

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ■ APRIL 2001

# LIAHONA



# LIAHONA



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*The Christus*, by Bertel Thorvaldsen  
(Photograph by Craig Dimond).

Inset: Photograph by Acey Harper,  
from *The Mission*.



## THE FRIEND COVER

*God's Constant Care*,  
by Sheri Lynn Boyer Doty.

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#### MISSIONARIES SERVE WITH PURE HEARTS

My daughter and I read the *Liahona* (Ukrainian), from which we find out about the current events of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and about the lives of members in all corners of our planet. My heart delights when I read of the brothers and sisters who do missionary work in many countries despite the hardships that may await them. With pure hearts, great faith, and much love, they go to every house, to every family, and do their important work. By doing this, they help us—through the scriptures and their personal examples—get to know our Heavenly Father better. This service pleases not only the eye, but the heart as well.

Leonid Stepanovich Shkolny,  
Vynohradars'ka Branch,  
Kyiv Ukraine Sviatoshyns'kyi District

#### GOD LIGHTS THE ROAD FOR US

I want to say to all the readers of the *Liahona* how important it is to have God in our lives. I became a totally different person when I joined the Church. Life is so much easier now. I'm thankful for our Heavenly Father's wisdom, kindness, patience, protection, and love. Problems haven't disappeared. They still exist, but God helps me overcome adversity.

I know now that just as the moon makes a dark road visible, God lights for us the road that leads to His heavenly kingdom. We can open our arms and invite

all who are in the dark to join us on this bright path.

Marina Ruseva,  
Stara Zagora Branch,  
Plovdiv Bulgaria District



#### REASSURED BY LIAHONA

I have been a member of the Church since I was eight years old, and I would like to tell you thanks for the edifying messages. Because of the *Liahona* (French), I am reassured and consoled in knowing that there are faithful young people who hold fast in spite of intense opposition.

Seeing some of my own friends get off the right road has been very painful. Often I have wondered if I would have the strength and courage to resist their call to be part of the world. The sincere testimonies of the young people whose words you publish have strengthened me. It is truly comforting to know that I am not the only young person to have hope in the truth, to practice the gospel, and to strive to have high principles. Thanks very much for that help. The *Liahona* is a compass in this world.

Vayana Mataoa,  
Arue Ward,  
Arue Tahiti Stake

**Editors' note:** In this issue, "Special Witnesses of Christ" replaces the First Presidency Message. Home teachers are encouraged to use this message during the month of April.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ACEY HARPER, FROM THE MISSION

# Special Witnesses of Christ

Following is the text from a video presentation by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The presentation was broadcast by satellite between general conference sessions on 1–2 April 2000.

President Gordon B. Hinckley

This great and ancient city of Jerusalem—it has always been an inspiration to me. It is so because this place bears the imprint of the Son of God. Two thousand years ago, the Savior of mankind was born in Bethlehem, a short distance to the south. He was brought here to the temple when He was an infant. Here Mary and Joseph heard the wonderful prophecies spoken by Simeon and Anna about this tiny



babe who was destined to become the Savior of the world.

He spent His boyhood in Nazareth of Galilee to the north of us. When 12 years of age, He was brought back here to Jerusalem. Here He was found by His mother conversing with the doctors in the temple, “and they were hearing him, and asking him questions” (Joseph Smith Translation, Luke 2:46).







It was near here that He gazed out over this city and said with sorrow, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, . . . and ye would not!” (Matthew 23:37).

Jerusalem was the scene of the final days of the mortal life of the Son of God. Here He suffered the agony of Gethsemane, His arrest, His trials, His condemnation, the unspeakable pain of His death on the cross, His burial in Joseph’s tomb, and the triumphant coming forth in the Resurrection.

None can fully comprehend the splendor of His life, the majesty of His death, the universality of His gift to mankind. We declare with the centurion, who said at His death, “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39).

Now, 2,000 years have come and gone since His birth in Bethlehem. Surely this is a time for remembrance and recommitment. In our day the Lord has called 15 special witnesses to testify of His divinity before all the world. Theirs is a unique calling; they are Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, chosen and commissioned by Him. They have been commanded to bear witness of His living reality by the power and authority of the holy apostleship in them vested.

I invite you to listen to the testimonies of these special witnesses. They will speak to us from various locations around the earth, testifying of His premortal, mortal, and postmortal ministry. God be thanked for the gift of His Son, the Redeemer of the world, the Savior of mankind, the Prince of Life and Peace, the Holy One.

## PREMORTAL MINISTRY

Elder Neal A. Maxwell

OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

This magnificent, far-reaching telescope is deliberately situated above the smog, so this powerful instrument can better probe the galaxies. So it is with life, and seeing by the lens of faith. If we are to see things more clearly, we too must lift ourselves above the secular smog. Then, in the words of the hymn, we can “in awesome wonder consider all the worlds [God’s] hands have made . . . [and see God’s] pow’r thru-out the universe displayed” (“How Great Thou Art,” *Hymns*, number 86). Otherwise, we will be kept from

probing Jesus’ universal gospel and from seeing “things as they really are” (Jacob 4:13).

Nevertheless, by viewing the stretching cosmos, we can humbly contemplate the vastness of divine handiwork. Long before He was born at Bethlehem and became known as Jesus of Nazareth, our Savior was Jehovah. Way back then, under the direction of the Father, Christ was the Lord of the universe, who created worlds without number—of which ours is only one (see Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2).

How many planets are there in the universe with people on them? We don’t know, but we are not alone in the universe! God is not the God of only one planet!

I testify that Jesus is truly the Lord of the universe, “that by [Christ], and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God” (D&C 76:24).

Having purchased us (see 1 Corinthians 7:23) with His atoning blood (see Acts 20:28) in the great and

marvelous Atonement, Jesus thereby became our Lawgiver (see Isaiah 33:22). It is by obedience to His laws and His commandments that we may return one day to His presence and that of our Heavenly Father.

The foregoing cosmic facts should bring us to our knees even now—long before that later Judgment Day, when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ. I testify that Jesus fulfilled these great roles as Creator and Lawgiver out of His desire to immortalize all of Heavenly Father’s children, with the

most valiant to live in His Father’s house, which has many mansions.

When Christ comes again, it will not be to the meekness of the manger; it will be as the recognized Redeemer and the Lord of the universe! Then, in a great solar display, stars will fall from their places in a witnessing way (see D&C 133:49), with much more drama than at His birth, when “the stars in the heavens looked down where he lay” (“Away in a Manger,” *Hymns*, number 206).

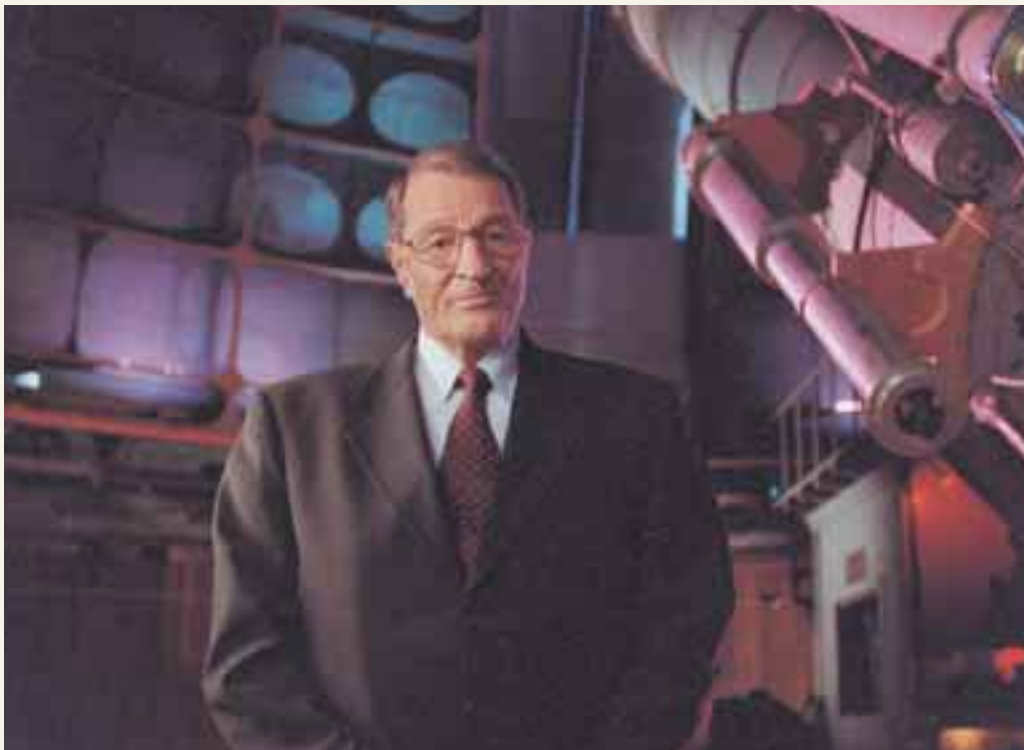
Yet in the vastness of His creations, the Lord of the universe,

who notices the fall of every sparrow, is our personal Savior, of which I give apostolic testimony in the holy name of Jesus Christ, amen!

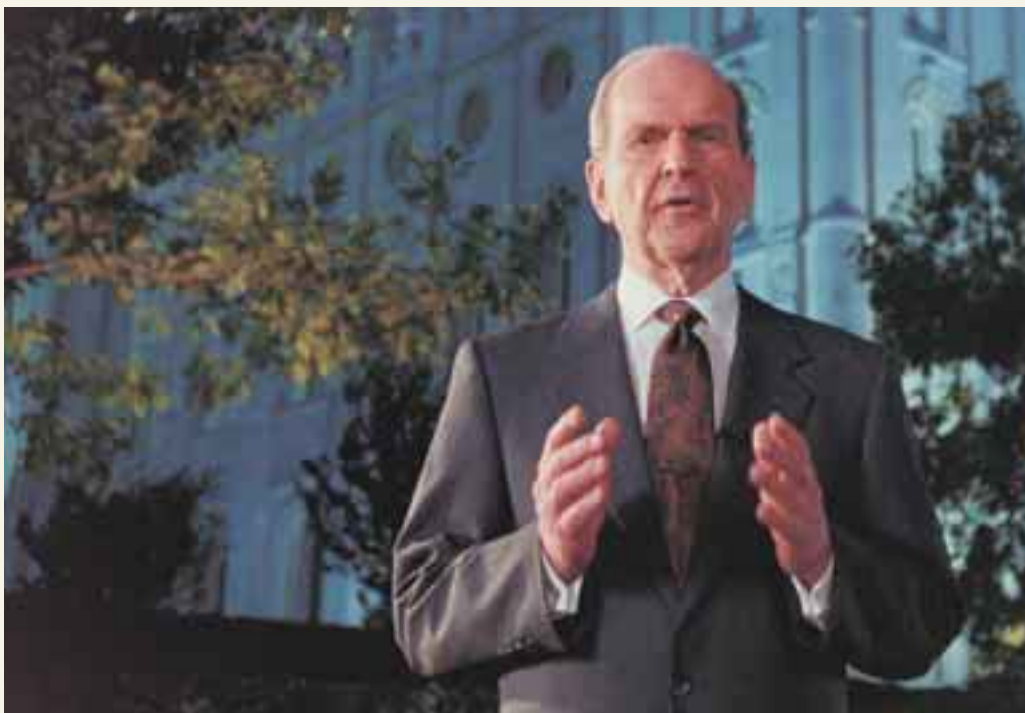
**Elder Russell M. Nelson**  
*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

Whenever I look at stars in the sky, I am reminded that about 4,000 years ago Jesus the Christ (then speaking as Jehovah—God of the Old Testament) made a covenant with Father Abraham. Included was

**Elder Neal A. Maxwell speaking from the Lick Observatory on  
Mount Hamilton, located outside San Jose, California.**







**Elder Russell M. Nelson speaking from the grounds of Temple Square in Salt Lake City.**

the promise that the Savior of the world would come through Abraham's lineage and that his seed would be multiplied "as the stars of the heaven." In addition, Abraham was told that through his seed, "all the nations of the earth [shall] be blessed" (Genesis 22:17–18). This covenant was to be everlasting—even through "a thousand generations" (1 Chronicles 16:15). Abraham was promised "that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed after thee . . . even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal" (Abraham 2:11).

From scriptures we learn that this covenant "should be fulfilled in the latter days" (1 Nephi 15:18). Then the fulness of His gospel would be preached and many would truly

believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

In 1836, keys of "the gospel of Abraham" were conferred (D&C 110:12). In 1843 the Lord declared to the Prophet Joseph Smith that "Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and of the fruit of his loins—from whose loins ye are. . . . This promise is yours also, because ye are of Abraham" (D&C 132:30–31).

Brothers and sisters, you may also claim the supernal blessings promised to the faithful lineage of Abraham. The Lord explained that blessings and responsibilities of His priesthood are yours because of your faith, works, and lineage—the lineage declared in your patriarchal blessings. You "are lawful heirs," He said. "Your life and the priesthood have

remained, and must needs remain through you and your lineage" (D&C 86:9–10).

The ultimate blessings of the Abrahamic covenant are conferred in holy temples. These blessings allow us to come forth in the First Resurrection and inherit thrones, kingdoms, powers, principalities, and dominions, to our "exaltation and glory in all things" (D&C 132:19). The fulfillment of the ancient Abrahamic covenant is feasible only because of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is He who has made it possible for us to dwell with God, with Him, and with our families eternally. This is His work and His glory. I love Him; I testify of Him and express my everlasting gratitude for Him now and forevermore, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.



## MORTAL MINISTRY

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin

*OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES*

Two thousand years ago, two travelers—a man and a woman—looked upon a small city, Bethlehem. The woman, heavy with child, had been traveling from Nazareth. The long journey was most difficult and so uncomfortable for her.

Due to a sudden influx of visitors, every inn, every room in the city was occupied. The only place Joseph and Mary could find shelter was in a place where cattle were kept.

And so He was born: Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the Beloved Son of God. The Creator of suns and moons and swirling seas lay wrapped in swaddling clothes, His surroundings among the most humble earth had to offer.

At a very early age and continuing throughout my life, I have marveled at the beautiful story of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The inspiring part of it all was the announcement through the prophets in the Old Testament and the Book of Mormon. They knew the plan of salvation and the major part He would play in saving all mankind. The singing of the angels as the shepherds in their field were informed of the greatest event of

history, and the Wise Men from the Far East who followed the star of Bethlehem—these inspired events captured my love and understanding of our beloved Savior.

As His birth, so His life. “Despised and rejected, . . . a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3), He had no place to lay His head. In our modern age, where glory and fame is wrapped around medals and worldly wealth, it seems almost inconceivable to us that a solitary

man, without home, without political influence, could change the course of history and eternity.

But I testify to you that He did. Jesus the Christ taught the words of life. He showed the way to truth, the way to peace, the way to happiness. I testify that when He walked the earth, thousands looked into His eyes—yearning for answers, yearning for release from suffering and grief, yearning that the burdens they carried would be lightened. Everyone who

**Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin speaking from Salt Lake City.**





looked into His eyes with faith found healing, peace, and happiness.

As an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify to you this day that the time will come when every one of us will look into the Savior's loving eyes. And we will know then with a surety that a child was born to Mary who was indeed the Son of God, the Savior of the world. We will know that no grief is so great, no pain so profound, no burden so unbearable that it is beyond His healing touch.

