

Liahona

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**Open the Windows
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FOR ADULTS

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ON THE COVER

Front: *Why Weepst Thou*, by Simon Dewey, may not
be copied. Back: Photograph by Matthew Reier.

THE FRIEND COVER

Illustration by Paul Mann.

FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

*These ideas can be used for
classroom teaching as well
as in the home.*

**"The Sacrament—and
the Sacrifice,"** p. 10: Have
each member of the family
close his or her eyes.
Ask family members to
visualize their baptism, taking the
sacrament, and a scene from the
life of the Savior. How are these
events similar? After relating what
Elder David B. Haight learned when
he was unconscious, invite family
members to explain how the

sacrament relates to Christ's sacri-
fice. List ways to remember the
Savior while taking the sacrament.

**"Three Messages to Young
Adults,"** p. 26: Have family
members draw a picture of
their lives 20 years in
the future. Have them

illustrate and then discuss the
things they hope to have accom-
plished. Read the counsel from
Elder Earl C. Tingey that will help
them plan for happiness.

"The Freedom to Dance," p. 32:
Ask family members to write goals



As you look for the CTR ring hidden in this issue, think of why at Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



FOR YOUTH

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they would like to accomplish. Invite them to share ideas on how to realize their aspirations. Read and discuss the choices Mavi is making to accomplish her goal. Emphasize that righteous attitudes and actions are important in reaching our goals.

"The Windows of Heaven," p. 40: Have family members bring objects of sentimental value and share why they value them. Share the story of the four women in India. How is our tithing valuable to the Lord? Relate the experience of

the chapel dedication in India. How were the people blessed by paying tithing? Identify and discuss promises Elder H. Bryan Richards makes for faithful tithe paying.

"A Mother's Influence," p. F14: Show a family picture. Discuss how a mother provides guidance for each family member. Relate how Elder Carlos H. Amado's mother guided him to be baptized and serve a mission. Have family members create cards for their mother, thanking her for her influence.

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- F10 Making Friends: Clara Christensen of Keewatin, Ontario, Canada
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Enriching Your Marriage

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

Many years ago when I was practicing law, I was consulted by a woman who wanted a divorce from her husband on grounds that, in my opinion, seemed justified. After the divorce was concluded, I did not see her again for many years. In a chance meeting with her on the street, I noticed that the years of loneliness and discouragement were evident in her once-beautiful face.

After we passed a few pleasantries, she was quick to say that life had not been rich and rewarding for her and that she was tired of facing the struggle alone. Then she startled me by disclosing, "Bad as it was, if I had to do it over again and had known then what I do now, I would not have sought the divorce. This is worse."

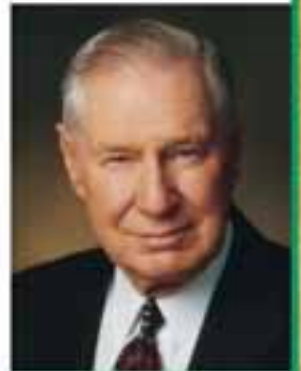
Statistically, it is difficult to avoid divorce. Experts project that about half of the women in the United States will have a marriage dissolve some time in their lives. Divorce is also increasing in many other countries. Unless the present rate of ever-increasing divorces diminishes, even more marriages will come to a tragic end.

Divorce can be justified only in the rarest of circumstances. In my opinion, "just cause" for divorce should be nothing less serious than a prolonged and apparently irredeemable relationship that destroys a person's dignity as a human being. Divorce often tears people's lives apart and shears family happiness. Frequently in a divorce the parties lose much more than they gain.

The traumatic experience one goes through in divorce seems little understood and is perhaps not well enough appreciated. Certainly, much more sympathy and understanding need to be extended to those who have experienced this great tragedy and whose lives cannot be reversed. Yet for those who are divorced, there is still much to be hoped for and expected in terms of fulfillment and happiness in life, particularly in the forgetting of self and in the rendering of service to others.

Difficult Questions

Why is happiness in marriage so fragile and fleeting for so many yet so abundant for others? Why does the resulting train of heartache and suffering have to be so



Marriage is a joint quest for the good, the beautiful, and the divine.

long and have so many innocent people on board?

What are the missing enriching ingredients in so many marriages that began with such happiness and so many high hopes?

I have long pondered these difficult questions. Having spent almost a lifetime dealing with human experiences, I am somewhat familiar with the problems of unhappy marriages, of divorce, and of heartbroken families. I can also speak of great happiness because, thanks to my beloved Ruth, I have found in marriage the richest fulfillment of human existence.

Reasons for Divorce

There are no simple, easy answers to the challenging and complex questions of happiness in marriage. Among the many supposed reasons for divorce are the serious problems of selfishness, immaturity, lack of commitment, inadequate communication, and unfaithfulness.

In my experience there is another reason for failure of marriage that seems not so obvious but that precedes and laces through all of the others. It is the lack of a constant enrichment in marriage, an absence of that something extra which makes it precious, special, and wonderful, and without which it becomes drudgery or difficult or even dull.

Enriching a Marriage

You might wonder, "How can a marriage be constantly enriched?" We build our marriages with endless friendship, confidence, and integrity and also by ministering to and sustaining each other in our difficulties. Adam, speaking of Eve, said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23). There are a few simple, relevant questions that each person, whether married or contemplating marriage, should honestly ask in an effort to become "one flesh." They are:

First, am I able to think of the interest of my marriage and spouse first before I think of my own desires?

Second, how deep is my commitment to my companion, aside from any other interests?

Third, is he or she my best friend?

Fourth, do I have respect for the dignity of my spouse as a person of worth and value?

Fifth, do we quarrel over money? Money itself seems neither to make a couple happy, nor the lack of it, necessarily, to make them unhappy. A quarrel over money is often a symbol of selfishness.

Sixth, is there a spiritually sanctifying bond between us?

Building Bridges of Enrichment

Several key practices can contribute to enriching a marriage.

Prayer. Marriage relationships can be enriched by better communication. One important way is to pray together. This will resolve many of the differences, if there are any, between the couple before going to sleep. I do not mean to overemphasize differences, but they are real and do make things interesting. I believe our differences are the little pinches of salt that can make the marriage seem more flavorful.

We communicate in a thousand ways, such as a smile, a brush of the hair, a gentle touch. We should remember each day to say, "I love you." The husband should say to his wife, "You're beautiful." Some other important words for both husband and wife to say, when appropriate, are, "I'm sorry." Listening is also an excellent form of communication.

Trust. Complete trust in each other is one of the greatest enriching factors in marriage. Nothing devastates the core of mutual trust necessary to maintain a fulfilling relationship like infidelity. There is never any justification for adultery. Despite this destructive experience, occasionally marriages are saved and families preserved. To do so



requires the aggrieved party to be capable of giving unreserved love great enough to forgive and forget. It requires the errant party to want desperately to repent and actually forsake evil.

Our loyalty to our eternal companion should not be merely physical, but mental and spiritual as well. Since there are no harmless flirtations and there is no place for jealousy after marriage, it is best to avoid the very appearance of evil by shunning any questionable contact with another to whom we are not married.

Virtue. Virtue is the strong glue that holds it all together. Said the Lord, “Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else” (D&C 42:22).

Divine presence. Of all that can bless marriages, there is one special enriching ingredient that above all else will help join a man and a woman together in a very real, sacred, spiritual sense. It is the presence of the divine in marriage. Shakespeare, speaking through Queen Isabel in *King Henry the Fifth*, said, “God, the best maker of all marriages, / Combine your hearts in one” (act 5, scene 2, lines 67–68). God is also the best keeper of marriages.

There are many things that go into enriching a marriage, but some of them seem to be of the husk of the relationship. Having the companionship and enjoying the fruits of a holy and divine presence become the kernel of great happiness in marriage.

Spiritual oneness is the anchor. Slow leaks in the sanctifying dimension of marriage often cause marriages to become flat tires.

I believe that divorces are increasing because in many cases the union lacks that sanctifying benediction that flows from keeping the commandments of God. Marriages can die from a lack of spiritual nourishment.

Tithing. I learned in serving almost 20 years as bishop and as stake president that an excellent insurance against divorce is the payment of tithing. Payment of tithing seems to facilitate keeping the spiritual battery charged in order to make it through the times when the spiritual generator has been idle or is not working.

There is no great or majestic music that constantly produces the harmony of a great love. The most perfect music is a welding of two voices into one spiritual song. Marriage is the way provided by God for the fulfillment of the greatest of human needs, based upon mutual respect, maturity, selflessness,

There is one special enriching ingredient that above all else will help join a man and a woman together in a very real, sacred, spiritual sense. It is the presence of the divine in marriage.



decency, commitment, and honesty. Happiness in marriage and parenthood can exceed a thousand times any other happiness.

Parenthood. The soul of the marriage is greatly enriched and the spiritual growing process is greatly strengthened when a couple become parents. For couples who can have children, parenthood should bring the greatest of all happiness. Men grow because as fathers they must take care of their families. Women blossom because as mothers they must forget themselves. We understand best the full meaning of love when we become parents. However, if children do not come, couples who are nevertheless prepared to receive them with love will be honored and blessed by the Lord for their faithfulness. Our homes should be among the most hallowed of all earthly sanctuaries.

In the enriching of marriage, the big things are the little things. There must be constant appreciation for each other and thoughtful demonstration of gratitude. A couple must encourage and help each other grow. Marriage is a joint quest for the good, the beautiful, and the divine.

The Savior has said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

May the presence of God be found enriching and blessing all marriages and homes, especially those of His Saints, as part of His eternal plan. ■

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

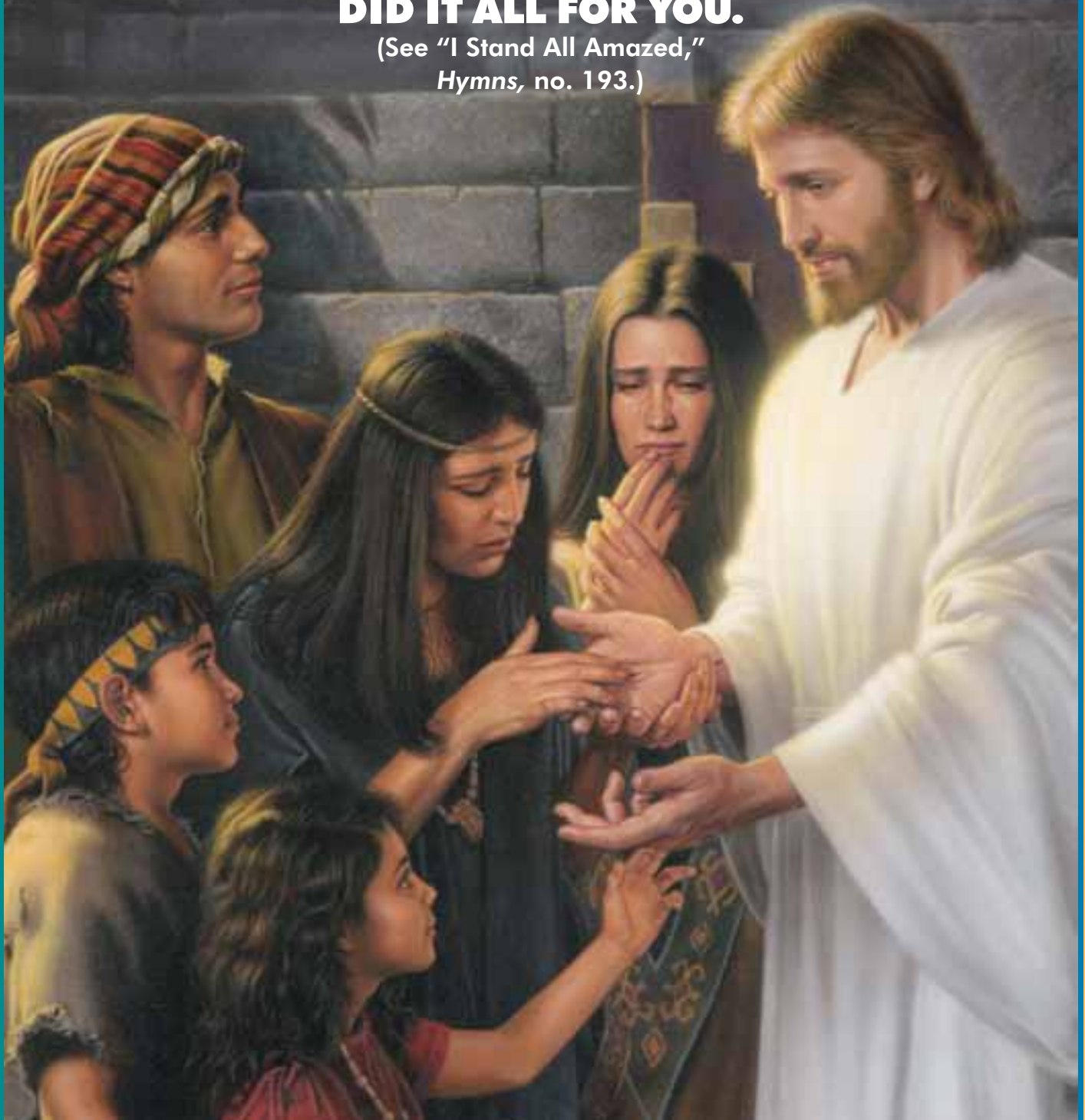
After prayerfully studying this message, share it using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. Following are some examples:

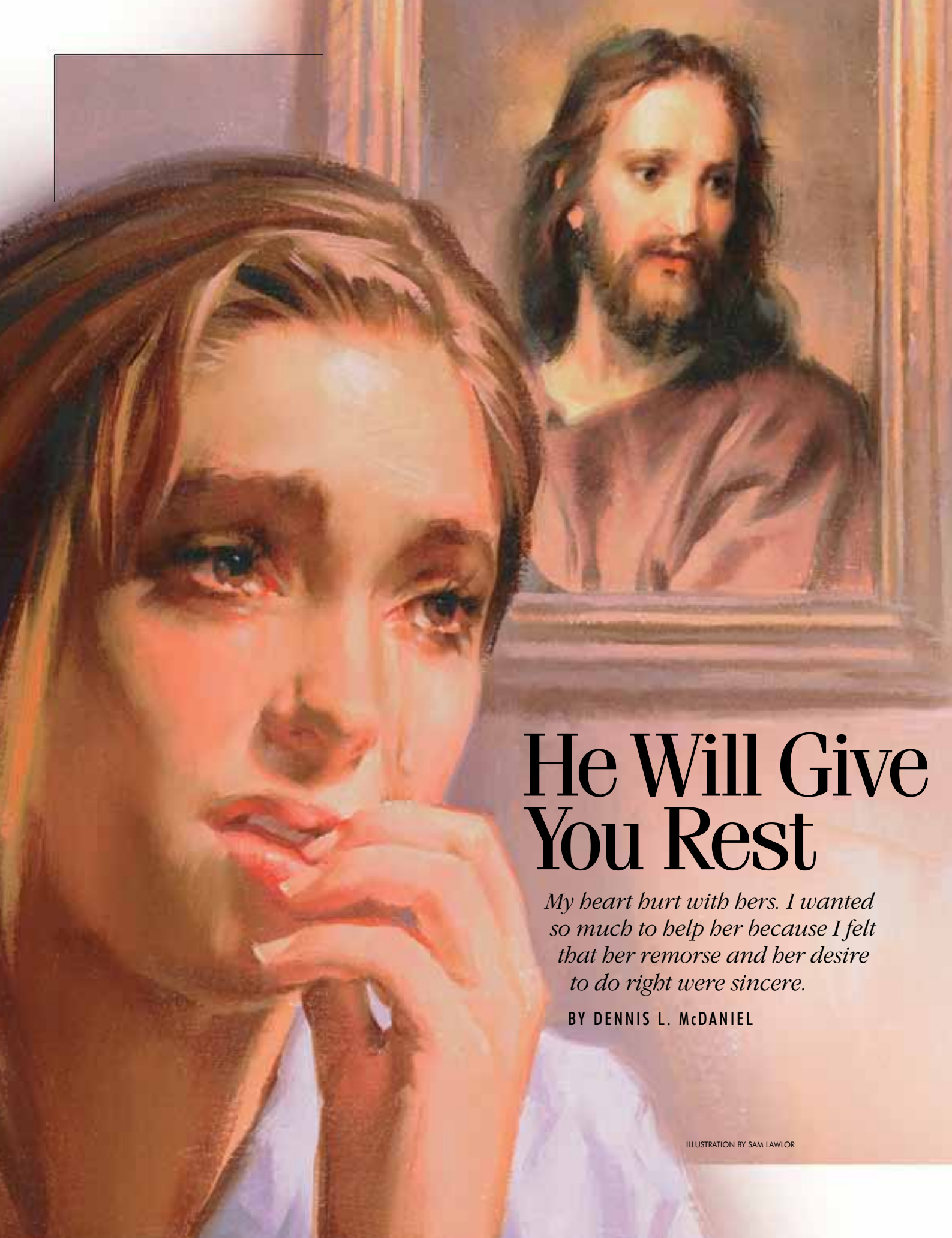
1. Roll two different colors of clay into balls. Explain that each color represents a marriage partner. Roll the two balls into one ball. Ask a family member to try to separate the two colors. Discuss President Faust's six questions one should ask when married or contemplating marriage. Testify of the importance of being unified in marriage.
2. Invite the family to stand in a circle. Have each person represent a key practice of enriching marriage. As you discuss the practice they represent, have them link arms or hold hands with the person at their side. Explain that the link would be broken if one family member was removed from the circle. Testify of the importance of keeping marriages strong.
3. Bring a saltshaker. Explain how salt enhances the flavor of food. Read the sentence where President Faust compares differences in marriage to pinches of salt, and discuss how differences can enhance marriage. If teaching a married couple, ask what they have done to increase their appreciation of one another.

