

THE ENSIGN OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • MARCH 2005

# Ensign

A photograph of a family of three—a man, a woman, and a young child—smiling and posing in front of a large, ornate temple building. The man is on the left, wearing a dark suit and tie. The woman is on the right, wearing a white top. The child is in the center, wearing a dark vest over a white shirt. To the left of the family, a flag with yellow, blue, and red horizontal stripes is visible. The temple building in the background has a prominent spire topped with a golden statue. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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Two New Apostles,  
pp. 10, 16

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**Quilting Bee, by Lynde Mott**

*This 1830s quilting bee in Kirtland, Ohio, features two sets of sisters: on the left are Sophronia and Catherine Smith and on the right are Mary and Mercy Fielding. Emma Smith is standing behind Elizabeth Ann Whitney, in the center. They are finishing up a traditional rose of Sharon appliqué quilt pattern for Mercy, who is soon to be married.*

# Ensign



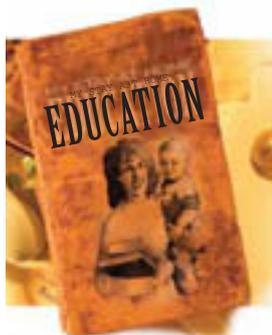
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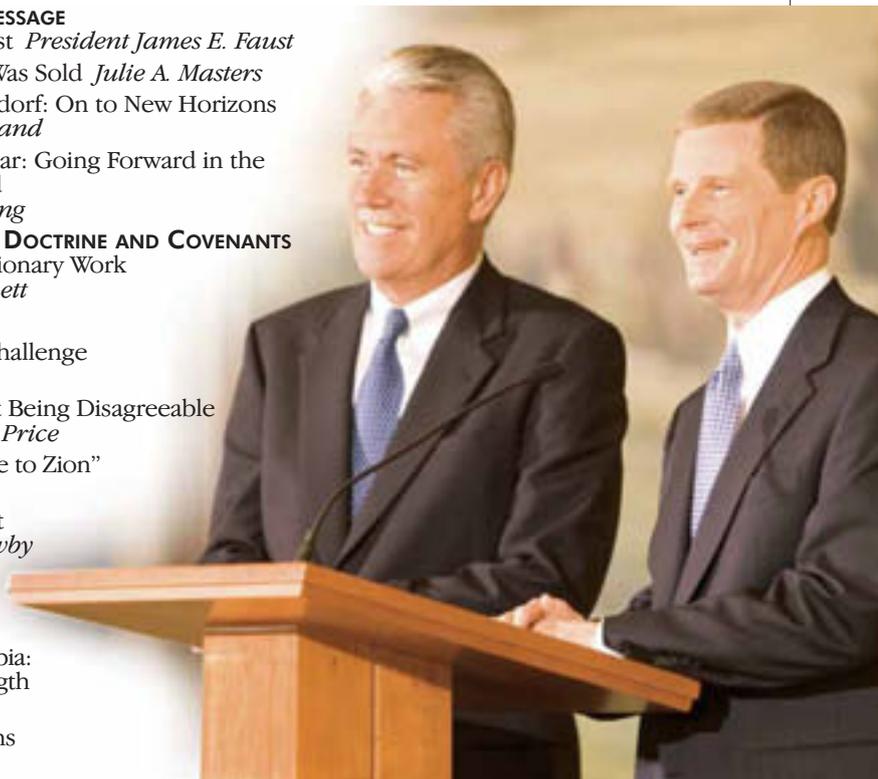


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Photography by Marvin K. Gardner

**AN OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

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# A Testimony of Christ

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Each of us has to receive our own witness concerning Jesus as the Christ. We cannot get it secondhand from someone else. I believe that a testimony of our Redeemer comes from a divine source, as a spiritual gift. As John the Baptist stated, “A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.”<sup>1</sup> Such a heaven-sent witness gives us a sacred inner peace and strength, even though we live in a world of turmoil and temptation. It gives us the power to become disciples of the Christ. As one who has sought such a witness, I would like to set my seal upon the testimony that has come to me of the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## New Testament Testimonies

Anyone who claims discipleship cannot help but have a special appreciation for the calling of the first Apostles and their testimony of His divinity. Let me begin with Peter. No one was in a better position to know than was the Apostle Peter. His story is credible—he was there. Said Peter, “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”<sup>2</sup>

In the book of John we read of some of the other early Apostles:

“Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

“And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! . . .

“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

“He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.”<sup>3</sup>

Peter frequently testified of the divinity of the Savior. At a time when many of His disciples became disaffected, Jesus said to the Twelve Apostles, “Will ye also go away?

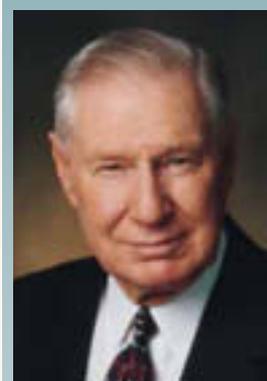
“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

“And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”<sup>4</sup>

Women who lived at the time of the Savior were also given a testimony concerning His divinity. Jesus arrived at the home of Martha and Mary four days after their brother Lazarus had died.

“Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. . . .

“Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.



*As one who has sought such a witness, I would like to set my seal upon the testimony that has come to me of the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

“Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

“And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

“She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. . . .

“And . . . he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

“And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

“Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.”<sup>5</sup>

### No Greater Testimony

We are approaching the Easter season, and there is no greater testimony of Jesus Christ than that found in the story of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. The last week of His life began in the little town of Bethany, on the far side of the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem. The Savior passed around the brow of the mount through Bethphage. Of Wednesday we have no record. Thursday night was the preparation for the Passover.

“And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. . . .

“And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:

“For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.”<sup>6</sup>

Jesus then announced the betrayal that was to come. He said, “He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

“And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then

said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

“Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him.”<sup>7</sup>

Then followed the sacrament:

“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.

“And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.

“And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.”<sup>8</sup>

After they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives, walking down through the Cedron Valley. Arriving at the first slope on the Mount of Olives, He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Then He exclaimed, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be

possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. . . .

“He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”<sup>9</sup>

“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”<sup>10</sup>

A fuller description is given in the Doctrine and Covenants: “Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink.”<sup>11</sup> His suffering was further described as “sore” and “exquisite.”<sup>12</sup>

Judas knew where to find the Savior. He had been there often with the disciples. The Savior could see the band of men and officers coming down through the gate with lanterns and torches and weapons. He could hear the armor clanking and could perhaps follow every footstep as they

**J**esus took bread, and blessed, and brake it. . . . And he took the cup, and . . . said unto them, *This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.*”

came down the hill, crossed over the little brook at the bottom of the Cedron Valley, and entered the garden.

“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

“They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

“As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. [Without question, they were overpowered by the occasion.]

“Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

“Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way. . . .

“Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him.”<sup>13</sup>

### **The Trials of Jesus**

As He was first questioned “Jesus answered . . . , I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.”<sup>14</sup> The pretrial examination took place before Caiaphas and the council. Of that hearing it is

recorded, “For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.”<sup>15</sup> And that is not uncommon in tribunals.

“But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.”<sup>16</sup>

“And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

“Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?

“Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.”<sup>17</sup>

The formal trial and condemnation are briefly recorded; the charge again was blasphemy.

“Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:

“And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go.

“Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

“Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.

“And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.”<sup>18</sup>

At the first appearance before Pilate there was a different charge, that of sedition.

“And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it.”<sup>19</sup>

“Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.”<sup>20</sup>

Following this, Jesus was taken before Herod. “And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad:



for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

“Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

“And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

“And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

“And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.”<sup>21</sup>

At the second appearance before Pilate, the Roman ruler over Judea again found Jesus innocent. Jesus was then scourged and mocked. “And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!”<sup>22</sup>

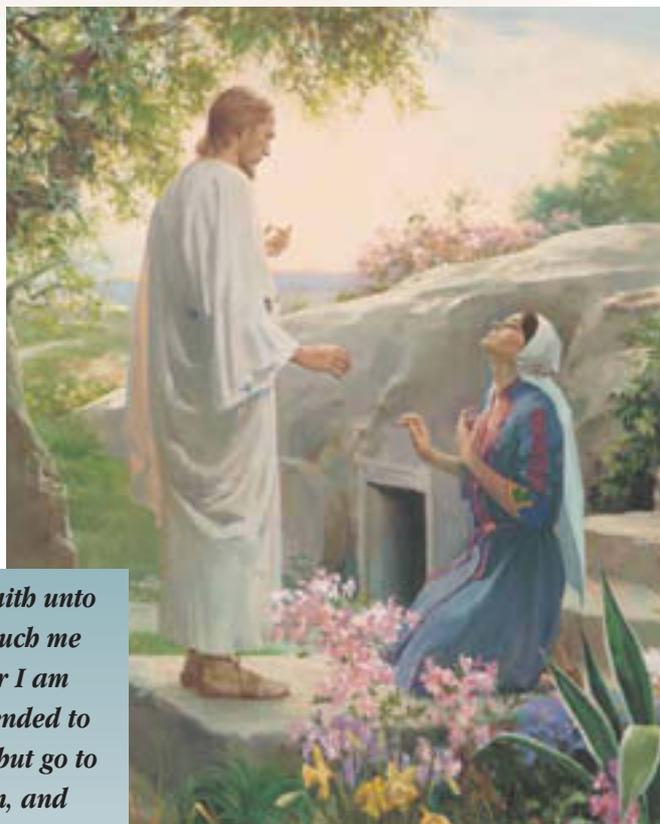
### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

Simon of Cyrene, a countryman, was compelled to carry the cross.<sup>23</sup> By this time the purple robe had been taken from Jesus and His own clothes put back on, and He was led to Golgotha—“a place of a skull”—to be crucified. Two thieves were crucified with Him, one on the right hand and one on the left, and over His head the accusation was written, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.”<sup>24</sup>

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”<sup>25</sup>

“And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

“And sitting down they watched him there.”<sup>26</sup>



THE RESURRECTION. BY HARRY ANDERSON

**J**esus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”

There was darkness from the sixth to the ninth hour. Jesus cried in Aramaic, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”<sup>27</sup>

“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”<sup>28</sup>

The Roman soldiers who were standing by received something of a testimony:

“Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.”<sup>29</sup>

John records the piercing of the side of Jesus—how the soldiers, having found that He was already dead, did not break His legs after the custom of inducing death before the Sabbath day.<sup>30</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of the Master, went to Pilate and begged for the body of Jesus.<sup>31</sup> Pilate assented. Nicodemus also came and brought about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes.<sup>32</sup> Guards were placed at the tomb.<sup>33</sup>

“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the

angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

“His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

“And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.”<sup>34</sup>

### The Resurrection of Jesus

It was now Sunday. The Jewish Sabbath had ended. Very early in the morning, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women came to the sepulchre. They saw that the stone was rolled away and the body of the Lord Jesus was gone.

“And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

“And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.”<sup>35</sup>

The women then hurried and told all these things unto the eleven Apostles. Peter and John came and saw for themselves the empty tomb. They found the linen clothes, and the napkin that was about His head was in a separate place by itself.<sup>36</sup>

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

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

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”<sup>37</sup>

The resurrected Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, in Jerusalem to Simon Peter, and to the other ten Apostles and those that were with them.<sup>38</sup>

In my capacity as a special witness, I set my seal and testimony upon these events and upon the divine calling of Jesus as our Lord, Savior, and Redeemer. I testify that He lives, that He loves us, and that this is His holy work. I testify that His are the words of eternal life. I testify that through this Church His work and His glory—to bring about the immortality and eternal life of the faithful and the obedient<sup>39</sup>—is being accomplished. ■

### NOTES

1. John 3:27.
2. 2 Peter 1:16.
3. John 1:35–36, 40–41.
4. John 6:67–69.
5. John 11:21, 23–27, 43–45.
6. Luke 22:14, 17–18.
7. John 13:26–28.
8. Mark 14:22–24.
9. Matthew 26:38–39, 42.
10. Luke 22:44.
11. D&C 19:18.
12. See D&C 19:15.
13. John 18:4–8, 12.
14. John 18:20.
15. Mark 14:56.
16. Matthew 26:63.
17. Mark 14:62–64.
18. Luke 22:67–71.
19. Mark 15:2.
20. Luke 23:4.
21. Luke 23:8–12.
22. Matthew 27:28–29.
23. See Matthew 27:32; Luke 23:26.
24. See Matthew 27:31, 33, 37–38.
25. Luke 23:34.
26. Matthew 27:35–36.
27. Matthew 27:46.
28. Luke 23:46.
29. Matthew 27:54.
30. See John 19:31–36.
31. See Matthew 27:57–58.
32. See John 19:39.
33. See Matthew 27:62–66.
34. Matthew 28:2–4.
35. Luke 24:4–6.
36. See John 20:3–7.
37. John 20:15–17.
38. See Luke 24:13–48; John 20:19–28.
39. See Moses 1:39.

## IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After prayerfully studying this message, share it using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. A few examples follow:

1. Read the first three sentences, and discuss what President Faust says about receiving a testimony of Christ. Share and discuss one or more of the stories of the disciples receiving their testimonies. Read together the final paragraph, and share your own witness of the Savior.

2. Discuss what President Faust says about Easter (see the section “No Greater Testimony”). How can focusing on the Crucifixion and the Resurrection deepen our testimonies? Encourage family members to plan meaningful ways to remember the Savior during the Easter season.

# The Day the Lamb Was Sold

BY JULIE A. MASTERS

Our family moved to Logandale, Nevada, more than eight years ago, and we have been involved with the Clark County Fair ever since. It is held each year in April, near Easter. Children can show pigs, steers, or lambs they have raised. The animals are judged on Thursday, and the auction takes place on Saturday.

I always dread the auction. I worry that one of my children will have an animal that doesn't sell. Most parents try to get someone to prebuy their child's animal. But even if your child's animal is presold, you still have to wait endlessly for his or her turn at the auction.

One of the most touching events I have ever witnessed took place at the auction three years ago. We had sat most of the day on aluminum bleachers, listening to the auctioneer's bark, the crowd's babble, and the animals' bleating, mooing, and squealing. Suddenly we heard another sound—the wind pelting a freezing rain against the building.



**T**hat's a lot  
of money  
for a lamb,"  
I thought. Then  
a most amazing  
thing happened.

Soon, in addition to parents and extended family attending the auction, we had many other people seeking shelter inside the metal livestock pavilion. They were quite surprised to find an auction taking place. Most were from the big city of Las Vegas and had never experienced a real animal auction before. They apparently found the auction entertaining, and a few even bid on animals. Of course, after the auctioneer explained that the price was per pound, the bidding slowed considerably.

Our boys' pig came up for auction, and I remember feeling quite relieved when it was sold. All I could think of was getting home, away from the people, the noise, and the smell. It was still raining outside, so while I waited for my brother-in-law to get the car, I listened involuntarily to the auctioneer as he started the bidding on lambs.

A young girl brought out her lamb, and the bidding commenced. I don't remember the exact amount, but I do remember thinking, "That's a lot of money for a lamb." Then a

most amazing thing happened. The auctioneer explained that the person who had purchased the lamb was donating it back to the little girl to be resold. He went on to explain that this little girl's father, who normally would have been there with her, was in the hospital. He had cancer, and the prognosis was not good. The family had no medical insurance, and the father was their sole support.

What happened next will burn in my mind and heart forever.

The bidding resumed, and again the lamb was sold for an unheard-of amount of money. Again the lamb was donated back to be resold. About that time my brother-in-law returned, wet and wind-blown, but I couldn't move. I told him something remarkable was happening, and though I tried, I could not stop my tears.

That lamb was sold again and again, and all those people, many of them from the city, were bidding and giving donations for that local family.

As I stood there in amazement, I couldn't help but think of another lamb—not one that was sold again and again to benefit just one family, but One who allowed Himself to be sacrificed for all of God's children. It seemed fitting that Easter was just around the corner. The Spirit bore witness to me that day of the significance of sacrifice in behalf of others and the importance of community.

Regrettably, this little girl's father did not survive. The family has since moved into our ward, and the wife of that good man bore her testimony in Relief Society one Sunday. She told us how she had been at the hospital with her dying husband when she heard of the auction. She didn't know who or how many people had donated money, but she was moved to tears when expressing her gratitude for all who cared enough to help. She was amazed at the outpouring of love and support shown to her family that stormy day at the Clark County Fair—the day the lamb was sold. ■

*Julie A. Masters is a member of the Logandale First Ward, Logandale Nevada Stake.*



# Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

*On to New Horizons*

BY ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

On December 17, 1973, the president of Lufthansa German Airlines in Frankfurt, Germany, received alarming news. Five terrorists had hijacked a Lufthansa 737 jet in Rome, Italy, and were making their way to Athens, Greece, with hostages on board. As they did so, 32 people lay dead in Rome, and one of the hostages now in flight was soon to be mortally shot and summarily dumped onto the airport runway in Athens. With guns to the heads of the pilot and copilot and with hostages trembling in terror, the unstable hijackers directed a bizarre path from Rome to Beirut to Athens to Damascus to Kuwait.

In an instant, the president of Lufthansa ordered into the air his chief pilot for the 737 fleet. Thirty-three-year-old Dieter F. Uchtdorf was to take a small group of emergency personnel and follow the hijacked plane wherever the guerrillas took it. In every setting possible he was to negotiate for the release of the plane, the pilots, and the hostages. Then, when all of this had been accomplished, he was to fly the hijacked 737 back to headquarters in Frankfurt.

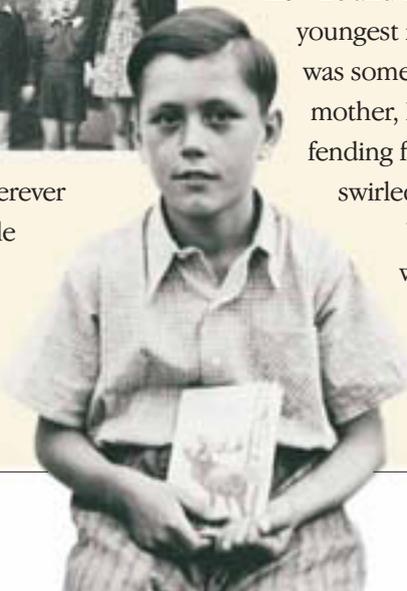


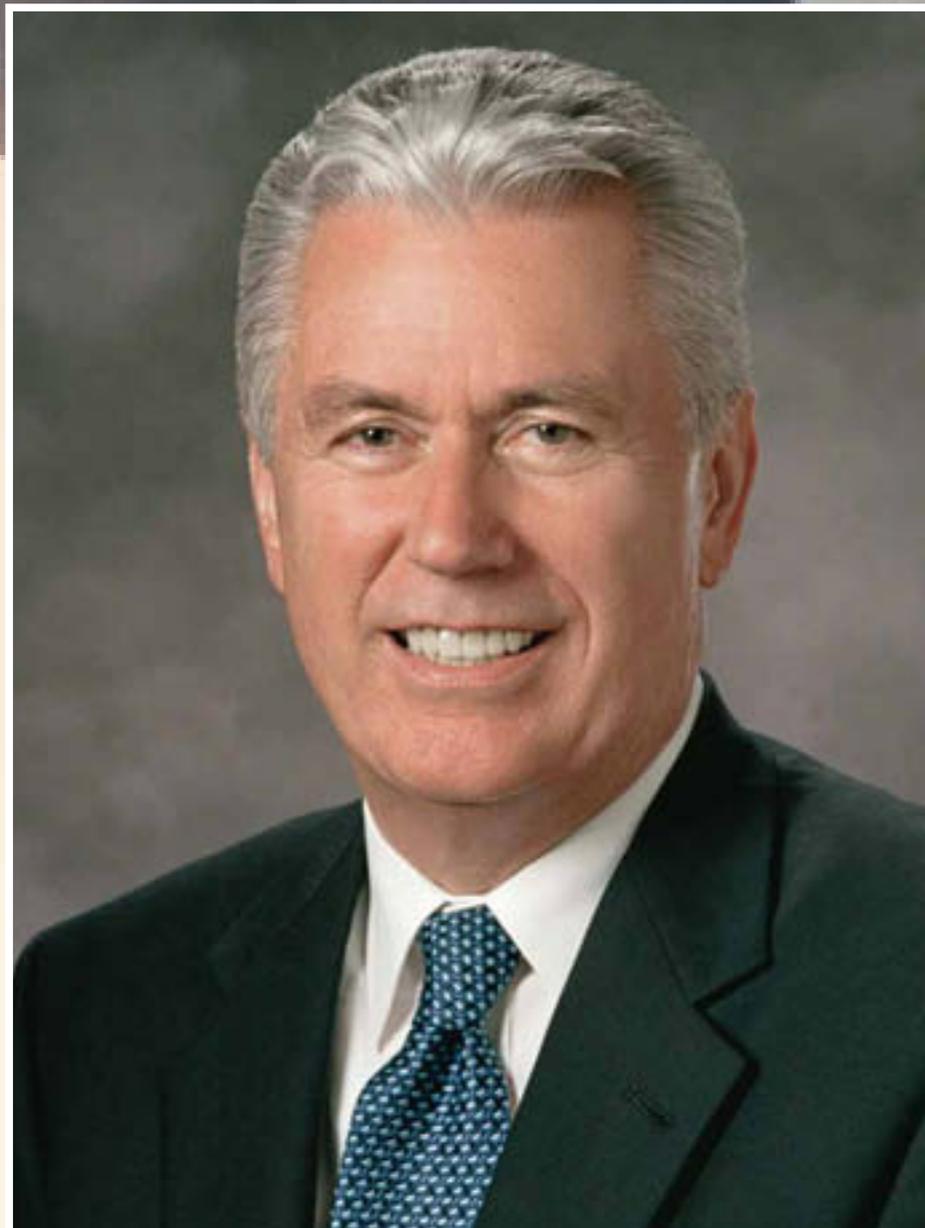
With fortunately no more bloodshed, this mission, like so many others he had been on personally and professionally, was successfully accomplished. Unknown to him at the time, it was a portent of more important missions yet to come.

## Prepared to Face Challenges

Dieter Friedrich Uchtdorf, newly called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in October 2004, has been prepared to face challenges and bear responsibilities all his life. Born in Mährisch-Ostrau, Czechoslovakia, on November 6, 1940, he was destined to see at every turn the devastation of war and the suffering innocent people endure because of the fateful decisions of others. His father, Karl Albert Uchtdorf, was conscripted into the German Army and was taken immediately from his wife and four small children. Little Dieter, the youngest in the family, knew only that his father was somewhere he didn't want to be and that his mother, Hildegard E. Opelt Uchtdorf, was bravely fending for her little family as the war in Europe swirled around them.

With the Allies' increasing success in the west and ominous progress by Stalin's forces in the east, Hildegard Uchtdorf wanted to get as close as possible to the western front. So she left every meager possession the family possessed





**Opposite page (from top): Dieter F. Uchtdorf training for the German Air Force at age 20. At age 2 (second from right) with his sister Christel (right) and two friends. At age 12, holding a favorite book. Above: Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.**

and, with her small family, made her way to Zwickau, Germany. Fortunately her husband survived the war and joined them in Zwickau, but he was a bitter opponent of both the Nazi and the Communist regimes. The former was now destroyed, but the latter was in control of their lives as a result of the postwar division of Germany. Because of Karl's political position, their lives were in danger, so the family—for the second time in seven years—left every

possession they owned and, despite the danger, made their way to a new haven in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Of this period Elder Uchtdorf has said: "We were refugees with an uncertain future. . . . I played in bombed-out houses and grew up with the ever-present consequences of a lost war and the awareness that my own country had inflicted terrible pain on many nations during the horrific World War II."<sup>1</sup> The family had every reason to be filled with despair and fear.

But, as President Gordon B. Hinckley once said during another time of international conflict, there is a "silver thread" that can run "through the dark tapestry of war."<sup>2</sup> And so it did for the Uchtdorfs. While in Zwickau they found the gospel of Jesus Christ. In his first message after being called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Uchtdorf expressed his gratitude for that gift.

"After World War II," he said, "my grandmother was standing in line for food when an elderly single sister with no family of her own invited her to sacrament meeting. . . . My grandmother and my parents accepted the invitation. They went to church, felt the Spirit,

were uplifted by the kindness of the members, and were edified by the hymns of the Restoration. . . . How grateful I am for a spiritually sensitive grandmother, teachable parents, and a wise, white-haired, elderly single sister who had the sweet boldness to reach out and follow the Savior's example by inviting us to 'come and see' (see John 1:39)."<sup>3</sup>

It was in those young years as a teenager that his love for flying "took flight," so to speak. At about age 14 he started riding his bicycle to the Frankfurt Airport, where he would gaze in awe at the planes. Occasionally, with the kind indulgence of the staff who serviced the airplanes, he would climb up to look into the cockpit and dream of the day when he might fly into the freedom of the skies. Little did he know that he would eventually master the handling of a

dozen major airplanes, including the Boeing 747, perhaps the world's most readily recognized passenger plane. Furthermore, he could not have known then that he would be perhaps the most readily recognized and honored commercial pilot to walk through the gates of the very airport he now visited as a young boy.

That career started with an engineering education at age 18, followed by six years in the German Air Force. Then, in a reciprocal relationship between the German and U.S. governments, he entered fighter pilot training school in Big Spring, Texas, where, as a German, he won wings in the American Air Force as well. His senior colleagues tell us that Elder Uchtdorf's most significant achievement there was to win the coveted Commander's Trophy for being the outstanding student pilot in his class. But in his modest way Elder Uchtdorf says that his more significant achievement there was to help build a meetinghouse for the local branch of the Church, the sweetest memory he has of that important professional time in his life. As Elder Uchtdorf's life is one of moving from strength to strength, it should not be surprising that years later he would return to the United States to be the director of Lufthansa's pilot training school in Goodyear, Arizona, the principal and most honored training post offered in the Lufthansa organization.

In 1970, at age 29, Dieter Uchtdorf made captain with Lufthansa, a rank he was once told he could never achieve until late in his career. Then in a rather meteoric rise this airborne *Wunderkind* was made manager of the 737 fleet (1972), director of the Arizona training school (1975), chief pilot and head of cockpit crews (1980), and finally senior vice president of flight operations (1982).

In the midst of this rapid rise and



increasing responsibility, Dieter Uchtdorf was called to be the president of the Frankfurt Germany Stake, then as the president of the Mannheim Germany Stake, and finally as a General Authority, called to the Second Quorum of the Seventy in 1994.

### **Harriet Uchtdorf**

One cannot talk about Dieter without talking about his wife, Harriet. Longtime friend and Church associate Hanno Luschin says, "In spite of his professional recognition and his varied Church callings, a great measure of his success in his life is the quality of his marriage, as expressed in his absolute loyalty to Harriet and her unfailing support for him."

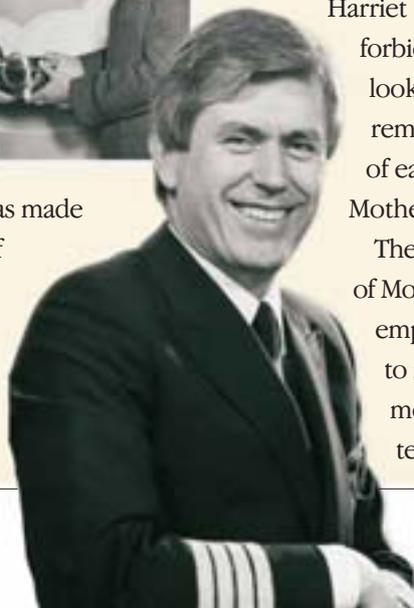
"She is the sunshine of my life," Elder Uchtdorf says with a smile.

"Yes, and on occasion his thunderstorm too," Harriet laughs. They are so conspicuously in love with each other that it is a joy to be in their presence.

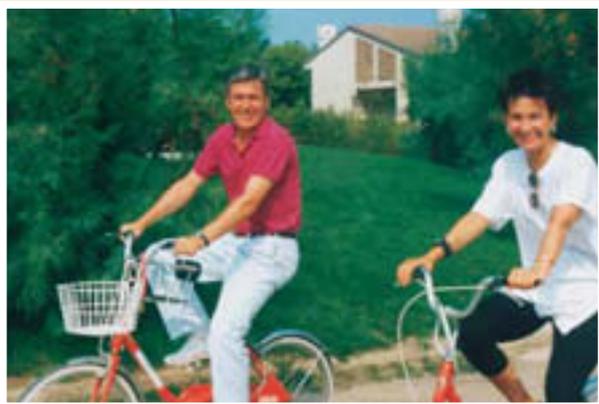
It was a simple stick of chewing gum that ultimately brought Harriet Reich to the gospel and later to the love of her life, Dieter F. Uchtdorf. When Harriet was a four-year-old girl living in Frankfurt near the end of the war, a handsome American serviceman who passed her on the street kindly offered her a stick of chewing gum. She took it hesitantly and never forgot that friendly gesture or the pleasant look on the young man's face. Roughly a decade later two LDS missionaries knocked on the Reichs' door, which

Harriet opened while her mother called out to forbid them entrance. Seeing the same kind look on the face of the missionaries, she remembered the compassionate serviceman of earlier years and pleaded, "Oh, please, Mother. Just for a moment."

The missionaries left a copy of the Book of Mormon with certain passages marked for emphasis. That night, Harriet's mother started to read. (Harriet's father had died just eight months earlier.) Harriet recalls, "I couldn't tell you exactly what my mother read, but I



watched her face and noticed something remarkable happening to her countenance.” This little family had been living with the same terrible aftermath of the war that everyone else was living with. The newly widowed mother of two young girls was pale and depressed, unhappy and unclear about what their future could be. But as her mother read from the pages of the Book of Mormon, Harriet says, “I



saw joy return to my mother’s life before my very eyes! I saw light come back into her eyes. I saw hope find a place in her soul.”