He asks that we believe in Him, that we learn of Him, that we strive to follow His teachings. That each one of us may never forget the sacredness

of this event and celebrate His birth by coming unto Him and keeping His commandments is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

**Elder Richard G. Scott**  
*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

**W**e all have a vivid memory of our baptism and receipt of the Holy Ghost. As we grow in understanding of the full meaning of the life of Jesus Christ, of what He has done to bless every soul, that ordinance takes on increasing significance. We did live in the presence of our Eternal Father and of His

Beloved Son, our Savior. Every mortal that has or ever will come to earth chose that privilege after fully understanding the plan of happiness that would guide our life here.

Only those who make and keep the covenant of baptism, diligently obey His commandments, and receive all of the other necessary ordinances will have a fulness of joy on earth and will live eternally in the celestial kingdom. For the truly repentant, baptism provides a remission of sins because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

The Savior said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). That is an absolute requirement for every soul that would receive a fulness of the blessings offered us. That is why we perform, in holy temples, the ordinance of baptism vicariously for our deceased ancestors. The Master Himself was baptized "to fulfil all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). He is our perfect example in all things.

I testify that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is a resurrected being of perfect love and compassion. I witness that He gave His life that we might live eternally with Him and our Father in Heaven and our loved ones who qualify, through obedience to the commandments and receipt of all of the ordinances of salvation. I solemnly witness that I know that the Savior lives.

**Elder Richard G. Scott speaking in front of the baptismal font in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.**







**Elder L. Tom Perry speaking from Salt Lake City.**

## Elder L. Tom Perry

*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

There was an experience in my life which has often reminded me of the joy resulting from asking the question “What would the Savior do in this situation?”

I was among the first wave of Marines to go ashore in Japan after the signing of the peace treaty following World War II. Entering the devastated city of Nagasaki was one of the saddest experiences of my life. A large part of the city had been totally destroyed. Some of the dead had not yet been buried. As occupation troops, we set up headquarters and went to work.

The situation was very bleak, and a few of us wanted to give more. We went to our division chaplain and requested permission to help rebuild the Christian churches. Because of government restrictions during the war, these churches had almost

ceased to function. Their few buildings were badly damaged. A group of us volunteered to repair and replaster these chapels during our off-duty time so they would be available for the holding of Christian services again.

We had no command of the language. All we could accomplish was the physical labor of repairing the buildings. We found the ministers who had been unable to serve during the war years and encouraged them to return to their pulpits. We had a tremendous experience with these people as they again experienced the freedom to practice their Christian beliefs.

An event occurred as we were leaving Nagasaki to return home that I will always remember. As we were boarding the train that would take us to our ships to return home, we were teased by a lot of the other Marines. They had their girlfriends with them saying good-bye to them. They laughed at us and indicated

that we had missed the fun of being in Japan. We had just wasted our time laboring and plastering walls.

Just as they were at the height of their teasing, up over a little rise near the train station came about 200 of these great Japanese Christians from the churches we had repaired, singing “Onward, Christian Soldiers.” They came down and showered us with gifts. Then they all lined up along the railroad track, and as the train started down the tracks, we reached out and just touched their fingers as we left. We couldn’t speak; our emotions were too strong. But we were grateful that we could help in some small way in reestablishing Christianity in a nation after the war.

I know that God lives. I know that we are all His children and that He loves us. I know that He sent His Son to the world to be an atoning sacrifice for all mankind, and those who embrace His gospel and follow Him will enjoy eternal life, the greatest of all gifts of God. I know that He directed the Restoration of the gospel again here upon the earth through the ministry of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I know that the only lasting joy and happiness we will ever find during our mortal experience will come by following the Savior, obeying His law, and keeping His commandments. He lives. This is my witness to you in His holy name, even Jesus Christ, amen.



**Elder Henry B. Eyring speaking from the east steps of the Salt Lake Temple.**

## Elder Henry B. Eyring

*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

**T**his building on its east facade has the words “The House of the Lord.” The first time I walked just a few feet into the temple I had the feeling that I had been here before. In an instant, the thought came to me that what I recognized was a sense of peace beyond anything I had felt before in this life, but that I seemed to recognize and almost remember.

We knew our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son before we came into this life. We felt peace with Them then, and we long to be with Them again, with our families and those we love.

Dedicated temples are sacred places where the risen Savior may come. In them we can feel the peace of our associations with Him in the life before. In them we can make the covenants which help us to come unto Him in this life and which will

permit Him, if we keep our promises to Him, to take us home to the Father, with our families, in the world to come.

Every part of these buildings and all that goes on inside them reflect the love of the Savior for us and our love for Him. I felt that one day, high in this temple. I was in one of the towers, in a place few people would have been since the building was dedicated. In a small room that has rarely if ever been used, I saw exquisite pioneer era woodwork.

I remember the sense of awe that came over me when I imagined the workmen who had so carefully carved and finished the detailed moldings. They toiled away without power tools in a place where, for the most part, only the Lord they loved and heavenly beings would look upon it. They did it not for man or for recognition but for Him, for His house. They knew, as I do, that He lives and that He asked His people to

gather and to be worthy to build Him a house, that He might direct them and bless them and their families.

I know that He lives. I know that Joseph Smith was His prophet and saw in vision not only the shape of the windows for an early temple but the spread of temples across the earth. The Lord has in His loving-kindness entrusted the keys of the priesthood exercised in these temples to His servants, to bless us and our kindred dead and to finish the work for His glorious return. I know that is true, and it brings peace to my heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## Elder Robert D. Hales

*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

**I** have a great love for the scriptures. I love reading about the mortal life of Jesus Christ. There is so much in His life that can lift and inspire and strengthen us in our times of need. To me, one of the most sacred chapters in all the scriptures is John chapter 17. The entire chapter is an intercessory prayer offered by Jesus Christ to His Father. He says, in effect, “If only the world could know you as I know you.” He tells His Father that He has done everything He has been asked to do.

Sometimes we forget how remarkably obedient the Savior was. Everything that He did, everything that He said was out of obedience to

His Father. His seeking out and caring for the poor, the calling of His disciples, His teachings both in the land of Palestine and in the Americas—all these things were done because His Father had commanded Him to do them. He had no personal agenda. He said, “I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me” (John 8:28). What a perfect example of obedience!

In the choices we make in life, we need to know the Savior. His simple admonition “Come . . . follow me” (Matthew 19:21) could transform human existence if we would let it. He has the power to make our burdens light if we will turn to Him.

As an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, I have the opportunity to

bear testimony as a sacred witness of the Savior. My greatest desire is that my testimony might penetrate the hearts of those who hear it.

I know that Jesus Christ lives. I know that He guides and directs His Church by revelation through His prophet in this very day and time. If we will have faith in our Savior, He will see us through our trials and tribulations, and we will be able to endure to the end and return to His presence after this mortal probation. He lives and knows and loves each one of us. He so much wants to bless us if we will come unto Him. Of this I bear humble testimony and witness in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

**Elder Robert D. Hales speaking from the Bountiful Utah Temple grounds.**



## Elder David B. Haight

*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

I often think of the time President Spencer W. Kimball, a few years ago, called me to the temple. I was busy as an Assistant to the Twelve at that time, and he telephoned me to meet him at the fourth floor of the temple. He said, “David, can you come right now?” And I said, “Yes, President.” And he said, “Right now.” And as I walked to the temple, my heart was beating fast, not knowing, of course, what President Kimball was calling me there for.

But he took me into a room that I hadn’t been in before, and there President Kimball interviewed me regarding my worthiness. And, of course, I was amazed because of his speaking to me that way, because I didn’t have any idea why I was there. And then he motioned for us to stand, and as I was standing with that wonderful man and he’s holding my hands, he said to me, “With all the love that I possess, I’m calling you to fill the vacancy in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.” And when he said that, I thought I would collapse with the shock, the astonishment that came into my mind!

And so, as I had sleepless nights after that call, I mulled that in my mind and I have thought of it time and time again. He did not say, “As the President of the Church” or “As

the prophet” or “By my authority.” He said, in that humble, humble way of his, “With all the love that I possess.” He was teaching me that love is essential—the love that the Savior hopes that we will acquire—that we must show, that we must demonstrate, we must feel in our hearts and souls in order to teach the gospel properly.

As we meet with people out in the world and bear testimony of a living God, I have that warm, comfortable feeling in my heart that He’s real, that God lives, that He is our Father in Heaven, and that Jesus is the Christ, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh. I know that that’s true. I so bear my witness and my testimony and my knowledge and the

burning that is in my heart that this is true in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, amen.

### Elder Dallin H. Oaks

*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

At the conclusion of His ministry, Jesus introduced the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. He broke bread and blessed it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my body” (Matthew 26:26). “This do in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19). He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, “This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the

remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is a renewal of the covenants and blessings of baptism. We are commanded to repent of our sins and to come to the Lord with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and partake of the sacrament. In partaking of the bread, we witness that we are willing to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ and always remember Him and keep His commandments. When we comply with this covenant, the Lord renews the cleansing effect of our baptism. We are made clean and can always have His Spirit to be with us.

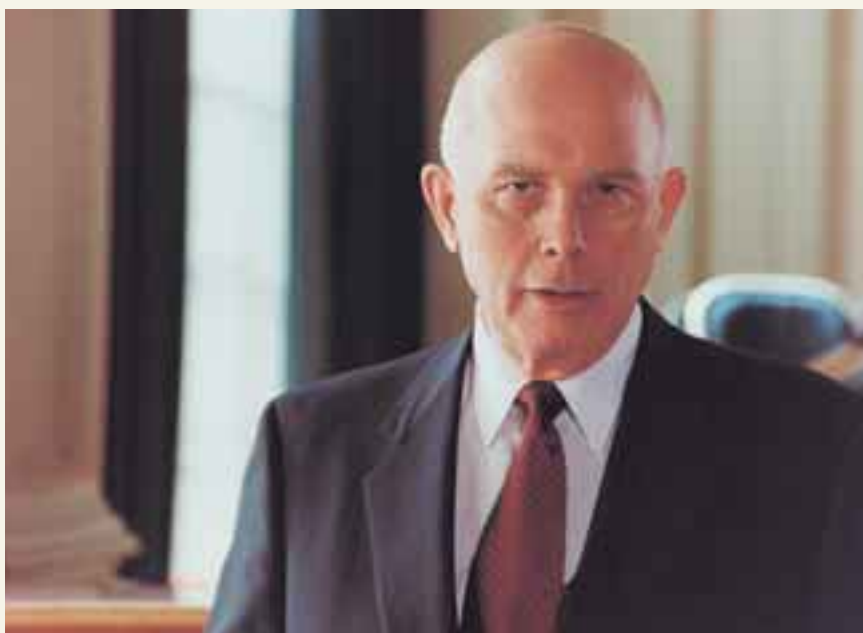
The administration of the sacrament and the renewal of covenants and cleansing that take place in the partaking of the sacrament are the most important acts in the Sabbath worship of Latter-day Saints. We do this in remembrance of the blood of the Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He is at the center of our faith. He is our Savior and our Redeemer.

In this year in which we celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of His birth, I add my testimony to that of His other Apostles. I testify that He lives and loves us. I testify that as the Light and Life of the World, He has provided the way for us to return to our heavenly home to enjoy the associations and highest blessings of God our Eternal Father, even eternal life, the greatest of all the gifts of God. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

**Elder David B. Haight speaking from the Church Office Building.**







**Elder Dallin H. Oaks speaking from a chapel located in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City.**

## Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

*OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES*

Few places on earth are as sacred and important as this small grove of olive trees here on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. It was here in the Garden of Gethsemane, on that last night in mortality, that Jesus left His Apostles and descended alone into the depth of agony that would be His atoning sacrifice for the sins of all mankind.

Moving slowly, kneeling, falling forward on His face, He cried, “Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Mark 14:36).

To the thoughtful follower of Christ, it is a matter of surpassing wonder that the voluntary and merciful sacrifice of a single being could satisfy the infinite and eternal

demands of justice; atone for every human misdeed; bear every mortal infirmity; feel every personal heartache, sorrow, and loss. But I testify that is exactly what Christ did for every one of us. I bear solemn

witness that the Atonement of Jesus Christ is the compassionate foundation and central fact in God’s eternal plan for our salvation and our happiness.

Is it any wonder that we walk quietly and reverently here? Is it any wonder that we make sacred covenants because of the love that was demonstrated here? Is it any wonder that Christ, the greatest of all, partook of the bitter cup and did not shrink here, that we might not suffer if we would repent and come unto Him?

I declare my wonder and awe, my adoration and apostolic witness of Him in His redeeming name, the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland speaking from the Garden of Gethsemane.**



## President Gordon B. Hinckley

Just outside the walls of Jerusalem, in this place or somewhere nearby, was the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea where the body of the Lord was interred. On the third day following His burial “came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

“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. . . .

“And the angel . . . said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:1–2, 5–6).

These are the most reassuring words in all of human history. Death—universal and final—had now been conquered. “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55).

To Mary, the Risen Lord first appeared. He spoke to her, and she replied. He was real. He was alive, He whose body had been laid in death. Small wonder that when Thomas later saw Him with His wounded hands and side, he exclaimed in wonder, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

Never had this occurred before. There had been only death without hope. Now there was life eternal. Only a God could have done this. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was the great crowning event of His life and mission. It was the capstone of the Atonement. The sacrifice of His life for all mankind was not complete without His coming forth from the grave, with the certainty of the Resurrection for all who have walked the earth.

Of all the victories in the chronicles of humanity, none is so great, none so universal in its effects, none so everlasting in its consequences as the victory of the crucified Lord,

**President Gordon B. Hinckley speaking from the Garden Tomb.**



who came forth from the tomb that first Easter morning.

Those who were witnesses of that event, all who saw and heard and spoke with the Risen Lord, testified of the reality of this greatest of all miracles. His followers through the centuries lived and died in proclamation of the truth of this supernal act.

To all of these we add our testimony that He who died on Calvary's cross arose again in wondrous splendor as the Son of God, the Master of life and death.

### Elder M. Russell Ballard

OF THE QUORUM OF THE  
TWELVE APOSTLES

When the Savior originally charged His Apostles, "Go ye into all the world" (Mark 16:15), His Church was very small, with members scattered in the geographic region now known as the Middle East. His dynamic Apostles, like Peter, James, John, and Paul, traveling mostly by foot or by ship, did everything they could to keep the little flock together.

But the distance and the lack of communication made their work very difficult. They themselves knew that the future would bring "a falling away" from the teachings of the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:3); they also knew that eventually there would come to the world a restoration of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I testify



**Elder M. Russell Ballard in front of Grant Romney Clawson's enlargement of Harry Anderson's painting "Go Ye Therefore, and Teach All Nations."**

that the Restoration of the gospel was accomplished, beginning with the appearance of Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to the Prophet Joseph Smith in the spring of 1820.

Since that glorious day, more than 90 men have been called to serve as Apostles with the same commission as the Apostles of old, to teach all nations that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God our Eternal Father. Today, our labors are greatly enhanced by jet airplanes and remarkable technology that stretch the reach of our ministry to the furthest parts of the world. Since 1820, over 750,000 full-time missionaries have served in the world, teaching and testifying of Christ in over 100 languages and in 137 nations and territories.

I testify to you that it is the will of our Father in Heaven, through His Beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that this mighty work moves forward. It is by Him and through Him that

our missionaries bear humble and sincere testimony. I'm a witness of that. I came to know for myself the truth of this work and of the Savior's divinity while serving as a full-time missionary in England 50 years ago. I know it more surely today, through experiences too numerous and too sacred to discuss.

