

THE ENSIGN OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • JULY 2013

Ensign



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**Miracles of Conversion in
Sheffield, England, p. 14**

**How to Experience True
Freedom, p. 46**

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"Today's modern-day Church pioneers . . . live in every nation and [their] stories of perseverance, faith, and sacrifice add glorious new verses to the great chorus of the latter-day anthem of the kingdom of God."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "Faith of Our Father," *Ensign*, May 2008, 70.

Left: Tiaray Madera Rasoamampianina was among the first members of the Church in Madagascar.

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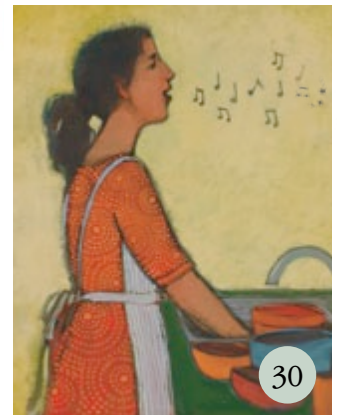
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A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
July 2013 Volume 43 • Number 7

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Family Home Evening Ideas

This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening. The following are some examples.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MATTHEW REIER

“Pioneer Faith and Fortitude—Then and Now,” page 24: Review with your family some of the pioneer experiences in the section “Faith to Follow.” You might then discuss why the faith of the pioneers was so strong.

Consider sharing from your own family history a pioneer story or conversion story that demonstrates an ancestor’s act of faith. In his article Elder Ballard states, “We need to commit to serve the Lord and our communities with the same diligence and faith that the pioneers had.” You may want to discuss

this statement and how we can show our faith today.

“Singing Throughout the Week,” page 30: Read with your family the sidebar “Music in Our Homes” and discuss how the hymns

of the Church can bless both individuals and families. You may want to read together one or more stories in the article and discuss ways family members could use the hymns more often in their lives. Consider inviting family members to identify their favorite hymns and having the family sing or listen to some of them.

FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT

As new parents, we felt humbled by our responsibility. So during one of our family home evenings, my husband and I decided to create a family mission statement to clarify our purpose and goals. Later, seeking inspiration from the Spirit, we each wrote down what we thought should be included in the statement, such as building on a foundation of love and striving to follow the Savior’s example. Then we prayerfully combined our ideas. This mission statement now serves as our family’s compass, guiding us toward righteous living and reminding us who we are and why we came to the earth.

Mónica Reyes Ramírez, Puebla, Mexico

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DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

We welcome donated submissions showing the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in your life. Please submit articles through ensign.lds.org. Authors whose work is selected for publication will be notified.



By President
Thomas S. Monson

THE WORLD NEEDS Pioneers Today

For many, the pioneer trek of 1847 didn't begin at Nauvoo, Kirtland, Far West, or New York but rather in distant England, Scotland, Scandinavia, or Germany. Tiny children could not fully comprehend the dynamic faith that motivated their parents to leave behind family, friends, comfort, and security.

A little one might ask, "Mommy, why are we leaving home? Where are we going?"

"Come along, precious one; we're going to Zion, the city of our God."

Between the safety of home and the promise of Zion stood the angry and treacherous waters of the mighty Atlantic. Who can recount the fear that gripped the human heart during those perilous crossings? Prompted by the silent whisperings of the Spirit, sustained by a simple yet abiding faith, those pioneer Saints trusted in God and set sail on their journey.

They finally reached Nauvoo only to set out again to face hardships on the trail. Tombstones of sage and rock marked graves the entire route from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City. Such was the price some pioneers paid. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their names live on evermore.

Tired oxen lumbered, wagon wheels squeaked, brave men toiled, war drums sounded, and coyotes howled. But the faith-inspired and storm-driven pioneers pressed on. Often they sang:

*Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear;
But with joy wend your way.
Though hard to you this journey may appear,
Grace shall be as your day. . . .
All is well! All is well!*¹

These pioneers remembered the words of the Lord: "My people must be tried in all things, that they may be prepared to receive the glory that I have for them, even the glory of Zion."²

The passage of time dims our memories and diminishes our appreciation for those who walked the path of pain, leaving behind a tear-marked trail of nameless graves. But what of today's challenges? Are there no rocky roads to travel, no rugged mountains to climb, no chasms to cross, no trails to blaze, no rivers to ford? Or is there a very present need for that pioneer spirit to guide us away from the dangers that threaten to engulf us and to lead us to a Zion of safety?

In the decades since the end of World War II, standards of morality have lowered again and again. Crime spirals upward; decency careens downward. Many are on a giant roller coaster of disaster, seeking the thrills of the moment while sacrificing the joys of eternity. Thus we forfeit peace.

We forget how the Greeks and Romans prevailed magnificently in a barbaric world and how that triumph ended—how a slackness and softness finally overcame



them to their ruin. In the end, more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security and a comfortable life; and they lost all—comfort and security and freedom.

Do not yield to Satan's enticements; rather, stand firm for truth. The unsatisfied yearnings of the soul will not be met by a never-ending quest for joy amidst the thrills of sensation and vice. Vice never leads to virtue. Hate never promotes love. Cowardice never gives courage. Doubt never inspires faith.

Some find it difficult to withstand the mockings and unsavory remarks of foolish ones who ridicule chastity, honesty, and obedience to God's commands. But the world has ever belittled adherence to principle. When Noah was instructed to build an ark, the foolish populace looked at the cloudless sky and then scoffed and jeered—until the rain came.

Must we learn such costly lessons over and over again? Times change, but truth persists. When we fail to profit

from the experiences of the past, we are doomed to repeat them with all their heartache, suffering, and anguish. Haven't we the wisdom to obey Him who knows the beginning from the end—our Lord, who designed the plan of salvation—rather than that serpent, who despised its beauty?

A dictionary defines a pioneer as "one who goes before to prepare or open up the way for others to

follow."³ Can we somehow muster the courage and steadfastness of purpose that characterized the pioneers of a former generation? Can you and I, in actual fact, be pioneers?

I know we can be. Oh, how the world needs pioneers today! ■

NOTES

1. "Come, Come, Ye Saints," *Hymns*, no. 30.
2. Doctrine and Covenants 136:31.
3. *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed. (1989), "pioneer."

TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

The scriptures explain that home teachers are to "warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ" (D&C 20:59). Consider pointing out the warnings and invitations contained in President Monson's message to those you visit. You may want to discuss with them ways to recognize and follow righteous examples, avoid deceptions, and learn from others' mistakes. Ask those you teach how they can be pioneers today.

Children may enjoy learning more about pioneers by reading the On the Trail series on pages 14–15 of this month's *Friend*.

Driven by Faith

By Maggi Earl

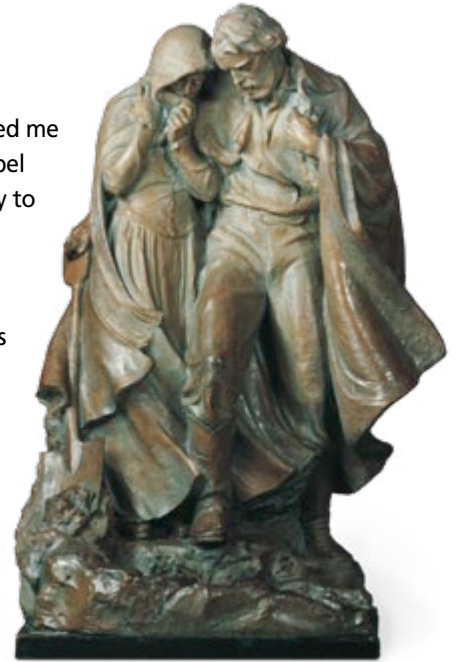
I will never forget walking the grounds at Winter Quarters, Nebraska, USA, where pioneers had lived years before. The ground felt sacred, almost as if I were visiting an outdoor temple.

My eyes filled with tears, blurring my vision. I saw a statue but could not make out the figures. When I wiped away my tears, I saw a man and a woman whose faces were full of grief. As I looked closer, I saw the figure of an infant lying in a grave at their feet.

This sight filled me with so many emotions: sadness, anger, gratitude, and joy. I wanted to take away the pain those Saints felt, but I was grateful at the same time for what they had sacrificed for the gospel.

My experience at Winter Quarters helped me realize that Heavenly Father gives the gospel to His children and allows them the agency to do with it as they will. The parents of that baby could have chosen to take an easier course. Following the prophet and living the gospel required these pioneers to press forward even when it meant burying their child. But they chose to take the gospel into their lives and accepted their challenges. I learned that the Saints' dedication to the gospel and their determination to press forward were driven by faith and hope—hope for a bright future and faith that the Lord knew them and could ease their pain.

The author lives in North Carolina, USA.



CHILDREN

Be a Pioneer

President Monson says that a pioneer is someone who shows the way for others to follow. What can the children in these pictures do to stand up for what is right and be a pioneer for others? Write your answers in the space under the pictures.



VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

Prayerfully study this material and, as appropriate, discuss it with the sisters you visit. Use the questions to help you strengthen your sisters and to make Relief Society an active part of your own life. For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.

Teaching and Learning the Gospel

Jesus Christ was a master teacher. He set the example for us as He “taught women in multitudes and as individuals, on the street and by the seashore, at the well and in their homes. He showed loving-kindness toward them and healed them and their family members.”¹

He taught Martha and Mary and “invited them to become His disciples and partake of salvation, ‘that good part’ [Luke 10:42] that would never be taken from them.”²

In our latter-day scriptures, the Lord commanded us to “teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom” (D&C 88:77). Of teaching and learning doctrine, Cheryl A. Esplin, second counselor in the Primary general presidency, said, “Learning to fully understand the doctrines of the gospel is a process of a lifetime and comes ‘line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little’ (2 Nephi 28:30).”³

As we learn, study, and pray, we will teach with the power of the Holy



Ghost, who will carry our message “unto the hearts of the children of men [and women]” (2 Nephi 33:1).

From the Scriptures

Alma 17:2–3; 31:5; Doctrine and Covenants 42:12–13; 84:85

NOTES

1. *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 3.
2. *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 4.
3. Cheryl A. Esplin, “Teaching Our Children to Understand,” *Ensign*, May 2012, 12.
4. Spencer W. Kimball, in *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 50.

Faith, Family, Relief



From Our History

Our past prophets have reminded us as women that we have an important role as teachers in the home and Church. In September 1979, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) asked us to become “sister scribes.” He said: “Become scholars of the scriptures—not to put others down, but to lift them up! After all, who has any greater need to ‘treasure up’ the truths of the gospel (on which they may call in their moments of need) than do women and mothers who do so much nurturing and teaching?”⁴

We are all teachers and learners. When we teach from the scriptures and the words of our living prophets, we can help others come unto Christ. When we engage in the learning process by asking meaningful questions and then listening, we can find answers that meet our personal needs.

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. How am I preparing to be a better teacher?
2. Do I share my testimony with the sisters I watch over?

APRIL 2013 CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

“What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken; . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).

As you review the April 2013 general conference, you can use these pages (and Conference Notebooks in future issues) to help you study and apply the recent teachings of the living prophets and apostles and other Church leaders.

STORIES FROM CONFERENCE



Learning to Be Obedient

By President Thomas S. Monson

When I was growing up, each summer from early July until early September, my family stayed at our cabin at Vivian Park in Provo Canyon in Utah.

One of my best friends during those carefree days in the canyon was Danny Larsen, whose family also owned a cabin at Vivian Park. Each day he and I roamed this boy's paradise, fishing in the stream and the river, collecting rocks and other treasures, hiking, climbing, and simply

enjoying each minute of each hour of each day.

One morning Danny and I decided we wanted to have a campfire that evening with all our canyon friends. We just needed to clear an area in a nearby field where we could all gather. The June grass which covered the field had become dry and prickly, making the field unsuitable for our purposes. We began to pull at the tall grass, planning to clear a large, circular area. We tugged and yanked with all our might, but all we could get were small handfuls of the stubborn weeds. We knew this task would take the entire day, and already our energy and enthusiasm were waning.

And then what I thought was the perfect solution came into my eight-year-old mind. I said to Danny, “All we need is to set these weeds on fire. We'll just *burn* a circle in the weeds!” He readily agreed, and I ran to our cabin to get a few matches.

Lest any of you think that at the tender age of eight we were permitted to use matches, I want to make it clear that both Danny and I were forbidden to use them without adult supervision. Both of us had been warned repeatedly of the dangers of fire. However, I knew where my family kept the matches, and we needed to clear that field. Without so much as a second thought, I ran to our cabin and grabbed a few matchsticks, making certain no one was watching. I hid them quickly in one of my pockets.

Back to Danny I ran, excited that in my pocket I had the solution to our problem. I recall thinking that the fire would burn only as far as we wanted and then would somehow magically extinguish itself.

I struck a match on a rock and set the parched June grass ablaze. It ignited as though it had been drenched in gasoline. At first Danny and I were thrilled as we watched the weeds disappear, but it soon became

apparent that the fire was not about to go out on its own. We panicked as we realized there was nothing we could do to stop it. The menacing flames began to follow the wild grass up the mountainside, endangering the pine trees and everything else in their path.

Finally we had no option but to run for help. Soon all available men and women at Vivian Park were dashing back and forth with wet burlap bags, beating at the flames in an attempt to extinguish them. After several hours the last remaining embers were smothered. The ages-old pine trees had been saved, as were the homes the flames would eventually have reached.



Danny and I learned several difficult but important lessons that day—not the least of which was the importance of obedience.

There are rules and laws to help ensure our physical safety. Likewise, the Lord has provided guidelines and commandments to help ensure our spiritual safety so that we might successfully navigate this often-treacherous mortal existence and return eventually to our Heavenly Father. ■

From “Obedience Brings Blessings,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 89–90.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- Why do we have rules?
- Why is it important for us to choose to obey God’s commandments?
- In what ways was Jesus Christ an example to us of obedience?

Consider writing your thoughts in your journal or discussing them with others.

Additional resources on this topic: *Gospel Principles* (2009), “Obedience,” 200–206; “Obedience,” in *Gospel Topics on LDS.org*; and D. Todd Christofferson, “The Power of Covenants,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 19–23.

Prophetic Words to Member Missionaries

“I promise you, as you pray to know with whom to speak, names and faces will come into your mind. Words to speak will be given in the very moment you need them. Opportunities will open to you. Faith will overcome doubt, and the Lord will bless you with your very own miracles.”

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “It’s a Miracle,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 78–79.



MISSIONARY STATISTICS AS OF APRIL GENERAL CONFERENCE

Number of missionaries currently serving missions	65,634
Number of young men and young women who have received their mission calls but have not yet entered a missionary training center	Over 20,000
Number of young men and young women currently in the interview process with their bishops and stake presidents	Over 6,000
Number of new missions created	58

From President Thomas S. Monson, “Welcome to Conference,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 5.

WHOM THE LORD CALLS HE QUALIFIES

Most members of the Church will have many opportunities to receive a “calling”—an assignment to serve. “The Lord expects each of us to have a calling in His Church so that others may be blessed by our talents and influence,” said President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994).¹

Church leaders, who themselves have been called to serve, rely on other members to accept and fulfill the callings they are offered. Each new calling is an opportunity to serve and grow and should be approached humbly and prayerfully. Calls to serve in the Church are given by priesthood leaders after they have sought inspiration from the Lord. “You are called of God,” explained President Henry B.

Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency. “The Lord knows you. He knows whom He would have serve in every position in His Church. He chose you.”²

In our callings we represent the Savior, and the work we do—no matter how small it may seem—has eternal consequences. The influence of a dedicated Primary teacher, for example, could inspire a child to serve a mission one day. Or an usher’s friendly greeting could help a struggling member feel welcome at church.

The Lord will help us in our callings, especially when we feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities. When we pray to Heavenly Father for guidance, He will direct us through

inspiration and will bless us to serve well. The Lord helps those who serve Him and will add His power to their efforts (see D&C 84:88). As President Thomas S. Monson promised, “When we are on the Lord’s errand, we are entitled to the Lord’s help. Remember that whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies.”³

As we follow the Lord’s example of service and obediently fulfill our callings and Church responsibilities, our lives will be blessed and we can become more like God (see Moroni 7:48; D&C 106:3). ■

For more information, see chapter 14 in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow* (2012).

NOTES

1. Ezra Taft Benson, in Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Lift Where You Stand,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 54.
2. Henry B. Eyring, “Rise to Your Call,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 76.
3. Thomas S. Monson, “Duty Calls,” *Ensign*, May 1996, 44.

GIVE YOUR BEST EFFORT

“Your power will be multiplied many times by the Lord. All He asks is that you give your best effort and your whole heart. Do it cheerfully and with the prayer of faith. The Father and His Beloved Son will send the Holy Ghost as your companion to guide you. Your efforts will be magnified in the lives of the people you serve.”

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, “Rise to Your Call,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 76.

We can look to handbooks, manuals, the counsel of Church leaders, and other resources to teach us our responsibilities and to help answer our questions.

When we are helping do the Lord's work, we can pray for and receive His help (see D&C 84:88).

We do not seek callings, nor do we typically decline callings that come through proper priesthood authority (see Moses 6:31–32).

Fulfilling our callings brings blessings and joy (see Matthew 25:23).

All callings are equally important; the Church needs nursery leaders as much as Relief Society presidents (see 1 Corinthians 12:14–18). How we serve is more important than where we serve.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Why does your Church have unpaid clergy?

From the beginning, the Lord has called His disciples from among ordinary people with diverse backgrounds. They served out of love for the Lord and for others. In the Book of Mormon, for instance, the prophet Alma chose priesthood leaders and “commanded them . . . [to] labor with their own hands for their support. . . .

“And the priests were not to depend upon the people for their support; but for their labor they were to receive the grace of God” (Mosiah 18:24, 26; see also 2 Nephi 26:29–31; Articles of Faith 1:5).

Likewise in our day, a call to serve gives us the opportunity to help others and to develop and share our talents and spiritual gifts. We are amply repaid for our service by blessings from the Lord.

A TELEVISION AND A SPIRIT LIFTED

By Kaci Cronin

My husband is profoundly deaf and deeply devoted to the gospel. However, years of struggling to understand weekly Church meetings left him reluctant to attend additional priesthood meetings and broadcasts. While members of our ward were friendly and encouraging, their lack of understanding of the technical assistance he needed in order to participate in meetings often left my husband feeling lonely and frustrated.

We were new to our ward, and it was time for general conference. My husband grudgingly prepared to go to general priesthood meeting, wondering what problems he would encounter as he tried to watch the broadcast. He arrived to find that no one knew how to put closed captions on the large overhead projector, so a television was rolled in and set up in the corner. There was, however, a minor problem. The cord needed to connect the television had inadvertently been used to set up the projector, rendering the television useless. My husband, who is accustomed to these situations, went to the library and started looking for the projector cord. After searching through several boxes and cabinets, he recovered the short cord intended for the projector.

Because the broadcast was about to begin, everyone was apprehensive about disconnecting and adjusting anything. The cord my husband found was too short to reach the television on the rolling cart, so the TV had to be moved to a lower table. He rolled the cart out of the chapel and into a nearby room. He then began to unstrap the television and wondered if anyone would come to help him lift it. At that moment, he felt someone enter the room. It was the bishop. My husband's heart was lightened as the two of them placed the TV on the table. My husband got the TV working while the bishop grabbed a chair and placed it facing the screen.