When the missionaries returned they asked, “Did you read the marked scriptures?”

“I read it all,” Sister Reich said. “Come in. I have questions I want you to answer.”

Harriet, her mother, and her sister were baptized four weeks later.

“Life changed for us that day,” Harriet Uchtdorf says. “Once again we laughed and ran and found happiness in our home. I owe it all to the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

#### **The Uchtdorfs at Home**

The Uchtdorfs’ now-married children, Guido Uchtdorf and Antje Uchtdorf Evans, agree that they had a wonderful childhood. “Our mother was always at home for us,” Antje explains. The Uchtdorf children say Harriet literally never missed a day of sending them off

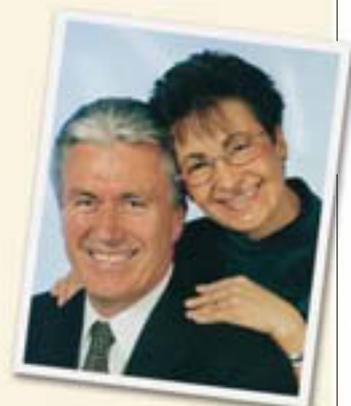


to school and being there when they came home after school and that, furthermore, she never went to bed at night no matter how late it was until their father came home from his flight, the office, or the church. “Although our father was extremely busy, we knew we were his highest priority,” Antje continues. “When he was home, he was totally devoted to Mom and to us. Of course, everything is exciting to Mom, and Dad *makes* things exciting. He made everything an adventure—even going to the grocery store. They took us on some of the most exciting family vacations a child could imagine. So as children we were pretty much in a state of excitement one way or the other all the time!”

For all that excitement (the children and their mother thought that their amateur photographer father and husband always got much too close to the lions in Africa), Antje particularly remembers the quiet times with her father. “Whether it was during his favorite pastime of looking up at the stars, or sledding together in the winter, or just sitting on the porch, my father was always teaching,” she says. “He loves the gospel, and he was always helping us to love it.”

“I don’t remember any sermons,” says Guido. “I just remember him always being interested in me. We had ‘visits,’ which were often walks in the evening and, on more

**Opposite page (from top): Hildegard and Karl Uchtdorf near the Bern Switzerland Temple. Dieter F. Uchtdorf receiving the Commander’s Trophy. As a pilot for Lufthansa German Airlines. Left: With Sister Uchtdorf on vacation in Italy. Above: The Uchtdorf family. Below: Elder and Sister Uchtdorf.**





special occasions, hikes in the mountains. I loved those times to talk. And in all such situations he taught by example. I used to travel to distant wards or branches with him when he was stake president, and I was his home teaching companion when I held the Aaronic Priesthood. That is how I learned about the priesthood and other responsibilities I would face—firsthand, shoulder to shoulder, father to son.”

#### **Warmth, Endurance, and Courage**

Those who have worked with Elder Uchtdorf praise a host of leadership qualities, but several rise to the surface again and again: his warm personality, his loyalty and endurance, and his courageous defense of the Church and the gospel. Elder Dean L. Larsen, an emeritus member of the Seventy, was an Area President to whom Elder Uchtdorf served as a counselor soon after the latter’s call as a General Authority. Elder Larsen says: “Our area in those days covered most of Western and Central Europe, countries that had been affected by World War II. Everyone who knew Dieter loved him instantly, but in those first months he couldn’t have helped but wonder about traveling and presiding in countries where they did not know him and where there were still painful memories about the war.

“Well, there needn’t have been any concern,” Elder Larsen reflects. “Elder Uchtdorf so genuinely loves people and is so engagingly personable that wherever he went he was embraced literally and figuratively. The gospel works miracles in such situations, and the members of the Church to whom he went were as magnanimous and kind as Dieter was humble, inspiring, and devoted to them.”

Another Area President to whom Elder Uchtdorf served as counselor was Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander of the Seventy, currently President of the Europe East Area. “When Dieter first served with us he was one of half a

dozen General Authorities who were asked to remain in their employment and serve on weekends for the Church,” he remembers. “This was a very demanding assignment for Elder Uchtdorf, given his significant administrative responsibilities at Lufthansa plus an active chief pilot role traveling the world on very distant flights.”

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Seventy, who served with Elder Uchtdorf in an Area Presidency, remembers the stature and appropriate pride that Elder Uchtdorf’s service gave to other members of the Church—and the courage with which he faced opposition. He remembers vividly the difficult situation that developed when the German government was cracking down on some lesser-known religions. An initial list of “sects” included The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. To oppose this serious threat to the work, Church leaders needed the most resolute and reputable German representative they could find to go to Bonn. That was Dieter F. Uchtdorf. His bold, courageous presentation there was so persuasive and articulate and his reputation with Lufthansa so widespread and admired that the German officials giving him audience were somewhat stunned at what they had inadvertently done. They said in effect: “If you are a Latter-day Saint, we do not need any more evidence than that. Your church will certainly not be included on any such list of religions in the future.”

#### **Strengthened by the Gospel**

Elder Uchtdorf’s son, Guido, remembers a German phrase his father often used when there was a problem or a difficulty in their lives. “Man könnte sich darüber ärgern, aber man ist nicht verpflichtet dazu,” he would say, which roughly translated means, “You could be upset about it, but you are not obligated to be.” Dieter Uchtdorf feels that with agency and self-control, with the gospel of Jesus Christ and power in the priesthood, no one has to be victimized by circumstance. Terrible things can happen—and they have happened in his life—but with our hand in the hand of God, we can still chart a course that will set us free, that will eventually bring triumph. It requires courage, patience, optimism, and faith in God, but things

can come out right if we stay with the task and stay in control.

In the final years of young Brother Uchtdorf's high level training as a pilot, he was flying solo with an instructor "on his wing" in another aircraft, directing his maneuvers and giving instruction. In one particular maneuver he was to represent an emergency landing by making an abrupt approach to the runway,



requiring a sharp, steep embankment of the airplane before leveling out just in time to land. As young Dieter made the maneuver and attempted his steep, angular descent, the steering control of his airplane did not respond. He had, in airplane parlance, a "stuck stick." The result would be a continuing roll of the airplane, leading to a crash landing upside down. "Bail out!" the instructor called. "Bail out!" But the man with "the courage of a bull," as one of his Brethren described him, reversed the stick away from the extremity he had put it in and tried again to land. Once again the mechanism froze. "Bail out," the stern command came again, this time with genuine concern in the instructor's voice.

Determined that he be in charge of the aircraft, not the other way around, this future Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ wrestled physically with the steering, somehow breaking it



**Opposite page: With youth of the Mannheim Germany Stake.**

**Far left: With Elder Neal A. Maxwell, Guido Uchtdorf, Elder Russell M. Nelson, and Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin in Germany in 1987.**

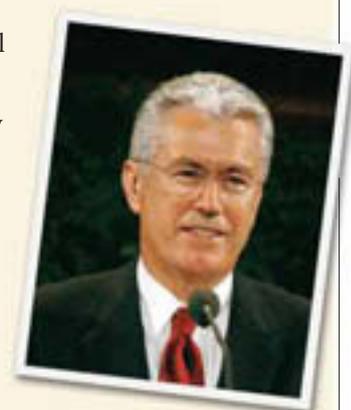
**Left: Reviewing family history with Johannes Rau, then president of Germany. Above: With Elder David A. Bednar at a press conference.**

**Below: Speaking at general conference.**

free of the earlier resistance, made his sharp descent as prescribed in what was now not an imagined but very real emergency landing, and walked away grateful for divine help in times of need. "Man könnte sich darüber ärgern, aber man ist nicht verpflichtet dazu." Such will be Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf's determined and faithful service to the holy apostleship he now holds. He will give his all for the Lord Jesus Christ, His gospel, and His Church. In doing so he will lead untold legions of others on to new horizons. ■

**NOTES**

1. "The Global Church Blessed by the Voice of the Prophets," *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 11.
2. See Conference Report, Apr. 1968, 24.
3. "The Opportunity to Testify," *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 75.



# Elder David A. Bednar

## *Going Forward in the Strength of the Lord*

BY ELDER HENRY B. EYRING

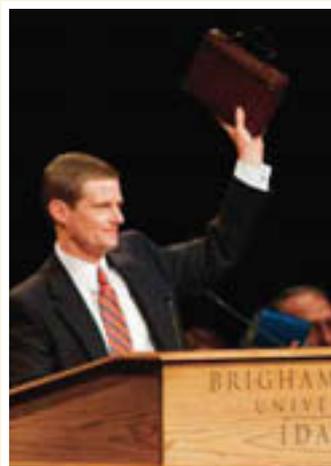
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

In his first conference talk as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder David Allan Bednar taught doctrine from the scriptures and bore personal testimony of the Savior. What he said made clear the source of his quiet boldness in the Lord's work and his remarkable capacity to lead others. He said that through the grace of the Lord, through faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ and repentance of our sins, we can receive strength and assistance to do good works beyond our own capacities. Elder Bednar promised, "In the strength of the Lord we can do and endure and overcome all things."<sup>1</sup>

His faith in the power that comes from the Atonement has given him confidence that he will receive strength beyond his natural ability to do whatever the Lord calls him to do. And his faith has led him to extend that confidence to those he teaches and leads. Because of that faith in what is possible for him and for others, you feel a contagious optimism and energy in his presence.

### Family Life

Elder Bednar's three sons, now grown and studying at universities, describe their father's influence. His son



Michael says: "It seems that faith has driven out fear in my dad. He is always optimistic. No matter what goes wrong, he always says, 'Things will work out.' When it was hard for me during my mission, he told me to work hard and success would come. And he told me when the success came to remember that God gave it and that I did not earn it."

Eric, another son, describes his father's example: "He has always gone to the real sources: the words of the prophets and

the scriptures. He is bold but he listens. He will ask inspired questions and then listen to your answer, and then he will ask another inspired question.

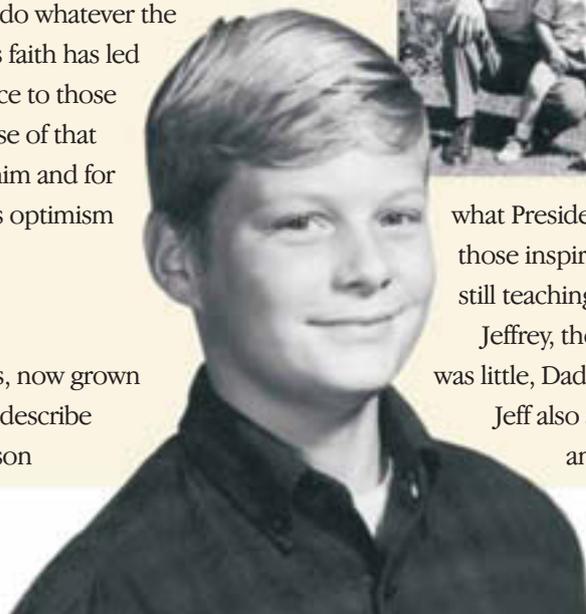
Once he was giving me something similar to a temple recommend interview when I was about 14. He asked me if I sustained President Ezra Taft Benson. I said that I did. And then, after a pause, he asked, 'What have you read lately of



what President Benson has said?' " The lessons from those inspired questions and others like them are still teaching Eric and his brothers.

Jeffrey, the youngest of the three sons, says, "Since I was little, Dad taught me to set goals and exercise faith."

Jeff also says: "I want people to know that he is an ordinary man who can do extraordinary





**Opposite page (from top): Elder Bednar raises his scriptures, his customary invitation to learn from the word of God, in a BYU—Idaho devotional on November 16, 2004. Young David Bednar with his father. As a schoolboy. Above: Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.**

things because of the strength of the Lord. He is a living witness of the enabling power of the Atonement.”<sup>2</sup>

Sister Bednar says of her husband: “People who know him well would say that he’s tough but tender. He’s competent and compassionate. He’s driven yet discerning. He’s faithful and fearless. He has a great capacity to lead and the wisdom to follow.”

Like his sons, Elder Bednar was deeply influenced by his

early family life. He was born on June 15, 1952, in Oakland, California. His mother, Lavina Whitney Bednar, was a descendant of pioneer stock, faithful in the Church. Elder Bednar describes her and her faith with one word: “Steady.” His father, Anthony George Bednar, was a skilled tool-and-die maker. He was not a member of the Church, although he was constant in attending church with his son, helping with Church functions, and supportive when it came time for David to go into the mission field.

Throughout his youth and even from the mission field, Elder Bednar would ask his father, “Dad, when are you going to be baptized?” The answer was, “I’ll join this Church when I know it’s the right thing to do.” Years later, after Elder Bednar’s mission and after he was married and living far away from home, his father called on a Wednesday to ask, “What are you doing Saturday? Can you be out here (in California) to baptize me?” Elder Bednar baptized, confirmed, and ordained his father. He says of that phone call and the question from his father: “I honestly believe that’s why I was born. Not to teach him, but to assist him in learning about the restored gospel.”<sup>3</sup>

David Bednar was called to a mission in Germany. In less than a year he was called to be an assistant to the mission president. After his mission he returned to Brigham Young University and met Susan Kae Robinson, who was reared in the small town of Afton, Wyoming. She came from a family whose members were devoted to the Church and were leaders in the community. Her father was president of a bank and served as a bishop. David and Susan were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1975.

Elder Bednar said of Sister Bednar in his conference address: “My wife, Susan, is a virtuous woman and a righteous mother. You will quickly see that purity and goodness are evident in her countenance. I love her and appreciate her more than words can express.”<sup>4</sup>

### A Teacher and a Leader

Sister Bednar received her degree from BYU in 1974, and Elder Bednar graduated in 1976 with a baccalaureate degree and in 1977 with a master's degree, both from BYU. He received a PhD from Purdue University in 1980 and joined the business faculty at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He was called as a counselor in the stake presidency in 1982 at the age of 30. He also served as a bishop, president of the Fort Smith Arkansas Stake, president of the Rogers Arkansas Stake, and then as a regional representative and later as an Area Authority Seventy.

He gave much of this service while he and Susan were raising three young sons and he was making a remarkable contribution in his work at the University of Arkansas. Doyle Z. Williams, dean of the College of Business at the University of Arkansas, describes Elder Bednar's contributions not in terms of offices held or honors received—but in terms of personal influence: "David Bednar was part of our leadership team. He sharpened our vision. He always exuded enthusiasm for students and a passion to help his fellowman. To all our discussions he brought reason and compassion. He inspired his colleagues and students by his example and was held in the highest esteem."

Dean Williams, who is not a member of the Church, saw a power to influence others that was also observed by Jerry Abram, President Bednar's counselor in a far-flung Arkansas stake. Brother Abram describes his impressions this way: "We traveled an average of 2,000 miles [3,200 km] per month together, so I got to know him very well. He called my wife to be the stake Relief Society president, and he set my daughter apart when she departed for England to serve her



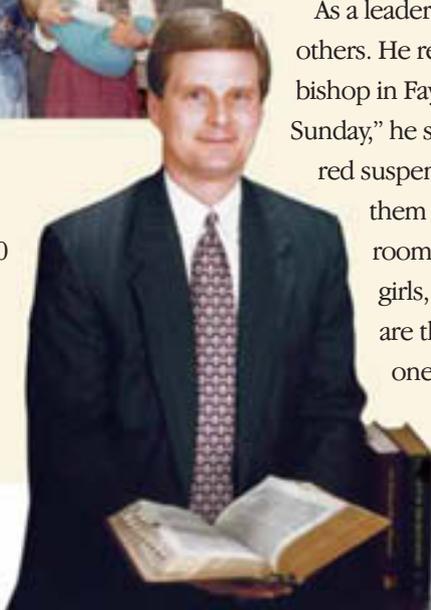
mission. He spoke at her twin sister's funeral with such power and compassion. Our daughter was 17 years old when she and two of her girlfriends died in a tragic automobile accident. The funeral was tender, but Elder Bednar helped make it bearable. He stood

behind our family during our darkest hour. After the funeral I wrote in my journal that he was the most spiritual and compassionate man I had ever met."

Brother Abram goes on to say: "The strong Latter-day Saint presence in this part of Arkansas is undoubtedly a direct result of Elder Bednar's efforts and diligence and leadership. One of his trademarks was inviting all members of the stake to bring their scriptures to every meeting. If he noticed we did not have our scriptures, he would admonish us to do better."

David Bednar's own reliance on the scriptures and his teaching of their importance have been evident throughout his priesthood service. Elder Bednar remembers: "During my training before my mission, we went to the solemn assembly room in the Salt Lake Temple. President Harold B. Lee was there to answer questions from about 300 missionaries. He stood there in his white suit, holding his white scriptures. He answered every question from the scriptures, or he said, 'I don't know.' I sat there and thought that I would never be able to know the scriptures the way he did, but my objective became to use the scriptures in my teaching the way that I saw President Harold B. Lee do it. That desire is the genesis of all my scripture study."

As a leader he has tried to encourage that desire in others. He remembers a time in 1987 when he was the bishop in Fayetteville, Arkansas. "I went into Primary one Sunday," he says. "They had invited me. I decided to wear red suspenders. I thought that I would somehow use them as an object lesson. So I got in the Primary room, took off my coat, and said, 'Now, boys and girls, the bishop has these red suspenders. How are the scriptures like my red suspenders?' And one little boy raised his hand and said, 'The scriptures hold up our faith in Jesus the same way your suspenders hold up your pants.'



I said, 'That is exactly right.' The little boys in the ward started wearing red suspenders, and the little girls had red bows in their hair.

"My dad was a tool-and-die maker, and he would never be caught without his tools. It seemed to me that for members of the Church of Jesus Christ our tools are the scriptures and we would always have them in our meetings. When I became the stake president,



we began to hold them up to remind us how they can, if we use them, hold up our faith."

Years after Elder Bednar left Arkansas, a man walked into a priesthood interview in a rural stake in Idaho. He was carrying a well-worn set of scriptures. He noticed that the General Authority conducting the interview seemed curious about the scriptures he was holding so carefully. He smiled, held the scriptures up, and said, "When I was young, I was a soldier in the army in Arkansas. I was in President Bednar's stake. I feel better when I have my scriptures with me."

### **College President for a Time of Change**

In 1997 David A. Bednar was appointed president of Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho. At that time it was the largest private junior college in the United States, with 8,500 students. In his first meeting with the faculty and staff, he said: "I've never been a president of



a college before. I don't know how to do this. But I do know some things about teaching, and I hope that foundation will at least provide a beginning."<sup>5</sup>

He began teaching as he began to lead the college, and he never stopped. He taught a class in religion every term. He and Sister Bednar invited students to come to family home evenings where they were taught from the scriptures and through inspired questions. In the years they were in Rexburg, close to 35,000 students were blessed with such evenings with the Bednars.

In June 2000 President Bednar learned that the decision had been made to transform Ricks College into a four-year institution called Brigham Young University—Idaho. Ricks College officially became BYU—Idaho on August 10, 2001. In less than three years, by the summer of 2004, the university was able to announce that it had received academic accreditation. That significant institutional achievement was accomplished despite the lack of forewarning of the change in the school's status.

Not only did President Bednar take the lead in making the changes necessary to give four-year baccalaureate degrees, but the college became a university designed to be a unique educational experiment. It is to be a place of innovative education while building

**Opposite page (from top): With his mother. With his parents; wife, Susan; and young sons Michael and Eric at his father's baptism in 1979. As president of the Rogers Arkansas Stake. Left: On a family vacation in the Tetons. Above: The Bednar family. Below: With granddaughter Emily.**





at its very heart faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The traditional academic year, in which students enter in the fall and leave in the spring, was replaced. A student would be admitted to start any semester during the year. The idea was to fill the campus to capacity throughout the year. More students could attend. The year-round schedule would make it possible for students to take internships away from campus at times other than the usual summer break.

There would be no academic rank for the faculty. That put the focus on teaching students rather than on traditional faculty status and prestige. There would be no intercollegiate athletics. They would be replaced with an activity program that allowed all the students who wished to participate and compete in social, leadership, artistic, and athletic events.

There had to be a plan created to develop new courses, to hire faculty, and to design and build the space for an expanded school. President Bednar chose to involve as many of the staff and faculty members as he could. They had to participate in making changes that would require great and sometimes difficult adjustments in their own lives.

President Bednar described the experience this way: “I can think of few things that have driven me to my knees more earnestly and frequently than the announcement by President Hinckley that Ricks College would become Brigham Young University—Idaho.

“On the evening before the announcement was to be made, one colleague asked, ‘President, are you scared?’ As best I can recall, I answered: ‘If I thought we had to execute this transition relying exclusively upon our own experience and our own judgment, then I would be terrified. But we will have help from heaven. Because we know who is in charge and that we are not alone, then no, I am not scared.’”

President Bednar went on to say: “I have come to know

that President Hinckley’s vision concerning the future of BYU—Idaho is not really about two-year or four-year status. It is not really about academic rank or athletics. And it is not really about a name change. This announcement is about faith—faith in the future. Given all the changes that have taken place at this institution in a relatively short period of time, I testify that miracles have occurred, revelations have been received, and doors have been opened, and we have been greatly blessed as individuals and as an institution. These truly are days never to be forgotten.”

Robert Wilkes, who as student life vice president worked closely with President Bednar and who is now the interim president of BYU—Idaho, describes how President Bednar led the change: “It took courage. He faced very strong opposition from a few, but he changed some hearts and he exercised patience with those who struggled with letting go of the past.

“He instantly set out a vision of transition. He never wavered. The people knew that he was totally loyal to the prophet and to the board of trustees. But they knew he would take issues to the board with energy and commitment when it was appropriate. It was hard for others to stray when he was so clearly in line himself.

“He made it clear that he expected people to welcome change. He built support by teaching that great change comes ‘line upon line, precept upon precept.’<sup>6</sup> He recognized the power of the students. One part of the vision was that students would be teaching students. He involved the students enough that in many cases they converted faculty and employees to certain elements of the transition to BYU—Idaho.

“He was quick to give credit to others in public and private ways. He always tied the transition to the larger good of the Church by showing how BYU—Idaho would be a tool for service in the kingdom. He understood and taught that the changes would allow students to come to the school who could have never had the chance. He seemed to view every experience as an opportunity for spiritual insight.”

Elder Bednar is remarkable for his willingness to include everyone and to trust that everyone will have valuable insights. One who saw that firsthand was Betty Oldham, his

secretary. She says of President Bednar: “He is never afraid to let others take charge. While he clearly provides oversight and focus, he lets those with direct responsibility shine.

“He sees the whole picture, but he doesn’t try to micromanage. He has taught us that we should act as agents rather than be acted upon. And he has provided opportunities for us to exercise that agency. With him, everyone has a



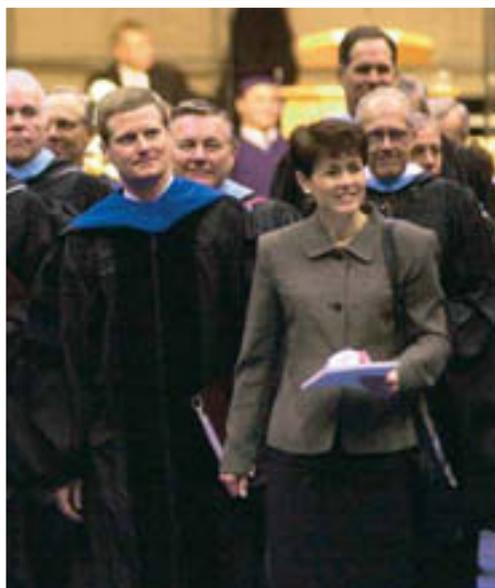
voice and is free to express ideas and opinions, even if those opinions are 180 degrees opposite to where everyone else is headed. No one is ever made to feel uncomfortable about what he or she has said. The concept of counseling in councils has taken on a new dimension for the whole campus. He has always made me feel that my opinion is valued.”

By such leadership, a family has been united and the Church established more firmly in Arkansas. A college has become a great university, and the people who study and serve there have been raised to new heights.

Elder Bednar’s great capacity to lift others and his courage to do whatever the Lord asks of him come from his witness of Jesus Christ. He has paid the price of prayer, scripture study, and personal testing to qualify as a special witness of the Savior. He will not need to change habits or patterns as he answers the call to the apostleship. His life gives evidence



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HART, CHURCH NEWS



**Opposite page: Helping a student in the Ricks College bookstore. Far left: President Gordon B. Hinckley shakes hands with the Bednar’s daughter-in-law Charlotte as Sister Bednar, President Bednar, and son Michael look on. Left: The Bednar’s at a Ricks College commencement. Above: The Bednar’s and the Uchtdorfs meet the press. Below: Speaking at general conference.**

that what he said at the end of his first general conference address will be true: “I will go where the Lord and the leaders of His Church want me to go, I will do what they want me to do, I will teach what they want me to teach, and I will strive to become what I should and must become. In the strength of the Lord and through His grace, I know that you and I can be blessed to accomplish all things.”<sup>77</sup> ■

**NOTES**

1. “In the Strength of the Lord,” *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 77.
2. Quoted in Zach Gibson, “Elder Bednar’s Son Shares Thoughts, Memories,” *Daily Universe*, Oct. 26, 2004, 6.
3. See Steve Moser, “I’m a Teacher Who Is Now a College President,” *Summit*, 1997, 9–10.
4. *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 78.
5. Quoted in *Summit*, 1997, 9.
6. See 2 Nephi 28:30.
7. *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 78.





# A TESTIMONY OF MISSIONARY WORK

BY ELDER DAVID J. BARNETT

Area Authority Seventy  
Africa Southeast Area (2001–4)

**I**n John 15:12 the Savior gives the commandment to “love one another, as I have loved you.” He then tells His disciples to “go and bring forth fruit” (v. 16) as an expression of that love. Such counsel applies to all of us: we show our love for the Savior and for others by “bringing forth fruit,” which includes guiding souls to the gospel of Jesus Christ through missionary work.

Missionary work is a prominent theme in the Doctrine and Covenants. Throughout this book of scripture, the Lord admonishes His followers to proclaim the gospel, declaring that “the field is white already to harvest” (see, for example, D&C 4:4; 11:3; 33:3, 7).

I am grateful for the influence of missionary work in my own life. I was born in England, and in 1960, at age 20, I left London to seek my fortune. I learned of the Church two years later in Kitwe, northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), when I started courting the

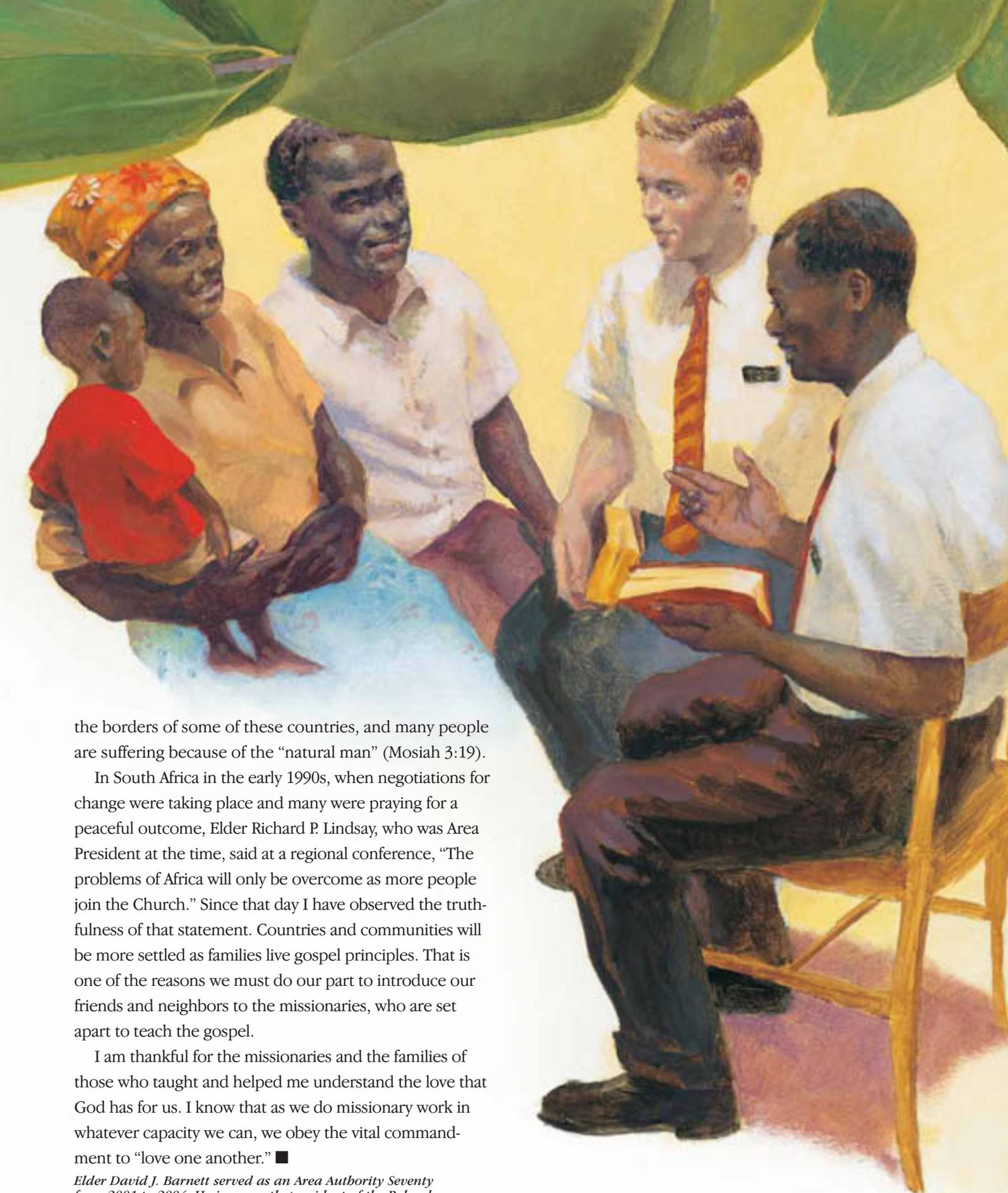
beautiful woman who later became my wife.

