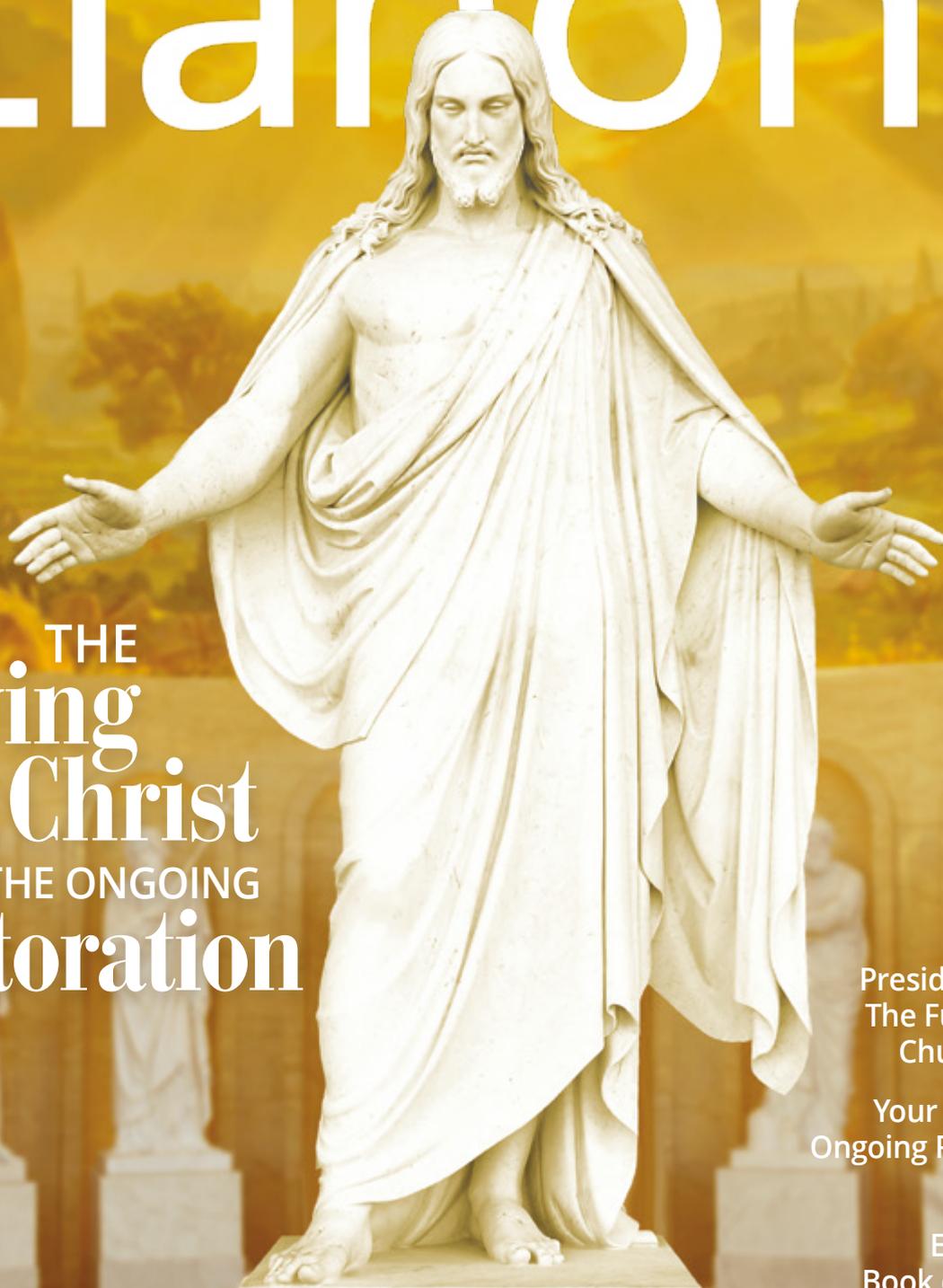


# Liahona



THE  
**Living  
Christ**  
AND THE ONGOING  
**Restoration**

President Nelson:  
The Future of the  
Church, page 6

Your Place in the  
Ongoing Restoration,  
page 18

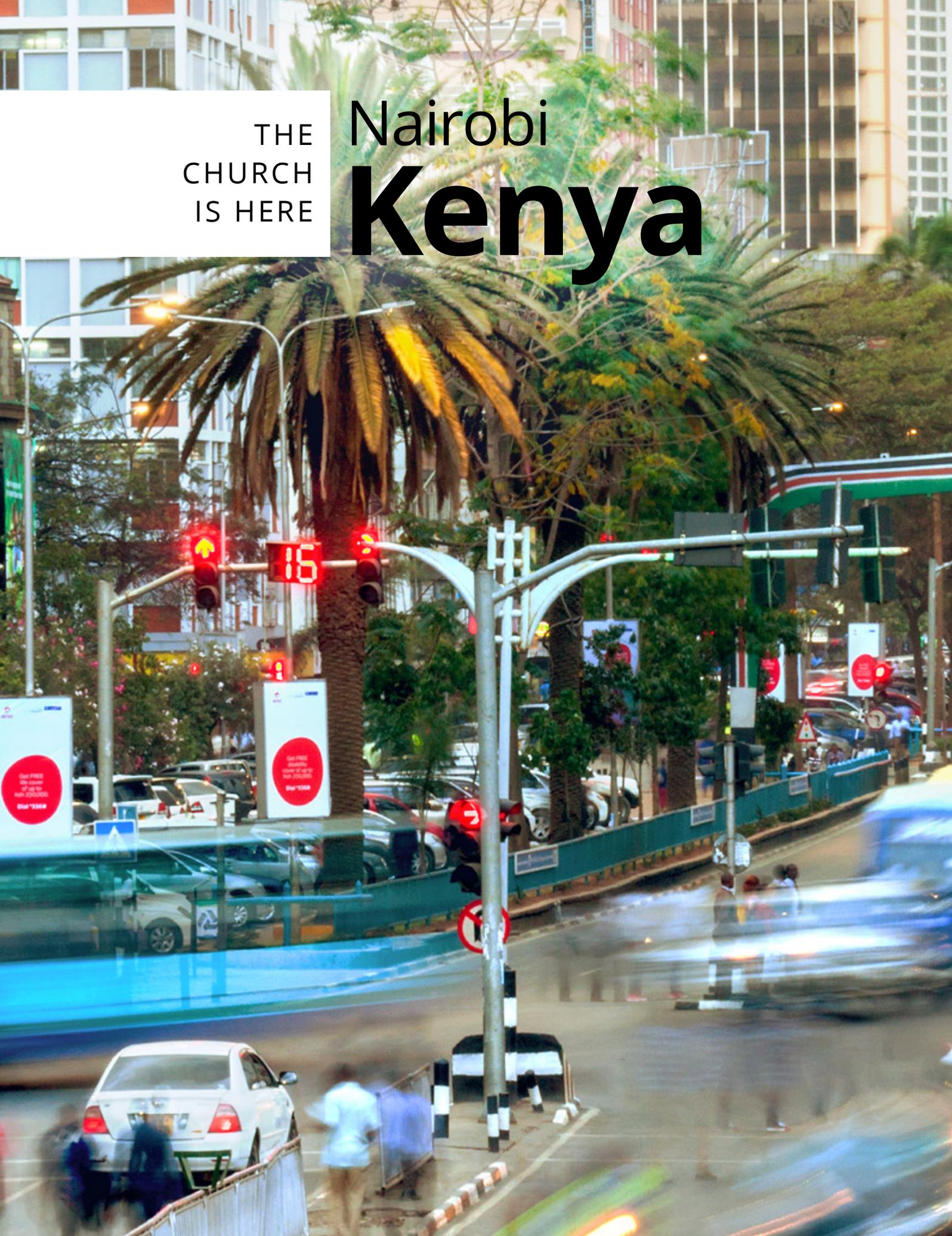
Easter in the  
Book of Mormon,  
pages 24, 28

VENITE A ME

MATTEO 11:28

THE  
CHURCH  
IS HERE

# Nairobi Kenya





As the ongoing Restoration continues, the gospel is found throughout the world. Kenya is an example of Church growth in Africa.

members  14,143

2  stakes

congregations  48

1  mission

family history centers  5

78  percent of population is Christian

**1979** First local converts join the Church.

**1988** Special fast raises funds to relieve drought in 15 villages.

**2001** Nairobi Stake organized.

**2020** Area offices in Nairobi become fully operational, serving 100,000 members in 18 central African countries.



PHOTOGRAPH FROM GETTY IMAGES



**The Future of the Church**  
*President Russell M. Nelson*

**6**



**Ministering through  
General Conference**

**14**



**The Ongoing Restoration**  
*Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr.*

**18**



**What Does  
Easter Mean  
for Me?**

**28**

## 200 Years of Light

**O**n a beautiful, clear day 200 years ago, a young man entered a grove of trees with the intention of seeking forgiveness and praying about which church was right, that he might know which he should join. From a miraculous vision, he learned that he should join none of them. Thus marked the beginning of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ—a process that continues in our day.

In this issue, we celebrate 200 years of light:

- President Russell M. Nelson teaches how gathering Israel on both sides of the veil can prepare us and others for the Lord's Second Coming (page 6).
- Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr. shows how Latter-day Saints have contributed to the ongoing Restoration—and how each of us can contribute (page 18).
- For youth, Elder Neil L. Andersen shares five truths that we can learn from the First Vision (page 52).

As we learn from the words of our prophet and the stories of faithful Saints, may we come to the same knowledge the Prophet Joseph did 200 years ago: that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are real, living beings who love us. And let us share that knowledge with our friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Elder Randy D. Funk of the Seventy  
Editor of Church Magazines

# Contents

- 5 General Conference through the Years** 🕒
- 6 The Future of the Church**  
*By President Russell M. Nelson*  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is preparing the world for the Savior's return.
- 12 Portraits of Faith** 🕒  
**Berglind Guðnason**  
When her struggle with depression became unbearable, Berglind opened up about her struggles, and Heavenly Father helped her to heal.
- 14 Ministering Principles**  
**Ministering through General Conference**  
General conference gives us many ways to minister—before, during, and after general conference weekend.
- 18 The Ongoing Restoration**  
*By Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr.*  
The Restoration began in the Sacred Grove 200 years ago, and it continues today.
- 24 They Had a Hope of Christ's Coming—and We Can Too** 📖 🕒  
*By Mindy Selu*  
We can gain a hope of Christ's Second Coming the same way the Book of Mormon prophets did.
- 28 Come, Follow Me: Book of Mormon** 📖 🕒  
Use these weekly articles to enhance your study of the Book of Mormon this month.
- 32 Latter-day Saint Voices** 🕒  
A father gives his daughter a priceless gift; a grieving mother is reminded of God's grace; a sister reflects on the worth of a soul; a boy's faith helps his family.
- 36 Lessons from the Book of Mormon** 📖 🕒  
**A Mighty Change of Heart**  
*By Elder Kyle S. McKay*  
When we repent, the Savior's Atonement can cause in us a mighty change of heart.
- 40 Improving Our Temple Experience** 🕒  
*By the First Presidency*

🕒 Quick Reads

📖 *Come, Follow Me* Support



**On the Cover**  
Photograph by  
Stefano Cirianni

# Sections

## Young Adults

### 42

Young adults are a **vital part of the ongoing Restoration.**

Learn how you can help!



## Youth

### 50

The First Vision is **proof of God's love** for His children—especially those who seek after Him.



## Children

### Friend

Jesus Christ's Church is restored!



## APRIL'S DIGITAL-ONLY ARTICLES

**Is Your Past Holding You Back?***By Jeff Bates*

A young adult shares how inviting Jesus Christ into our lives can help us move forward.

**Using the Full Name of the Church Was Awkward but Worth It***By Lauri Ahola*

A young adult shares how following President Nelson's counsel helped him better share the gospel.

**Finding Joy in Doing the Lord's Work**

Young adults around the world share how they are participating in the ongoing Restoration.

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50 E. North Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0023, USA

**APRIL 2020 VOL. 44 NO. 4  
LIAHONA 16719**

International magazine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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The *Liahona* (a Book of Mormon term meaning "compass" or "director") is published in Albanian, Armenian, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chinese, Chinese (simplified), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Fijian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kiribati, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Marshallese, Mongolian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish,

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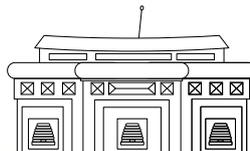
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**For Readers in the United States and Canada:** April 2020 Vol. 44 No. 4. LIAHONA (USPS 311-480) English (ISSN 1080-9554) is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints, 50 E. North Temple St., Salt Lake City, UT 84150. USA subscription price is \$10.00 per year; Canada, \$12.00 plus applicable taxes. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. Sixty days' notice required for change of address. Include address label from a recent issue; old and new address must be included. Send USA and Canadian subscriptions to Salt Lake Distribution Center at address below. Subscription help line: 1-800-537-5971. Credit card orders (American Express, Discover, MasterCard, Visa) may be taken by phone or at [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org). (Canada Post Information: Publication Agreement #40017431)

POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS (see DMM 507.1.5.2). NONPOSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Send address changes to Distribution Services, Church Magazines, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.



## GENERAL CONFERENCE THROUGH THE YEARS



Now in its 190th year, general conference is a long-standing tradition every April and October, but there have been some interesting changes over the years:

### 1830

Two months after the Church was organized, Joseph Smith presided over the first general conference in Fayette, New York. About 30 members and several others attended.

### 1850

The *Deseret News* published the first full report of conference because a young reporter, George D. Watt, had been able to transcribe the talks in shorthand.

### 1867

General conference lasted four days instead of the usual three because the congregation voted to stay an extra day.

### 1924

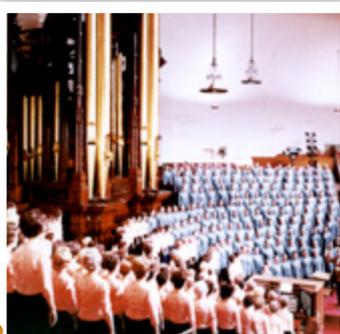
Microphones were first used at the pulpit in the Tabernacle. Previously, speakers had to rely on the strength of their voices to be heard.

### 1949

Using cameras in the Tabernacle, conference was first broadcast on television.

two P. M. Conference called to order by W. Snow; singing, prayer by W. Snow, singing. Elder O. Hyde delivered a lecture to the Honorable Chancellor and board of Regents of the University of the State of Deseret, in presence of the Conference, on Education. Education is not confined to letters only, but to the excluding of all darkness, and when a man has ascended to the summit, he

guage is better than n If you could bring all others now living, together will express their ideas in words, and they will that our language is yet we have to use this have, in order to accomplish the object which is before us. A certain portion of perty ought to be de



### 1962

Talks were interpreted into other languages—German, Dutch, and Spanish—for the first time in the Tabernacle. Now talks are interpreted in over 90 languages!

### 1967

General conference was broadcast on TV in color. The men of the Tabernacle Choir wore light blue jackets, and the women wore salmon-colored blouses.

### 1977

Changing from three days and six general sessions, conference lasted two days and included five general sessions.

### 2000

The new Conference Center in Salt Lake City, seating 21,000 people, hosted its first general conference.

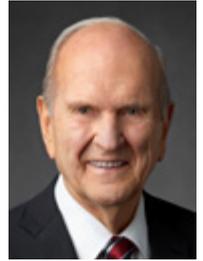
To find the talks from the current and past general conferences, visit [gc.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://gc.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) or the “General Conference” section of the Gospel Library app.





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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is preparing the world for the day when “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord” (Isaiah 11:9).



By President  
Russell M.  
Nelson

# The Future of the Church

## PREPARING THE WORLD FOR THE SAVIOR'S SECOND COMING

**Y**ou and I get to participate in the ongoing Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is wondrous! It is not man-made! It comes from the Lord, who said, “I will hasten my work in its time” (Doctrine and Covenants 88:73). This work is empowered by a divine announcement made 200 years ago. It consisted of only seven words: “This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!” (see Joseph Smith—History 1:17).

Uttered by Almighty God, that announcement brought a young Joseph Smith to the Lord Jesus Christ. Those seven words launched the Restoration of His gospel. Why? Because our living God is a loving God! He wants His children to gain immortality and eternal life! The great latter-day work of which we are a part was established, on schedule, to bless a waiting and weeping world.

I cannot speak of the Restoration in tempered tones. This fact of history is absolutely stunning! It is incredible! It is breathtaking! How amazing is it that messengers from heaven came to give authority and power to this work?

Today, the Lord’s work in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is moving forward at an accelerated pace. The Church will have an unprecedented, unparalleled future. “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, . . . the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9; see also Doctrine and Covenants 76:10).

Remember that the fulness of Christ’s ministry lies in the future. The prophecies of His Second Coming have yet to be fulfilled. We are just building up to the climax of this last dispensation—when the Savior’s Second Coming becomes a reality.

### **Gathering Israel on Both Sides of the Veil**

A necessary prelude to that Second Coming is the long-awaited gathering of scattered Israel (see 1 Nephi 15:18; see also the title page of the Book of Mormon). This doctrine of the gathering is one of the important teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Lord has declared: “I give unto you a sign . . . that I shall gather in, from their long dispersion, my people, O house of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion” (3 Nephi 21:1).

We not only teach this doctrine, but we participate in it. We do so as we help to gather the elect

of the Lord on both sides of the veil. As part of the planned destiny of the earth and its inhabitants, our kindred dead are to be redeemed (see Doctrine and Covenants 128:15). Mercifully, the invitation to “come unto Christ” (Jacob 1:7; Moroni 10:32; Doctrine and Covenants 20:59) can also be extended to those who died without a knowledge of the gospel (see Doctrine and Covenants 137:6–8). Part of their preparation, however, requires the earthly efforts of others. We gather pedigree charts, create family group sheets, and do temple work vicariously to gather individuals unto the Lord and into their families (see 1 Corinthians 15:29; 1 Peter 4:6).

Families are to be sealed together for all eternity (see Doctrine and Covenants 2:2–3; 49:17; 138:48; Joseph Smith—History 1:39). A welding link is to be forged between the fathers and the children. In our time, a whole, complete, and perfect union of all dispensations, keys, and

*Remember that  
the fulness of  
Christ’s ministry  
lies in the future.*





powers are to be welded together (see Doctrine and Covenants 128:18). For these sacred purposes, holy temples now dot the earth. I emphasize again that construction of these temples may not change your life, but your service in the temple surely will.

The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7). Our safest insurance is to continue to be worthy of admission to His holy house. The greatest gift you could give to the Lord is to keep yourself unspotted from the world, worthy to attend His holy house. His gift to you will be the peace and security of knowing that you are worthy to meet Him, whenever that time comes.

In addition to temple work, the coming forth of the Book of Mormon is a sign to the entire world that the Lord has commenced to gather Israel and fulfill the covenants He made

to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (see Genesis 12:2–3; 3 Nephi 21; 29). The Book of Mormon declares the doctrine of the gathering (see, for example, 1 Nephi 10:14). It causes people to learn about Jesus Christ, to believe His gospel, and to join His Church. In fact, if there were no Book of Mormon, the promised gathering of Israel would not occur.

Missionary work is also crucial to that gathering. Servants of the Lord go forth proclaiming the Restoration. In many nations our members and missionaries have searched for those of scattered Israel; they have hunted for them “out of the holes of the rocks” (Jeremiah 16:16); and they have fished for them, as in ancient days.

Missionary work connects people to the covenant the Lord made with Abraham anciently:

“Thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations;

“And I will bless them through thy name; for as many as receive this Gospel shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father” (Abraham 2:9–10).

