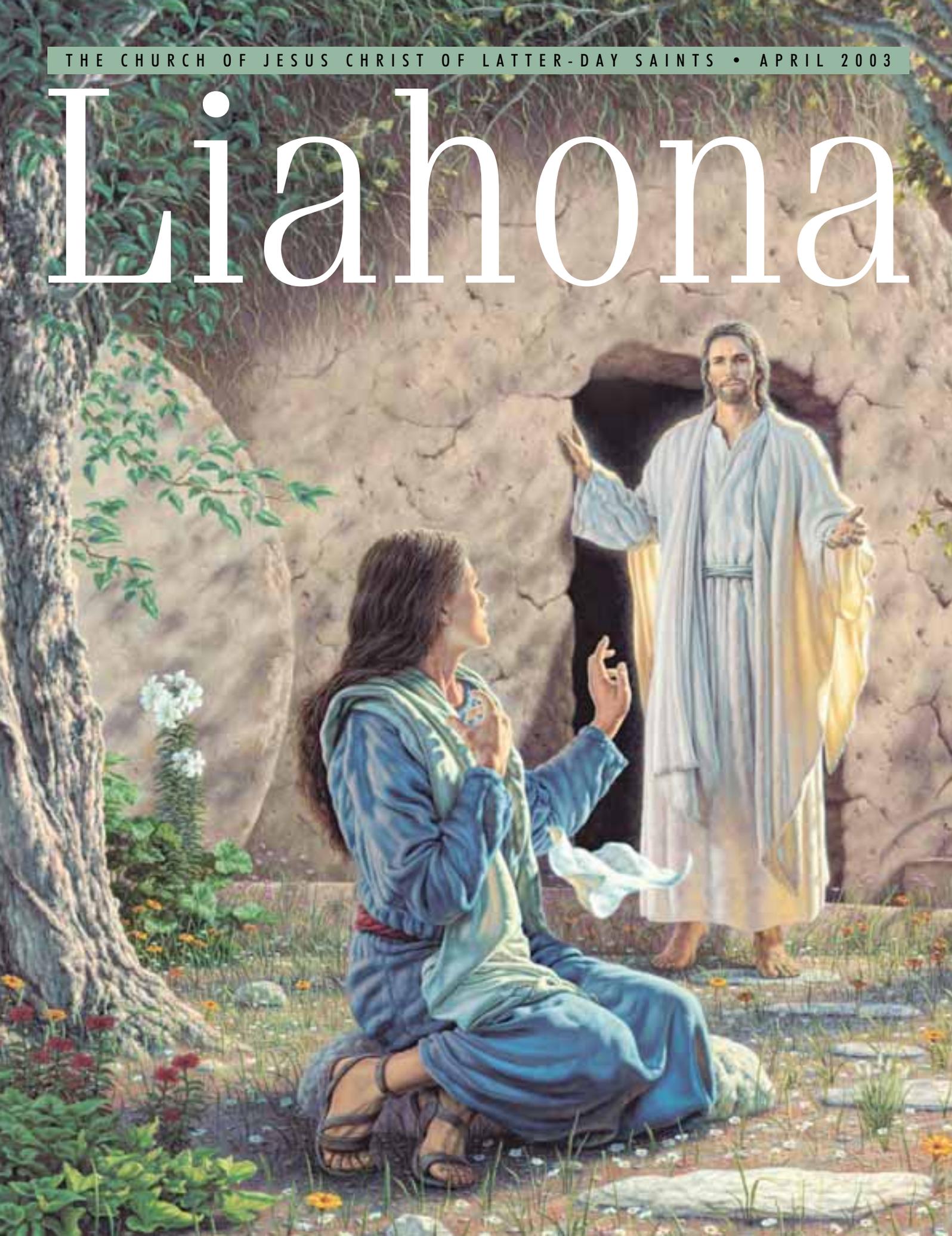
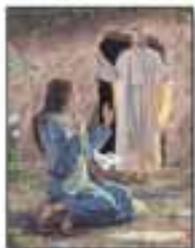


# Liahona



# Liahona



## ON THE COVER

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## THE FRIEND COVER

Consider the Lilies, by Simon Dewey, courtesy of Altus Fine Art, American Fork, Utah. See "Thou Art the Christ," *The Friend*, p. 6.



SEE P. 2

## FEATURES

- 1 Letter from the First Presidency
- 2 First Presidency Message: He Is Risen *President Thomas S. Monson*
- 8 Jerusalem *D. Kelly Ogden*
- 18 Words of Jesus: Death and Resurrection *Elder Walter F. González*
- 25 Visiting Teaching Message: Prepare for Temple Worship
- 26 New Testament Times at a Glance: The Savior's Final Week
- 30 God Had His Own Plans for Me  
*Rochelle Welty and Jan Pinborough*
- 40 Latter-day Saint Voices
  - Does My Life Have a Purpose? *Michael Renker*
  - With Fasting and Prayer *Ruth Rodríguez Sotelo*
  - Lynette's Testimony *Leah Poole Wright*
  - Linked by Suffering *Adam C. Olson*
- 48 Using the April 2003 *Liabona*

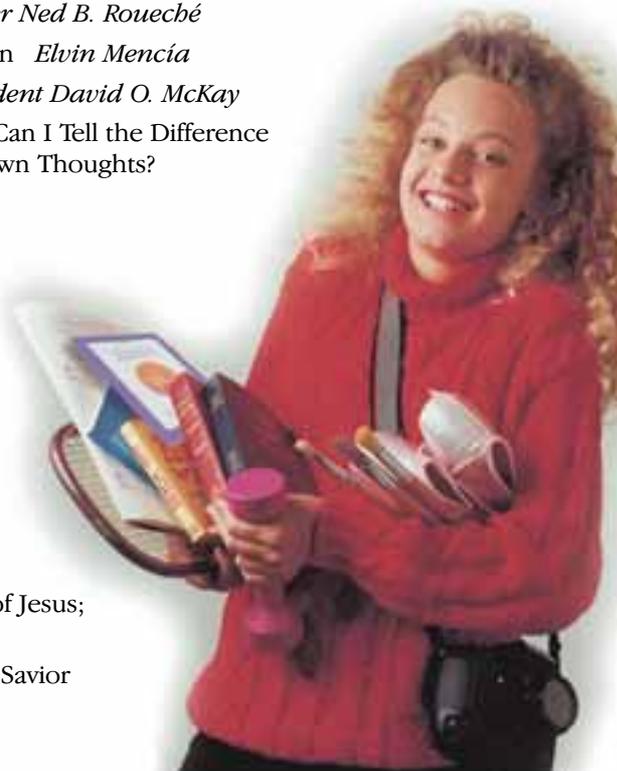
## ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH

- 22 King of Kings *Lisa Ann Jackson*
- 24 Poster: He Is within Reach
- 33 Idea List: Managing Time and Staying Balanced
- 34 Dancing Back to Church *Elder Ned B. Roueché*
- 37 The Wounds That Heal My Own *Elwin Mencía*
- 38 Gospel Classics: Dandy *President David O. McKay*
- 44 Questions and Answers: How Can I Tell the Difference between Inspiration and My Own Thoughts?
- 47 Did You Know?

SEE P. 33

## THE FRIEND

- 2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: A Growing Testimony  
*President James E. Faust*
- 4 Temple Cards
- 6 Sharing Time: Thou Art the Christ *Vicki F. Matsumori*
- 8 Song: Easter Hosanna  
*Vanja Y. Watkins*
- 10 New Testament Stories: Trials of Jesus; Jesus Is Crucified
- 16 Special Witness: Our Lord and Savior  
*Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin*



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# Letter from the First Presidency

*The following letter, dated 20 January 2002,  
was sent to priesthood leaders.*

“**P**riesthood and Relief Society leaders  
should teach the importance of home  
storage and securing a financial reserve.

These principles may be taught in ward councils or on  
a fifth Sunday in priesthood and Relief Society meetings.

“Church members can begin their home storage by  
storing the basic foods that would be required to keep them  
alive if they did not have anything else to eat. Depending on  
where members live, those basics might include water, wheat  
or other grains, legumes, salt, honey or sugar, powdered milk,  
and cooking oil. . . . When members have stored enough of  
these essentials to meet the needs of their family for one year,  
they may decide to add other items that they are accustomed to  
using day to day.

“Some members do not have the money or space for such  
storage, and some are prohibited by law from storing a year’s  
supply of food. These members should store as much as their  
circumstances allow. Families who do not have the resources  
to acquire a year’s supply can begin their storage by  
obtaining supplies to last for a few months. Members  
should be prudent and not panic or go to extremes in  
this effort. Through careful planning, most Church  
members can, over time, establish both a financial  
reserve and a year’s supply of essentials.” ■





# He Is Risen

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON  
First Counselor in the First Presidency

A visitor once asked me, “What is there to see while I am in Salt Lake City?” Instinctively I suggested a tour of Temple Square, a drive to the nearby canyons, a visit to the Bingham copper mine, and perhaps a swim in the Great Salt Lake. A fear of being misunderstood kept me from expressing the thought, “Have you considered spending an hour or two at one of our cemeteries?” I never did reveal to him that wherever I travel I try to pay a visit to the town cemetery. It is a time of contemplation, of reflection on the meaning of life and the inevitability of death.

## Greater Love

In the small cemetery in the town of Santa Clara, Utah, I remember the preponderance of Swiss names which adorn the weathered tombstones. Many of those persons left home and family in verdant Switzerland and, in response to the call “Come to Zion,” settled the communities where they now “rest in peace.” They endured spring floods, summer droughts, scant harvests, and backbreaking labors. They left a legacy of sacrifice.

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

Acres of neat white crosses in the cities of France and Belgium accentuate the terrible toll of World War I. Verdun, France, is in reality a gigantic cemetery. Each spring as farmers till the earth, they uncover a helmet here, a gun barrel there—grim reminders of the millions of men who literally soaked the soil with the blood of their lives.

A tour of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and other battlefields of the American Civil War marks that conflict where brother fought against brother. Some families lost farms, others possessions. One family lost all. Let me share with you that memorable letter which President Abraham Lincoln wrote to Mrs. Lydia Bixby:

“Dear Madam:

“I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant



***The reality of the Resurrection provides to one and all the peace that surpasses understanding.***

General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

“Yours very sincerely and respectfully,  
“Abraham Lincoln.”<sup>1</sup>

A walk through Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu or the Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Manila reminds one that not all who died in World War II are buried in quiet fields of green. Many slipped beneath the waves of the oceans on which they sailed and on which they died.

Among the thousands of servicemen killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor was a sailor by the name of William Ball, from Fredericksburg, Iowa. What distinguished him from so many others who died on that day in 1941 was not any special act of heroism, but the tragic chain of events his death set in motion at home.

When William’s boyhood buddies, the five Sullivan brothers from the nearby town of Waterloo, received word of his death, they marched out together to enlist in the navy. The Sullivans, who wished to avenge their friend, insisted that they remain together, and the navy granted their wish. On November 14, 1942, the cruiser on which the brothers served, the USS *Juneau*, was hit and sunk in a battle off Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

Almost two months went by before Mrs. Thomas Sullivan received the news, which arrived not by the usual telegram but by special envoy: all five of her sons were reported missing in action in the South Pacific and presumed dead. Their bodies were never recovered.

One sentence only, spoken by one person only, provides a fitting epitaph: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”<sup>2</sup>

### “Not Grief but Gratitude”

Frequently the profound influence one life has on the lives of others is never spoken and occasionally little known. Such was the experience of a teacher of girls, even 12-year-olds in the Beehive class of Mutual. She had no children of her own, though she and her husband dearly longed for children. Her love was expressed through the devotion to her special girls as she taught them eternal truths and lessons of life. Then came illness, followed by death. She was but 27.

Each year on Memorial Day, her girls made a pilgrimage of prayer to the graveside of their teacher. First there were seven, then four, then two, and eventually just one, who continued the annual visit, always placing on the grave a bouquet of irises—a symbol of heartfelt gratitude. That last girl later became a teacher of girls. Little wonder she is so successful. She mirrors the reflection of the teacher from whom came her inspiration. The life that teacher lived, the lessons that teacher taught, are not buried beneath the headstone which marks her grave but live on in the personalities she helped to shape and the lives she so selflessly enriched. One is reminded of another master teacher, even the Lord. Once, with His finger, He wrote in the sand a message.<sup>3</sup> The winds of time erased forever the words He wrote but not the life He lived.

“All that we can know about those we have loved and lost,” wrote Thornton Wilder, “is that they would wish us to remember them with a more intensified realization of their reality. . . . The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude.”

### The Keller Boys

Some years ago, in beautiful Heber Valley just east of Salt Lake City, a loving mother and devoted father returned to that personal haven called home to discover that their three eldest sons lay dead. The night was bitter cold, and the fierce wind swept the falling snow, which covered the chimney, trapping deadly carbon monoxide fumes throughout the house.

The joint funeral service for the Keller boys was one of the

most touching experiences of my life. The residents of the community had placed aside their daily tasks, children were excused from school, and all thronged to the chapel to express their deep feelings of condolence. So long as time and memory endure, I shall remember the scene of three shiny caskets, followed by grief-stricken parents and grandparents making their way to the front of the building.

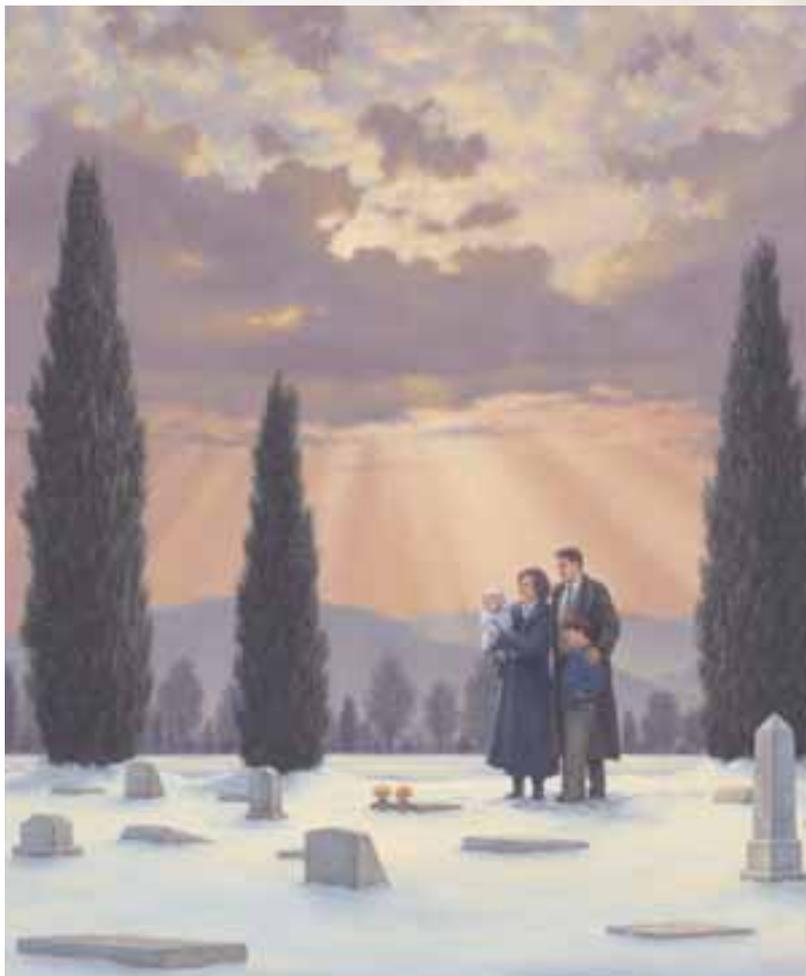
The first speaker was the wrestling coach of the local high school. He paid tribute to Louis, the oldest boy. With an emotion-filled voice and choking back the tears, he told how Louis was not necessarily the most gifted wrestler on the team but added, "No one tried harder. What he lacked in athletic skill he made up with a determined heart."

Then a youth leader spoke of Travis. He told how Travis had excelled in Scouting, in Aaronic Priesthood work, and was such a sterling example to his friends.

Finally, a distinguished appearing and obviously competent elementary school teacher told of Jason, the youngest of the three. She described him as quiet, even shy. Then, without embarrassment, she told how Jason had, in the scrawled penmanship of a boy, sent to her the sweetest and most welcome letter she had ever received. Its message was brief—just three words: "I love you." She could barely complete her talk, so deep-felt were her emotions.

Through the tears and the sorrow of that special day, I observed eternal lessons that had been taught by those boys whose lives were honored and whose mortal missions concluded.

A coach expressed the determination to look beyond athletic prowess and into the heart of each boy. A youth leader made a



solemn vow that every boy and girl would have the benefit which the program of the Church provided. An elementary school teacher looked at the small children, classmates of Jason. She said nothing, but her eyes revealed the determination of her soul. The message was unmistakably clear: "I will love each child. Each boy, each girl will be guided in the search for truth, in the development of talent, and be introduced to the wonderful world of service."

And the audience could never again be the same. All will strive toward that perfection spoken of by the Master. Our inspiration? The lives of the boys who now rest from care and sorrow, and the fortitude of parents who trust in the Lord with all their hearts, who lean not to their own understanding, and who in all their ways acknowledge Him, knowing that He will direct their paths.<sup>4</sup>

**W**e can draw inspiration from the lives of the Keller boys, who now rest from care and sorrow, and the fortitude of parents who trust in the Lord with all their hearts.



**O**n that glorious day of resurrection, the spirit and body will be reunited. This promise became a reality when Mary and others approached the garden tomb.

Let me share with you a portion of a letter sent to me by the noble mother of these three sons. It was written soon after their passing.

“We do have days and nights that right now seem so overwhelming. The change in our home life has been so drastic. With almost half our family gone now, the cooking, washing, and even shopping are different. We miss the noise and clutter, the teasing and playing together. Such are gone. Sunday is so quiet. We miss seeing the sacrament blessed and passed by our sons. Sunday was truly our family together day. We ponder the thought: no missions, no

weddings, no grandchildren. We would not ask for their return, but we could not say we would ever have willingly given them up. We have returned to our Church duties and our family responsibilities. Our desire is to so live that the Keller family will be a forever family.”

To the Kellers, the Sullivans, and indeed to all who have loved and lost, let me share with you the conviction of my soul, the testimony of my heart, and the actual experiences of my life.

### **Death, a New Chapter of Life**

We know each one lived in the spirit world with Heavenly Father. We understand we have come to earth to learn, to live, to progress in our eternal journey toward perfection. Some remain on earth but for a moment, while others live long upon the land. The measure is not how long we live but rather how well we live. Then come death and the beginning of a new chapter of life. Where does that chapter lead?

Many years ago I stood by the bedside of a young man, the father of two children, as he hovered between life and the great beyond. He took my hand in his, looked into my eyes, and pleadingly asked, “Bishop, I know I am about to die. Tell me what happens to my spirit when I die.”

I prayed for heavenly guidance before attempting to respond. My attention was directed to the Book of Mormon, which rested on the table beside his bed. I held the book in my hand, and it providentially opened to the 40th chapter of Alma. I began to read aloud:

“Now my son, here is somewhat more I would say unto thee; for I perceive that thy mind is worried concerning the resurrection of the dead. . . .

“Now, concerning the state of the soul

between death and the resurrection—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, . . . are taken home to that God who gave them life.

“And then shall it come to pass, that 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.”<sup>5</sup>

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

### Victory over the Tomb

Then comes that glorious day of resurrection, when spirit and body will be reunited, never again to be separated. “I am the resurrection, and the life,” said the Christ to the grieving Martha. “He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

“And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”<sup>6</sup>

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”<sup>7</sup>

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. . . . That where I am, there ye may be also.”<sup>8</sup>

This transcendent promise became a reality when Mary and the other Mary approached the garden tomb—that cemetery which had but one occupant. Let Luke, the physician, describe their experience:

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre. . . .

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

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

“ . . . As they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

“And . . . said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?”<sup>9</sup>

“He is not here: for he is risen.”<sup>10</sup>

This is the clarion call of Christendom. The reality of the Resurrection provides to one and all the peace that surpasses understanding.<sup>11</sup> It comforts those whose loved ones lie in Flanders fields or who perished in the depths of the sea or rest in tiny Santa Clara or peaceful Heber Valley. It is a universal truth.

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

### NOTES

1. In *Selections from the Letters, Speeches, and State Papers of Abraham Lincoln*, ed. Ida M. Tarbell (1911), 109.
2. John 15:13.
3. See John 8:6.
4. See Proverbs 3:5–6.
5. Alma 40:1, 11–12.
6. John 11:25–26.
7. John 14:27.
8. John 14:2–3.
9. Luke 24:1–5.
10. Matthew 28:6.
11. See Philippians 4:7.

## IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After prayerful preparation, share this message using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. Following are a few examples:

1. Read the first section of this message with family members. Invite them to tell about their experiences at cemeteries or funeral services. Share your feelings about the Resurrection and President Monson’s testimony in the last two paragraphs.

2. Read the first two paragraphs under the heading “Death, a New Chapter of Life.” Ask family members what they would say to answer the dying man’s question. Have them tell what they learn about life after death from Alma 40:1, 11–12; John 11:25–26; 14:2–3, 27.

3. Ask each person to write at least one question about life after death. Discuss their questions and share insights from the message that help answer the questions.

