

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • AUGUST 2010

# Liahona



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Lehi's Dream, p. 26**

**Fancy Footwork and Other  
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**A Call for Unity for All Ages,  
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COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM

*For Such a Time as This*, by Elspeth Young

*Esther was raised by her cousin Mordecai. When the king sought to find a queen, maidens were gathered together. Esther was brought to the king's palace, and he eventually chose her to be his queen.*

*But Mordecai, a Jew, became an enemy of Haman, a prince. So Haman plotted to kill all the Jews in the kingdom. The Jews mourned and fasted because of this decree. Mordecai sent a message to Esther saying, "If thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then . . . thou and*

*thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).*

*Esther replied: "Gather together all the Jews . . . and fast ye for me . . . ; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16). She revealed the plot to the king and also that she was a Jew. As a result of Esther's courage, the Jews were allowed to defend themselves.*



Liahona, August 2010

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Official international magazine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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## More Online

[Liahona.lds.org](http://Liahona.lds.org)

### FOR ADULTS



Several articles in this issue talk about unity (see pages 14, 22, 40, 56, and 60). **Read more about unity** at [www.gospeltopics.lds.org](http://www.gospeltopics.lds.org) (in English).

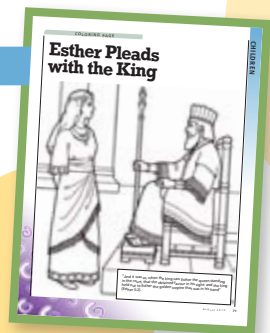
### FOR YOUTH



The article "Unique but United" (page 22) talks about some lessons we can learn from the Incan ruins at Sacsayhuamán. **See more photos** of the site at [www.liahona.lds.org](http://www.liahona.lds.org).

### FOR CHILDREN

Color the picture of Esther and the king on page 71. Then **find more Coloring Pages** at [www.liahona.lds.org](http://www.liahona.lds.org).



### IN YOUR LANGUAGE

The *Liahona* and other Church materials are available in many languages at [www.languages.lds.org](http://www.languages.lds.org).





**By President  
Dieter F. Uchtdorf**

Second Counselor in  
the First Presidency



# Temple Blessings



I can still remember when my parents took our family to the newly erected Swiss Temple, the first in Europe, to become a forever family. I was 16 then and the youngest of four children. We knelt together at the altar to be sealed on earth by the power of the priesthood, with a wonderful promise that we could be sealed for eternity. I will never forget this magnificent moment.

As a boy I was quite impressed that we crossed country borders to be sealed as a family. To me it symbolizes the way temple work crosses worldly boundaries to bring eternal blessings to all the inhabitants of the earth. The temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are truly built for the benefit of all

the world, irrespective of nationality, culture, or political orientation.

Temples are an unyielding witness that goodness will prevail. President George Q. Cannon (1827–1901), First Counselor in the First Presidency, once said, “Every foundation stone that is laid for a Temple, and every Temple completed . . . lessens the power of Satan on the earth, and increases the power of God and Godliness.”<sup>1</sup>

While each temple increases the influence of righteousness in the earth, the greatest blessings, of course, come to those who actually attend the temple. There we receive further light and knowledge and make solemn covenants that, if followed, help us walk in the path of discipleship. In short, the temple teaches us about the sacred

purpose of life and helps us get our true physical and spiritual bearings.

We do not attend the temple for ourselves only, however. Each time we enter these sacred edifices, we play a role in the hallowed, redemptive work of salvation made available to all of God’s children as a result of the Atonement of the Only Begotten of the Father. This is a selfless and holy service and one that allows us as mortals to participate in the glorious work of becoming saviors on Mount Zion.

For those who cannot attend the temple now for whatever reason, I encourage you to do everything in your power to hold a current temple recommend. The temple recommend is a symbol of our faithfulness and determination to serve the Lord. It is

LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS OF BERN SWITZERLAND TEMPLE BY CHRIS MILLS; HONG KONG CHINA TEMPLE BY CRAIG DIMOND; COPENHAGEN DENMARK TEMPLE BY CRAIG DIMOND; AND ACCRA GHANA TEMPLE BY MATTHEW REIER; RIGHT: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY J. SCOTT KNUDSEN, A COMPOSITE OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY CRAIG DIMOND AND CHARLES W. CARTER





a symbol of our love for the Lord, for as Jesus taught, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (John 14:21).

As the landscape of the world continues to become beautified with these sacred buildings consecrated to the Lord, it is my prayer that we will do our part in bringing heaven closer to earth by being worthy to hold a temple recommend and using it. As we do so, righteousness will surely increase not only in our lives and homes but in our communities and throughout the world. ■

#### NOTE

1. George Q. Cannon, in “The Logan Temple,” *Millennial Star*, Nov. 12, 1877, 743.

#### TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

Most people learn better and remember longer when you present ideas using visual aids rather than merely speaking (see *Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 182). During the lesson, consider displaying a picture of a temple. After reading the article, discuss why the temple is important to President Uchtdorf. Invite young children in the family to draw a picture of their family at the temple.

*Teaching, No Greater Call* states, “Encourage those you teach to set one or more goals that can help them live the principle you have taught” (159). Consider reading President Uchtdorf’s message with the family and inviting family members to write down a personal goal that will help them remain worthy to hold and use a temple recommend.



## YOUTH

### A View from Higher Ground

By Mindy Raye Holmes

**A**s a youth I had many opportunities to perform baptisms for the dead in the San Diego California Temple. Though I always had a good experience, one trip in particular stands out in my mind.

I was 16, and my little sister had just turned 12 and was making her first trip to do baptisms for the dead. Since it was her first time, we decided to walk around the outside of the temple after we finished.

The temple grounds have a couple of lookout points on one side, so we walked over there. Because the San Diego Temple is situated next to a busy highway, when you stand at a lookout point, you actually look down at the freeway.

Standing on the temple's higher ground that day gave me a new perspective on life. I was looking down at the world with its whizzing cars, crowded shopping centers, and graffiti-covered road signs.

It was then that the thought came to my mind: "You don't want to be a part of that; it's not what life is about." I had always been taught that the purpose of life is to return to live with our Heavenly Father and become like Him. I knew I didn't need the things of the world to accomplish that purpose.

I turned around and looked at the beautiful temple, and I was grateful for the knowledge of the gospel and the perspective it gave me. I knew that in the midst of the chaotic and treacherous world, I had found higher ground to stand on.

That day at the temple I promised my Heavenly Father that I would always stand on His side and not the world's. No matter what the world throws at us, we can overcome it by keeping the covenants we have made and by standing in holy places (see D&C 87:8).



## CHILDREN

### Making the World More Beautiful

**P**resident Uchtdorf said that when a temple is built, it increases God's power on the earth and makes the world a more beautiful place. Color the picture below. The foundation stones under the temple describe some of the beautiful blessings the temple gives people. As you live worthy to go to the temple someday, each of these blessings can be yours!



A place of love and beauty

Baptism for people who weren't baptized while they were alive

A marriage that can last forever

Children sealed to parents forever

A place to learn about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ

A worthy, obedient life





Faith • Family • Relief

## Our Responsibility to Be Worthy of Temple Worship

*Study this material and, as appropriate, discuss it with the sisters you visit. Use the questions to help you strengthen your sisters and to make Relief Society an active part of your own life.*

**T**he covenants we make with the associated ordinances we receive in the temple become our credentials for admission into God's presence. These covenants elevate us beyond the limits of our own power and perspective. We make covenants to show our devotion to build up the kingdom. We become covenant people as we are placed under covenant to God. All the promised blessings are ours through our faithfulness to these covenants. . . .

"What can the women of the Church do to claim the blessings of the temple?

"Through His prophets, the Lord invites those who have not yet received the blessings of the temple to do whatever may be necessary to qualify to receive them. He invites those who have already received these blessings to return as often as possible to enjoy again the experience, to increase their vision and understanding of His eternal plan.

"Let us be worthy to have a current temple recommend. Let us go to the temple to seal our families eternally. Let us return to the temple as often as our circumstances will permit. Let us give our kindred dead the opportunity to receive the ordinances of exaltation. Let us enjoy the spiritual strength and the revelation we receive as we attend the temple regularly. Let us be faithful and make and keep temple covenants to receive the full blessings of the Atonement."<sup>1</sup>

**Silvia H. Allred, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency.**

### What Can I Do?

**1.** What support can I offer to help my sisters prepare for and attend the temple?

**2.** How can I exemplify the heritage of the early sisters who sacrificed to receive temple blessings?

**3.** How can I claim the blessings of the temple?

For more information, go to [www.relief-society.lds.org](http://www.relief-society.lds.org).

### From Our History

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) taught that Relief Society grew out of sisters' desire to worship in temples:

"During the construction of the Kirtland Temple the women were called upon to grind their china into small particles to be mixed with the plaster used on the walls of the temple, which would catch the light of the sun and the moon and reflect that light to beautify the appearance of the building.

"In those times, when there was very little of money but an abundance of faith, the workmen gave of their strength and resources to the construction of the Lord's house. The women supplied them with food, the best they could prepare. Edward W. Tullidge reported that while the women were sewing the temple veils, Joseph Smith, observing them, said, 'Well, sisters, you are always on hand. The sisters are always first and foremost in all good works. Mary was first at the resurrection; and the sisters now are the first to work on the inside of the temple.' . . .

"Again in Nauvoo, when the temple was under construction, a few women joined together to make shirts for the workmen. It was out of these circumstances that twenty of them gathered on Thursday, 17 March 1842, in the upper room of the Prophet's store."<sup>2</sup> ■

### NOTES

1. Silvia H. Allred, "Holy Temples, Sacred Covenants," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 113, 114.
2. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Ambitious to Do Good," *Ensign*, Mar. 1992, 2.

### From the Scriptures

Isaiah 2:2–3; D&C 109:22–23;  
110:8–10



# Small & Simple Things

*"By small and simple things are great things brought to pass" (Alma 37:6).*

## GREAT LIVES REMEMBERED

### President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988)

Marion G. Romney was born in the Latter-day Saint community of Colonia Juárez in Mexico and lived there until he was about 15 years old. A political revolution that began in 1910 forced the Romneys and others to leave everything behind and flee to the United States. "We had a difficult time making a living," President Romney recalled. "We had to root hog or die."<sup>1</sup> ("Root hog or die" is an American saying that means one must take care of oneself.)

During those difficult years, while living in Oakley, Idaho, Marion's father and uncle pooled their families' resources. One month they had just 80 dollars to pay for the needs of 17 people in the two families. Would the Lord understand if they didn't pay tithing right now? They answered the question by sending young Marion on a cold winter day to deliver the tithing to the bishop. After that, he said, it would never be that hard again to pay tithing.

Marion G. Romney knew both poverty and hard work. He graduated from high school in 1918, attended Ricks College for

*See President Romney's Gospel Classics address, "Unity," on page 14.*



two years, and then served a mission in Australia. After his mission he married Ida Jensen in the Salt Lake Temple in 1924. While working, he attended Brigham Young University and later passed the bar exam in 1929 in order to practice law.

As a bishop in Salt Lake City during the depths of the Great Depression, he became heavily involved in the development of the Church's welfare system. Later, as an Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and then as an Apostle, he continued to help refine and oversee that program.

From 1972 to 1985 he served in the First Presidency as a counselor to President Harold B. Lee and then to President Spencer W. Kimball. President Romney was President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles when he passed away at age 90.

#### NOTE

1. Marion G. Romney, address given at the Salt Lake Institute of Religion, Oct. 18, 1974.

#### IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL MUTUAL ACTIVITIES

- Always have an opening prayer, regardless of what the activity is.
- Help the youth in leadership positions plan and carry out the activities.
- Help make sure that every person in attendance participates.
- Strive to relate Mutual activities to gospel principles.
- Invite everyone to help clean up after the activity.





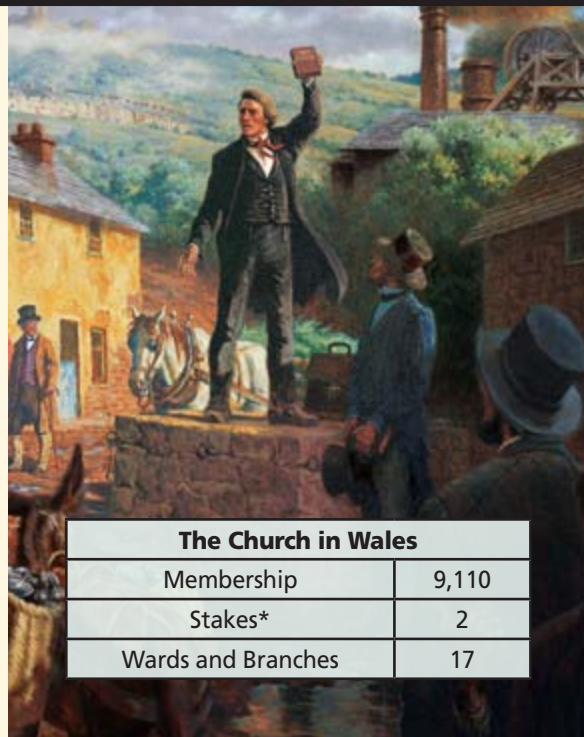
## Wales

Missionaries first arrived in Wales in 1840 and within four months established a congregation of 150 in North Wales. In South Wales, missionaries struggled to find people to teach at first, but within 15 years, 80 percent of Welsh converts were from southern Wales.

In January 1845 Dan Jones, a Welshman who joined the Church in the United States, returned to Wales as a missionary. He began several Church publications and helped strengthen the Church. In 1846 the Welsh hymnbook became the first non-English LDS hymnal. The first LDS meeting-house in Wales was built in 1849. At the time, there were just over 3,600 converts in Wales.

Many of the early Welsh converts immigrated to Utah. Among them was John Parry, who established the choral group that became the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The first stake in Wales, the Merthyr Tydfil stake, was created in 1975.

*\*The Chester England Stake also includes five wards and branches in Wales.*



**The Church in Wales**

Membership	9,110
Stakes*	2
Wards and Branches	17

### THE KEY TO JOY

Service is the real key to joy. When one is giving service for the advancement of humanity, when one is working without money and without price, with no hope of earthly reward, there comes a real, genuine joy into the human heart."

**President Heber J. Grant (1856–1945),**  
*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Heber J. Grant (2002), 86.*

## Blessings Follow Obedience

After I had investigated the Church for two months, the missionaries taught me about the law of tithing and invited me to pay tithing after I joined the Church. It seemed impossible with my limited income, but before I could tell them how I felt, we ended the discussion.

That Sunday at church, the branch president greeted me. I asked him about tithing, and he promised to meet with me privately after the meeting block.

When we met, I explained, "The missionaries told me that I need to pay one-tenth of my income to the Church when I become a member. I don't know if I can do it."

After listening to my concern, the president opened the Book of Mormon, turned to 3 Nephi 24:10, and read, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Then he said, "Brother Ko, look carefully where the Lord said, 'Prove me now herewith.' That is His invitation to you. Why don't you try Him by paying tithing first thing next month and see if He will not bless you."

Shortly thereafter I began my experiment with tithing and joined the Church. Since that time I have developed a new concept of money management. Most of all, I have learned for myself that God has poured out a blessing, and there has not been room to receive it. I learned that we must keep God's commandments before we can expect His blessings.

Te Kuang Ko, Taiwan



# Delivering an Effective Talk

By Marcus Sheridan

**B**eing a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints means more than sitting in church, listening to others speak. The Savior has organized His Church to give all of us opportunities to grow spiritually. One of those opportunities is speaking in church, which can be an exhilarating and spiritually satisfying experience.

To make the most of their talks, effective speakers show enthusiasm, share stories and personal experiences, use quotes and scriptures, and speak through the power of the Holy Ghost.

## Show Enthusiasm

The more enthusiastic we are about the gospel, the more others will see our fire and have a desire to experience the same feelings. On the

other hand, if our talks—especially at the outset—are filled with apologies or negative statements, we may discredit ourselves, lessen our message, and offend the Spirit. By being excited and eager to share their message—the Lord’s message—confident speakers bless others.

## Share Stories and Personal Experiences

When we share a powerful story or personal experience, our message can have a lasting impact on our listeners. People love to hear stories. That’s why heads pop up and attention increases when we share them.

All of us have experienced memorable events. It just takes creativity and energy to make the telling of a story interesting. If we can’t think of

an appropriate personal story, we can always share a story from the Church magazines.

When sharing personal experiences, effective speakers:

- Practice telling their stories beforehand so they don’t have to read them and can maintain eye contact with the congregation.
- Keep their stories short and interesting.
- Fluctuate their tone of voice and convey feeling.
- Relate descriptive details when appropriate.
- Occasionally show a sense of humor but understand that not all talks require a joke.
- Make their point at the end of each story.



*To enhance the delivery of your talk, show enthusiasm, make eye contact, and smile.*



## Use Quotes and Scriptures

The words of the Lord and His servants teach, inspire, guide, and motivate. If we can bring their words to life in our talks, we can affect others in a positive and profound way.

When citing scriptures and quotes, good speakers:

- Share the background and history of scriptures and quotes to help listeners understand their significance.
- Focus on only a few scriptures and quotes.
- Emphasize important parts.

## Speak through the Power of the Holy Spirit

Speaking through the power of the Holy Ghost is the most important way we can communicate. As Nephi observed, “When a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men” (2 Nephi 33:1).

We qualify for that influence as we fast, pray, and prepare diligently for our talks. If we are properly prepared, we have no need to fear (see D&C 38:30).

By combining the companionship of the Holy Ghost with enthusiasm, storytelling, scriptures and quotes, and then by adding our testimony of the truths we share, we will uplift and inspire. ■



### THE EXAMPLE OF PRESIDENT MONSON

**P**resident Thomas S. Monson is a powerful and moving speaker. An examination of his speaking style and some of his recent general conference talks reveals the abilities of a good speaker.<sup>1</sup>

President Monson often stresses that it is his privilege to speak to Church members, and he expresses gratitude for the opportunity. In addition, he regularly shows that gratitude by demonstrating enthusiasm at the outset of his talks.

After his opening statements, President Monson quotes scriptures to give his talk direction and tell his listeners what his topic is. He also quotes General Authorities and others to add further light to his topic.

President Monson is well-known for sharing personal experiences from his life. He knows that his audience will take interest in and relate to personal stories. He also knows that one of the best ways to teach is by sharing what life has taught him.

In relating stories, President Monson uses powerful details to generate interest. Often, he also uses poetry to punctuate his message.

Finally, President Monson understands the importance of bearing testimony, which he does frequently and powerfully.

#### NOTE

1. See, for example, Thomas S. Monson, “Be Your Best Self,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2009, 67; “Be of Good Cheer,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2009, 89; “May You Have Courage,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2009, 123.



# BEING WORTHY TO ENTER THE TEMPLE

**T**emples are literally houses of the Lord. In the temple we make sacred covenants, or promises, with God that are necessary for us to be with Him in the highest degree of heavenly glory (see D&C 131:1–4). These temple covenants lead to the great blessings available through Jesus Christ.

We are not expected to be perfect to enter the temple. Rather, the purpose of the things we learn and the covenants we make in the temple is to help perfect us. We must, however, be worthy to enter.

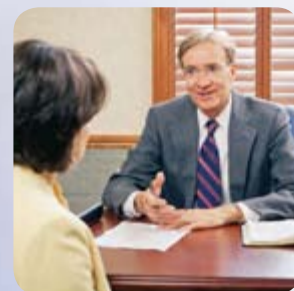
A temple recommend signifies that we have been found worthy through an interview with a member of our bishopric or our branch president and also an interview with a member of our stake presidency or mission presidency. Temple recommend interviews are opportunities

for us to examine our worthiness. In each of the interviews, our priesthood leaders will ask us about our personal conduct and faith. Our priesthood leaders keep these interviews private and confidential.

If our priesthood leaders find that we are worthy to enter the temple, we will receive a temple recommend. We sign our recommend to confirm our worthiness to enter the temple. Our priesthood leaders also sign our recommend as additional witnesses of our worthiness. This recommend allows us to enter the temple for the next two years, provided we remain worthy. ■

See *Gospel Principles* (2009), 222–23; and *True to the Faith* (2004), “Temples,” 170–72.

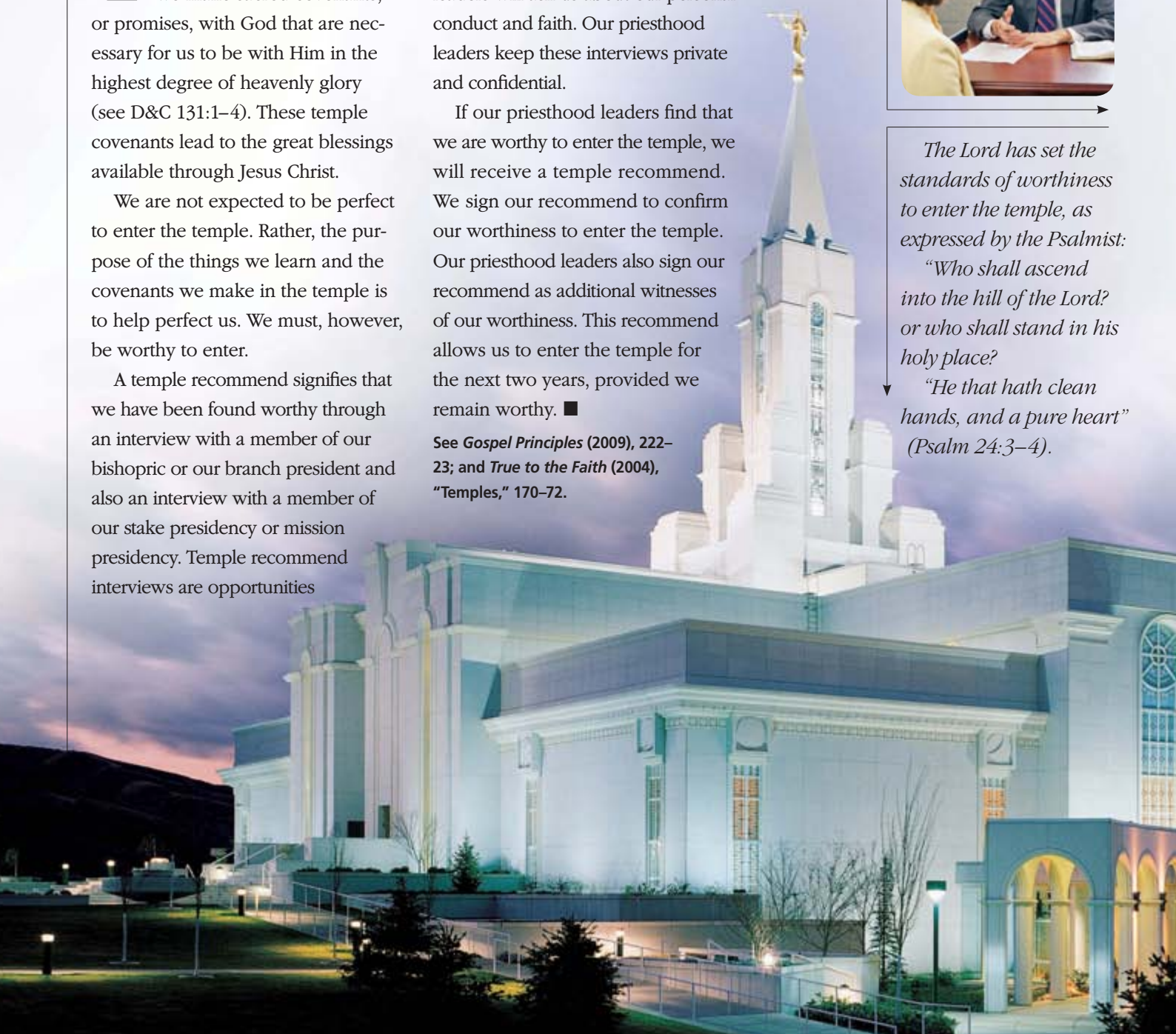
The First Presidency has established the questions asked in the temple recommend interview. The questions are the same for everyone.



