attempted to rekindle faith in his people, Jacob repeatedly declared unto them, “*I know that ye know*” (2 Nephi 9:4, 5; emphasis added). Paul was even more direct: “*Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward*” (Hebrews 10:35; emphasis added). Each of us faces an uncertain future. But when we face it, remembering what we already know, we face it with faith. We face it with good cheer. We face it with *confidence*.

One of the most significant confidence tests of mortality is usually faced in the young-adult season of life. It is the decision to marry. No decision is approached with greater trepidation by this generation of young adults. It is a subject that provokes much anxiety.

### Fears about Marriage

I’m not sure of all the reasons this is the case, but here, I believe, are some of them:

- **Ease of hanging out.** Many young people take themselves “out of the game” in finding the right companion



***Group socializing can deny a person the opportunity of the close examination of the character and personality of that special someone so vital to making a wise choice.***

by doing too much of their socializing in groups. Because this hanging out occurs in mixed groups with males and females, some mistakenly think that they are properly engaged in the sifting process so essential to finding one's eternal companion. But this is not so. Group socializing can deny a person the opportunity of the close examination of the character and personality of that special someone so vital to making a wise choice.

- **Fear of making a mistake.** Divorce statistics are well known. Some young people have lived through the heartache of seeing their parents' or friends' marriages fail or have been through divorce themselves. They have experienced exquisitely the trauma associated with such breakups. Sometimes, the effect is to make them afraid to approach marriage lest they choose the wrong person.
- **Adolescent recoiling from responsibility.** At least for a few, there is a reluctance to meld one's desires and interests to those of another. Such selfishness has a way of prompting some to postpone the marriage decision.

## **Fallacious Thinking**

Whatever the reason for the fear of the marriage decision, it leads to some fallacious thinking, to a "casting away" of one's confidence. This, in turn, causes a person's failure to firmly grasp his or her own responsibility for making that decision. Even if such fear doesn't result in postponing or even avoiding marriage, it can lead to other errors. For instance, some are inclined to treat the decision as entirely a spiritual one. Shortchanging their own obligation to give due process to it, they wait for the functional equivalent of a divine finger writing an answer on the wall or for the seas to part or for some other metaphysical phenomenon that tells them without question that so-and-so is "the one."

Others look to someone else to decide for them. A Brigham Young University stake president told me that it is not uncommon for some women to defer to the opinion of a current boyfriend telling her that he is "the one." Others defer to the judgment of a parent—often a father—who has made decisions for them in the past. In either instance, there is an abdication of responsibility for the most significant choice that a person makes in this life.

Counsel from parents, bishops, and other worthy persons can be valuable. But at the end of the day, no one else can—or should—tell you what to do. The decision of whom to marry is an intensely personal one.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward!" Remember that we come into this life hard-wired, so to speak, to fall in love. Don't make it harder than it is! *Remember what you know*, and move forward with confidence in Heavenly Father and the standing you enjoy as His son or daughter.



## Counsel for Courtship

Courtship is a time for two people to get acquainted. It is a time to get to know someone, his or her interests, habits, and perspective on life and the gospel. It is a time to share ambitions and dreams, hopes and fears. It is a time to test someone's commitment to gospel living.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles tells of a returned missionary who had been dating a special young woman. He cared for her a great deal and was seriously considering making a proposal of marriage to her. This was after President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) had counseled women to wear only one set of earrings. This young man waited patiently for a while, said Elder Bednar, for the young woman to remove the extra set of earrings she wore. But it did not happen. For this and other reasons, with heavy heart, he stopped dating her.

In relating this experience, Elder Bednar said: "I presume that some of you . . . may believe the young man was too judgmental or that basing an eternally important decision, even in part, upon such a supposedly minor issue is silly or fanatical. Perhaps you are bothered because the example focuses upon a young woman who failed to respond to prophetic counsel instead of upon a young man. [But may I just point out to you that] the issue was not earrings!"<sup>1</sup>

Here is another tip. As a part of this courtship experience, be careful not to base your judgments merely on what could be described as superficial "ticket punching." By that, I mean do not base your decisions solely on whether someone has served a full-time mission or holds a particular calling in your ward. These things can be, should be, and usually are indications of devotion, faithfulness, and integrity. But not always. That is the reason you need to

get acquainted. Know someone well enough to learn his or her heart and character firsthand and not just his or her "gospel résumé."

A corollary is this: avoid being judgmental about someone until you get to know him or her. Snap negative judgments can be just as erroneous and misleading as snap positive ones. Be just as alert for a diamond in the rough as you are wary of fool's gold.

## Praying about It

Only after applying your own judgment and good sense to the relationship after a sufficient period of time should you pray for a confirmation. Remember, like every other important decision, marriage is *your choice*. The Lord will expect *you* to exercise *your* judgment. As He said to Oliver Cowdery, "Behold, you have not understood; you have supposed that



## CHOOSING A COMPANION

In choosing a companion, it is necessary to study . . . the one with whom you are contemplating making life's journey. You see how necessary it is to look for the characteristics of honesty, of loyalty, of chastity, and of reverence."

President David O. McKay (1873–1970), *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* (2003), 140.

***You need to get acquainted. Know someone well enough to learn his or her heart and character firsthand and not just his or her "gospel résumé."***



I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me” (D&C 9:7).

Once you do your part through an appropriate courtship and make a tentative decision, have confidence that Heavenly Father will respond to your supplication.

The Lord expects you to use your own good sense. He expects you to rely on your own natural feelings of man-woman attraction planted in you from birth. Once you have been drawn to a person of the opposite sex, enjoyed a significant period of friendship—courtship—with him or her, and satisfied yourself that he or she shares your values and is someone with whom you could happily share the most intimate of relationships—then put the matter to Heavenly Father. The lack of a contrary impression to your own feelings may be His way of telling you that He has no objection to your choice.

### Have Confidence in the Lord

Years have passed now since that challenging season in my Ranger training. Mortality’s currents have swept me far downstream from the confidence tests of my soldiering days. But their memory and their lessons linger. We are capable of weathering the storms of life and doing so more effectively than we might have thought. It is just a matter of always remembering what we know.

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.” Have confidence in what you know! Then you will meet your own confidence tests with courage and grace, and the Lord will surely direct your paths. ■

*From a Brigham Young University–Idaho devotional given on September 25, 2007.*

#### NOTE

1. David A. Bednar, “Quick to Observe,” *Liahona*, Dec. 2006, 17; *Ensign*, Dec. 2006, 33.

# MAKING Temple Marriage A PRIORITY

By Vitaly and Ekaterina Shmakov

**Vitaly:** When I had been home from my mission for a few months, I was asked to be a counselor at a local youth conference. Steven C. Smith, president of the Russia Novosibirsk Mission, called me into his office. I anticipated a new calling or a formal interview of some kind. Instead, President Smith told me about someone he wanted me to meet—a young woman who had recently completed her mission and returned home to another part of Russia but who would be in town for the conference.

I had never seen Katya before, but once I arrived at the conference, I introduced myself, and we casually chatted for a few minutes. Later that night I asked Katya for a dance. The next day I asked her for another.

**Katya:** Growing up, I didn’t know many young, single priesthood holders, but I always hoped that the Lord would provide a worthy young man for me to marry. I had no idea when or how we would meet, but I had confidence in the Lord and His promises.

After my mission, I was invited to help chaperone a youth conference. When I saw Vitaly at the conference, I was immediately interested in getting to know him. We spent the most wonderful and unforgettable three days together at the conference.

I felt a strong prompting early on that Vitaly was the man I was to marry. Of course, not everyone will experience this kind of feeling so early in a courtship. So how do we know we are heading in the right direction? I learned on my mission to recognize the Spirit and to follow His direction without any doubts. So when I felt promptings that I needed to get to know Vitaly, I decided to follow them.

I know that the Spirit will guide all of us if we seek His companionship. It's important that we not compare our own path to that of others—the Spirit may not guide all of us in exactly the same manner—but if we are following the Spirit, we can have confidence that our path is right for us.

### Overcoming Obstacles

**Vitaly:** During those three days, I realized I had found someone special. I was disappointed when the conference ended and Katya and I had to part. Luckily, though, there was a young single adult conference the next month.

I immediately started looking forward to it.

That conference was as great as I had hoped. Katya and I spent a lot of time really getting to know each other. As the event ended, we exchanged phone numbers and went back to our respective cities.

During the following weeks we kept in touch mostly by phone calls and text messages. (I think in less than a month I learned to text on my cell phone faster than most people can type on a laptop!)

Katya lived in Yekaterinburg, which is 11 hours away by train from where I lived in

Omsk, Siberia. Nevertheless, we both desperately wanted to see each other again. We started to make regular trips on the weekends. I would go to see her one weekend, and a few weeks later, she would come visit me. When I visited Katya, I stayed with mutual friends in her town, and when she visited me, she stayed with mutual friends who lived in my town. We often spent time with these

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**V***italy and Ekaterina (Katya) Shmakov were born in Omsk, Russia, and Yekaterinburg, Russia, respectively. Both joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in their teens, and both served missions—Vitaly in the Czech Prague Mission and Katya in the Russia Novosibirsk Mission. They say their conversions opened their minds to the possibilities of happy, confident, fulfilling lives, and their missions cemented their desires to create gospel-centered homes, starting with temple marriage. This is their story.*

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friends from church during our visits.

**Katya:** Eleven hours may seem like a long commute, but for Russia, that's really just a short walk! Because of the distance, our dates were not as frequent as we would have liked. We could get together only once every few weeks and spend two or three days together before one of us returned home. Often, it felt like we needed a lot more time than that, and parting was always difficult. But because we had to make such an effort to see each other, we appreciated every minute we spent together. As our



relationship progressed, we began to look forward to a time when we would not have to say good-bye.

Our dates were very interesting and diverse: we rode bicycles and horses, visited museums, read the scriptures, cooked, walked in the parks (we even danced in one of them), and went to an orphanage to serve and play with the children.

Every time we met, we did something new, so we had a lot of fun. I appreciated how inventive Vitaly was in planning our dates.

### Living the Lord's Way

**Vitaly:** In Russia, as in many places, it is the norm for people to live together before marrying. After I proposed to Katya, some of my friends asked me how I could possibly marry her without knowing beforehand if we were personally compatible. They reasoned, as many also did with Katya, that the only way to really know whether she was right for me was to live with her for an extended period of time.

I told them that there is no need to live with a person to get to know him or her. I also tried to explain to my friends in a way that they could understand that I had prayed and received an answer that I should marry Katya. Having prayed about my decision, I had no fears about married life. I was excited and felt like a whole new life was unfolding before me. No one ever opposed or criticized me for taking this stand. In fact, they supported me in my decision.

**Katya:** When Vitaly proposed, my parents tried to talk me out of getting married. They thought it was too soon for us to be engaged and that I needed to know Vitaly better than I did. My boss at work told me the same thing and added, "You need to live together before you make a choice like that."

I'm sad that people feel that way about marriage and family. I don't think they understand how happy couples can be when they are married and sealed in the temple. The great love and happiness Vitaly and I felt at our marriage were made even stronger by the knowledge that we are sealed for eternity.

**Vitaly:** Katya and I were married in Omsk on February 25, 2006. (The laws of Russia require a civil marriage prior to a temple sealing, as many countries do.) The next morning we set off on a trip to the Stockholm Sweden Temple. We boarded an airplane in Omsk and flew three



### KEEP AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

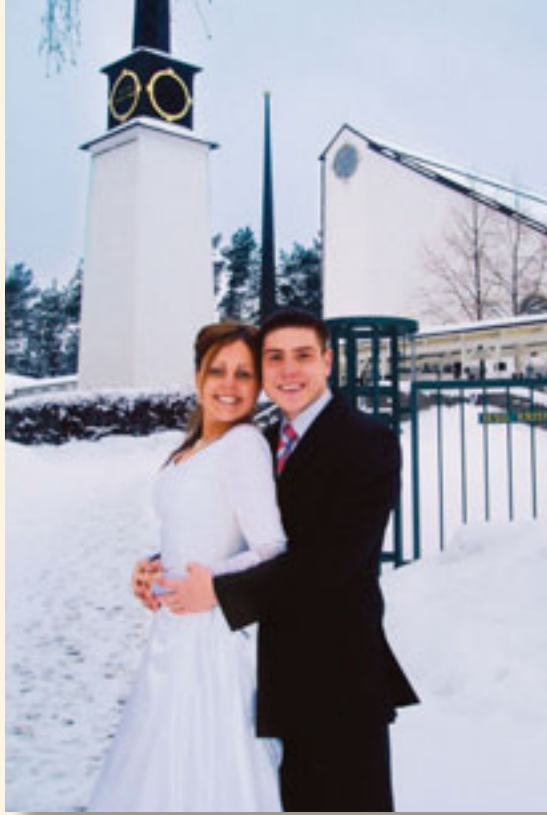
**M**aintain an eternal perspective. Let there be a temple marriage in your future. There is no scene so sweet, no time so sacred as that very special day of your marriage. Then and there you glimpse celestial joy. Be alert; do not permit temptation to rob you of this blessing."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Be Thou an Example," *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2005, 113.

The activities he planned helped us really get to know each other.

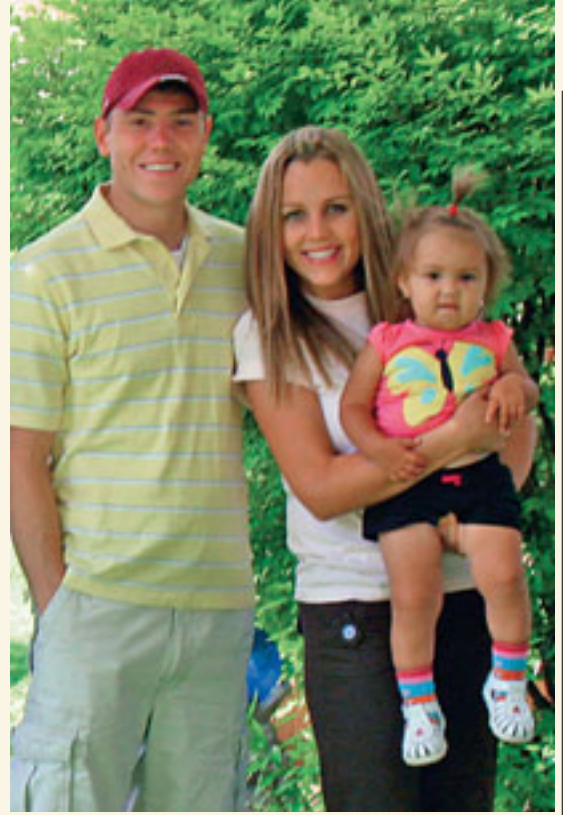
**Vitaly:** Because I was a student, I couldn't really afford many amusing things. I spent most of my money traveling to see Katya and paying my phone bill. But having a limited budget didn't mean that our dating had to be uninteresting or unproductive. In fact, some of our best dates didn't cost a single penny.

It may sound silly, but I wanted to see how Katya would act around children, so we went to an orphanage. It was like that with many of our dates; we really tried to learn as much about each other as we could.



*Left: The Shmakovs on their sealing day in 2006; their trip to the Stockholm Sweden Temple took about 30 hours.*

*Right: Today, the Shmakovs have a young daughter. Katya says, “I want her to marry in the temple someday, and the best support we could offer her is to be loving companions and parents.”*



hours to Moscow, where we spent the rest of the day. Then we took an overnight train to Saint Petersburg. Once there we got on a bus with other Latter-day Saints and traveled for eight hours to Helsinki, Finland. The last leg of our journey was an 11-hour ferry ride to Stockholm.

Finally, we had reached the temple.

For some, such a long trip may seem like a challenge, but in many ways, our trip across Europe made a great honeymoon.

The day of our sealing, March 1, 2006, was a great day—a day of peace and assurance. I knew that the person whose hand I was holding was the one I'd share eternity with. This thought alone filled me with great joy and gratitude to Heavenly Father for trusting me with His daughter for my wife. I felt closer to Him than ever before.

### Seeking Christlike Characteristics

**Katya:** Now Vitaly and I have a young daughter. She is wonderful. I want her to marry in the temple someday, and the best support we could offer her is to be loving companions and parents.

I hope that she is able to find a worthy priesthood holder who has many Christlike attributes. It was seeing those kinds of attributes in Vitaly that helped me know I could marry him.

What attracted me to Vitaly? Of course, he is handsome and smart, and he knows how to court a woman. But these were not the main criteria. He had what I like to call “eyes of a disciple of Christ.” I sensed a light in him. He is a righteous priesthood holder.

**Vitaly:** Of course, it's great to be married to someone you're attracted to. But when our focus is solely on physical characteristics, we inevitably miss the most important characteristics—personality, spirituality, and other qualities that really matter in an enduring marriage.

I realize it may be a challenge for some young adults to find a spouse in the Church simply because there are not many Latter-day Saints where they live. I empathize with them. Nevertheless, I know that no matter what circumstances we are in, if we do our part and prepare ourselves to be sealed in the temple, Heavenly Father can provide a way. ■



# Making the Marriage Decision

*How faith helped these young adults overcome fear and make the choice to marry.*

**F**or many young adults, making the marriage decision is straightforward and simple. For others, it's not so easy. As children of what has been called the "divorce revolution," today's young adults have seen the consequences of failed marriages. Current social trends toward delaying and even avoiding marriage further complicate the matter. Some young adults become overly concerned with finding the right person, waiting for the perfect timing, or feeling fully prepared to commit for eternity. In fact, a recent study of Latter-day Saints in the United States showed that one-third of young adults ages 21 to 25 have some concerns or reservations about their readiness for marriage.<sup>1</sup>

Despite these challenges, Church leaders have affirmed the command to marry and have assured young adults that eternal marriage is not only possible but also desirable. While serving as a member of the Seventy, Elder Earl C. Tingey said at a Church Educational System (CES) fireside for young adults, “For some, [marriage and family] would appear impossible to obtain. But please have faith, and join that faith with works. The Lord is aware of you as individuals and of your particular circumstances. He will bless you. He will assist you in bringing to pass that which is right and which you righteously desire. Please have faith.”<sup>2</sup>

Here, young adults tell of the fears and setbacks they faced in making the marriage decision—and the faith they found to carry them through.

### Trusting the Lord to Be My Guide

**F**or me, getting a confirmation about my marriage was like filling a glass. Because I knew that dating and marriage were things to pray about, I pictured myself getting a “full glass” of an answer the first time I prayed. But I became confused when I went on a few dates with Karen and couldn’t figure out where to go from there. I liked her personality, but I didn’t know about her testimony or anything else. I was afraid of the relationship ending with broken hearts or anger. However, I realized I would know what to do only by spending time with her. I figured that in the end it would be a learning experience for both of us—whatever that end would be.

We eventually decided to date exclusively, but neither of us knew exactly what we wanted from the relationship and we broke up a few times because we weren’t on the



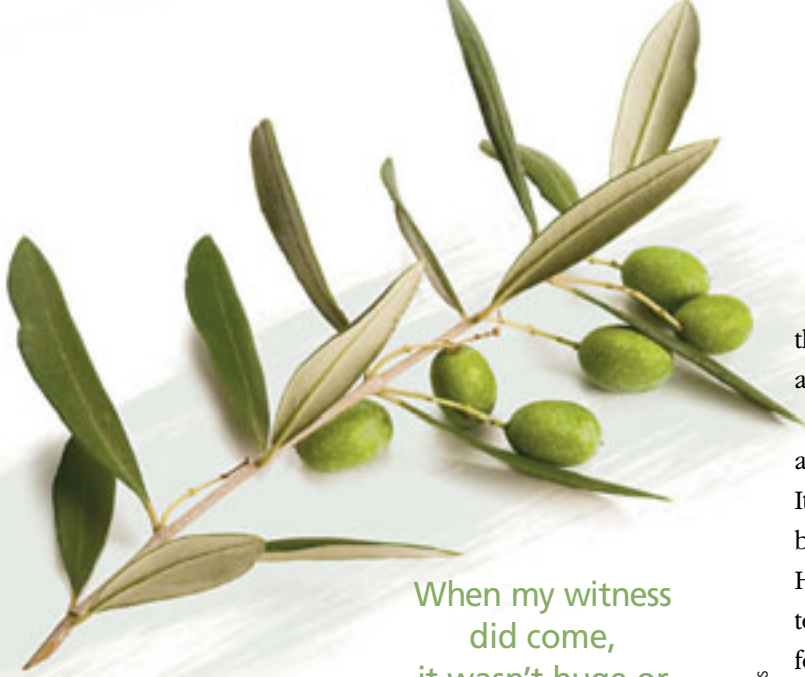
same page. She had strong desires to serve a mission, and I strongly wanted to be sure of whom I should date and marry. Plus, we were both afraid of making a mistake in choosing when and whom to marry.

