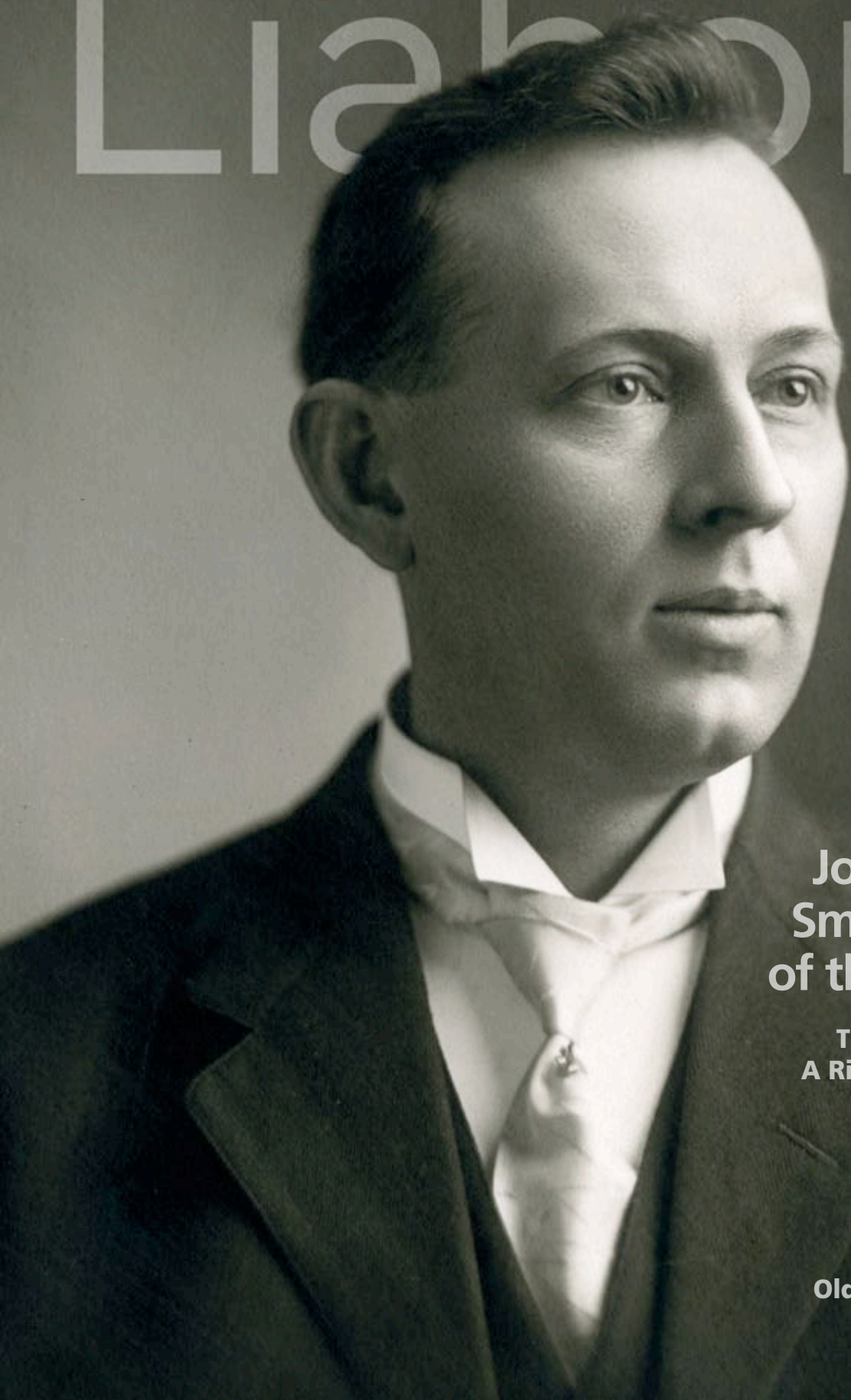


THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • JANUARY 2014

Liabona



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"Some of you may feel that you can't rise above the polluted pond, that your circumstances are too difficult, your trials too hard, your temptations too great. . . . Remember, the stalk of the water lily grows in adversity, and as the stalk lifts the water lily, your faith will support and lift you."

Mary N. Cook, former Second Counselor in the Young Women general presidency, "Anchors of Testimony," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2008, 122.



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Family Home Evening Ideas

*This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening.
The following are two ideas.*



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CODY BELL

"Preparing Gifts for Your Future

Family," page 46: After reading President Eyring's article, consider holding a family talent show where parents and children can share a talent. After everyone has had the chance to share, parents could describe ways in which their talents bless the family. They could then invite children to share how their talents bless the family—and how they will someday bless their future families. Parents might encourage children to set goals to continue developing their talents.

"Old Testament Scripture Challenge,"

page 74: Consider starting the Old Testament reading challenge as a family. You could remove the coloring chart from the magazine or print out a copy from liahona.lds.org to mark your progress. Read and discuss the suggested scriptures as a family and consider making a plan to complete the weekly reading challenge this year.

IN YOUR LANGUAGE

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

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**By President
Dieter F. Uchtdorf**

Second Counselor
in the First Presidency

THE BEST TIME TO Plant a Tree

In ancient Rome, Janus was the god of beginnings. He was often depicted with two faces—one looking back on the past, the other looking forward to the future. Some languages name the month of January after him because the beginning of the year was a time for reflection as well as planning.

Thousands of years later, many cultures throughout the world carry on a tradition of making resolutions for the new year. Of course, making resolutions is easy—keeping them is a different thing altogether.

One man who had made a long list of New Year's resolutions felt pretty good about his progress. He thought to himself, "So far, I've stuck to my diet, I haven't lost my temper, I've kept to my budget, and I haven't once complained about the neighbor's dog. But today is January 2 and the alarm just went off and it's time I got out of bed. It's going to take a miracle to keep my streak going."

Starting Over

There is something incredibly hopeful about a fresh start. I suppose at one time or another we have all wanted to start again with a clean slate.

I love getting a new computer with a clean hard drive. For a time it works perfectly. But as the days and weeks pass by and more and more programs get installed (some intentional, some not so intentional), eventually

the computer begins to stall, and things it used to do quickly and efficiently become sluggish. Sometimes it doesn't work at all. Even getting it to start can become a chore as the hard drive becomes cluttered with miscellaneous chaos and electronic debris. There are times when the only recourse is to reformat the computer and start over.

Human beings can likewise become cluttered with fears, doubts, and burdensome guilt. The mistakes we have made (both intentional and unintentional) can weigh upon us until it may seem hard to do what we know we should.

In the case of sin, there is a wonderful reformatting process called repentance that allows us to clear our internal hard drives of the clutter that burdens our hearts. The gospel, through the miraculous and compassionate Atonement of Jesus Christ, shows us the way to cleanse our souls of the stain of sin and once again become new, pure, and as innocent as a child.

But sometimes other things slow us down and hold us back, causing unproductive thoughts and actions that make it hard for us to get started.

Bringing Out the Best in Us

Setting goals is a worthy endeavor. We know that our Heavenly Father has goals because He has told us that His



TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

President Uchtdorf explained that when we fail to reach our goals, “we can be empowered. . . . Even though we might fall short of our finish line, just continuing the journey will make us greater than we were before.” Ask family members to share experiences in which they learned more from the process than they learned from the outcome, such as graduating from school or receiving an award.

work and glory is “to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39).

Our personal goals can bring out the best in us. However, one of the things that derail our efforts in making and keeping resolutions is procrastination. We sometimes delay starting, waiting for the right moment to begin—the first day of a new year, the beginning of summer, when we’re called as bishop or Relief Society president, after the kids get into school, after we retire.

You don’t need an invitation before you start moving in the direction of your righteous goals. You don’t need to wait for permission to become the person you were designed to be. You don’t need to wait to be invited to serve in the Church.

We can sometimes waste years of our lives waiting to be chosen (see D&C 121:34–36). But that is a false premise. You are already chosen!

At times in my life I have spent sleepless nights grappling with issues, worries, or personal sorrows. But

no matter how dark the night, I am always encouraged by this thought: in the morning the sun will rise.

With every new day, a new dawn comes—not only for the earth but also for us. And with a new day comes a new start—a chance to begin again.

But What If We Fail?

Sometimes the thing that holds us back is fear. We might be afraid that we won’t succeed, that we will succeed, that we might be embarrassed,

that success might change us, or that it might change the people we love.

And so we wait. Or give up.

Another thing we need to remember when it comes to setting goals is this: We almost certainly will fail—at least in the short term. But rather than be discouraged, we can be empowered because this understanding removes the pressure of being perfect right now. It acknowledges from the beginning that at one time or another, we may fall short. Knowing this up front takes

away much of the surprise and discouragement of failure.

When we approach our goals this way, failure doesn't have to limit us. Remember, even if we fail to reach our ultimate, desired destination right away, we will have made progress along the road that will lead to it.

And that matters—it means a lot.

Even though we might fall short of our finish line, just continuing the journey will make us greater than we were before.

The Best Time to Begin Is Now

An old proverb says, “The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.”

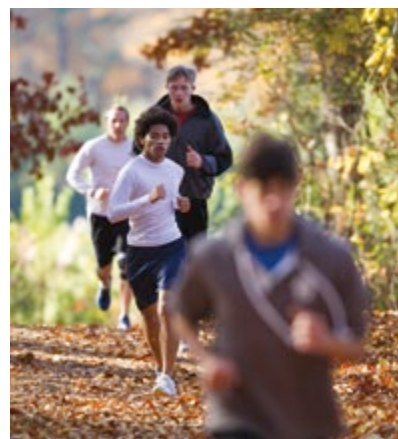
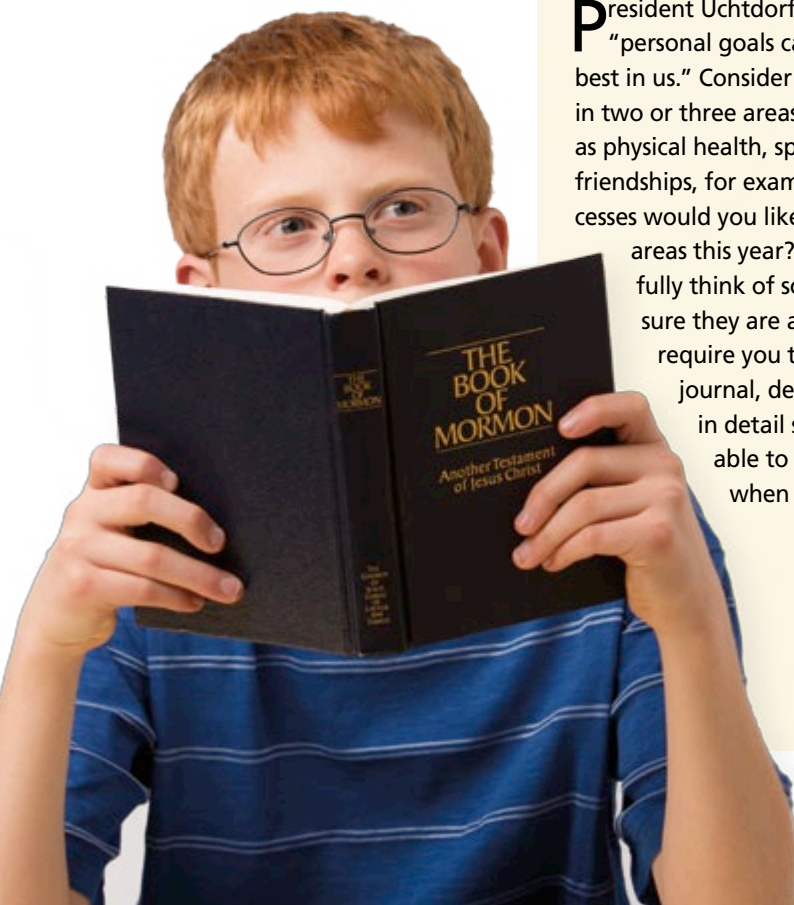
There is something wonderful and hopeful about the word *now*. There is something empowering about the fact that if we choose to decide now, we can move forward at this very moment.

Now is the best time to start becoming the person we eventually want to be—not only 20 years from now but also for all eternity. ■

YOUTH

Become Your Best Self—Starting Now

President Uchtdorf teaches that “personal goals can bring out the best in us.” Consider setting some goals in two or three areas of your life, such as physical health, spiritual health, and friendships, for example. What successes would you like to have in these areas this year? As you prayerfully think of some goals, make sure they are attainable but will require you to grow. In your journal, describe your goals in detail so that you will be able to see your progress when a year passes.



Prayerfully study this material and seek to know what to share. How will understanding the life and mission of the Savior increase your faith in Him and bless those you watch over through visiting teaching? For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.

The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ: Exemplar

This is part of a series of Visiting Teaching Messages featuring aspects of the mission of the Savior.

As we understand that Jesus Christ is our example in all things, we can increase our desire to follow Him. The scriptures are full of encouragement for us to follow in Christ's footsteps. To the Nephites, Christ said, "For the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do" (3 Nephi 27:21). To Thomas, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Today our leaders remind us to set the Savior as our example. Linda K. Burton, Relief Society general president, said, "When each of us has the doctrine of the Atonement written deep in our hearts, then we will begin to become the kind of people the Lord wants us to be."¹

President Thomas S. Monson said, "Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is our Exemplar and our strength."²



Let us resolve to draw near to Jesus Christ, to obey His commandments, and to strive to return to our Heavenly Father.

From the Scriptures

2 Nephi 31:16; Alma 17:11; 3 Nephi 27:27; Moroni 7:48

NOTES

1. Linda K. Burton, "Is Faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ Written in Our Hearts?" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 114.
2. Thomas S. Monson, "Meeting Life's Challenges," *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 71.
3. "How Great the Wisdom and the Love," *Hymns*, no. 195.
4. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Happiness, Your Heritage," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 120.

Faith, Family, Relief



From Our History

"He marked the path and led the way," wrote Eliza R. Snow, second Relief Society general president, of the mortal ministry of Jesus Christ.³ He ministered to individuals—one by one. He taught that we should leave the ninety and nine to save the straying one (see Luke 15:3–7). He healed and taught individuals, even taking time for each person in a multitude of 2,500 people (see 3 Nephi 11:13–15; 17:25).

Of Latter-day Saint women, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said: "You wonderful sisters render compassionate service to others for reasons that supersede desires for personal benefits. In this you emulate the Savior . . . His thoughts were always tuned to help others."⁴

What Can I Do?

1. Why and how is Jesus Christ my exemplar?
2. How can ministering to the sisters I visit help me follow the Savior?

OCTOBER 2013 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 2013 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.



Prophetic Promise: Facing Trials

Our Heavenly Father, who gives us so much to delight in, also knows that we learn and grow and become stronger as we face and survive the trials through which we must pass. We know that there are times when we will experience heartbreaking sorrow, when we will grieve, and when we may be tested to our limits. However, such difficulties allow us to change for the better, to rebuild our lives in the way our Heavenly Father teaches us, and to become something different from what we were—better than we were, more

understanding than we were, more empathetic than we were, with stronger testimonies than we had before.

“This should be our purpose—to persevere and endure, yes, but also to become more spiritually refined as we make our way through sunshine and sorrow. Were it not for challenges to overcome and problems to solve, we would remain much as we are, with little or no progress toward our goal of eternal life.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “I Will Not Fail Thee, nor Forsake Thee,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 87.

Answers for You

Each conference, prophets and apostles give inspired answers to questions Church members may have. Use your November 2013 issue or visit conference.lds.org to find answers to these questions:

- What doctrines do we learn in the Articles of Faith? See L. Tom Perry, “The Doctrines and Principles Contained in the Articles of Faith.”
- How can we be involved in missionary work if we feel afraid? See M. Russell Ballard, “Put Your Trust in the Lord.”
- What is tithing used for? See David A. Bednar, “The Windows of Heaven.”
- How can sin and rebellion affect our agency and lead to bondage? See Quentin L. Cook, “Lamentations of Jeremiah: Beware of Bondage.”

To read, watch, or listen to general conference addresses, visit conference.lds.org. How is your family applying what you are learning from general conference? Email us at liahona@ldschurch.org.



GO AND DO

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught that the greatest blessings of conference come when we:



1. "Gather to hear the words of the Lord."



2. "Return to our homes to live them."

From "General Conference: Strengthening Faith and Testimony," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 7.

PROPHETIC WORDS ON WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles asked: "Why are the ordinances of the priesthood administered by men? . . .

"As surely as we know that God's love is 'alike' for His sons and His daughters, we also know that He did not create men and women exactly the same. We know that gender is an essential characteristic of both our mortal and eternal identity and purpose. Sacred responsibilities are given to each gender.

