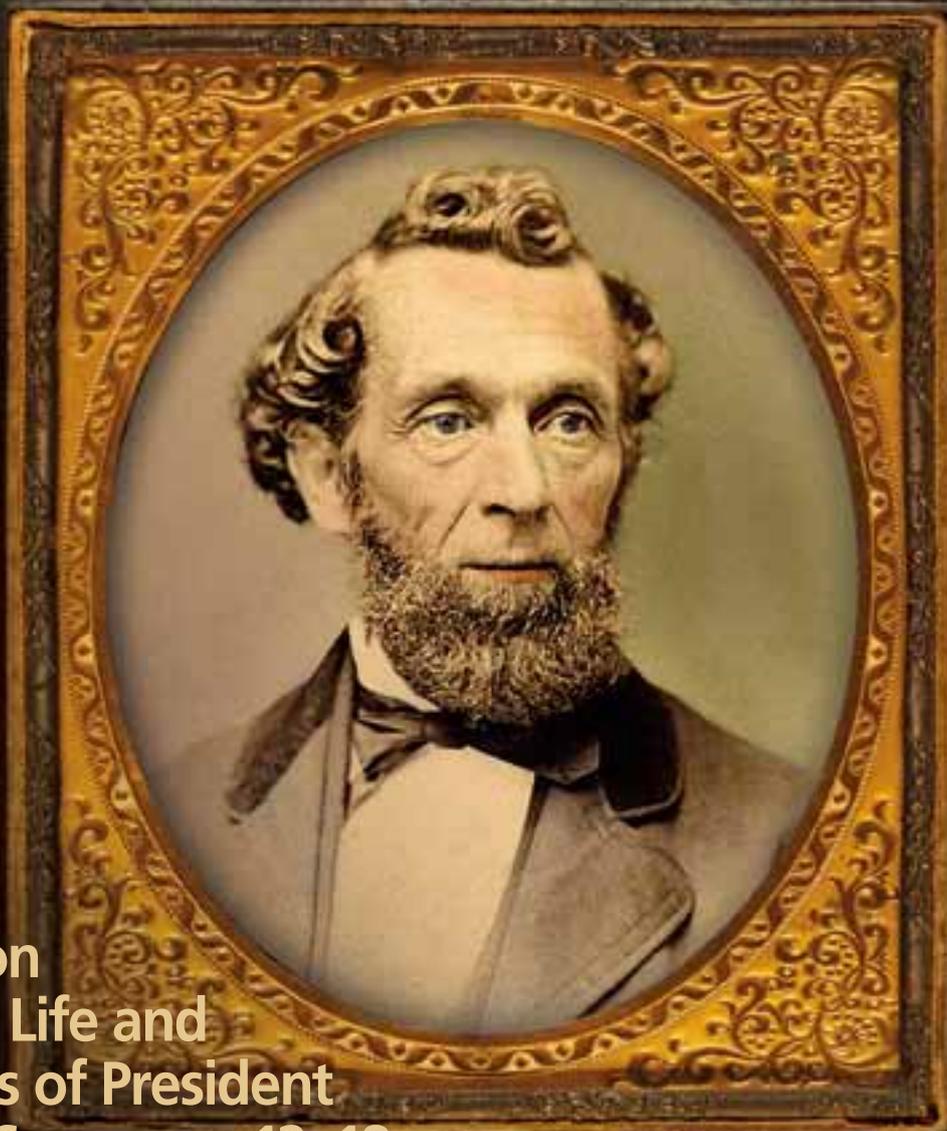


Liahona



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from the Life and
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*“Compared
to God, man
is nothing;
yet we are
everything
to God.”*

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “You Matter to Him,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 20.



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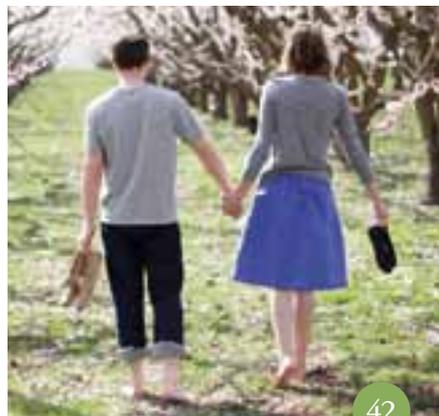
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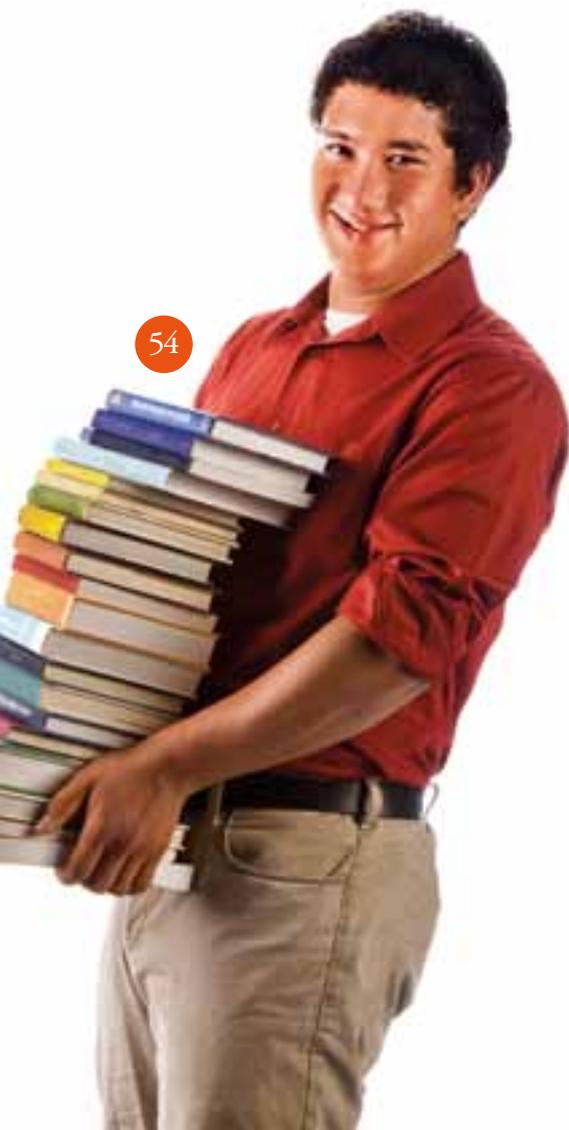
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Front: Photograph of President Lorenzo Snow by C. R. Savage, courtesy of L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University; frame courtesy of Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Back: Painting by John Willard Clawson © IRI. Inside front cover: Photograph by Andrey Shumilin.

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See if you can find the Liahona hidden in this issue. Hint: "How can I get" a Liahona?

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FOR ADULTS

The article on page 12 introduces this year's course of study for Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society Sunday meetings. If you prefer to read the manual online, it can be found at LDS.org under "Resources."

FOR YOUTH

On page 50, Elder Craig A. Cardon of the Seventy teaches how education affects your life mission. You can learn more about education in the *For the Strength of Youth* section at youth.lds.org.

IN YOUR LANGUAGE

The *Liahona* and other Church materials are available in many languages at languages.lds.org.

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

THE VOICE OF THE LORD



The Doctrine and Covenants invites all people everywhere to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ (see D&C 1:2, 4, 11, 34; 25:16). It is filled with His messages, warnings, and encouraging exhortations given by revelation to chosen prophets. In these revelations we can see how God can answer our prayers of faith with messages of instruction, peace, and warning.

In our prayers we seek to know what God would have us do, what we should do to find peace and happiness in this life and the next, and what lies ahead of us. The Doctrine and Covenants is filled with answers to such questions asked by ordinary people and by prophets in humble prayer. It can be a precious guide to teach us how to receive answers to questions about our temporal well-being and eternal salvation.

Humility and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are key. Oliver Cowdery received an answer from the Lord regarding his desire to help in the translation of the Book of Mormon: “Remember that without faith you can do nothing; therefore ask in faith. Trifle not with these things; do not ask for that which you ought not” (D&C 8:10).

Over and over in the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord requires faith and humility before He gives His help. One reason for this is that His answers may not come in the way we expect. Neither will they always be easy to accept.

Church history and the experiences of our ancestors illustrate this reality. My great-grandfather Henry Eyring prayed fervently to know what he should do when he heard the restored gospel taught in 1855. The answer came in a dream.

He dreamed that he was seated at a table with Elder Erastus Snow of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and with an elder named William Brown. Elder Snow taught the principles of the gospel for what seemed to be an hour. Then Elder Snow said, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to be baptized and this man [Elder Brown] . . . shall baptize you.”¹ My family is grateful that Henry Eyring had the faith and humility to be baptized at 7:30 in the morning in a pool of rainwater in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, by Elder Brown.

The answer to his prayer did not come in an audible voice from the Lord. It came in a vision and dream in the night, as it did with Lehi (see 1 Nephi 8:2).



Left: In this journal, Henry Eyring (photo on the left) recorded the events following the martyrdom of Elder Parley P. Pratt (photo beneath Henry Eyring's). The journal page on the left mentions the martyrdom. Under the journal is an 1890 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants.

The Lord has taught us that answers can also come as feelings. In the Doctrine and Covenants, He taught Oliver Cowdery, “Behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart” (D&C 8:2).

And He encouraged Oliver this way: “Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?” (D&C 6:23).

The Doctrine and Covenants, Church history, and the history kept by Henry Eyring on his mission just after his baptism have taught me that answers can be felt as warnings as well as peace.

In April 1857, Elder Parley P. Pratt of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles attended a conference in what is now Oklahoma, USA. Henry Eyring recorded that Elder Pratt’s “mind was filled with gloomy forebodings . . . , not

being able to discern the future or any way of escape.”² Henry recorded the sad news immediately thereafter of the martyrdom of the Apostle. Elder Pratt had gone forward on his journey despite feelings of danger, just as the Prophet Joseph had done in going to Carthage.

It is my testimony that the Lord always answers the humble prayer of faith. The Doctrine and Covenants and our personal experience teach us how to recognize those answers and accept them in faith, whether they be direction, confirmation of truth, or a warning. I pray that we always will listen for and recognize the loving voice of the Lord. ■

NOTES

1. “The Journal of Henry Eyring: 1835–1902” (unpublished manuscript in author’s possession).
2. “The Journal of Henry Eyring: 1835–1902.”

TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

1. Consider reading together the paragraphs about prayer in this message. As you read, ask family members to listen carefully for how God answers prayers. Consider testifying of the importance of prayer.

2. The Doctrine and Covenants is filled with answers to questions asked by people in prayer. What if the answers to their questions (the revelations) were never recorded? Encourage the family to learn to recognize and follow the promptings of the Spirit. They may want to record their thoughts regarding prayer in their journals.

PHOTOGRAPH OF PARLEY P. PRATT COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY LIBRARY; JOURNAL AND PHOTOGRAPH OF HENRY EYRING COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH MARRIOTT LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS; PHOTOGRAPH OF ITEMS BY DAVID STOKER

YOUTH

Listening for the Promptings

By María Isabel Molina

One night my young cousin ran away from home, so I hurried to go look for her. As I drove, I prayed for the Spirit to help me. I knew that God would answer and direct me, and I tried to listen to the Spirit's promptings. But when I couldn't hear anything, I began to feel desperate and felt that the Spirit was not prompting me.

Although I wanted to go farther away to search, I felt that I should stay in the area around my cousin's home.

So I decided to drive around the area once more. As I stopped at an intersection, I saw the silhouette of a young girl walking. I had found my cousin!

As I got out of the car and ran to her, I realized that the Spirit had been directing me all along by helping me feel that I should stay in the same area. Because I had been listening for a quiet voice, I nearly ignored the Spirit's promptings. I then understood that many times we will not hear a voice, but we will feel

impressions in our hearts.

I was so thankful for the Spirit's guidance. Truly He is always there! As the scriptures say, "The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion" (D&C 121:46).

If we are worthy of the Spirit's guidance and we pay attention, we can be instruments in God's hands to do good for many people. With the constant companionship of the Spirit, we will know the way we should go.

CHILDREN

A Prayer Adventure

President Eyring teaches that prayers can be answered in many different ways. You can have an adventure searching the scriptures to find out some of those ways.

Use this map to begin your learning journey. Look up each scripture on the map. On the blank lines, write a few words to describe what the scripture says about answers to prayer.

Along the way, you can write in your journal about what you're learning as well as your own experiences with prayers being answered.



1 John 14:26

2

Doctrine and Covenants 6:22–23

3

Doctrine and Covenants 8:2

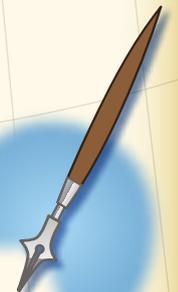
4

Doctrine and Covenants 9:8–9



X

Proverbs 8:10–11



Prayerfully study this material and, as appropriate, discuss it with the sisters you visit. Use the questions to help you strengthen your sisters and to make Relief Society an active part of your own life. For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.

Missionary Work

Latter-day Saints are sent forth “to labor in [the Lord’s] vineyard for the salvation of the souls of men” (D&C 138:56), which includes missionary work. We don’t need a formal mission call to share the gospel. Others whose lives will be blessed by the gospel surround us, and as we prepare ourselves, the Lord will use us. Visiting teachers can embrace their spiritual responsibilities and help “bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39).

When the Prophet Joseph Smith organized the Relief Society in 1842, he said that the women were not only to look after the poor but also to save souls.¹ This is still our purpose.

“The Lord . . . entrusts a testimony of the truth to those who will share it with others,” said President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Even more, the Lord expects the members of His Church to ‘open [their mouths] at all times, declaring [His] gospel with the sound of rejoicing’ (D&C 28:16). . . . Sometimes a single phrase of testimony can set events in motion that affect someone’s life for eternity.”²



From the Scriptures

Doctrine and Covenants 1:20–23; 18:15; 123:12

NOTES

1. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 453.
2. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Waiting on the Road to Damascus,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2011, 76–77.
3. See *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 92–95.



Faith, Family, Relief

From Our History

The story of Olga Kovářová of the former Czechoslovakia is an example of member missionary work from our Relief Society history. In the 1970s, Olga was a doctoral student and hungry for a deeper spiritual life. She noticed 75-year-old Otakar Vojkůvka, a Latter-day Saint. “He appeared to me seventy-five in his age but in his heart nearer to eighteen and full of joy,” she said. “This was so unusual in Czechoslovakia at that time of cynicism.”

Olga asked Otakar and his family how they found joy. They introduced her to other Church members and gave her a Book of Mormon. She read it eagerly and was soon baptized and confirmed. Since that time Olga has been an influence for good in a world of political oppression and religious persecution. She served as Relief Society president in her little branch and helped save the souls of others by bringing them to Christ.³

What Can I Do?

1. Do I follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost as I share my testimony with the sisters I visit?
2. How am I helping the sisters I watch over to learn the gospel?

OCTOBER CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

“What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken; . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).

As you review the October 2012 general conference, you can use these pages (and Conference Notebooks in future issues) to help you study and apply the recent teachings of the living prophets and apostles and other Church leaders.

STORIES FROM CONFERENCE

Was It Chance That Our Paths Crossed?

On one extremely cold Saturday night during the winter of 1983–84, Sister Monson and I drove several miles to the mountain valley of Midway, Utah, where we have a home. The temperature that night was minus 24 degrees Fahrenheit (–31°C), and we wanted to make certain all was well at our home there. We checked and found that it was fine, so we left to return to Salt Lake City. We barely made it [a] few miles . . . before our car stopped. . . . We were completely stranded. . . .

Reluctantly we began walking toward the nearest town, the cars whizzing past us. Finally one car stopped, and a young man offered to help. . . .



This kind young man drove us back to our Midway home. I attempted to reimburse him . . . , but he . . . indicated that he was a Boy Scout and wanted to do a good turn. I identified myself to him, and he expressed his appreciation for the privilege to be of help. Assuming that he was about missionary age, I asked him if he had plans to serve a mission. He indicated he was not certain just what he wanted to do.

On the following Monday morning, I wrote a letter to this young man and thanked him for his kindness. In the letter I encouraged him to serve a full-time mission. . . .

About a week later the young man’s mother telephoned and advised that her son was an outstanding young man but that because of certain influences in his life, his long-held desire to serve a mission had diminished. She indicated she and his father had fasted and prayed that his heart would be changed. . . . [She] wanted me to know that she looked upon the events of that cold evening as an answer to their prayers in his behalf. I said, “I agree with you.”

After several months and more communication with this young man, Sister Monson and I were overjoyed to attend his missionary farewell prior to his departure for the Canada Vancouver Mission.

Was it chance that our paths crossed on that cold December night? I do not for one moment believe so. Rather, I believe our meeting was an answer to a mother’s and father’s heartfelt prayers for the son they cherished.

President Thomas S. Monson, “Consider the Blessings,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 88.

Questions to Ponder

- How can serving a mission strengthen you and those you teach?
- What can you do to prepare yourself to serve a mission?

Consider writing your thoughts in your journal or discussing them with others.

Additional resources on this topic: *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2004); Russell M. Nelson, “Ask the Missionaries! They Can Help You!” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 18–21.



Prophetic Promise

“Our Heavenly Father is aware of our needs and will help us as we call upon Him for assistance. I believe that no concern of ours is too small or insignificant. The Lord is in the details of our lives.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Consider the Blessings,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 88.

CHANGE IN MISSIONARY AGE GUIDELINES

In the October 2012 general conference, President Thomas S. Monson announced: “All worthy and able young men who have graduated from high school or its equivalent

. . . will have the option of being recommended for missionary service beginning at the age of 18, instead of age 19. . . . Able, worthy young women who have the desire to serve may be

recommended for missionary service beginning at age 19, instead of age 21” (“Welcome to Conference,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 4, 5).

STUDY CORNER

Drawing Parallels: True Conversion

Some of the most important topics are addressed by more than one general conference speaker. Here is what four speakers said about true conversion. Try looking for other parallels as you study conference talks.

- “True conversion . . . includes a conscious commitment to become a disciple of Christ.”¹ —Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.
- “At baptism we promise to take upon us ‘the name of [Jesus] Christ, having [the] *determination* to serve him to the end.’ [Moroni 6:3; emphasis added.] Such a covenant requires

courageous effort, commitment, and integrity.”² —Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- “We are followers of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Such conversion and confidence is the result of diligent and deliberate effort. It is individual. It is the process of a lifetime.”³ —Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency
- “Only when our testimony transcends what is in our mind and burrows deep into our heart will our motivation to love and to serve become like unto the

Savior’s.”⁴ —Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

NOTES

1. David A. Bednar, “Converted unto the Lord,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 107.
2. Quentin L. Cook, “Can Ye Feel So Now?” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 9.
3. Ann M. Dibb, “I Know It. I Live It. I Love It,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 10.
4. M. Russell Ballard, “Be Anxiously Engaged,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 30.

To read, watch, or listen to general conference addresses, visit conference.lds.org.

WHOLE ENOUGH

By Michele Reyes

How could I possibly change diapers, prepare dinner, or comfort my children with only one arm?

When I was 17 years old, I lost most of my left arm in a car accident. This experience would forever change my life. Though there have been difficult days and trying moments, this refiner's fire has given me an opportunity to witness the power of the Atonement in a unique way.

My life now is all about being a wife and a mother, two roles I love deeply. Before my children were born, I wondered about my adequacy to be a mother. How could I possibly change diapers, prepare dinner, or comfort my children with only one arm? Fifteen years later, I am in the middle of motherhood with five sweet children. I have adjusted well, and my children hardly notice that I am different from other mothers. My missing arm is no longer a hindrance but a symbol of love. It is a source of comfort for my children to hold when they cry or fall asleep at night. This attachment may be due to many things, but I see it as evidence of the Savior's ability to create something good out of something tragic.

I cannot describe the sweetness I feel when that part of me can

provide such comfort to my children. Motherhood has brought perspective to my physical limitation, and I have felt the Atonement already begin to heal me.

The daily demands of motherhood have sometimes been difficult. Tough times give me reason to reflect on the reality of the Resurrection and the Savior's ability to heal me. Thus the faith-promoting examples of healing found in the scriptures have special meaning to me. One of my favorites is when the Savior visited

the people in the Americas and healed their sick. I have imagined what it might have been like to be one of those healed by the Savior. The account begins with His loving invitation:

"Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, . . . or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are filled with mercy. . . ."



STRENGTH TO LIVE WITH YOUR CHALLENGE

"Some challenges in life will not be resolved here on earth. Paul pled thrice that 'a thorn in the flesh' be removed. The Lord simply answered, 'My grace is sufficient for thee' (2 Corinthians 12:7, 9). . . . He gave Paul strength to compensate so he could live a most meaningful life. He wants you to learn how to be cured when that is His will and how to obtain strength to live with your challenge when He intends it to be an instrument for growth. In either case the Redeemer will support you."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "To Be Healed," *Ensign*, May 1994, 7.



“ . . . I see that your faith is sufficient that I should heal you.

“ . . . When he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth with their sick and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with them that were afflicted in any manner; and he did heal them every one” (3 Nephi 17:7–9).

For me, this is one of the most touching events described in the scriptures. But my perspective has changed as I have embraced motherhood with one arm. I once thought I was one of the people who most looked forward to the Resurrection and the idea of being made whole. But now I am not in so much of a hurry. Increasingly, I feel the Atonement working in my life *now*. I have realized that the healing power need not begin only when the Resurrection occurs. The wholeness has already begun when, every night, one of my children tenderly holds what remains of my arm and slips into slumber. This realization has been just as meaningful to me as any miracle of physical healing. I have decided that, for now, I am as whole as I need to be. ■

My missing arm is no longer a hindrance but a symbol of love. It is a source of comfort for my children to hold when they fall asleep at night.

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME?

Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Presidency of the Seventy answered this question in his April 2012 general conference talk, “Special Lessons”:

“This life is training for eternal exaltation, and that process means tests and trials. It has always been so, and no one is spared.