THE SAVIOR OF ALL

DID IT ALL FOR YOU.

(See "I Stand All Amazed,"
Hymns, no. 193.)





He Will Give You Rest

My heart hurt with hers. I wanted so much to help her because I felt that her remorse and her desire to do right were sincere.

BY DENNIS L. McDANIEL

ILLUSTRATION BY SAM LAWLOR

I was serving as a missionary when I met Susie (name has been changed). She and her family had been taught the gospel by two missionaries who worked in the mission office with me. They had received all the lessons and had accepted the invitation to be baptized and confirmed. It was my privilege to interview this wonderful family of four: mother, father, younger brother, and Susie.

I had completed the baptismal interviews for the other three family members and had found them wonderfully prepared and excited to be part of the Lord's kingdom. But when Susie walked in, she seemed quiet and somewhat hesitant to meet with me.

I began asking questions about what she had been taught. She knew the story of the Prophet Joseph Smith and believed it; she had read the Book of Mormon and knew it to be true; and she accepted the Church as the only true and living Church on the earth and wanted to be part of it. I asked Susie about her willingness to live the law of tithing, the Word of Wisdom, and other commandments. She said she understood these and was willing to live them for the rest of her life. Indeed, the interview was much like those I had had with the rest of her family.

Then I asked, "Can you tell me what the law of chastity is?" Her countenance immediately changed. I quickly recognized this must be why she seemed hesitant to meet with me. Before I could say anything, she covered her face with both hands, put her face and hands in her lap, and began to sob uncontrollably.

We sat without speaking for several minutes. I was unsure of what to say, and Susie could not stop sobbing. I prayed for the Lord's help and asked Susie what was wrong. She finally lifted her face and told me that several weeks before meeting the missionaries she and her boyfriend had done things the missionaries had taught her were wrong according to the Lord's law. She had already told her boyfriend what she had learned and had told him she would no longer be involved in such a relationship. She had even suggested to him that he meet with the missionaries and hear what she now knew was true. Still, the guilt for having engaged in these acts weighed down her soul.

My heart hurt with hers. I wanted so much to help her

because I felt that her remorse and her desire to do right and be baptized were sincere. At that moment, the answer to my prayer came clearly. I asked her, "Susie, would you like to be free of the guilt and pain of this sin?" Once again her hands covered her face, and her head bowed. She uttered only one word: "Yes." Her tears came even more freely, and I consoled her by talking about the Atonement and how she could apply it to her life. I explained that one purpose of baptism and confirmation is to heal the souls of those who are sincere in repentance, and without question I found her to be sincere.

We completed the interview with a prayer. The Spirit of the Lord was clearly present, more powerfully than I had ever before felt in an interview.

My companion and I arrived at the chapel shortly before the baptism. There was no time to speak to Susie or her family prior to the service. After the singing and the talks, they were baptized—first her mother, then her father, then her brother, and finally Susie. She walked down into the font, and her smile told the story—the healing balm of the Master was working in her heart. As she came out of the water, tears were in her eyes and mine. Her smile was even bigger than before, and her countenance was radiant. I understood at that moment why the Savior taught, "Come unto me, all ye that . . . are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

We spoke only briefly after the service. I welcomed the family as new members of the Lord's kingdom. As I shook Susie's hand, I wanted to tell her how much this experience had meant to me. I had repented in my life and felt the power of the Atonement, but I was grateful to have felt it more powerfully than ever before because of my association with her.

Joining the Church is a challenge in and of itself. Joining under such personally strained circumstances had to be an even greater challenge for Susie, as it is for many new members. But the Atonement of Jesus Christ made the challenge surmountable and led this wonderful daughter of God to conversion and a healing of the soul. It also taught an impressionable young missionary an important lesson about applying the Atonement in his own life. ■



The Sacrament— and the Sacrifice

David B. Haight was born on September 2, 1906, in Oakley, Idaho, to Hector C. and Clara Tuttle Haight. He married Ruby Olson in the Salt Lake Temple on September 4, 1930. Prior to his call as a General Authority, he had a successful career in retail sales; served as mayor of Palo Alto, California; and presided over the Scottish Mission. He was ordained an Apostle on January 8, 1976. He died on July 31, 2004, at age 97.

BY ELDER DAVID B. HAIGHT (1906–2004)
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Six months ago at the April general conference, I was excused from speaking as I was convalescing from a serious operation. My life has been spared, and I now have the pleasant opportunity of acknowledging the blessings, comfort, and ready aid of my Brethren in the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve and other wonderful associates and friends to whom I owe so much and who surrounded my dear wife, Ruby, and my family with their time, attention, and prayers. . . .

The evening of my health crisis, I knew something very serious had happened to me. Events happened so swiftly—the pain striking with such intensity, my dear Ruby phoning the doctor and our family, and I on my knees leaning over the bathtub for support and some comfort and hoped relief from the pain. I was pleading to my Heavenly Father to spare my life a while longer to give me a little more time to do His work, if it was His will.

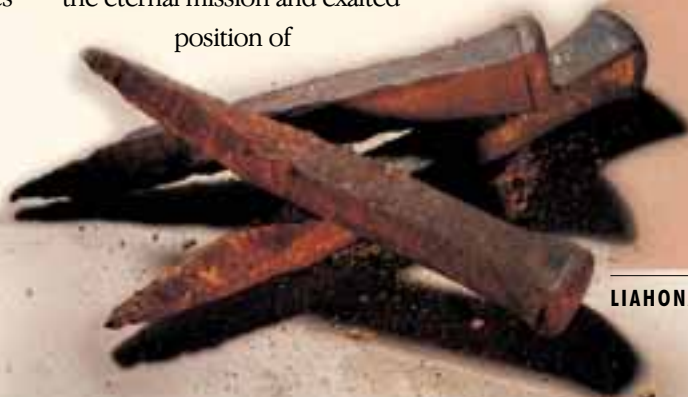
While still praying, I began to lose consciousness. The siren of the paramedic truck was the last that I remembered before unconsciousness overtook me, which would last for the next several days.

The terrible pain and commotion of people ceased. I was now in a calm, peaceful setting; all was serene and quiet. I was conscious of two persons in the distance on a hillside, one standing on a higher level than the other. Detailed features were not discernible. The person on the higher level was pointing to something I could not see.

I heard no voices but was conscious of being in a holy presence and atmosphere. During the hours and days that followed, there was impressed again and again upon my mind the eternal mission and exalted position of



I witness to you that He is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Savior to all, Redeemer of all mankind, Bestower of infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, the Light and Life of the world.





There, in the garden, in some manner beyond our comprehension, the Savior took upon Himself the burden of the sins of mankind from Adam to the end of the world.

the Son of Man. I witness to you that He is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, Savior to all, Redeemer of all mankind, Bestower of infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, the Light and Life of the world. I knew this truth before—I had never doubted nor wondered. But now I knew, because of the impressions of the Spirit upon my heart and soul, these divine truths in a most unusual way.

I was shown a panoramic view of His earthly ministry: His baptism, His teaching, His healing the sick and lame, the mock trial, His Crucifixion, His Resurrection and Ascension. There followed scenes of His earthly ministry to my mind in impressive detail, confirming scriptural eyewitness accounts. I was being taught, and the eyes of my understanding were opened by the Holy Spirit of God so as to behold many things.

The first scene was of the Savior and His

Apostles in the upper chamber on the eve of His betrayal. Following the Passover supper, He instructed and prepared the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for His dearest friends as a remembrance of His coming sacrifice. It was so impressively portrayed to me—the overwhelming love of the Savior for each. I witnessed His thoughtful concern for significant details—the washing of the dusty feet of each Apostle, His breaking and blessing of the loaf of dark bread and blessing of the wine, then His dreadful disclosure that one would betray Him.

He explained Judas's departure and told the others of the events soon to take place.

Then followed the Savior's solemn discourse when He said to the Eleven: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Our Savior prayed to His Father and acknowledged the Father as the source of His authority and power—even to the extending of eternal life to all who are worthy.

He prayed, “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

Jesus then reverently added:

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was” (John 17:3–5).

He pled not only for the disciples called out from the world who had been true to their testimony of Him, “but for them also which shall believe on me through their word” (John 17:20).

When they had sung a hymn, Jesus and the Eleven went out to the Mount of Olives. There, in the garden, in some manner beyond our comprehension, the Savior took upon Himself the burden of the sins of mankind from Adam to the end of the world. His agony in the garden, Luke tells us, was so intense “his sweat was as . . . great drops of blood falling . . . to the ground” (Luke 22:44). He suffered an agony and a burden the like of which no human person would be able to bear. In that hour of anguish our Savior overcame all the power of Satan.

The glorified Lord revealed to Joseph Smith this admonition to all mankind:

“Therefore I command you to repent. . . .

“For . . . I, God, . . . suffered . . . for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent; . . .

“Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, . . .

“Wherefore, I command you again to repent, lest I humble you with my almighty power; and that you confess your sins, lest you suffer these punishments” (D&C 19:15–16, 18, 20).

During those days of unconsciousness, I was given, by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost, a more perfect knowledge of His mission. I was also given a more complete understanding of what it means to exercise, in His name, the authority to unlock the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven for the salvation of all who are faithful. My soul was taught over and over again the events of the betrayal, the mock trial, the scourging of the flesh of even one of the Godhead. I witnessed His struggling up the hill in His weakened condition carrying the cross and His being stretched upon it as it lay on the ground, that the crude spikes could be driven with a mallet into His hands and wrists and feet to secure His body as it hung on the cross for public display.

Crucifixion—the horrible and painful death which He suffered—was chosen from the beginning. By that excruciating death, He descended below all things, as is recorded, that through His Resurrection He would ascend above all things (see D&C 88:6).

Jesus Christ died in the literal sense in which we will all die. His body lay in the tomb. The immortal spirit of Jesus, chosen as the Savior of mankind, went to those myriads of spirits who had departed mortal life with varying degrees of righteousness to God’s laws. He taught them the “glorious tidings of redemption from the bondage of death, and of possible salvation . . . [that was] part of [our] Savior’s foreappointed and unique service to the human family.”¹

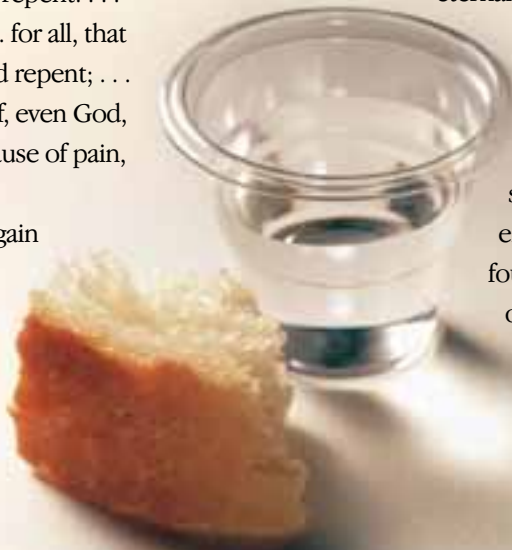
I cannot begin to convey to you the deep impact that these scenes have confirmed upon my soul. I sense their

eternal meaning and realize that “nothing in the

entire plan of salvation compares in any way in importance with that most transcendent of all events, the atoning sacrifice of our Lord. It is the most important single thing that has ever occurred in the entire history of created things; it is the rock foundation upon which the gospel and all other things rest,”² as has been declared.

Father Lehi taught his son Jacob and us today:

“Wherefore, redemption



Our most valuable worship experience in the sacrament meeting is the sacred ordinance of the sacrament, for it provides the opportunity to focus our minds and hearts upon the Savior and His sacrifice.

cometh in and through the Holy Messiah; for he is full of grace and truth.

“Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered.

“Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, that they may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah, who layeth down his life according to the flesh, and taketh it again by the power of the Spirit, that he may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, being the first that should rise.

“Wherefore, he is the firstfruits unto God, inasmuch as he shall make intercession for all the children of men; and they that believe in him shall be saved” (2 Nephi 2:6–9).

Our most valuable worship experience in the sacrament meeting is the sacred ordinance of the sacrament, for it provides the opportunity to focus our minds and hearts upon the Savior and His sacrifice.

The Apostle Paul warned the early Saints against eating this bread and drinking this cup of the Lord

unworthily (see 1 Corinthians 11:27–30).

Our Savior Himself instructed the Nephites, “Whoso eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily [brings] damnation to his soul” (3 Nephi 18:29).

Worthy partakers of the sacrament are in harmony with the Lord and put themselves under covenant with Him to always remember His sacrifice for the sins of the world, to take upon them the name of Christ, and to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments. The Savior covenants that we who do so shall have His Spirit to be with us and that, if faithful to the end, we may inherit eternal life.

Our Lord revealed to Joseph Smith that “there is no gift greater than the gift of salvation” (D&C 6:13), which plan includes the ordinance of the sacrament as a continuous reminder of the Savior’s atoning sacrifice. He gave instructions that “it is expedient that the church meet together often to partake of bread and wine in the remembrance of the Lord Jesus” (D&C 20:75).

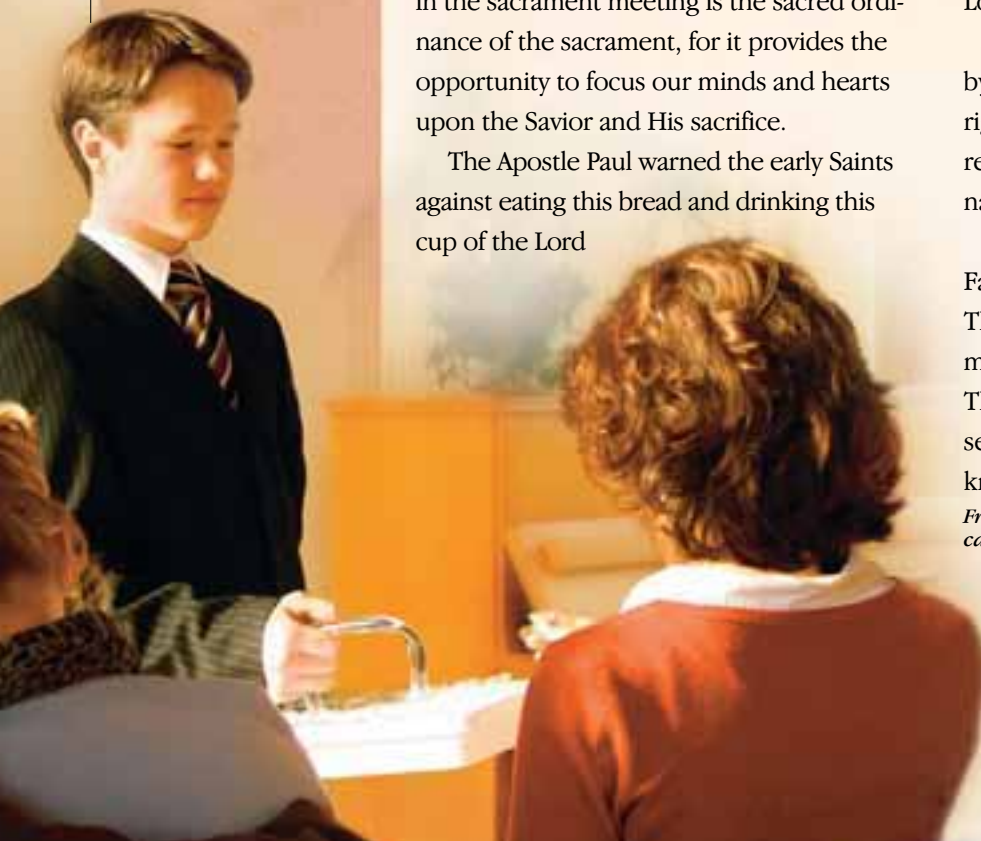
Immortality comes to us all as a free gift by the grace of God alone, without works of righteousness. Eternal life, however, is the reward for obedience to the laws and ordinances of His gospel.

I testify to all of you that our Heavenly Father does answer our righteous pleadings. The added knowledge which has come to me has made a great impact upon my life. The gift of the Holy Ghost is a priceless possession and opens the door to our ongoing knowledge of God and eternal joy. ■

From an October 1989 general conference address; capitalization and punctuation modernized.

NOTES

1. James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, 6th ed. (1922), 671.
2. Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. (1966), 60.





The Joy of Repentance

BY ELDER CRAIG C. CHRISTENSEN

Of the Seventy

Throughout His mortal ministry, the Savior showed great love for each son and daughter of God—especially those who had fallen. In the parables of the lost sheep, the lost piece of silver, and the prodigal son, the Lord emphasized the importance of reaching out to those who stray or are lost and the joy that is felt when they return (see Luke 15). For example, He said, “Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

I wish to focus on the great joy that comes to those who repent and the feelings of joy we receive as we help others through the repentance process.