Before I married Norma, her father insisted that I meet the missionaries and be taught the gospel. I had always believed that the Godhead was composed of three separate personages, and this helped me understand and accept the First Vision. I had also always believed in life after death. The doctrine that really had an impact on me was that of the premortal existence. When I was taught this by an Elder Hale, it sounded so obvious and logical that I wondered why I had never thought of it before. The more I learned of the gospel, the more everything seemed to fall into place. What a wonderful day it was when I was able to enter the waters of baptism and be confirmed a member of the true Church.

Many years later, I had the opportunity as an Area Authority Seventy to travel with my wife throughout many countries in Africa and to see the growth of the Church in these countries. Many have been affected by wars, famines, lack of employment, and other afflictions. Wars are still raging within



*As we do  
missionary work  
in whatever  
capacity we can,  
we obey the vital  
commandment  
to “love one  
another.”*



the borders of some of these countries, and many people are suffering because of the “natural man” (Mosiah 3:19).

In South Africa in the early 1990s, when negotiations for change were taking place and many were praying for a peaceful outcome, Elder Richard P. Lindsay, who was Area President at the time, said at a regional conference, “The problems of Africa will only be overcome as more people join the Church.” Since that day I have observed the truthfulness of that statement. Countries and communities will be more settled as families live gospel principles. That is one of the reasons we must do our part to introduce our friends and neighbors to the missionaries, who are set apart to teach the gospel.

I am thankful for the missionaries and the families of those who taught and helped me understand the love that God has for us. I know that as we do missionary work in whatever capacity we can, we obey the vital commandment to “love one another.” ■

*Elder David J. Barnett served as an Area Authority Seventy from 2001 to 2004. He is currently president of the Poland Warsaw Mission.*

# THE PRIESTS QUORUM

*The third in a series of articles about priesthood quorums and their purposes. Here members of the Presiding Bishopric share some thoughts about priests quorums.*

**What challenges does a priest face, and how can his quorum help him meet those challenges?**

**Bishop H. David Burton (center), Presiding Bishop:**

By the time a young man is 16, a lot of outside influences are introduced into his life. It's the beginning of the dating process. In many places he's able to drive a car. He may have thoughts of part-time employment. One of the biggest challenges is to somehow keep the notion in his mind that the spiritual aspects of his life are still the most important. It is easy for him to fall off the spiritual wagon when so many things are competing for his attention. So we must make sure that spiritual preparation is the most exciting part of his life.

As President Gordon B. Hinckley continues to ask, "Are we having fun in the Church?" Now fun isn't necessarily entertainment and games, though those may be part of it. Joy can emanate from doing right, from participating in baptisms and ordinations. Are these young men having the right kind of fun? Are they finding joy in their service?

**Bishop Richard C. Edgley (left), First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric:** This is a period of time in which young men feel the tremendous pressure of a lot of major decisions. Compounding that is the pressure of a worsening moral environment. It used to be that some priests were saved by young women who kept their standards. That is not always the case today. It requires priesthood leaders to be close to the priests, to guide them, to help them create



an environment where they can thrive spiritually as well as socially.

**Do you have any specific suggestions for creating this spirituality?**

**Bishop Keith B. McMullin (right), Second**

**Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric:** We underestimate and therefore underutilize priests. For example, priests are empowered to confer the Aaronic Priesthood and ordain deacons, teachers, and priests, but they seldom are given a chance to do so. The same thing is true of performing baptisms. Priests also have the duty to "preach, teach, expound, exhort" (D&C 20:46). But how much of our thinking goes to helping priests preach or teach or expound? These young men seldom have the opportunity to stand in the stature of their priesthood in full measure. But if you give a group of priests a chance to stand up and really start to do some significant things, they immediately respond. They are hungry for an invitation to do much more. Translating the revealed duties of a priest (see D&C 20:46–52) into the arena of a 16-year-old is a challenge and a great opportunity.

**How can a quorum help prepare priests for the future?**

**Bishop Edgley:** I believe that priesthood leaders should be focusing priests on missions—letting them know what is required and helping them get prepared. They should be focusing them on temple preparations—preparing priests for the covenants they are going to make as they go

on their missions—and also on receiving the Melchizedek Priesthood. The Aaronic Priesthood is a preparatory priesthood leading up to this.

If a young man is really focused on these goals, he will be more likely to resist temptation. Many young men keep certain commandments because they want to be missionaries. If I were a quorum leader, I would try to get my priests to interact with returned missionaries and missionaries serving in my area.

#### **What is the role of a bishop in a priests quorum?**

**Bishop Burton:** He is the president of the quorum. Priesthood keys, divinely restored, have been conferred on the bishop; he can use those keys to bless the lives of young men. And that is why it's important that the bishop be in the quorum. Too often he's not there, not because he doesn't want to be but because of the pressures of his assignment to lead the ward.

Too often he's an absentee president. Therefore these precious keys don't get turned in the lives of these young men.

**Bishop McMullin:** Without the bishop present, a priests quorum meeting is just a class for young men of a certain age. Through the keys that he bears and the impressions of the Holy Spirit, the bishop will have a sense of the work that needs to be done. When you see a bishop who is really engaged in the quorum, you see a different quorum. You see a different group of priests.

#### **Do you have any final words for the parents and leaders of priests?**

**Bishop Burton:** We need to understand that this is a royal generation. These are exceptional spirits. There is absolutely no question that they've been reserved for an important assignment in the latter days. They are better than ever before. They are stronger because those who resist temptation become stronger. They are marvelous young people. Are there challenges? Sure. Are there opportunities? Many. Are these young men strong? Are they gifted? Absolutely! ■



# A PRIEST UP TO THE CHALLENGE

BY MICHAEL CHIPMAN

Life in New York City is always a challenge, but Leury Perez, a 17-year-old priest in the Inwood First Ward, New York New York Stake, seems to take it all in stride. When he's not winning piano performance competitions, attending early-morning seminary, studying for school, organizing youth conference as a stake youth leader, or leading the local Scout troop as senior patrol leader, he helps his busy single mom, Bienvenida (below with Leury), at home.

Leury belongs to a priests quorum of one, so he carries a lot of responsibility. "I have been visiting a lot of people who can't go to church and taking them the sacrament on Sundays. I also go home teaching," says Leury.

Priests quorum lessons this year have explored mission preparation, and Leury credits the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet; the Duty to God program; his adviser, Jonathan Horey; and his bishop, Mark Johnson, with helping him keep his eye on the goal of a mission. "I would like to go to Japan," says Leury. "It seems like a cool place to go."

"Having Leury active in the priests quorum tremendously blesses my life," says Bienvenida. "He loves the Church and is very spiritual. I want to be an example for him, but he ends up being an example to me in many ways."

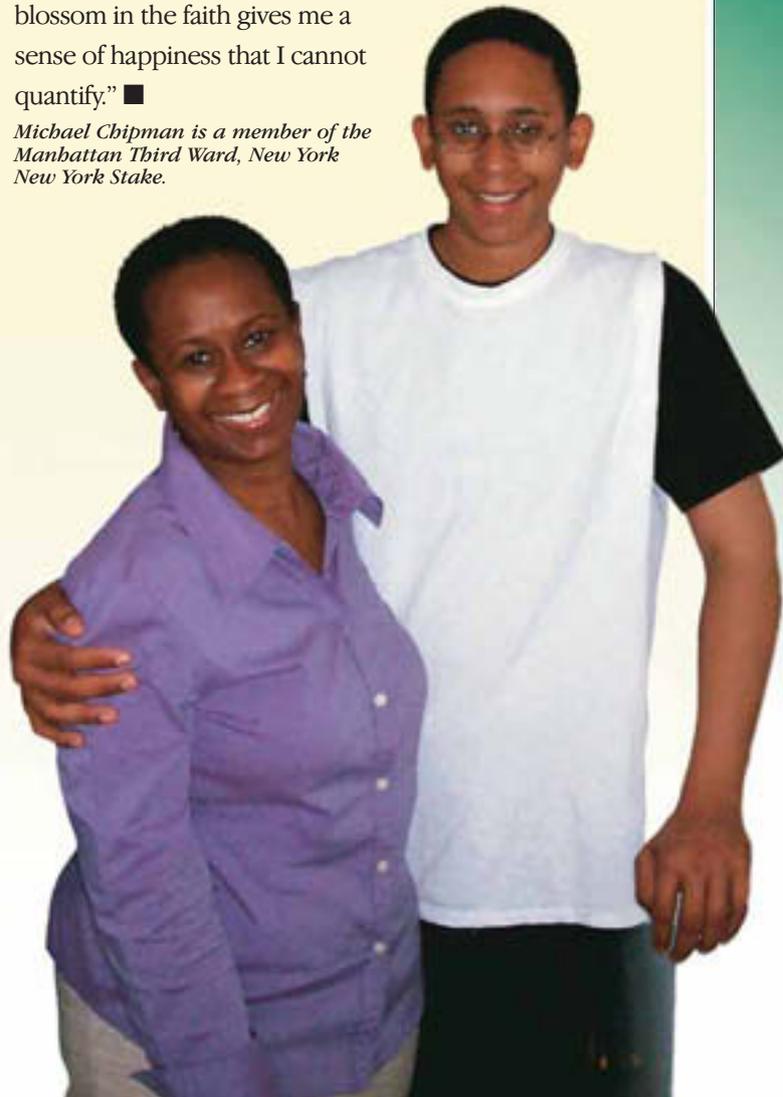
Bienvenida moved to New York from the Dominican Republic in 1974 and was baptized into the Church seven years later. Leury was born and raised in New York and joined the Church when he was 10 years old. At age 7 Leury started taking piano lessons and developed into a fine young pianist, winning several competitions. After



servicing a mission Leury hopes to attend college, where he plans to major in computer animation and programming and to minor in music.

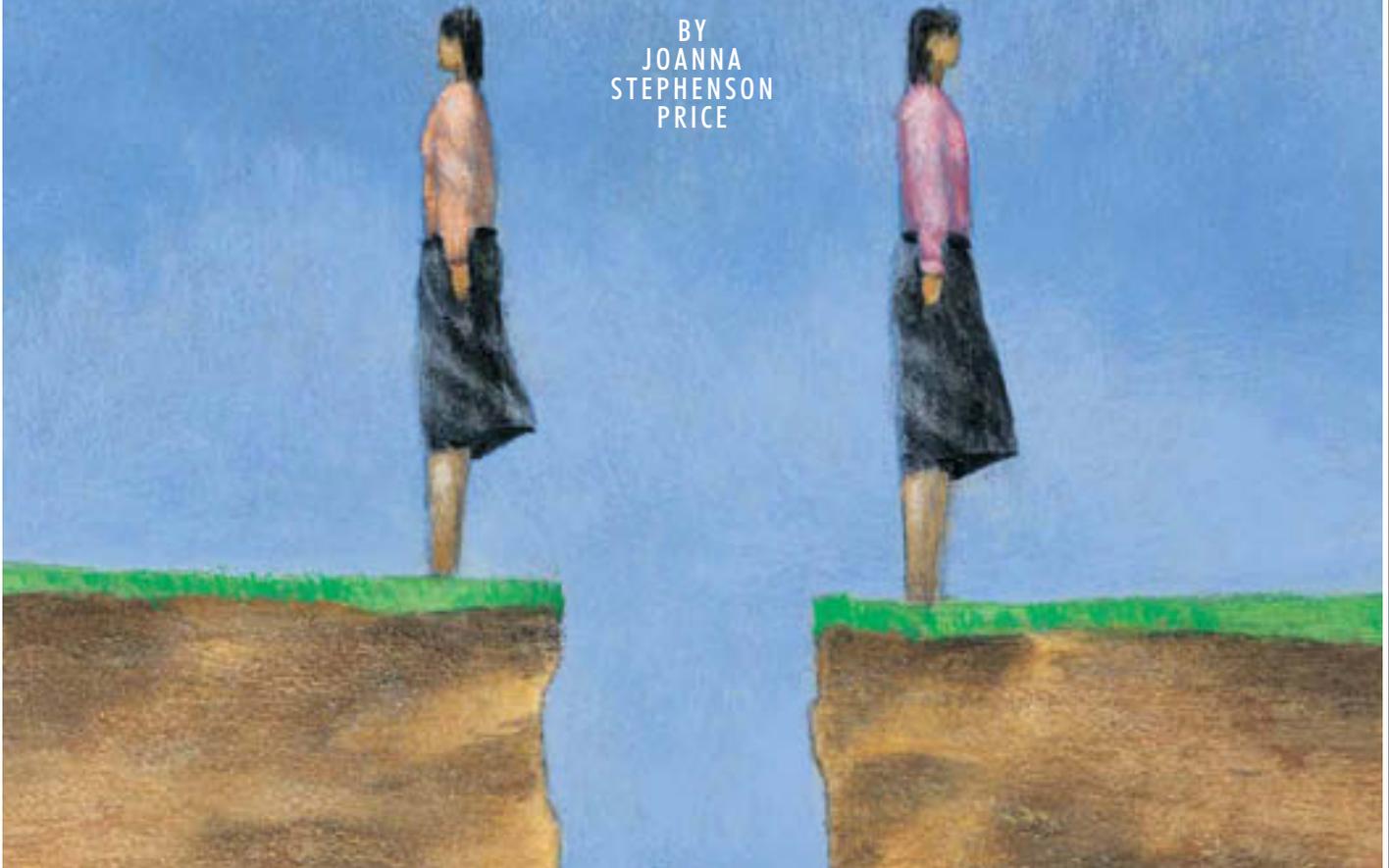
What is the Perez family's secret to keeping it all together? "Knowing the commandments helps us to stay focused on the important things in life," says Bienvenida. "As a single mom with two jobs, I know that the Church is very important. Seeing Leury blossom in the faith gives me a sense of happiness that I cannot quantify." ■

*Michael Chipman is a member of the Manhattan Third Ward, New York New York Stake.*



# DISAGREEING WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE

BY  
JOANNA  
STEPHENSON  
PRICE



ILLUSTRATED BY GREG HALLY

*How could my coworker and I maintain a friendship after ending up on opposite sides of a highly controversial issue that sharply divided our community?*

I have always lived where Latter-day Saints were a small fraction of the population. So when I joined the faculty of my neighborhood high school as a science teacher, I was glad to become a more integral part of my community. I saw it not only as an opportunity to teach but also as a chance to help dispel misconceptions about Latter-day Saints. Little did I know how soon this opportunity would come.

Within a week of my employment, a faculty member approached me to sign a document in support of a gay-student bill of rights. I read it and felt it was not something I could sign, so I declined. Soon I found myself in the minority of the faculty on this issue that was sharply dividing us. The principal, who supported the issue, even called me into her office and questioned me about my views and my beliefs about homosexual behavior.

I knew that contention was not the Lord's way of handling matters, so I tried to stay calm and inoffensive. Parents opposing the majority faculty point of view on this issue filed a lawsuit against the school, and the controversy attracted coverage on television, radio, newspapers, and the Internet. All I really wanted was to be a good teacher

and get along with everyone. But I found myself being pulled into the controversy in spite of my desires to promote peace. I tried to follow the counsel in Proverbs 15:1: “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” When questioned, I simply explained that it was important to me that my children and others know what my beliefs are on this issue.

### Summer Break

Near the end of the school year, while controversy still raged, family circumstances required that I take a leave of absence unrelated to the ongoing debate. This break became a time of peace and growth for me, and it lasted throughout the summer.

I was then called as Relief Society president of our ward. As I immersed myself in this calling, I tried very hard to learn to be sensitive to the Spirit and follow its promptings. A feeling of love began to permeate every aspect of my life—a welcome relief from the turmoil of the school year. As a result of this deepened striving to have the Spirit with me, I began to improve my skills of communication and empathy. I came to focus on the Savior’s love and to remember that His Atonement was for each of us.

The Savior taught: “Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. . . . Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest” (Luke 6:27, 35).

### Back to School

When I returned to work, I met our new school librarian. Her views were the exact opposite of mine on homosexual behavior as well as same-sex marriage. Though she had heard many negative things about me because of the uproar during the previous school year, she had decided to find out for herself who I really was. I, in turn, knew that

## ATTITUDE TOWARD MARRIAGE



*“We believe that marriage between a man and woman is ordained of God. . . . People inquire about our position on . . . gays and lesbians. My response is that we love them as sons and daughters of God. . . . [However] to permit [same-sex marriage] would be to make light of the very serious and sacred foundation of God-sanctioned marriage and its very purpose, the rearing of families.”*

**President Gordon B. Hinckley, “What Are People Asking about Us?” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 71.**

she was firmly anchored in her views, but I chose not to say anything to her about it. I wanted to promote unity within our school and community. I wanted to encourage the feeling of understanding, empathy, and peace that had permeated my life during the summer.

The new librarian and I immediately connected as professionals with a common desire to do the best for our students. She expressed a desire to put more literature about the Latter-day Saints in the library and asked me to get a Book of Mormon. I asked the missionaries

to deliver several of them, and when they did, they left her with a positive impression.

As the first year of our friendship continued, we began to have more and more discussions about religion. I found myself bearing my testimony to her almost every day in some way or another. She respected my beliefs even though she made it very clear she did not share all my convictions.

### Our Second School Year

Summer vacation came and went. On the first day back to school I sought out the librarian, and we immediately resumed our friendly banter. During the first conversation of that year she revealed to me that she was in a permanent relationship with a same-sex partner. She thought she was revealing something that I did not know and that it would shock me. To her surprise, I told her that I had known about her situation for quite a while. Still, I saw no reason we could not be friends.

We realized we could acknowledge each other’s beliefs without agreeing with each other. This decision was the beginning of what has become an eye-opening experience for both of us. We have chosen to respect each other in our professions and to appreciate our abilities to be honest. While neither of us is likely to change our point of view on this issue, we have realized that we have many

other things in common.

As our high school community became aware of our friendly understanding, perceptions on both sides began to change. Healing began. And although the controversy continued, people on both sides of the issue came to deal with each other in more rational and trusting ways. Our school became a more peaceful place.

Over the past two years, my standing among people on both sides of this issue has changed for the better. I have not apologized for the teachings of the Church concerning homosexual behavior. In fact, I have been able to help remove many misconceptions about the Church. There are now more Latter-day Saint teachers on the faculty, and the Church has gained a positive image among most students. Our own Latter-day Saint youth have been able to be valiant ambassadors of the gospel.

In the Doctrine and Covenants, we are taught that power and influence should be maintained “by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall



**The realization that we could acknowledge each other's beliefs without agreeing became an eye-opening experience for both of us.**

greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile” (D&C 121:41–42).

### **Standing for Something**

This story is not over. My friendship with the school librarian remains strong, and we are still trying to understand each other better. We can disagree on issues without taking offense because my friend knows that I am not her enemy. I

see her as my sister, with a common Father in Heaven.

Our prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley, has asked us to stand for something, and he has shown by his example that the gospel is for all of our Heavenly Father's children. I believe we should strive to follow the teachings found in Mosiah 4:13: “Ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably.” I have a testimony that the Atonement is sufficient for all. We can live the gospel confident in this knowledge, and the honest in heart will recognize our sincere belief—even those we think will not. ■

*Joanna Stephenson Price is a member of the San Leandro First Ward, San Leandro California Stake.*



## **HELPS FOR HOME EVENING**

1. Invite family members to listen for answers to the following questions as you share portions of the story. What was the issue that created tension at the author's school? How did she handle the matter at first? Why was the author able to be a friend to the school librarian? How would you act in a similar situation? Discuss ways family members can stand up for their beliefs without promoting contention.

2. Write the scriptures mentioned in the article on pieces of paper. Invite family members to each draw one and read it aloud. Discuss what these scriptures teach about how to treat others. Ask family members to suggest situations where they might have to disagree. Discuss how to respond appropriately.

# “We Wanted to

BY FRED E. WOODS

Professor of Church History and Doctrine,  
Brigham Young University—Provo



PAINTING BY LARRY WINBORG

*The main object of gathering is to provide a temple where Latter-day Saints can make covenants and receive ordinances.*

**W**e had to sell everything at a great sacrifice,” wrote Robert Crookston. “But we wanted to come to Zion and be taught by the prophet of God.”<sup>1</sup>

Priscilla Staines wrote: “I left the home of my birth to gather to Nauvoo. I was alone. It was a dreary winter day on which I went to Liverpool. The company with which I was to sail were all strangers to me. When I . . . saw the ocean that would soon roll between me and all I loved, my heart almost failed me. But I had laid my idols all upon the altar. There was no turning back.”<sup>2</sup>

Of her belief and commitment to the principle of gathering, Jane C. Robinson Hindley wrote: “I . . . felt it my duty to go although it was a severe trial to me; . . . but my heart was fixed. I knew in whom I had trusted and with the fire of Israel’s God burning in my bosom, I forsook my home.”<sup>3</sup>

“What [is] the object of gathering?” the Prophet Joseph Smith queried a group of early Saints. Then he continued, “The main object [is] to build unto the Lord a house whereby He could reveal unto His people the ordinances of His house and the glories of His kingdom, and teach the people the way of salvation.”<sup>4</sup> Such an inspired explanation struck a chord in the hearts of thousands of Latter-day Saints who sacrificed greatly to gather from home and abroad. They responded to the call of the Prophet Joseph to gather to Kirtland, Ohio; then Missouri; and then Nauvoo, Illinois. In each place, they built or planned to build a temple.

## Gathering to Kirtland

Early in 1831, the third conference of the Church was held in Fayette, New York. Here, early converts such as Newell Knight were instructed to gather to the Kirtland, Ohio, region. The Lord revealed, “There I will give unto you my law; and there you shall be endowed with power from on high” (D&C 38:32).

Brother Knight recalled: “We were instructed as a people, to begin the gathering of Israel. . . . Having returned home from conference, in obedience to the commandment which had been given, I, together with the Colesville Branch, began to make preparations to go to Ohio. . . . As might be expected, we were obliged to make great sacrifices of our property.”<sup>5</sup>

The Colesville Branch, led by Newell Knight, was one of three major groups from western New York that made significant sacrifices to gather to Kirtland. In addition to the 67 Colesville Saints, 50 Saints came with the Manchester Branch, led by Martin Harris, and 80 members of the Fayette Branch came under the leadership of Lucy Mack Smith and Thomas B. Marsh.<sup>6</sup>

# *Come to Zion”*



When the Fayette Branch arrived at Buffalo, New York, in May of 1831, they saw the Colesville Saints, stranded in the frozen harbor at Fairport on Lake Erie. Lucy Mack Smith addressed her Fayette companions and made this bold declaration: “Now brethren and sisters, if you will all of you raise your desires to heaven, that the ice may be broken up, and

we be set at liberty, as sure as the Lord lives, it will be done.’ At that instant a noise was heard, like bursting thunder. The captain cried, ‘Every man to his post.’ The ice parted, leaving barely a passage for the boat, and so narrow that as the boat passed through the buckets of the waterwheel were torn off with a crash, which, joined to the word of command from



BUILDING THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE, BY WALTER RANE

**The Saints gathered to Kirtland, Ohio, and labored to build a temple. On April 3, 1836, the Savior, Moses, Elias, and Elijah appeared there (see D&C 110).**

the captain, the hoarse answering of the sailors, the noise of the ice, and the cries and confusion of the spectators, presented a scene truly terrible. We had barely passed through the avenue when the ice closed together again, and the Colesville brethren were left in Buffalo, unable to follow us.”<sup>7</sup>

Commencing in 1831 with these three groups, hundreds of Latter-day Saints began to pass through Fairport Harbor on their way to the Kirtland region. Also, missionaries traveled back from Kirtland through Fairport as they launched missionary work in various places in North America. Numerous missionaries renounced the comforts of home to travel without purse or scrip in order to gather converts from diverse pockets of the eastern United States and Canada.

Such proselytes converged at Kirtland, and many assisted in building the temple during the years 1833–36, although most were in a state of poverty.

Brigham Young was among them. He wrote: “When we arrived in Kirtland [in September 1833], . . . I had two children to take care of—that was all. I was a widower. ‘Brother Brigham, had you any shoes?’ No; not a shoe to my foot, except a pair of borrowed boots. I had no winter clothing, except a homemade coat that I had had three or four years . . . but Joseph said: ‘come up;’ and I went up the best I could.”<sup>8</sup>

Nevertheless, the Saints built a temple in Kirtland. When the Prophet Joseph offered the dedicatory prayer in 1836, he prayed to Almighty God, “Thou knowest that we have done this work through great tribulation; and out of

our poverty we have given of our substance to build a house to thy name” (D&C 109:5).

One week later, on April 3, 1836, the necessary priesthood keys were restored to the earth. Among them were “the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth” restored to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery by the ancient prophet Moses (D&C 110:11).

In this gathering of Saints to Kirtland, we see the pattern of the gathering in the latter days: (1) a call to gather by a prophet; (2) a gathering; and (3) a striving to build a temple.

### Gathering to Missouri

In the summer of 1831, the Prophet Joseph Smith identified Jackson County, Missouri, as the hub of Zion and noted that “the place which is now called Independence is the center place; and a spot for the temple is lying westward” (D&C 57:3). The land of Zion was dedicated by Sidney Rigdon, the temple spot was dedicated by the Prophet Joseph, and the Saints desired to build a temple in Independence, but all were driven out of their homes by Jackson County mobocrats at the close of 1833.

Most of these exiled Saints temporarily settled in Clay County, Missouri, to the north. Elder Parley P. Pratt vividly described the cold winter scene, which presented itself at this time: “Hundreds of people were seen in every direction, some in tents and some in the open air around their fires, while the rain descended in torrents. Husbands were inquiring for their wives, wives for their husbands; parents for children, and children for parents. Some had the good fortune to escape with their families, household goods, and some provisions; while others knew not the fate of their friends, and had lost all their goods.”<sup>9</sup>

By 1836 the Saints in the region had migrated farther north to Caldwell County. Due to persecution in the Kirtland region, hundreds of Saints also fled to the city of Far West in Caldwell County. It became the center town for the Latter-day Saint refugees. Here they laid cornerstones for a temple, but the beleaguered Saints were driven beyond Missouri borders during the frigid winter of 1838–39 before they could build the temple.

### Gathering to Nauvoo

The Prophet Joseph called the displaced Ohio and Missouri Saints to a new gathering place the following year—Nauvoo, Illinois. Here the pattern of gathering, strengthening, and temple building was repeated. The Saints built a beautiful city out of mosquito-infested swampland on the eastern banks of the Mississippi River.

Missionaries from Nauvoo traveled abroad to gather believers in Great Britain and other countries. Thousands were baptized, and between 1840 and 1845 about 5,000 Saints gathered to Nauvoo from overseas.

“It is impossible for pen to describe to you the difficulties you will have to endure,” William Clayton wrote from Nauvoo in 1840 to Edward Martin in England. “For my part I will say that if I was in England now and had experienced all the journey it would not in the least deter me from coming for I have often found that in the greatest seasons of suffering we have the greatest cause of rejoicing.”<sup>10</sup>

All joined in the building of a magnificent temple—the crowning act of their efforts. They had responded to the Lord’s call to “let all my saints

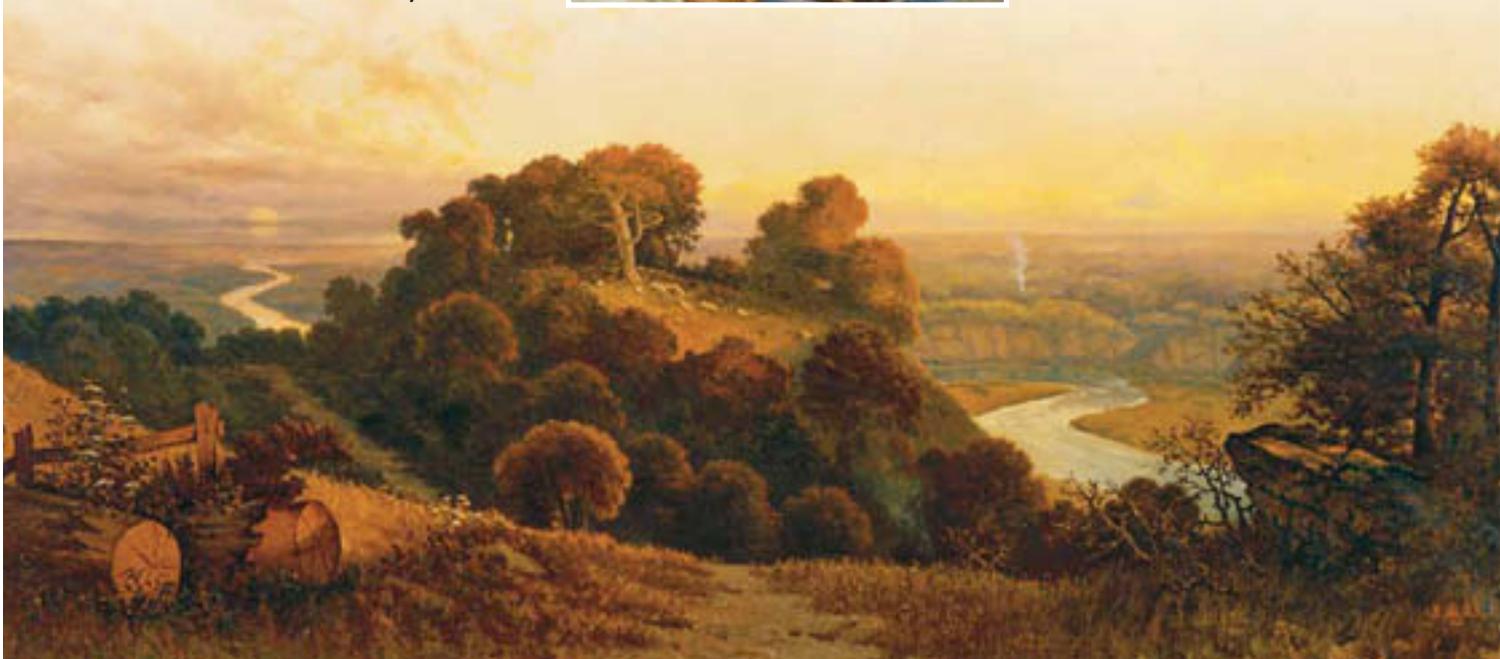
come from afar . . . and build a house to my name, for the Most High to dwell therein” (D&C 124:25, 27).

