

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • FEBRUARY 2006

# Liahona



**COVER STORY:**  
**Young Adults—Temple Blessings**  
**Even before You Enter, p. 10**

**More Than a Temple Marriage,**  
**p. 16**

**The Plan for My Life, p. F4**



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## FOR ADULTS

- 2 First Presidency Message: Refined in Our Trials  
*President James E. Faust*
- 10 Young Adults and the Temple *Elder Russell M. Nelson*
- 20 Confidence to Marry *Melissa Howell*
- 25 Visiting Teaching Message: Building Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- 30 The Fulness of the Gospel: Life before Birth
- 39 Lessons from the Old Testament: In the World but Not of the World  
*Elder Quentin L. Cook*
- 42 Teaching with Church Magazines *Don L. Searle*
- 44 Latter-day Saint Voices  
Led to a Sandwich Shop  
*Chris L. Cooper*  
I Chose Sunday School  
*Helen Walker Jones*  
Your Wife Is in the  
Hospital!  
*Liu Kuan Feng*
- 48 Comment

## 2 Refined in Our Trials

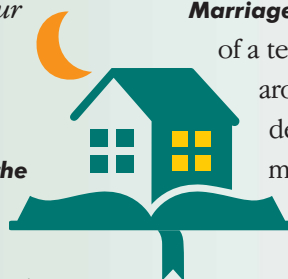


## FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

*This page can help you use the  
Liahona to enhance your  
teaching in the class-  
room as well as in the  
home.*

**"Young Adults and the  
Temple,"** p. 10: Display  
a picture of a temple.

Use the article to review the  
history, purpose, and blessings of  
the temple. Read aloud the last sec-  
tion of the article, and plan how  
you can reach your goals relative  
to temple attendance and family  
history work.

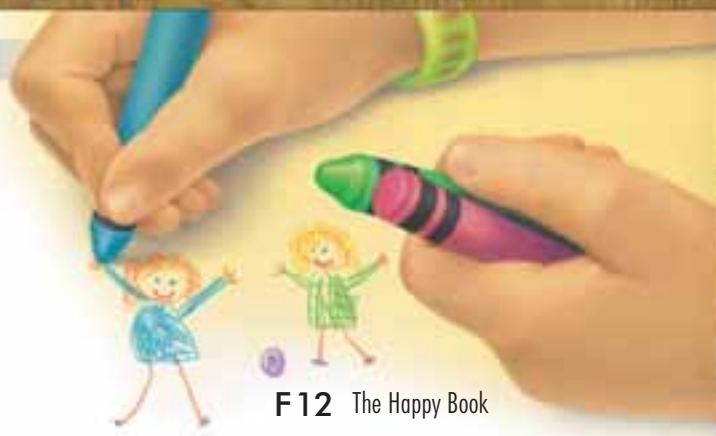


**"Preparing for a Heavenly  
Marriage,"** p. 16: Place a picture  
of a temple somewhere in or  
around your home. Write  
detailed instructions family  
members can follow that  
will lead them to the  
temple. Compare this  
activity to Elder Robert D. Hales's  
advice on setting your eternal  
course and striving to find an eter-  
nal companion.

**"Twice Rescued,"** p. 32: Read  
aloud how Elder W. Rolfe Kerr's  
father saved him from both

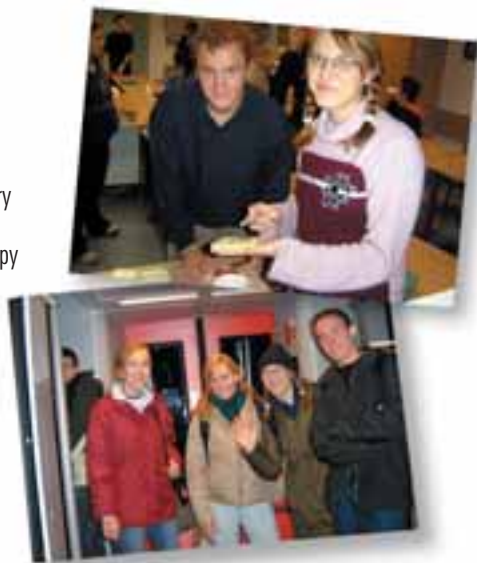
## FOR YOUTH

- 8 Ricardo Walked Alone *Paul VanDenBerghe*
- 16 Preparing for a Heavenly Marriage  
*Elder Robert D. Hales*
- 26 Seminary Makes Me Happy *Janet Thomas*
- 32 Twice Rescued *Elder W. Rolfe Kerr*
- 35 Poster: Living Water
- 36 Questions and Answers: My Friend Doesn't Feel  
That She Fits In. What Can I Do to Make Her Feel  
Welcome at Church?



**F12** The Happy Book

**26** Seminary  
Makes  
Me Happy



## THE FRIEND: FOR CHILDREN

- F2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: The Lighthouse  
*President Thomas S. Monson*
- F4 Sharing Time: My Life Has a Plan *Linda Magleby*
- F6 From the Life of President Wilford Woodruff:  
Catching Fish and Saying Prayers
- F8 I Can Live with My Father in Heaven Again  
*Pat Graham*
- F10 Special Witness: Guess Who?
- F11 Fun Page: Scripture Figure
- F12 For Little Friends: The Happy Book *Laura Lundy*
- F14 My Friend Linda *Heidi Renouf Brisco*

### ON THE COVER

Front: Photograph by Matthew Reier, posed by model. Back: *Angel Moroni*, by Avard T. Fairbanks, courtesy of Museum of Church History and Art.

### THE FRIEND COVER

Illustrated by Beth M. Whittaker.

physical and spiritual danger. Invite family members to share times when they were saved physically or spiritually. Relate these stories to the Atonement and how the Savior rescues us from physical and spiritual dangers.

**"In the World but Not of the World,"** p. 39: Review the story of Sodom and Gomorrah by using the first portion of the article, and discuss the stake president's concern about worldly conditions. Role-play scenarios family members could encounter that would test their

commitment to the gospel. Help them plan how they will handle these and similar situations in the future.

**"The Lighthouse,"** p. F2: Show a picture of a lighthouse, and discuss why lighthouses are so important to those at sea. Read each paragraph of the article aloud. After each paragraph discuss how having access to the lighthouse of the Lord can help guide you back to your heavenly home.

## TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE

F= <i>The Friend</i>	Joy, 26, F12
Adversity, 2, 44	Marriage, 16, 20
Apostles, F10	Missionary work, 32
Church attendance, 8, 36	Old Testament, 39
Courage, 20, 39	Pioneers, 2
Covenants, 10, 16	Plan of salvation, 30, F4, F8
Disabilities, F14	Prayer, F6
Endurance, 2	Premortality, 30
Example, 8	Primary, F4
Faith, 2, 25, F2	Protection, 32, F2
Family history, 10	Relief Society, 25
Family home evening, 1	Sabbath, 32, 44
Fellowship, 36	Scripture study, F11
Friendship, 36, F14	Seminary, 26
Healing, 44	Sunday School, 42, 44
Home teaching, 7	Teaching, 1, 42
Inspiration, 44	Temples and temple work, 10, 16
Integrity, 39	Visiting teaching, 25
Jesus Christ, 2, 25, 35, F2, F4	Young adults, 10





# Refined in Our Trials

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

**T**his message is to all, but especially to those who feel they have had more trials, sorrows, pricks, and thorns than they can bear and in their adversity are almost drowned in the waters of bitterness. It is intended as one of hope, strength, and deliverance.

Some years ago President David O. McKay (1873–1970) told of the experience of some of those in the Martin handcart company. Many of these early converts had emigrated from Europe and were too poor to buy oxen or horses and a wagon. They were forced by their poverty to pull handcarts containing all of their belongings across the plains by their own brute strength. President McKay related an occurrence which took place some years after the heroic exodus:

“A teacher, conducting a class, said it was unwise ever to attempt, even to permit them [the Martin handcart company] to come across the plains under such conditions.”

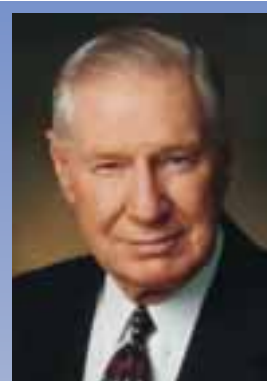
Then President McKay quoted an observer who was present in that class: “Some sharp criticism of the Church and its leaders was being indulged in for permitting any company of converts to venture across the plains

with no more supplies or protection than a handcart caravan afforded.

“An old man in the corner . . . sat silent and listened as long as he could stand it, then he arose and said things that no person who heard him will ever forget. His face was white with emotion, yet he spoke calmly, deliberately, but with great earnestness and sincerity.

“In substance [he] said, ‘I ask you to stop this criticism. You are discussing a matter you know nothing about. Cold historic facts mean nothing here, for they give no proper interpretation of the questions involved. Mistake to send the Handcart Company out so late in the season? Yes. But I was in that company and my wife was in it and Sister Nellie Unthank whom you have cited was there, too. We suffered beyond anything you can imagine and many died of exposure and starvation, but did you ever hear a survivor of that company utter a word of criticism? . . .

“‘I have pulled my handcart when I was so weak and weary from illness and lack of food that I could hardly put one foot ahead of the other. I have looked ahead and seen a patch of sand or a hill slope and I have said, I can go only that far and there I must give up, for I cannot pull the load through it.’”



*In the agonies of life,  
we seem to listen  
better to the saint,  
godly whisperings of  
the Divine Shepherd.*

He continues: “I have gone on to that sand and when I reached it, the cart began pushing me. I have looked back many times to see who was pushing my cart, but my eyes saw no one. I knew then that the angels of God were there.

“‘Was I sorry that I chose to come by handcart? No. Neither then nor any minute of my life since. *The price we paid to become acquainted with God was a privilege to pay, and I am thankful that I was privileged to come in the Martin Handcart Company.*’”<sup>1</sup>

### The Refining Fire

Here, then, is a great truth. In the pain, the agony, and the heroic endeavors of life, we pass through a refiner’s fire, and the insignificant and the unimportant in our lives can melt away like dross and make our faith bright, intact, and strong. In this way the divine image can be mirrored from the soul. It is part of the purging toll exacted of some to become acquainted with God. In the agonies of life, we seem to listen better to the faint, godly whisperings of the Divine Shepherd.

Into every life there come the painful, despairing days of adversity and buffeting. There seems to be a full measure of anguish, sorrow, and often heartbreak for everyone, including those who earnestly seek to do right and be faithful. The Apostle Paul referred to his own challenge: “And lest I should be exalted above measure . . . , there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me.”<sup>2</sup>

The thorns that prick, that stick in the flesh, that hurt, often change lives which seem robbed of significance and hope. This change comes about through a refining process which often seems cruel and hard. In this way the soul can become like soft clay in the hands of the Master in building lives of faith, usefulness, beauty, and strength. For some, the refiner’s fire causes a loss of belief and faith in God, but those with eternal perspective understand that such refining is part of the perfection process.

Said Alma, “A shepherd hath called after you and is still calling after you, but ye will not hearken unto his voice!”<sup>3</sup> In our extremities, it is possible to become born again, born anew, renewed in heart and spirit. We no longer ride with

the flow of the crowd, but instead we enjoy the promise of Isaiah to be renewed in our strength and “mount up with wings as eagles.”<sup>4</sup>

The proving of one’s faith goes before the witnessing, for Moroni testified, “Ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.”<sup>5</sup> This trial of faith can become a priceless experience.

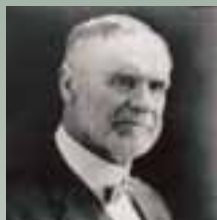
States Peter, “The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”<sup>6</sup> Trials and adversity can be preparatory to becoming born anew.

### Becoming New Creatures

A rebirth out of spiritual adversity causes us to become new creatures. From the book of Mosiah we learn that all mankind must be born again—born of God, changed, redeemed, and uplifted—to become the sons and daughters of God.<sup>7</sup> President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988), First Counselor in the First Presidency, said of this marvelous power: “The effect upon

each person’s life is likewise similar. No person whose soul is illuminated by the burning Spirit of God can in this world of sin and dense darkness remain passive. He is driven by an irresistible urge to fit himself to be an active agent of God in furthering righteousness and in freeing the lives and minds of men from the bondage of sin.”<sup>8</sup>

The feelings of being reborn were expressed by Elder Parley P. Pratt (1807–57) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “If I had been set to turn the world over,—to dig down a mountain, to go to the ends of the earth, or traverse the deserts of Arabia, it would have been easier than to have undertaken to rest, while the Priesthood was upon me. I have received the holy anointing and I can never



**I**s not this God’s purpose in causing his children to suffer? He wants them to become more like himself. God has suffered far more than man ever did or ever will, and is therefore the great source of sympathy and consolation.”  
—Elder Orson F. Whitney



rest, till the last enemy is conquered, death destroyed, and truth reigns triumphant.”<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately, some of our greatest tribulations are the result of our own foolishness and weakness and occur because of our own carelessness or transgression. Central to solving these problems is the great need to get back on the right track and, if necessary, engage in each of the steps for full and complete repentance. Through this great principle, many things can be made fully right and all things better.

We can go to others for help. To whom can we go? Elder Orson F. Whitney (1855–1931) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles asked and answered this question:

“To whom do we look, in days of grief and disaster, for help and consolation? . . . They are men and women who have suffered, and

out of their experience in suffering they bring forth the riches of their sympathy and condolences as a blessing to those now in need. Could they do this had they not suffered themselves?

“. . . Is not this God’s purpose in causing his children to suffer? He wants them to become more like himself. God has suffered far more than man ever did or ever will, and is therefore the great source of sympathy and consolation.”<sup>10</sup>

Isaiah, before the Savior’s birth, referred to Him as “a man of sorrows.”<sup>11</sup> Speaking in the Doctrine and Covenants of Himself, the Savior said, “Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink.”<sup>12</sup>

**T**he Stillman Pond family arrived at Winter Quarters, and like many other families, they suffered bitterly while living in a tent. The death of the five children coming across the plains to Winter Quarters was but a beginning.





THE SECOND COMING, BY HARRY ANDERSON

**T**he trial of your faith, . . . though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ," Peter taught.

Some are prone to feel that their afflictions are punishment. Roy W. Doxey writes:

"The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that it is a false idea to believe that the saints will escape all the judgments—disease, pestilence, war, etc.—of the last days; consequently, it is an unhallowed principle to say that these adversities are due to transgression. (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 162.)

"President Joseph F. Smith taught that it is a feeble thought to believe that the illness and affliction that come to us are attributable either to the mercy or the displeasure of God."<sup>13</sup>

Paul understood this perfectly. When referring to the Savior, he said,

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."<sup>14</sup>

#### **A Chronicle of Endurance**

For some, the suffering is extraordinary. In the early days of the Church Stillman Pond

was a member of the second quorum of the seventy in Nauvoo. He was an early convert to the Church, having come from Hubbardston, Massachusetts. Like others, he and his wife, Maria, and their children were harassed and driven out of Nauvoo. In September 1846 they became part of the great western migration. The early winter that year brought extreme hardships, including malaria, cholera, and consumption. The family was visited by all three of these diseases.

Maria contracted consumption, and all of the children were stricken with malaria. Three of the children died while moving through the early snows. Stillman buried them on the plains. Maria's condition worsened because of the grief, pain, and the fever of malaria. She could no longer walk. Weakened and sickly, she gave birth to twins. They were named Joseph and Hyrum, and both died within a few days.

The Stillman Pond family arrived at Winter Quarters, and like many other families, they suffered bitterly while living in a tent. The



death of the five children coming across the plains to Winter Quarters was but a beginning.

The journal of Horace K. and Helen Mar Whitney verifies the following regarding four more of the children of Stillman Pond who perished:

“On Wednesday, the 2nd of December 1846, Laura Jane Pond, age 14 years, . . . died of chills and fever.” Two days later on “Friday, the 4th of December 1846, Harriet M. Pond, age 11 years, . . . died with chills.” Three days later, “Monday, the 7th of December, 1846, Abigail A. Pond, age 18 years, . . . died with chills.” Just five weeks later, “Friday, the 15th of January, 1847, Lyman Pond, age 6 years, . . . died with chills and fever.”<sup>15</sup>

Four months later, on May 17, 1847, his wife, Maria Davis Pond, also died. Crossing the plains, Stillman Pond lost nine children and a wife. He became an outstanding colonizer in Utah and later became a leader in the quorums of the seventy. Having lost these nine children and his wife in crossing the plains, Stillman Pond did not lose his faith. He did not quit. He went forward. He paid a price, as have many others before and since, to become acquainted with God.