“Men Are, That They Might Have Joy”

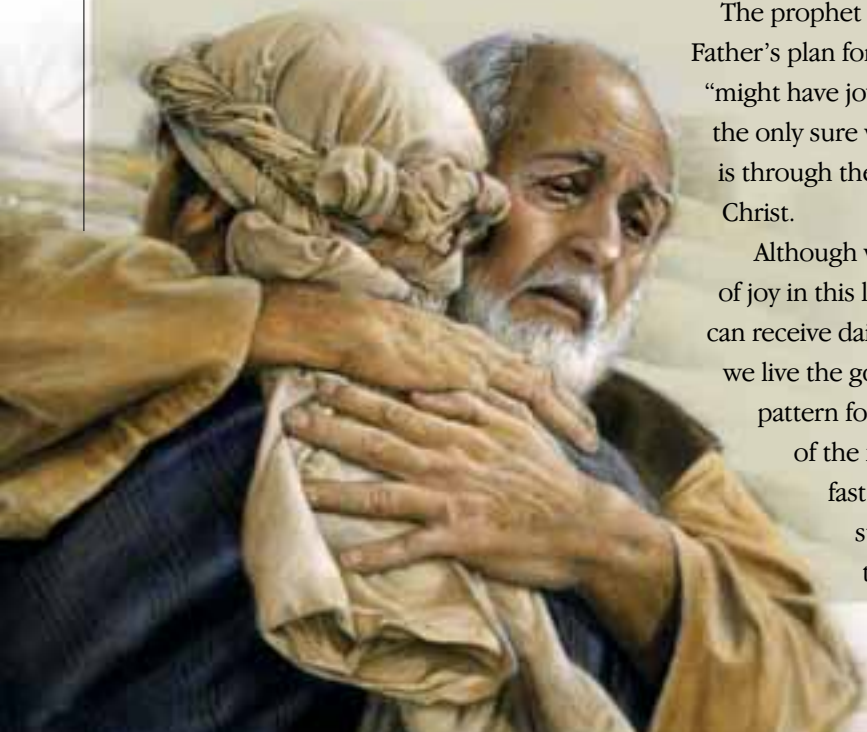
Joy is much deeper than simply passing moments of contentment or feelings of happiness. Real joy, or “everlasting joy” (2 Nephi 8:11), comes from experiencing the power of the Atonement through sincere repentance and from a spiritual confirmation that we can be redeemed from sin through the Lord Jesus Christ and inherit eternal life.

The prophet Lehi taught that Heavenly Father’s plan for each of us is that we “might have joy” (2 Nephi 2:25) and that the only sure way to find everlasting joy is through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Although we cannot receive a *fulness* of joy in this life (see D&C 93:33–34), we can receive daily manifestations of joy as we live the gospel. Mormon taught the pattern for finding joy when he said of the faithful Nephites, “They did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer



True happiness comes from repenting of our sins and living worthy of the Spirit.



As we apply the Atonement in our lives, we must reflect on the Savior and His infinite gift to us, exercise faith in Him, and seek a spiritual confirmation that He can and will redeem us from all our sins and infirmities.

and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God" (Helaman 3:35).

Filled with Joy through the Holy Ghost

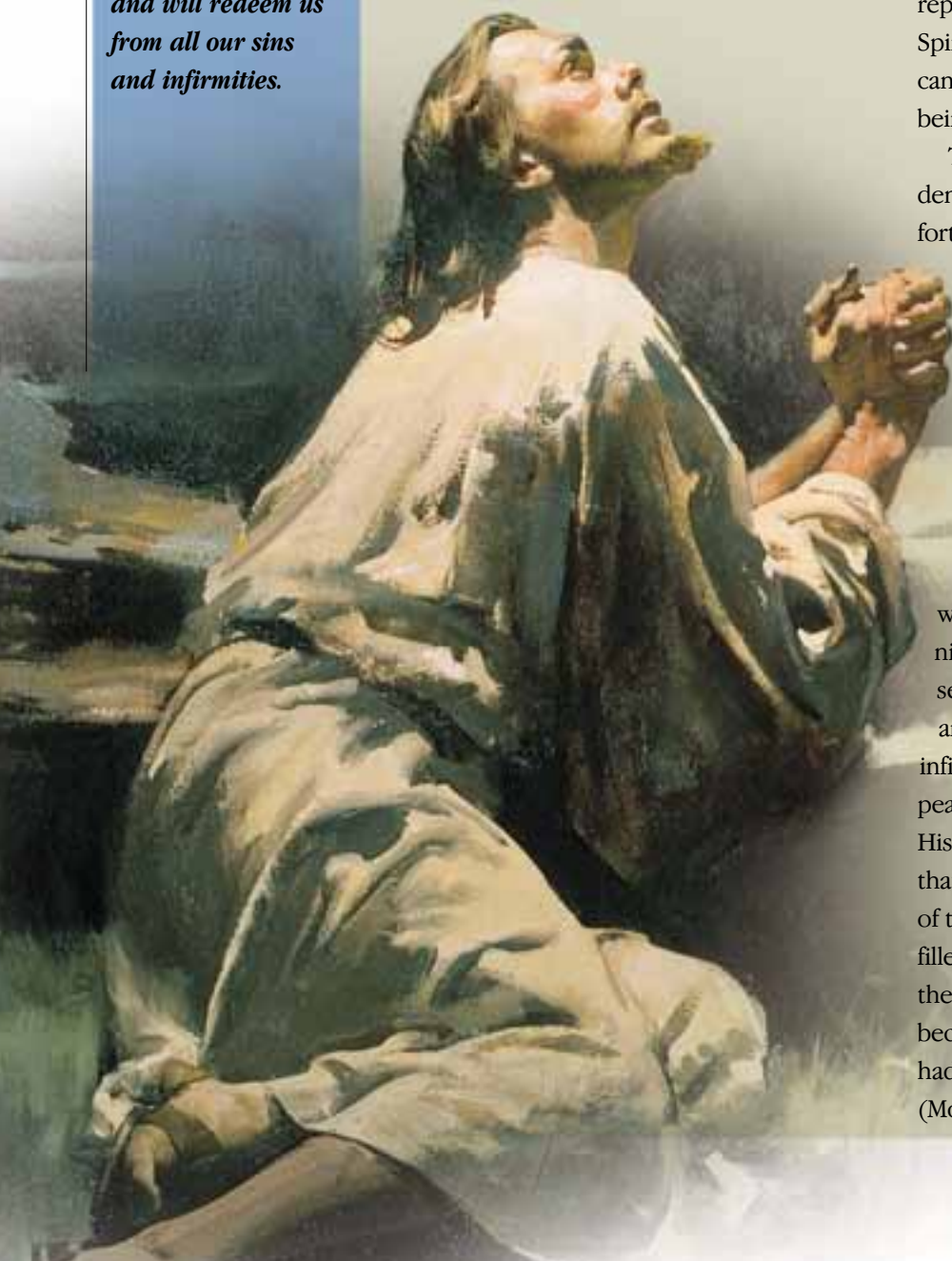
In many scriptures the prophets speak of feeling joy and feeling the Holy Ghost in

similar terms. For example, in the book of Acts we learn that "the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 13:52). And the Lord promises those who follow Him, "I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy" (D&C 11:13).

When we understand that being filled with joy involves being filled with the Holy Ghost, we realize that true happiness comes from repenting of our sins and living worthy of the Spirit. In addition, when feeling the Spirit, we can find great joy in knowing that we are being sanctified before God.

The joy that comes from repentance is evident on many levels. First is the joy and comfort that come to the heart of a repentant soul as the burden of sin is lifted. Second are the deep feelings of joy and love that come to those who help others work through the repentance process. And finally there are the joyful feelings of a loving Savior as He sees us follow His admonitions and rely upon the healing power of His atoning sacrifice.

As we apply the Atonement in our lives, we must reflect on the Savior and His infinite gift to us, exercise faith in Him, and seek a spiritual confirmation that He can and will redeem us from all our sins and infirmities. Thus, we will feel the joy and peace that can be manifested to us only by His Holy Spirit. Our experience will be like that of the people of Zarahemla: "The Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins, and having peace of conscience, because of the exceeding faith which they had in Jesus Christ who should come" (Mosiah 4:3).



“That I Might Bring Souls unto Repentance”

After we have felt the joy that comes through the blessings of the Atonement, we can also find great joy in inviting others to come unto Christ. While teaching his son Helaman, Alma said: “I have labored without ceasing, that I might bring souls unto repentance; that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

“Yea, and now behold, O my son, the Lord doth give me exceedingly great joy in the fruit of my labors” (Alma 36:24–25).

The Savior Himself taught: “If it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

“And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me . . . , how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!” (D&C 18:15–16).

“How Great Is His Joy in the Soul That Repenteth”

Finally, I cannot help but imagine the sense of fulfillment the Savior must feel each time we repent of our sins and apply His atoning sacrifice in our lives. Surely John echoed the Savior’s feelings when he declared, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 1:4). Christ, speaking of Himself, said, “How great is his joy in the soul that repenteth” (D&C 18:13).

After teaching the Nephites about His Atonement and what they needed to do to stand spotless before Him, Jesus expressed His feelings to them by saying: “My joy is great, even unto fulness, because of you . . . ; yea, and even the Father rejoiceth, and also all the holy angels, because of you and this generation; for none of them are lost. . . . In them I have fulness of joy” (3 Nephi 27:30–31).

I testify that we too can find joy in this life and a fullness of joy in the life hereafter by “looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who *for the joy that was set before him* endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2; emphasis added). ■

THE JOY OF A REPENTANT SOUL

We can learn much about the joy that follows true repentance by studying the experiences of the Apostle Paul and Alma the Younger, although our experiences may not be as dramatic (see Acts 8:1–3; 9:1–31; Mosiah 27:8–31; Alma 36:5–24). Paul and Alma were men of influence who went about persecuting the Saints. In the midst of their destructive actions, both men received heavenly visitors. An angel



of the Lord appeared to Alma, while Jesus Himself spoke to Paul, asking, “Why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 9:4).

Both men fell to the earth as a result of what they saw and heard. Alma was struck dumb, and Paul became blind. More

important, both men recovered from their wicked and fallen state in a similar way. Paul simply asked, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6). He immediately turned his life to the Savior and followed the Lord’s instructions with exactness. Alma describes his repentance:

“As I was thus racked with torment, while I was harrowed up by the memory of my many sins, behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world.

“Now, as my mind caught hold upon this thought, I cried within my heart: O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who am in the gall of bitterness, and am encircled about by the everlasting chains of death.

“And now, behold, when I thought this, I could remember my pains no more; yea, I was harrowed up by the memory of my sins no more.

“And oh, what *joy*, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with *joy* as exceeding as was my pain!” (Alma 36:17–20; emphasis added).

Elder Craig C. Christensen of the Seventy.

CAPE TOWN'S RECORD-SETTING SCOUT

He's only the third Scout in the history of South Africa to become a three-time Springbok Scout, but he's the first to also earn his Duty to God Award.

BY PAUL VANDENBERGHE

Church Magazines

Whatever country you live in, it takes a lot of effort to earn the top award in Scouting. So imagine the effort required to earn the award three times. Rocco du Plessis is the first Springbok Scout in the 26-year history of the First Edgemoor Troop in South Africa. So becoming a three-time Springbok Scout is a huge accomplishment.

However, there's another award Rocco earned last year that is equally important to him. "Earning the Duty to God has helped me achieve even more for my personal and spiritual growth," he says. "It's about your relationship with your Father in Heaven."

"The Scouting program here is very demanding," says Rocco, who is a member of the Panorama Ward in the Cape Town South Africa Stake. It's hard to

earn the Springbok. Sure, the Scout leaders are there to help you. But it's still tough. "If you don't work very hard, if you don't pull your weight, you're not going to get it," Rocco adds. A lot of time, planning, and effort goes into every award as you advance in the Scouting program, which in South Africa is not Church sponsored.

For the Duty to God Award, Rocco says the support of his parents and his Young Men leaders has made a big difference. "They *want* you to earn your Duty to God," he says, "and so many of the requirements are things you're doing daily already." Then it's just a matter of working with your parents and leaders to record your progress in those areas. "Most of the normal Mormon aspects of your life fill Duty to God requirements—if you do them." In other words, if a young man is attending Church meetings, praying regularly, studying the scriptures, and fulfilling his priesthood responsibilities, he is on the right track.

Becoming a Springbok Scout

Only about one or two percent of all Scouts nationwide receive South Africa's top Scouting award. And then only about one or two percent of these Springbok Scouts complete more than one of the three possible Explorer challenges. Rocco completed all three challenge awards, becoming only the third Scout in South African history to accomplish the feat.

A South African Scout advances through the program from Pathfinder to Adventurer to First Class then to Explorer. The Explorer badge is split into three different sections: Land Scouts, Air Scouts, and Sea Scouts. Usually a Scout will choose one of these sections to focus on as he works toward his final advancement—Springbok. Rocco focused on all three.

Along with the other badges and requirements, there are compulsory badges specific to each type of Explorer: The Land Explorer earns his Backwoodsman and Mapping





Rocco says that earning his Duty to God Award helped his personal and spiritual growth. Opposite page: Rocco with his mother, Sally; his father, André; and his brother, Jean-Jacq. Bottom left: Rocco led a group of Scouts on a three-day hike to fulfill one of the requirements for his Springbok award. Bottom right: Rocco shooting at the Cederberg marksmanship base, run by Latter-day Saint Scouts from Cape Town.





Above right: As part of his Air Explorer requirements, Rocco flew over the Cederberg wilderness and learned about air navigation. **Right:** Rocco was coleader of 10 Scouts as they hiked through the Cedar Mountains. **Far right:** Scouts build rafts for an annual competition. **Below:** Scouts work to build a bridge Rocco designed. **Opposite page:** Rocco holds the model of his bridge and his hike log.



badges. The Air Explorer earns his Air Navigator and Air Traffic Controller badges. And the Sea Explorer earns his Helmsman and Boatsman badges for sailing and rowing.

Rocco explains that it usually takes about two weekends at a badge course to earn each award. There are the white badges—the theory behind a skill. And then there are the green badges—the practical application of the skill. For example, to earn your Backwoodsman badge, first you'll learn things like wilderness survival, navigating with the stars, and making fires without matches. Then comes the practical application. You get dropped off in the bush for 48 hours, and you're on your own.

So Rocco has been pretty busy with Scouting for several years now. From February until December last

year, for example, he was away many weekends. "It seemed I was up permanently on badge courses," he says. Plus, for the past five years, Rocco has been the troop leader. That means he's been in charge of organizing all the troop camps. He's had to plan meals, do the shopping, coordinate troop meetings, type up consent forms for the other Scouts and their parents to sign, and oversee each of the campouts.

One valuable trait Rocco has learned along the way is persistence. "At least half of my badges I didn't pass the first time on the course," he says. "Within six months you can go back and do it again or have an adult who has done the badge test you on it." For instance, one of the requirements for First Aid is bandaging. "I failed bandaging because part of the knot on one of my bandages stuck out,"

Rocco says. “So I had to redo the bandaging portion in order to earn my level-two First Aid.”

In addition to the badges, there are other projects a Scout must complete to earn his Springbok. One of these is a construction project. Rocco chose to build a bridge. He had to first design and build a scale model of the bridge. Then, with a team of six other Scouts, Rocco had to build it full size, about 20 feet tall (6 m) and 30 feet long (9 m). It took nearly nine hours to build the bridge and then disassemble it.

Then there’s community service, which is a big part of earning both the Springbok and the Duty to God Award. For his Springbok service requirement, Rocco visited more than 40 homes of seniors to help them with various chores and repairs. “The only big thing that overlapped was the



40-hour service project I was able to use for both Scouts and the Duty to God Award,” says Rocco.

Of all the requirements Rocco has fulfilled to earn his various awards, he points to one in particular as most valuable for his personal growth: “Reading the Book of Mormon,” Rocco says without hesitation. “That was the biggest and most rewarding challenge.”

Becoming a Missionary

“I had read the Book of Mormon once already, a year or so ago, but I was just reading to get it done,” Rocco explains. “When I started reading it again, I really wanted to learn and gain a testimony of it.” He approached reading the Book of Mormon in a completely different way his second time through. “Every time I read now, I pray before to ask Heavenly Father’s Spirit to be with me as I read.”

Rocco’s already begun on his next big project—to more actively share his testimony with others as he prepares to serve a full-time mission. His Scouting experiences and earning the Duty to God Award have helped him in his personal development and in becoming a missionary. “To spread the gospel, I needed to know what is in the Book of Mormon, and I needed to know that it is true,” he says. “After reading the Book of Mormon for the second time, I received a testimony of it.”

Even if there was not a Duty to God Award to earn, Rocco says he would have fulfilled most of the requirements simply because he wanted to prepare for missionary service. Attending church, reading the scriptures, praying daily, and giving service are just part of who Rocco is, of being what a Latter-day Saint is supposed to be.

Now that he has received his call to serve as a full-time missionary, the testimony Elder du Plessis has built is proving much more useful than the rope-and-log bridge he built for his Springbok construction project. However, some of the backwoodsman skills he learned as a Scout may come in handy as he serves in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi. ■



THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON

ANOTHER TESTAMENT
OF JESUS CHRIST

Questions & Answers

“One of my Church friends is not living some gospel standards. I’m worried about him. How can I help?”

LIAHONA

You can help by being a friend. Your friend might be trying to understand who he is and where he fits in. He needs someone to talk to, go to good activities with, and look to for an example. Without being self-righteous or critical, find opportunities to talk with him about times when you’ve lived up to your standards and been blessed.

Keep your standards high. Whatever you do, do not lower your standards in the name of helping your friend. Stay out of situations where the Holy Ghost will not be there to prompt you. Despite your friendship and concern, your friend may decide to continue making wrong decisions. You might have to associate with other people rather than be brought down too.