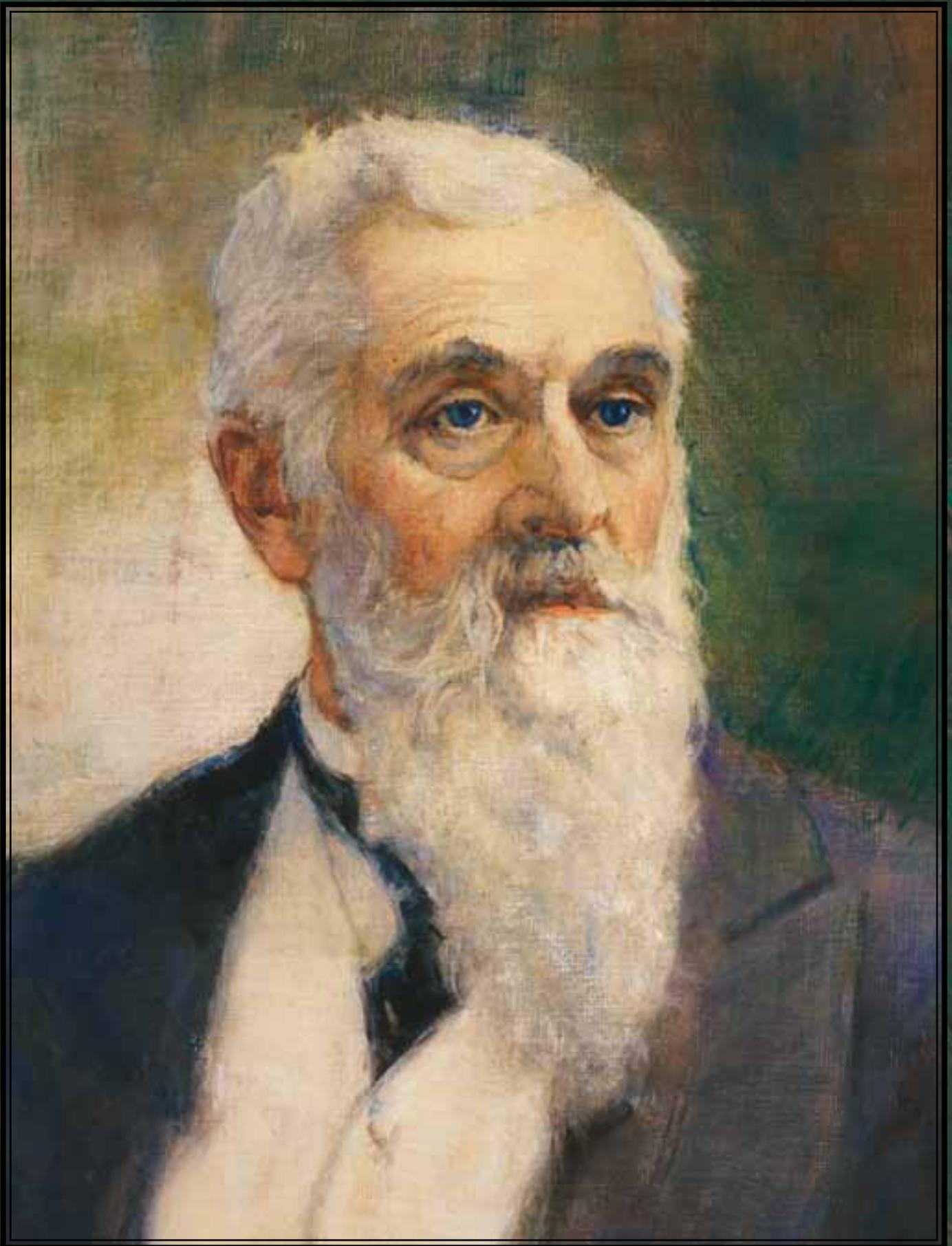
“Trusting in God’s will is central to our mortality. With faith in Him, we draw upon the power of Christ’s Atonement at those times when questions abound and answers are few. . . .

“Though we will face trials, adversities, disabilities, heartaches, and all manner of afflictions, our caring, loving Savior will always be there for us. He has promised:

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. . . .

“My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid’ (John 14:18, 27).”

In what ways can you seek the Savior’s comfort and peace in your trials?



Pickles, Turnips, and Testimony

INSPIRATION FROM THE LIFE AND
TEACHINGS OF LORENZO SNOW

As you study President Lorenzo Snow's teachings this year, you will come to know him as a prophet, seer, and revelator whose counsel is remarkably relevant today.

If you have ever seen a portrait of Lorenzo Snow, the fifth President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you probably remember his long white beard and his kind face. And if you have paused for a few minutes to examine such a portrait, you may have been drawn to President Snow's eyes—tired but not weary, aged but full of energy and light.

You may have heard that President Snow was inspired to preach about tithing, and you might recall reading something about a sacred experience he had in the Salt Lake Temple.

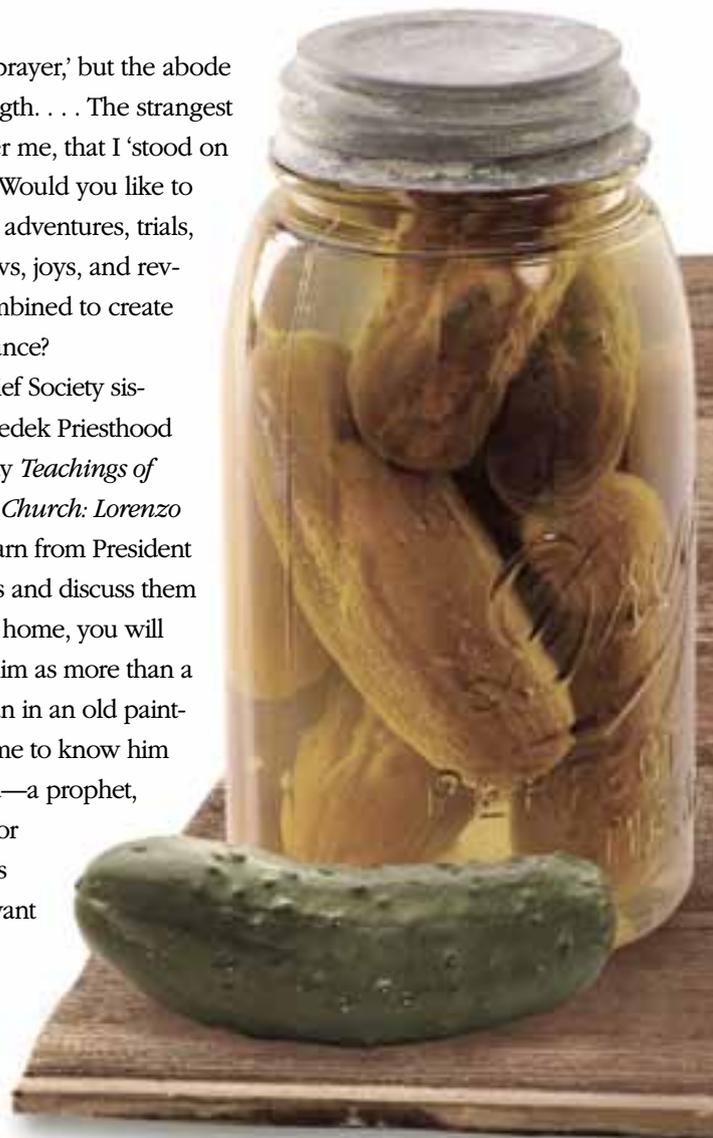
But do you know what led to his temple experience and what resulted from it? Are you curious to know the story about the revelation he received on the law of tithing?

And what about his eyes and his face? After meeting President Snow, a minister of another faith wrote: "His face was a power of peace; his presence a benediction of peace. In the tranquil depths of his eyes were not only the

'home of silent prayer,' but the abode of spiritual strength. . . . The strangest feeling stole over me, that I 'stood on holy ground.'"¹ Would you like to know about the adventures, trials, triumphs, sorrows, joys, and revelations that combined to create such a countenance?

This year, Relief Society sisters and Melchizedek Priesthood holders will study *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow*. As you learn from President Snow's teachings and discuss them at church and at home, you will come to know him as more than a kind-looking man in an old painting. You will come to know him as a man of God—a prophet, seer, and revelator whose counsel is remarkably relevant today.

Just to whet your appetite, here are a few samples of the



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Lorenzo Snow was born on April 3, 1814, in Mantua, Ohio, USA. His parents, Rosetta and Oliver Snow, raised him and his six siblings in a home dedicated to faith, hard work, service, and education. These foundational principles prepared him to embrace the restored gospel. In June 1836 he joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kirtland, Ohio, influenced by the promptings of the Holy Ghost and some gentle prodding from his sister Eliza, who had already joined the Church. A little less than a year later, he was called to serve as a full-time missionary.

Over the next 12 years, he served several other missions in the United States, and he also led a group of Latter-day Saint pioneers to the Salt Lake Valley. He was a devoted, energetic missionary, laboring in Italy, the Hawaiian Islands, and the western United States. He was ordained an Apostle on February 12, 1849. He also participated in other areas of Church leadership, including more than 5 years of service as the first president of the Salt Lake Temple. On October 10, 1898, he was set apart as President of the Church. He died on October 10, 1901, in Salt Lake City, Utah.



teachings and stories you will find in this year's course of study. In the following paragraphs, the chapter and page numbers refer to *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow*.

You might remember an interesting general conference address in which Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles compared the process of conversion to the process of pickling a cucumber.² Elder Bednar wasn't the first Apostle to make this comparison. President Snow shared a similar insight 150 years earlier:

“Place a cucumber in a barrel of vinegar and there is but little effect produced upon it the first hour, nor in the first 12 hours. Examine it and you will find that the effect produced is merely upon the rind, for it requires a longer time to pickle it. A person's being baptized into this church has an effect upon him, but not the effect to pickle him immediately. It does not establish the law of right and of duty in him during the first 12 or 24 hours; he must remain in the church, like the cucumber in the vinegar, until he becomes saturated with the right spirit.”³

When President Snow spoke of conversion, he spoke from experience. He often told of two events—one that occurred before he joined the Church and one that occurred shortly after his baptism and confirmation—that helped him become “saturated with the right spirit.” You can read accounts of these experiences on pages 1, 3, 59, and 61–62.

“Why is [a] man called to act as president over a people?” President Snow once asked. “Is it in order to acquire an influence and then to use that influence directly for his own aggrandizement? No, but on the contrary, he is called to act in such a position on the same principle as the priesthood was given to the Son of God, that he should make sacrifices. For himself? No,



President Snow preached that paying tithing brought blessings. Tithing used to be received at offices like the one shown here (Salt Lake City, 1880s). Left: In preparation for hosting some friends, President Snow made candle holders out of turnips to illuminate his log home.

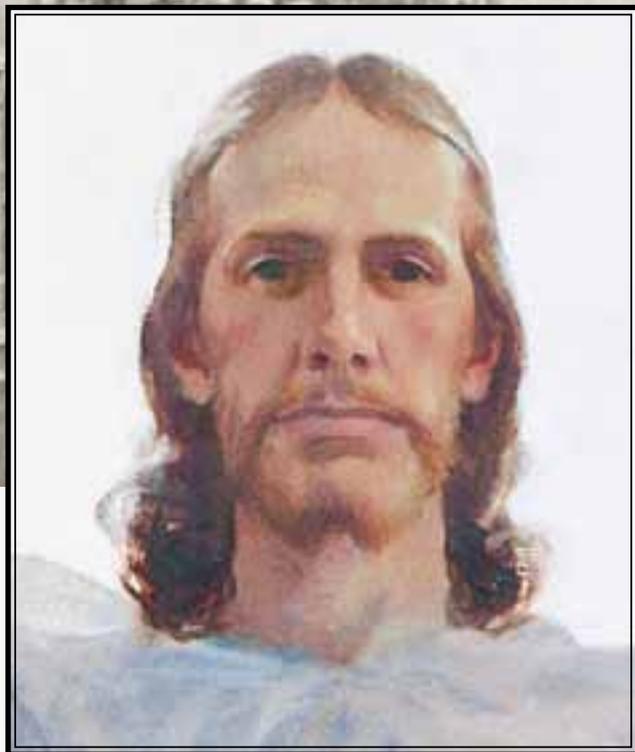
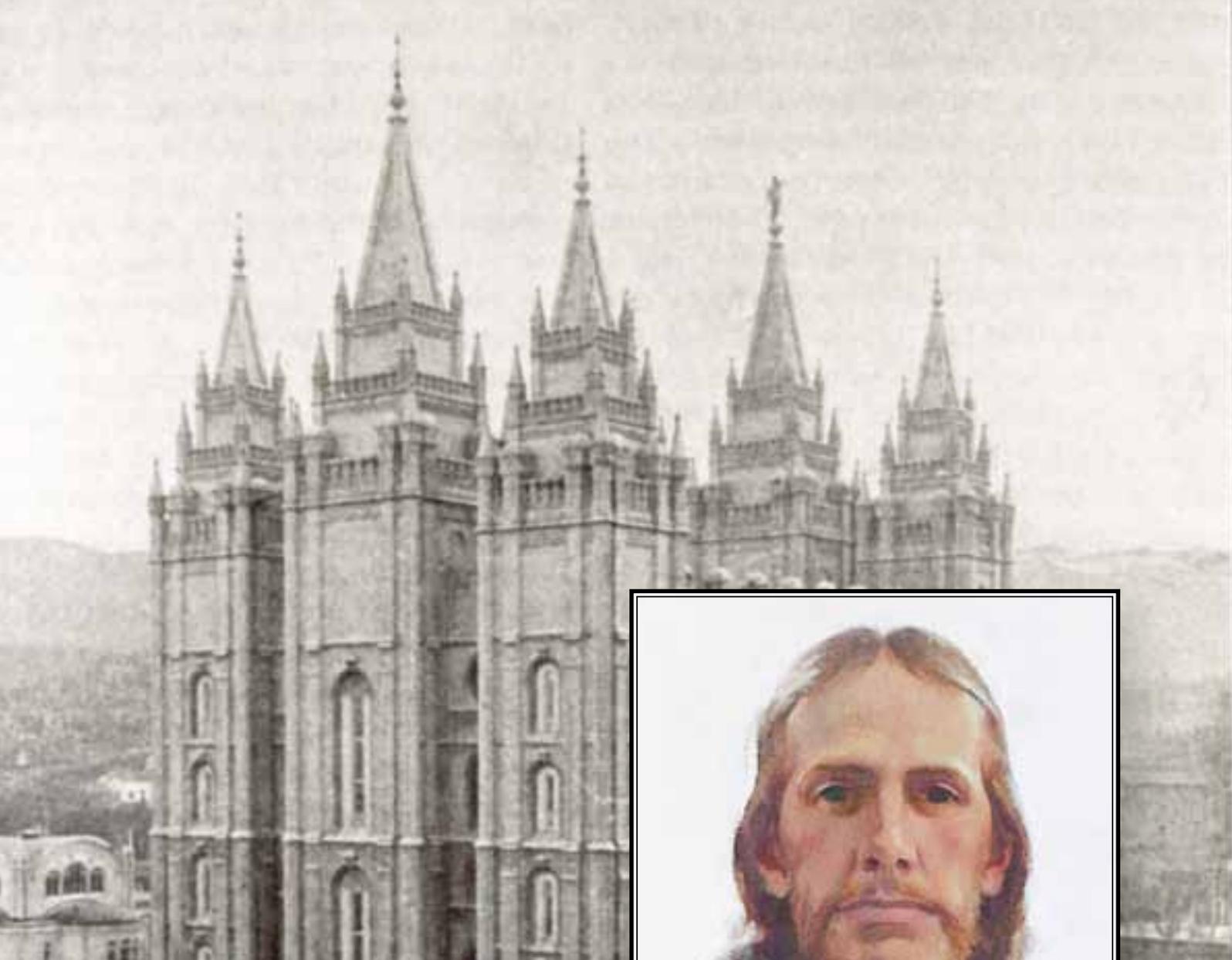
but in the interests of the people over whom he presides. . . . To become the servant of his brethren, not their master, and to work in their interest and welfare.”⁴

As a Church leader, President Snow practiced this principle, and sometimes he found creative ways to do so. For example, he once used turnips, bedsheets, and straw to lift the spirits of a group of suffering Saints. This account is found in chapter 7. To read some of his teachings about leadership in the Church, see chapter 18.

President Snow was a powerful, creative, and effective leader because he knew who the real Leader is. He taught, “The great work now being accomplished—the gathering of the people from the nations of the earth had not its origin in the mind of any man or any set of men; but it emanated from the Lord Almighty.”⁵ In response to a gathering of Church members who honored him on his 85th birthday, he said, “I feel that whatever I have accomplished that it is not Lorenzo Snow, and the scenes that have brought me to this position as President of the Church—it is not Lorenzo Snow, but the Lord has done it.”⁶

He taught this truth throughout his ministry, but he was reminded of it in a sacred and personal way just before he became President of the Church. He became the senior Apostle in the Church at the death of President Wilford Woodruff on September 2, 1898. Considering himself inadequate to carry this responsibility, he went alone to a room in the Salt Lake Temple to pray. He pleaded for guidance but felt no answer to his prayer, so after a time he left the room and entered a large hallway. It was there that the answer came. The resurrected Savior stood before him, about three feet (1 m) off the floor, and told him how to go forward with the leadership of the Church. To learn more about this experience, see chapter 20.

President Snow is well known for receiving a revelation on the law of tithing. For members of the Church in 1899, this revelation began with a bold declaration: “The time has now come for every Latter-day Saint, who calculates to be prepared for the future and to hold his feet strong upon a proper foundation, to do the will of the Lord and to pay his tithing in full. That is the word of the Lord to you.”⁷



Lorenzo Snow had the sacred experience of seeing the resurrected Lord in the Salt Lake Temple.

Latter-day Saints responded faithfully to their prophet's counsel, and the Lord blessed them individually and collectively as a result. The influence of that revelation continues today, as Church members all over the world receive spiritual and temporal blessings through obedience to the law of tithing. To read about the experience that led to this revelation and the blessings that followed it, see chapter 12.

Like every prophet, President Snow bore a powerful witness of Jesus Christ. He taught: "We are all dependent upon Jesus Christ, upon his coming into the world to open the way whereby we might secure peace, happiness and exaltation. And had he not made these

exertions we never could have been secured in these blessings and privileges which are guaranteed unto us in the gospel."⁸ He testified of the Savior's birth, mortal ministry, Atonement, personal involvement in His restored Church, and Second Coming. For more words of testimony about Jesus Christ, see chapter 24.

Of course, this short article can give you only a taste of President Snow's life and ministry. In your study of

Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow, you will find many other inspiring stories, including accounts of his first teaching opportunity as a missionary, his complete surprise at being called to serve in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, his feelings when he was on a ship in the Atlantic Ocean during a terrible storm, and four instances of the power of the priesthood saving people (including Lorenzo Snow himself) from death. You can learn much from his teachings on a variety of subjects, including unity, humility, covenants, temple work, family relationships, striving for perfection, priesthood, Relief Society, and the joy of sharing the gospel.

If you have taken time to read and ponder some of the accounts and teachings mentioned in this article—or even if you have determined that you will read them sometime soon—you can be assured that President Snow would be pleased with your effort. He was a lifelong learner, and he taught that we should “exert ourselves” so we can “advance in the principles of truth” and “increase in heavenly knowledge.” He urged, “Each last day or each last week should be the best that we have ever experienced, that is, we should advance ourselves a little every day, in knowledge and wisdom, and in the ability to accomplish good.”¹⁰

May your life be enriched this year through your study of *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow*. As you study, you can have an experience similar to that of the good minister who met President Snow face to face. Seeing beyond that kind face and those tranquil eyes, you too can feel that you stand on holy ground—not because you know Lorenzo Snow but because you have drawn nearer to your Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, of whom he was a witness. ■

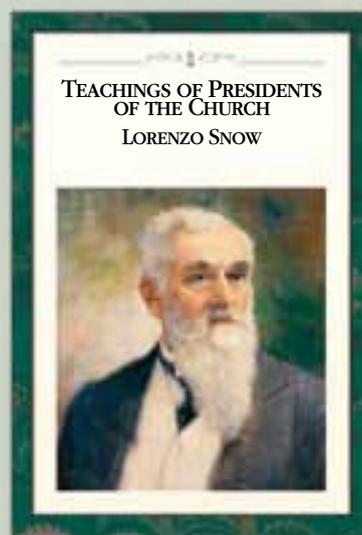
NOTES

1. Reverend Prentiss, quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow* (2012), 30.
2. See David A. Bednar, “Ye Must Be Born Again,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2007, 19–22.
3. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 68.
4. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 219.
5. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 153.
6. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 148.
7. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 157.
8. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 280–81.
9. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 65.
10. *Teachings: Lorenzo Snow*, 103.

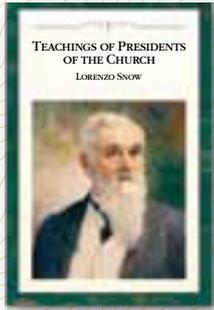
FEATURES OF *TEACHINGS OF PRESIDENTS OF THE CHURCH: LORENZO SNOW*

This book is the next addition to your personal and family library of *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*. There are now 11 books in the series, which gives inspired understanding on many gospel topics. Here are some of this book’s key features:

- Inspiring statements from President Lorenzo Snow on more than 75 gospel topics.
- New artwork and photographs from Lorenzo Snow’s life that most members have never seen.
- Three types of teaching and learning aids in each chapter: thought-provoking questions, scriptures related to the chapter’s topic, and teaching helps to improve class participation and discussion.
- Three pages of instructions to help members enhance their study of the book and teach with inspiration at home or at church.



The book is also available online at LDS.org and in the Gospel Library app (in English) at mobile.lds.org.



GETTING TO KNOW LORENZO SNOW

By Christopher D. Fosse

This year the manual for Relief Society and Melchizedek Priesthood classes focuses on the life and teachings of President Lorenzo Snow (1814–1901). But just because your age group may not be using this book, that doesn't mean you can't learn a thing or two about him. President Snow led an amazing life filled with trials and triumphs.

A Champion for the Gospel

Lorenzo Snow first heard about the Church while he was still a young man. At first he had no desire to be baptized, even though his sister Eliza (the same Eliza R. Snow who wrote many Latter-day Saint hymns and served as the second general president of the Relief Society) had eagerly embraced the gospel. He did,

however, find the Church's doctrine very interesting. When Lorenzo began to attend college in Oberlin, Ohio, he would often share Church beliefs with the students who were training to become Protestant ministers. Although he hadn't yet committed to be baptized, he presented the gospel so well that many of the students at Oberlin admitted the possible truth of the restored Church.

As strong a missionary as he was before he accepted the gospel, it's no wonder that Lorenzo became even more dedicated to the work after he was baptized. During his early years as a member of the Church, he was called to serve several full-time missions. He first served in Ohio, followed by Missouri, Kentucky, and Illinois, USA. He was later sent to

Great Britain to assist with the organization of the Church in England. While there, he even gave copies of the Book of Mormon to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. He later served missions in Italy, Switzerland, and what would eventually become known as the Hawaiian Islands.