The Divine Shepherd has a message of hope, strength, and deliverance for all. If there were no night, we would not appreciate the day, nor could we see the stars and the vastness of the heavens. We must partake of the bitter with the sweet. There is a divine purpose in the adversities we encounter every day. They prepare, they purge, they purify, and thus they bless.

When we pluck the roses, we find we often cannot avoid the thorns which spring from the same stem.

Out of the refiner’s fire can come a glorious deliverance. It can be a noble and lasting rebirth. The price to become acquainted with God will have been paid. There can come a sacred peace. There will be a reawakening of dormant, inner resources. A comfortable cloak of righteousness will be drawn around us to protect us and to keep us warm spiritually. Self-pity will vanish as our blessings are counted.

The blessings of eternity will surely come to those who endure refining, as the Lord Himself taught: “He only is saved who endureth unto the end.”<sup>16</sup> I testify that Jesus is

the Christ and the Divine Redeemer. He lives! His are the sweet words of eternal life. ■

#### NOTES

1. “Pioneer Women,” *Relief Society Magazine*, Jan. 1948, 8.
2. 2 Corinthians 12:7.
3. Alma 5:37.
4. Isaiah 40:31.
5. Ether 12:6.
6. 1 Peter 1:7.
7. See Mosiah 27:24–27.
8. In Conference Report, Oct. 1941, 89.
9. *Deseret News*, Apr. 30, 1853, 2.
10. “A Lesson from the Book of Job,” *Improvement Era*, Nov. 1918, 7.
11. Isaiah 53:3.
12. D&C 19:18.
13. *The Doctrine and Covenants Speaks* (1970), 2:373; see also Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 56–57.
14. Hebrews 5:8–9.
15. As quoted in “Stillman Pond, a Biographical Sketch,” comp. Leon Y. and H. Ray Pond, in Sterling Forsyth, *Histories*, Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4.
16. D&C 53:7.

## IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

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

1. Hold up a gold ring or a picture of a ring. Explain how at first gold can have many impurities. Describe how heat separates the impurities from the gold, leaving the gold pure and beautiful. Compare this process to what happens to us when we overcome trials, and bear testimony of what the Apostle Peter taught: “The trial of your faith [is] much more precious than of gold that perisheth.”

2. Ask family members to suggest reasons we experience trials. Read a pioneer story from the message. Discuss how these pioneers were examples of being refined by trials. Ask family members to whom they, like the pioneers, should look in times of trouble. Bear testimony that the Savior is the best counselor.

3. Make a list of blessings that come from trials by reading aloud the section of the message titled “A Chronicle of Endurance.” Invite family members to share blessings they have received through their own trials.

# Ricardo WALKED

*Week after week Ricardo walked to church by himself. Then his example changed everything.*

BY PAUL VANDENBERGHE  
Church Magazines

**I**t's Sunday, time for sacrament meeting, but nobody at your house wants to go except you. What do you do?

If you're Ricardo Navas Ruiz of Los Jardines Ward, Trujillo Peru Primavera Stake, you put on your shirt and tie and walk to church on your own. In fact, you get there a little bit early so you can help the bishop get ready for the meetings.

"I'm very happy to be a deacon here in Trujillo," says Ricardo. "To hold the priesthood really means a lot to me."

Ricardo, who is now one of only three deacons in his ward, faithfully walked to church every week by himself for three years. Most of his family were members of the Church when Ricardo was two years old, but by the time he was around seven, they were no longer interested in attending. That didn't change Ricardo's desire to go to church.

"I wanted to prepare to be baptized. I wanted to feel the Spirit and leave everything else behind," he says. "My



**Ricardo Navas Ruiz and his grandmother, Mavila, are the closest of friends. And because of Ricardo's example, they now walk together to church every Sunday.**

greatest desire is to be a missionary, which is one of the reasons I keep coming to church."

In many ways, Ricardo has already begun his missionary service. "He was an example to me because he always went to church," says Ricardo's grandmother, Mavila Ruiz Cárdenas. For several years she had listened to the missionaries who came to visit with the family. And all the while Ricardo was there: sitting in and listening to the discussions, faithfully attending church each Sunday, even teaching his grandmother the hymns.

When he was eight years old and attending church by himself, he had not felt prepared for baptism. But, says Ricardo, "when my grandmother said she was ready to be baptized, then I was sure I was ready also."

So when Ricardo was 10, he and his grandmother were baptized on the same day.

"She's like my mom," says Ricardo of his grandmother. "She has been raising me since I was young." Ricardo lives with his grandmother and grandfather and four of his uncles. "My grandfather suffers from Parkinson's disease, so I do things like help him get in his chair," Ricardo says. Ricardo is constantly trying to



# ALONE

teach his family by example. “I try to be an example when I go to church because when I’m on the right path, my family is watching me, and I want them to come to church too.”

Even though Ricardo and his grandmother are the only active members of the Church in their house, he says, “We all have family home evening together.”

Standing up front and teaching the lesson each Monday is young Ricardo. “I use the Book of Mormon and the Bible for family home evening lessons,” he says. “I read the story and then testify. Sometimes I use the lesson manual for deacons.”

Ricardo also testifies to his friends and neighbors. “In my neighborhood I tell my friends stories about Christ, about prophets, about Nephi,” he says. “I tell them stories I’ve heard in church about faith and about how prayer helps us in our lives. Some friends stay and listen, but others leave. That’s a way I can be an example.”

No longer does Ricardo walk to church alone. Now every Sunday he puts on his shirt and tie, takes his grandmother by the hand, and they walk together. Who knows? In time, Ricardo will probably be leading others to church with him. ■



# Young Adults and the Temple



*To each young adult  
I emphasize that the  
temple can bless  
you—even before  
you enter it.*

BY ELDER RUSSELL M. NELSON  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

**M**y topic is the temple. I would like to help you delve deeply into its doctrine, explore the heights of its glory, and grasp its eternal significance.

Temples are not new. “Whenever the Lord has had a people on the earth who will obey his word, they have been commanded to build temples” (Bible Dictionary, “Temple,” 781). The Old Testament is replete with references to ordinances, covenants, and even the clothing of the temple (see, for example, Exodus 28–29; Leviticus 8).

The best-known biblical temple was built in Jerusalem in the days of Solomon. The Lord personally accepted that holy house (see 2 Chronicles 7:12). It was partially destroyed in 600 B.C.

Almost a hundred years later it was restored by Zerubbabel. This structure was damaged by fire in 37 B.C.; subsequently Herod enlarged and leveled the Temple Mount and commenced the rebuilding of the second temple (see Bible Dictionary, “Temple,” “Temple of Herod,” 781).

This was the temple known by Jesus. He

was there as a child when His anxious mother could not find Him (see Luke 2:43–49).

At the first cleansing of the temple, Jesus called it “my Father’s house” (John 2:16; see vv. 13–16). At the second cleansing, Jesus called it “my house” (Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17). Knowing the temple would be further desecrated, Jesus called it “your house . . . left unto you desolate” (Luke 13:35)—a prophecy fulfilled when it was destroyed in A.D. 70.

Several years ago, Sister Nelson and I were in Jerusalem being guided through recent excavations in a tunnel to the left of the present Western Wall of the old temple. In that tunnel we saw Jewish rabbis praying for the day that the third temple would be built in Jerusalem.

From the Book of Mormon we know that Nephi built a temple “after the manner of the temple of Solomon,” only it was less ornate (2 Nephi 5:16).

“From Adam to the time of Jesus, ordinances were performed in temples for the living only. After Jesus opened the way for the gospel to be preached in the world of spirits, . . . work for the dead, as well as for



the living, has been done in temples” (Bible Dictionary, “Temple,” 781).

### Children of the Covenant

As we read of temples, we also learn of covenants that God has made with faithful followers—His “children of the covenant” (3 Nephi 20:26; see v. 25; Acts 3:25).

Some 4,000 years ago, God made a covenant with Abraham that all the nations of the earth will be blessed through his seed (see Genesis 17:7; 22:18; Abraham 2:9–11). It was re-affirmed with Isaac (see Genesis 26:1–4, 24) and again with Jacob (see Genesis 28;

35:9–13; 48:3–4). The thread of that covenant is woven throughout the entire fabric of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Book of Mormon (see, for example, Book of Mormon title page). That covenant has been divinely renewed in this dispensation as part of the Restoration of all things (see D&C 124:58).

Prophets have long known that the Abrahamic covenant was to be fulfilled *only* “in the latter days” (1 Nephi 15:18). That’s our day! (See D&C 110:12–16.) We are those covenant people! What does that really mean? Let us learn together from selected scriptures.

In Mosiah 5:7 we read: “Because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters.”

**B**y maintaining a standard of moral conduct high enough to qualify for a temple recommend, you will find inner peace and spiritual strength.



THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

**Limited-Use**  
Issue a Limited-Use  
unendowed men-  
firmations for the  
observe sealings of  
parents. **This record**  
**day of the month is**

Ward or branch \_\_\_\_\_  
Stake or mission \_\_\_\_\_

T M F	File number*
1	
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In 3 Nephi 20:25, Jesus is speaking: “Ye are the children of the prophets; and ye are of the house of Israel; and ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham: And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.”

In our holy temples, we literally receive those blessings promised to the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

### Restoration of Temples and Sealing Authority

In the Restoration, temple work received a very high priority. The first revelation from a ministering angel pertained to this doctrine. Recorded in the second section of the Doctrine and Covenants, it is an echo of the fourth chapter of Malachi. Moroni foretold the coming of Elijah, who would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers (see Malachi 4:5–6; D&C 2:1–2).

Elijah did come, on April 3, 1836, Easter Sunday, at the beginning of Passover. He came to the Kirtland Temple to confer keys of sealing authority, precisely as prophesied by the angel Moroni (see D&C 110:14–16).

In the temple, ordinances are administered through which the power of God is manifest (see D&C 84:20). Without those ordinances and the authority of the priesthood, “the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh” (D&C 84:21).

The inscription on modern temples reads, “Holiness to the Lord” (see Exodus 28:36; 39:30). Those words describe the building, yes. They also describe the ordinances and covenants of the temple and the people who worship within its walls.

### Temples of the Restoration

The Kirtland Temple was a preparatory temple. It stands today as a monument to the faith of the people who built it. Later, when the Saints

reached Illinois, the Lord once again asked His people to build a temple. Why?

We read in Doctrine and Covenants 124:29–30:

“For a baptismal font there is not upon the earth, that they, my saints, may be baptized for those who are dead—  
“For this ordinance belongeth to my house.”

Verse 32 carries this stern warning: “If you do not these things . . . ye shall be rejected as a church, with your dead, saith the Lord your God.”

Verse 40 states: “Let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people.”

The heading for section 128 notes that this section was an epistle. Why was the Prophet Joseph Smith writing a letter to the Saints instead of addressing them directly? He was in seclusion. He was being hunted by angry mobs. He

couldn’t even go home. He was sequestered in the home of his friend Edward Hunter. Read these wondrous words, written under the roof of Edward Hunter’s house:

“I now resume the subject of the baptism for the dead, as that

**I**n our holy temples, we literally receive those blessings promised to the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.





subject seems to occupy my mind, and press itself upon my feelings the strongest, since I have been pursued by my enemies. . . .

“ . . . These are principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation, as Paul says concerning the fathers—that they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect. . . .

“ . . . The earth will be smitten with a curse unless there is a welding link of some kind or other between the fathers and the children. . . . Baptism for the dead . . . is necessary . . . that a whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys, and powers, and glories should take

place. . . . Things which never have been revealed from the foundation of the world, but have been kept hid from the wise and prudent, shall be revealed . . . in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times” (vv. 1, 15, 18).

The Saints obeyed. They built the temple in Nauvoo. Some 6,000 Saints received their endowments and sealings before they had to leave and lose their temple. Now it stands again—rebuilt in all its majesty—as a very busy temple.

Some 30 years after the exodus from Nauvoo, the St. George Utah Temple was finished. It was the first temple in which vicarious ordinances for the dead were carried out on an organized scale.

At the dedication of the lower story of the St. George Utah Temple, on January 1, 1877—the very year that President Brigham Young died—he said:

“What do you suppose the fathers would say if they could speak from the dead? Would they not say, ‘We have lain here thousands of years, here in this prison house, waiting for this dispensation to come?’ . . . What would they whisper in our ears? Why, if they had the power the very thunders of heaven would be in our ears, if we could realize the importance of the work we are engaged in. All the angels in heaven are looking at this

**S**ome 6,000 Saints received their endowments and sealings before they had to leave Nauvoo and lose the temple. Now it stands again—rebuilt in all its majesty—as a very busy temple.



little handful of people, and stimulating them to the salvation of the human family.

“ . . . When I think upon this subject, I want the tongues of seven thunders to wake up the people.”<sup>1</sup>

### Continuing Revelation

In 1894 President Wilford Woodruff (1807–98) instructed members of the Church: “We want the Latter-day Saints from this time to trace their genealogies as far as they can, and to be sealed to their fathers and mothers. Have children sealed to their parents, and run this chain through as far as you can get it. . . . This is the will of the Lord to this people.”<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of family history work is to obtain the names and data of our ancestors so that temple ordinances can be performed in their behalf.

Doctrine and Covenants section 138 is the crowning jewel of the remarkable ministry of President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918). It was received the month before President Smith passed away. In that unique circumstance, he was still in the world but could see into the next world. It is dated October 1918.

I’ll begin at verse 11: “I saw the hosts of the dead, both small and great.

“And there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had

been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality . . .

“They were assembled awaiting the advent of the Son of God into the spirit world, to declare their redemption from the bands of death. . . .

“While this vast multitude waited and conversed, rejoicing in the hour of their deliverance from the chains of death, the Son of God appeared, declaring liberty to the captives. . . .

“And there he preached to them the everlasting gospel, the doctrine of the resurrection and the redemption of mankind from the fall, and from individual sins on conditions of repentance” (vv. 11–12, 16, 18–19).

And in verse 51: “These the Lord taught, and gave them power to come forth, after his resurrection from the dead, to enter into his Father’s kingdom, there to be crowned with immortality and eternal life.”

Temples catalyze that crown! How grateful we are for this knowledge!

May I digress a moment to relate an amusing experience we had a few years ago. Sister Nelson and I had the privilege of taking President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) and his wife to an activity. Our five-year-old son was with us. I asked him to tell President Kimball about the picture our son had on the wall of his bedroom. He dutifully replied, “It’s the temple.”



President Kimball, with his global perspective, asked, “Which temple?”

That completely stumped our little boy, with his limited perspective. He thought a minute and then replied, “Why, the marriage temple, of course.” President Kimball gave a broad smile.

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95) said in 1994, the year before he

passed away: “I . . . invite the members of the Church to establish the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of their membership and the supernal setting for their most sacred covenants. . . . I would hope that every adult member would be worthy of—and carry—a current temple recommend, even if proximity to a temple does not allow immediate or frequent use of it.”<sup>3</sup>

President Gordon B. Hinckley



**T**he Prophet Joseph Smith declared, “*The earth will be smitten with a curse unless there is a welding link . . . between the fathers and the children.*”



has reaffirmed that hope. He has also expanded temple and family history work exponentially. In May 1999 he launched the FamilySearch™ Internet service. It is now averaging more than 50,000 visitors every day. From the Pedigree Resource File, a component of that endeavor, we are receiving an income of more than a million names per month, all lineage-linked. The database has exceeded one billion names.

When President Hinckley was called to serve in the First Presidency in 1981, how many temples did we have in the Church? Nineteen. Now we have 122! More are under construction, and others have been announced.

### Personal Preparation for the Temple

To each young adult I emphasize that the temple can bless you—even before you enter it. By maintaining a standard of moral conduct high enough to qualify for a temple recommend, you will find inner peace and spiritual strength. Now is the time to cleanse your lives of anything that is displeasing to the Lord. Now is the time to eliminate feelings of envy or enmity and seek forgiveness for any offense.