"We know that from the beginning, the Lord established how His priesthood would be administered."

In endnote 12 of this talk, Elder Andersen referred to other prophets who responded to this question. President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) said, "It was the Lord who designated that men in His Church should hold the priesthood." Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, "The Lord has not revealed why He has organized His Church as He has."

From "Power in the Priesthood," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 92.

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. "Covenant keepers are _____ keepers!" (Linda K. Burton, "The Power, Joy, and Love of Covenant Keeping," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 113).
2. "Many, without knowing it, are being led by the Lord to places where they can hear the _____ and come into His _____" (Gérald Caussé, "Ye Are No More Strangers," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 50).
3. "Righteousness is more powerful than _____" (Boyd K. Packer, "The Key to Spiritual Protection," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 27).
4. "In blurring feminine and masculine differences, we lose the distinct, complementary gifts of _____ and _____ that together produce a greater whole" (D. Todd Christofferson, "The Moral Force of Women," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 31).

Answers: 1. commandment; 2. gospel, fold; 3. wickedness; 4. women, men.

FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

We can know with a surety when our lives are dark that Jesus Christ can transform that darkness into light as we sincerely repent.

Name withheld

There have been times in my life when I felt as if there was no hope for me to be happy or to return to our Father in Heaven. Several years ago I was disfellowshipped from the Church. I had lived a life of pride and sin and had suffered greatly because of my actions. My engagement to the woman I loved didn't work out, my relationships with others were suffering, and I wasn't happy.

Although I wished I had chosen to be humble long before then, I was compelled to be humble and to seek to do the will of the Lord. I started to read the scriptures more frequently, to pray more often, and to seek to serve others. I tried to repair the relationships I had neglected for so long, including my relationship with Heavenly Father. I truly desired a change of heart.

It was early morning as I drove to school one day, and the sun was not yet up. The eastern horizon glowed,

and the western horizon was dark, with a full moon descending behind it. I had developed the habit of conversing with my Heavenly Father while driving. As I prayed during this car ride, my mind was enlightened, and a

new hope was placed within my heart.

I realized that my life was glowing and getting increasingly brighter, just like the eastern horizon. The darkness was dissipating, and my sins, which were as great as that full moon, were



HAPPINESS THROUGH REPENTANCE

"Do we understand our Heavenly Father's [eagerness] at our every effort to return to him? Even when we are still a great way off, he welcomes our return. We experience joy as the love of our Savior assures us that we can yet be clean, that we will one day be home again. This happiness comes only through repentance.

"As we leave wrongdoing behind and exercise faith in Jesus Christ, we receive a remission of our sins. We sense that our Savior is doing for us what we cannot do ourselves."

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Joy of Becoming Clean," *Ensign*, Apr. 1995, 51.



descending. They were not yet gone, but I knew that they soon would be if I continued my sincere repentance. I had hope that someday my life would be as bright as noonday.

With time and as I prayed for love for my Heavenly Father and others, I became more humble. Increased humility led me to serve God and others more selflessly, and my hope for eternal life and a better future was renewed and replenished. As that hope grew, so did my faith that my Savior, Jesus Christ, is mighty to save and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I know the words of Mormon are true: “Ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal” (Moroni 7:41). ■

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF REPENTANCE?

The prophet Helaman taught that repentance has conditions:

“The Lord surely should come to redeem his people, but . . . he should not come to redeem them in their sins, but to redeem them from their sins.

“And he hath power given unto him from the Father to redeem them from their sins because of repentance; therefore he hath sent his angels to declare the tidings of the *conditions of repentance*, which bringeth unto the power of the Redeemer, unto the salvation of their souls” (Helaman 5:10–11; emphasis added).

Consider studying the following scriptures to understand better some of those conditions: Romans 3:23; 1 Nephi 10:21; 2 Nephi 2:8; Mosiah 4:9–10; Doctrine and Covenants 58:42–43.

We welcome accounts of your gospel experiences relating to the Savior’s ministry and mission. Possible topics might include the Atonement, grace, healing, hope, or repentance. Please limit your article to 600 words, label it “We Talk of Christ,” and submit it at liahona.lds.org or email it to liahona@ldschurch.org.

ADAM

*"Few persons in all eternity have been more directly involved in the plan of salvation . . . than the man Adam."*¹

Most people know me as the first man to live on the earth, but many don't know that I had a special responsibility before I came to the earth. In the premortal existence, I led God's armies against Satan's armies in the War in Heaven,² and I helped Jesus Christ create the earth.³ I was known as Michael then, which means one "who is like God."⁴

God chose me to be the first man on the earth and placed me in the Garden of Eden, a paradise with many types of plants and animals. He breathed into me "the breath of life"⁵ and gave me a new name: Adam.⁶

God told my wife, Eve, and me not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.⁷ If we didn't eat the fruit, we could stay in the garden and live forever, but we wouldn't be able to "progress by experiencing opposition in mortality"⁸ or have children.⁹ The choice was ours to make.

Because we chose to eat the fruit, we had to leave the garden and God's presence. This is known as the Fall. We became mortal, experienced both the good and the bad of life, and brought children to earth.¹⁰

God knew that the Fall would happen—He sent Jesus Christ to atone for our sins and overcome death so that we and our children could return to Him.¹¹



Eve and I learned about the gospel of Jesus Christ—including faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end—and we taught it to our children.¹²

Because of my experiences,

my eyes were opened, and I had joy in this life.¹³ Remember that you also can feel God's love and return to Him if you follow Jesus Christ,¹⁴ just as I learned to do. ■

NOTES

1. Robert L. Millet, "The Man Adam," *Ensign*, Jan. 1994, 8.
2. See Revelation 12:7–8.
3. See Robert L. Millet, "The Man Adam," 10.
4. Guide to the Scriptures, "Michael," scriptures.lds.org.
5. Genesis 2:7.
6. See Moses 1:34.
7. See Genesis 2:16–17; Moses 3:16–17.
8. *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2004), 49.
9. See 2 Nephi 2:22–23.
10. See Moses 4:22–31; 5:10–11; Alma 12:21–27.
11. See John 3:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Nephi 9:21; Alma 42:2–15.
12. See Moses 5:1–12, 58–59; 6:51–67.
13. See Moses 5:10.
14. See Mosiah 27:25–26.
15. See Doctrine and Covenants 27:11.
16. See Genesis 5:5.
17. See Doctrine and Covenants 116:1; Daniel 7:9–14.
18. See Doctrine and Covenants 29:26.
19. See Doctrine and Covenants 88:114–16.

FROM LEFT: PAINTING BY DAN BAXTER; ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN, BY LOWELL BRUCE BENNETT; LEAVING THE GARDEN OF EDEN, BY JOSEPH BRICKEY; IN SIMILITUDE, BY JOSEPH BRICKEY; ADAM AND EVE TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN, BY DEL PARSON; ADAM ORDAINING SETH, BY DEL PARSON; ADAM-ONDI-AHMAN, BY DEL PARSON; THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL DEFEATING SATAN, BY GUIDO RENI/BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY/GETTY IMAGES; BACKGROUND FROM ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

FACT BOX: ADAM

Names: Adam, Father Adam, Ancient of Days, Michael¹⁵

Age at time of death: 930¹⁶

Premortal roles: Led armies of God against Satan; helped Jesus Christ create the earth

Mortal roles: Patriarch, husband, and father; helped bring about the Fall; lived the gospel of Jesus Christ

Postmortal roles: Will visit his people at Adam-ondi-Ahman,¹⁷ assist in the Resurrection,¹⁸ lead the final battle against Satan¹⁹



**By President
Gordon B. Hinckley
(1910–2008)**

Fifteenth President of
the Church

THE DIVINE GODHEAD

Our belief in God the Eternal Father; in His Son, Jesus Christ; and in the Holy Ghost is the pivotal position of our religion.

Gordon B. Hinckley, 15th president of the Church, was born on June 23, 1910. He was ordained an Apostle on October 5, 1961, at age 51, and on March 12, 1995, he was sustained as President of the Church.

In setting forth the primary elements of our doctrine, the Prophet Joseph put this number one:

“We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost” (Articles of Faith 1:1).

[The Prophet also taught]: “It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God” (*History of the Church*, 6:305).

These tremendously significant and overarching declarations are in harmony with the words of the Lord . . . : “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). . . .

God the Eternal Father

I believe without equivocation or reservation in God, the Eternal Father.

He is my Father, the Father of my spirit, and the Father of the spirits of all men. He is the great Creator, the Ruler of the Universe. . . . In His image man was created. He is personal. He is real. He is individual. He has “a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s” (D&C 130:22).

In the account of the creation of the earth, “God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26).

Could any language be more explicit? Does it demean God, as some would have us believe, that man was created in His express image? Rather, it should stir within the heart of every man and woman a greater appreciation for himself or herself as a son or daughter of God. . . .

. . . As a missionary, I was speaking [in London, England, when a heckler interrupted], “Why don’t you stay with the doctrine of the Bible which says in John (4:24), ‘God is a Spirit?’”

I opened my Bible to the verse he had quoted and read to him the entire verse: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

I said, “Of course God is a spirit, and so are you, in the combination of spirit and body that makes of you a living being, and so am I.”

Each of us is a dual being of spiritual

entity and physical entity. All know of the reality of death . . . , and each of us also knows that the spirit lives on as an individual entity and that at some time, under the divine plan made possible by the sacrifice of the Son of God, there will be a reunion of spirit and body. Jesus’s declaration that God is a spirit no more denies that He has a body than does the statement that I am a spirit while also having a body.

I do not equate my body with His in its refinement, in its capacity, in its beauty and radiance. His is eternal. Mine is mortal. But that only increases my reverence for Him. . . . I seek to love Him with all my heart, might, mind, and strength. His wisdom is greater than the wisdom of all men. . . . His love encompasses all of His children, and it is His work and His glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of His sons and daughters . . . (see Moses 1:39). . . .

The Lord Jesus Christ

I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the eternal, living God. I believe in Him as the Firstborn of the Father and the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh. I believe in Him as an individual, separate and distinct from His Father. . . .

I believe that in His mortal life He was the one perfect man to walk the



earth. I believe that in His words are to be found that light and truth which, if observed, would save the world and bring exaltation to mankind. I believe that in His priesthood rests divine authority—the power to bless, the power to heal, the power to govern in the earthly affairs of God, the power to bind in the heavens that which is bound upon the earth.

I believe that through His atoning sacrifice, the offering of His life on Calvary's hill, He expiated the sins of mankind, relieving us from the burden of sin if we will forsake evil and follow Him. I believe in the reality and the power of His Resurrection. . . . I believe that through His Atonement, . . . each of us is offered the gift of resurrection from the dead. I believe

further that through that sacrifice there is extended to every man and woman, every son and daughter of God, the opportunity for eternal life and exaltation in our Father's kingdom, as we . . . obey His commandments.

None so great has ever walked the earth. None other has made a comparable sacrifice or granted a comparable blessing. He is the Savior and the Redeemer of the world. I believe in Him. I declare His divinity . . . I love Him. I speak His name in reverence and wonder. . . .

. . . Scripture tells of [those] to whom He showed Himself and with whom He spoke as the living, resurrected Son of God. Likewise in this dispensation He has appeared, and those who saw Him declared:

“And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

“For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

“That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God” (D&C 76:22–24).

This is the Christ in whom I believe and of whom I testify.

The Holy Ghost

That knowledge comes from the word of scripture, and that testimony comes by the power of the Holy Ghost.

It is a gift, sacred and wonderful, borne by revelation from the third member of the Godhead. I believe in the Holy Ghost as a personage of spirit who occupies a place with the Father and the Son, these three composing the divine Godhead. . . .

That the Holy Ghost was recognized in ancient times as a member of the Godhead is evident from the conversation between Peter and Ananias when the latter held back a part of the price received from the sale of a piece of land.

“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost . . . ?

“ . . . Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God” (Acts 5:3–4).

The Holy Ghost [is] the Comforter promised by the Savior who would teach His followers all things and bring all things to their remembrance . . . (see John 14:26).

The Holy Ghost is the Testifier of Truth, who can teach men things they cannot teach one another. . . . A knowledge of the truth of the Book of Mormon is promised “by the power of the Holy Ghost.” Moroni then declares, “And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:4–5).

I believe this power, this gift, is available to us today.



Real and Individual

. . . I believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

I was baptized in the name of these three. I was married in the name of these three. I have no question concerning their reality and their individuality. That individuality was made apparent when Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan. There in the water stood the Son of God. His Father’s voice was heard declaring His divine sonship, and the Holy Ghost was manifest in the form of a dove (see Matthew 3:16–17).

I am aware that Jesus said that they who had seen Him had seen the Father [see John 14:9]. Could not the same be said by many a son who resembles his parent?

When Jesus prayed to the Father, certainly He was not praying to Himself!

Perfectly United

They are distinct beings, but they are one in purpose and effort. They are united as one in bringing to pass the grand, divine plan for the salvation and exaltation of the children of God.

. . . Christ pleaded with His Father concerning the Apostles, whom He loved, saying:

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

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

It is that perfect unity between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost that binds these three into the oneness of the divine Godhead. ■

From “The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,” Ensign, Nov. 1986, 49–51; capitalization and punctuation standardized.

SABBATH DAY OBSERVANCE

To many people, Sunday is just another day in the weekend for additional relaxation and entertainment. However, ancient and modern revelation has taught the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy. On pages 56–57 of this issue, Larry M. Gibson, first counselor in the Young Men general presidency, discusses the important role of Sabbath day observance. Brother Gibson says, “The way we keep the Sabbath day holy is an outward manifestation of our covenant to always remember Jesus Christ.”

As your children learn to keep the Sabbath day holy, they will be prepared to receive many blessings. As Brother Gibson says, “If we will follow and live the divine mandate to keep the Sabbath day holy, the Lord, in turn, will bless us, direct us, and inspire us in solving the issues that confront us.”

Suggestions for Teaching Youth

- Read Brother Gibson’s article on pages 56–57 together. Then discuss what your family can do each week to prepare to keep the Sabbath day holy. In family home evening, you could sing “Gently Raise the Sacred Strain” (*Hymns*, no. 146) or another hymn about the Sabbath and

discuss what your family can do on Sunday to keep the Sabbath day holy.

- Consider reading with your teenagers the section on Sabbath day observance in *For the Strength of Youth*, including the scriptures listed at the end. You could look together for other scriptures about keeping the Sabbath day holy and discuss the principles behind Sabbath day observance.
- You may want to watch related videos and read articles with your teenagers. Go to youth.lds.org and click on the “For the Strength of Youth” tab in the menu. Then click on the section for Sabbath day observance, and you will find related videos and articles on the right side and bottom of that page.

Suggestions for Teaching Children

- Read “A Brand-New Deacon” in the October 2013 *Liahona* and discuss the importance of the sacrament in keeping the Sabbath day holy.
- Consider reading “A Lesson in Reverence” in the March 2010 *Liahona*; you may also want to do the activity that goes with the article. Discuss with your



SCRIPTURES ON THIS TOPIC

Exodus 20:8–11

Isaiah 58:13–14

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

3 Nephi 18:3–11

Moroni 6:4–6

Doctrine and Covenants
59:9–13

children how being reverent at church helps to keep the Sabbath day holy.

- Discuss what your family can do on Sunday to honor the Lord. You may want to read “Decide Right Now” from the March 2012 *Liahona* for an example of someone who kept the Sabbath day holy in a difficult circumstance.
- You could sing with your children some songs that relate to the Sabbath, including “Saturday” (*Children’s Songbook*, 196). Talk about ways your family can use Saturday and other days of the week to prepare for Sunday. ■

*Always remember
that Jesus Christ—
the Creator of
the universe, the
architect of our
salvation, and
the head of this
Church—is in
control.*



By Elder
M. Russell Ballard
Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles



FACE THE FUTURE WITH Faith & Hope

The conditions in the world are uncertain and dangerous, and the economies of the world are unstable and unpredictable. The cherished values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are under attack by those who want to restrict agency and make us dependent rather than encourage us to use our skills and talents to create new and exciting ways of doing things.

Standards of morality are failing. The family is under attack and is crumbling. Love in the hearts of men and women has waxed cold and is unnatural (see Matthew 24:12; Romans 1:31). There is a continuing breakdown in the integrity, honesty, and righteousness of political, business, and other leaders. Wars and rumors of wars among nations and creeds abound. And even more destructive than any armed conflict is the war raging between good and evil—between the Savior with His army of light and Satan with his evil minions of darkness—for the very souls of the children of God.