Miracle at Sea

When Elder Snow left England to return to Nauvoo, Illinois, he brought a large group of newly baptized members with him. They all booked passage on the ship *Swanton* and prepared for the long journey to North America.

Although the captain of the *Swanton* was not unkind to the Latter-day Saints on his ship, he wasn't exactly friendly either. He

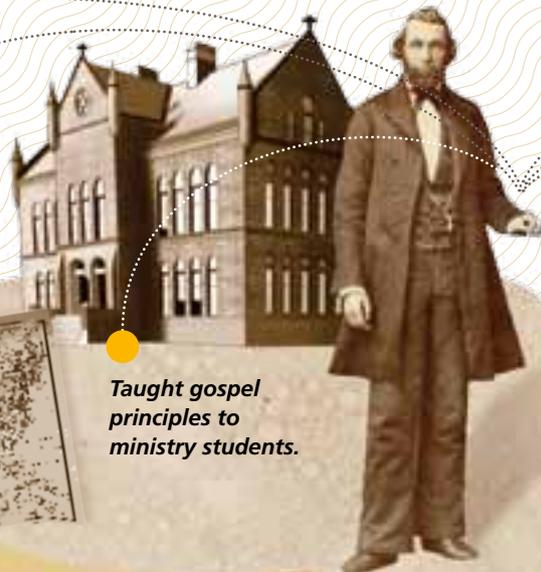


Served a mission in Hawaii.

Served several missions in the USA.



Taught gospel principles to ministry students.



Here are a few things you might not know about the fifth President of the Church.

usually distanced himself from them. But after about two weeks at sea, something happened. The captain's steward was badly injured in an accident. No one expected the steward to live through the night.

But one of the faithful sisters who had been attending to the dying sailor had a suggestion. She told the steward that Elder Lorenzo Snow could give him a blessing and that it might save his life. The steward—who was working to support his wife and two children back in Germany—eagerly agreed.

In the middle of the night, Elder Snow was awakened and asked to come to the dying man's room. When he arrived, he met the captain of the ship. The captain thanked him for coming but expressed the

hopelessness of the situation. Elder Snow could see that the captain had been crying.

He went into the room, laid his hands upon the steward's head, and gave him a priesthood blessing. Immediately after Elder Snow finished the blessing, the man sat up and got out of bed. The steward was completely healed, and he returned to his duties the next day.

The Worth of Souls

The healing of the steward changed things on board the *Swanton*. The captain began to spend as much time with the Saints as he could spare, and he even studied the gospel and attended Church meetings. The other sailors were just as impressed. When the ship reached its destination,

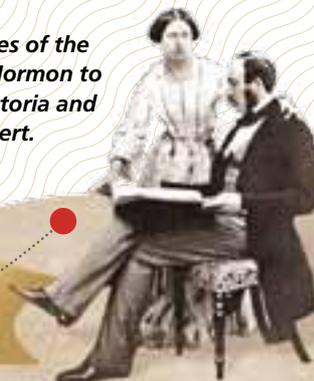
the crew lovingly bid the Saints farewell. Through the power of the priesthood, not only was a man's life saved, but several others were also given a glimpse of God's power and love. The steward and many members of the crew were eventually baptized.

Many other amazing events occurred in the life of President Lorenzo Snow. So this year, while the adults are studying *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow*, why not follow along? On Sundays or when you have some free time, you could read some of President Snow's teachings. You'll be able to contribute more to family gospel discussions, and in the process you'll get to know an amazing man who became a prophet of God. ■

Healed the captain's steward on a journey back to North America.



Gave copies of the Book of Mormon to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.





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

REVERENCE FOR GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF

Wisdom

*The wisdom
of the world is
most valuable
when it humbly
bows to the
wisdom of God.*

We live in a world of information overload. Perhaps symbolic of this world is the amazing Wikipedia, the world's largest online encyclopedia. To give you its scope, as of 2012 it had over 2.5 billion words in English alone and more than 22 million articles across some 284 languages. There are more than 70 language versions of Wikipedia that have at least 10,000 articles each. There are more than 4 million articles in the English version.¹

Our information overload is evidenced as well in the explosive use of social networking sites such as Facebook, founded in 2004 and topping 1 billion active users worldwide in 2012,² or YouTube, launched in 2005, where some video clips have reportedly been viewed more than 100 million times.

In this information tidal wave, how desperately we need wisdom, wisdom to sort through and discern how to apply what we are learning. T. S. Eliot, a believing Christian writing years ago, speaks to our world today:

*O world of spring and autumn, birth
and dying!
The endless cycle of idea and action,
Endless invention, endless experiment,
Brings knowledge of motion, but not
of stillness;
Knowledge of speech, but not of silence;
Knowledge of words, and ignorance
of the Word.
All our knowledge brings us nearer to our
ignorance,
All our ignorance brings us nearer to death,
But nearness to death no nearer to God.
Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in
knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in
information?
The cycles of Heaven in twenty centuries
Bring us farther from God and nearer to
the Dust.³*

Where are you on the wisdom scale?
Some might relate to the young lady,
excited about her upcoming marriage, who



exclaimed to her parents, “Oh, I’m getting married. I’m at the end of all my troubles.” And her mother whispered to her father, “Yes, but she doesn’t know at which end.”

The more I learn about the wisdom of God, the more I believe I am only at the beginning end of wisdom. It humbles me as I realize how much I have to learn. Today, I hope to increase our desire to acquire wisdom and specifically the wisdom of God.

The Blessings of Wisdom

I want to emphasize several principles of wisdom. First, in our age of information and knowledge, we must seek after wisdom. Wisdom is multidimensional and comes in different sizes and colors. Wisdom gained early brings enormous blessings. Wisdom in one area may not be transferable to another. And finally, the wisdom of the world, while in many cases very valuable, is most valuable when it humbly bows to the wisdom of God.

The scriptures describe two types of wisdom: the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God. The wisdom of the world has both a positive and a negative component. In the darkest description, it could be described as a partial truth, mixed with intelligence and manipulation, to achieve selfish or evil purposes.

An example from the Book of Mormon is the man Amlici. The scriptures say that “a certain man, being called Amlici, he being a very cunning man, yea, *a wise man as to the wisdom of the world* . . . [drew] away much people after him.” The scriptures go on to describe Amlici as a “wicked man, . . . [whose] intent [was] to destroy the church of God” (Alma 2:1–2, 4; emphasis added). We are not interested in this kind of wisdom.

There is another kind of wisdom of the world that is not nearly so sinister. In fact it is very positive. This wisdom is consciously

acquired through study, reflection, observation, and hard work. It is very valuable and helpful in the things we do. To good and decent people, it comes as we experience our mortality.

You will remember American author Mark Twain’s comment: “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in 7 years.”⁴ If we are observant, if we are thoughtful, time can teach us much.

I remember at the time of my graduation from college. I traveled from Brigham Young University to Preston, Idaho, USA, where my grandmother, Mary Keller, lived.

She was then 78 years old and frail. She passed away two years later. She was a marvelous lady, and I knew that if I would listen and learn from her experiences, I could learn wisdom that would help me along the way.

We can pole-vault over many of the sad experiences that come to some in life by obtaining wisdom early—wisdom beyond our age. Seek after this wisdom—be reflective, observe carefully, think about what you experience in life.

We can also learn wisdom in our specific professional and personal pursuits. Let me give you two examples.

Dr. DeVon C. Hale is a physician in Salt Lake City who grew up in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I have marveled at his knowledge and his wisdom as it concerns tropical diseases. It is not just Dr. Hale’s knowledge but also his understanding of how to apply that knowledge, sorting through several layers and judging one against the other. It is a blessing to have that kind of medical wisdom for missionaries across the world.

A second example: When our oldest son began elementary school in our home in

*We can
pole-vault over
many of the sad
experiences that
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wisdom early.*



Tampa, Florida, USA, we were anxious to meet his kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Judith Graybell. She was a woman in her 50s and had an amazing ability with young children. She knew just how to motivate them, when to praise them, and when to be firm with them. She had the knowledge to teach them, but she had much more. We worked hard to get each of our children into her kindergarten classroom.

These two people demonstrate selective wisdom in the world. Their wisdom is a help to many and allows them to be successful in their professions.

However, we should realize the limitations of this wisdom. The wisdom in one area may not necessarily carry into wisdom in another. For example, I may not want Mrs. Graybell diagnosing tropical diseases, and I may not want Dr. Hale teaching my child's kindergarten class.

More important, the wisdom that brings success in the world must be willing to step behind the wisdom of God and not think that it can substitute for it.

Remember: all wisdom is not created equal. The Psalmist said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). What the scripture means is that a "profound reverence"⁵ for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. That profound reverence comes because our Heavenly Father "has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth" (Mosiah 4:9). His wisdom is perfect. It is pure. It is unselfish.

This wisdom, at times, will be opposite the wisdom of the world, meaning the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world will come in direct conflict one with another.

Remember the words of the Lord in Isaiah? "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The wisdom of God will not come to us by entitlement; we must be willing to seek after it. "If any of you lack *wisdom*, let him *ask* of God, that giveth to all men liberally,

The wisdom that brings success in the world must be willing to step behind the wisdom of God and not think that it can substitute for it.

and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5; emphasis added).

The wisdom of God is a spiritual gift. “*Seek not for riches but for wisdom*, and behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich” (D&C 6:7; emphasis added).

Seeking for the wisdom of God is always accompanied by obedience to the commandments.

Generally, the spiritual gift of wisdom comes step by step as we honestly and diligently seek it. “I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, . . . and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, . . . for they shall learn *wisdom*; for unto him that receiveth I will give more” (2 Nephi 28:30; emphasis added).

Joseph Smith said this: “The things of God are of deep import; and time, and experience, and careful and ponderous and solemn thoughts can only find them out.”⁶ There is no instant gratification in seeking for the wisdom of God.

Finally, the source of the wisdom of God is different from that of the world. The wisdom of God is found in the scriptures, in the teachings of the prophets (such as during general conference), and, of course, in our prayers (see D&C 8:1–2). And always, *always* this wisdom distills upon us with the power of the Holy Ghost. The Apostle Paul said:

“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. . . .

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which *man’s wisdom* teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth” (1 Corinthians 2:11, 13; emphasis added).

With the wisdom of God, we see beyond our current circumstances because, as the scripture says, “the Spirit . . . speaketh of things as they really are, and of things as they really will be” (Jacob 4:13).

The wisdom of God is found in the scriptures, in the teachings of the prophets (such as during general conference), and, of course, in our prayers.

The wisdom of God is wisdom worthy of our devoted attention.

Wisdom and Tithing

Perhaps the most important point is that not all wisdom is created equal. We need to learn that when there is conflict between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God, we must yield our will to the wisdom of God.

We are the sons and daughters of God. We are spiritual beings on a mortal mission. We who are devoted to learning the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God must not become confused with which wisdom is more important.

Let me share an experience from a noble Latter-day Saint in São Paulo, Brazil. She tells of her struggle between paying her tithing or her tuition. Here are her words:

“The university . . . prohibited the students that were in debt [or who had not paid their tuition] from taking tests.

“I remember a time when I . . . faced serious financial difficulties. It was a Thursday when I received my salary. When I figured the monthly budget, I noticed that there wouldn’t be enough to pay [both] my tithing and my university. I would have to choose between them. The bimonthly tests would start the following week, and if I didn’t take them, I could lose the school year. I felt great agony. . . . My heart ached.”

Here was a direct conflict between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God. Even though you are very good and righteous, you will find in your life, if you are truthful with yourself, that your heart will ache as you feel some of these conflicts coming up before you.

I return to her story. First, she paid her tithing on Sunday. The following Monday she recounted what happened:

“The working period was ending when my employer approached and gave the last orders of the day. . . .

Suddenly, he halted, and asked, ‘How is your college?’ [She described him as a harsh man, and all she could say was:] ‘Everything is all right!’”

He then left. Suddenly the secretary entered the room. She said, “The employer has just said that from today on, the company is going to pay fully for your college and your books. Before you leave, stop at my desk and inform me of the costs so that tomorrow I can give you the check.”⁷

If you are perceptive, you will find that you are confronted with these types of tests many times throughout your life. Where will you put your trust? Listen to the Lord’s warning directly to us:

“O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned [in the wisdom of the world] they *think* they are *wise*, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they

know of themselves [the wisdom of the world], wherefore, their *wisdom* is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.

“But to be learned [in the wisdom of the world] is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God” (2 Nephi 9:28–29; emphasis added).

Now from Paul:

“Where is the wise? . . . hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” (1 Corinthians 1:20).

“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

“For the *wisdom of this world* is foolishness with God” (1 Corinthians 3:18–19; emphasis added).

The test is often whether we will allow the wisdom of God to be our guiding course when it moves opposite the wisdom of the world.

Think of the wisdom of God on personal finances. We put money in its proper role by paying an honest tithe and being generous in our offerings.



Ammon lamented, “For they will not seek wisdom [the wisdom of God], neither do they desire that she should rule over them” (Mosiah 8:20). When thinking of those who have been willing to let the wisdom of God rule over them, I think of a friend of mine from mainland China, Xie Ying, who made significant sacrifices to join the Church and served a mission in New York. I think of my two daughters, both very intelligent with master’s degrees but who have chosen the blessings of motherhood and children. I think of a friend from South America who left his lucrative employment when he learned taxes were being illegally evaded. All have put the wisdom of God above the wisdom of the world.

Sadly, the wisdom of the world can deceive capable people. Joseph Smith said it this way: “There are a great many wise men, and women too, in our midst who are too wise to be taught; therefore they must die in their ignorance, and in the resurrection they will find their mistake.”⁸

Wisdom and Finances

With the difficulties in our economy, let me raise the issue of personal finances. In our current condition we are all more humble and teachable—but think back on the last few years.

The world teaches that if we want something, we should have it. We should not have to wait for it. Debt can allow us to have it now. That debt can come through credit cards, or it might come through overextending the leverage on a house that we own. We can leverage what we have, even our education. Values will always go up, and we will prosper. The wisdom of the world is that the amount of the monthly payment becomes more important than the size of the loan. Our obligations are somewhat discretionary, and if all fails, bankruptcy is our last option.

Now let’s think of the wisdom of God on personal finances, constantly taught by the prophets. The foundation is self-reliance and work. We put money in its proper role by paying an honest tithe and being generous in our offerings. We live on less than we earn, and we differentiate between our needs and our wants. We avoid debt except for the most fundamental of needs. We live within a budget. We put away some savings. We are honest in all our obligations.

About 14 years ago, President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) warned: “I am suggesting that the time has come to get our houses in order. So many of our people are living on the very edge of their incomes. In fact, some are living on borrowings. . . . There is a portent of stormy weather ahead to which we had better give heed.”⁹

Several years ago at the peak of our prosperity, President Thomas S. Monson said:

“My brothers and sisters, avoid the philosophy that yesterday’s luxuries have become today’s necessities. They aren’t necessities unless we make them so. Many enter into long-term debt only to find that changes occur: people become ill or incapacitated, companies fail or downsize, jobs are lost, natural disasters befall us. For many reasons, payments on large amounts of debt can no longer be made. Our debt becomes as a Damocles sword hanging over our heads and threatening to destroy us.

“I urge you to live within your means. One cannot spend more than one earns and remain solvent. I promise you that you will then be happier than you would be if you were constantly worrying about how to make the next payment on nonessential debt.”¹⁰

Can you see how the wisdom of God can conflict with the wisdom of the world? The choice was *not* so obvious when all looked

There is much we can learn right now about wisdom. I promise you that the Lord’s blessings will attend you as you seek for wisdom—the wisdom of God.



prosperous. Many members of the Church wish they had listened more closely.

This is the wisdom of God.

I suggest you take some of the issues facing you. Put a line down the middle of a piece of paper. List the wisdom of the world on the left side and the wisdom of God on the right side. Write the issues in conflict one with another.

What choices are you making?

In section 45 of the Doctrine and Covenants, which speaks of the events leading up to the Second Coming of the Savior, the Lord again tells the story of the ten virgins and then leaves us with these words: “For they that are wise, and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day” (D&C 45:57).

Let us seek after the wisdom of God. We are currently in difficult economic times across the world, and it brings some concern as we plan for jobs, careers, and income. But

there are many good and prosperous days ahead. There is much we can learn right now about wisdom. I promise you that the Lord’s blessings will attend you as you seek for wisdom—the wisdom of God. ■

From a commencement address delivered on April 10, 2009, at Brigham Young University–Idaho. For the full text in English, visit <http://web.byui.edu/DevotionalsAndSpeeches>.

NOTES

1. See Andrew Lih, *The Wikipedia Revolution* (2009), xv–xvi; see also http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Size_comparisons; <http://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/FAQ/en>; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Wikipedia.
2. See Ramona Emerson, “Facebook Users Expected to Pass 1 Billion in August: iCrossing,” *The Huffington Post*, Jan. 14, 2012, www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/13/facebook-users-1-billion-icrossing_n_1204948.html.
3. “Choruses from ‘The Rock,’” in *T. S. Eliot: The Complete Poems and Plays, 1909–1950* (1980), 96.
4. *Mark Twain Laughing: Humorous Anecdotes by and about Samuel L. Clemens*, ed. P. M. Zall (1985), xxii.
5. See Marion G. Romney, “Converting Knowledge into Wisdom,” *Ensign*, July 1983, 5.
6. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 267.
7. In Gordon B. Hinckley, “We Walk by Faith,” *Liahona*, July 2002, 81–82; *Ensign*, May 2002, 73, 74.
8. *Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 202.
9. Gordon B. Hinckley, “To the Boys and to the Men,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 53.
10. Thomas S. Monson, “True to the Faith,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2006, 19.

Take some of the issues facing you. Put a line down the middle of a piece of paper. List the wisdom of the world on the left side and the wisdom of God on the right side. Write the issues in conflict one with another.

Meaningful TEACHING AT HOME

*Four ways
we teach our
children the
important
lessons of life.*

**By Darren E.
Schmidt**

Taking advantage of teaching moments with our eight children has been both challenging and rewarding. But knowing that “the home is the first and most effective place for children to learn the lessons of life,”¹ my wife and I have tried to do all we can to help our children learn those lessons. Here are a few principles that have been helpful to us.

Do the Best Things

As our children have become involved in more activities, prioritizing has become more and more necessary. Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has reminded us that “just because something is *good* is not a sufficient reason for doing it. . . . Some things are better than good, and these are the things that should command priority attention in our lives.” He further said: “Parents should act to preserve time for family prayer, family scripture study, family home evening, and the other precious togetherness and individual one-on-one time that binds a family together and fixes children’s values on things of eternal worth. Parents should teach gospel priorities through what they do with their children.”²

This has proven good counsel for our family. As my wife and I have made our children’s activities outside the home a matter of pondering and prayer, some of the things we had thought to be important turned out to be unnecessary. I was

especially surprised when I asked our children if they wanted to participate on a basketball team with me as their coach. Their reply was, “I don’t think so,” along with, “Dad, we have a basket in the front yard, and we like when you play with us and we have games with the neighbors. We get the ball a lot more!”

Study and Act On the Scriptures

There is a big difference between *reading* the scriptures and *studying* them. The ancient prophet Joshua taught that success in studying the scriptures comes when we “meditate therein day and night” and “observe to *do according to all that is written* therein” (Joshua 1:8; emphasis added). During our family scripture study, we have been most successful when we give our children time to ponder specific questions and then extend to them an invitation to “do according to all that is written.”

One evening we were eating treats outside and reading in the Book of Mormon about the fall of the Nephites. I felt impressed to ask the children why they thought the Nephites had turned so wicked. Six-year-old Celeste said she thought the Nephites and Lamanites had stopped saying their daily prayers. We all agreed that the fall of the Nephites started with forgetting prayer and other seemingly little things. At that moment, the thought came to me to invite the children to pray with more thought and feeling.



The following day I asked them how their prayers went. This gave them a chance to share their experiences and gave me a chance to further share my testimony of prayer. Not every family scripture study experience has gone this well, but when we have had discussions and invitations to act as part of our study, the scriptures have become more meaningful.

Help Children Become Responsible

We have found great power in giving assignments to our children and letting them figure out the details for themselves. When we allow our children to be involved and help make some of the family decisions, they are more likely to be active participants. They also develop a sense of ownership and

During our scripture study, we have been most successful when we give our children time to ponder questions and then extend to them an invitation to act.

accountability and thereby learn to “do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness” (D&C 58:27). Here are a few things that have helped our children be more responsible:

- For family home evening, help them prepare a lesson, scripture, or talent of their own choosing.
- Allow them to choose a hymn for everyone to sing during family scripture study and then invite a child to say the prayer.
- Let them help plan and be responsible for a portion of a family trip.
- Hold a family council with them about money matters and let them help make decisions about purchases.

- Teach them how to do a particular job and put them in charge of that job for a week.
- Do a monthly family service project and let them decide whom the family will help.
- Let them take turns picking someone to visit on a given Sunday.
- Allow them to pick a family activity for a particular evening during the month.



Shepherd Them

There have been times when my wife and I have felt like shepherders corralling our children for prayer or scripture study. But other times we have felt a sweet spirit that comes as we have truly shepherded and cared for our little flock. If we aren't careful, we can easily miss these shepherding moments.

One such moment came while I was tucking our children into their beds. One of my sons asked, "Dad, what tempts you?"

I was startled by the question.

He then said, "We have been talking about what tempts us, and we wondered what things tempt you."

I knew this would be a perfect time to teach them, but I was exhausted from a long day of work. I didn't feel like having a deep conversation with two boys at such a late hour, especially on a school night.

However, into my mind came the story of the Savior at the well. Even after walking 30 miles (48 km) or more, He took time to teach the woman of Samaria (see John 4). I decided that this might be one of those "well" moments, so I sat down and asked them if they thought it was a sin to be tempted. There was a long pause, and then we began to talk and listen to each other. I taught them about the Savior's encounter with Satan (see Matthew 4) and bore my testimony of the blessings that come from resisting temptation.

It was one of those special moments as a parent. We

got to bed a little later than usual, but the joy I experienced was well worth any sacrifice of sleep.