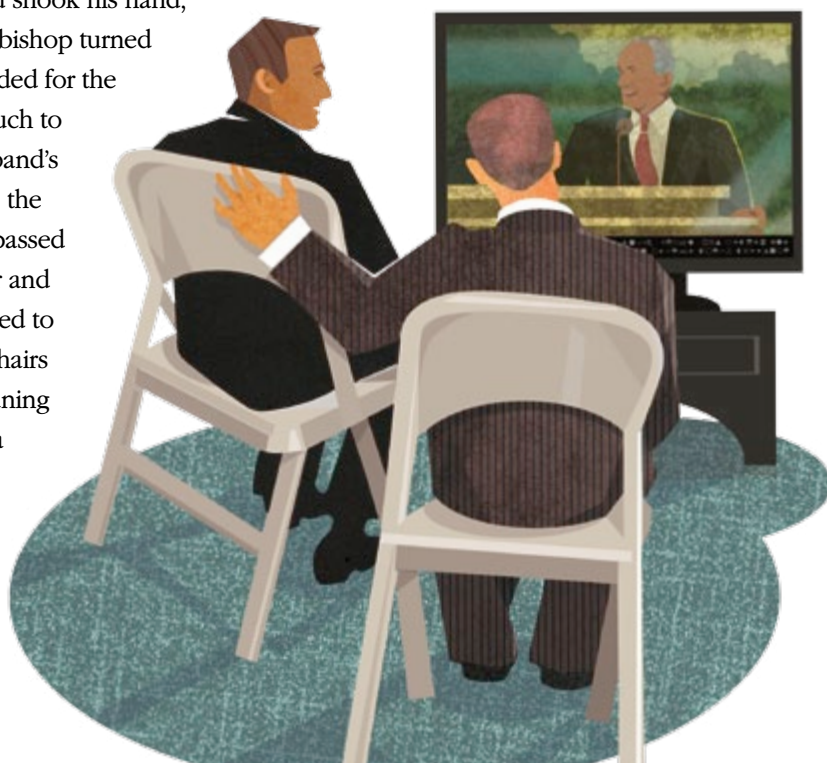
My husband thanked him for his help and shook his hand, and the bishop turned and headed for the door. Much to my husband's surprise, the bishop passed the door and proceeded to where chairs were leaning against a

wall. He grabbed one and sat down next to my husband. The two of them sat side by side throughout the session.

Today my husband eagerly attends his meetings. The bishop's simple act of kindness lifted my husband's spirits and allowed gratitude to enter his heart. While some problems still arise, he no longer feels alone or unwelcome. My husband's perspective was changed forever through the inspired actions of one of Christ's shepherds. ■

The author lives in Mississippi, USA.

For information on resources available for various disabilities, visit disabilities.lds.org.





HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Honesty and integrity “require a person always to do or say the right thing no matter the circumstances or what others may think,” says Elder Christoffel Golden Jr. of the Seventy in an article on pages 10–11 of this month’s *New Era*.

The article tells about an event in the life of Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (1917–2008) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. When he was a college student, Elder Wirthlin played in a championship game of American football. He was handed the ball, plunged forward, but ended up two inches (5 cm) short of the goal line. At the bottom of a pile of players, rather than pushing the ball ahead, he remembered the words of his mother that he should always do what is right. He left the ball where it was.

The following suggestions, along with your own example, can help you teach your children about these gospel principles.

Suggestions for Teaching Youth

- Read with your teen the section on honesty and integrity in *For the Strength of Youth*. Discuss the blessings of honesty and integrity.
- Consider asking your teen to help prepare a “What Would You Do?”

quiz for family home evening. Use *For the Strength of Youth* as a guide and list situations that would give someone the opportunity to demonstrate honesty and integrity. Take the quiz as a family and discuss the results.

- President Thomas S. Monson has repeatedly spoken about honesty. Find one of his messages and share it with your family.

Below are some possibilities:

“The Prophet Joseph Smith: Teacher by Example,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 67.

“Happiness—the Universal Quest,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1993, 2.

“In Quest of the Abundant Life,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1988, 2.

Suggestions for Teaching Children

- Integrity includes being honest with yourself. To demonstrate this, consider having a family home evening lesson where a treat is placed before the children. Tell them they cannot partake until you say so. Then close your eyes or blindfold yourself and ask, “Is it all right for you to eat the treat now, just because I can’t see?” Talk about righteous things they can do when no one is watching,

such as personal prayer. Remind them that Heavenly Father can always see them.

- Consider using the quiz created with your teen (see above) or create a quiz adapted to young children that helps them recognize what is honest or dishonest. Let them discuss their responses. If you have both teens and younger children, consider having the teens help the younger children with the quiz. ■

SCRIPTURES ABOUT HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Job 27:4–5

Proverbs 20:7

1 Peter 2:12

Alma 53:20

Doctrine and Covenants 124:15

Articles of Faith 1:13





By Elder
Erich W. Kopischke
Of the Seventy

A God of Miracles

THE SLOVAK SAINTS IN SHEFFIELD

As priesthood leaders, missionaries, the ward council, and members in Sheffield, England, united their efforts to increase real growth, they were blessed in remarkable ways.

During a powerful sermon to a congregation of believers, the prophet Mormon asked a simple question: “Have miracles ceased?” His answer followed immediately: “Behold I say unto you, Nay” (Moroni 7:29).

Mormon then explained how the great work of salvation in the last days will be brought to pass, dwelling on the relationship and interaction among the Holy Ghost, the work of angels, our prayers, our faith, and the Lord’s miracles (see Moroni 7:33–37, 48).

Left: Elders Nicholas Pass and Joseph McKay (lower inset) enjoyed a marvelous season of teaching Slovakian Saints and investigators—a season that began when missionaries contacted Ludovit Kandrak (upper inset with his wife) near the Fargate pedestrian precinct of Sheffield.

At the mission presidents’ seminar held in June, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles refocused attention on the fact that members of the Church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, have a fundamental responsibility to share the gospel. Full-time missionaries assist members in this responsibility. Stake and ward councils help organize and facilitate the work of the missionaries and members.

As shown in this article about a ward in England, miracles of conversion can result as leaders, members, and ward councils adopt these principles and adapt them to their local circumstances.

Throughout the scriptures the prophets remind us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (see 3 Nephi 24:6; D&C 20:12). As we seek to fulfill the commandment to “go . . . into all the world, . . . baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (D&C 68:8), it is important to study and to remember the following principles:

- God does not change.
- God is a God of miracles.
- God’s greatest miracle is bringing eternal salvation to His children.
- God works miracles according to our faith, which we show in our works.
- The Holy Ghost plays a key role in conversion.

Willing to Sacrifice

While serving in the Europe Area, I was privileged to see these principles in action as a miracle unfolded in Sheffield, England. At the end of 2008, Bishop Mark Dundon of the Sheffield First Ward was pondering what he could do to help his ward grow. In leadership training, his stake president had asked the bishops, “What are you willing to sacrifice to be successful in missionary work?” From the teachings of his leaders, Bishop Dundon knew that a good ward mission leader is key, a functioning ward council is essential, and a willingness to listen to the promptings of the Spirit is crucial.

After much pondering and prayer, Bishop Dundon exercised his priesthood keys and followed the promptings of the Spirit to release his two counselors, Gregory Nettleship and Robert McEwen. Bishop Dundon then

called Brother Nettleship to be the new ward mission leader and Brother McEwen to be the assistant ward mission leader. The members of the bishopric had been close, so this change was not easy for them. But Bishop Dundon knew that in this particular instance the decision was correct, and both counselors humbly accepted their new callings.

The bishop, with his new ward mission leaders and ward council, prayerfully made plans and set goals for growing the ward. As they implemented their plans, they began to see significant success. Convert baptisms increased substantially, and many people returned to activity in the Church. Little did the ward leadership know, however, that their faith and works were to be rewarded in ways they never thought possible.



Moved by Love

In March 2011 a young missionary and his companion were contacting people in the streets of Sheffield. Elder Nicholas Pass saw a man and his wife walk by and had a strong feeling that he should talk to them. Elder Pass and his companion ran to catch up with the couple. Communication was difficult—the couple was from Slovakia and did not speak English—but an accompanying friend helped with interpretation. In the discussion on the street, the missionaries used pictures to introduce the First Vision and the message of the Restoration. The couple then accepted an appointment for the missionaries to begin teaching them.

Ludovit Kandrac, the father of the family, started to read the Book of Mormon. Soon he quit smoking. In the teaching process, the missionaries had to use multiple interpreters and even learn a little Slovak themselves.

On May 14, 2011, Ludovit, one of his daughters, and two other relatives were baptized.

At his baptism, Brother Kandrac bore his testimony. Through an interpreter, he related his experience of meeting the missionaries. When he walked past Elder Pass and his companion in the Sheffield city center, he had a warm feeling in his chest. He disregarded the feeling and continued walking, but as he glanced at the missionaries again, he was moved by the love they exhibited as they spoke with people. Though he wanted to approach them, Brother Kandrac continued walking. He was startled a minute later when the missionaries approached him.

Along with another Slovak family who had joined the Church a year earlier, these baptisms marked the beginning of a modern conversion miracle among the Slovak population in Sheffield, England. These new members came to church every week, bringing other family members and friends. They opened their homes to the missionaries and invited others in their community to listen to the gospel.

Elder Pass and his new companion, Elder Joseph McKay, visited often with these families. They taught them, served them, ministered to them, and blessed them. It was a marvelous time of teaching, learning, and receiving gifts of the

Spirit for investigators, converts, missionaries, stake and ward leaders, and members alike.

“Be with and Strengthen Them”

Throughout the summer and fall of 2011, more Slovaks joined the Church. The increasing numbers made it difficult for local members to continue to provide transportation to and from the meetinghouse. For several weeks the faithful Slovak Saints walked five miles (eight km) each way to attend Sunday services in a language they could not understand.

The missionary efforts of Bishop Mark Dundon (inset above), ward mission leaders, and the ward council were rewarded in ways they never thought possible after dozens of Slovaks joined the Church and began walking a five-mile (8-km) route, which included Darnell Road at left, to attend Sunday meetings.



In September 2011 the Sheffield stake presidency was reorganized, with Bishop Dundon called as the new stake president. A month later a fireside was held for both English and Slovak Saints in which interpreters were present.

While sitting on the stand, President Dundon felt impressed that a Slovak group needed to be formed that would be attached to the Sheffield First Ward but would meet at a facility in the Slovak neighborhood. A suitable meeting place was soon found and rooms rented. On December 11, 2011, the first block of meetings was held in the new facility. Sheffield First Ward leaders optimistically hoped that 50 people would attend. Instead, 84 people—including 63 Slovaks—attended.

Following the reorganization of the Sheffield stake, Robert McEwen was called as bishop of the Sheffield First Ward. Brother Nettleship continued to serve as mission leader. Under both bishops, the ward mission leader and the ward council did a remarkable job of leading the ward to “be with and strengthen” the Slovak Saints (D&C 20:53).

The ward council addressed issues such as how to provide for the new members’ needs, how to help them fully participate in ward activities, how to nurture them in the gospel, and how to overcome language barriers. Council members fasted and prayed for divine help and then worked hard. They visited the new members and participated in teaching appointments with the full-time missionaries. They provided transportation. They ordered Church materials in Slovak. They took newly baptized members to the temple to perform baptisms for the dead.

Ward leaders also organized a Christmas service project. Ward members donated funds and collected toys, clothes, and other gifts. Large Christmas gift bags that included food for a Christmas dinner were distributed on Christmas Eve to the Slovak Saints and other families within the ward boundaries.

Longtime members and new members understood little of each other’s spoken language, but they all felt the warmth of the language of genuine love. A remarkable

Right: Faro Dunka, Slovak group leader in Sheffield, welcomes people to sacrament meeting. The group was organized into a branch in March 2013. Top inset: Sheffield First Ward leaders in ward council. Bottom inset: A sister speaks during sacrament meeting.

feeling of joy, happiness, and excitement enveloped members and investigators.

Over the next year this little group developed into a solid Church unit, with whole families being baptized and uniting with the Church. Fathers were ordained to the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods, sons were ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood, a Primary with more than 20 children was established, and Young Men and Young Women programs were organized with more than 25 youth attending weekly. The Lord provided a full-time missionary from the Czech Republic who could speak the language and add support to the group. At the same time, these families sent referrals to their homeland.

A God of Miracles

Why did this happen? Because God has not ceased to be a God of miracles. Because faithful missionaries diligently sought those who were prepared to receive the gospel. Because the stake president and bishops acted in faith and followed the guidance of the Holy Ghost. Because a ward council took responsibility and worked in unity. Because members learned the language of love and acted upon invitations from their leaders, having faith and confidence that God meant what He said: “I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever” (2 Nephi 27:23).

The success in Sheffield does not need to be a singular event. It reminds us of the promises given through the prophets and can ignite our faith and our desire to become instruments in the hands of God by inviting people around us to come unto Christ. If we do so, we will place ourselves in a position where the Lord can bless us with opportunities to teach, activate, and nurture others. And we will see evidences that He continues to be a God of miracles. ■





THE INITIAL ACT, BY DAVID LINN © IRI, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM

Experiences in Profound Trust

By **Melissa Zenteno**
Church Magazines

When Claire (name has been changed) was six years old, her parents divorced. In the years that followed, she witnessed many failed marriages as well as family members struggling with addiction, inactivity in the Church, and depression. Saddened and confused, Claire lost her confidence in family.

"I told myself that marriage was not for me," she says. "But I was just hiding my fear that my future would be the same as what I had experienced."

In addition to feeling distressed about her family situation, Claire felt alone. One day as a teenager, she fell to her knees in desperation and prayed, pleading to know if Heavenly Father was there. "When I ceased crying and speaking, I was overwhelmed with a burning feeling that was peaceful, strong, and so direct," she says. "I knew Heavenly Father was there and would always love me and help me through my trials."

The answer Claire received sparked a desire to increase her testimony and trust in God and His commandments regarding the family. She not only continued to pray but also read her scriptures, attended seminary, and kept the commandments.

Now Claire is married, and she is learning to face her challenges with faith. "I don't worry whether it will be impossible to raise a strong family because my husband and I have decided to always nurture our

testimonies, include our Heavenly Father and our Savior in our lives, and remember the undeniable truth of the gospel."

For Claire, building trust in God began with a simple, sincere prayer. But what else can we do to build trust in Heavenly Father? Young adults from all over the world—each dealing with trials—share their experiences on how they have developed trust in the Lord and have learned to rely on His will, His way, and His timing.

Maintain Gratitude

Reflecting on her blessings helps Stefanie Egly of Hesse, Germany, trust in Heavenly Father's plan and in His timeline.

Stefanie began writing down her blessings after a relationship with a good friend didn't work out. "Though we hadn't been dating, I had always hoped our relationship would develop into something more. My hope was destroyed when he told me he had a girlfriend."

Heartbroken, Stefanie found comfort after reading an article on gratitude in the *Liahona*. She felt impressed to write down how she had been blessed—specifically how being single had been a blessing.

Her list helped her recognize that just because she hadn't had the opportunity to get married, it did not mean she had been denied blessings. Stefanie recognizes that the Lord has blessed her with the chance to

become an elementary school teacher and work with children. She has traveled, attended general conference, and participated as a counselor in the Especially for Youth program. Some of her dearest friendships developed through young single adult conferences that she has attended.

But the biggest blessing, she says, was being able to spend time with her grandmother shortly before she passed away, something that her siblings and cousins were not able to do because they lived far away or had families to care for.

Five years have passed since Stefanie started documenting her blessings. She still waits for the time when she will have the opportunity to marry in the temple. She says, "I don't know when I will meet my eternal companion, but I trust the time will come. Until then, I know I will continue to have experiences that will help me learn and grow." Heavenly Father has blessed her immensely, and she knows He will continue to do so if she is faithful.

Read the Word of God Daily

Daniel Martuscello from Colorado, USA, had just finalized his divorce and found it hard to feel at peace with his new circumstances. Not only was he no longer married but he was also a new father and unemployed. He didn't understand why this had happened—especially since he had always sought to be righteous.



REMEMBER THESE, BY DAVID LINN, MAY NOT BE COPIED

Feeling alone and lost, Daniel turned to the scriptures. “I remembered the comfort I had felt in the past from reading the scriptures, so I made it a focus each day,” he says. Making time for daily scripture study meant he limited entertainment such as television and the Internet. But it wasn’t a sacrifice, he says. “As I read, I received comfort and guidance. Other things became secondary in importance. I didn’t just read to read, but I was looking for answers. I read with a purpose.”

Daniel found comfort in the

scriptures as he realized that everyone experiences adversity. “The prophets and others were righteous but still had trials,” he says. “Reading their experiences helped me understand that at some point in life, we all suffer, but in that suffering we can draw closer to Christ.”

Additionally, Daniel says that reading daily lightened his burden because it was a way to include the Savior in his daily life. “As God spoke to me through the verses I read, I trusted that things would get better and that

with His help, something good would come from this experience.”

Put God First

Po Nien of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, experienced fears after he proposed to his girlfriend, Mei Wah. “I had dated other people before, and at least three times prior, I had a serious relationship develop only to see it fall apart. Those experiences had shaken my confidence in having a lasting relationship that would lead to an eternal one,” he confesses.

Although Po Nien felt at peace when he prayed about marrying Mei Wah, he began to doubt his answer. Had he felt a confirmation from the Spirit? Or had his emotions confused him? Would this engagement lead to the temple? Or would this relationship fall apart?

It was during this time that Po Nien remembered a quotation by President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) he had heard in an institute class: “We must put God in the forefront of everything else in our lives. . . . When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives.”¹

This counsel marked a turning point in Po Nien’s life. “I knew that if I put God first in my life and as long as I was faithful and true to Him, wrong things would drop out and good things would fall into place,” he says. If he put God first and his relationship

with Mei Wah was good, Heavenly Father would help it work out. Moving forward with trust, Po Nien married Mei Wah in the Hong Kong China Temple. “I have been richly blessed by placing my trust in the Lord,” he says.

Seek to Do His Will

Another way of building trust in Heavenly Father is to do His will. For Marta Fernández-Rebollos from Tarragona, Spain, learning to trust Heavenly Father came from choosing to maintain her standards.

The young man she was dating was not a member of the Church and was not interested in joining. “My spirit began to struggle between what I had been taught about eternal marriage and the hundreds of excuses that my heart gave me to give it all up and marry that young man for this life only,” she says. “Those were months of confusion, pain, and many tears.”

Torn by indecision, Marta went to her room and sought guidance from her patriarchal blessing. She read what was promised her if she chose the right. Bursting into tears, she knew what she had to do. “The consequences of the breakup didn’t matter to me anymore. I did not know what lay ahead, but I had conviction that as long as I was on the Lord’s side, it would undoubtedly be something good. I have discovered that when we raise our vision and follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost, we discover that the fruits of righteousness are ‘most sweet, above all that [we] ever before tasted’ (1 Nephi 8:11).”

In Proverbs 3:5–6, we read:

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Building trust in God and in His plans is not always easy. We each face our own challenges. Perhaps you haven’t found a compatible person to date in your ward or branch. Perhaps marriage has come, but children have not. Perhaps you are dealing with divorce. Or perhaps past experiences have caused you to fear commitment. The Lord knows your struggles and asks you to trust in Him. As you learn to trust Heavenly Father, peace and direction will come. ■

NOTE

1. Ezra Taft Benson, “The Great Commandment—Love the Lord,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 4.



YOUR TRUST IN GOD MUST BE POWERFUL AND ENDURING

“This life is an experience in profound trust—trust in Jesus Christ, trust in His teachings, trust in our capacity as led by the Holy Spirit to obey those teachings for happiness now and for a purposeful, supremely happy eternal existence. To trust means to obey willingly

without knowing the end from the beginning (see Proverbs 3:5–7). To produce fruit, your trust in the Lord must be more powerful and enduring than your confidence in your own personal feelings and experience. . . .