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) described the world that today's young people are about to enter when he said: "We live in a season when fierce men do terrible and despicable things. We live in a season of war. We live in a season of arrogance. We live in a season of wickedness, pornography, immorality. All of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah haunt our society. Our young people have never faced a greater challenge. We have never seen more clearly the lecherous face of evil."¹

We should not be surprised at these circumstances of our time because the scriptures and prophecies about our day testify of what will happen in the world if people turn their backs on God. We will yet experience more unpleasant things, for the devil continues his attempts to accomplish his evil designs. At the same time, the prophets of old who saw our day, who saw today's young generation, knew this time would be an age of light and wonderment such as the world has never before experienced.

As I prepared this message, I asked for guidance to know what message our Heavenly Father would want me to share. The calming and assuring words spoken by the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith came to my mind: "Be of good cheer, for I will lead you along. The kingdom is yours . . . , and the riches of eternity are yours" (D&C 78:18).

Replace Fear with Faith

What I believe the Lord wants me to say is that we should replace fear with faith—faith in God and the power of the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can remember as a young 13-year-old boy coming home from priesthood meeting on Sunday, December 7, 1941, to learn from my parents that Japan had just bombed Pearl Harbor. This propelled the United States into a world war that had already been raging in Europe for two years. It seemed that life as we knew it was going to come to an end. There was much uncertainty as many young men were swept up into military service. However, just as now, amid all the conflicts, struggles, and evil influences in the world, there was still much good.

As we think about the future, we should be filled with faith and hope. Always remember that Jesus Christ—the Creator of the universe, the architect of our salvation, and the head of this Church—is in control. He will not permit His work to fail. He will be victorious over all darkness and evil. And He invites us all, members of His Church and others who are the honest in heart, to join in the battle for the souls of God's children. Along with all else we will do in life, we must also dedicate and consecrate our

heart, might, mind, and strength to His cause, walking in faith and working with conviction.

Face the future with optimism. I believe we are standing on the threshold of a new era of growth, prosperity, and abundance. Barring a calamity or unexpected international crisis, I think the next few years will bring a resurgence in the world economy as new discoveries are made in communication, medicine, energy, transportation, physics, computer technology, and other fields of endeavor.

Many of these discoveries, as in the past, will be the result of the Spirit whispering insights into and enlightening the minds of truth-seeking individuals. With these discoveries and advances will come new employment opportunities and prosperity for those who work hard and especially for those who strive to keep the commandments of God. This has been the case in other significant periods of national and international economic growth.

In addition, many of these discoveries will be made to help bring to pass the purposes and work of God and to quicken, including through missionary work, the building of His kingdom on earth today.

Do Your Part

Before the Savior's Second Coming—and based on His divine timetable—the gospel must be taken to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people until it fills the whole earth. As the Prophet Joseph declared: "No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done."²

As the gospel is carried to billions of spiritually hungry souls, miracles will be performed by the hand of the Lord. Missionaries of many nationalities will serve the Lord throughout the earth. New chapels and many more temples



Many new discoveries will be made to help bring to pass the purposes and work of God and to quicken, including through missionary work, the building of His kingdom on earth today.

will be built to bless the Saints, as has been prophesied regarding premillennial growth of the Church.

You may ask, “Where will the financial resources come from to fund this growth?” The resources will come from faithful members through their tithes and offerings. As we do our part, the Lord will bless us with prosperity and with the wisdom to keep our mind focused on what matters most in life: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

So for yet a season, possibly a short season, it will seem as though the windows of heaven will have truly opened so that “there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).

I believe many of today’s young adults will be active participants in temporal blessings if they keep the commandments of the Lord. With prosperity will come a unique challenge—a test that will try many to their spiritual core. As you step into this new world of prosperity and engage in converting your education and skills into financial success, you will always have to distinguish between wants and needs.

Seek First the Kingdom of God

You will have two choices. Will your motivation to build and acquire the blessings of the Lord be for personal gratification, for the recognition of men, and for power, influence, and self-aggrandizement? Or will your motivation be to glorify God, to work to help usher in the growth and expansion of His Church?

Those who seek riches to build up their own egos will find their treasure to be slippery and easily lost in unwise ways (see Helaman 13:31). The welfare of their souls will be in great jeopardy. Jacob, an obedient younger brother of Nephi, warned us:

“And the hand of providence hath smiled upon you most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches; and because some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts, and wear stiff necks and high heads because of the costliness of your apparel, and persecute your brethren because ye suppose that ye are better than they.

“... Do ye suppose that God justifieth you in this thing? Behold, I say unto you, Nay. But he condemneth you, and

if ye persist in these things his judgments must speedily come unto you.

“... Let not this pride of your hearts destroy your souls!” (Jacob 2:13, 14, 16).

Jacob then put our motivation to acquire wealth in the proper perspective with a promise:

“But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God.

“And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good—to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted” (Jacob 2:18–19).

The Lord is not telling us that we should not be prosperous or that prosperity is a sin. On the contrary, He has always blessed His obedient children. But He is telling us that we should seek prosperity only after we seek, find, and serve Him. Then, because our hearts are right, because we love Him first and foremost, we will choose to invest the riches we obtain in building His kingdom.

If you choose to seek riches for the sake of riches, you will fall short. You will never be satisfied. You will be empty, never finding true happiness and lasting joy.



BE OF GOOD CHEER

“Though the storm clouds may gather, though the rains may pour down upon us, our knowledge of the gospel and our love of our Heavenly Father and of our Savior will comfort and sustain us and bring joy to our hearts as we walk uprightly and keep the commandments. There will be nothing in this world that can defeat us.

“My beloved brothers and sisters, fear not. Be of good cheer. The future is as bright as your faith.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Be of Good Cheer,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2009, 92.

The trial of your faith in the next few years will likely not be that you lack the material things of this world. Rather it will be in choosing what to do with the temporal blessings you receive.

Of today’s younger generation, President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) said:

“For nearly six thousand years, God has held you in reserve to make your appearance in the final days before the second coming of the Lord. . . .

“... God has saved for the final inning some of His strongest . . . children, who will help bear off the kingdom triumphantly.”³

President Thomas S. Monson said, “You are some of our Heavenly Father’s strongest children, and He has saved you to come to the earth ‘for such a time as this’ [Esther 4:14].”⁴

To be a vital part of the “marvelous work and a wonder” (2 Nephi 25:17) of these last days, you must submit your will to God, letting it be swallowed up in His will. As you “press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men . . . feasting upon the word of Christ” (2 Nephi 31:20), searching diligently, praying always, and believing, then as the Lord promises, “all things shall work together for your good” (D&C 90:24).

Dedicate and Consecrate

I urge you to make a commitment to yourself and to Heavenly Father to dedicate your life and to consecrate your time and talents to building up the Church of Jesus Christ in anticipation of the Savior’s Second Coming. Let the motive of your thoughts and actions be to glorify God and to bless your fellowman. Let this desire inspire you to greet each new morning with enthusiasm and let it fuel your thoughts and actions throughout each day.

If you do this, you will be blessed amid a world that is fast losing its way, and you and your loved ones will be secure and happy. This does not mean that you will not face trials and tests, but it does mean you will have the spiritual

DOCTRINAL POINTS

We can remain optimistic about the future if we:

- Maintain faith in the power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.
- Put Heavenly Father first in our lives.
- Dedicate our life and consecrate our time to building the kingdom of God.



power to handle them with faith and trust in the Lord.

The purpose of my message is to help you envision your future. Have faith and hope for the bright future you face. Young men are future fathers; young women are future mothers and nurturers. Together you are “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9).

For both men and women, one of your top priorities is to find your eternal companion if you have not already done so. Marriage in the temple will provide you with a companion to help you stay on the right path that leads

back to the presence of our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must do our part to continue the preparation for the Second Coming. ■

From a commencement address delivered at Brigham Young University–Idaho on April 6, 2012. For the full text in English, go to web.byui.edu/devotionalsandspeeches/speeches.aspx.

NOTES

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Living in the Fulness of Times,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 6; *Liahona*, Jan. 2002, 6.
2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 142.
3. Ezra Taft Benson, in Thomas S. Monson, “Dare to Stand Alone,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 62.
4. Thomas S. Monson, “May You Have Courage,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2009, 127.



Mexico Unfurled

FROM STRUGGLE TO STRENGTH

*Latter-day Saints in Mexico build on their heritage of faith
to bring a beautiful future to their country.*

By Sally Johnson Odekirk

Church Magazines

On November 6, 1945, prayers were answered when the first group of Mexican Latter-day Saints arrived at the Mesa Arizona Temple to receive temple ordinances in their native tongue. José Gracia, then president of the Monterrey Branch said, “We have come to do a great work for ourselves and for our fathers. . . . Perhaps some of us have made sacrifices, but those that we have made are not in vain. We are joyous in having made them.”¹

President Gracia and those who traveled to the temple followed in the footsteps of early Mexican Latter-day Saint pioneers, who likewise sacrificed for the restored gospel.

Laying the Foundation

A land of mountains, deserts, jungles, and exquisite coastlines, ancient Mexico was home to peoples who built beautiful temples and cities. Over the centuries, Mexicans built a strong foundation of faith and prayer that has helped them weather difficult times.

While the Saints were establishing the Church in Utah, the Mexican people were working to restructure their society, including writing a new constitution that separated church and state. The gospel message came to Mexico in 1876 with the first missionaries, who carried selections



President George Albert Smith visited Mexico and helped unify the members as he reached out to the Third Convention.

1810: Mexico declares independence and becomes independent in 1821 after 300 years of Spanish rule.

1830: Book of Mormon published and the Church organized in Palmyra, New York, USA.



1846–1848: Mexican-American War; Mormon pioneers settle in the Western United States.



1857–61: President Benito Juárez reforms Mexican government and establishes religious liberty.

from the Book of Mormon, which they mailed to prominent Mexican leaders. Baptisms soon followed.

During a special Church conference held on April 6, 1881, branch president Silviano Arteaga, several local leaders, and Apostle Moses Thatcher (1842–1909) climbed the slope of the volcano Mt. Popocatepetl. Elder Thatcher then dedicated the land for the preaching of the gospel.

At the conference President Arteaga prayed, and Elder Thatcher related: “Tears flowed down his wrinkled cheeks, for the deliverance of his race and people. . . . I never heard any man pray more earnestly, and though praying in a language which I do not comprehend, yet I seemed to understand by the Spirit, all that he was pleading for.”²

During this same time, several Mexican branches were established in the area. Desideria Yañez, an elderly widow in the state of Hidalgo, had a dream about Parley P. Pratt’s pamphlet *A Voice of Warning*. She sent her son to Mexico City to obtain a copy of the pamphlet, which had just been

translated into Spanish. She joined the Church in 1880, becoming the first woman to join the Church in Mexico.³

From that time on many members of the Church in Mexico remained faithful through decades of revolution, persecution, poverty, and isolation.⁴

Examples of Faithful Pioneers

One example of this faithfulness is found in the branch of San Pedro Martir, organized in 1907. Early members met together just south of Mexico City in an adobe building built by newly baptized Agustin Haro, who was called to preside over the branch. During the difficult years of the Mexican Revolution, when at least one million Mexicans were killed, many Saints sought refuge in San Pedro as their states became a battleground. The Relief Society sisters in San Pedro provided these refugees with much compassionate service.⁵

Members were also blessed with dedicated leaders such as Rey L. Pratt. Called as president of the Mexico Mission in



1907, he served in that calling until his passing in 1931. He loved the history, culture, and people of Mexico and gained their love and trust as they worked together to strengthen the Church's foundation there. President Pratt's efforts to build up native Mexican Church leaders proved especially important in 1926 when the Mexican government began enforcing the law that prohibited nonnatives from presiding over congregations in Mexico.⁶ During this time a group of members formed what was

Fielding Smith (1876–1972), then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said, "I see no reason why the English language should monopolize the temple session."⁸ Elder Antoine R. Ivins of the Seventy and Eduardo Balderas in the Church's translating department were asked to translate the temple ordinances into Spanish. This translation set the stage for temples to be built in other lands.⁹

With the temple ceremony available in Spanish at the Mesa Arizona Temple and with



A PEOPLE FAVORED OF THE LORD

"Who can doubt that out of the present struggle will grow a greater and better Mexico. . . . The way [will] be prepared for the teaching of the true Gospel unto the people of that land, the Gospel that is to bring about their redemption and make them a people favored of the Lord."¹⁷

Rey L. Pratt, president of Mexico Mission during the Mexican Revolution

1875: Portions of the Book of Mormon translated into Spanish and printed.

1876: First missionaries journey to Mexico.



1881: Special conference held; Apostle Moses Thatcher dedicates the land for missionary work.



1885: Mormon colonies established in Mexico.

1886: Full text of the Book of Mormon published in Spanish.

called the Third Convention and began calling their own leaders and building meetinghouses.

Building on the Foundation

Arwell L. Pierce was called as president of the Mexican Mission in 1942. Drawing upon his experiences while growing up in Chihuahua and serving a mission in Mexico, President Pierce reached out with love and understanding as he taught, strengthened, and helped unify the members. He also worked with the members of the Third Convention to resolve their concerns.

One of President Pierce's goals was to help members get to the temple.⁷ In 1943 efforts to make temple blessings available to more members were underway. After meeting with local Church leaders in Arizona, USA, Elder Joseph

Early members often sacrificed a great deal for the gospel.





AN ASTOUNDING FUTURE

"I think the future of the Church in Mexico is going to astound everyone, even those who have been involved with it. Mexicans are very familiar with the society they live in, and there are some things in it that they don't want. They look at what the gospel offers; they want it, and they are willing to pay any price for it."¹⁸

Elder Daniel L. Johnson,
Mexico Area President

a visit from Church President George Albert Smith (1870–1951) to Mexico in 1946 to help unify the Mexican Saints,¹⁰ the Church began to grow in a way that earlier generations had only imagined. New missions and stakes were created throughout the country, and Church-sponsored schools encouraged education.

In 1964 the Church dedicated El Centro Escolar Benemérito de las Américas, a school that served the educational, social, spiritual, and leadership needs of the members until

than we would have imagined possible—a conference in our own land."¹³

The 1970s were an exciting time of growth in Mexico. In 1970 there were nearly 70,000 members in the country; by decade's end there were close to 250,000. Three years after the area conference, Elder Howard W. Hunter (1907–95) divided three existing stakes to create 15 stakes in one weekend, calling many young Mexican members as leaders.¹⁴

Missionary work also expanded during this

1889: Missionaries withdraw from central Mexico.

1901: Proselyting resumes in Mexico City area.

1910: Start of the Mexican Revolution.



1912: Exodus from Mormon colonies, in northern Mexico.

1913: Missionaries withdraw due to revolutionary activities; mission president Rey L. Pratt leads the Church in Mexico through correspondence and works with Spanish-speaking people in the United States.

becoming a missionary training center in 2013.¹¹ Sister Lorena Gómez-Alvarez, who graduated from the school, says, "Benemérito helped me to discover and develop my talents and to gain a background and a knowledge of the gospel that has blessed my life. It will now help missionaries spread the gospel and will still bless people's lives, just in a different way."¹²

An Era of Growth

The 1972 Mexico City area conference was another turning point in Church growth. Members traveled great distances to hear President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973), his counselors, several Apostles, and other leaders. The Tabernacle Choir performed there, adding to the spiritual feast. Conference attendees exclaimed, "It is more

time. The Mexico Mission, officially opened in 1879, was divided for the first time in 1956; now Mexico has 34 missions.¹⁵ Brother Jorge Zamora, who served as a missionary in the Mexico City North Mission in the 1980s, has witnessed the growth. He recalls an area of his mission where members had to travel an hour to attend church; now a stake is there. He says, "It is amazing to me the way the Lord works to build the Church, regardless of what the country or culture is."

Temples Dot the Land

Mexican members love the temple's saving ordinances and are willing to make great sacrifices of time and money to worship there. Just over 100 years after Elder Thatcher dedicated the land for the preaching of the gospel, a temple was built in Mexico City. The 1983





Mexican members participate in community projects. These members were helping plant trees in 2007.

AGRÍCOL LOZANO HERRERA: FIRST MEXICAN STAKE PRESIDENT

Agrícol Lozano Herrera was a young member of the Church when he heard President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, encourage the members in Mexico to get an education in order to help strengthen their country. Brother Lozano decided to become a lawyer and an advocate for the indigenous people of his country. He was also the chief counsel for the Church in Mexico and served as the first Mexican stake president, as a mission president, as a regional representative to the Twelve Apostles, and as president of the Mexico City Temple.¹⁹



1921: Missionaries reassigned to Mexico City area.

1926: Mexican nationalism leads to the expulsion of all foreign clergy.

1930s: Local leaders maintain stability of the Church in Mexico.



1945: Temple ceremony translated into Spanish; beginning of excursions to the Mesa Arizona Temple.



open house helped bring the Church out of obscurity in Mexico as thousands visited the temple and requested more information. Within 30 years, 11 more temples were dedicated throughout the country, and another one is under construction.