"One of our urgent opportunities is to respond to a child when he earnestly asks, remembering that they don't *always* ask, that they aren't *always* teachable, that they won't *always* listen," taught Elder Richard L. Evans (1906–71) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "And often we have

to take them on *their* terms, at *their* times, and not always on *our* terms, and at *our* times. . . . If they find they can trust us with their trivial questions, they may later trust us with the more weighty ones."³

Chosen and Assisted by the Lord

The responsibility to watch over God's children is a heavy one. Whenever I feel inadequate as a parent, I remind myself of something Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles once said: "The same God that placed that star in a precise orbit millennia before it appeared over Bethlehem in celebration of the birth of the Babe has given at least equal attention to placement of each of us in precise human orbits so that we may, if we will, illuminate the landscape of our individual lives, so that our light may not only lead others but warm them as well."⁴

This statement uplifts me when I am discouraged. It gives my wife and me courage in our abilities as parents, knowing that our children have been placed within our "orbit" for a reason and that Heavenly Father trusts us.

May He bless your family as you learn the gospel together, help your children become responsible, and take advantage of those precious teaching moments. ■

NOTES

1. David O. McKay, in *Family Home Evening Manual* (1968), iii.
2. Dallin H. Oaks, "Good, Better, Best," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 104, 105.
3. Richard L. Evans, "The Spoken Word," *Ensign*, May 1971, 12.
4. Neal A. Maxwell, *That My Family Should Partake* (1974), 86.



THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

Education is a vital part of the gospel and of preparing to participate in society and provide for oneself and one's family.¹ Elder Craig A. Cardon of the Seventy talks about the importance of education on pages 54–55 of this issue.

“In this increasingly complex world, education is one of the most important acquisitions of life,” he writes. “And while it is true that more education will generally lead to the opportunity for increased temporal rewards, the greater value of increased knowledge is the opportunity it affords us to be of greater influence in accomplishing the Lord's purposes.”

For the Strength of Youth states: “Your education should include spiritual learning. Study the scriptures and the words of the latter-day prophets. Participate in seminary and institute. Continue throughout your life to learn about Heavenly Father's plan. This spiritual learning will help you find answers to the challenges of life and will invite the companionship of the Holy Ghost.”²

Suggestions for Teaching Youth

- Read the education section in *For the Strength of Youth*. Share your own positive experiences with school and with gospel study. This will allow you to

discuss this standard with your teen and answer any questions he or she might have.

- Help your teen set occupational and educational goals based on his or her talents and interests. Help him or her identify some steps to start working on these goals.
- Consider holding a family home evening on the importance of education (a good resource is an article by Elder Dallin H. Oaks and Kristen M. Oaks, “Learning and Latter-day Saints,” *Liahona*, Apr. 2009, 26–31; *Ensign*, Apr. 2009, 22–27).
- Go to youth.lds.org and click on “For the Strength of Youth” under the Youth Menu. Under “Education,” you will find scriptures about education, videos (see, for example, “Surfing or Seminary?”), Mormon Channel radio programs, questions and answers, and articles, including talks by General Authorities.

Suggestions for Teaching Children

It's fun to learn new things, but learning can be difficult too. This month's issue includes a story called “Ready to Read” (page 66). The story describes a girl with dyslexia

SCRIPTURES ON LEARNING

Proverbs 4:7

2 Nephi 9:29

Alma 37:35

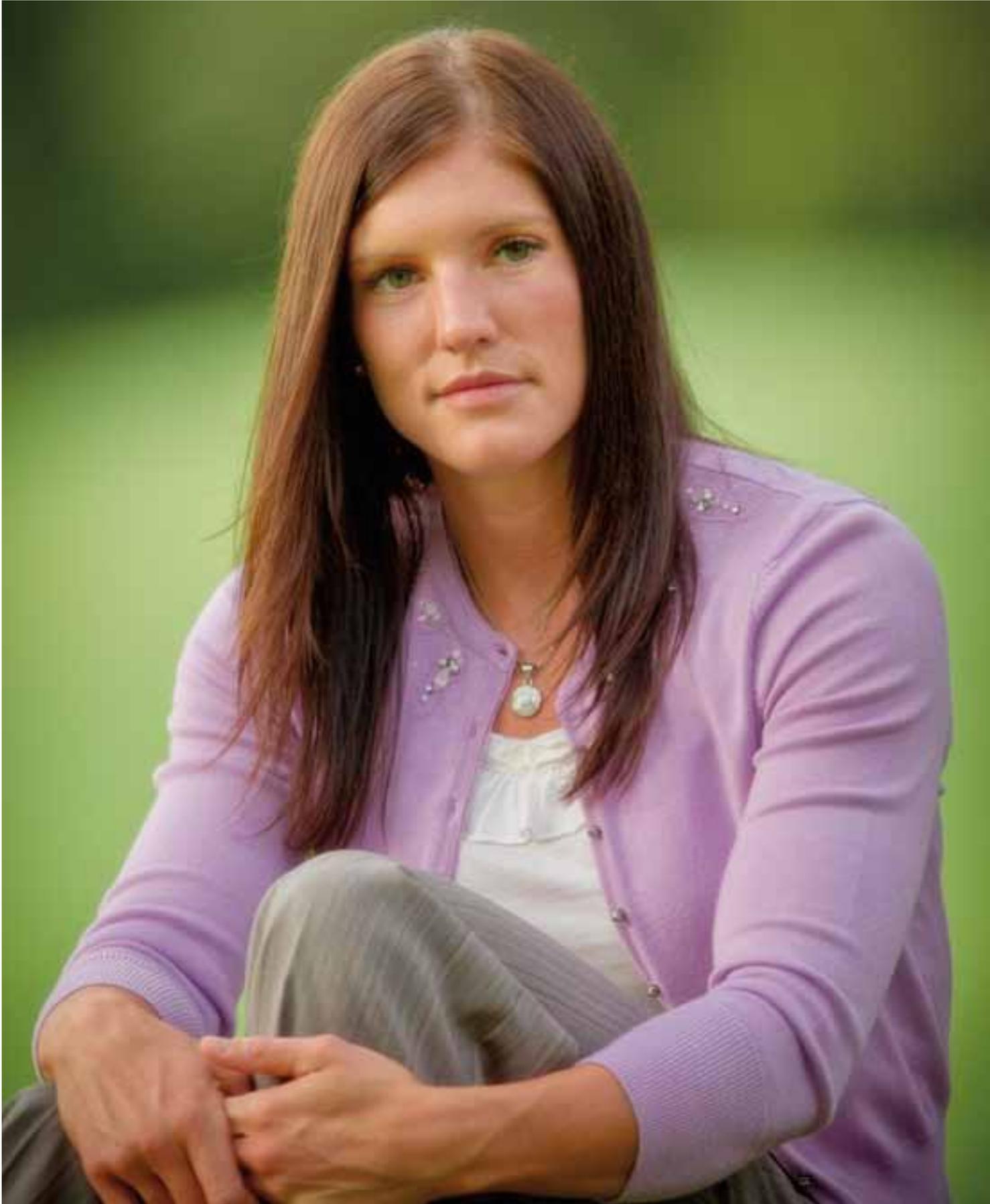
Doctrine and Covenants 88:77–80

who struggles to read out loud and how children in Primary encourage her to do her best. Consider reading this story with your children and talking together about the following questions:

- How did Mary feel when she was trying to do something difficult? Why is it important to keep learning even when it is hard?
- What did the other children do to help Mary? What can you do to help others learn at home, at church, and at school? ■

NOTES

1. See *For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011), 9.
2. *For the Strength of Youth*, 10.



Young Women and the Mission Decision



At the October 2012 general conference, President Thomas S. Monson announced that “able, worthy young women who have the desire to serve may be recommended for missionary service beginning at age 19, instead of age 21.” He said that while young women “are not under the same mandate to serve as are the young men,” they “make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome their service.”¹

How does a sister decide whether to serve? The following accounts share how sisters were guided by the Spirit in deciding what path was right for them.

The Missing Link

If someone had asked me when I was little if I would serve a mission, I would have said no. My heart softened toward the idea as I got older, partly because I had seen my older siblings serve. But I still never really thought of it as something I would do.

When I turned 21, I began to wonder if I should go on a mission, but I never prayed seriously about it. As time went on, I began to feel something was missing. I told my mother how I felt, and she suggested I reconsider a mission. She said that when she was my age, she felt the same emotions I was experiencing. Serving a mission was the answer for her, so maybe it was also my answer.

How these young adult women applied prophetic counsel regarding full-time missionary service.

I was terrified to pray about a mission. One reason I never considered a mission before was that I didn’t think I was strong enough to do it. I would have to leave my comforts behind and perhaps learn a new language. Plus, I didn’t think I knew the gospel well enough to teach it. But as I prayed with purpose, I felt my fears melt away. The answer I received was overpowering: the Lord loved me, and He wanted me to serve a mission.

I was amazed by the confidence I felt after I received my answer. I no longer felt nervous or unqualified. Instead I was excited to share the gospel, and I began working on my mission papers. I was soon called to the Utah Salt Lake City Temple Square Mission.

Rebecca Keller Monson

A Missionary Life

When I was 17, people started asking me whether I was going to serve a mission. I hadn’t decided yet, so I always put them off.

But as my 21st birthday approached, I started thinking about it. I read my patriarchal blessing, talked to my parents, and prayed.

The desire never came; I never felt I needed to serve. I thought about the counsel of President Gordon B. Hinckley



THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION

“When a choice will make a real difference in our lives . . . and when we are living in tune with the Spirit and seeking his guidance, we can be sure we will receive the guidance we need to attain our goal. The Lord will not leave us unassisted.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Revelation,” in *Brigham Young University 1981–82 Fireside and Devotional Speeches* (1982), 26.

(1910–2008), who said that while sister missionaries are welcome, they “are not under obligation to go on missions.”² I was also reminded of the Lord’s words in the Doctrine and Covenants: “If ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work” (4:3).

That scripture helped me decide not to serve a mission. When I told the Lord in prayer of my decision, I felt peace and a confirmation that there were ways I could be a missionary without full-time service. I have since found I can share my testimony in many ways—through a conversation about the Lord’s tender mercies, while visiting teaching, or in doing family history and temple work. I am dedicating myself to missionary work by striving to live the gospel and follow the inspiration of the Spirit.

Amy Simon

Good Courage

At the beginning of 2010, I was struggling with some trials and went on a walk to clear my mind. While on the walk, I felt the Spirit whisper that I should not worry about the past; instead, I should think about my future. Just as I began reviewing my goal of finishing school, I was prompted to think about serving a mission. I never thought about a mission before, but as the idea took hold, so did an excitement and a desire to serve. However, I decided that I wanted a little more time to think about such a big decision.

The next few months were filled with promptings to serve a mission. While I still felt that same desire and excitement when the promptings came, doubts and fears came as well. I knew that women are encouraged to serve if they so desire but are not obligated to do so. During this time, I received



priesthood blessings telling me the Lord would be pleased no matter what I chose.

The following summer I had a roommate who had served a mission. She said that she too felt fear before and even after she decided to serve. She helped me understand that the Spirit does not speak through doubt and fear (see 2 Timothy 1:7). As we talked, the Spirit touched me. I returned to my room and read a letter from a friend who was serving a mission. The letter encouraged me to read Joshua 1:9, and I felt the Spirit nudge me to look it up.

The words pierced my soul: “Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” I felt as though the Lord was speaking directly to me. I knew that I could serve a mission. I didn’t need to fear—I wouldn’t be doing it alone; the Lord would be with me.

One month later I received my call to the Philippines Iloilo Mission, where Joshua 1:9 was the mission theme.

Kristen Nicole Danner

A Different Mission

I had planned my entire life to serve a full-time mission. But when I went to college at Brigham Young University (Utah, USA), I started to get nervous. How could I know whether I was really supposed to serve a mission? I spent the year before my 21st

birthday begging Heavenly Father to tell me if I should serve. Then one of my religion professors said something that changed my life: “The Lord can’t drive a parked car.” I decided to act.

I turned in my papers, received my call, bought missionary clothing, and drove home from Utah to North Carolina—all while preparing for my mission with earnest prayer, study, and fasting.

After I went home to North Carolina, a young man I had met at school flew out to visit me, and we talked seriously about our relationship.

My prayers became earnest and pleading again, but I continued to feel that the Lord trusted me to make my own decision. I felt the weight of responsibility but also the sweet assurance that as long as I chose in faith, the Lord would support my decision.

Ten days before I was to leave, my friend proposed. I postponed my mission to give myself time to think. When I decided to get engaged, the Spirit confirmed to my fiancé and me that it was right.

Although I didn’t serve a full-time mission, preparing for one changed my life. Drawing close to the Lord helped me become the person He needed me to be for my mission as a wife and mother.

Cassie Randall

Experiences of a Lifetime

I was blessed with a strong testimony of and love for the gospel at a young age, but I don’t recall one defining moment when I knew serving a mission was right. I just always knew I would go. I set a goal early to live in a way that would qualify me to serve a mission.

When I began preparing my mission application, I fasted, prayed, and attended the temple. As I worked with my bishop, I continued to feel the peace I had felt throughout my life about serving a mission.

The process was difficult at times: life seemed to suddenly get more expensive, and school and work became more demanding. I was at college away from my family, and it seemed as though all my friends were



getting married. It was scary to realize the people I cared about were going to continue changing while I was gone.

Because I didn’t have any singular spiritual event that confirmed my decision to serve, it was easy to doubt when things got hard. But the Lord blessed me after I received my call to the Chile Santiago East Mission to develop a love for the people in my mission, even before I left. I now have a lifetime of experiences that have borne testimony that a mission was a good choice for me. ■

Madeleine Bailey

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, “Welcome to Conference,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 4–5.
2. Gordon B. Hinckley, “To the Bishops of the Church,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, June 2004, 27.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Are all Latter-day Saints required to serve a mission? No, all missionary service is voluntary. Young men are expected to serve, young women are welcomed, and seniors and married couples are encouraged to serve if they are able. Young men may begin service at age 18 and serve for two years. Young women may begin at age 19 and serve for 18 months. Retired seniors and married couples may serve in a wide variety of assignments from 6 to 23 months.

Church members consider it a privilege to show their love for other people and the Lord by following His directive: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

For more information, see mormon.org/faq, and click on the topic about missionaries.

For more information about senior mission opportunities, visit with your priesthood leader and go to lds.org/service/missionary-service.

What Mission



Would Be Best?

*No matter your circumstances,
senior missionary opportunities are available to you.*

	Full-time mission	Church-service mission	Long-term volunteer
Who can serve?	Senior couple, senior sisters	Senior couple, senior brothers, senior sisters	Anyone
Must be a temple-worthy member?	Yes	Yes	No
Time commitment	More than 32 hours a week	Between 8 and 32 hours a week	Less than 8 hours a week
Duration of commitment	6–23 months	6–24 months (can serve longer with stake president's approval)	Any length
Work status	Generally retired	Can be retired or still working	Can be retired or still working
Location	Away from home	Close to home or at home	At home
Finances	Must be able to afford the mission called to. Must pay for housing (up to U.S.\$1,400 per month for couples), medical and dental insurance, transportation once in mission, personal expenses	Must be able to afford the mission called to. Must pay for housing, medical and dental insurance, transportation, personal expenses	Must provide for own expenses

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT CASEY

SHARING MY LIGHT

It was an unusual day for Southern California, USA, with thunder, lightning, pouring rain, and oppressive heat. I looked forward to relaxing and watching a movie in my air-conditioned home. But just as I sat down, I felt that I should call my friend Sherrill.

When I called, I learned that she had been without power since that morning. She was concerned that her frozen food would thaw and her milk

would spoil, so we moved her food to my refrigerator.

The next evening Sherrill and I stood in front of her home. Every house on her side of the road was in total darkness, while those across the street had power. One house in particular caught my attention. Directly across the street, the home blazed with light as people sat on the porch talking, laughing, and enjoying themselves.

In the days that followed, I could not get that scene out of my mind. The contrast was striking: total

darkness on one side of the street and bright lights on the other; people sitting in darkness while their neighbors were enjoying light.

The image made me wonder how often I was like those people across the street—enjoying the light of the gospel while others sat in darkness. I imagined myself sitting on my porch with a few friends from church, enjoying the light of the gospel without sharing it with others.

Everyone in the world is born with light—the Light of Christ. As members

As I stood in the dark, I wondered how often I was like the people across the street—enjoying the light of the gospel while my neighbors sat in darkness.



of the Church, we have the privilege of adding to that light by sharing the gospel. The Savior taught:

“Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house;

“Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your

Father who is in heaven”

(3 Nephi 12:15–16).

As members of the Church, we have the responsibility to let our testimonies of Christ shine for all to see—especially for those in spiritual darkness. After this experience, I determined to be the kind of person Heavenly Father can trust to come away from the comfort of my porch and carry the light of the gospel to my neighbors who are in darkness. ■

Dolores Sobieski, California, USA

MY FIRST PRAYER ABOUT THE FIRST VISION

When I decided to get baptized, it was because some of my troubles were resolved while I was taking the discussions. It wasn't because I had prayed and received a testimony that the Book of Mormon was true or that Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. The missionaries had invited me to pray about these things, but I never did. I simply believed what the missionaries had taught me.

Three years after my baptism, a sister stood at the chapel podium and shared her testimony of the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith. She asked everyone to ponder this question: “Have we truly prayed about the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon and about the experience Joseph Smith had?” This question hit me hard, and I thought to myself, “I

have never prayed about these things, but I should and I will.”

I was motivated to take action because my faith at the time was weak and my testimony of the scriptures was shallow. That night I prayed to my Father about Joseph Smith and the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.

I didn't feel anything the first time I prayed, nor the second time. Not to be discouraged, I opened the scriptures to Joseph Smith—History 1:14–17, where it describes how Joseph went to the grove to have a personal prayer:

“I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me.

“It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered. . . . When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages.”

As I read the words, I started shaking as if an electric current had gone through my whole body. Instantly I knew that Joseph Smith had indeed seen Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. I knew that we had the Book of Mormon because God had it translated through His prophet.

I'm grateful that Heavenly Father granted me this witness of the truthfulness of the First Vision. I realized that if the gospel had not been restored, I would not have known my Redeemer. I know the fulness of the gospel is true, and I know I will receive God's promises if I endure faithfully to the end. ■

Jing-juan Chen, Taiwan



CAN I HAVE A BLESSING?

Many years ago I accompanied a brother I home taught, Brother Schaaf, to the hospital to give his wife a priesthood blessing before her surgery. Sister Schaaf shared her hospital room with a woman named Annie Leddar, a long-term patient with terminal cancer who was not expected to live much longer.

I reached out to pull the dividing curtain between the two hospital beds before beginning the blessing, but I stopped. Not wanting to exclude Annie, I explained what we were about to do and asked if she would

like to witness the blessing. She said she would like to watch. Her husband, who had passed away, had been a minister in another faith, and she was interested in what we believed. Brother Schaaf and I proceeded with the blessing while Annie listened.

A few days later, before Sister Schaaf went home from the hospital, Annie asked if she could receive a priesthood blessing as well. Brother Schaaf and I gladly returned to the hospital to give her a blessing. Annie was not cured of her cancer, but her health greatly improved.

She was interested in learning more about the gospel, so I asked the missionaries to stop by the hospital to teach her. She listened to the gospel message with an open heart and chose to be baptized. Every week after her baptism we came to the hospital to take Annie to church in her wheelchair.

Because Annie was ill, it was difficult for her to get around, but she soon found her own way to serve the Lord. We brought her a typewriter, and she spent hours every day in the hospital doing family history work. Annie lived three years longer than expected and prepared hundreds of family names for the temple before she passed away.

After Annie's death, Sister Schaaf did proxy temple work for many of Annie's female ancestors.

As far as I know, Annie was the only member of her family to join the Church. Her living family was never enthusiastic about her involvement with the Church, but I am sure many of her deceased family members were grateful for the vicarious work that was done for them.

We never know if people we meet are ready to receive the gospel. I am grateful that I was able to see a seed—planted in Annie's heart after she witnessed a priesthood blessing—flourish and bless hundreds of Heavenly Father's children. ■

Art Crater, New York, USA

I reached out to pull the dividing curtain between the two hospital beds before beginning the blessing, but then I stopped, not wanting to exclude Annie.



MY BIRTHDAY WISH

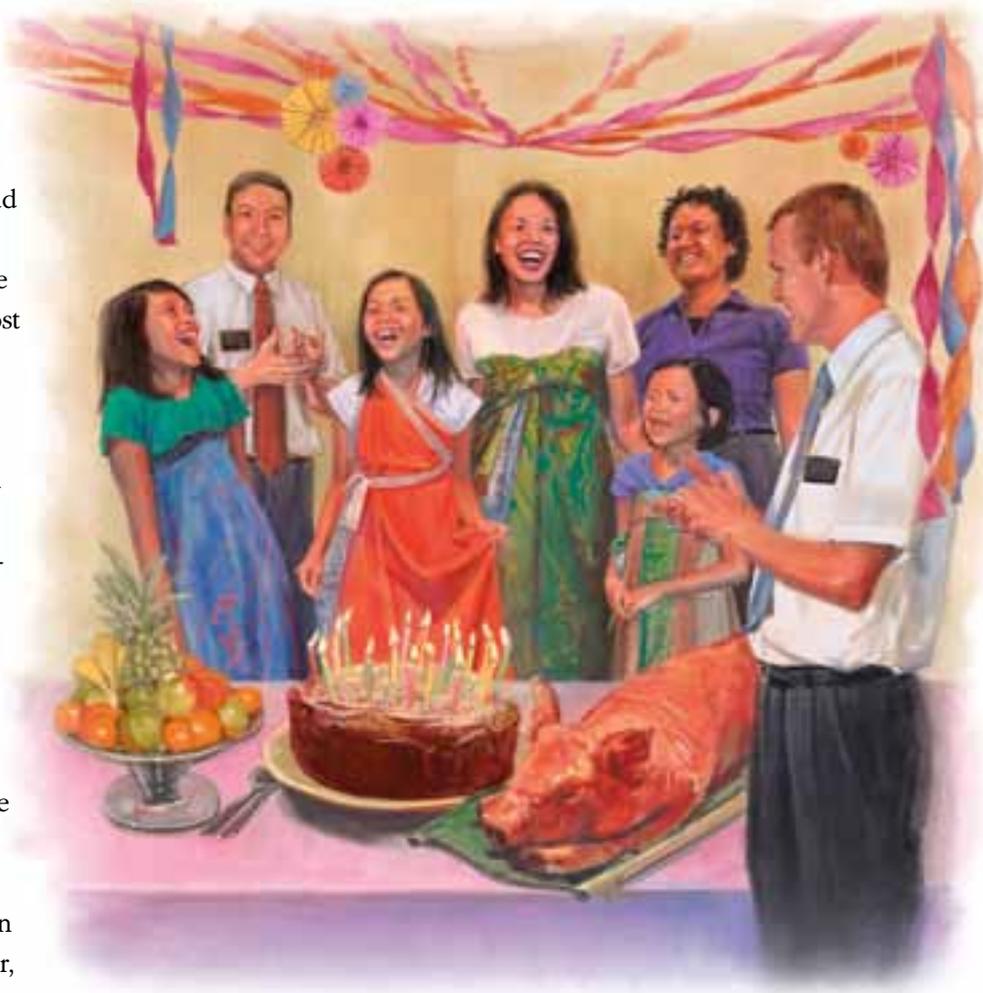
When I accepted the gospel at age 18, I recognized that I had tasted the sweetest fruit above all. I felt great joy, but I thought about the members of my family, who were lost and wandering. I felt great sorrow from being the only member of the Church in my family, but I didn't know how to open others' eyes and ears to the truth.