ירושלם

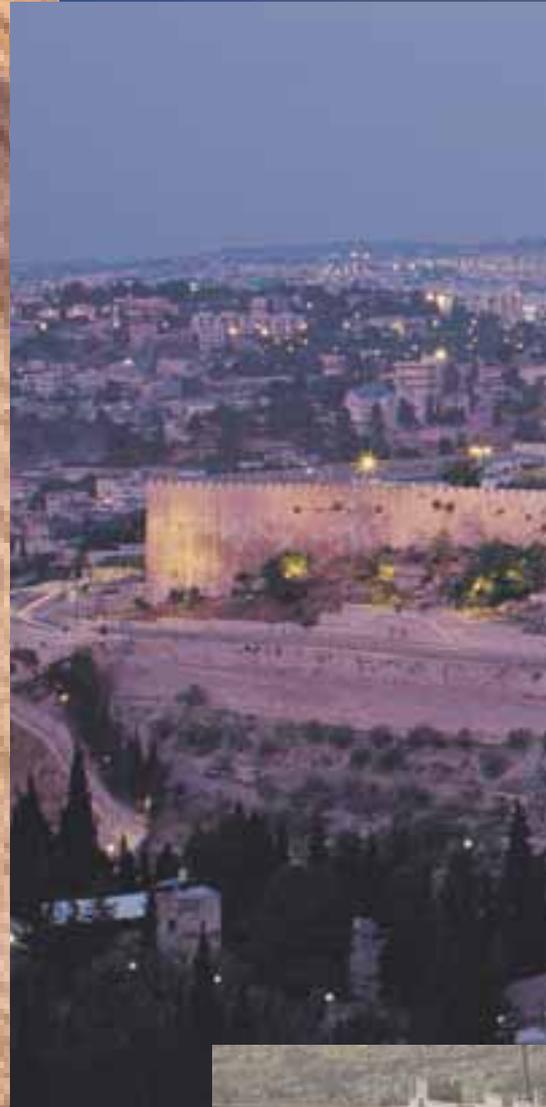
Jerusalem

القدس

*Jews, Christians, and Muslims  
all worship in this holy city, where they  
each have a number of sacred sites.*

BY D. KELLY OGDEN

No city has shaped earth's history and destiny as has Jerusalem. For 40 centuries Semites, Egyptians, Hittites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Muslims, Crusaders, Turks, Europeans, Arabs, and Israelis have all paraded through the pages of its history. Impressive personalities such as Melchizedek, Abraham, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Lehi, Jeremiah, Alexander the Great, Pompey, Cleopatra, Herod, Peter, Paul, Titus, Constantine, Muhammad, Richard the Lion-Hearted, Maimonides, Saladin, Süleyman the Magnificent, and a host of others have played pivotal roles in Jerusalem's past.





*Above: Evening settles across a Muslim cemetery and the eastern wall of Jerusalem's Old City. The golden Dome of the Rock (center) and the domed al-Aqsa Mosque (far left) rest atop what Jews and Christians call the Temple Mount and Muslims call the Haram esh-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary). Far left: A model depicts Jerusalem at the time of Christ. Left: Sheep graze outside an ancient section of the Old City wall.*

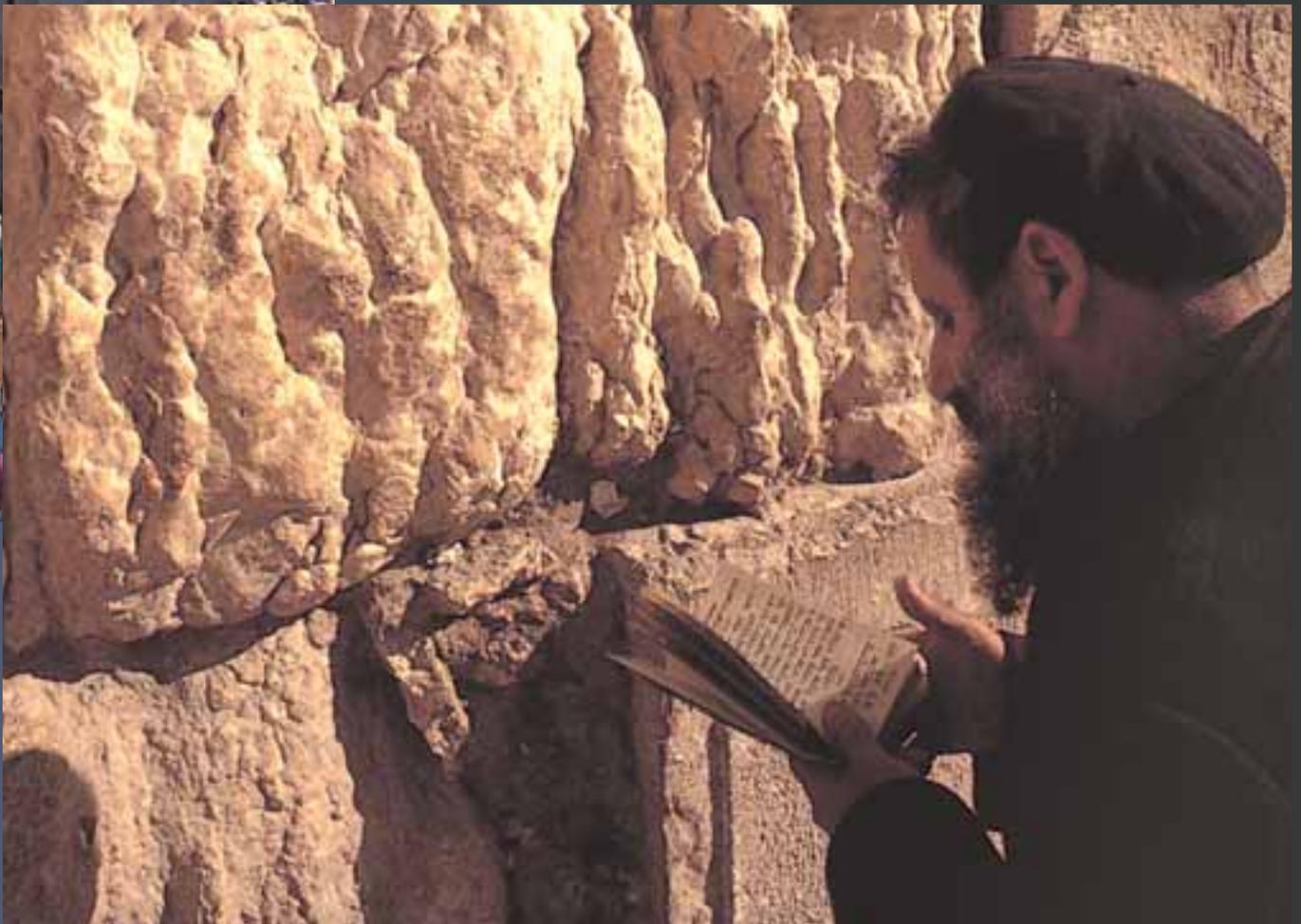


Positioned at the crossroads of the eastern Mediterranean lands—the only region in the world where three continents come together—Jerusalem has naturally evolved as a focal point of international economic, political, and religious concern. However, it has never been an economic or political superpower. Its importance and influence stem primarily from its religious relevance. Jerusalem will forever stand as a symbol of God’s contact with earth.

Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh, was born near here. Jerusalem is where the Redeemer brought about the greatest events and contributions of all time—His atoning sacrifice and Resurrection from



*Far left: Jews gather for spiritual renewal near the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. Left inset: A Jewish family celebrates a bar mitzvah, a boy's passage into manhood. Left: Abraham's Rock rests in the Dome of the Rock. Tradition indicates Abraham placed Isaac on this rock as a sacrificial offering. Tradition also designates this rock as the site from which the Muslim prophet Muhammad ascended into heaven. Below: A man places his written prayer between cracks in the Western Wall and reads from sacred Jewish writings.*

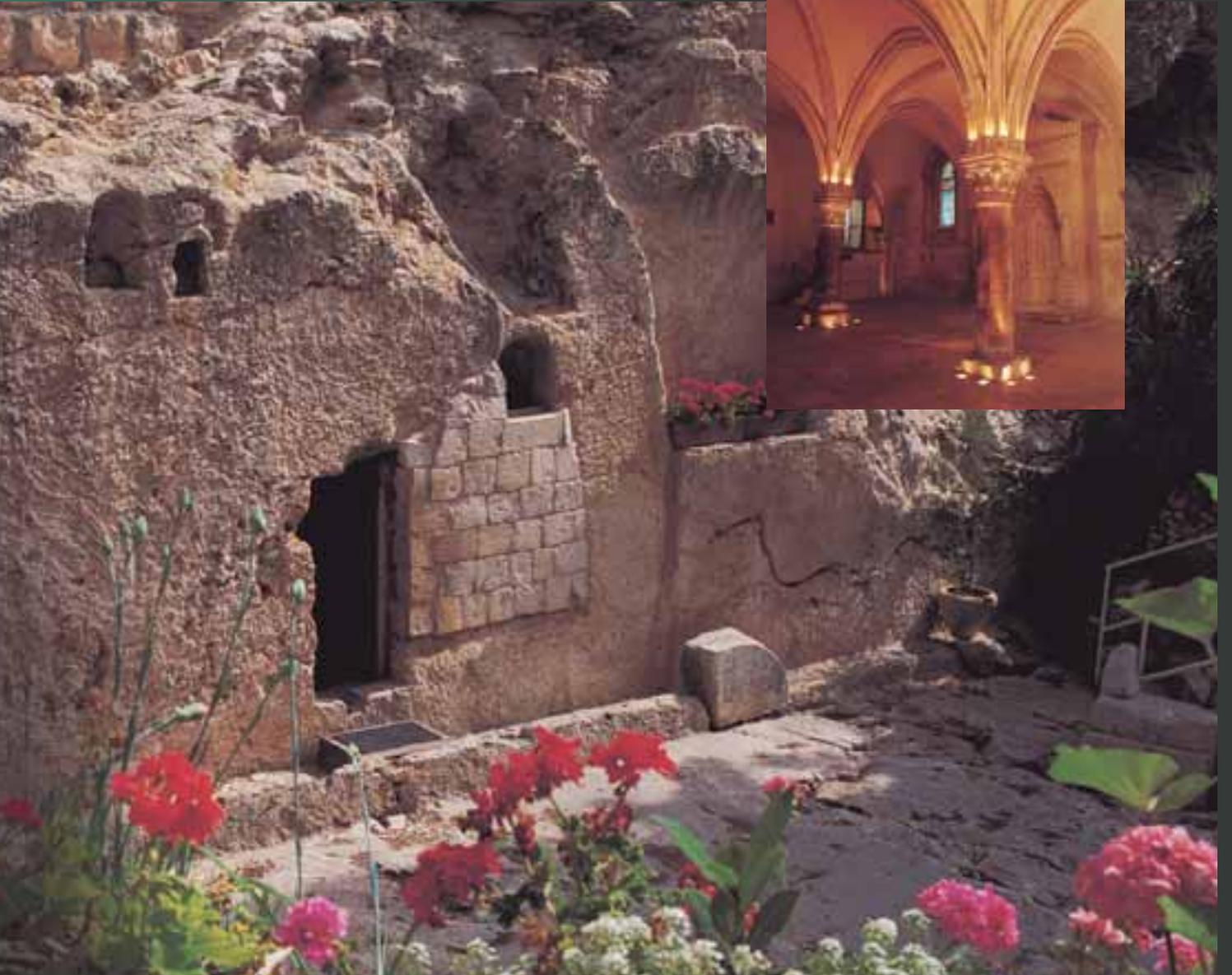


the dead. These and many other events have made the name *Jerusalem* forever holy.

There have been and are now other important religious cities in the ancient and modern worlds, but only Jerusalem is central to three of the world's major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. To adherents of these faiths, including the millions of believers who have never seen Jerusalem, the depth of feeling for this city is revealed in the following expressions.

From Judaism: "Of the ten measures of beauty that came down to the world, Jerusalem took nine"





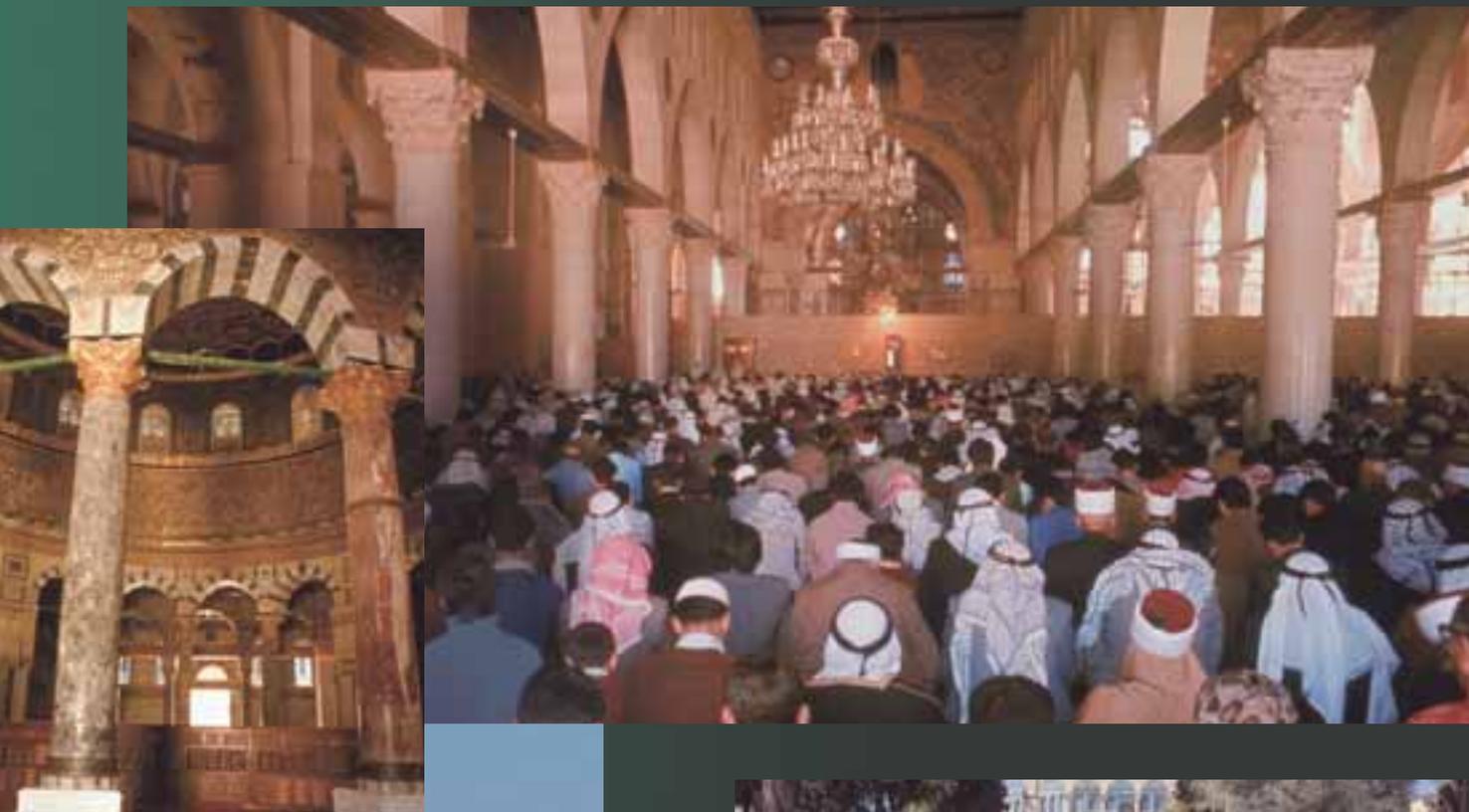
*Above inset: According to tradition Jesus and His Apostles ate the Last Supper in this upper room. Above: Some Christians believe Jesus' body was laid in this garden tomb. Left inset: Other Christians believe Jesus' body was laid in a tomb now located within this building, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Left: Ancient olive trees adorn the Garden of Gethsemane.*

(Talmud, Kiddushin 49b). “A man who has not seen Jerusalem in its splendor has never seen a beautiful city in his life” (Talmud, Succah 51b).

From Christianity: Of Jerusalem, Jesus said, “It is the city of the great King” (Matthew 5:35), and the Apostle Paul taught, “Come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Hebrews 12:22).

From Islam: “The choice of Allah of all his lands is Jerusalem. . . . The dew which descends upon Jerusalem is a remedy from every sickness because it is from the gardens of Paradise.”<sup>1</sup>





*Top: Worshipers gather to pray inside the al-Aqsa Mosque on the holy mount. Above: Muslims perform ceremonial washings at this fountain before entering the mosque. (Jews, Christians, and Muslims all practice ritual cleansings before sacred rites.) Left and left inset: The Dome of the Rock is one of Islam's holiest sites. It was dedicated in A.D. 691.*



Not only have these three great religions sung praises to Jerusalem, they have erected an impressive array of buildings at sacred sites. Jerusalem's palaces, synagogues, churches, shrines, monasteries, convents, mosques, yeshivas, and other centers of government, learning, and worship represent an incalculable collective influence on the course of human history.

Throughout its past and present devastating conflicts, Jerusalem has remained a revered city. And it has the promise of a peaceful future as a dwelling place for the Lord and His Saints during His great millennial reign. ■

**NOTE**

1. Quoted in Walid Khalidi, *Before Their Diaspora: A Photographic History of the Palestinians, 1876–1948* (1984), 21.

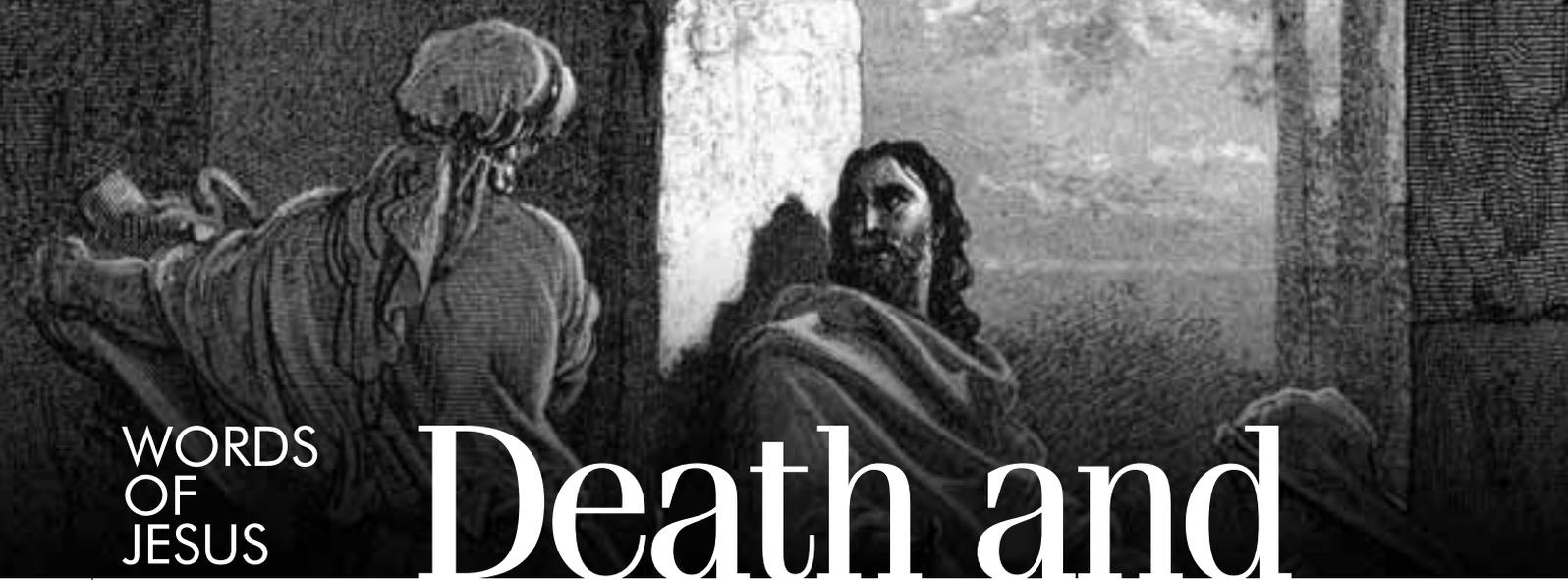
D. Kelly Ogden is a member of the Edgemont Sixth Ward, Provo Utah Edgemont Stake.





*Left: The sun rises over the Mount of Olives, where the Messiah will descend in great glory. The Orson Hyde Memorial Garden is nearly surrounded by a line of tall trees at upper left. The Garden of Gethsemane is at right center. Below and left inset: Brigham Young University's Jerusalem Center overlooks the city. Bottom: A pathway leads through the area where Elder Orson Hyde of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles dedicated the Holy Land in 1841.*





WORDS  
OF  
JESUS

# Death and Resurrection

*“I am the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25).*

BY ELDER WALTER F. GONZÁLEZ

Of the Seventy



***The Savior’s teachings regarding His own and our death and Resurrection should be engraved upon our hearts.***

About 2,000 years ago in a small village outside Jerusalem, two sisters saw their brother become ill and die. Mary and Martha dearly loved their brother Lazarus, so their anguish was great. Their friends and neighbors tried to comfort them but failed. Their sorrow was so great that upon seeing them Jesus was filled with compassion and wept (see John 11:30–35). We can perhaps imagine how Martha felt when the Savior told her, “Thy brother shall rise again” (John 11:23). Her response reflected a certain understanding of the plan of salvation: “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day” (John 11:24). The Lord’s answer to Martha emphatically reassured her: “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11:25–26).