Missionary work is only the beginning of the blessing. The fulfillment, the consummation, of those blessings comes as those who have entered the waters of baptism perfect their lives to the point that they may enter the holy temple. Receiving an endowment there seals members of the Church to the Abrahamic covenant.

The choice to come unto Christ is not a matter of physical location; it is a matter of individual commitment. All members of the Church have access to the doctrine, ordinances, priesthood keys, and blessings of the gospel, regardless of their location. People can be “brought to the knowledge of the Lord” (3 Nephi 20:13) without leaving their homelands.

True, in the early days of the Church, conversion often meant emigration as well. But now the gathering takes place in each nation. The Lord has decreed the establishment of Zion (see Doctrine and Covenants 6:6; 11:6) in each realm where He has given His Saints their birth and nationality. The place of gathering for Brazilian Saints is in Brazil; the place

---

*The greatest gift you could give to the Lord is to keep yourself unspotted from the world, worthy to attend His holy house.*



*I promise you that as you follow Jesus Christ, you will find sustained peace and true joy.*

of gathering for Nigerian Saints is in Nigeria; the place of gathering for Korean Saints is in Korea. Zion is “the pure in heart” (Doctrine and Covenants 97:21). It is wherever righteous Saints are.

Spiritual security will always depend upon *how* one lives, not *where* one lives. I promise that if we will do our best to exercise faith in Jesus Christ and access the power of His Atonement through repentance, we will have the knowledge and power of God to help us take the blessings of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people and to prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord.

### **The Second Coming**

The Lord will return to the land that He made holy by His mission there in mortality. In triumph, He will come again to Jerusalem. In royal robes of red to symbolize His blood, which oozed from every pore, He shall return to the

Holy City (see Doctrine and Covenants 133:46–48). There and elsewhere, “the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:5; see also Doctrine and Covenants 101:23). His “name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

He will govern from two world capitals: one in old Jerusalem (see Zechariah 14) and the other in the New Jerusalem “built upon the American continent” (Articles of Faith 1:10). From these centers He will direct the affairs of His Church and kingdom. Another temple will yet be built in Jerusalem. From that temple He shall reign forever as Lord of Lords. Water will issue from under the temple. Waters of the Dead Sea will be healed. (See Ezekiel 47:1–8.)

In that day He will bear new titles and be surrounded by special Saints. He will be known as “Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that [will be] with him [will be those who] are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14) to

their trust here in mortality. Then He “shall reign for ever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

The earth will be returned to its paradisiacal state and be made new. There will be a new heaven and a new earth (see Revelation 21:1; Ether 13:9; Doctrine and Covenants 29:23–24).

It is our charge—it is our privilege—to help prepare the world for that day.

### Face the Future with Faith

Meanwhile, here and now, we live in a time of turmoil. Earthquakes and tsunamis wreak devastation, governments collapse, economic stresses are severe, the family is under attack, and divorce rates are rising. We have great cause for concern. But we do not need to let our fears displace our faith. We can combat those fears by strengthening our faith.

Why do we need such resilient faith? Because difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord “shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). That very persecution can either crush you into silent weakness or motivate you to be more exemplary and courageous in your daily lives.

*How* you deal with life’s trials is part of the development of your faith. Strength comes when you remember that you have a divine nature, an inheritance of infinite worth. The Lord has reminded you, your children, and your grandchildren that you are lawful heirs, that you have been reserved in heaven for your specific time and place to be born, to grow and become His standard bearers and covenant people. As you walk in the Lord’s path of righteousness, you will be blessed to continue in His goodness and be a

light and a savior unto His people (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:8–11).

Do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking truth. Anchored in pure doctrine, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord.

You will have days when you will be discouraged. So pray for courage not to give up! Sadly, some whom you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair.

However, I promise you that as you follow Jesus Christ, you will find sustained peace and true joy. As you keep your covenants with increasing precision, and as you defend the Church and kingdom of God on the earth today, the Lord will bless you with strength and wisdom to accomplish what only members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can accomplish.

We are to be builders of an individual faith in God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and faith in His Church. We are to build families and be sealed in holy temples. We are to build the Church and kingdom of God upon the earth (see Matthew 6:33). We are to prepare for our own divine destiny: glory, immortality, and eternal lives (see Romans 2:7; Doctrine and Covenants 75:5).

I humbly testify to you that—as the Prophet Joseph Smith proclaimed—the restored gospel of Jesus Christ “will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done” (*History of the Church*, 4:540).

We are engaged in the work of Almighty God. I pray for His blessings to be with each and every one of you. ■

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*Strength comes when you remember that you have a divine nature, an inheritance of infinite worth.*



## Berglind Guðnason

Árnessýsla, Iceland



*Berglind (left) with her sister Elín (right). When Berglind was in the deepest depression she had ever faced, she felt that she couldn't go on. By opening up about her struggles to family and friends, she has found spiritual and emotional healing through the tools Heavenly Father has provided.*

**MINDY SELU, PHOTOGRAPHER**

### DISCOVER MORE

See more about Berglind's journey of faith, including additional photos, in the online or Gospel Library version of this article at [ChurchofJesusChrist.org/go/42013](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/go/42013).

If you or someone you know shows persistent signs of depression, you can find helpful resources at [mentalhealth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.mentalhealth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

Talking about my depression with family and friends has helped so much. It also led to more help. I didn't want to take medications or go to therapy. I kept telling myself, "I have God." But God provides many other tools, like medication and therapy, for us to use in addition to spiritual things.

When I was in my worst depression, people would tell me, "It's going to get better." I would get so tired of hearing that but, as weird as it sounds, it's true.

I never thought I would be as happy as I am now. Some days I still struggle, but with the tools Heavenly Father has given me, I can handle it. Now when I feel myself slipping into depression, I tell myself I am loved, I have people to talk to, and things will get better.

# Ministering Principles

## MINISTERING THROUGH GENERAL CONFERENCE

*With all the uplifting quotes, family traditions, and teachings from the Lord's servants, general conference gives us many ways to minister—before, during, and after general conference weekend!*

As mission-preparation class teachers, Susie and Tom Mullen regularly encourage the members of their classes to invite someone to watch general conference. “Inviting someone to do something is an integral part of missionary work, and it applies to ministering as well,” she says. “Our students regularly report back about how well it turned out for them and also for the person they invited.”

Here are a few of the ways their students reported reaching out:

- “We minister to a friend who has some issues he is struggling with. We invited him to listen to general conference for answers. When we visited with him after conference, he told us that he heard so many ideas that would help.”
- “We threw a general conference party and everyone brought treats to share. It was so much fun that we decided to do it again.”
- “I invited a friend to watch general conference with me. As we talked about it, we decided to drive to the meetinghouse to see if we could watch it there. We did, and it was the best experience to be there!”

As the Mullens and their students have learned, there are many ways to minister through general conference. It’s a wonderful way to share uplifting quotes, family traditions, meaningful discussions, and the teachings of the Lord’s servants!





## Invite Others to Your Home

*“The Savior commanded His followers to ‘love one another; as I have loved you’ (John 13:34). So we look at how He loved us. . . . If we make Him our role model, we should always be trying to reach out to include everyone.” —President Dallin H. Oaks<sup>1</sup>*

### PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER

#### “Noticed”

The Savior lovingly took the time to see the needs of others and then acted to meet those needs (see Matthew 9:35–36; John 6:5; 19:26–27). We can do the same.

#### “Immediately invited”

After we notice the needs of those we minister to, the next step is to act.

#### “Hearing the words of the prophets”

We should “meet together oft” (Moroni 6:5) to learn together, grow together, and speak about the spiritual things that matter most to our souls.

“Come, listen to a prophet’s voice, and hear the word of God”<sup>2</sup> may be one of the most important invitations we can extend to those we minister to.

#### “Love and friendship”

To truly help and influence others, we must build relationships with compassion and “love unfeigned” (see Doctrine and Covenants 121:41).

Years ago our wonderful home teacher Mike **noticed** that my three children and I only had a small laptop to watch general conference on. He **immediately invited** us to come over to his house to watch with him and his wife, Jackie, insisting they would love the company. My kids were thrilled to watch conference on a real TV; I greatly appreciated having the support; and we all loved our time together.

After that, watching general conference together was a tradition. Even when we got a TV of our own, we still happily headed over to Mike and Jackie’s with our pillows, notebooks, and snacks for general conference. **Hearing the words of the prophets** together made it more special. We became like family. Mike and Jackie became some of my best friends and second grandparents to my kids. Their **love and friendship** have been an incredible blessing to my family. I’m so grateful for their willingness to open their home and their hearts to us.

**Suzanne Erd, California, USA**

## Share on the Internet

*“Social media channels are global tools that can personally and positively impact large numbers of individuals and families. And I believe the time has come for us as disciples of Christ to use these inspired tools appropriately and more effectively to testify of God the Eternal Father, His plan of happiness for His children, and His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of the world.”*  
—Elder David A. Bednar<sup>3</sup>

The internet allows us to **share the gospel** with the entire world. I love that! I share a few activities for general conference, but mostly I try to help others **create a discussion** from general conference addresses. Seeing questions from others can often help us see things in a new light and can be a springboard to our own great discussion questions.

I’ve found that as you **use questions** to discuss general conference talks with your ministering families, it helps you see their strengths as well as their needs. One of my favorite questions to ask is, What do you feel was a theme from the most recent session of general conference?

The answer almost always lets you see what is going on in their life and what’s important to them. It allows you to become a better ministering brother or sister because you get to see them more clearly. ■

Camille Gillham, Colorado, USA

### NOTES

1. Dallin H. Oaks, “Love and the Law” (video), mormonandgay.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
2. “Come, Listen to a Prophet’s Voice,” *Hymns*, no. 21.
3. David A. Bednar, “Flood the Earth through Social Media,” *Liahona*, Aug. 2015, 50; *New Era*, Aug. 2015, 32.
4. *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2004), 185.

### PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER

#### “Share the gospel”

We have covenanted to “stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places” (Mosiah 18:9).

#### “Create a discussion”

General conference messages can inspire amazing, relevant, and spiritually led conversations. And these kinds of discussions can strengthen your relationships, help your testimony grow, and bring you joy! (see Doctrine and Covenants 50:22).

#### “Use questions”

“Good questions will help you understand interests, concerns, or questions that others have. They can enhance your teaching, invite the Spirit, and help people learn.”<sup>4</sup>





**By Elder  
LeGrand R.  
Curtis Jr.**

General Authority  
Seventy and  
Church Historian  
and Recorder

# *The Ongoing* RESTORA

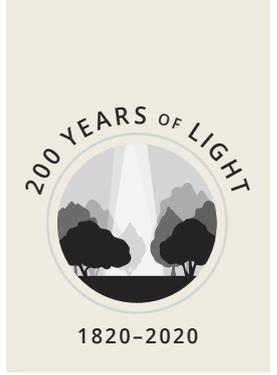


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The Restoration began in the Sacred Grove 200 years ago and continues today—and you and I can be part of it.



RESTORATION OF THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD, BY WALTER RANE



# TION

This is a wonderful and exciting time to be on earth. We have the blessing of participating in great events happening in the dispensation of the fulness of times, preparatory to the Lord’s Second Coming.<sup>1</sup> We get to not only watch these magnificent events unfold but also be part of them.<sup>2</sup>

We sometimes talk of the Restoration of the gospel as if it happened all at once. Two hundred years ago, the First Vision began the process, but the Restoration did not, of course, end there. The Lord’s work through Joseph Smith and his associates proceeded with translating the Book of Mormon, restoring the priesthood, organizing the Church, sending forth missionaries, building temples, organizing the Relief Society, and so forth. These Restoration events started in 1820 and continued throughout Joseph Smith’s life.

As wonderful as the things are that God revealed through Joseph Smith, the Restoration was not completed in Joseph’s lifetime. Through prophets after him we have received such things as the ongoing development of temple work; additional scriptures; the translation of scripture into many languages; the taking of the gospel throughout the world; the organization of Sunday School, Young Women, Primary, and priesthood quorums; and numerous adjustments to Church organization and procedure.

“We’re witnesses to a process of restoration,” President Russell M. Nelson has said. “If you think the Church has been fully restored, you’re just seeing the beginning. There is much more to come. . . . Wait till next year. And then the next year. Eat your vitamin pills. Get your rest. It’s going to be exciting.”<sup>3</sup>

THE DESIRES OF MY HEART (FIRST VISION), BY WALTER RANE

*God has given us  
the magnificent  
opportunity to  
play vital roles  
in this work.*

*Early missionary Samuel Smith  
sharing a Book of Mormon*



Consistent with President Nelson’s declaration that the Restoration is continuing, we have seen many significant adjustments in the Church since he became its President. Among those are the restructuring of priesthood quorums, ministering replacing home and visiting teaching, and the institution of a home-centered, Church-supported way of studying the gospel.<sup>4</sup> More adjustments have happened since then, and more will be coming.

### **An Example in West Africa**

My testimony of the ongoing nature of the Restoration was impacted by the five years that I spent serving in the Africa West Area Presidency. Since I was a young man, I have had a testimony of the gospel. But living in Africa, I associated with some of the first West Africans to

the Church would come to Ghana. He joined with other young men traveling around Ghana and teaching the gospel as found in our materials. Once missionaries arrived in 1978, he was baptized on the first day that Latter-day Saint baptisms were performed in Ghana.

Early in Fred’s time as a member, he attended the funeral of a relative who was a tribal chief. There he found out that the family plan was to make him the new chief. Knowing that such a position would cause him to do things contrary to his gospel beliefs, he sped away after the burial and turned his back on a position that would have brought him prominence and wealth.

Once the Accra Temple was dedicated, both James and Fred traveled over four hours, one way, every week so that they could be temple workers. As I performed ordinances with them,

accept the gospel. I also saw the Church spreading rapidly across the continent, with hundreds of wards and stakes being formed, temples and meetinghouses being filled to overflowing with faithful members, and good women and men embracing, with all of their hearts, the restored gospel. Before my eyes I saw the fulfillment of Joseph Smith’s prophecy that the Church “will fill the world.”<sup>5</sup>

Two such faithful members, James Ewudzie and Frederick Antwi, assisted me one day in the Accra Ghana Temple. Several years before Latter-day Saint missionaries arrived in Ghana, James had been part of a group of about 1,000 people who used the Book of Mormon and other Church materials in their church services. They prayed for the day that

I was overcome with the sense of history that surrounded me. Realizing the Church history in Africa that the two of them represented, I felt like it was akin to having John Taylor or Wilford Woodruff or other early members of the Church with me doing those ordinances.

What I saw, experienced, and felt in West Africa was being part of what the Lord told Enoch would happen: “And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; . . . and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth” (Moses 7:62).

I saw righteousness and truth sweeping across the African continent and the elect being gathered from that part of the world. My testimony of the Restoration was enhanced because

*Fred Antwi, a pioneer member  
of the Church in Ghana*



I saw that important part of the Restoration happening before my eyes.

I also saw something else about the continuing Restoration: a vibrant faith and spiritual energy among the African members. I have heard Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles say, “Kirtland [where Latter-day Saints lived in the 1830s] is not just in Ohio. It is also in Africa.” Many people are joining the Church in Africa based on their powerful personal spiritual experiences. Those new members bring spiritual energy and a need for further gospel learning. For them the Restoration is continuing in a personal sense. As they learn more and more about the Church, the truths of the gospel continue to unfold to their view. The same is true of all of us as we continue to expand our gospel knowledge.

By making and keeping covenants, we not only prepare ourselves for eternal life, but we also help prepare and strengthen what the Lord calls “my covenant people” (Doctrine and Covenants 42:36). We make covenants with God and become part of His covenant people through

*Youth lining up to enter the Accra Ghana Temple*



### Three Ways to Help in the Ongoing Restoration

God has given us the magnificent opportunity to play vital roles in this work. The Lord said that the “body [of the Church] hath need of every member” (Doctrine and Covenants 84:110). All members of the Church have the blessing of participating in this continuing Restoration. How do we do so?

**One way that we participate is by making and keeping sacred covenants.** Ordinances, including temple ordinances, do not have a purpose unless people actually make and then keep the covenants associated with those ordinances. Sister Bonnie Parkin, former Relief Society General President, has taught, “Making covenants is the expression of a willing heart; keeping covenants, the expression of a faithful heart.”<sup>6</sup>

baptism, confirmation, the sacrament, the Melchizedek Priesthood, and temple ordinances.

**A second way that we can participate in the ongoing Restoration is by fulfilling the callings and assignments that we receive.** That is how the Church moves forward. Devoted teachers teach the gospel to children, youth, and adults. Ministering sisters and brothers care for the individual members of the Church. Presidencies and bishoprics give guidance to stakes, districts, wards, branches, quorums, organizations, classes, and groups. Youth leaders care for young women and young men. Clerks and secretaries record essential information that is then recorded in heaven, and a host of others perform essential roles in preparing people for eternal life and the Second Coming of the Savior.

**A third way that we can participate in the Restoration is by helping to gather Israel.** From

*As taught by  
President Nelson,  
we have the  
opportunity and  
duty to assist in the  
gathering that  
happens on both  
sides of the veil.*

the earliest days of the Restoration, this has been a key part of the work. As taught by President Nelson, we have the opportunity and duty to assist in the gathering that happens on both sides of the veil. In his closing message in his first general conference as President of the Church, President Nelson succinctly stated, “Our message to the world is simple and sincere: we invite all of God’s children on both sides of the veil to come unto their Savior, receive the blessings of the holy temple, have enduring joy, and qualify for eternal life.”<sup>7</sup>

Gathering Israel on this side of the veil means missionary work. All of us who can serve full-time missions should carefully consider that opportunity. I count it as a great blessing that I was able to serve a mission in Italy at a time when the Church was very

knelt, we asked her to say the prayer. After the prayer she stood up in tears and said, “All right, I will be baptized.” And a few minutes later she was. The next year she married Sebastiano Caruso, and they raised four children, all of whom served missions and have continued since to serve in the Church.

*Elder and Sister Curtis with some members  
of the Caruso family*



young there. Our branches met in rented halls, and we hoped that someday stakes and wards might exist there. I watched brave pioneers come into the Church and lay the foundation for the gathering of Israel in that great land.

One of these was Agnese Galdiolo. We all felt the Spirit powerfully as she was taught the missionary lessons. But, even feeling that Spirit, she knew that her family would be strongly opposed to her being baptized. At a certain point, however, filled with the Spirit, she agreed to be baptized. But she changed her mind the morning of her scheduled baptism. She came early to the rented hall where she was to be baptized to tell us that because of family pressure, she could not do it.

Before leaving, she agreed that we could talk for a few minutes. We went to a classroom where we suggested that we pray together. After we had

Agnese and Sebastiano also served a mission, with Sebastiano as mission president. When I served a second mission in Italy, 25 years after the first, I was able to see what the Carusos and other pioneers had done to expand the kingdom of God there. My missionaries and I worked to build the Church, dreaming that someday a temple might be built in Italy. Imagine my joy in the fact that we now have the Rome Italy Temple.

There are few joys that can compare with missionary joy. What a great blessing to be born at a time when we can joyously participate in the ongoing Restoration by helping to gather Israel!

Missionary joy, of course, is felt not only by full-time missionaries. Each of us can assist in the conversion or activation of our sisters and brothers by working hand in hand with the full-time missionaries. We have the opportunity to gather

*At Agnese Galdiolo's baptism*



Eliza R. Snow, early Relief Society leader



Israel by inviting others to come and see and by fellowshipping those being taught.

**It is by temple and family history work that we help gather Israel on the other side of the veil.** For years it has been our sacred responsibility to do this work. Before Joseph Smith's death, the Saints performed baptisms for the dead, and a few received their endowments and sealings. With the completion of the Nauvoo Temple, endowments for the living began in earnest. Endowments and sealings for ancestors also began in temples in Utah.