“As you trust Him, exercise faith in Him, He will help you.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Trust in the Lord,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 17.



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

Pioneer Faith and Fortitude Then and Now

We need to walk together as today's pioneers, living Christlike lives, supporting good causes in our communities, and strengthening our families and homes.

The early years in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were years of great testing. Leaders who survived these early days, such as Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, and Joseph F. Smith, were perhaps thereby enabled to survive the almost insurmountable trials

of crossing the plains and establishing the Church in the Rocky Mountains.

I feel that the pioneers of yesteryear would be smiling to see what has been accomplished among the Latter-day Saints. We owe much to the pioneers and must never forget that the success of today is built upon the shoulders and courage



"We owe much to the pioneers and must never forget that the success of today is built upon the shoulders and courage of the humble giants of the past," says Elder Ballard, pictured above with young pioneer reenactors.

of the humble giants of the past.

Speaking of our faithful pioneers, President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) said: "It is good to look to the past to gain appreciation for the present and perspective for the future. It is good to look upon the virtues of those who have gone before, to gain strength for whatever lies ahead. It is good

to reflect upon the work of those who labored so hard and gained so little in this world, but out of whose dreams and early plans, so well nurtured, has come a great harvest of which we are the beneficiaries. Their tremendous example can become a compelling motivation for us all, for each of us is a pioneer in his [or her] own life."¹



Stagecoach
The stagecoach was a common mode of transport in the West. It was used to carry passengers and mail between towns. The stagecoach was pulled by a team of horses and was often accompanied by a driver and a guard. The stagecoach was a vital part of the frontier economy and played a key role in the development of the West.

Faith to Follow

It wasn't just those who were leaders who had faith enough to follow Brigham Young to the barren desert. Many ordinary but brave Church members came as well. From Church history we learn of Oliver Huntington's parents, who in 1836 left affluent circumstances in Watertown, New York, including a 230-acre (93-ha) farm with a good stone house and two frame barns, and with their family took their journey to join the Saints in Kirtland, Ohio.

After they had left all behind, Oliver wrote, "It was a torment to each [of my parents], to see the other in want and still more [to] see their children cry for bread and have none to give them nor know where the next was coming from." Oliver certified the faith of this family by saying he never heard his parents murmur or complain against any of the authorities of the Church or express doubt about the truthfulness of the work.²

Emily Partridge, daughter of the first bishop of the Church in this dispensation, remembered leaving their comfortable home in Painesville, Ohio, to move to Jackson County, Missouri, in 1831 when she was just seven years old.³ Not long after, her family was driven from their home by the mob and had to relocate in Clay County. She described how they eventually found an "old log cabin that had been used for a stable. . . . There was one large room, and a leanto, but that was not of much use, as the floor was nearly all torn up, and the rats and rattlesnakes were too thick for comfort. There was a large fireplace in the one habitable room, and blankets were hung up a few feet back from the fire and the two families, fifteen or sixteen in number, were gathered inside of those blankets to keep from freezing for the weather was extremely cold, so cold that the ink would freeze in the pen as father sat writing close to the fire."⁴

The family later moved to Illinois. Emily summarized their experience: "Times were hard and we were very

destitute, having been robbed and driven from our homes and possessions so many times, and having had much sickness."⁵

Phoebe Carter was similarly led 750 miles (1,200 km) from Scarboro, Maine, to Kirtland, Ohio, in 1835. Phoebe was 28 years old when she determined to gather with Church members, even though she had to make her trek alone. As she later reported: "My friends marvelled at

my course, as did I, but something within impelled me on. My mother's grief at my leaving home was almost more than I could bear; and had it not been for the spirit within I should have faltered at the last. My mother told me she would rather see me buried than going thus alone into the heartless world. . . . 'Phoebe,' she said, impressively, 'will you come back to me if you find Mormonism false?' I answered thrice, 'Yes, mother, I will.' . . . When the time came for my departure I dared not trust myself to say farewell, so I wrote my good-bye to each, and leaving them on my table, ran down stairs and jumped into the carriage. Thus I left my beloved home of childhood to link my life with the Saints of God."⁶

At that point Phoebe had no idea that her footsteps of faith would lead her on a journey much longer than the 750 miles (1,200 km) to Kirtland. She would marry Wilford Woodruff and join with him in journeying through Missouri to Nauvoo and then on the 1,350-mile (2,170-km) trek through wilderness lands to the Great Salt Lake Valley.

My great-grandfather Henry Ballard joined the Church in February 1849 in Thatcham, England, as a 17-year-old. To pay for his voyage to America, Henry contracted his services for two years to a company owned in part by Lorenzo and Erastus Snow. He was hired to drive a herd of sheep west to the Salt Lake Valley. Henry described his entrance into the valley in the following words:

"In October as I drove the sheep down little mountain



Phoebe Carter had no idea that her footsteps of faith would lead her on a journey much longer than the 750 miles (1,200 km) from her home in Scarboro, Maine, to Kirtland, Ohio.



and through the mouth of Emigration Canyon, I first beheld the Salt Lake Valley. While I rejoiced in viewing the 'Promised Land,' I lived in fear that someone might see me. I hid myself behind bushes all day until after dark for the rags I had on did not cover my body and I was ashamed to be thus exposed. After dark I crossed over the field to a house where a light was shining . . . and timidly knocked on the door. Fortunately, a man answered the door and the candle light did not expose me to the view of the other members of his household. I begged for clothes to cover my naked body so that I might continue my journey and locate my parents. I was given some clothing and the next day continued my journey and arrived in Salt Lake City 16th October, 1852, feeling very thankful to God that I had reached my future home in safety."⁷

With our abundant blessings today, my heart is filled with love and admiration for

such a noble and courageous forefather.

My great-grandmother was a Scottish lass named Margaret McNeil, who came to Utah with her parents at the age of 13. She walked across the plains and drove a cow, carrying her younger brother James much of the way on her back. She and her family camped on the outskirts of Ogden, and she later recorded this in her autobiography:

"Across the field from where we were was a little house, and out in the yard was a big pile of squash. We were all nearly starved to death. My mother sent me over to this place to beg a squash, for we did not have a cent of money, and some of the children were very weak for the want of food. I knocked at the door, and an old lady came and said, 'Come in, come in, I knew you were coming and have been told to give you food.' She gave me a large loaf of fresh bread and said to tell my mother that she would come over soon. It was not long until she came and

Henry Ballard reached the Salt Lake Valley in rags. When it became dark, "I begged for clothes to cover my naked body so that I might continue my journey and locate my parents."

brought us a nice cooked dinner, something we had not had for a long time.”⁸

Physical and Spiritual Rescue

From the experiences of the pioneers, we learn what real faith and courage it took to cross the plains 165 years ago. Although the handcart pioneers represent fewer than 10 percent of the Latter-day Saint immigrants from 1847 to 1868, they have become an important symbol in LDS culture, representing the faithfulness and sacrifice of the pioneer generation.

As you remember, the Willie and Martin companies ran into early snows in Wyoming, and many of the Saints perished in the cold. While on a trek a few years ago retracing their footsteps, my family and I stood looking down at the Sweetwater area where the Willie company had been stranded, cold and starving. We read from their journals of their severe trials and the joy of their rescue. John Chislett wrote:

“Just as the sun was sinking beautifully behind the distant hills, . . . several covered wagons . . . were seen coming towards us. The news ran through the camp like wildfire. . . . Shouts of joy rent the air; strong men wept till tears ran freely down their furrowed and sun-burnt cheeks. . . .

“ . . . That evening, for the first time in quite a period, the songs of Zion were to be heard in the camp. . . . With the cravings of hunger satisfied, and with hearts filled with gratitude to God and our good brethren, we all united in prayer, and then retired to rest.”⁹

As we stood on the hill now called “the Eminence,” I was impressed to bear my testimony to my family and the others who were with us. I said, “As grateful as these faithful pioneers were to see the rescue party, how much greater is the rescue through the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.” I reminded our group that regardless of religious affiliation, the Lord Jesus Christ—the Savior of the

world—is the center of all Christian belief, and He rescued all mankind. Through His Atonement, He gives to all of us hope for today and assurance in eternity.

Conquering Today’s Wilderness

The suffering of the pioneers forged a strength in their lives that has been passed on to us. Packing a few belongings into wagons or handcarts and walking 1,300

miles (2,090 km) isn’t the way most of us will be asked to demonstrate our faith and courage.

We face different challenges today—different mountains to climb, different rivers to ford, different valleys to make “blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). But even though the wilderness we have been given to conquer is decidedly different from the rough and rocky trail to Utah and the barren landscape that our pioneer forebears encountered, it is no less challenging and trying for us than it was for them.

Our struggle is found in living in a world steeped in sin and spiritual indifference, where self-indulgence, dishonesty, and greed seem to be present everywhere. Today’s wilderness is one of confusion and conflicting messages. The pioneers had to battle the wilderness of rocky ridges and dust- or snow-covered mountain trails, with their faith focused on Zion and the establishment of the Church in the Salt Lake Valley.

We need to commit to serve the Lord and our communities with the same diligence and faith that the pioneers had. We must ever be on our guard that we do not become casual in keeping God’s commandments, in abiding by His laws, and in being honest and trustworthy in all that we do. We must avoid the entrapments of evil found on the Internet, so readily accessible through our computers, tablets, and cell phones. If we become casual in these things, Lucifer will find a way to dull our commitment and destroy our faith and our love for the Lord and for one another, and we will become lost in the wilderness of the world.



“Times were hard and we were very destitute, having been robbed and driven from our homes and possessions so many times, and having had much sickness,” recalled Emily Partridge.



Avoiding the temptations and evils of the world requires the faith and fortitude of a real modern-day pioneer. We need to walk together as today's pioneers, living Christlike lives, supporting good causes in our communities, and strengthening our families and homes.

When we truly believe, we don't ask, "What do I have to do?" but rather, "What more can I do?" When our belief is confirmed upon our souls by the Spirit of God, faith becomes a causative force in our lives, driving every thought, word, and deed heavenward. We pray with trust for strength and guidance—just as our forebears did. That's what it means to walk with faith in every footstep. It was so for our pioneer ancestors, and it must be so for us today. We must instill in our children and grandchildren the same spirit that drove the footsteps of the pioneers.

May we stand together as pioneers of today, always seeking the help of God to guide our families. May we learn from the past the

importance of honoring our parents, grandparents, and forefathers, and may we find the strength and courage to face our future as they faced theirs. May the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ burn brightly in our hearts and minds. And may the fire of our testimonies burn in our bones—just as it did in the lives of the Latter-day Saint pioneers. ■

From an address delivered in Ogden, Utah, on July 15, 2012.

NOTES

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Faith of the Pioneers," *Ensign*, July 1984, 3.
2. See Oliver B. Huntington, *Oliver B. Huntington Diary and Reminiscences, 1843 June–1900 January*, 26–28.
3. See Emily D. P. Young, "Autobiography," *Woman's Exponent*, Dec. 1, 1884, 102.
4. Emily D. P. Young, "Autobiography," *Woman's Exponent*, Feb. 15, 1885, 138.
5. Emily D. P. Young, "Autobiography," *Woman's Exponent*, Aug. 1, 1885, 37.
6. Phoebe Carter Woodruff, in Augusta Joyce Crocheron, *Representative Women of Deseret* (1884), 35–36.
7. Henry Ballard, in Douglas O. Crookston, ed., *Henry Ballard: The Story of a Courageous Pioneer, 1832–1908* (1994), 14–15.
8. Margaret McNeil Ballard, in Susan Arrington Madsen, *I Walked to Zion: True Stories of Young Pioneers on the Mormon Trail* (1994), 127.
9. John Chislett, in LeRoy R. Hafen and Ann W. Hafen, *Handcarts to Zion: The Story of a Unique Western Migration, 1856–1860* (1960), 106, 107.

"We were all nearly starved to death," said Margaret McNeil after her family arrived in Utah. "My mother sent me over to this place to beg a squash, for we did not have a cent of money and some of the children were very weak for the want of food."





Singing

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Humming, singing, reading, or otherwise using the hymns can bring a spirit of beauty, peace, and love to our lives—and not just on Sunday.



Some of us may think that hymns are sacred music that we sing only in Sunday Church meetings. But the First Presidency preface in the hymnbook states, “Ours is a hymnbook for the home as well as for the meetinghouse” (*Hymns*, x). Hymns incorporated into the other six days of the week can bring the Spirit more fully into our lives. The following Latter-day Saints share their experiences implementing the First Presidency’s counsel to use hymns at various times and in various settings.

I Sang as I Washed

It was evening. The kids were finally in bed, and my husband was on call yet again. And as I did every night, I headed into the kitchen to start the one job I just hated—washing dishes. They seemed to never end. I’d do them all, only to have the sink filled with dirty ones a few hours later.

As I began the dishes that night, I thought if I could just get my mind off what I was doing, the chore would go by much more quickly. A flash of inspiration came to me: I should sing. I tried to remember the words to some of my favorite hymns, but I kept getting stuck or I would mix up verses. So I paused a moment from my washing and grabbed a hymnbook. I propped it open and sang as

I washed. It was a little difficult to pause after each hymn to find a new one, so I decided to try and memorize the one I was on. Before I knew it, the dishes were done.

The next night, I decided to type the words of a few of my favorite hymns and tape them to the wall above the sink. And I sang as I washed. Once again the time flew by.

Each night I would sing and memorize and add more hymns to the wall. It started as a simple distraction from my daily chore, but I was surprised how I was blessed in other ways.

One night after a recent move, I was feeling lonely—missing old friends and wishing for new ones. I didn’t feel like singing, but there was a pile of dishes, so I started scrubbing and singing. As I sang, my spirit was lifted. I started paying attention to the words I sang and was surprised to find myself singing, “He makes the sorrowing spirit sing” (“Beautiful Savior,” *Children’s Songbook*, 62). I felt as though it were written to me.

I don’t dread the dishes as I once did. I have even found myself looking forward to the daily time I have to worship the Lord in song—to be strengthened by holy words and uplifted by inspired melodies. The dishes soak, the water runs, and I sing as I wash. ■

Cara Smith Webber, Nebraska, USA



ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Why are hymns so central in Latter-day Saint worship services?

The First Presidency preface in the hymnbook explains that “the hymns invite the Spirit of the Lord, create a feeling of reverence, unify us as members, and provide a way for us to offer praises to the Lord.”¹

We sing hymns in our meetings to show our devotion to the Lord and the gospel. Through hymns, we can express gratitude, bear testimony, and learn gospel doctrines. President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has said, “The hymns of the Restoration are, in fact, a course in doctrine!”²

NOTES

1. “First Presidency Preface,” *Hymns*, ix; see also D&C 25:12.
2. Boyd K. Packer, “Reverence Invites Revelation,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 22.

The Open Hymnbook

My husband and I were college students, but I was able to scrape together enough money to buy him a book of simplified hymn arrangements for his birthday. Brian had enjoyed playing the piano until, as an early teen, he had given it up when the call of football and skateboards became stronger than that of the piano bench. For several years now he had wanted to play the piano again. So I thought a book of simplified hymns would be the perfect gift.

Brian started practicing on our electronic keyboard almost as soon as he opened my gift. But the next week was a busy one, and the piano was neglected. Sometime in the middle of that week, I was cleaning up after dinner and

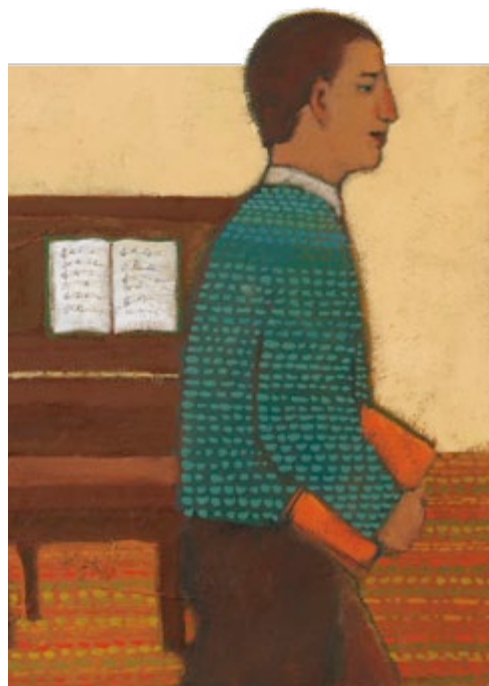


found myself humming “How Firm a Foundation” (*Hymns*, no. 85). Brian came out of the bedroom singing the same hymn to himself. This wasn’t too much of a coincidence—one of us had probably picked up the tune from the other.

When the weekend came, Brian practiced more hymns, and throughout the next week I found myself often singing “Have I Done Any Good?” (*Hymns*, no. 223). What’s more, I kept catching Brian whistling the same hymn. Finally I realized the source of our musical inspiration: Brian had left his hymnbook open on the piano to “Have I Done Any Good?” Our piano was in the center of our very small apartment, so we walked by the open hymnbook many times each day. Without even realizing it, we were both thinking about the hymn on the page every time we passed the piano.

Just having the hymnbook open to a particular hymn sent a spiritual message to both of us, even though neither of us had even practiced that hymn. This simple hymnbook had the power to change the atmosphere in our home and in our lives. ■

Jennifer Ricks, Utah, USA



Singing My Way to School

When I was in middle school, I needed to memorize two hymns to complete one of my Personal Progress experiences. My half-hour walk to school seemed a good time to work it into my busy schedule, so I grabbed my pocket-sized hymnbook in the morning and started on my walk. At first I thought I would just read the verses as I walked, but I soon figured that since it was early in the morning and not many people were around, I could sing the hymn quietly to myself.

After a few weeks of singing hymns on my walk, I had already memorized all the verses of my two favorites, and I began singing other hymns. Each day the hymns would brighten my spirit just as much as the sunshine brightened my vision. I even began to sing louder than just a whisper, and as my volume increased, so did my joy.

There were a few embarrassing moments during these walks, especially when people were out gardening and stared quizzically at the short, brown-haired 12-year-old singing to herself as she walked by, but I learned from and found joy in singing my praises to the Lord. Now, years later, I still remember those hymns and find solace and inspiration in them. I know the power of sacred music, and it all started with those hymns I memorized on my morning walk to school. ■

Kaitlyn Hedges, California, USA

Converting Power

My grandmother died when my father was about three years old, and eventually my grandfather remarried a Latter-day Saint woman. However, my grandfather was not a religious person and would not allow his new wife to attend any church; he wouldn't even allow any religious discussion to take place in his house.

As he grew up, my father became quite close to his new mother. He helped her around the house, and she sang as they worked together—songs about being thankful for a prophet's voice and about the Savior. Though he never really understood what the hymns were about, the words and the melodies remained with him.

After my father married, he and my mother decided to attend church one Sunday with my mother's sister. As they sat in Sunday School, my father recognized familiar words in a song about the Savior and listening to a prophet. A flood of memories from his childhood returned, and he realized that his stepmother had been teaching him the gospel all those years as she sang while they worked.