Several years ago the First Presidency issued a letter to priesthood leaders regarding the optimum time for members to receive a temple recommend. From it I quote:

“Single members in their late teens or early twenties who have not received a mission call or who are not engaged to be married in the temple should not be recommended to the temple for their own endowment. They can, however, receive a Limited-Use Recommend to perform baptisms for the dead. The desire to witness temple marriages of siblings or friends is not sufficient reason for a young adult to be endowed” (Nov. 12, 2002; see also First Presidency letter, June 21, 2005).

Please note that this instruction applies to singles in their “late teens or early twenties.” We hope that a few years later, these individuals will be married or established in a stable manner and their temple worship will be a high priority throughout their lives.

Before you enter the temple for the first time, participation in a temple preparation seminar will be helpful. So will reading a booklet that your bishop

or branch president will provide, *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple*.<sup>4</sup> These will help you understand the magnificence of the ordinances and covenants of the temple.

Plan now to be married in the temple, and conduct your courtship with the temple in mind. When you and your companion kneel at the altar of a holy temple, you do so as equal partners. You become an eternal family unit. Anything that might erode the spirituality, love, and sense of true partnership is contrary to the will of the Lord. Fidelity to these sacred ordinances and covenants will bring eternal blessings to you and to generations yet unborn.

### Hour of Urgency and Opportunity

The urgency of vicarious temple work was stressed in a letter from the First Presidency dated March 11, 2003. Addressed to all Church members, it said that “millions of our ancestors have lived upon the earth without receiving the benefit of temple ordinances. . . .

“All of the ordinances which take place in the House of the Lord become expressions of our belief in that fundamental and basic doctrine of the immortality of the human soul.”<sup>5</sup>

My beloved brothers and sisters, our day was foreseen by our Master: “This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; . . . saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33).

As we are His people, we may “inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, . . . exaltation and glory in all things” (D&C 132:19). This is our legacy. This is our opportunity. Of this, I testify. ■

*From a Church Educational System satellite broadcast address given on May 4, 2003, in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

### NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* (1997), 309, 299; see also D&C 138:47–50.
2. *The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, sel. G. Homer Durham (1946), 157.
3. Quoted in James E. Faust, “President Howard W. Hunter: The Way of an Eagle,” *Tambuli*, Sept. 1994, 4; quoted in Jay M. Todd, “President Howard W. Hunter: Fourteenth President of the Church,” *Ensign*, July 1994, 5.
4. This booklet is also used as the student manual in the temple preparation seminar (item no. 36793).
5. See “Letter from the First Presidency,” *Liabona*, Mar. 2004, 47; *Ensign*, Mar. 2004, 45.



# Preparing for a Heavenly Marriage

BY ELDER ROBERT D. HALES  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

**T**emple marriage describes the place you go to have an eternal marriage performed. Celestial marriage is being true to the sacred covenants you make in that temple marriage ceremony—living celestial principles in the marriage relationship.

A celestial marriage requires, after the vows are taken, a continuing consecrated life of worthiness leading to happiness and exaltation. If we live the laws properly, we will, with another individual and with our family, be able to have a little heaven on earth.

Something as wonderful as a celestial marriage doesn't just happen.

In Lewis Carroll's story *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice approaches the Cheshire Cat and asks, "Would you please tell me which way I ought to go from here?"

The Cheshire Cat replies, "That depends a great deal on where you want to go."

Alice says, "I admit, I don't much care where."

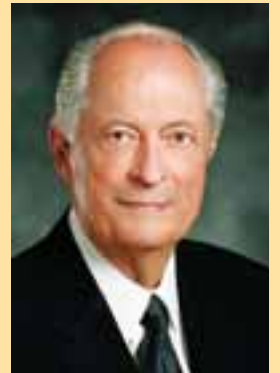
The Cheshire Cat then says, "Then it doesn't really matter much which way you go, does it?"

"Just so I get somewhere," responds Alice.

Then the Cheshire Cat reveals an interesting truth: "Oh, you're sure to get there if you keep walking long enough."


How many of us are going through life telling ourselves, "If we keep going long enough, we're going to get somewhere," but are not defining exactly where that place is we want to be? "Somewhere" is not good enough. We must know where we want to go and be firmly committed to getting there. And we should get that knowledge and commitment early.

Alma stated, "Remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep



***Make sure that you know before you get married what that person really wants to be.***





the commandments of God” (Alma 37:35). That says it all. Do it now.

### Temple Recommends

Once we are committed to a celestial marriage, we should understand and do the things that lead to it.

To enter the temple, you will need what is called a recommend. A searching interview will be conducted first by your bishop or branch president and then by your stake or mission president. Here are some of the questions they will ask you:

“Do you have faith in and a testimony of God the Eternal Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Ghost?”

“Do you have a testimony of the Atonement of Christ and of His role as Savior and Redeemer?”

“Do you have a testimony of the Restoration of the gospel in these, the latter days?”

“Do you sustain the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the prophet, seer, and revelator and as the only person on the earth who possesses and is authorized to exercise all priesthood keys? Do you sustain members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators? Do you sustain the other General Authorities and local authorities of the Church?”

“Do you live the law of chastity?”

“Is there anything in your conduct relating to members of your family that is not in harmony with the teachings of the Church?”

“Do you strive to keep the covenants you have made, to attend your sacrament and priesthood meetings, and to keep your life in harmony with the laws and commandments of the gospel?”

“Are you honest in your dealings with your fellowmen?”

“Are you a full-tithe payer?”

“Do you keep the Word of Wisdom?”

“Have there been any sins or misdeeds in your life that should have been resolved with priesthood authorities but have not been?”

**M**arriage is like climbing a mountain.

*You tie yourself to a companion, and you start up the mountain of life.*

“Do you consider yourself worthy to enter the Lord’s house and participate in temple ordinances?”

The importance of thinking of this recommend in connection with marriage is that, when you choose the companion you’re going to live with for time and all eternity, you should ask yourself, “Am I sure he or she is able to live within the confines of this recommend?”

After you obtain a recommend, you may then go to the temple and receive an endowment. Before a person can be married or sealed as husband or wife in the temple, he or she receives the ordinance of the endowment.

We have the privilege as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to plan for and prepare for a celestial marriage.

When you are choosing your companion, make sure that both of you have a desire for a celestial marriage relationship, a desire to have a family for eternity, a desire to have a companion for eternity and to live in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

### Supporting Each Other

Marriage is like climbing a mountain. You tie yourself to a companion, and you start up the mountain of life. As a child comes along, you tie him to Mom and Dad and continue your journey. The ropes will hold all of the mountain climbers together. But there are many elements—the wind and the rain and the snow and the ice—all the elements of the world will tear at you to pull you off that eternal mountain. How do you reach the summit?

Someone has said it this way: “Thee lift me, and I’ll lift thee, and we’ll ascend together.” What does that mean?

I can remember an experience in my life that illustrates this idea. I was at Harvard Business School. I was stretched to my capacity. In a student’s first year at that institution, the teachers take away every bit of self-confidence you have, no matter what your background is before you get there, so that you learn what it’s like to have to achieve more than you’ve ever done in your life before.

At an important point in my schooling, a mission president asked me to be an elders quorum president.

It is the only time in my life that I ever questioned an assignment. For every one of you the question will come in life, “When is the time to serve?” The only answer I can give you is, “When you are asked.”

So I went home and said to my wife, “There is a chance of failing in my schooling if I become an elders quorum president.” She said to me the words which have helped for many years: “Bob, I would rather have an active priesthood holder than a man who holds a master’s degree from Harvard.” But as she put her arms around me, she said, “We’ll do them both.” That is eternal partnership.

In the Doctrine and Covenants (I would hope each one of you would write this verse down and put it in your pocket and have it with you at all times for those challenging moments), we read, “Therefore, strengthen your brethren in all your conversation, in all your prayers, in all your exhortations, and in all your doings” (D&C 108:7). In other words, every day you help one another as you speak, as you pray, in your exhortations, and in your doings.

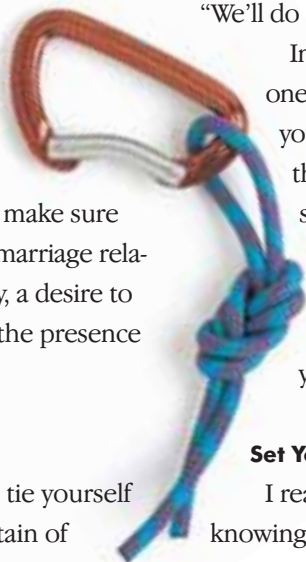
### Set Your Eternal Course

I realize the importance of setting your course, of knowing where you are going. Please date extensively. Please know the kind of person you want to be with. Please make sure that you help those you come in contact with. Please point them in the direction of associating with many people.

Make sure that you know before you get married what that person really wants to be. You can do that by seeing if he or she goes to his or her meetings and has a testimony and can talk to you about eternal goals now.

I ask the Lord’s blessings to be with you. I know that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ. I bear testimony to you that those moments in my life when I have been unhappy, depressed, or sad are when I have strayed, even in a minor degree, from the teachings of the Lord. That you might have true happiness and find the joy of a celestial marriage with a little heaven on earth is my prayer. ■

*From a devotional address given on November 9, 1976, at Brigham Young University.*



# Confidence

*Many Church members have happy marriages despite the fears they had when they were single.*

BY MELISSA HOWELL

**D**o I have what it takes to be a good spouse?" "My parents went through a painful divorce, and I'm worried that if I get married I might get divorced too."

"Will I be able to support a family if I get married?"

Sometimes fears like these can deter single Latter-day Saints from pursuing marriage. So how can we work to overcome the spirit of fear and replace it with love?

By relying on the Lord, many Church members have found that while their fears may not be entirely eradicated, Heavenly Father will assist them in creating a happy marriage.

## **Fear of Divorce**

Perhaps you have experienced divorce firsthand. Perhaps your parents or someone else close to you went through a divorce. Or maybe the growing number of divorces today weighs heavily on your mind. Concern about the possibility of divorce has led many single adults to avoid taking the risks that could lead to a happy, fulfilling eternal marriage. But as you seek the Lord's help, you can actually learn valuable, if hard-won, lessons from the negative experiences of those around you and then go forward with faith, discovering that a happy marriage is a real possibility.

Scott Balloch of Bristol, England, was 18 years old when his parents ended their marriage. As a result, he feared the possibility of a divorce of his own someday—

but he also learned important lessons from his parents' experience.

"I was much less blasé about dating because of my parents' divorce," Brother Balloch says. "I took the commitment of marriage very seriously."

Before he and his wife married, they talked about his concerns and they consistently prayed and read the scriptures.

"That had a massive impact," Brother Balloch says. "It lessened contention, and a lot of our fears were taken away."

"Nephi taught us a good principle: 'I will go and do'" (1 Nephi 3:7), he continues. "When we're fearful, it can make us more reliant on Heavenly Father. He's provided a way." The Ballochs explain that they have been blessed for seeking to follow Heavenly Father's commandments in their marriage.

## **Fear of Being an Inadequate Spouse**

Everyone has imperfections, and sometimes these shortcomings become more apparent in marriage. When Ken Nolls of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, married his wife, Chalyce, he was continuing to overcome his long-held fears of being an inadequate spouse. As he has learned to share his burdens with the Lord, his fears have diminished.

Brother Nolls wants to be fully committed, he says, "to putting her needs ahead of mine," explaining, "I worry



# to Marry



about how I spend my time and about staying away from selfish activities.” When Brother Nollschi gets overwhelmed by his fears, he reminds himself to emulate the example of the Savior, who said humbly to Heavenly Father, “Thy will be done” (Matthew 26:42). “I say that over and over in my mind, and then I move on to what I need to accomplish,” Brother Nollschi says.

Brother Nollschi says his confidence in himself and in his wife has grown over time. He also focuses on the joy he finds in being a husband and father. “God wants us to be happy, and being a husband and father is one



*C*ouples who seek the Lord's guidance will find that He will bless them in their marriages.

of the best ways to find happiness,” he says.

### Fear of Financial Needs

While speaking to young men, President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) commented on the commonly held fear of becoming the family breadwinner:

“I realize that some of you brethren may have genuine fears regarding the real responsibilities that will be yours if you do marry. You are concerned about being able to support a wife and family and provide them with the necessities in these uncertain economic times. Those fears must be replaced with faith.

“I assure you, brethren, that if you will be



### FACE YOUR DOUBTS

*“With any major decision there are cautions and considerations to make, but once there has been illumination, beware the temptation to retreat from a good thing. If it was right when you prayed about it and trusted it and lived for it, it is right now. Don’t give up when the pressure mounts. Certainly don’t give in to that being who is bent on the destruction of your happiness. Face your doubts. Master your fears. ‘Cast not away therefore your confidence’ [Hebrews 10:35]. Stay the course and see the beauty of life unfold for you.”*

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence,” *Liahona*, June 2000, 38; *Ensign*, Mar. 2000, 9.**

industrious, faithfully pay your tithes and offerings, and conscientiously keep the commandments, the Lord will sustain you. Yes, there will be sacrifices required, but you will grow from these and will be a better man for having met them.

“Work hard educationally and in your vocation. Put your trust in the Lord, have faith, and it will work out. The Lord never gives a commandment without providing the means to accomplish it.”<sup>1</sup>

When Clyde and Joyce Hlongwane of Johannesburg, South Africa, started dating, Brother Hlongwane had concerns about supporting his future family.

“Before we married I was listening to a conference talk about paying tithing and how the Lord

**Tithing and Other Offerings**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ward or branch \_\_\_\_\_

Name (last, first, middle) \_\_\_\_\_ Use the same spelling on all your slips.

Full address \_\_\_\_\_

	\$	
<b>Tithing</b>		
<b>Fast offering</b>		
Ward missionary		
General missionary		
Book of Mormon		
Humanitarian aid		
Temple construction		
Perpetual education		
Other (specify)		
<b>Total</b>		

Stamp: PLACE STAMP HERE



*Putting the Lord first by paying your tithing can help you manage your money more effectively.*

would provide,” Brother Hlongwane remembers. “I realized tithing was the key to the financial concerns I had—that no matter what, you pay your tithing.”

Brother Hlongwane was encouraged by scriptures such as 1 Nephi 17:3: “If it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them.”

“I knew it was a commandment to get married, and so the Lord would provide a way,” Brother Hlongwane says.

In addition, he recognized the need to do his part. When he and his wife were first married, he was working at a low-paying job and his income was not sufficient to support a family. He decided to pursue more education. Their financial situation has improved, and Brother Hlongwane is now looking forward to having a career in his chosen field.

### **Fear of Lifestyle Changes**

Marriage affects how people live financially, socially, emotionally, and even spiritually.

Amy Byerly of Walpole, Massachusetts, was concerned about the lifestyle changes marriage brings. Talking with Bart, her soon-to-be husband, about her concerns lightened the burden. She also turned to the scriptures, and in Mosiah 2:41, she read: “I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it.”

“This scripture puts things into perspective for me,” Sister Byerly says. “Even if my lifestyle changed, I could still be happy if I was faithful. Also, it taught me that having an eternal family was much more important than all the fun things I did while I was single.”

Sister Byerly believed that Heavenly Father would help her in her marriage. “Knowing that God approved of our

marriage helped me deal with any fears I had,” she says. “I knew I could be happy despite a lifestyle change.”

### **Fear of Changing Goals**

Some single adults may worry that marriage will prohibit reaching their career or educational goals. “We were both worried about school and careers before we got married,” says Thekla Schenk of Mililani, Hawaii. “When we were first married, I wanted things to go *my* way. We were married on the condition that I would go to school.”

Sister Schenk prayed and asked Heavenly Father to help her finish college. She felt impressed that it would happen when it was supposed to, although she didn’t know how.

Although both are currently in school, the couple has determined that they will focus on Grayson’s education and career first so that Sister Schenk will be able to stay home with their future children. “We turned it into an ‘us’ thing instead of a ‘me’ thing,” Sister Schenk says.

She and her husband have sought happiness in marriage by trying to make each other happy. “It’s difficult to learn to put someone else’s needs first,” she says. “We need to strive to be spiritual enough to listen to promptings about what to do.”