I attempted in many ways to convince my family to listen to the missionaries. But the more I tried, the more hesitant they became.

I became discouraged, and so I thought about not going to church anymore. But as I prayed, a scripture came to my mind: "After this should [you] deny me, it would have been better for you that ye had not known me" (2 Nephi 31:14). I prayed harder, read the scriptures, attended my Church meetings, and focused on the blessings in my life. As a result, the pain began to vanish.

As my birthday approached, I felt inspired to have a birthday party at my house and to invite all of my Church friends, including the full-time missionaries. I wanted my family to have closer interaction with members of the Church, who seem to me to be the happiest people in the world. For me, the party felt just like family home evening.

After that day, things changed. The missionaries were welcome in



As my birthday approached, I felt inspired to have a birthday party at my house and to invite all of my Church friends, including the full-time missionaries.

our house and became great friends with my family. One day my father announced that he wanted all of our family to listen to the missionaries and go to church. I was shocked.

Three years after my baptism, my family was all baptized. At the baptismal service, my mother bore her testimony, and my father thanked the missionaries. Ward members were amazed at their conversion.

How did it happen? All of the

tears I shed and the goals I set played a part. But most of all, the heart of my father was softened by the love and friendship of the missionaries and ward members. All of the members were missionaries because of their examples of living the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for them and for Heavenly Father's plan, which allows families to be together forever. ■

Angelica Carbonell Digal, Philippines



By Elder Michael T.
Ringwood
Of the Seventy

Faith, Hope, and Relationships

*Desire, belief,
and hope
should prompt
us to develop
relationships
that lead to
marriage.*

Did you really make a pro-and-con list?” The question my teenage son asked in an amazed tone referred to a list he found in one of my journals. It wasn’t just any old pro-and-con list; it was the list I had made 30 years ago, before I proposed to his mother. I don’t know how many men make a list like mine, but when I pondered the idea of marriage as a 24-year-old college student, it just seemed the right thing to do.

I don’t remember any other questions that day from my son about our courtship; he was too fixated on the list. I can still see him in my mind’s eye, yelling to his siblings, “Dad made a list about Mom! Come see it!” However, as I look back, I can think of many questions he *could* have asked.

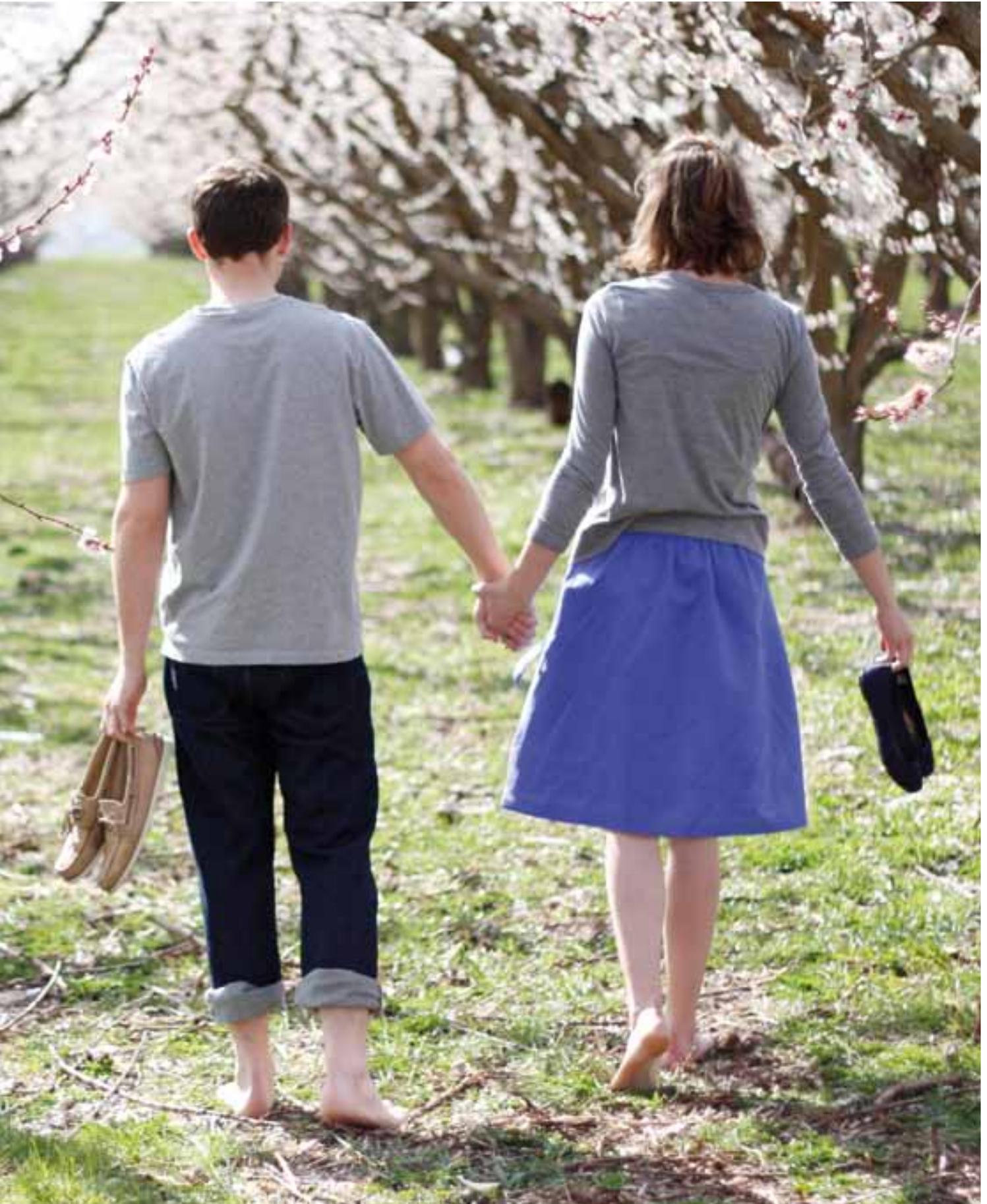
Didn’t you love her? This question should have been his first. My answer would have been yes; that is why I made the list. I really did love her, and I *desired* more than anything for

her to be happy. The list was more about seeing if I could make her happy than it was about whether or not I loved her.

Didn’t you have fun together? Again, my answer would have been yes; that is why I made the list. It was a way to see if my *hope* that she would always have fun with me could become reality.

Didn’t you think she was the right one? Perhaps this is the most intriguing question of all. I would have answered yes; I did *believe* she was “the one,” but I wanted to make sure my belief would inspire action on my part to make things work.

I don’t think I fully realized at the time the impact my mission president’s teachings on faith and its components of desire, belief, and hope were having on my courtship. With a clearer view from the passage of time, I am very grateful to President F. Ray Hawkins for his influence on me. I still have the notes I took as a 20-year-old missionary as my young



mission president opened the scriptures and explained the elements of faith that would later figure into making the most important decision of my life.

Alma's Teachings on Faith

Among the things President Hawkins shared about faith were Alma's teachings to the poor among the Zoramites. Alma identified the need to have a particle of faith, which he described as *desire* (see Alma 32:27). A desire for something to happen is a powerful influence for us to take the necessary steps to increase our faith.

A second particle of faith is what Alma taught comes from desire: *belief*. He instructed the Zoramites to let their desire work in them until they believed in a manner that they could give place for his words in their hearts (see verse 27). This combination of desire and belief begins to swell in our hearts, and we recognize it as good. It begins to enlarge our souls and enlighten our understanding. It begins to be delicious. (See verse 28.)

Hope is another important particle of faith. Alma told the humble Zoramites that faith was not a perfect knowledge of things. It was a "*hope* for things which are not seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21; emphasis added). Mormon likewise taught that hope is a necessary particle of faith when he said to Moroni, "How is it that ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have

hope?" (Moroni 7:40). Hope can be described as the ability to see something better in the future.¹ My list was my way of looking into the future with an eye of faith and, like Abraham, determining that "there was greater happiness and peace" (Abraham 1:2) for me in being married to my wife.

Having the *desire* particle of faith, I needed *belief* and *hope* to complete my faith, and I needed to take action by asking Rosalie to marry me. The list—my manifestation of desire, belief, and hope—was important in giving me the courage to take the action necessary to complete my faith. James taught that faith without works is dead (see James 2:17). No amount of desire, belief, or hope would have helped me find the greater happiness and peace I have found in marriage if those particles hadn't led me to ask the big question. (Sadly, the first time I proposed, Rosalie's answer was no, but that is a story for another time. In such circumstances—when things don't go according to our plan or timing—faith still plays an integral role in our lives.) It took some perseverance and patience for both of us, and we did later marry on a snowy day in December 1982.

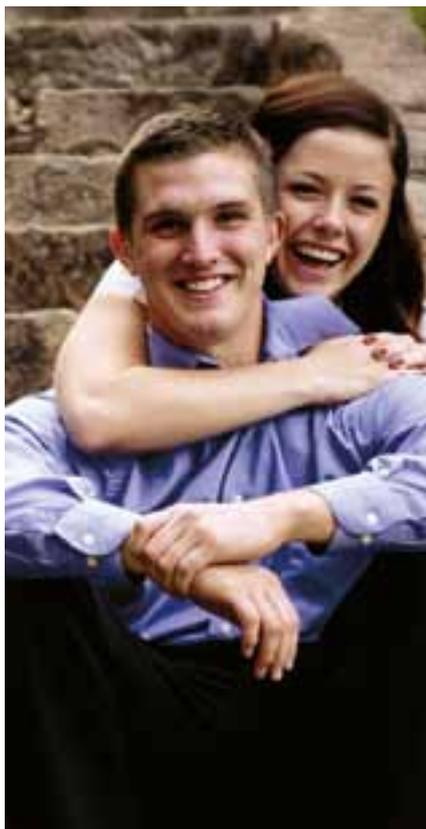
Faith is important in all we do, including dating and courting. Desire, belief, and hope that there is indeed greater happiness and peace waiting for us should incite us to action to develop relationships that lead to marriage. Do you *desire* to follow the plan of happiness? Do you *believe*



that following the plan will lead to greater happiness and peace? (Believe me when I tell you that following the plan and marrying in the temple does lead to greater happiness and peace.) Do you hope for a happy marriage? Does your hope allow you to see yourself in a better place in the future? If your answers to these questions are yes, then you must complete your faith by taking action. Ask someone on a date! Accept an invitation to go on a date! Put yourself in situations that could lead to meeting other like-minded young adults. In short, pursue a course that will lead to greater happiness and peace.

Joseph Smith's Example of Faith

Let's look at Joseph Smith as an example of faith and of demonstrating the particles of desire, belief, and hope.



Joseph wanted to find the true Church of Jesus Christ. His desire was so strong that it led him to the scriptures, where he read, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God” (James 1:5). He thought about this scripture. He *desired* to have wisdom, and he *believed* that he would receive it if he asked God. He did the only logical thing: he prayed and asked God. Now think about this for a minute. Joseph had the desire to know the truth. He believed the words of James. He hoped for an answer. But if he had stopped there, we would not be here today. Exercising faith meant he had to enter the grove and pray. I believe that when Joseph went into the grove to pray, he expected to walk out with an answer. He might not have expected to see Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, but he did

expect an answer. What a great example of faith! He had desire, he believed, he hoped, and he took action.

The faith of a 14-year-old boy changed the world. Because of Joseph’s prayer in the Sacred Grove, the heavens were opened and God spoke again to His children through a prophet.

One of Your Opportunities to Demonstrate Faith

The Lord continues to speak through His prophet today. Just over a year and a half ago, President Thomas S. Monson said:

“There is a point at which it’s time to think seriously about marriage and to seek a companion with whom you want to spend eternity. If you choose wisely and if you are committed to the success of your marriage, there is

nothing in this life which will bring you greater happiness.

“When you marry, . . . you will wish to marry in the house of the Lord. For you who hold the priesthood, there should be no other option. Be careful lest you destroy your eligibility to be so married. You can keep your courtship within proper bounds while still having a wonderful time.”²

Your desire, belief, and hope may not be manifested in the form of a list, as they were for me, but however you demonstrate these qualities, they will help you complete your faith by following the Lord’s prophet to seek a companion with whom you can find greater happiness. Your desire, belief, and hope will also help you choose wisely.

The blessings of choosing to pursue and nurture eternal marriage will lead us to experience the fruits of the gospel, which Alma described as “most precious, . . . sweet above all that is sweet, and . . . pure above all that is pure.” He continued, “Ye shall feast upon [these fruits] even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst” (Alma 32:42). Instead of fearing the future, exercise the faith that will allow you to lay claim to the promises of the Lord. ■

NOTES

1. See Dennis F. Rasmussen, “What Faith Is,” in Larry E. Dahl and Charles D. Tate Jr., eds., *The Lectures on Faith in Historical Perspective* (1990), 164.
2. Thomas S. Monson, “Priesthood Power,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2011, 67–68.



By Elder
Juan A. Uceda
Of the Seventy

THE BOOK OF MORMON— SHARE IT

I knew the Book of Mormon was true because of three things I felt when I read it.

When I was 18, I was living in Lima, Peru, where I was born and raised. At that time my father came across a good friend he hadn't seen in a long time.

My father was impressed that his friend looked younger and was well dressed. He asked his friend what had happened to him to create this transformation. "Did you just win the lottery?" he asked. The friend responded, "Well, something better than that. Now I am a Mormon, and I want to share the gospel with you and your family."

My father thought his friend was joking, so he said, "OK, if you want to send your missionaries, do it."



Elder Uceda (second from right) with his family in Lima, Peru, shortly after he joined the Church.

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ELDER UCEDA; ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIAN CAUL

But this man was very serious about it, and within a few days the missionaries came and knocked on our door. That was the beginning of a wonderful experience.

The missionaries taught us about the Book of Mormon and left a copy for us to read. This was during the summer, and I was on vacation for a couple of months after finishing my first year at the university. So I took the book that afternoon after the

discussion and started to read it.

Page after page I read and read and read, and I couldn't stop. There was this magic that came from the book. I love reading and had read many books, but this was different. I was captured by the book, and after I had read for several hours, my mother said, "Juan, turn off the light! Your brothers want to sleep." And I said, "Yeah, just a moment, just a moment," and I continued

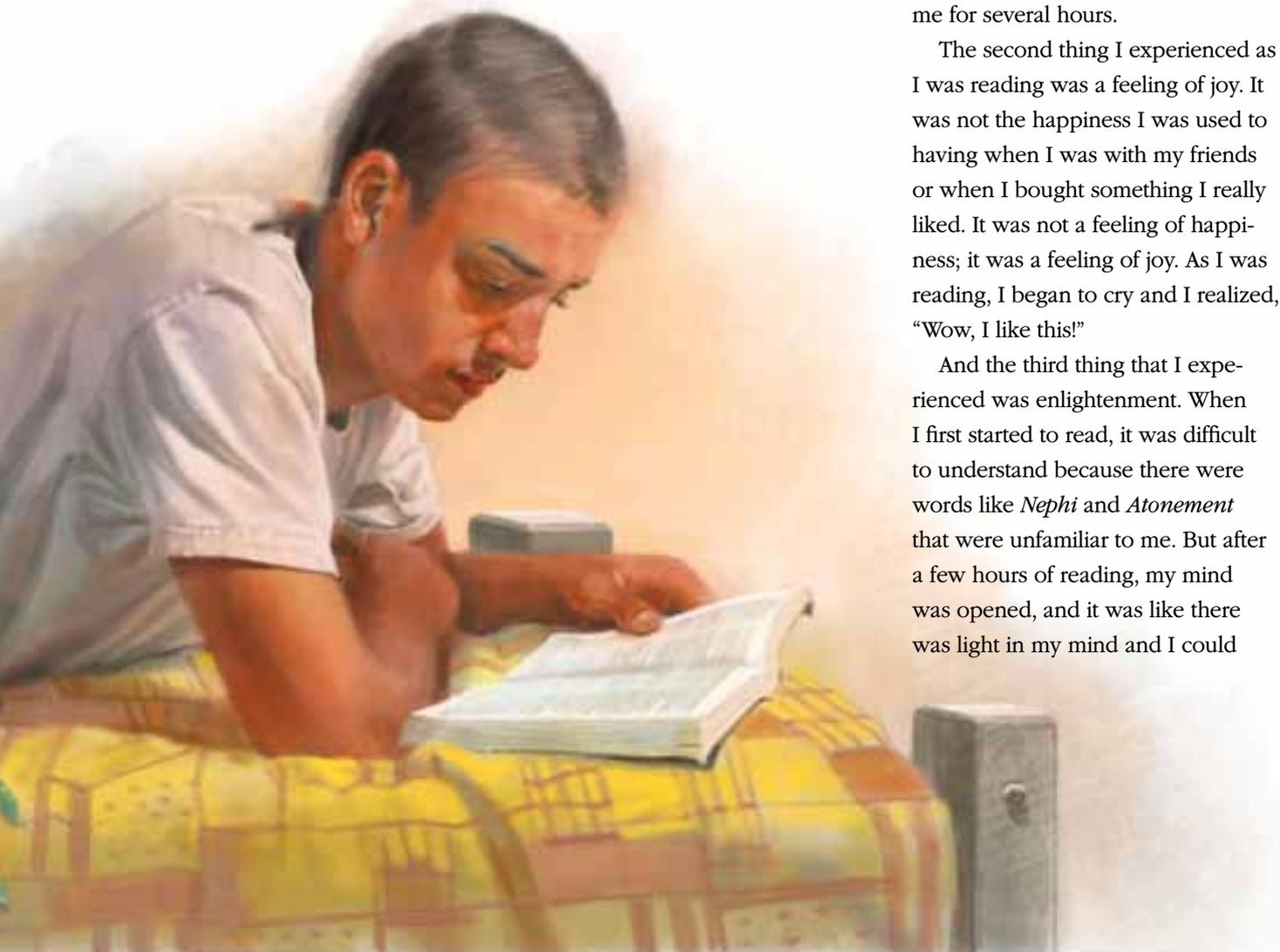
reading. Even after many hours of reading, I had no hunger, no thirst, and no desire for sleep.

Before I finished the book, I knew that something special was in it. I had a testimony because of three things that I experienced as I was reading the book for the first time.

The first thing that happened to me during those hours was a profound feeling of peace that was different from anything I had experienced before. This feeling of peace was with me for several hours.

The second thing I experienced as I was reading was a feeling of joy. It was not the happiness I was used to having when I was with my friends or when I bought something I really liked. It was not a feeling of happiness; it was a feeling of joy. As I was reading, I began to cry and I realized, "Wow, I like this!"

And the third thing that I experienced was enlightenment. When I first started to read, it was difficult to understand because there were words like *Nephi* and *Atonement* that were unfamiliar to me. But after a few hours of reading, my mind was opened, and it was like there was light in my mind and I could



comprehend more and more as I continued reading the book.

I learned later that those three experiences are some of the ways in which the Spirit manifests to us. I had received the Spirit, and I was ready to be baptized, but I needed to wait for the rest of my family to receive their own testimonies. Finally on April 6, 1972, my mother, my sister, and I were baptized. My father and my other two siblings were present and attentive to what we were going through, and a few months afterward, they were baptized too.

The Church and the gospel came into my life at the right moment. In my first year at the university, I had been exposed to many philosophies of men and new ideas and ways of living so different from the ones I

was used to. Many of the values I had learned in my other church during my childhood were challenged by the new ideas that I had before me.

It was difficult for me because I was confused. There were so many new things that I felt were not correct, but they were so normal to others. And the knowledge I had was not enough for me to defend my values.

After I was baptized, it was a different thing for me to go back to the university. Now I had something to say to respond with love to others. I could say with confidence, “No, thank you, I don’t think that’s for me.” And now I knew why I had to say that. The Church and the Book of Mormon came at the right time for me. I’m truly grateful because they changed my life.

I was blessed because of my decision to join the Church. In the Church I met my best friends. I had been very shy, and I preferred to stay alone, study, read my books, and enjoy myself. But when the Church came into my life, I learned what a true

friend is. I found a wonderful young woman in the Church who became my wife. I found priesthood leaders and people who cared for me. In the Church of the Lord, I found what I needed.

There are many people who would find what they need in the Church. Don’t be afraid to open your mouth with your friends and say, “I believe this. I want to share this with you.” Sometimes you hear adults saying what is right and wrong, but when you have a friend your age who says the same thing, you follow that person. For some reason the voice of our friends sounds stronger than the voice of adults. So be a good example because you never know if a Juan Uceda will be there waiting. You’ll never know unless you open your mouth and say, “Juan, I’d like to invite you to come to my church. I want you to read this book.” If you do that simple thing, you may change lives. ■



After joining the Church, Elder Uceda had many opportunities to share his testimony of the Book of Mormon as a full-time missionary in Peru. Left, above: Elder Uceda (right) stands with a convert family he taught. Left, below: Elder Uceda (back row, right) gathers with other missionaries outside a church building.

Doctrine and Covenants 87:8

This year's Mutual theme teaches us where to stand to be safe.



Stand Ye

"The Lord invites us, 'Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye

shall find me.' As we do so, we will feel His Spirit in our lives, providing us the desire and the courage to stand strong and firm in righteousness—to 'stand . . . in holy places, and be not moved.'"

President Thomas S. Monson, "Stand in Holy Places," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 86.

It Cometh Quickly

"We should watch for the signs [of the Second Coming], we should live as faithfully as we possibly can. . . . But we must not be paralyzed just because that event and the events surrounding it are ahead of us somewhere. We cannot stop living life. Indeed, we should live life more fully than we have ever lived it."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "This, the Greatest of All Dispensations," *Liahona*, July 2007, 19–20; *Ensign*, July 2007, 53–54.