This is His gospel. He stands at the head—holy, divine, supreme, full of power, majesty, grace, and truth. He lived for us, and He died for us, because He loves us. I love Him more deeply and powerfully than I can find words to express. He is my Lord, my Savior, my Redeemer, and my friend. I know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God our Eternal Father. He lives and directs His Church today through His prophet and His Apostles. His great work will continue to roll forth until it fills the whole earth. This is my testimony in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.







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## POSTMORTAL MINISTRY

President Boyd K. Packer

*ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES*

In this room on April the 3rd, in 1836, there was fulfilled a prophecy which had been given more than 2,000 years before. The closing words of the Old Testament, given by the prophet Malachi, prophesied that, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

“And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (Malachi 4:5–6).

When the angel Moroni appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith, he quoted many scriptures; among them, this one was separated out and appears as the second section of the Doctrine and Covenants. Then on that day in 1836, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in this room knelt in solemn and silent prayer, and after rising from prayer Joseph said: “The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened.

“[And] we saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit” (D&C 110:1–2).

The Lord spoke to them, and then Moses appeared and committed to them the keys of the gathering of

Israel. Elias committed to them the keys of the gospel of Abraham. And then it happened: Elijah the prophet came, giving that same statement, the turning of the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers, and he said, “By this [you] may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is . . . at the [gates]” (D&C 110:16).

Now, in our day, the marvelous work is moving forward—the family history work, the temple work in

which families are being united for all eternity. And in a world that is degrading itself with the dissolution of families, this work goes forward across the world. It is a supernal work. It is a work designed by the Lord and introduced by Himself as He came to this spot and introduced the prophet Elijah, who gave the keys of this work.

I bear testimony that Jesus is the Christ. This is a supernal work; the mind of man could not have conceived it. It is true. Jesus is the

**President Boyd K. Packer speaking from the Kirtland Temple.**



Christ. He lives. He directs and leads this Church. Of this I bear solemn testimony, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

**President James E. Faust**  
*SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE  
FIRST PRESIDENCY*

I am humbled to stand on this sacred ground in historic Nauvoo. This city was also known as the City of Joseph, named after Joseph Smith, its founder. He it was who saw in vision God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, in the Sacred Grove in Palmyra, New York. His life is a

testament that he communed with the Christ to bring more spiritual truth, keys, and authority to the earth than any other prophet.

So much of the important history of the early days of our Church took place here. A magnificent temple was erected here. It was the second temple built in this dispensation. The Nauvoo Temple was built so that the members of the Church could receive the highest blessings which God has for His people.

As I walk over these hallowed foundation stones of the Nauvoo Temple, my soul is subdued. On the last day before the temple was closed

and the Saints left, many virtually lived in the temple. My great-grandparents John and Jane Akerley were among the last to receive their temple blessings in this magnificent building, on February 3, 1846. This was providential, because John Akerley died at Winter Quarters. In time, this magnificent temple will be rebuilt to the glory of the Lord.

This is where the temple baptismal font was located. Said the Savior to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Salvation for both the living and the dead depends

**President James E. Faust speaking from Nauvoo, Illinois—the City of Joseph.**



upon this and other ordinances, all of which is a powerful confirmation of my belief that Jesus is the Christ.

In the Gethsemanes of life which we all have, and often in my present calling, I have gone to my knees with a humble spirit to the only place I could for help. I often went in agony of spirit, earnestly pleading with God to sustain me in the work I have come to appreciate more than life itself. I have, on occasion, felt a terrible aloneness of the wounds of the heart, of the sweet agony, the buffetings of Satan, and the encircling warm comfort of the Spirit of the Master.

I have also felt the crushing burden, the self-doubts of inadequacy and unworthiness, the fleeting feeling of being forsaken, then of being reinforced an hundredfold. I have climbed a spiritual Mount Sinai dozens of times, seeking to communicate and to receive instructions. It has been as though I have struggled up an almost real Mount of Transfiguration and, upon occasion, felt great strength and power in the presence of the Divine. A special, sacred feeling has been a sustaining influence and often a close companion.

As I serve in the calling of the holy apostleship, I recognize that I am a very ordinary man. Yet I gratefully acknowledge one special gift. I have a certain knowledge that Jesus of Nazareth is our Divine Savior. I know that He lives. I know that through the



**President Thomas S. Monson speaking from the Grandin Building in Palmyra, New York.**

unspeakable agony of the Atonement, men and women, if they repent, can be forgiven of their sins. Because of the miracle of the Resurrection, all will rise from the dead. I feel His love and marvel at the price He paid for each of us. I wonder how many drops of blood were spilled for me. This is the testimony I give of Him, even in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## President Thomas S. Monson

*FIRST COUNSELOR IN THE  
FIRST PRESIDENCY*

**W**e see today the beautifully and authentically restored Grandin Building situated in Palmyra, New York. The restoration of the Grandin Building had as its objective “to maintain the historical integrity of the building, while allowing the visitor to be enveloped in the history of the time.”

This is where the first edition of the Book of Mormon was printed, with the number of copies in this first edition totaling 5,000, an unusually large order for the rural printing business. Mr. E. B. Grandin had acquired a Smith Patented Improved Press from New York. The press featured new technology over the common presses of the day and offered the Prophet Joseph Smith the prospects of printing the Book of Mormon closer to his home.

Let’s turn back the pages of history that we might more fully appreciate one of civilization’s greatest wonders, namely the advent of movable type. Before Gutenberg discovered the possibilities of movable type, everything was printed with a quill pen letter by letter, line by line, page by page. It was movable type from which Mr. Grandin printed the Book of Mormon. It was tediously composed by the hands of a skilled compositor,

who learned from memory and experience every typeface, font, and size available. After the page was formed, it was inked and printed and then was available for binding.

The Lord brought forth the Book of Mormon at a period of time when printing methods would enhance its distribution far and wide. Modern-day printing presses now enable the Church to print and distribute millions of copies of the Book of Mormon each year.

May I share with you an experience I had many years ago in the southern area of the United States when, after a stake conference, a woman came forward and asked, “Do you know Elder Delbert L. Stapley?” I replied that he and I were Apostles of the Lord, serving together in the Master’s work. She then handed me a copy of the Book of Mormon which contained an inscription and the signature of Delbert L. Stapley. She indicated the volume had been given to her grandmother when Elder Stapley was a young missionary. She added, “Could you present this book to Elder Stapley and tell him hundreds of my grandmother’s descendants have been converted by this volume; and they, in turn, conveyed the message of the Book of Mormon to others.”

I presented that signed copy of the Book of Mormon to Elder Stapley. He listened attentively when I explained where and how it had been given to

me. Quietly he examined his signature and said, “This is one of the happiest days of my life.”

It is my personal testimony that the Book of Mormon changes human lives. It is indeed another testament of Jesus Christ.

**[PRESIDENT MONSON NOW SPEAKS  
AT THE HILL CUMORAH.]**

What a privilege to be here at the Hill Cumorah and to reflect on the momentous events that unfolded on September 22, 1827, when a plowboy prophet took a horse and wagon and, in the dark of night, rode to this hill, where he received an ancient record from the angel Moroni. In a remarkably short time,

this untutored young man translated a record detailing 1,000 years of history and then prepared the Book of Mormon for public distribution.

The way of Joseph Smith was not without mean-spirited criticism or monumental effort. Joseph did not wilt, nor did he waver. He later declared: “By the wisdom of God, [the plates] remained safe in my hands, until I had accomplished by them what was required. . . . When, according to arrangements, the messenger called for them, I delivered them up to him” (Joseph Smith—History 1:60).

This beautiful area of God’s garden attracts literally millions of visitors, most of whom come to see the Hill Cumorah Pageant. The visitor often

**President Monson speaking from the Hill Cumorah.**





comes with an attitude of curiosity. He or she departs with a soul touched by the Spirit of the Lord.

The Book of Mormon is a new witness of Jesus Christ. Its message spans the entire earth and brings its readers to a knowledge of truth. It answers that piercing and universal question best phrased by Job of old: "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14).

Many years ago I was called to the bedside of Robert Williams, a young man who lay dying. His wife and their two children stood nearby. We were all trying to be brave, but tears were in our eyes. Robert asked me, "Where does my spirit go when I die?" I offered a silent prayer. I noticed on his bedside table a copy of the triple combination. I reached for the book and fanned the pages.

Suddenly I discovered that I had, with no effort on my part, stopped at the 40th chapter of Alma in the Book of Mormon. I read these words to Robert: "Behold, it has been made known unto me by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life.

"And . . . the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all

their troubles and from all care, and sorrow" (Alma 40:11–12).

As I continued to read about the Resurrection, a glow came to Robert's face, a smile graced his lips, and his tired and ill body slept. I said good-bye to his wife and children. I next saw them at Robert Williams's funeral. In those precious corridors of memory, I think back to that night when a young man pleaded for truth and, from the Book of Mormon, heard the answer to his question.

I read the words, but God turned the pages. Yes, our Heavenly Father does answer prayers, in His own time and in His own way. I bear an apostolic witness that Jesus is the Savior of the world and that He and His

Father appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith to usher in this dispensation of the fulness of times, and so declare in His holy name, the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## President Gordon B. Hinckley

This is the Sacred Grove. This hallowed ground is revered by Latter-day Saints throughout the world. Here is where it all began, the miracle of this great work which has spread over the earth. This is the scene of the First Vision. It was here that God, the Eternal Father, appeared with His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the resurrected Lord. The

**President Hinckley speaking from the Sacred Grove.**



Father, pointing to His Son, said, “*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17).

Do you realize the import of that declaration? Here was God, the Eternal Father, the Almighty, bearing testimony in words plainly spoken. No more important or compelling testimony has been given of the Risen Lord than this testimony of His own Father.

The curtains that had been closed for centuries were now parted. A new and glorious gospel dispensation was opened, introducing yet other marvelous revelations. Another testament of Jesus Christ was brought forth to speak as a voice from the dust. The holy priesthood, originally bestowed by the Master on His living Apostles, was restored upon living

men by these same Apostles, now resurrected. There followed a veritable “cloud of witnesses” with keys and powers to complete the restoration of the Church established by Jesus when He walked the earth, now to be known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Here in this very place the long night of apostasy blossomed into the glorious dawn of a new age. God Himself was both seen and heard. Here, where we stand in the quiet of these trees, in this most sacred of places, the nature of Deity was again revealed.

The uncluttered and receptive mind of a boy became the instrument of the revelation here given and of many more yet to follow. Standing as the 15th in line from

Joseph Smith and bearing the prophetic mantle which came upon him, I solemnly declare my testimony that the Prophet Joseph’s account of these events is true, that the Father here bore witness of the divinity of His Son, that the Son instructed the boy prophet, and that there followed a train of events which led to the organization of “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which,” He declared, “I, the Lord, am well pleased” (D&C 1:30).

Of the reality and personality of the living God and of His Son, our Redeemer, I stand as a solemn and reverent witness, speaking these words by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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## President Gordon B. Hinckley

**H**ow I love my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! His stirring commission and His divine love motivate all of us in this work. I love my brethren. To a man they are loyal. Without hesitation they respond to every call. They are true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is He, Jesus Christ, who stands at the head of this Church which bears His sacred name. He is watching over

it. He is guiding it. Standing at the right hand of His Father, He directs this work. Unitedly, as His Apostles, authorized and commissioned by Him to do so, we bear our witness that He lives and that He will come again to claim His kingdom and rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Of this we are certain and bear apostolic testimony in His holy name, even the name of Jesus Christ, amen. □



# INCREASING OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

**E**lder Stephen D. Nadauld, while serving as a member of the Seventy, related the following experience: “A stake president and I took the opportunity to visit a young woman. . . . Her husband had been killed in a car accident; she was living in a modest apartment with her two young children. I suppose we expected to find her upset and discouraged. . . . On the contrary, she was cheerful; she was calm; she was very gracious. She thanked us for coming and then said, . . . ‘Brethren, I want you to know I believe in the plan of redemption. I am grateful to my Savior for the promise of a glorious resurrection with my husband. I am grateful for His redeeming sacrifice.’ Then, putting her arms around her two children, she said, ‘Our faith in Jesus Christ will see us through’” (“Faith and Good Works,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 82–83).

This sister’s humble declaration demonstrates how faith in the Savior can replace fear and doubt with hope and courage.

## FAITH IS NECESSARY

In today’s uncertain world, we may not know what tomorrow will bring, but faith in Jesus Christ can give us spiritual

peace, even in the face of calamity and heartbreak. As President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), while President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, explained, “Faith in [Jesus Christ] means believing that even though we do not understand all things, He does” (“Jesus Christ: Our Savior and Redeemer,” *Ensign*, November 1983, 8).

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the first principle of the gospel (see Articles of Faith 1:4). By exercising faith we receive strength to face difficulties and overcome temptations. As we put our faith in Him, repent, and are obedient, He will forgive our sins and help us return to Him. “If ye will have faith in me,” He has promised, “ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me” (Moroni 7:33).

## NURTURING OUR FAITH

We study and practice to develop the skills we need in any earthly endeavor. So also do we develop faith. “Faith cometh by hearing, and

hearing by the word of God,” the Apostle Paul explains (Romans 10:17). Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles observes that “simply hearing the words of doctrine can plant the seed of faith in the heart. And even a tiny seed of faith in Jesus Christ invites the Spirit” (“The Power of Teaching Doctrine,” *Liahona*, July 1999, 86).

Once the seed of faith has been planted in our hearts, it must be nourished. Our faith in Jesus Christ is nourished as we study, search, and ponder the scriptures; fast and pray; participate in sacred ordinances; keep our covenants; serve the Lord and others; sustain our Church leaders; and obey the commandments.

As our faith in Jesus Christ grows stronger, we learn to walk with faith in Him. “To have faith in Christ,” says Sister Sheri L. Dew, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency, “is to believe in Him, follow Him, and rely on Him. And it is to be blessed with the peace of conscience and mind that the Apostle Paul spoke of when he said, ‘I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me’ (Philip. 4:13)” (“Our Only Chance,” *Liahona*, July 1999, 78). □





# Trusting in His Care

**H**eavenly Father asks that we pray for what we need, and He has promised to answer our prayers. But how and when our needs are met is up to Him. We must trust that He knows better than we do what we need and how best to give it to us.

We are, after all, His children. 🕊

As Elder George Q. Cannon (1827–1901) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained: “Heavenly Father is a loving and a kind and beneficent Parent. . . .

He knows how to guide us and how to time His blessings to our wants; . . . He knows our condition; He knows what is good for us. If we need a gift and a blessing, He knows when to bestow it upon us” (*Gospel Truth: Discourses and Writings*

of George Q. Cannon, compiled by Jerreld L. Newquist [1974], 102). 🕊

Faith in Heavenly Father is always rewarded—although, as the following stories illustrate, sometimes not immediately or in quite the way we anticipate it will be.



## “There Shall Not Be Room Enough to Receive It”

By Gloria Olave

**M**y heart leapt on 7 November 1981 as I received my mission call to serve in the Chile Concepción Mission. When I opened that letter, my world froze in place, and all I could think of was my mission.

I had almost everything ready. Again and again I reviewed the list of things I needed. I made a little mark on the list as I put each item in my suitcase. But even with my careful planning, I completely forgot one essential thing.