Many men tithed their time through temple construction every 10th day. Women also willingly served by sewing clothing and preparing meals for the workers.<sup>11</sup> Wandle Mace recalled that following the Martyrdom, “Men were as thick as blackbirds busily engaged upon the various [temple] portions, all intent upon its completion.”<sup>12</sup> Some temple workers labored without adequate shoes or clothing.

Nevertheless, these pioneers willingly sacrificed to help complete the sacred building where thousands of Saints would receive their endowments. These sacred ordinances not only brought inner peace but also provided much-needed spiritual strength for the difficulties which lay immediately ahead.



**Left: Early Latter-day Saints gathered to Missouri. Below: In May 1838, the Prophet designated Adam-ondi-Ahman as a gathering place. Two months later, cornerstones were laid for a temple in Far West.**

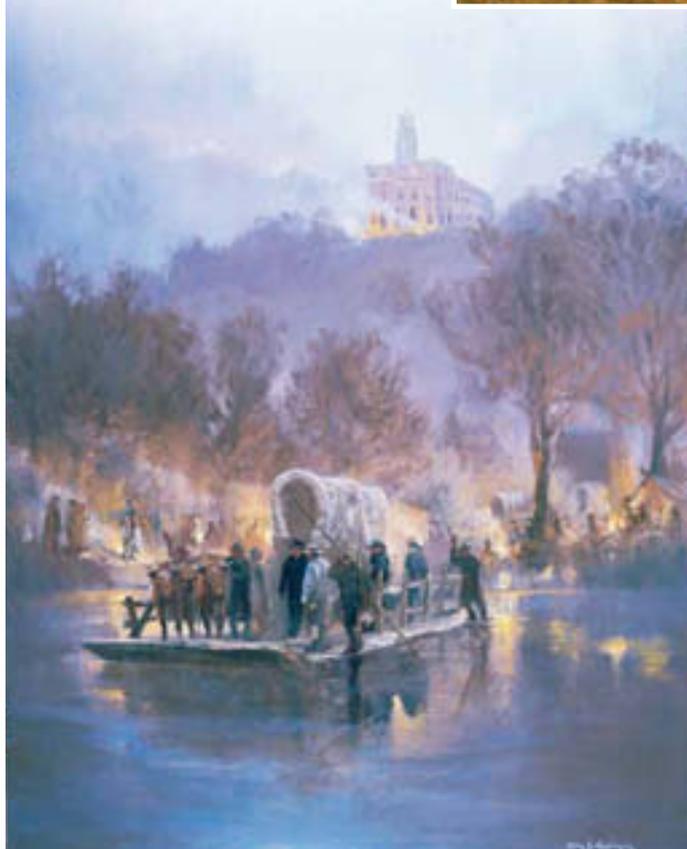


### Gathering to the Salt Lake Valley

In the winter of 1846, the Saints were exiled once again, driven from their homes in Nauvoo to cross the Mississippi River. Sarah Pea Rich bore testimony of the strength the endowment provided the Saints as they began their trek west:

“For if it had not been for the faith and knowledge that was bestowed upon us in that temple [Nauvoo] by the influence and help of the Spirit of the Lord, our journey would have been like one taking a leap in the dark.” She continued, “But we had faith in our Heavenly Father, and

**Below: In the winter of 1845–46, thousands of Latter-day Saints received their endowments in the Nauvoo Temple before they fled. Right: The Saints then gathered to Zion, the Salt Lake Valley, from the United States, Great Britain, and Scandinavia.**



we put our trust in Him, feeling that we were His chosen people; . . . and instead of sorrow we felt to rejoice that the day of our deliverance had come.”<sup>13</sup>

### Gathering Today

In this, the dispensation of the fulness of times, the Prophet Joseph Smith first issued the Lord’s invitation to His people to gather. Whether they gathered from various pockets in North America to build the Kirtland Temple or from across the Atlantic to receive the sacred endowment in Nauvoo, thousands of Saints sacrificed their all. These elect responded to the Lord’s invitation to be instructed and to be “endowed with power from on high.”

The Lord’s invitation is still open. Our prophets still call us to gather, but today we gather to the stakes in our homelands. As we strengthen the stakes of Zion, the Church builds

temples there. Then we, as Latter-day Saints, may also be endowed with that power from on high. And with our temple ordinances in place, we, too, may obtain the great promises of eternal life. ■

*Fred E. Woods is a member of the Grandview Sixth Ward, Provo Utah Grandview Stake.*

### NOTES

1. Autobiography of Robert Crookston, Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5.
2. Quoted in Fred E. Woods, *Gathering to Nauvoo* (2001), 41.
3. Jane Charters Robinson Hindley, “Journals 1855–1905,” vol. 1, Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 11, 14; spelling and capitalization modernized.
4. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), 307–8.
5. *Scraps of Biography: Tenth Book of the Faith-Promoting Series* (1883), 68.
6. See Milton V. Backman Jr., ed., *Regional Studies in Latter-day Saint Church History: Ohio* (1990), 19.
7. Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith*, ed. Preston Nibley (1958), 204–5.
8. *Our Heritage: A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (1996), 23.
9. *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt* (1985), 82.
10. Quoted in Fred E. Woods, *Gathering to Nauvoo* (2001), 22.
11. See *Church History in the Fulness of Times* (Church Educational System manual, 1993), 242.
12. Autobiography of Wandle Mace, Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 120.
13. Autobiography of Sarah DeArmon Pea Rich, typescript, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 42–43.

THE END OF PARLEY STREET, BY GLEN S. HOPKINSON; INSET: PIONEERS CROSSING THE RIVER, BY GREGORY SEEVERS

# Gift

BY LAURIE WILLIAMS SOWBY

I have enjoyed singing for as long as I can remember, though I've never considered mine a solo voice that could enrapture listeners. Still, I have a good ear for pitch and have always felt I was a good "blender," singing the second soprano or alto harmony. One Christmas I discovered that I had not valued the gift as I should have.

I was sitting in the choir seats during the second night of *Messiah* performances by a group I had sung

with for more than 20 years. Each time I have joined in the choruses of Handel's magnificent oratorio, I have felt the confirmation of the Spirit that comes with singing about our Savior.

This time, as I sat listening to one of the soloists sing an aria in her beautiful soprano voice, I thought admiringly, "How would it be to have a voice like that?" The thought was immediately followed by another that felt like a gentle reproach: "No, that is *her* gift. *You* have the gift to sing the alto part with the chorus. It is a good gift, too."

I realized immediately that this was true. Not only was my voice a good gift, but it was also a good-enough gift. If I had the solo voice, I would not be singing with the choir. I would not be able to join in the tight harmonies of "Since by Man Came Death" or the exultant declarations of "Wonderful! Counsellor! the Mighty God! the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" in "For unto Us a Child Is Born." I would not be singing the glorious strains of "Hallelujah!" or "Amen." If I had a different kind of voice, I would miss the opportunity to be part of the magnificent sound surrounding me as the choir sang those choruses. I would be missing much.

I learned in those few moments that it is all right to admire others' gifts as long as doing so is not at the expense of appreciating our own. There is great wisdom in being content to serve with what we have, whether it be the place we live, the people we live with, the kind of work we do, or the various talents we have been given. We need to

"remember that every good gift cometh of Christ" (Moroni 10:18). We

also need to recognize that our gifts not only are good but, because they have been carefully chosen for us, are good enough. ■

*Laurie Williams Sowby is a member of the American Fork 14th Ward, American Fork Utah East Stake.*



PHOTO BY CRAIG DIMOND

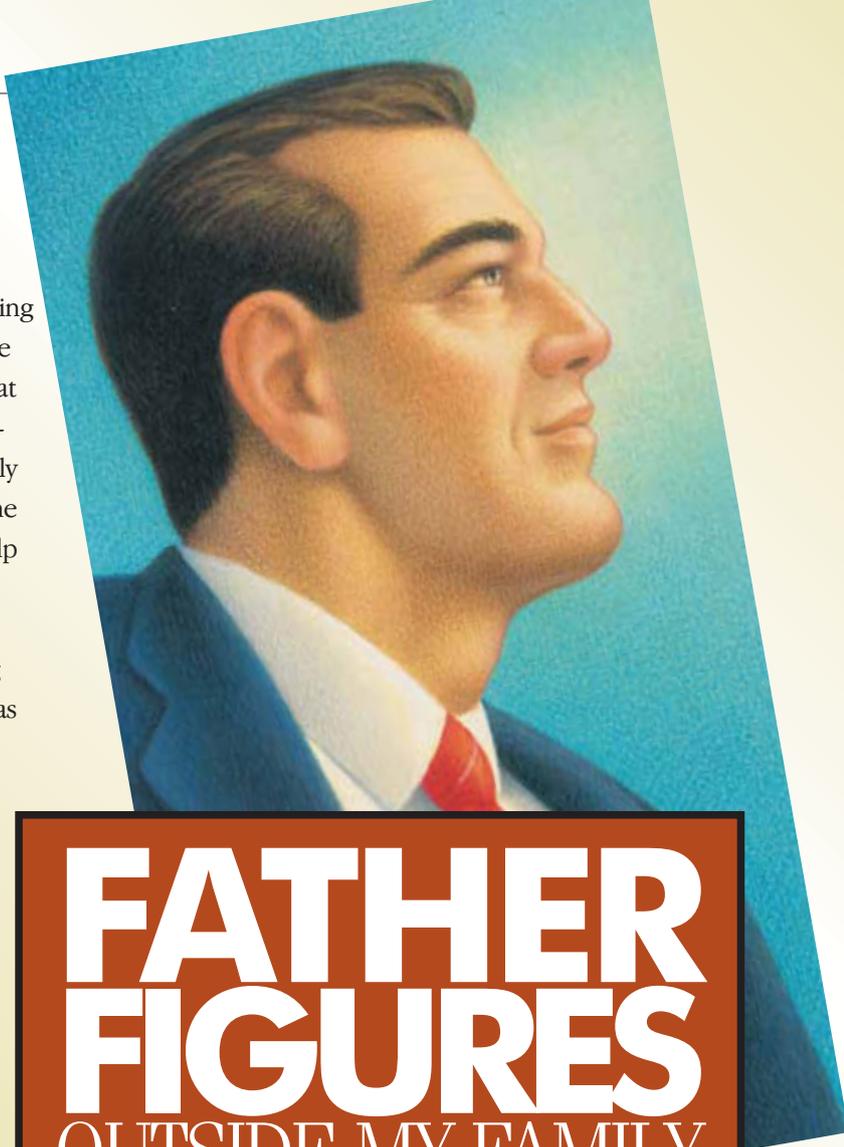
As a mischievous adolescent, I once upset our Scoutmaster and ran outside to hide in the parking lot. Soon our bishop came walking between the cars looking for me. Feeling guilty and ashamed for what I had done, I got his attention, expecting a severe reprimand. He quietly approached me and put his arm gently around my shoulders. Walking back into the building, he expressed his appreciation for me and asked for my help in supporting the Scoutmaster.

Years later that same bishop, then a patriarch, gently placed his hands on my head as he delivered an inspiring blessing full of personal revelation. When his dear wife was stricken with cancer and passed away, he invited me, a newly returned missionary, to offer the dedicatory prayer at her grave. Bishop Bowen taught me about love and compassion.

In the extended family of the Church, I was fortunate to have the examples and association of many “fathers,” particularly since my own father was not an active member. Their Christlike examples inspired me, and I’ve occasionally wondered how my life might be different if men like Bishop Bowen hadn’t taken the time to patiently reach out to a young man like me.

As a young Aaronic Priesthood holder, I was assigned to home teach several wealthy, less-active families with Brother Bradford, a successful dentist in our ward. Occasionally our visits were awkward, but during the years we served together, he steadfastly and consistently made appointments during the first week of the month and carried them out as faithfully as if they were professional appointments. Without preaching to or condemning the families we visited, he simply showed by his own example the value of living the gospel. As we drove from family to family, he shared with me positive things these families had done and taught me to regard them as brothers and sisters, not just less-active home teaching assignments.

During my mission several years later and several thousand miles from home, I drew strength from those experiences while standing uncomfortably on the porches of strangers, waiting to share the gospel with them. Brother Bradford taught me understanding and a strong sense of duty.



# FATHER FIGURES OUTSIDE MY FAMILY

BY TRACY N. TIPPETTS

*From home teaching to car repair, the examples of priesthood mentors in my ward taught me important lessons about fatherhood.*

ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE KROPP

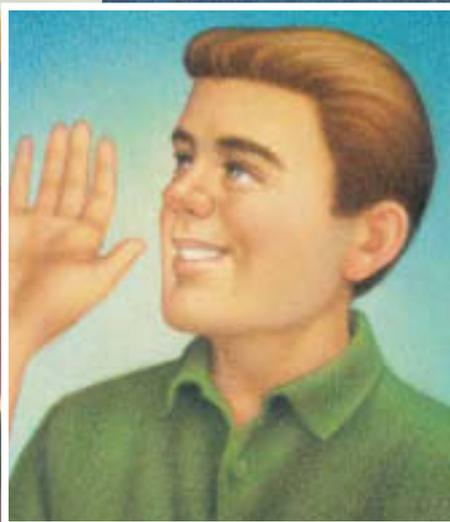
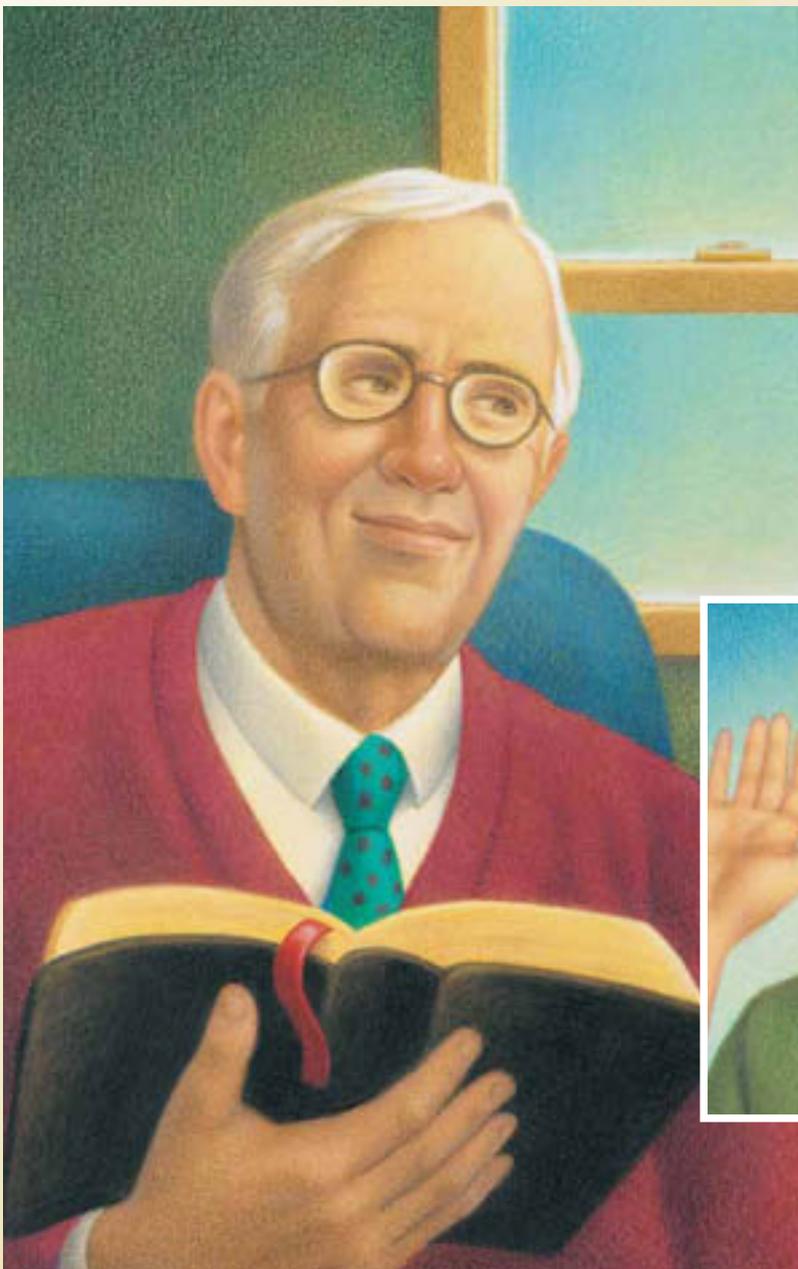
For our senior prom many of my classmates made elaborate plans to rent limousines and escort their dates in style. I decided not to and opted instead to drive our family’s old car, affectionately labeled “the Bomb.” Concerned for the car’s condition, my mother called a handyman member of our ward to look at it. Brother Allen’s daughters were my age, and his wife had been my Primary teacher. As he was inspecting the brakes, Brother Allen rolled out from underneath the car, looked up at me, and asked in a sincere voice, “Would you like to use our car for the prom?”

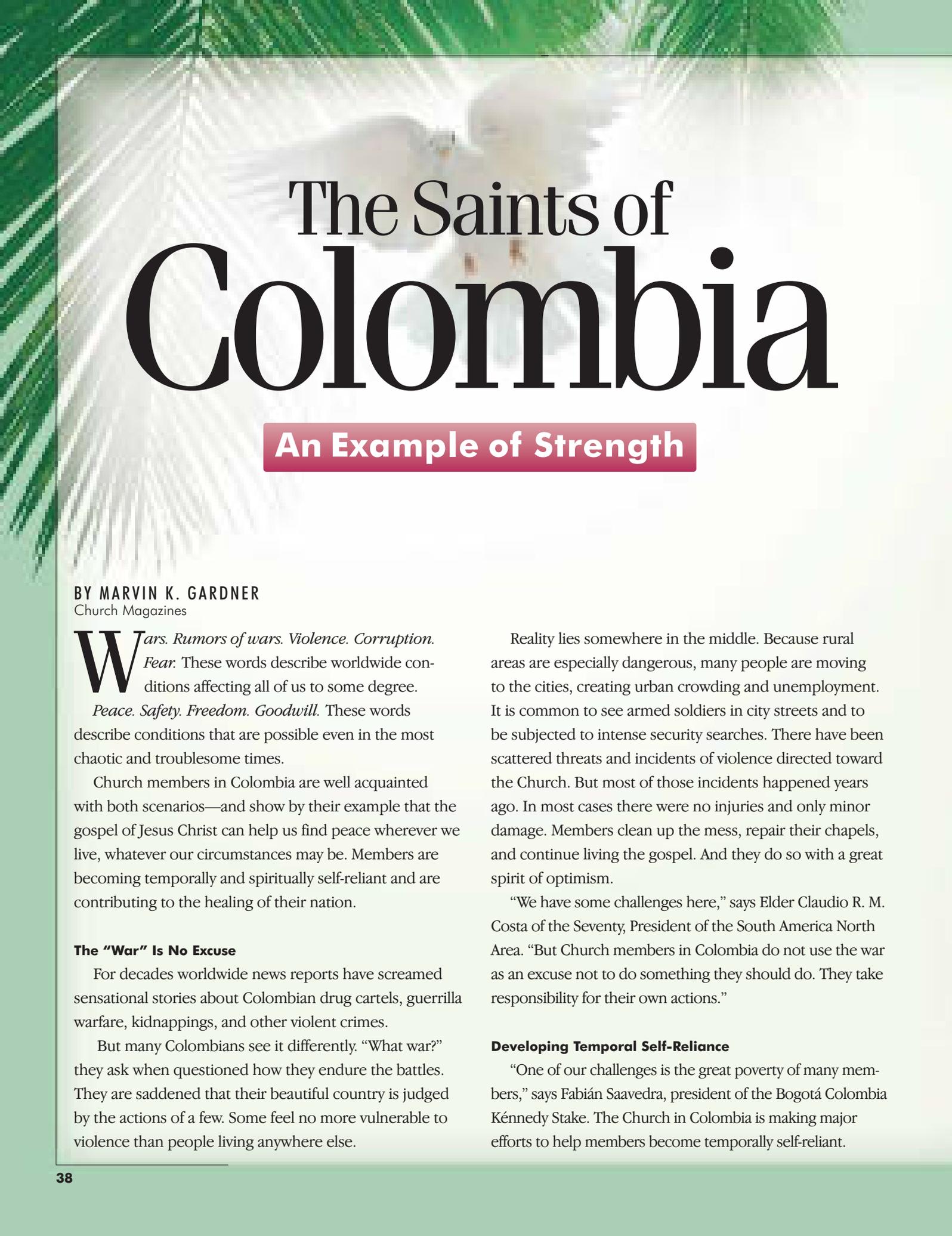
I was stunned. Sitting in the driveway next to the Bomb was his gleaming Cadillac. Many fathers would not make the

same offer to their own sons, and I wasn't even taking his daughter! Although I did not drive the Cadillac to the senior prom, I felt humbled by Brother Allen's gesture of trust and love that surpassed the thrill of driving a fancy car. Brother Allen taught me about thoughtfulness and generosity.

In the solitude of quiet moments, I reflect on the examples of faithful priesthood holders that have deeply touched my life. Their gestures were often small but always significant, and over time they laid for me "the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great" (D&C 64:33). ■

*Tracy N. Tippetts is a member of the Las Posas Branch, Escondido California South Stake.*





# The Saints of Colombia

## An Example of Strength

BY MARVIN K. GARDNER

Church Magazines

**W**ars. Rumors of wars. Violence. Corruption. Fear. These words describe worldwide conditions affecting all of us to some degree.

Peace. Safety. Freedom. Goodwill. These words describe conditions that are possible even in the most chaotic and troublesome times.

Church members in Colombia are well acquainted with both scenarios—and show by their example that the gospel of Jesus Christ can help us find peace wherever we live, whatever our circumstances may be. Members are becoming temporally and spiritually self-reliant and are contributing to the healing of their nation.

### The “War” Is No Excuse

For decades worldwide news reports have screamed sensational stories about Colombian drug cartels, guerrilla warfare, kidnappings, and other violent crimes.

But many Colombians see it differently. “What war?” they ask when questioned how they endure the battles. They are saddened that their beautiful country is judged by the actions of a few. Some feel no more vulnerable to violence than people living anywhere else.

Reality lies somewhere in the middle. Because rural areas are especially dangerous, many people are moving to the cities, creating urban crowding and unemployment. It is common to see armed soldiers in city streets and to be subjected to intense security searches. There have been scattered threats and incidents of violence directed toward the Church. But most of those incidents happened years ago. In most cases there were no injuries and only minor damage. Members clean up the mess, repair their chapels, and continue living the gospel. And they do so with a great spirit of optimism.

“We have some challenges here,” says Elder Claudio R. M. Costa of the Seventy, President of the South America North Area. “But Church members in Colombia do not use the war as an excuse not to do something they should do. They take responsibility for their own actions.”

### Developing Temporal Self-Reliance

“One of our challenges is the great poverty of many members,” says Fabián Saavedra, president of the Bogotá Colombia Kénnedy Stake. The Church in Colombia is making major efforts to help members become temporally self-reliant.

**Encouraging education.** “We’re seeing a great miracle,” says Elder Costa. “Many people are poor when they join the Church. But the prophet tells them to see that their children get an education, and they make great sacrifices to do so. Their children are the first in their families to attend the university. Many get good employment—and they aren’t poor anymore.” One example is Luis Prieto, who grew up in a humble home in Bogotá. He was baptized in 1972, along with his parents and siblings. His parents made many sacrifices for their children to get an education. Now Luis is a successful attorney.

Nearly 400 young Colombian men and women are benefiting from the Perpetual Education Fund

(PEF). One young man was married in the temple soon after his mission. “He wasn’t prepared to support a family,” says his father. “And we didn’t have the means to help him with his studies. He applied to PEF and is now in his second semester of technical training.” At the same time he works as a teacher at

**Temple president Roberto Rubio and his wife, Leonor, are native Colombians. “There can be war and iniquity all around us,” he says, “but because of the temple, we can have peace.”**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARVIN K. GARDNER, EXCEPT AS NOTED; LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH OF DOVE © COMSTOCK; PHOTOGRAPH OF PALM TREE © PHOTODISC

the Missionary Training Center and is applying for work in his field. “The Perpetual Education Fund has brought hope to our youth,” says Elder Walter F. González of the Seventy, First Counselor in the Area Presidency.

**Helping the unemployed.** Church leaders teach members to get out of debt, pay tithing, and share ideas to help one another succeed. They encourage members not to immigrate to other nations but to stay in Colombia and help the Church grow.

“When a priesthood leader becomes unemployed, we counsel with him immediately,” says Elder Costa. “We try never to let more than a week pass before local employment specialists and others sit down with him and share ideas. He comes away with hope and motivation to go out and accomplish something.” Then these leaders do the same for other members who become unemployed.

**Growing a garden.** Behind the Bogotá Kennedy stake center are two small vegetable gardens, each measuring one square meter—an unusual sight in this urban setting. President Fabián Saavedra and his wife, Rosa, proudly show off the small crop. “We have grown radishes, carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbages, peas, lettuce, and herbs in these tiny plots,” says Sister Saavedra as she pulls a radish out of the soil. “Some people have only a tiny spot to plant a few things. But they are learning the principle and obeying it.”

“The purpose of these meetinghouse gardens,” says President Saavedra, “is to show how much can be harvested in a small space. Many members plant gardens and testify of the blessings of their harvest. In our own apartment, we have no yard or patio, so our garden is a pot in which we’ve planted tomatoes. We put it by the window, and our tomato plants are growing beautifully!”

In Popayán, Alfonso Tenorio is a doctor who also publishes a scholarly medical journal. In addition he works with his wife, Lucía, in their spacious garden behind his father’s house. They help in his aunts’ gardens. They check the work LDS young men are doing in gardens they’ve planted



## MAY PEACE REIGN

President Gordon B. Hinckley said during the temple dedicatory prayer: “We invoke Thy divine favor upon this

nation of Colombia. Bless its people and its government for their kindness to Thy servants. May peace reign in the land and the noise of conflict be silenced. May Thy work roll on without hindrance and may Thy servants, whose message is one of peace, be protected and guided in their ministry” (“Thy People Will Enter into Covenants with Thee,” *Church News*, May 1, 1999, 10).

at a Catholic school. They speak to city groups and service clubs, promoting home gardens. Largely through the Tenorios’ efforts, gardens have become fashionable in many Popayán households. “We see our efforts as a way to help friends and neighbors become self-reliant so we will all be able to eat in times of trouble,” says Alfonso.

**Storing food and water.** No matter how small the home, members find space for food storage. In Carmen Merisalde’s home in Bogotá, the tele-

phone table covered by a lovely floor-length cloth is really a barrel filled with bags of dry-packed food.

Members are encouraged to save a little bit—even just a handful—of rice or other basic foods every time they prepare a meal. That way, even when money is scarce, they are storing little by little. When they have collected enough, they dry pack it for storage. The stake owns a dry-pack machine that rotates from ward to ward so everyone has a chance to use it. “You should see the tears in the eyes of many as they dry pack the first bag of rice they have collected handful by handful,” says President Saavedra.

**Sharing with others.** Some of the food in Ivonne Palacio’s kitchen cupboards in Bogotá will never appear on her table. It is reserved for others. The Area Presidency encourages members to store food to share in cases of emergency. “We call it ‘the Lord’s storehouse in the homes of the members,’” says Elder Costa. “The bishop asks families to always have on hand a certain amount of rice or other basic food items that they can donate. Then when he asks for it for a needy family, they donate it and buy more to replace it.”

This method has several benefits. “First, it encourages members to have their own food storage,” says Elder Costa. “Second, we are taking care of emergencies quickly. Third, we can save fast-offering funds for situations in which cash is needed, such as for medicine or rent. Although the Kennedy stake is one of the poorest economically, almost all families have some food storage—and many have some

to share. And the stake is self-reliant in fast-offering funds.”

“We are not storing just food and water, we’re also storing blessings!” says Sister Palacio. “Heavenly Father is teaching us to have the pure love of Christ.”

Irma Piñeros of the Banderas Ward, Kénnedy stake, teaches sewing in Relief Society. “One sister needed a way to earn money working at home,” she says. “So I gave her a sewing machine. Now she can support herself and her family.”

“In the midst of profound economic problems,” says Roberto Rubio, president of the Bogotá Colombia Temple, “members of the Church have what they need—food to eat and clothes to wear. It is still a fight to survive, but their needs are satisfied according to the economic standards of our nation.”

“In stake conferences,”

says Elder Costa, “I ask members who have been in the Church for a certain number of years to look back and see if they were better off before joining the Church. I have never found a person who can say that he or she was. They always have more, not less, because of the Church.”

### Developing Spiritual Self-Reliance

Saints in Colombia are following the Lord’s counsel to “stand . . . in holy places” (D&C 87:8). “We are teaching members to be spiritually self-reliant,” says Elder Costa. “If something happens and members are unable to meet with the body of the Saints, they can continue active in the gospel in their own homes.”