Day of the Lord

Day of the Lord—The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

8 Wherefore, "stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold, it cometh 'quickly, saith the Lord. Amen."

In Holy Places

"What are . . . 'holy places'? Surely they include the *temple* and its covenants faithfully kept. Surely they include a *home* where children are treasured and parents are respected. Surely the holy places include our *posts of duty* assigned by priesthood authority, including missions and callings faithfully fulfilled in branches, wards, and stakes."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Preparation for the Second Coming," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2004, 10; emphasis added.

Be Not Moved

Here are some ways to ensure that something will not be moved:

- *An anchor*—"Hope . . . maketh an anchor to the souls of men" (Ether 12:4).
- *A solid foundation*—"It is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation . . . , which is a sure foundation" (Helaman 5:12).
- *A firm footing*—You can't have one foot in Zion and one foot in the world, for "a double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8).
- *Tent stakes*—The stakes of the tent of Zion help the Church stand tall and firmly planted, while offering shelter to us: "The gathering together upon the land of Zion, and upon her stakes, may be for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm" (D&C 115:6).

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

2013 MUTUAL THEME



STANDING ON HIGHER GROUND

By David L. Beck

Young Men General President

The 2013 Mutual theme is taken from Doctrine and Covenants 87:8: “Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come.” The question I hope every young man will ponder throughout this coming year is, *Am I standing in holy places?*

As I have met with valiant young men all around the world, I have witnessed firsthand how thousands of you are doing this already in so many ways. You stand in the holiest of places each time you enter the temple to perform baptisms for the dead. I encourage you to take every opportunity available to enter the temple and to always be worthy to do so.

Each day as you fulfill your duty to God, you stand in holy places and are in a position to lift others. You stand in holy places as you prepare, bless, and pass the sacrament each Sunday. You stand in holy places as you share the gospel and when you act as a standing minister—one who is always able, willing, and worthy to serve and strengthen others.

As an Aaronic Priesthood holder, you have been given the charge to warn, expound, exhort, teach, and invite all to come unto Christ (see D&C 20:59). President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) said: “You cannot lift another soul until you are standing on higher ground than he is. . . . You cannot light a fire in another soul unless it is burning in your own soul.”¹ Young men, this means you should continually work to

strengthen your testimony and always be willing to share it.

You have a sacred responsibility to be an instrument in the Lord’s hands. As you pray and study the scriptures, strive to keep the commandments, and listen to the promptings of the Spirit, you will find yourself on higher ground. As a consequence, wherever you are can become a holy place. Then, when situations arise, you will have the strength, courage, and the ability to help lift others. You will have the power and protection the Lord promises those who stand in holy places.

I love what President Thomas S. Monson said about these promises when he assured us that as we draw near to the Lord, “we will feel His Spirit in our lives, providing us the desire and the courage to stand strong and firm in righteousness—to ‘stand . . . in holy places, and be not moved’ (D&C 87:8).

“As the winds of change swirl around us and the moral fiber of society continues to disintegrate before our very eyes, may we remember the Lord’s precious promise to those who trust in Him: ‘Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee’ (Isaiah 41:10).”² ■

NOTES

1. Harold B. Lee, “Stand Ye in Holy Places,” *Ensign*, July 1973, 123.
2. Thomas S. Monson, “Stand in Holy Places,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 86.



“STAND YE IN
HOLY PLACES,
AND BE NOT
MOVED . . .”

(SEE D&C 87:8).



HOLY PLACES IN YOUR LIFE

By Elaine S. Dalton

Young Women General President

This year's Mutual theme invites you to step out of the world and into the kingdom of God. As President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has taught, we live in enemy territory.¹ “Stand ye in holy places” is the key to survival.

This theme invites important questions: What is a holy place? Where is a holy place? How can we stand in holy places? How do we make places we regularly inhabit more holy? As you seek answers to these questions, your answers will guide your associations, your choice of activities, and your dress, words, and actions.

You have committed to strengthen your home and family. Strive to make your home a holy place, filled with the Spirit of the Lord. You can support family prayer and scripture study.

Your room can be a holy place that invites the Spirit. If the prophet were to see your room, would he view it as a holy place? Do you?

We can stand in holy places as we go to church. The scriptures teach that the wards and stakes of Zion are holy places that will “be for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm” (D&C 115:6).

The most holy place on earth is the temple. President Thomas S. Monson has said: “My young friends who are in your teenage years, always have the temple in your

sights. Do nothing which will keep you from entering its doors and partaking of the sacred and eternal blessings there. I commend those of you who already go to the temple regularly to perform baptisms for the dead.”² Always be worthy to have a current temple recommend, even if a temple is far away.

Anywhere you are where the Spirit is present can be a holy place. President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) taught that holy places have more to do with *how* one lives than *where* one lives.³ If you live worthy of the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost, then you stand in a holy place.

Every temple has the inscription “Holiness to the Lord.” Seek to always stand in holy places. As you live the standards, pray daily, and read the scriptures—especially the Book of Mormon—you will feel the companionship of the Holy Ghost. The Lord Himself promises you, “For verily I say unto you, that great things await you” (D&C 45:62). I agree and testify that this is true! ■

NOTES

1. See Boyd K. Packer, “How to Survive in Enemy Territory,” *Liahona*, Oct. 2012, 34–37; *New Era*, Apr. 2012, 2–5.
2. Thomas S. Monson, “The Holy Temple—a Beacon to the World,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2011, 93.
3. See *Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual: Religion 324 and 325*, 2nd ed. (Church Educational System manual, 2001), 196.



By Adam C. Olson

Church Magazines

WHAT AGUNG LEARNED

FROM BADMINTON

An Indonesian teen learns that having hope keeps him from giving up.

It's a typically humid day in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, and sweat drips from Agung's brow as he awaits his opponent's serve. The badminton match is close, and the 15-year-old feels driven to win.

After a furious exchange, his opponent puts the shuttlecock hopelessly out of Agung's reach. Unwilling to give up the point in such a close match, Agung dives for the shuttlecock but comes up short—and bleeding from sliding across the cement court.

It's easy to see that he loves competitive badminton. But Agung doesn't dream of becoming a professional badminton player. He's not going to have to choose between serving the shuttlecock in the Olympics and serving a mission. By his own admission, he's not particularly good at the sport.

So why does this small teen with the big smile try so hard? Hope.

"I believe I can get better," he says.



A Reason for Hope

Hope is the reason we do a lot of things. We exercise because we hope we can become stronger and healthier. We practice a musical instrument because we hope we can learn to play well. Agung practices badminton because he hopes he can improve.

“If I had no hope of getting any better and ever winning, it would be very easy to give up,” Agung says.

Hope is an essential element of the plan of salvation. Hope that we can be forgiven leads us to repent and try again after we fail to keep a commandment.

Satan’s Attack on Hope

Two of Satan’s best weapons against us are doubt and discouragement. He wasn’t able to foil Heavenly Father’s plan by stopping the Atonement. But he can still try to foil the cleansing effects of the Atonement in our lives if he can steal our hope that we can be forgiven.

“Satan wants us to lose hope,” Agung says, “because when we give up, it leaves us far from Heavenly Father.”

However, when Satan succeeds in discouraging us, there are ways to find hope again.

Finding Hope

When we need hope for the future, we can look to the past. Agung uses an example from school that has taught him this lesson. “I’ve seen that if I study hard, I can be successful on my exams,” he says. “Because of that experience, I have hope that if I practice hard, I can improve at badminton,” he says. “My experience gives me hope.”

When we need hope in Jesus Christ, we can find it in both our past experiences with the power of the Atonement (see Romans 5:4) and the experiences of others, including the experiences you might hear in sacrament meeting, a Sunday School lesson, the *Liahona*, or the scriptures (see Jacob 4:4–6).

As we study the hopeful words of the prophets, pray for the spiritual gift of hope, and learn to recognize the Savior’s power in our lives, our faith in Him increases, as does our hope that He will help us in the future.¹

Never Give Up

Agung knows he will probably never be a professional athlete, but he knows that as long as he keeps

trying, there is hope he can improve.

He has learned that the great power of hope is this: “As long as you never give up, there is hope,” he says.

In life, the Atonement of Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of hope. Because of the Atonement we can repent when we make a mistake. That also means that because of the Atonement, we have not failed our life’s test when we make a mistake unless we give up trying to repent and obey.

That’s why Agung continues to invite his father to church every Sunday. That’s why he tries to stand up for what’s right, even when his friends don’t. That’s why he makes the hour-long round-trip bike ride to the meetinghouse so often for seminary, Mutual, Sunday meetings, missionary preparation classes, and to help clean the building.

“It’s not easy to try to be like Jesus,” Agung says. “Sometimes I get discouraged, but I don’t give up. Because of His sacrifice for me, I have hope I can be better.”

Because of the Atonement there is hope. And because of hope, the Atonement can change our lives. ■

NOTE

1. See Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Infinite Power of Hope,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 21–24.



A PROMISE OF HOPE

“Because God has been faithful and kept His promises in the past, we can hope with confidence that God will keep His promises to us in the present and in the future.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “The Infinite Power of Hope,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 23.

Education

Increased knowledge affords us the opportunity to be of greater influence in accomplishing the Lord's purposes.

With great desire and anxiety for the welfare of their souls, Jacob taught the people of Nephi “concerning things which are, and which are to come” (2 Nephi 6:4). These were his people, and he loved them. He taught them who they really were and the Lord’s promises concerning them. As he taught them of the Savior, he exclaimed: “O how great the holiness of our God! For *he knoweth all things*, and there is not anything save he knows it” (2 Nephi 9:20; emphasis added).

That is worth remembering when you consider the importance of education. Centuries earlier, in another part of the world, Father Abraham “sought for the blessings of the fathers” and desired “also to be one who possessed great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of righteousness, and to possess a greater knowledge” (Abraham 1:2).

You are all beloved sons and daughters of God¹ and “are the children of the prophets; and ye are of . . . the covenant which the Father made with

[Abraham]” (3 Nephi 20:25). Like Abraham, you have within you the capacity to “possess a greater knowledge” as you are instructed in things that are “expedient for you to understand” (D&C 88:78).

The Lord has indicated that desirable knowledge includes “things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth;



By Elder
Craig A. Cardon
Of the Seventy



things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms” (D&C 88:79).

Why? Why is gaining an education so important? The Lord Himself provides a wonderful insight:

“That ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you” (D&C 88:80).

In this increasingly complex world, education is one of the most important acquisitions of life. And while it is true that more education will generally lead to the opportunity for increased temporal rewards, the greater value of increased knowledge is the opportunity it affords us to be of greater influence in accomplishing the Lord’s purposes. As explained in *For the Strength of Youth*: “Education is an important part of Heavenly Father’s plan to help you become more like Him. He wants you to educate your mind and to develop your skills and talents, your power to act well in your

responsibilities, and your capacity to appreciate life.”²

The Prophet Joseph Smith likewise taught: “In knowledge there is power. God has more power than all other beings, because He has greater knowledge.”³

For good reasons, formal education requires you, over a number of years, to engage a wide range of skills and subjects, some of which may not be familiar to you or which you may not find particularly enjoyable to study. Nonetheless, you should be diligent in your studies, for this broadens your horizons and expands your mind’s capacity to learn in other areas as well. Indeed, your exposure to a wide range of basic skills and subjects affords you the opportunity to identify those skills and subjects in which you have a genuine interest. With this interest,



as you continue to further your education, you will have the opportunity to pursue in greater depth those things you truly enjoy.

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, shared valuable advice he received from his father wherein his father counseled him to pursue education “you love so much that when you don’t have to think about anything, that’s what you think about.”⁴ Sister Cardon and I have counseled our children to pursue an education and a career that are of such interest to them that they would want to “skip to work.”

Jacob cautioned his people against the “frailties, and the foolishness of men!” He explained, “When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God.” He then added this ennobling truth: “But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God” (2 Nephi 9:28–29).

Be learned and hearken unto the Lord. He will bless and prosper you in accomplishing His purposes. ■

NOTES

1. See “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
2. *For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011), 9.
3. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 265.
4. In Gerald N. Lund, “Elder Henry B. Eyring: Molded by ‘Defining Influences,’” *Liahona*, Apr. 1996, 28; *Ensign*, Sept. 1995, 12.



KEEP PRACTICING

I wanted to quit. Would all this effort pay off?

By Willis Jensen

“I don’t want to take piano lessons anymore,” I told my mother. I had been taking lessons for several years and was tired of all the practicing. I was ready to quit. I wasn’t very good anyway. Because I suffer from moderate hearing loss and wear hearing aids, I have never considered myself a person with musical talent. It always took a lot of practice to learn the tune of a song.

My mother didn’t say much but simply told me that I should keep taking lessons until I could play the hymns. After much complaining on my part and much encouragement from my parents, I decided not to quit.

Fast forward several years and thousands of miles to a chapel in the mountains of central Guatemala. As a missionary, I was attending a district conference. I had arrived early and found a piano there, so I sat down and started playing hymns. Most of the wards and branches had small electric keyboards that were hard to

play, so I was very excited to play a real piano. I ended up being asked to accompany the congregation for the conference.

What changed my attitude between my younger years and my time as a missionary? I felt the power of the Spirit through music.

While serving a mission, I had many opportunities to use the musical skills that I had learned. I relished the many opportunities to sing and play the piano and played nearly every week in sacrament meeting. I will always remember listening to those faithful Guatemalan members singing the hymns. I taught members new hymns that they weren’t familiar with. I taught some basic piano lessons. My companions and I would sing to the people we were teaching. Even if we sang off-key, the Spirit was always there to touch the hearts of the people.

I’ve learned that it doesn’t matter what your talents are; you can still

learn to develop musical abilities. I’ll never be a world-class pianist, and many of the members in Guatemala will never be in the Tabernacle Choir. But it didn’t matter. We could still enjoy feeling the Spirit through music. I’m so grateful that my parents encouraged me to keep taking piano lessons, and I’m grateful that I kept practicing. ■

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AND TALENTS

“Education is an important part of Heavenly Father’s plan to help you become more like Him. He wants you to educate your mind and to develop your skills and talents, your power to act well in your responsibilities, and your capacity to appreciate life. The education you gain will be valuable to you during mortality and in the life to come.”

For the Strength of Youth (booklet, 2011), 9.



STAND IN HOLY PLACES

“Anywhere you are where the Spirit is present can be a holy place.”

(Elaine S. Dalton, “Holy Places in Your Life,”

Liahona, Jan. 2013, 51; *New Era*, Jan. 2013, 7; see also D&C 87:8.)

SEEING THE **GOOD** IN KYLIE

By Karinne Stacey

*We couldn't stand each other.
Could we ever be friends?*

In fourth grade, I was in the best class ever. Everything about that class was perfect—except Kylie (name has been changed). She was mean to almost everyone, including me. I saw her pushing others in the hallway, and she even pushed me a few times. I would come home crying because I could not understand why she would bully me.

Nobody was her friend. She had her own table at lunch because no one would sit close to her. I told my mom about Kylie, and she gave me some life-changing words of wisdom: “Maybe she just needs a friend.”

This came as a shock to me. How could I possibly be nice to someone who wouldn't give a second thought to calling me an insulting name? Reluctantly, though, I decided to be nicer to Kylie and try to understand her. As I got to know her better, I found that she was actually nice.

I soon learned that her life was much worse than I could have imagined. She had a tough home to live in, and she would avoid any conversation with the word “family.”

One day during lunch, I was sitting with my friends. Since Kylie was mean to others, there were some girls who were not nice to her in return. They started making fun of Kylie, talking loud enough that she could hear them. They said things like, “Come sit with us—NEVER!” “What's that smell? Oh, it's Kylie!” and “Stay away from us!” I sat there listening.

Then I heard a small voice in my head: “Do something.” I stood up and felt over a dozen pairs of eyes turn to me. “Stop!” I said. “Why would you say things like that to anyone? Just be nice to her!” Everyone fell silent. As I sat down, I looked at Kylie. She turned around and gave me a look of pure gratitude.

In sixth grade my 12th birthday was coming up, and I wanted to have a party with a few friends. When my

mom asked if I wanted to invite anyone else, I heard the same small voice in my head: “Invite Kylie.”

“I want to invite Kylie,” I told my mom.

“Really?”

I nodded. After the birthday party, my friends and I, including Kylie, were bonded to such an extent that we got together every Friday for the last three months of school. Kylie came each time. We became best friends.

Now I am in eighth grade and have moved to another state, but I frequently communicate with Kylie, who is still one of my best friends. Sometimes my other friends ask how we became so close.

“In fourth grade she was a bully, and we pretty much hated each other,” I say.

“Well, then how did you become such good friends?”

“I looked for the good in her. Everyone has some good in them, and I reached out to find hers.” ■





By Elder Robert D. Hales
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ.

How can I get a TESTIMONY?



Gaining a testimony begins with study



and prayer



then living the gospel with patience and persistence



and inviting and waiting upon the Spirit.



The life of Joseph Smith is an excellent example of this process.

From "Receiving a Testimony of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ," *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 28.

A Plan for Our Family

“Families can be together forever through Heav’nly Father’s plan”
(Children’s Songbook, 188).

By Marissa Widdison

Church Magazines

Based on a true story



I was sitting on Mom and Dad’s bed, missing them an awful lot, when the phone rang.

“Hey, Levi. Guess what?” Dad said. “Your sister Nora was born this afternoon!”

I could tell Dad was happy, but his voice also sounded weird—like he was worried.

“How big is she?” I asked, wondering if I really wanted to know the answer.

Dad was silent for a moment. “A little

more than two pounds [0.9 kg],” he said. Now he definitely sounded worried. Nora was supposed to be born during Christmastime, but it was still September. “She’s tiny, all right,” Dad continued. “Remember to pray for her, Levi. And pray for us too so we can trust that Heavenly Father knows what’s best for our family.”

After I hung up the phone, I went into the kitchen and picked up a bag of beans that Mom was planning on making into soup. The package said it weighed almost as much as Nora did right now. I held it in my hands, trying to imagine what a baby that size would look like.

“Her spirit was just with Heavenly Father,” I thought, remembering what I had learned about the pre-earth life and the plan of salvation. I knew that even if Nora died, we would get to see her again because we were all sealed together as a family. But I also hoped she would stay with us here on earth.





Over the next few months, Mom and Dad were at the hospital a lot. Grandma and Grandpa came to our house to help take care of me and my younger siblings. The ward fasted and prayed for our family, and nice ladies from the Relief Society brought dinners for us sometimes. Everyone wanted to know how Nora was doing.

One evening, Mom and Dad called all of us into the living room. They told us that Dad was going with the bishop to give Nora a blessing. After Dad left in his suit and tie, Mom gathered all of us around the couch to say a prayer.

“Please bless Dad as he gives Nora a priesthood blessing,” Mom prayed. Her voice grew soft. “And please, if it is Thy will, allow her to come home and be healthy.”

As we prayed, I could feel the Holy Ghost fill the room with peace and love. It was like Heavenly

Father was telling me that, no matter what happened with Nora, it was all part of His plan.

Later that night, Dad came home and told us that something wonderful had happened at the hospital. Usually Nora’s room was loud and noisy. There were lots of machines and monitors with alarms and flashing lights, and nurses and doctors were always hurrying around to help the tiny babies there. But when Dad and the bishop arrived, things were

different. All of the machines were quiet. The nurses were sitting by the babies, reading or watching over them. Dad and the bishop were able to give Nora a blessing without any interruptions.

I don’t know whether Nora will grow up here on earth or return to live with Heavenly Father soon. But I do know that Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers, and I feel peace when I remember that He has a plan for *every* member of my family. ■

Come explore an important place in Church history!

2 HOUSES

WHERE JOSEPH SMITH LIVED

By Jan Pinborough Church Magazines

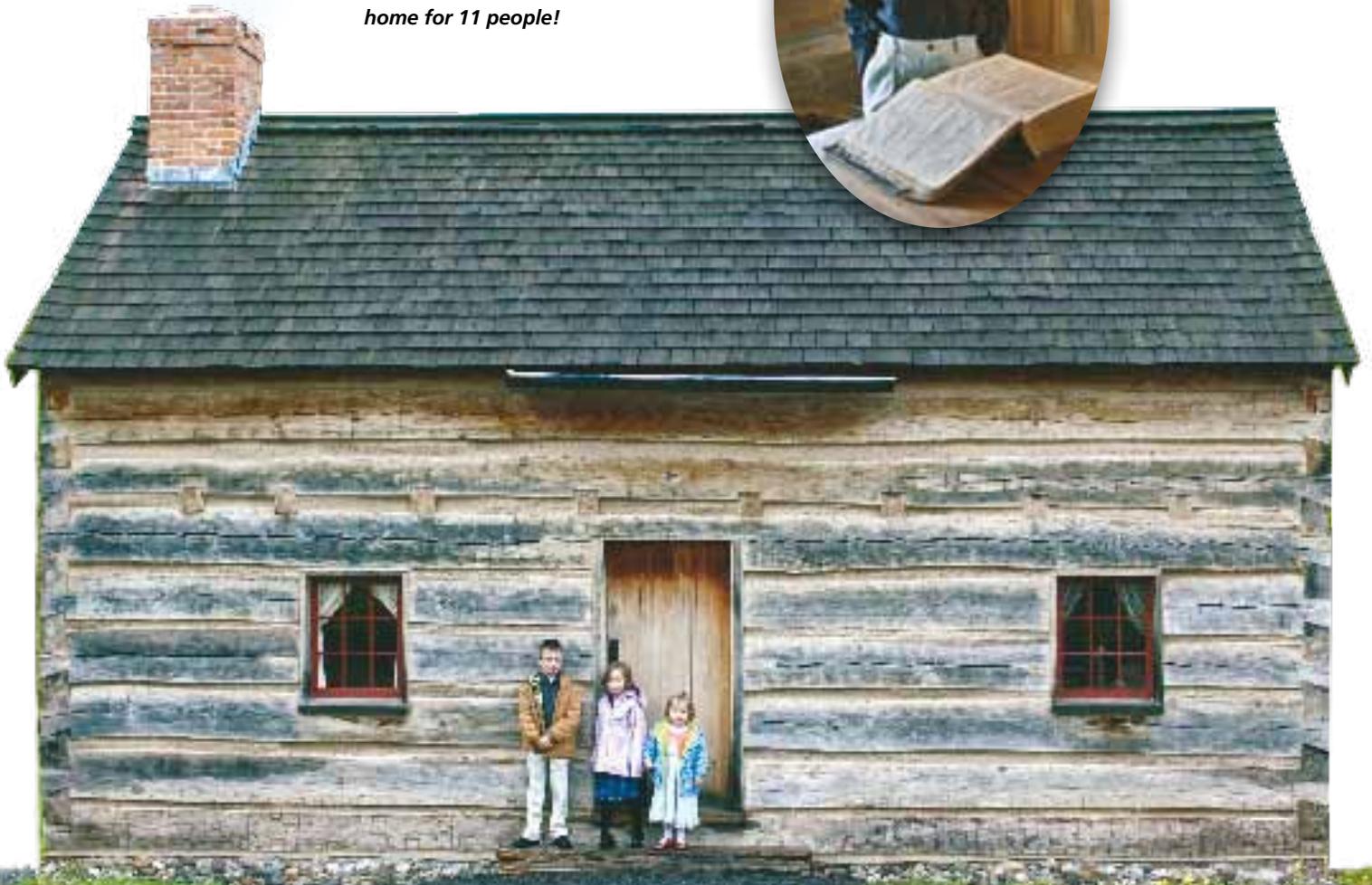
Palmyra, New York, is where the **Restoration** of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began 193 years ago. Luke, Rachel, and Julia S. visited this special place to learn more about where the Prophet Joseph Smith lived and how he helped restore the Church to the earth.