It wasn't until two hours before I

was to depart that I realized I needed some money to travel from my home in Quilpué to the Missionary Training Center in Santiago, Chile, which was about two hours away. I had already used all my savings and the funds my parents had given me.

My bishop wasn't home when I ran to see if he could lend me the money. I didn't need very much, but at that moment it seemed like a fortune.

I knelt down in my room in anguish and told my Heavenly Father what was happening, although I knew He

already knew. When I got up from my knees, I was confident that He was going to help me solve my problem. I was a faithful tithe payer, and I knew the Lord would open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings upon me until there was no room to receive them (see Malachi 3:10).

My mother called to me and asked me to go through my closet

**Two hours before I was to depart, I realized I needed some money to travel to the Missionary Training Center. I knelt down in anguish and told my Heavenly Father what was happening.**



and decide which things I wanted to leave there and which my sister could use. While I was sorting my clothes, I found a little purse so small it fit in the palm of my hand. I remembered that I had received it many years ago and that in it I had hidden my first savings.

I opened it and—what a blessing! Tucked neatly inside was some money I had put there many years earlier. It would be enough to pay for two fares to Santiago. I invited my father, who is not a member of the Church, to accompany me to the Missionary Training Center.

The years have passed, but I still remember this answer to my prayer. It has helped me remember how great are the power and mercy of our Father in Heaven.

*Gloria Olave is a member of the Paterson*

*First (Spanish) Branch, Paterson New Jersey District.*

## David Led the Way

By Sergio Arroyo

As missionaries in the Chile Antofagasta Mission, my companion and I were teaching a young lady and her brother, who was eight years old. For the second discussion, her brother invited David Marín, a friend his age, to attend. David was a small boy, and he did not yet know how to read. But he looked at us attentively, listened enthusiastically, and asked for a copy of the Book

of Mormon. My companion and I glanced at each other. Since David didn't read, we silently decided against giving him a Book of Mormon.

Later that same day, we happened to meet David again in the street. He said, "Elders, when are you going to give me my Book of Mormon?" Still thinking he would have no use for the book, we let the opportunity go by a second time. After all, he was just an eight-year-old boy.

When we taught the third discussion to the young lady and her brother, little David was there again. After the discussion, he asked us again, this time a little annoyed, "And where is my Book of Mormon?"

I looked at him and felt something special. Smiling, I tried to explain why we hadn't given him the book, saying, "You cannot read it, David." His face fell. But at that moment, the thought came into my mind, *His parents can read it.* So I continued, "But your parents can. Let's go to your house and talk with them."

David smiled, jumped for joy, and took us to his home. There we met his father, Don Astemio; his mother, María; his sisters, Macarena and Valeska, both age 11; and his one-year-old brother.

The Maríns were a humble and loving family. The father had once been a fine athlete, but he had been

**When we met David again, he said, "Elders, when are you going to give me my Book of Mormon?"**

afflicted with Parkinson's disease for about seven years; for the past two years, he had been confined to bed.

After listening to the discussions, David, Macarena, and Valeska were baptized but not Don Astemio because of his illness. His wife, María, was not baptized either.

We continued to visit the family, and one day Don Astemio said, "Tomorrow I am going to be baptized," adding, "and afterward I will be healed." When I heard these words, I felt great joy, but I was also afraid. I knew his faith had grown, but what would happen if he could not walk after his baptism? I tried to explain to him that baptism would heal him spiritually—but a physical healing was in the hands of our Father in Heaven. In spite of everything my companion and I said, he remained certain that after his baptism he was going to walk.

That night I knelt and prayed with all my heart, asking Heavenly Father for His will to be done. After my prayer, I felt a special peace.

The next day, Don Astemio stood with great difficulty. He could not take a single step without assistance. When we got to the meetinghouse, we had to go up a long staircase to the second floor. We were all moved





by the great effort and pain it took Don Astemio to go up those stairs, step by step. When we finally walked into the building, the members there looked at us with surprise.

When Don Astemio came out of the water, I saw he had great faith, but his body was the same. He could not stand by himself.

We left him at his home after the service. He did not want to go to bed but remained sitting calmly in an armchair.

The next day, we dropped by to visit him. As we approached his home, we could see little David playing outside with a ball—and there was Don Astemio running and playing with his son. I could hardly believe what I was seeing. My eyes filled with tears, and in my heart I thanked Heavenly Father for His great love. Two weeks later, María was baptized.

While Don Astemio's healing was unusual, I am grateful that the Lord

blessed this family in a remarkable way. Left to our own intelligence, my companion and I would have continued to ignore little David, but the Lord knew something we didn't. He knew that this child would be the means by which an entire family would come into His Church and be helped in ways we could not have foreseen. □

*Sergio Arroyo is a member of Los Presidentes Ward, Santiago Chile Ñuñoa Stake.*

# A Prophet's Counsel & Prayer for Youth

By President Gordon B. Hinckley



I think there never before was a meeting anything like this in this Church. There are so many of you here tonight. How good you look.

Some of you have come with doubts. Some have come with high expecta-

tions. I want you to know that I have been on my knees asking the Lord to bless me with the power and the capacity and the language to reach into your hearts.

Beyond this hall are hundreds of thousands of others who are participating with us. To each of you I say welcome. I am glad for this tremendous opportunity to speak to you, and I recognize how important it is.

I am now old in years—90 plus. I have lived a long time, and I have lived with great love for the young men and young women of this Church. What a truly wonderful group you are. You speak various languages. You are all part of a great family. But you are also individuals, each with his or her problems, each wishing for answers to the things that perplex you and worry you. How we love you and pray constantly for the genius to help you. Your lives are filled with difficult decisions and with dreams and hopes and longings to find that which will bring you peace and happiness.

Once upon a time, a very long time ago, I was your

age. I didn't worry about drugs or pornography because they were not available then. I worried about school and where it would lead. It was the season of the terrible economic depression. I worried about how to earn a living. I served a mission after I finished the university. I went to England. We traveled by train to Chicago, made a bus transfer across that city, and went on to New York, where we caught a steamship for the British Isles. While riding the transfer bus in Chicago, a woman said to the driver, "What is that building ahead?" He said, "Ma'am, that is the Chicago Board of Trade Building. Every week some man who has lost his fortune jumps out of one of those windows. He has nothing else to live for."

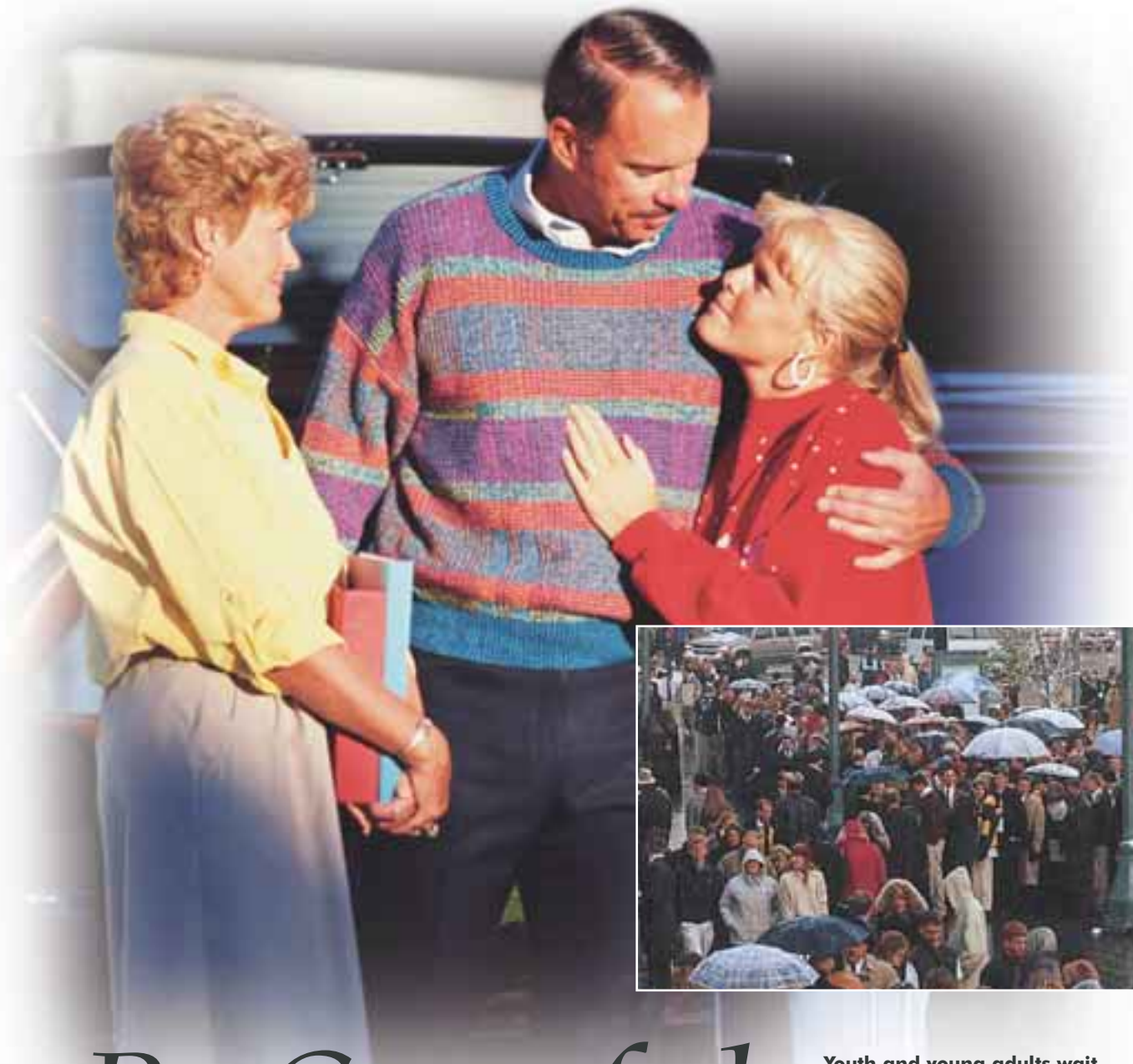
Such were the times. They were mean and ugly. No one who did not live through that period will ever understand it fully. I hope with all my heart we never have anything like it again.

Now, here you are on the threshold of your mature lives. You too worry about school. You worry about marriage. You worry about many things. I make you a promise that God will not forsake you if you will walk in His paths with the guidance of His commandments.

This is the age of great opportunity. You are so fortunate to be alive. Never in the history of mankind has life been filled with so many opportunities and challenges. When I was born, the average life expectancy of a man or woman in the United States and other Western countries







PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT REIER

# Be Grateful

**Youth and young adults wait outside the Conference Center in Salt Lake City for the fireside to begin.**

was 50 years. Now it is more than 75 years. Can you imagine that? On average you may expect to live at least 25 years longer than someone who lived in 1910.

This is the season of an explosion of knowledge. For instance, when I was your age there were no antibiotics. All of these wonderful medicines have been discovered and refined in more recent times. Some of the great scourges of the earth are gone. Smallpox once took whole populations. That is gone entirely. It is a miracle.

Polio was once the dreaded fear of every mother. I remember going to visit a man with polio in the county hospital. He was in a great iron lung that moved his own lungs as it pumped up and down. There was no hope for him; he couldn't breathe on his own. He died, leaving his wife and children. This terrible disease is now gone. That too is a miracle. And so it is with other matters.

Of course you face challenges. Every generation that has ever walked the earth has faced challenges. We could



# Be Smart

spend the entire evening talking about them. But of all the challenges that have been faced in the past, the ones we have today, I believe, are most easily handled. I say that because they are manageable. They largely involve individual behavioral decisions, but those decisions can be made and followed. And when that happens, the challenge is behind us.

I suppose that most of you are in school. I am pleased that you have that opportunity and that desire. I hope that you are studying diligently and that your great ambition is to get A grades in your various courses. I hope your teachers will be generous toward you and that your studies will yield top grades and an excellent education. I could wish nothing better for you in your schoolwork.

Tonight I am going to let your teachers give you the A's that I hope you earn. I want to talk about some B's. You get the A's; I will give you the B's.

1. *Be grateful.*
2. *Be smart.*
3. *Be clean.*
4. *Be true.*
5. *Be humble.*
6. *Be prayerful.*

Why don't you repeat these B's with me, and then we will talk about each of them, all right?

1. *Be grateful.*
2. *Be smart.*
3. *Be clean.*
4. *Be true.*
5. *Be humble.*
6. *Be prayerful.*

*Be grateful.* There are two little words in the English language that perhaps mean more than all others. They are "thank you." Comparable words are found in every other language, such as *gracias*, *merci*, *danke*, *obrigado*, *domo*.

The habit of saying thank you is the mark of an educated man or woman. With whom is the Lord displeased? He names "those who confess not his hand in all things" (D&C 59:21). That is, those who walk without grateful expression. Walk with gratitude in your hearts, my dear friends. Be thankful for the wonderful blessings which are yours. Be grateful for the tremendous opportunities that you have. Be thankful to your parents, who care so very much about you and who have worked so very hard to provide for you. Let them know that you are grateful. Say thank you to your mother and your father. Say thank you to your friends. Say



**Youth and young adults in the Taytay First Ward, Cainta Philippines Stake, listen to the fireside through the Internet.**

thank you to your teachers. Express appreciation to everyone who does you a favor or assists you in any way.

Thank the Lord for His goodness to you. Thank the Almighty for His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who has done for you what none other in all this world could do. Thank Him for His great example, for His tremendous teachings, for His outreaching hand to lift and help. Think about the meaning of His Atonement. Read about Him and read His words in the New Testament and in 3 Nephi in the Book of Mormon. Read them quietly to yourself and then ponder them. Pour out your heart to your Father in Heaven in gratitude for the gift of His Beloved Son.

Thank the Lord for His marvelous Church restored in this great season of history. Thank Him for all that it offers you. Thank Him for friends and loved ones, for parents and brothers and sisters, for family. Let a spirit of thanksgiving guide and bless your days and nights. Work at it. You will find it will yield wonderful results.

B number two—*be smart*.

You are moving into the most competitive age the world has ever known. All around you is competition. You need all the education you can get. Sacrifice a car; sacrifice anything that is needed to be sacrificed to qualify yourselves to do the work of the world. That world will in large measure pay you what it thinks you are worth, and your worth will increase as you gain education and proficiency in your chosen field.

You belong to a church that teaches the importance of education. You have a mandate from the Lord to educate

your minds and your hearts and your hands. The Lord has said, “Teach ye diligently . . . of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms—that ye may be prepared in all things” (D&C 88:78–80).

Mind you, these are not my words. These are the words of the Lord who loves you. He wants you to train your minds and hands to become an influence for good as you go forward with your lives. And as you do so and as you perform honorably and with excellence, you will bring honor to the Church, for you will be regarded as a man or woman of integrity and ability and conscientious workmanship. Be smart. Don’t be foolish. You cannot bluff or cheat others without bluffing or cheating yourselves.

Many years ago I worked for a railroad in the central offices in Denver. I was in charge of what is called head-end traffic. That was in the days when nearly everyone rode passenger trains. One morning I received a call from my counterpart in Newark, New Jersey. He said, “Train number such-and-such has arrived, but it has no baggage car. Somewhere, 300 passengers have lost their baggage, and they are mad.”