Eliza R. Snow, a key participant in that restorative process, understood the importance of that part of the Restoration. She spent much time in the endowment house, assisting with ordinances there.<sup>8</sup> During one Relief Society visit in 1869, she taught her sisters, "I have been reflecting

on the great work we have to perform, even in helping the salvation of the living and the dead. We want to be . . . fit companions of the Gods and Holy Ones."<sup>9</sup>

And, of course, the availability of temple ordinances has expanded dramatically with the construction of many temples around the world, with more to come.

With the tools we now have at our disposal, temple and family history work can be a regular part of our participation in the ongoing Restoration. I have been interested and involved in family history work for years, but online tools have greatly enhanced my success in taking family names to the temple. I have sacred memories of sitting at a table in our apartment in Ghana and finding names of my European ancestors that my wife and I could take to the Accra Ghana Temple. That joyous

opportunity has followed us to other places that we have been sent.

Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, God began the process of "bringing to pass the restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began" (Doctrine and Covenants 27:6). That restoration has continued to the present as God "does now reveal" and "will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (Articles of Faith 1:9). I am deeply grateful that we get to participate in this ongoing Restoration. ■

*"If you think the Church has been fully restored, you're just seeing the beginning. There is much more to come."*

*—President Nelson*

#### NOTES

1. See Ephesians 1:10; Doctrine and Covenants 27:13.
2. See Daniel 2:35–45; Doctrine and Covenants 65.
3. Russell M. Nelson, in "Latter-day Saint Prophet, Wife and Apostle Share Insights of Global Ministry," Oct. 30, 2018, newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
4. See "Inspired Direction," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2019, 121.
5. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 137.
6. Bonnie D. Parkin, "With Holiness of Heart," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 103.
7. Russell M. Nelson, "Let Us All Press On," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2018, 118–19. Echoing that thought, President Nelson said in general conference a year later: "May we dedicate and rededicate our lives to serving God and His children—on both sides of the veil" ("Closing Remarks," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2019, 112).
8. The endowment house was built on Temple Square while the Salt Lake Temple was being built. Dedicated in 1855, the endowment house was used for temple ordinances until 1889.
9. Eliza R. Snow, address to Lehi Ward Relief Society, Oct. 27, 1869, Relief Society Minute Book, 1863–79, Church History Library, 26–27.

*It is by temple and family history work that we help gather Israel on the other side of the veil.*

# THEY HAD A HOPE OF CHRIST'S COMING —AND WE CAN TOO

The Book of Mormon prophets had hope that Christ would come. In reading their words, we can have that same hope for when He comes again.

**By Mindy Selu**  
Church Magazines

**W**hat words come to mind when you think of the Book of Mormon?  
Nephites, Lamanites, other -ites?

War, wilderness, wo?

Repentance, redemption, righteousness?

Jesus Christ?

Hope?

Easter is the perfect time to ponder anew the message of the Book of Mormon. Most importantly, the message that Jesus is the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Because of Him, we can eventually be freed from the pains of body and soul. From death and sin. We can overcome every bad thing the world throws at us.

Simply put, we can have hope.

Hope—true hope, centered on Jesus Christ—inspired ancient prophets to keep records on the gold plates that would become the Book of Mormon. Jacob tells us, “For, for this intent have we written these things, that they may know that we knew of Christ, and *we had a hope of his glory* many hundred years before his coming” (Jacob 4:4; emphasis added).

Jacob wanted us to know that he—and the other record-keeping prophets—knew of Christ’s coming. Many hundreds

of years before He came! And they were inspired to have that hope from the words of prophets *they* read. Jacob explains, “and not only we ourselves had a hope of his glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us.

“Behold, they believed in Christ and worshiped the Father in his name, and also we worship the Father in his name. . . .

“Wherefore, we search the prophets, and we have many revelations and the spirit of prophecy; and having all these witnesses we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken” (Jacob 4:4–6; see also 1 Nephi 19:21; Jacob 7:11; Mosiah 3:13; Helaman 8:16).

The hope they gained from both their own experiences and the prophecies they read in the scriptures prepared them for the day Christ would come. Likewise, prophets today encourage us to prepare for when Christ will come again. If we are to have that same hope, we too need to “search the prophets, and [seek to] have many revelations and the spirit of prophecy.” Their testimonies of Jesus Christ will not only strengthen ours but also help us prepare for His coming.



## Lehi

“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.”

**2 Nephi 2:8**

## Nephi

“And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.”

**2 Nephi 25:26**



## Alma

“And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

“And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.”

**Alma 7:11–12**

## Amulek

“And that great and last sacrifice will be the Son of God, yea, infinite and eternal.

“And thus he shall bring salvation to all those who shall believe on his name; this being the intent of this last sacrifice, to bring about the bowels of mercy, which overpowereth justice, and bringeth about means unto men that they may have faith unto repentance.

“And thus mercy can satisfy the demands of justice, and encircles them in the arms of safety, while he that exercises no faith unto repentance is exposed to the whole law of the demands of justice; therefore only unto him that has faith unto repentance is brought about the great and eternal plan of redemption.”

**Alma 34:14–16**

## Samuel the Lamanite

“For behold, he surely must die that salvation may come; yea, it behooveth him and becometh expedient that he dieth, to bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, that thereby men may be brought into the presence of the Lord.

“Yea, behold, this death bringeth to pass the resurrection, and redeemeth all mankind from the first death—that spiritual death; for all mankind, by the fall of Adam being cut off from the presence of the Lord, are considered as dead, both as to things temporal and to things spiritual.

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

**Helaman 14:15–17**

## King Benjamin

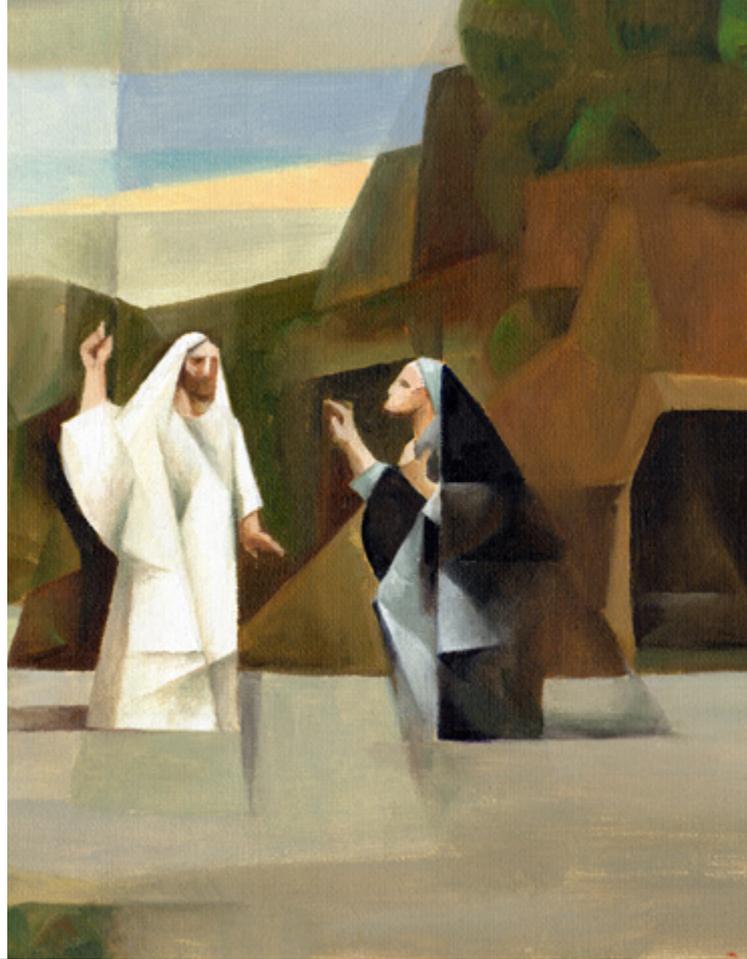
"And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God. . . .

"And lo, he cometh unto his own, that salvation might come unto the children of men even through faith on his name; . . .

"And he shall rise the third day from the dead. . . .

"For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned."

**Mosiah 3:8-11**



## Mormon

"Know ye that ye must come to the knowledge of your fathers, and repent of all your sins and iniquities, and believe in Jesus Christ, that he is the Son of God, and that he was slain by the Jews, and by the power of the Father he hath risen again, whereby he hath gained the victory over the grave; and also in him is the sting of death swallowed up.

"And he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead, whereby man must be raised to stand before his judgment-seat.

"And he hath brought to pass the redemption of the world, whereby he that is found guiltless before him at the judgment day hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom, to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God, in a state of happiness which hath no end."

**Mormon 7:5-7 ■**

## What Does Easter Mean for Me?

On Easter, we celebrate “the most important day in history”<sup>1</sup>—the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. This event is central to Heavenly Father’s plan of happiness.

In the premortal life, Jesus Christ was chosen to be our Savior. He promised to provide the way for us to be forgiven of our sins and to return to our heavenly home.

On that first Easter morning, Jesus fulfilled His promise. He overcame death. As a result, “He is the light and the life of the world; yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened; yea, and also a life which is endless, that there can be no more death” (Mosiah 16:9).

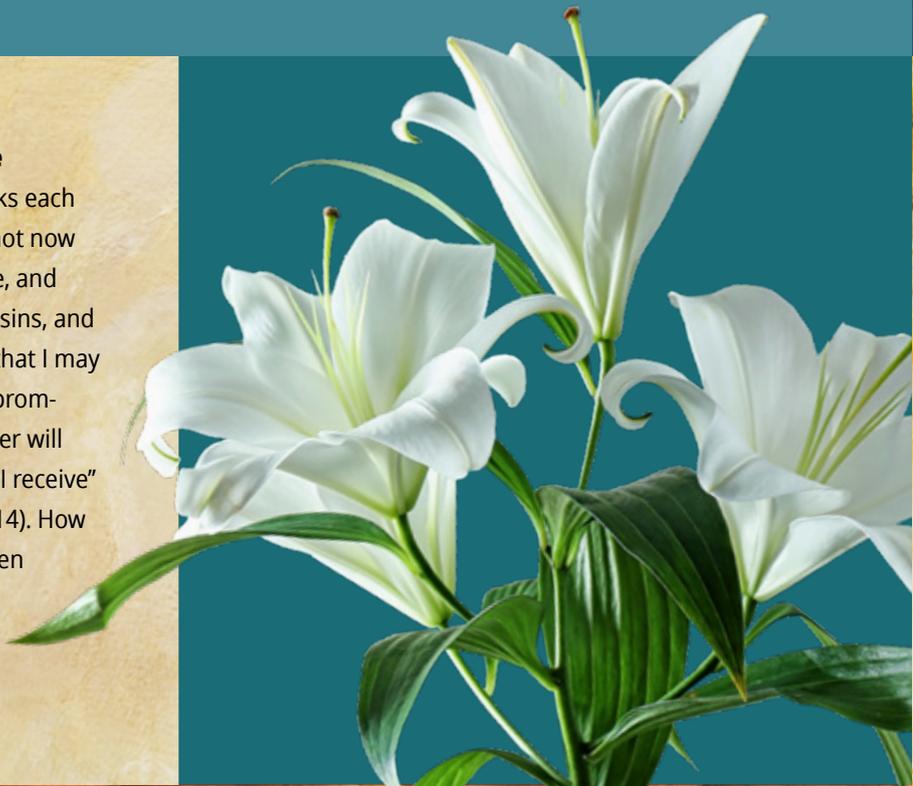
What blessings does the Resurrection bring to you?

### NOTES

1. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Behold the Man!” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 108.
2. Russell M. Nelson, “As We Go Forward Together,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Apr. 2018, 7.

### Repentance

Jesus Christ asks each of us, “Will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?” He promises, “Whosoever will come, him will I receive” (3 Nephi 9:13–14). How do you feel when you repent?





### Resurrection

Death is inevitable, but the Savior's victory over death ensures that all will be resurrected—body and spirit joined once more in perfect form (see Alma 11:43). How does knowledge of the Resurrection bring you hope?



### Eternal Life

The Savior's Atonement makes eternal life, or exaltation, possible. To receive this blessing, we must obey the commandments. President Russell M. Nelson has called the way to eternal life "the covenant path."<sup>2</sup> What must we do to follow this path to eternal life?

THE GOOD SHEPHERD, GREY DAY GOLGOTHA, AND EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW, BY J. KIRK RICHARDS  
EMPTY GARDEN TOMB, BY STEVE HART

WEEKS

1-2

# Why Does King Benjamin Invite Us to Become Like a Child?

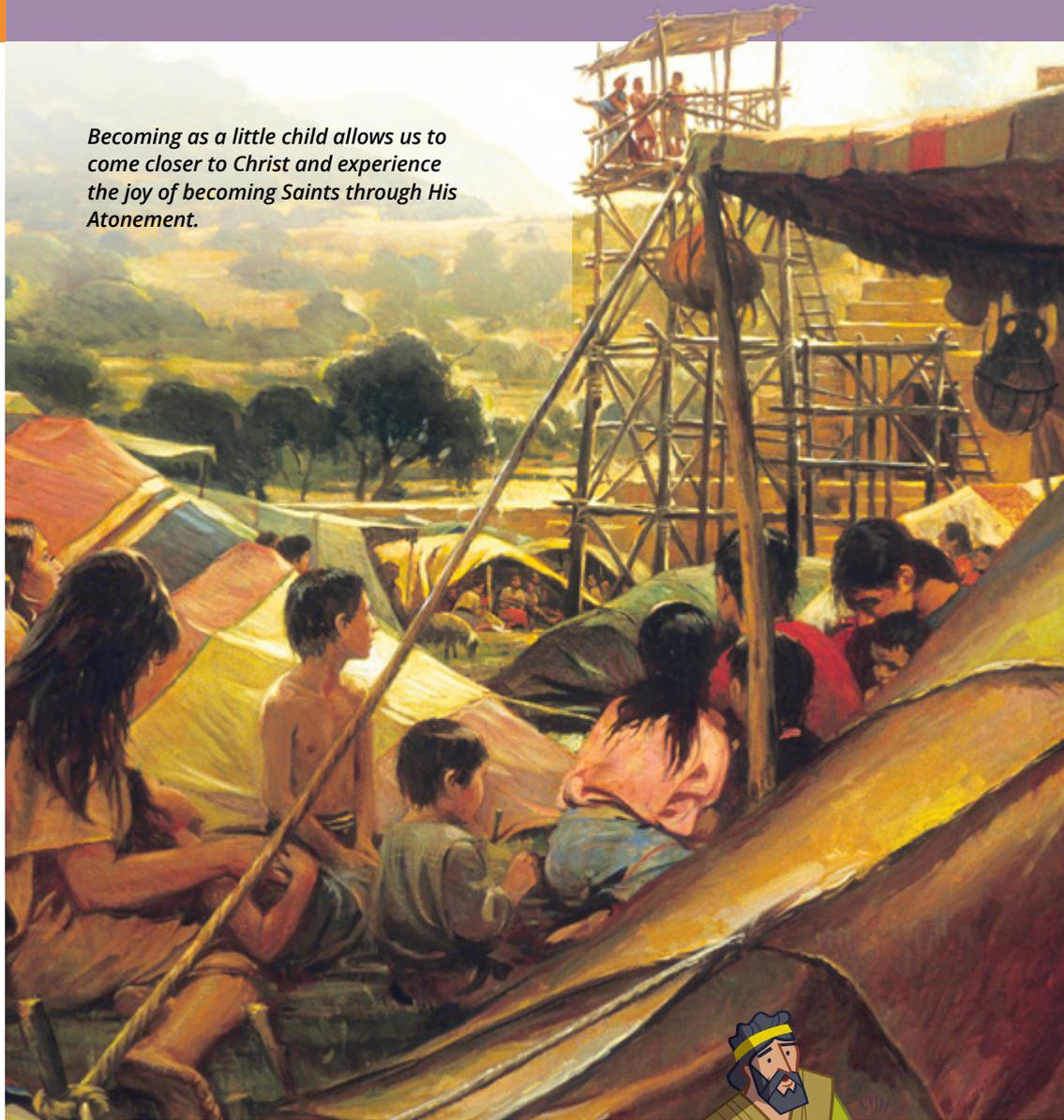
Have you ever felt your heart soften as you've observed a child? Children often speak from the heart and express love and simple statements of faith. The Savior taught, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as [a] little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4).

This could be one reason King Benjamin asked his people to put off the natural man and become as children (see Mosiah 3:19).

How do we become like children? Refer to Mosiah 3:19 to fill in the blanks with the words King Benjamin used to describe a childlike person.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

*Becoming as a little child allows us to come closer to Christ and experience the joy of becoming Saints through His Atonement.*



### DISCUSSION

Find childlike traits in your favorite Book of Mormon heroes. How can you follow their example?

# What Does It Mean to Have the Name of Christ Written in Our Hearts?

In the Book of Mormon, people are called by many names—Nephites, Lamanites, and Anti-Nephi-Lehies are just a few. But King Benjamin desired his people to be called by a higher, holier name—the name of Jesus Christ.

Here is how we can keep the Savior’s name “written always in [our] hearts” (Mosiah 5:12):

## DISCUSSION

What do you do each day to ensure that you retain the name of Christ written in your heart?

## ACT AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

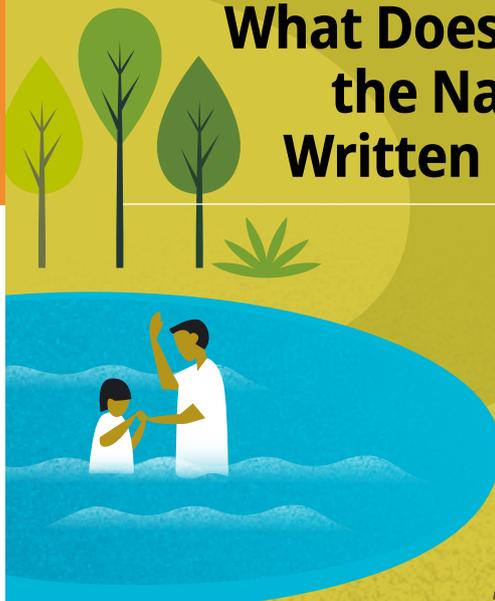
Our covenants require us to keep the commandments. Our actions should reflect our desire to follow Christ and become like Him. In doing so, we can continue to be called by His name. This is how we *retain* Christ’s name written in our hearts (see Mosiah 5:12).

## COVENANT THROUGH BAPTISM

At baptism, we covenant with God to take upon ourselves the name of Christ. What do you think that means? (See Mosiah 18:8–9.)

## PARTAKE OF THE SACRAMENT

We are commanded to partake of the sacrament worthily each week. During the sacrament, we recommit to our covenant to take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ (see Moroni 4:3).



## A Blessing Was All I Could Give

I finished law school around the time of my daughter's first birthday. My wife and I looked forward to celebrating my graduation, our daughter's birthday, and the new opportunities that would come to us, but nothing went as planned.

I found myself unemployed shortly after completing my degree and had difficulty finding work. Soon, financial difficulties came. Just having a simple birthday celebration would be difficult.

After many conversations with my wife, we accepted our situation. It was not easy for me as a father not to have the ability to buy even a simple present for my daughter and to see my beloved wife feeling frustrated.

I didn't understand what was happening. I prayed and asked Heavenly Father to help me understand what He expected of me.

Suddenly, as if a voice spoke to my mind, I heard the following words: "You possess something more valuable than any material possession on this earth. You hold the priesthood. What better gift could you give your daughter than a priesthood blessing?"

Tears filled my eyes as I thought about what the priesthood means to

*As if a voice spoke to my mind, I heard: "You possess something more valuable than any material possession on this earth."*

me. My heart filled with gratitude when I considered that the priesthood is the power that can unite my family for all eternity.