The Lord has set the standards of worthiness to enter the temple, as expressed by the Psalmist:

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?”

“He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:3–4).





The following are some of the topics your priesthood leaders will ask you about:

1. Your testimony of Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.



2. Whether you sustain the President of the Church.



3. Whether you live the law of chastity, pay tithing, are honest with others, and keep the Word of Wisdom.



4. Whether you strive to attend church, keep the covenants you have made, and keep your life in harmony with the commandments of the gospel.

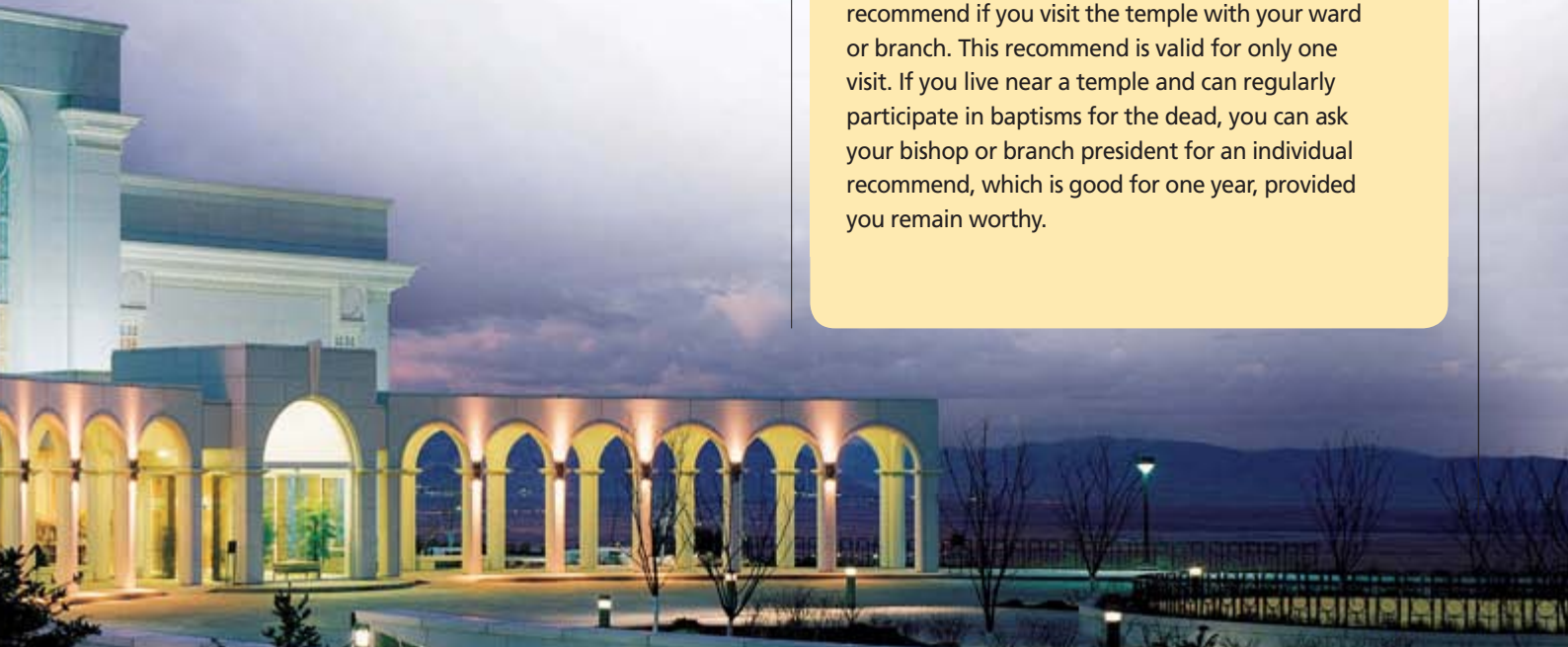


After you turn 12, you can attend the temple to do baptisms for the dead. (Young men need to hold the priesthood.) To get a recommend, schedule an interview with your bishop or branch president.

## YOUTH

### Your Temple Recommend

Recommends for youth are called limited-use recommends, and there are two kinds: group and individual. Your name can be added to a group recommend if you visit the temple with your ward or branch. This recommend is valid for only one visit. If you live near a temple and can regularly participate in baptisms for the dead, you can ask your bishop or branch president for an individual recommend, which is good for one year, provided you remain worthy.



# Unity

**By President  
Marion G. Romney  
(1897–1988)**

First Counselor in the  
First Presidency



*Marion G. Romney was ordained an Apostle on October 11, 1951. He served as a member of the First Presidency from 1972 to 1985 and became President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

*on November 10, 1985. President Romney died on May 20, 1988, at the age of 90. The following talk was given in the April 1983 general conference.*

.....

**O**ne of the central themes of the gospel of Jesus Christ is unity. The scriptures teach that equality and oneness should prevail among members of the Church.

You will recall that on the night of the Last Supper, as the Savior met with His Apostles, He prayed that they might be one with Him, as He was one with the Father. He prayed not for them alone, “but for them also which [should] believe on [Him] through their word;

“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:20–21).

Always the aim has been unity, oneness, and equality among the members of the

Church of Christ. As an example, I call your attention to the record of Enoch, how he and his people reached a state of unity when the rest of the world was at war.

“And there went forth a curse upon all people that fought against God;

“And from that time forth there were wars and bloodshed among them; but the Lord came and dwelt with his people, and they dwelt in righteousness.

“The fear of the Lord was upon all nations, so great was the glory of the Lord, which was upon his people. And the Lord blessed the land. . . .

“And the Lord called his people Zion.” Why? “*Because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them*” (Moses 7:15–18; italics added).

During His mortal ministry Jesus taught His disciples the same doctrine. After His Ascension, “they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:31–32).

After the resurrected Savior’s ministry among the Nephites, they “were all





converted unto the Lord, upon all the face of the land, both Nephites and Lamanites, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another.

*“And they had all things common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift”* (4 Nephi 1:2–3; italics added).

Today we are the Church of Christ, and the Lord expects us to come to this same unity. He has said to *us*: “Be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine” (D&C 38:27).

Some members assume that one can be in full harmony with the spirit of the gospel, enjoy full fellowship in the Church, and at the same time be out of harmony with the leaders of the Church and the counsel and direction

**There is but one way that we can be united, and that way is to seek the Lord and His righteousness. Unity comes by following the light from above.**

they give. Such a position is wholly inconsistent, because the guidance of this Church comes not alone from the written word but also from continuous revelation, and the Lord gives that revelation to the Church through His chosen prophet. It follows, therefore, that those who profess to accept the gospel and who at the same time criticize and refuse to follow the counsel of the prophet are assuming an indefensible position. Such a spirit leads to apostasy. It is not new. It was prevalent in the days of Jesus and in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

It is good to remember the great lesson the Savior taught the Nephites on this subject as He began His ministry among them. Said He:

“There shall be no disputations among you, as there have hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there have hitherto been.

“For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another” (3 Nephi 11:28–29).

There is but one way that we can be united, and that way is to seek the Lord and His righteousness (see 3 Nephi 13:33). Unity comes by following the light from above. It does not come out of the confusions below. While men depend upon their own wisdom and walk in their own way, without the guidance of the Lord they cannot live in unity. Neither can they come to unity by following uninspired men.

The way to unity is for us to learn the will of the Lord and then to do it. Until this basic principle is understood and observed, there will be



no unity and peace on the earth. The power of the Church for good in the world depends upon the extent to which we, the members thereof, observe this principle.

The major reason for the world's troubles today is that men are not seeking to know the will of the Lord and then to do it. Rather do they seek to solve their problems in their own wisdom and in their own way. The Lord, in the first section of the Doctrine and Covenants, which He revealed as the preface to the book of His commandments, pointed this out and marked it as one of the causes of the calamities which He foresaw coming upon the inhabitants of the earth. Listen to this ringing declaration:

“They have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

“They seek not the Lord to establish his

**The way to unity is for us to learn the will of the Lord and then to do it. The power of the Church for good in the world depends upon the extent to which we, the members thereof, observe this principle.**

righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way” (D&C 1:15–16).

Brethren and sisters, do not rely upon the counsel of men nor trust in the arm of flesh (see D&C 1:19), but seek the Lord to establish His righteousness (see D&C 1:16).

We of this Church can come to a unity and a oneness which will give us strength beyond anything we have yet enjoyed if we will obtain a sounder understanding of the principles of the gospel and come to a unity in our interpretations of present world conditions and trends. This we can do by prayerful study of the Lord's word, including that given to us through the living prophet.

This is the way to come to a unity. If we will study the word of the Lord as it comes to us through the standard works and through the instructions of the living prophet and not harden our hearts, but humble ourselves and develop a real desire to understand its application to us in our own peculiar circumstances, and then ask the Lord in faith, believing that we shall receive (see D&C 18:18), all the while being diligent in keeping the commandments of the Lord, surely the path we should follow will be made known unto us, and we will be able to face the world as a solid unit.

Surely we need this unity and this strength in this day in which we live. We have a great opportunity, the opportunity to rise heavenward, to gain the spirit of the gospel as we have never enjoyed it before. This we can do by developing among us that unity required by the laws of the celestial kingdom. . . .

It is my conviction that, since we are engaged in the Lord's work, we can accomplish everything He requires us to do if we will but be united. ■

*Punctuation and capitalization standardized.*



# He Knows My Name

By Sherry Krull

In 2007 the University of Washington invited me to a banquet honoring its female athletes. I had played tennis at the university 44 years earlier, and my tennis partner and I had won the Northwest championship in doubles. At the banquet I would be recognized for my achievement.

On our way to the dinner, my husband and I picked up Lynda, a friend from our days as students. She was also the one who introduced me to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when I was 33. Together we enjoyed seeing our former campus and old friends.

However, when I went to pick up a packet and name tag prior to the banquet, I was disappointed to discover that printed on them was the name “Sharon Krull,” not Sherry Krull. “Oh, well,” I thought, and I crossed out *Sharon* and wrote *Sherry* instead. But the mistake

continued through the night. Later in the evening, when the host introduced me as an award recipient, he called me “Sharon.” The plaque he handed me also included the error.

It wasn’t a huge problem; I was grateful to have been invited to the banquet, and the people in charge of the event promised to replace the plaque with one bearing the correct name.

The next day was Easter Sunday. My husband and I had spent Good Friday at the temple and had spent much time during the week pondering the Savior’s last days on earth. But the most powerful part of Easter that year came during sacrament meeting, when our bishop made this statement: “How grateful I am that the Lord knows my name.”

I felt a great joy come over me. As much as I had enjoyed the previous evening, the happiness I felt at this truth far outweighed anything I felt from



*I am  
grateful  
that the  
Lord knows  
my name,  
but more  
important,  
I am glad  
I came to  
know His.*

receiving “the honors of men.”

I too am grateful that the Lord knows *my* name, but more important, I am glad that at age 33, I came to know *His*. I am eternally grateful that when two missionaries asked Lynda if she knew of anyone they might visit, she wasn’t afraid of offending me by giving them my name.

I came to know the reality of the Savior by reading the Book of Mormon, which testifies of Him. And as I came to know the Savior and joined His Church, I became a new person in Him.

My life changed then, at my baptism and confirmation, and it changed again that powerful Easter morning when I received the witness that Heavenly Father and the Savior really do know our names. I cannot fully express the joy that it is to know Heavenly Father and the Savior—and to know that They know me. ■



By Cheryl C. Lant

Served from April 2005 to April 2010  
as Primary general president

# TEACHING OUR CHILDREN FROM THE SCRIPTURES

*Children have an amazing capacity to understand the principles of the gospel.*



## COLOR CODING SCRIPTURE STORIES

When I was a ward Primary president, I felt concerned that the children didn't know which book of scripture the stories I retold came from. For instance, they could often recognize a picture depicting Noah, but they didn't know his story is found in the Old Testament. So I started to adhere the pictures to colored poster board. I used yellow for Book of Mormon stories and different colors for the other books. From then on, the children could easily identify the story and the book of scripture.

Linda Jardine, Utah, USA

Recently I met with a group of people from another faith who were very impressed with the willingness of Church members to share our time and talents helping others. They wanted to know how we teach our children to become like this.

I explained that the family is central to our Heavenly Father's plan and that parents have the primary responsibility for teaching and training their children. Leaders and teachers simply support the efforts of the parents.

The goal in all our teaching, I told them, is to do what the Prophet Joseph Smith said he did when asked how he led the Church: "I teach them correct principles, and they govern themselves."<sup>1</sup>

"And what are those principles?" the group asked. "Where do you find them?"

"In the words of Christ," I responded.

## Feasting on the Words of Christ

Nephi encourages us to "feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do" (2 Nephi 32:3).

The word of God is found in the scriptures. If we would empower our children spiritually, we will teach them from the scriptures and help them learn to feast from those sacred pages themselves.

Children have an amazing capacity to understand the principles of the gospel. Those who read the scriptures in their early years usually make an internal commitment to follow the principles taught in them. This is why children need to have their own set of scriptures. They need to learn directly from the scriptures what their Father in Heaven wants them to know and do.



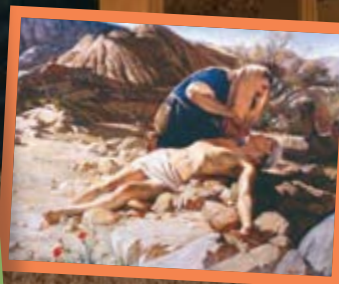
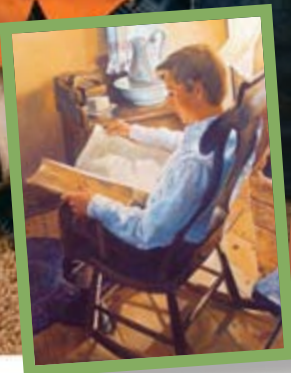


## Teaching Children from the Scriptures

There are a number of good ways to teach children from the scriptures. I've found this pattern to be particularly effective after reading a scripture:

1. Clearly identify the doctrine.
2. Help the children understand the doctrine.
3. Help them apply the doctrine to their lives.
4. Encourage them to pray for a witness of the Spirit that what they are learning is true.

Let's use Moroni 10:4 as an example. Let's say a mother is giving a family home evening lesson. She begins by asking the family members to open





## SCRIPTURE WALL

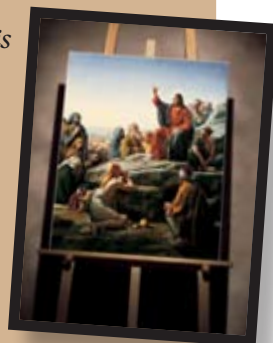
**A**BCs and 1-2-3s. My children have loved to learn since they were very little. Because of this, I've always tried to facilitate their education at home. I have hung posters and sight words, read books galore, and looked for every opportunity to teach. Then one day I realized I wasn't giving the same attention to their gospel instruction.

Since the walls of my home were already put to good use for education, I simply decided to use them more. One wall in the children's play area seemed the perfect spot to display gospel art—their own drawings or Church-approved visuals. I mounted the pictures on colored construction paper before putting them on the wall. Underneath each one, I included a simple, age-appropriate synopsis of the story. Our “scripture wall,” as my children call it, quickly became a favorite spot in the house. I chose 14 key stories from the Book of Mormon and displayed them chronologically. This has made it easier for my children to grasp key events and concepts as they ask questions, and we discuss what is taking place in the pictures. I knew our scripture wall had made an impact when I overheard my son accurately explaining one of the pictures to a playmate.

As parents, we spend much time helping our children learn what they need to know to be successful in school. More important, we should remember to help our children learn and grow in the gospel.

Kathleen Parrish Smith, Utah, USA

*To implement this idea, you could remove pictures from Church magazines or print them from [www.gospelart.lds.org](http://www.gospelart.lds.org). You might also consider ordering the new Gospel Art Book (item no. 06048), which contains 137 pictures. The book and other gospel art are available at LDS distribution centers or online at [www.ldscatalog.com](http://www.ldscatalog.com). Residents of the United States and Canada can also call Distribution Services at 1-800-537-5971.*



their copies of the Book of Mormon and read the verse: “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

Next she takes the family through the four steps outlined above.

**Identify the Doctrine.** She asks:

“What is Heavenly Father asking us to do in this verse? And what is the blessing He promises us if we do what He asks?” The family discusses the questions and determines that Heavenly Father wants us to read the scriptures and then pray in faith, with a sincere intent to know the truth of what we have read. Heavenly Father promises to answer our prayer by giving us a witness of the truth through the Holy Ghost.

**Understand the Doctrine.** Next the mother shares the story of Joseph Smith, who upon reading in the Bible that he could “ask of God” (James 1:5), prayed about which church to join. He had faith that his prayer would be answered. As he prayed, the Father and the Son appeared to him. She reminds the family that, of

FROM TOP LEFT: NEPHI REBUKING HIS REBELLIOUS BROTHERS, BY ARNOLD FRIBERG, © 1951 IR; ALMA BAPTIZING IN THE WATERS OF MORMON, BY ARNOLD FRIBERG, © 1951 IR; THE CONVERSION OF ALMA, BY GARY KAPP, © 1996 IR; TWO THOUSAND STRIPING WARRIORS, BY ARNOLD FRIBERG, © 1951 IR; MORONI BURNING THE PLATES, BY TOM LOVELL, © IR; REBEKAH AT THE WELL, BY MICHAEL DEAS, © 1995 IR; ILLUSTRATION BY PHYLLIS LUCH, © 1987 IR



course, Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ do not appear to everyone who prays, but Heavenly Father will answer sincere prayers in ways He considers best.

**Apply the Doctrine.** A child asks, “Does this mean Heavenly Father will answer my prayers?” The mother responds, “Yes. Moroni 10:4 indicates that through study and prayer we can know the truth of all things.” The family then decides how to put Moroni’s promise to the test.

**Ask for a Witness.** The mother bears her testimony and shares how she knows this scripture is true. She closes the lesson by assuring the family that as they do what Moroni says—studying a gospel principle with a desire to know if it is true—they will gain a sweet assurance of the truth through the witness of the Spirit.

### Children Taught of the Lord

As we teach our children to love the scriptures and learn from them, we will place in their hearts and hands a wonderful source of strength and guidance for the rest of their lives. We will find fulfilled the promise given in 3 Nephi 22:13: “All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” ■

#### NOTE

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 284.

### DAILY SCRIPTURE THOUGHTS WITH PRESCHOOLERS

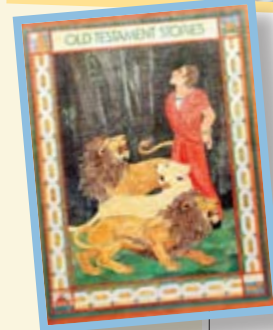
As a mother of young children, I began praying daily to know what my children needed to learn. The answer has frequently been that the most important things to teach are basic gospel truths and the ability to work. Every morning my husband and I share a spiritual thought and our testimonies with our young children. With about 30 minutes of preparation each Sunday, we’re able to gather a week’s worth of materials. Gospel art pictures, Primary songs, *Old Testament Stories*, and ideas from Church magazines are especially helpful.

- **Gospel Art.** Since teaching with pictures is so effective, I’ve found it helpful to print copies of them from [gospelart.lds.org](http://gospelart.lds.org). That way we can hand an image to our youngsters, and they can look at it and touch it while we talk about what we see.
- **Primary Songs.** Sometimes we try to learn a new Primary song together, especially the action and wiggle songs.
- **Old Testament Stories.** We read just one page a day. Before reading, we usually have a visual aid or object lesson to reinforce stories we have already discussed. For instance, I added red food coloring to water one day and asked them if they remembered a time in the scriptures when the Lord turned water red.
- **Church Magazines.** Sometimes we share a message through a gospel-related activity. For instance, we once printed some copies of a picture that showed children giving treats to the elderly. Together, we discussed the importance of loving and serving “grandmas and grandpas.” Our then one-year-old scribbled a few marks on the picture while our preschooler looked for the hidden objects it contained.

Sharing a spiritual thought takes only a few moments, but the impact lasts much longer. Our preschooler would sometimes grab the magazine and surprise me with a recap of some of the stories and gospel principles we’d learned. As our children have grown older, we have continued our morning breakfast devotionals—even on busy mornings, when we often share a short message while they finish breakfast.

I am grateful for the many high-quality materials the Church provides to help us keep our children close to the Spirit. As we prepare each week, we welcome the personal revelation received to teach our children. And we draw closer to Heavenly Father as we seek the best ways to draw our children closer to Him.

*Alejandra Adams, Virginia, USA*





# Unique but UNITED

By Adam C. Olson

Church Magazines

*Being together  
forever starts  
with being  
united now.*

**D**iana Vasquez didn't get a chance to say good-bye to her father. She didn't know she needed to. When she and her two brothers went to school on June 9, 2007, he seemed fine. But before she got home, he lay down to rest and didn't wake up.

"It was so unexpected," says Diana, who was 16 at the time. "At first I couldn't accept it."

Even those who know that families are meant to be together forever sometimes take their family for granted. Sure, siblings can be annoying, parents and children don't always see eye to eye, and spending time with friends often seems like more fun.

But when tragedy strikes without warning, as

it did in Diana's family, suddenly things that really matter—like family—become more important.