I went immediately to work to find out where it may have gone. I found it had been properly loaded and properly trained in Oakland, California. It had been moved to our railroad in Salt Lake City, been carried to Denver, down to Pueblo, put on another line, and moved to St. Louis. There it was to be handled by another railroad which would take it to Newark, New Jersey. But some thoughtless switchman in the St. Louis yards moved a small piece of steel just 7.5 centimeters, a switch point, then pulled the lever to uncouple the car. We discovered that a baggage car that belonged in Newark, New Jersey, was in fact in New Orleans, Louisiana—2,400 kilometers from its destination. Just the 7.5-centimeter movement of the switch in the





# Be Clean

St. Louis yard by a careless employee had started it on the wrong track, and the distance from its true destination increased dramatically. That is the way it is with our lives. Instead of following a steady course, we are pulled by some mistaken idea in another direction. The movement away from our original destination may be ever so small, but, if continued, that very small movement becomes a great gap and we find ourselves far from where we intended to go.

Have you ever looked at one of those 5-meter farm gates? When it is opened, it swings very wide. The end at the hinges moves ever so slightly, while out at the perimeter the movement is great. It is the little things

upon which life turns that make the big difference in our lives, my dear young friends.

Be smart. The Lord wants you to educate your minds and hands, whatever your chosen field. Whether it be repairing refrigerators, or the work of a skilled surgeon, you must train yourselves. Seek for the best schooling available. Become a workman of integrity in the world that lies ahead of you. I repeat, you will bring honor to the Church and you will be generously blessed because of that training.

There can be no doubt, none whatever, that education pays. Do not short-circuit your lives. If you do so, you will pay for it over and over and over again.

The third B—*be clean*. We live in a world that is filled with filth and sleaze, a world that reeks of evil. It is all around us. It is on the television screen. It is at the



# Be True



PHOTOGRAPH BY WAYNE SALTZGIVER

**Youth, young adults, and missionaries gather to listen to the fireside in Johannesburg, South Africa.**

movies. It is in the popular literature. It is on the Internet. You can't afford to watch it, my dear friends. You cannot afford to let that filthy poison touch you. Stay away from it. Avoid it. You can't rent videos and watch them as they portray degrading things. You young

men who hold the priesthood of God cannot mix this filth with the holy priesthood.

Avoid evil talk. Do not take the name of the Lord in vain. From the thunders of Sinai the finger of the Lord wrote on tablets of stone, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

It is not a mark of manhood to carelessly use the name of the Almighty or His Beloved Son in a vain and flip-pant way, as many are prone to do.

Choose your friends carefully. It is they who will lead you in one direction or the other. Everybody wants friends. Everybody needs friends. No one wishes to be without them. But never lose sight of the fact that it is your friends

who will lead you along the paths that you will follow.

While you should be friendly with all people, select with great care those whom you wish to have close to you. They will be your safeguards in situations where you may vacillate between choices, and you in turn may save them.

Be clean. Don't waste your time in destructive entertainment. There was recently held in the Salt Lake Valley a show put on by a traveling band. I am told that it was filthy, that it was lascivious, that it was evil in every respect. The young people of this community had paid \$25 to \$35 to get in. What did they get for their money? Only a seductive voice urging them to move in the direction of the slimy things of life. I plead with you, my friends, to stay away from such. It will not help you. It can only injure you.

I recently spoke to your mothers and your fathers. Among other things, I talked with them about tattoos.

What creation is more magnificent than the human body? What a wondrous thing it is as the crowning work of the Almighty.

Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, said: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Corinthians 3:16–17).

Did you ever think that your body is holy? You are a child of God. Your body is His creation. Would you disfigure that creation with portrayals of people, animals, and words painted into your skin?

I promise you that the time will come, if you have tattoos, that you will regret your actions. They cannot be washed off. They are permanent. Only by an expensive and painful process can they be removed. If you are tattooed, then probably for the remainder of your life you will carry it with you. I believe the time will come when it will be an embarrassment to you. Avoid it. We, as your Brethren who love you, plead with you not to become so disrespectful of the body which the Lord has given you.

May I mention earrings and rings placed in other parts

of the body. These are not manly. They are not attractive. You young men look better without them, and I believe you will feel better without them. As for the young women, you do not need to drape rings up and down your ears. One modest pair of earrings is sufficient.

I mention these things because again they concern your bodies.

How truly beautiful is a well-groomed young woman who is clean in body and mind. She is a daughter of God in whom her Eternal Father can take pride. How handsome is a young man who is well groomed. He is a son of God, deemed worthy of holding the holy priesthood of God. He does not need tattoos or earrings on or in his body. The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve are all united in counseling against these things.

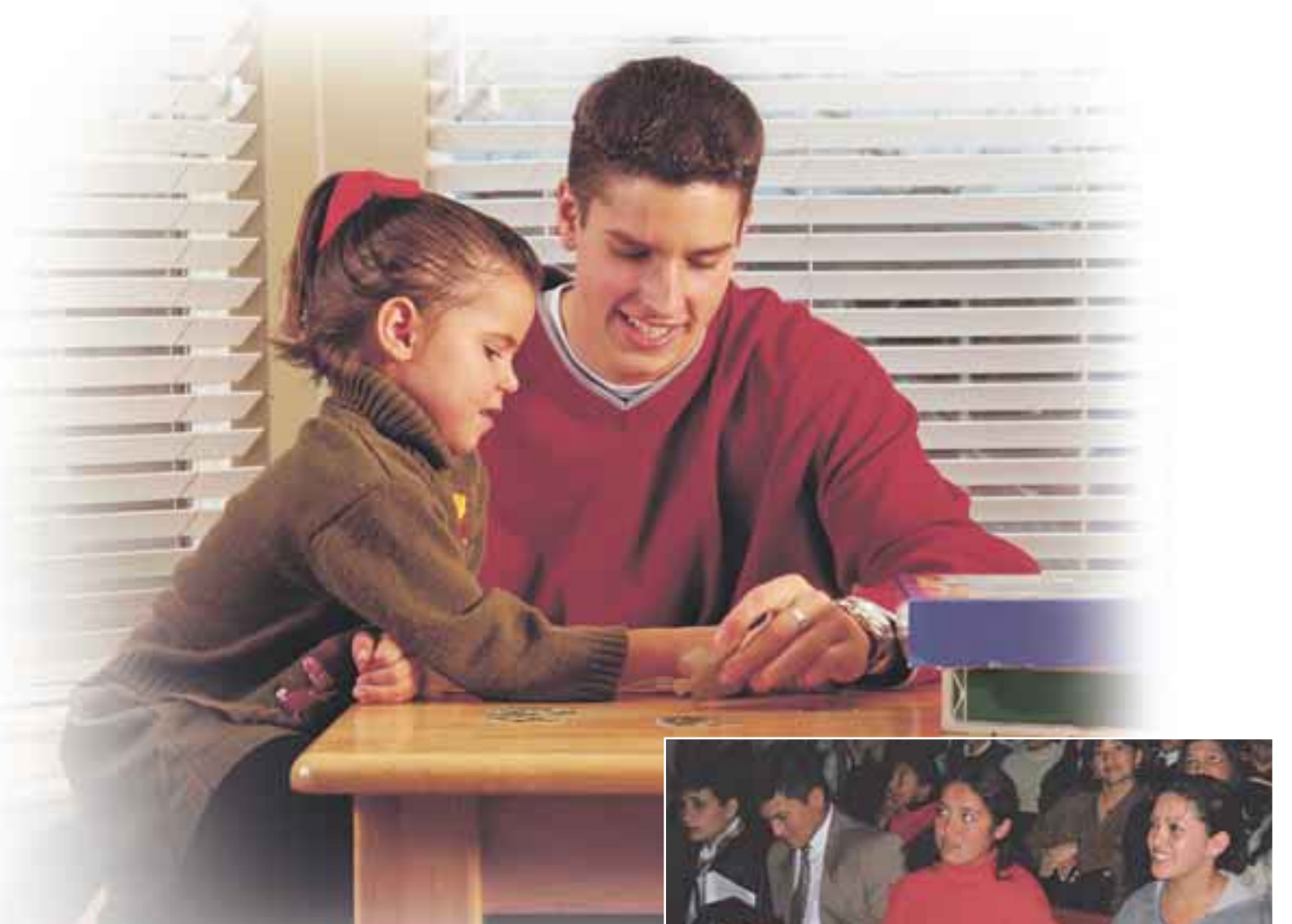
And while I speak of such matters I want to give emphasis again to the matter of pornography. It has become a \$10 billion industry in the United States, where a few men grow rich at the expense of thousands upon thousands who are their victims. Stay away from it. It is exciting, but it will destroy you. It will warp your senses. It will build within you an appetite that you will do anything to appease. And don't try to create associations through the Internet and chat rooms. They can lead you down into the very abyss of sorrow and bitterness.

I must also say a word concerning illicit drugs. You know how I feel about them. I don't care what the variety may be. They will destroy you if pursued. You will become their slave. Once in their power, you will do anything to get money to buy more.

I was amazed while watching a television program to learn that parents introduced drugs to their children in 20 percent of the cases. I cannot understand what I regard as the stupidity of these parents. What future other than slavery for their children could they see in them? Illegal drugs will utterly destroy those who become addicted to them.

My advice, my pleading to you wonderful young men and women, is to stay entirely away from them. You don't





# Be Humble

need to experiment with them. Look about you and see the effects they have had on others. There is no need for any Latter-day Saint boy or girl, young man or young woman, to even try them. Stay clean from these mind-altering and habit-forming addictions.

And now just a word on the most common and most difficult of all problems for you young men and young women to handle. It is the relationship that you have one with another. You are dealing with the most powerful of



PHOTOGRAPH BY H. DANIEL ROSAS L.

**Youth and young adults in Bogotá, Colombia, watch the live broadcast of President Hinckley's fireside.**

human instincts. Only the will to live possibly exceeds it.

The Lord has made us attractive one to another for a great purpose. But this very attraction becomes as a powder keg unless it is kept under control. It is beautiful when handled in the right way. It is deadly if it gets out of hand.

It is for this reason that the Church counsels against early dating. This rule is not designed to hurt you in any way. It is designed to help you, and it will do so if you will observe it.



Steady dating at an early age leads so often to tragedy. Studies have shown that the longer a boy and girl date one another, the more likely they are to get into trouble.

It is better, my friends, to date a variety of companions until you are ready to marry. Have a wonderful time, but stay away from familiarity. Keep your hands to yourself. It may not be easy, but it is possible.

You young men who plan to go on missions must recognize that sexual sin may keep you from that opportunity. You may think that you can hide it. Long experience has shown that you cannot. To serve an effective mission you must have the Spirit of the Lord, and truth withheld does not mix with that Spirit. Sooner or later you will feel compelled to confess your earlier transgressions. Well did Sir Galahad say, "My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure" (Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Sir Galahad* [1842], stanza 1).

My dear young friends, in matters of sex you know what is right. You know when you are walking on dangerous ground, when it is so easy to stumble and slide into the pit of transgression. I plead with you to be careful, to stand safely back from the cliff of sin over which it is so easy to fall. Keep yourselves clean from the dark and disappointing evil of sexual transgression. Walk in the sunlight of that peace which comes from obedience to the commandments of the Lord.

Now, if there be any who have stepped over the line, who may already have transgressed, is there any hope for you? Of course there is. Where there is true repentance, there will be forgiveness. That process begins with prayer. The Lord has said, "He who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more" (D&C 58:42). Share your burden with your parents if you can. And by all means, confess to your bishop, who stands ready to help you.

My next B—*be true*.

Said Shakespeare, "To thine own self be true; and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man" (*Hamlet*, I, iii, 78–81). You have

a tremendous inheritance. You have a great background of noble ancestry. Many of you are descendants of the pioneers, who died by the hundreds and thousands in testimony of the truth of this work. If they were to look down upon you, they would plead with you: "Be true. Be loyal. Be 'true to the faith that our parents have cherished, true to the truth for which martyrs have perished.'" They would say, "Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death" (*Hymns*, numbers 254 and 84).

And those of you who may not be descended from pioneer ancestry, you belong to a church which has been made strong by the loyalty and unwavering affection of its members through the generations. What a marvelous thing it is to belong to a society whose purposes are noble, whose accomplishments are tremendous, whose work is uplifting, even heroic. Be loyal to the Church under all circumstances. I make you a promise that the authorities of this Church will never lead you astray. They will lead you in paths of happiness.

You who are members of this Church must have a loyalty to it. This is your church. You have as great a responsibility in your sphere of action as I have in my sphere of action. It belongs to you just as it belongs to me. You have embraced its gospel. You have taken upon yourselves a covenant in the waters of baptism. This you have renewed each time you have partaken of the sacrament. These covenants will be added to when you are married in the temple. You cannot hold them lightly. They are too great a thing. This is the very work of God designed to bring about the immortality and eternal life of His sons and daughters.

Walk in faith before Him with your heads high, proud of your membership in this great cause and kingdom which He has restored to the earth in this, the last dispensation of the fulness of times. Why? To bring you happiness.

Be true to your own convictions. You know what is right, and you know what is wrong. You know when you are doing the proper thing. You know when you are giving strength to the right cause. Be loyal. Be faithful. Be true, my beloved associates in this great kingdom.



**The Conference Center is filled to capacity as youth and young adults listen to the counsel of President Gordon B. Hinckley.**

The fifth B—*be humble*.

There is no place for arrogance in our lives. There is no place for conceit. There is no place for egotism. We have a great work to do. We have things to accomplish. We need direction in the pursuit of our education. We need help in choosing an eternal companion.

The Lord has said, “Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers” (D&C 112:10).

What a tremendous promise is given in this statement. If we are without conceit and pride and arrogance, if we are humble and obedient, then the Lord will lead us by the hand and answer our prayers. What greater thing could we ask for? There is nothing to compare with this.

The Savior, in the great Sermon on the Mount, declared, “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5).

I believe the meek and the humble are those who are teachable. They are willing to learn. They are willing to listen to the whisperings of the still, small voice for guidance in their lives. They place the wisdom of the Lord above their own wisdom.

And this leads to my final B—*be prayerful*.

You cannot do it alone. I look at this vast congregation, and I know that you are young people who pray, who get on your knees and speak with the Lord. You know that He is the source of all wisdom.

You need His help, and you know that you need His help. You cannot do it alone. You will come to realize that

and recognize that more and more as the years pass. So live that in good conscience you can speak with the Lord. Get on your knees and thank Him for His goodness to you and express to Him the righteous desires of your hearts. The miracle of it all is that He hears. He responds. He answers—not always as we might wish He would answer, but there is no question in my mind that He answers.

You have such a tremendous responsibility, you young men and young women. You are the products of all of the generations that have gone before you. All that you have of body and mind has been passed to you through your parents. Someday you will become parents and pass on to succeeding generations the qualities of body and mind which you have received from the past. Do not break the chain of the generations of your family. Keep it bright and strong. So very much depends on you. You are so very precious. You mean so much to this Church. It could not be the same without you. Stand tall, proud of your inheritance as sons and daughters of God. Look to Him for understanding and guidance. Walk according to His precepts and commandments.

You can have a good time. Of course you can! We want you to have fun. We want you to enjoy life. We do not want you to be prudes. We want you to be robust and cheerful, to sing and dance, to laugh and be happy.

But in so doing, be humble and be prayerful, and the smiles of heaven will fall upon you.