I shared my feelings with my wife. I told her that offering a blessing to our daughter was all I could give. We both decided that this would bring happiness and peace to her, and that would be enough.

On the day of our daughter's birthday, friends, relatives, and neighbors brought a cake and simple decorations. We were grateful to celebrate this special day with those we love. That night, I placed my hands on my daughter's head and gave her a blessing. I blessed her with all that the Spirit of the Lord prompted me to say.

We are still going through a period of changes and challenges regarding unemployment and finances. But even in the midst of sadness and frustration, peace and comfort comes to us through our Savior, Jesus Christ. I have no doubt that being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with access to priesthood power is a blessing. It was all I could give on my daughter's birthday, and it was more than enough. ■

**Jonathan Mafra Sena de Santana,  
Santa Catarina, Brazil**



# A Little Bird Reminded Me

I was 26 when my husband and I lost our first child. Kennedy was diagnosed with a brain tumor when she was only 13 months old. After three surgeries, five rounds of chemotherapy, and many medications and treatments, she passed away in our arms at 20 months old.

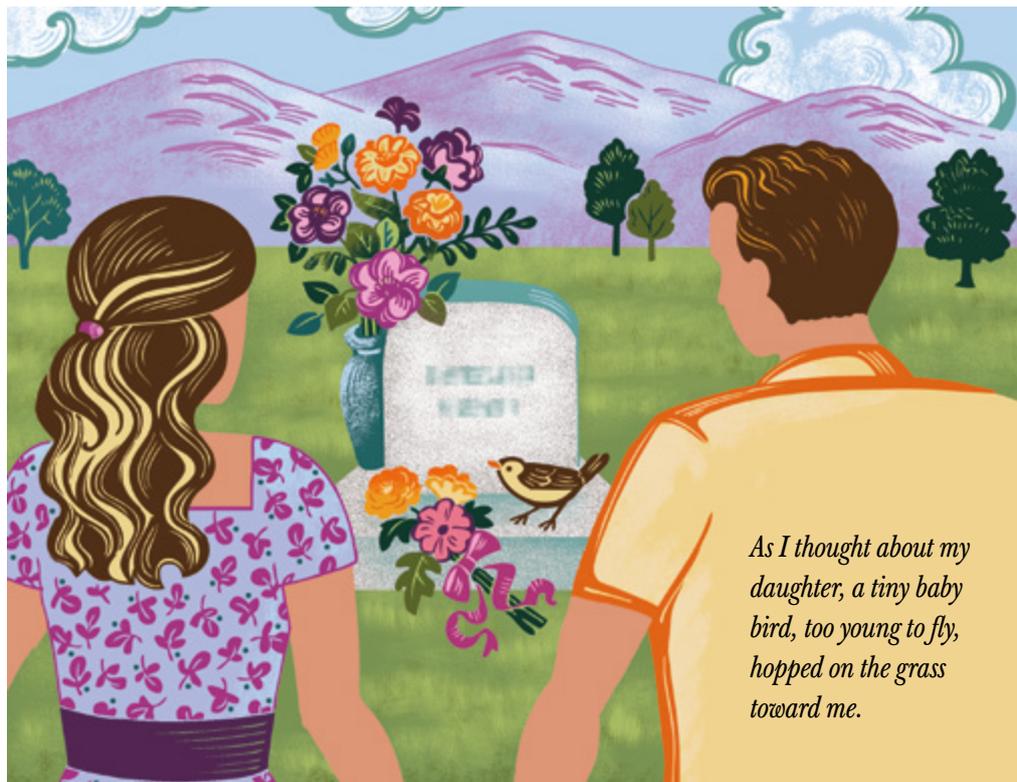
I was devastated to lose my beautiful, curious, and energetic little girl. How could this happen? How could I move on? I had so many questions, but I didn't have any answers. A couple of days after the funeral, my husband and I visited the gravesite, still covered with beautiful pink flowers and ribbons from the funeral.

As I thought about my daughter, I saw a tiny baby bird, too young to fly, hopping on the grass. This bird reminded me of Kennedy because she loved animals. The bird hopped over to the grave and played in the ribbons and flowers. I smiled, knowing this is exactly what Kennedy would have wanted. The bird then hopped toward me. I didn't dare move a muscle. The little bird hopped right next to me, leaned against my leg, closed its eyes, and fell asleep.

I can hardly explain the feelings I had in that moment. I felt as if I was getting a hug from my Kennedy. I could not hold my daughter, but this

little bird—a creation of our Father in Heaven—could come and rest its tiny head on me, reminding me that Heavenly Father understood my pain

so totally alone, truly we are blessed by the tender mercies of the Lord” (“The Tender Mercies of the Lord,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2005, 100).



*As I thought about my daughter, a tiny baby bird, too young to fly, hopped on the grass toward me.*

and would always be there to comfort me and help me through this trial.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “When words cannot provide the solace we need . . . , when logic and reason cannot yield adequate understanding about the injustices and inequities of life, . . . and when it seems that perhaps we are

I still didn't have all the answers to my questions, but this tender mercy reassured me that Kennedy and I are both loved by our Heavenly Father and that through the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, I have the hope that Kennedy, my husband, and I will one day be together again as a family. ■

**Laura Linton, Utah, USA**



## More Precious Than a Silver Bracelet

*One morning, I realized that my silver bracelet was missing. My heart was heavy because this bracelet was precious to me.*

When I was asked to lead a discussion in Relief Society on the Savior's invitation to feed His sheep, I decided that if I wanted to motivate the sisters, I should do something for one of His sheep.

I gathered up my courage and invited a less-active sister to come to a Relief Society activity with me. She accepted my invitation and we had an enjoyable time. I felt that this was a good example, and I was eager to share my experience. But the Lord had more to teach me.

One morning while getting dressed, I realized that my silver bracelet was missing. This bracelet was given to me as a birthday present while I was visiting France, so it has special meaning to

me. I began searching for it in the most likely places, but I couldn't find it. I then told myself that if I just prayed, I would be able to find my bracelet quickly.

After I prayed, I looked everywhere. For two days I prayed intently and searched intensely. I pled with Heavenly Father to help me find it, but I still couldn't find it. My heart was heavy because this bracelet was precious to me.

One evening my son prayed with me at my bedside. After our prayer, he picked something up and handed it to me. It was my bracelet! He had found it under the bed. I somehow must have missed it in my search. I cried for joy to have it back again.

Suddenly, an impression came to me: "Do you pray just as earnestly for your

sisters in the Church? Are they as precious to you as your bracelet? What about your sisters outside the Church? Do you also pray for them?"

When I shared my experience with my missing bracelet in Relief Society, we had a beautiful discussion. I told the sisters that I had learned that when the Savior asks us to feed His sheep, we must remember that "the worth of souls is great in the sight of God" (Doctrine and Covenants 18:10). He wants us to be mindful of those around us and to love, care, and pray with all our energy for them. As we do so, we will find that everyone is far more precious than a silver bracelet. ■

**Sylvie Houmeau, Quebec, Canada**

# “See What a Little Faith Can Do?”

*We stumbled down the trail as the storm raced toward us.*

*“Let’s say a prayer,” our youngest son said.*

Some time ago, my wife and I took our two youngest sons to France to tour the areas I had served in as a full-time missionary. We visited branches of the Church I had served in and rejoiced with members I had taught. We also visited historical sites.

One site was the ruins of the Château de Châluçet. This massive medieval castle was attacked and largely destroyed centuries ago. Vegetation had grown all around the ruins, and the trail to get there was narrow and steep. We had a difficult climb, but it was worth the effort once we arrived.

The boys loved climbing down into what was once the dungeon and high up on what little was left of the castle walls. The castle captivated their imaginations just as it had captivated mine 24 years earlier.

While we were there, a summer storm appeared in the distance. It moved in fast. Dark clouds and lightning filled the sky, followed by great claps of thunder.

We scrambled down the trail and made a run for the car as the storm raced toward us. Soon, torrential, pounding rain drenched us and the dirt trail turned to mud. We worried that we would lose our footing and fall down the steep, rocky trail.

We spotted some shelter among the trees on the edge of the path. We huddled together under the shelter and wondered how long we would have to wait to get back down.

“Let’s say a prayer,” our youngest son said.

He asked to offer it and prayed that the rain would stop so we could get down the hill safely. He looked at us and said, “Now all we need is enough faith.”

I explained that prayers don’t always work like that.

“No,” he said, “it’ll stop in 10 minutes!”

After about 10 minutes, the rain stopped.

“OK, let’s go!” he said.

“If we leave now, the rain will start again and we’ll be trapped,” our older son said.

“It won’t!” our youngest replied. “Let’s go!”

We made our way through the drier parts of the path, holding back bushes and branches as we went. Back at the car, we offered a prayer of gratitude. Soon the rain started again.

“See what a little faith can do?” our son said humbly.

He taught us all a great lesson that day. ■

**Godfrey J. Ellis, Washington, USA**







By Elder  
Kyle S. McKay  
Of the Seventy

# A Mighty Change of Heart

**W**ith the Fall of Adam, sickness and sin were introduced into the world. Both can be fatal in their respective realms. Of all sicknesses, perhaps none is so pervasive or devastating as cancer. In some countries, more than one third of the population will develop some form of cancer, and it is responsible for almost one-fourth of all deaths.<sup>1</sup> Cancer often begins with a single cell, so small it can be seen only with a microscope. But it is capable of growing and spreading rapidly.

Cancer patients undergo treatment in order to put the cancer in remission. Complete remission means that there is no longer any detectible evidence of the disease. However, professionals are quick to point out that although a patient may be in remission, it does not necessarily mean that he or she is cured.<sup>2</sup> Thus, although remission provides relief and hope, cancer patients always hope for something beyond remission—they hope to be cured. According to one source, “To render someone cured of cancer, one has to wait and see if the cancer will ever come back, so, time is the crucial factor. If a patient remains in remission for a few years, the cancer might be cured. Certain cancers can reoccur after many years of remission.”<sup>3</sup>

Sin cankers, cripples,  
and kills the soul.  
Sin is the major cause—  
indeed the only cause—  
of spiritual death.  
The treatment for sin  
is repentance.

## **Sickness and Sin**

As devastating as cancer is to the body, sin is even more devastating to the soul. Sin usually starts small—sometimes imperceptibly small—but it is capable of growing rapidly. It cankers, then cripples, then kills the soul. It is the major cause—indeed, the only cause—of spiritual death in all creation. The treatment for sin is repentance. True repentance is 100 percent effective in putting the sinner in remission, or bringing about a remission of sins. This remission offers relief and joy to the soul. However, receiving a remission of sin and being free from its symptoms and effects does not necessarily

mean that the sinner has been completely cured. There is something about the heart of fallen man that allows or is susceptible to sin. Thus, sin can reoccur, even after years of remission. Staying in remission, or in other words, retaining a remission of sins, is crucial to being completely healed.

### **Cleansed and Cured**

This analogy helps us understand that spiritually, we must be not only cleansed from sin but also cured of sinfulness. The war that pits our will to do good against our nature to do bad can be tiring. If faithful, we will be victorious not simply because we have imposed our will upon our nature, but because we have yielded our will to God and He has changed our nature.

King Benjamin taught, “For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man . . . through the atonement of Christ the Lord” (Mosiah 3:19). In response to this and other teachings, Benjamin’s people prayed, “O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, *and* our hearts may be purified” (Mosiah 4:2; emphasis added). After they prayed, the Lord responded to their two-part request. First, “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” (Mosiah 4:3).

Seeing that his people were “in remission,” King Benjamin urged them toward a complete cure by teaching them how to stay in remission (see Mosiah 4:11–30). “If ye do this,” he promised, “ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins” (Mosiah 4:12).

The people believed and bound themselves to King Benjamin’s words, whereupon the Lord answered the second part of their prayer—that “[their] hearts may be purified.” In gratitude and praise, the people cried out, “The Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent . . . has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually” (Mosiah 5:2). King Benjamin explained that this mighty change meant they had been born of God (see Mosiah 5:7).

### **“How Is It Done?”**

The prophet Alma taught that we must both repent *and* be born again—born of God, changed in our hearts (see Alma 5:49). As we continually repent, the Lord will take away all our sins *and* He will take

away that which naturally causes or allows sin in us. But, in the words of Enos, “Lord, how is it done?” (Enos 1:7). The answer is simple, yet profound and eternal. To those who have been healed from any condition, physical or spiritual, the Lord has declared, “Thy faith hath made thee whole” (see Mark 5:34; Enos 1:8).

The mighty change of heart experienced by Alma was wrought “according to his faith,” and the hearts of his followers were changed as they “put their trust in the true and living God” (Alma 5:12, 13). The hearts of King Benjamin’s people were “changed through faith on [the Savior’s] name” (Mosiah 5:7).

If we would have this kind of faith, so that we can trust the Lord with all our heart, we must do what leads to faith and then do what faith leads to. Among the many things that lead to faith, in context of this change of heart, the Lord

*This mighty change of  
heart is wrought in us;  
it is not wrought by us.*

has emphasized fasting, prayer, and the word of God. And although faith leads to many things, repentance is its first fruit.

Consider the following two verses from the book of Helaman that highlight these principles. First, we read of a people who “did fast and pray oft, and did wax . . . firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ . . . even to the purifying



***Thanks to the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can not only be cleansed from sin; we can also be cured of sinfulness.***

and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God” (Helaman 3:35). Then, from Samuel the Lamanite prophet, we learn, “The holy scriptures, yea, the prophecies of the holy prophets, . . . leadeth . . . to faith on the Lord, and unto repentance, which faith and repentance bringeth a change of heart” (Helaman 15:7).

### **Reliant on God**

Here we should pause and acknowledge that this mighty change of which we speak is wrought *in* us; it is not wrought *by* us. We are capable of repenting, changing our conduct, our attitudes, even our desires and beliefs, but it is beyond our power and capacity to change our nature. For this mighty change, we are wholly reliant on Almighty God. It is He who graciously purifies our hearts and changes our nature “after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23). His invitation is constant and sure: “Repent, and come unto me with full purpose of heart, and I shall *heal* [you]” (3 Nephi 18:32; emphasis added).

The effect of being healed from sinfulness is that we become “changed from [our] carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness . . . becoming his sons and daughters; And thus [we] become new creatures” (Mosiah

27:25, 26). Our countenances radiate the Light of Christ. Moreover, the scriptures tell us that “whosoever is born of God sinneth not” (1 John 5:18). This is so not because we are incapable of sinning, but because it is now our nature *not* to sin. That is a mighty change, indeed.

It should be remembered that experiencing a mighty change of heart is a process over time, not a point in time. The change is usually gradual, sometimes incrementally imperceptible, but it is real, it is powerful, and it is necessary.

If you have not yet experienced such a mighty change, I would ask of you: Have you repented and received a remission of your sins? Do you study the holy scriptures? Do you fast and pray often, that you may wax firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ? Do you have faith enough to trust the Lord with all your heart? Are you standing steadfastly in that faith? Do you watch your thoughts, words, and deeds and observe the commandments of God? If you do these things, you will always rejoice and be filled with the love of God and always retain a remission of your sins. And if you stay in remission, you will be healed, cured, and *changed!*

Jesus Christ has power to cleanse us from our sins and also cure us of our sinfulness. He is mighty to save, and to that end, He is mighty to change. If we will yield our hearts to Him, exercising faith by making all the changes we are capable of making, He will exercise His power in us to bring about this mighty change of heart (see Alma 5:14). ■

### **NOTES**

1. See Stacy Simon, “Facts & Figures 2019: US Cancer Death Rate Has Dropped 27% in 25 Years,” American Cancer Society, Jan. 8, 2019, cancer.org.
2. See “Remission: What Does It Mean?” webMD.com.
3. Cathy Sweat, *The Gates to Recovery* (2019).

# Improving Our Temple Experience

## By the First Presidency

“**T**he crowning jewel of the Restoration is the holy temple. Its sacred ordinances and covenants are pivotal to preparing a people who are ready to welcome the Savior at His Second Coming.”<sup>1</sup>

From time to time, the First Presidency has made adjustments to temple ceremonies and procedures in order to improve the temple experience for members and help all who enter to feel a closer connection to God within these sacred spaces.

As part of the temple experience, members put on ceremonial clothing with doctrinal and symbolic significance that can be traced back to temple worship in the Old Testament (see Exodus 28 and Leviticus 8).

Some adjustments have been made to temple ceremonial clothing. These adjustments don't reflect changes to temple symbolism or doctrine but are intended to make the temple experience more simple, comfortable, and accessible by making the clothing easier to put on, care for, and afford.

Some of these adjustments include:

- A simpler design for the veil and robe.
- Removing the plastic insert from the cap and the tie from the cap and veil.
- Using a more durable material that is the same for the robes, cap, and sash, which helps them last longer and makes them easier to care for.

We hope these adjustments will help improve this sacred experience for you as you make temple worship a regular part of your life. ■

### NOTE

1. Russell M. Nelson, “Closing Remarks,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 120.

“Any adjustments made to ordinances and procedures do not change the sacred nature of the covenants being made [in the temple]. Adjustments allow for covenants to be planted in the hearts of people living in different times and circumstances.”

President Russell M. Nelson, general conference leadership training meeting, Oct. 2019.



## ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

### **Can I continue to use the ceremonial clothing I already have?**

Yes. Previous styles can continue to be used until they need to be replaced.

### **How do I appropriately discard old ceremonial clothing?**

“To dispose of worn-out temple ceremonial clothing, members should destroy the clothing by cutting it up so the original use cannot be recognized” (*Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 21.1.42).

### **Can I alter my existing clothing to reflect the new adjustments?**

Yes. Further information about how can be found at [store.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/ceremonialclothing](https://store.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/ceremonialclothing)

when you log in with your membership account or by visiting Distribution Services and asking a store clerk.

### **Can I donate old ceremonial clothing?**

When appropriate, you may give gently used clothing to endowed family members or friends. However, ceremonial clothing, regardless of condition, should not be donated to a temple, Deseret Industries, or any clothing exchange.

### **How do I obtain the new clothing?**

For information about cost and availability in your area, go to [store.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/ceremonialclothing](https://store.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/ceremonialclothing) or visit Distribution Services.

# Young Adults

## In This Section

44 How Young Adults Are Making a Difference in the Ongoing Restoration

## Digital Only

Think You Don't Have a Purpose as a Young Adult? Think Again

By Cesar Gervacio

Using the Full Name of the Church Was Awkward but Worth It

By Lauri Ahola

Finding Joy in Doing the Lord's Work

Building the Kingdom in New Caledonia

By Mindy Selu

## Find these articles and more:

- At [liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)
- In **YA Weekly** (under the Young Adults section in the Gospel Library)

## Share Your Story

Do you have an amazing story to share? Or do you want to see articles about certain topics? If so, we want to hear from you! You can submit an article or feedback at [liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

## We Can Spread the Light of the Gospel

Young adulthood is a time for growth, opportunities, and a chance to begin building your life. And that can be overwhelming, exciting, and scary all at the same time (it definitely has been for us).

But while we may not know the answers to all of life's most pressing questions, there is one thing we are completely certain of—that **young adults have always been a crucial force in the ongoing Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ.**

In planning this month's section, we spoke with many young adults about their participation in gathering Israel. And we have been so humbled by their sincere love for and dedication to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Regardless of their circumstances, these **young Saints understand the vital role they have in this final dispensation.** In "How Young Adults Are Making a Difference in the Ongoing Restoration" on page 44, you can read how young adults from India, Hungary, Barbados, Australia, and the United States are preparing the world for the Savior's Second Coming.