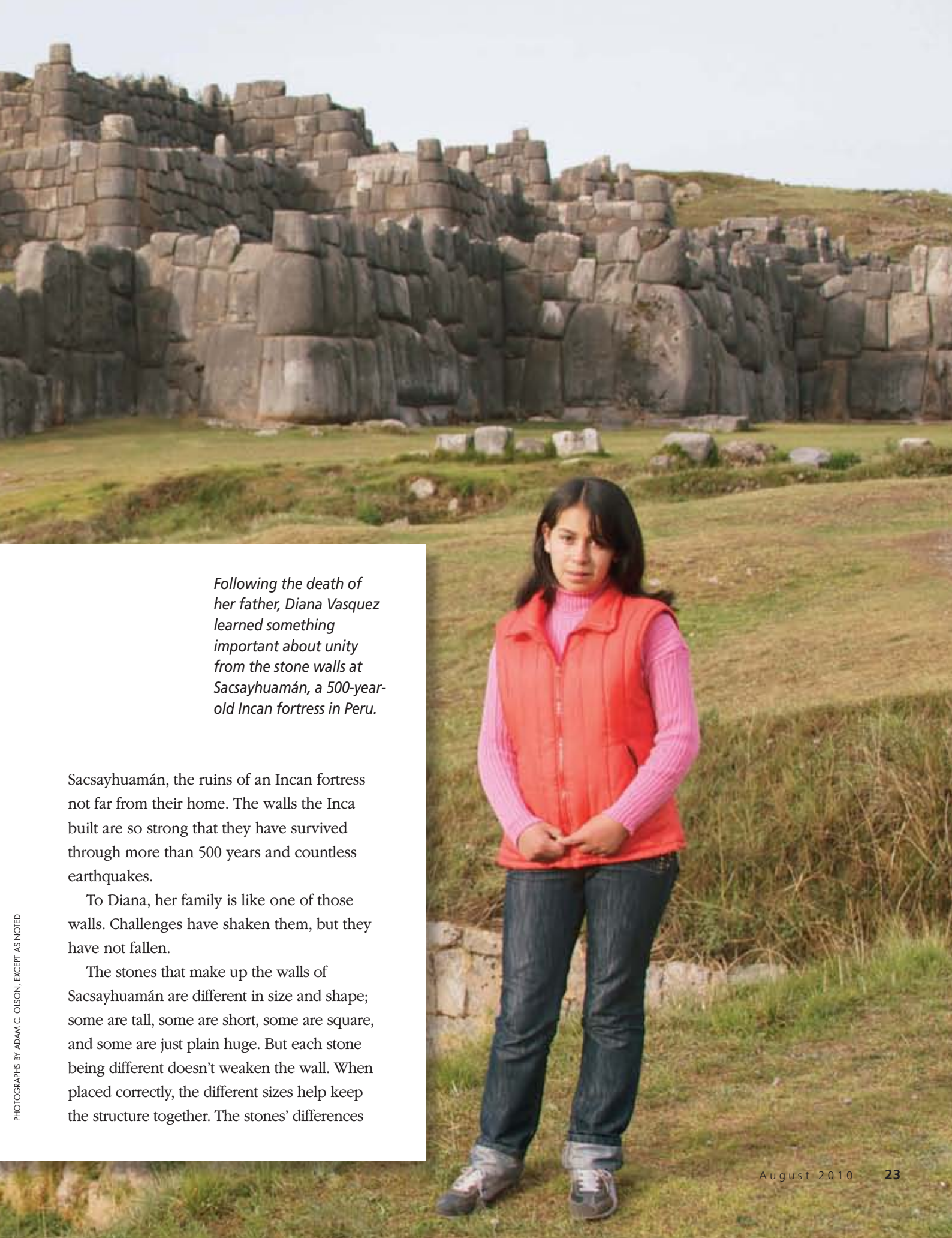
Fortunately for Diana's family, being united here and hereafter was something they were already working on. Pulling together when hard times could have pulled them apart has brought peace and happiness in this life and hope that they can be together in the next.

## What Is Unity?

Diana and her family live in Cusco, a city high in the Peruvian Andes, at the heart of the ancient Incan empire.

In the years before her father died, Diana's family found a favorite spot for picnics at



A woman with dark hair, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt, a red quilted vest, and dark jeans, stands in a grassy field. Behind her is the massive, ancient stone wall of the Sacsayhuamán Incan fortress, built with large, irregularly shaped stones. The wall stretches across the background under a clear sky.

*Following the death of her father, Diana Vasquez learned something important about unity from the stone walls at Sacsayhuamán, a 500-year-old Incan fortress in Peru.*

Sacsayhuamán, the ruins of an Incan fortress not far from their home. The walls the Inca built are so strong that they have survived through more than 500 years and countless earthquakes.

To Diana, her family is like one of those walls. Challenges have shaken them, but they have not fallen.

The stones that make up the walls of Sacsayhuamán are different in size and shape; some are tall, some are short, some are square, and some are just plain huge. But each stone being different doesn't weaken the wall. When placed correctly, the different sizes help keep the structure together. The stones' differences



## DEVELOPING UNITY

"The gift of unity will come through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we keep our covenants to take His name upon us, to remember Him always, and to keep all His commandments, we will receive the companionship of His Spirit. That will soften our hearts and unite us."

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, "That We May Be One," *Ensign*, May 1998, 68.

actually help accomplish their common purpose.

The same can be said for our differences.

"We all have different gifts and talents," says Diana. "We should use them to help others" (see 1 Corinthians 12).

After Diana's father died, she and her mother and two brothers took on different roles suited to

their talents and abilities, but each worked with a common purpose: to take care of each other. As they did so, they had "their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another" (Mosiah 18:21).

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, explains: "Our Heavenly Father wants our hearts to be knit together. That union in love is not simply an ideal. It is a necessity."<sup>1</sup>

### How Do We Become United?

In their best stone work, the Incas didn't use mortar. They fit the stones together so carefully that there isn't enough space to slide a piece of paper between them. This extraordinarily close fit is possible because these master builders were able to see a place for each stone and how it should be shaped to fit the overall plan.

As we let the Master Builder shape us, we can become one with each other and with Him.<sup>2</sup> President Eyring says this unity happens when we are obedient to the ordinances and covenants of the gospel.<sup>3</sup>

Receiving gospel ordinances and keeping

covenants had a dramatic influence on Diana's family. Diana and her younger brother, Emmanuel, were the first to join the Church. Before that time, Diana says, her family argued a lot. She knew her parents wanted the best for her and her brothers, but they were strict.

"We felt more fear than love for my dad," she says.

Several months after she was baptized, her father and older brother, Richard, joined the Church, followed more than a year later by her mother.

"My father changed," Diana says of her father's conversion. "When we did things wrong, he would talk to us about it. We had fewer arguments. There was more harmony in our home."

Covenanting to follow Jesus Christ had drawn them closer to Him and to each other. They had a common purpose: to become an eternal family. A year after Diana's mother was baptized, the family was sealed in the temple.

"It was a beautiful experience," Diana says. "I can't explain how I felt when we walked into the sealing room and saw my parents there. I didn't want to leave."



*Right: Diana, her mother, Duvalie, and her brothers, Richard and Emmanuel (top), have grown closer as they have supported each other in keeping the commandments.*



Afterward, the family felt an even greater desire to keep the commandments so they could be an eternal family. Less than a week before Diana's father died, he taught a family home evening lesson on being united in keeping their covenants so they could be together forever. "Nobody has tomorrow guaranteed," he said. "We need to be prepared so that if any one of us dies, we can still be together."

### Keeping Covenants Changes Hearts

Diana has learned how working together to keep gospel covenants can bring a family together, and she is grateful she learned before it was too late.

The last thing Diana's father said to her as she left for school on the day he died was, "*Te quiero mucho, Dianita.*" (I love you very much, little Diana.)

Diana has confidence in the Lord's promise that her family can be together again if they will continue to keep their covenants.

"I have seen how Heavenly Father has brought us closer together for following the Savior," she says. "I have to believe He will also keep His promise that we can be together forever if we keep the commandments.

"I know our families can truly be eternal thanks to the divine plan.

"I know we can realize the eternal glory our Heavenly Father promises. Only by enduring to the end, putting our hearts into the things of God, and helping each other can we achieve our objective to be an eternal family." ■

#### NOTES

1. Henry B. Eyring, "Be One," *Liahona*, Sept. 2008, 2; *Ensign*, Sept. 2008, 4.
2. See Thomas S. Monson, "Heavenly Homes, Forever Families," *Liahona*, June 2006, 66; *Ensign*, June 2006, 98.
3. See Henry B. Eyring, "That We May Be One," *Ensign*, May 1998, 66.

## A MODEL OF UNITY

Creating unity isn't always easy when everyone around us is different. Yet unity is a commandment.

Diana Vasquez and Jhonathan Herrera Barra, a friend from another ward in the Cusco Peru Inti Raymi Stake, got together to discuss an important principle that can serve as a pattern for creating unity in any relationship—among friends, family, classmates, or quorum members.

Imagine two people at different ends of the same horizontal line. The distance between them represents their lack of unity. To be united, one or both would have to move to where the other is. However, even when they know they should be united, many things can keep them from coming together. Maybe both feel they are right. Perhaps pride or anger keeps one from moving. Misunderstandings are often divisive.

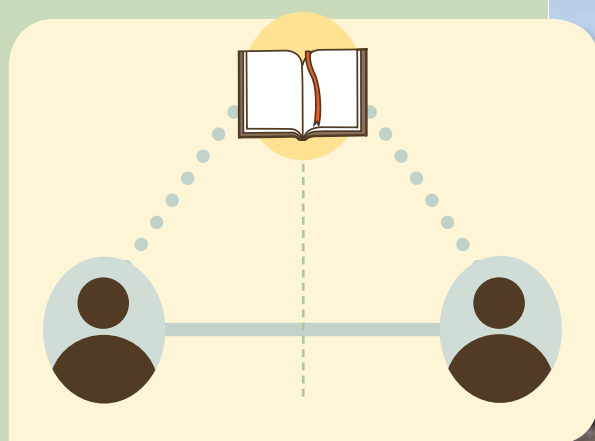
Moving together on this horizontal line often involves compromise, which can create its own additional tension. Meeting in the middle can be difficult when you can't agree on where the middle is.

Now imagine a third person standing above the other two, creating a triangle. This person represents the Savior.

As we draw nearer to Him, ultimately we will find that we have also closed the distance between each other.

"Jesus Christ is the middle point," Diana says. "If we all move to where He is, we all move closer together."

Jhonathan suggests this can happen as we worthily "partake of the sacrament to renew our covenants, give service, go to the temple, and leave the world behind. We can't be with Him and the Spirit can't be with us if we aren't clean."







By President  
Boyd K. Packer

President of the Quorum of  
the Twelve Apostles



# Finding Ourselves IN LEHI'S DREAM

*Lehi's dream has in it everything a Latter-day Saint  
needs to understand the test of life.*

I asked the Church's records department to tell me how many college-age youth we have in the Church. They responded, "1,974,001."

"Good," I thought. "I will speak to the *one*."

My college life began just after World War II had ended. Most of the men in our class were recently returned from military service. We were, by and large, more mature than college students of today. We had been through the war and carried with us many memories. Some of them we held on to; others we were glad to have fade away. We were more serious and did not enter into fun and games as much as students do today. We wanted to get on with our lives and knew that education was the key.

The whole focus of our lives in the military had been on destruction. That is what war is about. We were inspired by the noble virtue of patriotism. To be devoted to destruction without being destroyed yourself spiritually or morally was the test of life.

You too live in a time of war, the spiritual war that will never end. War itself now dominates the affairs of mankind. Your world at war has lost its innocence. There is nothing, however crude or unworthy, that is not deemed acceptable for movies or plays or music or conversation. The world seems to be turned upside down. (See 2 Peter 2.)

Formality, dignity, nobility, and respect for authority are mocked. Modesty and neatness yield to slouchiness and shabbiness in dress and grooming. The rules of honesty and integrity and basic morality are now ignored. Conversation is laced with profanity. You see that in art and literature, in drama and entertainment. Instead of being refined, they have become coarse. (See 1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 3:1–9.)

You have decisions almost every day as to whether you will follow those trends. You have many tests ahead.



LEHI'S DREAM, BY GREG OLSEN, MAY NOT BE COPIED; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN LUKE

## Hold to the Rod

In 1 Nephi 8, read about Lehi's dream. He told his family, "Behold, I have dreamed a dream; or, in other words, I have seen a vision" (1 Nephi 8:2).

You may think that Lehi's dream or vision has no special meaning for you, but it does. You are in it; all of us are in it.

Nephi said, "[All scripture is likened] unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning" (1 Nephi 19:23).

Lehi's dream or vision of the iron rod has in it everything a Latter-day Saint needs to understand the test of life.

Lehi saw:

- A great and spacious building (see 1 Nephi 11:35–36; 12:18).
- A path following a river (see 1 Nephi 8:20–22).
- A mist of darkness (see 1 Nephi 12:17).

*If you hold to the rod, you can feel your way forward with the gift of the Holy Ghost. Grasp the iron rod, and do not let go.*



- An iron rod that led through the mist of darkness (see 1 Nephi 11:24–25).
- The tree of life, "whose fruit was desirable to make one happy" (1 Nephi 8:10; see also 1 Nephi 11:8–9, 21–24).

Read the dream or vision carefully; then read it again.

If you hold to the rod, you can *feel* your way forward with the gift of the Holy Ghost, conferred upon you at the time you were confirmed a member of the Church. The Holy Ghost will comfort you. You will be able to feel the influence of angels, as Nephi did, and feel your way through life.

The Book of Mormon has been my iron rod.

Lehi saw great multitudes of people "pressing forward" toward the tree (1 Nephi 8:21).

The great and spacious

building "was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceedingly fine; and they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at and were partaking of the fruit" (1 Nephi 8:27).

One word in this dream or vision should have special meaning to young Latter-day Saints. The word is *after*. It was *after* the people had found the tree that they became ashamed, and because of the mockery of the world they fell away.

"And *after* they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost. . . .

"And great was the multitude that did enter into that strange building. And *after* they did enter



into that building they did point the finger of scorn at me and those that were partaking of the fruit also.” That was the test; then Lehi said, “But we heeded them not” (1 Nephi 8:28, 33; emphasis added). And that was the answer.

Lehi’s son Nephi wrote:

“I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him. . . .

“For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of old as in times to come; wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round” (1 Nephi 10:17, 19).

All of the symbolism in Lehi’s dream was explained to his son Nephi, and Nephi wrote about it.

At your baptism and confirmation, you took hold of the iron rod. But you are never safe. It is *after* you have partaken of that fruit that your test will come.

I think now and then of one of our classmates—very bright, good looking, faithful in the Church, and drenched with talent and ability. He married well and rose quickly to prominence. He began to compromise to please the world and those around him. They flattered him into following after their ways, which were the ways of the world.

Sometimes it is so simple a thing as how you groom yourself or what you wear, such as a young woman teasing her hair endlessly to give the impression that it has not been combed or a young man dressing in slouchy clothes, wanting to be in style.

Somewhere in little things, my classmate’s grasp on the iron rod loosened a bit. His wife held on to the rod with one hand and on to him with the other. Finally, he slipped away from her and let go of the rod. Just as Lehi’s dream or vision predicted, he fell away into forbidden paths and was lost.

Largely because of television, instead of looking over into that spacious building, we are, in effect, living inside of it. That is your fate in this generation. You are living in that great and spacious building.

Who wrote this incredible vision? There is nothing like it in the Bible. Did Joseph Smith compose it? Did he write the Book of Mormon? That is harder to believe than the account of angels and golden plates. Joseph Smith was only 24 years old when the Book of Mormon was published.

You will be safe if you look like and groom like and act like an ordinary Latter-day Saint: dress modestly, attend your meetings, pay tithes, take the sacrament, honor the priesthood, honor your parents, follow your leaders, read the scriptures, study the Book of Mormon, and pray—always pray. An unseen power will hold your hand as you hold to the iron rod.

Will this solve all your problems? Of course not! That would be contrary to the purpose of your coming into mortality. It will, however, give you a solid foundation on which to build your life (see Helaman 5:12).

The mist of darkness will cover you at times so much that you will not be able to see your way even a short distance ahead. You will not be able to see clearly. But with the gift of the Holy Ghost, you can *feel* your way ahead through life. Grasp the iron rod, and do not let go. (See 3 Nephi 18:25; D&C 9:8.)

### A Time of Spiritual War

We live in a time of war, that spiritual war that will never end. Moroni warned us that the secret combinations begun by Gadianton “are had among all people. . . .

“Wherefore, O ye Gentiles [and the term *Gentile* in that place in the Book of Mormon refers to us in our generation], it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you. . . .

“Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you” (Ether 8:20, 23–24).

Atheists and agnostics make nonbelief their religion and today organize in unprecedented ways to attack faith and belief. They are now organized, and they pursue political

power. You will be hearing much about them and from them. Much of their attack is indirect in mocking the faithful, in mocking religion.

The types of Sherem, Nehor, and Korihor live among us today (see Jacob 7:1–21; Alma 1:1–15; 30:6–60). Their arguments are not so different from those in the Book of Mormon.

You who are young will see many things that will try your courage and test your faith. All of the mocking does not come from outside of the Church. Let me say that again: all of the mocking does not come from outside of the Church. Be careful that you do not fall into the category of mocking.

The Lord promised, “If ye are prepared ye shall not fear” (D&C 38:30).

Even Moroni faced the same challenge. He said, because of his weakness in writing:

“I fear . . . the Gentiles shall mock at our words.

“[And the Lord said to him:] Fools mock, but they shall mourn; and my grace is sufficient for the meek, that they shall take no advantage of your weakness;

“And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them” (Ether 12:25–27).

## We Rejoice in Christ

Embedded in that dream or vision is the “pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:46).

Lehi and Nephi saw:

- A virgin bearing a child in her arms (see 1 Nephi 11:15–20).
- One who should prepare the way—John the Baptist (see 1 Nephi 11:27).
- The ministry of the Son of God (see 1 Nephi 11:28).
- Twelve others following the Messiah (see 1 Nephi 11:29).
- The heavens open and angels ministering to the children of men (see 1 Nephi 11:30).

- The multitudes blessed and healed (see 1 Nephi 11:31).
- The Crucifixion of the Christ (see 1 Nephi 11:32–33).
- The wisdom and pride of the world opposing His work (see 1 Nephi 11:34–36; see also 1 Nephi 1:9–14).

All of this they saw in dream or vision. And that is what we face now.

Now to you, the one of two million, I speak individually. Just as the prophets and apostles in times past did, “we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, . . . that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins” (2 Nephi 25:26).

“Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:3).

And then Nephi added:

“Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

“For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:4–5).

## The Promptings of the Holy Ghost

You live in an interesting generation, when trials will be constant in your life. Learn to follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost. It is to be a shield and a protection and a teacher for you. Never be ashamed or embarrassed about the doctrines of the gospel or about the standards that we teach in the Church. You always, if you are faithful in the Church, will be much different from the world at large.

You have the advantage of being assured that you can be inspired in all of your decisions. You have many decisions ahead of you—decisions that have to do with getting through school, finding a life’s companion, finding an





occupation, settling in, raising children in a world that is turned upside down. Your children will be exposed to so much more than we were in our generation.

We notice, as we travel about the Church, that our young people are stronger than heretofore. When I hear them speak in conferences and in sacrament meeting, I hear them quote the scriptures, and I hear them protecting the standards. I do not hear the cynical mocking that is typical of those who are not faithful and not truly converted.

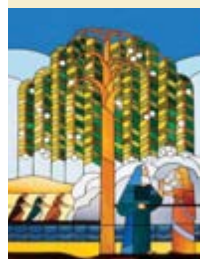
We preside over a church of 13 million-plus members and growing. The Church is out in the world. Much of it is international now. Many members of the Church do not have the opportunity of going to college, but they live the gospel. And it is a wonderful, powerful thing to see them and to be among them.

As we think of you young Latter-day Saints and think of

the Book of Mormon and think of the dream or vision that Lehi had, we see that there are prophecies in there that can be specifically applied to your life. Read it again, beginning with 1 Nephi 8, and read on to the counsel that is given. The Book of Mormon talks about life after death: what happens to the spirit (see Alma 40:11–12) and what happens in the spirit world (see 2 Nephi 2:29; 9:10–13). All of the things that you need to know are there. Read it, and make it a part of your life. Then the criticism or mocking of the world, mocking those in the Church, will be of no concern to you as it is of no concern to us (see 1 Nephi 8:33). We just move forward doing the things that we are called to do and know that the Lord is guiding us.

I pray the blessings of the Lord upon you in your work. I pray the blessings of the Lord

*You may think that Lehi's dream or vision has no special meaning for you, but it does. You are in it; all of us are in it.*



upon you in your life as you move forward from the morning of your life, where you are now, to the late evening of your life, where I am now, that you will know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is true. You will face many great and tumultuous and difficult things in your life, and you will enjoy great inspiration and joy in your life.

You are better than we were. I have the conviction that against what was surely coming and the prophecies that were given, the Lord has reserved special spirits to bring forth at this time to see that His Church and kingdom are protected and moved forward in the world. As a servant of the Lord, I invoke His blessings upon you and bear testimony to you that the gospel is true. ■

*From a devotional address delivered on January 16, 2007, at Brigham Young University. For the full text in English, go to <http://speeches.byu.edu>.*

**W**hat are we doing this week?" may be a question leaders hear often—and perhaps even dread—as we try to help youth plan and carry out effective Mutual activities. And while we often know the answer to that inquiry, a harder question might be "What are we *accomplishing* by doing what we are doing this week?"

Recently, while speaking to leaders of youth, President Thomas S. Monson counseled that "the basic responsibility of helping youth to choose the right when the choice is placed before them is as cardinal a rule today as it has ever been."