Dad only waited until after the fourth missionary lesson to be baptized because of his familiarity with gospel principles. His decision to be baptized has resulted in more than two generations of faithful members. And it all happened because a new mother forbidden to teach the gospel to her stepchildren sang the hymns as she worked. ■

Gregory B. Talley, New York, USA



MUSIC IN OUR HOMES

"Ours is a hymnbook for the home as well as for the meeting-house. We hope the hymnbook will take a prominent place among the scriptures and other religious books in our homes. The hymns can bring families a spirit of beauty and peace and can inspire love and unity among family members."

"First Presidency Preface,"
Hymns, x.





By Elder Larry W. Gibbons

Served as a General Authority Seventy from 2006 to 2012


A TIME FOR Faith Not Fear

When the night is dark and the clouds are thick, we have an opportunity to put our hand in the Lord's hand and rely on Him to help us through.

I have a good friend who was recently found to have a cancerous tumor. Learning of the diagnosis was difficult for him and his family. You can imagine the anxiety and fear he would naturally feel. Shortly after difficult brain surgery, he was afraid and sick, feeling alone and melancholy. An associate visited him, stood at the foot of his hospital bed, and, sensing his feelings, called him by name and said, "This is a time for faith, not fear."

In recent years the world has faced terrible earthquakes, devastating storms, economic turmoil, and other disasters. In addition, many of us face a variety of difficult personal challenges. As my friend was told, this is a time for faith, not fear.

During Jesus Christ's mortal ministry, a man named Jairus pleaded that Jesus would come to his home and bless his 12-year-old daughter, who was very sick. Jairus came with faith that she could be healed. Then came the devastating news: don't trouble the Master further; your daughter is dead. You can understand how Jairus must have felt at that moment, but the Savior's counsel to him was the same as the counsel given to my friend in the hospital: "Be not afraid, only believe" (Mark 5:36).



One of the reasons we are here on earth is to strengthen our faith. Difficult, dark days are a necessary part of life and give us an opportunity to build our faith.

“Be not afraid, only believe” is wonderful, reassuring counsel for all of us. But how can we have faith when the storms of life beat all about us? How can we strengthen our faith when anxiety and fear begin to dominate our thinking and erode our faith in God and our confidence in the future? I offer some reminders and suggestions I hope we will remember in difficult times.

Trials and difficulties are a necessary part of life and not a sign that the Lord has forgotten us or is displeased with us.

Life is a test. Trials may come even if we are seeking to put the Lord first in our lives. One of the reasons we are here on earth is to strengthen our faith. Difficult, dark days are a necessary part of life and give us an opportunity to build our faith and learn to rely on a power far greater than our own. As President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has said: “Faith, to be faith, must center around something that is not known. Faith, to be faith, must go beyond that for which there is confirming evidence. Faith, to be faith, must go into the unknown. Faith, to be faith, must walk to the edge of the light, and then a few steps into the darkness.”¹

It is hard to build faith in the noonday sun. When the night is dark and the clouds are thick, we have an opportunity to put our hand in the Lord’s hand and rely on Him to help us through. Doing so strengthens our faith.

Most of us naturally long for security and clarity in life, but there must be some uncertainty to allow us to use our agency and grow. There is no freedom without agency, and there is no true agency without some risk. Therefore, there is no true freedom without some risk, some uncertainty.

“Lift up thine eyes” (Isaiah 60:4).

When your difficulties seem overwhelming, look up, not down. When sadness and despair start to get a foothold, remember this: the Atonement of Jesus Christ did more than overcome physical and spiritual death. Yes, we will all be resurrected, and all of us have the opportunity to be forgiven of our sins as we repent and exercise faith in Jesus Christ. But as wonderful as the gifts of resurrection and repentance are, the

Atonement is much more. Through the Atonement we can receive strength to meet the most difficult trials of life.

When we look up to the Savior, we can be strengthened beyond our own abilities and beyond what we can envision with our mortal understanding. The Psalmist said it this way:

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

“My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1–2).

When the days seem dark and foreboding, “lift up thine eyes.”

Diligently live the commandments.

Jesus said, “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:17).

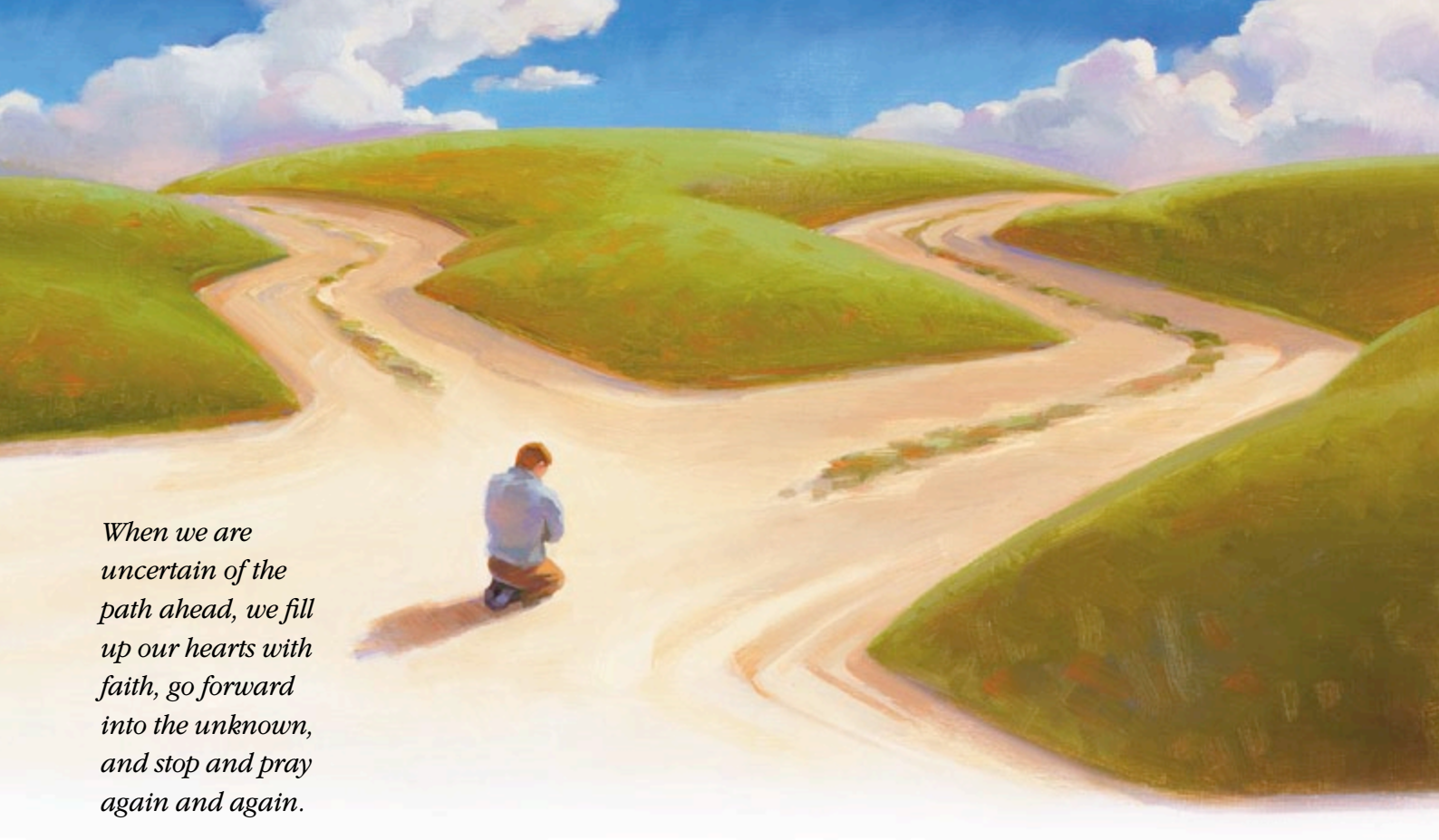
The Lord promises that if we will live the commandments, we will know. Nothing is quite as powerful for strengthening faith as living the commandments. In difficult times we naturally long for security. We long for the knowledge that everything will be all right, that we are safe and secure. That is normal. But the only true security is in living the commandments and keeping our covenants.

I remember a patient who came to our clinic. He was in a hurry to leave and start his vacation in another city. After he had left, we found a worrisome density on his chest X-ray. I called him and told him what we had found. When I talked to him next, he was calling from a hospital in Southern California.

“I need that X-ray, and I don’t want to take the time to have it sent through the mail,” he said. “Do you have someone who could get on a plane today and hand deliver it to me here in California? I will pay their expenses, of course, and I will give them an additional \$300.” Then he said, “No, I will give them \$500—no, I will give them \$1,000.” His next words came across the phone line so cold and clear that I will never forget them. He said, “I will give them anything they want—money means nothing.”

Facing what he was facing, he was absolutely correct. In the analysis of things that really matter, money is unimportant.

I will always remember sitting in the front room of the



When we are uncertain of the path ahead, we fill up our hearts with faith, go forward into the unknown, and stop and pray again and again.

home of my closest friend two days after he passed away at a relatively young age. His wife and son were in the room, along with a striking feeling of absolute peace and calm despite the sorrow. I thought about that over and over, and I ascribe the feeling we felt that day to the fact that my friend had made and kept covenants. The covenants he had made were eternal covenants. He had kept his covenants. The family knew that. And that brought comfort and peace of mind into their hearts. Living the commandments and keeping our covenants truly builds faith and brings security today and in eternity.

You are not alone.

I have found that usually when we face our most difficult tests, the Lord is there ahead of us to prepare the way through them.

My wife and I were a bit anxious about going to Russia when called to serve there in 2006. We had never been to Russia and did not know a lot about it. The responsibilities of the call seemed challenging, to say the least. In a meeting in his office, President Packer gave us wonderful counsel: “Remember, the Lord will have been there before you.” He then reminded us of the Lord’s promise, “For I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up” (D&C 84:88).

Speaking of angels, I treasure the words of Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “I testify of angels, both the heavenly and the mortal kind. In doing so I am testifying that God never leaves us alone, never leaves us unaided in the challenges that we face. ‘[N]or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man [or woman or child] upon the face thereof to be saved.’ [Moroni 7:36.]”²

When we face hard times valiantly, we are in good company.

This should build our courage and faith. One of the trials that some Latter-day Saints face is opposition and misunderstanding. If that has occurred, take heart. Opposition and persecution caused by your beliefs put you in the company of some of the best children of God who have ever lived on the earth. The Savior taught:

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

“. . . If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:19–20).

Facing a trial builds faith and confidence.

Many years ago, I took a rafting trip through the Grand Canyon with my son and friends. It was a great adventure.

As we traveled down the river through the canyon, we would sometimes hear the roar of the rapids around the next bend. It was frankly a bit frightening. We were tempted to pull over and park the boat. But shooting the rapids, though a bit scary, turned out to be the best part of the trip.

Rapids are a part of our journey. Sometimes they may even upset the boat. But navigating the rapids of life brings a great sense of accomplishment and exhilaration we would miss if we got out and waited on the bank. The rapids really are the best part.

Answers to prayer and solutions to problems generally come as we act.

Faith is a principle of action. The answers to prayer and the solutions to our problems generally come as we begin to act, not while we are on our knees praying.

A story from the early days of Latter-day Saint pioneers in Arizona illustrates the principle that faith is strengthened incrementally as we push forward. A large company of several hundred persons had been called to settle Arizona. One brother, reporting on the expedition in President Brigham Young's office, said the group had gone about 50 miles (80.5 km) beyond the Colorado River. Finding no water, they were in desperate circumstances. Their chaplain went out alone one day and pleaded with the Lord for water.

"Soon there was a fall of rain and snow depositing plenty of water for the cattle, and [for the company] to fill up all their barrels. . . . In the morning all were refreshed, barrels filled up, and all turned back rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord in saving them from perishing. They returned to Salt Lake and reported Arizona uninhabitable."

Brother Dan Jones recalled that Brigham Young "said nothing for a few moments, but sat looking me straight in the eye. Finally he asked, 'What do you think of that Brother Jones?'"

Brother Jones answered, "I would have filled up, went on, and prayed again." Brigham Young, putting his hand on Brother Jones, declared, "This is the man that shall take charge of the next trip to Arizona."³



BELIEVE

"First and forever fan the flame of your faith, because all things are possible to them that believe."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles,
"Lord, I Believe,"
Ensign, May 2013, 95.



When we are uncertain of the path ahead, we fill up our hearts with faith, go forward into the unknown, and stop and pray again and again.

God has armed you for your trials.

You have the gift of the Holy Ghost, and you have the right to receive revelation every day. At times revelation may not come as quickly as you might like because the Lord gives us opportunities to grow and develop our abilities according to His knowledge of us and what we need, but He will guide us through the Holy Ghost. And if we are worthy, He will not let us go very far in the wrong direction without warning us.⁴

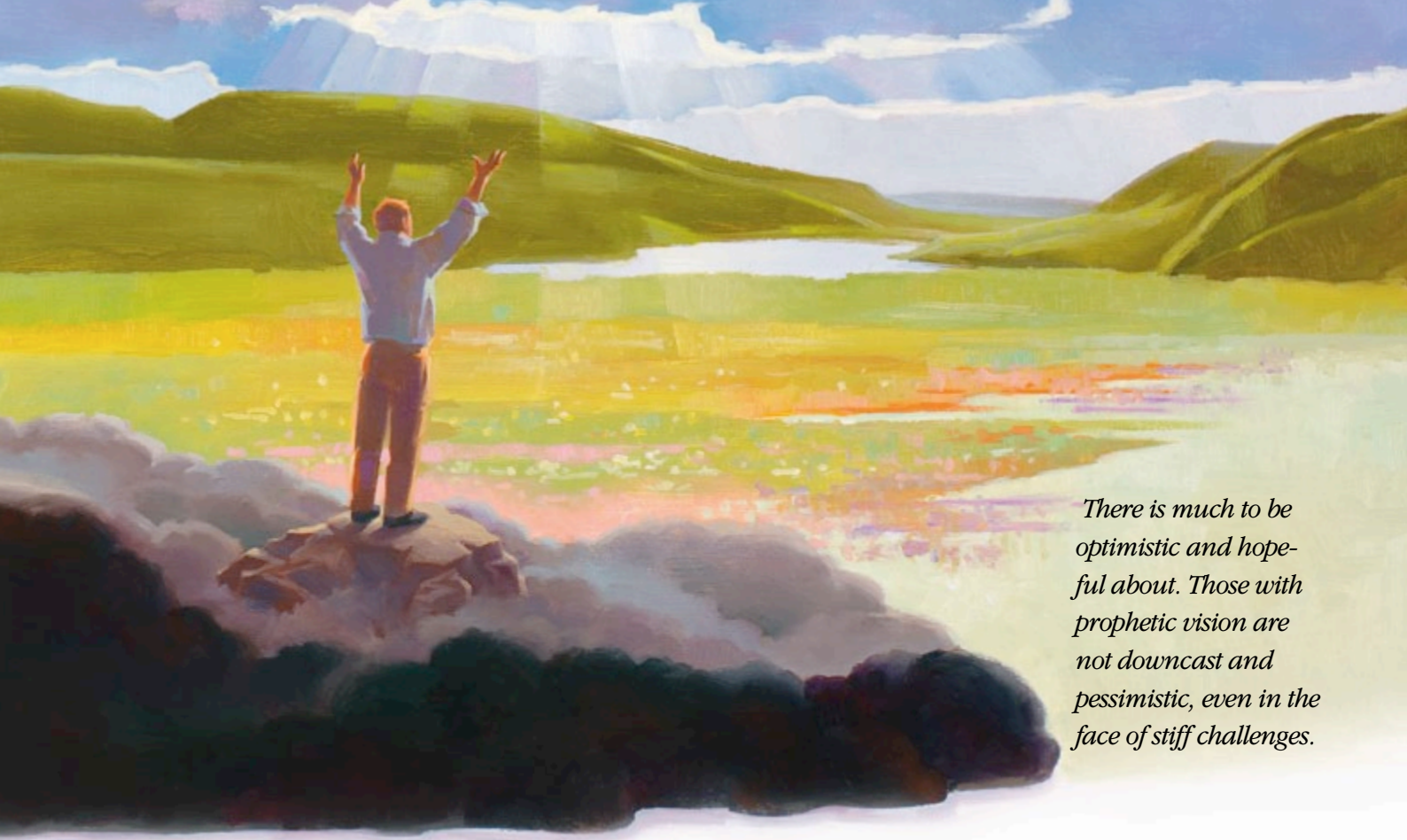
I recall a meeting with a large number of stake presidents and mission presidents in Houston, Texas, USA. President Henry B. Eyring, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was presiding. The stake presidents were struggling with a great many problems and were eager to receive counsel from an Apostle of the Lord. When he arose to speak, President Eyring simply said, "Brethren, you are receiving revelation every day. You are receiving it right at this moment. What are your major concerns, and what is the Lord telling you about what to do about them?" What followed was a wonderful, powerful meeting as the stake presidents counseled together and shared the inspiration they had received and were receiving at the moment about their concerns. President Eyring, who guided the discussions, added his counsel.

Remember also that a priesthood blessing can be a wonderful source of guidance and comfort during stressful times.

Turn the matter over to the Lord and wait patiently.

Sometimes—after we have fasted, prayed, and done all we can do to dispel clouds that have not parted; after we have gone into the dark and expected further light that has not appeared; after we have lived the commandments through difficulties that remain unrelenting—we simply need to turn things over to our Heavenly Father.

During some of the dark days early in the history of



There is much to be optimistic and hopeful about. Those with prophetic vision are not downcast and pessimistic, even in the face of stiff challenges.

taking the gospel to the lands of the former Soviet Union, Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander of the Seventy was feeling discouraged and seeing no progress despite the best efforts of the Saints and missionaries. As he discussed the situation with one of the Twelve Apostles, the advice came: “This is the Lord’s work—let Him do some of it.”⁵ Many years later, when the Church was facing a difficult time obtaining visas for North American missionaries in Russia, then-Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf said encouragingly, “Brethren, let the Lord do some of the heavy lifting.”⁶

Listen to Church leaders.

There is much to be optimistic and hopeful about. Those with prophetic vision are not downcast and pessimistic, even in the face of stiff challenges.

President Uchtdorf has said: “I have seen enough ups and downs throughout my life to know that winter will surely give way to the warmth and hope of a new spring. I am optimistic about the future.”⁷

President Eyring has said: “Any believing Latter-day Saint is an optimist about what lies ahead for him or her, however difficult the present may be.”⁸

And President Thomas S. Monson has said:

“There will be nothing in this world that can defeat us.

“My beloved brothers and sisters, fear not. Be of good cheer. The future is as bright as your faith.”⁹

I bear witness that we have a Heavenly Father who has prepared the plan of life on earth. He knows and loves us. He understands our trials. He will listen to and answer our prayers. Jesus Christ lives. I know that He is the Son of God. His Church has been restored in its fulness.

The Lord says simply and clearly, “Whosoever belongeth to my church need not fear, for such shall inherit the kingdom of heaven” (D&C 10:55). We have every reason to look forward with faith, not fear. ■

From a North America Southeast Area multistake conference broadcast address delivered on January 31, 2010.