In a message to his granddaughters on becoming great women, President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said: “My dear granddaughters, you cannot do everything well at the same time. You cannot be a 100 percent wife, a 100 percent mother, a 100 percent church worker, a 100 percent career person, and a 100 percent public-service person at the same time.” Doing things sequentially, he said, “gives a woman the opportunity to do each thing well in its time and to fill a variety of roles in her life.”<sup>2</sup>

When they were engaged, Sonia Lopreiato Piros and Gabriel Piros of São Paulo, Brazil, talked about the decisions they would have to make when their children were born. But after one year of marriage and the birth of their first child, “everything that was once so simple in theory turned out to be complicated to practice,” Sister Piros says. “We faced the moment of decision, and fear invaded our





rather that this gnawing, destructive element comes from the adversary of truth and righteousness. Fear is the antithesis of faith.”<sup>3</sup>

*As you obey the Lord's commandments, you can go forward with faith, knowing that great happiness can be found in marriage and family.*

hearts. My husband was afraid he would not earn enough to provide for our needs, and I was afraid to end my promising career.”

Brother and Sister Piros began reviewing the *Eternal Marriage Student Manual* (item no. 35311) and attending institute classes together. They felt certain the right decision was the one they had made before they were married—that Sister Piros would set aside her career for now, even though both knew it would not be easy for Brother Piros to provide for the family's needs.

“We exercised our faith, and as the scripture said, we proved the word of God,” she says (see 2 Nephi 11:3). The couple began to experience many blessings as a result of their sacrifice, including Brother Piros's professional growth.

“We still face some challenges and fears, but we are certain that God will be there at our side and that He will answer our prayers,” Sister Piros says.

#### **“God Hath Not Given Us the Spirit of Fear”**

President Gordon B. Hinckley said: “Let us recognize that fear comes not of God, but

Certainly there are legitimate reasons for doubt and uncertainty in some dating relationships. Individuals should always seek the Lord's guidance when making a decision to marry. But as you take the proper steps in your relationships and as you feel the peace the Lord bestows on those who make righteous decisions, you can go forward with faith, knowing that great happiness can be found in marriage and family.

The Apostle Paul taught, “Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 11:11). He also wrote, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). May we strive to replace our fears about marriage with faith and love. ■

*Melissa Howell is a member of the Aurora Highlands Ward, Aurora Colorado Stake.*

#### **NOTES**

1. “To the Single Adult Brethren of the Church,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 52–53.
2. “A Message to My Granddaughters: Becoming ‘Great Women,’” *Ensign*, Sept. 1986, 19.
3. “God Hath Not Given Us the Spirit of Fear,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1984, 2.

# Building Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ



*Prayerfully select and read from this message the scriptures and teachings that meet the*

*needs of the sisters you visit. Share your experiences and testimony. Invite those you teach to do the same.*

**Blessings of Belonging to Relief Society:** Relief Society should strengthen sisters' testimonies of Jesus Christ and His Atonement. It also should increase their resolve to come unto Christ.

## How Does Relief Society Build Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

**2 Nephi 25:26:** "We talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, . . . that [we and] our children may know to what source [we] may look for a remission of [our] sins."

**President Gordon B. Hinckley:** "Who can gauge the miraculous effects upon the lives of millions of women whose knowledge has been increased, whose vision has been extended, whose lives have been broadened, and whose understanding of the things of God has been enriched by reason of countless

lessons effectively taught and learned in meetings of the Relief Society?" ("Ambitious to Do Good," *Ensign*, Mar. 1992, 4).

**President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency:** "The Relief Society curriculum is focused on basic doctrine and will give you the opportunity to study the gospel and increase your spirituality. . . . All sisters . . . need to be 'remembered and nourished by the good word of God' [Moroni 6:4]. Doctrine will strengthen you and help you to develop the spirituality necessary to overcome the challenges of life" ("You Are All Heaven Sent," *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 111).

**Anne C. Pingree, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency:** "Each of us . . . can move forward without fear, finding our way to Him as we personally feel the blessings of His infinite Atonement. I know that one of the supernal blessings of Relief Society is our connection to women

who also bear testimony of our Lord. My prayer is that we will ever walk side by side towards the light of His redeeming love" ("Walking towards the

Light of His Love," *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 113).

## How Can Faith Increase Our Resolve to Come unto Christ?

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** "The scriptures teach us that faith comes by hearing the word of God, [which] teaches us that we are children of God, the Eternal Father. It teaches us about the identity and mission of Jesus Christ, his Only Begotten Son. . . . Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is a conviction and trust that God knows us and loves us and will hear our prayers and answer them. . . . Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ opens the door of salvation and exaltation" ("Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," *Ensign*, May 1994, 99–100).

**Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** "Remember the pattern: (1) hear the word of God, spoken and written by His servants; (2) let that word sink deep into your heart; (3) hunger in your soul for righteousness; (4) obediently follow gospel laws, ordinances, and covenants; and (5) raise your voice in mighty prayer and supplication, asking in faith to know that Jesus Christ is our Savior. . . . When the challenges of mortality come, and they come for all of us, it may seem hard to have faith and hard to believe. At these times only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Atonement can bring us peace, hope, and understanding. Only faith that He suffered for our sakes will give us the strength to endure to the end" ("Finding Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 72–73). ■



▼ **Josua Brunner:**  
*"I remember learning the scripture mastery scriptures. I still remember the first one I learned in my first year."*



▲ **Miriam Schenk:**  
*"If you do the most important things first and then you fill in with little things, everything fits."*



▲ **Naëmi Mauch:**  
*"Seminary gives you a reason to study in the scriptures. You may not do it that often on your own."*



▲ **Elizabeth Nairz:**  
*"I went to seminary before I was baptized. If I'm not in seminary, I feel like something is missing."*



▲ **Luca Merl:** *"You can talk about the scriptures with other youth, which you really can't do in other classes."*

# Seminary

*Seminary students in Austria and Switzerland find great satisfaction in studying the gospel together.*

**BY JANET THOMAS**  
 Church Magazines

**J**ohannes Malzl was late for school again. The train had been too crowded and slow coming back from seminary, and he had raced to school. But he was still late. Every time he had been late, his teacher would ask what had happened. "At first I tried not to say that I was in seminary. I just said I overslept. Then one day, she asked, 'Please tell me where you have been.' I was in front of the whole class. Since we were working on our English, she said I had to tell her in English. All my classmates know that I'm a member of the Church, but they didn't know about seminary. I explained that I had to get up at 5:00 in the morning

and take the train to our Church house, then catch the train to school. They said, 'Whoa, are you crazy?'"

Johannes explains, "For me, being in seminary gives me power. When I go to school and all my friends talk about all kinds of stuff, it's good to have some spiritual strength in the mornings."

## **Seminary in Austria**

Johannes is a member of the Salzburg-Flachgau Ward, Salzburg Austria Stake. Most of the teens in his stake go to seminary four mornings a week. Some brave the cold and dark to catch trains to the meetinghouse. Others go to their own living rooms where their parents are their seminary teachers.





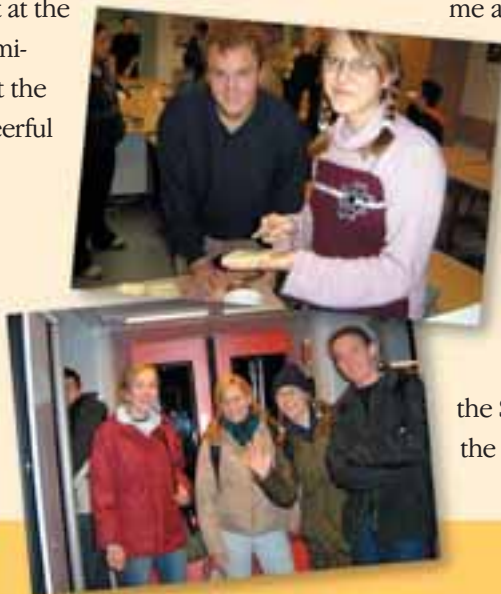
"My mother is my seminary teacher," says Julia Grosz of the Linz Ward. "I always get breakfast at the same time as the lesson. We have seminary every morning. It helps me start the day in a better spirit. We're more cheerful and happy."

Julia and her sister, Carina, study together. They like being taught by their mother each morning at the breakfast table.

Ben Schenk of the Salzburg-Flachgau Ward really notices a difference when he goes to seminary.

"When I go to seminary, I have better days. It really helps me a lot, even in school. I just don't seem to have as many problems. The basic things you learn in seminary help in everyday life. I tell the first-year students it is worth going to seminary even though it's dark and so cold it burns your face and you can hear the ice cracking under your feet. Seminary really helps."

On the Saturday before school began, the Salzburg stake youth have gathered for the start of a new seminary year. It's more



# Makes Me Happy



like a big party than a Church meeting, even though a lesson will be taught. The fun atmosphere comes because a lot of good friends who don't see each other often have gathered for the afternoon and will stay for dinner and a dance.

Marie Krenn of the Klagenfurt Ward remembers starting seminary four years ago. "They asked everyone to stand up who was there for the first time. I thought, 'Gee, I don't really know anybody.' But then I got to know everyone." She lists the other occasions when the stake youth get together, like youth temple excursions, youth conferences, Young Women camp, and Seminary Saturdays.

Just starting his first year, David Fuchs of the Wels Ward knows only what he has been told, but he's excited to start seminary. "I expect to learn the scriptures and prepare for a mission."

Stephanie Kafka of the Linz-Urfahr Ward is also excited for her first year. "I look forward to not having to study the scriptures by myself. I'll have other young people to talk to."

### Seminary in Switzerland

In the neighboring country of Switzerland, seminary students in the Bern Switzerland Stake are also meeting to start a new seminary year. They have come from all over to the meetinghouse in Basel. Just as in Salzburg, there is a festive feeling to this get-together. The cultural hall is decorated for the dance, and dinner is being heated in the kitchen.

Most of the seminary students do a combination of home study and class work. Estelle Hansen of the Aarau Ward explains how seminary works for her. She lives in a small village, but fortunately a lot of members live nearby. About eight youth meet three times a week at their teacher's house. They also study at home one day, and on Wednesdays they have seminary in the evenings. "I especially like seminary videos. Things are so clear and easy to understand," Estelle says. "My brother Jen is starting seminary. He knows that it's important, and we are blessed for going. I have told my friends about seminary, but they don't understand. They don't like to read the Bible because it isn't important to them. They can't understand why I do."

Several students in the stake have the advantage of going to seminary every morning. Rebekka Wiesner of the Pratteln Ward and her sister, Noëmi, have their class come

to their home. Rebekka says, "When seminary is in the morning, you can think about the lesson during the day. Our teacher gives excellent examples, and she's funny and makes jokes. It is never boring. We laugh and we learn."

Back at the Basel Ward meetinghouse, two sisters, Annika and Sabrina Warncke, and their brother, Jan, wait patiently in a little park across the street for Seminary Saturday to start. They have just moved into the Basel Ward, but they already know and love seminary. All three study with their dad at home. They are sometimes a little amazed at how much their father knows about the scriptures. But best of all, they love the feeling that studying together gives them. Jan says, "In school, it's hard to feel



the Spirit, but in seminary, it's like a warm touch in your heart." Annika adds, "It's a feeling you can't describe. If you just read the scriptures, you can't feel it as often. But if you study, yes, you feel it."

Melissa Römer of the Biel Ward also talks about the feeling she sometimes gets in seminary. "You feel the Holy Ghost so strong, and you know you are doing what you should be doing."

One word that comes up over and over when talking about the feelings that seminary gives these youth in Austria and Switzerland is *happiness*. Yes, it is hard to get up so early. Yes, it is often cold and dark. But is it worth it? Oh, yes. Learning about the Lord and Savior







▲ **Erich Stüssi:** *"The best part of seminary was scripture chasing."* **Bodo Rückauer:** *"It's much better to learn together."*

Jesus Christ and what is written in the scriptures makes them happy. And they will choose that kind of happiness. ■



▲ **Sara Schnyder:** *"My little sister is starting this year, and we study together. She likes it very much."*

▼ **Thomas Fuchs:** *"I always learn something I can use in my life. It's fun. We have a good teacher."*



▲ **Alain von Allmen:** *"I like class because my friends are there. I like to study it out myself. I like it both ways."*



**Below: Seminary students in Switzerland outside the Basel meetinghouse. Previous spread: Austrian seminary students gather at the Salzburg-Flachgau Ward.**



◀ **Chantal Psota:** *"Taking seminary cheers you up. I feel better after I've read the scriptures."*





# Life *before* Birth



*A continuing series explaining basic beliefs of the restored gospel, doctrines unique to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*

**O**f all the major Christian churches, only The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that the human race lived in a premortal existence with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. “One of the strange things to me,” wrote President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972), “is the fact that so many people believe that there is a spirit in man and when he dies that spirit continues to live as an immortal thing, yet that it had no existence until man was born in this mortal life.”<sup>1</sup>

## **Solving Life’s Mystery**

President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, addressed the significance of this doctrine: “There is no way to make sense out of life without a knowledge of the doctrine of premortal life. . . . When we understand the doctrine of premortal life, then things fit together and make sense.”<sup>2</sup>

Without an understanding of our premortal life we cannot correctly comprehend our relationship with our Heavenly Father, nor can we completely grasp the purpose of this earth life and our divine destiny. “This doctrine of premortal life,” said President Packer, “was known to ancient Christians. For nearly five hundred years the doctrine was taught, but it was then rejected as a heresy by a clergy that

had slipped into the Dark Ages of apostasy. Once they rejected this doctrine, . . . they could never unravel the mystery of life. They became like a man trying to assemble a strand of pearls on a string that was too short. There is no way they can put them all together.”<sup>3</sup>

### Man Is Eternal

As the Lord restored divine truth through the Prophet Joseph Smith, knowledge of the premortal existence became critically important to our understanding of Heavenly Father’s plan for our salvation. “Man was also in the beginning with God,” the Lord revealed. “Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be” (D&C 93:29). Thus, in the sense that our intelligence has always existed, we had no beginning. But at some distant point in our premortal past, spirit bodies were created for us, and we became, literally, spirit sons and daughters of heavenly parents.<sup>4</sup>

The knowledge that we are spirit children of God, that we lived with Him before our mortal birth, and that we desired to become like Him defines our relationship with our Eternal Father. Joseph Smith taught that “God himself, . . . because he was more intelligent, saw proper to institute laws whereby [His children] could have a privilege to advance like himself.”<sup>5</sup> A necessary part of our advancement required us to leave our Father’s presence, to have a veil of forgetfulness cast over our minds, and to walk by faith, learning obedience to His commandments.

### What We Know

Because we came to earth to be tested and to walk by faith, the Lord has not revealed many details about premortal life. What has been revealed, however, is sufficient for us to accomplish our purpose here on earth. A few of the revealed facts about our premortal existence follow:

- We are God’s literal spirit children, and as such we



**I**n our premortal life we chose to follow Jesus Christ, who was chosen to come to earth as our Savior.

have the potential to become like Him (see Romans 8:16–17; D&C 93:33–34).

- We participated in a Grand Council in Heaven where we heard the Father’s plan for our salvation. We chose to follow Jesus Christ, who was chosen to come to earth as our Savior and Redeemer, and we shouted for joy at this wonderful opportunity (see Job 38:7; Abraham 3:24–28).

- Lucifer, “an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God” (D&C 76:25), said, “I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost” (Moses 4:1).

But he sought that God should give unto him God’s own power and glory, and he proposed to change the conditions of our mortal experience, destroying our agency. Without agency, we would have been incapable of actually becoming like our Heavenly Father, so this proposal was rejected by God and by two-thirds of His children. Lucifer then rebelled, there was a War in Heaven—a war of words and a spiritual conflict—and he was cast out with “a third part of the hosts of heaven” who had followed him (D&C 29:36). He became known as Satan, and he and his followers now work with devilish determination to destroy our souls (see Revelation 12:7–9; D&C 29:36–39; Moses 4:1–4).

- We came to earth without the memory of our prior existence, but we did come with individual strengths and talents, as well as weaknesses we must strive to overcome (see Ether 12:27; D&C 104:17; 138:55–56; Abraham 3:23).

- Earth life is not the beginning or the end of our existence, but it is both a test and a crucial stage in our ongoing development. Our performance in this test shapes our eternal future (see Abraham 3:25–26). ■

### NOTES

1. *Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. (1954–56), 1:56.
2. “The Mystery of Life,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1983, 18.
3. *Ensign*, Nov. 1983, 16–17.
4. See “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liabona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
5. *History of the Church*, 6:312.

# Twice



*I will be forever grateful to my father and his quick actions that saved my life—twice.*

BY ELDER W. ROLFE KERR  
Of the Seventy

**W**hen I was a young boy, my father saved my life. Although I do not remember the incident, it is a story that has been told many times in my family.