Take time to pray. Pray for your friend, but pray for yourself too. Pray for opportunities to help him, and pray that you’ll recognize those opportunities and be guided when they come. Pray that your actions will be motivated by a Christlike love for your friend, not just a desire to change him. Then act!

Don’t lower your standards in order to help your friend.

Pray that the Holy Ghost will help you know what to do, and then act!

Trust that Heavenly Father will work through you to make a difference in your friend’s life.

Invite your friend to participate in uplifting activities so he can feel the Spirit and have the desire to make good decisions.

Be an example of how keeping the commandments brings you happiness.

Don’t give up. Your friend probably won’t change all at once. It takes continual, sincere effort. In fact, you may never know what effect your words or example is having, but if you are reaching out to him, you are making a difference. The Book of Mormon prophet Jacob may have thought his son Enos was not paying attention to his teachings, but one day Enos remembered “the words which [he] had often heard [his] father speak,” and he repented (see Enos 1:3–5). Your words and example will have an effect, though it may not be right now.

Include your friend. Remember the Savior’s parable about the shepherd who left the 99 sheep to find the lost one. He did not just visit the lost sheep and then return to the flock alone. He brought that sheep back with him. (See Luke 15:4–7.) Invite your friend to activities with people who have high standards. These experiences will help him see the blessings of righteous living and feel comfortable with people who have high standards. Hopefully, he will recognize that the happiness he feels through these activities



READERS

is better than the temporary pleasure he gets from disobedience.

As you try to help your friend, you can count on the Lord to help you because He wants your friend to make good choices too. As Nephi went about helping his people, the Lord told him, “I will make thee mighty in word and in deed” (Helaman 10:5; emphasis added)—and He did. Heavenly Father will work through you if you make your time and effort available to Him.



Keep being a friend. Your friend looks up to you and watches what you do. He probably wants what you have;

he just doesn’t know how to get it. You don’t have to agree with all the things he says and does; just let him know you are there for him. It might be hard some days, but it will be worth it. Ask the Lord for help, and it will work out.

Stephanie C., 16, USA

I had a friend who was active for a long time in the Church. He always came alone because his family had decided they no longer wanted to come. I was impressed by his strength and courage. But then one day I heard that he no longer came to church. I felt strongly prompted by the Spirit that I should talk with him. I told him how impressed I had been that he had come alone to church, and I told him not to give up. That next Sunday he came to sacrament meeting and since then has continued to come to church. By being

faithful and living the gospel, we can be examples to our friends and give them the love and support they need.

Marina V., 18, Sweden



I really think it is best to talk to him. Be straightforward but gentle. I think it will require courage, and I think it would be best to do it after praying because you can get

help. I also have friends like this, and because I want to go with them to the celestial kingdom I am trying hard to lead them in a good direction. You may have to change yourself in order to have an effect on someone else. It is important that you strive every day to become a better person.

Eimi H., 17, Japan



I have a friend who didn't follow a couple of Church standards, and I regret not telling him how I felt about it. Tell your friend how you feel, and pray for him. Continue

being his friend as long as you don't end up doing what he is doing. If it is serious, talk to the bishop.

Deborah S., 14, USA

You need to be a good example to your friend. Invite him to attend a youth activity. It is more effective if you go with him. Share your testimony about what you have received when you have followed gospel standards.

Jared Q., 16, Philippines

With my friend I would try to do fun and wholesome activities that don't deviate from gospel principles. In this way he would see that there are many ways to have fun without doing things



Many of our young people are tugged in the wrong direction and enticed to partake of the sins of the world. Yearningly such individuals seek for the strength of those who have the ability to stand firm for truth. Through righteous living and by extending the helping hand and the understanding heart, you can rescue, you can save. How great will then be your joy. How eternal will be the blessing you will have conferred."

President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency, "An Example of the Believers," Ensign, Nov. 1992, 98.

that aren't right. I wouldn't support him in things that are wrong but would counsel him and strengthen him through my example. It would be good to talk to him and let him know you care about him and remind him that his weakness can become a strength (see Ether 12:27). Let him know that he's the one who has to make the decision but that you are there for support. You need to stay strong and not allow your friend's activities to influence your actions.

Jorge B., 17, Ecuador



An example is very important in these kinds of situations. We can also pray continually for our friends and seek out ways to help them. We can fast and ask

Heavenly Father to give us the right words to say to help them understand why living the gospel makes us happy.

Virginia C., 17, Uruguay

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

NEXT QUESTION

"How should I respond when my friends say that Jesus Christ was a great moral teacher but not the Savior or the Son of God?"

SEND US YOUR ANSWER, along with your full name, birth date, ward and stake (or branch and district), and photograph (including your parent's written permission to print the photo) to:

Questions & Answers 5/07

50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

Or e-mail: liahona@ldschurch.org

Please respond by May 15, 2007. ■

Become an Instrument in the Hands of God by Caring for the Poor and Needy



Prayerfully 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.

What Does the Lord Say about Caring for the Poor and Needy?

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “Our Heavenly Father is concerned for [the poor and needy]. They are all his children. . . . The poor—especially widows, orphans, and strangers—have long been the concern of God and the godly. . . . To those who cared for the poor, blessings were promised” (“In the Lord’s Own Way,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 25).

Matthew 25:37–40: “Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

“When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

“Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one

of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

How Can I Be an Instrument to Care for Others?

Mosiah 4:26: “Ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally.”

Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “I will never again see home teaching or visiting teaching as only programs. . . . Such work is an opportunity, not a burden. . . . Every member has made a covenant to do works of kindness as the Savior would do. So any call to bear witness and to care for others is not a request for extra service; it is a blessing designed by a loving Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. . . . Each is a chance to prove what blessings flow from being a

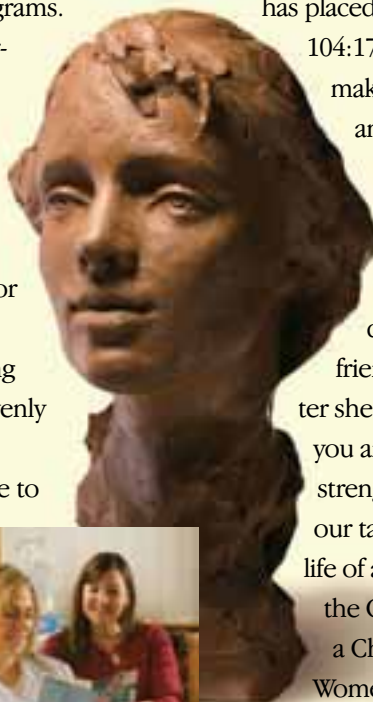
covenant people, and each is an opportunity for which you agreed to be accountable” (“Witnesses for God,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 31).

Bishop H. David Burton, Presiding

Bishop: “The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that it is our responsibility ‘to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to provide for the widow, to dry up the tear of the orphan, to comfort the afflicted, whether in this church or in any other, or in no church at all, wherever he finds them’ (*Times and Seasons*, 15 Mar. 1842, 732). May we be generous with our time and liberal in our contributions for the care of those who suffer” (“Go, and Do Thou Likewise,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 77).

Bonnie D. Parkin, Relief Society

general president: “The Lord’s Storehouse—where ‘there is enough and to spare’—is [symbolically] what the Lord has placed in each of us (D&C 104:17). It is one woman making a difference for another. It is one sister offering to listen or talk with a sister who may be lonely. It is a sister developing a close friendship with the sister she visit teaches. It is you and me with our strengths, our skills, and our talents blessing the life of another” (“Welfare, the Crowning Principle of a Christian Life,” BYU Women’s Conference, May 1, 2003, 3). ■



Three Messages to Young Adults



If you will put the things of God first, you will make good decisions. Nothing else counts if you do not qualify to return to live with Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

BY ELDER EARL C. TINGEY
Of the Presidency of the Seventy

My young adult friends, you live in a time of great promise. Never in the history of the world have there been so many opportunities for choice and success.

I have three messages for you as you make your way in the world: be an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, prepare today for life tomorrow, and be willing to accept the responsibilities of marriage.

Be Active in the Church

As you secure a quality education, commence employment, and look forward to marriage, you should always keep in mind your Church activity.

Young single adults are a highly mobile group. You change addresses and telephone numbers often. As Church leaders, we are saddened when we lose contact with you. When this occurs, we can't be in touch with you to invite you to accept a Church calling and to share in all the blessings of Church membership.

One of our greatest concerns is that

many of our young adults have not established themselves in a unit where they have a bishop and their bishop knows who they are. Every member of the Church should be known by and be accountable to a bishop or branch president. This relationship will provide you with an opportunity to participate in priesthood ordinances, have interviews, secure temple recommends when appropriate, and receive callings in the Church.

There should be a clear line to someone holding priesthood keys. If you have two bishops, you have no bishop. If your membership record is not in the ward where you attend and you are not in a position to accept





a calling, you may quickly find yourself becoming lost to your leaders.

A Church calling is one of the most wonderful blessings you can enjoy at your stage of life. You have so much to contribute to the ward or branch where you live. Your talents and skills are necessary to a growing Church. If you are a returned missionary, you can influence other members with your enthusiasm and your testimony. A calling is also important if you have not yet served a mission.

If you have not established yourself in a ward or branch and are not known by your bishop or branch president, will you accept my personal challenge to immediately correct that matter? Become accountable to your priesthood leaders. Sisters, get to know the members of the Relief Society in your area. Become involved in the Relief Society organization. Young men, be worthy to assume the increased responsibilities and enter into the sacred covenants that are part of progressing from the Aaronic Priesthood to the Melchizedek Priesthood. Establish yourself in your local elders quorum, and become an active participant.

If you are established in a ward or branch, I challenge you to think of friends or associates in the gospel who have become lost to their priesthood leaders. Encourage these friends to reestablish themselves in the gospel and to become participating members of the Church.



Every member of the Church should be known by and be accountable to a bishop or branch president. This relationship will provide you with opportunities to contribute to the ward or branch where you live.

Get a good education, and acquire the skills necessary to successfully obtain employment, rear a family, and be a contributing member of society.

Prepare Today for Life Tomorrow

The second message I bring you is to make wise decisions in preparation for your future.

I have associated with thousands of college-age students. I can honestly say that what you decide to do with respect to your education, employment, preparation for marriage, and Church activity at this time of your life will set the pattern for your future.

If you will put the things of God first, you will make good decisions. It is so easy to make a decision that seems attractive at the time but that, in the aggregate, will lead you away from the kingdom of God. Nothing else in eternity counts if you do not qualify today to return to live with Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

In the scriptures we find several statements that may be of help to you. Jesus Christ said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

On another occasion He said, “He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 10:39). Do you understand that losing your life in the service of others allows you to find your true identity as a child of God? The alternative—being self-centered and not serving God or others—results in losing your life in an eternal sense.

As you prepare for your future, your service and association in the environment of the Church are most important.

Secure a Good Education

We encourage you to get a good education and to acquire the skills

necessary to successfully obtain employment, rear a family, and be a contributing member of society.

Education and vocational training can be expensive. Learn how to save money and wisely use what funds are available to you. This will help minimize the debt you may have when you complete your education.

If you are securing an education while married, it will require that you and your spouse exercise good decision-making skills as you sacrifice to care for your family. You will need to ensure that the needs of your family, your employment, and your education are not jeopardized.

Single or married, those of you who are employed should develop a good work ethic. Be productive; magnify your employment skills. Be loyal to your employer. Seek opportunities for advancement and for additional responsibility. Pay your tithes and offerings. Save some of your income, and develop the habit of thrift and self-reliance.

Know the True Value of Money

One of the great challenges at this stage of your life is to know how to make decisions with respect to spending money.

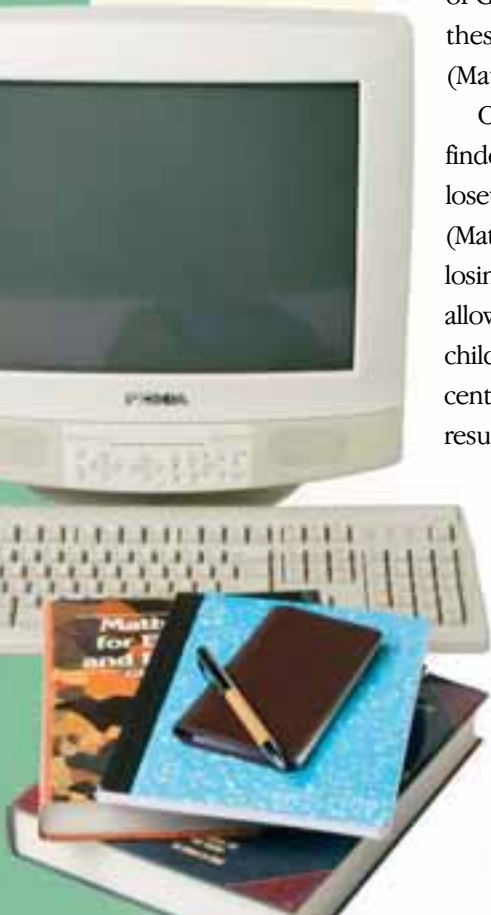
President Brigham Young taught: “If you wish to get rich, save what you get. A fool can earn money; but it takes a wise man to save and dispose of it to his own advantage.”¹

So many enticing and interesting products are available in our society. They provide pleasure and relaxation. They are intriguing, and they seem necessary.

Yet the Savior said:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in





heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19–21).

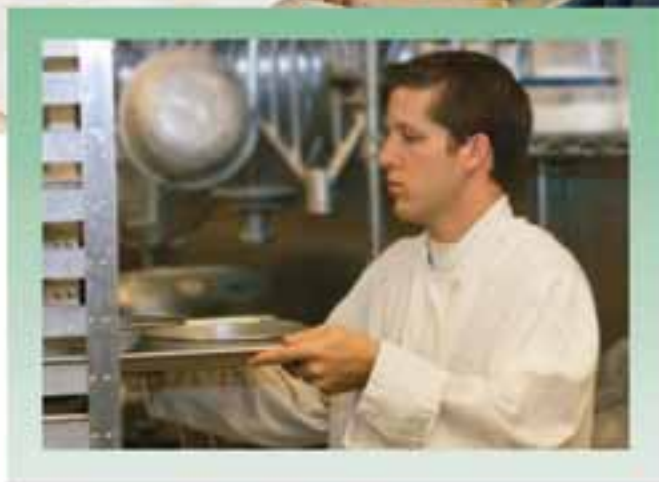
Be careful that you do not unwisely surround yourself with physical, temporal playthings that may not be necessary at this stage of your life. Do not feel that you must immediately provide for yourself what your parents had when you left their home. In most cases it took your parents decades to acquire the conveniences of a modern home, and it is simply not practical to seek to acquire them now as you begin your new family home.

I can personally testify that some of the sweetest memories my wife and I have are of when our growing family was living in a small apartment as I was completing law school. We had few of life’s luxuries. But we didn’t know we were poor because we had each other and the blessings of the gospel. These blessings completely overshadowed our lack of physical possessions.

Be Willing to Accept the Responsibilities of Marriage

The third message I would like to discuss with you—and it connects with the previous two messages—is to be willing to accept the responsibilities of marriage.

The Brethren of the Church have a deep and abiding



concern that our young single adults know the doctrine of the Church on marriage. The doctrine of the Church with respect to the eternal family is clear. Let me quote from the Doctrine and Covenants:

“Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world.

“Therefore, when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are appointed angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory” (D&C 132:15–16).

In simple, plain language, marriage for time and all eternity is essential for exaltation.



Challenges That May Delay Marriage

With this scripture in mind, let me mention some of the factors that may delay marriage.

1. To some, there may seem to be less encouragement for returned missionaries to get married. If that is your understanding, it is a false assumption. All returned missionaries should be encouraged when they return home to remain active in the Church, secure an education, acquire employment skills, and move in the direction of finding an eternal companion.

2. Some young men feel they cannot meet the expectations of some young women. The phrase “high maintenance” is often used to describe those who give the impression they need more than the other can provide. Proper communication can address that uncertainty.

3. An emphasis on education or career may put marriage in a lesser role. Marriage, education, and career can go together. A career without family, where family is possible, is a tragedy.

4. Do not let your life be simply an existence that is fun or selfish. Life is more than an amusement park. Do not be hooked on obtaining possessions. Accept responsibility.

5. A negative perception of marriage as the result of media reports or the experiences of family or friends may deter one from marriage. Some say, “Why get married when there are so many divorces?” The existence of divorce does not mean you cannot have a happy and successful marriage. Don’t let the actions of others make your decisions. Determine that your marriage will not be a failure.

6. Some put off marriage for financial reasons. Postponing marriage until money is sufficient to sustain a stylish living is not wise. So much of life together—struggling, adjusting, and learning to cope with life’s challenges—is lost when that happens.

These and many other concerns may delay marriage. It is not my intent to answer each of these objections to your personal satisfaction. I simply declare the doctrine of the Church with respect to marriage, and I encourage you to have the faith sufficient to move forward in this most important decision of your life.

Fear

If I could choose one word that best describes most of the reasons for delaying marriage, it would be *fear*—fear of the future, fear of failure, and so on. It is not unusual to have fear. Fear can be overcome by preparation and faith.

When the Apostles of old feared that a great storm would sink their ship, Christ “arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

“And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” (Mark 4:39–40).

The Apostle Paul taught, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).