In digital-only articles, Cesar gives insight on how **we can find our purpose and become better leaders.** Lauri talks about the blessings we receive when we follow the prophet's counsel. Other young adults share their experiences with temple service, ministering, family history, and missionary work. And we share an example from a young adult in New Caledonia that illustrates how **young members are doing the Lord's work in smaller areas of the Church.**

Wherever you are and whatever your circumstances may be, **you can make more of a difference in the gathering of Israel than you might think.** As young adults, we are the future leaders of this Church. And the spark of our efforts today will ignite and spread the light of the gospel throughout the world tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Chakell Wardleigh and Mindy Selu

Church Magazines young adult section editors



PHOTOGRAPHY BY WESTON C. COLTON

# How Young Adults Are Making a Difference in the Ongoing Restoration

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Young adults have always had an important role in the work of salvation.

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Whenever you hear an invitation by a Church leader to participate in the ongoing Restoration or to help gather Israel, do you ever think, “What can I do? I’m just one person,” “I’m too young,” “I’m not married yet,” or “I don’t know enough. What difference could I make?”

Each of us has those kinds of thoughts cross our minds from time to time. But try to silence that self-doubt as you read the next few sentences:

- Joseph Smith was only 22 years old when he began translating the Book of Mormon.
- Oliver Cowdery was also 22 and John Whitmer was 26 (and both of them were single!) when they started working as Joseph’s scribes.
- In 1835, when the first Quorum of the Twelve Apostles was called, they ranged in age from 23 to 35.
- Many of the early Saints who joined the Church and spread the gospel were young adults.

All in all, God worked through young adults in the early days of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. People just like you.

Let that sink in.

The Church would not be spread throughout the earth today if everyone thought they couldn’t make a difference. And you—yes, you!—are part of a chosen generation to continue restoring and leading the Church of Jesus Christ today.



**JOSEPH SMITH,  
AGE 22**  
Began translating the Book of Mormon

**OLIVER COWDERY,  
AGE 22**  
Began working as Joseph's scribe

**JOHN WHITMER,  
AGE 26**  
Began working as Joseph's scribe

## You Were Sent Here. Now. For a Reason.

When speaking about our generation, President Russell M. Nelson taught, “You are living in the ‘eleventh hour.’ The Lord has declared that this is the last time He will call laborers into His vineyard to gather the elect from the four quarters of the earth. (See D&C 33:3–6.) And *you* were sent to participate in this gathering.”<sup>1</sup>

Think about the force of 65,000 full-time missionaries sharing the gospel all day, every day, throughout the world. Think of all the young adults making covenants in the temple, taking advantage of restored priesthood and temple blessings and covenanting to be faithful, to strengthen their families, and to build up the kingdom of God on the earth. Think of young adults serving as Church leaders all over the world. Think of those who are pressing forward to follow Jesus Christ despite all the odds against them. Young adults have been a vital part of

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God worked through young adults in the early days of the Restoration. People just like you.

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The Restoration is about seeking revelation.

**VENNELA VAKAPALLI,**  
AGE 22, INDIA

the Restoration from the beginning. And the ongoing Restoration has been a vital part of the lives of countless young adult members of the Church.

## What the Restoration Means to Us

For many of us, our participation in the Restoration stems from what it has taught us. For Vennela Vakapalli, a young adult convert from Andhra Pradesh, India, “the Restoration is about seeking revelation. Joseph Smith sought revelation in the woods. He counseled with the Lord, he waited for the answer, he was patient. That’s what I love.” Vennela explains, “Before I heard about the Restoration, I did not know much about seeking revelation. One of the greatest things that amazes me is how much he spent his time to obtain revelation from God. That’s what I learned from the Restoration.”

Emma and Jacob Roberts, a young couple

So much knowledge that comes with the Restoration makes my life easier and less stressful.



**JACOB ROBERTS,**  
AGE 29, UNITED STATES

from Utah, USA, agree that the Restoration is about “ongoing revelation”—for ourselves and for the world—that we can have a prophet, a spokesman here on earth from God, making sure whatever challenges the world brings, we have somebody who is working and praying and conversing with God to make sure that we are prepared and able to face whatever challenges the world brings as it changes.”

“So much knowledge that comes with the Restoration makes my life easier and less stressful,” says Jacob. It all comes with a surety “that there is a God who loves us and watches over us,” Emma says. “His intent is our happiness. As young adults, we can totally trust and follow Him because we know His goal is our happiness. We know that we are eternal beings, and that gives me a lot of hope and faith, that whatever I do now and whatever mistakes I make now, I can still repent and I have this time to progress and learn.”

That type of reassurance also helped Ramona Morris, a young adult from Barbados, when she first learned about the Restoration. Among other things, she gained a testimony that “Heavenly Father is there



The Restoration brings peace to those who question their life and God’s plan for them.

**RAMONA MORRIS,**  
**AGE 28, BARBADOS**

for us. The Restoration just brings peace to those who question their life and question God’s plan for them.”

But even though understanding the Restoration has brought clarity in her life, she also admits that “being so far away from Church headquarters, it’s hard to connect with the gospel, but because I’ve had a strong testimony of the restored gospel, I know that as far away as I am, I can still feel like a part of the Restoration, that I’m not alone.”

And she isn’t. Young adults around the world are participating in the Restoration through temple service, family history, and missionary work. With the understanding of personal revelation that we gain from learning about Joseph Smith’s First Vision and the Restoration, we can all continue to seek to know God’s will and what part we can play in the ongoing Restoration.

## Young Adults Leading the Church

We might be young adults, but we can be leaders in the Church now. Despite being the only member of the Church in her family, Janka Toronyi from Győr, Hungary, is strengthened by her fellow young adults’ participation in other aspects of the Restoration: “A bunch of my friends have gone on missions, and it’s been so great to see their progress and then they return and they grow up so much through all their experiences. It’s a great experience for all of us. And it’s always marvelous to see my young single adult friends serve in their callings and sometimes even opportunities they make themselves, like volunteering to be counselors at FSY (For the Strength of Youth) conferences. I feel like the Restoration isn’t always about teaching people about the gospel—it’s about strengthening the members that we have.”

The Restoration is about strengthening the members that we have.

**JANKA TORONYI,**  
**AGE 24, HUNGARY**



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For me, participating in the Restoration is helping future generations understand how the gospel can help them and others in their lives.

**STEFANY JOSEPH,**  
AGE 28, AUSTRALIA

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The young adults in Hungary understand that they are the future leaders of the Church. “We are needed and we need to measure up to the task, which is sometimes overwhelming,” Janka admits. “The Lord is hastening the work and we are part of it. Sometimes we think, ‘How am I supposed to do this?’ But it’s great to see that our leaders have so much trust in us. It is motivating for those who do love the Church and have a strong testimony, because we know that one day we are going to be responsible. We have to take responsibility for our own spiritual progression.”

Sean and Stefany Joseph from Western Australia participate in the Restoration by mentoring the youth in their ward. “For me, participating in the Restoration is helping future generations understand what the gospel is and how it can help them and others in their lives,” Stefany says. “We can help create a stronger foundation for the Church in our country later on.”

“We want to help the youth get a testimony of the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith and realize that they are actually children of God for themselves,” Sean explains. “We don’t want it to be something they just sang about in Primary—we want them to actually know it’s true.”

As for Vennela, living the gospel in India isn’t always easy, but she knows the strength of the young adult members there will inspire others and help the Restoration progress. “Here, all the young adults are very faithful. They look for opportunities to share their testimonies,” she says. “We are like pioneers in India. We move from different places and some of us even leave our families. Life can be challenging here, but we still choose to live the gospel. The scriptures give me a lot of hope, strength, and courage.”

No matter where we are, as young adults, we can continue to have a powerful influence on the ongoing Restoration through our faith and commitment to the gospel.

## The Future of the Church: It's Up to Us

We are the future of the Church. We are in the final battle. Heavenly Father depends on us to help Him do His work—His eternally life-changing work. He knows we are strong enough to keep pressing forward and fighting against everything the adversary has up his sleeve. And Satan is getting desperate. He knows he's fighting a losing battle because the Lord's work will prevail.

"We know that the Lord is hastening the work and nobody can stop that," Janka says. "We know it's going to happen no matter what. But we have to decide if we are going to be part of it and help it forward or watch from the sidelines. We have the agency to be a part of it, and we have the testimony to be able to choose right and choose to follow Christ. We have to be a part of it."

So it's up to us to choose whose side we are on.

It's up to us to have courage to stand up for what we believe in.

It's up to us to seek personal revelation for our lives.

It's up to us to allow the difficult challenges we face to strengthen our faith in the Savior.

It's up to us to follow Him and do all we can to bring others unto Him.

It's up to us to endure to the end in the best way we can.

We really are in the last days. And leading the Church in what President Nelson calls the "most compelling dispensation in the history of the world"<sup>2</sup> sounds like a really daunting responsibility. But think about it—Heavenly Father trusted us enough and reserved us to be on this earth at this specific point in time, this time when we are faced with countless temptations and distractions and so many opposing opinions.

By sending us here in the most pivotal dispensation, Heavenly Father wasn't setting us up for failure. He knows our potential, our strength, our courage, and ultimately, He knows we can make a difference in the Restoration of the Church, regardless of our age or marital status. No matter how impossible our trials, or how impossible leading and sharing the gospel across the earth may seem, with Him on our side, who can possibly fight against us? He will help us accomplish the impossible. ■

### NOTES

1. Russell M. Nelson, "Stand as True Millennials," *Ensign*, Oct. 2016, 26; *Liahona*, Oct. 2016, 48.
2. Russell M. Nelson, "Stand as True Millennials," *Ensign*, 24; *Liahona*, 46.

*You can find more stories of young adults from around the world participating in the Restoration in the digital-only article "Finding Joy in Doing the Lord's Work."*





## I'm a convert to the Church.

One of the things that first appealed to me was the youth activities. Even now I still love spending time with Church friends who have the good, uplifting kind of fun. I especially like going to the Suva Fiji Temple with them each week.

In Fiji there's a lot of peer pressure. Shops don't often ask for identification to buy alcohol, cigarettes, and such. Kids buy them all the time. It can be hard to choose the right.

One of the things that keeps me strong is my younger siblings. I'm the oldest, so I think of them every time I'm tempted to do something wrong. I don't want them to make any bad decisions because of seeing me do something first. Before my mom died, she made me promise to look after my siblings and always be there for them.

So far I'm the only member of the Church among my siblings. But I pray for them every day. I thank Heavenly Father for giving them another day to live, and I pray that they'll receive knowledge of His gospel. They keep me strong.

**Mikayla J.,** age 17, Fiji

### IN THIS SECTION



### 52 **Strengthen Your Faith through the First Vision**

By Elder Neil L. Andersen

### 56 **A Taxi, a Schoolboy, and an Answer to Prayer**

By Sydney Chime Ihunwo

### 58 **Gaining My Faith One Step at a Time**

By Elder Edward Dube

### 62 **Questions and Answers: First Vision and the Book of Mormon**

### 64 **Four Images from Easter Week**



**By Elder  
Neil L. Andersen**  
Of the Quorum of  
the Twelve Apostles

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# STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH THROUGH THE FIRST VISION

## **WHEN I WAS 16 YEARS OLD,**

I traveled from my home in Idaho to a conference on the East Coast of the United States, attended by young men and young women from all 50 states and nearly 40 nations. Before then, I had rarely been in a situation where my beliefs and convictions set me apart.

One evening in an informal group setting, a discussion arose about some of the beliefs and practices of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A large group of students suddenly turned their attention to me and started asking questions, some of which were critical of our beliefs.

That caught me off guard. But after I had reflected for a moment, I began sharing some basic gospel principles.

I explained that we have a Heavenly Father, that we are His sons and daughters, and that we are on earth to develop faith in Jesus Christ and to prove ourselves by choosing good over evil.

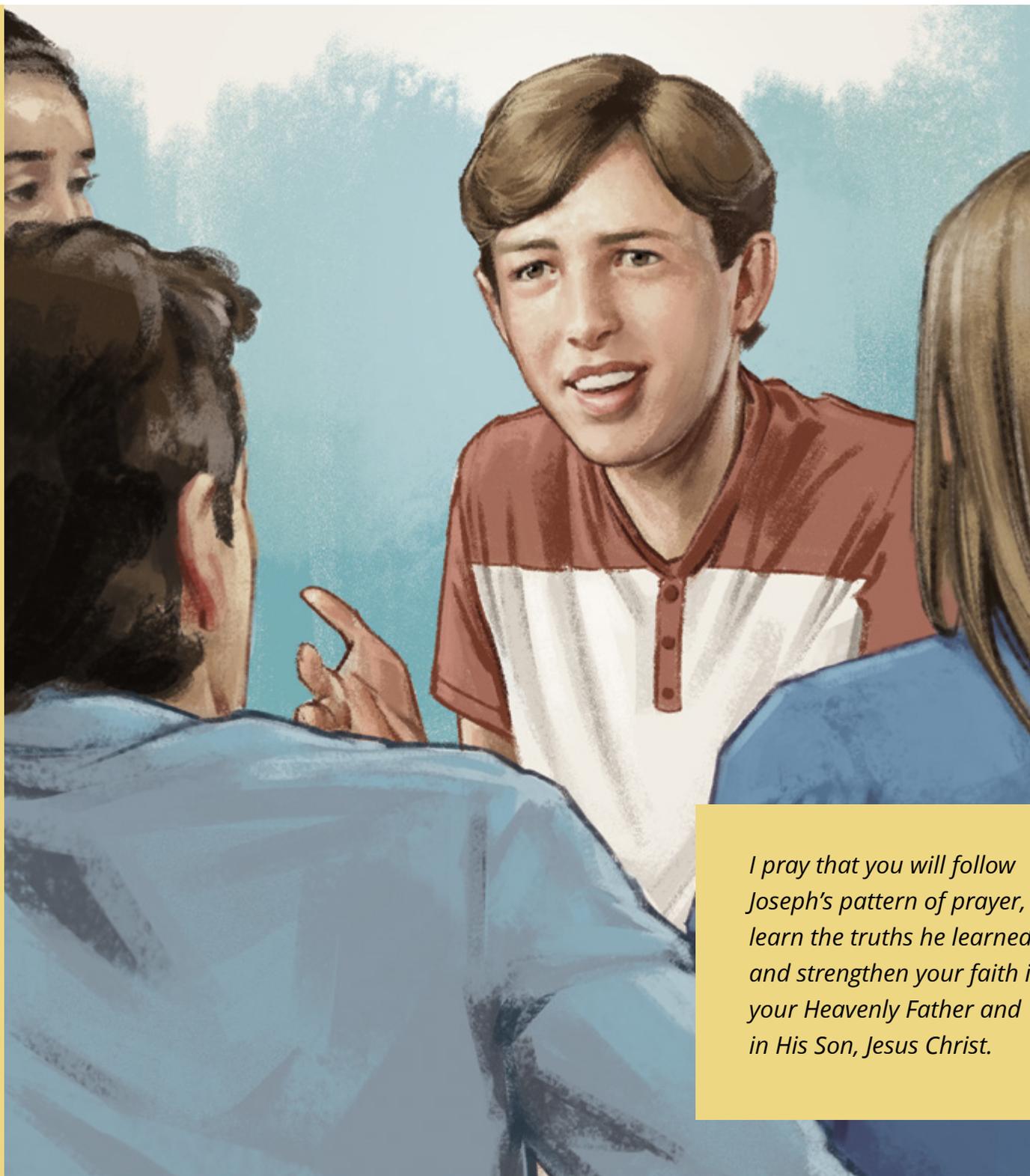
Sharing these principles led me to Joseph Smith's testimony. The other students had not asked about Joseph Smith, but I found myself going to the origins of why I believed what I believed. As I told of the appearance of the Father and the Son in the Sacred Grove, suddenly everyone fell silent. A piercing feeling of holiness entered the room, and an enormous feeling of spiritual power rested upon me and my words.

Afterward, several students thanked me for my strong convictions. Some even asked for more information about

the Church. As I returned to my room that night, I realized that the person this experience had the greatest impact on was me. I had felt for myself the power of bearing testimony of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the First Vision.

Since that experience more than 50 years ago, I have testified hundreds of times of the Father, the Son, and the Prophet Joseph Smith. In these experiences, I have constantly felt the confirming witness of the Holy Ghost.

I would like to share five principles I have learned from my spiritual understanding of the First Vision. These principles have strengthened my faith in and my desire to follow our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son. I hope they strengthen you too.



*I pray that you will follow Joseph's pattern of prayer, learn the truths he learned, and strengthen your faith in your Heavenly Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ.*



## FROM THE FIRST VISION, WE LEARN THAT THESE CELESTIAL BEINGS KNOW US PERSONALLY, JUST AS THEY KNEW JOSEPH.

### 1. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost Are Distinct Beings

For centuries, religious scholars and philosophers had debated the nature of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. Many believed They were one being. Because of Joseph’s experience in the Sacred Grove 200 years ago, we know the absolute truth about the nature of God.

First of all, He lives! Second, the Father and the Son are two separate, glorious,

resurrected beings, unique from each another. Later, Joseph learned that “the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us” (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22).

### 2. We Are Sons and Daughters of God

Through the First Vision and other experiences, the Prophet Joseph Smith learned that God is not some distant

power who created the world and its inhabitants and then forgot about them. In reality, each of us is “a beloved daughter [or son] of heavenly parents.”<sup>1</sup>

The proclamation on the family states: “All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny.”<sup>2</sup> Our Father has clearly declared that destiny: “This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39).

Our identity is with God, and we are here on earth to become more like Him. This understanding from the First Vision allowed me as a young man to know that I had a personal Heavenly Father who loved me and wanted me to return to Him.

### 3. We Can Be Forgiven of Our Sins

One of Joseph’s deep concerns was to be forgiven of his sins. In one account of the First Vision, the Lord addressed the young seeker of truth with these words: “Joseph, my son, thy sins are forgiven thee. Go thy way, walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments. Behold, I am the Lord of glory. I was crucified for the world, that all those who believe on my name may have eternal life.”<sup>3</sup>

Joseph learned that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, he could be forgiven of his sins and become clean and pure before God. He was given a sure knowledge that Jesus Christ took upon Himself the sins and burdens of all who

have ever and will ever live on earth.

From the First Vision, we learn that because of the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we too can be forgiven of our sins and one day stand clean before the Father.

#### 4. Our Heavenly Father Hears and Answers Our Prayers

In the grove that day in 1820, Joseph learned that Heavenly Father hears and answers prayer. Later, Joseph said, “I had full confidence in obtaining a divine manifestation, as I previously had one” (Joseph Smith—History 1:29). His example teaches us that we can approach our Heavenly Father in prayer to receive our own answers.

Joseph repeated this pattern of prayer over and over. He had confidence that the Lord would hear and answer his prayers. He prayed about things you have likely prayed about.

He prayed for wisdom (see Joseph Smith—History 1:12–13).

He prayed about baptism (see Joseph Smith—History 1:68).

He prayed for deliverance (see Doctrine and Covenants 121:1–4).

He prayed for the missionaries (see Doctrine and Covenants 109:22).

He prayed for the Church, its members, and its leaders (see Doctrine and Covenants 109:71–76).

And he prayed for his family (see Doctrine and Covenants 109:68–69).

This is a pattern for us. Joseph showed us that we can all go to our Father in prayer.

#### 5. The Father and Son Know Us Personally

From the First Vision, we learn that these celestial Beings know us personally, just as they knew Joseph. The Father called Joseph by name and, “pointing to the other,” said, “*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17).

The Father and Son knew Joseph’s needs, worries, and longings, just as They know ours. They also know our successes and sorrows.

In my youth, I prayed for many things. As I look back now, some of those things don’t seem that important. But they were important to me then, and I understood from an early age that I had a Father in Heaven who listened to me. I didn’t always receive an immediate answer, but I felt that in His own time and in His own way He would honor my petition in the way that was right for me.