I was two years old at the time, and my brother was four. We were with our father as he was feeding the cattle on our family farm. He didn't notice that my brother and I had wandered off until my brother,

scared and out of breath, came running to him. My brother could hardly speak. He struggled to even say, "Rolfe's in . . . !" "Rolfe's in . . . !" Fortunately my father realized that my brother was trying to tell him that I had fallen in the irrigation ditch.

My father ran toward the ditch where I had slipped off the ditch bank into the running water. He ran along the ditch. When he saw my red sweater rolling in that deathly water, he jumped into the ditch and pulled me out. After administering first aid, my father was assured that I was breathing again.

I will be forever indebted to my brother for



*Me, at age 5 (left)*



# Rescued

having the presence of mind to alert my father. And I will be forever grateful to my father and his quick actions that saved my life.

## Saved from Spiritual Danger

Later in my life, my father saved me again.

This time I was not facing physical danger, but my spiritual life faced a challenge.

In high school I played sports, mostly football and baseball. During my last year, I was selected to play in an all-star baseball game at the end of the season. After that game, when the school year was ending, I was invited to play on a local baseball team. It wasn't a professional or even semiprofessional team, but I was flattered to be invited to play. The only problem was that most of the games were played on Sunday afternoons.

I did a pretty good job rationalizing. I thought I could play because my Church meetings were in the morning. I could attend my meetings and teach my Sunday School class before going to the games each Sunday afternoon.

With this in mind I spoke to my father. I told him about the baseball invitation and what I was thinking of doing. Although he was the stake president at the time, he wisely restrained himself and did not tell me to give up my baseball wishes, as he could have. Instead, he simply said,



*My father*

“Well, when you make the final decision, just remember the impact it will have on your Sunday School class.”

Nothing more needed to be said.

At that point the answer was absolutely clear in my mind. I turned down the invitation to play on that team, and I have not played a game of baseball since. Instead, I enjoyed playing on Church softball teams for many years,

never having to play on Sunday.

I appreciated the way my father helped me make that difficult decision. He did it in such a way that allowed me to see the importance of such a choice and understand that the decisions I make can have a great impact on people other than myself. This decision also set the stage for a choice I had to make later about serving a mission.

## Saying Good-Bye to Football

I had always planned on serving a mission when I turned 20, the age of missionaries at the time. After playing two seasons of football at Utah State University, I had a difficult decision to make. I knew that, at that time,

**I told my coach that I could not wait another year to go on my mission. After all my hard work in football, I said good-bye to the team and left to serve the Lord.**

very few returned missionaries played football after their missions. I had put a lot of effort into football, and I loved the game. I decided to delay my mission a few months so I could play one more season and then serve a mission. By the end of that season, I had won the starting quarterback position for the next year.

My coach was surprised and disappointed that after all my hard work in football, I was going to leave. He encouraged me to stay and play my final season. He couldn't understand why I would walk away from this opportunity. I listened to his comments and his logic, but I told him that I could not wait another year to go on my mission. If I did, I feared I would

miss my opportunity to serve a mission. After all my hard work in football, I said good-bye to the team and left for Great Britain to serve the Lord.

I never regretted that decision. I learned so many things on my mission. To witness people embracing the gospel was an incredible experience, which shaped the rest of my life in many important ways. My mission helped make me into the person I am today and had far greater impact on me than football ever could have.

As it turns out, when I returned from my mission, I got the chance to play football again. Although it was unexpected, I played my final year and achieved more than I believe I could have done before my mission.

I was given incredible opportunities that probably would not have come about had I chosen to further delay or even forego my mission.

The decision I made after high school to keep the Sabbath day holy, rather than play baseball, set the standard for my leaving football to serve a mission. Saying good-bye to baseball and football was difficult, but I am grateful that I chose as I did. Those decisions established my priorities in life early on and led to my marriage in the temple and to my happiness in this life.

I am grateful to my father for saving my life two times. First, from the muddy waters of an irrigation ditch and, second, from the tempting pools of worldly pursuits. ■

*Playing football at Utah State University*



*My coach*



# LIVING WATER



**KEEP YOURSELF IMMERSED IN THE LIVING WATER  
OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. (SEE JOHN 4:7-14.)**



# Questions & Answers

*“My friend doesn’t feel that she fits in. What can I do to make her feel welcome at church?”*

## L I A H O N A

**Y**ou can better help your friend if you know why she feels that she doesn’t fit in. If she’s uncomfortable in a new environment, it may just take some time and some friendship before she feels comfortable. Just make sure you and others at church help her feel welcome.

However, if your friend feels that she doesn’t fit in because she feels unworthy or because someone at church has offended her, knowing that will help you know how to help her. Anyone, worthy or not, can attend church. All Church members are imperfect people, but we attend church so we can learn to be better people. If your friend feels unworthy, encourage her to speak with the bishop or branch president.

Unfortunately, some members offend others. If someone has hurt your friend’s feelings, you can teach her about the peace that comes from forgiving those who offend us. You can also pray that her heart will be softened.

***The Lord is pleased when we attend church, so it’s important that your friend feel welcome there.***

***Introduce your friend to ward or branch members, and invite her to Church activities.***

***Do the small things that will help her feel welcome, like saying hi when you see her and sitting with her in classes and meetings.***

***Tell your friend she will enjoy church if she makes an effort to feel the Spirit there.***

***If your friend has been offended, help her understand the need to forgive.***

No matter her situation, let the Golden Rule guide you: treat your friend as you would like to be treated (see Matthew 7:12). If you felt that you didn’t fit in at church, what would help you feel welcome? Would you like someone to sit by you? Show you around? Say hi? Those simple things may be all your friend needs.

Tell people in your ward or branch that your friend needs a special welcome. Introduce her to the bishop or branch president, Young Women leaders, her Sunday School teacher, your friends, and others she might share an interest with. They can help you show her around at church, explain the meetings, and let her know about upcoming activities. As you and others include her, she will begin to feel welcome.

These efforts are important because they will let your friend know she is in the right place. It’s the Lord’s Church, and He invites everyone to worship and learn of Him at church (see D&C 59:9–10).

Members of the Church are taught to have



“their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another” (Mosiah 18:21). When you and others help your friend feel welcome, you are helping her feel the Lord’s love. Remind her that nothing can separate her from His love (see Romans 8:35, 38–39), not even a feeling that she doesn’t fit in. Your efforts to welcome her and her efforts to worship the Lord at church will help her feel the Spirit and the Lord’s love, and that will help her know she belongs.

## READERS



***I would not only pray for her but also fellowship her by inviting her to activities such as sports and devotionals. I believe that if you will do these things, she will feel that she fits in at church.***

Kesaia Lupe Matu, 19, Ha’ateiho Third Ward,  
Nuku’alofa Tonga South Stake

***You and your friends need to invite this girl to spend time with you. I have***

***moved many times, and I almost never feel like I fit in. But when a group of people tries to be my friends, I feel like I fit in at church, school, Mutual, and almost everywhere else. Just invite her to spend time with you and your friends, and she will grow spiritually and get involved in the Church.***

Nelsen E. Witt, 15, Centennial Park Ward,  
Syracuse Utah Stake

***It’s natural for your friend to feel this way because she may be unfamiliar with***

**Latter-day Saint services. As a friend who has a testimony of the Church, you have to act fast and help her overcome her barriers. Try these ideas: (1) Arrange with members to always shake hands with your friend and sit with her during meetings. (2) Help her develop friends in the Church. (3) Ask teachers of the classes she will attend to help her feel welcome. (4) Pray for her to feel the Spirit.**

Elder Christian Oye, 23, Nigeria Port Harcourt Mission



**Pray for her. Ask the Lord for advice as to how to act with her. I advise you to be with her the whole time she's at church.**

**Maybe on Saturday you could get together with some of the youth so that she can get to know them outside formal surroundings.**

Beatrice Trois, 18, Quartu Branch,

Sardegna Italy District



**One important thing is to invite her to come more often to Church activities. It's also important to ask your friends to accept her and to pray to Heavenly Father to help her feel welcome at church.**

Justin Dussere, 13, Salon Ward, Nice France Stake

**Church activities are designed to help all members and investigators feel at home and bond together. At activities she can gain more friends and she will feel a sense of belonging. Treat her as a special friend and introduce her to your friends, and your circle of friends will grow.**

Gretchen Monticalbo, 18, Albuera Ward,

Ormoc Philippines Stake



**Pray for your friend so the Spirit touches her with your testimony, your example, and your love. Speak to her about the joy the gospel brings to your life. Your**



**We members must help with the conversion process by making our wards and branches friendly places, with no exclusivity, where all people feel welcome and comfortable. . . . Teach the children, youth, and adults that being warm and friendly are Christlike qualities."**

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Hand of Fellowship," *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 29.

**friend will have the desire to know the Church and to feel accepted there.**

Vanessa Teupoorautoa, 19, Hipu Branch, Raromatai Tahiti Stake

**I would talk to her and ask her why she doesn't feel accepted. I would ask my Heavenly Father in prayer to guide me with His Spirit so I could know how to help her. He loves us. When we give ourselves completely to Him, we will feel this marvelous love in our hearts that can help anyone to overcome the fear of not being accepted.**

Meyling Fidelina Valle, 19, Ciudad Dario Branch, Matagalpa Nicaragua District

**I would make a special effort to reach out to her. Having a friend would help her feel accepted within the Church. I would encourage her to pray to Heavenly Father so He could help both of us. I would share my testimony.**

Erika Susana Figueroa Herrera, 19, Sucre Ward, Atiquizaya El Salvador Stake

*Liahona and readers' responses are intended for help and perspective, not as pronouncements of Church doctrine.*

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**Youth readers: Send your answer, along with your name, birth date, ward and stake (or branch and district), and a photograph (including your parent's written permission to print the photo) to:**

**Questions and Answers 3/06**

**50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420**

**Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA**

**Or e-mail: [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org)**

**Please respond by March 15, 2006.**

## QUESTION

**"My friend seems really depressed, and I'm afraid she might even be thinking about killing herself. What should I do?" ■**





# In the World but Not of the World

BY ELDER QUENTIN L. COOK

Of the Seventy

Sodom and Gomorrah have actual and symbolic significance representing wickedness in the world. The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, speaking of those who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah, “Their sin is very grievous” (Genesis 18:20). Their sinfulness was so great, and those who were righteous so few, that God destroyed these two cities of the plain. The great prophet of our own day, President Gordon B. Hinckley, has stated: “All of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah haunt our society. Our young people have never faced a greater challenge.

We have never seen more clearly the lecherous face of evil.”<sup>1</sup>

Separating evil from

our lives has become even more essential since our homes are wired to bring much of what the Lord has condemned into our own living rooms if we are not vigilant. One of the most difficult challenges in our lives is to be in the world but not of the world (see John 15:19).<sup>2</sup> Gospel doctrine makes it clear that we must live in this world to achieve our eternal destination. We must be tried and tested and found worthy of a greater kingdom (see 2 Nephi 2:11; D&C 101:78). We must do as Abraham did when he pitched his tent and built “an altar unto the Lord” (Genesis 13:18) and not do as Lot did when he “pitched his tent toward Sodom” (Genesis 13:12).

## Being a Light to the World

In early 1969, at the height of the “flower children” period in San Francisco, California, the Bay Area was a magnet for drug use and all manner of promiscuous and sinful conduct.



*How do we balance the need to positively contribute to the world and to not succumb to the sins of the world? We must pitch our tents in the direction Abraham did.*



**P**resident Brigham Young said, *“Every accomplishment, every polished grace, every useful attainment in mathematics, music, and in all science and art belongs to the Saints.”*

A concerned stake president asked the leadership of the Church if Latter-day Saints should be encouraged to remain in the Bay Area. Elder Harold B. Lee (1899–1973), then a senior member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was assigned to address the issue. He met with a group of priesthood leaders and told them the Lord had not inspired the construction of the Oakland California Temple only to have the members leave. His counsel was for members to create Zion in their hearts and homes, to be a light to those among whom they lived, and to focus on the ordinances and principles taught in the temple.<sup>3</sup>

We cannot avoid the world. A cloistered existence is not the answer.<sup>4</sup> In a positive sense, our contribution to the world is part of our challenge and is essential if we are to develop our talents. President Brigham Young (1801–77) said, “Every accomplishment, every polished grace, every useful attainment in mathematics, music, and in all science and art belongs to the Saints.”<sup>5</sup>

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) challenged members to accomplish more, stating, “We must recognize that excellence and quality are a reflection of how we feel about ourselves and about life and about God.”<sup>6</sup>

To accomplish the above, members of the Church need to be involved in the world in a positive way. How then do we balance the need to positively contribute to the world and to not succumb to the sins of the world? (See D&C 25:10; 59:9.) Two principles will make a significant difference.

*1. Let people know you are a committed Latter-day Saint.*

I learned the importance of this early in my career. After finishing my education at Stanford Law School, I sought employment



at a particular law firm. No members of the Church were associated with the firm, but the firm was made up of lawyers of character and ability. After a morning of interviews, the senior partner and two other partners invited me to lunch. The senior partner inquired if I would like a prelunch alcoholic drink and later if I would like wine. In both cases, I declined. The second time, I informed him that I was an active Latter-day Saint and did not drink alcoholic beverages.

I received an offer of employment from the firm. A few months later, the senior partner told me the offer of the alcoholic beverages was a test. He noted that my résumé made it clear that I had served an LDS mission. He had determined that he would hire me only if I was true to the teachings of my own church. He considered it a significant matter of character and integrity.

In my years in San Francisco, I knew some members who avoided letting



their associates know they were Latter-day Saints. Invariably they were drawn into compromising situations that could have been avoided had they forthrightly declared what they believed. They symbolically pitched their tents toward Sodom (see Genesis 13:12).

*2. Be confident about and live your beliefs.*

In our personal lives, we should avoid the evil “temporal pursuits of mortality”<sup>7</sup> and the destructive “behavioral and intellectual fashions of the world.”<sup>8</sup>

A derogatory comment occasionally made about members of the Church is: “They are like sheep waiting to be told what to do by their leaders. Why can’t they think for themselves?” While this comment may sound plausible on its face, the truth is that faithful Latter-day Saints, in a thoughtful and prayerful manner, study the doctrines and principles in the scriptures and in the counsel from living prophets and then seek to receive a confirming witness from the Holy Ghost. They don’t have to make every heart-breaking mistake in life. They know what is right and what is wrong. They don’t have to decide over and over again how they will live. They can benefit from the life experiences of all those generations that have preceded them and

from instructions from our Father in Heaven and His anointed servants. They can turn away from temptation.

We inevitably must make choices. If we know the doctrines and principles of the gospel, we can make wise decisions. If our lives are pure, the Spirit will guide us. Then we will be able to symbolically pitch our tents toward the temple (see Genesis 13:18) and the covenants we have made to the Lord, and we will be in the world and not of the world. ■

**NOTES**

1. “Living in the Fulness of Times,” *Liabona*, Jan. 2002, 6; *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 6.
2. See L. Tom Perry, “In the World,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 13–15.
3. Personal notes from meeting; see also D&C 115:5; Harold B. Lee, “Your Light to Be a Standard unto the Nations,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1973, 3–4.
4. See Gordon B. Hinckley, “Don’t Drop the Ball,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 48.
5. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* (1997), 196.
6. “The Gospel Vision of the Arts,” *Tambuli*, Feb. 1978, 5; *Ensign*, July 1977, 5.
7. C. Richard Chidester, “Worldly, Worldliness,” in Daniel H. Ludlow, ed., *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, 5 vols. (1992), 4:1587; see also Alma 4:8.
8. Neal A. Maxwell, “Overcome . . . Even as I Also Overcame,” *Ensign*, May 1987, 70; see also D&C 121:34–35.





# TEACHING with Church

*Need help with your lesson? One of the best resources is in your hands.*

BY DON L. SEARLE

Church Magazines

**Y**our children, or the young men or young women you teach, walk around every day in a world filled with people and media promoting immoral lifestyles in which marriage is incidental, drugs are the solution to problems, and success in life means money, no matter how you get it.

With all the evil that young people brush up against, how can you teach them they don't have to be part of it? How can you teach them to be in the world but not of the world?