As I sought priesthood blessings and counsel from priesthood leaders and continued to pray, the glass continued to fill. I learned more about Karen and me—what we could work through together, what our personal weaknesses and strengths were and how they affected us, what our fears were and how we would deal with them, and how to communicate with each other. We both saw from experience that we worked well together and complemented each other. We learned of each other’s faith, testimony, opinions, and quirks. As I prayed and as my glass filled, I felt added courage to keep dating her to see what would happen. I didn’t know “for sure,” but my faith that things would work between us increased.

Over time, I realized that I truly loved Karen and wanted to spend eternity with her. When she met my family and I saw how she fit in, my glass was full. It took me a year to get to that point, but when I did, the doubt dispersed and I could see clearly. I knew I should marry her and I knew that I knew.

I’ve wondered what would have happened had I not had the faith to let the Lord guide me through my relationship with Karen. I’m glad I had the courage to move forward, even in uncertainty. Because we learned so much in our dating and during our engagement, our adjustment to marriage has been smooth, and we are extremely happy.

Tyler Heasley, California, USA



When my witness did come, it wasn't huge or overwhelming, but I'll never forget it. It was sweet and personal and very peaceful.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY GARNIS

that he was a worthy choice. Still, when he started talking about getting married, I wasn't sure.

I wish I could say that when I knelt down and prayed about it, peace and clarity came right away. They didn't. It took weeks and even months. It was frustrating for my boyfriend, who did not have the same fears that I did. He already felt peace about our relationship and wanted to move forward. I am grateful that he waited patiently for my witness to come.

When it did come, it wasn't huge or overwhelming, but I'll never forget it. It was sweet and personal and very peaceful. It didn't mean that my other doubts or concerns vanished, because they didn't. In fact, I think the closer we got to marriage and realized what a big decision we were making, the more worries popped up! But those feelings of peace fed my faith, and I was able to move forward. Marriage is hard at times, but because of the confirmation I worked and waited for, I never doubt the decision I made to marry my husband.

Name Withheld

### Choosing to Take My Own Path

For many of my teenage years and into my first years of college, my parents struggled significantly in their marriage. Their relationship deteriorated so much that when I left on my mission, I wasn't sure they would still be married when I returned.

My parents did stay married and worked through their struggles, and I came home to find them closer to each other than I had ever seen them before. However, my grandparents, who had been married for more than 50 years, got divorced while I was on my mission. That devastated me, not only because they'd been together for so long, but also because they had "done it right"—they had been sealed in the temple and remained active in the Church.

My exposure to these situations left me wondering if it was all worth it and if I could expect to have a happy, successful marriage. Even when I began dating the young man I would eventually marry—someone I had known for years and whose family I adored—I still felt unsettled.

Over time I felt good about our growing relationship. The man I was dating was kind, thoughtful, and considerate, not just with me, but also with others. He was faithful in his Church callings, and, since we were both returned missionaries, we would often attend the temple together, all of which helped me to feel peace and gain confidence

### Reaping the Rewards of Faith

I was almost done with my undergraduate education before I really believed marriage was for me. Before then, I didn't have a testimony of the doctrine of marriage and I felt no real need to date or seek a marriage partner. There were even a few times when I tried to commit to a life of solitude, but lessons from the scriptures and encouragement from my family were enough to nudge me into the dating scene.

My desire to be sealed had grown from a seed of faith into "a tree springing up unto everlasting life."





Eventually a testimony—vibrant and undeniable—came, and I was faced with a straightforward decision: I could accept eternal marriage along with all of the other gospel principles I knew to be true, or I could reject eternal marriage and knowingly rebel against Heavenly Father’s plan. In my mind I could clearly see the consequences of choosing to stay single and of choosing to marry. This understanding—a gift from the Holy Ghost—made it easy to choose the better path, to look for dates rather than for escapes, and to be obedient to the testimony I had received.

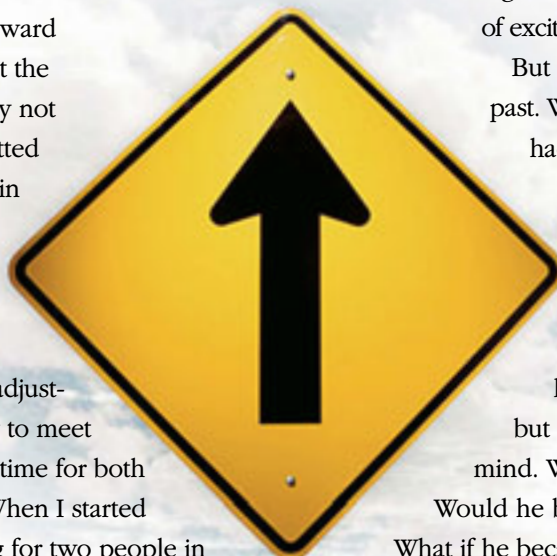
My decision to marry would have meant little if I had not actively worked toward securing the blessing. Knowing that the girl of my dreams would most likely not show up on my doorstep, I committed myself to doing what would result in a proper, happy temple marriage. I prayed, fasted, attended the temple, and exercised faith that I would find the young woman I wanted to marry. I made practical adjustments as well: I knew the best way to meet people was to socialize, so I made time for both formal dates and social activities. When I started dating Keisy, I had to start planning for two people in my schedule and not just one. I had to find things for us to do so we could get to know each other better.

Even after I had gained a testimony of eternal marriage, my desire to be married was still small. But as Keisy and I dated and the strength of our relationship increased, my desire for temple marriage increased too. It continued to grow after the proposal, the engagement pictures, the family parties, and each subsequent act that prepared us for our new life together. By the time we were seated in the temple waiting for the sealer to arrive, my desire to be sealed had grown from a seed of faith into “a tree springing up unto everlasting life” (Alma 32:41).

My testimony of marriage has increased since our temple sealing; I have learned more fully the doctrine of marriage and family by doing His will (see John 7:17).

Jordan Pendergrass, Arizona, USA

I needed to look at where he was now and where he was going, not just at where he had been. I could trust Heavenly Father to help us as we followed Him.



### Looking Ahead—Not Back

When I met the man who would become my husband, we had both recently returned from missions. He immediately impressed me; he was active in the Church, treated me like gold, and had a kind spirit. Friendship turned into love, and in what seemed like no time at all, we were talking about getting married. It was a whirlwind of excitement.

But then one day he told me about his past. With regret he explained to me that he had never graduated from high school.

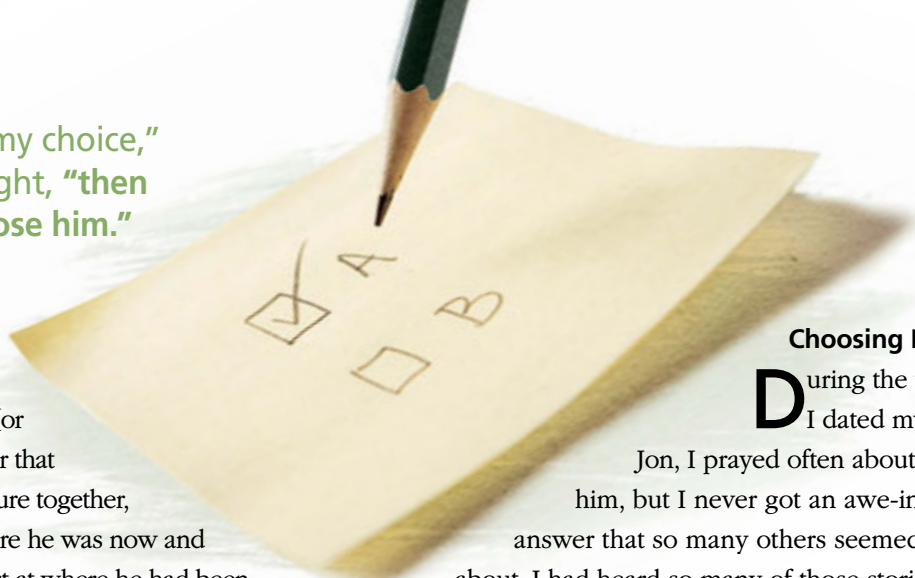
He also told me he hadn’t always been active in the Church.

I looked at the man I loved and couldn’t picture the person he was describing. I tried not to let this new information bother me, but it kept nagging me in the back of my mind. Would he always be a hard worker? Would he be able to provide for our family?

What if he became less active in the Church again? I felt that these concerns were valid, but I didn’t have answers to any of them.

Although I could not see what the future would hold if I were to marry this man, I could trust Heavenly Father to guide me in my decision. Over the course of several months, I prayed fervently and attended the temple regularly in seeking direction. The turning point came slowly as I realized that my boyfriend had many traits that were vital for me in a husband. He had a strong testimony of the gospel. He held a current temple recommend. He treated me with tremendous respect. And he loved me very much.

"If it's my choice,"  
I thought, "then  
I choose him."



There could be no way of knowing how things he had experienced (or things I had experienced, for that matter) would affect our future together, but I needed to look at where he was now and where he was going, not just at where he had been. Furthermore, I could trust Heavenly Father to help us as we followed Him. The answer I received may not be the one that everyone receives, but I know that as we go to Him in faith, Heavenly Father will guide each of us.

My husband and I have been married four years now. He has a great job, and we have meaningful opportunities to serve in our ward. We have discovered that when you have someone who is on your side and who loves you despite your weaknesses, you want to become better. Neither of us is perfect, but in doing what is right and staying close to the Lord, we have found great happiness.

Name Withheld

### Choosing Love

**D**uring the two years I dated my husband, Jon, I prayed often about marrying him, but I never got an awe-inspiring answer that so many others seemed to talk about. I had heard so many of those stories that I was afraid marrying Jon wasn't right unless I had a miraculous confirmation experience too.

I was also weighing a decision about serving a mission. I proceeded with the process of putting in my papers and met with my bishop. He asked about my relationship with Jon. The bishop suggested that if I was OK with Jon marrying another girl, then I should move forward with serving a mission. If I was not OK with his being with someone else, then maybe I should reconsider.

I spent a lot of time thinking about that counsel. I knew I loved Jon, but I didn't want to give up other good opportunities. As I was praying over the matter one day, I received the distinct impression through a feeling: "It's your choice." As unromantic as it may sound, that answer was exactly what I needed. Of course it had always been my choice, but this prompting reminded me that I didn't need to wait for earth-shattering, divine intervention to tell me to marry Jon; I knew we were compatible, I knew I loved him, and I knew marrying him would be a good thing. All that was left was for me to make the choice.

"If it's my choice," I thought, "then I choose him." It was hard to give up the opportunity of a mission, but from that moment on, I was committed, and we started planning for marriage.

I still had occasional doubts and fears, but because I had made the choice to marry Jon, I also had made the choice to help things work out. (Imagine that—having to work at a relationship!) Choosing to work at our relationship has made all the difference because as I have done so, I have felt closer to and more in love with my husband.

Marriage isn't always easy—most worthwhile things have difficult moments. But when I come to those moments, I remember what I felt when I received that simple but powerful answer to my prayer: we choose our



### CAST NOT AWAY THEREFORE YOUR CONFIDENCE

I am not saying you shouldn't be very careful about something as significant and serious as marriage. . . . Yes, there are cautions and considerations to make, but once there has been genuine illumination, beware the temptation to retreat from a good thing. If it was right when you prayed about it and trusted it and lived for it, it is right now. Don't give up when the pressure mounts. You can find an apartment. You can win over your mother-in-law. You can sell your harmonica and therein fund one more meal. It's been done before. Don't give in. *Certainly don't give in to that being who is bent on the destruction of your happiness.* He wants everyone to be miserable like unto himself. Face your doubts. Master your fears. 'Cast not away therefore your confidence.' Stay the course and see the beauty of life unfold for you."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence," Brigham Young University devotional address, March 2, 1999.

companions and then go to work to make those relationships meaningful throughout our lives.

Marie Cottle, Utah, USA

### Relying on Faith, Not Fear

**M**y relationship with Nathan had progressed—rather quickly—as far as any of my previous dating relationships had, but the others had ended with painful breakups. Because that had been my only experience with dating, I assumed my relationship with Nathan would end the same way. Besides, he had just accepted a job more than 2,000 miles away. I was a first-year law student and wasn't sure that transferring was feasible—let alone desirable.

One night I realized how much fear was holding me back. I remembered something I had heard a few months before in Sunday School. The teacher had reminded us that the Savior can heal all hurts—even the ones that happen in dating. I decided that Nathan had come into my life for a reason and I needed to let that reason play out, whatever the outcome turned out to be. If I did end up getting hurt, I could have faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ to get me through it.

Just a few days later, Nathan proposed—and I accepted. But

almost as soon as we started making plans for our life together, fear set in again. What if I didn't complete my degree? What would it be like living so far away from family and friends? Marrying Nathan would bring many major changes to my life plans and add a lot of unknowns to the future.


Again, I received a feeling of assurance. After attending the temple, I was reading my scriptures and contemplating my decision to marry Nathan when I came across this sentence in Moroni 8:16: "Perfect love casteth out all fear."

It struck me that the love of two righteous people moving toward the Savior could cast out the fear of all the world's unknowns. This experience gave me the peace I needed to move forward with the decision to marry Nathan and the courage to make changes to my educational and career path. I know that the love Nathan and I have is not perfect, but through Jesus Christ, it can be made so. ■

Julianne Taylor Zollinger, Virginia, USA

#### NOTES

1. Jason S. Carroll, Project READY, Brigham Young University, 2009. For national statistics, see Jason S. Carroll, et al., "Ready or Not? Criteria for Marriage Readiness among Emerging Adults," *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 24, 2009, 366–67.
2. Elder Earl C. Tingey, "The Simple Truths from Heaven—the Lord's Pattern," CES Fireside for Young Adults, Jan. 13, 2008.



I was contemplating my decision to marry Nathan when I came across this sentence in Moroni 8:16: "Perfect love casteth out all fear."

# Nephi's Story, My Story

*Jake's phone call left me brokenhearted, but I found hope in the example of an ancient prophet.*

## Name withheld

A few years after I had finished college, I found myself sitting in family home evening with other young single adults in my ward. We had been invited to the home of a counselor in our stake presidency, and his wife was giving the lesson.

We were reading the account of Nephi and his brothers going to get the brass plates from Laban (see 1 Nephi 3–5). Our teacher talked about the courage and persistence Nephi exhibited. Then she looked up at our small group. Her gaze was penetrating.

“Nephi and his brothers had been given a difficult task,” she pointed out. “It took several tries, none of which was easy. But it was worth persistent effort. As a result of having the scriptures, Nephi would prevent his family from ‘dwindl[ing] and perish[ing] in unbelief’ (1 Nephi 4:13).

“There will be ‘plates’ in your own lives,” she continued. “Maybe you will have to demonstrate persistence in obtaining your education. Perhaps you will be called on to exhibit courage when you’re dating. Whatever the sacrifices, the roadblocks, the setbacks, the heartbreaks—whatever it takes to preserve your future family and keep them from dwindling in unbelief—go back and get the plates.”

It was a nice parallel, I thought. I filed it away in my memory for later recollection. At that moment I didn’t feel that my life had many roadblocks. I had finished school, I was enjoying my job, and I had been dating a great guy—a longtime friend with whom things had turned more serious—for about four months. I couldn’t have been happier with how things were going.

Several months later my relationship with Jake (name has been changed) had progressed a great deal. But Jake’s parents had divorced years earlier, and their separation still affected him deeply. He was afraid that if we got married, things would end for us as they had for his parents.

I told him I was willing to give him time—lots if he needed it—to sort things out in his mind and his heart. We talked about making decisions based on faith instead of fear. We discussed the role of agency and the fact that he didn’t need to assume that his parents’ path would automatically be his fate too. And we talked about the Atonement of Jesus Christ and the Savior’s ability to heal our hearts.

Our conversations seemed to help relieve his anxiety some, and our relationship continued as usual. So when he called me one Saturday afternoon to break up, it more than surprised me. He told me that he couldn’t see himself being married to me—or to anyone. He just didn’t believe in marriage anymore.

For the next hour we rehearsed what we had already discussed, but I couldn’t persuade him. He whispered, “I’m so sorry,” and he hung up the phone. I sat silently on my bed, tears running down my face, absolutely stunned.

A while later my roommate knocked on the bedroom door. “Are you coming to stake conference?” she asked. I didn’t feel much like going anywhere or doing anything, but I put on a dress and got in her car.

When we arrived the first person I saw was the woman who had given that family home evening lesson months





earlier. Neither of us said anything, but our eyes met, and in my mind, I heard a voice call my name and say, “Go back and get the plates.”

Somehow I knew all that the prompting implied. It wasn’t just about an ancient prophet returning to get a sacred record. It was also about me. It meant that even though Jake didn’t believe in marriage, I still could. I could hope for it and pray for it and work for it—not in a wishful, wistful way but in a believing, active, prepare-myself-daily-because-this-is-God’s-plan-for-His-children kind of way. It didn’t mean that I had to go back to Jake and be with him until I “wore him down” on the idea of marriage, and it also didn’t mean I had to start dating someone new right away. It was OK for me to have a time to grieve and heal.

But during that time I could avoid wallowing in self-pity. I could resist the temptation

***The prompting to “go back and get the plates” wasn’t just about Nephi returning to get a sacred record. It was also about me.***

to be snide about Jake—or men in general. I could seek friends who believed in marriage and looked forward to it. And I could, like Nephi, trust in a loving Heavenly Father who gives no commandment—whether it’s obtaining ancient scriptural records or marrying and creating families—without preparing a way for us to accomplish it.

I’m still in the “accomplishing”—not the “accomplished”—stage. I’m not yet married, but I feel grateful for the good dating experiences I’ve had—experiences made richer by an improved understanding of the role persistence plays in righteous goals.

I also feel comforted by and confident in knowing what Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught about





By Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915–94)

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

# BECOMING A QUALITY PERSON NOW

A quality life is God's greatest wish for us. Life is to be lived well in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

There should not be a waiting period. . . .

All of us must live with proper priorities and purposes. Don't be harsh in your self-appraisal. Rather, measure yourself by whether or not you are living the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I like the way of life expressed by my friend, Carol Clark, . . . when she says that the personal challenge is not to wait successfully but to live richly, fully, and joyfully. The goal is not to wait for the right person but to be the right person.

"The real fun of life is in overcoming obstacles while still happily hoping everything will work out. . . . I freely admit that living with my dreams unfulfilled has proven to be a softening, humbling influence because it's been so hard. But the anchor is at hand, and because it is, I can progress, even though to date I've lost

Nephi's pattern of perseverance.

He said:

"After two unsuccessful attempts, Nephi remained confident. He crept into the city toward the house of Laban without all the answers. He observed, 'I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do,' significantly adding, '*Nevertheless I went forth.*' (1 Ne. 4:6–7; italics added.)

"Nephi was willing to try time and again, using his best efforts. He expressed faith that he would be helped. He refused to be discouraged. But because he acted, had confidence in the Lord, was obedient, and properly used his agency, he received guidance. He was inspired step after step to success, and in his mother's words was 'given . . . *power* [to] accomplish the thing which the Lord hath commanded.' (1 Ne. 5:8; italics added.)"<sup>1</sup>

This principle of persistence is not limited to the dating realm, of course. It also applies to those who are chronically ill and aren't sure they can cheerfully face another pain-filled day; to a couple who are striving to work through challenges in their marriage; to parents who pray for years for a child who has gone astray; to a teenager who faces antagonism at school because of her beliefs; to missionaries who have worked for days without teaching a lesson. In some way all of us have been commanded to go back and get the plates.