I could wish for you nothing better than that your lives be fruitful, that your service be dedicated and freely given, that you contribute to the knowledge and the well-being of the world in which you live, and that you do it humbly and faithfully before your God. He loves you. We love you. We want you to be happy and successful, to make significant contributions to the world in which you will live and to the on-rolling of this great and majestic work of the Lord.

Well, my brothers and sisters, those are my B’s—be grateful, be smart, be clean, be true, be humble, be prayerful.



# *Be Prayerful*

Now, in conclusion, I offer a word of prayer concerning you.

O God, our Eternal Father, as Thy servant I bow before Thee in prayer in behalf of these young people scattered over the earth who are gathered tonight in assemblies everywhere. Please smile with favor upon them. Please listen to them as they lift their voices in prayer unto Thee. Please lead them gently by the hand in the direction they should follow.

Please help them to walk in paths of truth and righteousness and keep them from the evils of the world. Bless them that they shall be happy at times and serious at times, that they may enjoy life and drink of its fulness. Bless them that they may walk acceptably before Thee as

Thy cherished sons and daughters. Each is Thy child with capacity to do great and noble things. Keep them on the high road that leads to achievement. Save them from the mistakes that could destroy them. If they have erred, forgive their trespasses and lead them back to ways of peace and progress. For these blessings I humbly pray with gratitude for them and invoke Thy blessings upon them with love and affection, in the name of Him who carries the burdens of our sins, even the Lord Jesus Christ, amen. □

*Text of a talk given to youth and young single adults on 12 November 2000 at the Conference Center in Salt Lake City and broadcast by satellite throughout the Church.*





ALBIN LOTRIČ:

# THE WORTH







*He was a stranger in a foreign land. He would live there only three months and would then return to his home in a nation where the Church had not yet been established. Would it be worth anybody's time to get to know him? Would it be worth the missionaries' time to teach him the gospel?*

# OF A SOUL

By Marvin K. Gardner



Albin Lotrič has lived in Slovenia all his life, except for three months when he worked in Norway. Those three months changed his life—and helped lead to the establishment of the Church in Slovenia.

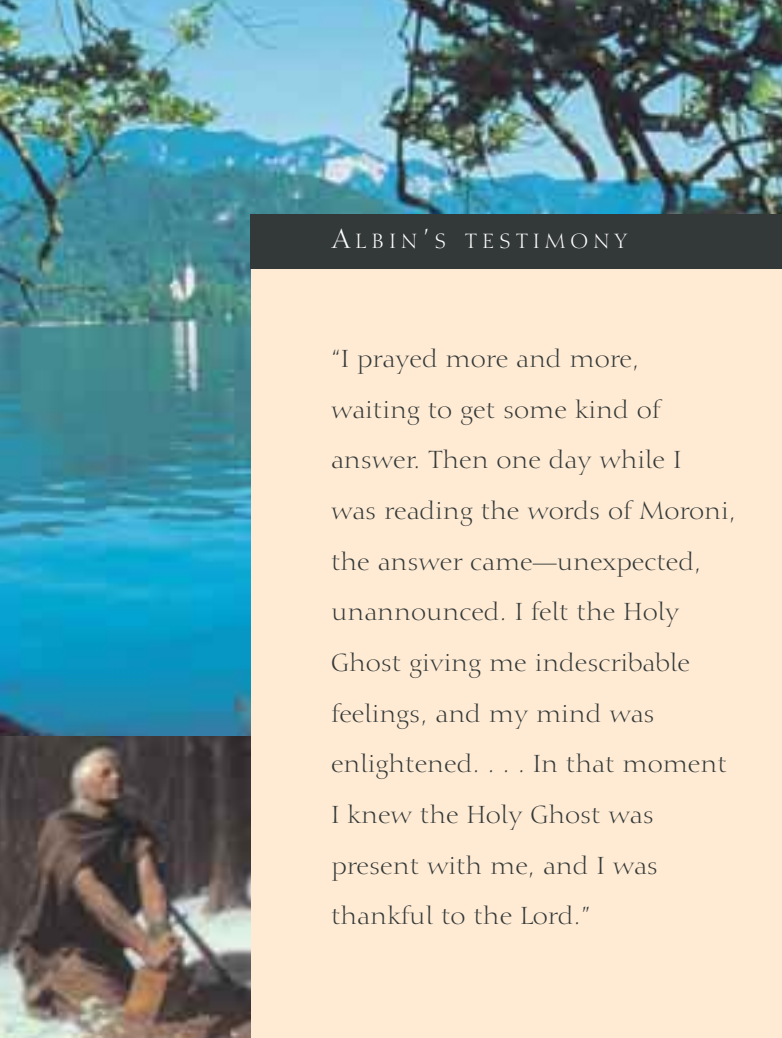
Albin was born in 1963 in a small village in the Julian Alps on Europe's Balkan Peninsula. At that time, Slovenia was part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. His parents worked in a factory, maintained a small family farm, and taught their children to

study and work hard. After graduating from high school, he accepted a job at the company where his parents worked.

His employment was interrupted by a 15-month stint in the Yugoslavian army, where he was exposed to "all kinds of people, good and bad," he says. "I learned that I wasn't supposed to think too much but do only what I was told. I came to believe that all people are selfish and are ready to walk all over those who are weaker. I became distrustful

*Opposite page: Albin Lotrič (inset) discovered the gospel in a foreign land and brought it back to his native Slovenia (background).*





## ALBIN'S TESTIMONY

"I prayed more and more, waiting to get some kind of answer. Then one day while I was reading the words of Moroni, the answer came—unexpected, unannounced. I felt the Holy Ghost giving me indescribable feelings, and my mind was enlightened. . . . In that moment I knew the Holy Ghost was present with me, and I was thankful to the Lord."

of others and relied only on myself. I didn't feel any real emotions at that time."

After his military assignment, Albin returned to his job but felt restless and dissatisfied. He eventually quit his job to study computer and information technology at the university. But he was still not finding joy in life. "On weekends my friends and I would have what we called fun—wandering from place to place, drinking alcohol, and flirting with girls we met," he says. "I wasn't happy because I felt empty inside. It all seemed fake."

Then in 1987 he met Boža Gartner, a young woman he had known briefly before, and they began dating. And in June 1989, he was accepted as an international student trainee for three months at a company in Stavanger, Norway. He moved to Norway, started his internship, and met the missionaries a few weeks later.

"A young man holding a book stopped me on the street," Albin says. "He said something to me in Norwegian, and his book was written in Norwegian. I explained in English that I didn't understand a word he



said and that I had no intention of taking any book, especially one in a language I did not understand." To his surprise the missionary, an American, responded in English

and offered to get Albin a copy of the Book of Mormon in English. Albin politely gave the missionary his address, but he hoped nothing would come of it.

A few days later the missionaries arrived at his door and gave him a copy of the Book of Mormon in English. They later gave him a copy in Croatian, which he could also read. (A Slovenian edition did not yet exist.) Albin's conversations with the missionaries caused him to think about his religious beliefs.

"I had always believed in God," he says. "And I prayed almost daily—but my prayers were ones I was taught as a Catholic, and I was only subconsciously repeating words. I didn't believe my church was true, but I wasn't looking for an alternative."

Although parts of the Book of Mormon were interesting, he says, "I had no spiritual witness while reading it." And when he attended the Stavanger Branch in Norway—a stranger who knew no one and didn't speak the language—he initially felt uncomfortable.

But he liked what he saw and felt at church, and the members welcomed him warmly. "They were extremely kind to me," he says. "They showed great interest in me by asking where I was from and what I was doing in the town. They invited me to come again. When I did, they accepted me as a part of their family."

Now he felt more motivated to study the Book of Mormon and pray about it. "I prayed more and more," he says, "waiting to get some kind of answer. Then one day while I was reading the words of Moroni, the answer came—unexpected, unannounced. I felt the Holy Ghost giving me indescribable feelings, and my mind was enlightened. At that same moment I was aware of all my sins, and I began to cry. I had never cried because of a book before. In that moment I knew the Holy Ghost

was present with me, and I was thankful to the Lord.”

Albin was baptized on his 26th birthday, 19 August 1989. “I was a completely different man now than when I went to Norway in June,” he says. “My soul was clean, my sins were forgiven, and I was starting a new life much different from the one before. I felt glad, peaceful, and safe.” He also felt the nudges of the Holy Ghost—hinting of spiritual responsibilities that awaited him at home.

When he learned that the Church had not yet been established in Slovenia and that, as far as he knew, no Church members lived there, he realized the importance of learning all he could during his few remaining weeks in Norway. He continued attending Church meetings, family home evenings, and other activities; received the Aaronic Priesthood; had many discussions with missionaries, members, and Church leaders; and read the Doctrine and Covenants in English.

“I was worried about being left on my own back home,” he says. “I prayed that God would give me strength to explain my beliefs to my girlfriend, my parents, and others. I knew it would be difficult, but I also knew God would help me as long as I remained worthy.”

The closest branch in what was then the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was in Zagreb, Croatia—three hours away from Albin’s home in Slovenia. He later learned there was a branch a little more than an hour away, in Klagenfurt, Austria. For more than a year he attended the branch in Austria every Sunday, even though his ability to speak German was limited. “The branch president and all the members were very friendly and kind,” he says. He received the Melchizedek Priesthood and served in his first Church callings in the

Klagenfurt Branch. And his girlfriend, Boža, often went with him. Sister missionaries taught her the gospel.

“It took me almost six months to get my own testimony,” says Boža. “The Book of Mormon had not yet been translated into Slovenian, and it was difficult for me to read it in Croatian. One Sunday in 1990 I went to a nearby grove to pray for the answer, just like Joseph Smith did. The answer came in the middle of the prayer as an exceptional warmth around my heart. I thought at first that this warmth came from the sun—but the sun had already gone down, and the warm feeling was still there. I felt peace and knew from that moment on that God wanted me to accept His gospel.” Albin baptized her in the Klagenfurt Branch in March 1990.

In December of that year, the first two full-time missionaries were assigned to Slovenia, and soon the first baptisms in that land took place. In the summer of 1991, Slovenia proclaimed independence from Yugoslavia. After a tense 10-day war, the matter was peacefully resolved. A few months later, on 22 December 1991, the first branch in Slovenia was organized, with Albin Lotrič as branch president.

The next year, in July 1992, Albin and Boža were married in Slovenia and then sealed in the Frankfurt Germany Temple—the first couple living in Slovenia to be sealed. “I could not have found a better, more understanding wife,” Albin says. “She gives me strength with her love and encouragement. It is especially



#### BOŽA'S TESTIMONY

“One Sunday in 1990 I went to a nearby grove to pray for the answer, just like Joseph Smith did. The answer came in the middle of the prayer as an exceptional warmth around my heart. . . . I felt peace and knew from that moment on that God wanted me to accept His gospel.”





wonderful to be together in the temple, to review the plan of salvation and enter into an eternal bond together. It gives perspective to all other activities in life.”

Their three children were born in the covenant: Lea Martina, April 1993; Flora Ema, January 1995; and Benjamin Luka, November 1996. “My wife and I are




recognize answers to their simple prayers.

“The Lord is blessing us abundantly,” Albin says. “I am trying to return this blessing by being faithful in the Church and trying to be a good husband and father.”

With the Church still in its infancy in Slovenia, President and Sister Lotrič and other pioneering Saints

continue giving much to assist in its growth. Sister Lotrič serves in the auxiliaries and is writing a history of the Church in Slovenia. And after serving as branch president for seven years, President Lotrič was called in April 1998 to his current assignment as Slovenia’s first district president. Over the years he has represented the Church on national television and radio, in newspapers and magazines, and in legal matters.

Meanwhile his career has blossomed. With university degrees in business administration and computer science, he currently works in the information technology department of the Slovenian ministry of

GLIMPSES OF THE CHURCH IN SLOVENIA	
	<p><b>1991</b> The first branch in Slovenia is organized; Albin Lotrič serves as branch president.</p>
	<p><b>1992</b> Albin and Boža Lotrič are the first Slovenian couple sealed in the temple (shown left, above with Elder Dennis B. and Sister LeAnn C. Neuenschwander).</p>
	<p><b>1993</b> Matjaz Juhart is the first full-time missionary called from Slovenia.</p>
	<p><b>1998</b> Leon Bergant (left, middle) receives media attention when he leaves a bicycle-racing career to serve a full-time mission (see “Still Riding a Bicycle,” <i>Liahona</i>, April 1999, 26–28).</p>
	<p><b>1999</b> The Slovenia Ljubljana Mission (mission office shown left, bottom) is created from the Austria Vienna South Mission.</p>
	<p><b>2001</b> The <i>Liahona</i> is published in Slovenian.</p>

trying to plant the seeds of a gospel-centered life in the hearts of our children,” Albin says, “so they will be strong enough to face the challenges that will come and so they will be able to stand up for their beliefs.” The children are learning about the gospel through family home evening and scripture study, using the illustrated *Book of Mormon Stories*, which has been translated into Slovenian. Albin and Boža are helping them learn to

finance. He enjoys friendly associations with colleagues and feels that most of them respect his lifestyle and beliefs. “To live according to the teachings of this Church requires many demands of the members,” he says. “But I know from my own experience that the resulting blessings bring much more joy than any earthly thing.”

One of his most memorable assignments has been to serve on the translation team for the Slovenian edition

The Church in Slovenia currently has one district and three branches—Ljubljana, Celje, and Maribor—and approximately 200 members. Regarding the future of the Church in Slovenia, President Lotrič says, “I have a vision of the Saints blossoming like a rose in this country.”





The Lotričs' children, Benjamin, Lea, and Flora, are being raised in the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Boža and Albin are working to share their faith and to fortify their children for the future.

of the Book of Mormon, which is expected to be completed soon. "When the Book of Mormon comes forth with all its divinity and power," says President Lotrič, "the gates of heaven will open wide. The Spirit will testify even more mightily to the people of Slovenia that the word of God has once more been revealed to the children of men and that there is no name given under the heavens but the name of Jesus Christ through which salvation can come."

In July 1999, nearly 10 years after Albin's baptism, the Slovenia Ljubljana Mission—which includes various countries of the former Yugoslavia—was created. In Slovenia itself, a nation of two million inhabitants, there are now 200 members, one district, and three branches—in Ljubljana, Celje, and Maribor. Local leaders and

members are learning to fellowship new converts. Couples have been sealed in the temple. Young men and women from Slovenia are serving full-time missions in many parts of the world. And members in Slovenia can now receive the *Liahona* in their own language.

"I know this is just a beginning," says President Lotrič. "I have a vision of the Saints blossoming like a rose in this country."

Was it worth anyone's time to befriend a stranger in a foreign land and teach him the gospel, knowing that in three months he would return to his home in a nation where the Church had not yet been established?

"The ways of our Lord are sometimes unpredictable and beyond human imagination," says Albin Lotrič. "He chose a wonderful way to present the gospel to me." □

# Using the April 2001 *Liahona*

**Are you looking for a story or quotation for a talk, class, family home evening lesson, or seminary devotional? You might find some helpful ideas in this issue of the *Liahona*. (The numbers refer to pages in this issue. F=*The Friend*.)**

## **“SPECIAL WITNESSES OF CHRIST”: DISCUSSION IDEAS**

■ “Special Witnesses of Christ: Premortal Ministry,” Elder Neal A. Maxwell, page 4: Under the Father’s direction, Jesus Christ created worlds without number, yet He notices the fall of every sparrow (see Matthew 10:29). Discuss what it means to realize that the Lord of the universe knows your name and cares about you enough to die for you.