Have confidence and trust that God will speak to you. Believe in those feelings that come deep into your heart. I came to believe in prayer and understand its power because I knew the experiences of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I knew that God knew my name and that He would answer me, just as He knows your name and will answer you.

#### Testimony

For many of the 68 years I have lived upon the earth, I have put Joseph’s pattern of prayer to the test. Like all true disciples of the Savior, I also have received answers from heaven. I know that Jesus is the Christ. He is the Son of God. He

was resurrected and lives today. He has the power to forgive our sins. Through our faith, obedience, and repentance, He can bring us safely back to our heavenly home.

As an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ and as His ordained witness, I testify with a sureness and conviction confirmed by the Holy Spirit that the Father and the Son appeared to Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove. I pray that you will follow Joseph’s pattern of prayer, learn the truths he learned, and strengthen your faith in your Heavenly Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ. ■

#### NOTES

1. “Young Women Theme,” youngwomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
2. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2017, 145.
3. “Joseph Smith’s Accounts of the First Vision,” josephsmithpapers.org.

# A TAXI, a SCHOOLBOY, and an ANSWER TO PRAYER

*We had a prompting that we would find him, so why wasn't it working out?*

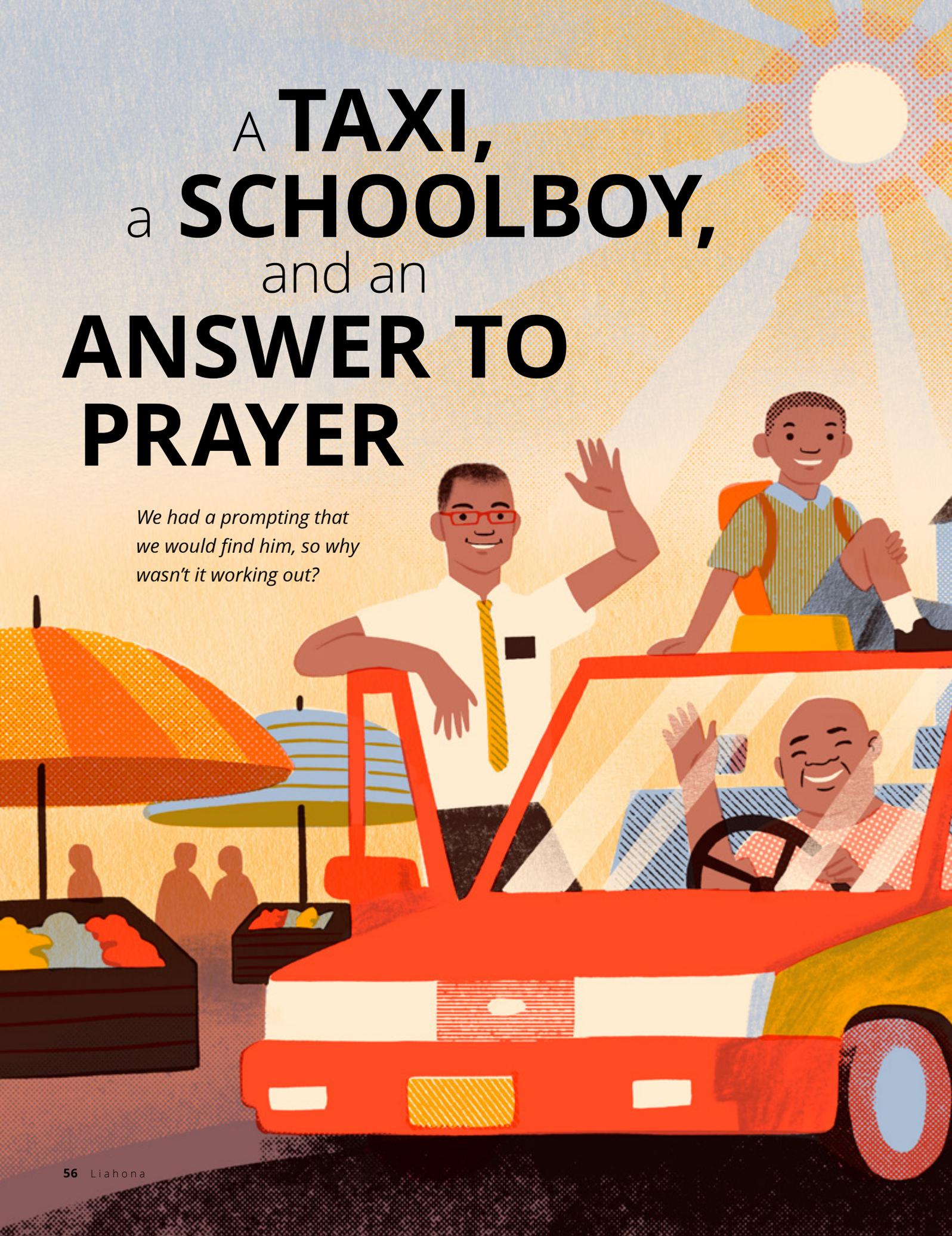




ILLUSTRATION BY COREY EGBERT

### By Sydney Chime Ihunwo

One day my missionary companion and I were given a referral to teach a man who lived in a village called Tema, near the beautiful city of Accra, Ghana. The numbering of the houses in that village was not quite accurate, so we were given a written description to help us locate the house.

When we arrived in the village, we followed the directions but could not find the man because there seemed to be many houses that fit that same description. Feeling confused, we decided to knock on doors in the neighborhood to ask, but no one seemed to know the man we were looking for. I had the prompting to ask Heavenly Father for help.

After we prayed, I had the feeling that we would find the man we were looking for, so we intensified our efforts. Still, we did not find him. We got tired and decided to return to our proselyting area because we had other appointments. When we got to the taxi park, the taxi driver who had brought us to the village saw the disappointed looks on our faces and asked if we had found who we were looking for. Our answer was, of course, no.

He suggested we go inside a school that stood on the corner and ask there. We told him that was not the description we had been given, but he insisted. We got out of the taxi and headed to the school—not because we thought we would find anyone, but just to please our concerned friend.

As we started walking toward the administration building at the school, a little boy came running in our direction. He smiled and told us that he and his brother were the only members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints living in this area and that he could help us.

My companion and I looked at each other in disbelief. It was a miracle. The boy helped us find the man we were looking for, and eventually he accepted the gospel and was baptized.

This experience taught me that Heavenly Father answers prayers in His own time and in His own way. When we do not get immediate answers to our prayers, we can exercise faith in Him and learn to be patient. ■

*The author lives in Rivers State, Nigeria.*



By Elder Edward Dube  
Of the Seventy

# Gaining My Faith

One Step  
at a Time



*Gaining a testimony takes time. Often it takes small experiences coming together.*

One of the defining moments in my life happened for me at the age of 10 when I spent two weeks learning Catholic doctrine at the Loreto Roman Catholic Mission, about 20 miles (32 km) away from my rural home in Silobela, Zimbabwe. I have come to know and love the Savior Jesus Christ and to look up to the Lord through these early lessons and impressions.

While I was in the Catholic chapel, I saw paintings with scenes from the Savior's life pasted on the wall: scenes of Jesus Christ's birth, teaching in the temple, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, carrying the cross to Calvary, being crucified at Golgotha, and His Resurrection. It really made me feel sad to see those nails and thorns. By the time I got to the painting of the Crucifixion, my eyes were filled with tears. And each time I would cry and say, "Hey, He really went through a lot, just for me."

During the confirmation ceremony, one of the priests looked into my eyes

and said, "You are the light of the world" (see Matthew 5:14). Then, pointing to a burning candle, he quoted the Savior's words: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

As I learned more about Jesus, I wanted to be of service to others. For example, we would have to fetch our water five miles (8 km) away from our village. Often, women in the village, including my mother, carried a 20-liter container on their heads filled with water. After my experience at the Catholic seminary, I often pushed a 200-liter (about 50 gallons) container of water to help my mother, and I helped two other widows who were our neighbors. I had a good feeling each time I helped others.

These experiences helped develop my faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and indirectly prepared me to accept the gospel of Jesus Christ when I was 22 years old.

## RECEIVING THE BOOK OF MORMON

I grew up during a time of change in my country. The white-minority led by Ian Smith declared independence from Britain in 1965. That prompted United Nations sanctions and sparked years of civil war that lasted until 1980, which marked Zimbabwe independence. When I finished my schooling, I moved to a city to work and didn't attend any church for several years.

One day I was playing with the sons of my boss. They were nine and seven years old. They said, "You know that our father is the branch president in our Church." They explained what a branch president is and, without thinking, I said, "Your father will not go to heaven." I realized I had made a big mistake, and I thought desperately about what I could say to them to make them forget my comment. At the end of the day, when they saw their father, they ran to him and repeated what I had said. I thought I would lose my job.

My boss had earlier shown me a jacket from when he had been in the military that showed he had killed. That's why I had said what I did. In a very calm way, he asked me why I said that. I said, "Boss, remember, you told me that you killed in the war. In the Bible it says, 'Thou shalt not kill.'"

He asked me which church I attended. I told him that I used to attend the Catholic Church but hadn't gone for seven years. He shared experiences in the Old Testament about wars and hostilities, and then he gave me a copy of the Book of Mormon. I was so excited that I didn't lose my job.

He gave me the Book of Mormon in 1981, but I did not read it or even open it for two years. One Sunday I was bored when my friends were out of town, so I picked up the book and went to a nearby railway station and read. When I read that day, I could feel the

motivation to do good, but what really touched me later on in my reading was 3 Nephi 11. I read about the surviving Nephites who had come through war and turmoil, and then the Savior Jesus Christ appeared to them.

My country had been through our own war for 15 years. Some of the people I had grown up with in my village had gone to war and did not make it back. Others were crippled for life.

So, while reading about the Nephites, I felt as though the Savior Jesus Christ was reaching out to me when He said, "Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may . . . feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world" (3 Nephi 11:14).

I felt as though He was reaching out to me personally, inviting me to come unto Him. It hit me that I could do this. It changed everything.

## GAINING MY TESTIMONY

It took several months to gain courage to go to church. I knew where the church was, but there were no missionaries in our little branch. In February 1984, I walked into the Kwekwe chapel. I wanted to walk back out. I wasn't sure I belonged and sat at the back, ready to bolt. After the opening exercises, the branch president, Mike Allen, bore his testimony about the Savior Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon. I felt connected. The next person also bore his testimony about the Savior and the Book of Mormon, and so did the third one. I was euphoric. I couldn't get the courage to go to the pulpit, so I stood where I was and said, "I love Jesus. I'm reading the Book of Mormon." And I sat down. That was the beginning of my testimony.

Those testimonies were the Lord's way of reaching out to me because



*I have learned that being a disciple is a process and we need to keep moving forward.*

it helped me feel that I belonged there.

I felt that these were my brothers and sisters.

During the following days I prayed for them and for acceptance. I met members there who were so kind and who helped me.

A lot happened that day when I walked into the chapel. I wonder what would have happened if those members hadn't borne their testimonies. You never know whether there is someone who is struggling. When you stand up and say what you feel, it may be exactly what someone needs to hear.

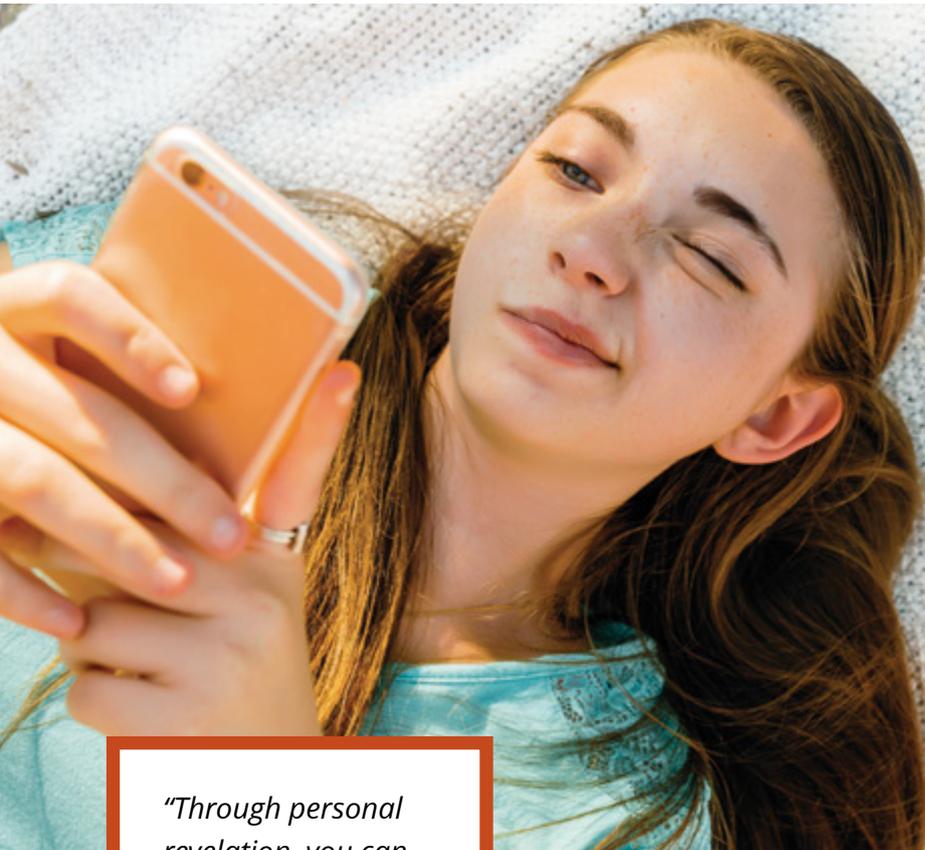
Bear your testimonies often. When you do, you strengthen yourselves and others around you. Stand for what you know. As you follow the counsel from the Book of Mormon, you will draw closer to the Savior.

## **DRAW CLOSE TO THE SAVIOR**

The time I spent at the Loreto Roman Catholic Mission started me on the road to becoming a disciple of the Savior Jesus Christ. Since then I have learned that being a disciple is a process and we need to keep moving forward regardless of our weaknesses and limitations. When we embrace the invitation: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48), we will progress toward eternal life "line upon line, precept upon precept" (see Doctrine and Covenants 98:12).

We know the road will not always be easy, and we will experience some hardships and heartaches in the process, but looking up to the Lord is the only way to find peace in our lives.

The Atonement of the Savior Jesus Christ is everything to me. I know that the Savior is reaching out to us. We need to look up, follow Him, and reach out to lift others as He reaches out and lifts us. ■



# What do you say when your friends don't believe that the First Vision could happen?

*"Through personal revelation, you can receive your own witness that the Book of Mormon is the word of God, that Joseph Smith is a prophet, and that this is the Lord's Church. Regardless of what others may say or do, no one can ever take away a witness borne to your heart and mind about what is true."*

President Russell M. Nelson, "Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 95.



## Develop Faith

With spiritual questions, it's not only logic that we need; we also need to have faith to know that the

First Vision could actually happen. We can develop that faith by asking Heavenly Father and listening to the Spirit.

*Julia B., age 17, California, USA*

## Study the Bible

Ask your friends to study the Bible. If they believe in it as the word of God, then they should believe that God does speak to us today by visions such as the First Vision because He did the same with Adam, Moses, Isaiah, and other prophets in many different ways.

*Elder Muanda, age 22, Kenya Nairobi Mission*



## Ask of God

The fact that the apostasy lasted for hundreds of years does not mean that God ceased His visions.

We need to have a humble heart and to ask God with real intent and sincerity of heart, as Joseph Smith did.

*Jeremi E., age 19, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo*



### Believe in God

I would ask my friends, "Do you believe in God? Do you believe that He created all things? Do you

believe that He appeared to prophets in times of old? And if you do, why don't you believe that it's possible now? It is possible."

*Sarah M., age 16, Utah, USA*

### Share Your Testimony

I share my testimony with my friends that our Heavenly Father reveals things to His children when they ask Him with a sincere heart to know the truth. Joseph Smith had the desire to know the truth, and he acted according to his faith. You can also enjoy a wonderful experience if you ask Heavenly Father in prayer with all your heart.

*Mara C., age 20, Lima, Peru*

*Responses may be edited for length or clarity. Published responses are intended for help and perspective, not as official pronouncements of Church doctrine.*

### What Do You Think?

"I find it hard to get along with my parents. How can I improve our relationship?"

Submit your answer and, if desired, a high-resolution photograph by May 15, 2020, at [liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) (click "Submit an Article or Feedback"). Or email your response to [liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](mailto:liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).



## How did Joseph Smith translate the Book of Mormon?

Before hiding the gold plates, Moroni, the last prophet of the Book of Mormon, wrote on the book's title page that the book would be translated "by the gift and power of God." This remains the best description of the translation of the Book of Mormon.

Joseph Smith dictated the words of the translation to scribes, mostly Oliver Cowdery. Because Joseph was translating a completely unknown language, he needed to rely on the Lord. One way the Lord helped was to provide physical instruments to aid Joseph in translating. Witnesses said Joseph looked into the instruments and that words appeared to him in English. The translation instruments included the "interpreters" or "Urim and Thummim"—two clear stones fastened in a metal rim so that Joseph could look through them. These had been given to Joseph along with the plates. Another instrument Joseph used was a "seer stone" that he would look into, often by placing it in a hat. Joseph had found this stone earlier and had used it to find hidden or lost things. He used both the interpreters and the seer stone as he translated, always relying on the inspiration of heaven.

The translation of the Book of Mormon was truly miraculous and was done "by the gift and power of God."

For more on the translation of the Book of Mormon, see "Book of Mormon Translation" at [topics.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://topics.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) or in Gospel Topics in the Gospel Library app.

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# Four Images from **EASTER WEEK**

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## **Crown of Thorns**

**See Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17;  
John 19:2.**

The Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns on the Savior. “Perhaps this cruel act was a perverse attempt to mimic the placing of an emperor’s laurel upon His head. . . . How poignant this was, considering that thorns signified God’s displeasure as He cursed the ground for Adam’s sake that henceforth it would bring forth thorns. But by wearing the crown, Jesus transformed thorns into a symbol of His glory” (President James E. Faust, Apr. 1991 general conference).



**“My kingdom is not  
of this world”  
(John 18:36).**



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## **Purple Robe**

**See Matthew 27:28; Mark 15:17; John 19:2.**

Purple was a kingly color, and the soldiers mockingly put this robe on Jesus Christ because He had claimed to be the king of the Jews. Of course, in reality He is much more than that—He is the “King of kings, and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16).

**“Blood cometh from  
every pore, so great  
shall be his anguish”  
(Mosiah 3:7).**

## Olive Press

**See Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39–40; John 18:1.**

“It is poignantly symbolic that ‘blood [came] from every pore’ [Mosiah 3:7] as Jesus suffered in Gethsemane, the place of the olive press. To produce olive oil in the Savior’s time, olives were first crushed by rolling a large stone over them. The resulting ‘mash’ was placed in soft, loosely woven baskets, which were piled one upon another. Their weight expressed the first and finest oil. Then added stress was applied by placing a large beam or log on top of the stacked baskets, producing more oil. Finally, to draw out the very last drops, the beam was weighted with stones on one end to create the maximum, crushing pressure. And yes, the oil is bloodred as it first flows out” (Elder D. Todd Christofferson, Oct. 2016 general conference).