And like Nephi, we can. With courage, persistence, and faith, we can accomplish *all* things that the Lord has commanded us. ■

#### NOTE

1. Richard G. Scott, "Learning to Recognize Answers to Prayer," *Ensign*, Nov. 1989, 32.



#### NEVER GIVE UP

Perseverance is a positive, active characteristic. It is not idly, passively waiting and hoping for some good thing to happen. It gives us hope by helping us realize that the righteous suffer no failure except in giving up and no longer trying."

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (1917–2008) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Never Give Up," *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 8.



at love—the one thing I’ve wanted more in life than anything else save righteousness itself. . . .

“Last summer I complained to a non-Latter-day Saint friend that I was exhausted, having no fun, living like an automaton. Nonsympathetically, she countered, ‘What do you think this is? A dress rehearsal? This is your life, Carol. Fix it.’ I expected a pat and a kind word. Instead, I got a splash of reality square in the face. She was, of course, quite right. I wasn’t giving my life value, so I didn’t feel it had value. I went home, reread the parables of the sower and of the talents, and regrouped” (*A Singular Life*, ed. Carol L. Clark and Blythe Darlyn Thatcher [1987], 35–36).

Brothers and sisters, regroup, if that’s what is needed. Do not wait. Rather fill your life with service, education, personality development, love for all, and other such meaningful traits. Live with purpose each day. . . .

. . . I recommend you come to know your

***Fill your life with service, education, personality development, love for all, and other such meaningful traits. Live with purpose each day.***

Father in Heaven. Come to love Him. Always remember that He loves you and will give you guidance and support if you will but give Him the chance. Include Him in your decision making. Include Him in your heartaches and heartbreaks. Include Him when you take inventory of your personal worth. “For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men [and women] to perform their labors” (Alma 34:32).

As you strive to become a quality person, commune daily with your Heavenly Father who knows you best of all. He knows your talents, your strengths, and your weaknesses. You are here on the earth at this time to develop and refine these characteristics. I promise you He will help you. He is aware of your needs. ■

*From “Be a Quality Person,” Ensign, Feb. 1993, 64–67; punctuation standardized.*



**By Elder Dallin H. Oaks**

Of the Quorum of  
the Twelve Apostles

# THE Atonement AND Faith *Christ's atoning sacrifice was for "all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit."*

**T**he first principle of the gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Without this faith, the prophet Mormon said we are not fit to be numbered among the people of His Church (see Moroni 7:39). The first commandment Jehovah gave to the children of Israel was "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). We should always put the Savior first. This powerful idea—that we must have faith and put the Lord first in our lives—seems simple, but in practice many find it difficult.

The scriptures teach us that faith comes by hearing the word of God. The word of God, which comes to us by scripture, by prophetic teaching, and by personal revelation, teaches us that we are children of God the Eternal Father. It teaches us about the identity and mission of Jesus Christ, His Only Begotten Son, our Savior and Redeemer. Founded on our knowledge of those things, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is a conviction and trust that God knows us and loves us and will hear our prayers and answer them with what is best for us.

Faith in the Lord is trust in the Lord. We cannot have true faith in the Lord without also having complete trust in the Lord's will and in the Lord's timing. As a result, no matter how strong our faith is, it cannot produce a result contrary to the will of Him in whom we have faith. Remember that when your prayers do not seem to be answered in the way or at the time you desire. The exercise of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is always subject to the order of heaven, to the goodness and will and wisdom and timing of the Lord. When we have that kind of faith and trust in the Lord, we have true security and serenity in our lives.

We look first to our Savior Jesus Christ. He is our model. Our model is not the latest popular hero of sports or entertainment. Similarly, our most precious possessions are not the expensive toys and diversions that encourage us to concentrate on what is temporary and to forget what is eternal. Our model—our first priority—is Jesus Christ. We must testify of Him and teach one another how we can apply His teachings and His example in our lives.





## The Savior Builds Us Up

President Brigham Young (1801–1877) gave us some practical advice on how to recognize Him whom we follow. “The difference between God and the Devil,” he said, “is that God creates and organizes, while the whole study of the Devil is to destroy.”<sup>1</sup> In that contrast we have an important example of the reality of “opposition in all things” (2 Nephi 2:11).

Remember that our Savior Jesus Christ always builds us up and never tears us down. We should apply the power of that example in the ways we use our time, including our recreation and our diversions. Consider the themes of the books, magazines, movies, television shows, and music we in the world have made popular by our patronage. Do the things portrayed in our chosen entertainment

**We cannot have true faith in the Lord without also having complete trust in the Lord’s will and in the Lord’s timing.**



build up or tear down the children of God?

During my lifetime I have seen a strong trend to set aside entertainment that builds up and dignifies the children of God and to replace it with portrayals and performances that are depressing, demeaning, and destructive. The powerful idea in this contrast is that whatever builds people up serves the cause of the Master, and whatever tears people down serves the cause of the adversary. We support one cause or the other every day by our patronage and by our thoughts and desires. This should remind us of our responsibility to support what is good and motivate us toward doing this in a way that will be pleasing to Him whose suffering offers us hope and whose example gives us direction.

### **Suffering Is Part of Repentance**

The central idea in the gospel of Jesus Christ—its most powerful idea, along with the universal

**The truly repentant sinner who comes to Christ with a broken heart and a contrite spirit has been through a process of personal pain and suffering for sin.**

Resurrection—is the Atonement of our Savior. We are His servants, and it is critical that we understand the role of the Atonement in our own lives and in the lives of those we teach. Essential to that understanding is an understanding of the relationship between

justice and mercy and the Atonement, and the role of suffering and repentance in this divine process.

The awful demands of justice upon those who have violated the laws of God—the state of misery and torment described in the scriptures—can be intercepted and swept away by the Atonement of Jesus Christ. This relationship between justice on the one hand and mercy and the Atonement on the other is the core idea of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Book of Mormon teaches that the Savior does not redeem men *in* their sins: “The wicked

remain as though there had been no redemption made, except it be the loosing of the bands of death” (Alma 11:41). The Savior came to redeem men *from* their sins upon the conditions of repentance (see Helaman 5:11).

One of those conditions of repentance is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, including faith in and reliance upon His atoning sacrifice. As Amulek taught, “He that exercises no faith unto repentance is exposed to the whole law of the demands of justice; therefore only unto him that has faith unto repentance is brought about the great and eternal plan of redemption” (Alma 34:16). This obviously means that the unrepentant transgressor must suffer for his own sins. Does it also mean that a person who repents does not need to suffer at all because the entire punishment is borne by the Savior? That cannot be the meaning because it would be inconsistent with the Savior’s other teachings.

What is meant by Alma 34:16 is that the person who repents does not need to suffer even as the Savior suffered for that sin. Sinners who are repenting will experience some suffering, but because of their repentance and the Atonement they will not experience the full, exquisite extent of eternal torment the Savior suffered for those sins.

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), who gave such comprehensive teachings on repentance and forgiveness, said that personal suffering is a very important part of repentance. “One has not begun to repent until he has suffered intensely for his sins. . . . If a person hasn’t suffered,” he said, “he hasn’t repented.”<sup>2</sup>

Lehi taught this principle when He said the Savior’s atoning sacrifice was for “all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered” (2 Nephi 2:7). The truly repentant sinner who comes to Christ with a broken heart and a contrite spirit has been through a process of personal pain and suffering for sin. He or she understands the meaning of Alma’s statement that none but the truly penitent are saved. Alma the Younger certainly understood this. Read his accounts in Mosiah 27 and in Alma 36.

President Kimball said, “Very frequently people

think they have repented and are worthy of forgiveness when all they have done is to express sorrow or regret at the unfortunate happening.”<sup>3</sup>

There is a big difference between the godly sorrow that worketh repentance (see 2 Corinthians 7:10), which involves personal suffering, and the easy and relatively painless sorrow for being caught, or the misplaced sorrow Mormon described as “the sorrowing of the damned, because the Lord would not always suffer them to take happiness in sin” (Mormon 2:13).

### We Must Make a Mighty Change

Why is it necessary for us to suffer on the way to repentance for serious transgressions? We tend to think of the results of repentance as simply cleansing us from sin, but that is an incomplete view of the matter. A person who sins is like a tree that bends easily in the wind. On a windy and rainy day, the tree bends so deeply against the ground that the leaves become soiled with mud, like sin. If we focus only on cleaning the leaves, the weakness in the tree that allowed it to bend and soil its leaves may remain. Similarly, a person who is merely sorry to be soiled by sin will sin



**The state of misery and torment described in the scriptures can be intercepted and swept away by the Atonement of Jesus Christ.**

again in the next high wind. The susceptibility to repetition continues until the tree has been strengthened.

When a person has gone through the process that results in what the scriptures call “a broken heart and a contrite spirit,” the Savior does more than

cleans that person from sin. He gives him or her new strength. That strengthening is essential for us to realize the purpose of the cleansing, which is to return to our Heavenly Father. To be admitted to His presence, we must be more than clean. We must also be changed from a morally weak person who has sinned into a strong person with the spiritual stature to dwell in the presence of God. We must, as the scripture says, become “a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord” (Mosiah 3:19). This is what the scripture means in its explanation that a person who has repented of his sins will forsake them. Forsaking sins is more than resolving not to repeat them. Forsaking involves a fundamental change in the individual.

King Benjamin’s congregation described that mighty change by saying that they had “no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually” (Mosiah 5:2). Persons who have had that kind of change in their hearts have attained the strength and stature to dwell with God. That is one definition of what we call being saved.

Repentance has been the message in every dispensation. The risen Lord emphasized this to the Nephites in explaining what He called “the gospel which I have given unto you” (3 Nephi 27:13): “Now this is the commandment: Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day” (3 Nephi 27:20).

In modern revelation, the Lord explained, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, they who believe not on your words, and are not baptized in water in my name, for the remission of their sins, that



**When a person has “a broken heart and a contrite spirit,” the Savior does more than cleanse that person from sin. He gives him or her new strength.**

they may receive the Holy Ghost, are damned, and shall not come into my Father’s kingdom where my Father and I am” (D&C 84:74).

### Forgiveness Is Certain

I conclude with a message of hope that is true for all but especially needed by those who think that repentance is too hard. Repentance is a continuing process needed by all because “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Repentance is possible, and then forgiveness is certain.

President Kimball said: “Sometimes . . . when a repentant one looks back and sees the ugliness, the loathsomeness of the transgression, he is almost overwhelmed and wonders, ‘Can the Lord ever forgive me? Can I ever forgive myself?’ But when one reaches the depths of despondency and feels the hopelessness of his position, and when he cries out to God for mercy in helplessness but in faith, there comes a still, small, but penetrating voice whispering to his soul, ‘Thy sins are forgiven thee.’”<sup>4</sup>

When this happens, we have the fulfillment of the precious promise that God will take away the guilt from our hearts through the merits of His Son (see Alma 24:10). How comforting the promise in Isaiah 1:18 that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” How glorious God’s own promise that “he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more” (D&C 58:42).

I testify that these words are true, that this message is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, the plan of God our Eternal Father, of which our Savior Jesus Christ is the author and finisher. I testify of Jesus Christ and of His prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, and of the Restoration of the gospel in these latter days through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith. ■

*Adapted from an address given at a June 2001 mission presidents’ seminar in Provo, Utah.*

#### NOTES

1. *Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe (1954), 69.
2. *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 88, 99.
3. *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, 87.
4. Spencer W. Kimball, *The Miracle of Forgiveness* (1969), 344.



By President  
Thomas S. Monson



# The Worth of a Teacher

Some time ago three young boys were discussing their fathers. One spoke out, “My dad is bigger than your dad,” to which another replied, “Well, my dad is smarter than your dad.” The third boy countered, “My dad is a doctor.” Then, turning to one boy, he taunted in derision, “And your dad is only a teacher.”

There is one teacher whose life overshadows all others. He lived not to be served but to serve, not to receive but to give, not to save His life but to sacrifice it for others. He described a love more beautiful than lust, a poverty richer than treasure. He taught with authority and not as did the scribes. I speak of the Master Teacher, even Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind.

When dedicated teachers respond to His gentle invitation “Come learn of me,” they become partakers of His divine power.

It was my experience as a small boy to come under the influence of such a teacher. In our Sunday School class she taught us concerning the Creation of the world, the Fall of Adam, and the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. She brought to her classroom as honored guests Moses, Joshua, Peter, Thomas, Paul, and even Christ. Though we did not see them, we learned to love, honor, and emulate them.

When the boy heard the taunts: “My dad is bigger than yours,” “My dad is smarter than yours,” “My dad is a doctor,” well could he have replied, “Your dad may be bigger than mine; your dad may be smarter than mine; your dad may be a pilot, an engineer, or a doctor; but my dad is a teacher.”

May each of us ever merit such a sincere and worthy compliment! ■

*From “Only a Teacher,” Tambuli, Oct. 1990, 3–8; Ensign, Jan. 1990, 2–7.*

## ASKING QUESTIONS THAT WORK

The calling of lecturer does not exist in the Church. A lecturer merely imparts knowledge. But a teacher invites class members to learn, in part by teaching one another. One sure way to transform a dull lecture into a lively, Spirit-filled lesson is by asking effective questions.

1. In your lesson preparation, plan questions to ask throughout the lesson. Consider the questions suggested in the manual. Think of others that might be helpful to your class. Seek the Spirit to help you choose several questions for each main idea you want to teach.
2. To help class members discuss how a gospel concept relates to their lives, you can ask three different types of questions in a series:
  - A fact question: “Whom does the Lord require us to forgive?”
  - An application question: “How does forgiving someone affect us?”
  - An experience question: “What is a positive experience you have had with forgiving someone?”

# I NEED TO GO TO THE Temple

*An accident, days and nights on a bus, long boat rides, and high travel costs haven't kept this Brazilian brother from attending the temple.*

**By Michael R. Morris**

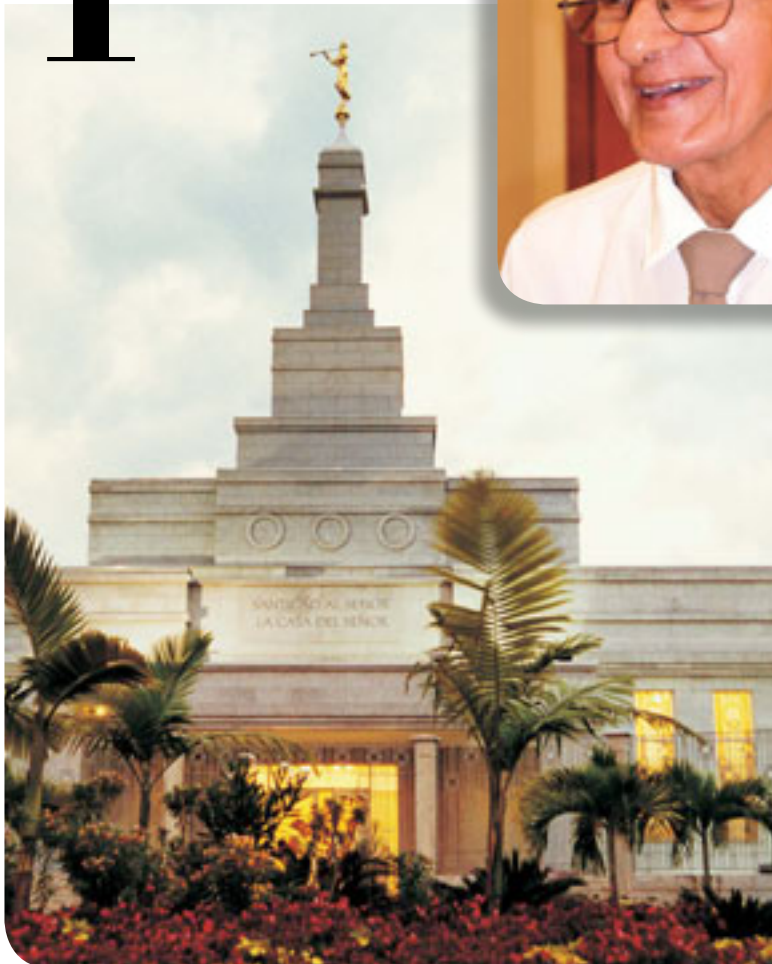
Church Magazines

**J**osé Gonçalves da Silva suddenly awoke to people calling his name. It was dark, and he had no idea where he was.

"I was asleep when the bus rolled," José recalls of the early-morning accident in January 2008. "Nobody could find me because I was in the back of the bus covered with luggage. Some of the brethren finally located me as they began to gather up the suitcases."

When the bus driver lost control on a narrow stretch of winding road in southern Venezuela's dense rain forest, José and other Latter-day Saints from Manaus, Brazil, were approximately halfway through their three-day trip to the Caracas Venezuela Temple. José suffered only minor injuries, but several brothers and sisters had to be hospitalized.

"It's time you quit going to the temple," concerned family members told José, who was 80 when the accident occurred. Undeterred, however, he declared: "I need to go to the temple. If the Lord allows it, I will return."



## ***The Caracas Venezuela Temple.***

He immediately began saving money for his fourth trip to Caracas, which he made in early 2009. For Brother Gonçalves da Silva, the 40-hour bus ride is easy compared to the three trips he previously made to the São Paulo Brazil Temple. For many years, the São Paulo Temple, located thousands of miles southeast of Manaus, was the

closest temple to this city of two million people in the northern state of Amazonas. Then, in 2005, Manaus became part of the Caracas Venezuela Temple District.

During those years of traveling to São Paulo, “we would take a boat here in Manaus and spend four days getting to Pôrto Velho,” the capital of Rondônia State, José says. “Then we would take a four-day bus ride to São Paulo. My wife is not a member of the Church, and when I went to the temple for the first time in 1985, I went alone. I spent the night at the bus terminal in Pôrto Velho because I arrived late and there was no bus. The next morning I headed for São Paulo. It was a nice experience, but I arrived a little tired.”

He then spent three full days serving in the temple before making the eight-day return trip home. It takes him a year to save enough from his pension to cover the costs of traveling to the temple.

“It is a sacrifice to go, but it is worth it,” says Brother Gonçalves da Silva, who has done much vicarious work for his family. “I felt a special joy the day I was baptized for my father, when someone was baptized for my mother, and when



*Above: The Rio Negro, where José Gonçalves da Silva would begin his eight-day trip to the São Paulo Brazil Temple.*

***Below: Brother Gonçalves da Silva on the 40-hour bus ride to the Caracas Venezuela Temple. He says serving in the house of the Lord is worth the sacrifice it takes to attend.***

I represented my father as my parents were sealed. It was a wonderful opportunity. All my brothers and sisters are gone now, but I have done the work for them during my temple trips.”

José believes that the sacrifice inherent in traveling so far to the temple will help Latter-day Saints in Manaus be grateful for the day a temple is dedicated there. “I am excited for that day,” he says.

Manaus had one small branch with 20 members when José joined the Church in 1980. Since then he has seen the Church blossom there to nearly 50,000 members living in eight stakes.

“When the announcement came in 2007 that a temple would be built in Manaus,” José says, “I wept for the great joy I felt, and I prayed that the Lord would allow me to live long enough to see the groundbreaking,” which occurred a year later. Now he prays that he will live to see the temple completed and his wife baptized so that they can be sealed.

“We don’t know when we will die, but we should be prepared and happy when that time comes,” Brother Gonçalves da Silva says. “I’m looking forward to returning to the presence of my Father in Heaven and my Savior, Jesus Christ. Being in the temple helps me prepare for that day.” ■





By Elder Richard J.  
Maynes  
Of the Seventy

# Honesty

## The Eternal Importance of

*There is nothing more important than being true to the covenants we make with the Lord. Our eternal life depends on the principle of honesty.*

In today's culture the principle of honesty at times seems to be seldom talked about and often abused. Although there are many honest people in the world, dishonesty and corruption exist in many facets of society, like, government, politics, business, and athletics. Honesty often takes a back seat to the worldly aspiration of getting ahead at any cost.

We may wonder whether it is possible to succeed in such an environment and at the same time be true to our covenants. The big questions for each Latter-day Saint are these:

- Will I be true to the covenants I have made with the Lord in the waters of baptism and in the holy temple?
- Will I be totally honest with the Lord?