■ “Special Witnesses of Christ: Mortal Ministry,” Elder L. Tom Perry, page 9: We honor the Savior by following His example. Read Elder Perry’s story about rebuilding Christian churches in Japan. Discuss specific ways you can serve others in a Christlike manner.

■ “Special Witnesses of Christ: Postmortal Ministry,” President Gordon B. Hinckley, page 19: President Hinckley bears his prophetic witness from the Sacred Grove. Relate the story of the First Vision. Bear your testimony of the difference the First Vision has made in your life.



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## **CALL FOR YOUTH ARTICLES**

**We invite our youth readers to tell us about experiences living and sharing the gospel, how the Lord helps you overcome trials, or how the Lord has answered your prayers. Send your articles to *Liahona*, Floor 24, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA; or e-mail to [CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org](mailto:CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org). Please include your complete name, age, address, telephone number, and ward and stake (or branch and district).**



# The Friend

FOR CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ■ APRIL 2001



A STORY FOR YOU TO TELL



# EASTER

*"Thou wentest forth for the salvation of  
thy people" (Habakkuk 3:13).*



THE PROPHET ISAIAH FORETELLS CHRIST'S BIRTH, BY HARRY ANDERSON; CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE, BY HEINRICH HOFMANN; JOHN BAPTIZING JESUS AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, BY HARRY ANDERSON;  
JESUS CHRIST, BY WARNER SALLMAN; CHRIST HEALING THE SICK AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA, BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH (BETHESDA DANSK INDRE MISSION, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK);  
CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY, BY HARRY ANDERSON; THE LAST SUPPER, BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH (COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC MUSEUM AT FREDERIKSBORG IN HILLERØD, DENMARK);  
CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE, THE CRUCIFIXION, THE RESURRECTION, AND THE ASCENSION, BY HARRY ANDERSON





# Listen to a Prophet's Voice

By Diane S. Nichols

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



If Jesus Christ was coming to speak to you, would you take time to listen? Each April and October, the prophet and other General Authorities speak to us in general conference. They tell us the things the Savior would tell us if He were here. Their words will guide us in our lives.

In the Book of Mormon, we read about King Benjamin, a prophet. When he was old, he wanted to teach his people about the Savior one more time. He had a tall tower built near the temple, so he could be heard by all the people.

The people pitched their tents around the temple and were ready when King Benjamin spoke. However, there were so many people that everyone couldn't hear him. So he had his words written down and given to the people.

When he finished speaking, the people wanted to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ and keep His commandments. They made a covenant to always remember Jesus. The people did what the Lord, through their prophet, asked them to do (see Mosiah 1–6).

Last October, our prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley, spoke to us, and he will speak to us this April. Like King Benjamin, he speaks to us for the Savior. He doesn't need a high tower; he speaks to us from the new Conference Center in Salt Lake City.

Not everyone can go to the Conference Center to hear President Hinckley speak. So his words are carried by television, satellite, radio, computer, videotapes, and Church magazines to people all over the world. It is important to listen to his words just as we would listen to Jesus Christ. Through President Hinckley, the Savior is speaking to us!

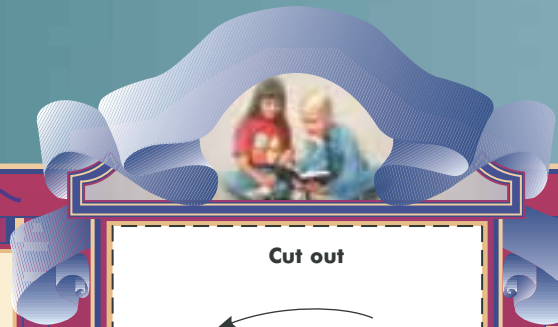
## Instructions

1. Glue page 5 onto heavy paper.
2. Cut out the two sections and the window in section 1.
3. List four things our prophet asks us to do. List four things you will do to follow the prophet's counsel.
4. Color the pictures of children doing things prophets have asked us to do.
5. Form two tubes by gluing the ends of section 1 together, and then gluing the ends of section 2 (see illustration).
6. Place section 2 inside section 1, and turn it until a picture is visible. Each day, turn the pictures and remember what you will do to follow the prophet.

## Sharing Time Ideas

1. *Attach statements from conference addresses or from "Special Witnesses of Christ" (see Liahona, April 2001, 2–24) along a string, with BIRTH as a label at one end and ETERNAL LIFE at the other. Explain that when we come to earth, we cannot remember Heavenly Father's plan for us. We must learn from the scriptures and our living prophets about His plan. Place a blindfold over a child's eyes to represent forgetting our premortal existence, and have him or her move along the string from BIRTH to a statement. Remove the blindfold and have the child read the statement and tell how the message can be applied to his or her life. Continue until all the messages have been read. Sing "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet" (Hymns, number 19).*
2. *To help the children understand how we progress line upon line, make a poster of a ladder without rungs. Have the children choose the rungs from a container. Write on each rung something the prophets have counseled us to do. Explain that with only one or two rungs, it is impossible to climb the ladder, but with all the rungs, we can climb to the top and obtain the happiness Heavenly Father has in store for those who follow the prophets' counsel. Reinforce the topic on each rung by singing a song or hymn. □*

## Section 1

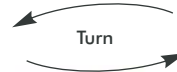


Glue

THINGS THE PROPHET  
ASKS ME TO DO

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Cut out



Illustration

THINGS I WILL DO TO  
FOLLOW THE PROPHET

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Section 2

Glue



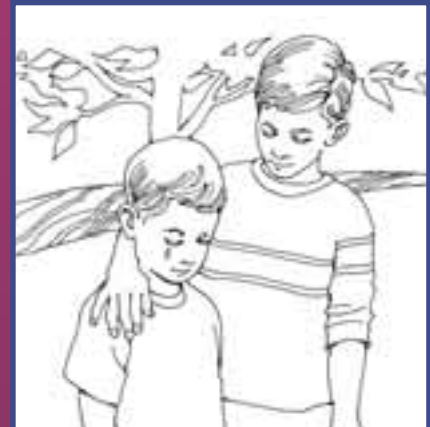
I will pray.



I will study the scriptures.



I will remember the Savior.



I will be kind to others.

# NORBERTO

## HARIJAONA

### OF ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR

**T**he sun comes up early in the city of Antananarivo. By the time Norberto, age 10, and his brothers, Tahiry, age 9, and Tahina, age 12, walk the 500 meters to school, the streets are filled with cars and people. School starts promptly at 8:00 A.M.

“I love to see my friends at school,” Norberto says. He has lots of chances to share the gospel because he is one of only a few members at his school. He likes to be a good example to the other children by living Jesus’ teachings. “I tell my friends not to fight, and I don’t hit others,” he explains.

Norberto and his classmates keep memory books that their friends can write in. Recently Norberto wrote a letter to his friend Hery for his memory book. He told Hery that God loves him and that he shouldn’t make bad choices, because they bring unhappiness. Norberto wrote the letter very carefully in French and had his parents correct it.

Norberto speaks French at school and Malagasy at home. (These are the two official languages of Madagascar, and

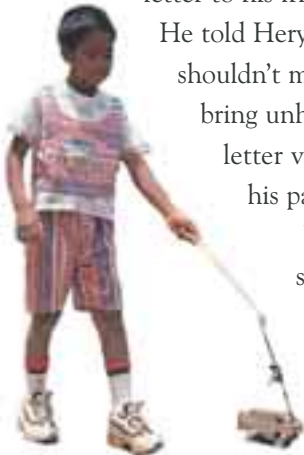
many people speak both languages.) His favorite subject in school is math, but he also enjoys his English class.

When he gets home from school, he likes to play basketball in his backyard with his brothers and neighborhood friends. And he likes riding his bicycle, which he shares with his brothers. Sometimes he rides the bike alone; sometimes all three brothers ride at the same time! He also loves making cars that he can pull around on a string. He has chores to do, too, like doing his homework, making his bed, and sometimes buying bread for the family.

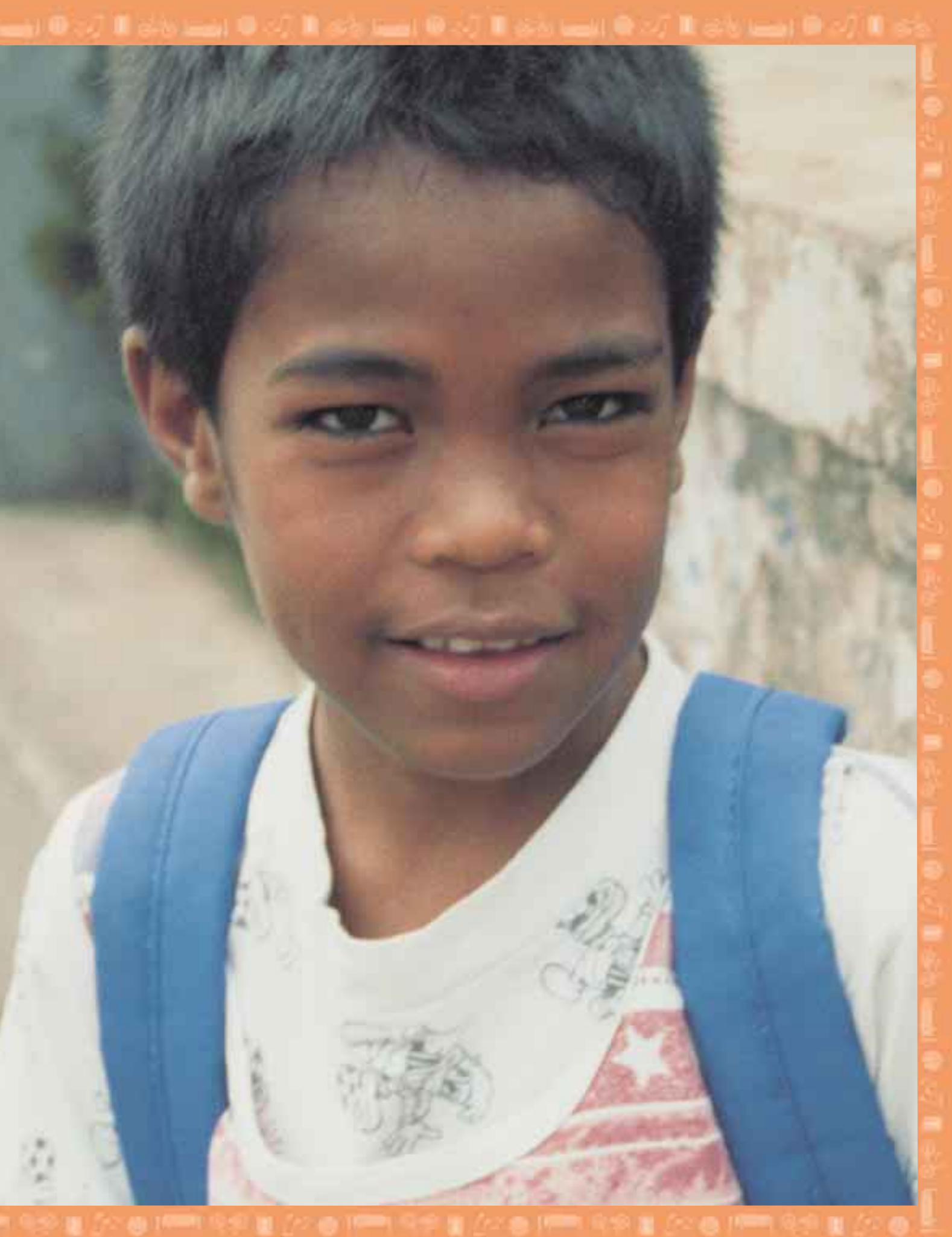
Norberto spends a lot of time with his family. They often watch videos or walk to the market together. They eat all their meals together because the boys walk home from school for lunch. Norberto’s favorite lunch is pork chops, and his favorite dinner is fried eggs.

Family home evening is a special time for him. He loves to study the scriptures, sing, and pray with his family. He likes to play games from *Le Liahona* (French). He likes it when he is called on to say the family prayer.

At night Norberto says his prayers and crawls into the bunk bed he and a brother share. Then the boys







sing songs together. They like singing Primary songs the best. “I love the Church because of Primary,” Norberto says.



Norberto looks forward to church every Sunday. He likes studying the scriptures and playing games in Primary. His class is learning about Joseph Smith and reading in the scriptures about Job. “I like to read about Job because it reminds us that people are tested in this life,” he says.

Norberto and his family have been tested. Once Norberto was sick from malaria and trembled all over. His parents had no medicine to give him. His father gave him a priesthood blessing, and then Norberto was finally able to sleep through the night. Now whenever he is sick or has an important test at school, he asks for a father’s blessing.

Norberto says the Church has brought him many blessings in his life. The best blessing is that he and his family were sealed in the temple on 5 January 1997. A special Church fund paid for his parents to travel to the temple in Johannesburg, South Africa. But his parents had to sell the house they lived in to pay for the children to go with them.

Norberto and his family were brought into the Church through an uncle they call “Ton Ton.” Ton Ton bought their family a subscription to the Church magazine in French in 1985. So when he visited the family in 1991, they already had an idea of what the Church was about. Ton Ton said, “The Church has now come to Madagascar. Let’s go find it.”

They found the meetinghouse, but the first time the family attended, Norberto’s father, Elie, couldn’t go. He still had responsibilities with the young men’s group in another church. Norberto’s mother, Esther, came home from that first meeting and told her husband, “We’ve found the right church.” Elie went with them the next week, and the entire family accepted the gospel.

Norberto was a baby at the time. He was baptized when he turned eight, even though he was afraid to go under the water.

His dad and mom say that Norberto is a very giving boy. “Norberto has some friends who live near our house who are very, very poor,” his mom explains. “Some of his friends have no shoes. Norberto is always asking me if we can give them some of our things. He says that we have enough. He always wants to share his food and clothes with them. That’s his character. He is very generous.”

Many of the members in Antananarivo share Norberto’s faith and strength. The Church is growing rapidly in Madagascar. It may not be long before the branches will be made into wards and the district into a stake.

Norberto has borne his testimony in Primary. “I know the Church is true,” he says. “I have a testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I know he translated the Book of Mormon.”

Norberto wants to encourage all Primary children to choose the right. That is how they will find true happiness—the same happiness Norberto shares with everyone who knows him. □



**Top: Norberto enjoys singing with his brother. Above: Family prayer is an important part of the Harijaona family’s day.**

# THE SACRED GROVE

Reverently ♩ = 60-66

C

1. The Sa - cred Grove \_\_\_ was  
2. The Fa - ther and \_\_\_ the

Cdim<sup>7</sup> Baug Em

green and fresh, \_\_\_ The morn - ing sun shone bright a - round, \_\_\_ As  
Son ap - peared. \_\_\_ They spoke to him as with one voice. \_\_\_ Their

Gm Dm Am

Jo - seph knelt in fer - vent prayer, \_\_\_ As Jo - seph knelt in  
mes - sage an - swered all his fears, \_\_\_ Their mes - sage an - swered

Em Eb Baug C

fer - vent prayer \_\_\_ Up - on \_\_\_ that sa - cred ground.  
all his fears \_\_\_ And made \_\_\_ his heart re - joice.