### Stake presidents or counselors from eight stakes in Bogotá



### Strengthening homes and families.

How do Colombian members walk out the door—and let their children do so—when risks are so great? Their answers are strikingly similar to those of members around the world: “Dora and I have



Carmen Merisalde



Lucía and Alfonso Tenorio



Rosa and Fabián Saavedra

**M**any members grow gardens and store food to become temporally self-reliant.

family prayer with our children every morning before leaving home,” says Sergio Correa, president of the Medellín Colombia Stake. “We ask the Lord to help us avoid dangerous situations. We take the Holy Ghost as our guide and try to use good judgment. Then we do what we need to do. In family prayer at night, we thank the Lord for watching over us.” The formula isn’t new. But it brings peace.

“Bombs don’t really destroy,” adds President Correa. “Sins destroy. That’s why we encourage stake members to have family prayer, study the scriptures and the words of modern prophets, hold family home evening, attend church, and go to the temple as often as possible.”

Elder Roberto García, an Area Authority Seventy and Second Counselor in the Area Presidency, serves as an

administrator for the Church Educational System and knows Latter-day Saint youth well. “Drugs are not much of a problem among the youth of the Church in Colombia,” he says. “The greater problem in our society is parents who don’t teach their children the gospel. We are changing old attitudes and cycles by teaching families correct doctrine.”

**Preparing for the temple.** President Spencer W. Kimball announced the Bogotá Colombia Temple in April 1984. But 15 years passed before the temple became reality. Those years were filled with opposition, legal struggles, and discouragement. They were also filled with fasting, prayer, and hard work. Many were unwilling to wait, so they took long journeys to temples in other lands. Others used the extra time to overcome personal obstacles. When temple

doors opened in April 1999, the Saints were richly blessed for their patience and preparation.

“The difficulties and delays helped purify the people,” says César A. Dávila, a temple architect who serves as an Area Authority Seventy. “That difficult period helped us learn to value the most important things—our families and testimonies.”

Elder Dávila speaks of the

solid foundation upon which the temple is built, which includes more than 200 reinforced columns driven 50 meters into the ground.

“With the Lord’s help, this temple will stand for centuries,” he says. He sees symbolism in the temple’s strong foundation.

**H**omes become holy as families develop spiritual self-reliance.



**The Correa family**



**The Tobón family**



**The Hernández family**



**The Juliao family**

EL LIBRO DE MORMÓN

OTRO TESTAM

“Are we built upon ‘the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God’? (Helaman 5:12),” he asks. “Are we built upon strong pillars, such as faith, testimony, scripture study, prayer, and obedience to living prophets?”

**Being blessed by the temple.** “Those who attend the temple are improving the spiritual quality of their lives,” says Carlos Vega, president of the Bogotá Colombia El Dorado Stake. “Now we have stronger leaders, and more members are obeying the law of chastity and holding their marriages sacred.”

“The focus of our work is strengthening families,” says Edgar J. Gómez, president of the Bogotá Colombia Granada Stake. “We are encouraging husbands and wives to love one another and parents to love their children. We often use the family proclamation as our text.”

Javier Tobón, manager of Latin America Family History Support Services, has compiled many generations of his own family history and is teaching others how to do the same. “We’re doing exactly the opposite of what the guerrillas are doing,” he says. “They are destroying families—we are uniting them.”

**Retaining and activating members.** Even though Colombia has a high baptism rate, Church attendance is increasing faster than the number of baptisms. “This signifies activation and retention,” says Elder Costa. One reason for this success is the nurturing new members receive. Immediately after being baptized and confirmed, they receive a free copy of the *Liabona* magazine. New families also receive a personalized welcome letter and a box of basic materials, including the proclamation on the family, “The Living Christ,” and *For the Strength of Youth*. The box also includes selected manuals and information on temple and family history work. Home teachers, visiting teachers, and ward and branch leaders help new members know how to use the materials. They track the progress of new converts and help them prepare for the temple.

To ensure that members are being nourished, stakes hold teacher improvement classes. “We encourage teachers to use the Lord’s curriculum, instead of their own ideas,” says Elder Costa. “And we are developing great leaders who follow the Brethren. As we show stake presidencies greater



### A LIGHTHOUSE SPREADING HOPE

People of many religions recognize the great influence of the temple, which flies the Colombian flag. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, president of Colombia, calls the temple “a magnificent treasure in our city and our nation.” Neighbors say they are happy to live nearby; most try to keep their homes beautiful to fit in with the temple.

“The whole city has improved,” says Carlos Vega, president of the Bogotá Colombia El Dorado Stake. “The feeling of peace in our city and homes has increased. There is still violence, but we don’t feel it as much. It’s as if the cries of violence are being stilled. A prophet said it would be that way, and it is.”

“The temple elevates our feelings of what it means to be members of the Church,” says Carlos Ospina, president of the Bogotá Colombia Ciudad Jardín Stake. “Because people know about the temple, it’s easier to talk about the gospel.”

“The temple is like a lighthouse,” says Roberto Rubio, temple president. He, both counselors, and nearly all of the temple workers are native Colombians. “As members fix their gaze on the temple, they have hope. Of course, there are tribulations and challenges, but the Lord lightens their load. There can be war and iniquity all around us, but because of the temple, we can have peace and enjoy the love of our families and of the Lord. What more could we want?”

trust, we don’t receive as many phone calls from them because they are learning that they have keys, power, authority, and the right to receive inspiration.”

**Enjoying the fruits of faithfulness.** Members reflect upon President Spencer W. Kimball’s visit in 1977 and the visits of President Gordon B. Hinckley in 1996 and again in 1999 for the temple dedication. They remember the promises given and see Church growth as fulfillment of prophecy. From humble beginnings in the mid-1960s, there are now nearly 145,000 members in Colombia. Four missions include nearly 800 full-time missionaries, all from Colombia and other Latin



### TRAVELING TO THE TEMPLE

Because traveling through rural areas is risky, some travel to the temple by air. But most have no option other than to go by land. Some use public transportation; others travel in bus convoys chartered by the stakes.

“Many who come are poor economically,” says temple president Roberto Rubio, “but they have a millionaire spirit. A woman who recently came on the bus from Pereira is more than 80 years old and is extremely poor. She sells newspapers and collects and sells old bottles to come to the temple. There are many like her.”

Álvaro Emiro and Maritza Ariza recently took their five children, ages one through ten, to the temple. They first walked 40 minutes to catch a bus. Then after a two-hour bus ride, they arrived in Barbosa, where they joined a busload of members led by Ismael Carreño, president of the Barbosa Branch, Duitama Colombia District. After another bus ride of nearly five hours, they reached the temple and were sealed as a family.

Members from Cartagena (above) recently went to the temple in two busloads, a journey of 20 hours each way. Among the travelers were Johny San Juan, elders quorum president; his wife, Everlides, Young Women president; and their three children. Because they had spent time completing four generations of family history, their daughter, Estefanía, age 12, was baptized for some of her ancestors, and Johny and Everlides were endowed and sealed in their behalf.

American nations. Dotting the land are LDS meetinghouses, family history centers, institutes of religion, a Missionary Training Center, and the temple.

Historians such as Ernesto Hernández of Cali are documenting major events with records, journals, and photographs. The stories are also recorded in the lives and hearts of members. When Fabio and Luisa Fernanda Bohórquez of Bogotá attended a recent temple session, they were humbled to see that the officiators were Héctor and Marina Cano, a couple Fabio had baptized years earlier as a missionary in Pereira. The Canos are

servicing a temple mission and plan to serve future missions.

In Barranquilla, Roberto and Fabiola Juliao gather their family in their home. Grandchildren settle on parents’ and grandparents’ laps as Brother and Sister Juliao reminisce about their baptisms in 1975, their temple sealing in 1986, and other experiences. She has served in all of the auxiliaries and is currently the ward Primary president. He tells of serving in many priesthood callings and shows his grandchildren a precious memento—the shovel he used to help break ground for the Bogotá temple.

One son, Cristian, did not accept baptism until he and his wife were expecting their first child. Suddenly they were motivated to learn about the gospel. They were baptized and later sealed in the temple. At one time, Cristian and his father served together as counselors to the mission president. “I found myself wanting to become just like my father,” he says. “I realized he has taught me the most important principles in life. I hope to pass this inheritance on to my own children.”

### Being Good Citizens

As members become more self-reliant, they are making a difference in their communities. The Church is becoming increasingly appreciated for its role as a good neighbor, for its humanitarian efforts, and for the patriotism of its members.

**Becoming part of the community.** Relief Societies in the Medellín Colombia Belén Stake offer classes in cooking, handwork, and arts and crafts. Many who are not members of the Church come and learn marketable skills. They appreciate the Church’s generosity and neighborliness.

Dr. Eduardo Pastrana, president of the Medellín Belén stake, has clarified Latter-day Saint values in televised interviews. “I have read that Medellín is classified as the most violent city in the world,” he says. “In my medical practice, I see many who are fearful and desperate because of our nation’s social and economic situation. But my wife, children, and I feel peace in our home because of the light of the gospel, and I try to share that peace with my patients.”

Other Colombian members are also contributing to society in a host of professions. In Bucaramanga, Héctor Elías Ariza, an attorney, served as general secretary to the

governor of Santander. He and his brother, Sergio, direct and accompany a stake choir that presents Christmas concerts for the community. Their sister, Patricia, is a judge. Their mother, Olga, a retired teacher, regularly hosts lively family home evenings for her children's professional colleagues and other friends.

**Joining efforts with the president and the first lady.**

Church members have participated in several humanitarian projects with Lina María Moreno de Uribe, first lady of the republic—donating wheelchairs, hearing aids, eye surgeries, and school desks. The first lady has attended events in LDS chapels to assist in distributing donated items. On these occasions prayers are offered and stake

**C**hurch members are making a difference in their communities.



**The Pastrana family**



**The first lady of Colombia (center) greets a girl receiving hearing aids.**



**The president of Colombia (center) meets with Elder Costa and Elder García.**

and being a good leader among the students.' He said, 'I will do it.'"

The first lady arranged for the Area Presidency and others to meet with her husband, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, president of Colombia. The visit took place on November 7, 2003, in the presidential palace. President Uribe said: "I am very grateful for all you do and for the kind of citizens you make. On behalf of the government, please accept my support, endorsement, and gratitude."

"President Uribe is a good man, an honest man, a family man," says Elder Costa.

The Church's position of political neutrality makes it clear that "our purposes are religious and humanitarian, not political," Elder Costa continues. "When somebody needs a wheelchair, we don't ask his or her political or religious preference. And we teach members to be good citizens of this nation, to respect the laws, to vote, and to contribute in positive ways."

"A living prophet has promised us that if we do our part, Colombia will change," says Elder Roberto García. "We are working and praying for this. And we are praying for the leaders of our nation."

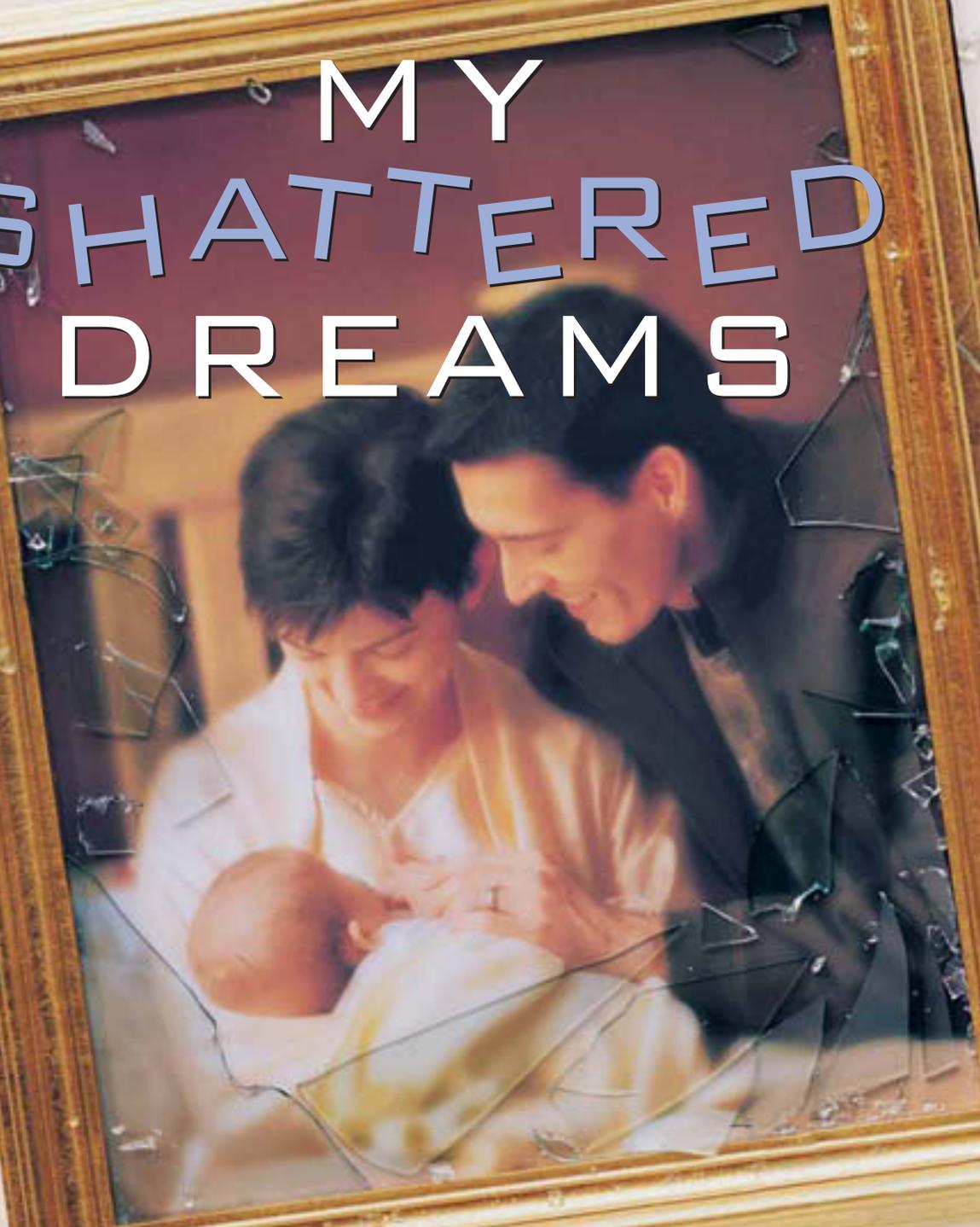
Members of the Church in Colombia are standing in holy places—their homes, their temple, their chapels, their places of employment, their schools, their community. As they follow a living prophet, strengthen their families, and share the necessities of life with others, they are helping to heal and bless a wounded nation. ■

choirs sing Church hymns. Many people have attended, including government leaders, diplomats, and media representatives.

Most recipients of the donated items are not members of the Church. "One student representing a school receiving new desks asked, 'How can I repay you?'" says Elder Costa. "I answered, 'By being a good citizen, being honest,

PHOTOGRAPH OF FIRST LADY COURTESY OF COLOMBIA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# MY SHATTERED DREAMS



*I married after being single for many years.  
Then, a little more than a year later, my husband died.*

BY NIKKI SUE CLARK

**W**e will all experience times of trial and testing. President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) stated: “We knew before we were born that we were coming to the earth for bodies and experience and that we would have joys and sorrows, ease and pain, comforts and hardships, health and sickness, successes and disappointments. We knew also that after a period of life we would die.”<sup>1</sup> Yet at times it seems impossible that we accepted the adversities of life before we came here. Did I really accept the trial of losing my husband after little more than a year of marriage?

### **My Desire to Marry**

From early on I knew how I wanted my life to proceed. I would attend Ricks College in Idaho for two years and earn an associate degree, by which time I would be married. Then I would start a family and be a stay-at-home mom. But when graduation approached, I was not dating anyone seriously and didn't really know what I should do next; I hadn't thought about other options.

I decided to enroll at Brigham Young University to complete a degree in education, still keeping in mind my ultimate plan of being a wife and mother. While jogging one day, I felt that I should consider a mission. The prompting took me by surprise because a mission had never been in my plan. After much fasting and prayer, I submitted my papers and was called to the Korea Pusan Mission. There I reaped the personal growth that comes from service and overcoming adversity.

After returning home, I turned my attention again to seeking an eternal companion. I did not find him while I was at BYU. In fact, I wasn't to find him for many more years. But I realized that I needed to be happy right then and to make

the most of my life. I loved teaching high school and had many experiences that helped me grow. Still, each year as I reached another birthday, I wondered if Heavenly Father was listening to my prayers. What about my plan? It was a trial to be single for so long. I wasn't sure where I fit in. I turned 29 and thought all hope was lost. It was then that I met Cameron in our singles ward. He was a worthy priesthood bearer and a hard worker, and most important, he had a strong testimony of the gospel and of the Savior Jesus Christ.

### **My Dream Fulfilled**

We married in June 1999 in the Idaho Falls Temple. I will never forget that day. I remember how grateful I was that I had remained worthy throughout my life and that I was being sealed to a worthy man. I realized Heavenly Father *had* been listening to me; everything had happened in His time, not mine.

Cameron and I were very happy. We served others and magnified our Church callings. We made our home one in which we could be guided by the Spirit. Soon after we were married, Cameron felt we should start our family right away rather than wait until he finished school as we had considered. How grateful I am that he listened to the Spirit. In August 2000 our daughter, Kenadee Fawn, was born. I had been happy single, but the joy I experienced as a wife and mother was beyond description. I stopped teaching school to stay home with Kenadee. Finally, I was living the life I had always wanted.

On October 16, 2000, I was in bed with two-month-old Kenadee. We watched as Cameron excitedly got dressed to go hunting for the day. He had worked a night shift and had come home early that morning full of energy. We said our prayers together as we always did before he left. His prayer still stands out in my mind as he thanked Heavenly Father



for his wonderful wife and beautiful daughter. We kissed each other good-bye and said “I love you” as he hurried out the door, calling back that he would see me later that afternoon.

At 2:00 p.m. he wasn’t home, and I began to worry. I felt something was wrong but dismissed the thought. At 3:00 p.m. I received a call from the hospital. A nurse told me there had been an accident and my husband was being taken by life flight to the hospital. She did not have any details.

#### **My Dream Shattered**

I immediately knelt down to pray that Cameron would be all right, and a feeling of peace came over me. When I walked into the hospital, I was not prepared for the news: Cameron had already died. My mind flooded with thoughts of disbelief: “No, it isn’t true. Why me? Why now? It isn’t fair. I waited so long to find him. We are so happy.

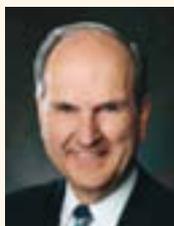
***I was not prepared for the news: Cameron had already died. My mind flooded with thoughts of disbelief.***

We have a new baby.” I felt despair and devastation. Driving home from the hospital in a daze, I felt that a part of me was gone. I didn’t know what to do. That night as I knelt down to pray, my emotions overcame me, and I wept. As I cried, I prayed and thought of Jesus Christ. For a moment

I took comfort in knowing that the Savior had experienced everything I was feeling and more. In an instant my whole life plan had changed. I was not sure how I could live without Cameron. I prayed for strength. This was the first of numerous prayers that have sustained me. I now know our Father in Heaven is there. He listens. He grants me comfort.

The week went by in a blur. During the viewing and funeral, I had a feeling of peace that seemed to sustain me. As I spoke at the funeral, I felt as if Cameron were standing next to me. Even though I didn’t want to, I knew I had to

## BLESSINGS OF THE TEMPLE



*“The blessings of the temple become most meaningful when our loved ones are taken in death from our*

*family circles. To know that our period of separation is but temporary provides peace that passes ordinary understanding. President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972) wrote, ‘Through the power of this priesthood which Elijah bestowed, husband and wife may be sealed, or married for eternity; children may be sealed to their parents for eternity; thus the family is made eternal, and death does not separate the members.’ Blessed with eternal sealings, we can face death as a necessary component of God’s great plan of happiness.”*

**Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Prepare for Blessings of the Temple,” *Ensign*, Mar. 2002, 22.**

go on. I knew I still played a part in Heavenly Father’s plan somehow.

The months following Cameron’s death were a time of intense learning, and I came to understand many things that helped me deal with the everyday battles I faced. Even now, nearly every day is a struggle.

Elder Orson F. Whitney (1855–1931) wrote: “No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God.”<sup>2</sup> The words seemed as if they had been written for me.

### My Source of Comfort

Since my husband’s death, people have commented on how strong I am. It is not my own strength I have relied on but the strength of the Lord. I lean heavily on the comfort that comes from constant prayer and careful scripture study. One day I was feeling painfully alone and was searching for peace. I found the inspiration I needed in Doctrine and Covenants 58:2–4:

“For verily I say unto you, blessed is he that keepeth my commandments, whether in life or in death; and he that is faithful in tribulation, the reward of the same is greater in the kingdom of heaven.

“Ye cannot behold with your natural eyes, for the present time, the design of your God concerning those things which shall come hereafter, and the glory which shall follow after much tribulation.

“For after much tribulation come the blessings. Wherefore

the day cometh that ye shall be crowned with much glory; the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand.”

I have learned to accept comfort and peace from others. So much solace has come from my wonderful family. They, along with ward members and friends, have given me strength to keep going. When the news of my husband’s death reached the high school where I used to teach, the 2,700 students took action. They designated a “Make a Difference Day,” when all the student body did acts of service for my daughter and me. We received money, diapers, food, clothing, quilts, toys, and many other things to make our life more comfortable.

I have also found that losing myself in service to others helps

bring me peace. Shortly after my husband died, I made some cookies and took them to a sister on my visiting teaching route. As I talked with her, she told me how she and her husband were struggling financially. My compassion and love for this sister deepened as I listened to her. I have found that when I take the time to think about other people, I do not think about my own problems. I feel better about myself and feel good in knowing that I can help ease the burdens of another.

In times of desperation I have found solace in the hymns. It has been helpful to memorize them, for the words flow freely to my mind when I need them. I have tried to eliminate the unnecessary concerns that clutter my mind. When I take time to go to a secluded place, I am able to think clearly about the decisions I face. I know the Spirit is able to whisper to me when my mind is focused.

I feel closer to my husband and the Lord when I am in the temple. I have gained a greater understanding of how



important it is to do work for the dead. When Cameron and I were married, we became companions not only for time but also for eternity. We worked well together. Since Cameron's death I feel we are a team working together still, just in a different way. He is fulfilling his calling on the other side. When I attend the temple, I am fulfilling my calling here in this mortal realm. There is a feeling at the temple that brings peace to my soul.

#### **The Savior's Gift of Peace**

Most important, I have come to trust and have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; this is the key to peace. I have faith that someday everything will be sorted out. I trust that I will understand the answers to the "why" questions. The Savior endured the suffering of all our Father's children. He experienced all physical pain and also the pain caused by the disobedience of mankind. He understands what I feel, and He has perfect compassion. What I have learned most from my adversity is a deeper appreciation and love for my Savior. I know He can heal us and bring us peace and comfort.

In Liberty Jail the Prophet Joseph Smith received this

***Losing myself in service  
for our daughter,  
Kenadee, and others  
brings me joy.***

reassurance: "My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes" (D&C 121:7-8).

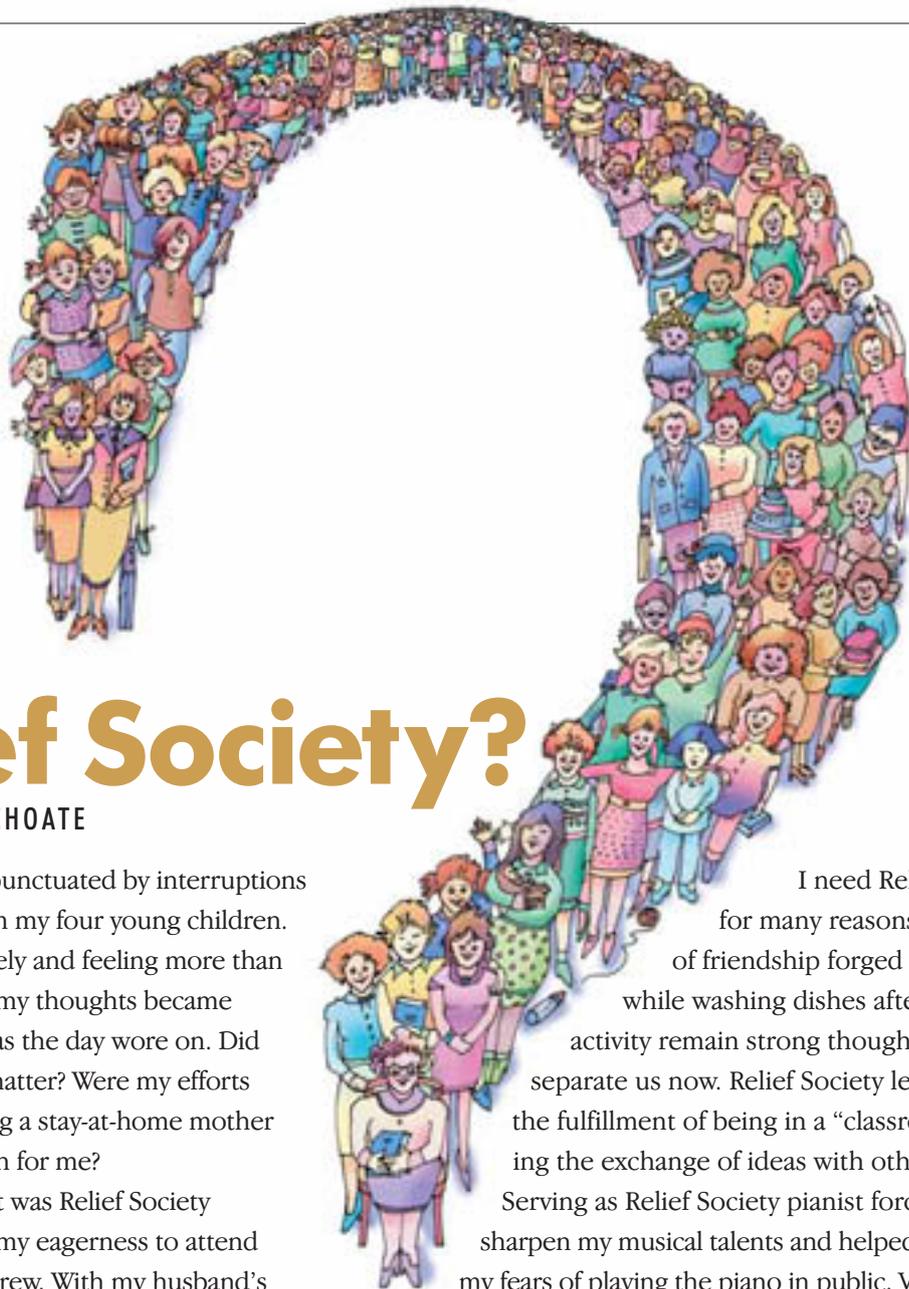
Our Heavenly Father wants to comfort us. A saying that hangs on my living room wall reads: "The same Everlasting Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings."<sup>3</sup>

If we are faithful during trials, adversity, and affliction, we show that we truly love the Lord, and we prepare ourselves for great blessings. I know the Lord can turn my times of trial into eternal blessings. Facing trials may be difficult, but that is an essential part of our mortal experience. When I look back on my life, I would not wish away the experiences I have had, for I know I have a part in Heavenly Father's plan. ■

#### **NOTES**

1. *Tragedy or Destiny?* (1977), 2.
2. As quoted in Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle* (1972), 98.
3. St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622).

*Nikki Sue Clark is a member of the Midvale Third Ward, Midvale Utah North Stake.*



# Why Relief Society?

BY JANE McBRIDE CHOATE

**I**t had been a day punctuated by interruptions and demands from my four young children. Because I was lonely and feeling more than a bit sorry for myself, my thoughts became increasingly negative as the day wore on. Did my daily work really matter? Were my efforts appreciated? Was being a stay-at-home mother really the best decision for me?

Although that night was Relief Society enrichment meeting, my eagerness to attend waned as my fatigue grew. With my husband's encouragement, however, I changed my clothes and began feeling a stirring of anticipation.

The evening was wonderful. Well-prepared and enjoyable, the activities left me with fresh insights, delicious refreshments, and a project I was well on my way to completing by the end of the evening. More important, I regained my perspective and sense of balance. Talking with and listening to the other sisters, I realized my frustrations were neither unique nor insurmountable. Feeling the support of other sisters in my situation, I returned home with a renewed determination to continue in my chosen course and with a realization that, yes, my work *was* important.

I need Relief Society for many reasons. The bonds of friendship forged with a sister while washing dishes after a Relief Society activity remain strong though many miles separate us now. Relief Society lessons provide the fulfillment of being in a "classroom" and enjoying the exchange of ideas with other "students." Serving as Relief Society pianist forced me to sharpen my musical talents and helped me overcome my fears of playing the piano in public. Visiting teaching encourages me to meet and learn to love women I might otherwise have never known—those who are younger or older, married or single, those with no children and those with many. Receiving compassionate service has also blessed my life—second-mile Relief Society sisters have arranged meals and baby-sitting when I was in the hospital with a new baby, have remembered my birthday with cards and treats, and have given encouragement when I've sometimes felt depressed. I need Relief Society because there I know I will find learning, understanding, and love. ■

*Jane McBride Choate is a member of the Big Thompson Ward, Loveland Colorado Stake.*



# Now Let Us Rejoice

When the Relief Society was established under the hand of the Prophet Joseph Smith on March 17, 1842, our early sisters in Nauvoo, who had committed themselves to the Lord at conversion, recognized the dawning of a new day. During that first sacred session they sang “Now Let Us Rejoice” (*Hymns*, no. 3).\*

This time line, organized by the period of service of each of the Relief Society general presidents and detailing which Church Presidents they served with, chronicles some joyful milestones of the organization’s legacy and some Church and historical events. As Relief Society sisters today, we too rejoice in the Lord’s organization for women, which helps us as we strive daily to keep our covenants, exercise charity, strengthen families, and ultimately come unto the Savior Jesus Christ.