NOTES

1. Boyd K. Packer, “What Is Faith?” in *Faith* (1983), 42.
2. Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Ministry of Angels,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 31.
3. See Daniel W. Jones, *Forty Years among the Indians* (1890), 234–35.
4. See Boyd K. Packer, “Counsel to Youth,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 18.
5. Dallin H. Oaks, Europe Area mission presidents’ seminar, Frankfurt, Germany, Nov. 14–16, 1993.
6. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Europe East Area mission presidents’ seminar, Tallinn, Estonia, Aug. 21–23, 2007.
7. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Two Principles for Any Economy,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 55.
8. Henry B. Eyring, “Our Perfect Example,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 70.
9. Thomas S. Monson, “Be of Good Cheer,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 92.



THE TRAIL OF

Art and early Church members' words can help us imagine what the pioneers felt when they were forced from Nauvoo.



DOWN PARLEY STREET, BY GLEN HOPKINSON, MAY NOT BE COPIED, PORTRAIT OF GEORGE Q. CANNON COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM

At the final dedicatory service for the Nauvoo Illinois Temple on June 30, 2002, President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) asked those in attendance to walk down Parley Street to the waterfront on the Mississippi River. Though it was a hot, humid day, President Hinckley asked everyone to imagine that it was a bitter cold day in February 1846. That summer evening, more than one thousand Latter-day Saints walked down Parley Street, now referred to as the Trail of Hope.

Today those who visit Nauvoo can also walk the Trail of Hope and imagine that it is a bitter cold day in February and how the pioneer Saints felt when they looked back at the temple for the last time. Plaques line the Trail of Hope with quotations from pioneers who left Nauvoo on that February day or during the following months.¹ They help us imagine what it was like.

Mary Field Garner, 10 years old when the mob drove her family to leave Nauvoo in September 1846, tells how her family hurried to pack food, cooking utensils, clothing, and bedding. With the bread dough risen and ready to bake, Mary's mother simply took it with them to bake after they crossed the river.

During one of the earlier crossings of the river, a boat sank, and Hosea Stout recounts how several Saints were tossed in the cold and unrelenting waves.

"Those of us who can remember when we were compelled to abandon Nauvoo, when the winter was so inclement, know how dark and gloomy the circumstances of the Saints were, with the mob surrounding our outer settlements and threatening to destroy us. . . . The word was to cross the Mississippi and to launch out into an unknown wilderness—to go where, no one knew. Who knew anything of the terrors of the journey thither, or of the dangers that might have to be met and contended with? . . . [We moved] out with faith that was undisturbed by [these] unknown terrors. It was by faith that this was accomplished."

GEORGE Q. CANNON



HOPE

EXODUS FROM NAUVOO



"My last act in that precious spot was to tidy the rooms, sweep up the floor, and set the broom in its accustomed place behind the door. Then with emotions in my heart . . .

I gently closed the door and faced an unknown future, faced it with faith in God."

BATHSHEBA W. SMITH

"Here we all halted and took a farewell view of our delightful city. . . . We also beheld the magnificent Temple rearing its lofty tower toward the heavens. . . . My heart did swell within me."

NEWEL KNIGHT

"How well I remember what a hard time [father] had breaking in the animals to draw the wagon. There were six cows and two oxen. The oxen were well broken and quite sedate. But the cows were wild and unruly. . . . Many nights when we were in bed asleep [my mother] would go out into the orchard . . . and there pour out her soul in prayer, asking the Lord to open the way for us to go with the Saints."

MARGARET JUDD CLAWSON

Describing some of the pioneers' first camps, Gilbert Belnap states that some had only a sheet drawn over a few poles to make a tent. He remembers hearing the crying of children and the groaning of those sick with fever.

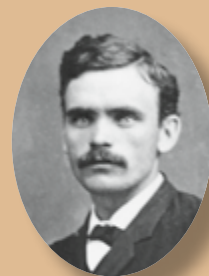
Zina H. Jacobs Young gave birth to a baby boy after traveling about 80 miles west. She says she did not mind the hardship because her life had been preserved and her baby was so beautiful.

Some Saints were unable to go west. Martha Ann Smith was five when she said good-bye to her dear but feeble grandmother Lucy Mack Smith, who shed bitter tears knowing it was the last time she would see her son Hyrum's family. ■

NOTE

1. An exception is the plaque with words by B. H. Roberts, who was born 11 years after the exodus from Nauvoo but chronicled the event in his writings.





"With this advanced camp of the great exodus there had come a brass band, led by Captain Pitt. After encampment was made and the toils of the day were over, the snow would be scraped away, a huge fire or several of them kindled within the wagoned enclosure, and there to the inspiring music of Pitt's band, song and dance often beguiled the exiles into forgetfulness of their trials and discomforts."

B. H. ROBERTS





WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE

By Sang-Ick Han

About 12 years ago, I emigrated with my wife and four sons from the Republic of Korea to New Zealand. While working as a vice principal at a Korean school in New Zealand, I met many Koreans who struggled to adjust to the new culture and to the new policies and procedures. I wanted to help them as well as contribute to New Zealand, so I thought that becoming a lawyer would be one way to bridge the two peoples and countries. So, after praying to confirm my decision, I decided at age 53 to attend law school.

I knew it would be challenging. But when I received the course manuals, I realized that it would be much harder than I expected. Each course manual appeared too thick, and the contents seemed beyond my comprehension. Even though I had helped interpret from English to Korean for general conference for almost 10 years and had finished a master's degree in linguistics in New Zealand, legal terms seemed to be a completely different kind of English.




The Lord blessed Brother Sang-Ick Han in many ways to help him graduate from law school at age 55.

When I came home from school the first day, I had to consider seriously whether I should continue or quit before I started. During that time of uncertainty, one thought stood out: I could succeed if I relied totally on the Lord.

Because I know God lives and answers our prayers, I asked Him for help. I remembered one scripture in the Bible that gave me great relief: “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37). That scripture gave me strength to move forward.

Whenever I faced difficulties during my study, God always prepared a way or sent angels—helpful people—to guide me through.

One day I was struggling to complete an assignment. I did my best, but I could not figure out what the lecturer wanted us to do. When Sunday came, I put off all study to focus on my Church assignments. As a stake high councilor, I visited an assigned ward to give a sacrament meeting talk. After the meeting a brother approached me and said that he had seen me in the classroom. I didn't know he



was a law student as well. When he asked me how the assignment was going, I told him honestly that I was having difficulty. He then offered to come over to my place to help me. If I had not gone to that ward and met him, I could not have submitted the assignment on time. He was an angel whom God had sent to answer my prayer.

In one of my hardest classes, the lecturer taught for two hours without ceasing each time we had class. It was difficult to understand not only the content of the class but also the accent of the lecturer, so with permission, I recorded his lectures for review. One day I received an email from a woman I did not know. She introduced herself as a classmate and asked if I could share my recordings because her work schedule sometimes kept her from attending class.

Of course I was happy to give her copies of my recordings. I thought I was helping her, but I soon found that she was another angel whom God had arranged to help me. To pass the class, we had to submit two assignments and take a three-hour exam. She helped me complete the assignments and

prepare for the exam. Without her help, I don't think I would have passed.

Along with the difficulties of being an older student and a nonnative English speaker, I had other responsibilities that made it challenging to complete the program. My work, community obligations, and Church callings took a lot of my time, and I also tried to give my most important responsibilities as a husband, father, and grandfather the care and attention they needed. When one of my colleagues learned all I had to do in addition to my studies, he said it was crazy for me to study law in view of all my other obligations. However, I had the conviction that "the things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

At the age of 55, I was admitted to the bar as a solicitor and barrister at the High Court in New Zealand. I am grateful that I not only became a lawyer in spite of the language barrier but also gained a stronger testimony that God lives and answers our righteous prayers. I know that nothing is impossible with His help. ■

The author lives in New Zealand.



STRUGGLES YIELD GROWTH

"We may have to struggle to achieve our goals, but our struggles may yield as much growth as our learning. The strengths we develop in overcoming challenges will be with us in the eternities to come."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Kristen M. Oaks, "Learning and Latter-day Saints," *Ensign*, Apr. 2009, 27.



**By Elder
Keith K. Hilbig**

Served as a member
of the Seventy from
2001 to 2012

LIVING FOR THE Eternities

*I plead with you young adults to visualize
frequently your future celestial existence with
your family in eternity.*

How different and difficult is the world of young adults (married or single) today when compared to the young adult world of two or three generations ago. Many challenges today did not even exist, or were much less intense, than when I was in college.

But you are here now, in this moment. You are pressing forward as your elders are passing into the eternities. You are here at this time not by chance but as part of an eternal plan—designed, agreed upon, and implemented before the earth was ever created.

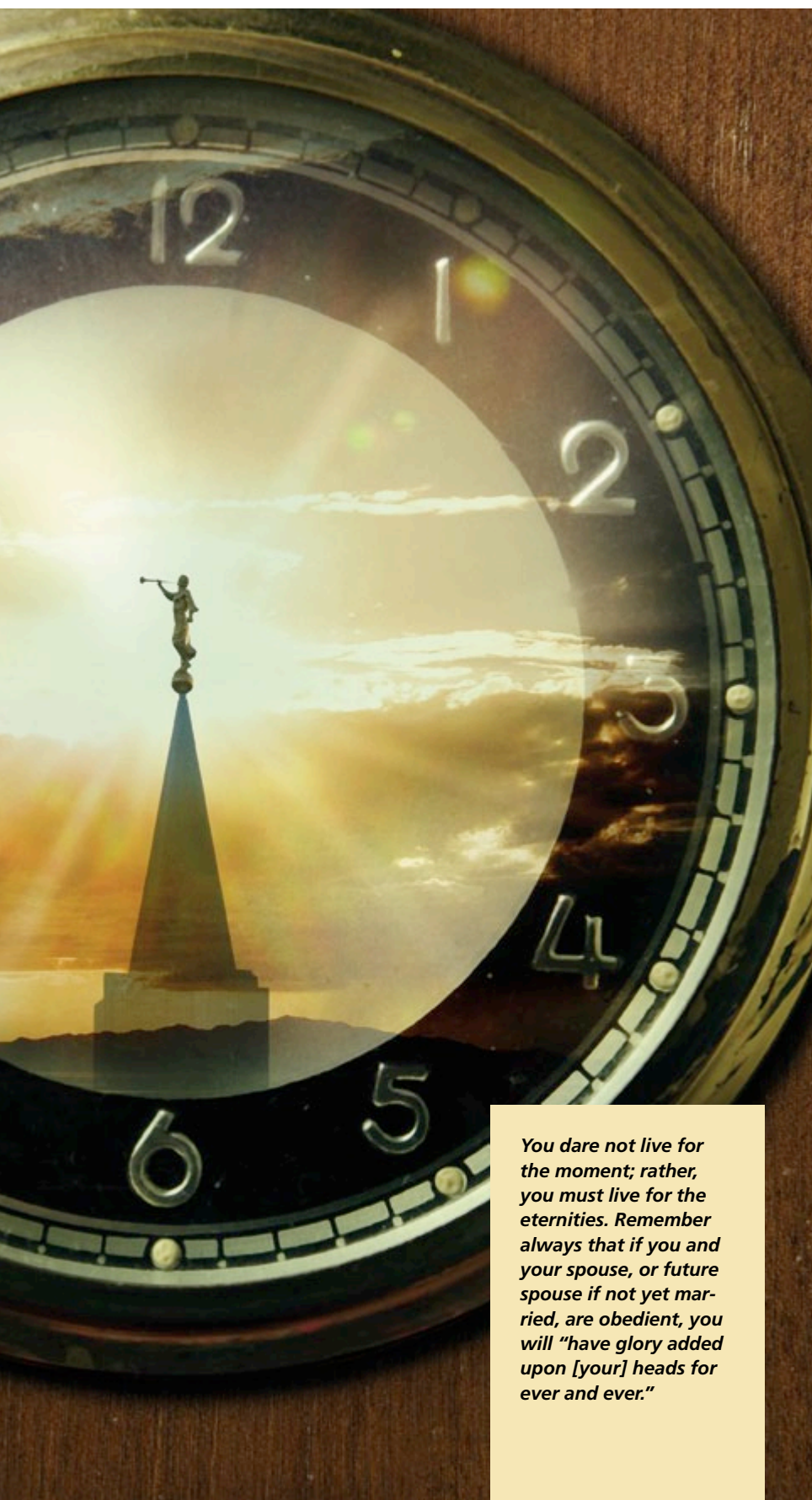
How fortunate you are to be aware of the Restoration of the gospel! You know there was a premortal existence in the presence of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. You were schooled and tested. You learned of the laws that would allow you to progress and advance. You followed those laws, and thus you were entitled to come to earth, placing you on a course leading to exaltation, dominion, and godhood.

You understand the purposes of mortality on earth, and you have been taught concerning postmortal opportunities. In short, you have the perspective of the eternities—you can look back, and you can gaze forward.

The majority of your young adult peers who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the world in general, know little of these realities. They live as if



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID STOKER



You dare not live for the moment; rather, you must live for the eternities. Remember always that if you and your spouse, or future spouse if not yet married, are obedient, you will "have glory added upon [your] heads for ever and ever."

in a box defined by two events: birth and death. They make decisions and engage in behaviors circumscribed by a limited perspective. Essentially they live for the moment—the length of time between their births and their deaths, which is a mere nanosecond in the scheme of eternity. They likely know nothing of their premortal existence and little of eternity.

Your Eternal Potential

You, however, know the promise of your personal potential in the eternities. To those couples sealed in the holy temple, the Lord promises:

"Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection . . . and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths . . . and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

"Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they

have all power, and the angels are subject unto them” (D&C 132:19–20).

I plead with you to visualize frequently your future celestial existence with your family in eternity, a status of unfathomable glory and advantage we cannot yet fully comprehend. What we may be absolutely certain of, however, is that each of you kept your “first estate” (Abraham 3:26), each of you passed all of the tests of premortal life, each of you exercised great faith, and thus, each of you received the privilege of obtaining a mortal body and coming to this mortal sphere.

Therefore, you dare not live for the moment; rather, you must live for the eternities. Remember always that if you and your spouse, or future spouse if not yet married, are obedient, you will “have glory added upon [your] heads for ever and ever” (Abraham 3:26)—a magnificent personal promise from God to each of His children.

If you are faithful in keeping the commandments of God, His promises will be fulfilled to the very letter. The trouble is, the adversary of men’s souls strives to blind their minds. If they let him, Satan throws dust, so to speak, in their eyes, and they are blinded with and by the things of the world.

The theologians and scholars of the Christian world do not know what you know about the things of eternity, but Satan knows! He knows of your premortal preparation, your purpose on earth, and moreover your eternal potential.



God has given you not only the right to choose between good and evil but also the power to choose good over evil! Ultimately, you decide, not Satan.

The Hebrew translation of the word *devil* is “spoiler.”¹ The devil seeks to spoil your journey into the eternities. He attempts to interfere with your potential here and hereafter. He seeks to have you exercise your agency unwisely. Some young people, eager to assert their independence, feel that their independence is best demonstrated by choosing to do something wrong. Any fool can do that; any crowd can do that.

In fact, independence, real freedom, is best exhibited and experienced by always choosing the right. God has given you not only the *right* to choose between good and evil but also the *power* to choose good *over* evil! Thereby God has given you greater power than Satan and his hosts. Ultimately, you decide, not Satan.

Heavenly Father designed this mortal experience for an important purpose: that we might be tried and overcome evil. He seldom specifically orchestrates trials and temptations, but

He knows that mortality will provide them in abundance. He desires that while we are here on earth, we learn to overcome our “natural” selves (see Mosiah 3:19), deny ourselves of worldliness, and prove ourselves worthy. Satan has other ideas. He will do anything he can to thwart our progress.

The World’s Temptations

This world, with the clever and sinister assistance and encouragement of Satan, offers you the temptation to be accepted, to go with the crowd, to enjoy the thrill of the moment—perhaps in the form of inappropriate movies or video games, moral indiscretions (including pornography), bad language, immodest apparel, or dishonesty. Satan will seek to confuse your understanding of the divinely designed constellation of the family: that marriage is ordained of God between a man and a woman and that children have the right to be nurtured by a mother and a father.²

If, for the moment, you thoughtlessly accept Lucifer's invitation, he may rob you of the blessings of eternity. Satan has no personal prospect for eternity. Remember, he *lost* the war in heaven, a war fought by testimony (see Revelation 12:11) in which the faithful followers of Christ defeated him and his supporters. The casualties were high: all Satan's followers—one-third of the host of heaven—were cast out. They will never receive a physical body or have the opportunity for eternal life.

Lehi, speaking to his son Jacob, said:

"And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read, must needs suppose that an angel of God, according to that which is written, had fallen from heaven; wherefore, he became a devil, having sought that which was evil before God.

"And because he had fallen from heaven, and had become miserable forever, he sought also the misery of all mankind" (2 Nephi 2:17–18).

Lehi also taught: "Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh. . . . And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself" (2 Nephi 2:27).

In our time, drug dealers, distributors of pornography, promoters of evil entertainment, supporters of lies, advertisers of inappropriate apparel, enticers of immorality, and critics

of the traditional family all promote choices that will diminish the spiritual life, even result in the spiritual death, of God's sons and daughters.

Bear in mind that Satan laughs at the misfortune of those who have been duped by such enticements (see Moses 7:26). His methods vary, but they have a common objective: disobedience and the associated loss of blessings.

Blessings of Obedience

Obedience permits blessings and brings peace. Reflect upon a particular conscious decision you made to do what is right, even though the temptation to do wrong was strong. Perhaps it was a decision to eliminate inappropriate thoughts or to tell the truth when a lie would have been easier. Perhaps it was a decision to get up and walk out of a movie (or any other unholy place) that was advertised as acceptable but, in fact, proved to be inappropriate.

KEY DOCTRINAL POINTS

Through the Restoration, Latter-day Saints know that

- Heavenly Father promises eternal glory to the obedient.
- Satan seeks the misery of all mankind.
- God's children have the power to overcome temptation.

As you look back upon your proper decision, what do you feel? Exhilaration? A sense of self-mastery or empowerment? Increased confidence before the Lord? Expanded capacity to resist evil? That is power; that is freedom!

If you consistently resist temptation, it becomes easier to do so—not that the nature of resisting has changed, but your power to do so has increased.³ You can overcome any temptation confronting you (see 1 Corinthians 10:13).

You have knowledge of your divine origin. You have full awareness of your divine destiny. I invite you "to rise to the divinity within you"⁴ and to live *not* for the moment but rather for the eternities.

You wonderful young adults, you future leaders in the kingdom of God and in society, must not become a casualty in this ageless battle. You survived the war in heaven; you can win the war on earth. Do not live for the moment but rather for the eternities.

Be assured, it is worth your efforts to heed the commandments, for your reward is to return to the presence of God in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom. ■

From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University–Idaho on March 20, 2007. For the full text in English, visit web.byui.edu/devotionalsandspeeches.

NOTES

1. Bible Dictionary, "Devil."
2. See "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
3. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Heber J. Grant* (2002), 35.
4. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Each a Better Person," *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 99.

Teaching *the One*

While integration is the goal for children with disabilities, my experience with Carver taught me that there may be situations that require adaptation.

By Janice LeFevre

Carver is a boy with sparkling blue eyes, a charming smile, and autism. For several years I was his assistant in Primary. Our time together in the classroom was generally an exercise in helping him be reverent and not disturb the other children. He was in his own world and did not seem to connect with the music or the lessons.

When he was about six, his incomprehensible grunts and jabbering gradually gave way to words that I could understand if I listened carefully. Those who loved him rejoiced. However, this new development also brought new challenges. Cognitively Carver was a toddler, and the Primary lessons were above his level. He was bored and becoming quite disruptive in class.