### Keeping Our Word

Many years ago when I was president of a company that specialized in factory automation, I was confronted with a situation that taught me the importance of keeping promises no matter the cost. Our company was going through a phase of rapid growth. We were engineering, fabricating, and installing automated production lines in factories around the world. We were hiring

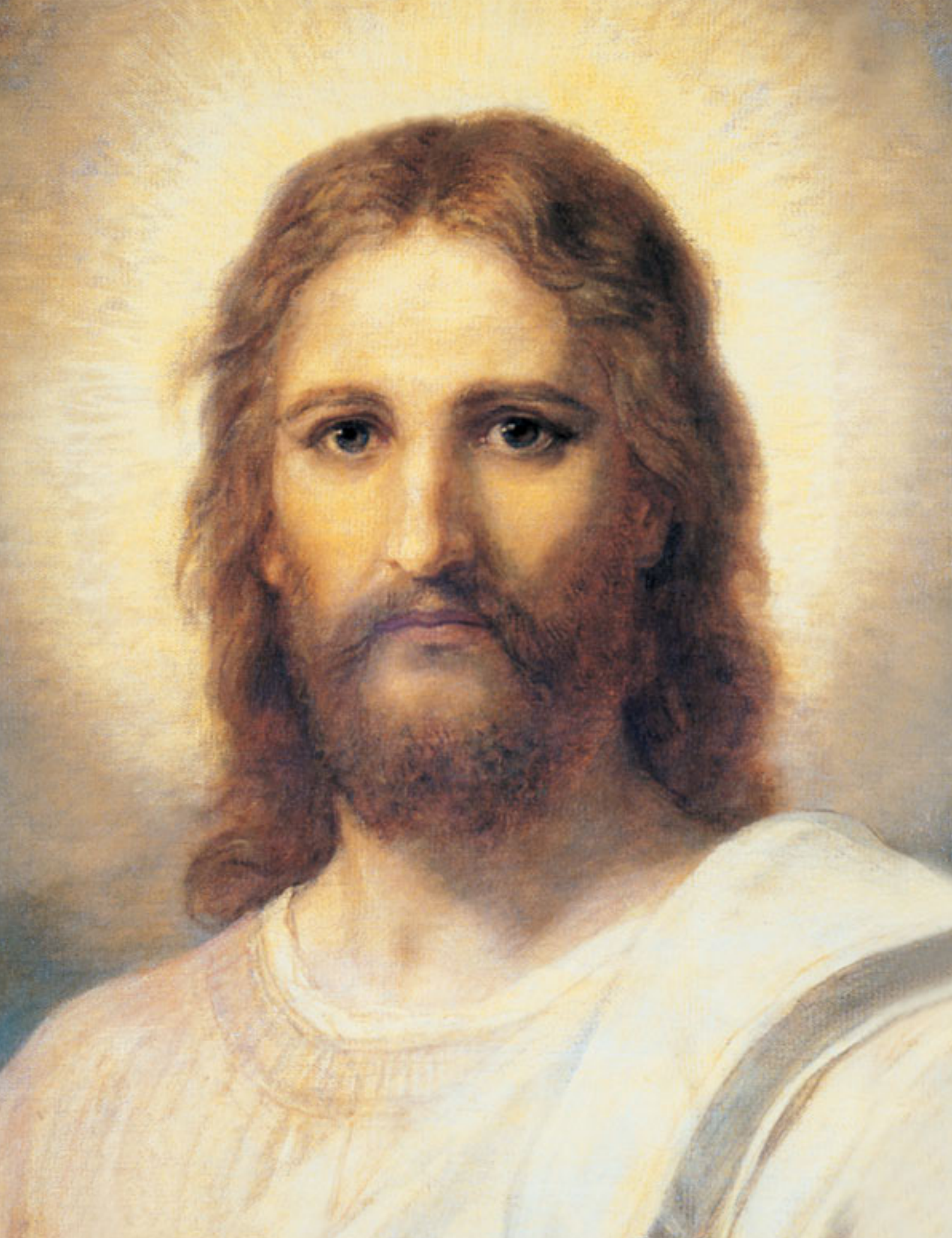
personnel and building increased factory capacity as fast as we could.

We had accepted an equipment order on a large project in northern England for a multinational corporation and had agreed to a specific delivery date on the project. As the promised day approached, it became obvious that we would miss the scheduled date by approximately three weeks.

While studying the detailed schedule of the project, we realized that we had a shipment window of approximately three weeks. The production-line equipment would be shipped from our California factory over land to New Orleans, transported via cargo ship to Liverpool, and then moved across land to northern England.

We quickly realized that the only way we would be able to keep our word and make the delivery date would be a very expensive option. We decided to lease wide-bodied jets and ship all the equipment for the English factory via airfreight. This option cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and eliminated our anticipated profit. The financial cost of keeping our word was high; but you can't put a dollar figure on a good night's sleep.







PHOTOGRAPH BY HYUNGYU LEE

***Honesty is the trait that connects the promises we have made to the Lord to our everyday actions. If we are honest we will keep the covenants we have made in the waters of baptism.***

Several months later I was in Malaysia negotiating a similar project with a different company. We had reviewed with the customer all of the engineering drawings, design concepts, and financial aspects of the project. We were coming to the conclusion of our negotiation session when the highest-ranking executive representing the customer asked, “Will you be able to honor the delivery date?” Our team huddled for a moment to review the time constraints, and then we stated that yes, we could make the date.

Much to my surprise the executive responded by saying, “We know you will. We have heard all about what you did in England to keep your word. The project is yours.” A week later the purchase order arrived.

Our company could never have spent enough money on advertising in the trade magazines to develop the

goodwill we had created throughout the world because of one simple act of being honest and keeping our word.

### **Being Honest with the Lord**

Being honest with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ binds our basic gospel knowledge *with* our willingness to apply that knowledge in our lives. In other words, when we are honest, we act upon our knowledge by obeying the commandments.

Showing our love to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ by being honest with Them means we are true to the covenants we have made with Them (see Deuteronomy 6:2–5; 8:11). We make promises to the Lord when we are baptized, and we make additional promises to Him as we participate in temple ordinances.

There is nothing more important than being true to the covenants we have made with the Lord. Our eternal life depends on the principle of honesty.

The Lord reminds us each week how important these covenants are by allowing us the privilege of renewing them as we partake of the sacrament. When we honestly take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ, always remember Him, and keep His commandments, we will be worthy of His Spirit. This great blessing and gift of the Holy Ghost will guide, direct, and influence us for good throughout our lives.

On the other hand, when we break a commandment, we are actually breaking our word, our promises, and our covenants. We are also being dishonest with the Lord and, as a result, are subverting His work.

When we are honest with others, we are keeping our covenants. When we keep our covenants, we are being honest with the Lord. We cannot separate the two. Sometimes even members of the Church try to live in both worlds—the world of truth and the world of false traditions. The following example from Benjamin and Meredith Martinez, authors of *The Primacy of Principles*, illustrates this dichotomy:

“Of all the kinds and colors of marble, the milky white Carrara is the rarest and most costly. Sculptors who lived during the Golden Age of Tuscan Sculpture claimed that it

was the purest substance God ever created, and they longed for the feel of it beneath their hands. Any sculptor who was commissioned by a wealthy patron of the arts to create a statue of Carrara marble felt himself to be highly favored.

“Sculpting in marble was neither fast nor easy. In addition to innate talent, it required both careful analysis and tedious, backbreaking work. The artist would have to study the block of marble to determine its essential nature. He would then need to discover the direction of the grain and ascertain the presence of any flaws. He had to make careful and precise plans and drawings which were in accord with the structure of the marble itself. Then, with consummate care, he would begin to chip off the superfluous marble, layer by layer, until he revealed the form he had envisioned.

“Any mistake could be disastrous. If the sculptor went against the grain he could crack the marble; if he struck a blow with too much force he could mash the crystals beneath the surface, creating holes and ruining the sculpture. This seldom happened with the greatest of sculptors, who labored with infinite care and supreme sensitivity. Those with lesser talent and little patience, however, would occasionally be confronted with such a disaster. Rather than admit their blunder and lose their commission, some would resort to subterfuge.

“Soft, white wax, skillfully applied, could usually disguise the damage. In outward appearance the sculpture appeared to be flawless and the defect was seldom discovered until well after the work had been accepted and the commission paid. As the practice became more common, patrons of the arts became more discerning. They refused to accept a piece of marble statuary until after a careful examination had been



PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG DIMOND

made to ensure that it was undamaged and contained no wax-covered flaws. The highest standard of excellence for works of white Carrara marble came to include the distinction, ‘sine cere,’ meaning ‘without wax.’

“Eventually these two words merged to become a single word, ‘sincere,’ meaning ‘pure, unadulterated, whole, intact, uninjured.’ When the word was used to refer to marble works of art, the emphasis was on the fundamental wholeness of the statue, not just on its superficial or outward appearance.

*“The statue was expected to be good, not just to look good.”<sup>1</sup>*

### **Honesty and Integrity**

In a gospel context we as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are expected to be righteous, not just appear to be righteous. What we believe, what we say, and what we do should all be the same thing. This is the definition of integrity. A person of integrity does not cover sins in order to look

***When we are honest with others, we are keeping our covenants. When we keep our covenants, we are being honest with the Lord. We cannot separate the two.***

good to the outside world. A person of integrity repents of behavior unbecoming of a member of the Church, embraces new habits and lifestyles, and tries to eliminate personal flaws.

One of the great blessings I enjoyed while serving as a mission president in Mexico many years ago was the privilege of interviewing full-time missionaries. I interviewed missionaries when they arrived in the mission field, I interviewed missionaries monthly during their mission, and I interviewed missionaries at the end of their mission just before their departure.

On many occasions before their final interview concluded, sister missionaries would ask me this question: “How will I know when I meet the man I should marry?”

I wanted to give counsel on the subject, but I knew I needed to be careful. After much thought and prayer, the following answer came to me:

“Sister, the decision regarding whom you will ultimately marry will be one of the most important decisions of your entire life. It is personal, and you will need to make it with the help of the Lord. You will need to make it a matter of earnest prayer. There is one additional idea I might share with you that could be of some help. When you start to date a young man, you might consider observing his attitude regarding the principle of tithing. If he doesn’t pay an honest tithe, run the other way. If he pays his tithing but complains about doing it, run the other way. However, if he pays an honest and full tithe and he does it with a smile, knowing he is being faithful to his covenants and helping to build the kingdom, you might consider giving him a fair chance.

“I’m not saying you should marry him. I’m just saying this: If he is willing to be honest with the Lord and sacrifice for Him, there is the probability he will ultimately be honest with his future wife and be willing to sacrifice for her and his future family.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT CASEY



***Remember, the Lord expects us as members of His Church not only to appear to be good but also to actually be good.***

Paying a full tithe is a matter of honesty to the Lord. “Will a man rob God?” (Malachi 3:8).

### **Honesty and Gospel Principles**

The doctrine taught by Jesus Christ and revealed to prophets throughout the ages is true and needs to be understood and applied if we want to return to live with Him and His Father. Basic principles and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ are not negotiable. They represent the foundation upon which life is lived in the celestial kingdom.

It is true that we can exercise our agency and choose not to live celestial law, but it is also true that we will ultimately be compelled to accept the result of that decision when our inheritance is justifiably celestial or terrestrial.

Honesty is the trait that connects the promises we have made to the Lord to our everyday actions. If we are honest we will keep the covenants we have made in the waters of baptism and that we reaffirm each week as we take the sacrament and we will keep the covenants we have made in the holy temples of the Lord. If we are honest, He will help us succeed through the power of the Spirit. In the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord emphasizes this doctrine:

“If you will that I give unto you a place in the celestial world, you must prepare yourselves by doing the things which I have commanded you and required of you” (D&C 78:7).

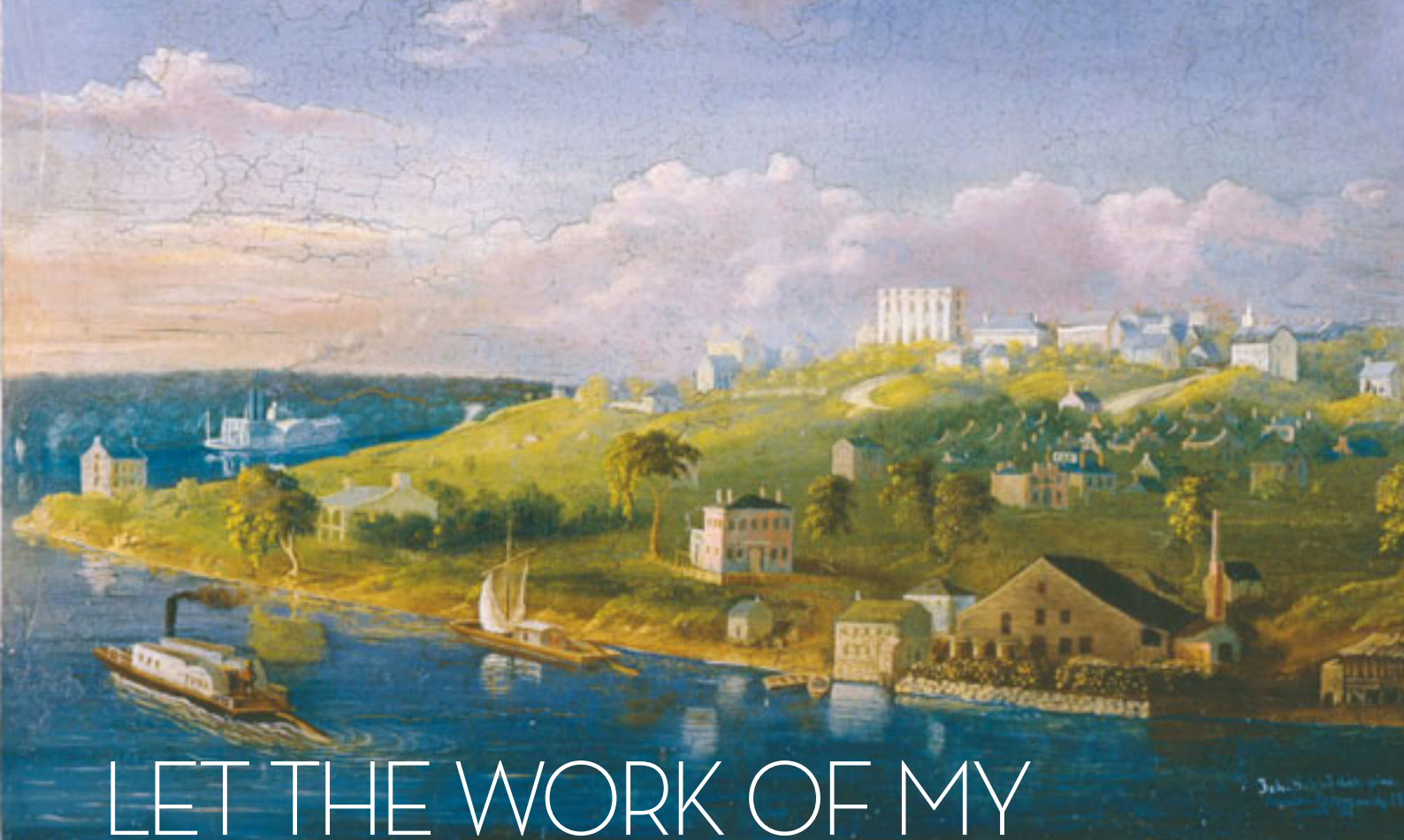
Remember, the Lord expects us as members of His Church not only to appear to be good but also to actually be good. We are ultimately responsible to learn gospel principles *and* apply them in our lives. ■

Adapted from a devotional address delivered at Brigham Young University–Idaho on November 11, 2008.

#### **NOTES**

1. Benjamin Martinez and Meredith Martinez, “The Primacy of Principles,” in *10 Principles of Leadership Power* (1992), 1.

For the full text in English, see [web.byui.edu/devotionalsandspeeches](http://web.byui.edu/devotionalsandspeeches)



# LET THE WORK OF MY TEMPLE **Not** Cease



D&C 127:4

**Top:** View of Nauvoo, with the partially destroyed temple, about 1859, by John Schroder. **Center:** Engraving of the Nauvoo Temple, 1870, courtesy of the Church History Museum.

*The baptismal font was built in the basement of the unfinished temple and dedicated on November 8, 1841, by Brigham Young.*

**O**n August 15, 1840, in Nauvoo, Illinois, USA, the Prophet Joseph Smith delivered a powerful sermon at the funeral of Seymour Brunson. He read much of 1 Corinthians 15, including verse 29 which refers to the practice of baptism for the dead. Then he revealed that the Lord would permit the Saints to be baptized for their

deceased ancestors. The first proxy baptisms were done in the Mississippi River.

A few months later, on January 19, 1841, the Lord commanded the Saints to build a temple with a baptismal font (see D&C 124:29–31). The Prophet directed that the font rest on the backs of twelve oxen, as did the font King Solomon built for his temple anciently (see 1 Kings 7:23–25).

Concerning baptism for the dead, the Lord, speaking through the Prophet Joseph, said to the Saints on September 1, 1842, “Let the work of my temple, and all the works which I have appointed unto you, be continued on and not cease; and let your diligence, and your perseverance, and patience, and your works be redoubled, and you shall in nowise lose your reward” (D&C 127:4).

**LET US BE A  
TEMPLE-ATTENDING  
PEOPLE**



*“Let us  
hasten  
to the  
temple as  
frequently*

*as time and means and  
personal circumstances  
allow. Let us go not only  
for our kindred dead,  
but let us also go for  
the personal blessing  
of temple worship, for  
the sanctity and safety  
which is provided within  
those hallowed and  
consecrated walls.”*

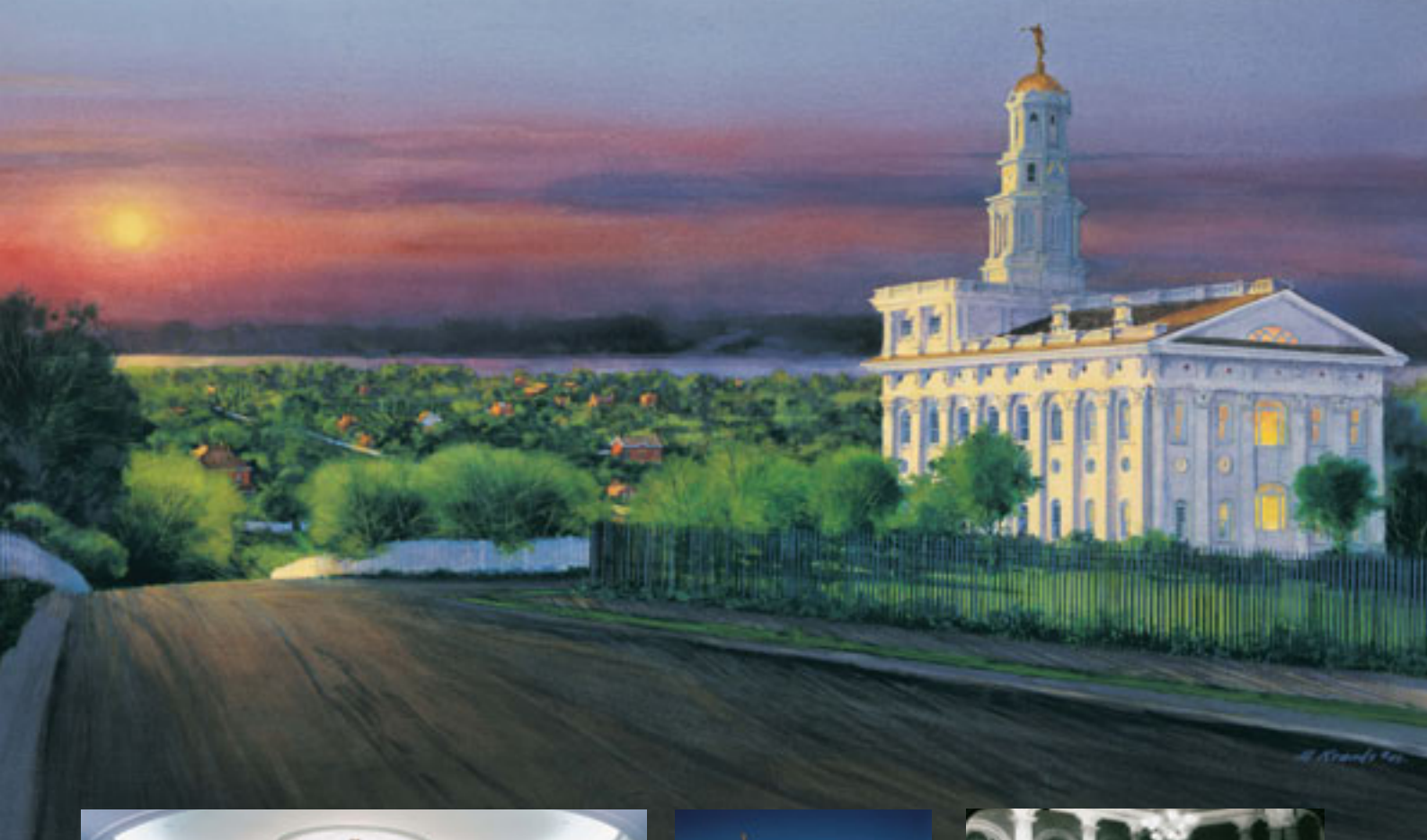
President Howard W. Hunter (1907–1995),  
“The Great Symbol of Our Membership,”  
*Tambuli*, Nov. 1994, 6; *Ensign*, Oct. 1994, 5.