I can honestly say that in my generation, when the opportunity to marry the right person came, the challenges of continuing one’s education became secondary to the all-important decision to marry the right person. Many of you young adults have already made that decision and are moving forward with your lives, even though you do not have all the conveniences you might otherwise have. But you are moving forward in accordance with an

eternal plan and under a divine pattern that this Church offers all members.

Family

Some time ago, Sister Tingey and I, who have 4 children and now 21 grandchildren, had a “granddaughter sleepover.” Five of our granddaughters, ages 6 to 14, came to our home. In addition to being cousins, they are the closest of friends.

We ate a wonderful meal prepared by Sister Tingey. Then the granddaughters did some crafts, also prepared by Sister Tingey. Afterward we played their favorite games, and then they presented a little talent show for Grandma and Grandpa. In the course of the talent show, they sang several favorite Primary songs adapted to grandparents, including the following:

*I'm so glad when [Grandpa] comes home,
Glad as I can be;
Clap my hands and shout for joy,
Then climb upon his knee,
Put my arms around his neck,
Hug him tight like this,
Pat his cheeks, then give him what?
A great big kiss.²*

Five granddaughters were on my lap as they sang this song, arms around my neck, patting my cheeks and giving me great big kisses.

This is what it's all about. This is family. This is the gospel. This completely overshadows all physical possessions and things that cost money.

Unless you understand what your future can hold with respect to family, it will be difficult for you to make wise decisions affecting your future. Family is everything. It overshadows all other relationships and decisions.

Not All Will Marry

Now, I know that not all who wish to marry will do so in this life. The Lord's plan provides for that.

The wonderful story of Ruth in the Old Testament is a story of a woman who lost her husband and then chose not to pursue only her own individual goals. Ruth was single, but she remained devoted to family and to God.

When her mother-in-law, Naomi, encouraged her to move forward with her life, Ruth uttered a great faith-promoting statement: “Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God” (Ruth 1:16).

As you will remember, later in life Ruth met Boaz, and they were married and became a link in the chain of the ancestry of Jesus Christ. All the blessings promised to faithful followers of the Lord were hers.

The family is the heart and soul of the gospel. Through the family we progress into the eternities. An eternal marriage and family are worth any struggles.

Please ponder these thoughts I have shared with you. Pray about them. Know that your Heavenly Father will bless you and will help you replace fear with faith if you call upon Him.

I humbly bear my witness and testimony that being active in the Church, preparing well for your future, and being sealed to a spouse for time and all eternity can help you discover the joy that is the promise of the gospel of Jesus Christ. ■

From a Church Educational System fireside address given at the Ogden Utah Institute of Religion on May 2, 2004.

NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* (1997), 229.
2. “Daddy’s Homecoming,” *Children’s Songbook*, 210.

F*amily overshadows all other relationships and decisions. Unless you understand what your future can hold with respect to family, it will be difficult to make wise decisions. An eternal marriage and family are worth any struggles.*

The Freedom to

BY ADAM C. OLSON

Church Magazines

The ballerina glides across the stage—spiraling, spinning, then springing into the air so easily it's as if she caught gravity napping. She is in every movement a fluid expression of freedom.

Like many little girls, when Maria Victoria Rojas Rivera of Chile—Mavi to her friends—was four years old, she decided she wanted to become a ballerina. And like all of those other little girls, she quickly discovered that the grace and freedom she saw on the stage came at a pretty steep price. The effort and discipline required to become a professional ballerina are too much for many young dreamers.

The Cost of Dreams

“When you're little, you don't understand the sacrifice it takes,” Mavi says. “When I started studying at age 10, our

Rules can seem restrictive, but obedience allows Mavi to soar.

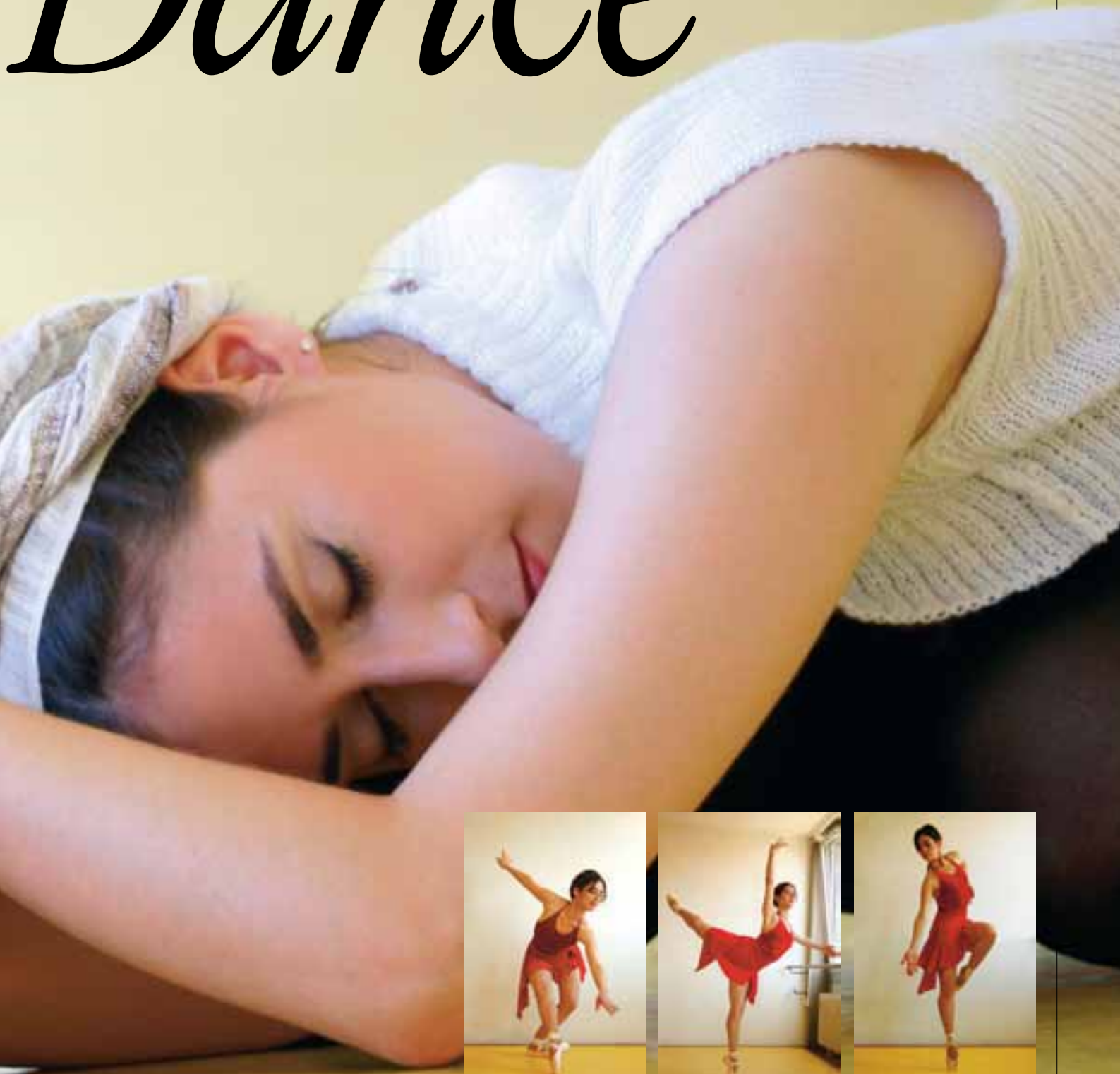
teachers told us that half of our lives would be spent dancing. We'd have to give up a lot of things.”

Things like free time and certain foods. Mavi would have to put a lot of time and effort into exercising and practicing. She'd have to watch carefully what she ate. And after schoolwork and dance, there wouldn't be much time for friends.

Mavi decided that her dream was important enough to her to try.

“The teenage years can be a complicated time,” she says. “My friends didn't always understand why I wouldn't eat certain things or stay out late with them.”

Dance





The Price of Freedom

Mavi learned early on that what appeared to be restrictions on her freedom were actually the only way she could free herself from things that would keep her from her goal.

“I chose not to stay out late, and I chose to spend time practicing instead of going to the mall with my friends,” Mavi says. “If I was tired because I stayed out too late or if I didn’t know the steps because I didn’t practice, I couldn’t dance.”

That kind of discipline isn’t easy, but Mavi says it is worth it.

“Everyone has moments when you want to give in,” Mavi confesses, “but you have the power to choose. Discipline can appear restrictive, but self-discipline is a choice. And I chose to accept this lifestyle in order to dance.”

A More Long-Term Goal

At some point during her drive to become a ballerina, Mavi realized that dancing was not the only goal she had or the only worthwhile thing she would need to sacrifice for.

Along the way, she gained a desire to follow Jesus Christ, and she realized that what ballet had taught her about discipline applies to gospel discipleship as well. Just as her friends had wondered why she would do what she did for dance, they asked why she lived such restrictive gospel principles.

“I explained that we have the liberty to choose, and I chose to accept this lifestyle in order to be free from sin and have the Holy Ghost with me,” she says.

Or as the Savior said it, a disciple must “take up his cross,” meaning to deny oneself all ungodliness and every worldly lust and to keep God’s commandments (see Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 16:26). Such self-discipline brings us to “liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator,” while trying to live outside the commandments leads to “captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil” (2 Nephi 2:27).

“Obedience brings greater freedom and peace than anything,” Mavi says. “My goals aren’t limited to this earthly life but include eternity.”

Worth the Sacrifice

Mavi floats across the stage like a leaf carried by the current, stretching and flowing from one move to the next—*développé* and *pirouette*, *glissade* and *grand jeté*.

A ballerina can make her body move in ways that would hurt most other people. This freedom of movement is essential for communicating with the audience. But even though a good ballerina makes every move look effortless on stage, she has put in a lot of effort off the stage.

After eight years of sacrifice and hours of training almost every day, she was living her dream on stage—and in the gospel.

“People think it looks so beautiful and graceful,” Mavi says. “But the movements are very controlled. It takes a lot of strength to control yourself like that.”

The gospel parallel is important. Following Christ takes strength. And the rewards are sweet.

“The rewards from so many sacrifices are that I can dance,” Mavi says. “I feel strong,

and I feel the guidance of the Holy Ghost in every step I take—on stage and off.”

Not Done Dancing

According to Nephi, once we’ve felt the desire to follow Christ and have been baptized and confirmed, we must still endure to the end (see 2 Nephi 31:19–20). For Mavi, ballet requires similar dedication.

After dancing in Paraguay, she returned to Viña del Mar, Chile, to teach for a few years. Now she wants to take her dancing to the next level. She has set new goals that have taken her to Argentina, Germany, Ireland, and Spain to study and audition with different ballet companies.

She knows she must continue to strive—both on the stage and in the gospel. She must continue with discipline if she wants the freedom to dance. And she must continue in faith if she wants the freedom that comes from discipleship. “If ye continue in my word,” the Lord taught, “then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31–32). ■



DANCING WITH WISDOM

Mavi has to put in a lot of effort off the stage to stay healthy and in shape. Aside from watching what she eats and getting enough rest, Mavi exercises a lot, and she dances at least five hours almost every day. But she doesn’t take care of herself just because she’s a dancer.

“As a member of the Church, I understand that my body is the temple of my spirit. As an artist, I need every part of

my body to work right, so I protect it as best as I can. But as a member, I already knew I should do that.”

Her testimony of the Word of Wisdom’s inspired nature has been strengthened by her experience with ballet. “When you

treat your body right, you can tell,” she says.

You have to take care of yourself to be a ballerina, but Mavi says, “We should all take care of our bodies, even if we aren’t dancers. We don’t get to choose our bodies, but we should all be grateful for and take care of what we have been given. They are gifts from God, and we’ve each been given our body for a purpose.”



The Example of One



One woman's example—as wife, mother, and human being—radiated the message of the gospel.

BY ELDER BRUCE C. HAFEN
Of the Seventy

The recent e-mail subject line brought me sad news: “Funeral for Wendy Knaupp.” As I brushed away the tears, I thought of the day more than 40 years ago when my missionary companion and I met Wendy and Paul Knaupp near a flower shop inside the Frankfurt train station. A young American couple in Germany on military duty, they were far from home, expecting their first baby. Because our mission president had just urged us to be “every moment a missionary,” we struck up a conversation with them.

As we taught them the missionary discussions, I was impressed with the light in Wendy’s soul. She was cheerful and bright and spiritually very alive. She sensed the meaning of the Restoration with sure instincts. It was a privilege to be close enough to watch her testimony grow and watch that light in her face increase.

More than 30 years later, Wendy recalled her first visit with us: “I will always remember the feeling I had when I first heard the Joseph Smith story! I can picture our tiny upstairs German apartment that was probably as big

as our bedroom today, with us sitting on the edge of the bed/couch [facing the missionaries]. I remember feeling marvel and relief. I had always felt that there must be something like that out there somewhere. It didn’t make sense that God would leave us to blindly stumble around as we were so obviously doing. . . . It seemed so right and I believed it.”

Soon after deciding to be baptized, however, Wendy and Paul heard from a family member who criticized the Church’s policy about who could receive the priesthood. They became confused and discouraged. They said we shouldn’t visit them again—except once more to say good-bye. We didn’t know how to answer their questions but knew we had one last chance. As we talked I felt prompted to read with them a scripture I had recently noticed in my personal study, the story of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10–11. That night I realized a fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to missionaries: “It shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say . . . [and] the Holy Ghost shall [bear] record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say” (D&C 100:6, 8). We all felt a spirit of peace as we prayed together.



What first impressed Libby most about the Church was the power of Wendy's personal example. For Libby, at least at the beginning, Wendy herself was the message of the Restoration.

Years later Wendy said of this same experience: "I don't remember what they told us or what we talked about, but that light . . . the Spirit . . . was back and I knew that it was true, and that even though I didn't understand everything completely, the message was still true and we needed to accept it, and that at some future time we would come to understand."

Paul and Wendy were baptized. Soon they were sealed in the temple. Amid the normal

trials of family life, they raised five children who eventually all became active in the Church. Some served missions. Paul was a schoolteacher. Paul and Wendy sang beautiful duets in church together. Wendy led her ward choir for years. They loved the temple and came to know for themselves "the joy of the saints" (Enos 1:3).

Once while attending church in London, my wife, Marie, and I met a woman named Libby Casas from Maine. Because the Knaupps

Of missionary work, President Gordon B. Hinckley has said, “Everyone that you see come into the Church because of your effort will bring happiness into your lives.”

were the only people we then knew in Maine, we asked if she knew them. Her face lit up: “Know them? Wendy is my dear friend. She introduced me to the gospel!” Wendy had met Libby in a Laundromat—two mothers doing their family laundry—and shared the gospel with Libby just as we had done with Wendy in the train station. What first impressed Libby most about the Church was the power of Wendy’s personal example—as mother, wife, and human being. For Libby, at least at the beginning, Wendy herself was the message of the Restoration.

The Knaupps later lived in Oregon. Then last year, after we heard that Wendy had cancer, we were blessed to discover them visiting in Utah during general conference. Wendy’s husband, their returned missionary son, and I gave her a blessing. We shared our experiences from the past four decades. It was clear that the gospel meant absolutely everything to them. It was the center and purpose of their lives and their children’s lives. Paul and Wendy fervently wanted to be healthy so they could fulfill their dream of serving a mission together.

Not long before she died, Wendy wrote to me in a letter, “I really feel that I am in the arms of the Lord. He can do anything

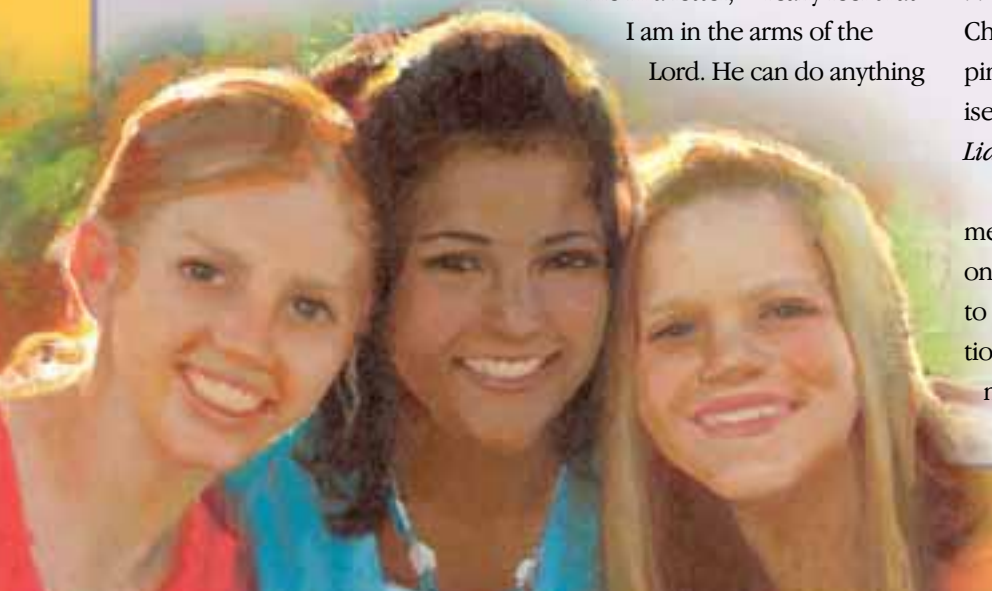
He wants, and I am in His care.” She expressed gratitude for the gospel and her family, then wrote, “Isn’t the Lord wonderful!”