Seeking Alternatives

When Carver was seven, his mother expressed concern that he was not grasping gospel principles. She wondered if we could find a way to help him learn. After brainstorming and obtaining the consent of the Primary president and the bishop, we pulled Carver from his class, and I began teaching him individually. Carver's mom joined us.

For 10 to 15 minutes, I taught him from the nursery manual, *Behold Your Little Ones*. The simple lessons, songs, pictures, and activities perfectly suited his needs. I augmented each lesson with toys, puzzles, or flannel board figures that we played with to reinforce the principles taught. As I taught, I asked Carver to repeat the words I said, and he did so. Neither his mother nor I knew if he understood the words, but we were pleased he could say them.

After our lesson, Carver and I joined the nursery children for a snack and to listen to their lesson. Thus, Carver heard the same instruction twice each Sunday and had an opportunity to practice reverent behavior with children who were also learning to sit still. When the nursery class ended, we attended sharing time.

A few months passed. One Sunday, using a Nativity puzzle, I taught Carver that Heavenly Father was Jesus's Father. The following week I taught him that he was a child of God but did not remind him that Jesus was God's son too. At the end of the lesson, Carver played with the Nativity puzzle. He held up baby Jesus and said to himself, "Heavenly Father . . . Jesus's Dad." Then he paused and added,



GUIDELINES FOR TEACHING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

“Children who have disabilities are normally included in their regular Primary classes. As needed, and where possible, a special teacher may be called to attend class with them or to teach them separately” (*Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 11.8.6; see also 21.1.26).

Below: Carver gave a talk with the help of his mother.

“Heavenly Father . . . Carver Dad.” For the first time, I knew he understood our lessons!

Reaching Milestones

That fall, when Carver turned eight, he joined his peers in Cub Scouts but continued his individualized Primary class instruction. In January he graduated from the nursery class and attended Sunbeams with his nursery friends. Here I was his assistant as two other sisters taught. By the end of the year he was able to sit quietly, pay attention throughout the lesson, and participate when called upon. At school his mother was surprised to discover that he could read at a second-grade level.

Another milestone happened during the Primary’s sacrament meeting presentation. In previous years, Carver had been overwhelmed by seeing so many people in the congregation and the added stimulation of being a performer. Each year, he’d had a meltdown and had to be taken to the foyer before the program ended. This year we worked harder to prepare him for success.

His parents brought him to each practice, where we carefully helped him learn appropriate “stage” behavior. We limited his time being up front by having him sit on the front pew when the other children took their turns. We helped him repeat his one-sentence speaking part. When he was “onstage,” I sat beside him and, by gently holding his hands in mine, was able to redirect his urges to touch and distract the other children.

By the day of the program, he was ready. He smiled and stood quietly during the songs. Although he did not say his assigned line when it was his turn to speak, he shared what was in his heart: “I love Jesus.” Afterward he beamed with a sense of accomplishment.

Welcoming Change

The following January, Carver rejoined his peers in the Valiant 9 class, and I again served as his assistant. Before the new class began, the Primary president, Carver’s family, and I met with the new teachers to introduce them to Carver. We explained Carver’s disability, provided materials from the Church’s disability website, and suggested how to modify lessons to meet his needs.

On the first day of class, I introduced Carver to the other children. I told them about Carver’s artistic talents and his gift for showing love. I enlisted their help in being reverent so that he would not become overwhelmed by too much noise or activity.

In subsequent weeks, the children welcomed him and often saved him a seat. I noticed that Carver seemed proud to be in this class. His new teachers also made him feel valued and welcome. They began each



The entire class became more engaged as we used props to tell stories.

class period by asking the children to share something good about their week. Before class time, I would ask Carver's mom to tell me something that I could prompt him to share when it was his turn. I sat beside him, helped him answer questions and read when asked, and showed him extra pictures related to the lesson.

A couple of months later, because of ward restructuring, the Valiant 9 teachers received new callings, and another sister and I were called to teach the class.

Helping Everyone

Taking turns presenting the lesson and caring for Carver, the other new teacher and I modified the curriculum to explain each concept visually. In addition to the materials provided with the manual, we used pictures from the *Gospel Art Book*, from the Church magazines, and from LDS.org. Some Sundays we used flannel board figures, toys, or other props to tell stories; other weeks we invited the children, including Carver, to act them out.

To help Carver join the class discussions, we would say a simple sentence or two that summarized the principle we were teaching and have him repeat it to us. To help with his comprehension, Carver's mom would read scripture stories with him during the week before our lesson, focusing on the stories we planned to cover in class.

In class, as we read from the scriptures, we stopped to explain words and, if possible, provided pictures to help with the explanation. For instance, when we talked about Jesus healing a man with a withered hand (see Matthew 12:10–13), we brought a photo of a severely arthritic hand. We discussed how hard it would be for someone with a withered hand to work or play and how grateful the man must have been for Jesus's miracle.

Sometimes instead of reading from the scriptures, we would read from illustrated scripture stories and talk about each illustration. The children also loved watching segments of Church DVDs.

My co-teacher and I discovered that these teaching methods not only assisted Carver but also helped *all* class



members grasp the stories and principles we were teaching. The entire class became more reverent and engaged. One quiet child who had seldom participated began reading aloud and answering questions. Two others, who had often found teasing one another preferable to listening, became more focused on the lessons.

During His ministry, the Savior sometimes tailored His message to teach one individual (see Luke 10:25–37). Yet others who listened were also taught and edified. In our classroom we found that following His pattern of reaching out to the one brought similar blessings. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

RESOURCES FOR HELPING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

- The Church offers materials in audio format, in braille, in large print, or with captions. Visit store.lds.org and click on **Materials for Those with Disabilities**.
- The website disabilities.lds.org includes information about specific disabilities and ideas for teachers.
- Bishops and stake presidencies may consider calling a ward or stake disability specialist (see *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 21.1.26). For more information, visit lds.org/callings/disability-specialist.

Family History

TREASURE HUNT

The youth of our ward experienced the priceless blessings of answering an Apostle's call to do family history and temple work.



By Jana Greenhalgh

In the October 2011 general conference, Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled the youth of the Church to become actively involved in family history and temple work.¹ In response to this counsel, the youth of our ward (Cranberry First Ward, Lehi Utah Gateway Stake) and their leaders decided to go on a “treasure hunt” to find the names of deceased family members for whom we could be baptized in the temple. As one of the Young Women leaders, I was excited to participate in the adventure.

In keeping with the treasure hunt theme, we decided we would record on a treasure map poster the number of names we found. We would also keep the temple name cards in a “treasure box” until we were ready to go. Then we set a date for a temple trip. We chose to visit the beautiful pioneer-built Manti Utah Temple to honor those who came before us. When we made our appointment, we were asked to bring five names per youth. That meant before the date of our trip, we would need to find 90 names for our ward.

The young men and young women of our ward gained confidence from this experience as they learned they could actually go through the entire process from finding names to serving as proxy for their ancestors in the temple.

Visiting a Family History Center

We learned about family history work by visiting a nearby family history center during Mutual. Our youth listened to a presentation by one of the center’s workers and then sat down at the computers for some hands-on training. Lauren L., a Laurel, said the youth learned a lot about doing family history work from the experience. In fact, when she and Abby W., also a Laurel, created fan charts from their pedigrees, they were surprised to discover they were related to one another.

In addition to going to a family history center, we used family history tools such as FamilySearch to help us learn about our pedigrees, research more names, and process names for temple work. Our ward family history



The FamilySearch Youth and Family History section of youth.lds.org (lds.org/youth/family-history) has step-by-step instructions, videos, and testimonials to help youth learn how to become involved in doing family history and temple work.

consultants also helped us learn more about useful tools found at lds.org/youth/family-history.

Nick Barber, the ward Young Men president, said, “As a leader and a parent of one of the youth, it was great to see the Spirit work in both our lives. By searching names together, we grew closer and learned about the inspiring lives of our ancestors.”

Enlisting Family Members’ Help

We learned that contacting grandparents and other relatives was a great way for many of the youth to find family names that were ready for baptism. Some youth had family lines that had already been well researched and for which a lot of temple work had already been done. Other youth had limited information about their ancestry and had to do some research to learn more. In both cases, we sought the Spirit and never gave up on our goal.

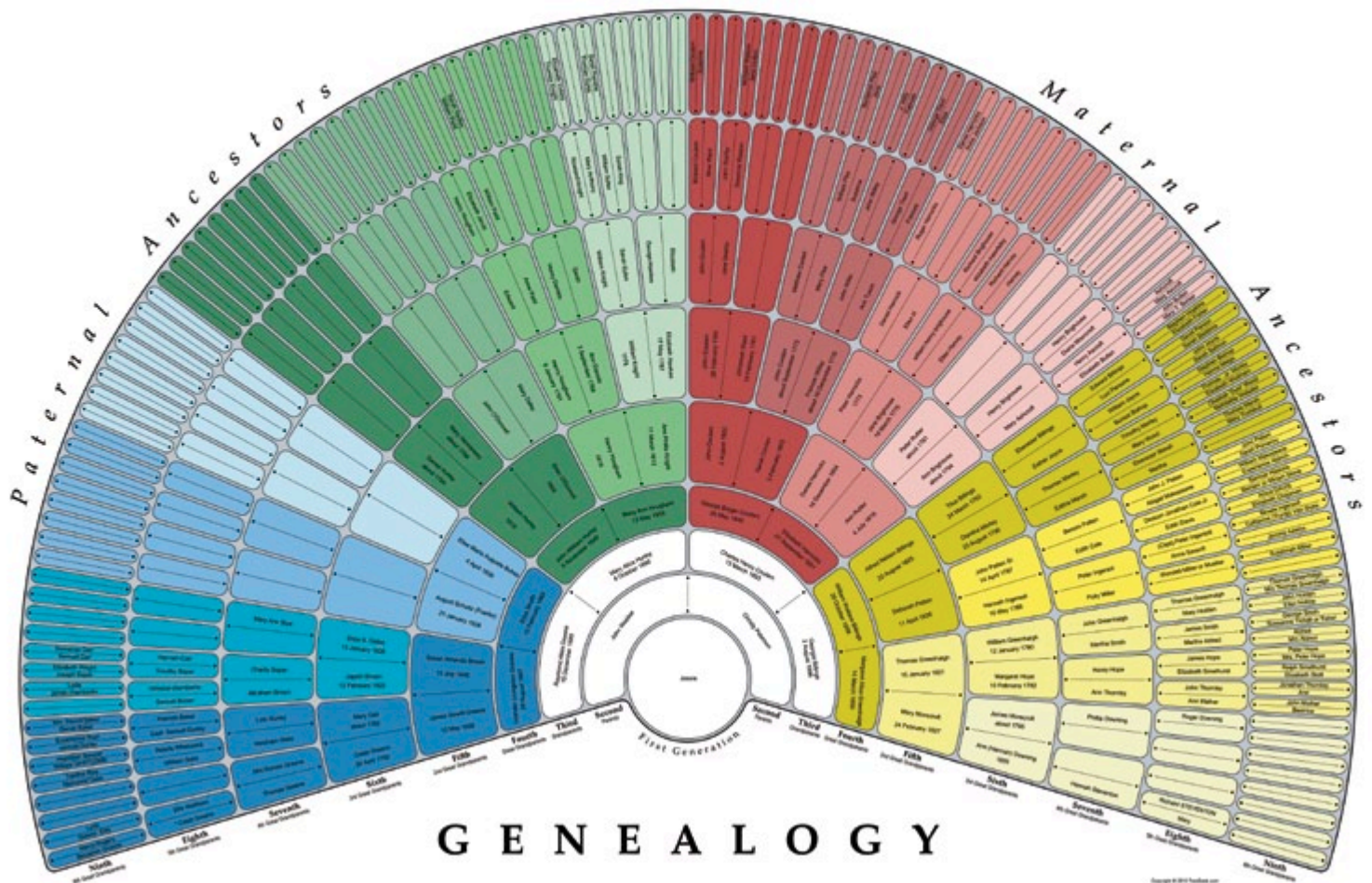
Some of the youth helped complete temple work for ancestors of other ward members. For example, one

of the sisters in the ward, Jane Driggs, provided family file cards for her father and some of her grandparents. Some of the young men in our group were able to serve as proxies for these close relatives of Sister Driggs and felt the Spirit very strongly. Sister Driggs commented, “As I pondered who should perform the baptisms, I was silently reminded that what is important isn’t who participates in the baptisms but that it is done and that the family is reunited. This was an opportunity to have our great youth perform service for my family and me. I am so grateful to them.”

In the end, some youth were able to find more family names than others, but everyone was happy to share names and serve each other’s families.

Attending the Temple

The real treasure came when we met our goal and attended the Manti Utah Temple to perform baptisms for our family members. Most of our youth had never visited this temple before, and we were excited to see the temple in the distance as we drove toward it. Ben F, a member of the teachers quorum, commented about how beautiful



A fan chart offers a great way to see your family history information at a glance. This tool can help you determine where to focus your efforts in family history and temple work. It can also be used as a wall hanging to remind you of your connection with past generations. Go to lds.org/youth/family-history for a detailed explanation about how to build your own chart.



Youth and their leaders from the Cranberry First Ward traveled to the historic Manti Utah Temple, where they experienced the blessings of performing proxy baptisms for their own ancestors and the ancestors of other ward members.



OUR ANCESTORS NEED US, AND WE NEED THEM

“And now, my dearly beloved brethren and sisters, let me assure you that these are principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation, as Paul says concerning the fathers—that they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect.”

Joseph Smith, an epistle to the Church, Sept. 6, 1842 (D&C 128:15).

the temple looked up on the hill set apart from the rest of the valley.

During a testimony meeting the night before we went to the temple, youth and leaders shared thoughts about the importance of doing temple and family history work. Isaac M., a deacon, was there with his dad, a Young Men leader. Isaac said, “I’m excited to do temple work because I know there are people waiting to have their ordinances done. I’m grateful that I can see my uncle again someday.”

The next morning we arose early for our morning appointment at the baptistry. The temple workers were kind and welcoming, and after a short devotional, we performed baptisms and confirmations for the 94 people whose names we had found. We felt the Spirit in abundance and were happy to be serving in such a beautiful and sacred place.

Deena Bronemann, a member of the Young Women presidency, said, “I was so impressed with our youth, and the Spirit in the temple was strong. For those that had

this as their first temple experience, I know it touched their hearts.”

Maddie O., a Laurel, commented, “When I go to the temple I always feel closer to the Savior, and it was even better going there as a whole group to a temple I normally wouldn’t have gone to.”

We truly felt the joy of accomplishing our group goal and then serving together as saviors on Mount Zion (see Obadiah 1:21). To see our goal through from beginning to end unified our ward’s youth and brought us closer to Christ.

Our young men and young women continue to find joy in doing family history and temple work. We are grateful for Elder Bednar’s invitation for youth to “learn about and experience the Spirit of Elijah.”² Brother Barber sums up our ward’s feelings: “Our experience inside the temple at the sacred baptismal font was indescribable emotionally and spiritually. The true treasure really is in the work!” ■

NOTES

1. See David A. Bednar, “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 24–27.
2. David A. Bednar, “Hearts of the Children,” 26.



Having a spouse with a pornography addiction can be devastating. Here are some ways to get through it.

Name withheld

Some time ago, in a conversation with my cousin Emily (names have been changed), I mentioned I was under a lot of stress. She said, “I know what you’re going through.”

I thought she was referring to the normal busyness that accompanies the lives of a young family, so I clarified by explaining that my husband was working through some problems. Then Emily said, “I understand what *you* are going through. I went through it with Brian.”

I was stunned. For the past three years, Steve had struggled with a pornography addiction we had told few people about. I didn’t know Emily knew about it or that her husband had struggled with pornography too. We talked about our experiences and found many of them to be similar.

At the end of our conversation, Emily informed me that counsel and assistance are readily available for those who struggle with a pornography addiction, but relatively little

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM MY
HUSBAND’S ADDICTION TO PORNOGRAPHY

WIVES

It comforts me to know that although I feel weak, my earnest efforts to reach out to the Savior and receive His influence and power in my life will be rewarded.

help is available for those closest to them, particularly spouses and other family members. How can the broken hearts of those whom Jacob calls the “tender wives” (Jacob 2:35) be healed?

To help others who are experiencing situations similar to mine, I want to share some of what I’ve learned. Some of these things I’ve gained from my own experiences, while others are based on my observations of people around me. Although every situation is different, these principles have helped me cope with and manage my own pain.

Stay Close to the Lord

The first and most important thing I learned was to stay close to the Lord. After the prophet Jacob spoke to the Nephite men about their whoredoms, he spoke to their families, the “pure in heart.” He counseled them, “Look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith, and he will console you in your afflictions, and he will plead your cause” (Jacob 3:1). Staying

close to the Lord can help you feel the peace only the Savior can give and can allow you to recognize inspiration and guidance that will help you and your family.

Realize It Is Not Your Fault

Upon learning about a spouse’s pornography addiction, many women react by blaming themselves. They think, “If I were more attractive, or younger, or thinner, this would not have happened.” It is easy to take this problem personally, but I learned that this was not about my weaknesses or deficiencies. It was about my husband’s struggle.

I also racked my brain to see what I had done wrong in my life to deserve this. I had tried to be so diligent, so obedient growing up. I had earned awards in Primary, Young Women, and seminary. I had served faithfully in my callings. I had dated righteous young men and had been careful in my relationships. Finally, I had married an incredible returned missionary in the temple after receiving a strong confirmation from the Lord that Steve would help me become the type of person I wanted to be. Soon after our marriage, we started our family. And then I learned about Steve’s addiction. What had I done wrong? I now know the answer is “nothing.”

I came to realize that those good things in my life had brought me to a place where I could be strong and have the Spirit guide me. This trial was neither a punishment nor the result of my mistake but rather an invitation to grow. That I am in this situation is not the tragedy. The tragedy would be for me to suffer needlessly and not use this opportunity to draw closer to the Savior, to become purified in the refiner’s fire. Looking back on



all I've learned and the person I've become, I am grateful. I am much more empathetic, less inclined to judge, and more confident in God's love and in my value as a person. What great gifts these are!

It is also important not to take your husband's problems upon yourself. This is difficult when the marriage is painful, bills are not being paid, and chaos is everywhere. You are not responsible for his behavior—good or bad. Satan's plan was to control everyone and compel them to be righteous. Allow your spouse to use his agency, yet set boundaries about how you and your children will be treated.

See the Eternal Identity of Your Spouse

When my husband first confessed to me—just one month after our first child was

born—I felt incredibly hurt and betrayed. The consequences of one curious look had changed our lives.

While I appreciated Steve's honesty about his behavior, I couldn't help but feel disgusted by him. As the addiction reached its worst, Steve's personality changed. He became like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, though it seemed that most of the time he was Mr. Hyde. The smartest, kindest, funniest, most faithful, and most considerate man I had ever known—my hero—became cynical, sarcastic, rude, manipulative, and suicidal. He was at his worst on Sundays, being mad at God and mocking things that were important to me.

Steve was unable to financially support our family. He was unable to feel or express love and eventually became unable to nurture relationships. This man with many friends suddenly had none. He continually found fault with me.

My self-esteem was shattered, not only because of the addiction itself but also because suddenly in my husband's eyes, everything was wrong with me. It took a long time, but I eventually learned that Heavenly Father—not my husband—was the source of the love and acceptance I needed (although it was wonderful when Steve did offer it). As I learned to respect myself and accept the love of God, I was able to set standards about how I would be treated. I did not believe the negative comments that formerly had crushed me, and I firmly expressed my feelings and established boundaries about my husband's behavior.