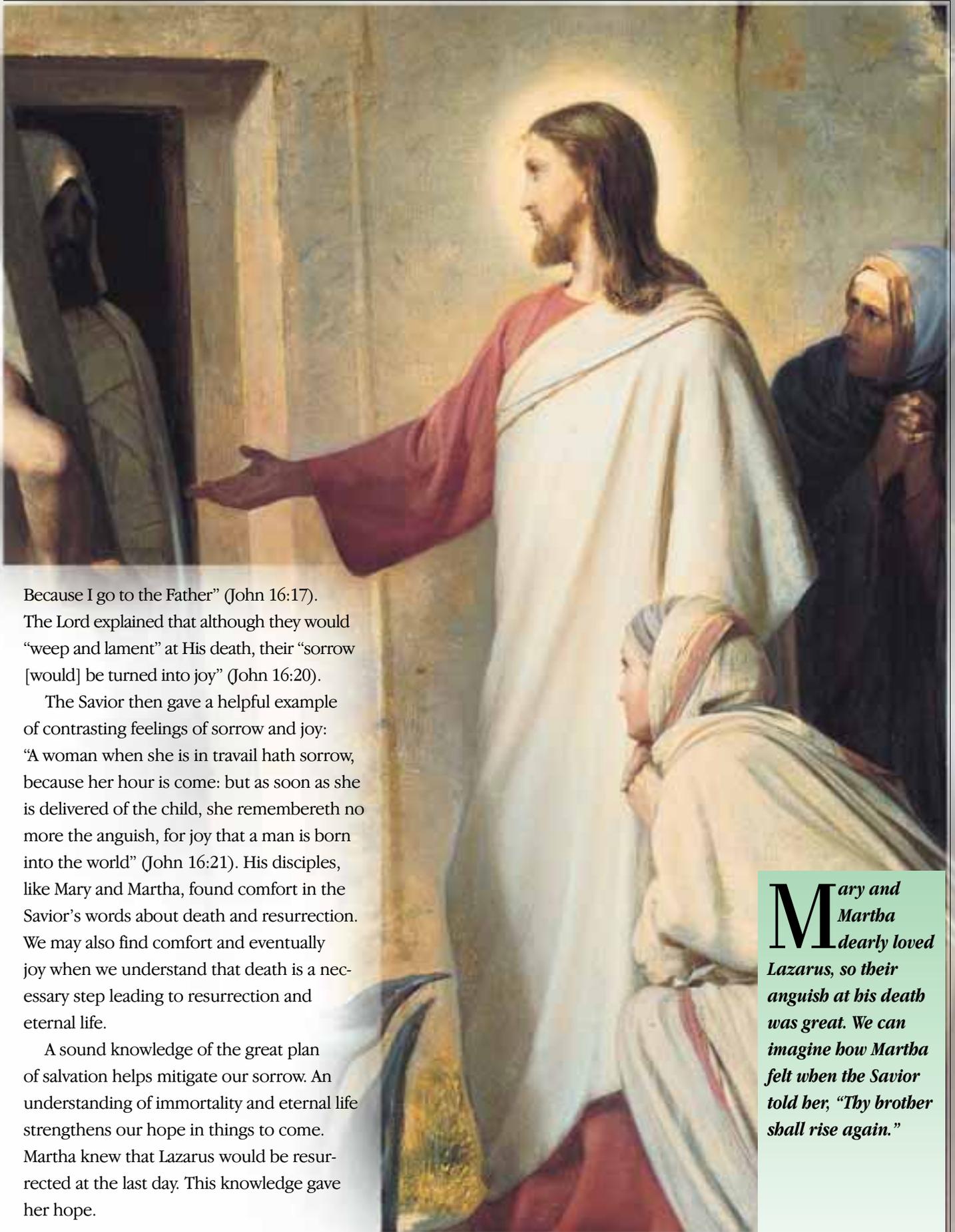
Martha then bore solemn testimony of Him: “I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world” (John 11:27).

Martha’s faith was soon fulfilled as she and Mary were comforted by the power of God made manifest in the raising of their brother from the dead.

## **Sorrow and Joy**

On many occasions during His mortal ministry, our Savior took the opportunity to teach about death and resurrection, particularly His own. His words can help us, much as they helped Martha, to cope with the sorrow that comes when a loved one dies. An understanding that the gospel is taught and practiced among our dead, that they too will be resurrected, and that they and we may achieve exaltation can deepen our gratitude for the Savior.

The passing away of someone we love brings sorrow to our souls. We can understand why Martha and Mary wept and lamented the passing of Lazarus. On another occasion, the Savior’s disciples were similarly concerned and wondered what He had meant when He said to them, “A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me . . . ,



Because I go to the Father” (John 16:17). The Lord explained that although they would “weep and lament” at His death, their “sorrow [would] be turned into joy” (John 16:20).

The Savior then gave a helpful example of contrasting feelings of sorrow and joy: “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world” (John 16:21). His disciples, like Mary and Martha, found comfort in the Savior’s words about death and resurrection. We may also find comfort and eventually joy when we understand that death is a necessary step leading to resurrection and eternal life.

A sound knowledge of the great plan of salvation helps mitigate our sorrow. An understanding of immortality and eternal life strengthens our hope in things to come. Martha knew that Lazarus would be resurrected at the last day. This knowledge gave her hope.

**M**ary and Martha dearly loved Lazarus, so their anguish at his death was great. We can imagine how Martha felt when the Savior told her, “Thy brother shall rise again.”

LEFT, DETAIL FROM JESUS AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY, BY GUSTAVE DOBÉ, RIGHT, DETAIL FROM LAZARUS, BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC MUSEUM AT FREDERIKSBORG IN HILLERÖD, DENMARK

But even with this knowledge, we miss our loved ones. The pain is better dealt with when we understand that our Savior has atoned for our sins and was resurrected, that all people will also be resurrected, and that all have the opportunity to attain eternal life.

### **The Savior's Death and Resurrection**

On one occasion, a Pharisee named Nicodemus approached the Savior at night. Impressed by His miracles, Nicodemus sought words of counsel. Jesus taught the Pharisee that we must be born again. The Savior then prophesied, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up" (John 3:14; see also Moses 7:55).

Nicodemus was not the only one to hear the Redeemer repeat such prophecy. Jesus taught His disciples, "The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day" (Mark 9:31).

During the last week of the Lord's ministry, He continued to talk about what was about to happen to Him. When Andrew and Philip approached Him concerning some Greeks who wished to see Him, Jesus took the opportunity to teach: "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:23–24).

The Book of Mormon prophet Abinadi similarly taught: "The grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ. He is the light and the life of the world; yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened; yea, and also a life which is endless, that there can be no more death" (Mosiah 16:8–9).

### **Our Resurrection and Exaltation**

Because of the Savior, we can look forward to a reunion with those who have passed away. We are blessed with the certainty that we will again see them, embrace them, and express to them our love.

The Prophet Joseph Smith explained: "Would you think

it strange if I relate what I have seen in vision in relation to this interesting theme? . . . So plain was the vision, that I actually saw men, before they had ascended from the tomb, as though they were getting up slowly. They took each other by the hand and said to each other, 'My father, my son, my mother, my daughter, my brother, my sister.' And when the voice calls for the dead to arise, suppose I am laid by the side of my father, what would be the first joy of my heart? To meet my father, my mother, my brother, my sister; and when they are by my side, I embrace them and they me."<sup>1</sup>

The reality of a universal resurrection along with the possibility of exaltation because of our Redeemer's supernatural sacrifice are reason enough to merit our everlasting gratitude. He *is* the Resurrection and the Life, and we so testify to the world.

The living and dead have the opportunity to hear His voice and live. Those on both sides of the veil must, however, abide by certain conditions to receive all gospel blessings. The Savior explained to Martha one of these conditions: "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25–26). Having faith in Him is the first principle of the gospel. Such faith moves us to repent and to make and keep covenants with God so that eventually we may have eternal life.

Inasmuch as we obey His commandments and are faithful to our covenants, we are blessed to expect a joyful family reunited and crowned with eternal life. In the words of Jesus Christ: "[The dead] shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29). Regarding this verse, the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "Some shall rise to the everlasting burnings of God; . . . and some shall rise to the damnation of their own filthiness, which is as exquisite a torment as the lake of fire and brimstone."<sup>2</sup>

Repentance is the key to avoiding the "resurrection of damnation." Sincere repentance activates the great plan of salvation for our good. Our "Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. And he hath

risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance” (D&C 18:11–12).

The Lamanite prophet Samuel fully understood the relationship between repentance and a joyful resurrection. Boldly standing upon the wall, he taught:

“The resurrection of Christ redeemeth mankind, yea, even all mankind, and bringeth them back into the presence of the Lord.

“Yea, and it bringeth to pass the condition of repentance, that whosoever repenteth the same is not hewn down and cast into the fire; but whosoever repenteth not is hewn down and cast into the fire” (Helaman 14:17–18).

As we learn the promises regarding resurrection and exaltation, our belief in the Savior and our desire to repent and return to Him grow deeper and stronger.

### Engraved upon Our Hearts

After the Savior told Martha that He is the Resurrection and the Life, He asked her, “Believeth thou this?” Martha’s response showed great faith: “Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world” (John 11:26–27).

We may also ask ourselves: Do I believe Jesus’ words about immortality and eternal life? Do I believe in a happy reunion with my loved ones who have passed away? To the extent that we allow these truths to permeate our lives, we will also respond with great faith and a fortified testimony that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

His teachings regarding His own and our death and Resurrection should be engraved upon our hearts. On a certain occasion when His disciples wondered at the mighty power of God found in Him, the Savior said, “Let

these sayings sink down into your [hearts]: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44; see also Joseph Smith Translation, Luke 9:44).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “God has revealed His Son from the heavens and the doctrine of the resurrection also; and we have a knowledge that those we bury here God will bring up again, clothed upon and quickened by the Spirit of the great God. . . . Let these truths sink down in our hearts, that we may even here begin to enjoy that which shall be in full hereafter.”<sup>3</sup>

A search of the teachings of our Savior about death and resurrection strengthens our hope in immortality and eternal life. This hope can fill our very hearts with the joy Martha and Mary must have experienced. For the promise of the Savior is: “Thy [loved ones] shall rise again” (John 11:23). ■

### NOTES

1. *History of the Church*, 5:361–62.
2. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), 361.
3. *Teachings*, 296.

**B**ecause of the Savior, we can look forward to a reunion with those who have passed away. We will see them, embrace them, and express to them our love.



# King of Kings

BY LISA ANN JACKSON

*I stood at the tombs of kings and queens, but an empty tomb is what I reflected on.*

**W**estminster Abbey is an elegant stone cathedral situated in London not far from the banks of the River Thames. It has been a religious and cultural center for more than 900 years. All but two British monarchs since 1066 A.D. were crowned there, many were married there, and many are buried there.

When I finished serving a mission in England, I visited this celebrated place. I wandered through the main

worship hall and down side corridors. As I strolled and marveled at the building's immensity and beauty, I happened upon several burial vaults. I looked at the names and was surprised by their familiarity: Queen Elizabeth I, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Dickens. There were others—famous statesmen, lauded thinkers, and British royalty. Their names resounded from my history textbooks.

I was particularly taken by the graves of the kings and queens. They ruled the British Empire; they had earthly power few can fathom; they were among the most influential people on earth during their time.



But I couldn't help wondering where their power was now. They have returned to dust. "If you slid aside the stones on top of their tombs," I thought, "you would find their mortal remains." And I wondered, "What influence do these kings and queens have today?"

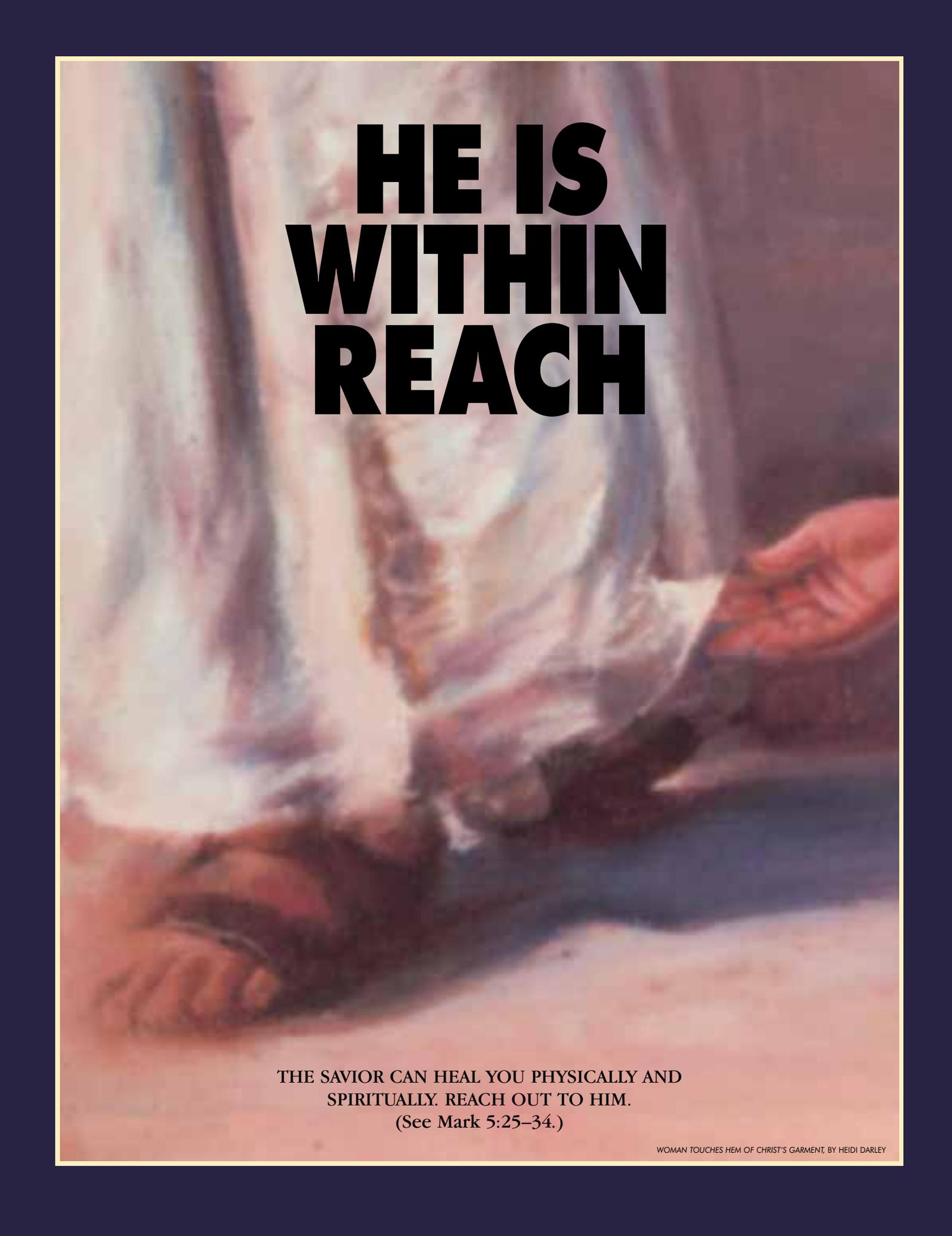
Then I thought of the King of kings. His tomb is empty. There were no mortal remains when the stone was rolled away. He is risen in immortality, and He lives.

"Where is *His* influence today?" I thought as I reflected on my last 18 months teaching the people of northern England—not about Queen Elizabeth, not

about Charles Dickens, but about Jesus Christ. I thought about the building I was standing in, which, even without the fulness of the gospel, was built to proclaim the Savior's teachings. I thought of my own feelings for Him.

At that moment I understood the Resurrection in a way I had not before. His tomb is indeed empty. He is indeed risen. He does indeed live. And His influence continues to change hearts, minds, and lives in a profound and everlasting way. ■

*Lisa Ann Jackson is a member of the Church magazines staff.*

The background of the entire page is a painting by Heidi Darley titled 'Woman Touches Hem of Christ's Garment'. It depicts a woman in a blue and white robe reaching out to touch the hem of a white garment, which is identified as Jesus' in the text. The scene is set in a simple, outdoor environment with a light-colored ground and a dark, shadowed area in the background. The overall tone is somber and reverent.

# HE IS WITHIN REACH

THE SAVIOR CAN HEAL YOU PHYSICALLY AND  
SPIRITUALLY. REACH OUT TO HIM.  
(See Mark 5:25–34.)

## Prepare for Temple Worship

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

**D&C 109:13, 15:** At the Kirtland Temple dedication, the Prophet Joseph Smith petitioned “that all people who shall enter upon the threshold of the Lord’s house may . . . receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost, and be organized according to thy laws, and be prepared to obtain every needful thing.”

**President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “These unique and wonderful buildings, and the ordinances administered therein, represent the ultimate in our worship. These ordinances become the most profound expressions of our theology. I urge our people everywhere . . . to live worthy to hold a temple recommend, to secure one and regard it as a precious asset, and to make a greater effort to go to the house of the Lord and partake of the spirit and the blessings to be had therein” (“Of Missions, Temples, and Stewardship,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 53).

**President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** “The ordinances and ceremonies of the temple are simple. They are beautiful. They are sacred. They are kept confidential lest they be given to those who are unprepared. Curiosity is not a preparation. Deep interest itself is not a preparation. Preparation for the ordinances includes preliminary steps: faith, repentance, baptism, confirmation, worthiness, a maturity and dignity worthy of one who comes invited as a guest into the house of the Lord” (“The Holy Temple,” *Tambuli*, June 1992, 17).

**Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** “There are two concepts we especially need to keep in mind as we prepare

for the temple. The first is *covenant*. We need to remember that a covenant is a promise. A covenant made with God should be regarded not as restrictive but as protective. Covenants with Him protect us from danger. . . .

“The second concept to stress in our mental preparation is *Atonement*. The Atonement of Jesus Christ is the central act of all human history. It is the core of the plan of salvation. Without the infinite Atonement, all mankind would be irretrievably lost. Temple ordinances and covenants teach of the redeeming power of the Atonement” (“Prepare for Blessings of the Temple,” *Ensign*, Mar. 2002, 21–22).

**Kathleen H. Hughes, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency:** “Because the temple is a house of peace, a house of revelation, a house of prayer, we should prepare ourselves to partake of the spirit and gifts that reside there for us as daughters of our Heavenly Father. Preparing to experience the blessings of the temple requires that we go humbly, prayerfully, and thoughtfully, that we willingly put aside the world and its worries. It requires that while in the temple we are attentive and we actively and thoughtfully listen and participate in ordinances we receive for ourselves and for others.”

- *What blessings have you received from temple worship?*
- *How can you partake of temple blessings if you live far from a temple?* ■



# New Testament Times at a Glance

## THE SAVIOR'S FINAL WEEK

Spring A.D. 34 Sixth day before Passover Fifth day before Passover

<b>EVENTS</b>			4	5	6	7	8	10
<b>TRAVELS</b>	1	3						
<b>SERMONS</b>								9
<b>MIRACLES</b>	2							
<b>PARABLES</b>								
<b>BOOK OF MORMON</b>	80							

Dates are approximate.

\*According to Jewish custom, days begin at sundown.

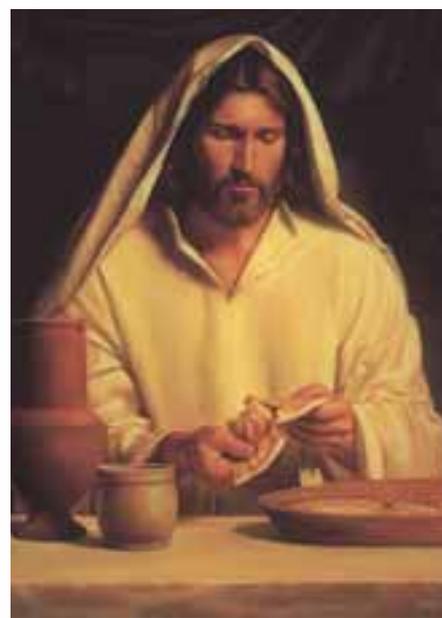
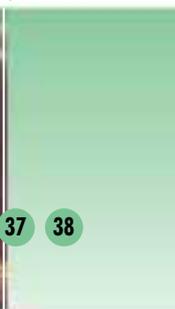
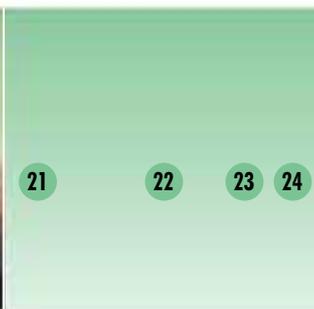
- John 11:7** Jesus returned to the Jerusalem area for the final time.
- John 11:1-53** Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
- John 11:54** Jesus went to the city of Ephraim.
- John 12:1-8** In Bethany, Mary anointed Jesus' feet.
- John 12:9-11** Chief priests conspired to kill Jesus and Lazarus.
- Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 21:1-6** As instructed, two disciples brought a colt to Jesus.
- Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 21:7-11** Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a colt. Multitudes received Him as a king.
- Luke 19:41-44** Jesus wept over Jerusalem.
- John 12:20-50** At the temple Jesus taught some Greek Jews about His Father.
- Matthew 21:12-16** Jesus cast money changers out of the temple a second time.
- Matthew 21:17** Jesus returned to Bethany.
- Matthew 21:18-22** On His way back to Jerusalem, Jesus cursed the barren fig tree.
- Matthew 21:23-46** Chief priests challenged Jesus' authority. He rebuked them.
- Matthew 21:28-22:14** Parables of the two sons, the wicked husbandmen, and the marriage of the king's son.
- Matthew 22:15-46** Enemies tried to trap Jesus in His words. He answered their questions about Roman taxes, marriage and the Resurrection, and the great commandment.
- Mark 12:41-44** At the temple treasury Jesus noticed a widow donating a mite.
- Matthew 23:1-36** Jesus warned the multitude about hypocrisy.
- Matthew 23:37-39** Jesus again lamented over Jerusalem.
- Matthew 24-25; Joseph Smith—Matthew 1** At the Mount of Olives Jesus taught His disciples about the destruction of Jerusalem and the signs of His Second Coming.

Fourth day before Passover

Third day Second day before Passover

6:00 P.M.\* First day of unleavened bread 9:00 P.M.