Now Wendy is gone, and her family misses her terribly. When her son wrote us about her death, he said, “Thank you for bringing Mom into the light of the gospel. She has lived in obedience to the commandments.” He said his mother once wrote to him, “I love the Lord and am eternally grateful [to Him] for bringing the priceless gospel into my life. I want to prove faithful more than anything else and am really trying to do so.”

Because the gospel was everything to Wendy and her family, those of us who were her missionaries understand “how great shall be your joy” (D&C 18:15) with her in our Father’s kingdom. The gospel was *everything* to her, so my missionary experience with her means *everything* to me. No wonder the Lord said that doing missionary work is “the thing which will be of *the most worth unto you*” (D&C 15:6; emphasis added).

President Gordon B. Hinckley has said: “I want to plead with the Saints to do all that you possibly can to provide referrals [of people] whom [the missionaries] might teach. . . . Everyone that you see come into the Church because of your effort will bring happiness into your lives. I make that as a promise to each of you” (“Inspirational Thoughts,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Oct. 2003, 3).

I have tasted firsthand what that promise means. I too plead with you to introduce even one person to the Church this year—and not to give up when they encounter some opposition. If you make sure that opportunity does not pass you by, you will say with Wendy Knaupp, “Isn’t the Lord wonderful!” ■



Tithing and Other Offerings

Want to make a difference in the world but don't know how? The answer is as close as your tithing envelope. Here's a look at how the money you put in that little envelope helps build the Lord's kingdom worldwide—and right in your own ward or branch.

Name

It may seem pretty obvious, but be sure to fill out this line exactly the same way each time. That's so your ward or branch clerk won't have to figure out if K. Anderson and Kim Anderson are really the same person.

Tithing

Your 10 percent is sent to Church headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah, where Church leaders carefully decide where it is needed most—maybe to help build a new meetinghouse somewhere in the world.

Fast offering

Every fast Sunday, Latter-day Saints have the opportunity to donate to the fast offering fund. First, the bishop or branch president uses this money to help people right in your own ward or branch who need money to buy food or pay for housing. Then, if there is a surplus, fast offerings are passed along to help needy people in other areas.

Ward missionary

Donate here to help support missionaries from your own ward or branch.

General missionary

Donate here to support missionaries and missionary work in locations throughout the Church.

Book of Mormon

If you'd like to help pay for copies of the Book of Mormon, which can help convert people throughout the world, donate here.



"A group of men were talking with the Prophet Joseph Smith one day when news arrived that the house of a poor brother . . . was burned down. Everyone expressed sorrow for what had happened. The Prophet listened for a moment, then 'put his hand in his pocket, took out five dollars and said, 'I feel sorry for this brother to the amount of five dollars; how much do you all feel sorry?'' . . . Last year millions of you responded to the sorrow of others with your means, tender hearts, and helping hands. Thank you for your wonderful measure of generosity."

Bishop H. David Burton, Presiding Bishop, "Tender Hearts and Helping Hands," Liahona and Ensign, May 2006, 8.

Humanitarian aid

Whenever there is a large-scale natural disaster in the world, the Church is there, helping provide emergency supplies. The Humanitarian Aid Fund also sends food to people suffering from malnourishment and starvation and education kits for needy children. For example, the Humanitarian Aid Fund recently helped vaccinate millions of African children against measles.

Temple construction

If you want to help pay for the building of temples throughout the world, donate here.

Perpetual education

In many areas of the world, a post-high-school education is beyond the reach of many Latter-day Saint young adults. The Perpetual Education Fund gives education loans to make a brighter future for students from many countries.

Other

Need to pay fees for Scout camp, Young Women camp, or some other Church-sponsored activity? Write down these funds in the "Other" category. Although these funds are not actually donations, this category allows ward or branch leaders to account for the money and give you a receipt.

Tithing and Other Offerings

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Amount _____

Check number _____

Other _____

Total _____

Amount _____

Check number _____

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The Windows of Heaven

BY ELDER H. BRYAN RICHARDS

Served as a member of the Seventy
from 1998 to 2006

I got my first real job when I was about 13 years old. I was a newspaper delivery boy. I still remember riding my bike around my neighborhood in Salt Lake City every evening, throwing papers onto my neighbors' front steps. I didn't make a whole lot of money at it, but each month when I received my wages, there was no question that I would pay tithing. My parents had set the example of paying tithing, and I knew it was a commandment from the Lord (see D&C 119:3–4).

I remember attending tithing settlement as a youngster with my mother and father. It was such a natural thing to me to visit with the bishop and to declare myself a full-tithe payer. Even as I got older and started earning more money, I always paid tithing first.

When I became a parent, it was important to me that each of my children visit individually with the bishop at tithing settlement. My wife and I tried to teach them early on to pay tithing on the little allowance we gave them so that when they grew older it was something they had already seen the blessings of and knew they should do.

Blessings Will Come

When Sister Richards and I were first married, we were going to school and had very little income to meet our expenses. Paying our tithing was a great sacrifice. But Sister Richards never even considered using our tithing money for other things we greatly needed, like food or rent. She insisted that we pay our tithing first, and we always did. Sometimes we had only a penny left when all of our obligations were met, but we always seemed to have just enough to meet them. That was a blessing from exercising our faith to pay tithing.

One blessing that I believe has come from paying tithing is that over the course of my career I never once went for a long time without a job. At one point early in my career I was laid off from my job, and within two weeks I had another job making more than I had at my previous one. During 25 years with one company, I went through many periods when employees were laid off all around me, but I wasn't. I believe the Lord blessed me for paying tithing.

My young brothers and sisters, if you will exercise the faith necessary to pay tithing, I promise you, you will be blessed. No matter



*If you will exercise
the faith necessary
to pay tithing, I
promise you, you
will be blessed.*



While in India, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the chapel in Rajahmundry, I met faithful Latter-day Saints. I was reminded that tithing is not a monetary commandment—it is a principle of faith.

how small your contribution may seem, pay it without hesitation. Make it the first thing you do when you earn

some money. You will develop faith to do things you otherwise may not think you have the ability to accomplish. You will be wiser in how you manage your money, and you will gain the sweet assurance that comes from knowing you are doing what

the Lord asks of you. This will be a source of strength, and you will be able to draw on that strength in the future.

I know that Sister Richards and I received many blessings as a result of paying tithing. I have also witnessed the overflow of blessings that have come to faithful Latter-day Saints in remote parts of the world because they were willing to pay tithing.

The Church in India

One incident in particular made a great impression on me. In 2000 I had the opportunity to attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the first Latter-day Saint meetinghouse that would be built from the ground up in India. The location for this chapel was in Rajahmundry, a city near the eastern coast of the country. It is a relatively small city for India, even though about three million people live there.

I traveled to Rajahmundry with my wife; the mission president, Ebenezer Solomon; and his wife. As we arrived at the crowded

train station in Rajahmundry, my heart went out to the many people I saw living in extreme poverty. There were many people sleeping on the hard floor wherever there was an empty space. When we arrived at the location of the groundbreaking, I noticed a great contrast between the misery I had just witnessed and the joy I saw in the faces of the members gathered to greet us. They were beaming and waving as we approached. They were so happy and excited. While they too lived in poor conditions by some standards, there was no sign of despair or emptiness.

I immediately began to understand why this location had been chosen for a chapel. I admit I had been somewhat unsure why the Church's resources were being focused in this out-of-the-way location. But after I met briefly with the Saints in Rajahmundry, all of my questions were answered. These Latter-day Saints were so faithful and so excited to have their own meetinghouse.

The Widow's Mite

After the groundbreaking ceremony, President Solomon introduced me to four widows who had been baptized several years before. They were all in their 70s. President Solomon informed me that these women had all been full-tithe payers since their baptisms. I was impressed that in an area with so much need, these faithful sisters had never missed an opportunity to pay their tithing, though I'm sure it had been a sacrifice for them.

I asked President Solomon about how much each sister would pay in tithing every month. He gave me a figure in rupees, the currency used in India. I did not understand the amount, so I asked him how much they



would pay in U.S. dollars. I will never forget his answer: "They would pay between one-and-a-half and two pennies." I was reminded again that paying tithing isn't a matter of money, but it requires faith! It was humbling to realize that the blessing of a chapel had come to these Saints because of their willingness to sacrifice by paying tithing—even though it was only pennies. I'm sure the Lord must turn those pennies into millions of dollars.

Tithing is not a monetary commandment—it is a principle of faith. The Lord asks 10 percent of our income and waits to see if we will exercise faith in Him to make that sacrifice. The Saints in Rajahmundry had that faith.

I was impressed when we arrived at the building site to find a red carpet rolled out from the road to the canopy where the Saints were gathered. It was about 30 meters long. Under the canopy were red velvet chairs. They were

large and impressive. The carpet and the chairs were worn, but it was the very best these Saints had to offer. They would not give less than their best. It was a humbling experience for me. These Saints in Rajahmundry set the example of faithfully giving to the Lord, whether it was in paying their tithing or providing their best accommodations for the visiting Church leaders.

It may seem to you that 10 percent of your income, small or large, cannot do much good or is not that important. I promise you, it is important. It is important that you live the law of tithing now because it will strengthen your faith and prepare you for trials later on.

The Lord gave us a promise that if we would obey His commandments, He is bound to provide us with the promised blessing (see D&C 82:10; 130:21). I witnessed that blessing in the lives of the Saints in Rajahmundry, and you can witness that blessing in your own life if you will be faithful in paying your tithing. ■

The Poem

By Alice Faulkner

When I was a child, I found a poem on a page that had been torn from a pamphlet someone had ripped apart and strewn on the sidewalk. I grew up in public housing projects and was a loner, but I had three escapes: books, Elvis Presley movies, and poetry. I loved poetry. It spoke to a part of me I could not identify. There seemed to be no word to describe it. Curious about the poem, I picked it up and took it home.

I read that poem every day, sometimes several times a day, in the years that followed. Sitting in class, walking the halls to and from classes, sitting alone at recess, I would find parts of that poem coming to my mind. I had never memorized a poem before, but this one was different. There was something in it that spoke to me and touched me.

*Oftimes a secret something
Whispered, "You're a stranger here,"
And I felt that I had wandered
From a more exalted sphere.*

I always felt different from other children. I felt at times that there was

Curious
about
the poem,
*I picked it up and
took it home. There
was something in
it that spoke to me
and touched me.*

would remove it from my drawer and read it. I wondered how many people like me there were in the world and if I would ever meet any of them.

*For a wise and glorious purpose
Thou hast placed me here on earth
And withheld the recollection
Of my former friends and birth.*

Imagine my surprise many years later when, as an investigator sitting in my first sacrament meeting, I

opened the hymnbook to the page indicated and saw the poem I had found all those years ago. The arrangement was different from the one I had sung aloud to myself when I couldn't sleep or when I would awaken in the middle of the night crying, but I recognized even the notes that sounded from the piano.

From time to time I

opened the hymnbook to the page indicated and saw the poem I had found all those years ago. The arrangement was different from the one I had sung aloud to myself when I couldn't sleep or when I would awaken in the middle of the night crying, but I recognized even the notes that sounded from the piano.

*O my Father, thou that dwellest
In the high and glorious place,
When shall I regain thy presence
And again behold thy face?*

While everyone else sang "O My Father" (Hymns, no. 292), I could only sit and cry, knowing that God had placed that song in my path as a child.



*In thy holy habitation,
Did my spirit once reside?
In my first primeval childhood,
Was I nurtured near thy side?*

As I sat in that sacrament meeting, listening to my poem being sung by the congregation, I knew I was on the right path. I knew that what the missionaries were teaching me was true. I knew that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the only true Church of God on earth. So when I knelt and asked God if it was right before Him that I be baptized and confirmed into the Church, I wasn't surprised when the answer was yes.

After three weeks of lessons by Elder Walker and Elder Whittaker, Elder Walker lowered me into the waters of baptism. I was washed clean, cleaner than I had ever felt and could ever imagine being. Accompanying these elders in the circle of priesthood holders who participated in confirming me a member was my first bishop, the man who answered the phone the day I called requesting that missionaries visit me.

I could hear the words of my beloved poem like a sweet refrain floating above and weaving itself between each person I met and each act that brought me into the Church—words that had touched an

aching heart yearning to know once more its Eternal Father.

*I had learned to call thee Father,
Thru thy Spirit from on high,
But, until the key of knowledge
Was restored, I knew not why. ■*

My Son Also Lives

By Brenda Hunt

A woman in my ward taught me a priceless lesson about the sweet peace that comes from a sure faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement.

This woman's patriarchal blessing promised her the joys of motherhood. But years passed while she and her husband prayed and waited for children. Finally, their prayers were answered. For nine months their lives were filled with joyous preparations. They painted a special room; bought furniture, clothes, and other baby supplies; and offered many prayers. The doctors said she would never be able to have another baby after this one, so her dreams were wrapped up in this child.

The day came when this sister gave birth and heard the cry of her baby.

"It's a beautiful boy," the nurse said.

F*inally, the couple's prayers were answered. They bought furniture, clothes, and other baby supplies.*



The mother closed her eyes and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Four minutes later, the baby was dead.

I saw her in sacrament meeting two weeks afterward. As the music director, she walked to the front of the chapel and took her seat beside the organ. Under her direction we sang “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (*Hymns*, no. 136). She stood straight and tall, her face bright, her testimony radiating. At times the words came with great difficulty for her. She swallowed and pressed her lips together. Then she stopped singing, but her arm continued to move, conducting us as we sang.

Later, with tears coursing down her cheeks, this sister bore her testimony in these simple words: “I know that my Redeemer lives. I know that He is just and that He loves us. And because He lives, my son also lives.”

In her faith I saw an assurance of the reality of our Redeemer, whose Atonement for us makes immortality and eternal life possible. Her son had been taken, but she knew that he would be restored to her someday. ■

Why Was the Spirit Telling Me?

By Roger B. Woolstenhulme

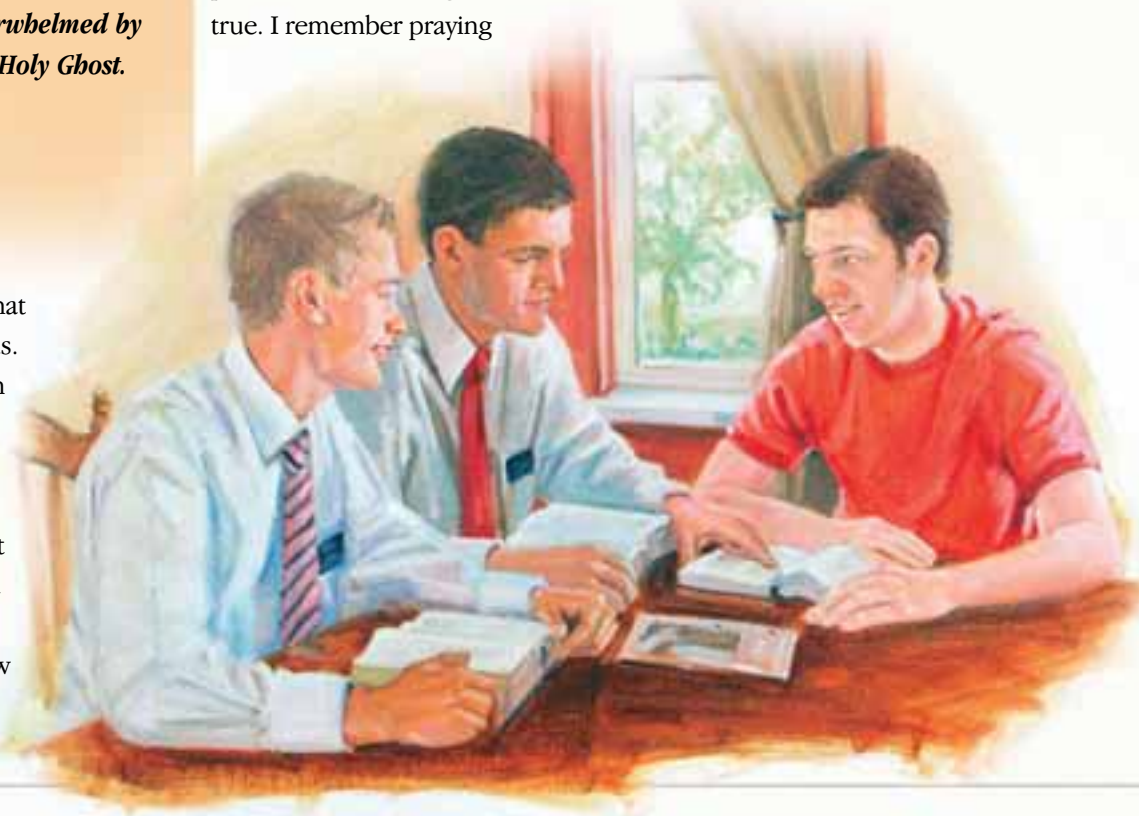
In the summer of 1980, I was nearing the end of my service in the Massachusetts Boston Mission. One evening we had an appointment to teach a promising young college student about the plan of salvation.