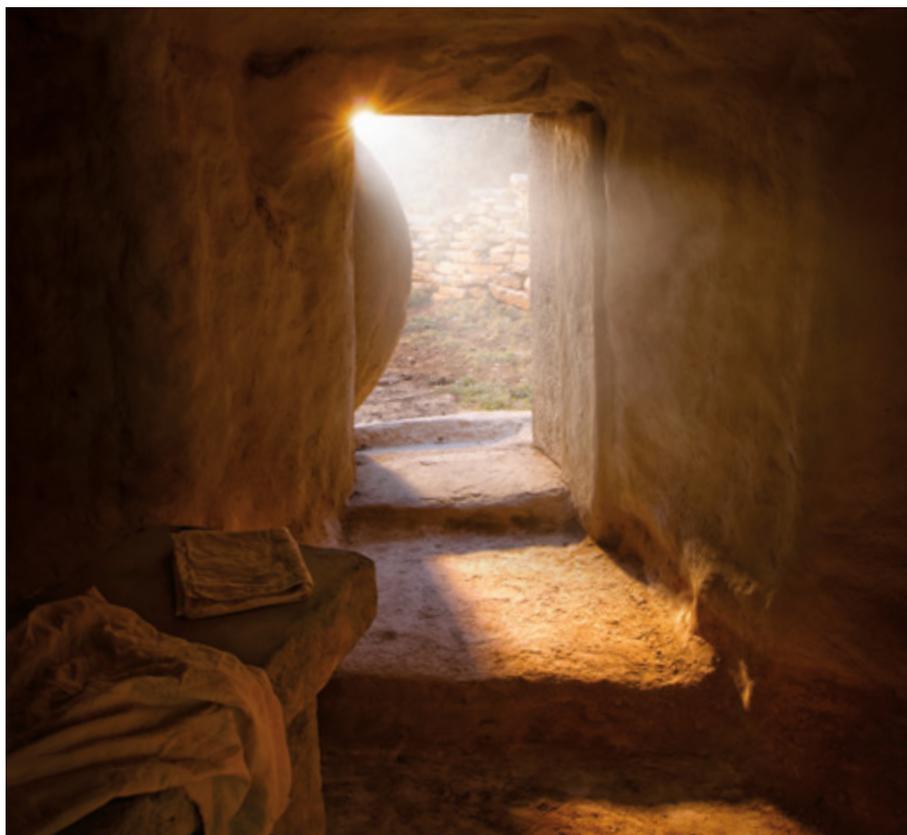


## Empty Tomb

**See Matthew 28:1–8; John 20:1–18.**

“The empty tomb that first Easter morning was the answer to Job’s question, ‘If a man die, shall he live again?’ [Job 14:14]. To all within the sound of my voice, I declare, If a man die, he shall live again. We know, for we have the light of revealed truth” (President Thomas S. Monson, “He Is Risen!” Apr. 2010 general conference).

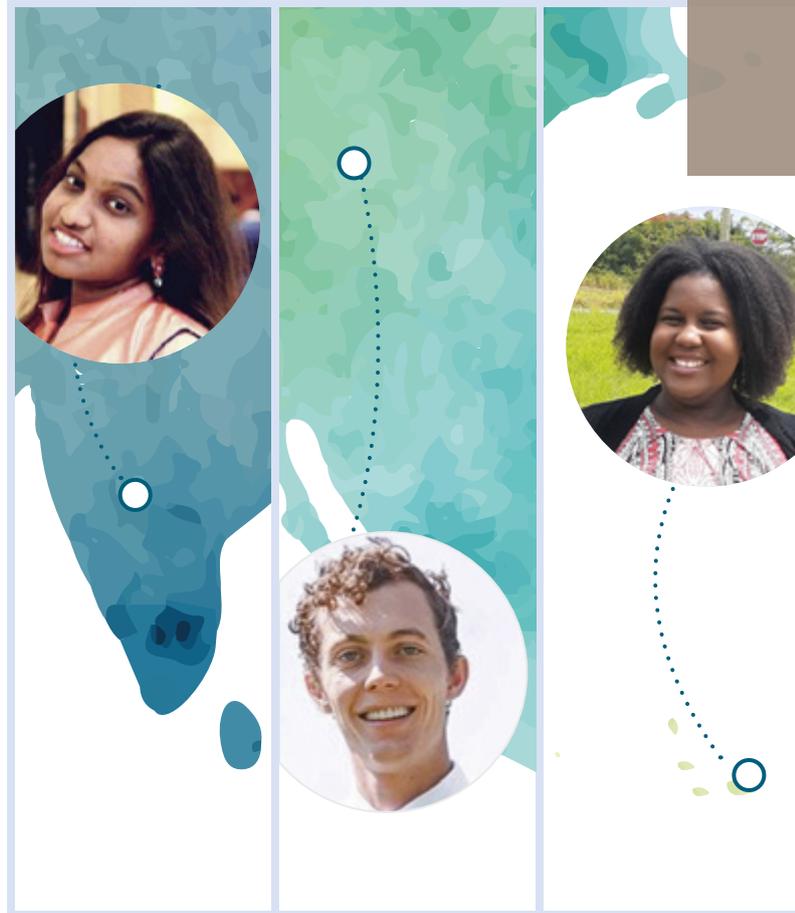
**“He is not here,  
but is risen”  
(Luke 24:6).**



**WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?**

*As young adults, we each have a role to play in the ongoing Restoration. How are you participating?*

42



YOUTH

**YOUR TESTIMONY OF THE FIRST VISION**

52, 62

EASTER

**FOUR IMAGES**

64

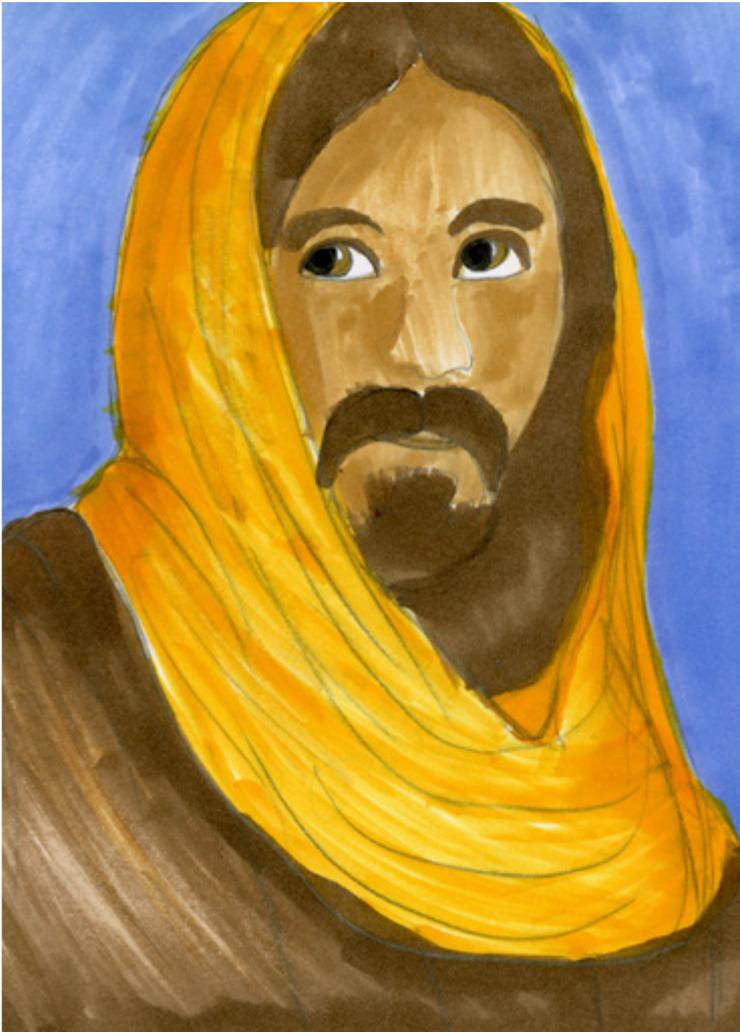
FOR CHILDREN

**READ THE STORY OF THE RESTORATION**

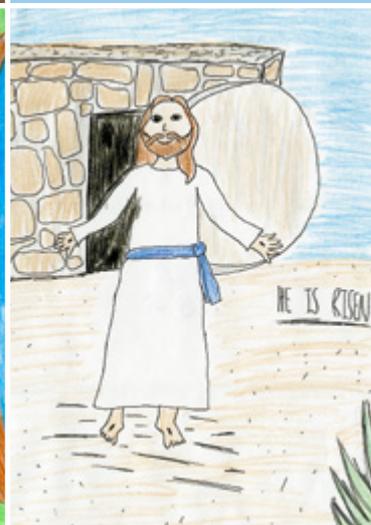
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# the Friend



Jesus Christ Lives  
and Restored His  
**CHURCH!**





By President  
Russell M.  
Nelson

# Helping with the RESTORATION

In 1820, Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith. Heavenly Father said, “This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!” The Restoration of the gospel began that day 200 years ago. It continues today!

Someday Jesus Christ will come back to the earth again. Here are four ways you can help with the Restoration and prepare for the time when Jesus will return:

- Build your faith in Jesus Christ.
- Find out about your family and help temple work be done for them.
- Prepare to go to the temple.
- Help people learn about Jesus Christ and His Church.

Doing these things will help prepare the world for the wonderful day when Jesus will come again! ●



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATIE MCDEE

President Nelson said children can help with the Restoration. What is one way you can help?

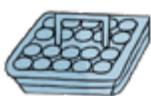
*Adapted from “Hope of Israel” (worldwide youth devotional, June 3, 2018), 19, [HopeOfIsrael.ChurchOfJesusChrist.org](http://HopeOfIsrael.ChurchOfJesusChrist.org).*

## Learning about the Restoration

The missionaries are teaching this family about how the gospel of Jesus Christ was restored. Find the items below that represent parts of the Restoration.



Word of Wisdom



sacrament



missionary work



scriptures



gift of the Holy Ghost



temples



family history



church



priesthood

Turn the page to learn more about the Restoration!

# Jesus Christ's Church Is Restored!



Before we came to earth, we lived with our heavenly parents. They loved us! Heavenly Father had a wonderful plan for us. We would come to earth so we could get a body and learn and grow. Then we could come back to live in our heavenly home. But we couldn't do it on our own. We would need help.

Heavenly Father chose our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, to come to earth to help us. Jesus showed us how to love others and follow Heavenly Father's commandments. He chose Apostles to lead His Church.



Then Jesus suffered for us in the Garden of Gethsemane. He felt all of our pains and sadness. He died for us on the cross. Because of this, we can turn to Him when we are hurt or sad or need help. We can repent when we do something wrong.



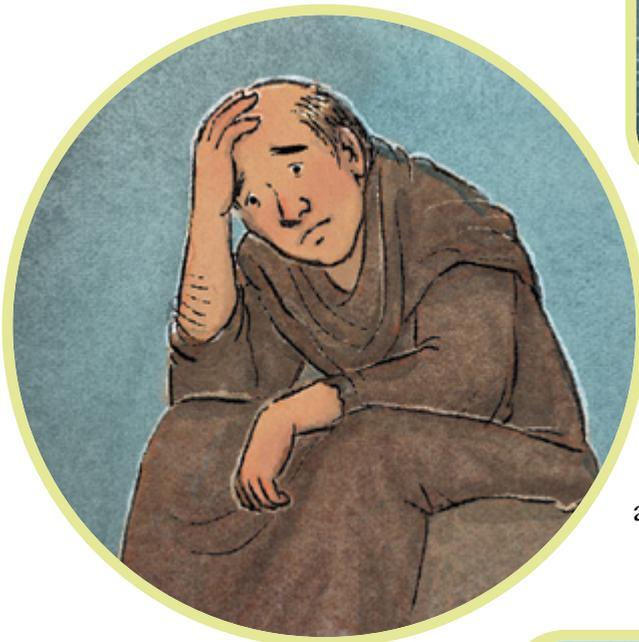
On the third day after Jesus died, He was resurrected. Jesus was alive again! Because of this, we will be resurrected too. We can live in heaven again after we die.



After His Resurrection, Jesus visited His disciples in Jerusalem and in the Americas. He asked His Apostles to keep teaching people about His gospel. Many people who heard the Apostles were baptized and joined the Church.

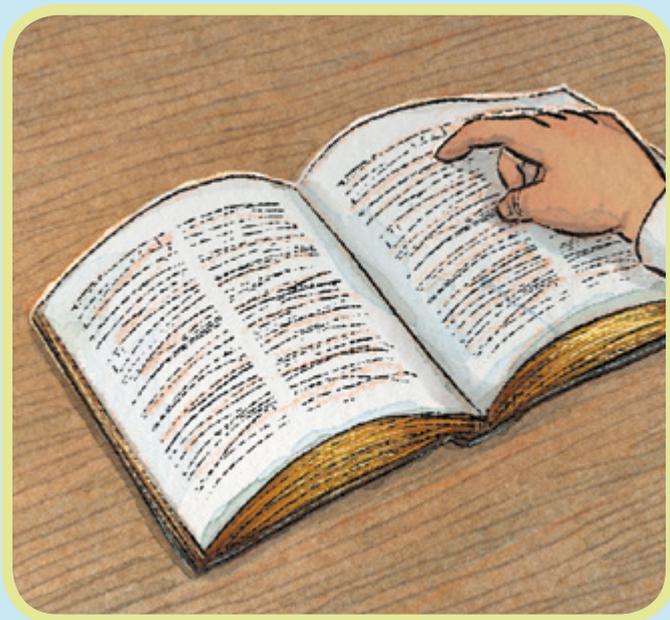


After the Apostles died, people began forgetting some important parts of Jesus's gospel. They stopped believing that Heavenly Father would always inspire His children on earth. They forgot that everyone on earth would have a chance to be baptized. They stopped believing that prophets and apostles would always lead the Church.



Many years passed. Finally, it was time to bring back the missing parts of Jesus's gospel. It was time to restore His Church! Heavenly Father needed someone to be a prophet and help bring it back to earth. He chose a young boy named Joseph Smith.





One day, Joseph was reading the Bible. In James 1:5, it said that Heavenly Father will answer our questions when we ask in faith. Joseph did have a question! He knew there were many churches that taught about Jesus. But he wanted to find out if there was one like Jesus's Church in the New Testament.

On a beautiful spring day, Joseph went to the woods near his home. He knelt and started to pray. Then Joseph felt a dark feeling. Satan was trying to discourage him. But Joseph kept praying with all his might.



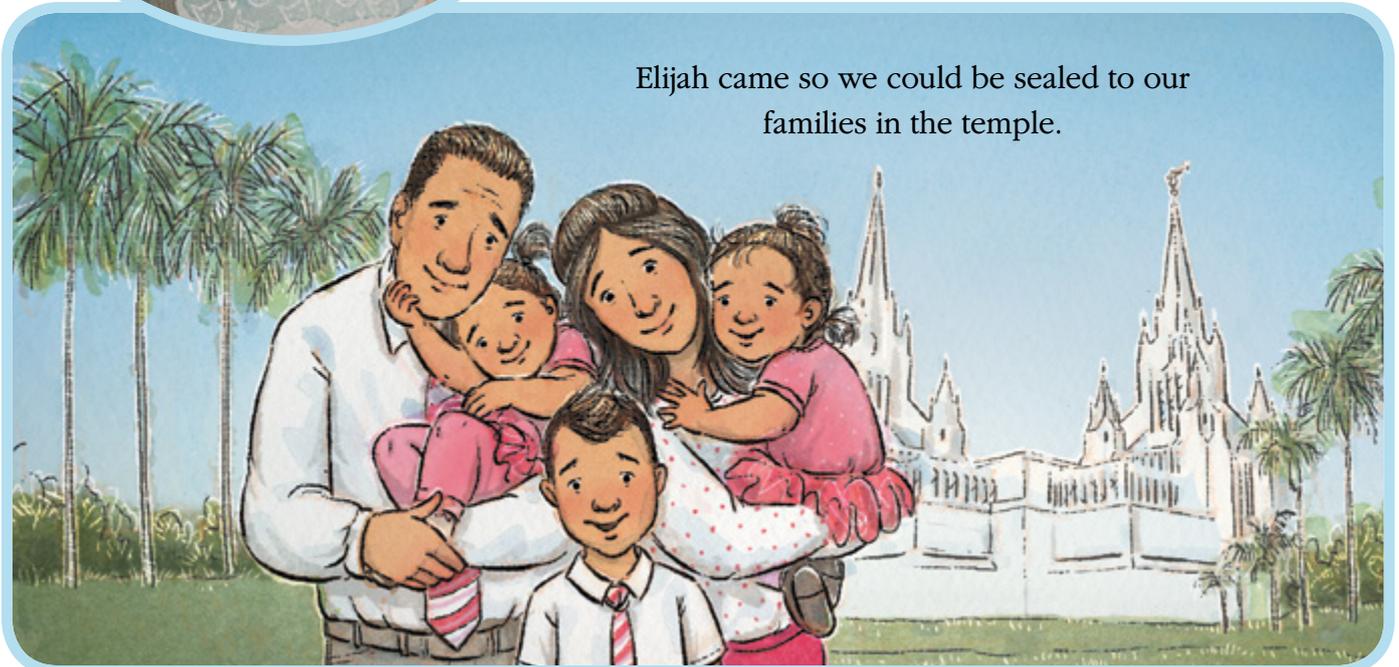
Then a beautiful light came down. Joseph saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. This is called the First Vision. They said that Jesus's Church wasn't on the earth. But it would be soon. The Restoration was beginning!



Heavenly Father sent angels to restore important parts of the gospel. Angel Moroni gave Joseph the gold plates so we could have the Book of Mormon to help us learn about Jesus Christ.



John the Baptist brought the Aaronic Priesthood back so we could be baptized. Peter, James, and John brought the Melchizedek Priesthood so we could receive the Holy Ghost and have blessings when we are sick.

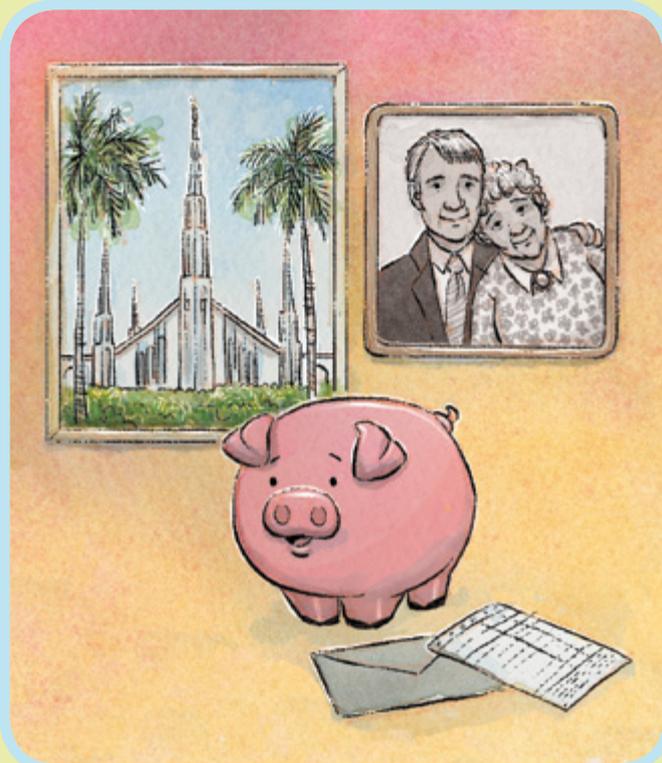


Elijah came so we could be sealed to our families in the temple.