Isabel Ledezma grew up in Tampico and remembers when her parents were sealed in the Mesa Arizona Temple. “It took two days to travel to Arizona and was very expensive,” she says. “When the Mexico City Mexico Temple was dedicated, the distance was cut to 12 hours by car. With the temple now in Tampico, we can attend often.”

Limhi Ontiveros, who served as president of the Oaxaca Mexico Temple from 2007 to 2010 says, “Those who have a deep, abiding testimony of the gospel find a way to come, even

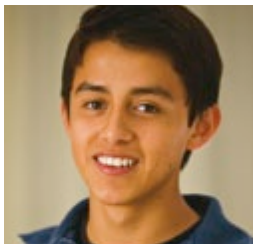
with the challenges of distance and finances, and they see the temple as a beacon of refuge.”

Sister Ledezma adds, “We need the Spirit in our cities, and having the temple here helps. When we have problems, when we are sad, the temple is close and we find peace there.”

Overcoming Adversity

Mexican members face common challenges and temptations, but they know that they and their fellow Saints are children of a loving Father; economic status and social status are not factors in how they treat each other.

The Mendez family lives in a small mountain town near the city of Oaxaca, in southern Mexico. They say, “There are challenges of time, finances, and distance, but the will to do what our Savior wants us to do



motivates us to overcome any obstacle.”

Gonzalo Mendez, age 15, says, “When you live in a place where there is danger, temptations can be very difficult, but with the help of prayer we don’t partake of the enticements of the world, and we stand as witnesses to a better way of life.”

Looking toward the Future

The gospel has long been established in Mexico, but there are still areas where the

God’s name by serving others and preaching the gospel,” Jaime says.

During a recent visit to Mexico, Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles met with the youth from three stakes in the city of Cancun. Of his time with these youth, he said, “We saw the light in their eyes and the hope in their faces and the dreams they have. I kept thinking about what a beautiful future Mexico has.”¹⁶ ■

1946:
President
George Albert
Smith visits
Mexico.



1950s:
Districts and
branches cre-
ated in nearly
all Mexican
states.

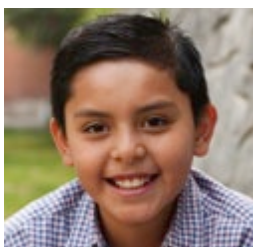
1961: The
Mexico City Stake
created with
Harold Brown
as president.



1964: Benemérito
School opens in
Mexico City.

1967: Second stake in
Mexico City organized;
Agricol Lozano Herrera
called as first Mexican
stake president.

1972: Area
Conference
in Mexico
City.



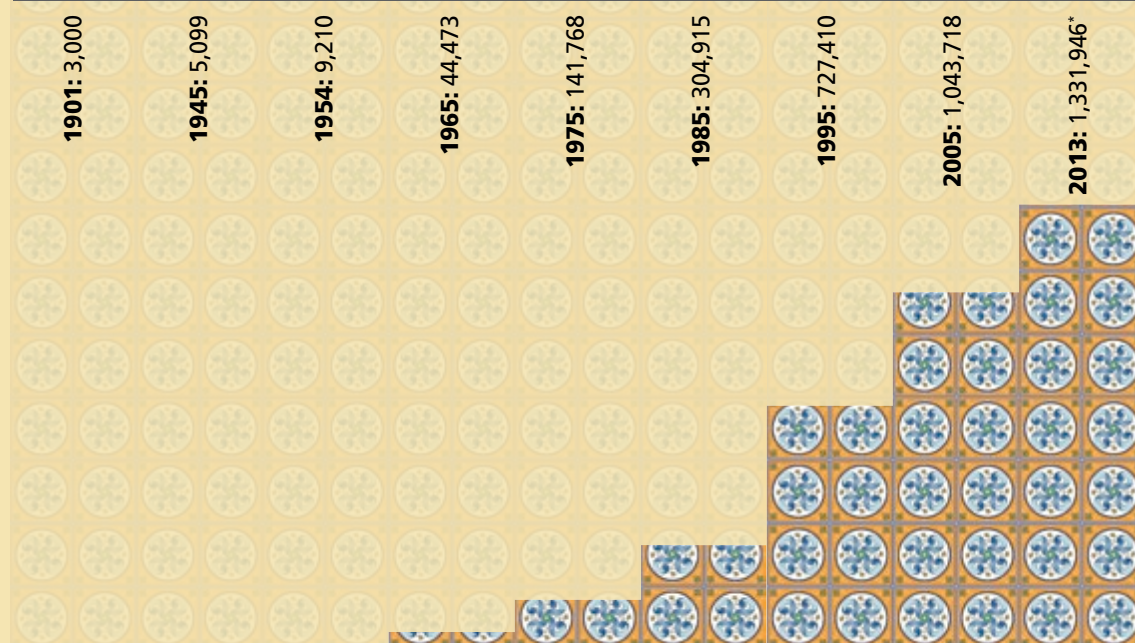
Church is developing. Jaime Cruz, age 15, and his family are the only members of the Church in their small town in the mountains above Oaxaca City. He and his friend Gonzalo work on home-study seminary during the week. Every Saturday they travel two hours by bus to go to the nearest chapel for seminary class with other youth from their ward. Jaime shares what he learns in seminary with his classmates at school and answers their questions. Jaime’s younger brother, Alex, a deacon, is a leader among his friends. Alex says that when he asks them nicely not to use bad language or wear inappropriate clothing, they listen to what he says. Jaime and Alex both know that holding the priesthood is an honor and a responsibility. “I know that the priesthood is given to young men to glorify

NOTES

1. Henry A. Smith, “200 Lamanites Gather in History-Making Conference, Temple Sessions,” *Church News*, Nov. 10, 1945, 8.
2. Moses Thatcher, in *Moses Thatcher Journal, 1866–1868*, 54.
3. See Brittany A. Chapman and Richard E. Turley Jr., *Women of Faith in the Latter Days*, vol. 1, 1775–1820, 461–470.
4. See Orson Scott Card, “It’s a Young Church in . . . Mexico,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1977, 17–24.
5. See Kirk Henriksen, “Mexican Mormon Pioneers,” a 2010 exhibit in Mexico City Mexico Temple Visitors’ Center.
6. See Gerry R. Flake, “Mormons in Mexico: The First 96 Years,” *Ensign*, Sept. 1972, 20–21.
7. F. LaMond Tullis, “A Shepherd to Mexico’s Saints: Arwell L. Pierce and the Third Convention,” *BYU Studies*, vol. 37, no. 1 (1997): 127–151.
8. See Eduardo Balderas, “Northward to Mesa,” *Ensign*, Sept. 1972, 30.
9. See Eduardo Balderas, “Northward to Mesa,” 30–31.
10. See “The Church Moves On,” *Improvement Era*, July 1946, 446; John D. Giles, “Father Lehi’s Children,” *Improvement Era*, Sept. 1946, 556.
11. See Joseph Walker, “Missionary surge prompts LDS Church to open new MTC in Mexico,” *Deseret News*, Jan. 30, 2013, www.deseretnews.com.
12. This quotation and subsequent quotations from



GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN MEXICO



Temples: 12
with 1 more
announced in
Tijuana
Stakes: 222
Districts: 36
**Wards and
Branches:** 2,000
Missions: 35

*As of June 2013

1975: 12
new stakes
organized in
several areas
of Mexico.



1983: Mexico City
Temple dedicated.

1993: Church
legally rec-
ognized in
Mexico.

2000: Nine small temples
dedicated.



2009: First
all-Mexican
Area Presidency
called.



2013: Missionary training
center opens in Mexico City.

modern members of the Church in Mexico came from
interviews with the author on Feb. 7, 2013.

13. In Jay M. Todd, "The Remarkable Mexico City Area
Conference," *Ensign*, Nov. 1972, 88.
14. See Eleanor Knowles, *Howard W. Hunter* (1994), 202.
15. See Don L. Searle, "One Million in Mexico," *Ensign*,
July 2004, 34; Kristine Miner, "The Church in Oaxaca,
Mexico," *Ensign*, Apr. 2001, 78.
16. From an interview with Audiovisual Department, Apr.
2012.
17. Rey L. Pratt, in *The Young Woman's Journal*, vol. 25,
no. 9 (1914), 539.
18. From an interview with the author on Apr. 5, 2013.
19. See "Agricol Lozano Herrera: Mexican Mormon Church
Leader," <http://mittromneymormon.net/meet-some-mormons-2/meet-some-mormons-2/agricol-lozano-herrera-mexican-mormon-church-leader>.



Seminary students in Oaxaca enjoy
being together.



Joseph Fielding Smith

TRUE AND FAITHFUL

Inspiration from the Life and Teachings of
JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

By Hoyt W. Brewster Jr.

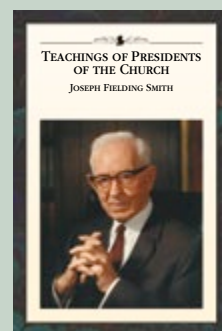
When 33-year-old Joseph Fielding Smith entered the Salt Lake Tabernacle on April 6, 1910, to attend general conference, an usher said to him, “Well Joseph, who is the new apostle to be?”

“I don’t know,” replied Joseph. “But it won’t be you and it won’t be me!”¹

As the names of the Twelve Apostles were being read for a sustaining vote, Joseph suddenly received an impression that his name might be the next one mentioned. It was, and he was then sustained as the 12th man in that esteemed quorum.

Joseph’s humility and sense of humor were demonstrated when he returned home from the conference to inform his family of his new calling. He greeted his wife with a puzzling statement: “I guess we’ll have to sell the cow,” he said. Undoubtedly, she was surprised as she waited for further explanation. His simple response was, “I haven’t time to take care of it any more!”² Thus commenced an apostolic ministry that lasted over six decades.

Grandson of Hyrum Smith, Joseph Fielding Smith was the 10th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served longer as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles before his call to serve as President of the Church than any other Church President. During his 60 years as a member of that quorum of special witnesses, he traveled first by horseback and wagon and later by automobile and jet plane to teach the Saints. His sermons and numerous writings blessed the Church and all who would listen to his inspired messages.



*“Let us be true
and faithful
always, with
a desire to
keep the com-
mandments of
the Lord and
honor Him
and remember
the covenants
we have made
with Him.”*



I was invited to write this article because of my relationship to President Joseph Fielding Smith, whom I affectionately called Granddaddy. I was touched by his life from my birth, when he performed my name and blessing ordinance, until his death, when I was among the grandsons who served as pallbearers at his funeral.

A Foreordained Prophet

As with all of God's prophets, Joseph Fielding Smith was foreordained to come to earth according to the divine timetable of the Lord (see Acts 17:26). Joseph was the fourth child but first son of Julina Lambson Smith. In the humble spirit of the faithful Old Testament mother Hannah (see 1 Samuel 1:11), Julina

vowed that if the Lord would give her a son, "she would do all in her power to help him be a credit to the Lord and to his father."³ The Lord not only answered her petition but also manifested to her, before her son's birth, that the child would one day be called to serve as one of His special witnesses in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.⁴

Joseph was born on July 19, 1876, to Joseph F. and Julina Lambson Smith. At the time of Joseph's birth, his father was an Apostle and a counselor to President Brigham Young. When Joseph was nine months old, he was taken by his parents to the dedication of the St. George Utah Temple. He would later humorously remark, "My first church assignment was to accompany Brigham Young to the dedication of the St. George Temple."⁵

When Joseph received his patriarchal blessing at age 19, an inspired patriarch placed his hands on Joseph's head and declared: "It is thy privilege to live to a good old age and the will of the Lord that you should become a mighty man in Israel. . . . You will indeed stand in the midst of the people a prophet and a revelator to them, for the Lord has blessed you and ordained you to this calling."⁶

Family Life: A Mixture of Love and Trials

To Joseph Fielding Smith, "family is the most important organization in time or in eternity."⁷ He was raised

Above: This photograph of young Joseph Fielding Smith was placed in his parents' family Bible. Right: Joseph enjoyed playing handball with his brother David. Below: Elder Smith (second from left) with fellow missionaries in England, 1901. The photograph on the opposite page also comes from his time as a missionary. Below, right: Elder Smith (left) with fellow Apostle George Albert Smith and Israel Smith, 1936.



in a family governed by love, faith, high moral standards, and diligent work ethic, and he sought consistently to bring those same principles into his own family. (See chapters 4, 15, and 16 of *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Fielding Smith*.)

He married Louie Emily Shurtliff in the Salt Lake Temple in 1898. One year later he was called on a mission to Great Britain for two years and was loyally supported by his wife. Upon his return, the two resumed their lives together and were

blessed with the births of two daughters. Sadly, during a difficult third pregnancy Louie passed away.

In his sorrow Joseph prayed, “Help me, I pray Thee, to so live that I shall be worthy to meet her in eternal glory, to be united again with her, never again to be separated. . . . Help me to rear my precious babies that they shall remain pure and spotless throughout their lives.”⁸

At the urging of his father, the bereaved father of two prayerfully sought for a wife and a mother for his young children. His righteous desires were blessed in having Ethel Georgina Reynolds brought into his life. They were married in November 1908 in the Salt Lake Temple. This marvelous woman became the mother of Joseph’s first two daughters and later gave birth to nine additional children.

On one occasion, his wife’s burdens weighed heavily on the Apostle’s mind as he traveled to a stake conference. He wrote her a letter in which he said: “I am thinking of you and wish I could be with you constantly for the next few weeks, to help take care of you. I will help you all I can as it is, and hope you will be able to *feel* my influence. Tell



the children to be kind to you and to each other.”⁹ He then shared with her the deep feelings of his heart in the form of a poem, which later became one of our hymns, “Does the Journey Seem Long?” (no. 127).

Sadly, Ethel passed away in 1937. At the time of her death, there were five unmarried children in the home. Elder Smith felt impressed to seek another wife and companion. In 1938 he married Jessie Evans Smith in the Salt Lake Temple.

One who knew them well wrote: “Despite a difference of twenty-six years in their ages

and differences in temperament, background, and training, Joseph Fielding and Jessie Evans Smith were remarkably compatible. . . . The thing that bridged the wide gulf between these two disparate personalities was the genuine love and respect they had for each other.”¹⁰ (See pages 6–23 of the manual.)

A Seeker of Learning by Study and also by Faith

Joseph Fielding Smith was renowned in the Church as a scribe and gospel scholar. Beginning in his youth, he had an unquenchable desire to “seek learning, even by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118). He read the Book of Mormon twice before he was 10. When his friends missed him, they would often find him in the hayloft reading the scriptures.¹¹

He told a congregation some years later that “from the time I first could read, I have received more pleasure and greater satisfaction out of the study of the scriptures . . . than from anything else in all the world.”¹² (See chapters 10 and 18.)



Above: President Smith with his sons. Above right: Elder Smith is greeted by President David O. McKay, 1961. Right: President Smith seated on the stand in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Below: President Smith poses for a photograph at a baseball game, a sport he enjoyed playing as a youth.



On one occasion President Heber J. Grant (1856–1945) complimented President Smith's scholarship by stating, "I consider you the best posted man on the scriptures of the General Authorities of the church that we have."¹³

His thirst for learning does not imply that he did not participate in sports and games as a boy or even as an adult. He enjoyed playing baseball and the many games that the youth living in an agricultural society played. As an adult he became an avid handball player and regularly attended his own children's sporting events. He also participated in sports at family reunions. I fondly remember a softball game when my grandfather hit a line drive that hit the camera of an uncle who was taking pictures from left field.

A Compassionate Defender of the Faith

Even before his calling as an Apostle, Joseph Fielding Smith was known as a defender of the faith, which

occasionally caused some to misjudge him as an austere man. Although he was unrelenting in his desire to be true to his covenants and to encourage all to embrace the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, there was a gentler side to him that was readily recognized by his family and associates. President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) remarked: "Many times we have said that since the Twelve will be judges of Israel, any of us would be happy to fall into his hands, for his judgment would be kind, merciful, just, and holy."¹⁴

President Smith showed an example of such kindness in a meeting where an accident involving a Church-owned automobile was discussed. An elderly man driving a vegetable truck with no insurance had caused the mishap. After some discussion, it was recommended that the Church pursue the matter in a court of law. However, President Smith spoke up: "Yes, we could do that. And if we press with all vigor, we might even succeed in taking the truck away from the poor man; then how would he make a living?" The committee reversed its recommendation and let the matter rest.¹⁵

I experienced the love others had for him as I approached President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) in the Salt Lake Cemetery following the dedication of President Smith's grave. I said to him, "President Lee, as a member of the family I want you to know how much I appreciate the kindness you have shown my grandfather." In



response he looked me in the eyes and tenderly said, “I loved that man!”

