

IN OTHER CHURCH MAGAZINES

THE NEW ERA



STANDING ON HIGHER GROUND

By David S. Beck

2013 Mutual theme is about how Doctrine and Covenants #74 "When stand in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come." The question I hope every young man will ponder throughout this coming year is, "Am I standing in holy places?"

As I have met with vibrant young men all around the world, I have witnessed firsthand how thousands of you are doing this already to some degree. You stand in the holiest of places when you enter the temple to perform baptisms for the dead. I encourage you to take every opportunity available to enter the temple and to always be ready to do so.

Each day as you fulfill your duty to God, you stand in holy places and are in a position to be able to "stand in holy places and be not moved" until the day of the Lord's coming. This stands in holy places as you prepare, learn, and pass the ordinance each Sunday. This stands in holy places as you do the gospel and when you act as a teaching witness—one who is always able, willing, and ready to serve and strengthen others.

As an Atoning Priesthood holder, you have been given the charge to warn, reprove, correct, teach, and exhort all to come unto Christ (see D&C 20:39). Do nothing that will cause you to be "cut off" (see D&C 108:10) and "cut off" means you will not stand in holy places. You cannot fight a true spiritual and moral battle in a holy place if you are not "strong, firm, and unshakable" (see D&C 108:10).

continually work to strengthen your testimony and always be willing to share it.

You have a sacred responsibility to be an instrument in the Lord's hands. As you pray and study the scriptures, enter to keep the commandments, and learn in the prophecies of the Spirit, you will stand upon higher ground. As a consequence, wherever you are will become a holy place. Thus, when situations arise, you will have the strength, courage, and the ability to help lift others. You will have the power and protection the Holy Ghost promises those who stand in holy places.

I hope that President Thomas S. Monson said about those promises when he announced that as we draw near to the "end," we will feel the Spirit to "stand firm, prevailing on the plains and the valleys to stand among and lift up righteousness unto us" . . . in holy places, and be not moved (D&C 45:6).

"As the winds of change swirl around us and the world throes of uncertainty continue to disengage before our very eyes, may we remember the Lord's precious promise to show who truly is His True Testimonies. Let us walk with them in our hearts. For I am the Lord, I will strengthen them, you, I will lift them (D&C 45:10)." — Thomas S. Monson



HOLY PLACES IN YOUR LIFE

By Elaine S. Dutton

2013 Mutual theme invites you to step out of the world and into the kingdom of God. As President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has taught, we live in a "holy sanctuary" "based in holy places" or the holy to be sanctified.

This theme invites important questions: What is a holy place? Where is a holy place? How can we stand in holy places? How do we make places we regularly inhabit more holy? As you work answers to these questions, your answers will guide your associations, your choice of activities, and your own work, words, and actions.

You have committed to strengthen your home and family. Some to make your home a holy place. Blessed with the Spirit of the Lord, you can support family prayer and scripture study.

Your room can be a holy place that invites the Spirit of the Holy Ghost. The Lord Himself promised you, "For surely I say unto you, that great things await you" (D&C 90:2). I agree and testify that this is true!

Notes:
1. See Boyd K. Packer, "We Live in a Holy Sanctuary," *See You at the Temple*, pp. 24-25.
2. See Boyd K. Packer, "We Live in a Holy Sanctuary," *See You at the Temple*, pp. 24-25.
3. See Boyd K. Packer, "We Live in a Holy Sanctuary," *See You at the Temple*, pp. 24-25.
4. See Boyd K. Packer, "We Live in a Holy Sanctuary," *See You at the Temple*, pp. 24-25.
5. See Boyd K. Packer, "We Live in a Holy Sanctuary," *See You at the Temple*, pp. 24-25.
6. See Boyd K. Packer, "We Live in a Holy Sanctuary," *See You at the Temple*, pp. 24-25.

Do nothing which will keep you from receiving the divine and powerful of the sacred and eternal blessings there. I commend those of you who already go to the temple regularly to perform baptisms for the dead." Always be ready to have a witness temple recommended, even a temple to be a sign.

Anywhere you are when the Spirit is present can be a holy place. President Harold B. Lee (1899-1972) taught that holy places have more to do with how one has been when one lives. "If you live worthy of the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost, then you stand in a holy place."

Every temple has the scriptures. "Witness to the Lord's work" should stand in holy places. As you live the commandments, pray daily, and read the scriptures—especially the Book of Mormon—you will feel the responsibility of the Holy Ghost. The Lord Himself promised you, "For surely I say unto you, that great things await you" (D&C 90:2). I agree and testify that this is true!

2013 Mutual Theme

Members of the Young Women and Young Men general presidencies share messages for youth about this year's Mutual theme, "Stand Ye in Holy

Places" (page 6). You'll also find a Mormonad (page 9) and a "Line upon Line" article (page 8) related to the Mutual theme.

THE FRIEND



Portraits of Prophets

Starting this year, look on the inside back cover of the *Friend* for the "Prophet Portrait" series. These portraits by artist Robert Barrett will help your children learn about the lives and sacred accomplishments of Presidents of the Church. The January *Friend* features the Prophet Joseph Smith.



On the Trail

This year, help your youngsters learn about Church history by using the "On the Trail" map on pages 24 and 25 of the January *Friend*. Each month as the *Friend* highlights a different Church history site, your children can add a new picture to the map! The first site, Palmyra, is featured on pages 4 and 5.



Word of Wisdom

President Boyd K. Packer gives counsel for living the Word of Wisdom on page 48. A young woman talks about how she was blessed by living the Word of Wisdom on page 40.

I Hope They Call Me on a Mission

Page 11 of the January *Friend* features the first of a series of pages that can help children prepare for a mission or adult life in general. The series will feature simple recipes and explanations of basic skills, and it will run every other month throughout the year.