**Above:** An early cross-stitch sampler created by Ann Eckford to commemorate the building of the Nauvoo Temple.

**Left:** Early architectural drawing of the elevation of the temple.

The subject of baptism for the dead occupied the mind the Prophet Joseph in 1842. He said that a recorder was to witness ordinances and then make a precise record so that “whatsoever you bind on earth, may be bound in heaven” (see D&C 127:6–7; 128:1). Elder Orson Hyde publicly dedicated the Nauvoo Temple on May 1, 1846.



PHOTOGRAPH BY WEIDEN C. ANDERSEN



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LUKE



COURTESY OF THE CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM



SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL ART COMPETITION, COURTESY OF THE CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM.



**Top:** *Nauwoo, the Beautiful*, by Al Rounds.

*This painting portrays the peace and spiritual splendor of the past Nauwoo era artfully blended with the present-day Nauwoo Illinois Temple.*

**Center, left to right:** *The baptismal font in the Nauwoo Illinois Temple; the Nauwoo Illinois Temple; an early font in the Salt Lake Temple.*

*The twelve oxen holding up the font represent the twelve tribes of Israel.*

**Left:** *Think Temple, Think Family*, by Richard Olagunju, Nigeria.

*Latter-day Saint families worldwide continue to perform temple ordinances—first for themselves and then for their deceased ancestors—including baptism for the dead.*



# A TEMPLE FOR **Kona**

By R. Val Johnson  
Church Magazines

**L**eroy Alip listened intently as he was set apart to serve on a stake high council on the Big Island of Hawaii. In the blessing, Brother Alip was told he would be on the island when a temple was built there and that he would serve in that temple. This was in 1984, and the only temple in Hawaii was on the island of Oahu, over 200 miles (330 km) away by boat or plane.

The priesthood blessing energized Brother Alip. “I believe that when you are given a blessing, you have a responsibility to do whatever you can to bring that blessing to you,” he says. So he and his wife, Rose, decided to attend the temple on Oahu once a month.

Doing so was not easy. Traveling there cost U.S. \$300, a lot of money for a couple barely getting by on Brother Alip’s paycheck from the government office where he worked. The only way they could make the trip was to dip into their savings. They did so gladly.

Within a year, however, they were out of money. “But our hearts were in the temple,” Brother Alip says. “We wanted to continue attending. So we prayed for help.”

Not long afterwards, Brother Alip unexpectedly

received an offer to supplement his income by delivering papers for a local business. For these early morning deliveries, he was paid nearly \$700 per month. With more than enough money to continue going to the temple, Brother and Sister Alip were prompted to put the surplus in their own special temple fund.

By June 1986 the reason for that prompting became clear: now living in the Kona Hawaii Stake, they could take a number of women from the stake to the temple who were worthy but had not been able to receive their endowments. So each month, the Alips took one sister with them to Oahu. Each time, the sister returned to bear testimony of the spiritual power and joy she felt in doing her own and others’ temple work. Soon, the spirit of temple work spread throughout the stake, and more members began looking for ways to attend the temple.

Through contacts Brother Alip had in the travel industry, he was able to arrange for discounted airfare, ground transportation, and lodging for all in the stake who wanted to go. By 1994 more than 100 members of the Kona stake were making the monthly trip to the Laie Hawaii Temple.





Brother Alip laughs. He recalls, “The temple president joked that the Saints from Kona were wearing out the carpets because so many of them were in the temple.”

In 1997 President Gordon B. Hinckley announced a new direction for temple construction. Building smaller temples would enable more temples to be built. The faithfulness of the Saints on the Big Island was rewarded six months later when President Hinckley announced a temple for Kona. After the temple was dedicated in 2000, Brother Alip was called as second counselor in the temple presidency. Today, fully retired from his career and fully engaged in the work of the Lord, he supervises the workers who keep the grounds of the Kona Hawaii Temple beautiful.

Brother and Sister Alip are grateful for the ways Heavenly Father has blessed them to have what they need to continue serving others. When they first came to Kona, Brother Alip says, “We had no place to stay except for a small shack in the hills built for a worker in the coffee fields.” They lived there for months until they were able to rent a small cottage.

A number of years later, they had enough savings and income to consider a nicer home, but nothing they looked at felt right to them. One

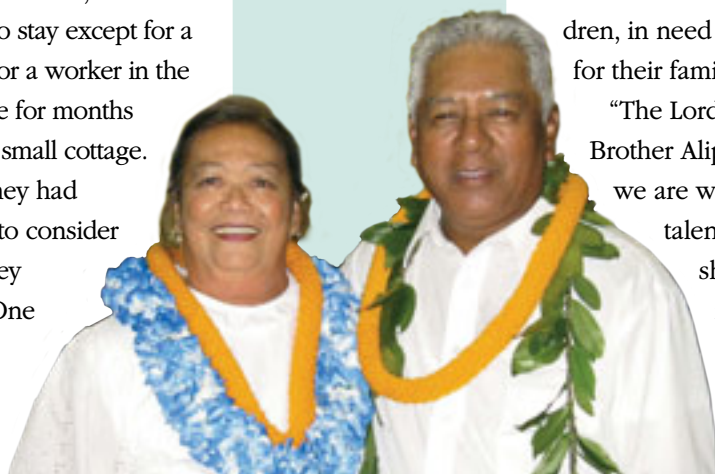
*When Leroy and Rose Alip decided to sacrifice to attend the temple monthly, the Lord blessed them beyond their means to go—and to take others with them.*

day while Brother Alip was working on the Kona temple grounds, an elderly sister came by. She was crying. “She was being evicted from her home and had no place to go,” Brother Alip says. “For some reason, I told her to go visit her grandchildren, and when she returned, she could move in with us.” The problem was, the Alips’ home was big enough for only Brother and Sister Alip. So they started praying—and looking earnestly for ways to obtain the blessing they sought.

Shortly, a real-estate agent invited them to consider a two-story home with six bedrooms. They loved it, but they assumed the house would cost more than they could afford. Reluctantly, they turned the offer down.

But a way opened up. Within a few weeks, the price of the home dropped, and the Alips learned they had sufficient credit to buy the house. As a result, the sister in need had a place with Brother and Sister Alip when she returned to Kona, and three of the Alips’ children, in need themselves, found shelter for their families at the house, too.

“The Lord has taken good care of us,” Brother Alip says. “When we show that we are willing to sacrifice our time, talents, and means for Him, He showers us with His tender mercies.” ■



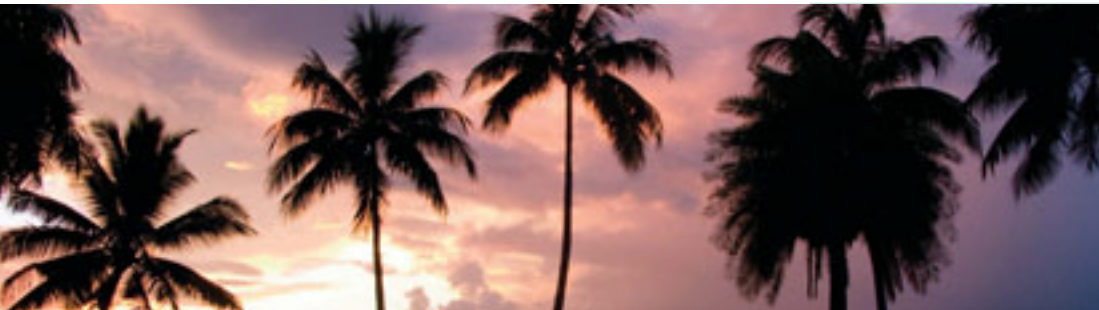
By Don L. Searle  
Church Magazines

# Fiji



*George, Alitiana, and Ryan Kumar.*

# The Fruits of Faith



**F**iji was once seen as fairly remote from the rest of the world—a place to retreat from problems of a faster-paced, more urban style of life. But no longer. The airplane, the satellite, and global commerce now bring to Fiji's shores all the challenges of modern living found elsewhere in the world. For Church members in Fiji, the way to meet those challenges successfully is the same as in any other part of the world: faithful obedience to gospel principles.

Three examples from Fiji teach how these principles shape lives.

## The Kumar Family

George Kumar was just looking for a way to be sure his older son, Ryan, would live a productive, moral lifestyle. The Kumar family found much more: eternal gospel truths that brought all of them a new, happier way of life.

The gospel revitalized their family, Brother Kumar says. "We spend more time together—more quality time, with more open relationships." They have family prayer daily, and regular family home evening is "a 'must' thing," Ryan says.

It was Ryan who led the way into the Church.

When Ryan was in his mid-teens, George Kumar became concerned about the path his son might follow in life. Worried that Ryan and his friends were not spending their

time productively, George found a way to surround his son with young people who behaved differently. George learned from talking to a cousin who works at the Fiji LDS Church College, in Suva, that Ryan could qualify for admission. (The Church College is a secondary school equivalent

to a junior high and high school in other areas.)

After he entered the Church College, Ryan's behavior began to improve. "It was the example of the other students," he says. Formerly, he had spent a lot of time with his friends pursuing idle activities. But after seeing the difference in the lives of the students at the Church school, "I lost the desire to do those things," he explains.

Ryan gained a testimony of the gospel, and his parents were so delighted with the changes in his life that when he asked their permission to be baptized and confirmed, they readily said yes. Ryan let go of his old group of friends. He had gained new ones.

When he asked his parents to listen to the missionaries, however, "we were reluctant," George recalls. Still, they had seen the changes the gospel had brought into Ryan's life, so they knew the Church had to be good. The turnabout in Ryan's behavior was so marked that in his third and final year at the Church College, he was named head boy, an honor usually reserved for a student who has spent his entire scholastic career at the school.

Some changes in Ryan's behavior seemed strange to his parents at first. Why, for example, could they not persuade

*One family's discovery of truth, another family's growing circle of love, and a young woman's trusting faith.*



**Elder Michael Kumar**  
*while serving in the  
Utah Salt Lake City  
South Mission.*

him to eat on the first Sunday of the month? But when Ryan explained the purpose of fasting, his parents understood that the changes in his

life ran deeper than they had realized.

Ryan's younger brother, Michael, had also observed the changes in his brother, and Michael listened to the gospel. "Ryan started going to Church activities, and the thing that caught me is that every time he came back, he was happy," Michael says. "I actually referred myself to the missionaries. I wanted to take the lessons. I wanted to be baptized and confirmed."

As the missionaries were presenting the new-member lessons to Michael after his baptism, his mother, Alitiana, began to listen. This influenced her husband, and soon both George and his wife had testimonies of their own.

Ryan had the privilege of baptizing both his parents into the Church in 2006, shortly before leaving to serve in the New Zealand Wellington Mission. Later, before Michael left on a mission, he had the privilege of accompanying his parents as they entered the temple. Elder Michael Kumar entered the Utah Salt Lake City South Mission in August 2008, shortly before Ryan returned from New Zealand.

Paying tithing and then financially supporting a son on a mission proved to be difficult for the Kumars. Brother Kumar's income was fully committed to their mortgage and to other obligations. But they made the necessary sacrifices; the whole family understood the need. For example, whenever Brother Kumar said cheerfully that they would be enjoying the "normal" diet that evening, the whole family understood there would be no meat for dinner. "There were days when we had just bread and cocoa," Michael recalls.

Ryan says he is grateful for his parents' sacrifice. "I learned that they are truly committed to the covenants they made."

Ryan's younger brother comments that since their conversion, "we make it through trials better as a family. Heavenly Father has helped us out."

The family's conversion quickly touched other lives as

well. Two of Ryan and Michael's cousins who had come to live with the Kumars also chose to hear the missionary lessons and join the Church.

The blessings of the Kumars' sacrifices have been both temporal and spiritual, Brother Kumar says. They have been able to make their money stretch to meet their needs. And after Michael left on his mission, Brother Kumar was able to obtain a new job that he hopes will enable him to pay off his mortgage more quickly.

But spiritual blessings the Kumars have received have been more important in their lives. George and Alitiana find growth in their callings—he as elders quorum president in the Lami Second Ward, Suva Fiji North Stake, and she as second counselor in the ward Primary.

Ryan notes that his own outlook on life is now far different than that of many of his peers: "I always have something to do—something to build up the kingdom." In planning for the future, he says, the gospel makes believers "look at things from an eternal perspective."

George and Alitiana Kumar had both been taught Christian doctrines before hearing the gospel. But they had not found comfort in what they had been taught. "In other religions," Brother Kumar says, "you are taught to fear God's wrath—to be scared. But the Atonement of Jesus Christ gives you another chance."

The Kumars are trying to make the most of that second chance.

### **The Naivaluvou Family**

Peni and Jieni Naivaluvou doubled the size of their family when they took in four girls from Vanuatu who were attending the Fiji LDS Church College. But the Naivaluvous do not see this as a sacrifice. They feel they have been amply blessed for doing it. One of those blessings, they believe, is the addition to their family of baby Hagoth, born in January 2009.

In early 2008 Bishop and Sister Naivaluvou of the Tamavua Ward, Suva Fiji North Stake, heard that two young students from Vanuatu needed a place to board, so the Naivaluvous took stock of their own situation. Their sons, Soane, 18, and Ross, 16, were away from home attending a

Church school in Tonga, the land of their father's ancestry. The two girls from Vanuatu were boarding, at high cost to their parents, with a non-LDS family in Suva. The two girls would be good company for then 13-year-old Andrea Naivaluvou; Andrea also attends the Church College and was arriving home in the afternoon before her parents

*Bishop and Sister Naivaluvou do not focus on what they may have sacrificed by taking in four new family members. They give thanks instead for blessings received.*

were off work. So Brother and Sister Naivaluvou decided they would invite the two girls from Vanuatu to live in their home at no charge.

The girls insisted on helping with costs, but still their expenses were less than half of what they had been paying earlier—a blessing for their families.

In April two other Vanuatuan girls came for a visit and enjoyed the atmosphere of the Naivaluvou home. A short time later these two girls asked if they too might come there to live. The Naivaluvous gladly took them in.

How did it work to have four extra young people in the home? “We’ve built up such a bond it’s more like they



Front: Peni, Jieni, and Andrea Naivaluvou. Back: Soane and Ross Naivaluvou.



### **Suva Fiji Temple.**

are our daughters,” Bishop Naivaluvou says. The Naivalouvous made it clear from the beginning that the girls were to be considered part of the family. The four girls from Vanuatu actually are related to each other, but in the Naivaluvou home they treated each other like sisters born of the same parents. Andrea Naivaluvou also came to accept them “like my sisters,” she says; the older girls watched out for her and even helped her with homework when there was a need. The four girls began to call Bishop and Sister Naivaluvou *Ta* and *Na*—“Dad” and “Mom” in Fijian.

This may be the first time, Sister Naivaluvou says, that girls from Vanuatu who are attending the Church College have been able to board with member families. The father of one of the girls, when he came to visit, expressed his deep gratitude to the Naivalouvous for the love they have shown his daughter.

Sister Naivaluvou points out that one of the girls, the daughter of a district president on Vanuatu, was a great example to their family through her faith; Bishop Naivaluvou says her example helped his family be more consistent about scripture study and family prayer.

Both of the Naivalouvous say they have been blessed temporally because they have shared with others. Their resources have gone farther. And Sister Naivaluvou believes the blessing of being able to become pregnant again after 13 years is connected with their willingness to share love with others.

When the Naivalouvous’ two sons returned home at the end of their school year in Tonga, they too accepted the

*What advice would Asenaca Ramasima (right) give to other young people? “Stay true to the gospel, and always listen to your parents. You might think you know better than they do, but it is likely they understand things you have not yet learned.”*

young women as part of the family. But perhaps Soane can be excused for not seeing the girls exactly as sisters. He found himself drafted as a prom date for one of the young women. He played his role like a gentleman.

When the four girls finished their school year and returned home to Vanuatu late in 2008, the farewells were heart tugging, Bishop Naivaluvou recalls. It was as though he and his wife were saying good-bye to four daughters. And when a new school year began in 2009, the Naivalouvous were glad to welcome their four “daughters” back—plus two more.

With only four sleeping rooms in their home, some would wonder how they could make room for six young women in addition to their own daughter and new baby. But the Naivaluvou family quickly worked it out without difficulty.

After all, it was not a matter of personal space. It was simply a matter of expanding their circle of love.

### **Asenaca Ramasima**

During 2008, Asenaca Ramasima won what are probably the two most prestigious awards for students at the Fiji LDS Church College. First, she was selected as dux, or top student in the school. That award carries with it a tuition scholarship. But she also received the

Lion of the Lord Award, given to an exemplary seminary student. She treasures this second award even more than the first, because it is a reminder of how she has tried to apply faith in her Heavenly Father in her own day-to-day life.

Life has already dealt Asenaca an ample share of hardship, even though she is only 19. And yet she seems to radiate joy—joy in the knowledge that she has an eternal family because they were sealed in the Suva Fiji Temple in 2001 and joy in the knowledge that she is known and loved by her Heavenly Father.

Asenaca is the youngest of five children, after four brothers. When their father died, she recalls, their oldest brother, then serving as a missionary, urged all of them to remember that their father was not lost to them; he would always be close.

Her brothers became breadwinners for the family, while their mother became a spiritual bonding agent to hold them together. The children have benefited as they have followed their parents' examples.

"My father was an inspiration for me. He always taught us, 'Work hard, work hard,'" the soft-spoken Asenaca says.

Working hard in school has been her way of honoring her father and helping her mother. The scholarship that comes with the dux award is a valuable contribution Asenaca has made toward the costs of her own education.

Parental example also gave her a foundation for her spiritual education. "We were taught every day at home through family scripture reading and teachings from our own parents," Asenaca says. Her mother, she adds, continues to build on this foundation for her family.

Asenaca's own regular scripture study helps her maintain and strengthen her faith in Jesus Christ. She makes time for scripture study no matter what her schedule may be.

Faith in Jesus Christ has in turn helped her stay close to her Heavenly Father so she can call on His guidance. "I know He is always there," she says. "If I do what He wants me to do, He will be there for me, and His Spirit will confirm what is right."

That guidance is important when some young women her age try to talk her into "having fun" the way they do—drinking, smoking, putting chastity aside. But "those things are against my conscience," Asenaca says, and because of her faith and the safety she feels in Heavenly Father's guidance, "I can say no."

Service in the Church, she says, has helped her build some confidence she would not otherwise have. That will be important when she finishes her schooling at the Church College, because then she hopes to be able to attend Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, or BYU—Hawaii to study accounting.

Those places are a long way from her family's home in a rural area on the outskirts of Suva. Would it be a bit scary to go so far from home? Asenaca thinks about this question for a moment, then gives one of her broad smiles. Yes, she answers—but she will do it to meet her goals.