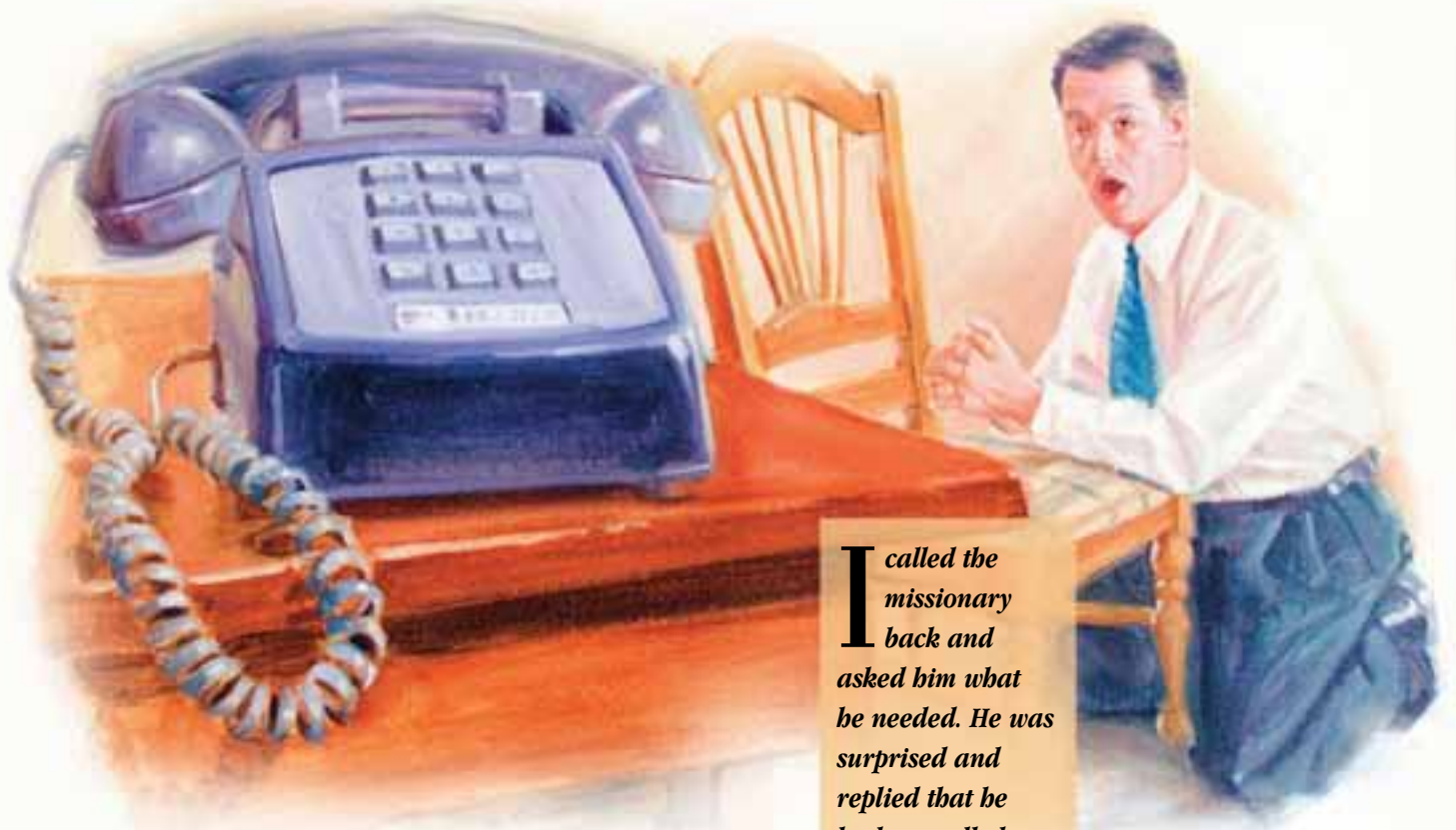
Several times during the course of the lesson, I was almost overwhelmed as the Holy Ghost repeatedly witnessed to me that the principles we were teaching were true. I remember praying

almost out loud: “I already know this. I have taught this lesson numerous times these past two years. I am grateful to feel thy Spirit, but please witness to our investigator as well!”

A short time after this evening, I met with my mission president, and he informed me that my mother had been killed in a tragic automobile accident. Naturally, this sudden loss came as a tremendous shock to my family and our entire community. But once the emotions of the moment passed and I had occasion to reflect, I recalled with perfect clarity the powerful witness of the Spirit I’d received during that plan of salvation lesson. I knew that this was the work of a loving Heavenly Father preparing me for the loss that was to come.

Several times during the course of the lesson, I was almost overwhelmed by the Holy Ghost.





I called the missionary back and asked him what he needed. He was surprised and replied that he had not called me.

A day never passes that I do not miss the teaching and companionship of my mother. But a day also never passes that I am not reminded of how a loving Heavenly Father carefully prepared me for that loss. ■

The Unexplainable Call

By Claudio Zivic

Saturday, February 7, 2004, found my wife and me in a hotel in Gijón in northern Spain, where I was serving as president of the Spain Bilbao Mission. As we finished our evening meal, I checked my cellular phone for any messages I had not heard. It did indeed indicate that a missionary had

called. I noted who it was and pushed the appropriate button to call him back.

The missionary answered the phone, and after a brief greeting, I asked him what he needed. He was surprised and replied that he had not called me. I insisted that my phone had registered a call from him, but he repeated that he had not called.

We ended our conversation, but five minutes later he called me back and said, “President, I have a problem that is really making me feel uncomfortable, and I’m beside myself over it. I prayed and asked the Lord for help to know what I should do. I didn’t feel like calling you, but while I was asking the Lord what to do, you called. I was surprised because I had not called you. I knew the Lord was telling

me I needed to talk to you immediately.”

We talked for a time, and his problem was solved.

When I spoke with him two days later, I asked the elder

again if he had called me. “No, President,” he replied, “that was the work of the Lord.” He verified that his telephone showed he had not dialed my number, even by accident.

The Lord said, “Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers” (D&C 112:10). Alma, teaching his son Helaman, said, “Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good” (Alma 37:37). We must do what our Heavenly Father desires in order to feel the peace we constantly need. That unexplainable call was undoubtedly an answer to a young missionary’s prayer. ■

Strength in Part-Member Family

I have spent most my life in a part-member family. I have had many challenges to face as I've tried to keep living the gospel. Having inspiring Church materials available, especially the *Liabona*, helps me keep the Spirit.

Thank you very much for reminding me every month that the gospel changes lives.

Sandra Vinocuna, Ecuador

The Prophet's Voice

The October 2005 issue of the *Liabona* was especially wonderful to me. I really appreciated every article in it, especially President James E. Faust's message, "A Thousand Threads of Love." I think everyone needs to read it. I thank Heavenly Father for blessing us with prophets to lead us in these latter days.

*Elder Emenike Hope
Onwuchekwa, Nigeria
Ibadan Mission*

Thanks for the PDF Version

The *Liabona* is such an inspiration to my family, and it helps us as we try to live and share the gospel. We are surely blessed by your efforts. Not only is the content spiritually strong and faith promoting, but the design and illustrations are beautiful as well.

We also appreciate the fact that the magazines are now available in many languages in PDF format online—no more cutting and destroying the paper versions! When I want to stick

a quote or picture on the fridge or bring materials to sharing time or family home evening, I just print out what I need. Beautiful!

Christian Karlsson, USA

Note: The *Liabona* is online in some languages at www.lds.org. For English, click on "Gospel Library." For other languages, click on the world map.

The Brightest Gem

I am grateful for every *Liabona* that is published. Through each one, we come to know the will of the Lord and our testimonies are strengthened. It is truly a bright gem in these latter days.

The messages of the First Presidency motivate us to live like the Savior and teach us the pure gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We may have different cultures, but we have the

same purpose. It fills me with joy to know that outside my own national boundaries, and even on the other side of the great ocean, there is a Latter-day Saint reading the same magazine.

José Ramírez, Venezuela



My Own Tongue

I am from the Ukraine, but eight months ago, my husband and I moved to Idaho (in the United States). I don't speak English very well, and sometimes I don't really understand what I hear at church on Sunday. I still feel the Holy Ghost at the meetings, but right now I am very

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Have you felt the spiritual and physical blessings of living the Word of Wisdom? We invite you to send us your account of how exercise, eating right, and taking care of your body have blessed you. Please send your submission (800 words or fewer) by May 15, 2007, to liabona@ldschurch.org or to:

Liabona, Word of Wisdom
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220,
USA

Please include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and ward and stake name (or branch and district). We will notify authors whose submissions are selected.

grateful for the opportunity to read the words of our leaders in my native tongue. For me, the *Liabona* truly brings us sacred writings.

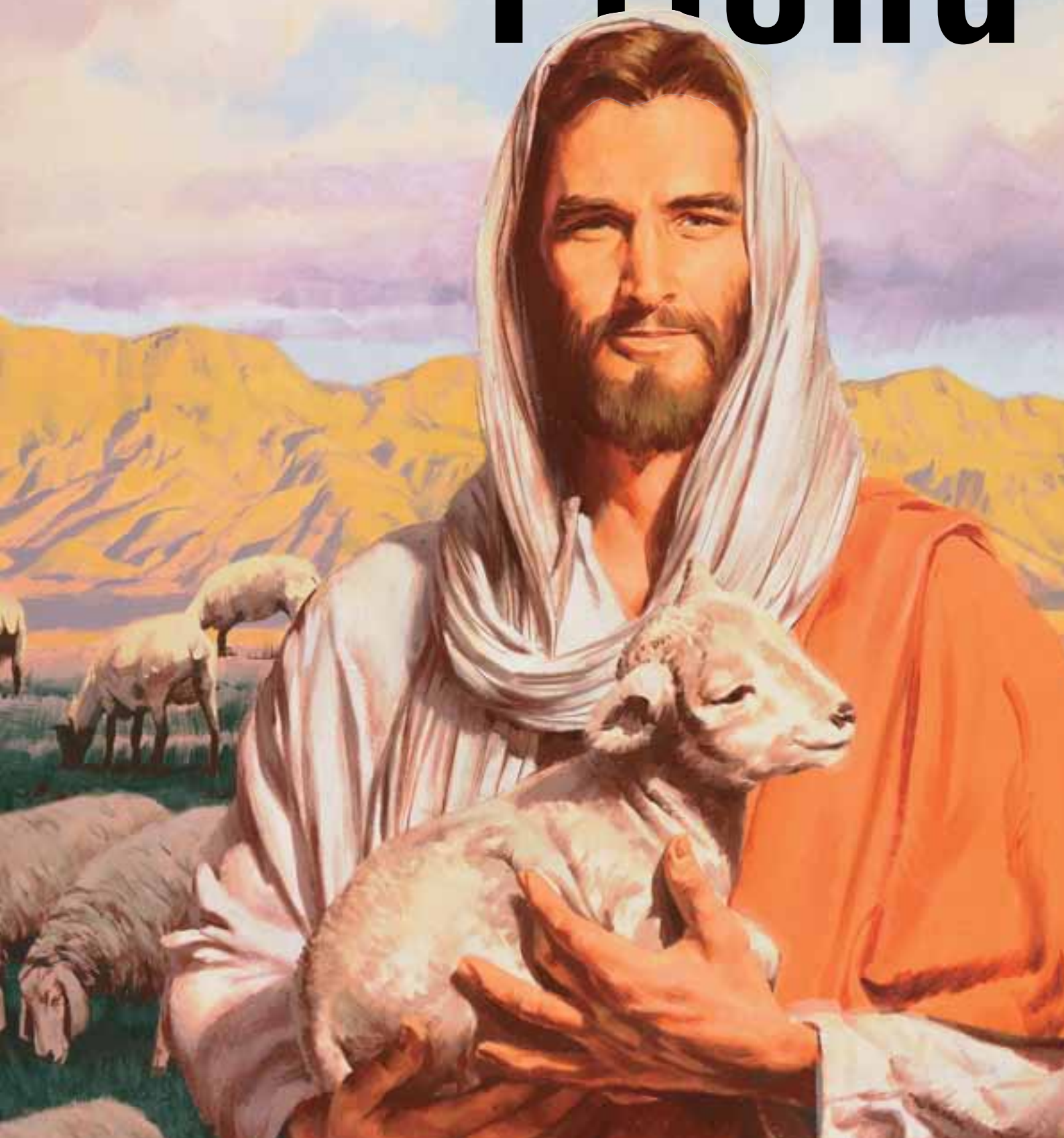
Lena Cantor, USA

Just Thankful

The *Liabona* is a great companion and help for me. Every month I have challenges in my life, but several months ago, I felt that the *Liabona* was written just for me and my challenges. I know God wants us to be happy by being obedient.

Georgia Adolpho Pabulaya, Philippines

the Friend



Joy Cometh in the Morning



**President Monson
testifies that Jesus
Christ has conquered
death.**

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

Several years ago, the Salt Lake City newspapers published a notice of a close friend taken by death in the prime of her life. I visited the mortuary and joined a host of persons gathered to express condolence [sympathy] to the husband and motherless children. Suddenly the smallest child, Kelly, recognized me and took my hand in hers. “Come with me,” she said, and she led me to the casket in which rested the body of her beloved mother. “I’m not crying,” she said, “and neither must you. Many times my mommy told me about death and life with Heavenly Father. I belong to my mommy and my daddy. We’ll all be together again.” To my mind came the words of the Psalmist: “Out of the mouth of babes . . . hast thou ordained strength” (Psalm 8:2).

Through tear-moistened eyes, I saw my young friend’s beautiful and faith-filled smile. For her, whose tiny hand yet clasped mine, there would never be a hopeless dawn. Sustained by her unfailing testimony, knowing that life continues beyond the grave, she, her father, her brothers, her

sisters, and indeed all who share this knowledge of divine truth can declare to the world: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

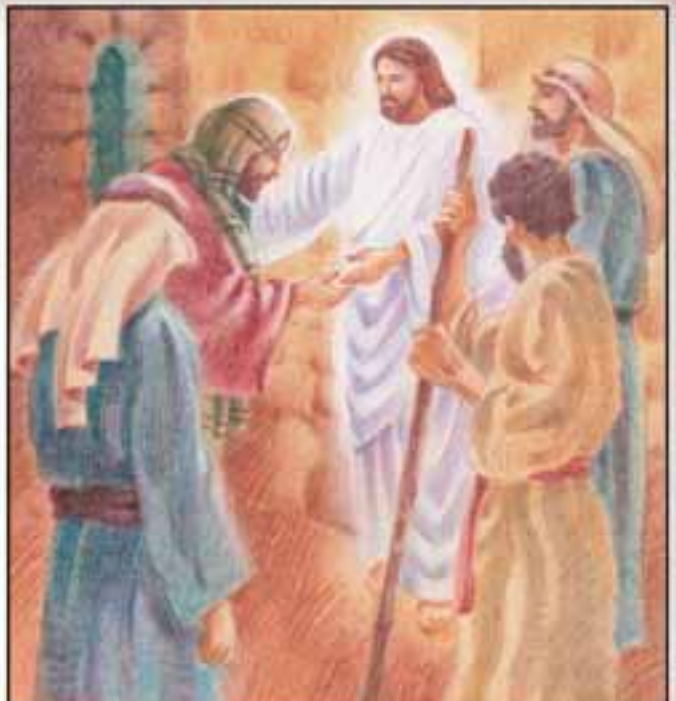
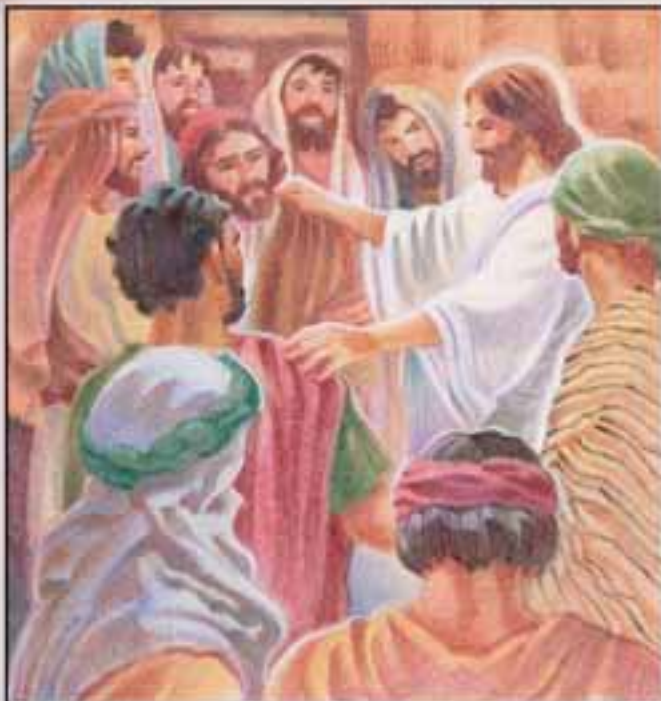
With all the strength of my soul, I testify that God lives, that His Beloved Son is the firstfruits of the Resurrection, that the gospel of Jesus Christ is that penetrating light that makes of every hopeless dawn a joyful morning. ●

From an April 1976 general conference address.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. There’s nothing wrong with crying when a loved one dies. In fact, it can help. But Kelly didn’t feel like crying. Why?
2. Why do you think Kelly’s mommy told Kelly so often about life after death?
3. How is Jesus the firstfruits of the Resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15:23; 2 Nephi 2:8–9)? Discuss this with your parents.





Note:
 If you do
 not wish to
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 the magazine,
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He Lives!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

BY ELIZABETH RICKS



Sister Nielson was teaching the Sunbeam class. She held a picture of Jesus showing His wounds after

He had been resurrected.

“You mean He lived again after He was dead?” Heather asked.

Jake exclaimed, “Yes, He did! We will live again too!”

How did three-year-old Jake know that Jesus lived again? How did he know that he too would live again?

Each week Jake listened to Sister Nielson’s lessons. She taught about Jesus and bore her testimony. Jake listened to his parents during family home evening and at other times. They taught about Jesus and bore testimony of Him. The feeling in Jake’s heart told him to believe the words of his teacher and parents.