"Give them memories to carry into eternity," he said, "and your name will be called blessed by the Lord." He

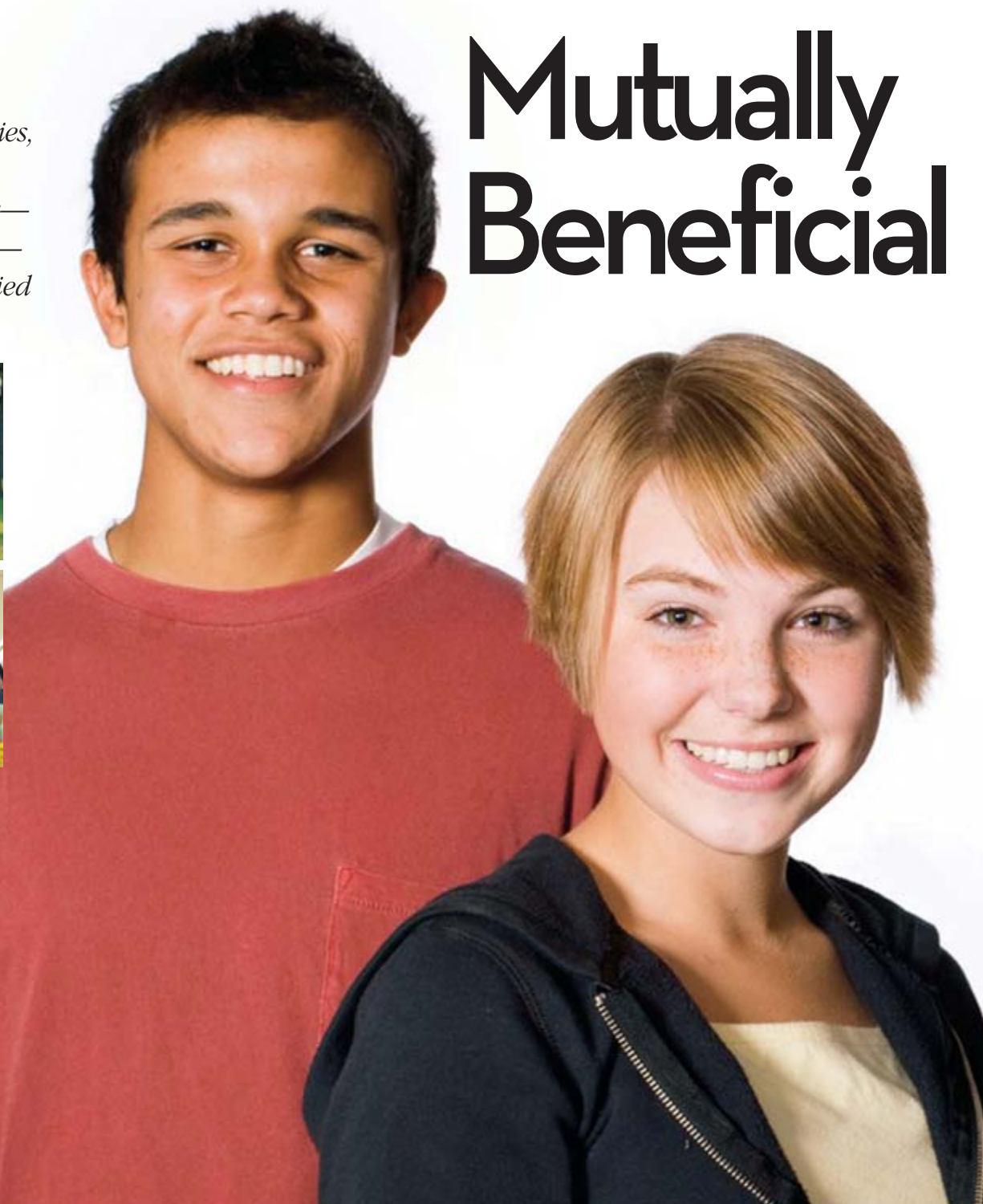
reiterated, as he often does, that the Lord inspires those whom He calls.<sup>1</sup>

The *Liahona* invited some Church leaders to recall a pivotal Mutual or other youth activity and share what it accomplished for them. Perhaps today's leaders will find comfort in these experiences, realizing that their dedicated efforts are helping create important memories—and eternal testimonies.

*As leaders and youth plan and carry out activities, they can help create memories—and testimonies—that will be carried into eternity.*



# Mutually Beneficial







## Part of Something Extraordinary

By Elder Neil L. Andersen

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



In the late spring of 1967, our ward was asked to choose 16 youth to dance in the All-Church Dance Festival. For

our little town in rural Idaho, this was an adventure. The festival was to be held in the giant University of Utah stadium with thousands in attendance. I was not a dancer and was reluctant in our initial practices, but I soon came to enjoy being together with good young men and women preparing for the dance festival. The thought of going to the large city of Salt Lake and staying at a hotel with a swimming pool motivated us.

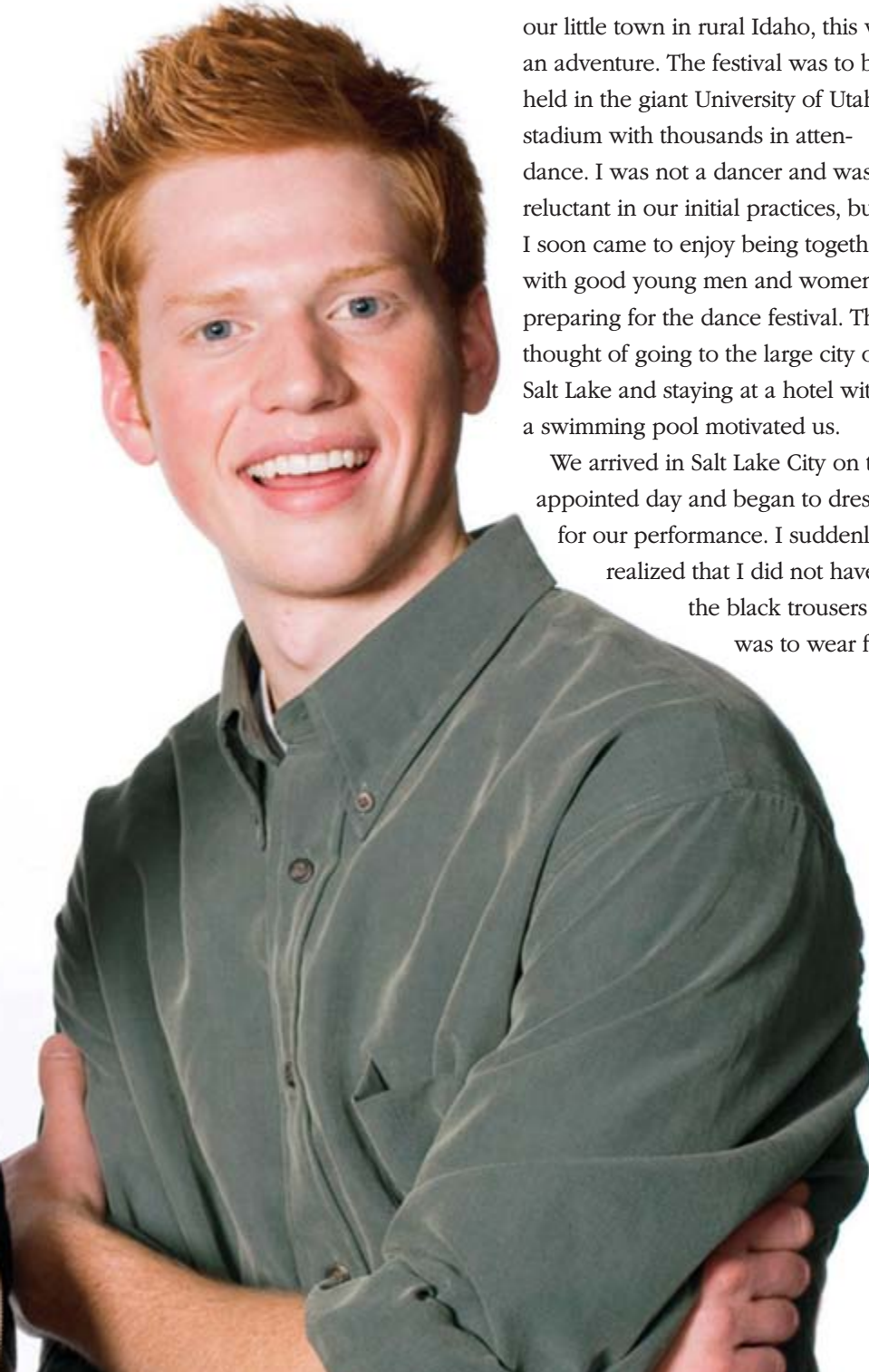
We arrived in Salt Lake City on the appointed day and began to dress for our performance. I suddenly realized that I did not have the black trousers I was to wear for

our ballroom dance. I had left them at home. We did not even consider going to the store to buy a pair of pants, because it would have been too expensive. I did not know what I would do.

The solution came as my Young Men leader, Brother Lowe, offered to let me wear his dark pants. When I put the pants on, I was happy that they were about the right length. However, I quickly realized that I had a problem: the pants were several inches too large in the waist. “What am I going to do?” I thought. I was grateful for the kindness of Brother Lowe but felt very embarrassed to wear the large pants. Brother Lowe and my friends assured me that no one would know because the pants would be mostly covered with my suit coat and I could use a belt to cinch them up tightly.

I still remember the feeling of arriving at the stadium and seeing hundreds of young men and young women from all over the country who shared my beliefs and convictions. It was a great moment for me to realize how important the Church was to so many.

When it was our turn, we moved onto the field. As the dance began, much to my horror, I could feel the big ballooning trousers slipping. There was no time to fix the situation; the music had begun. The dilemma added new steps to my ballroom experience. Not only was it necessary to remember all we had been taught, but I also had to invent some new movements to keep my trousers in place. At times these steps dismayed



my talented partner, but they saved me from a more troubling conclusion.

I have never forgotten my brief precarious moments of ballroom dancing. More important, I have never forgotten the feeling that we were all part of something extraordinary—not simply a dance festival—but the restored Church and gospel of Jesus Christ.

## A Testimony Gained at Sunrise

By Elder Paul B. Pieper

Of the Seventy



I grew up as a member of the Church. I was taught the principles of the gospel by my parents and was baptized and confirmed by and received the priesthood from my worthy father. I felt the influence of the Spirit in my life, but I did not receive a witness of the reality of the Atonement until one Easter in my teen years.

A group of several hundred seminary students gathered for a testimony meeting before dawn. I suppose that I shared my testimony that morning, but I can't be sure. What I know is that during the meeting as the sun rose on a new Easter, the Spirit came into my heart and testified of the reality of Jesus Christ, His life, His teachings, His Atonement, and His Resurrection. I have felt the confirmation of that testimony many times during the more

than 30 years I have testified of Jesus Christ as a missionary, father, friend, and Church leader. But the anchor for me has been the witness I received from the Spirit that Easter morning.

## The Shaping of Future Missionaries

By Elder Keith K. Hilbig

Of the Seventy



As a member of the Milwaukee Wisconsin Ward, I was directed by devoted leaders. Our activities were

a marvelous resource for developing social interaction skills, helping us overcome the awkwardness of teenage years. However, one Mutual experience especially shaped the course of my young life. It occurred in 1956, 54 years ago! Yet even today I remember it clearly.

We young men worked together during Mutual each Wednesday to build a detailed, four-foot-high (1.2 m) replica of the beautiful Salt Lake Temple. We also created a large poster detailing the purpose and story of the Book of Mormon.

Our ward's Boy Scout troop had obtained a prominent booth for the annual display of Scouting skills in our city. Hundreds of visitors walked by our booth and saw our display. Many stopped. They inquired of young Aaronic Priesthood boys in Scout uniforms as to the purpose

of the temple display. Many then inquired about the Book of Mormon. We young Aaronic Priesthood holders explained the best we could and then provided them a paperback copy of the Book of Mormon.

A dear fellow Scout and I (we were in the same teachers quorum) felt like 20-year-old missionaries! We both silently committed to be worthy and to serve as full-time missionaries. Eventually, we both did just that—thanks, in part, to Mutual and to devoted leaders of youth.



## I truly believe

that activities, done on a large or small scale, are key to strengthening not only the youth of the Church but to strengthening families. In these settings, the gospel is taught in informal ways and observed as it is lived in the lives of those who have been called to lead.

Perhaps when we think of activities, we should think of the thirteenth article of faith with a little twist: If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we *provide* these things.

Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president.



## By Small and Simple Means

By Elaine S. Dalton

Young Women General President



When I think about my youth experiences, I think of the accumulation of the many small and simple things

that strengthened my testimony (see Alma 37:6–7). The ward of my youth was like a large family. When we had a ward dinner, everyone came. Whenever the Relief Society had a bazaar or the Primary had a parade, everyone came. Our ward was our social life.

Thinking back to my first ward road show, I distinctly remember the early-morning practices, the prayers, the talking to others as we waited to perform our parts, and the camaraderie we felt as we painted scenery, practiced, and learned together. These were the times when I watched how the gospel worked in the real lives of real people. I saw how my advisers handled problems, how leaders reacted under pressure, how spouses related to each other, and I made silent decisions about living the principles I was being taught on Sunday. I felt the Spirit as we prayed for miracles, such as remembering our parts or the health of one of the youth.

I don't remember my lines from that road show, nor do I remember all the other particulars. But I do

## WHAT IS MUTUAL?

Young men and young women should have regularly scheduled activities called Mutual. The term *Mutual* suggests shared experiences in which there is mutual respect and support for one another. Mutual activities should provide youth with a variety of opportunities to serve others and to develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually.

Mutual is held on a day or an evening other than Sunday or Monday. It is generally held once a week but may be held less frequently if priesthood leaders determine that travel, resources, or other circumstances prevent a weekly meeting.

The ward or branch Young Men and Young Women presidencies, under the direction of the bishopric or branch presidency, oversee Mutual.

For more information, go to [LDS.org](http://LDS.org) and click on "Serving in the Church."

remember how I felt as we performed and as I looked into the faces of my ward members and saw their approval and felt their love.

## Accepting the Invitation

By David L. Beck

Young Men General President



One of the most memorable activities that I participated in as a youth was a large dance festival.

I am quite certain

I never would have volunteered for such an activity. However, with some coaxing, I accepted the invitation to participate, even though at first I wasn't thrilled about the idea.

We practiced a lot, and learning the dances was a slow process. I am grateful for dedicated instructors, for a patient dance partner, and for my mother, who sewed my costume and encouraged me to do my best.

The festival was held at a football

stadium. I had never participated in something so large. Each group entertained the crowd as we performed choreographed dances in colorful costumes. Then the football field literally filled with dancers as all of us performed a closing number together. It turned out to be an impressive show.

I enjoyed that dance festival a lot more than I thought I would. It allowed me to view the Church in a different way. I saw vast numbers of youth having a great time. I met new friends, I developed new skills, and I played a small part in a big production that entertained thousands.

Because I accepted the invitation to dance in that festival—and other invitations that have come to me in the Church—my life has been blessed, and I have had the chance to bless others. I feel so privileged to have had so many wonderful experiences as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. ■

### NOTE

1. See Sarah Jane Weaver, "Building on a Firm Foundation for Young Women," *Church News*, Nov. 28, 2009, 3.

## DADDY, BAPTIZE ME!

**W**hen I walked in the door one evening, Jessie, my six-year-old daughter, was sitting on a stool in our kitchen. Her countenance worried me. I asked her what had happened.

“Daddy, is it true that I’m a child of the devil?” she asked with deep concern.

Her question hit me like a bucket of cold water. Jessie said her friend’s three-month-old sister had already been baptized. Jessie was surprised and asked her friend why her little sister had been baptized at such a young age. Her friend replied that all babies had to be baptized.

“You haven’t been baptized?” her friend then asked. When Jessie said no, her friend insisted that she was a child of the devil.

“Daddy, baptize me!” Jessie implored. “I don’t want to be a child of the devil!”

I realized that this challenge needed to be resolved immediately. I explained the importance of baptism and how children need no baptism until they are eight years old (see Moroni 8:11–23). Because she was only six years old, I told Jessie she would have to wait a little longer before her baptism. I assured her that she was a child of

God and that He loved her. Her question led us to Moroni 10:4–5, where Moroni tells us how we can determine “the truth of all things.”

After reading these verses, I asked if she wanted to pray to Heavenly Father and ask Him if the things we had talked about were true. She said yes.

We knelt together, and Jessie bowed her head and prayed, “Heavenly Father, I want to know if the things my daddy has told me are true. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”

I realized I had led my daughter to say one of the most important prayers of her life. I began pleading in my

heart as I had never done before, asking Heavenly Father to answer her prayer.

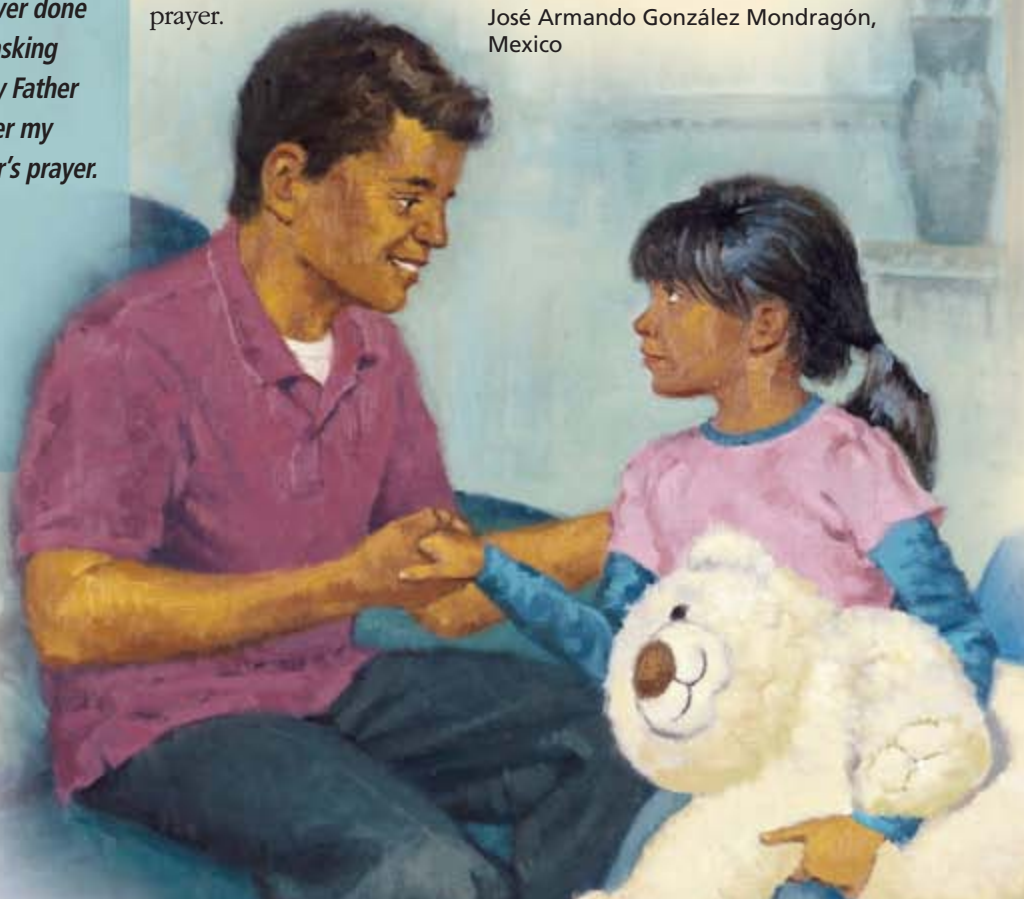
*I began pleading in my heart as I had never done before, asking Heavenly Father to answer my daughter’s prayer.*

After a few minutes, she said, “I didn’t hear anything.” I took her in my arms and said, “Heavenly Father gave us the Comforter, who answers us with . . .” I put my hand on my heart. She interrupted me and said, “With a warm feeling in my chest! I feel it, Daddy!”

I hugged her tightly and thanked Heavenly Father for answering her prayer. I also felt a burning in my bosom. I told Jessie that what she had felt was an answer to her prayer and that now she knew she was a daughter of God and that she should be baptized when she was eight. She told me she would wait.

Many years have passed since that experience, but it still reminds me that Heavenly Father keeps His promises. ■

José Armando González Mondragón,  
Mexico







## TRADING MY FEAR FOR LOVE

I saw him riding the bus every day on my way home from the university. He always wore the same baggy T-shirt, worn-out tennis shoes, and big smile. And he always sat by himself. He was a special passenger, though, because he was mentally challenged.

Every day the Spirit prompted me to say hello to him. Every day, however, my pride stopped me. I was afraid that someone might see me associating with someone different from everyone else. After all, I had a reputation to keep.

One winter afternoon, when the Spirit was especially strong and my courage was a little greater, I got on the bus, saw him in his usual spot, and sat down next to him—not too close in case I chickened out. When I was almost to my stop, I closed my eyes, said a silent prayer, and turned to him.

“Hi,” I said in an insecure but friendly voice, “I’m Ashley.”

When he smiled at me, my fear and pride immediately melted away. “I’m Lenny,” he shyly replied.

With those few words, we began a bond of friendship.

The next day I sat next to Lenny again, but it was easier—we were friends. As I sat down, he reached into his backpack and pulled out a handmade Valentine’s Day card. It was addressed to “The pretty girl I see on the bus every day.”

Valentine’s Day was long passed, but Lenny had made this special card for me and had been patiently waiting for the opportunity to give it to me. I couldn’t keep the tears from trickling down my cheeks. How grateful I was that the Spirit hadn’t given up on me and that I had finally put aside my

pride and faced my fear of talking to Lenny.

Now he comes to Sunday dinner every week and has become like another member of my family. Every day Lenny helps me remember the blessings that come from forgetting pride and having courage to do what is right. Seeing him every day reminds me of 1 John 4:18:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.” ■

Ashley Johnson Evanson, Utah, USA

## MY BROTHER’S FRENCH HORN

I grew up to the sound of my older brother practicing his French horn. Day after day, year after year, the sound of his horn emanated from our house. I could even hear it blocks away when I walked home from elementary school.

If challenged, I would surely have contended that my brother was the best French horn player there ever was. Nevertheless, his constant playing embarrassed me sometimes, and once I asked my mother to make him stop. He would even bring his French horn on vacation!

Years later my brother and I found ourselves at a music competition in northern California on the campus of a big university I’d never been to

before. While there, my high school madrigal group earned a top ranking, which meant we got to do an encore performance later that day. We were given directions as to where and when to meet, and we all went on our way. Soon I found myself alone, standing in the middle of the campus looking at all the tall buildings. I couldn't see anyone I knew, but I remembered what my mother had told me to do if I ever got lost: "Stay where you are."

I stayed but was too shy to ask for directions; besides, I didn't know where I was going. I couldn't remember anything we'd been told about where or when to meet. But suddenly the thought occurred to me to ask Heavenly Father for help. I was not a member of the Church at the time, but I had attended church regularly with my Latter-day Saint friends and had been taught that Heavenly Father answers prayers.

So I stood there and silently prayed in my heart. Before I had even said amen, my ears perked up. Far off in the distance, ever so quietly, I heard a familiar sound—a sound I had heard most of my life. As I started walking in the direction of the music, it grew louder. Could it be my brother's French horn? I was sure of it.

But then other French horns started playing. I hesitated. Did I really think I could tell which of all those horns was my brother's? Every time I doubted, however, I heard his horn, as if beckoning to me. As I entered a building, climbed the stairs, and got closer to the

music, I grew scared. The thought of opening the wrong door to find someone I didn't know made my face turn red. When I reached the third floor, I listened one more time, made my decision, took a deep breath, and opened the door. There he was!

Heavenly Father gives us His Spirit to teach us, testify to us, protect us, and guide us to safety when we feel alone and abandoned. We learn His voice by hearing it often and becoming so familiar with it that we can recognize it in the midst of many other voices that would lead us astray.

We should not be embarrassed by His voice or hesitate to follow it. If we ask Heavenly Father for His help and then listen, ready to obey, I know we will hear Him. ■

Sandy Lauderdale Cane, Missouri, USA

## LEAVE THE PARTY!

**A** number of years ago I had a chance to represent the state of Utah at a nationwide convention in Ohio attended by high school swimmers.

Our stay included parties for the athletes. When I went to a party the first night, I thought it was going to be like the fun parties we held back home—drinking root beer and playing games. But as soon as I walked into the room, I got a reality check.

Immediately, I understood what the articles in the Church magazines

were talking about when they said, "You will stand out when you are the only member of the Church." Somehow my fellow athletes had already figured out that I was a Latter-day Saint. The room grew quiet, and everyone seemed to be staring at me as I dug into the chip bowl.

"Hey," someone said, "you're a Mormon, aren't you?"

I smiled proudly and said, "I sure am, and I'm happy to be one."