Midnight



- 20. **Matthew 25** Parables of the ten virgins, the talents, and the sheep and the goats.
- 21. **Matthew 26:1–2** Jesus told His disciples He would be crucified in two days.
- 22. **Matthew 26:3–5** Chief priests again conspired to kill Jesus.
- 23. **Matthew 26:6–13** Jesus visited the house of Simon the leper. A woman anointed Jesus in preparation for His death.
- 24. **Luke 22:3–6** Judas Iscariot arranged to betray Jesus to the chief priests.
- 25. **Luke 22:7–13** The disciples prepared an upper room for the Passover meal.
- 26. **Luke 22:14–38** After sundown Jesus had His Last Supper with His Twelve Apostles.
- 27. **John 13:18–30** Jesus announced that one of His disciples would betray Him. Judas left the room.
- 28. **Mark 14:22–25** Jesus instituted the sacrament.
- 29. **John 13:2–17** Jesus washed the feet of the Apostles.

- 30. **John 13:31–35** Jesus taught His disciples and commanded them to love one another as He loved them.
- 31. **Mark 14:27–31** Jesus' disciples pledged their loyalty to Him.
- 32. **John 14** Jesus testified of His divinity and taught of the Comforters.
- 33. **Luke 22:39** Jesus and the disciples left for the Mount of Olives.
- 34. **John 15–16** Jesus taught His disciples of the true vine, love, opposition, and His imminent death.
- 35. **John 17** Jesus offered the Intercessory Prayer, praying to the Father for His Apostles and all who believe in Him through them.
- 36. **John 18:1** Jesus and His disciples arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane.
- 37. **Mark 14:32–42; Luke 22:40–46** Jesus took Peter, James, and John into the garden; Jesus prayed; an angel comforted Him; Jesus found the three asleep; He prayed a second time; Jesus bled from every pore; the three still continued to sleep; He prayed a third time; Jesus woke His disciples.
- 38. **Luke 22:47–48; John 18:2–9** Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus with a kiss. His accusers fell to the ground.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DETAIL FROM CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM, BY HARRY ANDERSON, O. FERUSALEM, BY GREG OLSEN, FROM THE VISIONS OF BATH COLLECTION BY WILL POND PRESS, INC., VENICE, FLORIDA; JUDAS BETRAYING JESUS WITH A KISS, BY JAMES J. TISSOT, FOR REMEMBRANCE OF ME, BY WALTER RANIE, COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF CHURCH HISTORY AND ART; THE LAST SUPPER, BY SIMON DEWEY, COURTESY OF ALTUS FINE ART, AMERICAN FORK, UTAH; FIVE OF THEM WERE WISE, BY WALTER RANIE, COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF CHURCH HISTORY AND ART

Midnight

3:00 A.M.

6:00 A.M.

9:00 A.M.

Noon

3:00 P.M.

EVENTS

37 38 39 41



49 51 53 55 56 58

59 60 61 62 63

TRAVELS

42 43

50 52 54 57

SERMONS

48

MIRACLES

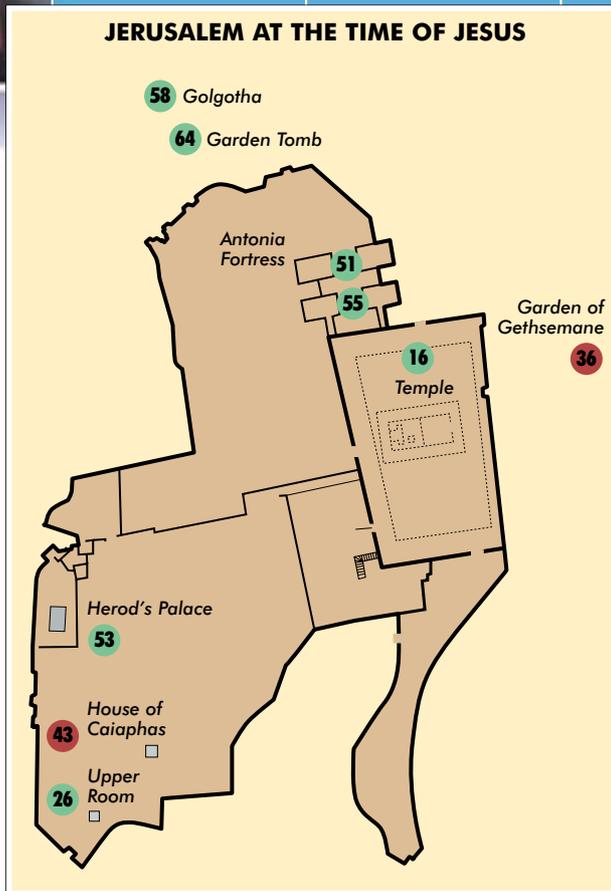
40

PARABLES

BOOK OF MORMON

81

- 39. **John 18:10–11** Peter tried to stop the arrest of Jesus.
- 40. **Luke 22:49–51** Jesus healed the ear of the high priest's servant.
- 41. **Mark 14:46, 48–52** Jesus was arrested; the disciples fled.
- 42. **John 18:13** Jesus was first taken to the palace of Annas.
- 43. **John 18:24** Jesus was sent to Caiaphas.
- 44. **John 18:14–23** Caiaphas questioned Jesus; an officer struck Jesus in the face.
- 45. **Matthew 26:59–68** Members of the ruling council questioned, mocked, spat upon, and beat Jesus.
- 46. **Luke 22:56–62** Three times Peter denied knowing Jesus.
- 47. **Luke 22:66–67** At sunrise Jesus was questioned by the whole ruling council.
- 48. **Matthew 27:1; Luke 22:67–71** Jesus declared that He was the Son of God. He was condemned to death.
- 49. **Matthew 27:3–10** Judas hanged himself.
- 50. **John 18:28** Jesus was led to the Roman hall of judgment.



- 51. **John 18:29–38** Pilate questioned Jesus and found no fault in Him.
- 52. **Luke 23:6–7** Pilate sent Jesus to King Herod Antipas.

59. **Mark 15:29–32** Jesus was mocked as He hung on the cross.

- 53. **Luke 23:8–12** Herod questioned and mocked Jesus.
- 54. **Luke 23:11** Jesus was sent back to Pilate.
- 55. **Luke 23:13–25** Pilate offered to release Jesus, but the people said, "Crucify him." Pilate released Barabbas.
- 56. **John 19:1–16** Jesus was whipped, had a crown of thorns placed on His head, was clothed in a purple robe, and was beaten by Roman soldiers. Pilate sought again to release Jesus, but the people wanted Him crucified.
- 57. **Mark 15:20–22** Jesus was led to Golgotha.
- 58. **Mark 15:23–28; John 19:23–24** Jesus was nailed to the cross. Soldiers cast lots for His clothes.





# God Had His Own Plans for Me

BY ROCHELLE WELTY AND JAN PINBOROUGH

*Little by little, the Lord has helped Annapurna Guru Murala, a young woman in India, fulfill her dreams and His plans for her.*

A girl's journal is often a record of her dreams, and Annapurna Guru's journal held her most cherished desire. "Someday," she wrote, "I will go to the temple."

Annapurna was not a member of the Church when she wrote these words. Raised in Hyderabad, India, she had learned something about Christianity as a child in a Catholic school. Then, in 1992, her older brother met Latter-day Saint missionaries and was baptized. Annapurna was 14 when her brother, Murthy, gave her a copy of the Book of Mormon. "Once I read it," she recalls, "I felt it was true."

Annapurna found in the gospel answers to her most troubling questions, especially her worry about what happens after death. But just as surely as she knew the gospel to be true, she knew something else: Her parents would not allow her to be baptized in a Christian church.

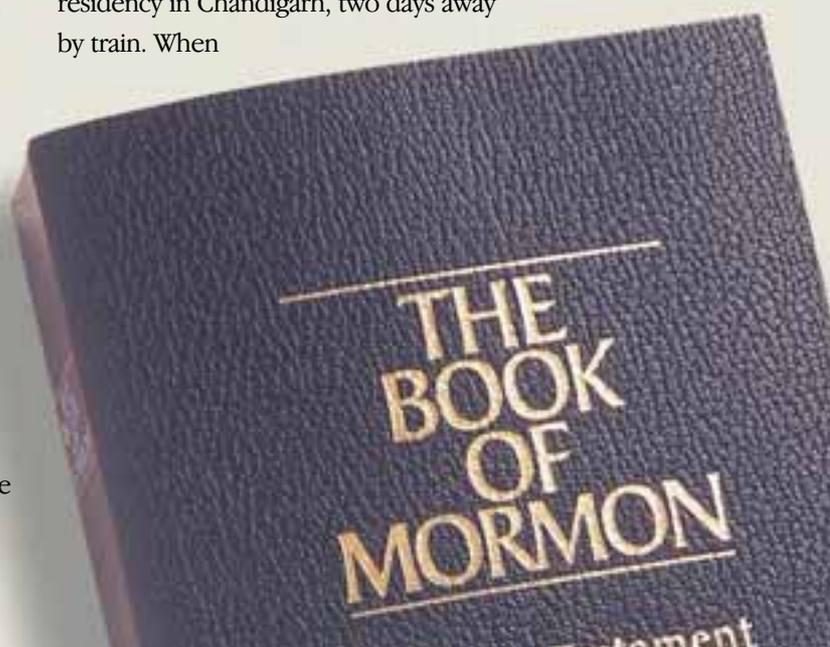
During her remaining teenage years, Annapurna lived her new faith quietly. She read the Book of Mormon and the Bible. She prayed. She learned all she could. And she began to form in her mind a beautiful dream: Someday she

would marry a Latter-day Saint. Someday she would go to the temple. And someday she would give her children the precious gift she lacked: membership in the Lord's Church.

#### **Miracle by Miracle**

By the time Annapurna graduated from college at age 20, her parents had begun planning a traditional arranged marriage for their beloved daughter. But Annapurna never considered her dreams to be unattainable because she felt that they were not hers alone. "I had big dreams," she says, "but actually God had His own plans for me."

When Annapurna was 21, those divine plans started to become reality—miracle by miracle. First, she met Santosh Murala, a faithful Latter-day Saint visiting his family in Hyderabad. A medical student, Santosh was doing a surgical residency in Chandigarh, two days away by train. When





PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE MURALA FAMILY, EXCEPT AS NOTED; BACKGROUND: PHOTOGRAPH BY KELLY LARSEN; MAP BY RANDALL J. PAXTON

they met, Annapurna and Santosh talked for half an hour. After that brief conversation, Santosh called his friend Neil Twitchell, who was then serving as India Bangalore Mission president, and confided, “She’s gold!” Santosh felt quite clearly that this was the woman he had been looking for. Annapurna felt that Santosh—the first Latter-day Saint young man she had ever met—was the man she had been praying to find.

The two exchanged a few letters, confirming their feelings. Several months later they married. Understandably, Annapurna’s family was upset at first, as was Santosh’s. But Annapurna was legally old enough to marry a man of her choosing.

Annapurna viewed this situation through the eyes of faith. “If I had married to please my parents and other people,” she says, “then my children might never have known about

the Church and the whole responsibility for that would have been on my head. This one step has changed life for me and my posterity. For this life my parents may be upset with me, but for eternity they will be happy and proud of me.” In fact, Annapurna’s parents are already more accepting of her marriage. They like Santosh and even get together socially with Santosh’s parents.

**“God Takes Care of You”**

The next part of Annapurna’s dream came true when at last she was baptized. There was no branch in Chandigarh, so the Muralas made the five-hour journey to New Delhi for the baptism. Ironically, now that Annapurna was free to go to church, the nearest branch was far away. “Before I was baptized, the church was very near my house, just on the corner at the end of the road, and I didn’t

**Top: Annapurna, Neil, and Santosh. A second son, Keith Ammon, was born in July 2002. Annapurna dreams of the day her sons and others of their generation will serve missions, go to the temple, and become Church leaders in India.**

have the opportunity to go,” she says. “Now the church was five hours away, so we could go only once a month.” Then Annapurna became pregnant, and the five-hour trip was too taxing for her.



But then came another miracle, in the form of two Latter-day Saint families. “God takes care of you,” explains Santosh. A British couple, Brother and Sister Beer, came to Chandigarh, where Brother Beer worked in highway construction. Sister Beer taught institute classes to the Muralas, and the Beers held family home evening with the Muralas every week. A Korean family, the Moons, also moved to Chandigarh, where Brother Moon worked for a construction company. Every Sunday for two years, this little group of Latter-day Saints met at the Moons’ home for sacrament meeting. Shortly after Santosh finished his residency in Chandigarh, the Beers and the Moons moved away too.

In New Delhi, where Santosh is receiving specialized

***Annapurna’s cherished dream was finally fulfilled when she and Santosh and Neil were sealed in the Hong Kong China Temple in June 2001.***



training in heart surgery, there are two branches of the Church. Now Annapurna’s knowledge about the Church is catching up with her knowledge of the gospel. She has learned how to sing hymns and conduct meetings.

### **Dreams for the Next Generation**

On 19 June 2001—Annapurna’s 24th birthday—her girlhood dream of temple marriage came true. The Muralas traveled to the Hong Kong China Temple when their first baby, Neil, was not quite two. During the five full days they spent serving in the temple, the most sacred and wonderful moment came when they were sealed to each other and to their son.

Today the Muralas’ lives are full to overflowing. Annapurna serves as Primary president and Santosh as president of the New Delhi First Branch. Santosh also spends about 100 hours a week at the hospital, working 18- and 36-hour shifts. In order to have Sundays free for Church responsibilities, he works on holidays. So Annapurna spends most of her time caring for their two young children and supporting her husband in his heavy responsibilities.

And she continues to dream. She dreams of sharing the gospel with her parents. She dreams of the day when her own and others’ children—the first generation of children in India to have Primary, seminary, and Young Men and Young Women—will be strong leaders of the Church. She dreams of the time when her children will serve missions. She dreams of the time when they too will go to the

temple. And she even dares to dream that that temple might be in India. ■

*Rochelle Welty and her husband, Roy, served in the India Bangalore Mission. Jan Pinborough is a member of the East Mill Creek Fourth Ward, Salt Lake East Mill Creek Stake.*

# MANAGING TIME AND STAYING BALANCED



**M**anaging our time and finding balance in our lives can be difficult. But it is possible. The Lord has told us, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (3 Nephi 13:33). Things will usually fall into place if we prioritize correctly. Here are some ideas on how to stay balanced:

*✍* Put the Lord first in your life. Always make time to pray and read the scriptures daily.

*✍* Get organized. Make a “to-do” list or a schedule.

*✍* Prioritize. Decide which things are most important and do those first.

*✍* Write important events on a calendar and refer to it frequently.

*✍* Keep the Sabbath day holy. You might not think there are enough hours in the day to do all you need to do, but remember Sunday is the Lord’s day, and He will bless you if you are obedient.

*✍* “Do not run faster or labor more than you have strength and means . . . ; but be diligent unto the end” (D&C 10:4). Make the best use of the time you have, and consider eliminating less important activities.

*✍* Ask for help. Turn to your family, friends, or teachers if your load becomes unbearable and you don’t know what to do.

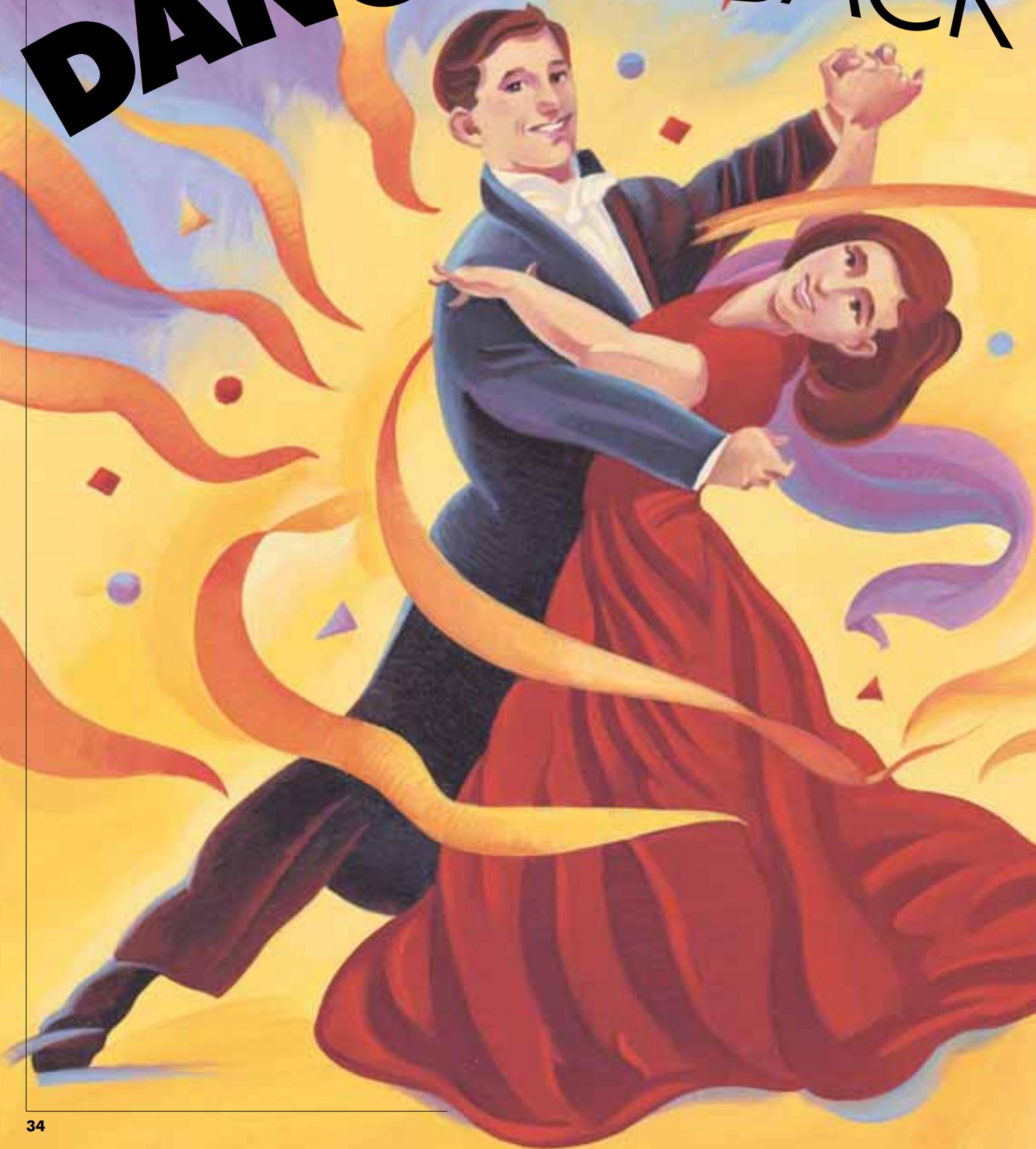
*✍* Pray for help. Heavenly Father knows the pressures you are under, and He can help ease your burdens.

*✍* Listen to the Spirit. You might feel prompted to do something you hadn’t planned on doing.

*✍* In all your scheduling, don’t book every minute of your day. Leave time for family, for service, and just to relax and be yourself. ■



# DANCING BACK



# TO CHURCH

*I loved to dance. That brought an invitation to a stake youth dance. Little did I know that each step was taking me back to activity and service in the Church.*

**BY ELDER NED B. ROUECHÉ**  
Of the Seventy

**W**hen I was in my late teens, I received a telephone call that would change my life—my eternal life.

A good sister from my ward called to invite me to perform a dance number at a Mutual activity evening that was being held in a couple of weeks. Dancing was a hobby of mine, and I was studying ballroom dancing at a studio in Salt Lake City. I had never been to a Church dance before, and I was excited to accept the invitation to perform.

My partner and I arrived on the appointed evening and were greeted enthusiastically. I was surprised to find that we were the only ones on the program. It was an exciting experience, and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

The following Sunday morning, I decided to go to church in our ward for the first time



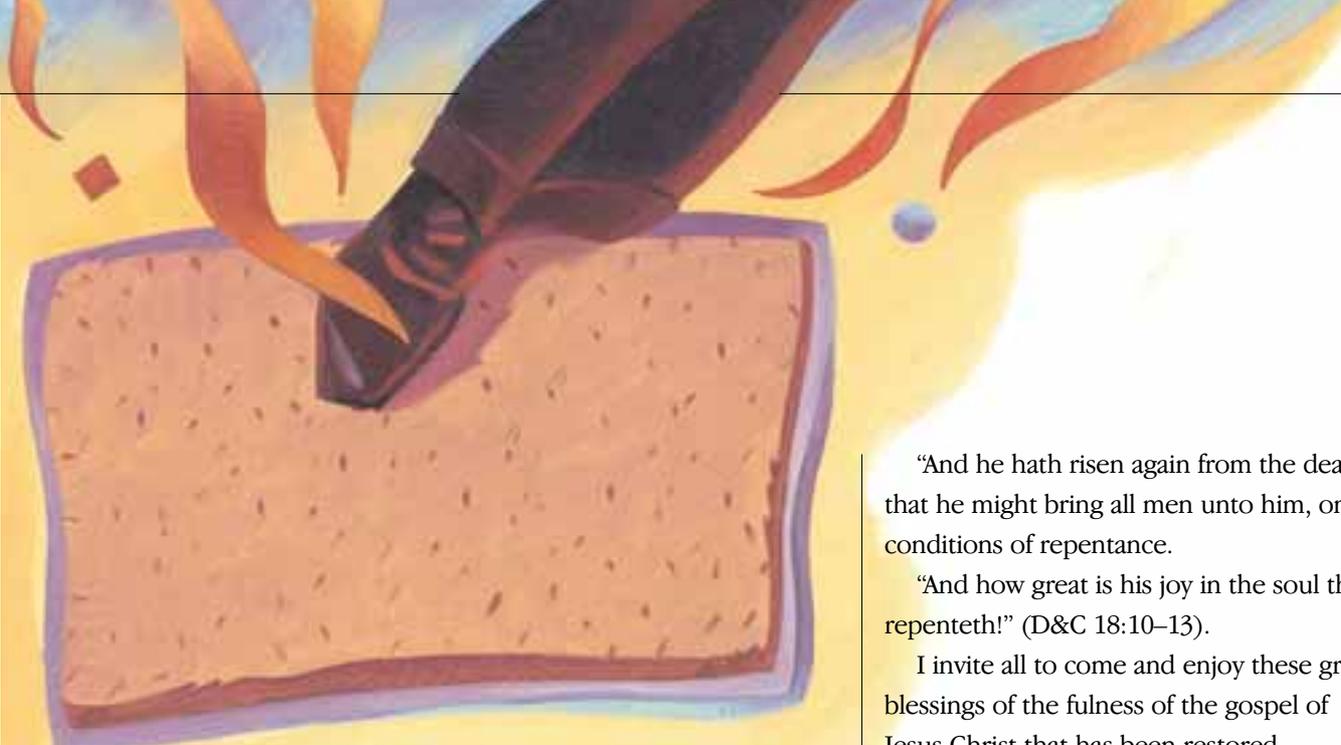
*I was asked to help teach dancing in the ward, which gave me a feeling of being needed, and it also gave me a responsibility.*

since I was ordained a deacon. At that time, none of my family was active. I found people who welcomed me warmly, and they demonstrated a genuine friendship and caring. These experiences started me on the road to activity and service in the Church that has been a joy to me throughout the years.