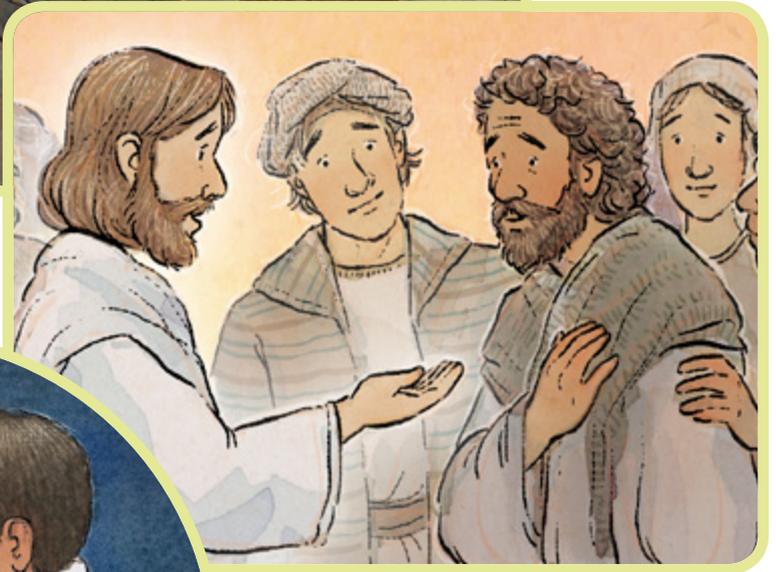
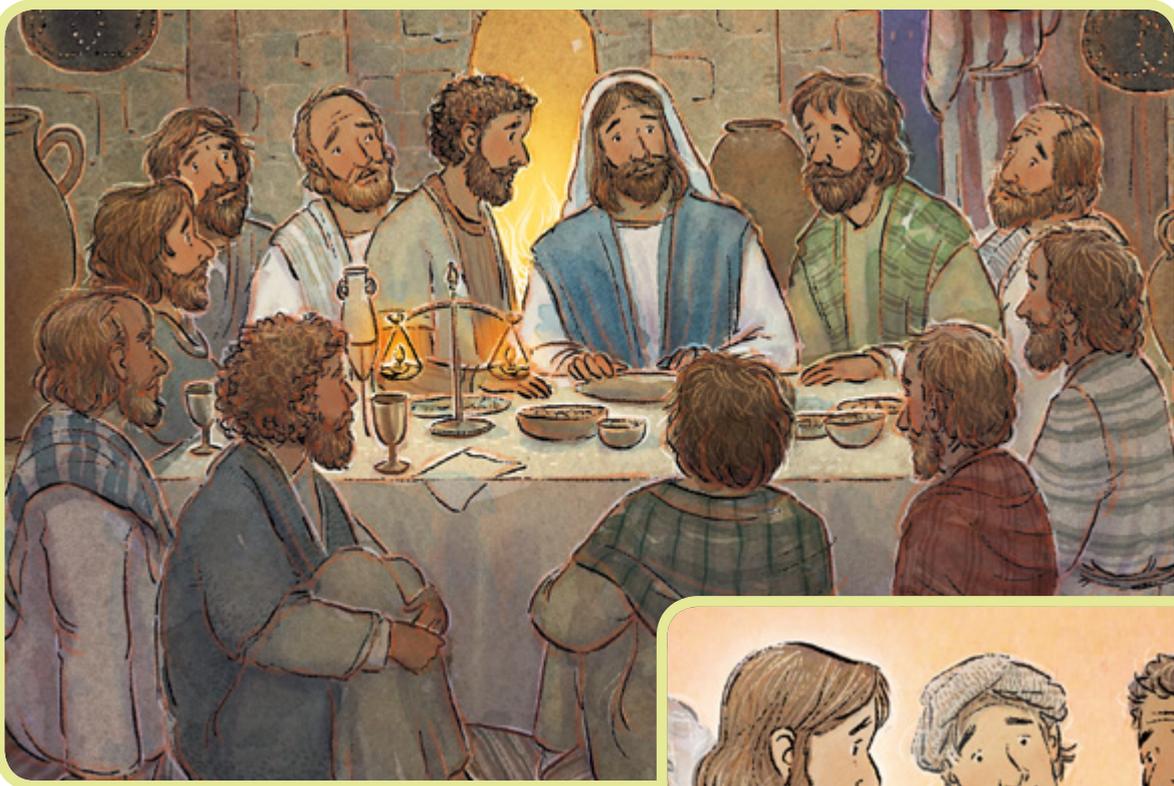


The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized. That means Jesus's Church is back on earth! All of these things are part of the Restoration.

The Restoration of the gospel is still going on today. Prophets, apostles, missionaries, and members are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ all over the world. Temples are being built in many lands so people can be sealed to their families forever. And the Church is helping people in places where there is hunger or disaster.



Everyone can do something to help with the Restoration. You can help by learning about your family history and doing temple baptisms. You can give tithing to build churches and temples. You can give fast offerings to help people in need. You can tell people about Jesus Christ.



Jesus gave us His Church to help us return to our heavenly home. We can take the sacrament and always remember what He did for us. We can show love to others, as He did. We can help everyone learn about His gospel! ●

# Find It!

Because of the Restoration, today people all over the world can know about Jesus Christ's gospel! How many copies of the Book of Mormon can you find? How many country flags can you find? Extra challenge: Do you recognize any of the flags?



ILLUSTRATION BY KAREN LEWIS

# Heavenly Hears My

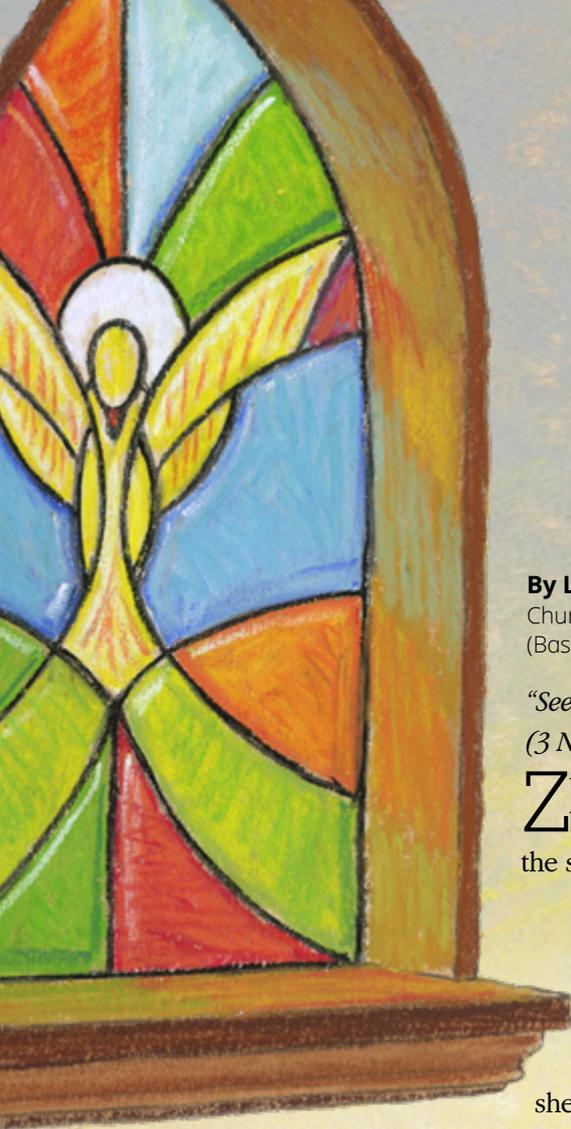
Heavenly Father heard J  
He hears m



# y Father - Prayers

Joseph Smith's prayer.  
ine too!





# A Church for Zulma

*Maybe there was more that God wanted Zulma to know.*

**By Lucy Stevenson**  
Church Magazines  
(Based on a true story)

*“Seek, and ye shall find”*  
(3 Nephi 14: 7).

Zulma sat on one of the church benches and smoothed the skirt of her school uniform.

Colored light shone through the stained-glass windows, and a cross stood at the front of the chapel. Zulma went to a church school, so she went to worship services

twice a day with the other students. Zulma liked her church. She loved Jesus and loved to learn about Him.

She sat quietly as the priest began to talk. But today something felt different. Suddenly a new thought came into her mind and heart: *There is more truth out there.*

Zulma scrunched her eyebrows. More truth? What did that mean?

The thought came again. *There is more truth.*

Zulma closed her eyes and focused on what she was feeling. She had learned lots of good things at church. But now she wondered if something was missing. Maybe there was more that God wanted her to know. But how could she find it?

Later she talked to her older brother, Alberto, about her thoughts.

“You think there’s more truth out there?” Alberto asked.

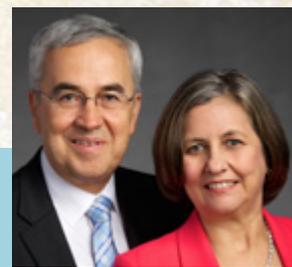
Zulma nodded. “I want to learn about other churches,” she said.

“OK,” Alberto replied. “I’ll go with you!”

For several years, Zulma and Alberto visited different churches. After one church service, Alberto said, “That church taught good things.”

Zulma agreed, but they still felt like something was missing, so they kept searching.

One day Alberto raced up the steps to their house. “I found the church we’re



Here is Zulma as a little girl. On the right is a photo of her today with her husband, Elder Walter F. González of the Seventy.

looking for!” Alberto said. He gave Zulma a big hug.

Zulma’s eyes got wide. “Where? How?”

“My friend met some missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” Alberto said. “I listened to them, and I believe what they taught!”

Zulma and Alberto were so happy that they danced all around the house. But then Zulma got some bad news. Mamá didn’t want her to meet with the missionaries. “You’re only 12,” Mamá said. “You’re too young.”

Since Alberto was older, he was allowed to keep meeting with the missionaries. A few weeks later, he was baptized.

Zulma kept asking Mamá again and again if she could learn from the missionaries. Finally, Mamá said yes.

When the missionaries taught Zulma, she felt warm in her heart. One of the missionaries had a hard time speaking Spanish, but it didn’t matter. What mattered was how good Zulma felt. When she learned about Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon, she knew she had found the truth she was looking for!

Zulma wanted to be baptized. But what would Mamá say? Zulma was so happy when Mamá said yes! On the day of her baptism, Zulma dressed all in white. She knew God loved her. She knew He knew her. And she knew that He had helped her find His restored Church! ●



# The First Vision

Reverently ♩ = 68

Words and music: Nathan Howe

D G D G

1 5 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 3 4 2

5 5

D A G A

1. Jo - seph had a ques - tion a - bout the way to go, So  
 2. Seek - ing peace - ful qui - et, he chose a grove of trees And  
 3. From that won - drous vi - sion, more rev - e - la - tions flowed. The

2 3 1 3 2 2

1 2

F C B<sup>b</sup> A

faith - ful - ly he stud - ied to help his knowl - edge grow. A  
 prayed with all his po - wer for God to hear his plea. The  
 Lord re - stored the gos - pel so ev - 'ry - one can know: The

1 2 3 1 5 2 1 2 5

5 4 3 1

D Em E A

scrip - ture struck his heart, in - vit - ing him to pray, And  
 Fa - ther and the Son de - scend - ed from a - bove To  
 hea - vens are not closed; the Sa - vior speaks to - day. He

2 5 2 1 3 2 2

4 1 5 2 1 5 5 2 1

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G Em F#m Bm Em7 A7 D

Jo - seph knew that he could ask for God to show him the way.  
 an - swer Jo - seph's ques - tion and re - store the gos - pel with love. He prayed in  
 calls a pro - phet in our time to guide our steps in His way.

D Em F#m Em Bm

faith, \_\_\_\_\_ and hea - ven an - swered. \_\_\_\_\_ The Fa - ther and the Son knew his

A D G A D G

name. \_\_\_\_\_ I kneel to pray. \_\_\_\_\_ I know God loves me \_\_\_\_\_ And

Em A D G D

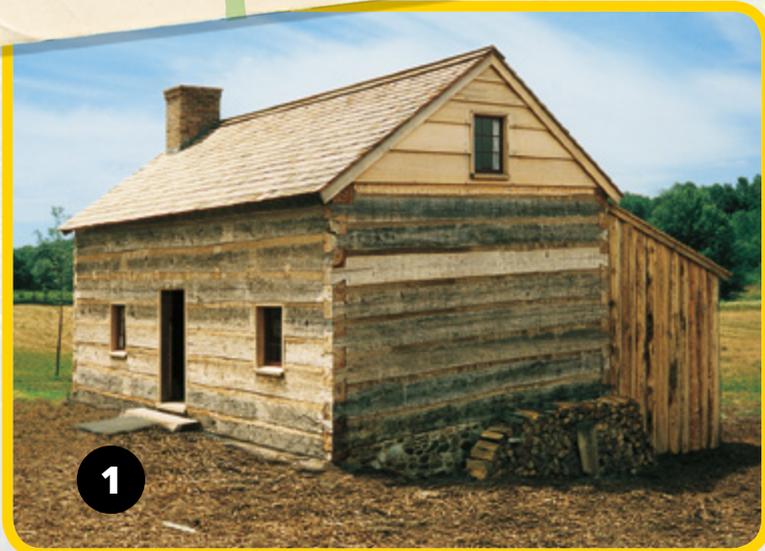
hears my prayers the same.



Hello  
from the  
Sacred  
Grove!



Hi, we're  
Margo and  
Paolo.



When Joseph Smith was 14 years old, he lived in a log house in New York, USA. He had five brothers and three sisters. He obeyed his parents and was friendly to others. He read the Bible with his family, but they didn't all go to the same church.

2

Joseph was a hard worker. He helped cut down trees so his family could plant crops. He also helped his family collect sap from maple trees to make maple sugar.



**This month,  
to celebrate the Restoration,  
we're visiting the place  
where the First Vision  
happened 200 years ago!**



**3**

Joseph wanted to find a church like the one in the Bible. One day he went to a grove of trees and prayed. Heavenly Father and Jesus appeared to him. They told him his sins were forgiven. They also said that he shouldn't join any of the churches. Soon Jesus's Church would be restored!



**4**

Many people made fun of Joseph because of what he saw. They said he was making it all up. But Joseph kept telling the truth. He said, "I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it" (Joseph Smith—History 1:25).

**5**

Today, people can visit the area where Joseph prayed. It is beautiful and very peaceful.



**These children live where  
Joseph Smith grew up!**



I know that the Sacred Grove is a special place because Joseph Smith prayed and saw Heavenly Father and Jesus there.

**Piper D., age 5,  
New York, USA**



I'm grateful that we live close to Joseph Smith's home. I love going to the Grandin Building with the printing press. I really like to see where they bound the first copies of the Book of Mormon.

**Roscoe B., age 9,  
New York, USA**

**Thanks  
for visiting the  
Sacred Grove with  
us. See you next  
time!**



# Alonso's Forever Family

By Marissa Widdison

Church Magazines

(Based on a true story)

*“For the temple is a holy place where we are sealed together”* (Children’s Songbook, 95).

“Easter is a good time to think about Jesus and to remember His Resurrection,” Sister Rojas said. She held up a picture of Jesus. “Because of Him, people who have died can live again.”

Alonso looked up when his Primary teacher said this. *Does that mean I can see my parents again?* Alonso wondered.

Mamá had died years ago. Alonso didn’t remember her well, but he liked looking at pictures of her. Then Papá died too.

Now Alonso lived with Abuela, his grandmother. She had been teaching him about her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was going to be baptized and confirmed next year, when he was old enough.

Then Sister Rojas held up a picture of a white building. “Another amazing gift from Jesus is temples. This is one of the temples here in Chile.”

Alonso looked at the gold statue on top of the building. It was beautiful! He wondered

Can I be with Mamá and Papá again?



what happened inside.

“Temples are where families are sealed together forever,” Sister Rojas said. “This temple in Santiago is where I was sealed to my parents after we joined the Church. Because we were sealed, I can be with them even after this life.”

Alonso felt excited when he heard that. “Could I be sealed to my parents?” he asked. “Even though they already died?”

Sister Rojas nodded. “Yes! That’s one of the reasons temples are so important. They bless all of our family members, including those who have died.”

For the rest of the day, Alonso kept thinking about temples. He asked Abuela to teach him more. She talked about the white clothes people wear inside and the beautiful artwork on the walls.

“Best of all, it’s where you can be sealed to your parents,” Abuela said. “We’ll ask two people from the ward to stand in for them during the sealing.”

“Can we go tomorrow?” Alonso asked. “I want to be with Mamá and Papá forever!”

Abuela smiled. “I’m glad you want to go,” she said. “But the nearest temple is in Concepción. We don’t have enough money for bus tickets.”

“I’ll help save for the trip!” Alonso said.

From then on, whenever Alonso found a coin on the street or had a chance to earn some money, he paid tithing and then added the rest to their temple fund.

After months of saving, Alonso and Abuela finally had enough money to travel to the temple. They asked Brother and Sister Silva to come with them. On the day of the trip, they took a long bus ride to the city of Concepción. It was almost sunset when Alonso spotted something gold in the distance.



“I can see the angel Moroni!” Alonso said, pointing to the statue on top of the temple’s blue dome roof.

They spent the night at an apartment next to the temple. In the morning, Alonso went inside the temple for the first time. He saw a big picture of Jesus inside. He and Abuela got dressed in white. He felt happy and peaceful.

When it was time for the sealing, Alonso walked into a beautiful room with mirrors on the walls. A temple worker showed Alonso, Abuela, and the Silvas how to kneel around a special table called an altar. It was covered in soft fabric.

Brother and Sister Silva were there for Alonso’s mom and dad. Abuela was there for his sister who died before Alonso was born.

Closing his eyes, Alonso imagined his family all together.

*I can’t wait to see them again,* Alonso thought.  
*I’m so grateful families can be together forever!* ●





By Sister Joy D. Jones  
Primary General President

# The Temple and YOU



ILLUSTRATION BY JARED MATTHEWS

Before the Church was restored, people believed that if someone in their family died without being baptized, they would never see them again. But because of the Restoration, we can be baptized for them in the temple. We can be sealed together for eternity!

Like Joseph Smith, you have also been chosen by Heavenly Father to do important work in your life. Some of that work can be done in temples. You can gather the names of your ancestors who were not baptized when they lived on earth. Then, after you receive a temple recommend, you can go to the temple and be baptized for them.

As you do this work, pray to Heavenly Father to guide you. Your ancestors can help you too. What an important and sacred blessing this will be for you and for them!

Some of you may not be able to do temple work now, but you will someday. Always remember that you are a child of God. He loves you perfectly.

Listen to the promptings of the Holy Ghost and get ready to go to the temple someday. Doing this will help you build a wonderful life for yourself and for your past, present, and future families. As you do the Lord's work, He will help you. You are one of His most valiant spirits. ●



You are a beloved child of God, known to Him and loved by Him. God knew Joseph Smith. The same is true for you. God knows you.

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles  
Adapted from "The Blessing of the Restoration for You," *Liahona*, Feb. 2020, 52.

# Dear Parents,

In the early spring of 1820, Joseph Smith prayed and saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. This magazine talks about that special time. Here are a few pages to look for:

- A picture story tells how the Restored Church is part of God's plan (F4–10).
- President Nelson tells how we can help with the Restoration (F2).
- A new song teaches about the First Vision (F16–17).
- A story teaches how the Restoration can bless our families (F20–21).

Isn't it wonderful that we can belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? Let's share the good news of Jesus and His Church with the world!

Happy Easter,  
The *Friend*

## HOW TO SEND YOUR CHILD'S ARTWORK OR EXPERIENCE TO THE *LIAHONA*

Go to [liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) and click on "Submit an Article or Feedback." Or email it to us at [liahona@ChurchofJesusChrist.org](mailto:liahona@ChurchofJesusChrist.org) along with your child's name, age, city of residence, and this permission statement: "I, [insert your name], give permission to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to use my child's submission in the Church magazines, on Church websites and social media platforms, and possibly in other Church materials." We can't wait to hear from you!



**Find the Liahona hidden inside!**

## CONTENTS

- F2** From the First Presidency: Helping with the Restoration
- F4** Jesus Christ's Church Is Restored!
- F11** Funstuff: Find It!
- F12** Coloring Page
- F14** A Church for Zulma
- F16** Music: The First Vision
- F18** Hello from the Sacred Grove!
- F20** Alonso's Forever Family
- F22** The Temple and You
- F23** Bright Idea