A True and Faithful Servant

President Smith’s ministry was marked by obedience to the scriptures’ charge to preach repentance (see, for example, D&C 6:9; 11:9). Said he: “It has been my mission, having been so impressed, I think, by the Spirit of the Lord in my travels in the stakes of Zion, to say unto the people that *now* is the day of repentance and to call upon the Latter-day Saints to remember their covenants, . . . urging them to be *true and faithful* in all things.”¹⁶ (See chapter 5.)

Throughout his almost 96 years of life, President Smith prayed that he would remain true and faithful and endure to the end. Indeed, President Boyd K. Packer, current President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, observed: “Even when he was past ninety he would pray that he would ‘keep his covenants and obligations and endure to the end.’”¹⁷

For President Smith, “true and faithful” was more than an often-repeated phrase. It was a heartfelt expression of his hope for all people—for members of the Church who had made covenants and indeed for all of our Father in Heaven’s children. “We should be first and foremost, . . .” President Smith implored, “for the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Let us be true and faithful always, with a desire to keep the commandments of the

Lord and honor Him and remember the covenants we have made with Him. This is my prayer in behalf of all Israel.”¹⁸ (See chapters 19–22.)

As you prayerfully ponder his inspired teachings, your testimony will be strengthened and you will be blessed with an increased understanding of the pure and simple truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This course of study will increase your desire to live to be “true and faithful.” ■

Note: The author’s mother, Naomi Smith Brewster, was born the year Joseph Fielding Smith was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and was the second child of Ethel Georgina Smith, whom President Smith married following the death of his first wife.

NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Fielding Smith* (2013), 16.
2. Joseph Fielding Smith Jr. and John J. Stewart, *The Life of Joseph Fielding Smith* (1972), 176.
3. *Teachings: Joseph Fielding Smith*, 1; see also Bruce R. McConkie, “Joseph Fielding Smith: Apostle, Prophet, Father in Israel,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1972, 29.
4. See Bruce R. McConkie, “Joseph Fielding Smith,” 29.
5. Joseph Fielding Smith, quoted in Smith and Stewart, *The Life of Joseph Fielding Smith*, 49.
6. Quoted in Smith and Stewart, *The Life of Joseph Fielding Smith*, vii.
7. *Teachings: Joseph Fielding Smith*, 76.
8. *Teachings: Joseph Fielding Smith*, 275.
9. Joseph Fielding Smith, quoted in Smith and Stewart, *The Life of Joseph Fielding Smith*, 188–89.
10. *Teachings: Joseph Fielding Smith*, 22, 23.
11. See *Teachings: Joseph Fielding Smith*, 4.
12. *Teachings: Joseph Fielding Smith*, 4.
13. Heber J. Grant, in Francis M. Gibbons, *Joseph Fielding Smith: Gospel Scholar, Prophet of God* (1992), 290.
14. Spencer W. Kimball, in Bruce R. McConkie, “Joseph Fielding Smith,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1972, 28.
15. See Lucile C. Tate, *Boyd K. Packer: A Watchman on the Tower* (1995), 176.
16. Joseph Fielding Smith, in Conference Report, Oct. 1919, 88; emphasis added.
17. Boyd K. Packer, “Covenants,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 84.
18. Joseph Fielding Smith, in Conference Report, Oct. 1912, 124–25.

2014 COURSE OF STUDY

This year, Relief Society sisters and Melchizedek Priesthood holders will study *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Fielding Smith*. This manual will help ensure that President Smith’s inspired teachings will be available for current and future generations, since he died in 1972 when Church membership was just over 3 million. Few who are now living will have a personal memory of President Smith’s exemplary life, but all may be lifted and inspired by the power of his teachings.

As you prayerfully study and ponder President Smith’s teachings, you will discern how the Lord used him as a spokesman to clearly teach principles that bring immeasurable blessings when they are applied. You will study subjects such as these:

- Our relationship to our Father in Heaven and our Savior
- The influence of the Holy Ghost in our lives
- The mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith
- The importance of temple covenants
- How to be in the world but not of the world
- How to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ by being true and faithful

The manual is available online at LDS.org and for mobile devices at mobile.lds.org.

MAY I READ THAT BOOK?

About 50 years ago, my missionary companion and I were tracting near the University of Córdoba in Argentina when a young man invited us into his apartment. Immediately it became apparent that he and his roommates had invited us in only to argue about the existence of God.

We didn't want to argue, so instead we agreed to meet later to discuss our message in an environment conducive to learning. When we returned, the young man explained why he believed there was no God. He said man had invented God because of his need to believe in something greater, something supernatural.

When it was our turn, I asked, "How do you know the United States exists?" I testified of its reality and asked if there was other evidence that

proved its existence. He said he had read about it in books and newspapers. I then asked if he believed my testimony and what he had read. He emphatically said he did.

"So we cannot deny the testimonies of those, such as I, from the United States," I said. "Nor can we deny the testimony of those who have written about it." The young man agreed.

I then asked, "Based on this premise, can we deny the testimonies of those who have seen God and written of their experience?" I showed him the Bible, telling him that it contained testimonies of men and women who had seen and talked with God and Jesus Christ. I asked if we can deny the testimonies contained in the Bible, and he reluctantly said no.

I then asked, "What would you think

We gave the young man a Book of Mormon and testified of the love God has for His children.

of a book written by a people other than those in the Bible who saw the same God as the writers of Bible?" He responded that no such book existed.

We showed him the Book of Mormon and taught him of its purpose. We testified that it was true and that God still communicates through living prophets today.

Surprised, the young man said, "I've been able to confound all the preachers from other churches. You have something I've never heard of before. May I read that book?" We gave him the book and testified of the love God has for His children.

Because the semester was ending, we weren't able to visit this young man again before he returned to his home in Bolivia. However, I prayed he would read the book and receive a testimony.

In 2002 I was called to serve as a Spanish branch president in the Provo Missionary Training Center. One Sunday I related the above story to the missionaries. Afterward a missionary from Bolivia told me he had heard an older man in his stake tell the story of his conversion—the same story I relate here.

Tears filled my eyes. After 40 years, I had received an answer to my prayers about the young man from Bolivia. He had come to know of the existence of God and His great plan of happiness. I know that one day we will meet again, and I will rejoice with him in the gospel. ■

Neil R. Cardon, Utah, USA



MAMÁ SEFI'S TRIP TO THE TEMPLE

One day while I was in the Mexico Mission office back in the 1940s, a sister arrived from the little town of Ozumba, located at the foot of Popocatepetl, an active volcano about 43 miles (70 km) southeast of Mexico City. We all knew her. Her name was Mamá Sefi.

The full-time missionaries lived in her little adobe home, where she always kept a room just for them. Mamá Sefi, not even five feet (1.5 m) tall, earned her livelihood by selling fruit in the marketplaces of towns around Ozumba. Each town had a different market day, and she went to each market to sell her fruit.

She came into the mission office that day carrying a large flour sack. It was full of *tostones*, silver half-peso coins she had saved through the years. Some of the pieces had come from the days of Porfirio Díaz, who ruled Mexico from 1884 to 1911. Mamá Sefi had traveled from Ozumba to the mission home by bus with her sack of money. She told President Arwell L. Pierce she had been saving for many years so she could travel to the Salt Lake Temple to receive her endowment.

She obtained permission to leave the country, a missionary loaned her a suitcase, and we took her to the train. President Pierce telephoned someone in El Paso, Texas, to meet the train across the U.S. border and to put Mamá Sefi on a bus for Salt Lake City. Members of the Spanish branch in Salt

Lake City were to meet the bus, take care of her housing needs, and help her at the temple.

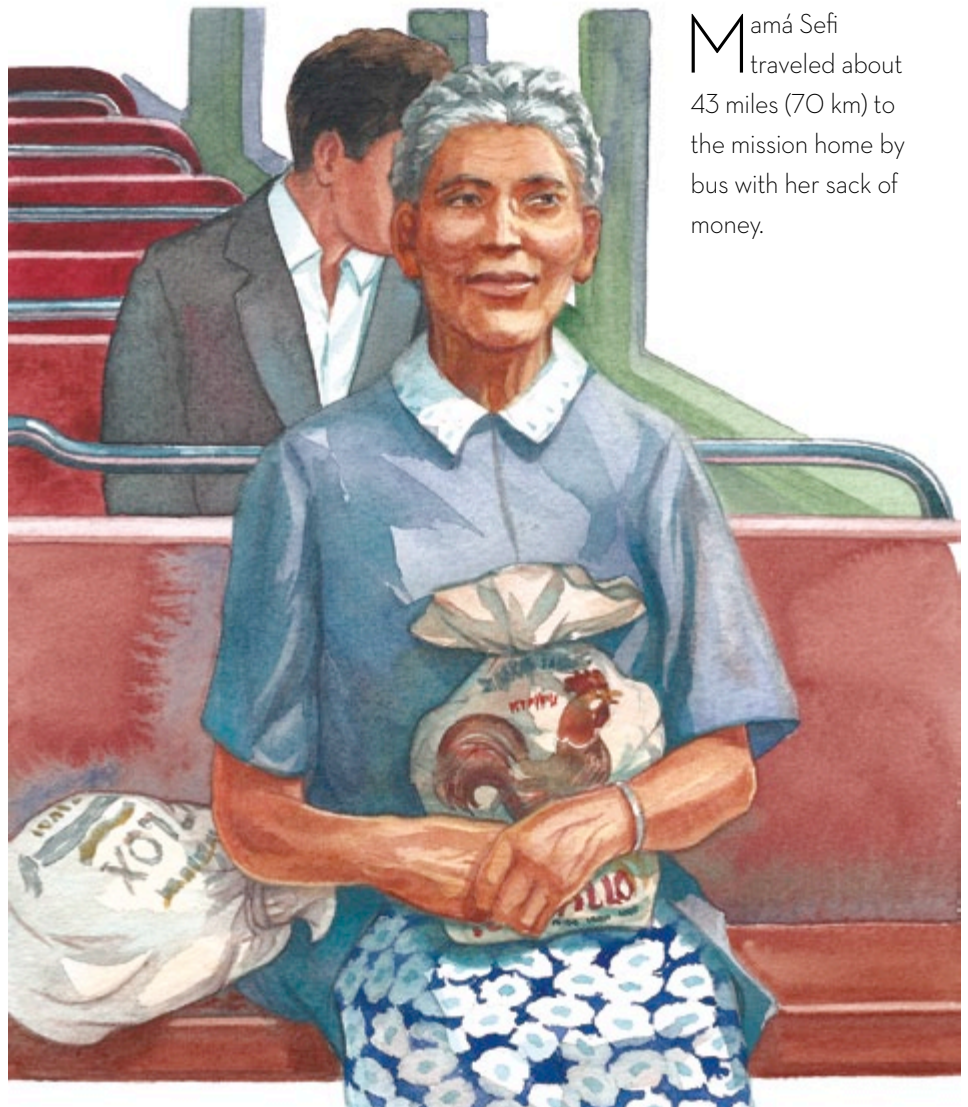
A few weeks later, Mamá Sefi returned to Mexico City and then home to Ozumba. She had made the long journey safely. She then resumed selling fruit in the marketplaces.

Mamá Sefi did not speak English, so we asked her how she had managed to order food while traveling by bus from El Paso to Salt Lake City—a trip

of several days. She said someone had taught her how to say “apple pie” in English, so every time the bus stopped for meals, she would order apple pie.

Because those were the only words she knew in English, she lived on apple pie during her stateside bus travel—going *and* coming. But Mamá Sefi didn't mind. Rather, she returned grateful for and radiant from her experience in the temple. ■

Betty Ventura, Utah, USA



Mamá Sefi traveled about 43 miles (70 km) to the mission home by bus with her sack of money.

GO FIX HIS STEREO

Our next-door neighbor was the youth minister at a local church, and the youth of his church often visited him. It was not uncommon to see several cars parked in front of his house both day and night.

Some of these teens played loud music on their car stereos all the time. We could hear them coming for several blocks, and as they got closer, the windows in our home would shake. Often the loud music would wake me at night. My annoyance festered, and I began to view these teens as my enemies.

One day while I was raking leaves, I heard a car stereo blaring several

blocks away. The sound soon came closer and got louder. By the time the driver turned the corner and headed for my neighbor's home, I was angry and prayed that Heavenly Father would destroy the stereo.

My desperate prayer turned to one of praise and gratitude when the stereo suddenly went blissfully silent just as he pulled up. I had worked on car stereos and knew by the sound that it hadn't been turned off—it had died.

The young man was upset that his stereo had quit working, and his friends gathered to console him. I, on the other hand, felt a smug satisfaction in witnessing what I thought was the

I felt a smug satisfaction in witnessing what I thought was the hand of God smiting the young man's car stereo.

hand of God smiting the stereo.

But as I continued watching, I realized I was looking at myself as I had behaved many years ago. My heart softened, and I began to think that maybe this boy wasn't my enemy after all. Then the Spirit whispered, "Go fix his stereo."

I was stunned by the prompting and tried to dismiss it. Why should I repair something that was making my life miserable? But the prompting came again, and I followed it.

After I had offered my help, I immediately saw the source of the problem. It was a quick fix. Soon the stereo was playing again as loud as ever.

The young man expressed his gratitude and asked if there was anything he could do for me. I told him I had to get up early for work, and if he could turn down his music in the evenings, I would really appreciate it. He smiled and assured me that he would do so.

Not only did he keep his stereo down at night, but he also became my personal stereo cop and made sure his friends turned down their stereos as well. From then on, we never had a problem with loud music after dark.

Heavenly Father really did hear and answer my prayer. His solution provided peace and quiet, a valuable lesson about following the Spirit, and a better understanding of what it means to "love your enemies" (Luke 6:27). ■

Kent A. Russell, Florida, USA



HELLO, LITTLE LAMB

My husband and I were assisting our daughter and her two sons at the airport, where they were preparing for their return flight home. We helped our daughter as she juggled luggage, located passports, and managed an active three-year-old. Tommy, our one-year-old grandson, was fast asleep in his stroller until he awakened abruptly. He panicked as he struggled to take in all the noise, bright lights, and general chaos.

I saw his expression and knew what was about to happen, so I cried out to my daughter. She quickly stooped down, cupped Tommy's face in her hands, met his gaze, and lovingly said, "Hello, little lamb."

In an instant his furrowed brow, turned-down mouth, and tensed-up shoulders relaxed as his whole body sighed with relief. He gave a little smile before his heavy eyelids closed again. His fear was replaced by a calm assurance and a peace that seemed to envelop him. It was a small but powerful manifestation of the trust Tommy had in his mother. Her familiar touch, voice, and presence comforted him.

Like Tommy, we all have felt fearful, uncertain, and overwhelmed. It is comforting to know that Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, calls out to us. He knows His flock, and we can trust Him completely. He lovingly said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.

. . . Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

I know that during times of uncertainty we can receive comfort and assurance as we turn to the Good Shepherd with faith and trust. When I am blessed with comfort amid chaos,

I like to recall that moment at the airport with my daughter and grandson. Like Tommy, I breathe a sigh of relief as my burdens are lifted. During those times, I feel a personal "Hello, little lamb" from my Shepherd. ■

Colleen Solomon, Ontario, Canada

Our one-year-old grandson panicked as he struggled to take in all the noise, bright lights, and general chaos of the airport.



Enduring Well

By Elder J. Christopher Lansing

Area Seventy, North America
Northeast Area

The plan of salvation is a wonderful plan, and part of that plan includes overcoming obstacles that sometimes get in the way and keep us from accomplishing our hopes and dreams. We all face crises during our time on earth. Some are small and some are large.

A small crisis may be running out of gas on a busy road. A large crisis may be the loss of a loved one, a crippling accident, or a family tragedy. Some crises we bring on ourselves through disobedience to the laws of God or man. Some come upon us through no fault of our own. I suspect that most of us have experienced what could be termed the “bad bounces” of life. Anyone who has ever played a game in which a ball is involved knows all about bad bounces. They are part of the game. They are not predictable in size or frequency.

A good player realizes that bad bounces are a part of life and tries to continue living with faith and courage.

We should not expect the Lord to remove our challenges just because we promise Him that we will always be faithful if He does. Rather, we are to endure well, and then we will be blessed.

To stay true to our desire to live with Heavenly Father again, we must find a way to work through obstacles and discover what is really important in life.

Just Keep Swimming

When our only daughter, Lindsay, was young, she and I enjoyed watching movies together. One that we enjoyed and watched together many times was an animated film called *Finding Nemo*. In the movie, Nemo is caught by a scuba diver and ends up in a fish tank in a dentist’s office. His father, Marlin, is determined to find Nemo. Marlin meets a fish named Dory during his journey. They face obstacle after obstacle as they try to find Nemo. Whether the obstacle is big or small, Dory’s message to Marlin is the same: “Just keep swimming.”