#### **Coming Back**

A group of brethren took me under their wing, and we became good friends. A wonderful returned missionary taught me the basics of the gospel and helped prepare me to serve a mission. During this same time I was asked to help teach dancing in the ward, which gave me a feeling of being needed, and it also gave me a responsibility.

The next 15 months flew by, filled with growth and happiness as I progressed. I soon received a call to serve a mission in Mexico. I quickly grew to love the language, the country, and its people. Sharing the



**L**ook around for those who are less active and those of other faiths. Become friends, and you will make a difference in their lives that will bless them for generations to come.

message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ gave me a foundation upon which to build the rest of my life.

#### **An Invitation**

I know what it means to have a friend, a responsibility, and to be nurtured by the good word of God. There are many who do not understand what is missing in their lives and hunger for those tender feelings that come from knowing the love of our Savior. They are good people who lie dormant, as it were, awaiting the awakening of their souls by those who bring the “good news.” There are others who watch us, observe our examples, and say, “I like what I see; how can I become a part of it?”

I invite you to look around you at the less active and those of other faiths. Seek them out. Extend a warm hand of friendship. Invite them to participate with you. Become their friend, and you will make a difference and bless their lives for generations to come.

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God;

“For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him.

“And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance.

“And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth!” (D&C 18:10–13).

I invite all to come and enjoy these great blessings of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ that has been restored.

Let us cast aside the traditions of men, all the things that clutter our lives and lead us carefully away from what Moroni called “the right way” (Moroni 6:4), and lift our hearts to Him who has ransomed us, even Jesus Christ our Savior, and follow Him.

Listen to the feelings of your heart and follow its prompting. You will be taught from on high and receive answers to your prayers.

Let us go forth with greater enthusiasm and bring souls unto Him, that they may be fed, nurtured by His good word, and know His tender love.

That evening so long ago when I was invited to share my talent, the door opened to a wonderful new world of friends and activity in the Church. I am grateful for those who reached out with a warm hand of fellowship, invited me in, nurtured me, and blessed my life.

After all, this is the Church of Jesus Christ, and no other joy can equal what we may enjoy as we kindle our spirits with His sweet message of love. May we all be blessed, both the giver and the receiver, as we share this precious message. ■

*Adapted from an April 1999 general conference address.*

# THE WOUNDS THAT HEAL MY OWN



BY ELVIN MENCÍA

*Bicycle riding left me with one wound. Sin and neglect left me with wounds of another kind—a kind that can be healed through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.*

**W**hen I was a teenager, a friend and I often compared scars. We were both very active young people, so we had quite a few wounds that had healed into scars. We had one in particular that was the same size and shape and in exactly the same place. Our matching scars were located on our left knees, and we had both acquired them while riding our bicycles.

One cool evening in July, this friend came to my home in Honduras accompanied by her sister and two young men who were representatives of The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints. The missionaries taught the gospel to my family and me, and we were baptized four weeks later.

After I found the gospel, I came to realize that all of us have spiritual wounds. They are caused, as our physical ones are, by neglect or as a result of violating safety standards—in this case, the commandments of God. They are wounds no cream or surgery can make better. Only the Atonement of our Savior Jesus Christ can heal us. Only our repentance and faith in Him can lessen our pain. He is the only physician who can give us peace.

Now when I look at my scars, I am reminded of other wounds—the wounds in the hands and feet and side of the Master. His wounds are the ones that can heal my own. ■

*Elvin Mencía is a full-time missionary in the Nicaragua Managua Mission.*



BY PRESIDENT  
DAVID O. MCKAY  
(1873–1970)

**I wish I could say to every young man [and young woman] in this Church, that if you would be successful, if you would be happy, if you would conserve your strength, intellectual, physical, and spiritual, you will resist temptation to indulge your appetites and your passions.”**

**President David O. McKay, in Conference Report, Apr. 1945, 123.**

# DANDY

*That horse was very clever—sometimes too clever for his own good.*

I had great pleasure in training a well-bred colt. He had a good disposition, a clean, well-rounded eye, was well proportioned, and all in all, a choice animal. Under the saddle he was as willing, responsive, and cooperative as a horse could be. He and my dog Scotty were real companions. I liked the way he would go up to something of which he was afraid. He had confidence that if he would do as I bade him, he would not be injured.

But my horse Dandy resented restraint. He was ill contented when tied and would nibble at the tie rope until he was free. He would not run away; he just wanted to be free. Thinking other horses felt the same, he would proceed to untie their ropes. He hated to be confined in the pasture, and if he could find a place in the fence where there was only smooth wire, he would paw the wire carefully with his feet until he could step over to freedom. More than once my neighbors were kind enough to put him back in the field. He learned even to push open the gate. Though he often did damage that was provoking and sometimes expensive, I admired his intelligence and ingenuity.

But his curiosity and desire to explore the

neighborhood led him and me into trouble. Once on the highway he was hit by an automobile, resulting in a demolished machine, injury to the horse, and slight, though not serious, injury to the driver.

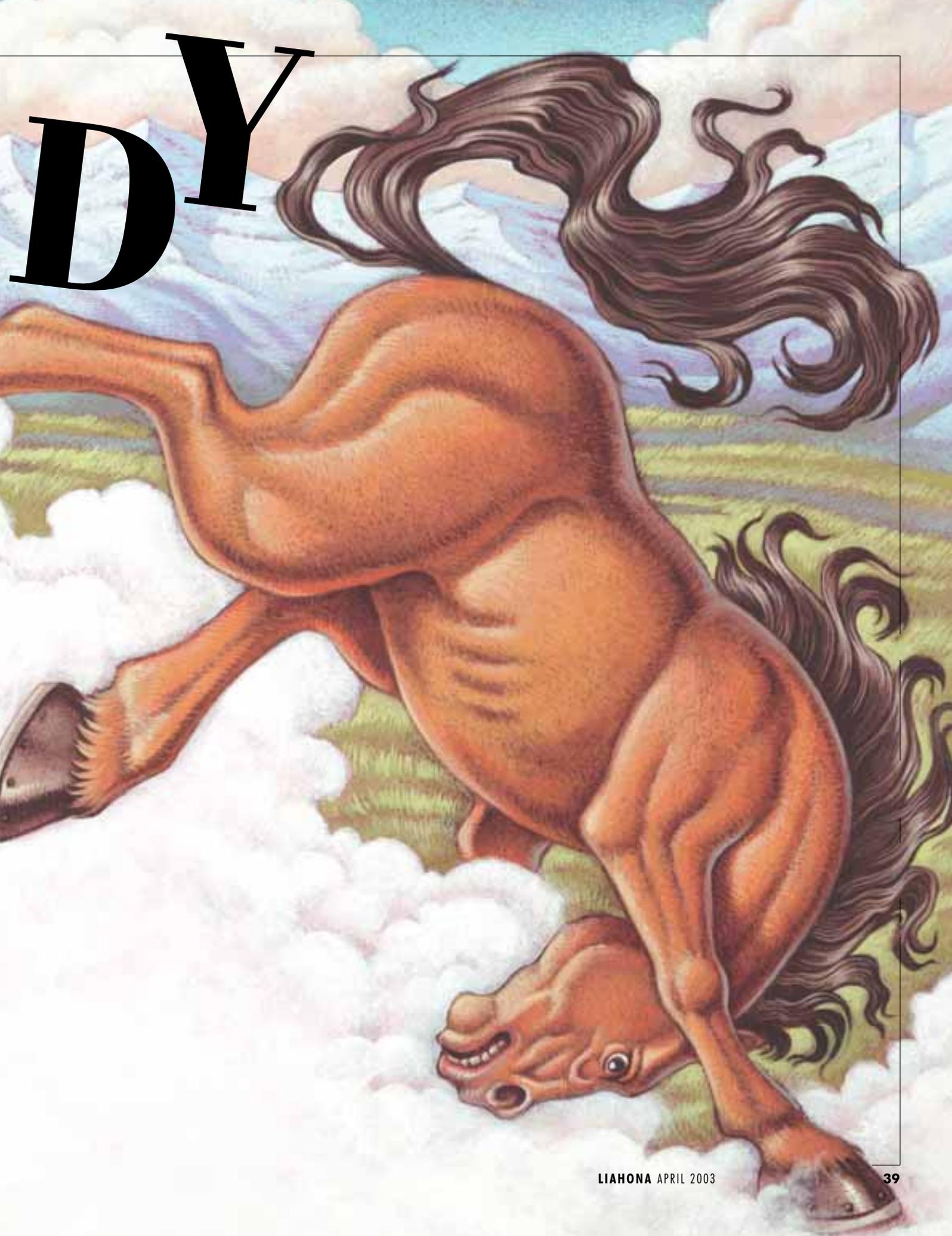
Recovering from that, and still impelled with a feeling of wanderlust, he inspected the fence throughout the entire boundary. He found even the gates wired. So for a while we thought we had Dandy secure in the pasture.

One day, however, somebody left the gate unwired. Detecting this, Dandy unlatched it, took another horse with him, and together they visited the neighbor's field. They went to an old house used for storage. Dandy's curiosity prompted him to push open the door. There was a sack of grain. What a find! Yes, and what a tragedy! The grain was poison bait for rodents! In a few minutes Dandy and the other horse were in spasmodic pain, and shortly both were dead.

How like Dandy are many of you young people! You are not bad; you do not even intend to do wrong; but you are impulsive, full of life, full of curiosity, and long to do something. You too are restless under restraint, but if left to wander without direction, you all too frequently find yourselves in the environment of temptation and too often are entangled in the snares of evil. ■

*Adapted from an October 1968 general conference address.*

# DY



## *Does My Life Have a Purpose?*

By Michael Renker

I had often asked myself whether my life had a purpose, but now this question was very serious to me. Although I was only 22, my legs had suddenly become extremely weak. "Perhaps they have just grown tired from dancing in the local discos," I thought.

"Maybe they have gone on strike."

I went to a doctor, who thought I had a muscle disease and immediately sent me to a clinic. Thus began a period of going from clinic to clinic throughout my native Germany. I underwent many tests, but none of them showed any problem. Still I was in severe pain and had no strength. It was almost unbearable. Because the tests were all negative, everyone thought I must be pretending. I felt alone and could find no purpose in life, although I longed for one.

**M**y new friend gave me a *Book of Mormon*, and I began reading it. Soon I could not stop thinking about the Church.



About this time I was sent to a clinic in Koblenz, Germany. When I arrived I met a young woman about my age who seemed different from the other patients. She seemed to have a positive attitude about her life, even though she was seriously ill. I saw her in the hall one Sunday. She was wearing a Sunday dress, and I asked her why she was so dressed up. She answered, "I was at church."

I had not had any interest in religion for a long time. Although I had been raised in a Protestant faith, I felt religion was a lot of empty talk. I knew there was a God, but I didn't think much of organized religion here on earth.

"Church?" I said, swallowing hard. Then I asked her which church she belonged to.

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," she answered. I blanched. "What was that? A strange sect?" I wondered. I asked her many questions about her church. Even though she had been through a great deal, she did not doubt. She prayed to and trusted in her Heavenly Father. That fascinated and frightened me at the same time.

My new friend gave me a Book of Mormon, and I began reading it. The missionaries in Koblenz soon taught me the first discussion. Then because of an illness I contracted, I was transferred to a different clinic. My friend visited me often. I had the Book of Mormon with me, and I continued to read. I had learned a great deal about

life, and for the first time I had found a true friend.

On a leave from the clinic, I visited my friend and her family in Solingen. They were the dearest people I had ever met, and on Sunday I attended church with them. When I returned to the clinic, I could not stop thinking about the Church. I had known there was something true about the Book of Mormon, but now everything became much clearer. One thought was on my mind: "Should I join the Church?"

When I was finally released from the clinic, I returned to my home in Fulda. Then I received another invitation to visit my new friends in Solingen and was welcomed even more heartily than before. I learned more about the gospel and decided to be baptized. When I returned home I found the missionaries in my area, and they taught me the remaining discussions in Fulda. I had finally found my purpose in life, and I was baptized.

I thank my Heavenly Father with all my heart for helping me find His gospel and Church. My legs are back to normal now. The doctors never found out what caused the pain, but if I had not become sick, I would still be searching for purpose in my life. What a loving Father! He doesn't give up on anyone.

I used to wonder what I was supposed to learn from my illness. Now I know. ■

*Michael Renker is a member of the Cedar Pass Sixth Ward, Eagle Mountain Utah Stake.*

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## *With Fasting and Prayer*

By Ruth Rodríguez Sotelo

**W**hen my son Elard Manuel was baptized in 1990, he had a job in a grocery store where working Sundays and holidays was mandatory. The economic situation in Peru is quite difficult. There are few jobs, and many people are out of work. It seemed virtually impossible for my son to change his employment.

"I'm going to pay my tithing," he said. "I have faith in the Lord, and somehow I'm going to get a job with Sundays off."

When my son married a young woman who belonged to another religion, our family hoped that someday she would become a Latter-day Saint. To my surprise, as I was getting ready for church one Sunday, she said to me, "I will go to your church with you."

The missionaries started teaching her the discussions, and in 1997 she was baptized. On 10 September 1998 my son and his wife, Katya, were sealed in the temple for time and all eternity, and on 12 October 1998 their beautiful baby boy was born.

During these years my son continued to try to find a job that wouldn't require him to work on Sunday. Our whole family prayed and fasted and asked the Lord to help him find a new job so that he could hold a Church calling.

Finally my son decided to work for one more month and then quit his job—whether he had a new one or not. We were quite worried because people everywhere were losing their jobs. But my son said, “I have faith in the Lord, and I know He is going to help me find a job with Sundays off.”

The grocery store he worked for has a huge warehouse where all the merchandise is brought before being distributed to the stores. It is quite far away, but the employees there have Sundays off. To our joy and surprise, my son was able to transfer to that warehouse. Our Heavenly Father had heard our prayers. And my son did receive a Church calling—as a counselor in the bishopric.

When we asked the Lord with faithful hearts and with fasting and prayer, He answered us with blessings. ■

*Ruth Rodríguez Sotelo is a member of the Zamácola Ward, Arequipa Perú Zamácola Stake.*

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## Lynette's Testimony

By Leah Poole Wright

It was a beautiful day for a walk in California's San Bernardino Mountains. Our seven children found walking sticks, and my husband, Mark, took the lead. We stopped to marvel at a spider meticulously spinning its web. We looked at the tall pine trees, stretching their

branches to heaven. It seemed the birds were singing just for us.

At last we reached the perfect spot for a testimony meeting. We all sat on some old tree stumps forming a circle. Mark started by expressing his love for me and our children and by bearing his testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel and the blessings of our temple marriage.

After I bore my testimony, each of the children, starting with the oldest, expressed love for us and for each other.

Finally it was time to hear from four-year-old Lynette, who had sat patiently for almost an hour with her thumb in her mouth. I asked, “Lynette, what are you thankful for?”

She looked up at me with her clear blue eyes and confidently answered, “I'm thankful for Jesus, because He loves me.”

We were all taken aback. For an hour we had expressed our love and appreciation for all we had, but we had failed to acknowledge that it is through the love and sacrifice of our Savior that we receive our blessings. Little Lynette, with the directness and innocence of a child, had cut through to the core of our beliefs.

Later I thought of the Savior gathering the little children about Him and saying, “Behold your little ones” (3 Nephi 17:23). How well our little one taught us that day! ■

*Leah Poole Wright is a member of the Hyrum 11th Ward, Hyrum Utah Stake.*

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## Linked by Suffering

By Adam C. Olson

For many years, my mother has courageously struggled with health problems, the most difficult of which are recurring migraine headaches. While her pain has occasioned beautiful priesthood blessings and has increased our family unity, it has also required much faith, patience, and long-suffering while we have waited for the promised healing.

My perspective on my mother's health struggles broadened after I returned from serving a mission to Panama. At that time my 17-year-old brother was also battling intense migraine headaches that left him debilitated.

Late one night I heard him crying out in pain. I approached his darkened doorway, only to pull back as I heard my mother's soft voice from within his room. She spoke to him reassuringly, trying to soothe his cries of fear and pain. Standing outside the door, I heard his voice tense with a suffering incomprehensible to me. “Mom,” he asked, “am I going to die?”

I slowly backed away, his question tearing at my heart. But then I heard my mother, who knew exactly what he was experiencing, crying with him and telling him he would be all right.

That moment touched me, but its greater significance struck me some

years later when I was preparing a lesson about the Atonement. Reflecting on the Savior's vicarious suffering, I recalled my mother's compassionate ministrations. My mother was better able to comfort my brother because she had felt what he was feeling; she understood his suffering. Linked to him by the pain they both had felt, she stayed ever near as he passed through his trial.

Likewise, our beloved Savior has descended below all things to an absolute understanding of our trials (see D&C 122:8). Not only has He suffered for our sins, but He also took upon Himself "the pains and the

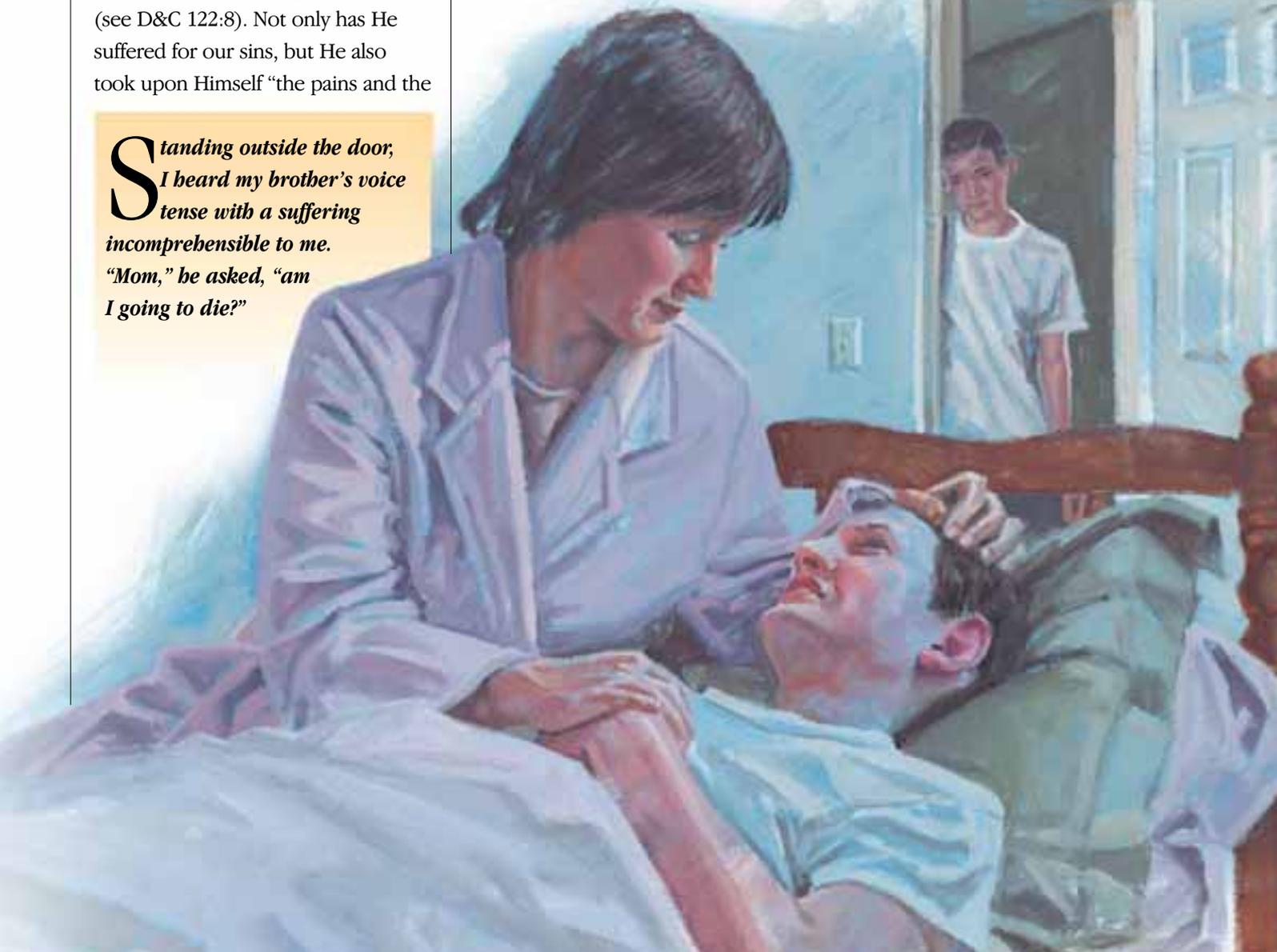
sicknesses of his people" (Alma 7:11). Through His perfect Atonement, He knows every sickness, every affliction, and every trial we pass through. And to what end? "That his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities" (Alma 7:12).