The party then resumed, but I felt

**W**hen I grabbed my swim bag and headed for the door, one of the boys yelled, "Hey, are you wimping out on us?"





many eyes on me, watching my every move. After a while, the party began to get wild. I wasn't sure how wild it would become, but I didn't want to be part of it. If I stayed, I feared I would give people the wrong impression about my standards. Besides, the Spirit prompted me to leave. When I grabbed my swim bag and headed for the door, one of the boys yelled, "Hey, are you wimping out on us?"

I just smiled and said, "See you guys tomorrow." I then walked out, feeling good that I had made my presence known while

defending the Lord's standards.

The next day during a house of delegates meeting, one of the delegates rose and sternly said, "Something happened last night that I don't ever want to happen again. You're here to represent your state, so do it well and act appropriately!"

Then he added, "Some of you left and didn't take part in what happened. Thank you."

For the rest of the week, I received more respect and friendly expressions than I had ever received before. Many coaches from across the United States urged me to run for an athlete-representative position for the western states because I had represented Utah well.

I never found out what happened at the party, but I'm grateful that the Spirit prompted me to leave. ■

Sonrisa Oles Hasselbach, California, USA

## I AM PROUD OF YOU

**A**s missionaries in Ghana, we washed our clothes by hand on preparation day. Elder Moss, my companion who had recently arrived from the United States, had not experienced this way of doing laundry. But being a native of Ghana, I was used to it.

Every Monday Elder Moss set out to scrub his clothes, but about halfway through the job, his hands and knuckles would start

bleeding. I would then need to take over his work, in addition to finishing my own.

One Monday when washing time came around, Elder Moss seemed a bit worried. I had injured my hand the previous day, and he knew that I was not going to be able to help him with his laundry. I wouldn't even be able to do my own. He started his washing, but as usual, he needed help halfway through.

Since I couldn't help my companion with the actual washing, I encouraged him to endure—to let his hands rest and then keep trying. He stopped for a time and then continued. I told him he could find a way to finish. His hands and knuckles were still sore, but he pushed on. When the washing was completed, he said, "I am proud of myself. Elder Asante, are you proud of me?"

"Yes, of course I am proud of you," I answered.

As I have thought about this incident, I realized that Heavenly Father knows our potential, but He tests us so we can develop diligence, patience, and faithfulness. He is pleased with us when we make righteous choices and prove that we can bear our afflictions.

When we work hard and endure the trials placed before us, we can say, "Heavenly Father, art Thou proud of me?" I know that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are pleased when we endure and that They will tell us so one day when They welcome us home. ■

Richard Domeng Asante, Ghana



# THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT

*May God bless us to realize that an important measure of our progress in coming unto Christ is to be found in how well we treat others, especially those who are different.*



**By Elder Marlin K. Jensen**

Of the Seventy

**T**wo years before I was born in 1942, my mother gave birth to my older brother, Gary. Gary is a very special person. When he was born, his brain was damaged by a lack of oxygen. His mind never grew above the level of a six- or seven-year-old.

For more than 60 years, I watched my parents take care of Gary. They helped brush his teeth, comb his hair, and tie his tie on Sunday. Because he loved horses and cowboys, they took him to rodeos and Western movies. They performed countless acts of love and kindness for him.

Unfortunately, people aren't always so kind to those who are different. I'm sorry to say that some children—even children from active Latter-day Saint families—were unkind to my brother. They shut him out of games, called him ugly names, and teased him unmercifully.

Gary was a childlike person who was always quick to forgive. He loved and accepted everybody. I think that aside from my parents, this special brother did more during my childhood to shape my outlook on life than anyone else. I sometimes think how it will be after the Resurrection, when as Alma describes, “all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame” (Alma 40:23). Then

we'll know the real Gary, and I think we'll be very grateful for all the good things we've done for him and very sad about those times when we might have been more loving and understanding of his special circumstances.

## The Need for Love and Understanding

There are many other people like Gary in our world. Even within the Church are certain brothers and sisters who might be considered “different” and who especially need our love and understanding. Their need for love and understanding stems in part from a culture that has developed as we have strived to live according to God's plan for us. Like all cultures, the culture arising from our efforts to live according to the gospel of Jesus Christ includes certain expectations and morally binding customs. Marriage and family are highly valued, for instance, and fathers and mothers have divinely appointed roles to fulfill. Children and youth are encouraged to live by certain standards and walk prescribed paths to achieve certain educational and spiritual goals.

The desired outcomes of a gospel-centered life are held up as ideals for which we are all encouraged to strive. Although such ideals



are doctrinally based and represent desirable objectives in our quest for eternal life, they can sometimes become sources of disappointment and pain for those whose lives may vary from the ideal.

Discomfort and unfulfilled expectations may exist, for example, for a divorced Church member, for a person still single though of marriageable age, for a person struggling with bouts of depression or an eating disorder, or for the parents of a wayward child. Other Church members who may feel culturally conspicuous are those in a racial minority, those struggling with feelings of same-gender attraction, or young men who, for whatever reason, choose not to serve a mission at the usual age. Members who repent and whose transgressions require formal and thus more public Church discipline also often find their social interaction in the Church to be quite awkward.

Even when they are worthy, members whose lives don't fit the ideal and thus are considered different often feel inferior and guilty. These feelings are heightened when we as their brothers and sisters fail to be as thoughtful and sensitive toward them as we ought to be. Consider, for instance, the unintended impact on a childless married couple when a member of the ward asks them when they are going to have children, not realizing that they have wanted to have children for a long time but have been unable to do so.

As we work to resolve these challenging situations, it is important to recognize that the solution isn't to eliminate or even lower the level of the ideal. Prophets and apostles have always had the duty to teach and encourage us to strive for the ideal. It was what the Savior did. His injunction was "Be ye therefore perfect" (Matthew 5:48), not just "Have a good day."



***In some way or another we are all that one lost sheep. We all have our failings, and our lives vary in some ways from the ideal. We are all different!***

### **We Are All Different**

A helpful insight came to me several years ago when I was reading the Savior's teachings about the man who had one sheep go astray. The Savior asks, "Doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?" (Matthew 18:12).

As a priesthood leader, I had always thought of myself for many years as the shepherd—the one out searching for the lost sheep. But in a moment of reflection, it came to me that in some way or another we are all that one lost sheep. We all have our failings, and our lives vary in some ways from the ideal. We are all different! This is a humbling but helpful recognition.

It is also helpful to remember that in teaching the ideal, the Savior recognized that the ideal isn't always immediately attainable. In speaking of spiritual gifts—those wonderful endowments of the Holy Ghost—the Savior said, "They are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments." Having to keep all the commandments in order to enjoy spiritual gifts seems an impossibly high standard, but thankfully the



Savior adds that spiritual gifts are also given for the benefit of “him that *seeketh* so to do” (D&C 46:9; emphasis added). Seeking to keep all the commandments—even if we sometimes fall short of the ideal—is something within the power of each of us and is acceptable to our Heavenly Father.

Since at baptism we all covenanted “to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort” (Mosiah 18:9), being compassionate and sensitive to those in special circumstances—those who are different—is an important aspect of our efforts to be Christ’s disciples. Of Jesus, Nephi wrote, “He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world” (2 Nephi 26:24). It is inconceivable that the Savior would do or say anything that would intensify the pains of or injure any of God’s children. In fact, Alma taught that as a part of the Atonement, Christ voluntarily experienced our pains, sicknesses, and infirmities so “that he [might] know according to the flesh how to succor his people” (Alma 7:12).

We can take great comfort in Christ’s ability to relate to our own experiences—a trait known as empathy. The record of Christ’s

**Being compassionate and sensitive to those in special circumstances—those who are different—is an important aspect of our efforts to be Christ’s disciples.**

ministry is replete with displays of His empathy and kindness to those who were different.

When the current Primary *Children’s Songbook* was compiled in 1989, a song was needed to speak to children—and thus to all of us—about those who, because they are different, have special need of our love and understanding. That simple song, “I’ll Walk with You,” beautifully summarizes how we can show our love and understanding:

*If you don’t walk as most people do,  
Some people walk away from you,  
But I won’t! I won’t!*

*If you don’t talk as most people do,  
Some people talk and laugh at you,  
But I won’t! I won’t!*

*I’ll walk with you. I’ll talk with you.  
That’s how I’ll show my love for you.*

*Jesus walked away from none.  
He gave his love to ev’ryone.  
So I will! I will!*

*Jesus blessed all he could see,  
Then turned and said, “Come, follow me.”  
And I will! I will!  
I will! I will!*

*I’ll walk with you. I’ll talk with you.  
That’s how I’ll show my love for you.<sup>1</sup>*

May God bless us to realize that an important measure of our progress in coming unto Christ is to be found in how well we treat others, especially those who are different. And may we remember that we are all different in some way. ■

*From an address delivered during a stake conference broadcast in Utah County, Utah, on September 7, 2008.*

#### NOTE

1. “I’ll Walk with You,” *Children’s Songbook*, 141.



# ONE OF THE FAMILY

By Rachel Neal

As I interact with other young single adults, I've noticed that sometimes it can be easy to be so focused on our marital status that we don't pay attention to those around us. For example, when I first started attending a family ward rather than a young adult ward, I believed I deserved extra attention, pity, and looking after because I was single. I have yet to find an instance when having such an attitude ever did me any good.

During the first year in my ward, I was surprised that many of my other ideas turned out to be myths. I learned that married people can be friends with single people and that I could make a difference in people's lives. Some mothers are overjoyed to have a friend come over for a visit when their husbands are gone for work or Church callings. Parents are often grateful when an adult can provide some individual attention to their children, and most are quite willing to "lend out" their children for movies or other activities.

I also learned that I was not the only person who was single. Other ward members are empty nesters, divorced, or widowed and also struggle to deal with life's issues on their own. And despite my belief that married people are happier, I met some who dealt with depression, job loss, or disabled or wayward children. Those with such struggles always appreciate a listening ear.

But these realizations and friendships did not happen instantly. They took time and effort as I consistently attended my Church meetings, served in callings, and looked for opportunities to help. When my bishop asked me to teach the six-year-olds, I felt inadequate. However, after my first month, several parents thanked me, saying how much their children enjoyed coming to class. To this day some of my closest friends in the ward are family members of those children.

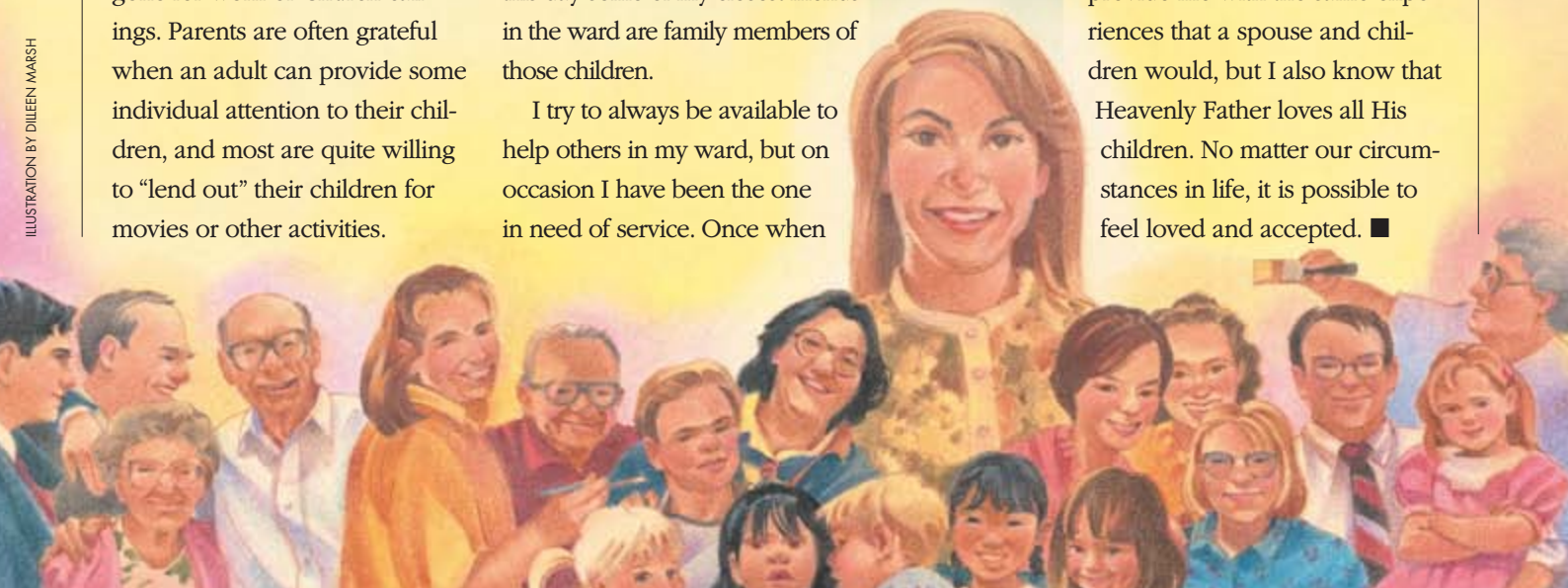
I try to always be available to help others in my ward, but on occasion I have been the one in need of service. Once when

*I thought I might never feel accepted by members of my ward—but I found out I was wrong.*

I needed to paint a room in my home before moving, I was in the middle of final exams and also had to leave town for a wedding. When I mentioned these circumstances to a sister in my ward, she told me she would get some other sisters together to paint the room. Their service saved me lots of time and money.

The members of my ward seem not to define me by my marital status because I don't define myself by it. In conversation I don't bring up my lack of a spouse; instead, I talk about my job, studies, hobbies, and immediate family. By my focusing on these topics, people often see that there is more to me than what is lacking.

A wise friend once told me that friendship is a two-way road; you can't give some without receiving some in return. I realize that all my friendships will never provide me with the same experiences that a spouse and children would, but I also know that Heavenly Father loves all His children. No matter our circumstances in life, it is possible to feel loved and accepted. ■



# Questions & Answers

## “How should I react when I’m ridiculed for being a member of the Church and for trying to maintain my standards?”

**B**ecause of the Light of Christ, God’s children know what is right and wrong, but unfortunately some choose to ignore that knowledge and ridicule those who are trying to choose the right. Whenever you can, try to share your testimony with people like that and explain the blessings you have received from living gospel standards.

How you react to ridicule will affect how others view you and the Church. Never argue or react with anger or unkindness. Sometimes you just need to ignore what others say and follow the Savior’s counsel to love and pray for them (see 3 Nephi 12:44). Remember that you are to be “an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Finally, don’t be ashamed of your testimony of the gospel (see Romans 1:16). Your steadfast example will be a powerful witness to those around you of the truth of the gospel. Standing up for your beliefs in a charitable and confident way can also strengthen those who lack the courage to do what is right.

### Explain Your Beliefs



Some time ago I was participating on a basketball team that usually played games on Saturdays. When we played on Sunday, however, I would not attend, and my teammates would make fun of this. When they asked me why I didn’t play on Sundays, I responded, “I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I am taught to make the Sabbath sacred and not play sports. I follow the principles of the gospel because I know that God wants the best for us.” After that, my teammates respected my beliefs and stopped making fun of me.

*Nicolás B., age 19, Córdoba, Argentina*

### Pray for Them

It can be discouraging when others ridicule your beliefs. However, I try to remember that those who make fun are missing out on the blessings of the gospel. So I pray that Heavenly Father will change their hearts and help them

understand the importance of the gospel. I know that if I live a good, exemplary life, my example can help them change.

*Itaobong O., age 20, Rivers, Nigeria*

### Don’t Be Ashamed

If someone ridicules you because you are a member of the Church, just tell them that you have a testimony of the Church and that you like going to church. Tell them that you feel that your Heavenly Father is close by. Don’t be embarrassed or afraid of saying the right thing!

*Laura A., age 12, Hesse, Germany*

### Speak Lovingly



I read Elder Robert D. Hales’s article about Christian courage and how we should not respond angrily but lovingly to those who are against the Church.<sup>1</sup> If we show we care, then most people will stop acting so badly towards us. You should always treat people with respect and love because it will actually come back to you. If people tell you to do something against your standards, just calmly decline and say, “I am a member of the LDS Church and do not believe that it is OK to do that.” You might even suggest a new activity that isn’t against your standards.

*Lucas H., age 15, Arizona, USA*

### Be a Good Friend

First of all, I would think of the Lord’s example. When He gave His life for me, He had no flaws or any reason to deserve what He suffered. Second, I would think of the example of Joseph Smith, who



knew how to be strong and courageous so that today I am proud to belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Third, I would continue to maintain my principles by being kind and by serving. I would show my love for them by being the best friend and example they could have. I would show them the blessings that obedience to gospel principles can bring them. After all, we're all children of one loving and merciful Father.

*Auguste R., age 15, Tahiti, French Polynesia*

### Let Your Light Shine



We should remember why and for whom we live our standards. If we always keep in mind the example of our Savior, we will be prepared to endure such situations with meekness, without a spirit of discord, and without feeling shame for the standards we have chosen to live. As we act this way, we let our light shine before men, and they will see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven (see Matthew 5:16).

*Lara M., age 21, Paraíba, Brazil*

### Bear Your Testimony



At the university where I used to study, there was a young man who persecuted me because I am a member of the Church. He always wanted to contend, so I just tried to avoid him. Then one day I bore my testimony to him, and he quit persecuting me. We should always stay firm and remember how our testimonies were

gained. We should react with self-control so the Holy Spirit may always be with us and strengthen us, no matter what others may say or think. We should pray for those people so that someday they may receive Jesus Christ.

*Brezka E., age 21, Valparaíso, Chile*

### Talk with Church Friends



I have found that reading my patriarchal blessing really helps. It gives me a better understanding of who I am, my weaknesses, and my strengths so that I can better deal with trials such as these. I have only two close LDS friends, but I talk to them frequently about ways to handle trials. I think that would definitely help you. Another good way to deal with this problem is just to show kindness and be an example in everything you do. You definitely cannot force people to change their minds, but being kind and slow to anger is probably the best way to show them how important the Church is to you.

*William L., age 17, Nevada, USA*

#### NOTE

1. See Robert D. Hales, "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 72; "That Is Christian Courage," *New Era*, July 2009, 2.



### DO NOT RETALIATE

One of mortality's great tests comes when our beliefs are questioned or criticized. In such moments, we may want to respond aggressively—to 'put up our dukes.' But these are important opportunities to step back, pray, and follow the Savior's example. . . . When we do not retaliate—when we turn the other cheek and resist feelings of anger—we too stand with the Savior. We show forth His love, which is the only power that can subdue the adversary and answer our accusers without accusing them in return. That is not weakness. That is Christian courage."

**Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 72.**

### NEXT QUESTION

"How should I respond when my friends say that no man can see God?"

Send your answer by September 15, 2010, to:

*Liahona*, Questions & Answers 9/10  
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA  
Or e-mail: [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org)

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.

The following information and permission must be included in your e-mail or letter: (1) full name, (2) birth date, (3) ward or branch, (4) stake or district, (5) your written permission, and, if you are under age 18, your parent's written permission (e-mail is acceptable) to publish your response and photograph.

# GOOD MORNING

**“Being of good cheer makes it possible for us  
to turn all of our sunsets into sunrises.”**

Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915–94)  
of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,  
“Be of Good Cheer,”  
*Ensign*, May 1986, 68.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LAUREN FOCETTO



# Doctrine and Covenants 1:38

*We should heed all of the Lord's words given through His prophets.*

## What I the Lord have spoken

Here are a few things the scriptures teach us about revelation from God:

- Man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord (see Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; D&C 98:11).
- "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).
- The Lord will do nothing without revealing His secret to the prophets (see Amos 3:7).
- God will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept (see 2 Nephi 28:30; D&C 98:12).

38 What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

- Whatever God's servants speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be the voice of the Lord (see D&C 68:4).



## My word shall not pass away

Prophecies and blessings spoken by the Lord's prophets are not always fulfilled at the time or in the manner people expect. Think of some examples of prophecies and blessings that were fulfilled at an unexpected time or in an unexpected way, and write in your journal how this principle can apply in your life.



## By mine own voice or by the voice of my servants

"It is no small thing, my brothers and sisters, to have a prophet of God in our midst. Great and wonderful are the blessings that come into our lives as we listen to the word of the Lord given to us through him. . . . When we hear the counsel of the Lord expressed through the words of the President of the Church, our response should be positive and prompt. History has shown that there is safety, peace, prosperity, and happiness in responding to prophetic counsel as did Nephi of old: 'I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded' (1 Ne. 3:7)."

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "His Word Ye Shall Receive," *Liahona*, July 2001, 80; *Ensign*, May 2001, 65.



## I excuse not myself

"When critics mock, when enemies deride, when cynics belittle this work, there comes into

my mind this tremendous statement of the Almighty. The Lord does not excuse Himself for what He has said or done. Every promise shall be kept, every prophecy fulfilled."

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), "The Order and Will of God," *Tambuli*, Aug. 1989, 3; *Ensign*, Jan. 1989, 4.

Editors' note: This page is not meant to be a comprehensive explanation of the selected scripture verse, only a starting point for your own study.

# The Lord Placed Him

*We need to share the gospel with those we come in contact with because we never know who is prepared to hear our message.*

**By Joni Larsen Marshall**

It was a warm, sunny day in Shilin, Taipei, Taiwan, and my companion, Sister Verhagen, and I were riding our bikes to visit a member. As usual, the traffic was congested and busy. Cars, motor scooters, and bikes filled the streets, heading in many directions.

I rode, as I always did, close to the shoulder of the road so other vehicles could pass by. Suddenly, I crashed and was thrown to the ground. After looking up, I saw a man who kept repeating he was sorry. Apparently, he had been in his parked car on the side of the road. When he opened his door to get out, I crashed into it. I did not see him, and he did not see me.

When I looked down at my right leg, I saw the point of impact. My leg had a large indentation and was swollen and blue. An ambulance that had been close behind us stopped, examined me, and took me directly to the hospital. My leg was examined and X-rayed to see if it was broken.

The man with whom I had been in the accident also came to the hospital to see if I was OK.

While waiting for the results of the X-ray, Sister Verhagen and I talked to the man, Chung Wei. He repeatedly asked me how I was and apologized for the situation. I apologized too and told him I was happy that only my leg was injured.

We learned that Chung Wei was a college student studying the violin. After talking with him for a while, we said, “We don’t want to pressure you, but if you’d like to hear our message, we’d love to schedule a time for you to meet with the elders.” He paused for a moment and then agreed. We exchanged information and set a time for him to meet with the elders.

The results of my X-ray came back. Luckily, my leg was not broken. It just hurt a lot and looked ugly.

Later that week Elder Criddle told me that he and his companion had met with Chung Wei. The lesson had

gone well. A couple weeks later I found out that he had attended church twice and was planning to be baptized. I was so happy and excited.

On April 27, 2002, Chung Wei was baptized, the newest member of the Tien Mu Ward. I was not able to attend his baptism because I was transferred, but I heard the baptism went well.

Later I saw the missionary, Elder Packer, who had given Chung Wei his baptismal interview. Elder Packer asked him why he started hearing the discussions and decided to be baptized. Chung Wei told him he was impressed by Sister Verhagen’s and my attitude toward him. Since we were kind to him and not angry because of the accident, he said he knew this must be the true Church. Later, during the discussions, he was able to feel the Spirit and build his testimony.