*\*This hymn was identified in the Relief Society minutes of March 17, 1842, as “Come, Let Us Rejoice.” The title in both the original hymnal and the current edition is “Now Let Us Rejoice.”*



1842–44

Emma Smith



*Emma Smith*

*“We are going to do something extraordinary. . . . We expect extraordinary occasions and pressing calls”*

(*Relief Society, Minutebook 1842 Mar.–1844 Mar.*, entry made Mar. 17, 1842, 12, *LDS Church Archives*).

☪ Relief Society sisters received the Prophet’s charge to “save souls and look to the poor and needy.” The Prophet declared, “All I shall have to give to the poor, I shall give to this society.” He offered five dollars in gold to Emma Smith.

🏛️ Joseph Smith martyred, 1844.

🌐 First public telegraph transmitted, 1844.



1866–87

Eliza R. Snow



*Eliza R. Snow*

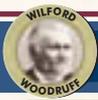
*“No sister [is] so isolated . . . but what she can do a great deal towards establishing the Kingdom of God upon the earth”*

(*Woman’s Exponent*, Sept. 15, 1873, 62).

☪ Relief Society sisters engaged in sericulture (the production of raw silk) and other projects to help provide for their families.

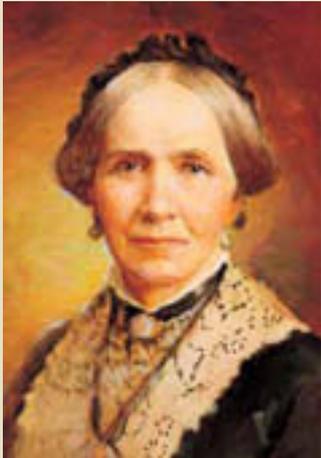
🏛️ First temple in Utah, the St. George Temple, completed, 1877; General presidencies established for Relief Society, MIA, and Primary, 1880.

🌐 Telephone invented, 1876; Lightbulb invented, 1879.



1888–1901

## Zina D. H. Young



*Zina D. Young*

*“May we as women of Zion, ever know and honor our true position”*

(*Woman’s Exponent*, Apr. 15, 1889, 173).

- Relief Society sisters in the United States supported the national women’s suffrage movement.
- The first general board was organized in October 1892, made up of stake Relief Society presidents.
- 🏛️ Salt Lake Temple dedicated, 1893; Utah received statehood, 1896; First single sister missionaries called, 1898.
- 🎞️ First moving picture shown in public, 1896.

1901–10

## Bathsheba W. Smith



*Bathsheba W. Smith*

*“Cease not while life lasts to study diligently, for the knowledge which is of greatest worth”*

(*Woman’s Exponent*, Jan. 1906, 41).

- Relief Society adopted a course of study with mothers’ classes on marriage, prenatal care, and child rearing.
- Relief Society sent clothing, bedding, and wheat for national and international relief.
- 🏛️ Church became free of debt, 1907.
- 🌐 Wright brothers launched first airplane, 1903; Henry Ford introduced Model T automobile, 1908.

1910–21

## Emmeline B. Wells



*Emmeline B. Wells*

*“I want the sisters to study the scriptures. . . . Let them be holy books unto you”*

(*Relief Society Magazine*, Aug. 1919, 439).

- “Charity Never Faileth” became the Relief Society motto.
- 📖 *Relief Society Magazine* first published, 1914; United States government purchased more than 200,000 bushels of wheat from Relief Society, 1918.
- 🌐 World War I, 1914–18; Panama Canal completed, 1914; Women’s suffrage granted in United States, 1920.

1921–28

## Clarissa S. Williams



*Clarissa S. Williams*

*“We have been given such blessings as have never been given to women in any other age, and we should in every way endeavor to live up to them”*

(Relief Society Magazine, Dec. 1921, 696).

- 🕒 Monthly visiting teaching messages first included in the *Relief Society Magazine*.
- 🏠 Improved health and education for families emphasized.
- 📻 First radio broadcast of general conference, 1924.
- 🌐 Lindbergh transatlantic flight, 1927.

1928–39

## Louise Y. Robison



*Louise Y. Robison*

*“Go where you’re needed; do what you can”*

(as quoted in Belle S. Spafford Oral History, LDS Church Archives).

- 🕒 Relief Society worked under the direction of priesthood leaders to help implement the Church’s new welfare plan.
- 🕒 Singing Mothers—stake and ward Relief Society choruses—organized.
- 🏠 Church’s 100th stake organized, 1928; Deseret Industries began, 1938; Church centennial celebrated, 1930.
- 🌐 The Great Depression, 1929–39; World War II, 1939–45.

1940–45

## Amy Brown Lyman



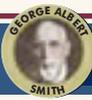
*Amy Brown Lyman*

*“Little did the original members of the organization realize . . . how great their beloved Society would become”*

(“Relief Society in Action Today,” Relief Society Magazine, Mar. 1944, 139).

- 🕒 Relief Society welfare work expanded to help the priesthood meet wartime needs.
- 🕒 Focus of visiting teachers broadened to serve families and to assist priesthood leaders in evaluating family needs.
- 🏠 Wartime restrictions curtailed Church activities.
- 🌐 United States entered World War II, 1941.

CLARISSA S. WILLIAMS, BY LEE GREENE RICHARDS; LOUISE Y. ROBISON, BY JOHN WILLARD CLAWSON; AMY BROWN LYMAN, BY LEE GREENE RICHARDS, COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF CHURCH HISTORY AND ART; BELLE S. SPAFFORD, BY ALVIN GITTINS; BARBARA B. SMITH, BY CLOY PAULSON KENT; BARBARA WOODHEAD WINDER, BY CLOY PAULSON KENT



1945–74

## Belle S. Spafford



*Belle S. Spafford*

*“There is within this society a great life-giving element . . . , binding together women of all nationalities”*

(“The Spirit of the Gospel, the Soul of Relief Society,” Relief Society Magazine, Mar. 1949, 148).

● Relief Society became an international organization as Church membership expanded worldwide.

🏛️ Church membership reached one million, 1947; General conference telecasts began, 1949.

🌐 Korean War, 1950–53; Berlin Wall built, 1961.

1974–84

## Barbara B. Smith



*Barbara B. Smith*

*“Women can begin . . . with their little children at home, among adult friends, in their extended families, and in their professions . . . to reach out in love to serve someone every day”*

(“Service Makes the Difference,” Tambuli, Aug. 1984, 12; Ensign, Mar. 1984, 17).

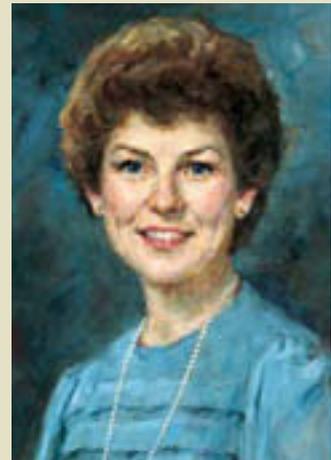
● The Nauvoo Monument to Women, with statues showing many facets of a woman’s life, dedicated.

🏛️ Revelation on the priesthood, 1978; Consolidated meeting schedule began, 1980.

🌐 Personal computers introduced, 1981.

1984–90

## Barbara W. Winder



*Barbara W. Winder*

*“I feel for the sisters of the Church this love, and sense the worth of each individual. I want so, and desire so, that we be unified, one together with the priesthood, serving and building the kingdom of God”*

(“I Love the Sisters of the Church,” Ensign, May 1984, 59).

● New scripture-based lessons introduced and correlated with the Gospel Doctrine course of study.

🏛️ Church Family History Library dedicated, 1985.

🌐 Berlin Wall dismantled, 1989.



1990–97

## Elaine L. Jack



*Elaine L. Jack*

*“Our joy in the gospel of Jesus Christ and our place in His plan will draw people to us and change lives. We will lift and inspire a world so desperately in need of goodness”*

*(“A Small Stone,” Ensign, May 1997, 75).*

- A sesquicentennial broadcast linked five continents and an international sisterhood of 3.2 million women.
- “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” issued, 1995; The majority of Church members live outside the United States, 1996.
- USSR dissolved, 1991; Public Internet era began, 1993.

1997–2002

## Mary Ellen W. Smoot



*Mary Ellen W. Smoot*

*“May we be exemplary women and stand boldly for truth”*

*(“Come, Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord,” Liahona, Jan. 1999, 109; Ensign, Nov. 1998, 91).*

- Home, family, and personal enrichment meeting replaced homemaking meeting.
- Visiting teaching message format composed of scripture references and quotations from Church leaders.
- Church membership reached 10 million, 1997; Smaller temples announced, 1997; Conference Center dedicated, 2000.
- Terrorists attacked New York City and Washington, D.C., 2001.

2002–

## Bonnie D. Parkin



*Bonnie D. Parkin*

*“If I could have one thing happen for [women] in this Church, it would be that they would feel the love of the Lord in their lives daily”*

*(“Feel the Love of the Lord,” Liahona, July 2002, 95; Ensign, May 2002, 84).*

- Emphasized the successful transition of young women into adulthood.
- Taught sisters to feel they belong to—as well as attend—Relief Society.
- Nauvoo Illinois Temple dedicated, 2002; Three Apostles called to serve outside the United States as Area Presidents, 2002, 2004.

## Rejoice in the Organization of Relief Society

**P**rayerfully select and read from this message the scriptures and teachings that meet the needs of the sisters you visit. Share your experiences and testimony. Invite those you teach to do the same.

### The Prophet Joseph Smith:

“This Society is to get instruction through the order which God has established—through the medium of those appointed to lead—and I now turn the key to you in the name of God, and this Society shall rejoice. . . . If you live up to your privileges, the angels cannot be restrained from being your associates” (Relief Society, Minutebook 1842 Mar.–1844 Mar., 38, 40, LDS Church Archives).

### What Is the Divine Role of Relief Society in the Restoration of the Church?

**Bonnie D. Parkin, Relief Society general president:** “Relief Society should be a safe place where we feel the love of the Lord in our lives as we learn to strengthen families, exercise charity, and value our covenants. And when we value sacred covenants, we value our membership in an organization, in a church, that will bring us to Christ” (“Oh, How We Need Each Other!” *Liabona*, Mar. 2004, 30; *Ensign*, Mar. 2004, 20).

**President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972):** “The Prophet Joseph

Smith was divinely inspired by the Lord to give to the Church such a wonderful organization . . . not only beneficial to those who are called to take part, but to all who hold membership in the Church. . . . Surely the Church of Jesus Christ would not have been completely organized had not this wonderful organization come into existence” (“The Relief Society Organized by Revelation,” *Relief Society Magazine*, Jan. 1965, 4, 6).

### How Can You Rejoice in Belonging to Relief Society?

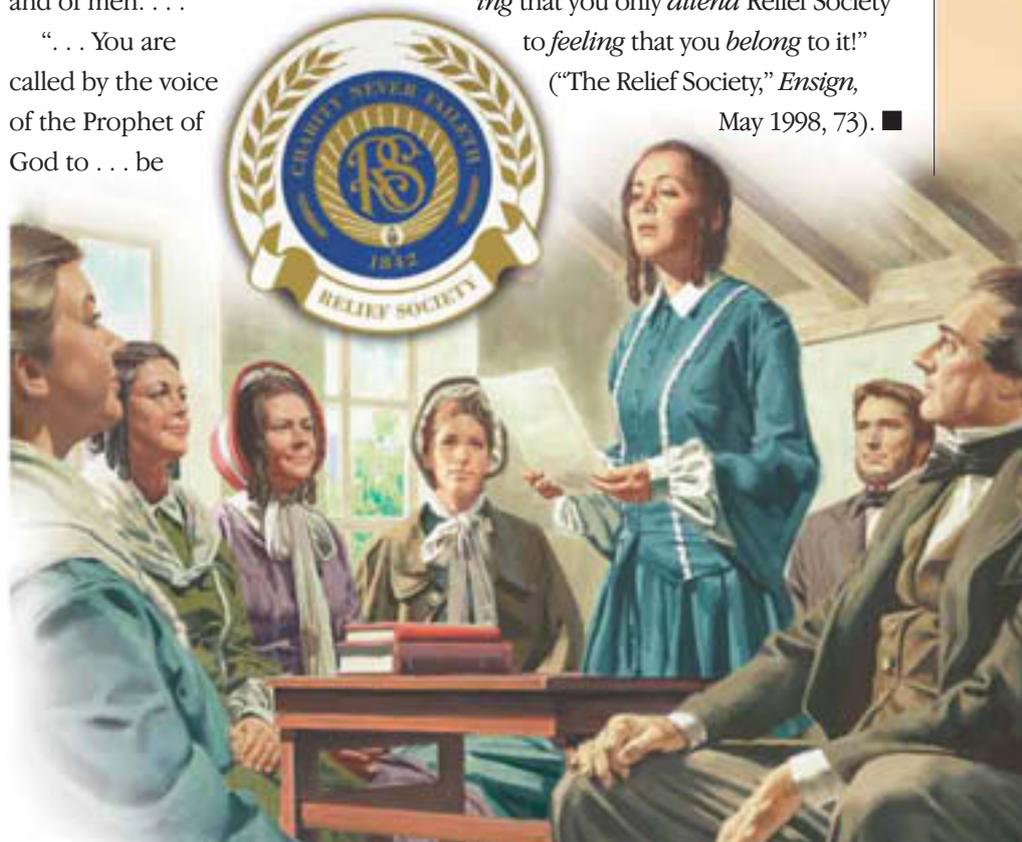
**President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918):** “This organization is . . . ordained of God to minister for the salvation of the souls of women and of men. . . .

“ . . . You are called by the voice of the Prophet of God to . . . be

the greatest and the best, the purest and the most devoted to the right, and it is your duty to enjoy your privileges and to obtain all that belongs to your calling and that you should inherit from the Lord and His gifts” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* [1998], 184).

**President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “Hold your heads up. Work with diligence. Do whatever the Church asks you to do. Pray with faith. You may never know how much good you accomplish. Someone’s life will be blessed by your effort” (“To the Women of the Church,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 115).

**President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** “The . . . sense of *belonging* to the Relief Society rather than just attending a class must be fostered in the heart of every woman. Sisters, you must graduate from *thinking* that you only *attend* Relief Society to *feeling* that you *belong* to it!” (“The Relief Society,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 73). ■



# MY STAY-AT-HOME EDUCATION

BY  
KATHERINE  
PADILLA



À la Com  
Noct

F. CHOPIN Op. 27, No. 1



Shortly after I married, I was assigned as a visiting teacher to another married woman who was a few years older than I was and had a child. She was a university student, and when she told my companion and me about her educational and career plans, she declared, “I will not stay home and be stupid!”

As I listened to the woman’s tirade, I wondered why anyone would think a woman who chose to stay home full-time with her children was destined to be stupid. Why not stay home and be smart?

Not long after this incident I had my first child and began my career as a full-time homemaker, wife, and mother. From the beginning I was determined to “stay home and be smart.” Now, looking back on the past 21 years, I have come up with seven ideas for improving oneself while staying at home.

**1. Develop new skills as you take care of your children and your home.** If we mothers made a list of all the things we have learned from our experiences, I think most of us would be amazed. Through mothering, not only can we develop character traits such as patience and long-suffering, but we can also learn practical skills.

With seven children, I get plenty of practice using first-aid skills. I have learned how to diagnose simple illnesses, saving me money and time because I don’t have to take my

children to the doctor for every little thing. I have also learned how to give basic haircuts, something I never would have done had I not become a mother.

Often we think of homemaking as only cooking, cleaning, sewing, and doing crafts, when in reality it is a far more comprehensive art. For example, I have researched and found out how to take care of the walnut tree in our backyard, how to organize my home for more space, how to make drapes and other home furnishings, and how to manage money.

**2. Read good books.** Finding time to read has not been difficult for me. I read while I’m watching my children play outside and when I need to unwind. The key, I think, is to turn off the TV.

It is not only important to read but to read *well*. I look for books that meet Church standards, that are well written, and that are

both entertaining and enlightening. The entertainment factor helps me relax and forget my worries for a while; the enlightenment factor lifts me and gives my mind something interesting to think about while I’m taking care of the more mundane tasks of the day.

**3. Sharpen talents by developing meaningful hobbies.** My primary hobby is writing novels. In doing this, I have become more proficient in using a computer, and I have

*Choosing to stay home with your children doesn't mean stopping your own progress.*

## A NOBLE PROFESSION



*“Teach your daughters to prepare for life’s greatest career—that of homemaker, wife, and mother. Teach*

*them to love home because you love home. Teach them the importance of being a full-time mother in the home.*

*“My eternal companion has wisely counseled mothers: ‘Radiate a spirit of contentment and joy with homemaking. You teach by example your attitude toward homemaking. Your attitude will say to your daughters, ‘I am only a housewife.’ Or it will convey, ‘Homemaking is the highest, most noble profession to which a woman might aspire.’ ”*

**President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994),  
“To the Young Women of the Church,”  
Ensign, Nov. 1986, 84–85.**

become a more logical thinker. My spelling and vocabulary have improved, and I have developed research skills as I have sought information on interesting topics such as archaeology, architecture, classical music, and medicine.

I find that hobbies are more fulfilling if I can incorporate them into my homemaking responsibilities. What does novel writing have to do

with homemaking? Plenty! I can use the skills I’ve learned to help my children with their own stories and research papers. I know how to find information easily, so going to the library is a pleasure for my children, and the Internet has become an exciting educational tool.

In learning how to construct a long, complex story, I’ve learned how to distinguish a good story from a poor one. This skill not only helps me choose books but also helps me choose videos, and as I discuss these choices with my children, they learn how to be more conscientious readers and viewers.

### **4. Accept callings in the Church and work hard to fulfill them.**

I regard callings as laboratories in the Lord’s university. The wonderful thing about enrollment in the Lord’s program is that we each have our own personal educational track. Through callings we may learn how to plan and create lessons, and we may receive opportunities to study gospel topics in great depth. We may be asked to give talks, helping us to become better public speakers. Often we are asked to work with people we don’t know well, and we are therefore required to develop social skills. We learn to manage and organize, and we develop and magnify our spiritual gifts.

We can also hone artistic talents and practical skills through our callings. In high school I took a calligraphy class. Over the years, I have enjoyed using that skill to make posters for classes I’ve taught and for advertising ward events.

Sometimes we receive callings that require skills we haven’t developed yet. When I was called to be the Scout leader for the 11-year-olds in my ward, my husband laughed. He knew better than anyone that the only thing I wanted to do outdoors was sit in a lawn chair and read. Despite my dread, I accepted the calling. Several years ago



I could have told you that I have a couple of maple trees in my yard. Now I can identify all the trees in my yard and also many of the wildflowers that grow there. Because of this calling I have acquired an appreciation for nature that I would not have had otherwise, and I enjoy being outdoors more than I ever did before.

**5. Use community resources.** I've enjoyed attending plays and concerts in my community and exploring museums and historical sites. If time and resources allow, a mother can benefit from taking a class through a community education program or at a college or university if one is nearby. Correspondence courses are another option. Book clubs or other discussion groups can also help us increase our knowledge of a wide variety of subjects, while helping us develop friendships at the same time.

**6. Take time for personal scripture study, temple attendance, prayer, and journal writing.** When I am regularly engaging in all four of these pursuits, everything else in my life goes better. When I am doing these things, I am able to keep my priorities in the right place, I have more confidence, and I'm more willing to try new things and reach out to people. I have also found that when I'm spiritually awake, I'm *mentally* awake. The things I learn from other sources then become more meaningful and memorable.

**7. Work toward goals.** I work on one or two goals at a time until those skills or habits become a part of my life. I try to be flexible. There are times in my life, such as during my pregnancies, when I have to put aside some of my larger goals. During these times I try to take note of any progress I make in any area,

**I** have been able to develop my interests and talents in ways that help make my responsibilities as a mother even more fulfilling.

however small. Perhaps all I can do during such times is finish reading a book, but I may have learned one new thing from my reading. That may be a tiny step, but it's still progress.

#### **A Privilege and an Opportunity**

Many women believe they need to be gainfully employed to develop their talents. In my own life the opposite has been true. I feel I have been better able to develop my skills because I have not been distracted by income-earning pursuits.

Homemaking is a combination of career, calling, and consecration. We normally think of a career as lasting until we retire. Callings, even the calling to be a full-time missionary, are usually temporary. But homemaking is eternal in its focus and destiny. Homemaking is both a privilege and an opportunity. I can't think of anything I would rather do than "stay home and be smart." ■

*Katherine Padilla is a member of the Mount Airy Ward, Frederick Maryland Stake.*

# The Things of My Soul

BY CHRISTY WILLIAMS

*I gained insight and inspiration from my grandmother as she read to me from her journals. I wanted to do the same for my family.*

I remember being invited to visit my grandmother on my birthday one year while I was in college. “Christy,” she said, “I want you to hear something.” She left the room and returned with the journal she had kept the year of my birth. Then she read details I had never before heard. I found out that my older brother had been quarantined at Grandma’s house with the chicken pox and that my nursery had been a decorated closet in my parents’ tiny one-bedroom apartment. My grandmother also shared with me the thoughts and feelings she recorded at my birth—her first granddaughter.

When I was engaged to be married, I visited my grandmother again. This time she pulled out the journal from her first year of marriage and shared with me some of the amusing details of her and Grandpa’s first apartment. They had to walk through the landlord’s bedroom to get to the only bathroom. She also shared her expressions of self-doubt as a new wife. I was surprised to know she had not always felt confident, and I appreciated learning her feelings since I was about to become a new wife.

My grandmother left me a great legacy. Her example in keeping a detailed journal has inspired me, and over the last 20 years I have tried to write each week, recording not only names, dates, quotations, or conversations, but also my thoughts, feelings, hopes, and dreams—

“the things of my soul” (2 Nephi 4:15).

Because of this record, I vividly remember my marriage day and the births of my children; the feelings I had sitting among boxes, anticipating a move from college to my husband’s first job in Los Angeles; the anguish of frantically searching and praying for a two-year-old separated from us in the brush next to a rushing river. I recall what it felt like to have my husband lay his hands on my fevered head and for me to recover. I remember peeling potatoes, my eyes full of tears at the joyful news of a once less-active brother being ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood. And I cherish the memory of later having the opportunity to hug him in the Los Angeles Temple after his sealing. This chronicle has helped me savor the memories of many wonderful times in my life.

Keeping a journal has also helped me live by faith. I have seen by my own experience that I can trust the Lord, that prayers are answered, and that principles of the gospel work. I have tried to record specific prayerful requests and to detail what I would do to find the answers. As the answers have come, I have recorded the inspiration, counsel, and help I received. These journal entries continue to lift my spirit and strengthen my testimony. I have even found answers to my current problems in reading through past entries.

My journal has also served as a place for me to reflect





ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTEN YEE

upon challenges, brainstorm for solutions, and set goals. Like Nephi, I have on occasion started an entry in despair but finished feeling a new resolve, gratitude, and hope as I recounted to myself what the Lord has done for me (see 2 Nephi 4:15–35). As I reread entries from weeks or even months before, I see both personal growth as well as occasional setbacks.

As my grandmother did with me, I have shared many entries with my family. We laugh as we remember the funny,

joyous, or sometimes difficult events of our lives. My children see that I have noticed their accomplishments, their sense of humor, and their special qualities. And the legacy my grandmother left me is being passed on to my daughters as they keep journals of their own. I only hope it can help them savor life and learn from their own experiences as it did for my grandmother and as it has done for me. ■

*Christy Williams is a member of the Somerset Ward, Renton Washington North Stake.*



# Seek Ye Earnestly the Best Gifts

BY ELDER MERVYN B. ARNOLD  
Of the Seventy



*As members of the Church, we are commanded to “lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better.”*

Not long ago at a stake conference I was assigned to attend, I asked the stake president what challenges the members were experiencing. He responded that many members were focused on diversions such as extravagant homes, expensive clothing, cars, boats, vacation cabins, and countless activities. He explained that many of these activities were held on Monday nights, taking family members out of the home.

To maintain this lifestyle, oftentimes both the husband and the wife had to work—in some cases two jobs. This made it difficult for these members to hold regular family home evenings, family prayer, and scripture study, and in some cases even to attend Sunday meetings. There was little time, if any, to seek those things which “neither moth nor rust doth corrupt” (Matthew 6:20).

The Apostle Paul teaches the importance of seeking the best gifts:

“Now concerning spiritual gifts . . . I would not have you ignorant.

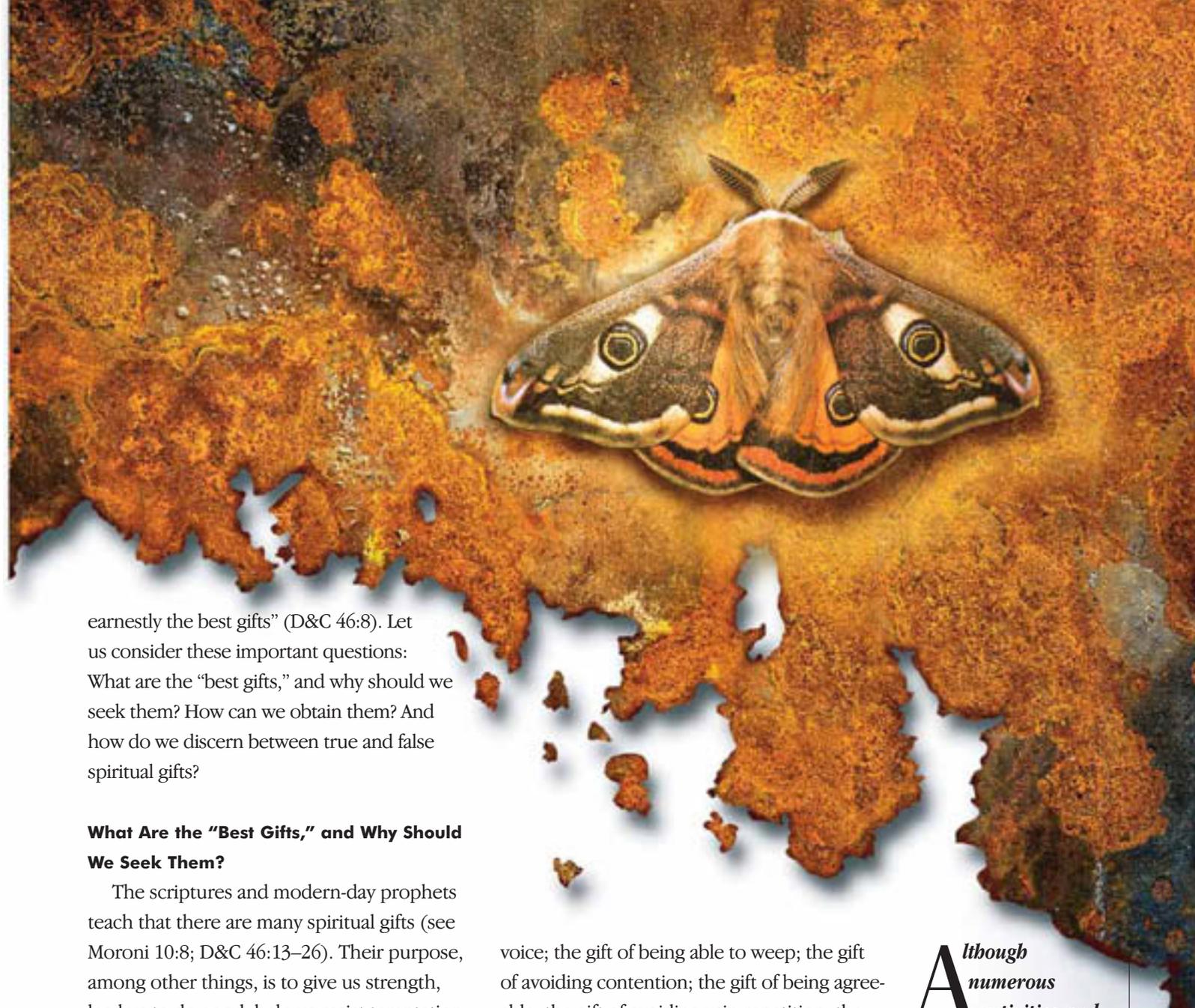
“Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. . . .

“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:1–2, 31).

I have reflected on the stake president’s comments and share his concerns for the increasing number of Church members who focus their attention on “that which is of no worth [and] cannot satisfy” (2 Nephi 9:51). Satan is very astute, and he has cunning ways to divert our attention from that which is of greatest worth. The Lord warns, “Satan hath sought to deceive you, that he might overthrow you” (D&C 50:3).

The prophet David O. McKay (1873–1970) quoted Charles Jefferson, who wrote: “The only thing which places a man above the beasts of the field is his possession of the spiritual gifts. . . . Man’s earthly existence is but a test as to whether he will concentrate his efforts, his mind, and his soul upon the things which contribute to the comfort and gratification of his physical instincts and passions, or whether he will make as his life’s end and purpose the acquisition of spiritual qualities.”<sup>1</sup>

As members of the Church, we are commanded to “lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better” (D&C 25:10)—or, said another way, to “seek . . .



earnestly the best gifts” (D&C 46:8). Let us consider these important questions: What are the “best gifts,” and why should we seek them? How can we obtain them? And how do we discern between true and false spiritual gifts?