THE LOG HOME

This log home was built to look like the one where Joseph lived from age 12 to 19.

1. *Joseph had five brothers and three sisters. It was a small home for 11 people!*

2. *The family often gathered around the kitchen table to read the Bible. When he was 14, Joseph read James 1:5: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." He had an important question to ask God.*



3.

One early spring day in 1820, Joseph walked to a grove of trees near his log home and prayed about which church he should join. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared and told him not to join any of the churches. Jesus said Joseph would help bring the Lord's Church back to earth.



4.

All six boys in the family slept in an upstairs room. One night when Joseph was 17, the angel Moroni appeared three times and told him about the gold plates that Joseph would translate and publish as the Book of Mormon. Joseph got the plates four years later.



THE FRAME HOME

When Joseph was 19, his family moved to a new house. He lived there when he got the gold plates from the Hill Cumorah.

5. *Some people came to try to steal the gold plates. Joseph hid them under the bricks in front of this fireplace.*



6. *Joseph's sisters Sophronia and Katherine slept in this little bedroom. One night Joseph wrapped the plates in cloth and hid them between the two girls in their bed.*

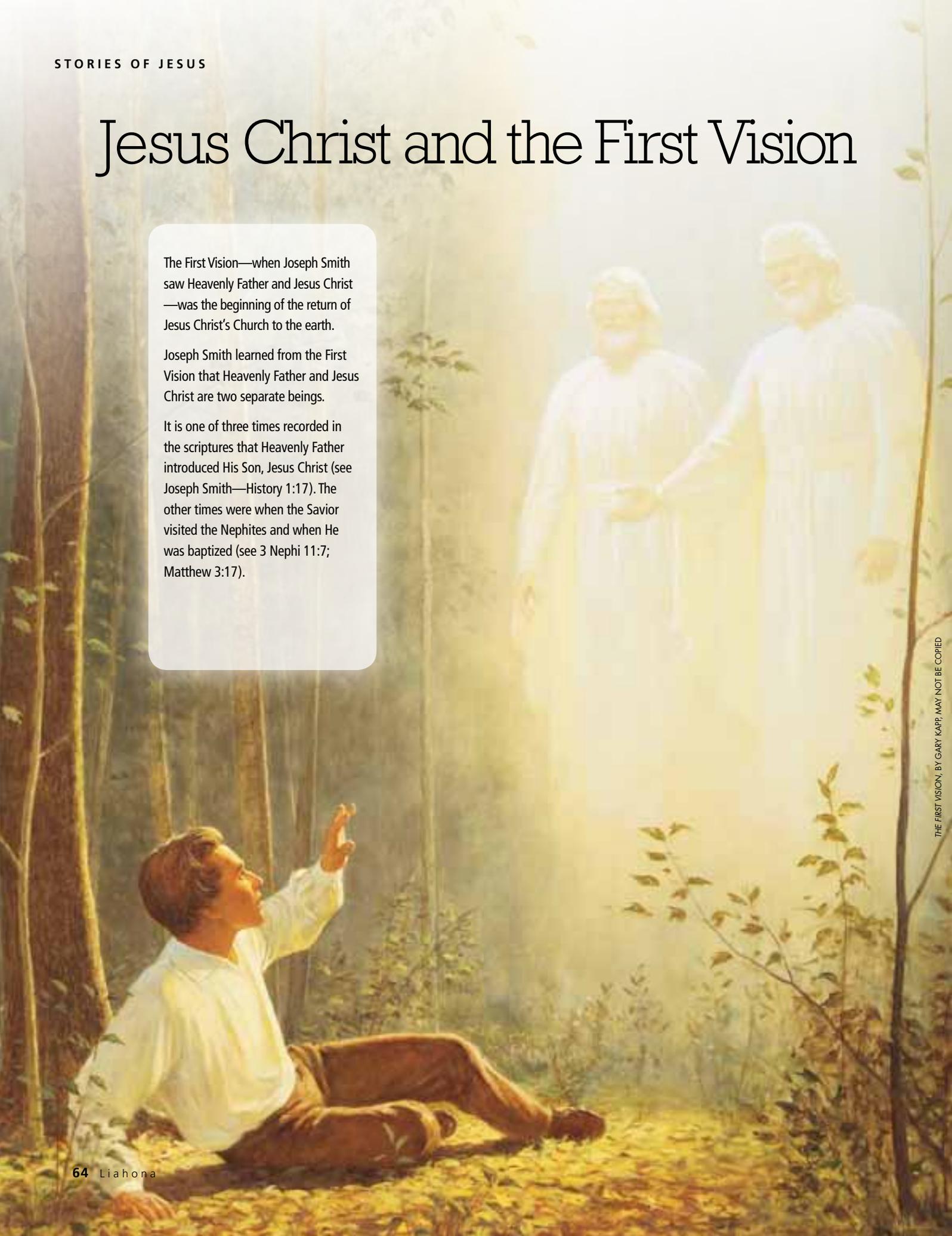


Jesus Christ and the First Vision

The First Vision—when Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ—was the beginning of the return of Jesus Christ’s Church to the earth.

Joseph Smith learned from the First Vision that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are two separate beings.

It is one of three times recorded in the scriptures that Heavenly Father introduced His Son, Jesus Christ (see Joseph Smith—History 1:17). The other times were when the Savior visited the Nephites and when He was baptized (see 3 Nephi 11:7; Matthew 3:17).



THE FIRST VISION, BY GARY KAPP, MAY NOT BE COPIED



Carolina L., age 11, from Venezuela, has grown up in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has always wanted to go to the Caracas Venezuela Temple. In March 2012 she visited the temple for the first time. It made her very happy.



When I went to the temple, I had fun with my dad and my brother, Ryan, while my mother and her friend were in the session. I was very reverent when

I was in the temple waiting room. I was excited to be in Heavenly Father's house and to feel His love and His kindness through the Spirit. I love the house of the Lord.

Jorge M., age 6, Costa Rica



This is a drawing of the Asunción Paraguay Temple. I am very happy because soon we will be sealed as an eternal family. I give thanks to Heavenly Father for giving me a family.

Angelo N., age 5, Paraguay



I have a very special family. The church is six hours away from us, but we go when we can. My father blesses the sacrament for us every Sunday, and my mother teaches me



in Primary. We go to the Recife Brazil Temple once a year. I will go on a mission when I am old enough. I study the scriptures and pray every day. I try to please Heavenly Father by being a good boy. I love the gospel very much.

Kevin L., age 8, Brazil



My little sister, Omega, and I love to see the temple. When our ward visits the Monterrey Mexico Temple, we leave at midnight and travel for six hours

to get there. I know that the temple is where families can become eternal. Soon we will move to Tuxtla Gutiérrez. There is a temple there, and we will be able to visit more often. I am thankful for temples.

Helem N., age 4, Mexico



When I entered the Quetzaltenango Guatemala Temple, I felt immense peace. During the dedication I felt very happy. The talks penetrated the depths of my heart.

Juan G., age 11, Guatemala



Solene S., age 6, Brazil



Ready

By Merilee Booren

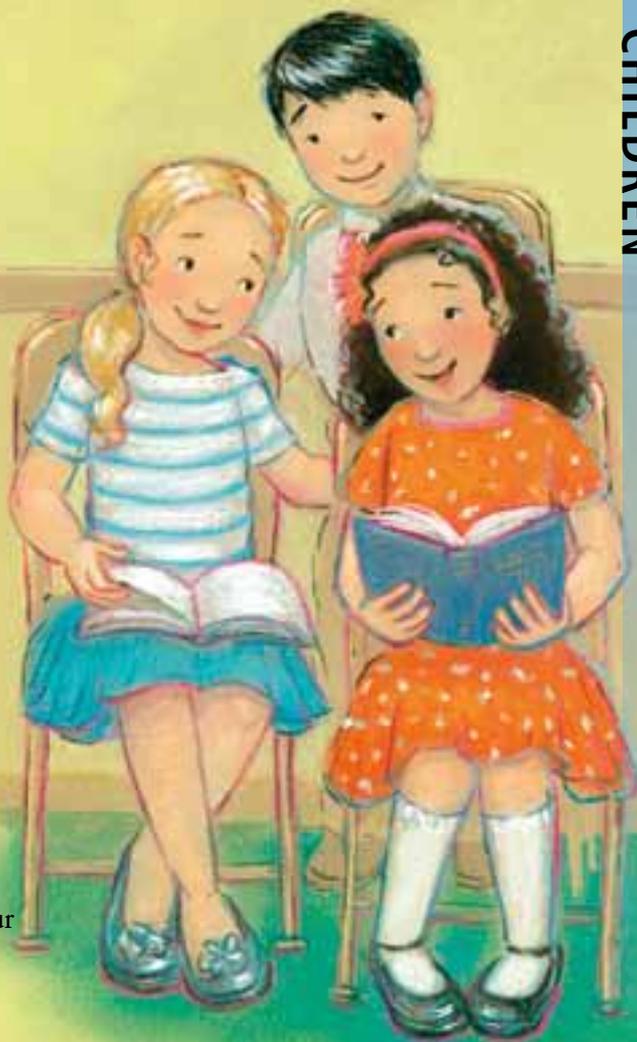
Based on a true story

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power” (2 Timothy 1:7).

Mary anxiously shifted back and forth in her seat as she listened to the other children in her Primary class take turns reading from the scriptures. She hoped her turn would never come.

Mary had a learning disability called dyslexia. When she looked at letters on a page, they seemed to run around and switch places. When she read out loud, her words were slow and sometimes out of order. Often she read words that weren't there at all.

to Read



The closer Mary's turn came, the more scared she was. When it was finally her turn, Mary couldn't stand it anymore.

"I have to go to the bathroom," she said suddenly as she jumped up from her chair, sending her scriptures tumbling to the floor. Mary ran down the hallway to the bathroom. She was glad it was empty. She stood in the corner and began to cry.

A few minutes later, she heard Sister Smith call her name as she came into the bathroom. "Mary, what's wrong?"

Mary didn't know what to say. She was so embarrassed. None of the other children had this problem. "I can't read!" she cried as she tucked her head into her folded arms.

"You can't read?" Sister Smith asked, puzzled. "I've seen you give talks in Primary. I know you can read."

Mary shook her head. "I memorize my talks. I practice them over and over so I don't have to try to read them in front of people. I can't read out loud, and when I do, I make lots of mistakes. I don't

want the other kids to laugh at me."

"Oh, Mary, I'm sorry. I won't call on you to read out loud until I know you're ready," Sister Smith said. "And I don't believe anyone in our class will laugh at you. They are your friends."

"Kids at school laugh at me," Mary whispered.

Sister Smith wiped Mary's tears away. "Come back to class. You'll see," she said.

They walked back to the classroom together. Mary's friend Betsy sat in the chair next to Mary's, smoothing the ruffled pages of Mary's scriptures. Mary sat down, and Betsy handed her scriptures back to her.

"Who would like to read next?" Sister Smith asked.

"It's Mary's turn," a boy in the class said.

Mary hesitated, but she looked around at her classmates and saw their kind smiles. Sister Smith nodded and smiled too. Mary was nervous, but she found her place and began to read.

Her words came slowly. She made some mistakes, but when she got stuck, Betsy quietly whispered the right word in Mary's ear. Mary did not read as well as the other kids in her class, but no one laughed or made fun of her. Then it was someone else's turn, and the lesson went on.

As they walked to the Primary room after class, Sister Smith whispered to Mary that she was proud of her. Mary was glad she didn't have to try to hide her trouble reading anymore. "I'll just keep practicing," she thought. And she smiled, knowing she had good friends at church to support her along the way. ■

You can use this lesson and activity to learn more about this month's Primary theme.

Heavenly Father Loves Me, and He Has a Plan for Me

The smell of baking cookies filled the air as Nataniel helped Grandma scoop dough onto cookie sheets. Grandma smiled at him. "Who loves you?" she asked.

Nataniel thought about how Grandma always made his favorite

kind of cookies and kept paper on hand because she knew he liked to draw. "You do," he answered.

"That's right," Grandma said. "I've known you longer than anyone besides your mom and dad. But there's someone else who has known you even longer than I have."

"Who else?" Nataniel asked.

"Someone who loved you before you came to earth," Grandma said.

"Oh," Nataniel said. "You mean Heavenly Father?"

"Yes," Grandma said, giving Nataniel a hug.

He smiled. Knowing he was loved made him feel warm inside.

This year in sharing time, you will learn more about the wonderful truth that you are a child of God. Heavenly Father knows and loves you. He has a plan to help you come back to live with Him someday. ■

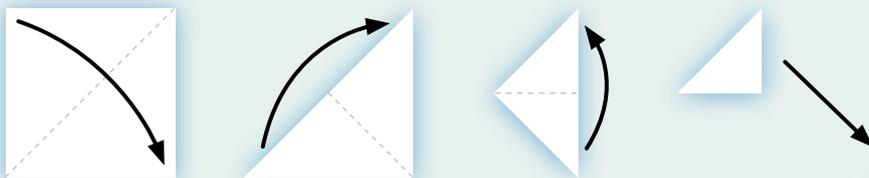


Song and Scripture

- "I Am a Child of God"
(*Children's Songbook*, 2–3)
- Romans 8:16

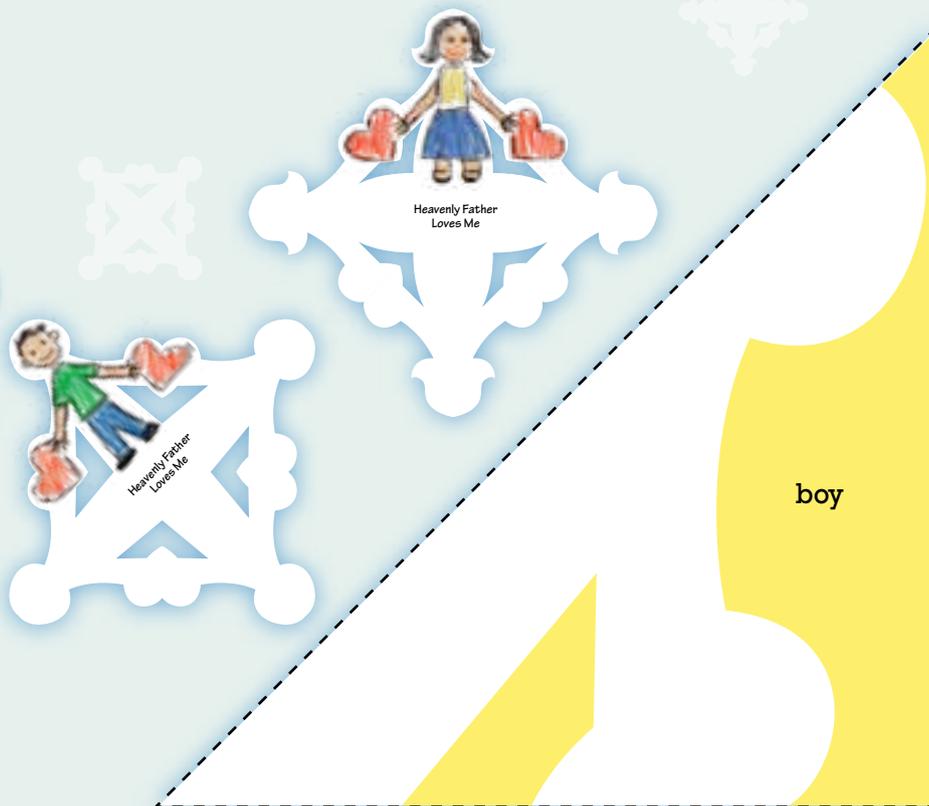
Snowflake Craft

1. Fold an 8 x 8-inch (20 x 20 cm) piece of paper in half. Then fold it in half two more times.
2. Use the pattern to cut out a boy or a girl snowflake. Cut away the yellow area.
3. Use crayons or pencils to color the figures on the snowflake. You could color each of the figures differently to show unique things about yourself.
4. In the center of the snowflake, write, "Heavenly Father loves me" to remind yourself that Heavenly Father knows everything about you and that He loves you very much.



Ideas for Family Talk

- Just as snowflakes are different shapes and sizes, children have special qualities that make each child unique. After making snowflakes, you could take turns passing each family member's snowflake around, telling special characteristics of that person and expressing love. Then tell each person that Heavenly Father knows and loves him or her.
- You could also pass around a mirror and have each member of the family look in it as you discuss these concepts: You are a child of God. Your Heavenly Father loves you very much. You lived in heaven with Him before you came to earth. That is why we call Him Heavenly Father. He wants you to be happy and to return to Him someday. How do you know Heavenly Father loves you?



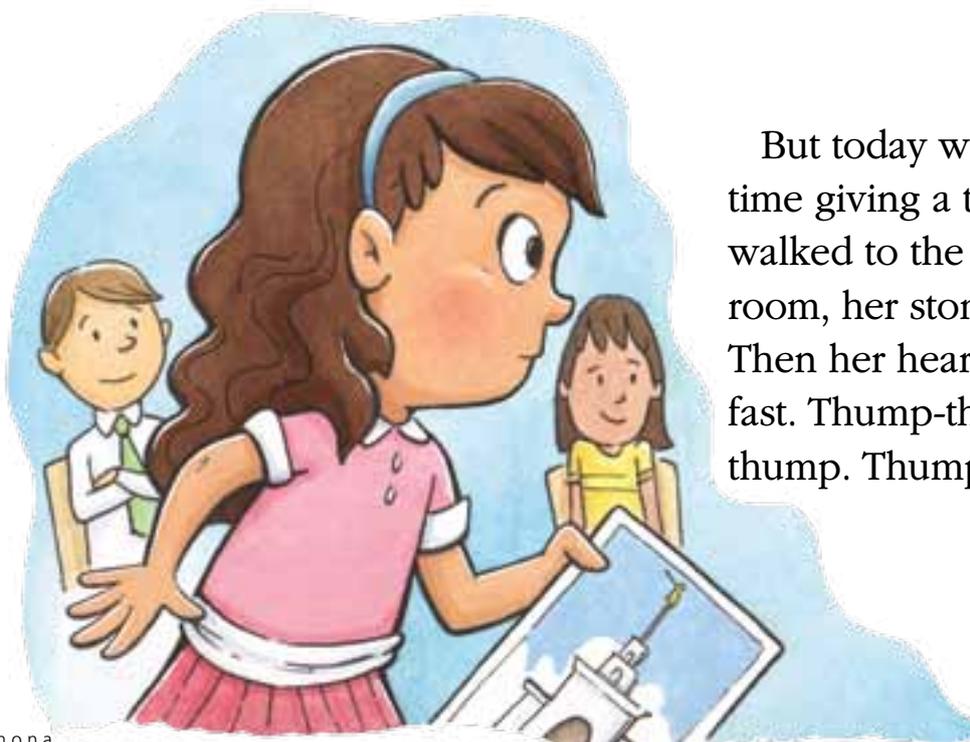
Evelyn's Temple Testimony

By Miche Barbosa and Marissa Widdison

Based on a true story



Evelyn loved to come to Primary. She always raised her hand to say prayers. She also loved to help her teachers.



But today was Evelyn's first time giving a talk. As she walked to the front of the room, her stomach felt wiggly. Then her heart started to beat fast. Thump-thump. Thump-thump. Thump-thump.



“Hi,” Evelyn said when she reached the front of the room. “My name is Evelyn. My family just went to the temple so we can be together forever.”



Evelyn told the Primary children about the white dress she wore. The temple was very white too. She told them that she and her parents and sister were sealed together forever.



“I know Heavenly Father loves us,” Evelyn said. “He lets us go to the temple to be with our families forever.”

Evelyn sat back down. She felt happy. It felt like a warm light was shining through her body. She was happy she went to the temple. ■

Temple Testimony

Evelyn talked about being sealed to her family in the temple. See if you can find some of the things in Evelyn's room that she spoke about during her Primary talk. Can you find the other hidden items too?



NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Visit news.lds.org for more Church news and events.

Helping Youth Become Powerful Learners and Teachers

By Michael Barber

Curriculum Developer, Priesthood Department

The new youth curriculum, Come, Follow Me: Learning Resources for Youth, emphasizes four ways parents, teachers, and leaders can effectively help youth become converted to the gospel.

In a scriptural account about Jesus Christ's youth, we learn that the 12-year-old Savior was found "in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, and they were hearing him, and asking him questions.

"And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers" (Joseph Smith Translation, Luke 2:46–47 [in Luke 2:46, footnote c]).

From a young age the Savior actively participated in learning and teaching the gospel. In the temple, the Savior taught gospel principles to those who were considered far more learned and experienced than He was. Yet He understood that learning and teaching the gospel were part of His "Father's business" (Luke 2:49) and central to His divine mission on the earth.

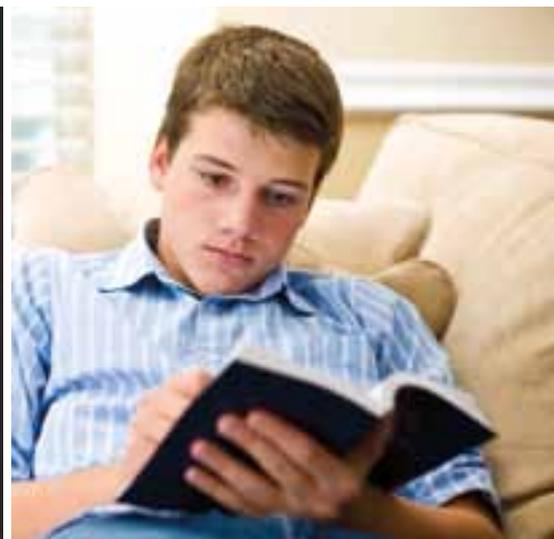
Without question, Jesus Christ was an exceptional gospel learner and teacher, even at a young age; yet He grew in His capacity to understand and teach doctrine. The scriptures

tell us that He "continued from grace to grace, until he received a fulness" (D&C 93:13). As youth today consistently align their lives with what they know to be true, they too can become truly converted to the Savior

the Savior's ministry, we will be able to effectively support our youth in their journey to learn, live, and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Like the Savior, we can prepare ourselves spiritually, respond to the needs of



CHRIST AT ENNAUS, BY WALTER RANE ©IRI



Spiritual preparation—study, prayer, and fasting—helps both the teacher and the learner feel the influence of the Spirit.

and His gospel and increase in wisdom "line upon line, precept upon precept" (2 Nephi 28:30).