# in Our Path

*When he opened his door to get out, I crashed into it. I did not see him, and he did not see me.*



I am so grateful Chung Wei was prepared. I'm happy he followed the promptings of the Spirit, was baptized, and now has the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I didn't know Heavenly Father was placing Chung Wei in my path that day. I didn't know he was prepared to hear the gospel. But I do know we always need to be disciples of Christ

and try to act as He would act. I know we need to share the gospel with those we come in contact with because we never know whom the Lord has prepared to hear the gospel. ■



# SEMINARY OR SPORTS?

*I no longer felt a sense of balance.  
I couldn't continue to juggle church,  
academics, and sports.*

By Carolina Tenorio Picado

When I began high school, I participated on my school's athletic team. Running was my passion—I had been a runner since I was nine years old—and I worked hard at it. I attended training sessions at least three times a week in the evenings. I even had opportunities to represent my city at Costa Rica's national games.

Often, the practices went until late at night. That made getting up early for seminary, which started at 5:00 a.m., extra challenging, but I continued to make that sacrifice.

Halfway through high school, however, when I was 16 years old, I realized that I wasn't putting my heart into seminary. I went, but I wasn't as well rested, prepared, or attentive as I could have been. I also knew that being stretched thin by my very late and very early hours was affecting my physical performance, which wasn't fair to my team.

Even though I had always thrived on participating in many activities and had been able to juggle church, academics, and sports up to that point, I no longer felt a sense of balance.

I began to wonder if I needed to give something up. Running was a wholesome, healthy activity, one I was good at. It was an opportunity for me to use my talents and to establish patterns of discipline. And at my school, being an athlete was prestigious. I had good friends on my team, and if I left it, I'd miss those associations.

On the other hand, I had a goal of graduating from seminary, and I knew if I stayed on the team, I wouldn't be able to do that.

As I weighed my decision, I thought about what would most benefit all aspects of my life, both during my high school years and for the rest of my life. I thought about my long-term goals. I realized that my attitude about seminary had implications for the rest of my life—for eternity, really. I realized what I needed to do.

At the end of my second year of high school, I told my coach and teammates that I wouldn't be participating on the team anymore. They were shocked. No one



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT GREER





understood why I would give up my passion for running competitively—something I had done for nearly half of my life—“to go to church at 5:00 a.m.” I explained to them that it was my responsibility and my priority and that in choosing these right things, I would be a happier person.

Fortunately, even though they didn’t understand my decision, most of my peers respected it.

During the next two years of school, I had more time to read the scriptures and to ponder them. Because I wasn’t so rushed all the time, I found myself receiving inspiration more frequently. Those things gave my life balance, peace, and happiness that I had never experienced before.

At the end of high school, I graduated from seminary. That achievement meant a great deal to me. I gained a love of the

scriptures and the stories and lessons they contain, I learned discipline in getting up early, and I was blessed with good friendships strengthened by that early-morning hour we spent together each day. But most important, I learned through seminary about making sure that I always put the Lord first.

That pattern continues to bless my life now as I study at a university. My classes are more difficult than they were in high school. I have more responsibilities at church. But because I established a habit of putting the Lord first, it has been easy to continue to set correct priorities, and I hope I can continue that pattern for the rest of my life. ■



### SETTING PRIORITIES

**I**n choosing how we spend time . . . , we should be careful not to exhaust our available time on things that are merely good and leave little time for that which is better or best.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Good, Better, Best,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 105.

# FOR ONE AND FOR ALL

*Youth in the Frankfurt Germany Stake know how to stand together and, when necessary, how to stand alone.*

**By David A. Edwards**

Church Magazines

**W**hen Charlotte Baumann stood to bear her testimony at the end of the Frankfurt Germany Stake's youth conference, she shared an experience that many of the other teens could relate to.

"My biology class was discussing the effects of alcohol on the body," she said. "I noted that alcohol is poison, nerve poison, and people drink it only because they think it's fun. The class couldn't understand that, and then I gave my opinion on it, and that led to the question of why. One boy asked me if my ideas were like the Mormons', and then I said, 'Well, I am a Mormon.' At first he didn't believe me, and I thought that was pretty funny."

The questions continued, even into the hallway after class, which is when a thought occurred to Charlotte. "I suddenly remembered that I had the

shortened version of *For the Strength of Youth*, and I passed it around and had people read it. I think some of them did understand me then, and maybe that will have some effect on one or the other of them."

Like Charlotte, other youth in the Frankfurt Germany Stake always look forward to youth conference and other activities that give them opportunities to share experiences like these. It is here that they can come together, have fun, and strengthen each other spiritually, because at other times most of them must stand alone.

## **Standing Together**

At the youth conference, which was held near the Frankfurt Germany Temple, everyone acknowledged that the highlight of the conference was the spiritual uplift they received through gospel instruction, temple attendance, and sharing testimony.

Benjamin Uhlig feels that the youth need to stand together in this way. "We are a community, and we are fighting together in a time that is very bad. We go to school, and we're torn in all directions. Evil influences are everywhere. But the youth are our



*Charlotte: "I suddenly remembered that I had . . . For the Strength of Youth, and I passed it around and had people read it."*







**Benjamin U.:** *"We're fighting together here as youth for the work of the Lord, and to me that's something very beautiful."*

**Ida:** *"I think when you choose friends, you need to choose real friends who are also an example to you. Friends go with you to the temple, and you have spiritual experiences together there."*

### Standing Alone

The strength these youth receive from each other adds to their testimonies of the gospel, which are tested sometimes daily in school and at other times. It is common for them to have to stand up for Church standards.

"I'm the only Church member in my grade," says Jonatan Fingerle. "And now everywhere I go, I'm always 'the Mormon.' I got to talk about it and bear my testimony in class, in front of my ethics class, where absolutely nobody believes in any gospel. The nice thing about it was that afterward, even during the break, people came and asked me questions, and I could really show the testimony that I have."

Sometimes maintaining Church standards can be a lonely experience. Vincent Newsome often has to stand alone in keeping the law of chastity. "My friends from school think it's strange that I stay chaste, because that's not part of their lives, and very early on they're taught differently about it by their parents. Some mothers simply take girls to the

support. We're fighting together here as youth for the work of the Lord, and to me that's something very beautiful."

When Ida Uhlig thinks about her friends in the Church, she also thinks about the temple. Her ward is not far from the temple, so they do baptisms for the dead there regularly. "I think when you choose friends, you need to choose real friends who are also an example to you. Friends go with you to the temple, and you have spiritual experiences together there."

"It's always nice to do baptisms

for the dead," says Michael Fiedler, "because, of course, you help all those people. The temple is always the high point of youth conference because everything points toward it."



**Michael:** *"The temple is always the high point of youth conference because everything points toward it."*



**Jonatan:** *"I'm the only Church member in my grade. And now everywhere I go, I'm always 'the Mormon.' I got to talk about it and bear my testimony in class, in front of my ethics class, where absolutely nobody believes in any gospel."*



gynecologist when they're 14 and get them a prescription for birth control."

But Vincent knows the power that comes from keeping the Lord's commandments. "Living the law of chastity makes me stronger. You could just give in, but it doesn't help at all, because if you were to give in and act the way people usually act in the world, then you'd just be going with the flow and not thinking about what you're doing. I know that it's better if you live chaste, because otherwise you'd just go under."

In standing up for Church standards, sometimes it's possible to turn opponents into allies. When she



**Vincent:** *"My friends from school think it's strange that I stay chaste, because that's not part of their lives, and very early on*

*they're taught differently about it by their parents."*

started at her school, Carina Schultes was bullied and put down by others. "They couldn't accept that I had my religion, my standards, that I didn't smoke, didn't drink alcohol. At first they couldn't cope with it, but luckily after four years they accepted it so they thought it was really cool and really supported me and got others to leave me alone."

### Finding Strength

Strength can come to us in many different ways. Benjamin Rumbach finds strength in his favorite scripture, 1 Nephi 3:7. "That just shows the determination of Nephi and the courage that he was willing to have for the gospel. It helps me when I need the strength to be obedient to the commandments and to withstand temptations better. I know that I can keep every commandment if I really want to."

For Charlotte Baumann, strength came in the form of a wallet-sized *For the Strength of Youth* card: "Sometimes you don't know how you should explain something, but it says something in there about all topics that are relevant to youth. And that's just a great help. I definitely noticed

that it's important that I always stand up for my principles, even when people think it's weird or don't understand, and that makes me stronger."

The strength that Ida Uhlig feels at youth conference and in the temple buoys her up. "I feel the Holy Ghost often. Right at this youth conference, the Spirit is with you, and you can feel it in the temple. I'm thankful for Jesus, and I'll be glad to be with Him again," she says.

And for Carina Schultes, steadfastness and prayer have kept her strong: "I've learned that even when many

**A view from Friedrichsdorf, Germany, near Frankfurt.**







*Carina: "I've learned that even when many temptations are all around you, you simply can't give up."*

temptations are all around you, you simply can't give up. You have to stay steadfast, to hold fast to the word of God so that you don't fall. In Doctrine and Covenants 88:126, it says that we should always pray. When we have problems or need help, we'll receive an answer."

Whether standing together or standing alone, the youth of the Frankfurt Germany Stake are gathering strength in the gospel of Jesus Christ. And this strength will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives. ■



## PREPARING FOR A MISSION

**T**he young men in Frankfurt are thinking about their future missionary service and how to prepare for it. Pasquele Picket says: "I'm going on a mission after my education. You don't know where you'll go, to what country, but approaching people, seeing if they're interested in the Church, is something I need to prepare for. Most important for me are prayer and faith."



*Pasquele*

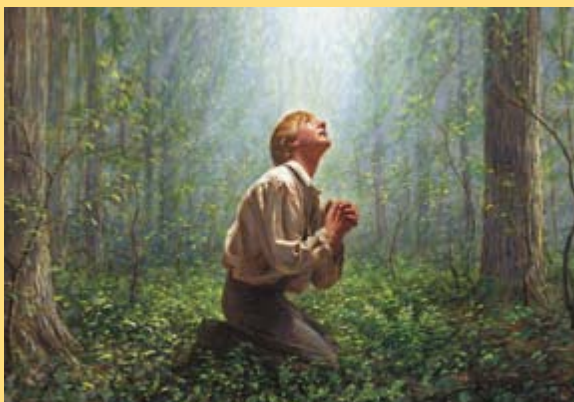
Benjamin Rumbach is also preparing in a number of ways: "Sometimes when my classmates have a question, they already know that I belong to the Church. I don't always bear my testimony directly, but sometimes I do. I've also had some experiences at street displays with the missionaries. I liked that."

He says spiritual preparation is most important. "You need to get a strong testimony and bear testimony and develop this joy in the gospel so that you can also show it to other people, because then they say, 'He's happy. I want to be like him; he has something.'"

In his own preparation, Benjamin has gained some experience relevant to missionary service. He recalls: "As I sat in a train on my way home, I entered into a conversation with a neighboring passenger. As I told her about the gospel, the scripture from Joseph Smith—History 1:15–24 came to me as a way to explain to her how the Church has been restored. As I read it to her, tears came to my eyes, and I felt that what I was talking about was something very special. I think she felt it too, and we definitely wanted to talk with each other about it later. In any case, it was an experience that strengthened my testimony, especially of the Restoration."



*Benjamin R.*



*Reading about the First Vision in Joseph Smith—History 1:15–24 helped Benjamin explain the Restoration to someone.*

I SAW A LIGHT, BY JON MCNAUGHTON



By Sarah Cutler  
and Ryan Johnson  
*Based on a true story*

# We're All Shoes

*"The Lord God giveth  
light unto the under-  
standing; for he speaketh  
unto men according to  
their language, unto  
their understanding"  
(2 Nephi 31:3).*

**T**he children in Ryan's new neighborhood were from all over the world: Australia, Canada, Egypt, England, India, Kuwait, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, the United States, and Vietnam.

Ryan had been amazed to meet people from so many places, but he noticed that sometimes children in

the park played only with other children who spoke the same language. Ryan couldn't understand why everyone didn't want to play together, no matter where they were from or what language they spoke. Sometimes children from one country would be mean to children from another country. That made Ryan sad.

Ryan wondered what he could do, but it was hard to think of anything. He couldn't just tell everyone to be friends—because they spoke so many different languages, they wouldn't understand.

One day Ryan's family took a walk down the street. Some of the boys who had been mean were





outside. One of them was holding a football. Ryan liked to play football too. Getting up his courage, Ryan walked over to the boys. He knew a few words of their language, and they knew a little of his. Ryan and the boys started smiling and laughing as they tried out the different languages. Then Ryan pointed to the football. “Do you want to play football with me?” he asked slowly, hoping they would understand. He smiled extra big.

The boys looked at him, then at each other. They talked for a minute, but Ryan couldn’t understand the words. Then they looked back at Ryan and nodded. Ryan grinned,

and they ran to the nearby park. Ryan waved to his friends who spoke English, and a little shyly, they walked over. One boy set down the football, and the game began.

A while later Ryan took a quick break to run home for a drink of water.

“How’s it going out there?” Mom asked.

“Great!” Ryan said. “It’s like this, Mom. We’re all shoes!”

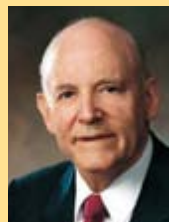
“Shoes?” Mom asked.

“Sure. We’re all different, but we all wear two shoes—and that’s all you need for football.”

“Good discovery,” Mom said. “You’re all children of Heavenly

Father, and you’re more alike than you think.”

Ryan waved as he ran back out the door to play with his new friends.



**W**e need to extend the hand of friendship. We need to be kinder.”

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95), “A More Excellent Way,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 61.

After that day the children in the neighborhood went to the park every Thursday to play football together. It didn’t matter what languages they spoke or where they were from—they were all shoes, and that was enough. ■

# A 10-YEAR-OLD TEACHER

*"I will make an instrument of thee in my hands unto the salvation of many souls" (Alma 17:11).*

Chance skipped into his aunt's home after a long drive. He and his mother and younger brother were excited to be visiting her. "Hi, Aunt Barbie!" Chance exclaimed as he hugged his aunt. "Do you have any crayons and scissors?"

Aunt Barbie smiled and got Chance settled at the kitchen table with the supplies.

As Aunt Barbie made dinner, she glanced at Chance's project. "What are you drawing, Chance?" she asked.

"I'm coloring a picture I got in Primary," Chance said. He carefully filled in the black-and-white figures with bright colors. "After we eat, can we have family home evening?" Chance asked. "I have a lesson I would like to teach."

"That would be very nice," Aunt Barbie said. "Thank you, Chance!"

After dinner Aunt Barbie invited her roommate to join them for family home evening. The roommate wasn't a member of the Church, and she was curious about the family gathering.

Chance began the lesson by

asking, "Where did we come from?" Then he held up a picture he had colored of the spirit world. He asked more questions and showed colorful drawings about Heavenly Father's plan. Finally, Chance asked, "Does anyone know the name of this plan?"

Aunt Barbie's roommate said, "I don't. What is it?"

"It is the plan of salvation," Chance said, smiling. "Because of it, we can be together forever with our family."

After the lesson, Aunt Barbie took Chance aside. "Chance, you just helped my roommate learn about Heavenly Father's plan. Thank you," she said.

Chance didn't say anything for a moment. Then he asked, "Why do I feel funny inside? I feel warm and happy."

"That is the Holy Ghost testifying to you that what you just taught is true," Aunt Barbie said. "I'm sure Heavenly Father is very happy with you."

Chance got a big smile on his face. He was glad he could teach someone about Heavenly Father's plan of happiness. ■

## The Plan of Salvation

In the story "A 10-Year-Old Teacher," Chance taught about the plan of salvation. Look at the pictures on this page, and then draw your own on a separate piece of paper. Cut out your drawings, look up the scriptures, and then talk about the plan of salvation with a family member or friend. Or ask your parents if you can talk about it in family home evening.

### What is the plan of salvation?

Before we were born, we lived with Heavenly Father as His spirit children. We accepted His plan so we could be born on earth, have a body, and be tested. Heavenly Father would send His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, to overcome death and to atone for our sins. By faithfully following Heavenly Father's plan, we can return to Him. (See Abraham 3:23–28.)

### Where did I come from?

We lived with our heavenly parents in our premortal life. Sadly, one-third of Heavenly Father's spirit children did not accept His plan. They chose to follow Satan, then known as Lucifer. Lucifer didn't want us to be able to make our own choices. A war of ideas was fought in heaven, and Lucifer and his followers were cast out. You are on earth because you chose Heavenly Father's plan. (See Revelation 12:7–9.)



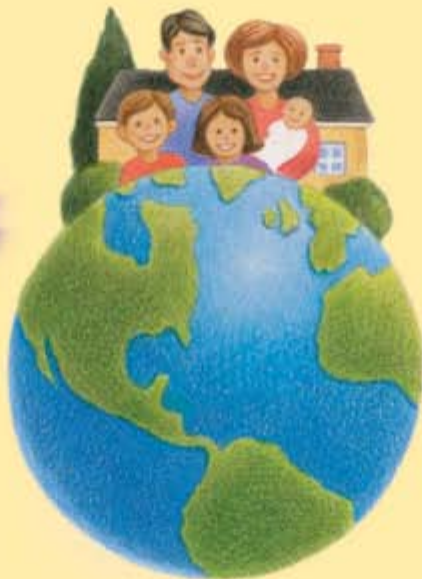
## Premortal Life

D&C 138:55–56



## Earth Life

D&C 59:23



## Spirit World

D&C 138:5–15



### Why am I here?

When we come to earth, we gain bodies, live in families, and experience joy as we follow Heavenly Father's plan for us. While we are here, we need to receive the ordinances that will help us return to Heavenly Father: baptism, confirmation, priesthood ordinations for young men, and temple ordinances, including celestial marriage. The Holy Ghost helps guide us to do what is right while we are away from our heavenly home. (See 2 Nephi 32:5.)

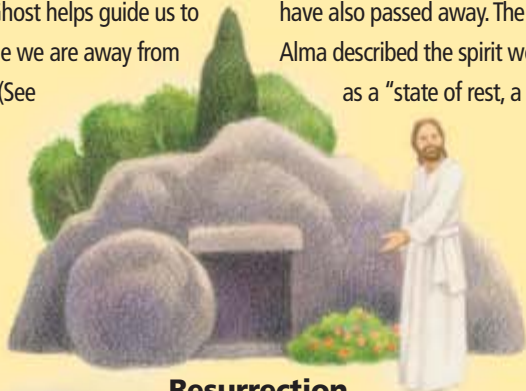
### Where will I go when I die?

When your body dies, your spirit will continue to live, and it will go to the spirit world. The spirit world is a wonderful place where you will be reunited with your family members who have also passed away. The prophet Alma described the spirit world as a "state of rest, a

state of peace" for the righteous (Alma 40:12).

Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people will be resurrected. Resurrection is when your body and spirit are reunited. After a period of peace called the Millennium, the Lord will judge all people, and most people will enter one of three kingdoms of glory: the telestial, terrestrial, or celestial kingdom. Wicked people who fought against Jesus Christ and denied

the Holy Ghost will be sent to a place called outer darkness. (See 2 Nephi 9:15; Alma 40:11–12.) ■



## Resurrection

D&C 88:14–17



## Final Judgment

2 Nephi 9:15–17



## Telestial Kingdom

D&C 76:98–102



## Terrestrial Kingdom

D&C 76:77–79



## Celestial Kingdom

D&C 76:50–53

# Knitting Our Hearts Together



By President  
Henry B. Eyring  
First Counselor in  
the First Presidency

*The Lord's prophets have always called for unity.*

**I** was invited to kneel at bedtime with a family when I was a guest in their home. The smallest child was asked to be voice. He prayed for every person in the family, by name. I opened my eyes for an instant to see the faces of the other children and the parents. I could tell that they were joining their faith and their hearts in that little boy's prayer.

The miracle of unity is granted to us as we pray and work for it. Our hearts will be knit together in unity.

In Mosiah we read: "And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in



love one towards another" (Mosiah 18:21).

The children of God have more in common than they have differences. Speak well of each other. You might remember your mother saying—mine did—"If you can't say anything good about a person, don't say anything at all." I can promise you a feeling of peace and joy when you speak generously of others.

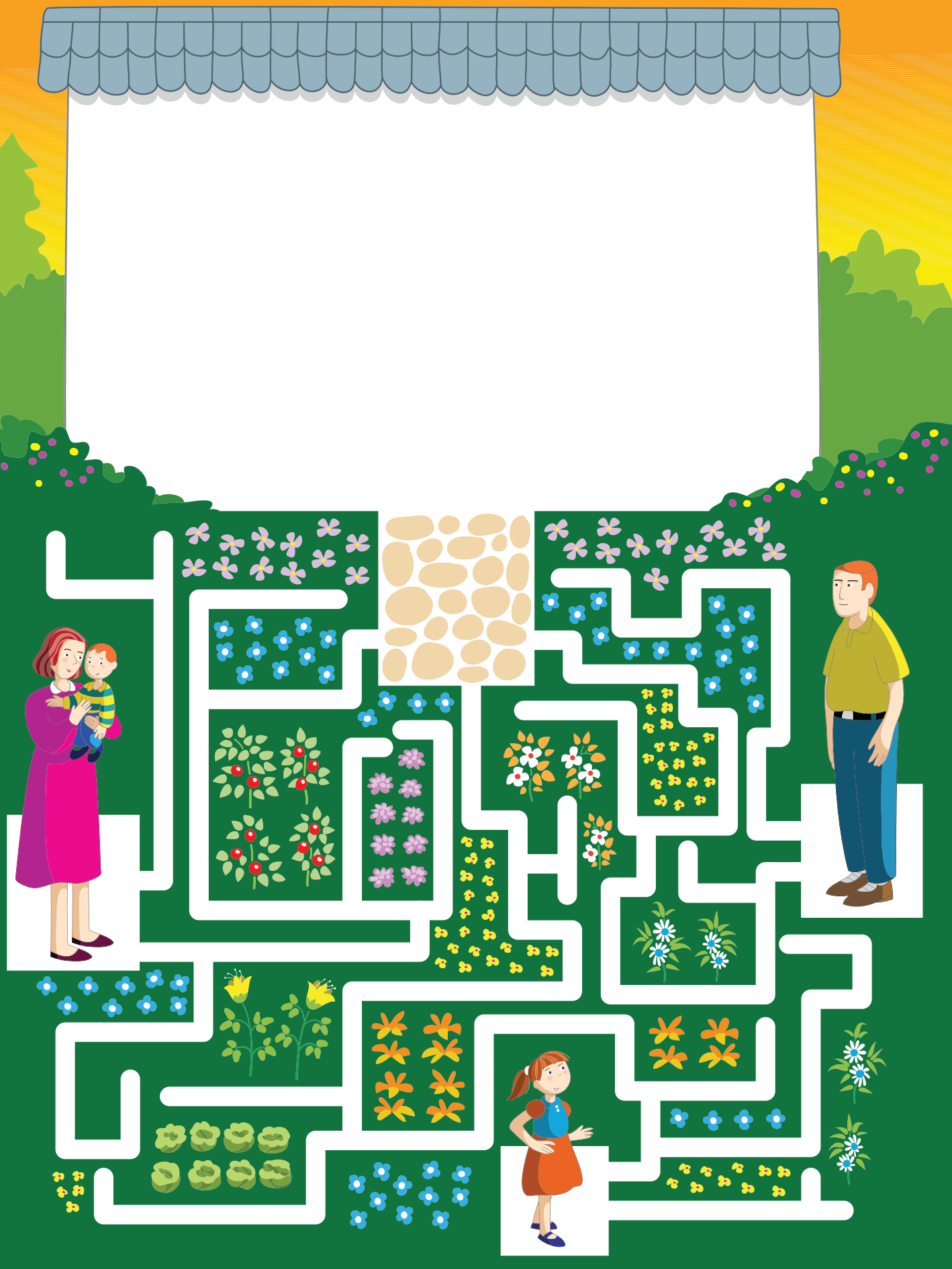
I bear you my solemn witness that God the Father lives. He hears and answers our prayers. The Savior Jesus Christ lives and reaches out to us in mercy. This is His true Church. President Thomas S. Monson is the living prophet of God. If we are united in sustaining him with all our hearts, with willing obedience, we will move together in power to go wherever God would have us go and to become what He wants us to be. ■

*From an October 2008 general conference address.*

## FAMILY MAZE

**T**he family in the maze wants to be united. Find the way for each family member to get to the same path. Then draw a picture of your own family in the house.