It is easy to believe that Asenaca will do what she says. So far, she has done very well at meeting her goals. And like other faithful members in Fiji, she has found both spiritual growth and temporal progress through exercising faith and keeping the commandments. ■



# The Certainty of the Resurrection

By President  
Spencer  
W. Kimball  
(1895–1985)



*Spencer W. Kimball was set apart as the 12th President of the Church on December 30, 1973. President Kimball was a dynamic leader with great vision, presiding over an unprecedented expansion in both missionary work and Church membership. This article comes from an address he delivered in general conference on April 4, 1969.*

One Christmastime some years ago, we walked the paths that Jesus walked. We spent some precious hours in what is said to be the Garden of Gethsemane and tried to imagine the sufferings through which He moved in anticipation of His Crucifixion and Resurrection. We were near the places where He prayed, where He was taken prisoner, where He was tried and condemned.

Outside the city walls, we climbed the caliche hill, pock-marked with little caves, making the rounded end look like a skull, and we were told that this was Golgotha, the place where He was crucified. We zigzagged down the backside of the hill around to the sheer cliff-side of it and entered the small window-

size aperture into a roughhewn cave in which it is said the body had lain.

Some hours we spent in the little garden outside this tomb and absorbed the gospel story of His burial and of His Resurrection, which here had taken place. We read thoughtfully and prayerfully of the coming of the women to the sepulchre, the angel of the Lord rolling away the stone, and the discomfiture of the recreant keepers.

## **“He . . . Is Risen”**

We could almost imagine we saw the two angels in shining garments who spoke to Mary, saying, “Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

“He is not here, but is risen.”

The Lord had predicted: “The

Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again” (Luke 24:5–7).

We remembered the dialogue between Mary, the angels, and the Lord:

“Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.”

She turned and “saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

“Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my





God, and your God” (John 20:13–17). . . .

### Significance of Easter

Sometimes our celebrations of notable occurrences seem to take on earthly color, and we do not fully realize the significance of the reason for the celebration. This is true of Easter, when too often we celebrate the holiday rather than the deep significance of the Resurrection of the Lord. They must be unhappy indeed who ignore the godship of Christ, the sonship of the Master. We feel sorry indeed for those who call the supreme miracle of the Resurrection “but a subjective experience of the disciples, rather than an actual historical event.”

**“Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master” (John 20:16).**

We know truly that all this is real. Christ spoke of Himself to Nicodemus:

“We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness” (John 3:11).

And then we remember that Peter testified:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36).

“But ye denied the Holy One and the Just . . . ;

“And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses” (Acts 3:14–15).

Boldly, Peter and John stood before the council and said again:

“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man [the former lame man] stand here before you whole. . . .

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given



among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:10, 12).

When the council chastised the two Apostles and commanded them not to speak or teach such things in the name of Jesus, they answered and said: “Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19–20).

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33).

### **Witness of Peter**

We also know the Resurrection is real. The living Peter said to the council of persecutors:

## **Testifying of the risen Lord, Peter and John said, “We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”**

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on the tree. . . .

“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him” (Acts 5:30, 32).

We stand in awe before the great Peter, who had so completely received his total assurances and who had so graciously donned the robe of leadership and the mantle of authority and the courage of the inspired and assured. What

strength he had come to have as he led the Saints and faced the world with all its persecutors, unbelievers, and difficulties. And, as he rehearsed over and over his absolute knowledge, we glory in his stamina as he faced mobs and prelates, officials who could take his life, and as he boldly proclaimed the resurrected Lord, the Prince of Peace, the Holy One and the Just, the Prince of Life, the Prince and Savior. Peter certainly now was sure, impregnable, never to falter. We should gain much sureness by his certainty. . . .

### **Paul’s Testimony**

The testimony of Paul seems most conclusive. He heard the voice of the risen Christ:

“Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” And to be sure of identity, Saul said, “Who art thou, Lord?” and received the assurance, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” (Acts 9:4–5).

And now that same Paul, who had recovered his strength, who had been administered to by the priesthood, who had received his lost eyesight, went about in the synagogues confounding the Jews in Damascus, “proving that this is very Christ” (Acts 9:22).

And later Paul came to the Apostles in Jerusalem, and Barnabas, speaking for Paul, “declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus” (Acts 9:27).

Then Paul continues:

“And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

“But God raised him from the dead:

“And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. . . .

“God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again. . . .

“And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption” (Acts 13:29–31, 33–34). . . .

### Witness of Joseph Smith

We are lifted by the witness of the modern prophet, Joseph Smith, when he reassures the people of the Resurrection. Elder George A. Smith quotes the last public address of Joseph Smith in June 1844, only days before his cruel assassination:

“I am ready to be offered a sacrifice for this people; for what can our enemies do? Only kill the body and their power is then at an end. Stand firm my friends. Never flinch. Do not seek to save your lives, for he that is afraid to die for the truth will lose eternal life. Hold out to the end; and we shall be resurrected and become like Gods, and reign in celestial kingdoms, principalities and eternal dominions.”<sup>1</sup> . . .

### Question and Answer of Job

The question asked by Job has been asked by millions who have stood at the open bier of a loved one: “If a man die, shall he live again?” (Job 14:14).

And the question has been answered acceptably to numerous of them as a great, sweet peace settles down upon them like the dews of heaven. And innumerable times hearts that were weary in agonizing suffering have felt the kiss of that peace which knows not understanding.

And when a deep tranquility of soul has brought a new warm assurance to minds that were troubled and hearts that were torn, those numerous could repeat with beloved Job:

“For I know that my redeemer

liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

“And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

“Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold” (Job 19:25–27).

Job had expressed the wish that his testimony could be printed in books and cut into stone for the generations following him to read. His wish was granted, for peace has come into many souls as they have read his strong testimony.

### Vision of John

And in conclusion, let me read the vision of John the Revelator:

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works” (Revelation 20:12–13).

And as the living, verdant spring follows the dismal, deathlike winter, all nature proclaims the divinity of the risen Lord, that He was Creator, that He is the Savior of the world, that He is the very Son of God. ■

*Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation standardized; citation added.*

#### NOTE

1. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 6:500.



By Alison Baugh

## INCLUDING THE WHOLE FAMILY

**M**y baby sister was placed in my arms as Mom sat next to me with tears running down her face, and Dad recorded it all on video. I knew this baby girl belonged in our family. We had started the adoption process two years earlier, and since then, I had been anticipating the time when I would no longer be an only child and we would have another member of our eternal family. Now that day had come!

Although there is a seven-year age difference between my sister and me, the transition from being an only child to an older sibling was easy. I attribute this to my parents' teaching me the importance of families and involving me in the entire adoption process. Following are some of the ideas my parents used to include me, the sibling, in the changes taking place in our family. If you

*Adoption means big changes for the whole family. Here's how my parents helped include me in this special event.*

choose to use any of these, you may need to adapt them for your own family needs and personalities, but they worked for us.

### **Be Open with Children**

From the time they first met with a social worker at LDS Family Services, my parents were open with me about their adopting a baby and my having a new sibling. When they met with the social worker without me, they let me know what had happened. They explained to me things we wouldn't share outside our immediate family, and this helped me feel important and trusted. Although I asked questions that had answers too complicated for a five- or six-year-old, my parents gave answers that were appropriate for my maturity level.

When our social worker visited our home one day, he noticed a chalk drawing on our

sidewalk I had made a few days earlier of our family holding the new baby. While he was visiting with my mom, the social worker told me that he loved my drawing. He also told me that I would soon be able to put a name by the baby, as I had for the rest of us. I was ecstatic—he loved my picture!

Later, after my sister was adopted, my parents began doing presentations for LDS Family Services, and I was able to attend some of them. Hearing their testimony about how adoption had changed our lives helped me feel included in the entire process.

### Let Children Know What Is Coming

Adoptions are generally more open than they used to be, and often the birth and adoptive parents meet and talk prior to the birth. Although we knew that a birth mother was considering our family for placement, we didn't know it was final until the social worker called us. The day we heard our good news began as any other day with my mom and me eating breakfast. Then the phone rang, and a new chapter began in our lives. Soon there were tears running down her face and she reached over to squeeze my hand and whispered, "We're getting our baby!" Her including me in that moment is something I will always cherish. We had to keep the news to ourselves for three days until we could pick up my sister—not an easy feat for a seven-year-old. (This was in case the birth mother changed her mind.) But again, it made me feel special and included.

### Let Children Help Select or Create Gifts

If you're buying gifts for the new sibling or for the birth mother, I suggest including the older children. I drew my sister's birth mother a picture while my parents met with her and her family. I don't remember what I drew, but I do remember wanting to show her how grateful I was for what she had sacrificed for me to have a little sister. I was also able to help select some new clothes and toys for my sister to have when she came home.

### Involve the Children in Welcoming the Baby

My most treasured part of the adoption process was seeing my sister for the first time. When hospital staff brought her into the waiting room, my parents let me be the first to hold

her. They even let me help choose her name. I felt like the luckiest big sister in the world. I also got to call and share the good news with extended family and friends. This was one of my favorite things, especially after having had to resist telling everyone the news that my sister was coming. My parents let me be a proud older sibling and show off my sister, which was something I had been awaiting for a long time.

### Let Children Attend the Official Court Hearing

Following paperwork and a waiting period, adoptions are finalized at a court hearing. Because I was able to be there, I had a better understanding that the process was legally complete and my sister would *always* be a part of our family. Getting our picture in the local newspaper because ours was one of the first hearings in our district's new courthouse helped make the hearing even more exciting for me.



*Alison and her sister, Kirsten, in February 1995.*

### Show Gratitude for the Temple Sealing

My family could be sealed in the temple just weeks after the adoption was made legal. My parents used this unique opportunity to instill in me a greater appreciation for the sealing power that allows families to be together forever. I'll never forget what it was like to be dressed in white, to look at our reflection in the mirrors, and to know my family could always be together. Since that time, I've known I will never settle for anything less than an eternal family in my future.

In the years since the adoption, my sister and I haven't been without the usual sibling rivalry, but I will always be grateful for the opportunity my family had to adopt her. I will also always be grateful to my parents for involving me in the process and making it a family affair. ■

## He Honored My Request

**W**hen I was baptized at 18 years old, I knew that living the gospel of Jesus Christ would become a way of life. I felt the importance and seriousness of living gospel standards, and doing so has blessed my life in many ways.

One gospel principle that is really important to me is honoring the Sabbath day. It allows me to stop my daily routine and to focus my

***"I need you all to come to work for the next two weekends," my boss said. My heart sank. I knew this meant I would need to work on Sunday.***

thoughts on my Heavenly Father.

I work in a tourism business in Costa Rica. In this industry, it is typical for people to work on Sundays. When I started my job, I identified myself as a member of the Church. I requested—and was granted—Sundays off.

Because of my unusual request, my colleagues and my boss were curious. They asked me a lot of questions about my beliefs. Over time I had opportunities to explain to them some of the things that Latter-day Saints believe. In many cases my explanations of gospel doctrines earned their respect.

One day my boss gathered our staff for an announcement. "I need

you all to come to work for the next two weekends," he said. My heart sank. I knew this meant I would need to work on Sunday.

But then my boss continued: "That is, everyone except Juan Carlos. We know that nothing is going to make him come to work on Sunday."

I was relieved. My boss had honored my request! Because of my behavior and the standards I exhibited at work, I had gained his respect. As a result he was willing to honor my beliefs.

I know that as we make gospel standards a priority in our lives, the Lord will bless us. ■

Juan Carlos Fallas Agüero, San José, Costa Rica





## Blessed by Mama Taamino

**W**hen I met Taumatagi Taamino, I was a young missionary laboring in my own country. An aging widow, Sister Taamino was slightly bent over from age and hard work, but she always extended her arms to greet my companion and me and kiss us on both cheeks, as is the custom in French Polynesia.

Sister Taamino was frail, and her walk was slow and deliberate, but she took care of everyone. She even made sure that my companion and I always had clean, ironed clothing. Children loved to be around her because she welcomed them and listened to what they had to say. She

*Even in her 80s, Sister Taamino worked in the meetinghouse flower beds, weeding and cleaning. This was her way of continuing to serve the Lord.*

lived a simple life in a two-room home surrounded by sand, palm trees, family, and friends. Out of respect, everyone called her “Mama Taamino.”

The Tahiti Papeete Mission president had assigned my companion, Elder Tchan Fat, and me to help prepare a group of 80 Latter-day Saints to receive their endowments and be sealed as families in the nearest temple—the Hamilton New Zealand Temple, five hours away by plane. Mama Taamino had traveled to the temple every year for six years,

and this year she would go again. I wondered how she could afford such expensive trips when her living conditions were so meager. Six years later I learned the answer.

In 1976, as president of the Papeete Tahiti Stake, I regularly inspected the stake’s meetinghouses. One day at noon I stopped at the chapel in Tipaerui. At the time, we had paid custodians, and there I found Mama Taamino, now in her late 60s, working as a custodian to help support her large family. She greeted me with her usual “Come and eat,” but I replied, “Mama Taamino, you are not young anymore, and for lunch all you are having is a small piece of bread, a tiny can of sardines, and a little bottle of juice? Aren’t you earning enough to have more food than this?”

She replied, “I’m saving to travel to the temple again.” My heart melted with admiration for her example of love and sacrifice. Mama Taamino traveled to the temple in New Zealand nearly 15 times—every year until the Papeete Tahiti Temple was dedicated in October 1983. At the dedication she radiated joy.

In 1995, this time as a mission president, I saw Mama Taamino again. She had moved back to the atoll of Makemo, not far from her birthplace. Now in her 80s, she could no longer walk, but the wrinkles of her face expressed peace, patience, and a deep understanding of life and the gospel. She still had a beautiful smile, and her eyes showed pure charity.

Early the next morning I found her seated in one of the meetinghouse flower beds, weeding and cleaning. One of her sons had carried her there. After she finished one area, she would use her hands and arms to move herself to the next area. This was her way of continuing to serve the Lord.

In the late afternoon when I was conducting temple recommend interviews, Mama Taamino was brought to where I was seated in the shade of a tree near the chapel. She wanted the opportunity to answer each question required for a temple recommend.

“President, I cannot go to the temple anymore,” she said. “I am getting old and sick, but I always want to have a current temple recommend with me.”

I could tell how much she wanted to return to the temple, and I knew that her longing was acceptable to God. Not long afterward, she left her earthly tabernacle to join those she had faithfully served in the house of the Lord. She took with her nothing but her faith, testimony, kindness, charity, and willingness to serve.

Mama Taamino was a true Polynesian pioneer whose example blessed many of her brothers and sisters—including me. ■

Victor D. Cave, Church Magazines

## Taylor’s Talent

Can you tell me what talents Taylor has that I could share with the class?” my eight-year-old’s Primary teacher asked me. She had telephoned because Taylor’s class would be talking about talents they had received from Heavenly Father.

My mind went blank. I thought back over the past eight years, trying to come up with an answer. At four days old Taylor had suffered a stroke that left him with profound brain damage and an uncontrollable seizure disorder. He is unable to see, speak, or communicate. He has never progressed past a six-month-old child’s level of mental development. He

spends most of his days in a wheelchair as we care for him and try to keep him comfortable.

We cheered when he learned to giggle or drink from a special cup, and we celebrated when he could stand and take a few steps. But while we cheered and celebrated on the outside, on the inside we wept with the realization that these small achievements were probably as significant as any Taylor would attain. Somehow I didn’t think this was what his Primary teacher wanted to hear.

I cleared my throat and uncomfortably answered, “Taylor really doesn’t have any talents that I can think of.”

This kind sister then forever altered my relationship with my son by her response.

*“I have seen the other children learn to push Taylor’s wheelchair, open doors for him, and overcome their fear,” my son’s Primary teacher told me.*





“As I thought about this lesson, I realized that every child of God has a talent,” she said. “I would suggest that Taylor’s talent is that he teaches others to serve. If it is OK with you, I would like to talk to our class about how I have noticed Taylor’s talent here at church. I have seen the other Primary children learn to push his wheelchair, open doors for him, and overcome their fear to wipe his chin with a handkerchief when needed. I think that is a great talent by which he blesses our lives.”

I murmured in agreement, and we quietly said good-bye. I wonder if that Primary teacher knew what a profound impact that conversation would have on my life. Taylor remained the same. He still requires a great deal of care. Hospitals, doctors, and therapists still take up a large part of my life. But my perspective changed, and I began to notice his talent.

I saw how people around us would alter their behavior as they sought to care for him. I also noticed how he reminds us to slow down, notice his needs, and become more compassionate, observant, and patient.

I do not know God’s purpose in having Taylor face such daunting challenges, but I believe that his Primary teacher gave me a small glimpse of it. He is here to share his talent with us. He is here to give us the opportunity to learn how to serve. ■

Heather Hall, Utah, USA

## Call an Ambulance!

In 1991 while I was boarding up the loft of our home, I felt a sharp pain in my left eye. The pain, which felt like a splinter, soon spread throughout my head. I continued working until the discomfort forced me to my bedroom for rest.


As soon as I lay down, however, the still, small voice prompted me. “Get up,” the Spirit said. “Don’t go to sleep.”

As I pondered the warning and thought about what I should do, I decided to get one of the tablets my mother took for migraine headaches. I walked to my parents’ room and found the tablets, but as I began to open the bottle, the voice came again: “Don’t take one of those.”

A short while later, the voice came a third time: “You need to phone for an ambulance—now!”

I had never phoned emergency services before, but I immediately called. An ambulance soon arrived, and two paramedics put me on a stretcher. The last thing I remember was that they asked me my name. Then the lights went out.

Later I woke up in the intensive care unit at the hospital. I was still weak and under the influence of anesthesia, but I remember feeling hands on my head as my father and my bishop gave me a blessing. I heard the words “You will be restored to health, as if nothing had happened.”



*The pain in my left eye soon spread throughout my head. As soon as I lay down, the still, small voice prompted me: “Get up. Don’t go to sleep.”*

After three days in intensive care and four additional days in a hospital ward, I was finally able to return home. Only then did I learn that I had suffered a brain hemorrhage. The surgeon who operated on me later told me that I was “just a click away from dying” and that I would have died had I taken a migraine tablet.

Today I am fit and healthy, thankful that the Lord guided my thoughts that day. I have been sealed in the temple to my loving wife, and we have five wonderful children.

I thank my Heavenly Father and my Savior, Jesus Christ, for the miracle of life. I strive every day to make the most of the time They have given me, and I gratefully remember the protecting influence of the voice of the Spirit. ■

Simon Heal, Queensland, Australia



# SINGLE WORKING MOM?

## THERE IS HOPE!

*Ever thought about going  
back to school? Now is the time.*

**By Richard E. McDermott, Ph.D.,  
and Lindsey A. Reese, R.N.**

**A**s a youth, Stephanie (names have been changed) had anticipated a life as a stay-at-home mother. Her plans seemed to be well on track when she married Shawn, a returned missionary, in the temple. After 20 years of marriage, however, Shawn announced that he was filing for divorce, leaving her for another woman.

Beyond the heartbreak of the divorce, Stephanie was faced with the very real issue of economic survival. For the past 20 years she had been focused on marriage, family, and home. With no outside job experience and no education beyond secondary school, how would she support five children as a single parent?

### Finances and the Single Woman

Whether a woman is on her own due to divorce, widowhood, or having never married, she may struggle financially if she does not have adequate schooling or vocational training. In the United States, for example, 28 percent of single mothers live at the poverty level.<sup>1</sup>

A woman with only a secondary education can raise her yearly income significantly by seeking additional education. For Stephanie, who was not prepared to assume the full financial responsibility for supporting her family, the best solution was to return to school. However, the fact that it was the best solution did not make it any easier. How would it affect her children? Could she muster the necessary self-confidence? Would her age make her less competitive? How did other women in her situation accomplish this daunting goal?