You can find appropriate scriptures that teach the principle—for example, Doctrine and Covenants 133:5: “Go ye out from Babylon. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.” But can you “likened all scriptures unto us” (1 Nephi 19:23) so your children or students will see how the principle applies in their own lives?

A scriptural story might help. Joseph fleeing from Potiphar's wife could come to mind (see Genesis 39:1–20). But you can already hear your 15-year-old saying, “How does something that happened thousands of years ago have anything to do with me?”

So where are you going to find stories or other resources to show that principles taught in scripture apply today?

## Lessons in Your Hand

You're probably looking at one of your best lesson resources right now. Month after month Church magazines offer a steady supply of gospel-based, Church-approved materials for teaching.

Let's look at a couple of examples from this issue.

In his article “In the World but Not of the World” (page 39), Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Seventy writes of a

prospective employer who, knowing young Quentin Cook was a Latter-day Saint, tested his integrity by offering him liquor and wine. The man wanted to learn whether he would compromise his standards for the sake of personal gain. That is a test many young people could face.

Maybe you have had similar experiences. If you have, sharing them would be a good way to help others see that when we stand up for our moral standards in everyday situations, we are winners in the long run. They can know it is true because they know you.

Elder Cook's article supports lesson eight—“Living Righteously in a Wicked World”—in this year's Gospel Doctrine manual. Each month specific articles in Church magazines support lesson topics in the Sunday School manual or in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*. But every article, whether paired with a specific lesson or not, supports spiritual principles. When we read the article and discover what those principles are, then the Holy Ghost can teach us how the article could help “likened all scriptures unto us.”

You can see some of the spiritual topics covered in a particular month by looking at the list on page 1 labeled “Topics in This Issue.”

## A Simple Outline

What if you wanted to use an article in the magazine as a basis for a family home evening lesson? To use Elder Cook's article, you might make a simple outline like this:

- Principle: In a world where wickedness surrounds us, we need to live by the Lord's standards.
- Scriptures: Genesis 39:1–20; Joshua 24:15, 24; John 15:14, 18–19.
- Supporting story: Elder Cook's story teaches, among other things, that we never know when we may meet

## PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINA SMITH. POSED BY MODEL

(including stories; see “They Spoke to Us” in each conference issue), Church videos, manuals, or [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). But one important resource already comes into your home each month with articles and stories ready-made to help you teach lessons, whether in the home or in a Church classroom. It is the magazine you are reading right now. ■

You can search for supporting material for gospel lessons in a variety of sources: the scriptures, conference talks



## Led to a Sandwich Shop

By Chris L. Cooper

Several years ago we were returning home to the East Coast of the United States from a summer trip to Utah. Our family van started to “hiccup” somewhere in Missouri, and it got worse as we drove into Tennessee. Finally, climbing the hill leaving Chattanooga late that night, the motor died.

As we sat in the dark, wondering what we could do, it occurred to me that this was a great time for our entire family to unite in a prayer of faith. My wife and I calmed our four children and invited them to exercise their faith as we prayed.

Immediately after the prayer, the van started and

we continued up the hill. But within a mile it started running badly again. We took the first exit, thinking we would find a motel room for the night. But despite checking with four different motels, we couldn’t find a vacancy.

We returned to the freeway and soon came to an exit that didn’t look like it would have any motels, but something whispered to me to take

that exit. I did, but I could see nothing that I thought would help solve our problem. The exit

**I** walked into the sandwich shop and approached the family. “Are you an auto mechanic?” I asked.

led to a four-lane highway, and we quickly came to a stoplight. I was desperately wondering what I could do for my family in our predicament.

Suddenly my wife pointed out a sandwich shop that was still open on a side road and suggested we stop and get the kids something to eat. I pulled up to the shop, gave our oldest son some money, and sent the other children in with him while my wife and I sat and pondered.

We were tired. We had been traveling since 5:00 that morning, and it was now close to 9:00 p.m. I started asking questions in my heart about why our prayer hadn’t worked and why all our efforts to live the gospel didn’t seem to be having an effect for us in our time of need, when suddenly it came to me that something just wasn’t right.

I looked up and realized that the sandwich shop’s outside light wasn’t turned on. “How did you spot this





shop?" I asked my wife. "Was there a sign out by the highway?" She said no, that she had had a sudden impulse to turn her head to the right, and there it was.

I nodded, my mind racing, and quickly summed up. We were trying to live the gospel, raise our children right, be faithful in our callings; we had prayed in faith, followed a prompting, and here we were. It came to me then that we were exactly where we were supposed to be. We just hadn't figured out what the Lord had for us here.

And then I knew. Somebody must be here who could help us. I looked into the sandwich shop, and in the first booth was a young family. From my seat in the van I could tell that the father had grease stains on his hands.

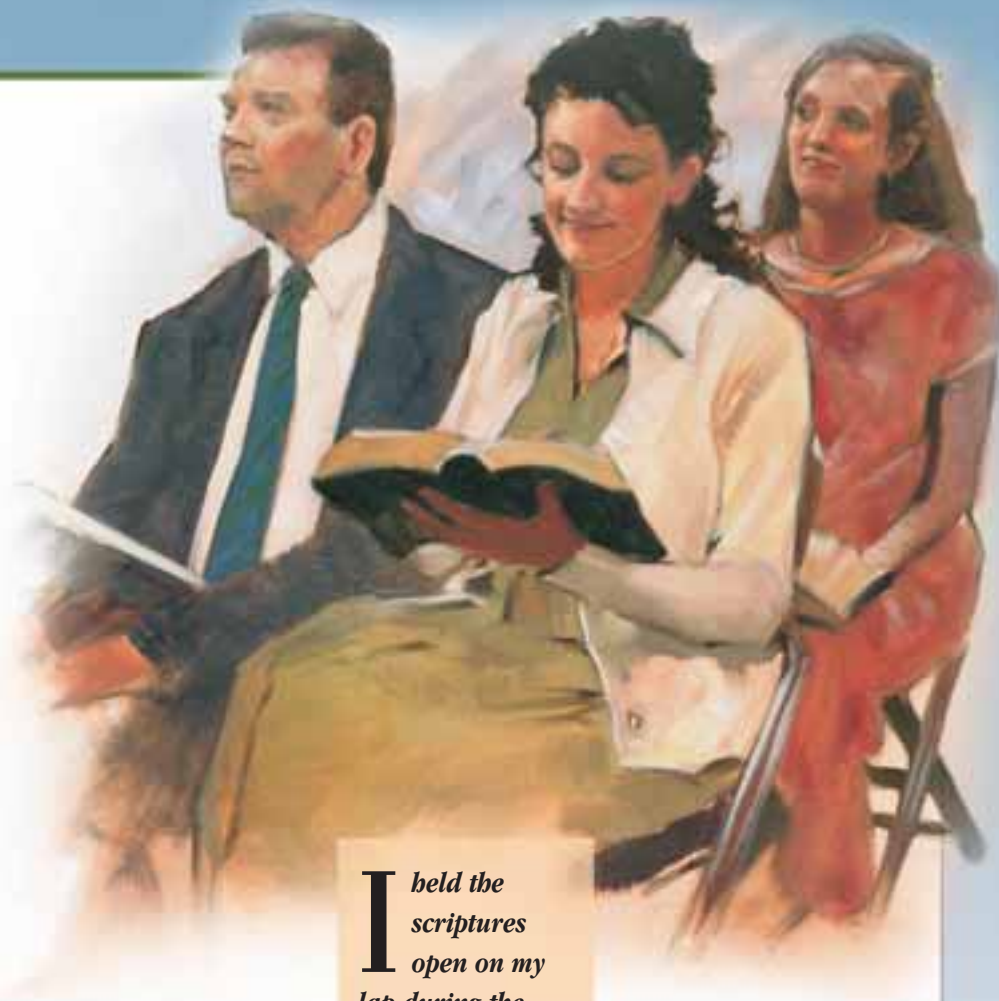
I got out of the car, walked into the shop, and approached the family. "Are you an auto mechanic?" I asked.

Surprised, he answered, "Yes."

I explained my problem, and his wife turned to him and said, "That's just what my car did last week!" He told me what to do to get my car running well enough to reach Atlanta that night. There we had the car repaired and then made it home no worse for wear.

Our children learned that night—and I did too—that faithful prayer does work, but often you have to trust in the Spirit to help you understand the answer. ■

*Chris L. Cooper is a member of the Charleston First Ward, Charleston South Carolina Stake.*



## *I Chose Sunday School*

By Helen Walker Jones

**I** had been going over an extensive reading list for the comprehensive exam I needed to pass to obtain my master's degree in English. I hoped my preparation was adequate, but I worried that it was not. I had gone back to school at age 35, and remembering concepts often seemed more difficult than it had been when I was younger.

The test was to occur on Monday, and when Sunday morning came, I began to rationalize that my time would be better spent studying

***I held the scriptures open on my lap during the lesson and found my eyes drawn to a few particular verses that I read over and over again.***

rather than attending Sunday School and Relief Society. I had almost decided to attend just sacrament meeting, but in the end I felt too guilty. I wondered what sort of example I would be setting

for my young children. So I went to Sunday School and Relief Society.

The Gospel Doctrine lesson covered the book of Job, and the instructor, Brother Clayton Smith, was an eloquent and humble teacher who delivered a powerful, spiritual message. I held the scriptures open on my lap during the lesson and found my eyes drawn to a few particular verses that I read over and over again.

The next day I arrived at the room

where the test was to be administered, and the proctor handed out the exam. It consisted of three essay questions, and I had three hours to complete them. Imagine my surprise when I read one of the questions: "Discuss the concept of suffering as illustrated by at least three literary works from the reading list." The book of Job was one of the works on the list.

I was truly amazed at how easily I answered that question, my response highlighted with direct quotes from the verses I had read the previous day in Sunday School. Breezing through that essay allowed me extra time to complete the other two questions.

At the conclusion of the test I felt very grateful for my "extra" preparation. I also felt that, having participated in Brother Smith's lesson, I had gained a spiritual perspective on Job that allowed me to answer the question with greater depth, fervor, and understanding than would otherwise have been possible.

Several weeks later, when the results of the test were posted, I discovered that I was the only student who had been awarded honors.

That was a Sunday School lesson I will never forget, particularly as it reinforced the concept of keeping the Sabbath day holy and never missing my meetings. I am grateful I was inspired to attend Gospel Doctrine that Sunday morning rather than cramming for my exam. ■

*Helen Walker Jones is a member of the Ensign First Ward, Salt Lake Ensign Stake.*

## *Your Wife Is in the Hospital!*

By Liu Kuan Feng

One pleasant summer morning in 1986 when my wife, Siou Chin, was preparing to leave for a class, I felt an impression clearly telling me to give her a ride to the bus stop. She had been taking classes at a school for teachers, and the bus stop was seven miles (11 km) away. I didn't pay much attention to the feeling. Having joined the Church not even one year earlier, I had little idea what the voice of the Holy Ghost felt like.

When Siou Chin was about to leave for the bus stop on her motorcycle, the same feeling came to me again, now more strongly than before, telling me that something would happen if I didn't give her a ride. I made the terrible mistake of again ignoring the voice.

Ten minutes later, the phone rang. I was so scared I couldn't answer it. It kept on ringing. Finally I picked it up, and the voice on the line said, "Your wife is in the hospital! Please come immediately."

When I arrived at the hospital, I recalled the warning and deeply regretted that I hadn't listened to the Holy Ghost. Siou Chin was in critical condition. She was unconscious. And on top of it all, she was nine months pregnant. A doctor recommended

that I send her to a larger hospital in Kaohsiung that had better equipment. After weighing my options I had the impression that I should send her to that hospital without further delay. On the way to the hospital I pleaded with Heavenly Father not only for forgiveness but also that He would save my wife's life.

An hour and 20 minutes later we arrived at the other hospital. The doctor in the emergency room ordered a CT scan, and after looking at the images, he told me Siou Chin had a skull fracture. I then found out there was no bed available in the hospital. All day long there was nothing I could do but pray for help. At 6:00 that evening I met the sister of a former classmate. She worked at the hospital, and with her help we were finally able to find an empty bed on the ninth floor. Siou Chin was still unconscious and in critical condition.

At 10:00 p.m. it dawned on me that I should ask the missionaries to give my wife a blessing. The missionaries in our branch called the elders in Kaohsiung, and 20 minutes later they arrived. But the doctor refused to allow them into my wife's room because she had gone into labor, even though she was still in a coma. So I asked the elders to give me a blessing instead of my wife, which they did in a conference room where we would be undisturbed.

By 11:00 p.m. my wife still hadn't delivered the baby, so the doctor decided to move her to the eighth

floor for a cesarean section. Then a miracle happened. Ten minutes after they moved her, she delivered the baby. The delivery went smoothly, and when the nurse handed me the baby, I couldn't believe my eyes. His features were exactly like the image I had seen in my prayers every night.

Seven days after our son's birth, Siou Chin finally regained consciousness. But her mind wasn't clear, and

she suffered headaches. Her primary physician recommended that we transfer her to a university hospital for brain surgery. I was overwhelmed and prayed for guidance. After less than three minutes of pondering, I told the doctor I had decided to transfer her to another medical center, even though it meant we would have to pay all

the expenses because that center was not eligible for medical coverage. This time I understood that I was being prompted by the Holy Ghost, and I was sure this decision was right.

We checked my wife into the medical center. A medical team that

tours Taiwan to investigate unusual cases happened to be visiting this center. A brain surgeon who had just received special training in the United States was with the team that day. After looking at all the information, this doctor announced that my wife didn't need surgery. He said her situation should improve within one week.

I was so relieved to hear those words. I am grateful to the doctor, but most of all, I thank my Heavenly Father who directed me to make the right decision.

Just as the doctor predicted, Siou Chin was better in a week. Even the doctor marveled at how quick her recovery was. I know that with the doctors' medical skill and with Heavenly Father's blessings, my wife was able to miraculously survive and is now fully recovered. Our son is now serving full-time in the Taiwan Taichung Mission.

We all have our share of trials and hardships, but we must always keep our faith in Heavenly Father. ■

*Liu Kuan Feng is a member of the Chi Shan Branch, Kaobsiung Taiwan Stake.*

**W***hen my wife regained consciousness, her mind wasn't clear and she suffered headaches. Her physician recommended brain surgery.*





### **Liabona Leads to Baptism**

It was through the *Liabona* that I became acquainted with the Church and was baptized. In 1997, when I was 11 years old, a friend showed me copies of the magazine. The beautiful pictures caught my attention, as did the articles and games in the children's section. I was baptized a short time later. Even though it was years ago, I remember it perfectly.

*Paula F. P. da Silveira,  
Ibirapuuta Ward,  
Alegrete Brazil Stake*

### **Magazine Promotes Unity**

We were profoundly touched by President Thomas S. Monson's First Presidency Message "To Truly See," in the February 2005 issue. We carefully studied this article during a family home evening, and we both resolved to cultivate the ability to see Christ in the faces of our spouse, our children, and everyone we meet. This magazine promotes unity in our home and helps us feel the love of our Heavenly Father through the messages of the prophets.

*Justin and Christine Mukuna,  
Katuba Second Ward,  
Lubumbashi Democratic Republic  
of Congo Stake*

### **Infinite Gratitude**

I love the *Liabona* and often share its articles with my nonmember friends. I also love the Book of Mormon. What a great privilege it is to know the truth and how much we owe the Prophet Joseph Smith! I feel infinite gratitude to the Lord's faithful servants, who have made it possible for me to have this knowledge today.

*Marta R. Garriga,  
Carlos Paz Ward,  
Córdoba Argentina Sierras  
Stake*



### **Help for Members**

I want to thank you for the beautiful articles in the *Liabona* that tell about the experiences of members of the Church. I am especially grateful for "The Link in the Chain," by Eva Fry in the September 2004 issue. I have been able to use this article with members of the ward where I am serving who are going through similar problems, and it has helped all of us.