Several years later Lindsay served a mission in Santiago, Chile. Missions are hard. Disappointments are many. Each week at the end of my email I wrote,



“Just keep swimming. Love, Dad.”

When Lindsay was expecting her second child, she found out that her unborn baby had a hole in his heart and that he had Down syndrome. As I wrote to her during this very difficult time, I closed my emails, “Just keep swimming.”

Obstacles come into each of our lives, but to get through them and to get where we want to go, we must keep swimming.

One of my favorite passages of scripture is section 121 of the Doctrine and Covenants. It is a wonderful passage in which the Prophet Joseph Smith begins in the depths of despair and rises to celestial heights. This section and sections 122 and 123 come from a letter Joseph wrote to the Church. To better understand these great revelations, we should put them in proper context.

Joseph and a few of his followers were prisoners in the jail at Liberty, Missouri, from December 1838 until April 1839. The jail had no heat, and the food was barely edible. They were in a basement dungeon with a dirt floor and a ceiling so low they could not fully stand up. The Saints, meanwhile, had been driven from their homes. Amid this upheaval, Governor Lilburn W. Boggs issued his infamous extermination order.

Joseph asks, “O God, where art thou? And where is the pavilion that covereth thy hiding place?” (D&C

121:1). This is the same Joseph Smith who had heavenly visitations from God the Father; Jesus Christ; Moroni; John the Baptist; Peter, James, and John; and others. Shortly after his questions in the initial verses, Joseph expresses his frustration:

“Let thine anger be kindled against our enemies; and, in the fury of thine heart, with thy sword avenge us of our wrongs.

“Remember thy suffering saints, O our God; and thy servants will rejoice in thy name forever” (verses 5–6).

The Lord responds to Joseph’s outpouring by saying, “My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment” (verse 7).

Then He teaches Joseph a wonderful principle: “And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes” (verse 8).

The message is straightforward and succinct. We should not expect the Lord to remove our challenges just because we promise Him that we will always be faithful if He does. Rather, we are to endure well, and then we will be blessed. That is a marvelous life lesson for each of us.

More instruction comes in verse 10, where the Lord tells Joseph, “Thou art not yet as Job; thy friends do not contend against thee, neither charge thee with transgression, as they did Job.” Despite how much Job suffered,

we learn, “The Son of Man hath descended below [it] all. Art thou greater than he?” (D&C 122:8).

Section 122 complements section 121. I call it the *if* section. The word *if* appears 15 times. For instance, verse five says, “*If* thou art called to pass through tribulation; *if* thou art in perils among false brethren; *if* thou art in perils among robbers; *if* thou art in perils by land or by sea” (D&C 122:5; emphasis added).

If we substitute those challenges for the challenges we face in the modern world, perhaps we can learn something, such as *if* I have a death in my family or *if* my boyfriend or girlfriend dumps me or *if* I have financial burdens or *if* I were smarter.

After the *ifs*, the Lord says, “Know thou, my son [or daughter], that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good” (verse 7). In other words, the challenges we have in life are ultimately helpful and even essential.

“Therefore, dearly beloved brethren,” the Prophet writes, “let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed” (D&C 123:17).

Life is full of obstacles, some of which seem insurmountable. We are to endure them cheerfully and faithfully. By so doing, we will ultimately return to live with God forever.

The Savior's Example

The greatest example we have of endurance is the life of the Savior. The Atonement required that He descend below all things and offer His perfect life on our behalf. In descending below all things, He suffered for all of life's misfortunes and sins, "which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit" (D&C 19:18).

Jesus knew what was required of Him, and He said in a very human way, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). Nevertheless, He was willing to do His Father's will and endure all things.

What We Become Makes All the Difference

The business I own today was founded by my father nearly 60 years ago. He died in 1980, leaving me to take the helm of the company at the young age of 30.

In those early years, situations came up that required me to make decisions that affected the future of our frail business. I worked hard to act as my father would have acted, and I spent a great deal of time on my knees, trying to discern what to do. In all those decisions, I never felt a calming influence or any direction one way or another. I ultimately did what I thought was best and moved on. But I was disappointed I had not been able to get any confirmation of my actions.

One night my father came to me in a dream. I began to chide him for not helping me know what to do. He said he was aware of my situation but he was busy where he was and his former business was not terribly important. "Chris, we really don't care about the business up here," he said. "What we care about very much is what you become because of your business."

That was a great lesson I hope I never forget. What we get during our life is inconsequential, but what we become in life makes all the difference.

Sometimes we forget that in premortality we fought alongside the Savior in defense of the Father's plan of moral agency. And we won! Lucifer and his followers were expelled, and we received the opportunity to experience the life we fought for. The Father's plan included the Atonement. Our job is to face our challenges and endure them well. As we do this, the Atonement has meaning in our lives and we fulfill the Lord's work and glory: "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39).

I bear witness that Jesus is the Christ. He is the Savior of the world. He is the Prince of Peace and our Advocate with the Father. I bear witness that the Father knows us by name, loves us despite our imperfections, and will prepare a place for us if we are faithful and endure to the end. ■

From a devotional address, "That's Life," delivered at BYU-Hawaii on October 30, 2012. For the full text in English, go to devotional.byuh.edu/archive.



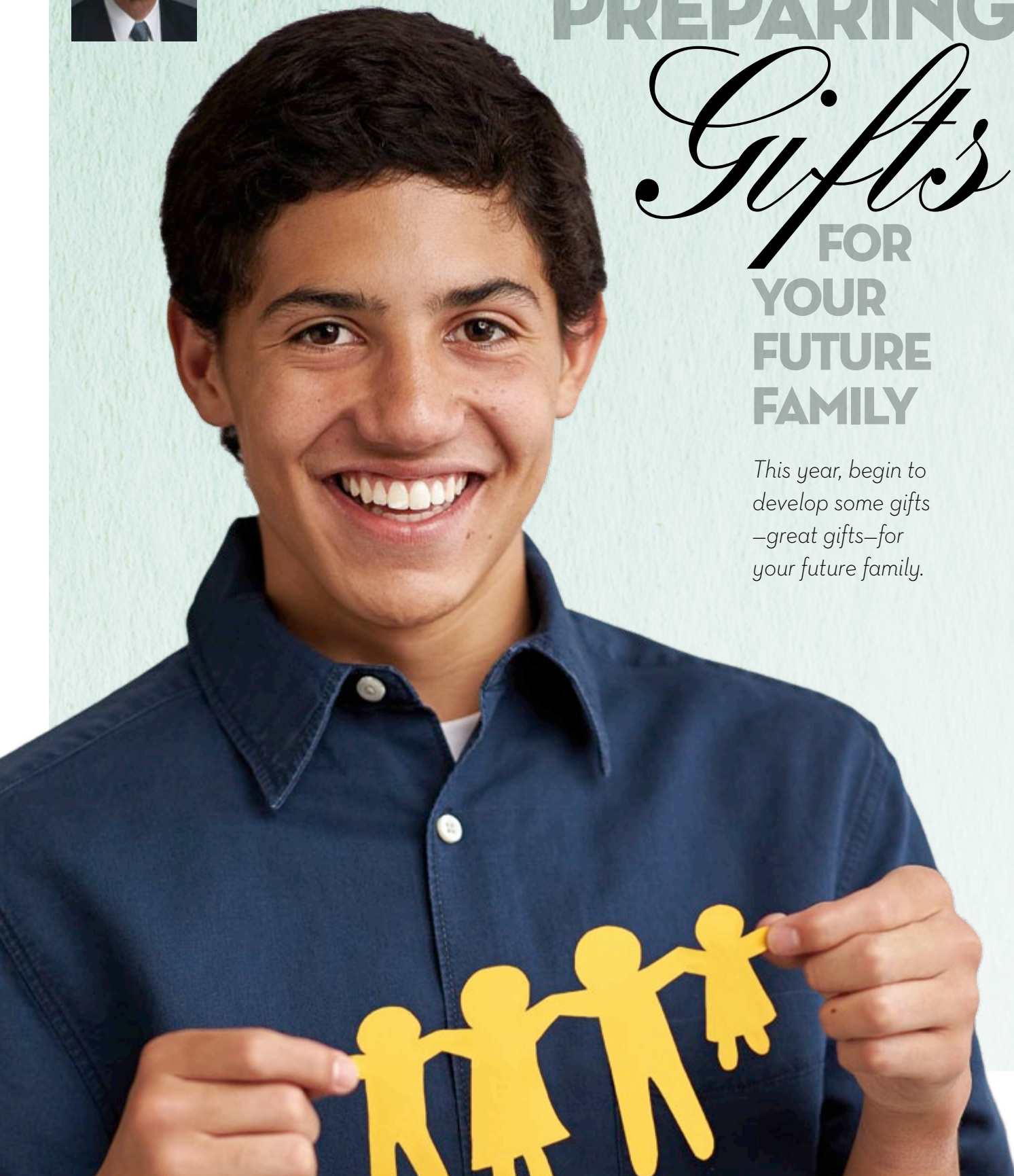
To stay true to our desire to live with Heavenly Father again, we must find a way to work through obstacles and discover what is really important in life.



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

PREPARING *Gifts* FOR YOUR FUTURE FAMILY

*This year, begin to
develop some gifts
—great gifts—for
your future family.*



I've always daydreamed of being a great gift giver. I picture people opening my gifts and showing with tears of joy and a smile that the giving, not just the gift, has touched their hearts. You might have that daydream too. Many of you are probably already experts in gift giving.

There is something you could do this year to start becoming a better gift giver yourself. In fact, as students, you have some special chances. You could begin to put some gifts—great gifts—on layaway for your future family. Let me tell you about them.

Writing Papers for School

You could start in your room today. Is there an unfinished school paper somewhere in the stacks? (I assume there are stacks there; I think I know your room.) Perhaps it is typed and apparently ready to turn in. Why bother more with it? I learned why during a religion class I taught once at Ricks College (now Brigham Young University–Idaho). I was teaching from section 25 of the Doctrine and Covenants. In that section Emma

Smith is told that she should give her time to “writing, and to learning much” (verse 8). About three rows back sat a blonde girl whose brow wrinkled as I urged the class to be diligent in developing writing skills. She raised her hand and said, “That doesn’t seem reasonable to me. All I’ll ever write are letters to my children.” That brought laughter all around the class. Just looking at her I could imagine a full quiver of children around her, and I could even see the letters she would write. Maybe writing powerfully wouldn’t matter to her.

Then a young man stood up near the back. He had said little during the term; I’m not sure he had ever spoken before. He was older than the other students, and he was shy. He asked if he could speak. He told in a quiet voice of having been a soldier in Vietnam. One day, in what he thought would be a lull, he had left his rifle and walked across his fortified compound to mail call. Just as he got a letter in his hand, he heard a bugle blowing and shouts and mortar and

rifle fire coming ahead of the swarming enemy. He fought his way back to his rifle, using his hands as weapons. With the men who survived, he drove the enemy out. Then he sat down among the living, and some of the dead, and he opened his letter. It was from his mother. She wrote that she’d had a spiritual experience that assured her that he would live to come home if he were righteous. In my class, the boy said quietly, “That letter was scripture to me. I kept it.” And he sat down.

You may have a child someday, perhaps a son. Can you see his face? Can you see him somewhere, sometime, in mortal danger? Can you feel the fear in his heart? Does it touch you? Would you like to give freely? What sacrifice will it take to write the letter your heart will want to send? Start the practice this afternoon. Go back to your room and write and read and rewrite that paper again and again. It won’t seem like sacrifice if you picture that boy, feel his heart, and think of the letters he’ll need someday.



Solving Math Problems

Now, some of you may not have a paper waiting for you. It may be a textbook with a math problem hidden in it. Let me tell you about a day in your future. You'll have a teenage son or daughter who'll say, "I hate school." After some careful listening, you'll find it is not school or even mathematics he or she hates—it's the feeling of failure.

You'll correctly discern those feelings, and you'll be touched; you'll want to freely give. So you'll open the text and say, "Let's look at one of the problems together." Think of the shock you will feel when you see that the same rowboat is still going downstream in two hours and back in five hours, and the questions are still how fast the current is and how far the boat traveled. You might think, "Well, I'll make my children feel better by showing them that I can't do math either." Let me give you some advice: they will see that as a poor gift.

There is a better gift, but it will take effort now. My dad, when he was a boy, must have tackled the rowboat

problem and lots of others. That was part of the equipment he needed to become a scientist who would make a difference to chemistry. But he also made a difference to me. Our family room didn't look as elegant as some. It had one kind of furniture—chairs—and one wall decoration—a green chalkboard. I came to the age your boy or girl will reach. I didn't wonder if I could work the math problems; I'd proved to my satisfaction that I couldn't. And some of my teachers were satisfied that that was true too.

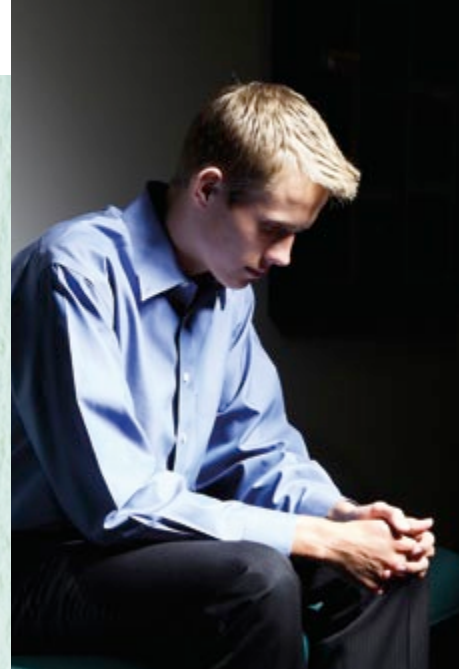
But Dad wasn't satisfied. He thought I could do it. So we took turns at that chalkboard. I can't remember the gifts my dad wrapped and gave to me. But I remember the chalkboard and his quiet voice. His teaching took more than knowing what I needed and caring. It took more than being willing to give his time then, precious as it was. It took time he had spent earlier when he had the chances you have now. Because he had spent time then, he and I could have that time at the chalkboard and he could help me.

And because he gave me that, I've got a boy who let me sit down with him one year. We rowed that same boat up and down. And his teacher wrote "much improved" on his report card. But I'll tell you what improved most: the feelings of a fine boy about himself. Nothing I will put under a Christmas tree for Stuart has half the chance of becoming a family heirloom that his pride of accomplishment does.

Learning Art and Music

Perhaps there are some art (or are they music?) students smiling. They're thinking, "He surely can't convince me there's a gift hidden in *my* unfinished assignments." Let me try. Last week I went to an event honoring a young man. There was a slide show. The lights went down, and I recognized two voices. One was a famous singer in the background, and the other, the narrator, was the father of the young man.

His dad must have spent hours preparing slides, writing words that soared, and then somehow getting music and words coordinated for the right volume and timing. You'll have a boy someday who will be



honored at such an event, with all his cousins and aunts and uncles looking on. And with your whole heart, you'll want to tell him what he is and what he can be. Whether you can give that gift then depends on whether you feel his heart now and are touched and start building the creative skills you'll need. And it will mean more than you now can dream, I promise you.

Repenting Now

There is yet another gift some of you may want to give that takes starting early. I saw it started once when I was a bishop. A young man sat across my desk from me. He talked about mistakes he had made. And he talked about how much he wanted the children he might have someday to have a dad who could use his

priesthood and to whom they could be sealed forever. He said he knew that the price and pain of repentance might be great. And then he said something I will not forget: "Bishop, I am coming back. I will do whatever it takes. I am coming back." He felt sorrow. And he had faith in Christ. And still it took months of painful effort.

And so somewhere there is a family with a righteous priesthood bearer at its head. They have eternal hopes and peace on earth. He'll probably give his family all sorts of gifts wrapped brightly, but nothing will matter quite so much as the one he started a long time ago in my office and has never stopped giving. He felt then the needs of children he had only dreamed of, and he gave early and freely. He sacrificed his pride and

sloth and numbed feelings. I am sure it doesn't seem like sacrifice now.

He could give that gift because of another one given long ago. God the Father gave His Son, and Jesus Christ gave us the Atonement, the greatest of all gifts and all giving. The Savior somehow felt all the pain and sorrow of sin that would fall on all of us and everyone else who would ever live (see Hebrews 4:14–16).

I bear you my testimony that Jesus gave the gift freely, willingly, to us all. And I bear you testimony that as you accept that gift, given through infinite sacrifice, it brings joy to the giver (see Luke 15:7).

"Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). I pray that we will freely give. I pray that we will be touched by the feelings of others, that we will give without feelings of compulsion or expectation of gain, and that we will know that sacrifice is made sweet to us when we treasure the joy it brings to another heart. ■

From a devotional address, "Gifts of Love," delivered at Brigham Young University on December 16, 1980. For the full text in English, go to speeches.byu.edu.





Young Men General Presidency

COME UNTO CHRIST

**By the Young Men
General Presidency**

Young men of the Aaronic Priesthood, this year our Mutual theme inspires you to think about your relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, and how you can become like Him. Our theme is “Come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness” (Moroni 10:32).

This is a sacred invitation to draw near to the Son of God. Because of His Atonement, we can gain the power to serve, to deny ourselves of ungodly things in our lives, and to feel His infinite love. As we do so, we will find true peace and happiness.

As you act on the invitation to come unto Christ, you will come to understand your sacred duty to “invite all to come unto Christ” (D&C 20:59) as well. Your hearts will be filled with a desire to lead others unto Him so they can receive the same blessings you have received and continue to receive.

One young man, Michael, fulfilled this duty by helping his friend Jose.

One day, Jose asked him, “Michael, why are you always happy?”

Michael said, “It’s because I serve.”

“Why do you serve?”

“Because I hold the priesthood and it’s my duty,” came the reply.

2014 MUTUAL THEME



*“Come unto Christ, and be
perfected in him, and deny
yourselves of all ungodliness”
(Moroni 10:32).*



Young Women General Presidency

Jose said, “I would like to know more about the priesthood.”

Michael invited Jose to Church activities and later to Church meetings. Eventually Jose and his family were taught by the missionaries and were baptized. Jose said, “Missionary work is the base of our Church. If we will be just and righteous in our daily dealings, then those around us will take notice and inquire of us like I did. Michael is a vessel in God’s great plan.”

“The words ‘come unto Christ’ are an invitation. It is the most important invitation you could ever offer to another person. It is the most important invitation anyone could accept.”¹

—President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

As you draw near to the Lord, you will have a desire to serve others just as Michael did. And as you do, you will find this promise from President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, to be true: “When you give your heart to inviting people to come unto Christ, your heart will be changed. You will be doing His work for Him. You will find that He keeps His promise to be one with you in your service. You will come to know Him. And in time you will come to be like Him and ‘be perfected in him.’”²

That is the heart of this year’s theme. ■

NOTES

1. Henry B. Eyring, “Come unto Christ,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Mar. 2008, 49.
2. Henry B. Eyring, “Come unto Christ,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Mar. 2008, 52.

YOU ARE INVITED

By the Young Women
General Presidency

Who doesn’t love to receive an invitation? When we receive an invitation to attend a birthday party or wedding reception, we feel happy to be able to celebrate with others the significant events in their lives. The Mutual theme for 2014 also contains a joyful invitation of eternal significance: “Come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness” (Moroni 10:32).

Many invitations require a response—an RSVP—to show whether or not we accept them. Have you responded to this invitation in your life? Coming unto Christ means that we are keeping the sacred covenant we made at baptism. It means that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Redeemer. It means that we recognize and believe what Alma taught his son Shiblon: “There is no other way or means whereby man can be saved, only in and through Christ” (Alma 38:9). Accepting this invitation means we have committed to follow Christ’s perfect example by living virtuous and consecrated lives and by loving and serving others.

This invitation is not a one-time-only event; it is a process. We are invited to follow a pathway that will lead us to the temple, where we make additional covenants with our Father in Heaven and participate

in ordinances essential to our exaltation. This pathway may include serving a mission. It will include temple marriage and becoming righteous men and women in the kingdom of God. It also means enduring to the end. As the invitation states, when we come unto Christ, we can be perfected in Him. Christ makes it possible to stay on this covenant pathway through faith in Him and through repentance. This process of becoming perfected can begin today; the Atonement of Christ makes it possible.

This invitation asks us to deny ourselves of all ungodliness—to be different from the fashions, standards, and practices of the world. We are invited to “lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better” (D&C 25:10). We testify that accepting the invitation to “come unto Christ and be perfected” will lead to happiness in this life and to eternal life in the world to come. You are invited to respond today! ■

Moroni 10:32

This year's Mutual theme is an invitation from Moroni to follow the Savior.



Be Perfected in Him

"We need not be dismayed if our earnest efforts toward perfection now seem so arduous

and endless. Perfection is pending. It can come in full only after the Resurrection and only through the Lord. It awaits all who love him and keep his commandments."

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Perfection Pending," *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 88.

Love God

How can you show Heavenly Father that you love Him? Consider these ideas and come up with more of your own. In your journal, write about what you are going to do.

- Keep the commandments.
- Love and serve others.
- Fulfill Church responsibilities.
- Pray sincerely.

Nowise

Nowise—In no way or not at all.

Come unto Christ

The scriptures contain many invitations to come unto Christ. Look up the few examples listed below. What do these scriptures teach you about the blessings of coming unto the Savior? Can you find more scriptures with this invitation?

- Omni 1:26
- Alma 5:34–35
- 3 Nephi 12:19–20
- Matthew 11:28–30
- John 6:35

32 Yea, "come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.

Grace

"The word *grace*, as used in the scriptures, refers primarily to the divine help and strength we receive through the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ."

True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference (2004), 77.



His Grace Is Sufficient for You

"Some Christians accuse Latter-day Saints . . . of denying the grace of God

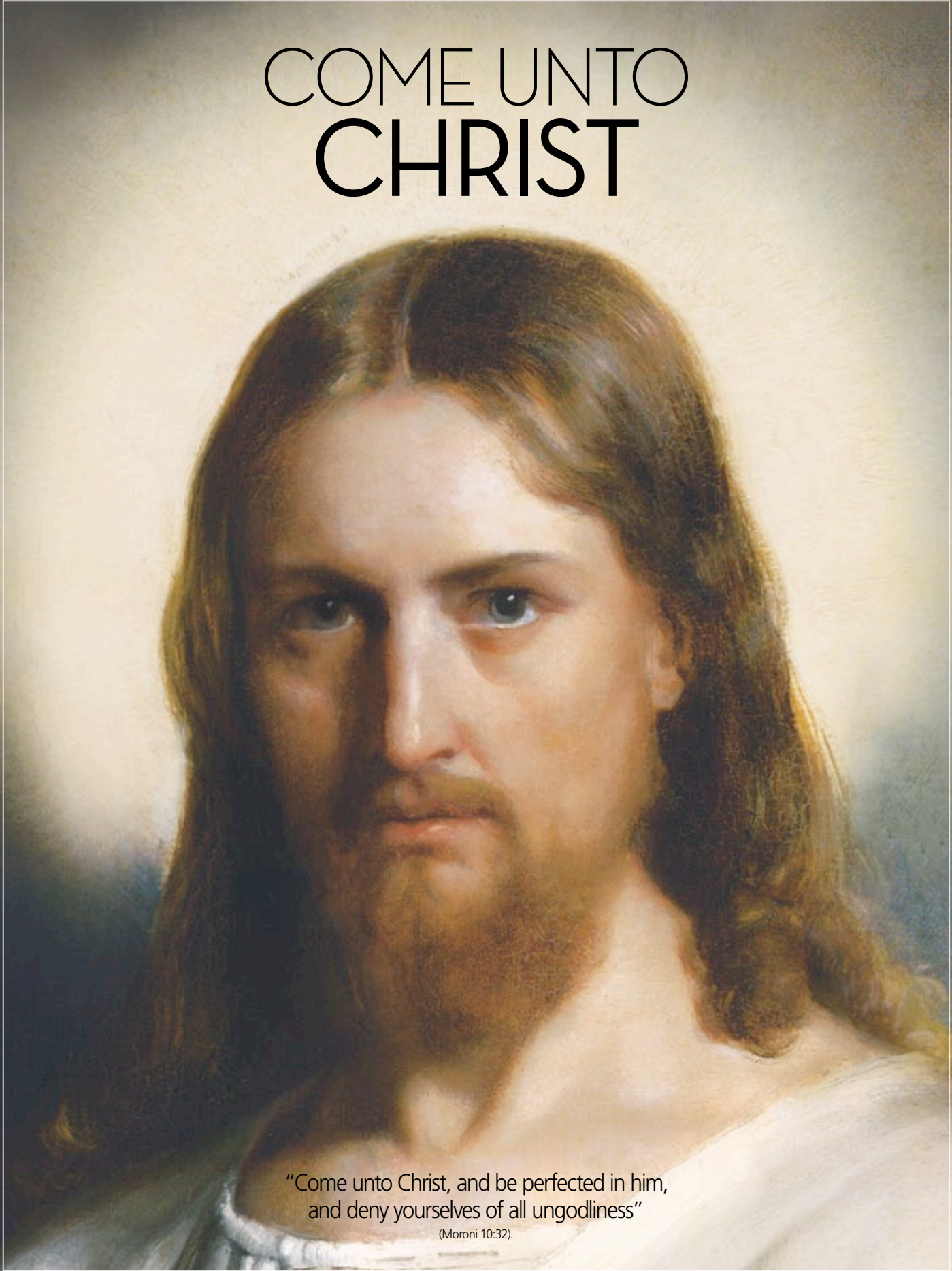
through claiming they can earn their own salvation . . . , 'For we labor diligently . . . to persuade our children . . . to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do' (2 Ne. 25:23). And what is 'all we can do'? It surely includes repentance (see Alma 24:11) and baptism, keeping the commandments, and enduring to the end."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Have You Been Saved?" *Liahona*, July 1998, 68; *Ensign*, May 1998, 56.

Perfect in Christ

Perfect, as used in the scriptures, means "complete, whole, and fully developed; totally righteous. Perfect can also mean without sin or evil. Only Christ was totally perfect. True followers of Christ may become perfect through his grace and atonement" (Guide to the Scriptures, "Perfect," scriptures.lds.org).

COME UNTO CHRIST



"Come unto Christ, and be perfected in him,
and deny yourselves of all ungodliness"

(Moroni 10:32).



HOW CAN KNOWING THE GODHEAD CHANGE ME?

*Five principles about the Godhead can make
a difference in the way you live.*

By Lori Fuller

Church Magazines

Joseph Smith said, “It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God.”¹ What we know about the Godhead can change the way we live, not only in big things but in little, everyday things. Consider how your knowledge of the Godhead affects your life as you read about these five principles.

The Godhead love us and want the best for us.

The members of the Godhead are eternal and omnipotent, but They still care that we are happy and doing well. President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) testified: “They are interested in us, and we are the substance of Their great concern. They are available to each of us. We approach the Father through the Son. He is our intercessor at the throne of God. How marvelous it is that we may so speak to the Father in the name of the Son.”²

Because the members of the Godhead love us and want the best for us, our choices matter, especially the little things we do each day that bring us closer to Them. We have limitless potential, and God cares about our success, even in the small things.

Heavenly Father gave us everything.

We know that Heavenly Father has given us everything, so we should try to recognize His hand and be grateful. When we are grateful, we act differently. President Thomas S. Monson promised that “we can lift ourselves and others as well when

we refuse to remain in the realm of negative thought and cultivate within our hearts an attitude of gratitude.”³

Because everything we have comes from God (see Mosiah 2:20–21; D&C 59:21), our gratitude can make us more willing to share with others. This includes our time and talents as well as our material blessings.

Heavenly Father is merciful.

God’s work and glory is “to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). He wants our success, so He offers us forgiveness for the mistakes we make. His mercy even provides forgiveness when we make the same mistakes again. Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost will help us change.

God’s mercy teaches us to be forgiving. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said, “Because God loves us so much, we too must love and forgive each other.”⁴ This includes forgiving ourselves.

Jesus Christ suffered for us.

Through the Atonement, the Savior experienced all our pains and sorrows (see Alma 7:11–13). If we ever have a hard day and feel like no one understands, we can know that the Savior *does* understand. And when we have a wonderful day and want someone to share it with, the Savior is there for us. He wants to share our joys just as He shares our pains.

The Holy Ghost guides us.

Jesus Christ promised His Apostles that the Comforter, or Holy Ghost, could be with them always to teach and comfort them (see John 14:16–17, 26–27). We too can have the gift of the Holy Ghost to guide us. And we can trust that the answers the Holy Ghost gives will help us. With His direction, we can be in constant contact with the Godhead. And as we follow the promptings we receive, we will begin to know Them even better. ■

NOTES

1. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 6:305.
2. Gordon B. Hinckley, “In These Three I Believe,” *Ensign or Liahona*, July 2006, 8.
3. Thomas S. Monson, “The Divine Gift of Gratitude,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 88.
4. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Merciful Obtain Mercy,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2012, 76.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Things to Ponder for Sunday

- When have you been blessed by Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Ghost?
- When have you felt closest to Them?
- What can you learn about yourself by learning about Them?

Things You Might Do

- Write in your journal about how you’ve been changed by knowing the Godhead.
- Share your feelings at church or on social media.



By Larry M. Gibson

First Counselor in the
Young Men General
Presidency

I Do Always **REMEMBER HIM**

The way we keep the Sabbath day holy is an outward manifestation of our covenant to always remember Jesus Christ.

I recall, as an 11-year-old, being reverently escorted by my bishop into the chapel of our new ward building, where he sat with me in front of the sacrament table. He said, “You know, Larry, you will soon be ordained to the office of deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood. Do you realize what a special blessing and duty that will be?” He told me that I would have the sacred responsibility to act as the Savior did in providing the holy emblems of the sacrament to those in our congregation. I was overwhelmed with the magnitude of the priesthood calling I was to receive.

My bishop asked that I memorize the two sacrament prayers and think about how they fit into my life. He said I must strive to do the things the sacrament prayers ask each of us to do if I was to act for the Savior in providing the sacrament to others. After I returned home, my father helped me locate the sacrament prayers in both the Doctrine and Covenants (20:76–79) and the Book of Mormon


(Moroni 4; 5). I read them carefully for the first time in my life. I listened closely as they were offered in church. I pondered the words as the bread was being passed, but the full impact of the sacramental covenant became apparent when I heard these words in the blessing on the water: “that they do always remember him.” I asked myself, “Do I *always* remember Him? What does *always* mean? How can I remember Him always?” Every time I hear those sacred sacramental prayers I am moved to reflect on these same questions.

The way we keep the Sabbath day holy is an outward manifestation of our covenant with Heavenly Father to always remember Jesus Christ. *The Sabbath day should become the foundation for our remembrance of Him for the other six days of the week.*

Sunday is a day to slow down, pause, and remember. We attend our Church meetings; reflect on our blessings, strengths, and shortcomings; seek forgiveness; partake of the

sacrament; and ponder the Savior’s suffering on our behalf. We try not to be distracted by anything that would prevent us from worshipping Him, for “on this day,” as the Lord has said, “thou shalt do none other thing” (D&C 59:13). Any activity we participate in during the Sabbath should be in keeping with the spirit of remembering Christ. If anything we are doing on any part of the Sabbath takes us away from remembering the Savior and ministering on the Sabbath as He would minister, then perhaps we should reconsider what we are doing. Remember, the Sabbath is a day appointed not only “to rest from your labors” but also “to pay thy devotions unto the Most High” (D&C 59:10).

We must plan our lives in such a way that there is no excuse for taking away from the sanctity of any part of the Lord’s day. It is a day to be about His business, a day on which our whole lives can be blessed and renewed by having sacred



experiences individually and with our family. It is a day for the enrichment of our spirit.

Spend some time today creating a thoughtful plan of things that you will do to really make the Sabbath day a sacred and holy day in your life. Then act on your plan.

Remember the Lord's wonderful promise to those who properly honor the Sabbath: "And inasmuch as ye do these things with thanksgiving, with cheerful hearts and countenances, . . . the fulness of the earth is yours" (D&C 59:15–16). Can we afford to forgo these blessings in our lives and in the lives of our family members?

I believe in honoring the Sabbath day. I boldly but humbly bear witness that observing the Sabbath day is a commandment of our God, who lives and loves each of us. I testify that if we will follow and live the divine mandate to keep the Sabbath day holy, the Lord, in turn, will bless us, direct us, and inspire us in solving the issues that confront us. ■



Adding Up to **SUCCESS**

By Daniel Kawai

When I was 14, my physics teacher saw my talent in math and entered me in the Brazilian Mathematics Olympiad. There were three phases. The first and the second would be held on a Saturday. I was classified for the third phase and saw that it would be held on two days, Saturday and Sunday.

I then told my teacher and the director of the Olympiad that I would not take a test on Sunday because it is the Lord's day. The director asked me to talk to my Church leaders so that I could be freed to take the test on Sunday, for if I did not take it, I would be disqualified. I said that I could forgo everything but not God.

I did not become sad, because I had the hope that God honors those who honor Him. I remembered Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;

and all these things shall be added unto you."