#### **What Are the “Best Gifts,” and Why Should We Seek Them?**

The scriptures and modern-day prophets teach that there are many spiritual gifts (see Moroni 10:8; D&C 46:13–26). Their purpose, among other things, is to give us strength, lead us to do good, help us resist temptation, encourage and edify us, increase our wisdom, help us judge righteously, and help us qualify for eternal life.

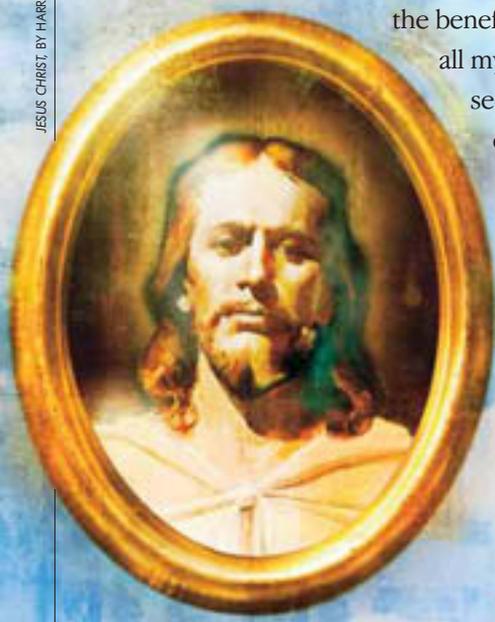
Think about the impact on this world if everyone would seek the sacred gift “given by the Holy Ghost to know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he was crucified for the sins of the world” (D&C 46:13). Or what if everyone sought the gift of forgiving?

Elder Marvin J. Ashton of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (1915–94) pointed out some less conspicuous but very important gifts: “the gift of asking; the gift of listening; the gift of hearing and using a still, small

voice; the gift of being able to weep; the gift of avoiding contention; the gift of being agreeable; the gift of avoiding vain repetition; the gift of seeking that which is righteous; the gift of not passing judgment; the gift of looking to God for guidance; the gift of being a disciple; the gift of caring for others; the gift of being able to ponder; the gift of offering prayer; the gift of bearing a mighty testimony; and the gift of receiving the Holy Ghost.”<sup>2</sup>

The Savior commanded us to become perfect (see 3 Nephi 12:48). Although none of us will obtain perfection in this life, Heavenly Father will inspire us, as we ponder and pray, to seek those gifts that will best help us perfect ourselves. President George Q. Cannon (1827–1901) stated: “If any of us are imperfect,

***A***lthough numerous activities and possessions clamor for our attention, the best gifts are those which “neither moth nor rust doth corrupt.”



it is our duty to pray for the gift that will make us perfect. . . . No man ought to say, ‘Oh, I cannot help this; it is my nature.’ He is not justified in it, for the reason that God has promised to give strength to correct these things, and to give gifts that will eradicate them.”<sup>33</sup>

**How Can We Obtain Spiritual Gifts?**

We are taught that in order to receive any spiritual gift, we must be worthy of it. The Lord has said that spiritual gifts “are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do; that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of me” (D&C 46:9).

When we seek to obtain a spiritual gift, we can study the examples and teachings of the Savior that pertain to that

particular gift and then try to incorporate those teachings into our life. For example, let’s suppose we are seeking the gift of charity. We could study Moroni 7:45, where we would find that there are 13 separate qualities we will need to seek as part of the process of obtaining charity. Kindness is one of the first that is mentioned.

What can we learn from the Savior’s teachings about kindness? In Matthew 25 He states:

“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

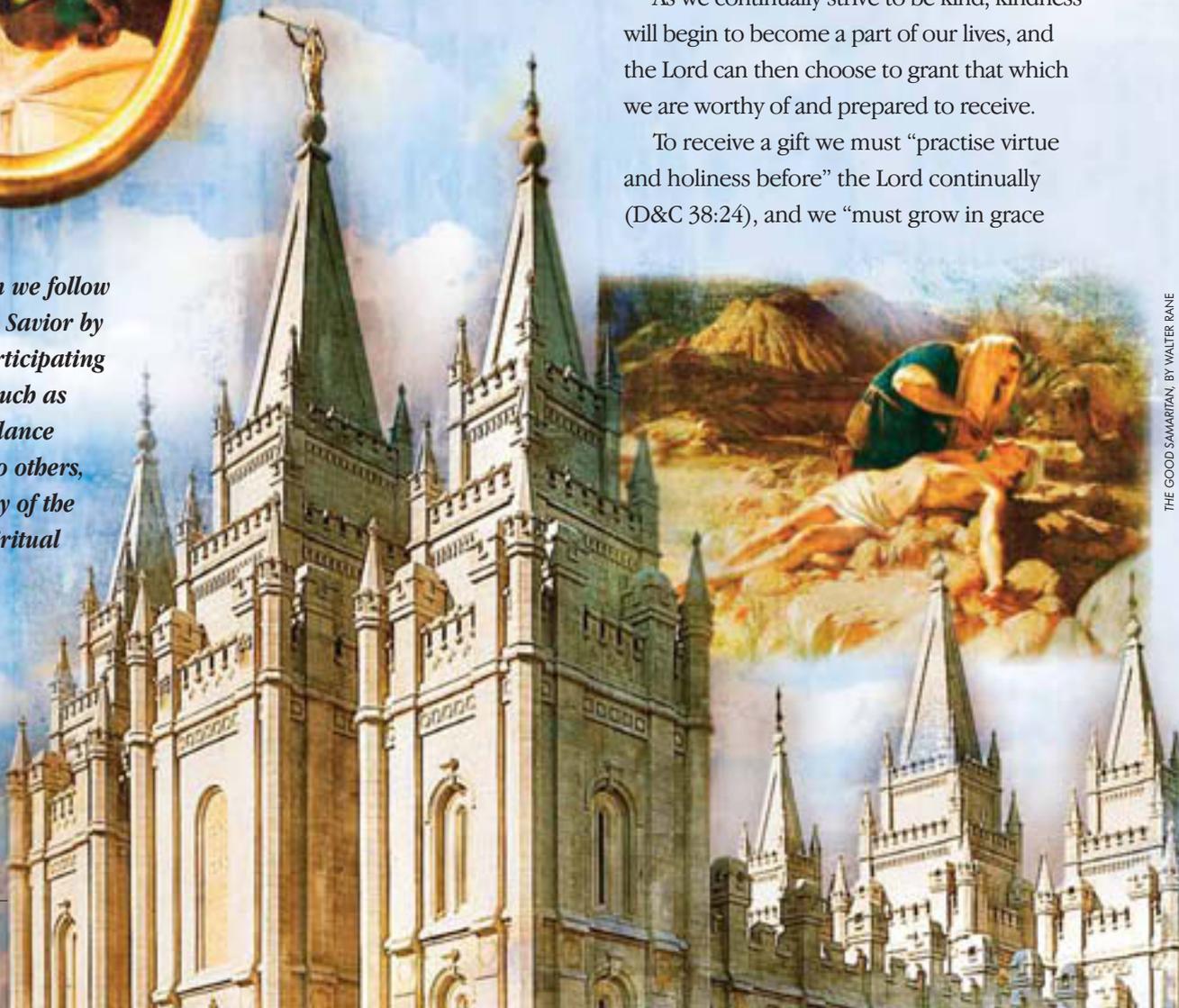
“Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. . . .

“ . . . Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (vv. 35–36, 40).

As we continually strive to be kind, kindness will begin to become a part of our lives, and the Lord can then choose to grant that which we are worthy of and prepared to receive.

To receive a gift we must “practise virtue and holiness before” the Lord continually (D&C 38:24), and we “must grow in grace

**W**hen we follow the Savior by participating in activities such as temple attendance and service to others, we are worthy of the abundant spiritual gifts the Lord can grant.



and in the knowledge of the truth” (D&C 50:40). We must “ask of God, who giveth liberally; . . . in all holiness of heart, walking uprightly . . . , doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving” (D&C 46:7). When we ask for a gift, our will must be aligned with God’s will (see D&C 46:30).

### How Do We Discern between True and False Spiritual Gifts?

Prophets of old, as well as modern-day prophets, have warned us of false gifts, spirits, and the deceptions of Satan that abound in the world. In the Doctrine and Covenants we are taught: “There are many spirits which are false spirits, which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world. . . . Satan hath sought to deceive you, that he might overthrow you. . . . Wherefore, let every man beware lest he do that which is not in truth and righteousness” (D&C 50:2–3, 9).

The Savior taught that in the last days there would be many unholy and unrighteous people who would seek to deceive, using false gifts. He warned, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (3 Nephi 14:15; see also Matthew 7:15). He taught us how to know which gifts are of God and which are of the adversary: “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (3 Nephi 14:16; see also Matthew 7:16). “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance” (Galatians 5:22–23).

President Gordon B. Hinckley taught: “You recognize the promptings of the Spirit by the fruits of the Spirit—that which enlighteneth, that which buildeth up, that which is positive and affirmative and uplifting and leads us to better thoughts and better words and better deeds is of the Spirit of God. That which tears us down, which leads us into forbidden paths—that is of the adversary. . . . How do we recognize the promptings of the Spirit? You



put it to that test. If it invites to do good, it is of God. If it inviteth to do evil, it is of the devil. . . . If you are doing the right thing and if you are living the right way, you will know in your heart what the Spirit is saying to you.”<sup>4</sup> How comforting it is to have a living prophet.

The bounds of the adversary are set. If we are striving to keep the commandments and to abide by the covenants we have made with the Lord, the adversary will not frustrate our progress.<sup>5</sup> As the Doctrine and Covenants tells us, “Hold on thy way, and the priesthood shall remain with thee; for their bounds are set, they cannot pass” (D&C 122:9).

May we seek the best gifts so that we are not deceived. And may we always be worthy to receive the many gifts Heavenly Father has in store for us. ■

#### NOTES

1. As quoted in Conference Report, Oct. 1950, 111.
2. “There Are Many Gifts,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 20.
3. In *Millennial Star*, Apr. 23, 1894, 260.
4. Devotional address, Southern Utah University Institute of Religion, Feb. 11, 1997.
5. See James E. Faust, “The Great Imitator,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 35–36.



## HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

1. Write the name of each spiritual gift mentioned in this article on a small, separate slip of paper. Invite family members to choose a paper and tell how they have noticed that gift in family members or others. Discuss how your family could obtain more of these gifts (see section 3 of the article).
2. Use the questions at the top of the sections of the article to lead a discussion on spiritual gifts. As a family, choose a gift that you could work to obtain more fully. Set a future date to review your family’s progress.

BY ERIC P. SHIELDS

I still wonder if he knew before he was born that he would be on this earth for only 15 years. I can see him in my mind's eye, arm lifted high in the air, hand reaching, stretching, grasping for attention, volunteering to go. That's how he was, always wanting to go, without even knowing where he was going.

He was an answer to my prayers. After two girls, I began to selfishly ask for a boy. The nurses were sure Heidi was having a girl because the fetal monitor registered a fast heartbeat, so I was surprised when he arrived, all five pounds of him. We named him Grant Marcus after his grandfathers, but he became "Granty" to me.

At five months he was back in the hospital as a ten-pound, failure-to-thrive baby. We learned to feed him at night with a

tube down his throat. Heidi would hold down his legs and insert the tube. I would hold his head and arms. Sometimes he would get an arm loose and pull the tube out, and we would start all over. I knew Heavenly Father knew of Grant, because our prayers were answered over time, and little Granty began to grow.

A few years later I again came to know Grant was a special son. We call it the miracle of the fish. We were camping in the Uinta Mountains with our friends and left early in the morning for the lake. I began baiting Grant's hook with salmon eggs and casting it out, letting my six-year-old reel it in. "Slower, Grant, slower." I must have said it a hundred times, but Grant was too excited to wait.

The fish were biting. My friend caught three or four before 10:00 a.m. My daughters had defected to him for help in catching their fish, but not Granty. He stayed by my side. By noon I knew I was cursed. Everyone had caught a

fish except Grant and me. I borrowed my friend's pole, used his bait, and moved to where he had been fishing. Nothing. When the afternoon rains came, we hunkered down under a raincoat, and I told Grant the fish would bite now, but still nothing.

I don't remember what time it was when I began praying. "Dear Heavenly Father, I don't know if this is trivial or not, but for the sake of a little six-year-old boy, please let him catch a fish." In the evening we watched a family come with a boat and catch five or six fish in thirty minutes. It was getting dark, and we began moving toward camp,

fishing as we went. Nothing.

Finally, I baited the hook for the last time. "Slower, Grant, slower." I turned and began gathering our gear and started what I call a complaint prayer. "I guess it was too trivial,

# ALL YOUR LOSSES

*They say time heals all wounds. I don't know whether or not that is true, but I do know there is a Comforter.*

huh?" Then I heard those words I will never forget. "Daddy, look!" I whirled around to see a five-inch fish being pulled the last ten feet to shore. He lifted the pole and swung it over to land, and the fish fell off the line. I don't even think it was hooked, but probably just got its gills caught in the line. I began to cry as Grant grabbed the fish in his tiny hands. As we headed back to camp, my prayer changed to one of gratitude and humility.

Two years later this scene was replayed on the baseball diamond. I had great hopes that my unfulfilled sports achievements would be realized in my son's athletic glory. He looked so good in his uniform, but that didn't seem to help his hitting. We would practice in the backyard, and eight times out of ten I had to say, "Switch hands, Grant." He finally got to where he could hit a few in the backyard, but in front of parents and the other team and a real pitcher, he froze. He would swing at the bad pitches and



ILLUSTRATED BY GREGG THORKELSON

**W**e had fished all day, and Grant hadn't caught anything. I hoped my prayers for him were not too trivial. Finally I baited the hook one last time.

shy away from the ones down the middle.

I don't remember what inning it was in the last game that I started praying. "Dear Heavenly Father, I don't know if this is important enough to ask for, but could Granty just get one hit this year?" In the sixth inning he had another chance but struck out. In the last inning I didn't think he'd

get up to bat again, so I began gathering the other kids and getting ready to go. But several of his teammates reached base, and finally there he was, with two outs in the last inning of the last game of the season, staring at the pitcher.

I was too nervous to look, but I didn't really need to look. The distinct crack of the bat was the answer to my prayer. I wheeled around in time to see little Granty chugging to first base. He hit the bag, rounded the wrong way,

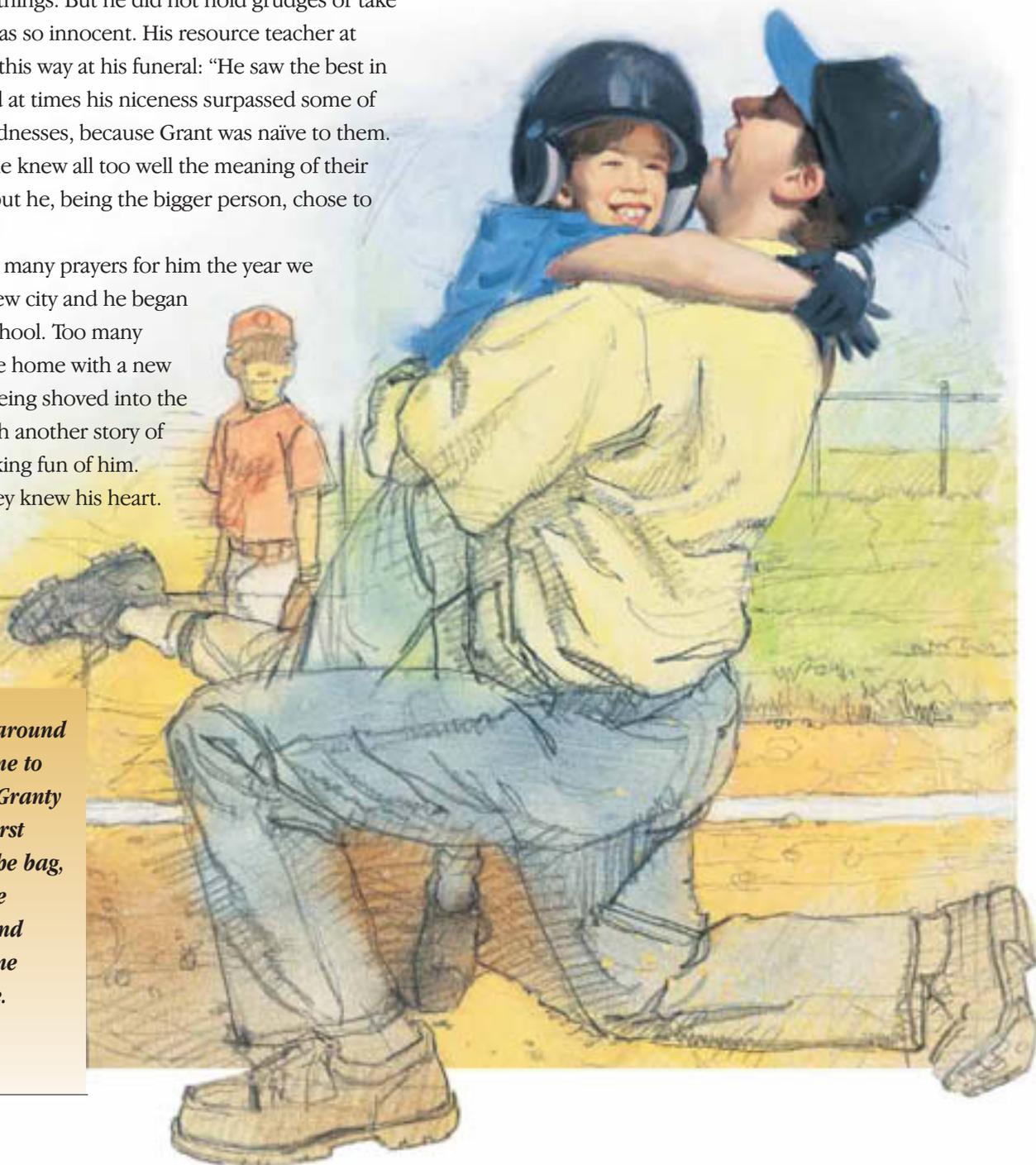
and made a beeline straight to me and jumped into my arms. “Dad, I got a hit!” I don’t think he even knew he had been thrown out at first. It didn’t matter. I tried to hide the tears as I caught him and hugged him and again was reminded that I had a special son.

Grant’s specialness had another side, a hard side. His mind didn’t work like most people’s. He didn’t understand a lot of things. But he did not hold grudges or take offense. He was so innocent. His resource teacher at school said it this way at his funeral: “He saw the best in everyone, and at times his niceness surpassed some of others’ unkindnesses, because Grant was naïve to them. Other times he knew all too well the meaning of their unkindness, but he, being the bigger person, chose to ignore them.”

We offered many prayers for him the year we moved to a new city and he began junior high school. Too many times he came home with a new bruise from being shoved into the lockers or with another story of someone making fun of him. Oh, if only they knew his heart.

His head got him in trouble many times, but his heart never did. And in answer to our prayers, some people saw his good heart: a school teacher, a basketball coach, and a best friend. His basketball coach was able to see past his overenthusiasm and his struggles with set plays to recognize his pure shot. That shot was honed over many hours on our driveway basket. He would challenge anyone to a

**I** wheeled around just in time to see little Granty chugging to first base. He hit the bag, rounded it the wrong way, and made a beeline straight to me.



## HOPEFUL MORTAL LIFE



*“The ‘lively hope’ we are given by the resurrection is our conviction that death is not the*

*conclusion of our identity but merely a necessary step in the destined transition from mortality to immortality. This hope changes the whole perspective of mortal life. The assurance of resurrection and immortality affects how we look on the physical challenges of mortality, how we live our mortal lives, and how we relate to those around us.”*

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Resurrection,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 15.**

game, even the mailman. The coach let him be one of the five starting players. Now, that might not mean much to some people, but the fact that Grant started for a team was everything to our family. We didn’t miss a game. His team went on to win the championship game of the city league that year. Life was good again, and then he was gone.

In the back of my mind I guess I had always wondered if he would live long enough to serve a mission—no real premonitions, but I wondered.

It was a hot July evening when the police officer came to the door and asked Heidi and me to come with him. It took a while for the words to have any meaning: “Best friend—raft—canal—ball floated by—Grant went back in—culvert—siphon tube.” When the realization of what the officer was telling us sank in, I offered the shortest and most heartfelt prayer I have ever uttered. “O God, this is Granty. You remember him, don’t you—the fish in the Uintas, the baseball game? This one is special. Please save him, please save him.”

When we got to the scene and saw what had happened, I knew he was gone. It took four hours to drain the canal and find his body. Words cannot describe those four hours. It is sufficient to say that I felt the sting of death and that the watery grave was the victor.

They say time heals all wounds. I don’t know whether or not that is true, but I do know there is a Comforter. After receiving a priesthood blessing, Heidi and I stayed in the hospital room for some time with Grant’s body. Neither of us wanted to call the funeral home. It was a peaceful time, and our hearts were comforted. That same Spirit buoyed us up through the viewing and the funeral.

I guess the toughest thing of all was the thought that Grant was just coming into his own. Life was getting good for him. As his father, I had hopes that he would be able to drive a car, play more basketball, go to a junior prom,

receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, go on a mission, get married, and have children. But his Heavenly Father had other plans for him.

On Grant’s 16th birthday, we were able to go through the temple for him, where he received the higher priesthood and his temple endowments. As for the junior prom, I didn’t go to mine either. And I’m sure that in God’s own time and way, the promises of an eternal companion and children will be fulfilled.

The fact that Grant would never drive a car wasn’t hard to accept.

I don’t know what means of transportation is used in heaven, but it is certainly more advanced than a combustion engine. I can see Grant in my mind, volunteering to go and wanting to drive.

The mission was easiest to visualize. “I beheld that the faithful elders of this dispensation, when they depart from mortal life, continue their labors in the preaching of the gospel of repentance and redemption, through the sacrifice of the Only Begotten Son of God, among those who are in darkness and under the bondage of sin in the great world of the spirits of the dead” (D&C 138:57). Oh, the mission stories he will have!

The only thing left was basketball. And then we got a letter from the Organ Donor Society: “Just wanted to let you know that Grant’s heart valves were used in an 11-year-old boy who loves to play basketball.”

A statement by Joseph Smith sits next to a picture of Grant on my desk: “All your losses will be made up to you in the resurrection, provided you continue faithful. By the vision of the Almighty I have seen it.”<sup>1</sup>

Thank you, Heavenly Father.

Save me a place, my son, my Granty! ■

*Eric P. Shields is a member of the Lodi Third Ward, Lodi California Stake.*

### NOTE

1. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), 296.

## Musical Manners

I have been privileged to lead Church music for over three decades.

As a result of my experiences, I have been fortunate to work with a variety of talented organists and pianists. While their abilities may seem effortless to some, I have come to realize that their callings require time to prepare adequately. I offer these suggestions to those who have regular or occasional need to work with accompanists.

### 1. Give them time to practice.

Imagine if someone asked you to teach a lesson just moments before class. Would you panic? Most of us would. Yet that is similar to what we require of accompanists if we ask them right before a meeting to play an unplanned song. Granted, occasional last-minute adjustments are sometimes necessary, but they should be the exception. Most accompanists prefer at least a week's notice. When I was ward music leader, I found it helpful and easy to provide a full month's schedule of the hymns for sacrament meeting

to both the organist and the bishopric prior to the beginning of each month. This advance planning was appreciated by everyone.

**2. Review musical selections together.** Depending on an accompanist's skills, he or she may want to give feedback if the music seems too difficult. Many of the accompanists I served with were comfortable playing most of the songs from the hymnbook and *Children's Songbook*, but less-familiar songs were sometimes a challenge.

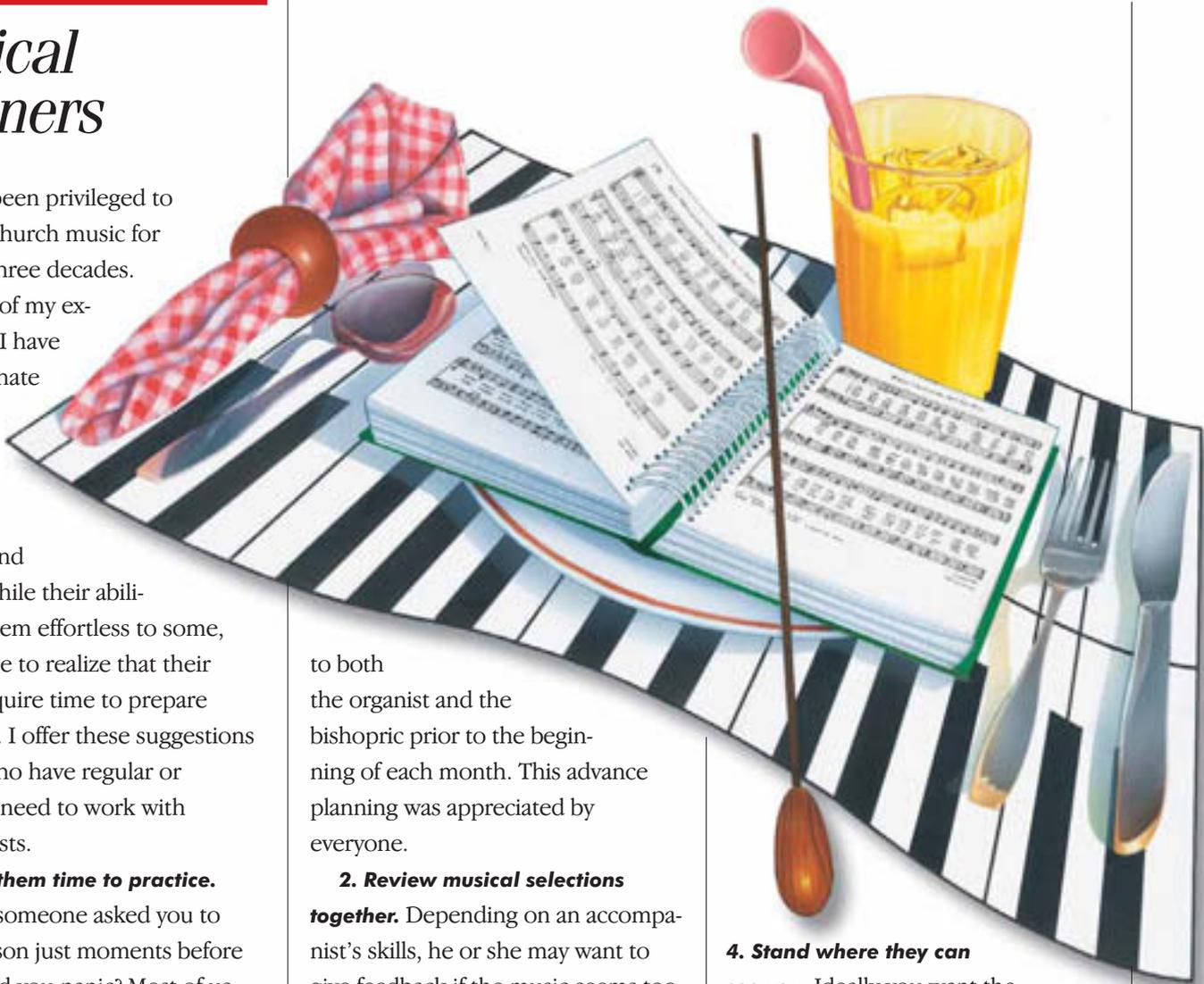
**3. Mutually decide the tempo beforehand.** Good communication helps the music leader and accompanist work together. And advance preparation allows the accompanist to practice a song correctly.

### 4. Stand where they can

**see you.** Ideally you want the congregation or those you are leading to see you clearly, but make sure that you have good eye contact with your accompanist, as well.

When the music leader and accompanist work together, they can provide inspirational music that will “create a feeling of reverence, [unify] us as members, and provide a way for us to offer praises to the Lord” (*Hymns*, ix).

*Monna Jo Merrill, Orchard Park Ward, Ogden Utah Mount Ogden Stake*



## Practice to Protect Your Child

Role playing is often a favorite teaching technique for lessons at church or at home. But have you considered using it to teach your children how to be safe if they are ever approached by someone they don't know? While it's probably not necessary (and may scare some children) to role-play someone grabbing them, there are several things I've discovered as a child safety officer that parents can practice with their children.

- **Have a partner.** Role-play how easy it would be for a stranger to approach a child who is alone. Contrast that with the safety a group offers.

- **Yell and run.** A child who is singled out by an assailant should yell and run instead of trying to fight back. Tell your children to yell loudly so that anyone nearby might hear their cry for help. Encourage them to show you how they would yell and run.

- **Say no.** Teach your children that it's OK to say no to a grown-up they don't know or to anyone who wants them to do something questionable or that you don't know about. Practice a phrase like "No, I can't do that unless I talk to my mom or dad first."