*Elder Eder Herrera Guarneros,  
Mexico Mexico City North Mission*

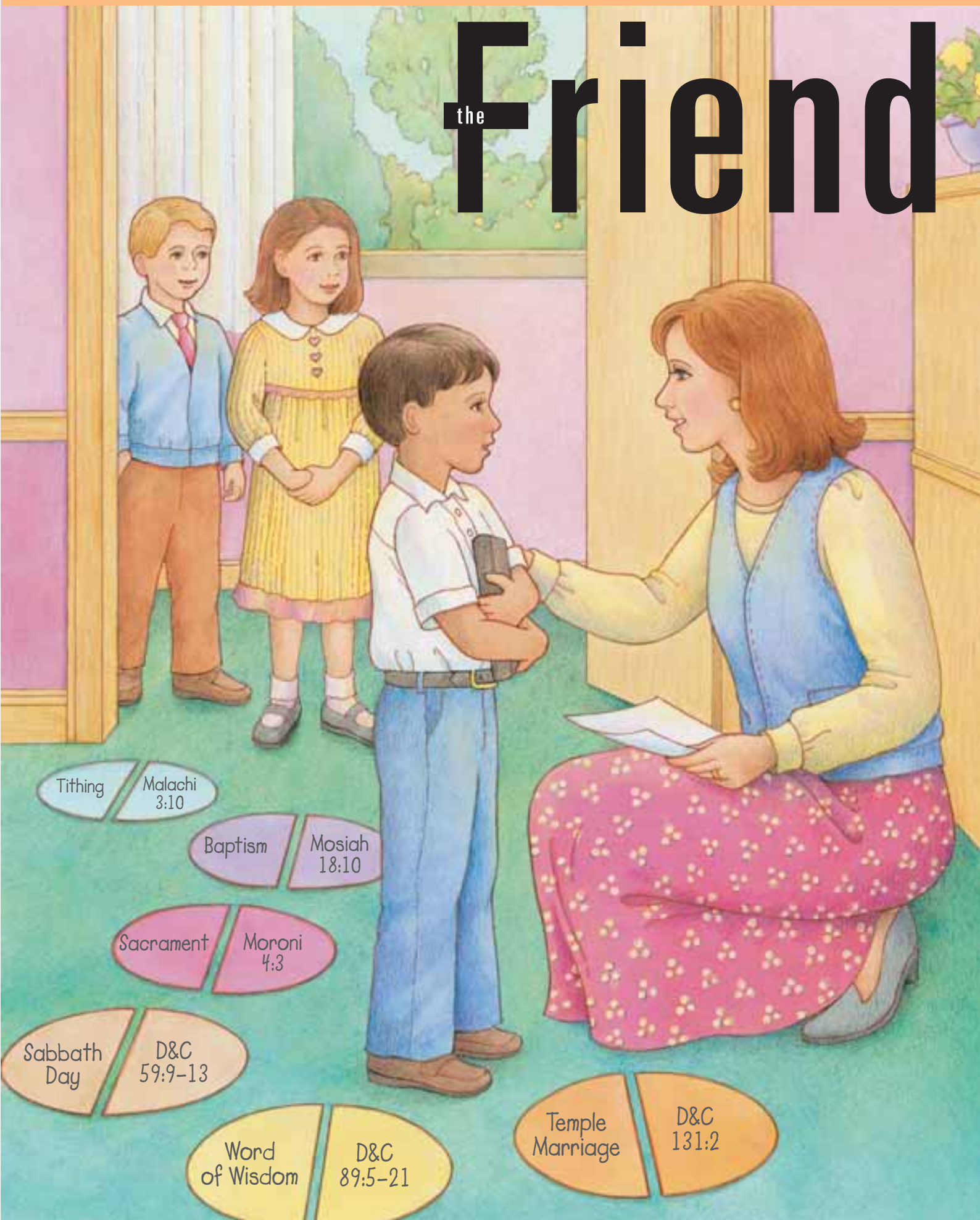
### **Preparation for the Restoration**

As a history teacher, I would like to express my gratitude to the *Liabona* for publishing the article "What Had to Happen?" in the March 2005 issue. It helped me increase my testimony of the truthfulness of this great work by showing through historic events how the Lord prepared in advance each specific condition necessary for the Restoration of His Church.

*Marcelo Olinto Soares de Moura,  
Cavaleiro Ward,  
Recife Brazil Jardim São Paulo Stake*



# the Friend





# The Lighthouse

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

First Counselor in the First Presidency



**President Monson teaches that we have access to the lighthouse of the Lord.**

**Y**oung people, you live in tumultuous times. You have choices to make—choices with eternal consequences. But you are not left unaided in your decisions, however small or however large they may be.

It has been said that history turns on small hinges, and so do people's lives. That is why it is worthwhile to look ahead, to set a course, to be ready when the moment of decision comes.

I ask the question, "What will be your faith?" Decide to ever follow the admonition of King Benjamin: "If you believe all these things see that ye do them" (Mosiah 4:10).

In this life, where we have opportunities to strive and to achieve, I bear witness that on occasion we need to make a second effort—and a third effort, and a fourth effort, and as many degrees of effort as may be required to accomplish what we strive to achieve.

Should you become discouraged, remember that others have passed this

same way; they have endured and then have achieved. When we have done all that we are able to do, we can then rely on God's promised help.

You have access to the lighthouse of the Lord. There is no fog so dense, no night so dark, no mariner so lost, no gale so strong as to render useless the lighthouse of the Lord. It beckons through the storms of life. It seems to call to you and me: "This way to safety; this way to home."

If you want to see the light of heaven, if you want to feel the inspiration of Almighty God, if you want to have that feeling within your bosom that your Heavenly Father is guiding you to the left or guiding you to the right, instructions from this passage of scripture will help you: "Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved" (D&C 87:8), and then the Spirit of our Heavenly Father will be yours. ●

*From a Church Educational System satellite broadcast address given on September 7, 2003, in Salt Lake City, Utah.*







# MY LIFE HAS A PLAN

**“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life” (1 John 2:25).**

BY LINDA MAGLEBY



Carlos was a 10-year-old who liked to run, jump, and play. He also liked to ask lots of questions. His Primary teacher loved him. She would often say to him, “It is very important for you to learn the things we are teaching in Primary. Someday you will grow up to be a priesthood holder, a father, and a leader in the Church, and you will need to know these things.” Carlos thought that his teacher was telling him that just so he would be reverent. However, he began to listen and learn. When Carlos grew up, he did receive the priesthood, he became a father, and he was called to be a leader in the Church. He remembered what his Primary teacher had said to him, and he was glad that he had listened and learned.

Heavenly Father has a plan for us. He told us about His plan when we lived with Him before we came to earth. When we learned of His plan, we were so happy we shouted for joy! His plan includes being part of a family. He also planned that we would be able to choose between right and wrong. He planned for Jesus to come to earth and show us how to choose the right. If we have faith in Jesus and follow Him, Heavenly Father has promised us that we will be happy and live with our families, Heavenly Father, and Jesus eternally.

## **I Will Follow Heavenly Father’s Plan for Me Poster**

Color the poster on page F4; then mount it on heavy paper. Hang it up where it can remind you to follow Heavenly Father’s plan for you.

**Note:** If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). For English, click on “Gospel Library.” For other languages, click on the world map.

## **Sharing Time Ideas**

1. Place Gospel Art Picture Kit 239 (*The Resurrected Jesus Christ*) at the front of the Primary room. Prepare six large paper circles. Cut each circle in half. On six of the half-circles, write one covenant (titling, baptism, sacrament, Sabbath day, Word of Wisdom, temple marriage). On each of the other half-circles, write one scripture reference that tells a way to keep a covenant (Malachi 3:10; Mosiah 18:10; Moroni 4:3; D&C 59:9–13; D&C 89:5–21; D&C 131:2). Place the half-circles in two columns on the chalkboard or bulletin board. Have the children take turns looking up one of the scriptures and reading it aloud. Then ask the group to identify the covenant it matches. Choose a child to represent all of us when we come to earth. Have the child stand at the back of the Primary room. As a match is made, connect the two halves of the circle and place it on the floor, making a pathway for the child to walk on. The path leads back to the Savior. As we make and keep covenants, we can return to live with Him. If time permits, sing songs to reinforce each covenant.

2. Arrange well in advance for three or four adult members of the ward or branch to help in sharing time. Give each of them a copy of *My Gospel Standards*, and ask them to think of experiences they can share with the children, demonstrating when living the standards blessed their lives. Note which standards they plan to speak on. In sharing time post a copy of *My Gospel Standards*. Pick songs or hymns that will give musical clues to the standards chosen. Play one musical clue for the children until they guess the appropriate gospel standard. Invite the child who guesses correctly to read the gospel standard. Invite one of the adult members to share an experience about how living that standard blessed his or her life. Occasionally have the children sing the musical clue song. Continue the game as time permits. Bear testimony of the happiness that can come as we live *My Gospel Standards*. ●

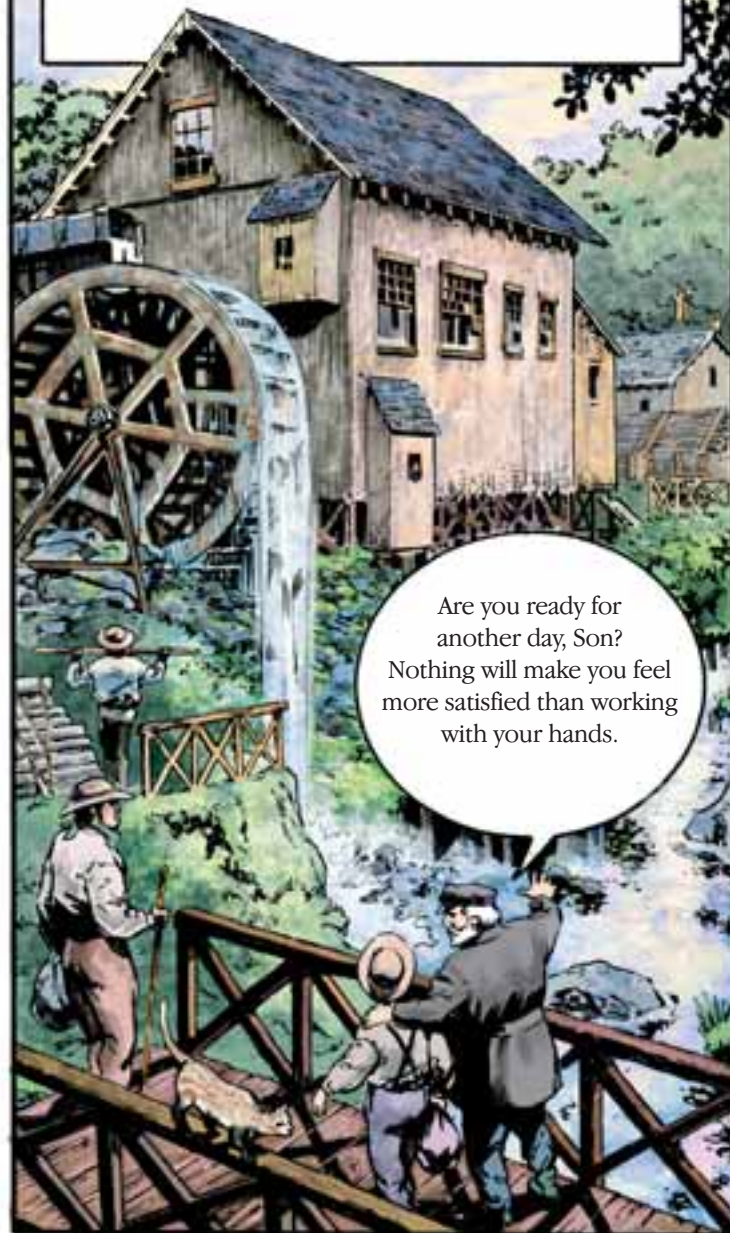




FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

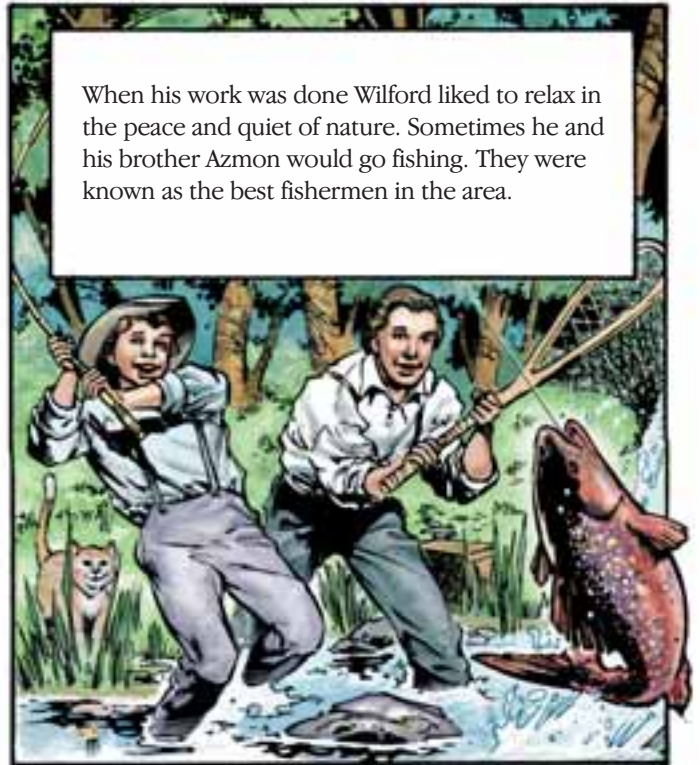
## Catching Fish and Saying Prayers

When President Wilford Woodruff was a child, he lived in Connecticut and worked in his family's flourmill and sawmill. Both his father and grandfather worked at the mills and encouraged him to put in a full day's work. Some days Wilford worked for 18 hours!

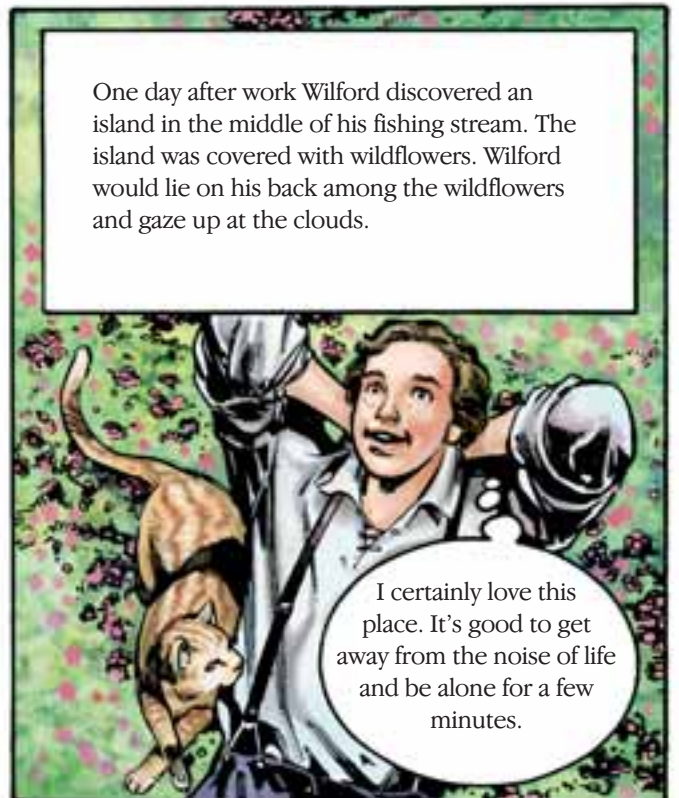


Are you ready for another day, Son?  
Nothing will make you feel more satisfied than working with your hands.

When his work was done Wilford liked to relax in the peace and quiet of nature. Sometimes he and his brother Azmon would go fishing. They were known as the best fishermen in the area.



One day after work Wilford discovered an island in the middle of his fishing stream. The island was covered with wildflowers. Wilford would lie on his back among the wildflowers and gaze up at the clouds.



I certainly love this place. It's good to get away from the noise of life and be alone for a few minutes.



During these quiet moments Wilford often thought about Heavenly Father. He would pray earnestly to better understand the scriptures he read each day.

There are so many different churches and religions. I just want to know God's will.

As he grew older Wilford continued doing the things he loved as a child—fishing and praying. While traveling across the plains with Brigham Young, Wilford fished at every possible spot.

These prayers helped Wilford become a very faithful man and a Church leader. Other people noticed his good example and gave him the nickname “Wilford the Faithful.”

You sure love to fish, don't you, Brother Wilford?

It gives me time to meditate. Sometimes it gives me dinner too!