Words: Joan D. Campbell, born 1929. © 1969 IRI

Music: Hal K. Campbell, born 1927. © 1969 IRI. Arrangement © 2001 IRI

Joseph Smith—History 1:14, 17

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THE FIRST VISION, BY GARY L. KAPP





# JESUS CHOOSES HIS APOSTLES



ILLUSTRATED BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

One day Jesus taught people on the shore of the Sea of Galilee from a boat. The boat belonged to a man named Peter. Peter and his friends had fished all night without catching any fish.

*Luke 5:1–5*



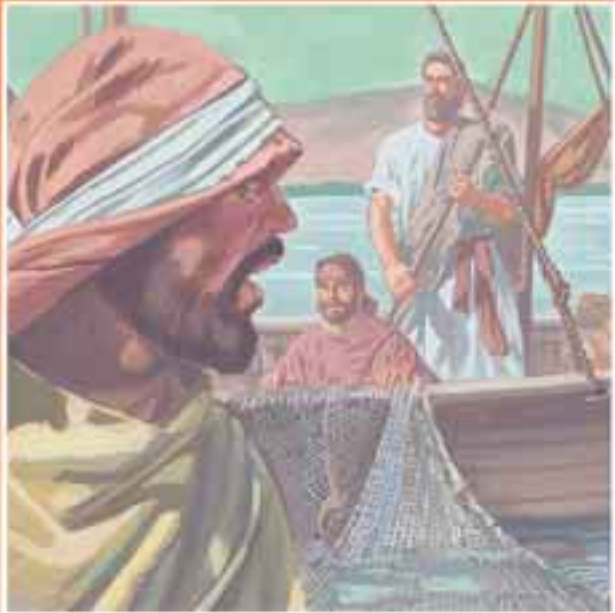
After Jesus taught the people, He told Peter to take the boat into deep water. Then He told Peter and his friends to put their fishnets into the water, and they did.

*Luke 5:4–5*



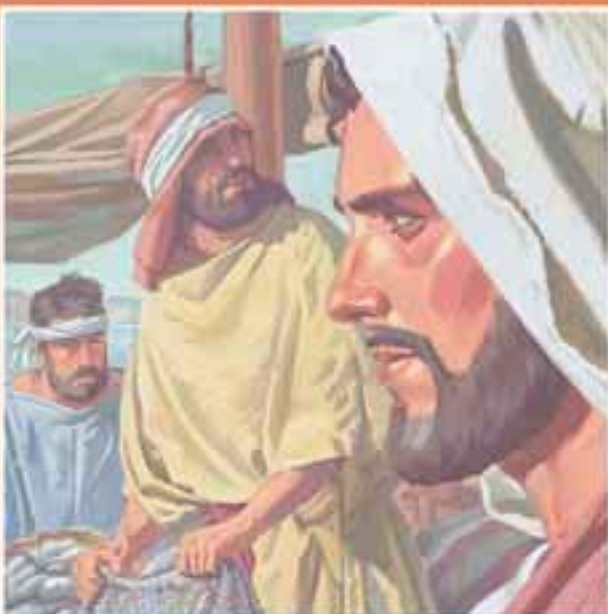
They caught so many fish in their nets that the nets began to break.

*Luke 5:5-6*



Peter called to his friends in another boat to come and help. The fish filled both boats.

*Luke 5:7*



Peter and his friends were amazed. They knew Jesus Christ had made this happen.

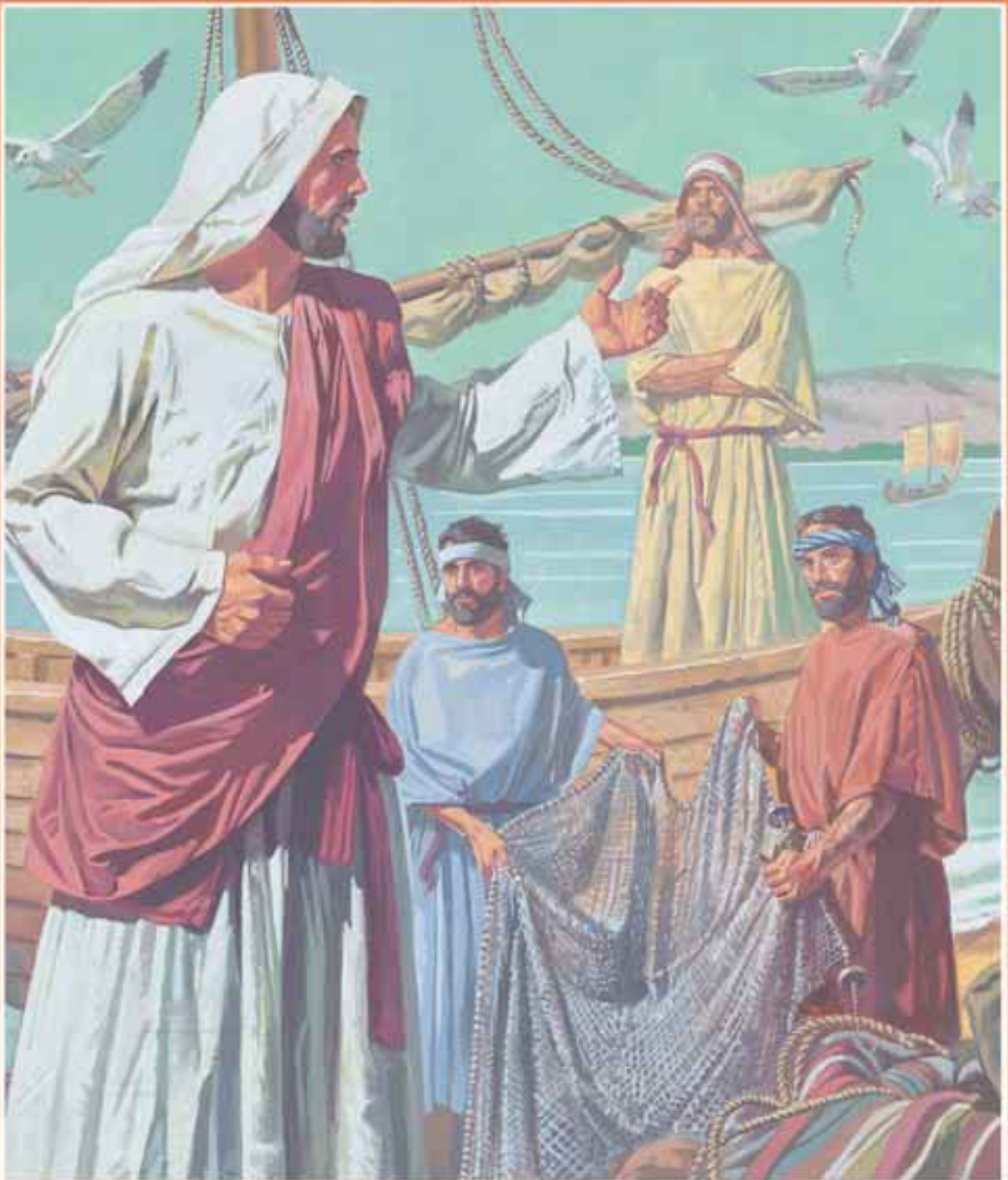
*Luke 5:8-9*



Peter knelt by the Savior's feet and said that he was a sinner and was not worthy to be near Jesus. Jesus told Peter not to be afraid.

*Luke 5:8-10*





Two of Peter's friends, James and John, were brothers. Jesus told all of them to come with Him. The three men left everything they had and went with Jesus. The Savior asked other men to go with Him, too, and be "fishers of men."

*Matthew 4:18–22, 9:9; Luke 5:10–11; John 1:35–51*





He needed Twelve Apostles to lead His Church. Because He wanted to choose the right men, the Savior prayed all night. The next morning He chose and ordained 12 men, giving them the priesthood and the power to be Apostles.

*Luke 6:12–16; John 15:16*



The Apostles traveled to many cities and taught the gospel and healed people. Then they returned to tell Jesus what they had done.

*Mark 6:30; Luke 9:1–6, 10*

# THE TALK

By T. S. Hettinger

ILLUSTRATED BY DICK BROWN

**T**ime to get up," Mom called cheerfully. I rolled over and pretended I didn't hear her. That's what I do when I don't want to get up. Mom didn't give up. "Breakfast will be ready in a few minutes," she called. "Anyone who wants to eat had better hurry."

That got my brother going. "Come on," Devon said, giving my bed a shake.

"I'm not hungry," I muttered.

"Suit yourself." He headed for the kitchen.

It was true. I wasn't hungry. In fact, my stomach kind of ached. *Maybe I should tell Mom I'm sick*, I thought. *That's it—I'm sick and need to stay home.*

A few minutes later I got my chance.

"Devon says you're not hungry." Mom sat down on the edge of my bed. "Are you feeling all right?" She put her hand on my forehead. "You don't feel hot."

"I'm not sick," I answered truthfully, "but I don't feel so good."

At first Mom looked puzzled, then she understood. "Are you nervous about your talk?"

"I'm not just nervous," I said. "I was nervous last night when I went to bed. Then I dreamed that when I got up to give my talk I couldn't find my notes, and I couldn't remember anything. It was awful!"

Mom shook her head. "I'm sorry you had a bad dream, but it was just a dream. You're going to do fine."

"Can't we say I'm sick?" I asked. But I knew Mom would never go for that.

"Come have some breakfast," she said, pulling the blankets off me. "You'll feel better."

I knew the only thing that was going to make me feel better was telling the Primary president I was too sick to give a talk. Mary Kay could give two talks. She gives talks all the time. She even enjoys giving talks. I started to say something, but Mom gave me one of those "don't even try it" looks.

"Good morning," Dad said happily as I slumped into my chair.

"Morning," I grumbled. I couldn't bring myself to call it a *good* morning.

Dad looked at me quizzically.

"Jeremy's a bit worried about his talk," Mom explained.

"I see," Dad said. "Is there anything I can do to help? I'd be happy to listen if you want to practice before we go to church."

I shook my head. Practicing my talk in front of my dad wouldn't help. I ate a little before I asked to be excused.

"We're really proud of you, you know," Mom said as I rinsed my plate. "I wouldn't have guessed that you would be the first one in our family to speak in church."

"I'm sure we'll all get a turn eventually," Dad said with a smile.

"What do you mean?" Devon asked anxiously. "Just that speaking in





church is something Latter-day Saints do,” Dad replied. “We don’t have a pastor who gives a sermon every week like we used to. The members take turns giving talks instead.”

Devon shook his head. “I don’t ever want to give a talk.” He looked at me. “Who said you had to give a talk?”

“Nobody did. My teacher asked our class who wanted to give talks. Two of us raised our hands,” I explained.

“You mean you volunteered?” Devon was shocked.

I shrugged my shoulders. “It seemed like a good idea at the time. Now I wish I’d kept quiet.”

Mom squeezed my shoulder. “You’re going to do great. Now go get dressed for church.”

Some time later I hurried to find Dad. “Dad, will you tie my tie? I’ve tried three times, and I still can’t get it right.”

“I’d be happy to.” He wrapped my tie around his neck and tied a perfect knot. My tie looked pretty funny on him. It was way too short. He slid the tie up over his head, then pulled it down over mine.

“Thanks,” I said. I pulled my talk out of my shirt pocket and started to read through it for the zillionth time.

I sat through sacrament meeting, quietly reading my notes over and over. It wasn’t until I saw Mary Kay watching me that I put them back into my pocket.

When I reached the Primary room, I walked up to the chairs at the front of the room. On the way, I stopped at the podium to make sure I was tall enough to see over it without standing on the stool the little kids use.

As I looked out over the podium, I saw my mom and dad sitting in the back of the room. I hadn’t asked them to come, but I wasn’t surprised to see them. What did surprise me was that Devon was with them. He was missing Sunday School to hear me talk! I wasn’t sure if I was pleased or not.





Mary Kay sat down next to me. "Are you nervous?" she asked.

I tried to look calm. "Are you?" I asked.

She nodded. "I've given lots of talks, but I still get nervous." She held out her hands to show me that they were shaking.

"Then why do you volunteer?" I asked.

Mary Kay shrugged. "I think talking in church is a good thing to do. I think it's important to tell people what you believe. Don't you?"

"I guess so," I said. "I've never given a talk before."

Mary Kay looked shocked. "Really?"

"In my old church, the pastor did all the preaching," I explained.

"It's all right, once you get going," Mary Kay said with a smile.

Primary started, so we stopped talking. I felt surprisingly calm. Somehow, knowing that Mary Kay got nervous when she gave a talk made me feel better.

After the opening song and prayer, the Primary president announced that Mary Kay and I would be giving talks. Mary Kay went first. I had a hard time listening to her talk. I kept going over my talk in my mind. I was startled when I heard her say, "Amen."

"Good luck," she

whispered as I passed her on my way to the podium.

I pulled the notes out of my pocket and began.

"This is the first time I've given a talk in church," I began. "In fact, it's the first time anyone in my family has given a talk in church." I looked at my family. They were all smiling at me.

I went on to tell of all the ways my life had changed since we were baptized. I talked about reading the Book of Mormon. I told about when the missionaries taught my family.

Then I talked about learning to pray, how glad I was when I learned that Heavenly Father wants us to pray, and how I knew that He listens to and answers our prayers.

I was almost finished when I realized my notes were still clenched tightly in my hand. I hadn't even needed them! I thanked my parents and Devon for joining the Church with me and told them I loved them. That part wasn't even in my notes. Then I ended my talk, "In the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

As I sat down, I was filled with relief and joy.

"You did great!" Mary Kay whispered.

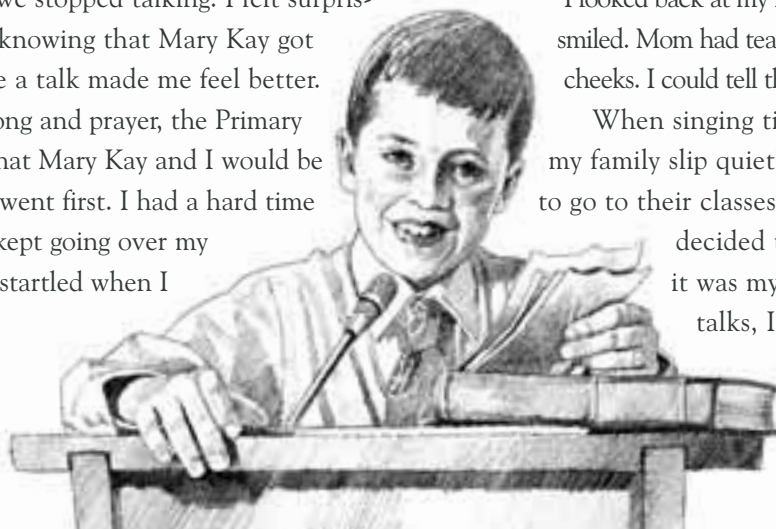
"Thanks," I said, blushing slightly.

I looked back at my family. Devon and Dad smiled. Mom had tears running down her cheeks. I could tell they were happy tears.

When singing time began, I watched my family slip quietly out the back door to go to their classes. It was then I

decided that the next time it was my class's turn to give talks, I would volunteer

again. □





***"Fishers of Men," by Simon Dewey***

*"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother. . . And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him" (Matthew 4:18-20).*



“**U**nitedly, as His Apostles, authorized and commissioned by Him to do so, we bear our witness that He lives and that He will come again to claim His kingdom and rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Of this we are certain.” See “Special Witnesses of Christ,” page 2.