Even through all of this, I was blessed to be able to see who Steve really was. Somehow I was able to see him as someone



A BRIGHT DAWN

"My heart grieves for the many sorrows some of you face, for the painful loneliness and wearisome fears you may be experiencing.

"Nevertheless, I bear witness that our living hope is in Christ Jesus! . . .

". . . Even after the darkest night, the Savior of the world will lead you to a gradual, sweet, and bright dawn that will assuredly rise within you."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Hope of God's Light," *Ensign*, May 2013, 77.

It is easy to take this problem personally, but I learned that this was not about my weaknesses or deficiencies. It was about my husband's struggle.

with so much value, so much strength, so much good—someone with an important mission on earth. Someone who was struggling, yes, but someone who was also priceless. I felt the love of Heavenly Father for Steve and for me.

I also realized that the Savior loved Steve more than I did, wanted Steve to repent more than I did, and knew more than I did with my limited mortal vision. I needed to stop analyzing the heart-numbing what-ifs and simply trust the Savior.

Seek to Forgive Your Spouse

For some, it can be easy to confuse forgiveness with trust. Trust is earned based on behavior, but forgiveness is something we're commanded to do (see D&C 64:10). Even so, it is hard to forgive someone who has offended you in such a personal way. When my cousin Emily learned of her husband's behavior, she found herself hating him. She felt unable to be emotionally close to him—even years after her husband had repented.

She told me that she was also unable to feel the Spirit and that she constantly relived Brian's actions in her mind. Finally, absolutely miserable, she opened up to her mother and told her everything. Her mother listened and then wisely reminded Emily of the parable of the unmerciful debtor (see Matthew 18:23–35). She asked Emily how she could expect Heavenly Father to guide her, give her His Spirit, and forgive her when she could not forgive Brian. This caused Emily to reconsider some things. She has since received help in forgiving Brian, and their marriage is better than ever.

Take Care of Yourself

Both Emily and I suffered from stomach problems due to the stress of our situations—and of feeling that we weren't able to tell anyone about them. Such personal situations are not easy to talk about and certainly should not be spread around, but it is crucial to find someone you can trust, someone who will support you, someone who will help you see things objectively. I received untold measures of peace and strength from friends and family who let me cry and talk to them anytime and who prayed for my family and me.

You may or may not choose to tell family members and friends. As you explore possible resources of help, you might consider your bishop, professional counselors, LDS Family Services' Addiction Recovery Program, or community groups. But it is important to find someone in whom you can confide. Even if finances are tight or nonexistent, find some help. Obtaining it for yourself is just as important as finding help for your spouse.

Many women who are struggling with this challenge grow depressed, lose interest in friends and hobbies, and suffer from low self-esteem. Stay close to the Spirit to remember your eternal identity. Continue to be your best self, associate with people, exercise, participate in your favorite activities, and try new things. Even though there are days when it is hard to get out of bed (let alone to smile), staying healthy physically, spiritually, and emotionally will be among the best things you can do to find internal joy and peace and to share them with your family.

Move Forward with Faith

My husband and I are not at the end of this long road. The way has been unimaginably painful and sometimes even hellish, but the scriptures have comforted me.

At times I have felt like the woman with an issue of blood who desired to gain healing from the Savior. It strengthens me to remember her conviction that by merely touching the Savior's robe, she would be healed. (See Mark 5:25–34.) It comforts me to know that although I feel weak, my earnest efforts to reach out to the Savior and receive His influence and power in my life will be rewarded.

In my darkest days, when I didn't know if my husband could find his way to the Atonement, I took comfort from the story of the man with the palsy whose friends carried him to the Savior and lowered their sick friend into the home from the roof so Jesus could heal him (see Mark 2:1–12). I also remembered Alma the Younger, who in his youth apparently had no intention of repenting yet whose family continued to pray for him (see Mosiah 27:14). These two men found their way to repentance, healing, and happiness because of the faith of their family members and friends.

Whether your loved one wants to change or not, whether you have to make drastic changes in your family or not, never give up your faith and never give up your prayers offered for your family. Remember that the Savior is able to heal even the worst maladies, both physical and spiritual. As President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) taught,

“The greatest miracles I see today are not necessarily the healing of sick bodies, but the greatest miracles I see are the healing of sick souls.”¹

One day, after many years of struggle related to my husband's addiction, I was at the temple, sitting in the chapel and thanking God in my heart for the progress our family had made. The organist was playing “Abide with Me; 'Tis Eventide.”² As I reviewed the words of the chorus in my mind, “O Savior, stay this night with me,” my eyes filled with tears. The Savior had been with me through the dark night. Now, several years later, it is hard to remember the pain and almost impossible to feel it. It is hard to remember all the days when it seemed impossible to put a smile on my face for my children. I don't remember all the awful things my husband said or did. I don't remember the persistent pain in my stomach. But I do remember what Alma taught about the Savior: “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” (Alma 7:12).

I know that hope and healing can be found in the Savior. He can make our burdens light, still the winds and the waves in our lives, and bring peace and joy to our hearts. ■

NOTES

1. Harold B. Lee, “Stand Ye in Holy Places,” *Ensign*, July 1973, 123.
2. “Abide with Me; 'Tis Eventide,” *Hymns*, no. 165.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

What help is available for those addicted to pornography and for their families?

The Church offers support groups, sponsored by LDS Family Services, for those addicted to pornography as well as for their spouses and others who might be affected. To find out more, visit ldsfamilyservices.org or contact the LDS Family Services office nearest you. Another resource is the Church's new website overcomingpornography.org.

POWDERED MILK, BUDGETS, AND Blessings

Our financial situation forced us to restrict our budget—and our effort at provident living had an astonishing effect.

By Susie Boyce Angerbauer

Growing up in a home with seven siblings, I was used to living on a tight budget. Our parents taught us the value of hard work and frugality at a young age. They had all kinds of creative ways to save money and live within their means.

At a very young age, my siblings and I started delivering newspapers. The money we earned from our paper routes and then from later jobs was divided up into three categories: tithing, savings (half of our earnings), and spending. We grew up on powdered milk, homemade wheat bread, and lovingly prepared home-cooked meals. I have few memories of clothes shopping and remember my excitement when a kind neighbor or ward member dropped off bags of clothing they no longer needed. Working hard for what we had and coming up with tricks to disguise the taste of that powdered milk was not a lot of fun as kids, but that was how it was in our family.

My parents gave each of us an invaluable gift: the knowledge, skills, and real-world experience to live providently.

Raising My Own Family

My husband's career took our family on an entirely different financial path than what I was familiar with growing up. His paychecks brought in more than enough to meet not only our needs but most of our wants as well. We recognized the responsibility we had to be good stewards, so we were committed to managing our resources wisely. We instituted many practices I was taught in my parents' home, such as saving a good portion of our income, carefully evaluating purchases, always living within our means, and not over-indulging our children with too many toys and gadgets.

However, I admit it was often much easier for me as a tired, busy mom to go to a restaurant than it was to make a meal at home. We regularly took vacations, both big and small. I spent more time in stores than my mom ever had while raising us. And it was fun to have the financial flexibility to make discretionary purchases for our home and yard.

Despite our best efforts to manage our finances well, we began to detect a certain attitude in our children that was unsettling. They began to feel entitled in many ways. I found myself wishing for bags of clothing to be dropped off on our porch



My husband's paychecks brought in more than enough to meet not only our needs but most of our wants as well. Despite our best efforts, our children began to feel entitled in many ways.



Our efforts to cut down our spending to only what was absolutely necessary had an astonishing effect. Since our children knew we could not afford extras, the number of complaints dramatically diminished.

instead of taking trips to the store when they outgrew clothes. Although we had done much to teach our children, we had not done enough to structure our lives so they would feel the necessity of hard work. What could we do to reverse this trend in our children?

Around this time, my husband had an opportunity to relocate for work. After much thought, prayer, and temple attendance, we decided to take a calculated risk and make the significant career change. We uprooted our family and moved to another state, only to see the economy take a plunge. Our financial expectations and goals were greatly curtailed by the financial crisis; we found ourselves completely reliant on the Lord, hard work, and our savings.

Waiting On the Lord

Our new reality was difficult. Despite my best efforts to have an optimistic attitude, I struggled with anxiety, depression, and anger. I spent much time on my knees and in the temple, but I seemed to be getting nowhere. I knew that the Lord loved us and would not direct us down a path that wasn't in our eternal best interest, but I couldn't seem to find peace in our current situation.

It was then that I heard Elder Robert D. Hales's general conference talk "Becoming Provident Providers Temporally and Spiritually." The truth of his message penetrated my soul and moved me to tears. His talk opened my understanding and helped me see our situation in a new light. Elder Hales stated, "To provide providently, we must practice the principles of provident living: joyfully living within our means [and] being content with what we have."¹ I realized the Lord was retraining us to live providently, showing us the blessings and benefits from so doing and helping us experience joy along the way.

As this shift in my thinking occurred, I was able to look beyond worldly standards of wealth and recognize the spiritual growth our family had undergone. During our financial trials, we had been relying on the Lord more than ever before. My husband and I worshipped more often in the temple, which brought us closer together as a couple and helped us humbly place our lives and circumstances in the Lord's loving hands.

Our children were praying for specific family needs in their individual prayers, resulting in several faith-promoting experiences. I witnessed them fasting with

a purpose and saw their faith increase when the results were nothing short of miraculous. For example, they were delighted when they found that gift cards to the grocery store had been dropped off at our house. And on the very day that my husband needed specialized financial advice, our home teacher showed up at his work and said, "I had a feeling that I needed to come see you." Unbeknownst to us, his unique professional background put him in the perfect position to answer my husband's questions, thus steering us in a favorable financial direction.

Living Happily within Our Means

Our efforts to cut down our spending to only what was absolutely necessary had an astonishing effect. Since the children knew we could not afford extras, the number of complaints, requests, and whines dramatically diminished. Conversely, genuine gratitude for the occasional special treat increased. Almost eliminating restaurant food helped us eat healthier and spend quality time around the dinner table. Out of financial necessity, we have been extremely selective as to what extracurricular activities the kids are involved in, resulting in a more manageable schedule and increased family time.

Upon reflection, I humbly acknowledge that the blessings our family has received are exactly what we had been praying for prior to our move, and every one of them is in the eternal best interest of our family.

I often remind myself of Elder Hales's counsel: "When faced with the choice to buy, consume, or engage in worldly things and activities, we all need to learn to say to one another, 'We *can't* afford it, even though we want it!' or 'We *can* afford it, but we don't *need* it—and we really don't even want it!'"² Our experiences have taught us that living providently blesses our lives regardless of financial circumstance. In the past we had been forgoing important blessings by not fully understanding and implementing this principle.

Our financial future remains uncertain, yet I am content to wait on the Lord. When our situation changes, I know we will be able to look at our children with the confidence born of experience and say, "We can afford it, but we *really don't even want it!*" ■

The author lives in Texas, USA.

NOTES

1. Robert D. Hales, "Becoming Provident Providers Temporally and Spiritually," *Ensign*, May 2009, 8.
2. Robert D. Hales, "Becoming Provident Providers," 9.

The Olive

Studying this versatile fruit can yield many insights into our Savior's sacrifice.

Mediterranean Olive Trees

Plant name: *Olea europaea*

Plant type: evergreen, angiosperm (flowering)

Propagation: from softwood cuttings or seeds

Process for extracting oil: cleaning, crushing, and pressing

Facts about Olives

- Olive trees can live a very long time. Some olive trees in the Near East are thought to be more than 2,000 years old.
- If an olive tree is chopped down, it does not die, but new shoots come up from the roots.
- Olive trees keep their leaves all year round.
- Olive oil was used anciently for lamp oil, cooking oil, food, soap, religious ceremonies, and ointment for treating wounds.

“Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.” **Matthew 26:36.**

Example of an Olive Press

AXIS

CRUSHING STONE

HANDLE

GROOVE

CRUSHING BASIN



What We Can Learn

SYMBOLS OF THE ATONEMENT



“Olive trees are special in the Holy Land. The olive branch is universally regarded as a symbol of peace. This tree provides food, light, heat, lumber, ointments, and medicine. It is now, as it was then, crucial to life in Israel. It is not a deciduous tree, but everbearing—always green. Even if the

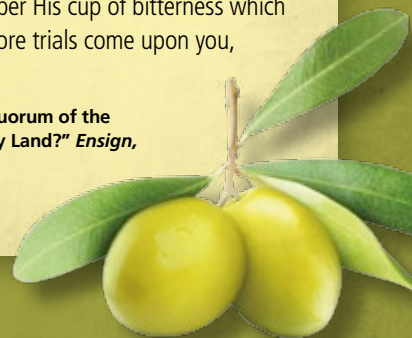
tree is chopped down, life will spring from its roots, suggesting everlasting life. Jewish tradition often refers to the olive tree as the tree of life. To me it seems to prefigure the Resurrection.

“Jesus came to the base of the Mount of Olives to effect the first component of the Atonement. This He did at the Garden of Gethsemane. The word *Gethsemane* comes from two Hebrew roots: *gath*, meaning ‘press,’ and *shemen*, meaning ‘oil,’ especially that of the olive.

“There olives had been pressed under the weight of great stone wheels to squeeze precious oil from the olives. So the Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane was literally pressed under the weight of the sins of the world. He sweated great drops of blood—His life’s ‘oil’—which issued from every pore. (See Luke 22:44; D&C 19:18.)

“... Remember, just as the body of the olive, which was pressed for the oil that gave light, so the Savior was pressed. From every pore oozed the lifeblood of our Redeemer. Throughout the joyous days of your mission, when your cup of gladness runs over, remember His cup of bitterness which made it possible. And when sore trials come upon you, remember Gethsemane.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Why This Holy Land?” *Ensign*, Dec. 1989, 17–18.



WORKING FOR THE LORD

My husband, Cyrus, and I were married in the temple on May 23, 2006. Before we were married, his work in a laboratory required Cyrus to work on Sundays. He had a shifting schedule, but he usually worked from midnight to 8:00 a.m. After work he would go home to change from his uniform to Sunday dress and then go straight to church, which started at 9:00 a.m. He continued this schedule after we were married.

Sometimes I went to church alone because he was delayed at work. We always wished he didn't have to work on the Sabbath. On the first Sunday of June 2006, we had our first fast as a married couple. We prayed in faith that Cyrus would be blessed with a job that would not require him to work on Sundays.

A few days later at about 10:00 a.m., I wondered where Cyrus was because he usually came home between 8:00

and 9:00 a.m. Suddenly a thought came to me: "He might be promoted." Cyrus finally arrived around 11:00 a.m. As he entered our home, he said he had good news and bad news.

I told him to tell me the bad news first. He said we would soon leave Iligan, Philippines, and move to Panay, Philippines. I did not like the news at first because we loved the people in our stake. They were kind to us and treated us as their own, knowing that Cyrus and I had no family nearby.

When I asked him why we needed to move to Panay, he said it was because of the good news. His boss had interviewed him for another job located in Panay. I immediately asked him not about his salary but whether the job would require him to work on Sundays. When he answered, "No!" I was very happy. I hugged him and told him that his new job was the answer to our prayers and fasting. Two months later, Cyrus started his work in Panay.

Heavenly Father is mindful of us, and He blesses us when we exercise faith and obey His commandments. I am grateful for the principles of prayer and fasting. My husband's job is a blessing to us. Now he has time to magnify his calling in our ward, and the only work he does on Sunday is the Lord's work. ■

Mary Jane Lumibao Suya, Philippines

Sometimes I went to church alone because my husband was delayed at work. We always wished he didn't have to work on the Sabbath.



A FOREVER FAMILY

When I was 19, I made one last visit to my grandparents before leaving on a three-month humanitarian trip to Ecuador. My grandfather had moved to an assisted-living center because his health was declining. He suffered from dementia along with other physical ailments incident to old age.

As my family and I entered the assisted-living facility, I was sullen, knowing that this visit with my grandfather would most likely be my last. I knew he would pass away while I was gone, and I felt guilty leaving.

Just before we entered his room, a staff member had transferred my grandfather to a wheelchair. We wheeled him into the facility's common area. My mother was talking to one of the staff members while my 16-year-old sister and I talked to our grandfather.

He was not himself. The decline in his mental state was evident, and he seemed confused. When we asked him how many grandchildren he had, he answered incorrectly. Then we lovingly teased him as we made a big deal about how many he actually had.

My heart ached for him. But then, amid his confusion and in the middle of answering our questions inaccurately, my grandfather suddenly said, "A forever family."

I was shocked. A nearby staff member didn't understand what he had said, but my sister and I looked

at each other. We had both heard him clearly. He then repeated a second time, "A forever family." This time our mother also heard him.

I don't recall anything else about our visit that day. All I know is that as we walked out of the care center, I sobbed with sorrow and joy—sorrow for the man we were leaving behind and whom I would not see again in this life and joy for the tender mercy of those simple words and the peace they left in my heart.

I know that despite my grandfather's state of mind, he was able to share one last time his strong conviction and knowledge that families are forever.

I soon left on my humanitarian trip. When news came of my grandfather's passing a week before my return, I was at peace. I knew, and I still know, that one day I will see him again. Thanks to temple ordinances, families are forever. ■

Kellee H. Mudrow, Utah, USA



My grandfather was not himself. The decline in his mental state was evident, and he seemed confused.

YOU CAN'T COME UP HERE

My husband, John, was a big man. He stood six feet four inches (1.9 m) tall and weighed more than 200 pounds (90.9 kg). For him, air travel in economy class was uncomfortable at best, painful at worst.

In August 2006 we were called to serve a Church educational service mission at Brigham Young University–Hawaii. When it came time to return home, we were dreading what he would have to endure in the flight back to the mainland. During check-in

we were delighted to find that there was *one* seat available in first class, so we upgraded his ticket. He would be able to sit in a comfortable seat with plenty of room for his long legs.

About midway through the flight, I decided to go see how he was doing. As I approached the first-class area, a flight attendant stood in the doorway to stop me.

“Can I help you?” she asked.

“Yes, I would like to see my husband for a moment,” I replied.

“I’m sorry,” she said pleasantly but firmly, “you can’t come up here.”

“But he’s my husband, and I just want to see him for a minute.”

Still barring the door, she again stated, “I’m sorry, but you are not allowed up here. I can give your husband a message, and if he would like to, he can come visit you. But the policy is that only first-class passengers can be in this area.”

I was taken aback for a moment, but seeing her persistence, I quietly returned to my seat in economy class.

I began to think about the three degrees of glory mentioned in the scriptures and by the prophets. We read that Christ will visit those in the terrestrial kingdom (see D&C 76:77), and administering angels will visit those in the telestial kingdom (see D&C 76:88), but those who are in the lesser kingdoms can never go up to the celestial kingdom (see D&C 76:112; see also D&C 88:22–24). Reflecting upon my experience, I felt that I just had a glimpse of what it might be like for those in the lower kingdoms. How would they feel upon hearing the words “I’m sorry, you can’t come up here”?

About five months later my husband passed away from cancer. My experience on the airplane gives me extra incentive to live so that I never have to hear those words again—at least not on the other side of the veil. ■

Bonnie Marshall, Utah, USA

As I approached the first-class area, a flight attendant stood in the doorway to stop me.