Observing my mother and learning of the Atonement taught me a valuable principle: sorrow and pain can teach us to nurture others in

compassion and love. My mother's example of compassion that night inspired in me a greater appreciation for the suffering our Savior went through. And in my own trials, I feel the unfailing presence of His Spirit comforting me "according to [my] infirmities"—just as my mother comforted my brother. ■

*Adam C. Olson is a member of the Bountiful 45th Ward, Bountiful Utah East Stake.*

**S** *tanding outside the door, I heard my brother's voice tense with a suffering incomprehensible to me. "Mom," he asked, "am I going to die?"*



# Questions & Answers

## *How Can I Tell the Difference between Inspiration and My Own Thoughts?*

*Answers are intended for help and perspective, not as pronouncements of Church doctrine.*

### LIAHONA'S ANSWER

The scene is a familiar one. You kneel by your bed, you pour out your heart to Heavenly Father, you close your

prayer, and then you wait for an answer. Thoughts float around in your mind. Are they inspiration or just your own ideas?

There is no simple answer to this question, because

we're talking about spiritual communication. If learning to receive and correctly understand revelation were easy, mortal life would hardly be a test at all. Growing in our ability to receive revelation is like learning to play a musical instrument. It is a skill we must practice diligently.

Fortunately, the Lord's prophets and apostles have given us guidance.

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that "a person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; (i.e.) those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 151).

President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) gave this counsel: "All of us should try to . . . give heed to the



PHOTOGRAPH BY JED A. CLARK. POSED BY MODEL

sudden ideas that come to us, and if we'll give heed to them and cultivate an ear to hear these promptings we too—each of us—can grow in the spirit of revelation” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee* [2000], 51).

The Lord said: “I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart. Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation” (D&C 8:2–3). In other words, when your mind receives an idea and your heart feels a spiritual confirmation of it, you are receiving personal revelation.

It may help you to remember the Lord’s counsel to the Prophet Joseph: “Put your trust in that Spirit which leadeth to do good—yea, to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously; and this is my Spirit” (D&C 11:12). If something draws you closer to your Heavenly Father, it is likely the inspiration of His Spirit.

The only sure way to recognize revelation is through your own experience. You have to do what you are prompted to do. As you exercise faith and act upon the feelings you receive, you will become acquainted with the Holy Ghost and better able to recognize His voice.

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is live worthy of the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Like a radio, you cannot experience clear reception if some part of your life is out of order. As you become more

pure through keeping the commandments and repenting of sin, your ability to receive and recognize spiritual promptings will increase.

## READERS’ ANSWERS

Our hearts are filled with love when we receive inspiration. Everyone can receive an answer in his or her heart. I know because this is how I have received my answers.



*Srinakorn Supakot, 15,  
Korat Branch,  
Khon Kaen Thailand District*

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled us recently to try our faith by acting on our impressions (see “To Acquire Knowledge and the Strength to Use It Wisely,” *Liabona*, Aug. 2002, 12–19). We will know our impressions are from the Holy Ghost when we receive a confirmation that what we have done is right (see Ether 12:6). I know the impressions I receive are from the Spirit when they consistently return to my mind and I feel confident and peaceful, not confused or doubtful.



*Sister Kristen Kerr, 21,  
Scotland Edinburgh  
Mission*

Each person may have an individual way of discerning spiritual manifestations. We need to be sensitive to discover how the Spirit speaks to us. If



## COMFORT AND SERENITY

**“The teachings of the Spirit often come as feelings. That fact is of the utmost importance, yet some misunderstand what it means. I have met persons who told me they have never had a witness from the Holy Ghost because they have never felt their bosom ‘burn within’ them [see D&C 9:7–8].**

**“What does a ‘burning in the bosom’ mean? Does it need to be a feeling of caloric heat, like the burning produced by combustion? If that is the meaning, I have never had a burning in the bosom. Surely, the word ‘burning’ in this scripture signifies a feeling of comfort and serenity. That is the witness many receive. That is the way revelation works.”**

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Teaching and Learning by the Spirit,” *Liabona*, May 1999, 22.**

we pray and study the gospel and if we have patience and humility and try each day to be pure in heart, certainly we will feel the Spirit.



*Raquel Akemi Inokuti, 15,  
Bairro Alto Ward,  
Curitiba Brazil Tarumã Stake*

If it is inspiration, your bosom will burn within you and you will feel and know it is right. But if it is not, you will have a stupor of thought. Your own thoughts will not give you the same kinds of feelings the Spirit does.



*Jason Starr, 17,  
Gilbert 12th Ward,  
Gilbert Arizona Val Vista Stake*

When we want to feel the guidance of the Holy Ghost, we must come to know Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ better. We must become as pure as we can be. We must fast and pray. Then we will feel peace in our hearts. When our hearts are broken and contrite, we feel a simple, peaceful, soft voice that teaches us what to do.

*Cintia Pamela Frías, 20,  
Sión Ward,  
La Paz Bolivia Miraflores Stake*

I write down thoughts that come to me about things to do, people to talk to, and so on. The Spirit uses our thoughts to guide us. As you follow those ideas, you will come to realize what is from the Spirit and what isn't. You don't learn the language of the

Spirit until you put it into action.



*Sister Nickell Rae  
Christensen, 22,  
Idaho Boise Mission*

The Holy Ghost can direct me if I live according to Heavenly Father's commandments, even if it is hard. If we do our best, our Father will reward us. The Holy Ghost will be with us and will lead us in difficult choices.



*Maria Kleis, 14,  
Silkeborg Branch,  
Aarhus Denmark Stake*

President Harold B. Lee taught, "When your heart begins to tell you things that your mind does not know, then you are getting the Spirit of the Lord" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee*, 37). Inspiration is more of a feeling than a voice.



*Ubong Awak, 23,  
Ikeja Ward,  
Lagos Nigeria Stake*

Not everything we think is right really is. This is why we need to listen to the soft and peaceable whisper that invites us to reflect and ask, "What would Jesus Christ do?" The Holy Ghost leads us to do good things.



*Gexa Paredes Mariduena, 20,  
Rego Park Second  
(Spanish) Branch,  
Queens New York West District*

If you are living a good life and partaking of the sacrament worthily, your thoughts and feelings will echo what the Spirit is telling you. Inspiration is a feeling that fills not only your mind but also your whole being. When you have no doubt about what you should do, that feeling is the Spirit. Doubt is in the unsure mind; the Spirit knows exactly.



*Colby Park, 17,  
Monument Park 14th Ward,  
Salt Lake Monument  
Park Stake*

*Questions and Answers is a youth feature, and we hope to print a wide selection of youth answers from a variety of countries. Please mail your answer to arrive no later than 15 May 2003. Send it to Questions and Answers 05/03, Liabona, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA; or e-mail to [cur-liabona-imag@ldschurch.org](mailto:cur-liabona-imag@ldschurch.org). Your answer may be typed or clearly written in your own language. To be considered, your answer must include your full name, age, home address, and ward and stake (or branch and district). Please include a photograph of yourself; this photograph will not be returned.*

**QUESTION:** *How can I feel peace with so many frightening things happening in the world and even in my own school? ■*

# Did You Know?

## The Sum of Our Thoughts

President George Albert Smith, the eighth President of the Church, was born on 4 April 1870 in Salt Lake City. When he was 13, he attended Brigham Young Academy. He later said:

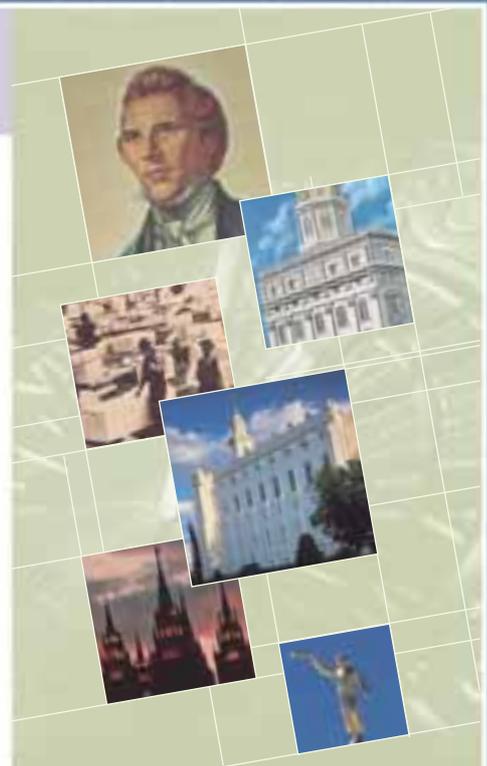
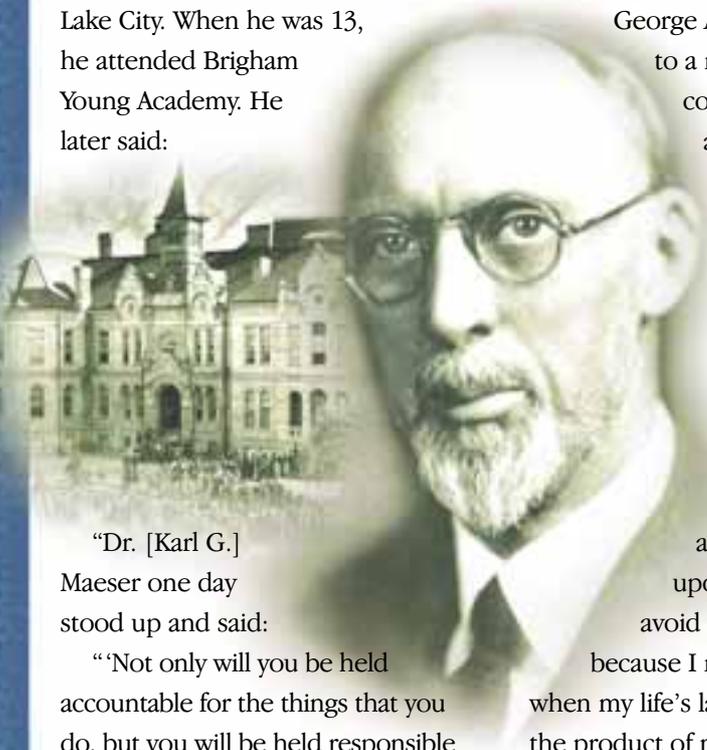
controlling my thoughts very much, it was quite a puzzle to me what I was to do, and it worried me.”

A week or two after this, young George Albert Smith came to a realization: “Why, of course, you will be held accountable for your thoughts because when your life is complete in mortality, it will be the sum of your thoughts. That one suggestion has been a great blessing to me all my life, and it has enabled me upon many occasions to avoid thinking improperly because I realize that I will be, when my life’s labor is complete, the product of my thoughts” (“Pres. Smith’s Leadership Address,” *Church News*, 16 Feb. 1946, 1).

“Dr. [Karl G.] Maeser one day stood up and said:

“Not only will you be held accountable for the things that you do, but you will be held responsible for the very thoughts that you think.”

“Being a boy, not in the habit of



## It Happened on 6 April

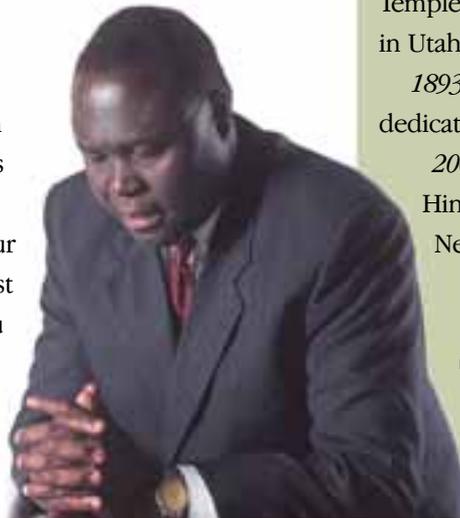
Many important events in Church history have taken place on 6 April. Here are just a few.

- 1830: The Prophet Joseph Smith organized the Church.
- 1841: The cornerstone ceremony was held for the Nauvoo Temple.
- 1853: The cornerstones of the Salt Lake Temple were laid.
- 1877: President Daniel H. Wells, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, dedicated the St. George Temple, the first temple completed in Utah.

- 1893: President Wilford Woodruff dedicated the Salt Lake Temple.
- 2000: President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicated the Palmyra New York Temple. ■

## Leadership Tip

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6). In other words, as you fulfill your calling, seek the companionship of the Holy Ghost so you can know what Heavenly Father wants you to do. He will guide you. And when you receive His guidance, be sure to trust Him and follow what He has prompted you to do.



PHOTOGRAPH OF BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY; PHOTOGRAPH OF GEORGE ALBERT SMITH; DETAIL FROM ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH, APRIL 6, 1830, BY DALE KILBOURN; PAINTING OF NAUVOO ILLINOIS TEMPLE BY JAMES PORTER; PHOTOGRAPH OF SALT LAKE TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION; PHOTOGRAPH OF ST. GEORGE UTAH TEMPLE BY KEN ROSE; PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE; PHOTOGRAPH OF MORONI STATUE ATOP PALMYRA NEW YORK TEMPLE BY MATTHEW REIER; PHOTOGRAPH OF MAN PRAYING BY KELLY LARSEN, POSED BY MODEL

# Using the April 2003 *Liahona*

## Discussion Ideas

• “Dancing Back to Church,” p. 34: Elder Ned B. Roueché tells how a simple invitation to share a talent changed his life—his eternal life. Do you know someone whose life might be changed by something as simple as an invitation to serve, to share a talent, or just to become involved? How can you help that person come back?

• “Dandy,” p. 38: President David O. McKay likens Dandy, a horse whose curiosity and wanderlust led to an untimely and painful death, to youth who are impulsive. Discuss why freedom from restraint is not really freedom at all.

• “A Growing Testimony,” p. F2: President James E. Faust shares what he calls “the crowning knowledge of my soul”—his testimony of Jesus Christ. Ask what a testimony is, and then discuss how we can obtain a witness of the Savior’s divinity. Share your testimony with family or class members.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDUARDO VILLAGOMESA, POSED BY MODEL

## Topics in This Issue

F=*The Friend*

Activation .....	34
Adversity .....	40
Atonement .....	26, 37, F16
Children .....	40
Church history .....	47
Comfort .....	2, 18, F2
Compassion .....	40
Conversion .....	30, 37, 40
Crucifixion .....	26, F10, F13
Death .....	2, 18
Easter .....	2, F8
Faith .....	30, 40
Family home evening .....	48
Family relations .....	18, F2
Fasting .....	40
Fellowshipping .....	34
Holy Ghost .....	44
Home teaching .....	7
Inspiration .....	44
Jerusalem .....	8
Jesus Christ .....	2, 18, 22, 24, 26, 37, 40, F6, F8, F10, F13, F16
Leadership .....	47, 48
Love .....	F2
New Testament .....	18, 26, F10, F13
Prayer .....	40, 44
Preparation .....	1, 25
Primary .....	F6
Priorities .....	33
Repentance .....	24, 37
Resurrection .....	2, 18, 22, 26
Sabbath .....	40
Self-mastery .....	38
Talents .....	34
Teaching .....	48
Temples and temple work .....	25, 30, F4
Testimony .....	40, F2, F6
Tolerance .....	8
Visiting teaching .....	25
Worldwide Church .....	30
Youth .....	38

## Test Your Knowledge

How much do you know about Easter? Are the following statements true or false?

1. Easter is a commemoration of the Savior’s Crucifixion.
2. Latter-day Saints observe Ash Wednesday and Lent, as well as Easter Sunday.
3. All nations celebrate Easter on the same day.

Answers: 1. False; Easter commemorates His Resurrection. 2. False. 3. False; Easter is determined by different calendars in different parts of the world.

# the Friend



# A Growing Testimony

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST  
Second Counselor in the First Presidency



**President James E. Faust shares one of his greatest sources of strength.**

**A**s I look back over my life, I recognize one source of singular strength and blessing. It is my testimony and knowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind. I am profoundly grateful that all of my life I have had a simple faith that Jesus is the Christ. That witness has been confirmed to me hundreds of times. It is the crowning knowledge of my soul. It is the spiritual light of my being. It is the cornerstone of my life.

The first cornerstone of my testimony was laid a long time ago. One of my early recollections was having a frightening nightmare as a small child. I still remember it vividly. I must have screamed in fright during the night. My grandmother woke me up. I was crying, and she took me in her arms, hugged me, and comforted me. She got a bowl of some of my favorite rice pudding that was left over from dinner, and I sat on her lap as she spoon-fed me. She told me that we were safe in our house because Jesus was watching over us. I felt it was true then, and I still believe it now. I was comforted in both body and soul and went peacefully back to bed, assured of the divine reality that Jesus does watch over us.

That first memorable experience led to other strong confirmations that God lives and that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Many of these came in response to earnest prayer. As a child, when I lost things such as my precious pocketknife, I learned that if I prayed hard enough, I could usually find them. I was always able to find the lost cows I was entrusted with. Sometimes I had to pray more than once, but my prayers always seemed to be answered. Sometimes the answer was no, but most often it was positive and confirming. Even when it was no, I came to know that, in the Lord's great wisdom, the answer I received was for my best good. My faith continued to grow as building blocks were added to the cornerstone, line upon line and precept upon precept.

I humbly acknowledge that these many experiences have nurtured a sure knowledge that Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer. I have heard His voice and felt His influence and presence. They have been as a warm, spiritual cloak. The wonder of it is that all who strive to keep the commandments and sustain their leaders can receive this same knowledge in some measure. ●

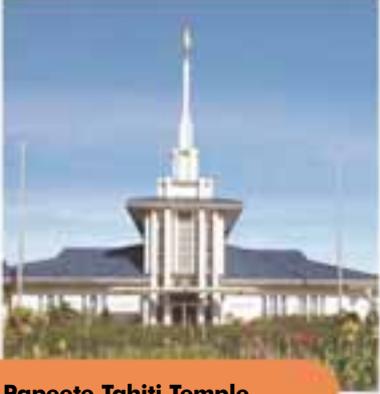
*Adapted from an October 2000 general conference address.*



ILLUSTRATION BY MARILEE B. CAMPBELL

# Temple Cards

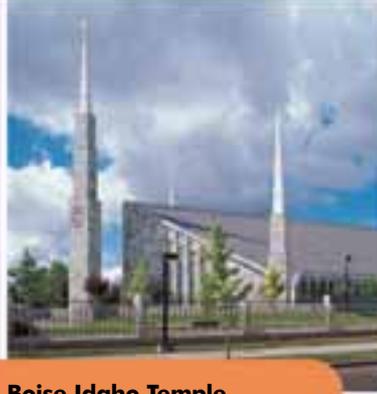
In 2003 each issue of *The Friend* contains Temple Cards. Remove the Temple Cards from the magazine, glue them



PHOTOGRAPH BY FLOYD HOLDMAN

## Papeete Tahiti Temple

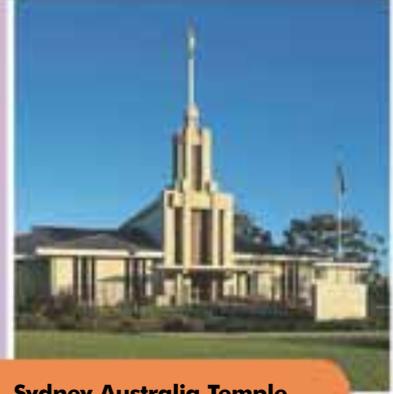
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## Boise Idaho Temple

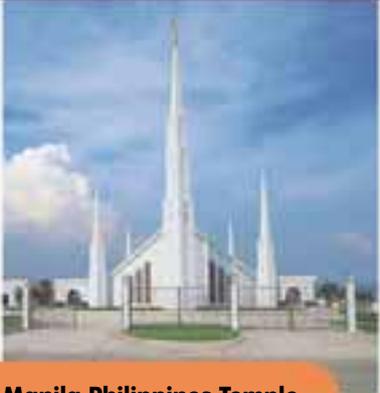
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## Sydney Australia Temple

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## Manila Philippines Temple

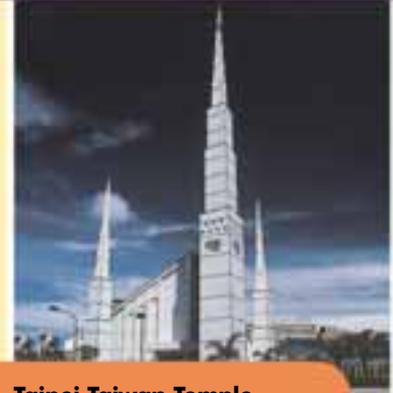
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## Dallas Texas Temple

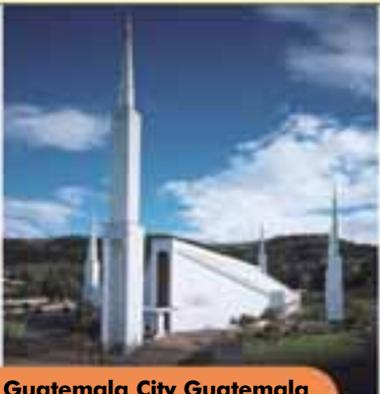
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## Taipei Taiwan Temple

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## Guatemala City Guatemala Temple

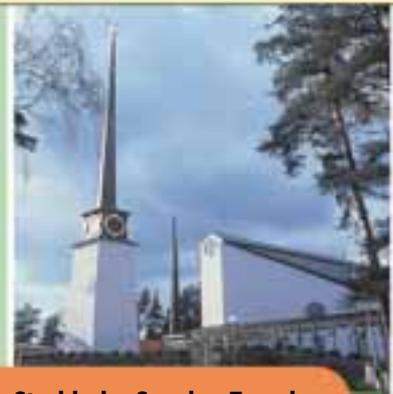
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PHOTOGRAPH BY SAUN D. STAHE

## Freiberg Germany Temple

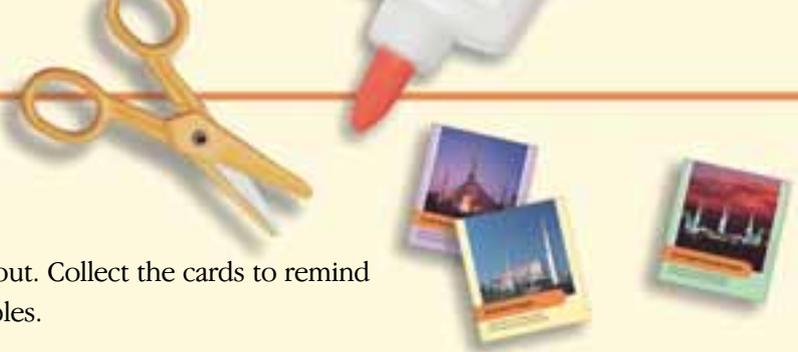
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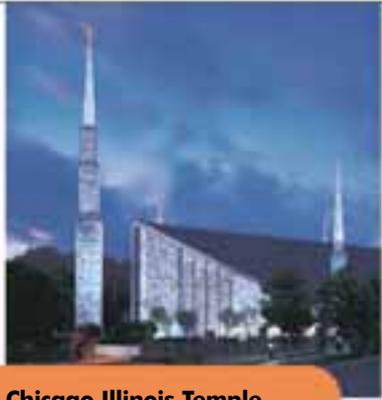
PHOTOGRAPH BY KENTIEDER

## Stockholm Sweden Temple

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by President Gordon B. Hinckley

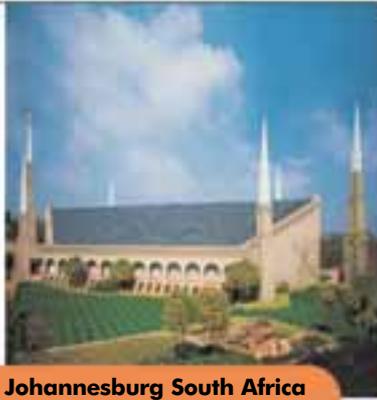


to heavy paper, and cut them out. Collect the cards to remind you of the importance of temples.