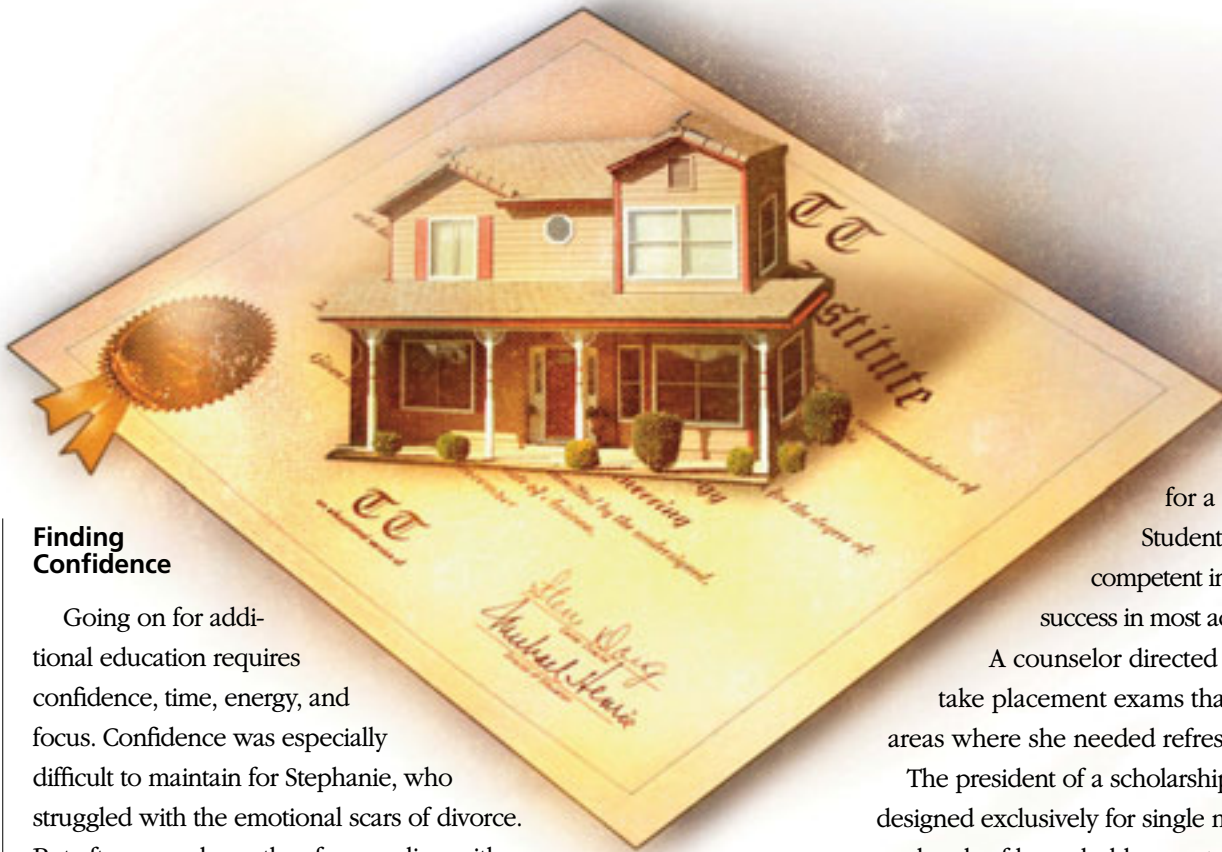
What should she study? And where? And how would she pay for it all?

### The Effects on Children

Supporting a family is a full-time job and so is motherhood, making life especially difficult for a single woman when a former spouse is not fulfilling his financial obligation to his family. Finding time

for study sounded like an impossible task for Stephanie, whose days started at 6:00 a.m. and ended at 10:00 p.m. She worked conscientiously at her low-wage job in a bookstore. But she was often fatigued, and her thoughts were often elsewhere while she worked. *Did the kids get their lunch money? Am I asking too much of my 14-year-old son to get a 5-year-old out the door to kindergarten? Perhaps I could work double shifts this weekend and be paid overtime. That way, I could pay the power bill instead of having to ask for help again.*

It turns out Stephanie may have worried needlessly about the effect her entering school would have on her children. A study conducted by the Economic Self-Reliance Center at Brigham Young University, in partnership with the Single Mom Foundation in Salt Lake City, found that single mothers who return to school report the same time spent with their children and the same parental satisfaction as working mothers who do not return to school.<sup>2</sup> Years later, Stephanie's son would tell her that her returning to school set an example that motivated him and his siblings to take their education more seriously and helped them to become better students.



### Finding Confidence

Going on for additional education requires confidence, time, energy, and focus. Confidence was especially difficult to maintain for Stephanie, who struggled with the emotional scars of divorce. But after several months of counseling with her bishop, and later with LDS Family Services, Stephanie regained the confidence she needed to assume the added responsibilities of returning to school.

### Considering The Age Factor

For mature adults who have been out of school for many years and wonder how competitive they may be against younger students, there is good news. Single mothers with small children are not only competitive but often do very well. One reason is motivation. Having worked at home and often in industry, they have a strong work ethic. Professors often observe that older students get more out of their education because they have more experiences to draw upon, which helps them grasp and apply new ideas. The knowledge and wisdom that come from maturity improve learning.

Most universities now recognize and try to address the special needs of “nontraditional” students, including single mothers, by adapting curriculum, schedules, scholarships, and services. They offer refresher courses in math, English, and computer skills for those who have been out of school

**A good educational foundation can raise your standard of living, your self-esteem, and your children’s expectations for themselves.**

for a long period. Students need to be competent in these areas for success in most academic majors.

A counselor directed Stephanie to take placement exams that identified areas where she needed refreshing.

The president of a scholarship foundation designed exclusively for single mothers who are heads of households reports that of the 450 women who have received scholarships from the foundation over the past 10 years, fewer than 5 percent have failed to complete their degrees. Many former scholarship recipients are employed as nurses, radiology and laboratory technicians, dental hygienists, information technology managers, accountants, business managers, and human resource directors.

### Selecting a Course of Study

Nothing would be more discouraging than sacrificing the time and money to earn a degree or certification, only to find no jobs were available in the chosen field. Stephanie did her homework to select a course of study that would provide both a job and increased earning power. She decided to major in accounting. Other excellent fields for single mothers include—but are definitely not limited to—radiology technology, teaching, dental hygiene, laboratory technology, nursing, and information technology. University counselors can help identify other possibilities.

In selecting a major, Stephanie realized it was important to consider her interests and talents. She took an

assessment examination to help her identify those careers best suited to her aptitudes. She took her exam at a university but could have found similar exams on the Internet or at an LDS Employment Services center (see sidebar at right).

Of equal concern to Stephanie was whether or not the lifestyle of her chosen career would harmonize with the demands of single motherhood. Many accounting programs, for example, focus on placing graduates in public accounting. Entry-level public accounting jobs often require 50- to 60-hour workweeks and may involve extensive travel. These demands would have been difficult for Stephanie and her children. With a little counseling, she decided that a better alternative would be to select elective courses that would prepare her for a job in management accounting (a job with industry or government), where work hours are more regular.

### Choosing a School

Stephanie's bishop was an accountant. He told her that selecting the right school for her was almost as important as selecting the best course of study. Together, they created the criteria she would use in choosing from among several local colleges. These included the cost of tuition, the availability of night classes, online courses, class size, and the reputation the school had for quality teaching.

Night classes can help single women who work during the day. Some institutions specialize in degrees for nontraditional students with day jobs. Many students also find the Internet an attractive way to take some courses; they can study at their own pace without being required to attend scheduled classes.

Stephanie learned that some schools are better than others at placing their students in jobs. She asked the schools about the percentage of their students who have jobs in their

career field by graduation and about average starting salaries. She also visited with recent graduates to discover their experience with teachers, curriculum, and job placement.

### Financing an Education

Financing her education was probably Stephanie's greatest hurdle. She discovered that many traditional scholarships are not designed for the needs of single mothers. Some traditional scholarships exclude part-time students or place strong emphasis on past scholastic performance. Fortunately, she was able to find a scholarship specifically designed for single women who are heads of households.

She learned of additional scholarships and grants and loans that were offered by government agencies and private institutions. University counseling offices, financial assistance offices, and women's centers provide the most comprehensive information on financial aid.

### Finding Success

Stephanie earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and now works as the chief accountant for a building contractor. What counsel does she have for women who may suddenly find themselves in the role of single-mother head-of-household? "Have faith in yourself and in the knowledge that the Lord is aware of you. Know that He loves you and wants you to be successful," she says. "When considering more education, do your research, and then ask the Lord to confirm if additional education is the best option for you." ■

#### NOTES

1. Timothy S. Grall, "Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support: 2005" in *Current Population Reports*, Aug. 2007, 4. Available at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/childsupport/cs05.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/childsupport/cs05.html).
2. Richard J. McClendon and Julie Humberstone, "Education, A Powerful Asset for Single Mothers," *ESR Review*, Spring 2008.

### AN IMPORTANT WORLDWIDE RESOURCE

**A**lthough the statistics quoted in this article come from the United States, single-parent poverty is a worldwide phenomenon. Systems of higher and vocational education vary from country to country, as do available resources for educational aid. However, one valuable resource is available worldwide: nearly 300 Church Employment Resource Centers, where Church members can receive counseling and have access to aptitude and interest tests, information on available financial aid for education, and other information helpful to those considering additional education. Ward or branch priesthood leaders and employment specialists can help interested members locate the nearest center.

To locate the nearest center using the Internet, go to [providentliving.org](http://providentliving.org), select "Employment," and click on "Find jobs and other opportunities." ■

By Jane McBride Choate

**B**udgeting for your family's clothing needs can be a challenge, especially during times of economic uncertainty. Although most families can scale back on their clothing purchases, some needs must still be met. Learn or sharpen the following skills to clothe your growing family.

**1. Learn to sew and mend.** Almost lost arts, these skills are necessary to make good use of existing clothing and fabrics. Although it may not always be cost-effective to sew your own clothes, you can save money by doing your own alterations and repairs. By learning how to sew, you can also custom-make items for family members with special needs, hard-to-find sizes, or distinctive tastes.

**2. Swap.** Invite other families with children of similar ages to swap clothing with you. Each family contributes good, usable clothing, and the families "swap shop" at a central meeting place. Any remaining items can be donated to Deseret Industries or another charity.

**3. Put the word out.** Let friends and other family members know you'd love to receive any clothing they may have outgrown or don't use. Even if you can't use a particular item, accept it graciously and donate it to a thrift store.

**4. Sell used clothing.** If you do not trade or have opportunities to share

clothing, consignment shops and garage sales are good ways to sell used clothing. Earnings can then be used to replenish other clothing needs.

**5. Be thrifty.** Shop your local thrift stores and garage sales. Sometimes you can find new clothes with the tags still attached. Ask if the store offers dollar days or other incentives. And don't be afraid to bargain at yard sales.

**6. Cyber-shop.** You can find good prices on clothing and accessories at many Internet sites. Before you log on, though, have a specific plan and budget for what you need to purchase.

**7. Shop outlet malls and discount stores.** Be price savvy, since not all of these stores will have bargains. But some do, and I especially like to shop end-of-season clearance sales for next year's clothing needs. For growing children, buy one or more sizes up. You can justify storing well-made outfits for a year if they're half price or less.

**8. Get on mailing lists.** Many of your favorite stores are happy to send you information and coupons for upcoming sales. Shop judiciously and remember that nothing is a bargain if you don't have the money or if you don't need it or can't use it. Save for your clothing purchases and search for the best deals on items you truly need. ■



ILLUSTRATION BY BRANDON DORMAN



# Multimedia Conference FHE

That was a great talk! I can't wait to read it in the *Ensign*." We've probably all heard similar remarks from Church members who watch general conference. My husband and I agree. When our conference magazine issue arrives, we read it as we review recordings of conference. We live in an area where the conference broadcast is available on

local television channels or cable, making it easy to record all sessions. We then spotlight talks for subsequent family home evening discussions. Watching the speaker as we read along, highlighting text and making notes, helps us

stay more focused on the message.

Watching the talks again, but focusing on just a few each week, can also help children become more acquainted with Church leaders and their inspired

messages. Our family is strengthened as we revisit the conference talks each week.

We are so blessed to live in a time when we have many ways to access the inspired messages of our Church leaders.

**Danielle Taylor Porter, Utah, USA  
NOTE**

Recordings of general conference are available at LDS Distribution Centers or online at [ldscatalog.com](http://ldscatalog.com). Residents from the United States and Canada may call the Salt Lake Distribution Center at 1-800-537-5971. Several media formats are also available for Church publications and audiovisual materials. Visit [lds.org](http://lds.org) and click on Gospel Library, then Media Formats. General conference archives can also be found in the Gospel Library.



ILLUSTRATION BY BETH WHITTAKER

## HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

**"Becoming a Quality Person Now," p. 28.** Display several items (for example, a pencil, Book of Mormon, *Ensign*, pair of shoes), and invite family members to rank them from most valuable to least valuable. Discuss how they chose the rankings. What qualities make a person's life valuable? Encourage each person to do something specific in the coming week to become a more quality person.



**"Making the Marriage Decision," p. 20.** To demonstrate the principles taught in this article to young children, you may want to gradually fill a glass of water until it is full. This may invite a discussion about how family members are gradually making progress towards their most important personal and family goals until the goals are reached.

**"The Atonement and Faith," p. 30.** Consider reading the analogy given in the first two paragraphs of the section, "We Must Make a Mighty Change," and discussing how family members can be strengthened by the Savior to resist sin. Younger children could illustrate the example of the tree bending over and then becoming stronger.



# Small & Simple Things

“By small and simple things are great things brought to pass” (Alma 37:6).

## TEMPLE SPOTLIGHT



## Manila Philippines Temple

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) dedicated the Manila Philippines Temple in September 1984. The beautiful six-spire building has an exterior of brilliant white ceramic tiles and is surrounded by majestic palm trees and colorful vegetation.

The temple’s open house was held shortly after two hurricanes ravaged the Philippines. Despite the storms, the events went on as planned. On September 3, 1984, a tour for dignitaries was held. On the following day, when the temple opened for public tours, “a

beautiful heavenly spectacle was unfurled over the temple,” said Jovencio Ilagan, executive secretary of the temple committee during its construction. “The sun, in all its brilliance, was seen through a corona of varying colors. . . . At one point, the center spire with the statue of the Angel Moroni was seen at the center of the corona. Almost a hundred people at the temple grounds attest to it. Many were in tears.”<sup>1</sup>

### NOTE

1. In John L. Hart, “3 Temples Open to Public in a Week—a First Ever,” *Church News*, Sept. 16, 1984, 3.

*The Manila Philippines Temple was the first temple built in the Philippines. Construction on the country’s second temple began in 2007 in Cebu City.*

## Entering a Beautiful Place

Before I became a member of the Church, I lived near the Manila Philippines Temple. Every time I passed it, I marveled at the grandeur of the beautiful edifice. I could never see the name of the Church, but I had a feeling of wanting to enter that place.

Years later I went to Hawaii, where I met the missionaries and was baptized. When I returned to Manila, I was surprised to learn that the building I had long wished to enter was one I *could* enter if I was worthy. I was overjoyed.

When I did enter the temple, I felt I was a little above the earth. Everything was beautiful, almost heavenly. I feel so blessed to have the privilege to go inside the temple.

Joanna Velayo-Munda, Philippines





## Feeling the Spirit of the Temple

When I was called to be a member of the high council, the stake president expressed his desire for more members to go to the temple on the days assigned for our stake. Transportation was a problem, so the first thing he did was arrange for a bus to pick up the members at all the ward buildings in the stake and also bring us back when the day was over.

There was another problem, however. Many mothers could not attend because they didn't have anyone to watch

their children. As we discussed the possibility of having some of the young women from the stake help care for the children, I realized that we could call a stake nursery leader. I proposed the idea to the stake president. He suggested that we call new converts to serve as assistants to the nursery leader so they could feel the spirit of the temple. When these ideas were put into action, we had great stake temple attendance.

Cristian Robles, Chile

### CHURCH HISTORY AROUND THE WORLD

## Greece

Rigas Pofantis and Nicholas Malavetis had been looking for religious truths for three years when they happened upon a newspaper article in 1898 that discussed Mormonism. They were intrigued and wrote to Church headquarters to learn more. Church leaders dispatched the president of the Turkish Mission to visit and teach the pair in Greece. In 1903 Nicholas Malavetis died, but two years later, Rigas Pofantis again wrote to Church headquarters and asked to be baptized. Church leaders again sent the Turkish Mission president, who baptized Brother Pofantis and five others, including Nicholas Malavetis's widow.

The first missionaries arrived in Greece six months after these first baptisms, but beginning in 1909, the Church suspended missionary work there for nearly 70 years, due in part to political unrest in the area. In the meantime, military personnel stationed in the area began to share the gospel with the



*In recent years Mars Hill, the location of the Apostle Paul's sermon in Acts 17, has been the site for testimony meetings, service projects, and celebrations of exemplary Greek citizens.*

Greek people. Still, progress was slow; when the Athens Branch replaced the servicemen's Church unit in 1967, Church rolls included 80 members in the branch but only eight Greeks.

In 1972 Elder Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, dedicated Greece

for the preaching of the gospel. Since that time several developments have encouraged Church membership growth, including the publication of a Greek translation of the Book of Mormon in 1987, the creation of the Greece Athens Mission in 1990, and the dedication of the first meetinghouse in Greece in 1999.

Membership (2009)	661
Districts	1
Branches	5



## INCLUDING EVERYONE IN FAMILY HOME EVENING

- Invite every family member to fulfill an assignment.
- Prayerfully plan lessons and activities that involve the whole family.
- Let children share what they are learning in Primary. It could be a song, a scripture, or a game to learn a gospel principle.
- Ask family members to suggest topics for future lessons. Make a list; then address the topics over time.
- Don't force family members to participate. Try to create a welcoming environment in which thoughts and ideas can be shared.



In upcoming issues, watch for family home evening ideas for single members and for families without children.



## TEMPLES BY THE NUMBERS

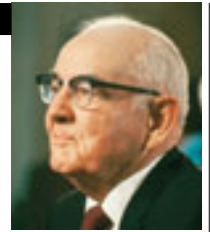
- 130: temples in operation.
- 21: temples announced or under construction.
- 1: city in the world that has two temples within its borders, South Jordan, Utah. "You may ask why we favor Utah so generously. It is because the degree of activity requires it,"<sup>1</sup> President Gordon B. Hinckley said when he announced the Oquirrh Mountain Utah Temple in October 2005, the fourth temple in the Salt Lake Valley.
- 34: temples dedicated in 2000, the most dedicated in a single year.
- 85: temple dedications performed by President Hinckley over his lifetime, the most by any Apostle in this dispensation. President Hinckley also performed 10 rededications.
- 685,000: people who attended the Draper Utah Temple open house. The temple was dedicated in March 2009.
- 6,800: square feet (682 sq. m) in the Colonia Juárez Chihuahua Mexico Temple, the smallest temple in the Church.
- 331,032: square feet (30,754 sq. m) in the Salt Lake Temple, the largest temple in the Church.
- 169: stakes and districts assigned to the Manila Philippines Temple District, serving more wards and branches than any other temple district in the Church.



### NOTE

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Opening Remarks," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 5.

## President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985)



See his Gospel Classics article, “The Certainty of the Resurrection,” on page 28.

Growing up in rural Arizona, Spencer W. Kimball learned to work hard at an early age. Grandson of the Apostle Heber C. Kimball (1801–68) and son of a stake president, Spencer also developed a strong testimony and deep devotion to the gospel.

When he was a boy, it was often Spencer’s duty to ride atop the hay wagon, tramping down the hay as his older brothers pitched the hay up. It was hot, dusty, scratchy work, but he did it—except when the church bell rang

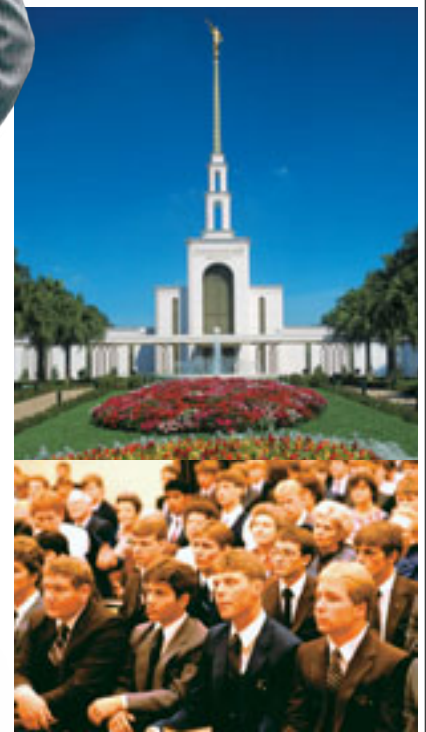
to signal the beginning of Primary, which at that time was held during the week. He had a perfect attendance record and was not going to miss. His brothers had other ideas and began pitching the hay onto the wagon even faster. When they noticed the hay was piling up, Spencer was halfway to Primary.