HAPPINESS HAS NO PRICE

Recently I went to the bank to withdraw some money to pay my employees. Before the teller gave me my withdrawal, I asked him to change some 200-sol bills for some 50-sol bills. The teller changed the money for me, but I thought I saw him make a mistake as he counted the bills.

He gave me my 50-sol bills, and I stepped back to wait for my withdrawal. As I waited, I counted the money. I had given the teller 1,200 soles, but he gave me 2,200 soles in return—an extra thousand soles. At that moment I was tempted. I told myself that the bank had plenty of money. But I knew in my heart that

the money wasn't mine; I had to return it.

A few moments later the teller called me to complete my transaction. He counted my withdrawal, and as he handed me the money, he asked, "Anything else?"

"Yes," I told him. "I gave you 1,200 soles to change into smaller bills, but you gave me 2,200 in return."

I then handed him the 2,200 soles. With hands shaking, he counted the money twice. He could hardly believe what he saw. He looked at me and tried to speak, but he could only manage to utter twice, "Thank you so much."

I left the bank happy. That week I was preparing a lesson for the young men in my ward on overcoming temptation. It was wonderful to be able to share with them my experience at the bank.

"You've got to be kidding," some of them joked. "That was a thousand soles you gave back!"

"Happiness has no price," I responded with a smile.

How grateful I am for this experience, which strengthened both my testimony and the testimonies of the young men regarding the importance of withstanding temptation. ■

Abelino Grandez Castro, Peru

The bank teller gave me 2,200 soles—an extra thousand soles. At that moment I was tempted to keep the difference.



NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Visit news.lds.org for more Church news and events.

New Mission Presidents Called to Serve

The Church has called the following new mission presidents, who will begin serving in their assigned areas this month.

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Alabama Birmingham	Richard D. Hanks
Angola Luanda	Danny L. Merrill
Argentina Buenos Aires North	David S. Ayre
Argentina Buenos Aires South	Larry L. Thurgood
Argentina Comodoro Rivadavia	Mark F. Rogers
Argentina Córdoba	Rubén V. Alliaud
Argentina Posadas	Lee R. LaPierre
Arizona Gilbert	K. Brett Nattress
Arizona Mesa	Kirk L. Jenkins
Arizona Scottsdale	Karl R. Sweeney
Arizona Tempe	James L. Toone
Armenia Yerevan	J. Steven Carlson
Australia Brisbane	Lon E. Henderson
Australia Melbourne	Cory H. Maxwell
Australia Sydney North	Philip F. Howes
Australia Sydney South	Larry J. Lew
Bolivia La Paz	Julián A. Palacio
Bolivia Santa Cruz	Jason A. Willard
Bolivia Santa Cruz North	Richard C. Zambrano
Botswana Gaborone	Merrill A. Wilson
Brazil Curitiba	Anderson M. Monteiro
Brazil Curitiba South	Leonel R. Fernandes
Brazil Fortaleza East	Carlos Fusco
Brazil Goiânia	David Kuceki
Brazil João Pessoa	Izaías P. Nogueira
Brazil Juiz de Fora	Luciano Cascardi
Brazil Londrina	C. Alberto de Genaro
Brazil Natal	Saulo Soares

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Brazil Piracicaba	Kennedy F. Canuto
Brazil Ribeirão Preto	Mauro T. Brum
Brazil Santa Maria	Adalton P. Parrela
Brazil Santos	Celso B. Cabral
Brazil São Paulo West	José Luiz Del Guerso
California Bakersfield	James M. Wilson
California Carlsbad	Hal C. Kendrick
California Irvine	Von D. Orgill
California Long Beach	Ryan M. Tew
California Los Angeles	David N. Weidman
California Rancho Cucamonga	Bruce E. Hobbs
California Redlands	Daniel J. Van Cott
Canada Edmonton	Larry G. Manion
Canada Montreal	Victor P. Patrick
Chile Antofagasta	Craig L. Dalton
Chile Concepción	Kent J. Arrington
Chile Rancagua	Thomas R. Warne
Chile Santiago South	David L. Cook
Chile Santiago West	José A. Barreiros
Colombia Barranquilla	Kent R. Searle
Colorado Denver South	J. Blake Murdock
Colorado Fort Collins	Kelly W. Brown
Czech/Slovak	James W. McConkie III
Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa	W. Bryce Cook
Ecuador Guayaquil South	Maximo C. Torres
Ecuador Guayaquil West	Jorge Dennis
Ecuador Quito North	Brian A. Richardson
El Salvador San Salvador East	David L. Glazier
El Salvador San Salvador West/Belize	Kai D. Hintze
England Leeds	Graham Pilkington
Florida Jacksonville	Paul W. Craig
Florida Orlando	Michael J. Berry
Florida Tallahassee	Bradley J. Smith
Florida Tampa	Mark D. Cusick
Georgia Macon	Brent T. Cottle

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Ghana Accra West	Norman C. Hill
Guatemala Cobán	John F. Curtiss
Guatemala Retalhuleu	Johnny F. Ruiz
Hawaii Honolulu	Stephen R. Warner
Honduras San Pedro Sula East	Norman S. Klein
Honduras San Pedro Sula West	James M. Dester
Idaho Boise	John Winder
Idaho Nampa	Stuart B. Cannon
Idaho Twin Falls	Glen R. Curtis
Illinois Chicago	Paul S. Woodbury
Illinois Chicago West	Jerry D. Fenn
India Bangalore	David M. Berrett
Indiana Indianapolis	Steven C. Cleveland
Indonesia Jakarta	Christopher L. Donald
Iowa Des Moines	John R. Jensen
Italy Milan	Bruce L. Dibb
Italy Rome	Michael Waddoups
Jamaica Kingston	Kevin G. Brown
Japan Nagoya	Kazuhiko Yamashita
Japan Tokyo South	Takashi Wada
Kansas Wichita	Michael L. Bell
Kenya Nairobi	Gary C. Hicken
Korea Daejeon	Yong-In S. Shin
Korea Seoul South	Marshall R. Morrise
Liberia Monrovia	Roger L. Kirkham
Marshall Islands Majuro	Thomas L. Weir
Mexico Aguascalientes	Juan Villarreal
Mexico Cancún	Dale B. Kirkham Jr.
Mexico Chihuahua	Ulises Chávez
Mexico Ciudad Juárez	Rodolfo Derbez
Mexico Ciudad Obregón	Mauricio Munive
Mexico Culiacán	Jesús Velez
Mexico Mérida	Sergio A. Garcia
Mexico Mexico City Chalco	Jerald D. Crickmore
Mexico Mexico City East	Sergio M. Anaya
Mexico Mexico City Northwest	Brad H Hall
Mexico Mexico City West	George F. Whitehead

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Mexico Monterrey East	Larry C. Bird
Mexico Pachuca	Andrew E. Egbert
Mexico Querétaro	Javier L. Mejorada
Mexico Reynosa	Abelardo Morales
Mexico Saltillo	L. Fernando Rodriguez
Mexico Villahermosa	Israel G. Morales
Michigan Detroit	Nolan D. Gerber
Missouri St. Louis	Thomas W. Morgan
Mongolia Ulaanbaatar	Joseph P. Benson
Nevada Las Vegas West	Michael B. Ahlander
New Hampshire Manchester	Philip M. Stoker
New Mexico Albuquerque	Steven J. Miller
New York Rochester	Arthur R. Francis
New Zealand Hamilton	Charles A. Rudd
Nicaragua Managua North	Monsop Collado
Nicaragua Managua South	Bryan G. Russell
Nigeria Benin City	Akingbade A. Ojo
Nigeria Enugu	Freebody A. Mensah
Nigeria Lagos	Richard K. Ahadjie
Ohio Cincinnati	John P. Porter
Oklahoma Oklahoma City	Stewart R. Walkenhorst
Oregon Salem	Michael R. Samuelian
Panama Panama City	Curtis Carmack
Papua New Guinea Lae	Mark P. Peteru
Paraguay Asunción North	Garn H. McMullin
Pennsylvania Philadelphia	T. Gary Anderson
Peru Arequipa	Richard Zobrist
Peru Cusco	Robert C. Harbertson
Peru Huancayo	David Y. Henderson
Peru Iquitos	Alejandro Gómez
Peru Lima North	John R. Erickson
Peru Lima West	Blake D. Archibald
Peru Trujillo	D. Kurt Marler
Philippines Baguio	Anthony John Balledos
Philippines Butuan	Pastor B. Torres
Philippines Cagayan de Oro	Alberto C. Bulseco
Philippines Cauayan	George R. Rahlf

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Philippines Cavite	Douglas C. Tye
Philippines Cebu East	Richard L. Tanner
Philippines Iloilo	Jaime R. Aquino
Philippines Legaspi	Jovencio A. Guanzon
Philippines Naga	L. Barry Reeder
Philippines Quezon City	Carlos Revillo
Philippines Urdaneta	William J. Monahan
Poland Warsaw	Steven C. Edgren
Puerto Rico San Juan	P. Knox Smartt III
Russia Moscow	Garry E. Borders
Russia Samara	Michael L. Schwab
Russia Yekaterinburg	Val J. Christensen
Sierra Leone Freetown	David B. Ostler
South Africa Durban	John A. Zackrison
Taiwan Taichung	Kurt L. Blickenstaff
Texas Fort Worth	Rodney A. Ames
Texas McAllen	Fernando Maluenda
Texas San Antonio	James E. Slaughter
Tonga Nuku'alofa	Leitoni M. Tupou
Uganda Kampala	Robert F. Chatfield
Ukraine L'viv	Daniel E. Lattin
Uruguay Montevideo West	Thomas A. Smith
Utah Salt Lake City	Stephen W. Hansen
Utah Salt Lake City East	John C. Eberhardt
Utah Salt Lake City South	Robert E. Chambers
Utah St. George	John R. Center
Venezuela Valencia	Guillermo I. Guardia
Virginia Chesapeake	Alan J. Baker
Virginia Richmond	E. Bradley Wilson
Washington DC North	Peter S. Cooke
Washington Everett	Mark Bonham
Washington Federal Way	Robert I. Eaton
Washington Kennewick	Boyd S. Ware
Washington Seattle	Yoon Hwan Choi
Washington Vancouver	Derlin C. Taylor
Wisconsin Milwaukee	Raymond A. Cutler
Zambia Lusaka	Leif J. Erickson

Elder Cook Addresses Members and Investigators in Ivory Coast

By R. Scott Lloyd

Church News

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles traveled to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), in February 2013. During the visit he presided at a priesthood leadership conference, held a special meeting with members and investigators, and visited key government officials.

Elder Cook was accompanied on the trip by Elder L. Whitney Clayton of the Presidency of the Seventy; Elder John B. Dickson of the Seventy, President of the Africa West Area; and Elder Joseph W. Sitati of the Seventy, First Counselor in the Africa West Area Presidency.

Total attendance at the priesthood leadership conference and the member and investigator meeting was 9,693, which included 619 investigators. Many members sacrificed greatly to attend. Virginie Oulai Tongo of the Meagui Branch, Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan Mission, said her family saved their money to come and see an Apostle. "We traveled for 12 hours, but I am happy," she said.

Many who attended the conference reported on the remarkable richness of the Spirit they enjoyed. Bishop Leon Kouadio of the Dokui Ward, Cocody Stake, said, "I know that we had the presence of a distinguished servant of our Savior among us."

Church membership in Cote d'Ivoire has grown from one family in 1984 to five stakes and one district today.

In recent years the Ivorian Saints' faithfulness has been particularly manifest in their family history and temple work. Three of the five Cote d'Ivoire stakes are among the top 25 in the Church in the percentage of adults who



Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, at right, speaks to thousands gathered in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in February.

submitted family names for temple ordinances during 2012. Of all the stakes in the Church, the Cocody Stake has the highest percentage of adults who have, at one time or another, submitted names for temple work.

The youth are doing their part too. The percentage of Ivorian young people doing indexing work is more than twice as high as the Church average, in spite of the fact that virtually none of them have personal access to a computer and the Internet but must go to a stake family history center to do the work.

Members have been taught that family history work is an essential part of living the gospel. They work hard to have family names ready before they board the bus for the long ride to the Accra Ghana Temple—and typically take not just a few names, but many.

Elder Cook and Elder Clayton encouraged the Saints to move forward in four main areas: increasing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, strengthening their families, actively sharing the gospel with others, and continuing their incredible family history and temple work efforts. ■

Recent Passing of Frances J. Monson

The first day I saw Frances, I knew I'd found the right one," said President Thomas S. Monson in describing their courtship.¹ That knowledge was confirmed over and over during Frances Beverly Johnson Monson's lifetime of service with and support for her husband.

Her mortal life ended on May 17, 2013, when Sister Monson, 85, passed away peacefully of causes incident to age.

Although she never called attention to herself, Sister Monson often accompanied President Monson on visits to the elderly and to those with poor health. She was a source of strength to him when he was called as a bishop at a young age, and she served alongside him when he presided over the Canadian Mission from 1959 to 1962. Her sustaining service continued as her beloved "Tommy" was called as a General Authority and as he served in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, in the First Presidency, and as President of the Church.

"She dearly loved my father and recognized his talents and the gifts that he'd been given and took pleasure in supporting him and helping him magnify the talents that were his," said Ann Monson Dibb, their daughter.²

Born on October 27, 1927, Frances was the daughter of Franz E. Johnson and Hildur Booth Johnson. She married Thomas S. Monson in the Salt Lake Temple on October 7, 1948. She served in Relief Society and Primary callings, was a gifted musician, had a great sense of humor, and most of all loved being a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Sister Dibb described her mother as "always one to listen and to maybe just offer a few words of what she would do if she were in that same situation. . . . Her constant example . . . became the greatest influence in my



President and Sister Monson following a session of the April 2010 general conference.

life. There was never a question as to what she believed, what she would do, what she expected others to do. She exemplified what you should be as a Latter-day Saint, as a Christian."³

"I have never known Frances to complain once of my Church responsibilities," President Monson said. He described her as "a woman of quiet and profoundly powerful faith."⁴ ■

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, "Abundantly Blessed," *Ensign*, May 2008, 111.
2. Ann M. Dibb, in "Frances J. Monson, Wife of President Thomas S. Monson, Passes Away" (May 17, 2013), mormonnewsroom.org.
3. Ann M. Dibb, in "Frances Monson: Through the Eyes of Daughter, Ann Monson Dibb" (Mormon Times video, May 12, 2013), ksl.com.
4. Thomas S. Monson, quoted in Jeffrey R. Holland, "President Thomas S. Monson: In the Footsteps of the Master," supplement to the *Ensign*, June 2008, 8.

IN OTHER CHURCH MAGAZINES

THE NEW ERA



Youth, Family History, and Temple Work

Find examples of how youth can make family history and temple attendance a priority in their lives in "Family History Leads You to the

Temple" on page 16, "Capturing Your Family Stories" on page 20, and "My Summers by the Temple" on page 22.

Dating and Friendships

Once youth turn 16 and begin dating, they may wonder how to keep their relation-

Support for Sunday Lessons

As you prepare to teach youth about ordinances and covenants this month as part of the *Come, Follow Me* curriculum, be sure to read "Power in Covenants" on page 28. You'll also find supporting quotations from recent conference messages on page 33.

COMMENT

Wisdom to Live By

While serving as a docent in the Church History Museum, I met a good Protestant woman from out of state. She had been impressed by her tour of Temple Square and the Conference Center, and she cried during much of the hour I spent with her in the museum. At the end of our time together, she gave me her address, and I began to correspond with her. I also sent her a subscription to the *Ensign*. When the subscription was nearly up, she wrote and told me she was moving to another state. She said she had renewed the subscription herself and was having the magazine sent to her new address. She thanked me for sharing the *Ensign* with her and said that she found wisdom and truth to live by whenever she read it. I don't know if she'll ever join the Church, but she subscribed to the *Ensign* herself! Thanks for a great magazine.

Marilynne Linford
Utah, USA

THE FRIEND

Sharing Your Family Stories

In "The Story Rug" on page 4, Katy watches her grandmother make a cloth rug and learns some of the special stories her grandmother has to tell. Soon, Katy is making a rug and telling stories of her own. The activity in "Family Story Swap" (page 6)

encourages family members to have fun sharing stories with one another.

On the Trail

This year, children have been learning about Church history by using the "On the Trail" map on pages 24 and 25 of the January

Friend. A map showing the historical sites that will be featured in the second half of this year can be found on pages 24 and 25 of the July *Friend*.

A New Spin on FHE

Children can help organize family home



WALKING THE TRAIL OF HOPE—TOGETHER

By LaRene Porter Gaunt

Church Magazines

It was early spring in Nauvoo when I first walked the Trail of Hope. The light was golden and the shadows warm as I walked the tree-lined path. As a photographer, I was focused only on shutter speed, aperture, and the amazing light that filled my lens.

Then gradually the thoughts of my ancestors who had walked this trail began to fill my heart. First it was Jared and Cornelia with their two-year-old son. I felt the chill in the air, but that chill was nothing compared to the freezing conditions Jared and his little family had experienced during their exodus. Cornelia died somewhere between Nauvoo and Salt Lake. I imagined Jared weeping as he picked up his son and continued on.

Afraid the feeling of their presence would leave, I didn't stop photographing as tears blurred my view. Then I remembered young Sarah, who had left with her loving stepmother in the last group of Saints to leave Nauvoo. At one point, a loving Heavenly Father filled their camp with quail to feed them. Then they struggled forward with grateful hearts.

My heart began to swell with emotion; it felt as though Sarah had joined me. Jared and Cornelia with their little son were with me



In February 1846, Latter-day Saint pioneers were driven from Nauvoo.

Filled with hope that they would find peace in Zion, they walked down Parley Street—now called the Trail of Hope—and crossed the Mississippi River.

also. We walked together amid the light and shadow, past and present merging on this trail—this trail of hope, this trail of tears. In a way I can't explain, they were with me and awakened in me our shared love of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I realized that my testimony burns in me because it had burned in them—passed from generation to generation—each laying the foundation for the next. I wept with gratitude.

Soon my husband, who had been photographing elsewhere, caught up with me. I stood close to him as I told him of my experience. He, like those Nauvoo Saints, was the first in his family to believe the gospel. And he, like those who had walked this trail more than 150 years before, would not be the last to believe. His testimony and mine nurtured the testimonies that now burn in the hearts of our children, just as the testimonies of Jared and Cornelia and Sarah nurtured the testimonies of thousands of their descendants.

Forgetting about our photography, my husband and I slowly walked the rest of the Trail of Hope together, quietly remembering those who had gone before. ■

INSIGHTS



Am I a pioneer today?

“While we honor those pioneers who walked across the plains to the Salt Lake Valley, there are far more pioneers living today. They don’t push handcarts, but they are exactly the same in so many ways: They have heard the voice of the Lord through the Book of Mormon and through their personal prayers. With faith and repentance they have stepped into the waters of baptism and firmly planted their feet in the rich gospel soil. As disciples of Christ, they have been willing to sacrifice for what is right and true. And with the gift of the Holy Ghost, they are holding steady in their course toward eternal life.”

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Come unto Him,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 80.



When our belief is confirmed upon our souls by the Spirit of God,” writes Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “faith becomes a causative force in our lives, driving every thought, word, and deed heavenward. We pray with trust for strength and guidance—just as [the pioneers] did. That’s what it means to walk with faith in every footstep. It was so for our pioneer ancestors, and it must be so for us today.” See “Pioneer Faith and Fortitude—Then and Now,” page 24.