# JESUS CHRIST

## Is the Son of God, and He Is a God of Miracles

By Sandra Tanner and  
Cristina Franco

**M**any artists use their knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ and their skills and imaginations to create drawings of Him. Their drawings can help our faith and understanding of Jesus grow. When we read the scriptures, we can use our imaginations, as artists do, to help us understand what Jesus was teaching.

In the New Testament you will find stories about the miracles Jesus performed when He lived on the earth. One of them is in Mark 4:35–39. Read the story; then imagine you were in the boat with Jesus and His disciples on the Sea of Galilee. Imagine a great storm. The ship rocks to and fro, the wind howls, and the water splashes around you. Imagine what you would be thinking and feeling. Now imagine seeing the disciples as they wake Jesus. Think about how the Lord’s voice sounded when He rose and said,



“Peace, be still.” Imagine how the sea looked when the wind stopped blowing and how amazed the disciples were when the wind and the sea obeyed Jesus.

How does reading and thinking about this story help you have more faith in Jesus Christ?

We too can be artists and show our faith and understanding of Jesus by drawing pictures of the miracles He performed and by using our pictures to teach others what we have learned.

### August 2010 Scripture Journal

*Read 2 Nephi 27:23.*

*Pray to Heavenly Father to know that Jesus Christ is “a God of miracles.”*

*Memorize 2 Nephi 27:23.*

*Choose one of these activities, or create your own:*

- Help someone else memorize 2 Nephi 27:23.
- Think of a scripture story about another of Christ’s miracles. Imagine what it might have looked like; then draw pictures of what happened. Share the story and your pictures in family home evening.
- Share your testimony of Jesus Christ by memorizing this month’s scripture and repeating it to someone.
- The illustrations on page 63 show how one artist imagined the miracle of Jesus calming the storm. Cut out the pictures, and mount them on heavier paper. Use the pictures to tell the story in family home evening or to a friend.

How does what you have done help you understand 2 Nephi 27:23?

*Write in your journal about what you have done.* ■







# Queen Esther Saves Jehovah's People

By Diane L. Mangum

## THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

**G**od, our Heavenly Father, is the father of our spirits. He loves and watches over us always. We worship Him and pray to Him.

*Jehovah* is another name for Jesus Christ. He is Heavenly Father's oldest son. Heavenly Father directed Him to create the world and to help people return to Heavenly Father's presence. When Jehovah speaks to people, He says what Heavenly Father would have Him say.

In the Old Testament, Jehovah is usually referred to as "the Lord." After He was born in Bethlehem, He was known as Jesus Christ.



*The account of Esther is found in Esther 2-9.*

**E**sther nervously walked into the grand palace at Shushan. Beautiful banners hung from tall pillars. The marble floors were red, blue, black, and white. Even the drinking cups were made of gold. Then she saw the king sitting on his great throne.

King Ahasuerus ruled over all of Persia. He had commanded that the loveliest young women in the kingdom be brought to the palace so he could choose a new queen. Esther was one of those beautiful young women.

Esther had been raised by her cousin, Mordecai, after her parents died. Mordecai told

Esther not to tell anyone at the palace that she was a Jew. The Jews believed in Jehovah, but the king did not.

When King Ahasuerus saw Esther, he chose her above all the other young women.

He made her the new queen. Now Esther would wear rich clothing and a royal crown. But she could not return to her home or worship God openly.

Every day Mordecai came to the palace gate to find out if Esther was all right. One day Haman, the king's chief minister, saw him. Haman demanded that Mordecai bow down to him. But Mordecai refused. He bowed only to God.

Haman was furious. He told the king that the Jews would not obey the laws and should be killed. The king sent out a decree that all of the Jews in the kingdom were to be killed.

When Queen Esther heard about the awful decree, she sent word to Mordecai. What should they do?

Mordecai said that Esther must talk to the king to save the lives of the Jewish people. He said that Esther had a special mission to perform. Perhaps she had been chosen as queen





## HELPS FOR PARENTS

**T**he *Old Testament Visual Resource* DVDs offer over 300 multimedia helps for teaching the Old Testament.

The three-DVD set (item no. 00492) contains music, videos, charts, quotations from Church leaders, and *Old Testament Stories* for children. It is available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish from Distribution Services.



so she could save the people who believed in Jehovah.

Esther was frightened. Anyone who went to see the king without being invited could be put to death—even the queen. Esther gathered her courage and faith. She told Mordecai to ask all the Jewish people to fast with her for three days.

After three days Esther dressed in her royal robes and went to the door of the throne

room. King Ahasuerus saw her and beckoned for her to come and talk to him. Esther invited the king and his minister Haman to a banquet.

At the banquet Esther told the king how Haman had plotted to kill the Jews. She said that she was Jewish too. King Ahasuerus was very angry. He could not take back the decree, but he quickly sent

riders on mules and camels with a new decree. It said the Jews could defend themselves against anyone who tried to kill them. The lives of many Jews were saved.

Throughout the land the Jewish people celebrated the courage of Queen Esther with a great feast called Purim. ■

*"Be of good comfort" (Matthew 9:22).*

# A Hug for Jennifer

By Jennifer Ricks

*Based on a true story*

Jennifer shut her bedroom door and threw herself on the bed. She wiped the hot, wet tears from her cheeks and tried to quiet her sobs.

She had just argued with her older brother and sister. Mom and Dad had left to go to the grocery store, and it felt like they would never come home.

Jennifer felt horrible. As much as she tried to stop her lip from trembling, she still felt very unhappy. "If Mom and Dad were home, things would feel a lot better," she thought.

Then Jennifer remembered something she had learned about prayer in Primary. "You can pray anytime," her Primary teacher had said. "You can pray when you feel happy and when you feel sad."

Jennifer knelt beside her bed. She threw the

blanket over her head so that she wouldn't be interrupted if someone opened the door. She dried her tears again, folded her arms, and began to pray.

"Heavenly Father," she said, "please forgive me for fighting with my brother and sister today. And please help me to feel better. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

Now Jennifer didn't feel like crying anymore. Slowly, the hurt feeling inside changed into a warm, peaceful feeling. She felt as good and as loved as if someone were giving her a hug.

When her parents came home later, Jennifer had apologized and was playing with her brother and sister again. As Mom walked through the door, Jennifer ran and gave her a hello hug. A hug from Mom felt wonderful, but Jennifer had learned that even when Mom wasn't home, she could feel the comforting love of Heavenly Father. ■



**H**eavenly Father answers all sincere prayers."

Bishop Keith B. McMullin, Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, "God Loves and Helps All of His Children," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 76.

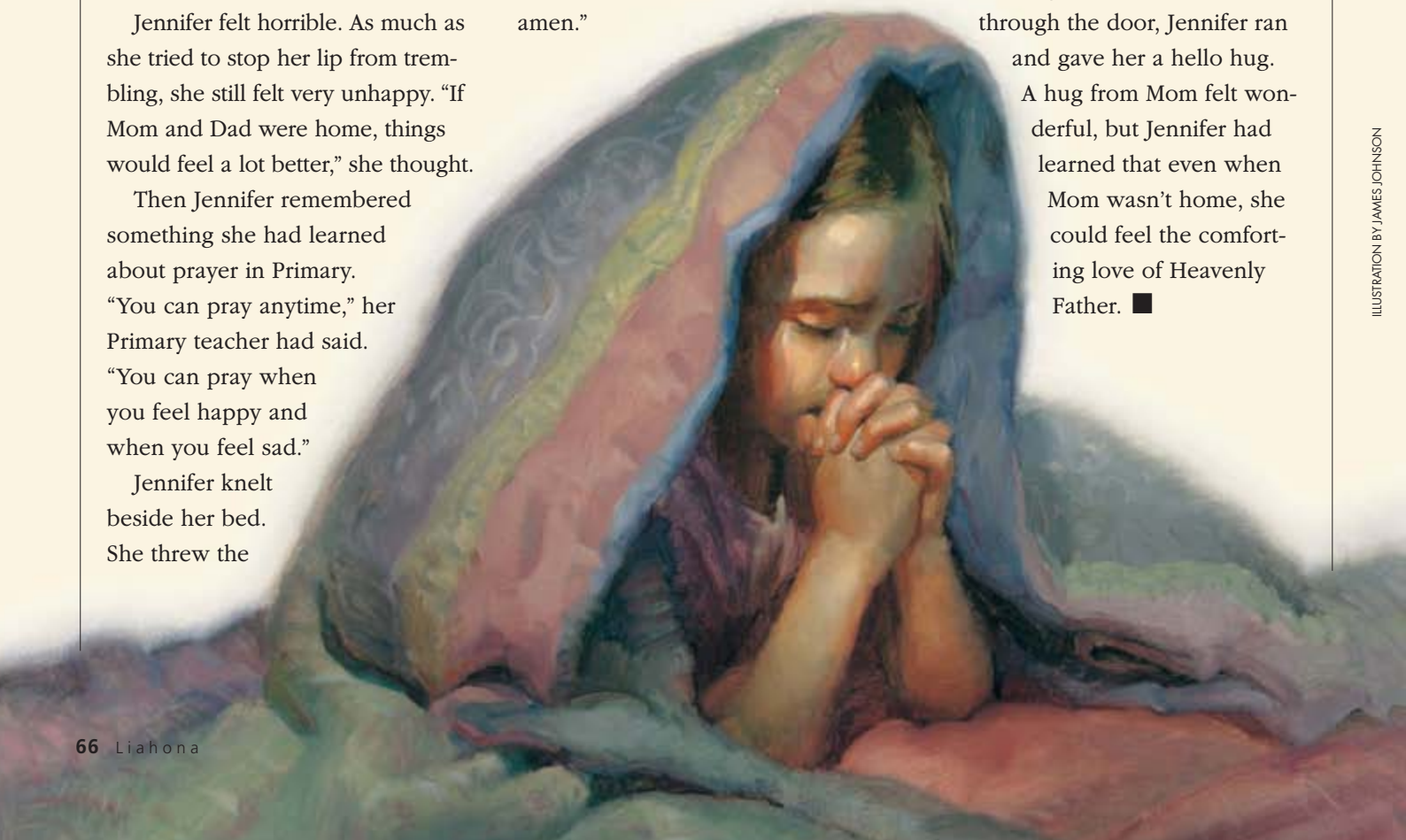


ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES JOHNSON



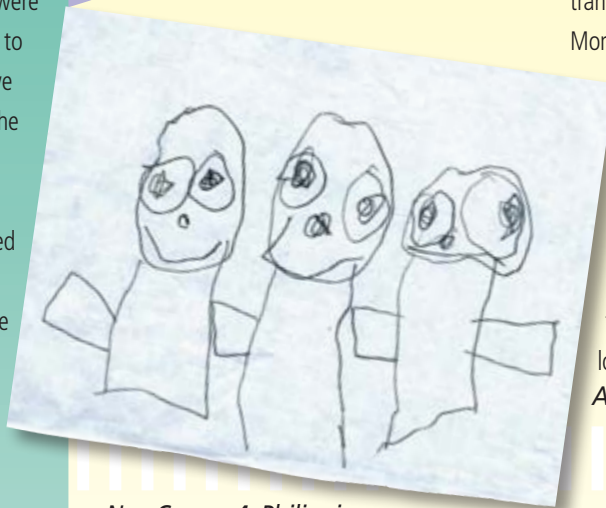


*Alma F., age 11, Costa Rica*



**O**ne Sunday after church, my mother, my brothers, and I were in the car ready to go home. But we could not find the car key. Our dad had put all our bags in the car and walked home with my younger sister in the stroller. We looked everywhere for the key, but we could not find it. In Primary and family home evening, I have learned that we should always pray when we need help. I told my mom that we should pray so Heavenly Father could help us. My mom was very happy, and we prayed together. Suddenly our grandmother drove up and brought us the key. Our dad had accidentally taken the key and sent it back with our grandmother. I know that Heavenly Father helped us by sending our grandmother. He will always help us, even through other people.

*Samuel K., age 5, Germany*



*Neo C., age 4, Philippines*



**P**resident Monson asked all the children to help someone who needs it. My mother has seven children, and I help her clean the kitchen every morning, which makes her very happy. I am happy and feel that she is happy too when I help her. I think President Monson would be happy, and so would Jesus, that I am helping my mother and obeying my parents.

*Mylena L., age 11, São Paulo, Brazil*

**I** know the Prophet Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon. I love the stories I read about Jesus in the scriptures. I know Jesus loves me and all little children very much. I want to learn more about Jesus in Primary. I am happy to go to church with my family every Sunday. I love my family.

*Adrial T., age 5, Malaysia*



**I**f you would like to submit a drawing, photo, experience, testimony, or letter for Our Page, e-mail it to [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org), with "Our Page" in the subject line.

Each submission **must** include the

child's full name, gender, and age plus the parent's name, ward or branch, and stake or district, and the parent's written permission (e-mail is acceptable) to use the child's photo and submission. Submissions may be edited for clarity or length.

# New Friends, Old Friends

*"A friend loveth at all times"*  
(Proverbs 17:17).

**By Jane McBride Choate**

*Based on a true story*

1. It was Sunday morning, and Lissa was nervous. Her ward boundaries had been changed. That meant she would be going to a new ward today. Dad and Mom saw that Lissa was worried.



3. At church Lissa walked into the Primary room. She saw some of her friends from her old ward, but there were a lot of new faces too. In class Lissa and the other children played a game to help them learn each other's names. The new children seemed nice.



4. After class Lissa found her parents and little brother waiting for her in the hall.

Mom, do you think I can invite the new children to our house on my birthday too?

That's a great idea.



5. That week Lissa and Mom made invitations for children in their old ward and for children in their new ward.

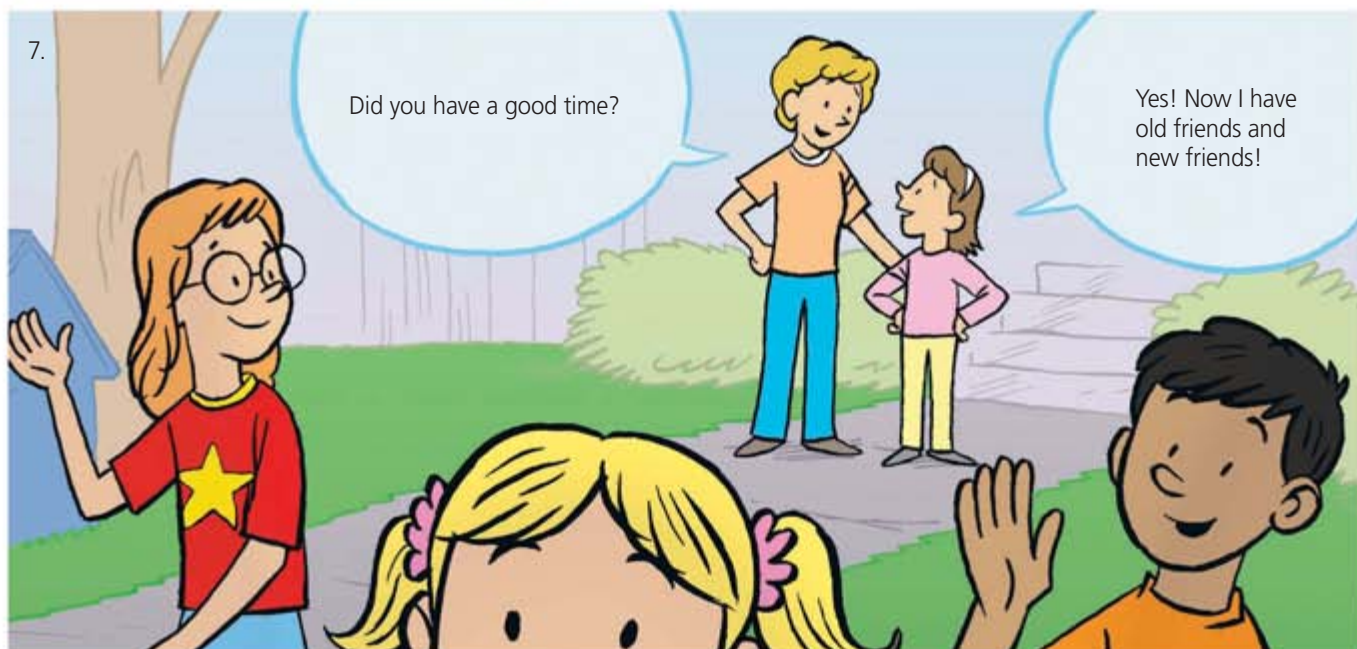


6. On Lissa's birthday, all the children arrived. They played the game she played in Primary so everyone could learn the names of everybody else.

7.

Did you have a good time?

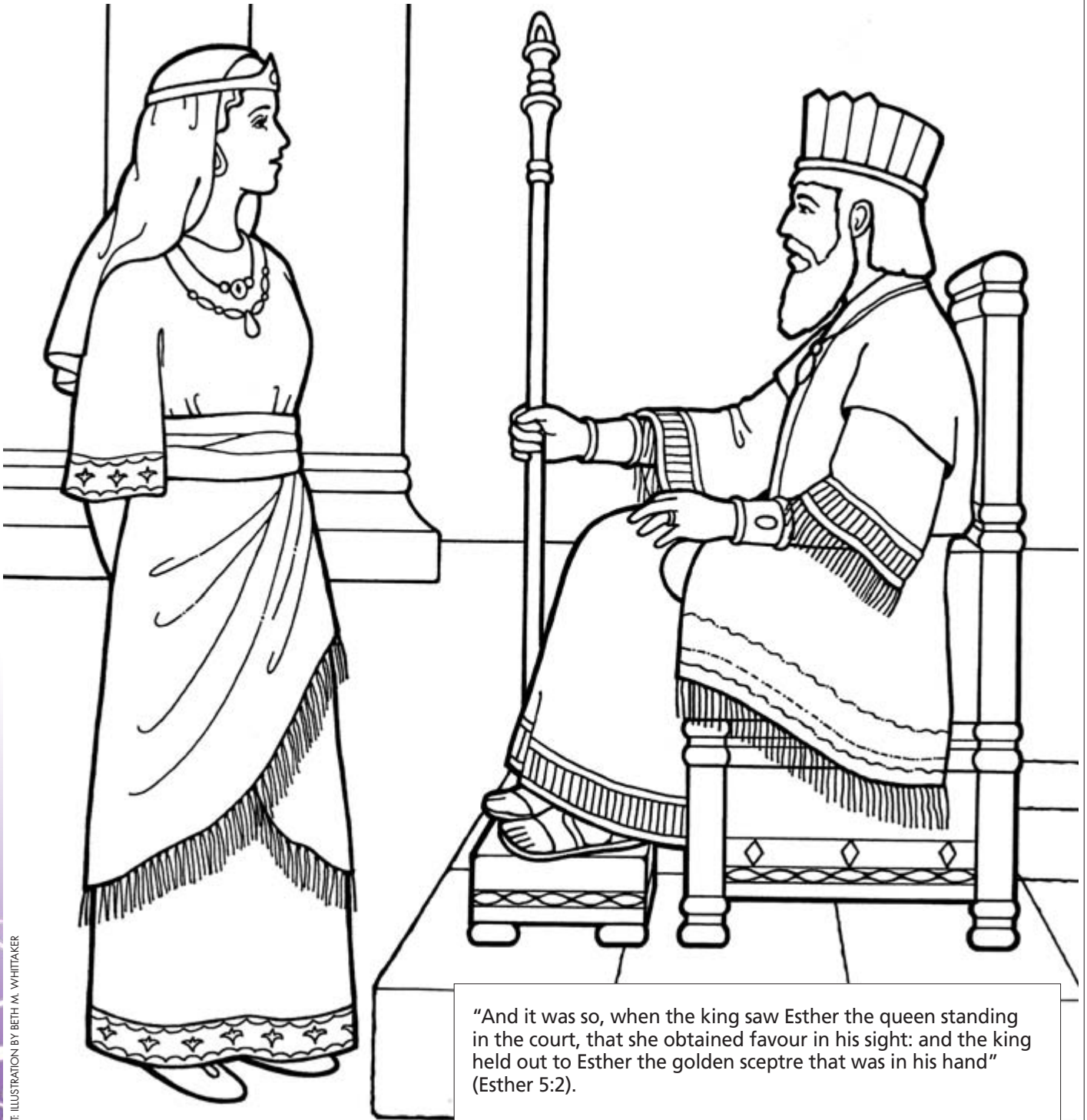
Yes! Now I have old friends and new friends!



## SHEET: ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM KOEFOED



# Esther Pleads with the King



"And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand" (Esther 5:2).

# Our Parental Duty to God and to the Rising Generation

*The Lord has given us the charge to “bring up [our] children in light and truth.” May we respond to this charge with faith and determination to fulfill our duty to the rising generation.*

**By Elder Robert D. Hales**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

One of a parent’s most important responsibilities is to teach. As declared in “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” “parents have a sacred duty . . . to teach [their children—sons and daughters] to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live.”<sup>1</sup>

I can still remember a powerful teaching moment from my mother in Brooklyn, New York, USA, 70 years ago. After my father had baptized me and while I was still in my wet baptismal clothes, my mother sat me down on a rusted metal folding chair in front of the baptismal font. She reviewed with me the importance of baptism by priesthood authority, the purpose of my baptismal covenant to take upon myself the name of Jesus Christ, and the law of obedience. Then she asked me how I felt. I remember telling her I had a warm feeling all over and that I would like to feel that way for the rest of my life.