Spencer W. Kimball went on to serve as a missionary, a bishop, and a stake president before his call to the apostleship in 1943. His work ethic was legendary, despite a number of serious illnesses

that included a heart attack and throat cancer. He urged Church members to lengthen their stride, and his personal motto was simply “Do it.” Because of his health, some thought Spencer W. Kimball’s administration as President of the Church might be brief. But he presided over the Church for 12 years, during which time the number of operating temples doubled, the number of missionaries increased 50 percent, and the priesthood was extended to all worthy male members.



*His unwavering devotion to the gospel and his strong work ethic carried Spencer W. Kimball from humble beginnings in rural Arizona to the leading councils of the Church. His administration as President of the Church was marked by significant growth in temple building and missionary work. Left: With his wife, Camilla (1894–1987).*



## Humanitarian Efforts Bear Fruit in Bolivia's Altiplano

By Kimberly Bowen

Church Magazines

As the Church helps struggling communities around the world, those who oversee the welfare program of the Church are finding that a new way of working based on long-proven welfare principles is bearing fruit—and vegetables and mobility and better health care—in Bolivia's Altiplano.

Early in 2009, representatives of Welfare Services went to El Alto and Suriquiña, Bolivia, to start a pair of projects that combined their resources with those in the community to provide aid to those in need.

The projects were based not only on the time-tested self-reliance principle of teaching a man to fish rather than giving him a fish, but they also reflected the next logical step in the Church's commitment to self-reliance. Project leaders worked closely with local government and community leaders to decide together what needs the Church could meet and to involve the community more heavily in the projects.

Wade Sperry, a manager of field operations in Welfare Services, said since the funding for the programs lasts only for a limited time, the Church involved local priesthood leaders, physicians, health officials, and residents in hopes that the results would last indefinitely.

"The more we can involve local citizens in the solution of their own problems, the better it is for all," said Dennis Lifferth, managing director

of Welfare Services. "The project becomes more sustainable and realistic."

### El Alto

El Alto sits on the edge of the Altiplano, or high plateau, overlooking Bolivia's capital city, La Paz. It has a population of about one million, about 3,500 of whom are Church members. Since 2001, as people have moved from rural areas to the city,

El Alto's population has doubled, making it the fastest-growing major city in the country.

When representatives of Welfare Services met with local leaders in El Alto, they identified four needs in the community. First, El Alto Women and Children's Hospital needed remodeling. Second, people needed gardening and nutrition training. Third, physicians and specialists needed neonatal resuscitation training and supplies. And fourth, many people in the community needed wheelchairs.

Subsequently, the representatives worked with the El Alto Ministry of Health to donate needed medical equipment such as newborn incubators, a generator, beds, monitors, and other hospital equipment to the only hospital in the city that serves pregnant women, newborns, and children. With the help of previously trained Bolivian physicians and specialists, welfare representatives helped arrange for the training of an additional 150 midwives in neonatal resuscitation techniques.



***Helping members and their neighbors learn to produce a greater variety of nutrient-rich foods is just one way the Church is helping others help themselves.***

The Church also provided 250 wheelchairs to El Alto's Department of Social Services and used the local meeting-house to teach about nutrition.

One of the community's less visible but more widespread needs was a more varied and balanced diet. In El Alto, food choices in the markets were limited. Before the project started, none of the members in El Alto had gardens. And many of the houses and apartments the people live in do not have access to a garden plot.

Representatives of Welfare Services are now teaching members and their neighbors how to plant vegetables in empty household containers that they can place on their windowsills or porches. The Church provides some vegetable seeds to get them started.

Brother Sperry said when members and their neighbors started growing vegetables in container gardens, other neighbors started growing gardens too. In close quarters such as those in El Alto, Brother Sperry believes the gardening techniques will spread.

### Suriquiña

Suriquiña, Bolivia, a town of about 5,000 people 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of La Paz, sits at 14,173 feet (4,319 m) above sea level. The vegetation is limited to what can survive the altitude and the cold, arid conditions of the grasslands.

Church representatives and community leaders in Suriquiña identified that the community needed to learn basic nutrition and food production in the environment. The diet of the people in Suriquiña consists mostly of potatoes, fava beans, quinoa, lamb jerky, and eggs. More than half of the children in the town are malnourished.

With a goal to reduce malnutrition rates



***Bernita Choque, a member in Bolivia, gathers produce from a greenhouse the Church helped her build to provide needed nutrition.***

among those who participate in the program to 10 percent by 2012, Welfare Services representatives are using the meetinghouse where the branch of about 350 members meets to teach the people how to build adobe block greenhouses. The structures are 16.5 feet (5 m) long, 10 feet (3 m) wide, and 6 feet (1.9 m) tall, though half the greenhouse's height is underground. The wooden A-frame roof has a plastic cover and a trapdoor that provides access.

Less than five percent of households in Suriquiña were growing gardens when the project began. Welfare specialists hope those who attend the classes will have one garden to care for their family's needs and another for surplus produce that the family can sell. Some families have already starting producing vegetables in their greenhouses. By 2011 welfare specialists anticipate there will be 100 such structures producing fresh food.

Allen Christensen, a director in Welfare Services, said the children who have already participated in the local school's initial greenhouse project are healthier and doing better in school because of their improved diet.

"These projects provide tangible hope that the people can improve their circumstances," Brother Christensen said.

And as welfare representatives work with local leaders and communities, they hope to increase self-reliance and faith among the people as well.

"One of our goals is to help people set their own course and solve their own problems," said Brother Lifferth. "We're confident that with a little bit of help where needed and inspiration from the Lord, they can and will improve conditions for their families." ■

## Missionaries Support Family History

Since the Church released the new FamilySearch program last year, many Church members have tried the new system for the first time.

To support those new to the program or with questions about family history work in general, the Church has provided various resources, including Worldwide FamilySearch Support.

The FamilySearch Support program began in 2005 with a few volunteers offering help with family history work. The program has grown to include nearly 1,200 volunteer support missionaries positioned throughout the world.

Support missionaries are located in 34 different countries, offering assistance on a wide variety of family history questions in dozens of languages and multiple time zones.

Sister Cecilia Dimalaluan has served as a support missionary in the Philippines since August 2008 and says she loves the opportunity to share her knowledge of family history with others. One of the first Filipinos trained as a support missionary in the Philippines, she speaks Cebuano, English, and Tagalog. She helps members and nonmembers from surrounding areas, including India, Malaysia, Micronesia, Mongolia, and Singapore, learn basic family history principles.

Support missionaries are traditionally called to serve for 30 months. All support missionaries serve from their homes or family history centers in their areas, where they receive program training and day-to-day support. They respond to questions by phone or e-mail, and because they are spread out around the world, someone is available 24 hours a day, every day, with the

*FamilySearch support missionaries from around the world help those who have problems using the New FamilySearch.*

exception of Sunday mornings.

“I love being able to serve English-speaking patrons from all around the world, helping them to do their family history,” said Sister Connie Cheney of Pleasant Grove, Utah, USA, who is currently serving her second mission with Worldwide Support.

The easiest way to contact support missionaries is through the Internet, by visiting [contact.familysearch.org](http://contact.familysearch.org) or via e-mail at [support@familysearch.org](mailto:support@familysearch.org).

The FamilySearch Web site provides toll-free telephone numbers for contacting support missionaries in different regions of the world.

In areas where the Internet is not accessible, it is best to contact family history missionaries in the area, talk to a ward or branch family history consultant, or visit a local family history center. ■



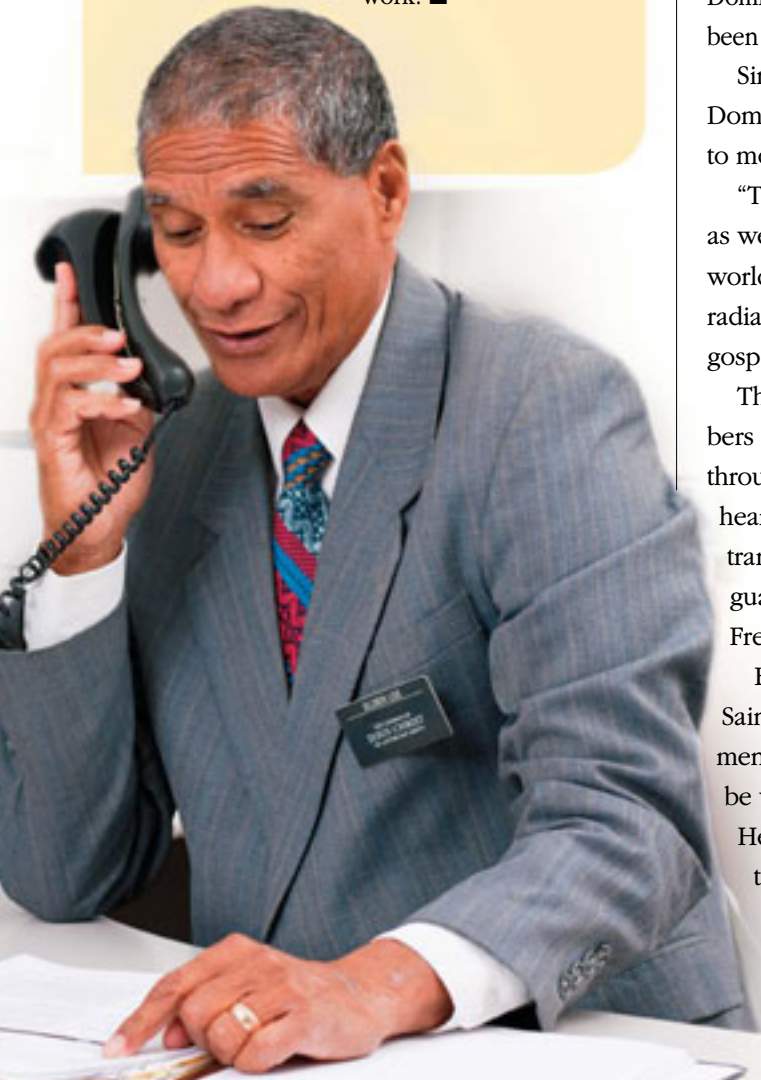


**FAMILYSEARCH**  
WHERE GENERATIONS MEET

.....  
**Interested** in Serving?

**A**nyone interested in serving as a family history support missionary can find more information online at [contact.familysearch.org](http://contact.familysearch.org), by e-mail at [support@familysearch.org](mailto:support@familysearch.org), or by asking local priesthood leaders.

Missionaries should have access to a personal computer and high-speed Internet and have some experience in family history work. ■



IN THE **NEWS**

**Elder Ballard Returns to Caribbean**

**M**ore than 30 years ago Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles dedicated the Dominican Republic and opened the land for missionary work. In November 2009 Elder Ballard returned to the area to witness how the gospel has flourished. He reminisced about his visit to the Caribbean in 1978, saying, “When we arrived, there were only 26 members in the Dominican Republic, and most had been members only a short time.”

Since then, the Church in the Dominican Republic has grown to more than 110,000 members.

“They are as wonderful . . . as we have anywhere in the world,” Elder Ballard said. “They radiate the power of having the gospel in their lives.”

Thousands of Church members gathered in meetinghouses throughout the Caribbean to hear Elder Ballard’s words translated into various languages including Dutch, French, Haitian, and Spanish.

Elder Ballard urged the Saints to keep the commandments, pay an honest tithe, and be worthy to enter the temple. He counseled that by doing these things, they would be blessed.

“Our Father in Heaven will pour blessings out upon you that you never dreamed possible because you are His; you are His sons and His daughters.”

*To watch a video about Elder Ballard’s visit, go to <http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/news-releases-stories/video-church-grows-in-the-dominican-republic>. ■*

**Chorale’s Singers Get Up to Speed**

**I**n 1999 President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) made a request that the Mormon Tabernacle Choir—already a world-renowned choral group—continue to “get better and better.” In response to this call, the choir, made up of volunteer LDS singers, implemented a training school and singing group called the Temple Square Chorale.

The Temple Square Chorale and training school are held each year from January to April following annual choir auditions. In the chorale, new choir members practice music chosen by Ryan Murphy, associate director for the choir, and members are given feedback on how to use their voices within the ensemble.

The training school is a 16-week academic class, instructing chorale members on music theory, sight-reading, chorale ensemble singing, and other skills, explained Cherilyn

Worthen, director of the school. “[The program] is similar to a small missionary training center where we help prepare them to go out and be musical missionaries,” Sister Worthen said.

Sight-reading and music theory skills are especially essential for singers to keep up with the fast pace of the Tabernacle Choir’s rehearsals.

“It takes substantial training to acquaint new singers with the musical, vocal, and logistical demands of the choir,” said Brother Murphy.

The most recent auditions for the Tabernacle Choir brought

400 submissions by hopeful singers to Temple Square, and of the hundreds of applicants, 78 were accepted.

New members, along with second-year choir members, make up the Temple Square Chorale.

The experience in the chorale culminates in a final performance, held at the end of the program. This year’s performance will be on April 23 and 24, accompanied by the Orchestra at Temple Square. The chorale will perform *Lord*



© BUSATH.COM

*Nelson Mass*, a work composed by Joseph Haydn in 1798.

Upon graduation from the Temple Square

***For more than 10 years, the Tabernacle Choir has used the Temple Square Chorale as a training school to improve new choir members’ abilities.***

Chorale program and training school, singers may finally call themselves official members of the Tabernacle Choir.

Auditions for the Tabernacle Choir will next begin in July. Applications may be found at [www.mormontabernaclechoir.org](http://www.mormontabernaclechoir.org) ■

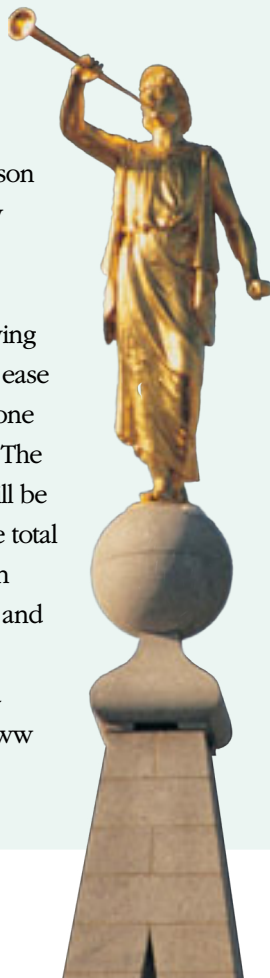
*Article by Lauren Allen, Church Magazines*

## WORLD BRIEFS

### New Temple Announced in Utah

President Thomas S. Monson announced in January a new temple to be built in Payson, Utah, USA. The temple will help meet the needs of growing membership in the area and ease usage of the Provo Temple, one of the busiest in the Church. The new Payson Utah Temple will be the 15th in Utah. It brings the total number of temples already in operation or in the planning and construction phases to 152.

For more information and updates on temples go to [www.lds.org/temples](http://www.lds.org/temples).



### Philadelphia YSAs Serve on Holiday

About 70 Latter-day Saint young adults from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, USA, sorted and packaged donations for a hunger relief organization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in January. They also wrote cards to put into baskets being delivered to area senior citizens. The service was part of the 15th annual Philadelphia King Day of Service event. More than 70,000 volunteers of varying ages and backgrounds completed 1,100 service projects.

### Family History a Missionary Success

More than 185 people filled the Charleston South Carolina Stake Center in October 2009, eager to learn more about family history. The stake’s 12th annual family history workshop included 30 classes on topics from finding Civil War records to scrapbooking. About 70 percent of participants were not Church members. Many traveled more than 200 miles (320 km) to attend. Missionaries in attendance ran out of CDs, copies of the Book of Mormon, and other Church materials. ■



# In Other Church Magazines

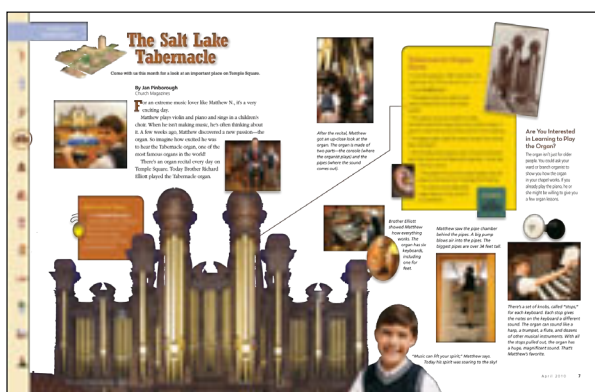
## THE NEW ERA

The April 2010 issue of the *New Era* is all about dating. It is aimed at teens who are just beginning to think about dating and those who have just started. The issue is full of answers to questions, including “Is Dating Dead?” and more than 10 pages of answers to teens’ frequently asked questions.

The issue could be helpful as parents talk to their teens about this step in their development. It addresses what those just turning 16 are facing right now. In it you will find messages from Church leaders, as well as fun ideas for casual dating.



## THE FRIEND



### A Year on Temple Square

The April 2010 issue of the *Friend* includes a feature on the Salt Lake Tabernacle on pages 6 and 7. This article is part of the *Friend*’s “A Year on Temple Square” series. Children who read this story can learn some interesting facts about the Tabernacle organ’s usage and history.

### He Sent His Son

The issue also includes a new song on pages 24 and 25, “He Sent His Son.” Children who are interested in learning how to play this song or other songs on the piano can read the story “Primary Pianists” on pages 22 and 23 for tips and suggestions about learning how to play it.



## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

### Correction in December 2009

*Ensign*

On page 3 of the Table of Contents, the last bullet point under “Coming in January” should have read: Maintaining faith despite uncertainty; first-Sunday lessons; and the new course of study in Sunday School and in priesthood and Relief Society.

### Clarification in January 2010

*Ensign*

A sidebar accompanying “Studying the Work of Relief Society” by Julie Beck in the January *Ensign* pictured the LDS Family Services Addiction Recovery Program book, but did not list it in the possible resources for first-Sunday lessons. The manual may be used for this lesson.

## Sealed Sepulchres

By David L. Frischknecht

Curriculum Department



The day after Dad passed away, my mother, brothers, sister, and I made the necessary visit to the mortuary for funeral arrangements. Our tasks included choosing a casket and a vault into which the casket would be placed.

As we considered the options, I noticed a sales pamphlet promoting a certain vault. It claimed, among other things, that the vault was self-sealing, and it guaranteed that seal for 75 years. Even though the occasion was a solemn one, the guarantee amused me.

“Who will check on the seal in 75 years?” I wondered. “And if someone does and it has failed, who will collect on the guarantee? What are the chances, really,” I mused, “of that vault staying sealed?”

In that thoughtful moment, my mind was directed to another vault, the one described in Matthew 27. This vault, actually a sepulchre in a distant time and place, had an opening covered by a great stone:

“Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

“Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

“Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

“Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

*The claims in a sales pamphlet seemed unlikely—almost laughable—but they reminded me of a promise that is eternally guaranteed.*

“So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch” (Matthew 27:62–66).

Of all the commands ever given in the history of kings and generals and rulers, Pilate’s command to keep the sepulchre sure was perhaps the most futile.

What chance did that sepulchre have of remaining sealed? In reality, there was no way for the soldiers to carry out that order as there was no way that the sepulchre would not open: “Behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door” (Matthew 28:2).

Because of the unsealing of that one sepulchre, all the vaults and tombs and sepulchres that have ever been sealed will open. Guaranteed.

The Rock of Our Salvation is our deliverer from death and from hell. He is “the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25). Because of Him “hell must deliver up its captive spirits, and the grave must deliver up its captive bodies, and the bodies and the spirits of men will be restored one to the other; and it is by the power of the resurrection of the Holy One of Israel” (2 Nephi 9:12). ■



**He Is Not Here, by Walter Rane**

*The Savior foretold His own death and Resurrection. On the way to Jerusalem, He told His Apostles:*

*“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:*

*“And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again”*  
*(Mark 10:33–34; see also John 20:1–8).*



**W**hile walking the paths that Jesus walked, President Spencer W. Kimball recalled the many witnesses of the Savior's Resurrection, including Mary, who was among the first to learn that "He is not here, but is risen" (Luke 24:6).

See "The Certainty of the Resurrection," page 54.