*Adapted from Susan Arrington Madsen, The Lord Needed a Prophet (1990), 61–62, 71.*

# I Can Live with My Father in Heaven Again

BY PAT GRAHAM



**B**efore we were born on this earth, we lived with our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ. We learned many things. Heavenly Father told us that in order to become like Him, we had to leave heaven for a while. When He presented the plan of happiness to us, we shouted with joy. We knew that being part of a family and making choices would be an important part of our life on earth. We liked the plan and agreed to come and live on the earth.

Some children came to live in Africa, and some children came to live in South America. Others came to many different parts of earth. No matter where they live, what color their skin, or the language they speak, all children are children of God. All children can learn how to return to our Father in Heaven again.

You could use the following activity for a lesson in family home evening or a talk in Primary.

## Instructions

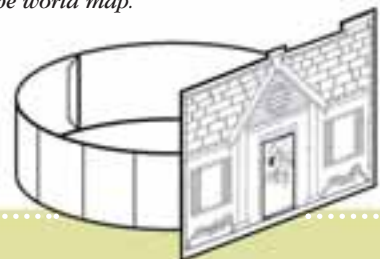
Color the house on page F9 the same color as your house. Cut it out, and glue it to heavy paper. Cut slits

along the dotted lines on each side of the door. Color the two picture strips. Cut them out, and glue tab 1 to the other picture strip to make one long strip. Slide one end of the picture strip through the slits on each side of the door. Glue tab 2 to the other end of the picture strip (see illustration).

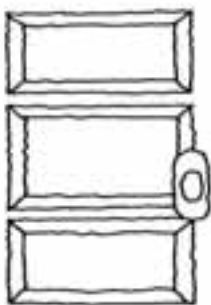
Position the picture strip so you start with the picture of the door. Read the two sentences printed on the door. Show the next picture, sing the words printed from the song "I Am a Child of God" (*Children's Songbook*, 2–3, or *Hymns*, no. 301), and then read the sentence. Continue this procedure until you have shown all the pictures, sung the song, and read all the sentences. ●

**Note:** If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). For English, click on "Gospel Library." For other languages, click on the world map.

Illustration







Does your home on earth look like this?  
I wonder who lives in this house.



**Sing:** "I am a child of God,"  
**Read:** These children live in Mexico.



**Sing:** "And he has sent me here,"  
**Read:** Some of God's children live in Tonga.



**Sing:** "Has given me an earthly home"  
**Read:** Here is a child who lives in Japan.



**Sing:** "With parents kind and dear."  
**Read:** God wants all parents to be kind.

tab 1



**Sing:** "Lead me, guide me,"  
**Read:** My mother can guide me.



**Sing:** "Walk beside me,"  
**Read:** My brothers and sisters can walk beside me.



**Sing:** "Help me find the way,"  
**Read:** My father can help me.



**Sing:** "Teach me all that I must do"  
**Read:** The scriptures tell me how to act like a child of God.



**Sing:** "To live with him someday."  
**Read:** I want to return to live with Heavenly Father.

tab 2

# GUESS WHO

**1** He has one older brother and one younger brother. When they were growing up, they were the only LDS youth in their branch.

**2** Even though he is a busy General Authority, he enjoys baking bread with his family.

**3** When he was growing up, his family would visit his mother's family in Utah. They had picnics under the trees in an apple orchard, and he and his cousins would go swimming in a nearby canal.

**4** The Church was small where he grew up in New Jersey, so the branch met in a hotel room and later in his family's house. They used their dining room table for the pulpit and the sacrament table.

**5** He was 12th in seniority in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for nine years, until October 2004 when two new Apostles were sustained.

**6** At his grandparents' home in Arizona, he and his family members would ride horses, and his grandfather loved to watch them race.

**Read the clues about this member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.**

**Then find the answer below. The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are called as prophets, seers, and revelators to stand as special witnesses of Jesus Christ. They have the responsibility to testify of Him to the whole world.**

**7** He first saw his wife at a Church sunrise service. The next summer, in July 1962, he married Kathleen in the Logan Utah Temple. Elder Spencer W. Kimball, future President of the Church, performed the sealing.

**8** He likes to paint with watercolors.

**9** He has three academic degrees: one in physics and two in business administration.

**10** He served as president of Ricks College (now Brigham Young University–Idaho) in Rexburg for five years.

## Words of Wisdom

*“As a child of God, your destiny, if you work hard enough and are faithful, is to become like Him. That means that there is nothing that is true that you cannot learn, because He knows all truth” (“Do What They Think You Can’t Do,” New Era, Oct. 1989, 6).*



# Scripture Figure

**A**s you retell scripture stories, this figure can represent any woman in the scriptures, such as Rebekah, Sarah, or Elisabeth. The figure can be mounted on heavy paper, colored, cut out, then made into a stick puppet, flannel board figure, or paper sack puppet, as illustrated. Make several and color the

hair and clothing differently for each one. Watch for another scripture figure next month. ●

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**Stick Puppet**



**Flannel Board Figure**



**Paper Sack Puppet**



# The Happy Book

*"Have I cheered up the sad and made someone feel glad?"*  
(Hymns, no. 223).

BY LAURA LUNDY

A true story

**D**on't ask me how the science fair went!" Michelle declared, walking into the house after school.

"What happened?" Morgan asked.

"Didn't you just hear me say don't ask?" Michelle snapped. She walked right past her little sister and up the stairs. Bang! Her bedroom door slammed shut.

Morgan asked Mom why Michelle was mad. Mom explained that Michelle was hoping her project on hermit crabs would win at the science fair, and that it must not have happened.

"So why won't she talk to me?" Morgan asked.

"Maybe she will later, honey. For now, we should leave her alone," Mom said.

"But I want to play with her, like I always do when she comes home from school."

"I don't think she wants to play games right now. Maybe you could color or play dolls while I start making dinner," Mom said.

Morgan went to her bedroom and took out some paper and crayons. She started to draw a picture with flowers. She colored it for a few minutes and then stopped. She quickly jumped up and ran to Mom.

"How long till dinner?" Morgan asked.

"About 45 minutes."

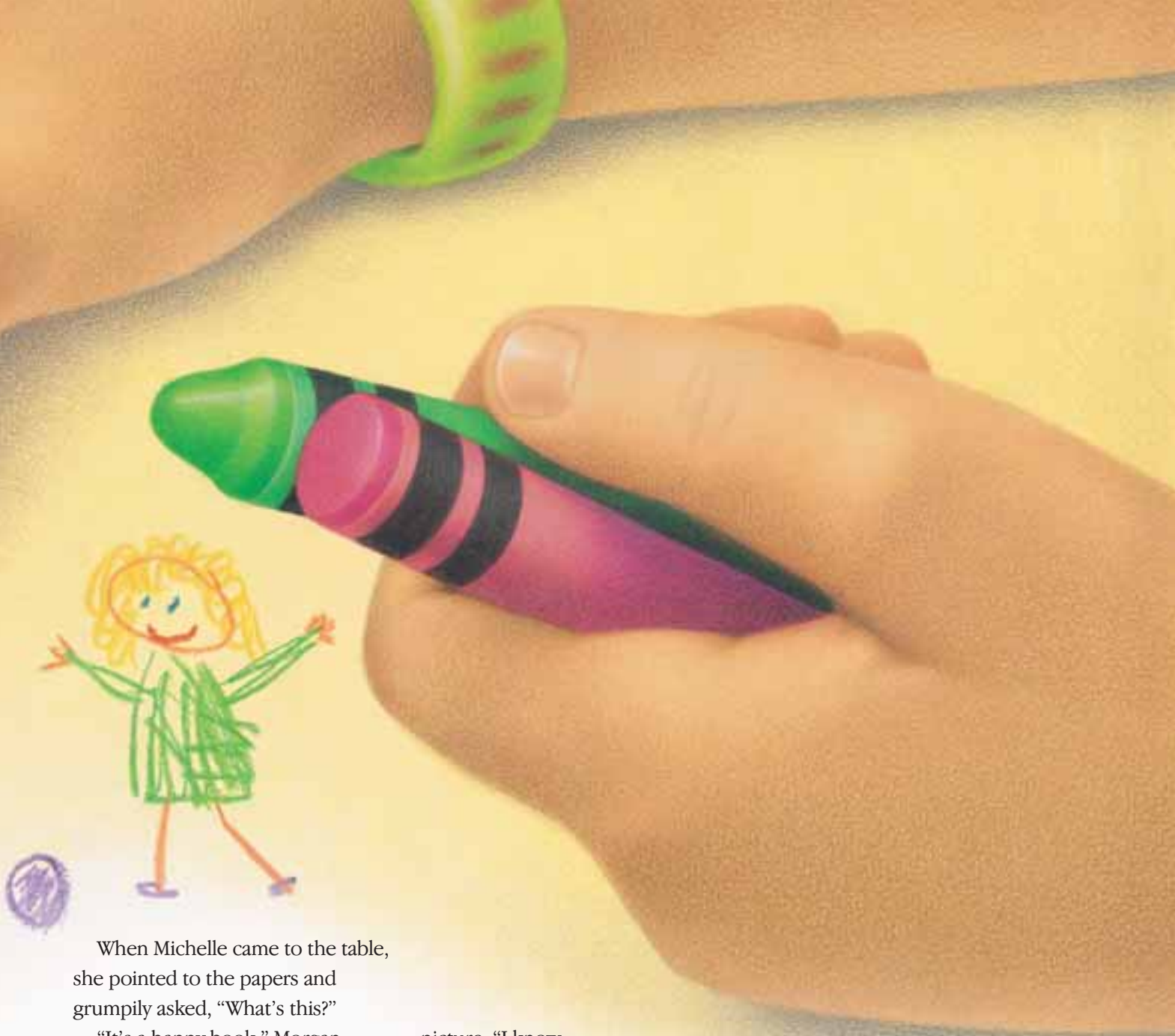
"Is that enough time to make a happy book for Michelle? I want it to be done by dinner," Morgan said.



Seeing Mom nod her head yes, Morgan ran back to her room and closed the door.

"Michelle! Morgan! Dinnertime!" Mom called a little while later.

Morgan hurried out of her room and ran to Michelle's spot at the dinner table. She placed some papers facedown on Michelle's plate. Then she sat in her own chair.



When Michelle came to the table, she pointed to the papers and grumpily asked, "What's this?"

"It's a happy book," Morgan said softly.

"Oh." Michelle picked up the papers and turned them over. She studied the first one.

"That's a picture of a trophy. 'Cause I liked your hermit crabs the best," Morgan said. "The next one is a picture of a sad face."

"Why?" Michelle asked.

"Because I got sad that you were mad and didn't want to talk to me or play games with me."

Michelle flipped to the next

picture. "I know this one is a heart, right?"

"Yes," Morgan said. "A heart means I love you."

Michelle looked at the last picture, then at her sister.

"It's my favorite. It's me and you playing a game together." Morgan looked at her older sister. "Did my book make you happy?"

"Yes, very happy," said Michelle. "I'm sorry for being angry when I came home from school. I wasn't mad at you. My project didn't

win anything, and I thought it would, so I was upset."

"That's OK. I still love you," Morgan said.

"I love you too, Morgan," Michelle said with a smile. "After dinner do you want to play a game?"

"All right!" Morgan cheered. ●

# My Friend Linda

*"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,  
if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).*

BY HEIDI RENOUF BRISCO

Based on a true story



People rarely walked up the big hill to get to my house. The ice-cream man wouldn't waste his gas going up such a steep hill, the paperboy refused to ride his bike to deliver papers there, and even my dog would never run away because he would have to run back *up* the hill to get home! But at least once a week, Linda huffed and puffed up the big hill on her way up, up, up to my house.

Linda was an older, heavysset woman with short black-and-white hair like salt and pepper. Some people in our neighborhood said she was disabled, but my mother told me that Linda was special. Inside, she was still a little girl. Whenever Linda came to visit, she would greet us with a great big hug and a kiss on the cheek. We could not help smiling when she was around.

One day Linda came jaunting up the hill and bolted into the house. She never knocked or rang the doorbell; she just came in and said, "Linda is here!" Today she was so excited that she grabbed my brother Roy and danced him around the room, yelling, "I'm invited to the Snowflake Ball! Linda is invited to the Snowflake Ball!"

The Snowflake Ball was a fancy dance party for the people who went to Linda's school. She was so excited to get dressed up that she could not talk about anything else. "I want to wear a big, red, fluffy dress, sparkles in my

hair, and red, sparkly shoes," she said.

"I want to wear roses in my hair too.

Do you like red, Katie?"

"I like red, but I like pink best," I answered truthfully.

"I like red the best. I have always wanted to wear a beautiful red dress and be a fancy lady."

Mother offered to sew Linda's dream dress. We bought some red shoes at the discount store and glued glitter on them so they sparkled. Every time Linda tried on her dress and shoes, she cried when she had to take them off again. She liked looking as beautiful on the outside as she was on the inside.

Finally the day of the Snowflake Ball arrived. It was a school day for me, but I felt excited for Linda's big party. At lunch I sat down outside with my friends. From a distance I heard someone yelling my name. "Katie! Katie! My best friend, Katie! Look at me! Katie, I'm so pretty! Katie, look at my pretty, fluffy, puffy, sparkly, happy dress. Katie, look at your friend Linda! I am a fancy lady. Linda is right here. Look, Katie!"

I saw Linda waving from across the street, all dressed up. I would have waved back, but I noticed my friends' faces. They looked surprised.

"You know that weird lady?" Natalie asked. "She walks all over our neighborhood. My mother says she's crazy."

I stammered for an answer.





Then Kelly added, "I see her all over our neighborhood too. Look at her ugly dress! She looks so funny!" They all started to laugh.

Natalie smirked and again asked, "So you know that crazy lady? Is she your best friend or something? How does she know your name?"

Across the street Linda was still waving to me, but she had stopped yelling. I could tell she was sad that I had not answered. I sat quietly for a moment. "Um, I think she knows my name because she walks by our house and hears my mom calling me," I lied. "Of course I don't know her."

Kelly, Natalie, and the other girls seemed relieved and continued joking about her. I felt terrible. I could not bring myself to look across the street at Linda. I couldn't eat the rest of my lunch; I couldn't even talk. I knew I had done something wrong.

When I was baptized the year before, I had promised to try to be like Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost was now telling me that I had broken my promise. Jesus loved Linda and would never treat her this way, and He loved me and would never want me to act this way.

As the girls began to clear away their lunches, I jumped up. "Stop! I *am* friends with that lady," I blurted out. "Her name is Linda, and she is a friend of my family. Please don't be mean to her. She is special, and we love her." Some of the girls suppressed smiles, but others said they had special friends like Linda too.

Linda sat on the street curb looking sadly down at her sparkly shoes. Now it was my turn to shout and wave my arms. "Linda, Linda, my best friend, Linda. Look at me! Linda, you look so pretty! You are a very

fancy lady! Linda, look at your pretty, puffy, sparkly, happy dress! Linda, look at your friend Katie. Katie is right here, Linda!"

Linda lifted her head. She smiled and waved. The more I waved and shouted, the more she waved back and smiled. Soon she and I were jumping up and down, waving, blowing kisses to each other, and smiling. We had attracted the attention of all the students outside, and they heard me say that Linda was my friend.

Linda had a wonderful time at the Snowflake Ball.

She really did look like a fancy lady. Mother

and I volunteered to serve punch at the dance so we could watch Linda have a good time.

After the ball Mother, Linda, and I walked up that great big hill to my house. I apologized to Linda for being slow to wave to her. She didn't even seem to remember, and I thought how lucky I was to have such a forgiving friend. We had a lovely walk home together, my best friends

and I. Somehow, with them on each side of

me, that great big hill up, up, up to my house didn't seem so hard after all. ●

*Heidi Renouf Brisco is a member of the Woodland Park Ward, Los Altos California Stake.*



"[Some people] may appear different, move awkwardly, and speak haltingly, but they have the same feelings. . . . They want to be loved for what they are inside."

**President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Works of God," Ensign, Nov. 1984, 59.**





**Joseph's Coat Brought to Jacob, by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–69)**

*Joseph's brothers "took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; and they . . . brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. And he knew it. . . . And Jacob rent his clothes" (Genesis 37:31–34).*





**I**n the Restoration, temple work received a very high priority. The first revelation from a ministering angel pertained to this doctrine. Recorded in the second section of the Doctrine and Covenants, it is an echo of the fourth chapter of Malachi. Moroni foretold the coming of Elijah, who would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” See Elder Russell M. Nelson, “Young Adults and the Temple,” p. 10.