My mother looked into my eyes and taught me that in a few moments my father would lay his hands upon my head and would confirm





me a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He would confer upon me the gift of the Holy Ghost, she said, and if I remained worthy, true, and faithful to the commandments, the Holy Ghost would be with me to provide guidance and direction throughout my life. Although I had this experience with my mother many years ago, I have never forgotten that important *teaching moment*.

Do we as parents realize the power of teaching moments in the lives of our children? Do we recognize the urgency of our duty

to help our children understand and live gospel principles? A foundation of faith and testimony will help our children not only endure life's difficulties but also enjoy the fulness of Heavenly Father's blessings.

### Set in Order Your Own House

The purpose of the Lord's work is "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39). Parents can help accomplish this great work by teaching their children "the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands" (D&C 68:25).



In a revelation given through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord rebuked Frederick G. Williams (1787–1842), a member of the First Presidency, for not teaching his children as he should:

“You have not taught your children light and truth, according to the commandments; and that wicked one hath power, as yet, over you, and this is the cause of your affliction.

“And now a commandment I give unto you—if you will be delivered you shall set in order your own house, for there are many things that are not right in your house” (D&C 93:42–43).

Do we have the courage to teach light and truth in our homes? Or are we experiencing affliction within our families because we are neglecting these duties? As we ponder and pray, we will be given spiritual strength and guidance to help us set our homes in order.

### A House of Learning

The scriptures direct us to “establish . . . a house of learning” (D&C 88:119). Let me suggest several ways we as parents can fulfill this duty to God and to our children.

**Focus the minds and hearts of children on the Savior.** Faith and testimony must be centered in Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice. We should express to our children our own feelings about the Savior and share scriptures or experiences that have strengthened our testimony of Him. We should help them understand the significance of the Atonement and how it



**For more information on changes to Personal Progress, visit [PersonalProgress.lds.org](http://PersonalProgress.lds.org) and see Elaine S. Dalton, “What’s New in Personal Progress?” New Era, Jan. 2010, 32–35; and Heather Whittle, “Changing the World One Virtuous Woman at a Time,” Liahona and Ensign, Jan. 2010, 74–75.**

can be a daily blessing in their lives.

Enos knew of Jesus Christ and His gospel because he “had often heard [his] father speak concerning eternal life” (Enos 1:3). The stripling warriors “had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them” (Alma 56:47). We take inspiration from these words of the Nephites: “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; emphasis added).

**Lead and teach by example.** In many ways, our actions speak louder than our words. President Brigham Young (1801–77) taught: “We should set [our children] an example that we wish them to imitate. Do we realize this? How often we see parents demand obedience, good behavior, kind words, pleasant looks, a sweet voice and a bright eye from a child or children when they themselves are full of bitterness and scolding! How inconsistent and unreasonable this is!”<sup>2</sup> Our children will notice

such inconsistencies in us and perhaps find justification for acting in similar ways.

We might well ask ourselves such questions as: Do our children see us faithfully fulfilling our Church callings, going to the temple regularly where possible, and serving others with Christlike concern and compassion? Do our actions tell them that gospel living is not a burden but rather a joy? Let us ensure that our examples help our children understand what



it means to build one's life on a foundation of faith and testimony.

**Establish righteous patterns in the home.** We need to take every opportunity to invite the Spirit of the Lord into our homes. One way we do this is by regularly practicing the “small things”—family prayer, family scripture study, and family home evening. As we make these things part of the pattern of our lives, they will make a big difference in the development of our children's testimonies. Let us remember the words of the Lord given through the Prophet Joseph Smith: “Be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great” (D&C 64:33).

Another important pattern to establish in the home is to live the Lord's standards regarding the use of media. With the advent of digital media has come increased access to degrading material, but we also have increased access to that which is beautiful and edifying. Let us encourage our children by precept and by example to seek after that which is “virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy” (Articles of Faith 1:13).

**Encourage meaningful personal prayer and scripture study.** So much of our children's growth in faith and testimony depends on their personal religious practices. We can help them set goals that can make prayer and scripture study a regular habit in their lives.

We will be more successful in making the scriptures a part of our children's lives if the scriptures are also a part of our lives. As we interact with our children, we can refer to the scriptures often in a variety of settings. Teaching moments can occur just about

## Revisions to *Fulfilling My Duty to God: For Aaronic Priesthood Holders*

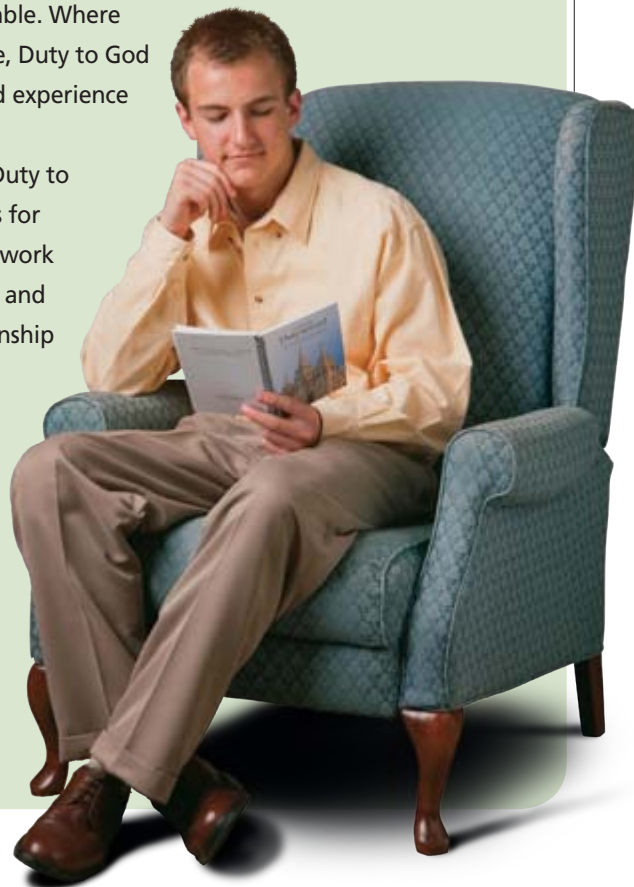
In an ongoing effort to strengthen the young men of the Church, the First Presidency has announced revisions to Duty to God.

For young men, fulfilling their duty to God is a lifelong journey—one that is more about becoming worthy fathers and priesthood holders than being recognized for specific activities and accomplishments. The revised version of Duty to God focuses on helping young men strengthen their testimonies and their relationship with God, learn to fulfill their priesthood duties, and live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.

This version of Duty to God is based on Doctrine and Covenants 107:99: “Let every man learn his duty, and . . . act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.” It invites young men to engage in learning activities, make specific plans to act on what they have learned, and share their experiences with parents, other quorum members, and leaders. The revised version of Duty to God also provides activities relating to physical, educational, and social development.

These activities complement rather than compete with Scouting, where Scouting is available. Where Scouting is not available, Duty to God provides a well-rounded experience for young men.

This new version of Duty to God gives opportunities for parents and advisers to work closely with young men and strengthen their relationship with them. ■



anywhere as long as we are prepared to take advantage of them.

Mealtimes, for example, can provide a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to share thoughts and feelings. We can ask our children what they have been learning from their scripture study. What questions do they have about what they are reading? What are some of their favorite passages? We can share with them some of our favorites and tell them why these passages mean so much to us. We should include in our discussions the words of the living prophets and encourage our children to read these words as found in the Church magazines.

**Use tools the Church provides to parents.** Every good builder knows the value of good tools—they can make a seemingly overwhelming task much more manageable. The Church has provided many useful tools parents can use to help their children build a foundation of faith and testimony.

One recent example is the newly revised version of Duty to God for young men. Personal Progress, also recently revised, is a wonderful and powerful tool intended for young women. The benefits that our youth experience from Duty to God and Personal Progress will be significantly enhanced as parents participate and support them in their efforts.

For example, revisions to Duty to God and Personal Progress encourage youth to share with family members the goals, experiences, and feelings they are having as they make plans



*For more information about Duty to God, see “New Duty to God Program Announced,” Liahona and Ensign, May 2010, 136; and visit [DutyToGod.lds.org](http://DutyToGod.lds.org). This site includes an interactive version of the booklet, with resources to help young men better understand how to fulfill their duty to God.*

and act on the things they are learning. Parents, this is a golden opportunity to have gospel conversations with your children that can enrich your relationship with them. The setting for such conversations does not need to be formal; some of the best opportunities for strengthening your children can occur during informal “conversations along the way.”<sup>3</sup>

Take time to become familiar with the revisions to Duty to God and Personal Progress and to support your sons and daughters in their goals. As you work alongside your sons and daughters and share with them your experiences, regularly ask them what they are learning and experiencing. Please make good use of these tools to solidify your children’s foundation of faith and testimony.

It is my hope that by following these suggestions, we as parents in the Church will be able to help our children lay a foundation of faith and testimony that will withstand whatever storms lie ahead. In the process, we ourselves will grow spiritually and develop bonds of love with our children that will last into eternity. The Lord has given us the charge to “bring up [our] children in light and truth” (D&C 93:40). May we respond to this charge with faith and determination to fulfill our duty to the rising generation. ■

#### NOTES

1. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liahona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* (1997), 340–41.
3. *Fulfilling My Duty to God: For Aaronic Priesthood Holders* (booklet, 2010), 98.



## COMMENT

### Help Came Before Needed

I had set a goal to read *all* of the magazine, even if I didn't think I needed a particular article, and that's why I read "Managing Postpartum Depression: A Gospel Perspective," in the August 2009 issue.

But when my daughter was born in October of that year, I immediately recognized the symptoms I was experiencing and quickly got the help I needed, as the article suggested. I recovered in just a few months.

The *Liahona* is more than just a magazine; it is a recipe, a map, a guide, and a compass.

*Bertha Viola Rétiz Espino, Mexico*

### What We Believe

I love the new design of the *Liahona*. My favorite part is What We Believe. New members and those who are not members will find it an excellent source of knowledge and strength. Thank you for the new magazine.

*Jonatan De Oliveira*

*Please send your feedback or suggestions to [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org). Submissions may be edited for length or clarity. ■*

## FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

*This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening. The following are a few examples.*

### "Being Worthy to Enter the Temple,"

page 12: As part of the lesson, you could discuss the temple recommend topics listed in the article. Invite family members to ponder those topics as you read them. Encourage everyone to be worthy of worshipping in the temple.

"Finding Ourselves in Lehi's Dream," page 26: Review the article with your family. At the conclusion, President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, asks us to reread 1 Nephi 8 and other verses in the Book of Mormon that teach the plan of salvation. Consider

reading these scriptures and reflecting on the promise given by President Packer.

"The Lord Placed Him in Our Path," page 48: As you read this story, invite your family to listen for and then discuss the reason the man in the car decided to listen to the missionary lessons. Consider role-playing or discussing ways to act as the Savior would act in various situations.

"A 10-Year-Old Teacher," page 58: After sharing the story, consider inviting family members to think of opportunities when they could be a teacher and what gospel topics they would like to teach. To give them an opportunity to practice teaching, you may want to create a schedule that allows family members to teach in family home evening or other settings.



### Growing Testimonies—and Mission Funds

After hearing Church leaders encourage youth to save money for full-time missions, we held a special family home evening with our two children, 10-year-old Allana and 7-year-old Ulric. We discussed the importance of saving for a full-time mission, then presented them with piggy banks to help them begin saving.

After that evening it was incredible how the money has accumulated. Ulric

collects and saves every coin he can find; both children save any money they receive from relatives. In three months Ulric has saved enough to pay for the first month of his mission, and Allana is almost there. The children also make sure to pay tithing on the money they receive, and our family has seen great blessings as their testimonies of serving and sacrificing have taken root and grown.

*Luiz and Andreia Pereira, São Paulo, Brazil*

### Your Favorite Family Home Evening

Send a description of *your* favorite family home evening to [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org). ■

### 18. Europe



Gerald Caussé  
**First Counselor**



Erich W. Kopischke  
**President**



José A. Teixeira  
**Second Counselor**

### 19. Europe East



Larry R. Lawrence  
**First Counselor**



Gregory A. Schwitzer  
**President**



Aleksandr N. Manzhos\*  
**Second Counselor**

### 20. Middle East/Africa North



Bruce D. Porter



Paul B. Pieper

**Administered from Headquarters**

### 21. Africa West



John B. Dickson  
**First Counselor**



Craig A. Cardon  
**President**



Joseph W. Sitati  
**Second Counselor**

### 22. Africa Southeast



F. Michael Watson  
**First Counselor**



Paul E. Koelliker  
**President**



Dale G. Renlund  
**Second Counselor**

### 23. Asia



Kent D. Watson  
**First Counselor**



Anthony D. Perkins  
**President**



Carl B. Pratt  
**Second Counselor**

### 24. Asia North



Yoon Hwan Choi  
**First Counselor**



Gary E. Stevenson  
**President**



Koichi Aoyagi  
**Second Counselor**

### 25. Philippines



Won Yong Ko  
**First Counselor**



Keith R. Edwards  
**President**



Michael John U. Teh  
**Second Counselor**

### 26. Pacific



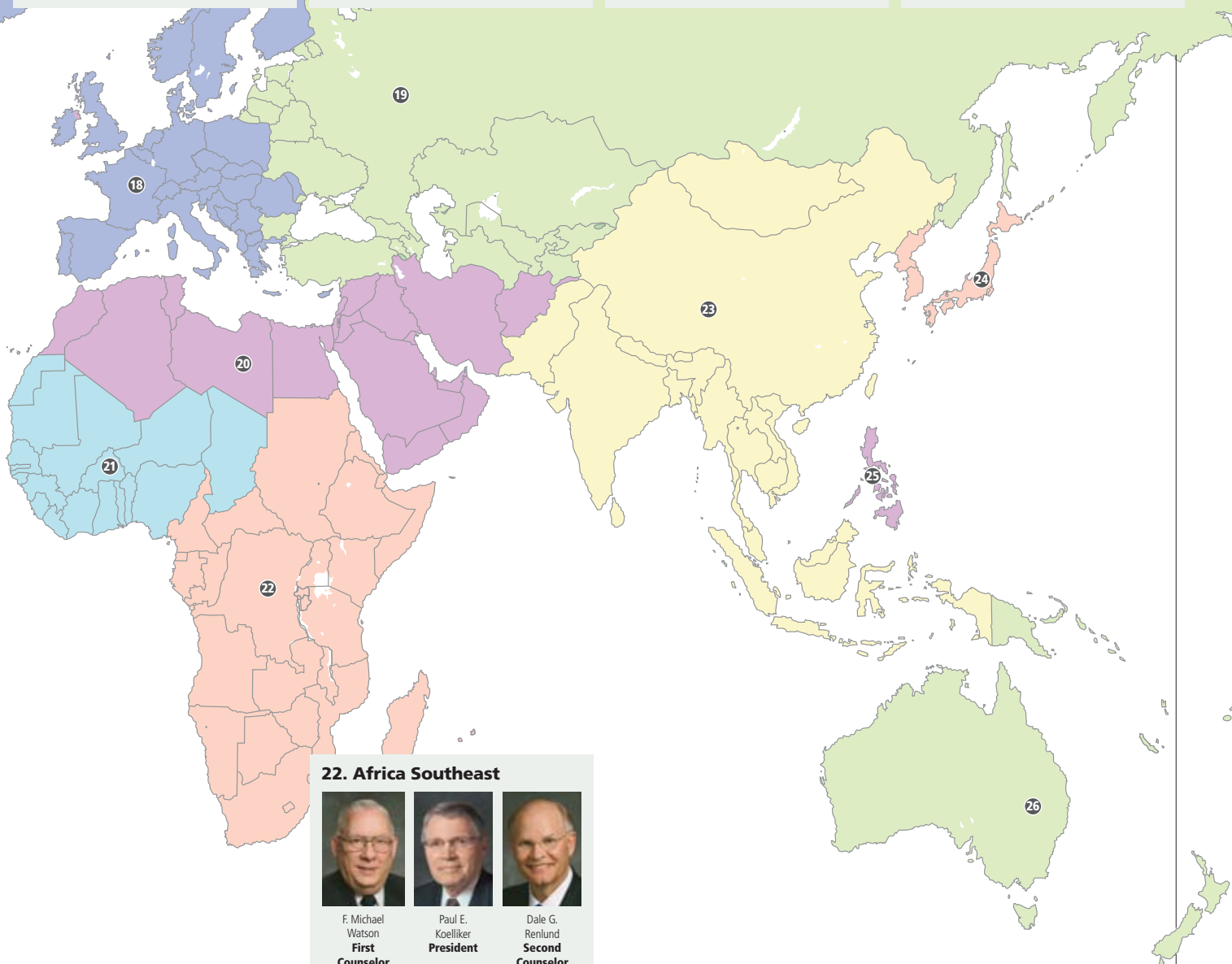
James J. Hamula  
**First Counselor**



Tad R. Callister  
**President**



Brent H. Nielson  
**Second Counselor**





# New Area Leadership Assignments

The First Presidency has announced changes in area leadership assignments effective on August 1, 2010. All members of Area Presidencies are members of the First or Second Quorums of the Seventy except as noted.

## Presidency of the Seventy



Ronald A. Rasband  
Assists  
in All Areas



Claudio R. M. Costa  
1. North  
America  
Southwest



Steven E. Snow  
2. Utah North  
3. Utah  
Salt Lake City  
4. Utah South



Walter F. González  
5. North  
America  
Southeast



L. Whitney Clayton  
6. North  
America  
Northwest  
7. North  
America West



Jay E. Jensen  
8. North  
America  
Northeast



Donald L. Hallstrom  
9. Idaho  
10. North  
America  
Central

## 11. Mexico



Benjamin De Hoyos  
First  
Counselor



Daniel L. Johnson  
President



Octaviano Tenorio  
Second  
Counselor

## 12. Central America



Enrique R. Falabella  
First  
Counselor



Don R. Clarke  
President



James B. Martino  
Second  
Counselor

## 13. Caribbean



Gary J. Coleman  
First  
Counselor



Francisco J. Viñas  
President



Wilford W. Andersen  
Second  
Counselor

## 14. South America Northwest



Rafael E. Pino  
First  
Counselor



Marcus B. Nash  
President



Juan A. Uceda  
Second  
Counselor

## 15. Brazil



Carlos A. Godoy  
First  
Counselor



Ulisses Soares  
President



Jairo Mazzagardi  
Second  
Counselor

## 16. Chile



Lawrence E. Corbridge  
First  
Counselor



Carlos H. Amado  
President



Jorge F. Zeballos  
Second  
Counselor

## 17. South America South



Marcos A. Aidukaitis  
First  
Counselor



Mervyn B. Arnold  
President



Bradley D. Foster  
Second  
Counselor

\*Area Seventy

# TIE A KNOT AND HANG ON

By Karen Paul

I grew up in a small town in Canada. When I was 13, my father lost his job and our family relocated to Edmonton in order to survive. A few months after we moved to the city, my mother and father had a violent argument, resulting in my mother being hospitalized for six months. After a time, she allowed my father back into our household. This devastated me, and I turned to alcohol and drugs to escape the anger welling up inside.

At precisely this time, the missionaries found me. As I met families in the local ward, I was impressed with the respect the spouses had for one another and the affection parents showed their children. At age 16 I was baptized.

My first year of membership demonstrated that I would have to endure some growing pains. I had left behind the friendships and lifestyle that had served as my escape from the violence in my home. Unfortunately, my ward did not seem to offer the comfort of new friendships to fill in the gaps. I didn't feel accepted and was ready to return to my old way of life when a missionary challenged me to stay true to my baptismal covenants. I reluctantly recommitted myself, but I felt as though I was hanging on to a rope that was slipping through my fingers.

Soon afterward I was called to be Laurel class president. I felt very inadequate; there were several Laurels in the ward who were far more qualified. When my new calling was announced, one of the girls in the ward expressed her dissatisfaction. "How could they call you?" she said. "You hardly attend church. What do you know?"

She was right; I didn't know anything. I felt sure my calling would drive many of the Laurels to inactivity—including me. The whole situation seemed too much to bear. If anyone was at the end of her rope, I was.

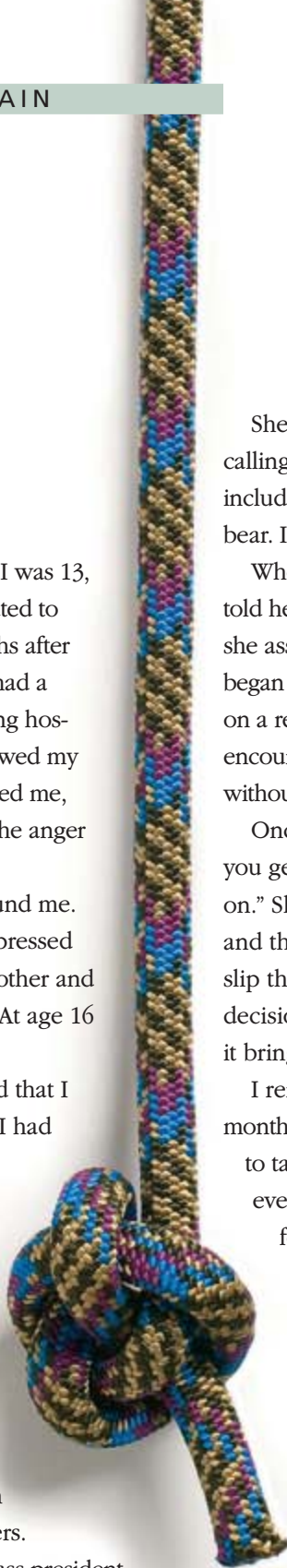
When I met with my class adviser, Marlene Evans, I told her that someone had made a huge error. However, she assured me that I had been called for a reason. She began to work tirelessly with me, and I went to her home on a regular basis to learn my responsibilities. With her encouragement, I could eventually conduct a meeting without my knees knocking together.

Once Sister Evans gave me a card that read, "When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." She indicated that the rope represented life, and that by not taking righteous actions, we let life slip through our fingers. The knot represented the decision to hang on to the gospel and the security it brings.

I remembered that lesson throughout the coming months. I was attending high school full-time in addition to taking correspondence courses. I was working evenings and Saturdays. I paid for my own tuition, fees, books, clothes, and room and board. There were many times I felt I was at the end of my rope. Was I a super kid, doing it all and by myself? No, but I tied a knot and held on.

Today, I am a university graduate, working as a social worker. I married in the temple and have four children. They have been to the temple and have served missions. And I have served in leadership positions in the Young Women organization. Each time I do, I take every opportunity I can to share Sister Evans's message with the youth. Her caring and her message changed my life.

I wouldn't have the abundant blessings I enjoy today if I hadn't learned to tie a knot and hang on. ■







## WORDS OF CHRIST

### *The Lost Lamb, by N. C. Wyeth*

*"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?"*

*"And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.*

*"And when he cometh home, he calleth together*

*his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.*

*"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Luke 15:4-7).*



**Y**ou may think that Lehi's dream or vision has no special meaning for you, but it does," writes President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "You are in it; all of us are in it." See "Finding Ourselves in Lehi's Dream," page 26.