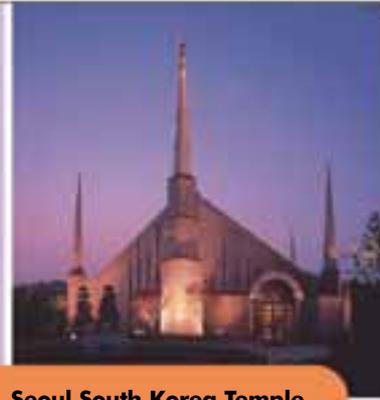
### Chicago Illinois Temple

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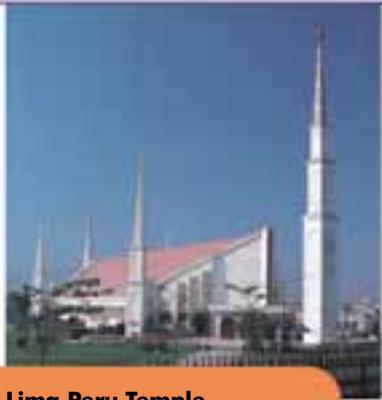
### Johannesburg South Africa Temple

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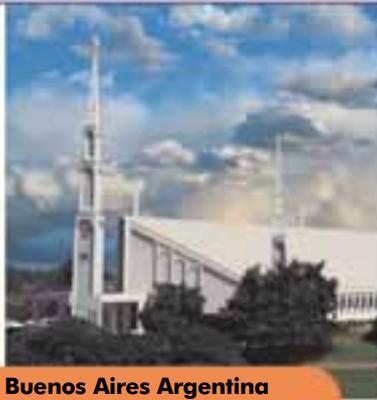
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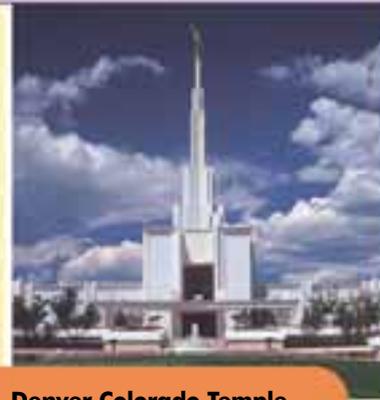
### Lima Peru Temple

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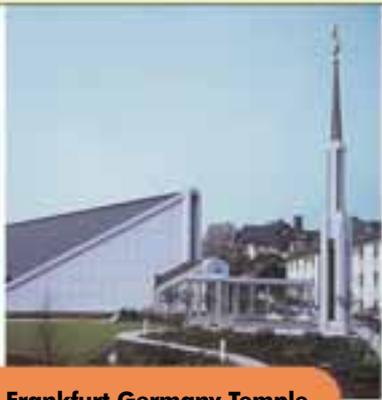
### Buenos Aires Argentina Temple

Dedicated on 17 January 1986  
by President Thomas S. Monson



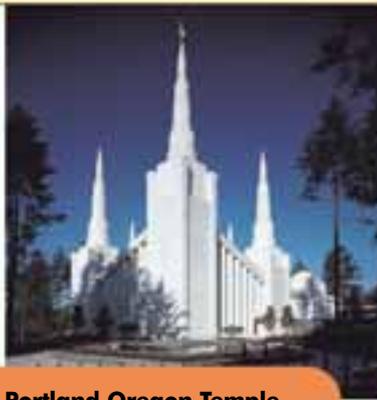
### Denver Colorado Temple

Dedicated on 24 October 1986  
by President Ezra Taft Benson



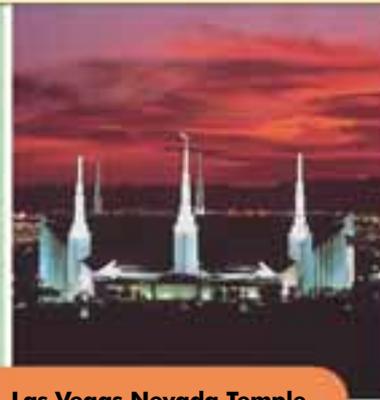
### Frankfurt Germany Temple

Dedicated on 28 August 1987  
by President Ezra Taft Benson



### Portland Oregon Temple

Dedicated on 19 August 1989  
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



### Las Vegas Nevada Temple

Dedicated on 16 December 1989  
by President Gordon B. Hinckley

# THOU ART THE CHRIST

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI

**“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”**

**(Matthew 16:16).**



Who is Jesus Christ? People of many faiths know that He lived more than 2,000 years ago. Many believe that He was a great teacher. But there is more.

Who is Jesus Christ? Christians, including members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, know He performed many miracles. He fed the multitude with five loaves of bread and two fishes, healed the sick, caused the blind to see, and raised the dead. But there is more.

Who is Jesus Christ? He asked the Apostles, “Whom say ye that I am?”

“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:15–16).

Who is Jesus Christ? He is the Son of God. Heavenly Father sent Him to organize His Church, teach the gospel, suffer and die for our sins, and be resurrected.

Where is He now? The Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon had a vision and proclaimed: “He lives! For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father” (D&C 76:22–23).

Who is Jesus Christ? He is our Savior and our Redeemer. He lives today. If we choose the right and ask Heavenly Father in prayer, we can know for ourselves, through the witness of the Holy Ghost, that He is Heavenly Father’s Son and that He died to save us from our sins.

## **Diorama of Jesus Christ Talking with Children**

1. Mount page 7 on heavy paper.
2. Cut out the figures, the stones, and the diorama; then cut the heavy diagonal line.
3. Fold along the broken line, and glue the blank

section underneath the diorama (see illustration).

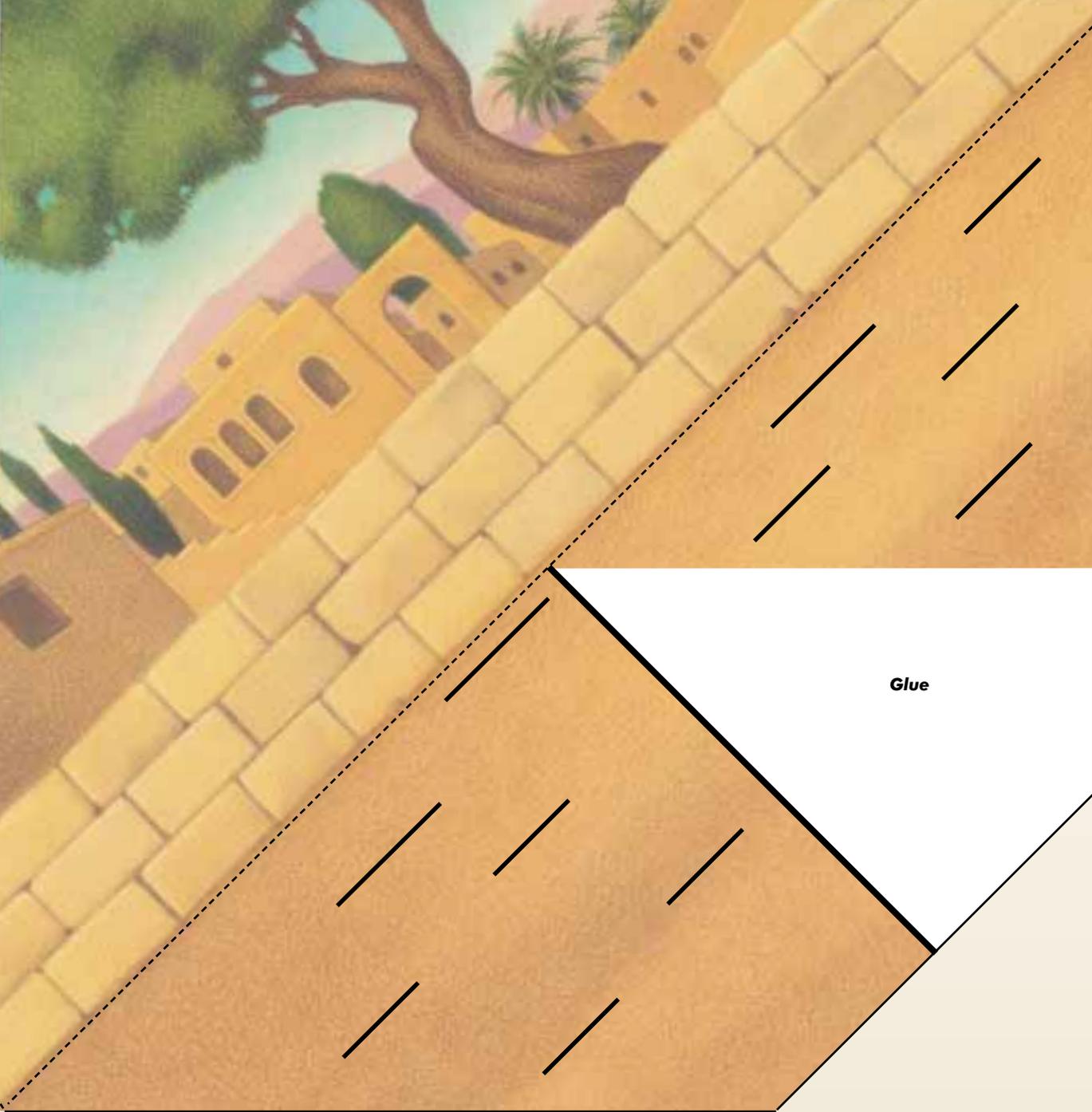
4. Cut slits on the short heavy lines; insert the tabs for the figures into the slits, and fold them so the figures will stand.

5. Locate and read the scriptures on the stones, and add the stones to the diorama.

## **Sharing Time Ideas**

1. Write the following scripture references on separate pieces of paper: Matthew 3:13–17; Acts 2:1, 38, 41; Mosiah 18:14–17; Joseph Smith—History 1:68–72; Moses 6:64–66. Divide the Primary into groups; have each group read a scripture and form a discussion panel. Have the rest of the Primary ask each panel questions about the scripture, such as, Who was baptized? Where did this take place? How did the people feel? How would baptism help? How were those baptisms like your own? Sing songs or hymns about baptism, and testify of the blessings of baptism.

2. Several weeks before you teach “Easter Hosanna” (see this issue, pp. F8–9), help an older child or adult leader learn the verses. Teach the Primary children the chorus first. Read John 12:12–18 and talk about when the people cried “Hosanna” as the Savior entered the city. Explain that people in the Americas also rejoiced when the Savior came. Have the children read aloud 3 Nephi 11:15–17. As they sing the chorus of “Easter Hosanna,” have the children touch their ears when they hear “Hosanna.” Have the children listen as the older child or adult sings the verses. Have the entire Primary join in singing the chorus. To help the children learn the verses, invite the soloist to sing the first line. Then have the children sing that line. Repeat this process with the second line. Have the children sing the second line again, then the first two lines. Repeat this process for the complete verse. ●



**Matthew 1:21**

**John 11:25**

**1 Corinthians  
15:20**

**Mosiah 3:17**

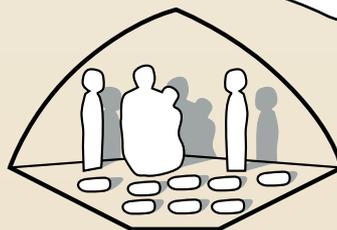
**3 Nephi 11:8-10**

**Joseph Smith—  
History 1:11,  
15-17**

**D&C 101:32**

**D&C 110:1-4**

**Glue**



**Illustration**



# Easter Hosanna



*Thoughtfully* ♩ = 60-66

Dm Gm Dm B<sup>b</sup>

1. The proph - e - cies of long a - go were now at last ful -  
 2. When Je - sus Christ ap - peared to Ne - phites in the prom - ised

A Dm Gm Dm B<sup>b</sup>

filled, When Je - sus, ris - en from the dead, to man Him - self re -  
 land, The right - teous peo - ple saw His wounds and came to un - der -

Dm Gm A7 Dm

vealed. stand As He came down from heav'n a - bove, white -  
That He, once dead, was ris - en up as

B $\flat$  A Dm

robed and glo - ri - fied, The peo - ple of the  
Sav - ior, Lord, and King. As they re - joiced, now

B $\flat$  Dm B $\flat$  A Chorus Dm

prom - ised land re - ceived their Lord and cried:  
we re - joice, and joy - ful - ly we sing: "Ho - san - na!

*slower*

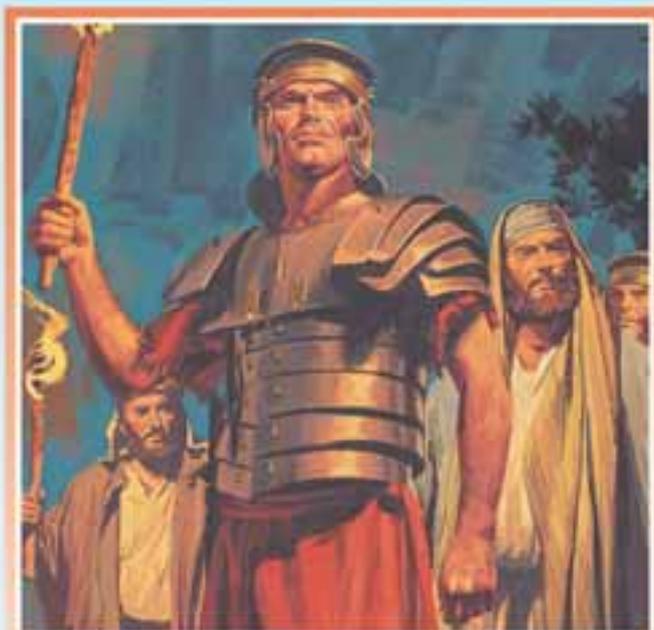
Gm Dm (C) Dm

Bless - ed be the name of the Most High God! Ho - san - na!

Gm Dm A D

Bless - ed be the name of the Most High God!"

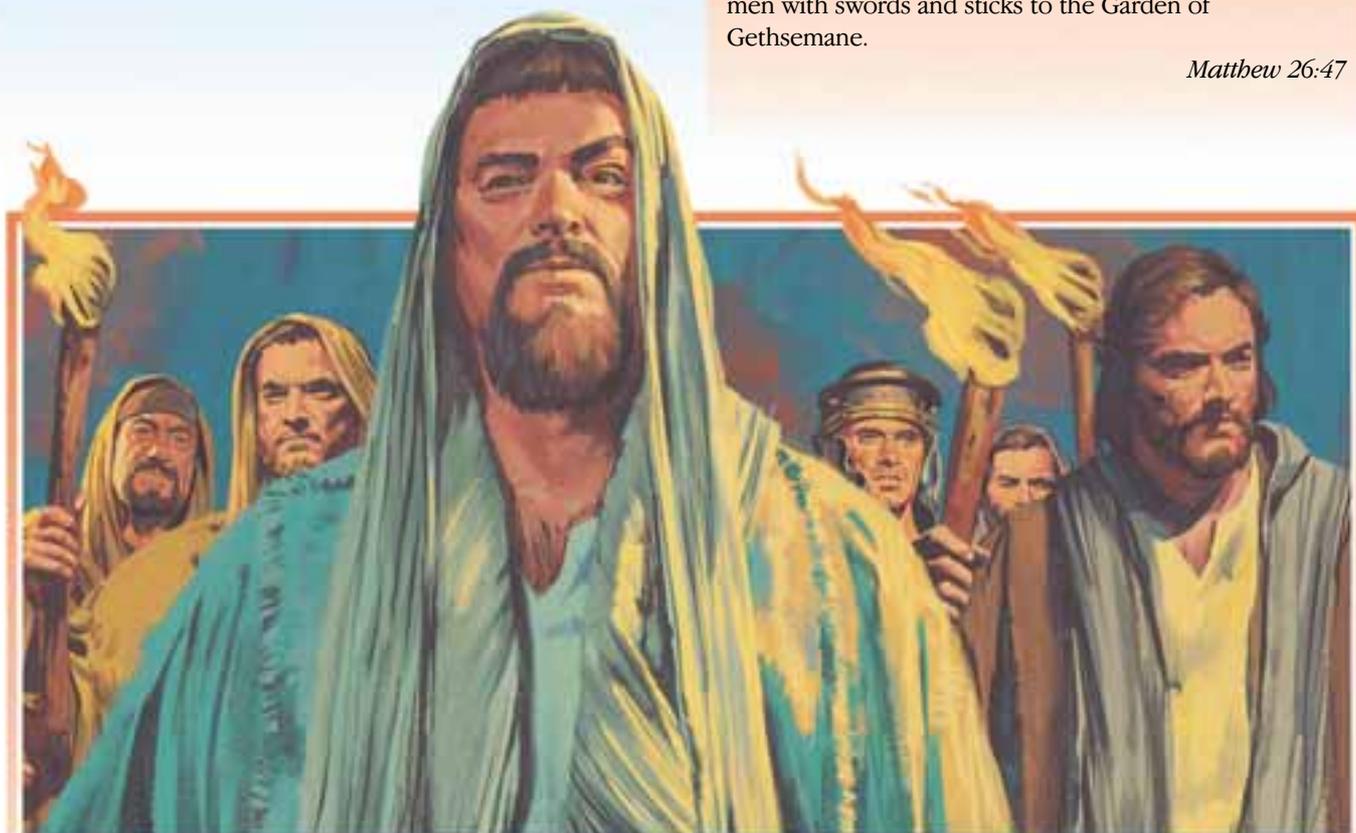
# TRIALS OF JESUS



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL MANN

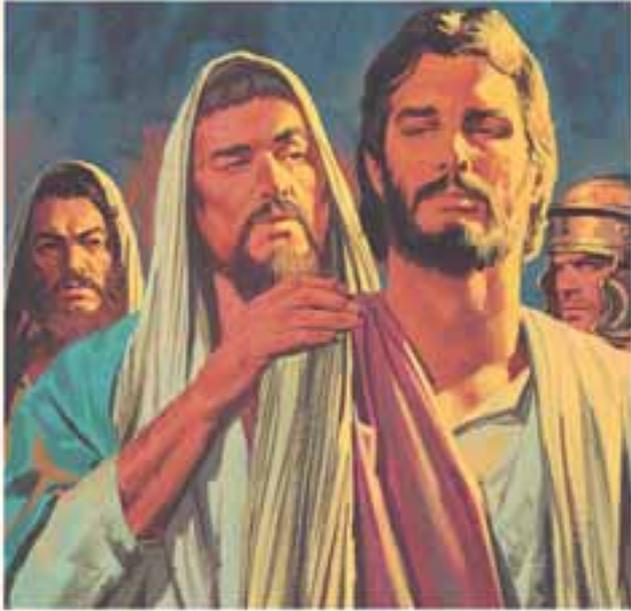
The chief priests and elders of the people sent wicked men with swords and sticks to the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Matthew 26:47*

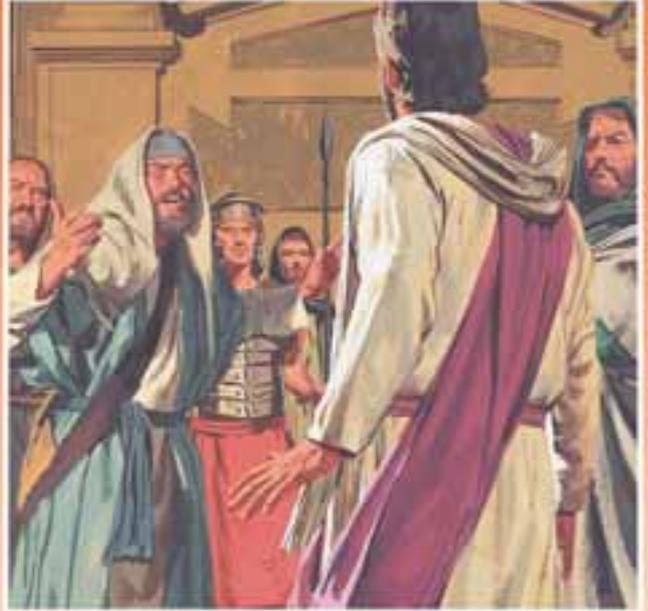


The Apostle Judas Iscariot was with them. The men had paid Judas to show them the Savior.