In a guide to the new youth curriculum materials, the First Presidency states, "You are called by the Lord to help youth become converted to the gospel."¹ As we study and emulate

our youth, encourage them to discover gospel truths, and challenge them to become converted as they act in faith.

Prepare Spiritually

Prior to beginning His mortal ministry, the Savior prepared

Himself spiritually through diligent study, prayer, and fasting. He was “led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be with God” and “fasted forty days and forty nights” (Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 4:1–2 [in Matthew 4:1, footnote *b*]). At the conclusion of His fast, the Savior faced a series of temptations from the adversary. Prior scripture study helped as Jesus countered each temptation with verses from the scriptures (see Matthew 4:3–10). Spiritual preparation enabled Him not only to combat temptation successfully all His life, but also to teach the gospel powerfully throughout His ministry.

Teaching youth requires more preparation than quickly glancing through a manual moments before we begin teaching. The Lord commanded, “Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word” (D&C 11:21). We prepare spiritually by prayerfully studying the scriptures and the words of living prophets to learn true doctrine. As we prepare in this way, the Holy Ghost confirms the truth of the doctrine and prompts us to remember experiences living the doctrine that we can share.

When teaching the young women about the importance of personal revelation, Estefani Melero from the Lima Peru Surco Stake was prompted to share her experience seeking a

testimony at age 14. She testified to the young women that as she fervently prayed to know the truth of the gospel, a voice seemed to whisper to her heart words she has never forgotten: “You know it is true, Estefani. You’ve always known.”

As we study and live the doctrine that we teach, we become more than teachers—we become witnesses of the truth.

He understood the needs of those He taught. The ruler began with a question: “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” After the Savior taught the importance of obeying the commandments, the young ruler replied, “All [the commandments] have I kept from my youth up.” Knowing that the heart of the ruler still lacked “one thing,” Jesus challenged the man to sell all he had, give it to the poor,

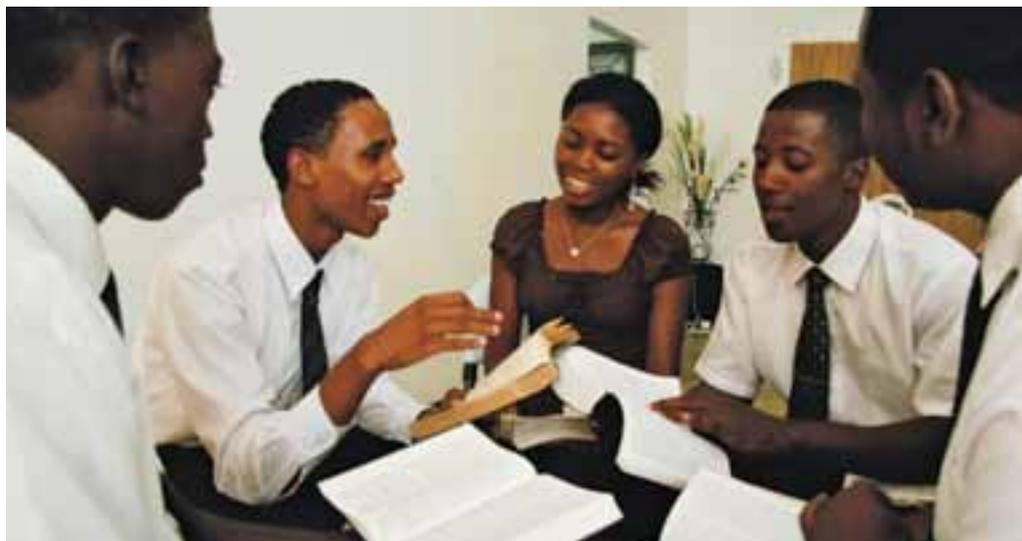


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD ROMMEY

Youth strengthen each other when they share their experiences living the gospel.

Questions to Ponder: *What other scriptures show how the Savior prepared Himself to teach? How have your efforts to prepare to teach influenced the effectiveness of your message?*

Focus on Needs

In His interactions with a rich young ruler, the Savior showed that

and follow Him. (See Luke 18:18–23.) When we pray for revelation and become aware of the interests, hopes, and desires of the youth, we will—as the Savior did—know how to teach and challenge them to live the gospel in personally meaningful ways.

President Boyd K. Packer,
President of the Quorum of the

Twelve Apostles, has stated that our “young people are being raised in enemy territory.”² As parents and teachers, we must understand the difficulties our youth face. Kevin Toutai, a youth Sunday School teacher in the Columbine Colorado Stake, stated, “The challenges that the youth face can’t be taught out of a manual. That’s personal revelation we receive as teachers to go forth and be able

to prepare our youth to battle Satan each day. I’ve seen that you can’t just show up on Sunday with a manual and give a lesson.”

Helping youth learn and live the gospel involves the combined efforts of parents, leaders, advisers, and teachers. As we seek inspiration from the Holy Ghost, we can effectively teach the doctrine that will prepare the youth for the

temptations and challenges they face.

Questions to Ponder: *How is the world different today than when you were a youth? What challenges do you see confronting the youth? Which doctrines of the gospel, when understood, will help them successfully face challenges?*

Invite Youth to Discover Gospel Truths

The Savior taught His disciples in ways that encouraged them to discover truth and gain personal testimonies. When teaching the Nephites, He said:

“I perceive that ye are weak, that ye cannot understand all my words which I am commanded of the Father to speak unto you at this time.

“Therefore, go ye unto your homes, and ponder upon the things which I have said, and ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand, and prepare your minds for the morrow” (3 Nephi 17:2–3).

Christlike teaching involves more than just imparting information. It involves guiding the youth to understand doctrine for themselves. While we may be tempted to lecture them about the gospel, we will be more effective when we help them find answers for themselves, enable them to gain their own testimonies, and teach them how to find answers when they have other questions. As emphasized by the new youth curriculum, *Come, Follow Me: Learning Resources*

Parents are primarily responsible for helping their children discover gospel truths, and each young woman and young man has an individual responsibility to become more fully converted. Youth leaders and teachers support these efforts.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINA SMITH

for Youth, we can also invite them to share their experiences living the gospel and to testify to their peers of the things they know to be true.

Elder Kim B. Clark, Area Seventy and president of BYU–Idaho, recently related a story about a deacons quorum whose adviser was discussing prayer with them. Unexpectedly, the deacons quorum president raised his hand and said, “I would like to ask the quorum a question. How many of you would be willing to commit to praying morning and night every day this week?” All the quorum members raised their hands except one young man, who was not confident he could follow through with the challenge. The adviser sat back and watched as the quorum members taught and testified to their peer about prayer, helping him gain the confidence to accept the challenge.

Questions to Ponder: *In what ways have you noticed teachers encourage class members to take an active role in learning? How can you help the youth you work with to develop gospel study habits? Besides discussions, what are other ways to involve the youth in learning the gospel?*

Encourage Conversion

Conversion is a lifelong process that involves both learning and living the gospel every day. More than just knowing about the gospel, conversion “requires us to *do* and to *become*.”³ After teaching His disciples about the compassion of the good

Samaritan, the Savior challenged them, “Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:37). He encouraged them to be more than just hearers of the word and to act in faith on His teachings.

We must encourage the youth to live the gospel diligently because conversion does not usually occur during one teaching moment. Conversion best occurs when youth understand true doctrine and establish patterns of gospel study and righteous living, as we encourage them to do in *Come, Follow Me*.

Krista Warnick, a president of the Young Women in the Arapahoe Colorado Stake, said, “Youth today face an onslaught of challenges that I hadn’t even heard about until I was much older in life. I developed my testimony mostly when I moved out on my own and was able to work on and implement the things I had learned in Young Women classes. Giving youth challenges and opportunities to exercise their faith will help them develop the fundamentals of their testimonies at a much younger age.”

The challenge of conversion is not only that we learn the gospel but also that we change because of what we learn. We need to help our youth understand that their “mighty change” (Alma 5:14) of heart may not occur immediately, but it will come gradually as they develop consistent study habits, pray always, and keep the commandments. As they do these things, they will notice that their

desires, attitudes, and actions change to reflect Heavenly Father’s will.

Questions to Ponder: *What role did your efforts to learn and live the gospel play in your own conversion? How have you been strengthened by parents and Church teachers and leaders?*

Supporting Our Youth

Come, Follow Me represents only a part of the effort to support the youth. In addition to the individual responsibility of each youth to become more fully converted, “parents have the primary responsibility for helping their children know Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.”⁴ We who work with youth are able to support parents and follow the Savior’s example when we prepare spiritually, focus on the needs of the youth, invite them to discover gospel truths, and give them opportunities to act in faith and become converted. As we strive to emulate Jesus Christ, we become better learners and teachers, and we help the future leaders of our communities and our Church to become powerful learners and teachers themselves. ■

NOTES

1. *Teaching the Gospel in the Savior’s Way* (a guide to *Come, Follow Me: Learning Resources for Youth*, 2012), 2.
2. Boyd K. Packer, “Counsel to Youth,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 16.
3. Dallin H. Oaks, “The Challenge to Become,” *Liahona*, Jan. 2001, 40; *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 33.
4. *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 1.4.1.

For more information about the new youth curriculum, visit lds.org/youth/learn.

Church Implements New Youth Curriculum for 2013

Beginning this month, teachers and leaders throughout the Church will begin fully implementing the new youth curriculum, *Come, Follow Me: Learning Resources for Youth*, first announced in a September First Presidency letter.

At lds.org/youth/learn, Young Women, Aaronic Priesthood, and Sunday School teachers and leaders can find lessons in 23 languages. All lessons are printable. Those without Internet access should contact their local priesthood leader to find out how *Come, Follow Me* will be implemented in their area.

“The new curriculum integrates basic gospel doctrines as well as principles for teaching in the Savior’s way,” the First Presidency letter reads. “We are confident [it] will bless the youth in their efforts to become fully

converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

In *Come, Follow Me*, each month of the year is assigned a doctrinal topic, and all Sunday School, Young Women, and Aaronic Priesthood classes will study that topic that month.

Each lesson has four sections: spiritual preparation for teachers, ideas to introduce the topic, specific activity ideas, and a section to invite the youth to act. Teachers are asked to seek inspiration in choosing and adapting lessons based on the needs of their students.

The web site also includes helpful videos that explain how to implement the new curriculum, ideas for preparing engaging learning activities, and a new guidebook, *Teaching the Gospel in the Savior’s Way*. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY T.J. THOMAS



While participating in Mormon Helping Hands projects across Africa, members of the Church rendered valuable service, built interfaith relationships, raised awareness of the Church, and built their testimonies of charity.

Sixth Annual Day of Service across Africa

Saturday, August 18, 2012, saw thousands of Saints in more than half a dozen African countries gather in their communities to participate in the sixth annual All-Africa Mormon Helping Hands Day.

“The wards and branches generally went all out to render significant service,” public affairs missionary Elder C. Terry Warner wrote in an email. “They recruited partners; they chose projects that, though difficult, really mattered. They came out in large numbers anxious to help, and they truly made friends for the Church.”

Elder Adesina J. Oluokanni, director of public affairs for the Africa West Area, said of the day of service, “It is the easiest way by which we can respond to the prophet’s call to be kind to our neighbors, to respond to their need, to give rather than to receive. It is the easiest way to preach the gospel—by example.”

Mormon.org Now in 20 Languages

Mormon.org is now available in Armenian, Cebuano, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, and Ukrainian.

Individuals are encouraged to create their own Mormon.org profiles in their preferred languages and share them with others.



The True Function of Grace

I was deeply touched by two articles in the April 2012 issue: Elder David A. Bednar’s article, “The Atonement and the Journey of Mortality” (page 12), and Kristen Nicole Cardon’s article, “Amazing Grace” (page 10). My questions about the true function of grace in our mortal lives and in our pursuit for eternal life were answered perfectly. I am grateful for these articles—they have increased my understanding so much, and I ponder them again and again.

Emmanuel Adu-Gyamfi, Ghana

Correction

In the January 2012 First Presidency Message, “Living the Abundant Life,” we neglected to attribute a quotation to Mary Anne Radmacher. The quotation is found on page 5 of the *Liahona*. Ms. Radmacher’s original quotation reads, “Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, ‘I will try again tomorrow.’” It appears in, among other publications by Ms. Radmacher, *Courage Doesn’t Always Roar* (2009). We apologize for the oversight.



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

“The Superiority of God’s Wisdom,”

page 20: Consider discussing the wisdom of the world compared with the wisdom of God. You may want to read 2 Nephi 9:28–29 and think of situations where worldly wisdom differs from the wisdom taught by the gospel. Decide which path you will take in each situation.

“2013 Mutual Theme,” page 50:

Read the articles by Elaine S. Dalton and David L. Beck on the 2013 Mutual theme. Consider brainstorming ways that each member of the family can help make the home a holy place. You may wish to display a picture of the temple in your home and set a goal to attend the temple as a family.

“Keep Practicing,” page 56:

Consider holding a family talent show. Suggest that each family member come prepared to share a skill or performance. Afterward read the article “Keep Practicing” and discuss how practicing and sharing talents can bless those around us.

“Evelyn’s Temple Testimony,”

page 70: Consider creating a “family testimony” scavenger hunt. Place pictures around the room and have family members collect the ones they believe in (for example: pictures of your family, the temple, President Thomas S. Monson, baptism, a tithing slip, youth dressed modestly). Conclude by discussing why you believe in each of these.

Lessons in the Dark

One October day our daughter Júlia, who is often restless during family home evening, said, “We have never had a family home evening in the dark. Can we, please?” We wondered how and what we could teach her in the dark.

We turned off the lights, and complete darkness enveloped us. Then my husband opened his cell phone and began teaching about the Light of Christ. He demonstrated how the Light of Christ can bring us out of the darkness and lead us as a family back to Him. The light from the phone was not very bright, but it was enough to enable us to see.

As the phone periodically turned off the light automatically, we were able to show our daughter what our lives would be like without the Savior, Jesus Christ. The Spirit was very strong, and our daughter became completely reverent. Even now she remembers our favorite family home evening and the message that was taught.

Valquíria Lima dos Santos, Brazil

THE FIVE-MINUTE LESSON

By Christopher James Smith

At the end of my final year of university, I was to attend a graduation ceremony where all new graduates, dressed in traditional cap and gown, received degrees from a visiting dignitary. I looked forward to this moment, a celebration of four hard years of study. The morning of the ceremony, I received a letter from the university but didn't take time to open it.

The ceremony started at 1:30 p.m., and I had arranged for a portrait photo to be taken before it began. Unfortunately, there was a queue for photos, and I watched the clock tick closer and closer to commencement. But I had waited for so long that I was determined to get my photo taken. Finally finishing 10 minutes before graduation began, I ran to the hall.

When I got there, however, the doors were closed and protected by security guards. I asked to go in, but the guards refused, telling me I had to arrive 15 minutes early for seating. That was the first I had heard about this requirement, so I protested. But the guards did not move. I had worked four years to obtain this degree, and I could not collect it at the ceremony. I had to sit in the galleries with the spectators.

When I returned home and opened the letter I had received that morning, I read a clear instruction to be seated at least 15 minutes early or be refused entry. I felt like one of the foolish virgins in the Savior's parable:

"And while [the foolish virgins] went to



I missed the seating cutoff by just five minutes. Surely that much time wouldn't keep me from attending my university graduation.

buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

"Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

"But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not" (Matthew 25:10–12).

Although being barred from an important celebration may seem a serious consequence for what might be considered a minor mistake, I have come to realize that so it is with choices and consequences. When I pick up one end of a stick from off the ground, I also pick up the other end. Likewise with any choice, I choose not only the action but also the associated consequence—however unforeseen the consequence happens to be.

It is Satan who wants us to concentrate on choices without regard for consequences. He often does so by enticing us to focus on the physical appetite, "the will of the flesh" (2 Nephi 2:29), and immediate gratification.

Our Father in Heaven, on the other hand, desires us to focus on happiness and eternal blessings. He expects us to consider consequences when we make decisions and for consequences to be part of our motivation: "They are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death" (2 Nephi 2:27).

While I am not grateful to have missed formally receiving my degree, I am grateful for what this experience taught me in the eternal sense—that I never want to make a choice that would bar me from being welcomed into the Bridegroom's presence. Rather than being shut out with "I know you not," I strive to make choices that will allow me to hear Him say, "Enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21). ■

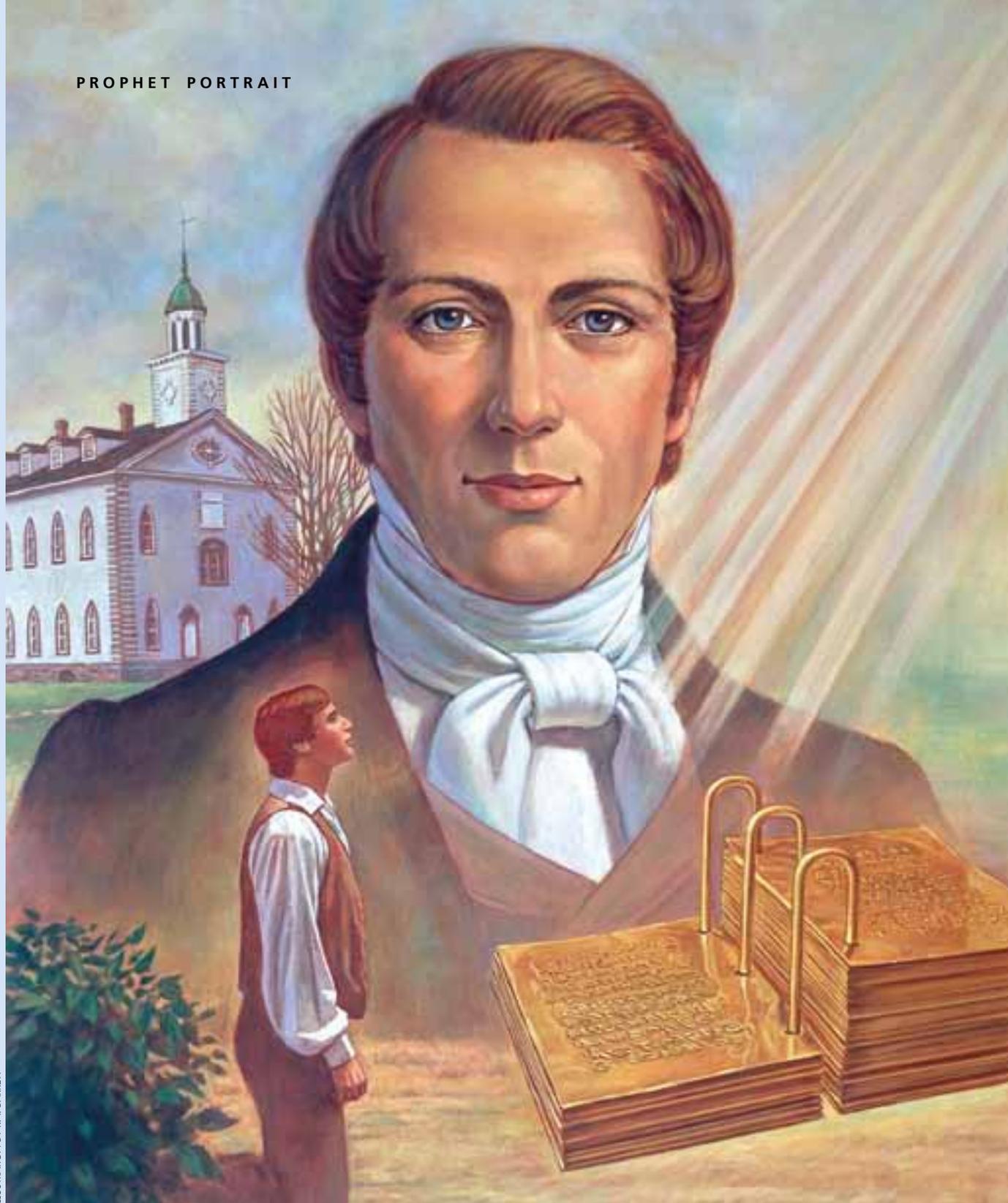
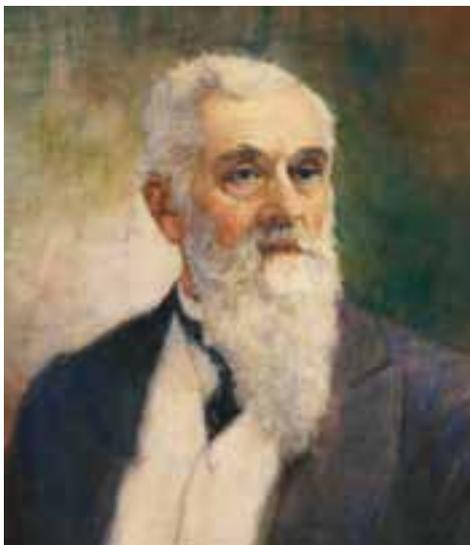


ILLUSTRATION BY R. T. BARRETT

JOSEPH SMITH

Joseph Smith was 14 when he **prayed** to know which church was right. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to him, and he learned that none of the churches on the earth had the whole truth. Joseph Smith helped restore the true gospel of Jesus Christ and became the first prophet of the latter days. As part of his work, he translated the Book of Mormon from **gold plates** and directed the Saints to build the first temple in this dispensation, the **Kirtland Temple**.



*A*fter meeting President Lorenzo Snow, a minister of another faith wrote: “His face was a power of peace; his presence a benediction of peace. In the tranquil depths of his eyes were not only the ‘home of silent prayer,’ but the abode of spiritual strength. . . . The strangest feeling stole over me, that I ‘stood on holy ground.’” See “Pickles, Turnips, and Testimony: Inspiration from the Life and Teachings of Lorenzo Snow,” page 12.