- **Be Internet wise.** Keep computers in well-trafficked areas of the



## FAMILY HOME EVENING HELPS

### Taking Note of Conference

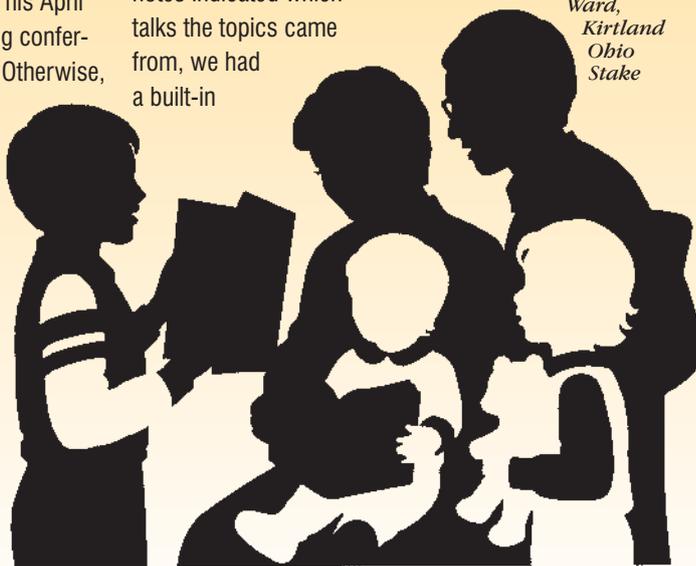
"Each of us should be a little better for this rich experience," counseled President Gordon B. Hinckley during his April 2002 concluding conference address. "Otherwise, our gathering has been largely in vain" ("We Look to Christ," *Ensign*, May 2002, 90). Moved by his words, my husband and I decided our family could do better by incorporating

conference messages into our home evening lessons. With a simple plan in mind, we asked each family member to take notes during conference and circle any topics they wanted to work on. Then we created a family home evening schedule based on those topics. Since our notes indicated which talks the topics came from, we had a built-in

conference talk reference list.

Following the prophet's counsel has blessed our family as we have worked together to improve ourselves, our relationships with others, and our relationship with Heavenly Father.

*Leab Jennifer Heise,  
Shaker Heights  
Ward,  
Kirtland  
Ohio  
Stake*



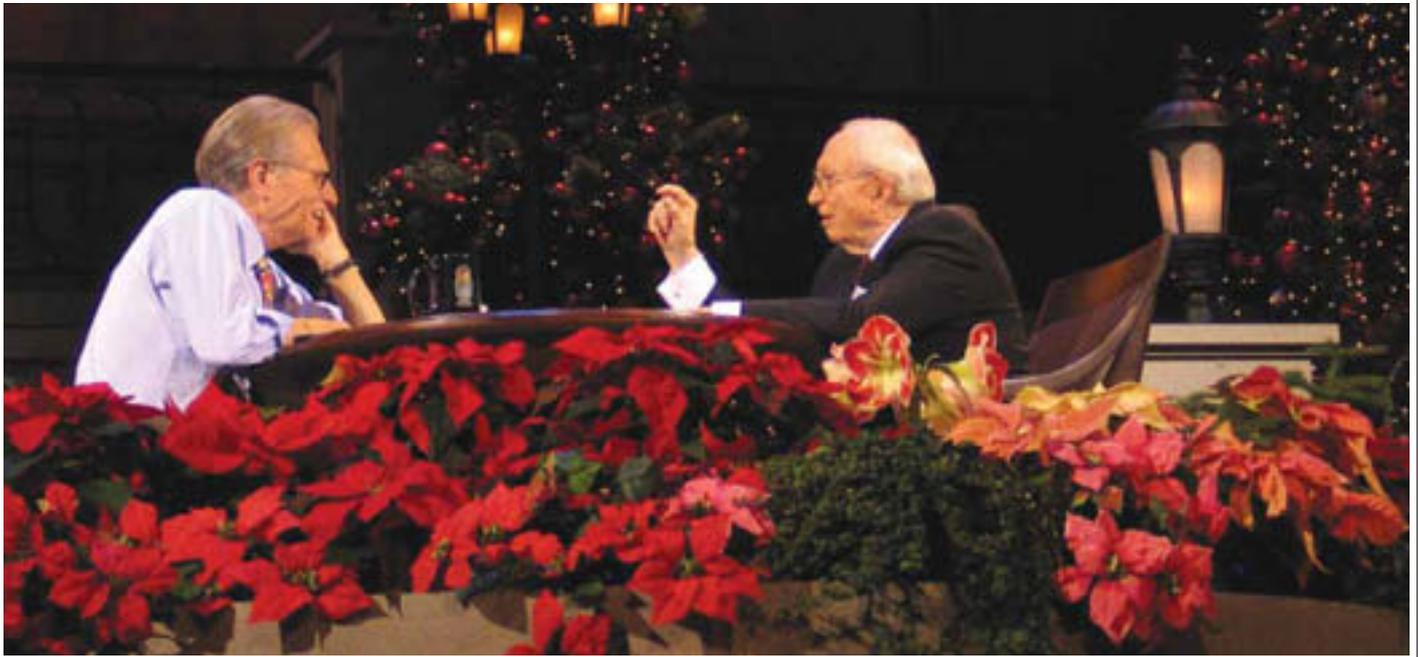
home. Discuss possible online situations to avoid. Especially discourage your children from frequenting chat rooms other than the ones they have created with their own screen names and buddy lists. Show how sharing even seemingly innocent personal information is unwise. Emphasize that online strangers can be just as dangerous as strangers they encounter on the street and that it's never OK to meet with a chat-room friend without your permission.

- **Use a family password.** For instance, what would your child do if you couldn't pick him or her up from

school? Have you selected a family password together so that another authorized person could prove that they have permission to pick up your child instead?

As you practice a variety of scenarios, use easy-to-understand words, and ask questions about how your child feels. Stop or postpone the role plays if your child feels scared. Though we want our children to be safe, it's important to emphasize that life is good—and most people are too.

*Dale Ann Wright, Mountain View Sixth  
Ward, West Jordan Utah Mountain View  
Stake*



President Gordon B. Hinckley visits with interviewer Larry King on CNN, an international news network.

## President Hinckley Shares Wit, Wisdom with International Audience

President Gordon B. Hinckley shared his wit and wisdom with thousands of viewers and talk show host Larry King on the cable television show *Larry King Live* during an interview taped at the Conference Center in December 2004.

President Hinckley, making his fourth appearance on the show since 1998, focused many of his comments on the importance of the family in society.

"When all is said and done, the greatest satisfaction you will have in this life as you grow old will be seeing your children grow in righteousness and faith and goodness as citizens of the society of which they are a part," President Hinckley said.

In addition to addressing

issues pertinent to the spiritual safety of families, President Hinckley answered questions about politics and the war in Iraq.

"We believe in peace," President Hinckley said. "We work for peace. We pray for peace. But we are all citizens of the nation, and we meet our responsibility as that responsibility is defined by our leadership."

Before the interview President Hinckley presented King with a binder containing the host's family history, including genealogy and other historic and legal documents that help tell the story of King's family.

"I have received some enormous gifts through my life," King said. "But this I will treasure more than any other."

Despite addressing some sobering topics, President Hinckley remained optimistic throughout the interview, and his sense of humor was evident. Asked about his mental spryness, President Hinckley pointed first to his head and said, "This end of me seems to work all right," then to his legs, "but this end does not."

Speaking of the law of tithing, President Hinckley said, "It's the Lord's law. He set it forth in about that many words [holding his thumb and forefinger close to one another]. You contrast that with the Internal Revenue Code. Note the difference."

President Hinckley also commented on how he has faced the hardships that

came with the passing of his wife, Sister Marjorie Pay Hinckley. "You never get over it. Of course you don't," President Hinckley said. "But the best thing you can do is just keep busy. Keep working hard so you're not dwelling on it all the time. Work is the best antidote for sorrow."

After King told President Hinckley it was good to know the prophet has been so richly blessed after having a "little rascal" in him as a freckled-faced kid, President Hinckley expressed his gratitude for the blessings he has received.

"I've been blessed so abundantly that I can never get over it," President Hinckley said. "I just feel so richly blessed that I want to extend that to others wherever I can." ■

Church News contributed to this report.



**President Gordon B. Hinckley and Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles arrive at the stake center for a regional conference in South Carolina.**

## President Hinckley Meets Members, Missionaries in Southeast U.S.

Nearly 12,000 members of the Church in the states of South Carolina and Georgia gathered to hear the words of President Gordon B. Hinckley, Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Presidency of the Seventy, in person or by satellite, broadcast to 11 stakes during a November 20–21 regional conference.

President Hinckley spoke on the pillars of righteousness, using an analogy of the pillars holding up the roof of

the Salt Lake Tabernacle that is currently undergoing renovation. President Hinckley spoke during the priesthood leadership session, the general session, and a meeting with missionaries.

Elder Ballard spoke about missionary work, referring to the new Preach My Gospel emphasis for missionaries. He encouraged members to have the desire, strength, and courage to share what they know to be true.

Elder Christofferson addressed the congregation regarding the need to nurture

new members of the Church through befriending them, giving them a responsibility, and nurturing them with the teachings of the gospel.

The conference was held in the West Columbia South Carolina Stake. Participating by satellite were the Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Greenville, and Greenville East Stakes in South Carolina and the Albany, Augusta, Columbus,

Douglas, Macon, and Savannah Stakes in Georgia.

“It’s the most wonderful experience I’ve had in my life,” said 17-year-old Amanda Geddings of the Newberry Branch, West Columbia South Carolina Stake, after the meeting. “I’ve never felt the Spirit so strongly, and I am so thankful that I can be a member of this Church.” ■

*Adapted from Church News, November 27, 2004.*

## Elder Nelson Tours Six African Countries

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Elder Merrill J. Bateman of the Presidency of the Seventy, assisted by members of two Area Presidencies, presided over stake and district conferences, taught mission presidents in two seminars, and addressed members and missionaries in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe during a 15-day tour of Africa from November 8–23.

In Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, Elder Nelson dedicated the country for the preaching of the gospel. That afternoon, he addressed about 200 Ethiopian members and their friends.

In Lagos, Nigeria, Elder Nelson presided over the Port Harcourt Nigeria Stake conference, one of 22 stakes in Nigeria, while Elder Bateman traveled to Ghana, where he presided over the Swedru Ghana District conference.

Joining Elder Bateman in



**Members of the Church gather outside of the Harare International Center in Zimbabwe, following a stake conference where Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles presided.**

Ghana, Elder Nelson addressed about 1,600 members in the Accra Ghana Christiansborg Stake Center, adjacent to the Accra Ghana Temple, on November 16.

In Johannesburg, South Africa, Elder Nelson and Elder Bateman participated in a seminar for mission presidents. Later, Elder Bateman journeyed to Maputo, Mozambique, where he presided over a district conference.

Elder Nelson traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe, where he presided over the Harare Zimbabwe Stake conference. He also observed the Church welfare program at work. In place of the typical landscaping, Church meetinghouses in Zimbabwe are surrounded by garden plots where members plant, cultivate, and harvest their own food. ■

*Adapted from Church News, December 4, 2004.*

## Church Continues Aid to Tsunami Victims

By Chad Phares, Church Magazines

Months after deadly tsunamis killed more than 150,000 people across southern Asia, the Church continues its humanitarian efforts in hopes of restoring self-sufficiency and order within the countries ravaged by waves that resulted from a 9.0-magnitude underwater earthquake, the strongest in 40 years.

While the Church immediately supplied critical commodities such as food, hygiene kits, medical supplies, and shelter, the focus of the relief has turned to analyzing what will best help the citizens of the affected countries move forward.

Bishop Richard C. Edgley, First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, visited Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and at press time, the Church was in the process of creating a long-term plan to aid those in need.

“When it comes to a major tragedy as we have all

witnessed on the television, on the news, and in newspapers, compassion knows no boundaries; it has no cultural boundaries; it has no religious boundaries,” Bishop Edgley said.

Renn Patch, director of administrative services in the Welfare Services Department, said the immediate shelter

and food issues have mostly been addressed and that the Church is determining how to best help those in need regain self-reliance.

“The world’s attention is transitioning from short-term to long-term issues of self-sufficiency,” Brother Patch said. Among other things, some of the issues that must be addressed are the needs for schools, clean water, and medical services, he said.

Although the results were tragic for communities battered by the waves, most Church members and all missionaries reportedly had been spared the catastrophe’s devastation. As of press time, there were no confirmed deaths of Church members as a result of the tsunamis. One local Church member was missing. Several members received minor injuries, and at least two member families were displaced from their homes in Sri Lanka. No Church property

was reported damaged.

Bishop Edgley commended local members for their personal and family preparation, noting that having items such as emergency supplies and food storage allowed them to reach out to others more quickly because their own families’ needs were already met.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands are homeless, and many are fighting sickness and injuries.

Members around the world have participated in relief efforts. “It happened almost instantaneously, not just in those countries but in places as far away as Hong Kong,” Bishop Edgley said of the assistance given by members worldwide.

In Hong Kong, more than 450 Church members and investigators gathered in the Ho Man Tin meetinghouse to assemble 15,000 hygiene kits (as of press time) for Sri Lanka and plan to do more. Members in India



***This scene from Indonesia is representative of similar scenes across 10 countries where thousands of homes were destroyed by the December 26, 2004, tsunamis.***

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDER DARYL H. GARN, COURTESY OF CHURCH NEWS

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN CALDWELL



**Members in India assemble relief kits to deliver to families in devastated areas following the disaster.**

and Thailand also prepared hygiene kits and gathered cooking materials.

A press release issued by the First Presidency days after the destruction urged “our people to remember in their prayers those in the devastated areas and to contribute most generously in fast offerings, which will make it possible for the Church to increase its aid to those whose suffering is so great.”

Although relief efforts have helped those affected by the tsunamis, the damage done to the coasts of the affected countries was extensive. Church Emergency Response Director Garry Flake, who visited southern Asia soon after the tsunamis hit, called the wreckage a “sobering situation.”

“The destruction came so quickly,” Brother Flake said. “It caught hundreds of

thousands of people racing for their lives.”

Though few missionaries were serving near areas struck by the waves, they have continued to give assistance in relief efforts. Those serving in Sri Lanka have helped make hygiene kits, delivered food to the hungry, and cooked breakfast for those displaced from their homes.

Missionaries in the Thailand Bangkok Mission have participated in packing food and hygiene kits and loading trucks. Thirty missionaries met with stranded tourists in Bangkok at Thammasat University to provide translation services.

Missionaries in the Indonesia Jakarta Mission have assisted members in purchasing and shipping supplies to needy areas and assembling 3,000 hygiene kits.

Mission presidents in

affected countries have said their missionaries will continue to give assistance as needed. “There are going to

be needs here for a long time,” Brother Flake said. ■  
Church News contributed to this report.

## Growth: Physical Facilities’ “Wonderful Challenge”

By Patricia S. Norwood, Church Magazines

Missionary work has been described as a “marvelous work,” and with the truly *marvelous* number of new members finding the gospel comes the challenging *work* of housing the new and expanding stakes and districts of the Church.

The day President Gordon B. Hinckley greeted the public as President of the Church, he noted some of the challenges posed by an ever-growing church.

“The most serious challenge we face, and the most wonderful challenge that comes of growth. Accommodating the tremendous growth of the Church presents many problems and entails the construction of houses of worship and other facilities—but what a remarkable and wonderful challenge that is” (quoted in Jay M. Todd, “President Gordon B. Hinckley: Fifteenth President of the Church,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1995, 6).

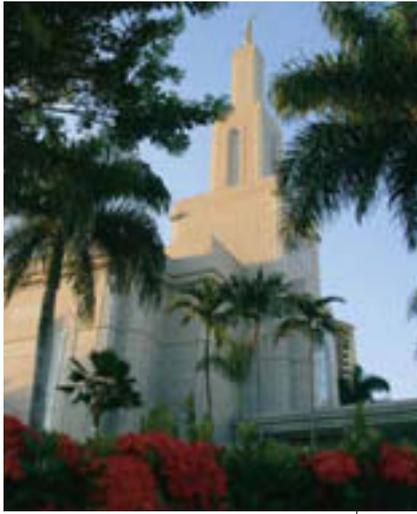
With that same optimistic attitude, the Church’s Physical Facilities Department has endeavored to keep up with the demand for new meetinghouses. In a general

conference address last November, President Hinckley said: “We now have, at some stage, 451 meetinghouses of various sizes under construction in many parts of the earth. This tremendous building program is phenomenal. I know of nothing to equal it” (“Condition of the Church,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 4). Approximately 300 new meetinghouses are built worldwide each year, with 150



**The first institute building in the Caribbean, dedicated last November, was one of more than 450 Church buildings under construction during 2004.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM C. OLSON



**The Santo Domingo Dominican Republic Temple, dedicated in 2000, stands out as a beautiful landmark in the busy city. "Our structures are beautiful," President Hinckley has said. "They add to the ambience of any community in which they stand."**

existing meetinghouses receiving additions. Two-thirds of the construction is taking place outside of the United States.

The Church has had many years of experience and has developed proven processes for constructing meetinghouses. "Out of that vast experience," President Hinckley said, "we are producing better buildings than have ever previously been constructed in the Church" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 4).

Before a meetinghouse is built, the Physical Facilities Department evaluates whether there are other options to house the ward or branch, such as sharing a building with a nearby ward or branch, adjusting meeting schedules to accommodate more wards or branches in a building, or expanding existing meetinghouses. If it is determined

that a new meetinghouse is needed, a request is made and prioritized based on other requests and available resources. Once a request is approved, it is added to a plan for proposed projects and sent to the Church Appropriations

Committee for review. If the plan is approved, the meetinghouse is designed, built, and dedicated.

Often the Church uses standard plans to cut costs and increase efficiency when building, provide support to Church programs, and present the desired image to the surrounding community. "Our structures are beautiful," President Hinckley said. "They add to the ambience of any community in which they stand. They are well maintained. . . . They combine beauty with great utility. If they look much the same, it is because that is intended. By following tried and tested patterns we save millions of dollars while meeting the needs of our people" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 4).

In many cases the biggest challenge in constructing a meetinghouse is purchasing a site for the building. In some areas with large populations, land is scarce and often expensive. This issue has led to a few temples, such as Manhattan New York and Hong Kong China, being built out of existing buildings owned by the Church. In areas such as these, multi-story designs are often used in building meetinghouses.

In the past a large challenge for members came from having to provide a large portion of the funds for the buildings themselves. Now, members are not asked to sacrifice their money for the buildings, but they are asked to give of their time to help care for and clean the houses of worship. Although this does help the Church financially, it also helps provide a sense of ownership and respect for the members who attend there.

Another challenge comes from the misunderstandings some have about the Church. Occasionally opposition from the community occurs when a new building is announced. The Church works to resolve these concerns whenever possible. It is not uncommon to see divine intervention on behalf of the Lord's Church.

As the Church continues to grow in membership, the work of building houses for the Lord will carry on because they are the places where the gospel is taught, sacred covenants are entered into, and lives are changed. "It is true that the sun never sets on this work of the Lord as it is touching the lives of people across the earth," President Hinckley said in a November 2003 general conference address. "Our work knows no boundaries. Under the providence of the Lord it will continue. Those nations now closed to us will someday be open. That is my faith. That is my belief. That is my testimony" ("The State of the Church," *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 7). ■

## In the News

### Wisconsin Family Honored for Hard Work

While making dinner or planning a vacation are the extent of some families' projects, the Shelleys of the Kettle Moraine Ward, Milwaukee Wisconsin South Stake, have tackled something a little more complex. Their work has led to national honors for the family.

Sister Joan Shelley was named the 2004 National Association of Women Business Owners Entrepreneurial Woman of the Year. In addition, Brother and Sister Shelley attended a holiday party at the White House late last year after receiving an invitation from U.S. President George W. Bush.

Five years ago, Joan and Emery Shelley decided to begin an Internet business, selling cabinet hardware and bathroom accessories. The company, which is headquartered in the family's basement, now employs 20 people, including all eight of the couple's children.

Sister Shelley, who spearheads the business as Brother Shelley continues to work full time outside the home, said there are two reasons she began the business: "Number one, so I could stay at home and number two, so I could teach my kids how to work."

Thanks to hard work, the Shelleys have been able to see the temporal and spiritual blessings of being able to work together as a family. "It's a wonderful opportunity

because it's a fun thing to do together," Sister Shelley said.

In addition to helping promote family unity, the business has also grown from an Internet operation to include two stores in the Milwaukee area.

#### Church Announces Dates for New Temple

The First Presidency has announced the open house and dedication dates for the new San Antonio Texas Temple. The public open house will be held April 16–May 2, 2005. Following a cultural celebration on Saturday, May 21, the temple will be dedicated in four sessions on May 22. The temple will open for ordination work the next day. The temple was announced on June 24, 2001.

#### Arizona Saints Make a Difference

While some paid little attention to the recent Make a Difference Day, members of the Casa Grande Arizona Stake took the challenge and truly made a difference in the lives of those served by Against Abuse, an organization that helps victims of domestic violence.

Members planted trees, erected gazebos, donated quilts, and decorated Against Abuse's main shelter with rugs, curtains, pictures, and plants.

Marilyn Cooper, a member of the Casa Grande Third Ward, helped organize the project. "I thought it was interesting that the ladies who are here in the shelter came up and thanked us and

told us how pretty it looked," Sister Cooper said. "That touched me deeply." ■

## Young Women Broadcast Set

The general Young Women meeting will be held on March 26, 2005, at the Conference Center in Salt Lake City. This year's Mutual theme is "A Great and a Marvelous Work."

The program will be broadcast that day at 6:00 p.m. MST and rebroadcast at 8:00 p.m. MST on the Church satellite system to the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, Brazil, parts of Uruguay, and other parts of South America.

Rebroadcast times for other areas of the Church are the following Saturday or Sunday at various times.

The program will be broadcast in 47 languages and will be closed-captioned in English. Not all languages are offered in every area.

A live audio stream of the broadcast will be available online. Go to [www.lds.org/broadcast](http://www.lds.org/broadcast) for changes and updates. On March 28, audio streams will be available in most of the 47 languages in the broadcast archive. A DVD recording of the event will be made available a few months after the broadcast.

Changes are possible in broadcast times and the availability of languages. For

up-to-date information, contact local leaders. ■

## Comment

### My Choice

When I received the December *Ensign*, for some reason I couldn't put it down to go to bed. The past month or so I have been having a difficult time with a very tough and personal decision I made three and a half years ago. After reading "My Daughter's Choice," I knew why I couldn't go to bed tonight. I wasn't 18 when I found myself with an unexpected pregnancy. I was 25. And if I didn't know better, I would say this was my story. It will soon be three years since I have seen my daughter, and even though I know I placed her for adoption for all the right reasons, sometimes I lose sight of the Master's plan and wish I had my sweet daughter back. The excerpt from the father's letter telling his grandson why his mother placed him for adoption expressed my exact reasons for placing my baby girl for adoption. Thank you so much for publishing the article, because it came at a time when I really needed it.

Name Withheld

### Worth of a Photo

Thanks for the photograph of President Hinckley, Elder Uchtdorf, and Elder Bednar on the cover of the November 2004 issue. Sometimes a picture is worth 1,000 sermons.

Jeanine Tew,  
Valley View Fourth Ward,  
Salt Lake Valley View Stake

### Mary

The painting of Mary on the inside front cover of the December 2004 *Ensign* is beautiful and magnificent. Thanks to James C. Christensen.

Samuel Drinkwater,  
San Antonio Eighth Ward,  
San Antonio Texas North Stake

## Call for Articles

If you have had experience with the following situation, we invite you to share your suggestions: *How can we magnify our callings while at the same time following the counsel of Church leaders to reduce and simplify our approach to Church service?*

Send responses by April 18, 2005, to *Ensign* Editorial, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA, or to [cur-editorial-ensign@ldschurch.org](mailto:cur-editorial-ensign@ldschurch.org). Clearly mark your submission "Questions and Answers," and at the top of your submission, write your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and ward and stake (or branch and district).

While we cannot acknowledge receipt of individual responses, authors whose submissions are selected for publication will be notified. If you would like your manuscript returned, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and allow up to a year. ■



# MAKING THE MOST OF THIS ISSUE

M A R C H 2 0 0 5

## Come to Zion

Since the beginning of this dispensation, the Saints have gathered. At first they gathered to specific places such as Kirtland, Ohio; Jackson County, Missouri; Nauvoo, Illinois; or Salt Lake City. Today they gather in stakes all across the globe. But why do they gather? To learn about the main objective, see page 30.

## Relief Society Time Line

What do you know about the contributions of the 14 general presidents of the Relief Society? For a brief look at their presidencies, see page 52.

## A Stay-at-Home Education

Staying at home to be a full-time mom doesn't mean you give up personal growth

or intellectual stimulation.

Katherine Padilla offers seven ideas to help stay-at-home moms sharpen their skills and improve their education. See page 58.

## Home Teachers, Visiting Teachers

Find the monthly messages on pages 2 and 57.

## Getting to Know

### Two New Apostles

At general conference in October 2004, President Hinckley announced the calling of the first new Apostles since April 1995. To become better acquainted with Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf and Elder David A. Bednar, see pages 10 and 16.

### Lambs and Losses

- Have you lost a loved one? In "All Your Losses," a poignant account of losing a special son, Eric Shields shares the Resurrection's message of hope and comfort. See page 68.

- What does a rural auction and the repeated selling of a lamb have to do with Easter? Read "The Day the Lamb Was Sold," page 8.

### Seeking the Best Gifts

How can you learn to recognize the spiritual gifts God has given you? And, more important, how can you obtain the "best gifts"? See "Seek Ye Earnestly the Best Gifts" by Elder Mervyn B. Arnold of the Seventy, page 64.



## The Saints of Colombia: An Example of Strength

The Saints in Colombia find peace, safety, freedom, and goodwill in a nation sometimes troubled by war, violence, corruption, and fear. See their inspiring story on page 38.

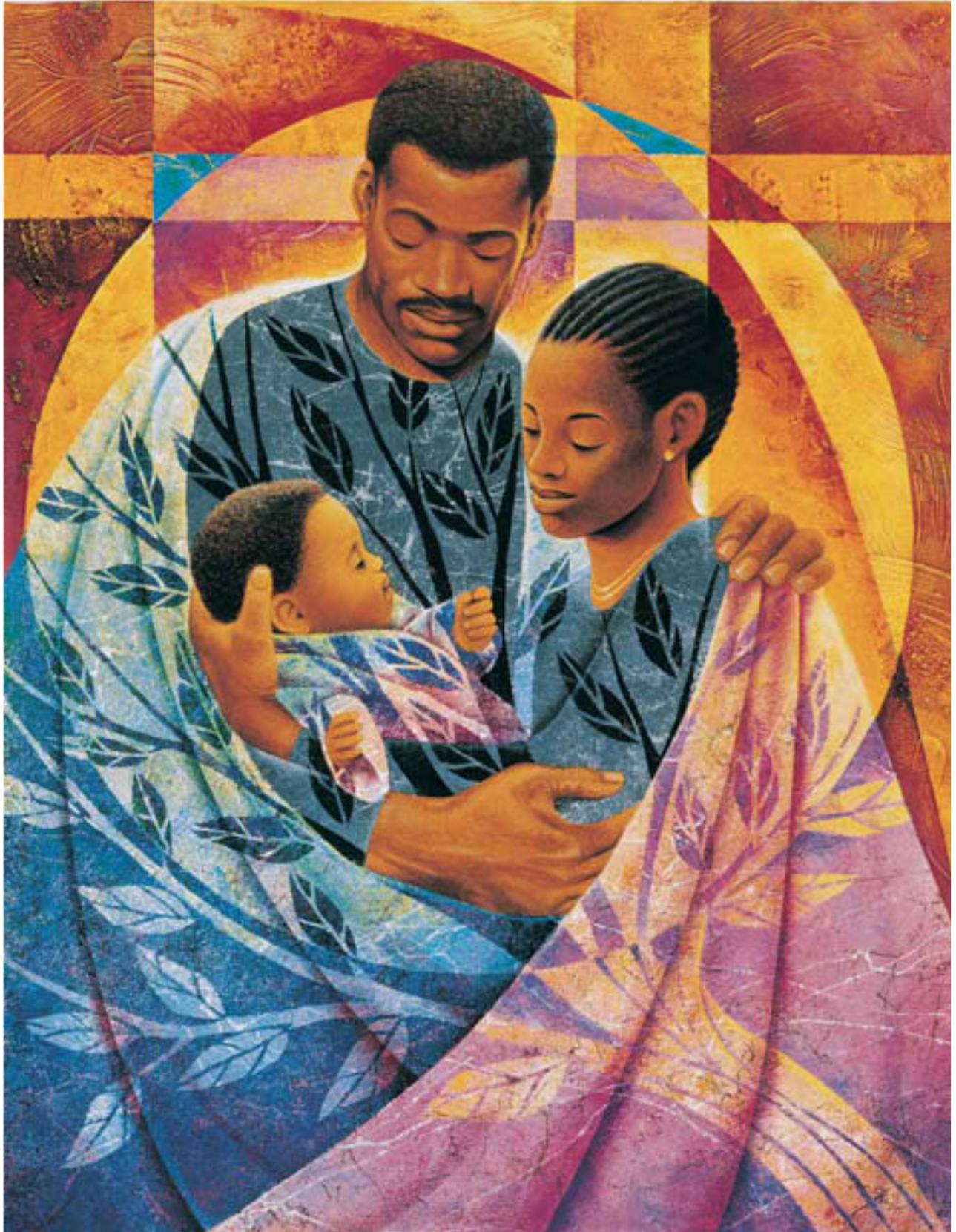
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MAY NOT BE COPIED

**Tender Moments, by Keith Mallett**

*“Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve one another; to observe the commandments of God and to be law-abiding citizens wherever they live” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” Liahona, Oct. 2004, 49; Ensign, Nov. 1995, 102).*



*Front cover: Ismael Carreño, president of the Barbosa Branch, Duitama Colombia District, with his wife, Leidy, and their two-year-old son, Felipe, at the Bogotá Colombia Temple. Above: Genoveva Sánchez (right) was a pioneer of the Church in Medellín; she and her late husband, Luis Ángel, were baptized in 1967. At left are her son Darío and his wife, Dalila. Left inset: Primary children in Cartagena represent the future of the Church in Colombia. Right inset: Current stake presidents in Cartagena, Jairo Bardi (left) and Rafael Ulloque. See "The Saints of Colombia: An Example of Strength," p. 38.*