*Matthew 26:14-16, 47*



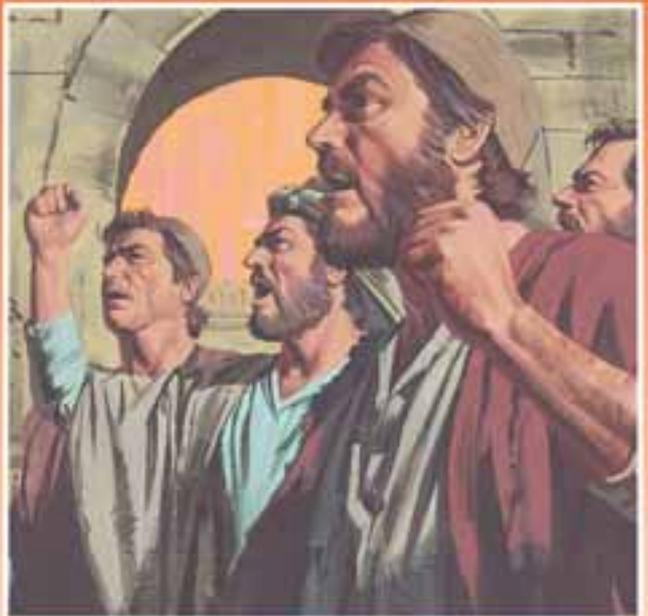
Judas had told the men that he would kiss Jesus. When he did, they arrested Him. The men mocked and hit Jesus. They took Jesus to the high priest, Caiaphas.  
*Matthew 26:48-50, 57; Luke 22:63-65*



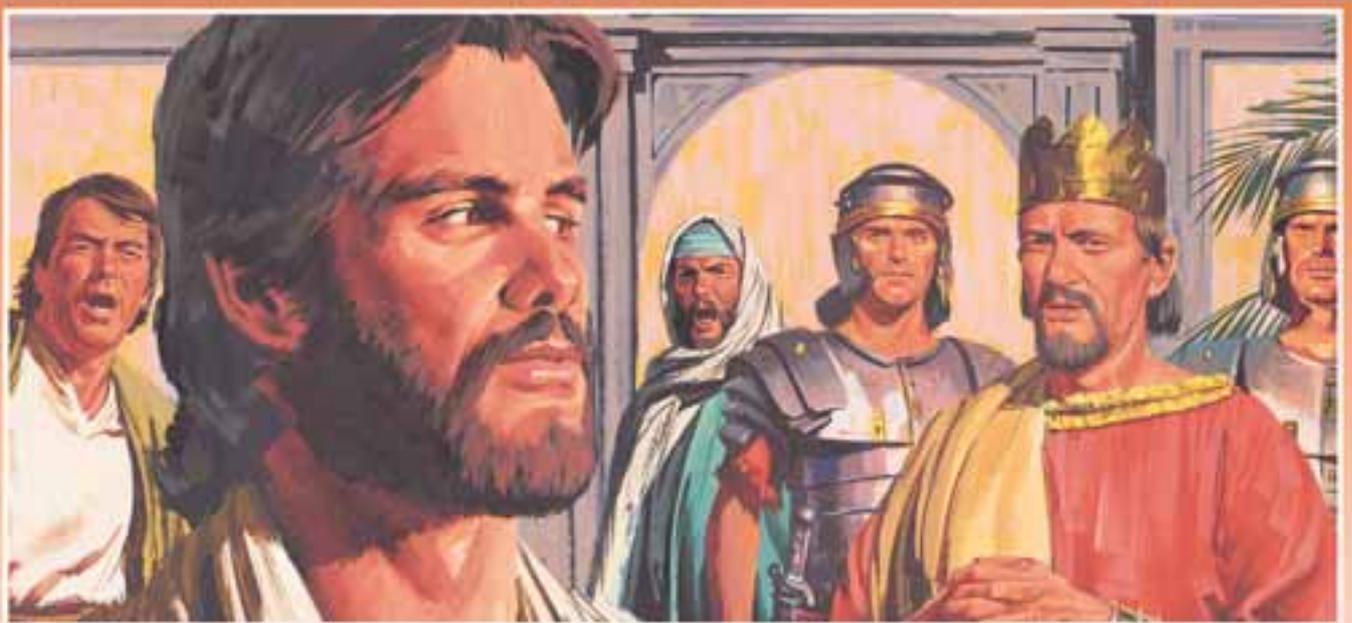
The Jewish leaders held a trial. They said that Jesus had broken the law by claiming to be the Christ, the Son of God. Because Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ, He did not deny it. They found Him guilty.  
*Luke 22:66-71*



The Jewish leaders did not have the power to sentence Jesus to death. They took Him to Pontius Pilate, who did have this power. They told Pilate that Jesus had told people not to pay taxes to Caesar.  
*Luke 23:1-3*

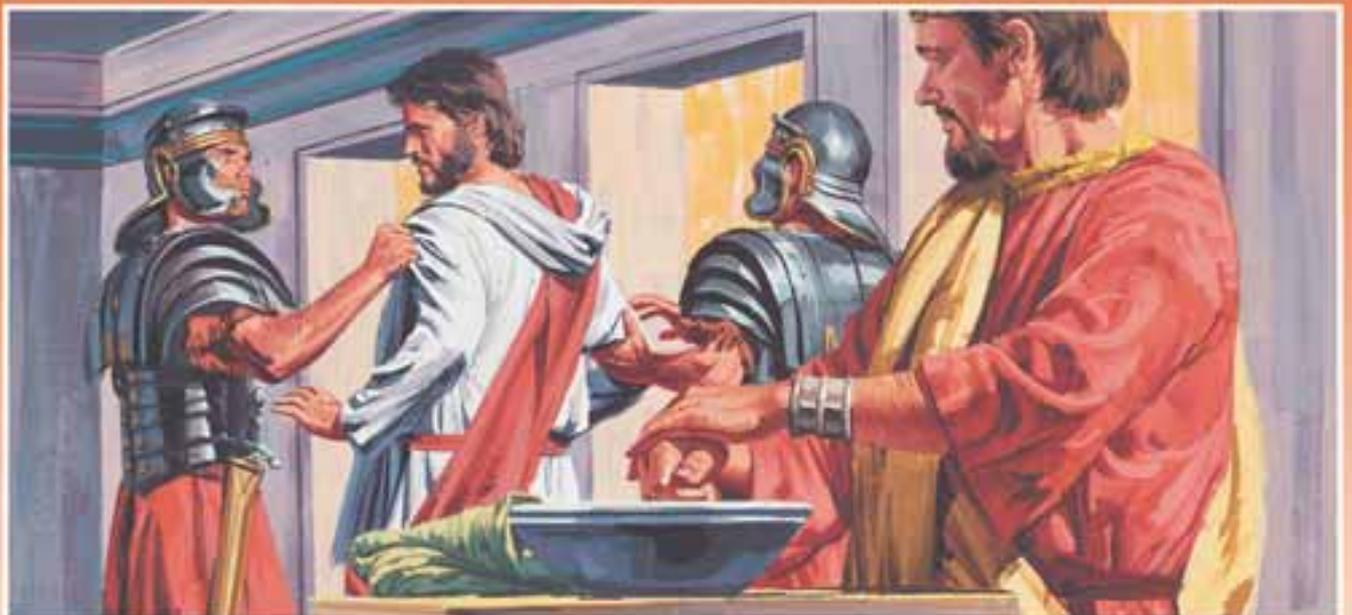


Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong. It was a feast day in Jerusalem. It was a custom to release a prisoner during the feast. Pilate wanted to release Jesus. The crowds wanted Barabbas, a murderer, released instead. They shouted for Jesus to be crucified.  
*Luke 23:14-21*



Pilate still could find no reason to kill Jesus. He still wanted to release Him. But the priests and the people cried loudly that they wanted Him crucified.

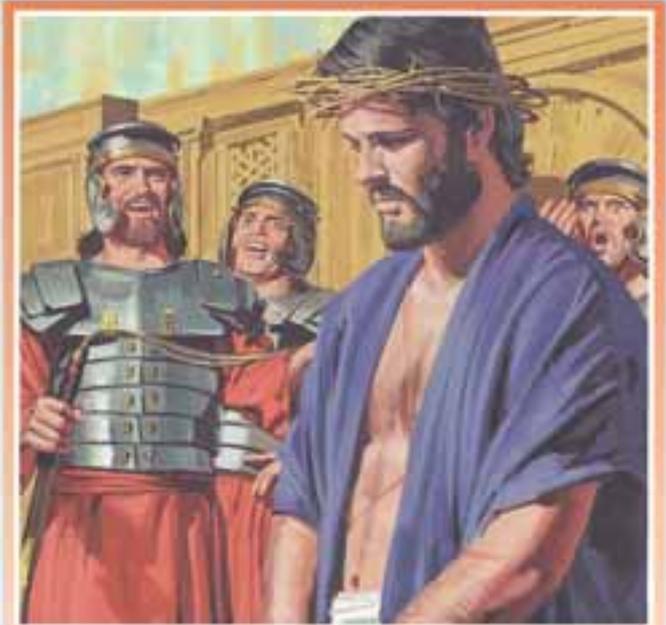
*Luke 23:22-23*



Pilate washed his hands, saying he was not responsible for Jesus' death. But he gave the crowd permission to crucify Jesus.

*Matthew 27:24-26*

# JESUS IS CRUCIFIED



The soldiers beat Jesus with whips. They put a purple robe on Him. Then they made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. And they laughed at Him and spit on Him. They called Him “King of the Jews.”

*Mark 15:15–19*



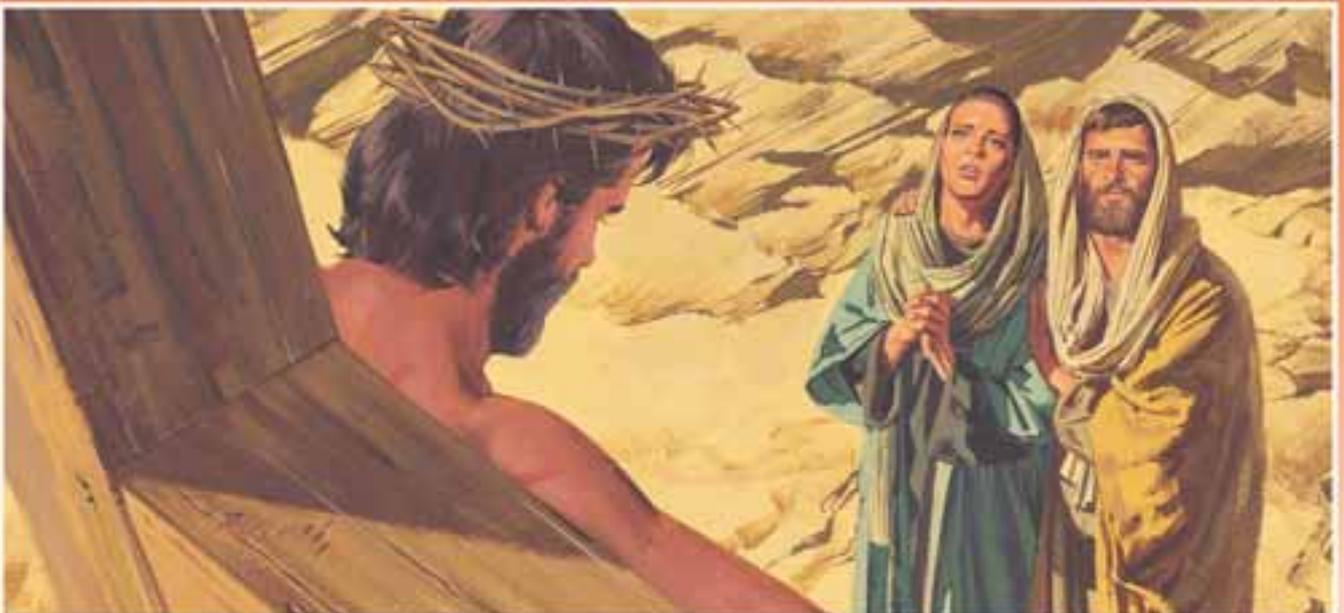
Many Jews followed when the soldiers took Jesus to a hill near Jerusalem to crucify Him. They made Him carry His own cross, then they laid Him on it, nailed His hands and His feet to the cross, and lifted it up. They also crucified two other men that day. The two other men were thieves.

*Luke 23:27, 33; John 19:17*



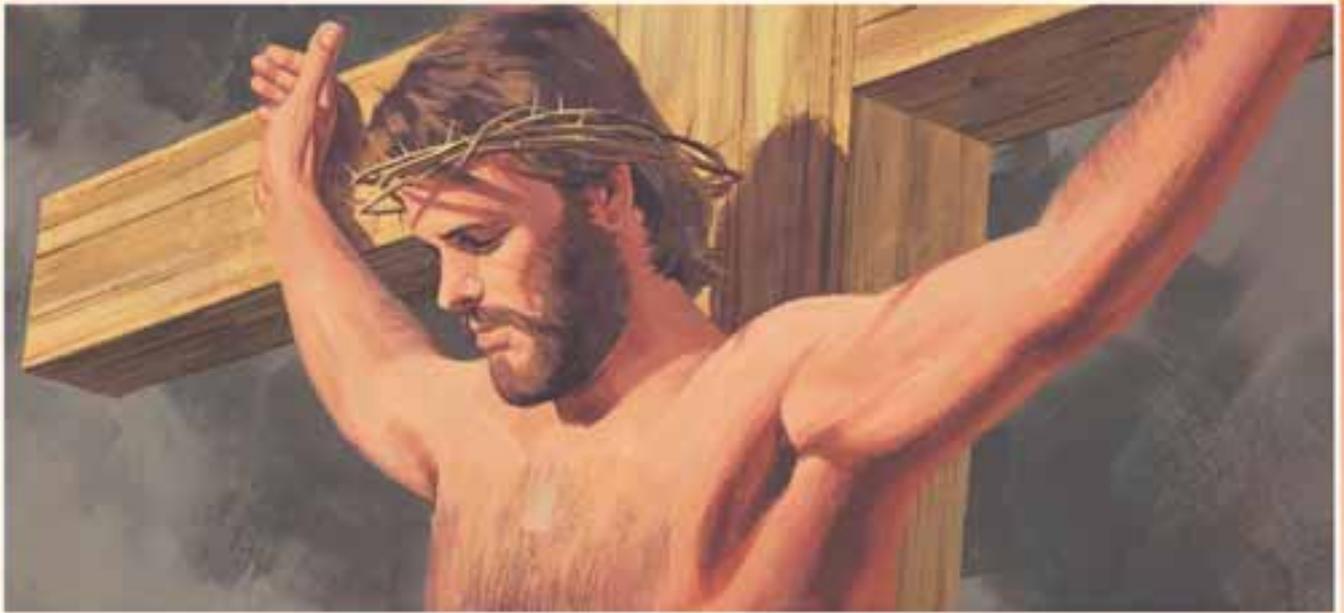
Jesus prayed. He asked Heavenly Father to forgive the soldiers who crucified Him. They did not know He was the Savior.

*Luke 23:34*



Mary, the mother of Jesus, was standing by the cross. The Apostle John was standing there too. Jesus told John to take care of His mother. John took Jesus' mother to his home.

*John 19:25-27*



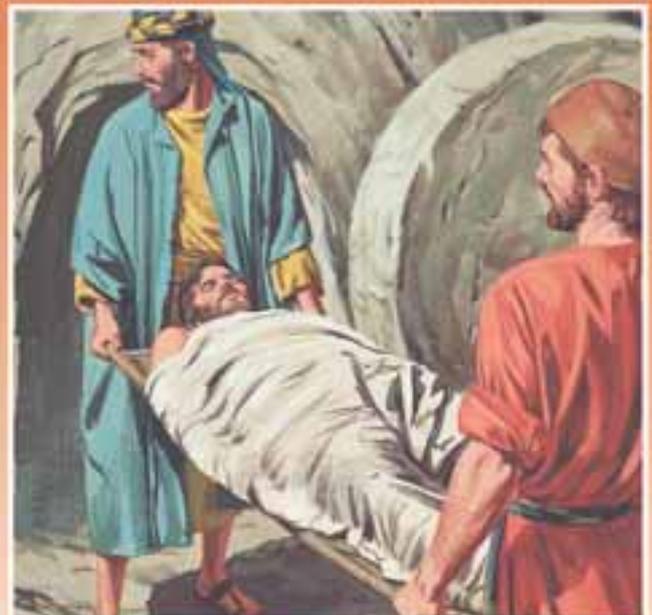
The disciples were very sad, because they loved the Savior very much. He suffered on the cross for many hours. Then He gave up His life. His spirit left His body.

*Matthew 27:46, 50*



The sky became dark, and a big earthquake broke huge rocks into pieces. The curtain in the temple, called the veil, was torn into two pieces. The Roman soldiers were afraid.

*Matthew 27:45, 51, 54*



One of the disciples took the Savior's body off the cross, wrapped it in a cloth, and placed it in a tomb—a place where people are buried. A big rock was rolled in front of the tomb.

*Matthew 27:57–60*

# Our Lord and Savior

BY ELDER JOSEPH B. WIRTHLIN  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



**Did you know that Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin was on his college football team? He loves our Savior Jesus Christ and bears testimony of Him.**

**J**esus is the head of His Church, the Creator of the universe, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind, and the Judge of the souls of men.

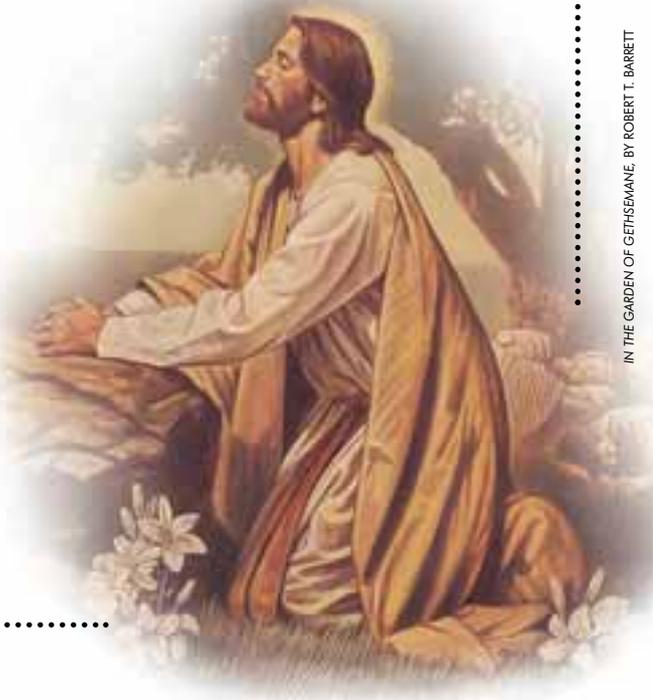
I am grateful to know that our Lord and Savior stands at the head of this Church and directs it through His servants. This is the Lord's Church; it is not a church of men. The Brethren of its presiding councils are called of God; their only motive is to serve according to His will in humility "with all [their] heart, might, mind and strength" (D&C 4:2).

The immortality and eternal life of man is brought to pass by the Atonement of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. It is an act of love for which we should be more grateful than for any other blessing or gift of God. The Atonement provides immortality to every person; immortality is infinite and universal [never-ending and for all people]. It provides the opportunity for eternal life, the kind of life that God lives, to those who have faith in Christ, repent of their sins, and obey the laws of the gospel. In a miraculous way, the Atonement saves and redeems us from the effects of the Fall of Adam, both temporal death at the end of mortality and spiritual death, the separation from our Father.

Considering all that Jesus is and all He does for us, what should we be doing to show our appreciation? We should come to "know . . . the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). "Those who know God become like him, and have his kind of life, which is eternal life" (Bruce R. McConkie, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1966–73], 1:762).

In other words, to possess a knowledge of Christ, we must become as He is. ●

*Adapted from an October 1993 general conference address.*





*"Go Ye Therefore, and Teach All Nations,"* by Harry Anderson

After His Resurrection, "Jesus came and spake unto [His Apostles], saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:18–19).



Top: A minaret, a traditional feature of a mosque. Left: At Jerusalem's Western Wall. Right: A view of the city from Brigham Young University's Jerusalem Center. Bottom: Possibly Golgotha, or the place of a skull.

“If I forget thee,  
O Jerusalem, let my  
right hand forget her  
cunning. If I do not  
remember thee, let my  
tongue cleave to the  
roof of my mouth; if I  
prefer not Jerusalem  
above my chief joy”  
(Psalm 137:5–6).  
See “Jerusalem,” p. 8.