After Jesus was resurrected, He showed Himself to His disciples. Thomas was not with them. The other disciples told Thomas they had seen Jesus. But Thomas said, “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

Eight days later Jesus did show Himself to Thomas. Jesus let Thomas feel the nail prints in His hands and touch His side. Then Jesus said, “Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

Like Jake, we can believe in Jesus even though we do not see Him. Our faith will grow when we know, without seeing, that Jesus is our Savior.



Activity

Mount page F4 on heavy paper, and cut out the pictures of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the Apostles, and Thomas. Fold the tabs along the dotted lines so the figures can stand up. Tell your family the story in John 20 of each person seeing the Savior after His Resurrection.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Display three shoe boxes. One by one, take out a pair of shoes from each box. (You can also display pictures or drawings of shoes.) Show a pair of boots to represent the soldiers who guarded Jesus’s tomb. Tell the story in such a way that the children can imagine being there when Jesus Christ was laid in the tomb. Next, use a pair of sandals to tell the story of Mary Magdalene. Ask the children how it might have felt to have been at the garden tomb when the resurrected Savior appeared. Last, show a pair of shoes the children commonly wear. Ask how it feels to be a member of the Church and to have the knowledge that you will be resurrected because of the Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Testify that Jesus Christ died and was resurrected.

2. Tell the children that you are going to ask them a trick question. Ask, “How many prophets do we have on the earth today?” Explain that each member of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles is sustained as a prophet, seer, and revelator. That means that we have 15 prophets on the earth! Explain, however, that the President of the Church is the only one who can receive revelation for the entire Church. A week before general conference, ask several older children to report in two weeks on a message that an Apostle gave at general conference. If possible, display a picture of that Apostle as each child tells about the message. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Playing the Piano

When Spencer was young, his father saved money to buy a piano.

Children,
learning a musical
skill is very
valuable.



Spencer thought his fingers were too short and chubby for piano playing, and they were often chapped from playing marbles.



After a few piano lessons, Spencer wanted to quit.

Spencer, if you'll practice
the piano today, I'll let you do that
instead of digging ditches with
your brothers.



Yes, sir!





"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house" (Malachi 3:10).

Learning God's Law

BY PATRICIA R. JONES ■ BASED ON A TRUE STORY

ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT A. MCKAY

This will be the 10th load of hay," David's father called to him. "Drive over to the higher ground." Young David O. McKay looked across the field to where his father was pointing. The first nine loads they had gathered were full of lesser-quality hay. David knew his father meant for this 10th load of the best hay to go to the bishops' storehouse as their tithing. But he didn't understand why they couldn't give the Lord the same hay they were collecting.

David called back to his father, "No, let us take the hay as it comes."

David's father didn't answer. David was about to repeat himself when he saw his father turn and begin walking straight toward him. Suddenly, the breeze in the hay field was gone, and the sun became feverishly hot. David wiped the sweat from his forehead and the back of his neck. He knew his father was not crossing the field to give him a pat on the back for his snippy answer. He was coming all this way to be sure that David understood something.

"No, David." His father spoke sternly, yet the calm in his voice made David pay extra close attention. "This is the 10th load, and the best is none too good for God." David's father looked closely at his son's face to make sure he had been listening. Then he turned and walked away.

David swallowed the lump in his throat and then guided his team to the higher ground. As he loaded the cut hay onto the wagon, he began to think of what

his father was trying to teach him. While he knew that tithing is a law, just as much as obedience and sacrifice are, David wanted to put their own needs first. But God had said to take the firstlings of the flocks—the very best—and give them to Him (see Deuteronomy 12:6).

"My father gives the best to God, and we get the next best," David thought. "Perhaps this is how we make the Lord the center of our thoughts and our lives."

There were times when David had watched his mother pay money for tithing. Instead of spending what she needed and then hoping there was some left for tithing, she immediately sent the tithing money to the bishop and then made do with what was left. The first and the best was always given to God.

David turned the hay wagon down the dusty road toward the bishops' storehouse. He drove into the yard and unloaded the hay. It was a sacrifice for his father to give his best hay to the Lord, but David knew his father would have it no other way. He

wanted to give his best for the Lord, just as Heavenly Father gave His perfect Son for the world.

As David turned his team back toward home, a good feeling came over him. He was glad his father had taught him the law of tithing. It was a lesson he would remember all his life. ●

Adapted from Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay (2003), xv. President McKay (1873–1970) served as ninth President of the Church, from 1951 to 1970.



"Tithe paying is evidence that we accept the law of sacrifice. It also prepares us for the law of consecration and the other higher laws of the celestial kingdom."

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks
of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles,
"Tithing," *Ensign*,
May 1994, 34.**

Hi! I'm Clara Christensen

I live in Keewatin,
Ontario, Canada

BY MELVIN LEAVITT
Church Magazines

From her backyard, Clara Christensen, 11, enjoys a view pretty enough for a calendar page. Her home sits on the brink of a hill overlooking Lake of the Woods, a vast sheet of clear water that reaches south into the United States and west into Manitoba. In summertime the sun glitters on the water. In winter the lake shines with snow-covered ice.

The lake and surrounding woods are a dreamland for an active, outdoor-loving person like Clara. She swims, rows, fishes, hikes, and camps in the summer. In the winter she enjoys skating, snowmobiling, cross-country and downhill skiing, and sliding down steep hills on carpet blocks. Winter temperatures dip as low as -40°C at night, and snow lies between four and seven feet (1–2 m) deep. And yet fall and winter are Clara's favorite seasons.

This rugged outdoor girl has many indoor interests as well. She enjoys



reading, knitting, and playing the recorder and piano. She has set a goal of learning to play all the hymns and Primary songs. Clara has a soft heart and delights in nurturing both people and animals. She often babysits her cousins, and when real children aren't available, she mothers her collection of dolls. Cats are another great love. Lilo, Hero, and Hope adore her and often sleep on her bed. Noah's ark is her favorite scripture story because of all the animals. When Clara grows up she wants to work with either babies or cats.

Whatever she does, she will do it well because she sticks to a task until it is done right. This quality has pulled her through some tough challenges. Clara was diagnosed with childhood apraxia of speech. This means that although she knew what she wanted to say, the signals became scrambled somehow between her brain and her mouth so she couldn't speak clearly. Clara has spent countless hours learning how to move her jaw, lips, and tongue to make sounds properly and blend those sounds into words. This has been very hard work, but with her parents' help, she has practiced relentlessly and continues to do so. She now speaks well, though some words still require a great effort.

Last year the children in Clara's

I love my cats, Lilo, Hero, and Hope, and my dog, Puff.

This is my Grandma Caroline. She's my Primary teacher.

Please meet my sister Josie and my mom. My sister Carly is away at college.



grade-four class were assigned to give four-to-five-minute speeches. Clara chose to give a speech on the Holocaust, which she presented as if she were a girl in a concentration camp. When she first rehearsed her speech, it took eight minutes and 40 seconds to give because many of the words were hard to say. She practiced it over and over. The speech slowly grew shorter as she learned to say the words fluently. She finally presented the speech in four minutes and 40 seconds, and her classmates chose her to represent them in front of the whole school. When she did, the entire student body broke into wild applause. Many of them



**I like ice-skating and knitting—
but not at the same time!**



and her progress seemed miraculous. “The principal was crying,” Clara’s mom recalls. “Clara’s grade-two teacher was crying. Her grade-four teacher was cheering. It was such a victory—one of the greatest moments of my life!”

What did Clara learn from the experience? “Keep trying,” she counsels children everywhere. “Never give up.”

Of course, prayer was also a vital part of Clara’s triumph. She has great faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Primary, home evenings, scripture study, and her parents’ teachings have helped. Her older sisters have made a difference too, both through their good examples and their reading materials. As soon as Carly, 18, and Josie, 15, turned 12 in their turn, they began putting *New Era* Posters on their mirrors. Clara has also memorized seminary scripture mastery scriptures and learned President Hinckley’s six B’s with her sisters.

Her father is the branch president, and her mother is the Young Women president, so Clara stays involved in branch activities. The Kenora Branch is small during fall, winter, and spring. In fact, Clara is usually the only member of her Primary class, which is taught by her grandmother, the Primary

had known
Clara since
grade one,

president. But in the
summertime, when
thousands of tourists

pour in to enjoy Lake of the Woods, the branch fills up with visitors each Sunday. Clara basks in all the wonderful new friendships. The family stays close to the Church all year long by attending stake activities in Winnipeg, Manitoba, some two and a half hours to the west. Coming home at night, they often see the northern lights dancing in the sky.

Clara also stays close to her extended family. On Christmas Eve cousins and uncles and aunts all sleep over at Grandma’s house. They eat, sing,

hang stockings, set up a nativity scene, hear the Christmas story, and kneel together in prayer. Christmas morning brings hot chocolate, hot cross buns, and gifts. On Christmas night the families meet again at Clara’s house for dinner. On Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) there is a progressive dinner with different dishes at the home of each family.

Clara has grown up inspired by the beauty of nature, the warmth of family love, and the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. All these influences are reflected clearly in her face and her spirit. Even on the coldest day of winter she warms the lives of those who know her best. As her mom says, “Thank goodness we have Clara.” ●

**I enjoy music, and I play
the piano, the recorder, and
the glockenspiel.**



An Angel Came to Joseph Smith

With conviction ♩ = 88–100



1. An an - gel came to Jo - seph Smith, And from the ground he took A
 2. It tells of peo - ple long a - go, Led by the Lord's own hand, Who
 3. The Ne - phites and the La - man - ites, And all who came to dwell, Had
 4. And now I'll read the sa - cred book, And then I'll un - der - stand That

sa - cred rec - ord hid - den there, A pre - cious, ho - ly book.
 left their homes and crossed the sea To reach a fa - vored land.
 peace when they o - beyed the Lord, The sa - cred re - cords tell.
 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther loves us all In each and ev - 'ry land.

Words: Anna Johnson, 1892–1979. © 1969 IRI

Music: A. Laurence Lyon, 1934–2006. © 1989 IRI

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Joseph Smith—History 1:59

1 Nephi 18:22–23

4 Nephi 1:15–18; Moroni 10:3



DETAIL FROM MORONI DELIVERING THE GOLDEN PLATES, BY GARY KAPP, MAY NOT BE COPIED; BOTTOM: LEHI AND HIS PEOPLE ARRIVE IN THE PROMISED LAND, BY ARNOLD FRIBERG; ALMA BAPTIZING IN THE WATERS OF MORMON, BY ARNOLD FRIBERG; MORONI BURYING THE PLATES, BY TOM LOVELL

A Mother's Influence

"Forsake not the law of thy mother" (Proverbs 1:8).



**From an interview
with Elder Carlos H.
Amado of the
Seventy, currently
serving in the Chile
Area Presidency;
by Callie Buys**

My mother is a very special woman. I am the oldest of eight sons, and I also have seven sisters. With such a large family, my mother had great responsibilities. The best thing my mother did for us was to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She gave us the opportunity to learn about the gospel. This opportunity changed our lives.

I remember the day we received the missionaries. I was about 10 or 11 years old. The missionaries shared a message about the First Vision. As soon as my mother listened, she was converted. She believed Joseph Smith saw the Father and the Son.

We began to attend church. I didn't want to accept the gospel at first, but the missionaries persuaded me to see what it was all about. As soon as I did, I loved it. I am so grateful for my mother. She received a testimony during that

first visit of the missionaries. From her baptism until today, she never missed a Church meeting.

My mother was a tremendous support to us. She always cleaned our white shirts on Saturdays so they would be ready to wear on Sundays. We would polish our shoes



and the shoes of our youngest brothers and sisters. We lived in a poor neighborhood in Guatemala, and our neighbors would laugh at us on Sundays as we wore our white shirts and ties to church.

My mother always gave us courage to do the right. Because of her influence, we were very active in the Church. I remember that at one time, my father served as the Sunday School president, my older sister served as the Primary president, my mother served as the Relief Society president, and four of my brothers passed, prepared, and blessed the sacrament.

Because of our financial needs, my father expected me to help earn money for the family. I wanted to serve a mission, but when I turned 19 years old, he asked that I wait one year to serve my mission so I could continue working to help my family. When I turned 20 years old, he asked that I wait another year to serve.

Just before I turned 21 years old, he wanted to request that I wait one more year. But my mother told him, "Let him go serve, and it will bless us." This really happened. Before my mission, only a younger brother and I had worked to help support the family. As

soon as I went on my mission, two more of my brothers and my two oldest sisters started working, so my family did better financially.

Every blessing and call that I have received in the Church have led me to admire my mother more. In every part of my life, I remember her excellent influence and example. My mother had only a basic education, but her knowledge of the truths of the gospel and her practical knowledge and understanding of life were superior.

My childhood was happy because I always had my mother at home taking care of me. She had a great sense of humor, and she would always find ways to have fun. She took hours and hours to share with us stories about her childhood and about my grandma and aunts and uncles and her relationship with them.

I believe in the commandment to honor our parents.

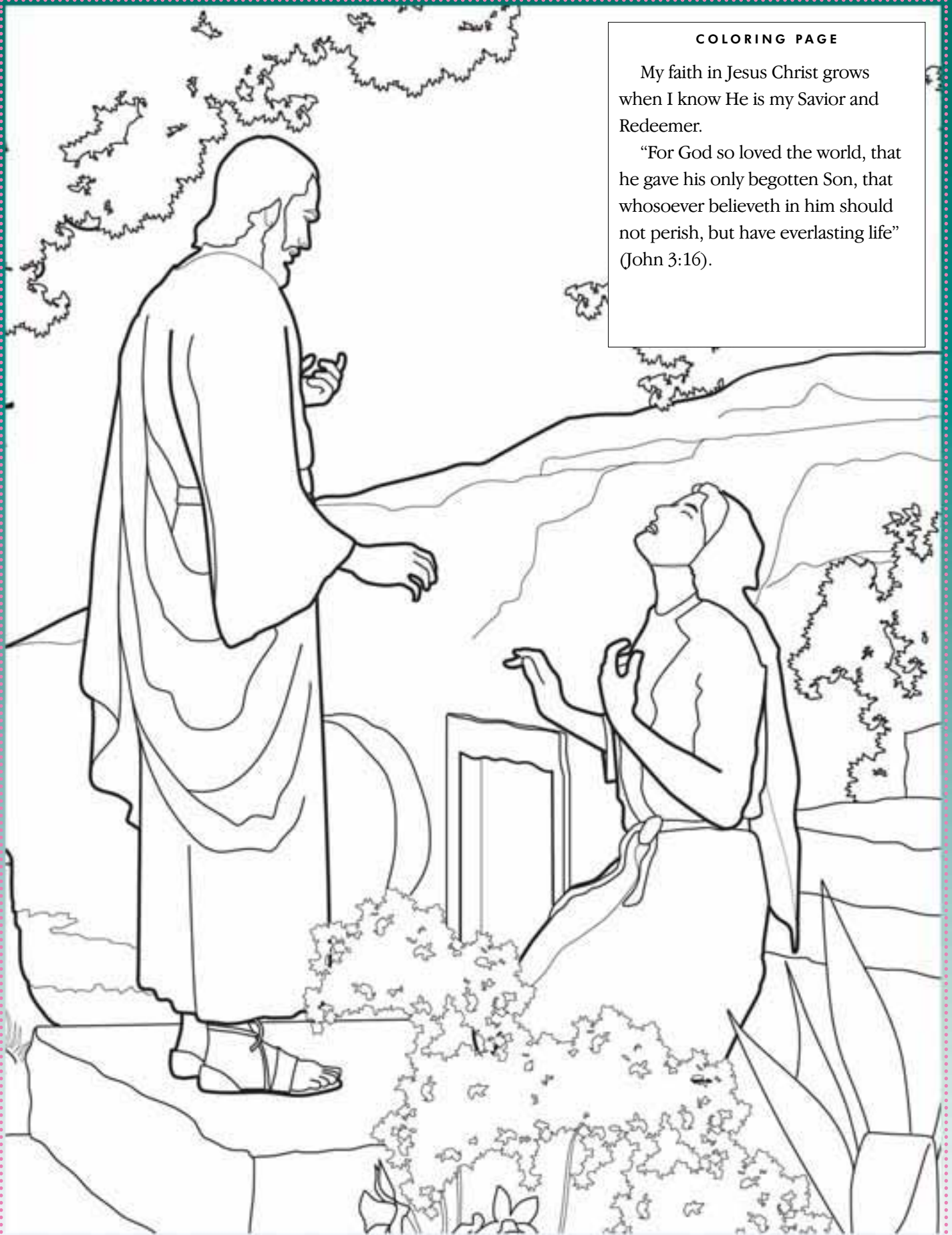
Everything I do, even today, is because of the influence of my mother. ●



COLORING PAGE

My faith in Jesus Christ grows when I know He is my Savior and Redeemer.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).





MAY NOT BE COPIED

John the Baptist Appearing to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, by Del Parson

On May 15, 1829, on the bank of the Susquehanna River, near Harmony, Pennsylvania, John the Baptist ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to the Aaronic Priesthood. He said, "Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins" (D&C 13:1).



*“Our most valuable
worship experience in the
sacrament meeting is the sacred
ordinance of the sacrament,
for it provides the opportunity to
focus our minds and hearts
upon the Savior and
His sacrifice.”
See Elder David B. Haight,
“The Sacrament—and the
Sacrifice,” p. 10.*