Some weeks later we contacted the secretary of the Olympiad, who stated that I could not take the test any other day and that I would be disqualified. After much conversing, he suggested that I send him an email explaining my situation. After sending the email, I prayed to Heavenly Father and said that I would do His will.

The following night, I received an email from the coordinator stating that I could take the Sunday test on Monday at the most convenient time for me, and he even offered to administer the test in my own city so that I would not miss the morning class at school.

After receiving this good news, I prayed to thank the Lord because He had helped me. My parents went to the temple to express thanks.

KEY IDEAS ABOUT SABBATH DAY OBSERVANCE

"The Lord has given the Sabbath day for your benefit and has commanded you to keep it holy.

"Honoring the Sabbath day includes attending all your Church meetings. . . .

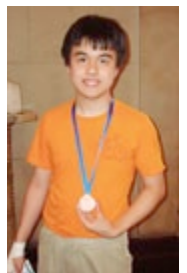
"Prepare during the week so that you can reserve Sunday for the many uplifting activities that are appropriate for the Sabbath day. . . .

"Observing the Sabbath will bring you closer to the Lord and to your family. It will give you an eternal perspective and spiritual strength."

For the Strength of Youth (booklet, 2011), 30, 31.

When the test results came out, I received the gold medal. The Lord honors those who honor Him. ■

The author lives in São Paulo, Brazil.



TO THE POINT

Do young men have
to serve
a mission as
soon as they turn 18?
And are young
women more strongly
encouraged to serve
a mission now that
they can go at 19?

What can I do if I'm **pressured to**
break Church standards
by other youth who are also active
Church members? I don't want to
appear self-righteous or judgmental.

When President Thomas S. Monson announced the change in the age of eligibility for missionary service, he said, "I am not suggesting that all young men will—or should—serve at this earlier age. Rather, based on individual circumstances as well as upon a determination by priesthood leaders, this option is now available."¹ Consider your physical and emotional health, financial preparation, and spiritual preparation. You can counsel with parents and priesthood leaders about these things when deciding about the right time to serve.

Regarding young women, President Monson said, "Young women . . . are not under the same mandate to serve as are the young men. We assure the young sisters of the Church, however, that they make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome their service."² ■

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, "Welcome to Conference," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 4–5.
2. Thomas S. Monson, "Welcome to Conference," 5.

Have the courage to stand up for Church standards, even if the pressure is coming from other Latter-day Saint youth who know the standards and who might think you're acting self-righteously. Which holds the greater risk: disobeying the Lord's commandments or looking like a

goodie-goodie to some of your peers? (Now, if they're pressuring you to do something that makes you feel *personally* uncomfortable or that violates a standard set by your *family* rather than the Church, you can still stand up for yourself by simply saying that you prefer not to do it and asking them to respect your feelings.)

Of course, you should try to handle the situation tactfully. As the prophet Alma told his missionary son Shiblon, "Use boldness, but not overbearance" (Alma 38:12). There's no need for harsh condemnation or a condescending attitude. You can just matter-of-factly let people know what standards you have chosen to live by. And if active Church members are asking you to violate clear-cut Church standards, remember what President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said: "Be a friend to all, but never compromise your standards."¹ ■

NOTE

1. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Your Wonderful Journey Home," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 128.



BOTH PARTS OF THE BLESSING



Temple attendance and family history are both important; when combined, they bring additional blessings.

By Brittany Beattie

Church Magazines

As you flip through the pages of the *Liahona* this month, look at the wide variety of color combinations that bring a rich energy and vibrancy to each picture, painting, or design. Many of the colors were made possible because two of the primary colors—red, yellow, or blue—were combined to create a new color, one that couldn't exist if the primary colors were kept separate.

Family history and temple work share a similarity with those colors: you can receive more blessings by combining the two important works. That's because family history and temple work are actually two parts of a single work—the work of salvation. Of course you'll still receive great blessings by helping others with their family history and by attending the temple to do work for

people whose names are provided there. But you receive even greater blessings—enjoy the full palette of colors—when you combine the two parts and find *your own* family names and then perform the work for *your ancestors* in the temple.

As Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught:

“Temple and family history work is one work divided into two parts. . . .

“Father in Heaven wants each of us to receive both parts of the blessing of this vital vicarious work. He has led others to show us how to qualify. It is up to you and me to claim those blessings.

“Any work you do in the temple is time well spent, but receiving ordinances vicariously for one of your own ancestors will make the time in the temple more sacred, and even greater blessings will be received.”¹

So, what are some of the “greater blessings” that come when we receive “both parts of the blessing”? At right are several promises from modern-day Apostles.

NOTES

1. Richard G. Scott, “The Joy of Redeeming the Dead,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 93–94.
2. Boyd K. Packer, “Your Family History: Getting Started,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Aug. 2003, 17.
3. Russell M. Nelson, “Generations Linked in Love,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 92.
4. David A. Bednar, “The Time Is Now,” lds.org/youth/family-history/leaders.
5. John A. Widtsoe, in Conference Report, Apr. 1943, 39.



A Refining, Spiritual Influence

“Family history work of Church members has a refining, spiritualizing, tempering influence on those who are engaged in it. They understand that they are tying their family together. . . . When we research our own lines we become interested in more than just names. . . . Our interest turns our hearts to our fathers—we seek to find them and to know them and to serve them.”²



Part of a Greater Work

“Spiritual connections . . . are formed. . . . When our hearts turn to our ancestors, something changes inside us. We feel part of something greater than ourselves.”³



A Safeguard against Temptation

“Each of us benefits from all of those who have gone before. Learning those stories helps us really understand who we are and where we came from. . . . Are you doing the research in your own family and helping other people with their research? That for a young person in the wickedness of the world in which we live today is one of the greatest safeguards against the temptations of the adversary.”⁴



Aid from the Unseen World

“Perhaps if we would do our work in behalf of those of the unseen world who hunger and pray for the work we can do for them, the unseen world would in return give us help in this day of our urgent need. There are more in that other world than there are here. There is more power and strength there than we have here upon this earth.”⁵



I FOUND A NAME

To prepare for a youth temple trip, our ward put together a Mutual activity to search for family names we could bring. I was sitting next to my friends and somewhat complaining that I could not find any names that needed ordinances done. After much searching on familysearch.org, I found a name. I was so excited!

"I quickly ran to our family history consultant and asked her what the next step was. She showed me how to save the name and print it out so I could do the temple work. She also said the woman was a real person and not just a name on a screen. I felt the Spirit and knew the person had been waiting for her work to be done and for me to find her. I was able to take her name to the temple. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve my ancestors and help bring them the joy of the gospel."

Leah G., New York, USA



What If I Don't Have Access to the Internet?

Although your family history names need to be submitted online in order to do temple work for them, you don't need to have Internet access at home. Gather names, information, and family stories from your living relatives, and then see if there's a local family history center where you can submit the names on familysearch.org.

In areas with limited Internet access, talk to ward or stake family history consultants about the resources they have for getting the data entered electronically for you.



Does That Mean I Shouldn't Go to the Temple If I Don't Have Family Names?

Not at all! Attending the temple brings rich blessings both for you and for those you are baptized and confirmed for, whether or not they are your ancestors. You should still attend the temple even if you don't have a family name. The First Presidency has taught: "Members with limited ability to

do their own family history research are encouraged to perform vicarious ordinances with names provided by other members or by the temple" (First Presidency Letter, Oct. 8, 2012).



AN INVITATION FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

"When members of the Church find the names of their ancestors and take those names to the temple for ordinance work, the temple experience can be greatly enriched. . . . We especially encourage youth . . . to use for temple work their own family names or the names of ancestors of their ward and stake members."

First Presidency Letter, Oct. 8, 2012.



YOUTH VOICES: BLESSINGS OF FAMILY HISTORY

Youth from New York, USA, were recently invited by their stake presidency to find a family name to take to the temple as part of a special youth conference. They discovered great blessings as they felt their hearts turning to their fathers (see Malachi 4:5–6).

Taking Family Names to the Temple

- “I used to think that family history was just another thing to check off, but now I realize these are *real* people who have been waiting for years. My temple experience is different when I take family names. I suppose it’s because of all the hard work, time, and prayers that went into finding *one* name. But *one* name is worth it because that is *one person* who needs to be with Father in Heaven.” —Hannah A., age 13
- “After finding a person, you start to connect with that person in the spirit world. Bringing your own names is a way to strengthen this bond. It helps you to understand your eternal family.” —Spencer S., age 15
- “Bringing family names to the temple helps you realize the reality of who these

people were. They are not just names on a piece of paper; they are real brothers and sisters who share your history—and are a part of it.” —Lilli N., age 16

Receiving Blessings

- “I’ve noticed a difference in my life. It’s a warm and protective feeling.” —Noah R., age 13
- “You can feel in your heart that you are part of a greater work. Giving your family the opportunity to receive temple blessings is a feeling like no other.” —Corinne C., age 17
- “I’ve felt more comfortable and calm since I started doing family history. When I take family names to the temple, it gives me an overwhelming sense of joy.” —Tyler M., age 16
- “It has increased my love for the Savior, Heavenly Father, and my ancestors. It has

helped me become closer with my direct family and increased my testimony of the gospel.” —Alexandra H., age 14

- “I’ve been a lot happier.” —Ross S., age 12
- “With each name, I feel an overwhelming sense of peace and excitement, like the person has been waiting just for me.” —Rhiannon B., age 15
- “I know where I came from, and my confidence is building.” —Eliza L., age 13
- “I’ve been less contentious in my house.” —Gehrig L., age 12
- “I understand the importance of families more and more. I want to be closer with my family on earth.” —Emma L., age 15
- “It’s helped me further understand God’s plan for us. I feel closer to Heavenly Father and the gospel because I better understand the ordinances that are taking place.” —Noah C., age 14 ■

What Will You Do?

What will you do to “claim those blessings” of finding family names and then taking them to the temple? Make a plan today to bring the promises of receiving both parts of the blessing in your life.

OUR SPACE

AN INSPIRING SCRIPTURE

"[Jesus Christ] shall make intercession for all the children of men; and they that believe in him shall be saved" (2 Nephi 2:9).

In this scripture, the word *intercession* has great meaning. It means "acting as a mediator to help two parties resolve a problem." In this case, the Savior is the mediator who helps all people who have become separated from Heavenly Father because of sin.

This scripture helped me know the importance of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I am grateful for His Atonement. Only through Him can we live again with our Father in Heaven.

Hanisha A., India



WHO WANTS TO PRAY?

On my mission, my companion and I taught a family with several children. During one of our planning times, we prayed and discussed what lesson we should teach the children next, and we both agreed to teach about prayer.

When we came to their house, the grandmother and the kids were so excited. We began the lesson with a prayer. The children were quiet and ready to listen. We explained to them how and why to pray. To end our lesson, we asked them, "Who wants to give a closing prayer?" All of them wanted to pray! So we made a schedule for them to give the prayers each time we came to give a lesson. We also invited them to pray when we were not around.

After that lesson, I thought, "Why do little children find it easy to pray while our older investigators have a hard time praying?" I found an answer in the Bible Dictionary: "As soon as we learn the true relationship in which we stand toward God (namely, God is our Father, and we are His children), then at once prayer becomes natural and instinctive on our part (Matt. 7:7–11). Many of the so-called difficulties about prayer arise from forgetting this relationship" ("Prayer"; see also Guide to the Scriptures, "Prayer," scriptures.lds.org).

From that time on, I tried to help people understand their true relationship with our Father in Heaven. Our Father in Heaven wants to talk to His children, just as our earthly parents want to talk with us. He loves us, He wants to talk to us, and He wants us to talk to Him.

Jarrel M., Philippines

FAMILY HISTORY UNITES FAMILIES

I came across a Personal Progress goal that motivated me to get started on my family tree. Whenever I went to my grandparents' for lunch, they told me stories from their lives and from those of my other relatives. I began going to the family history center and gathering information about my family.

I remember when I found information about my great-great-grandmother. While pregnant, she came to Argentina on a ship. During the voyage, she buried her son at sea. She was just a story until I found her name in a record. I became even closer to my grandparents, and I came to know my ancestors as if I had lived with them. I found information about my ancestors, shared the glad tidings of eternal sealing, and helped bless many generations.

I continue to discover hidden treasures thanks to FamilySearch. I love what President Thomas S. Monson said: "I testify that when we do all we can to accomplish the work that is before us, the Lord will make available to us the sacred key needed to unlock the treasure which we so much seek."¹ Through our efforts, we will discover the keys to our eternal treasure, and one day we will be able to meet our ancestors in person.

Yael B., Argentina

NOTE

1. Thomas S. Monson, "The Key of Faith," *Ensign*, Feb. 1994, 5; *Tambuli*, May 1994, 5.



RECEIVING A TESTIMONY FROM THE HOLY GHOST

When I joined the Church at age nine, I already believed that the Church was true, so I thought it was unnecessary to ask God if it is true. After being a member for several years, I began to doubt. Then during a sacrament meeting, as I listened to the hymn "Joseph Smith's First Prayer"

(*Hymns*, no. 26), I prayed and asked Heavenly Father if the Church is true and if Joseph Smith had really seen Him and Jesus Christ. The thought came to my mind that yes, the Church of Jesus Christ is true, and yes, Joseph saw God the Father and Jesus Christ. My eyes filled with tears, and I felt the Holy Ghost burn in my heart.

Today I can affirm that the Holy Ghost testified to me of the truthfulness of this Church. I know that Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and I cannot deny it. This testimony gave me the courage to share my testimony with others.

Tamara O., Brazil



¡Hola, amigos!*

We're Mahonri
and Helaman
from Mexico

*Pack your bags!
Come meet friends
around the world!*

Mahonri

Helaman

From an interview with Amie Jane Leavitt

Mahonri and Helaman are brothers who live on the coast of Mexico. Their parents named them after two great men from the Book of Mormon. Mahonri Moriancumer was the brother of Jared. He saw the finger of the Lord. Captain Helaman was a righteous leader. He led the two thousand stripling warriors. ■

* "Hi, friends!" in Spanish.



These brothers hope to live up to the names that their parents gave them. They want to be just like Mahonri and Helaman from the Book of Mormon.





Our parents were sealed in the Guadalajara Mexico Temple in 2003. This is the closest temple to where we live. It takes about six hours to drive there. We love to visit the temple and know that someday we will go inside, just like our parents do now.

I LOVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE



The Guadalajara Mexico Temple is the 11th of 13 temples in Mexico.



READY TO GO!

Mahonri and Helaman's bags are packed with some of their favorite things. Which of these things would you pack in your bag?



We enjoy spending time as a family. Every Saturday we go to the beach near our home. We eat shrimp—our favorite food—and tacos and tortas (a kind of sandwich). We walk along the Malecón, or waterfront street. We make sandcastles and play in the ocean.





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.*

What does it mean to be a **CHRISTIAN?**

A Christian has faith in
the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Christian believes that
through the grace of God the
Father and His Son, Jesus Christ,
we can repent.

The word *Christian*
means taking upon us the
name of Christ. We do this by
being baptized and receiving
the Holy Ghost.

When we follow
Jesus Christ, we become
who Heavenly Father
wants us to be.



Today's Date _____

Date of Birth _____

Nationality _____

Name _____

Passport # _____

PHOTO



FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

Passport
Pasaporte
Pasaporte



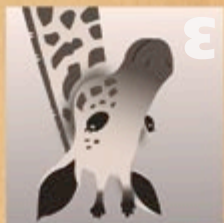
Italy



New Zealand



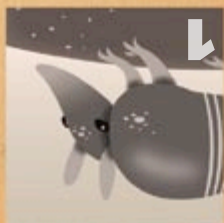
Philippines



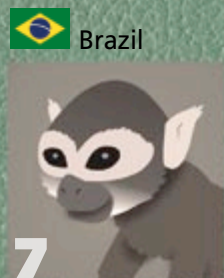
Zimbabwe



Russia



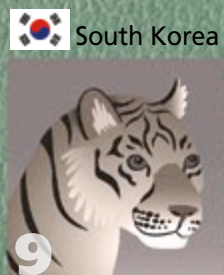
Mexico



Brazil



Tonga



South Korea



Chile



England



Sweden

Passport

FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD



Look for a new country stamp to add to your passport in the upcoming issues of the *Liahona*.



FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD



Hello!

i'Hola!

안녕

ПРИВЕТ!

Mhoroi!

Olá!

Mālō e
lelei!

Ciao!

Hej!

OUR PAGE



Ever since I was little, my mother and father have taught me about the temple. It is far away, but I love going there with my family.

When I was sealed to my parents, I was finally able to go inside—it is very beautiful. Now when we go, I stay outside to wait. When I am older, I will make my own covenants in the temple.

David V., age 6, Nicaragua



I really like to sing the hymns of the Church and to participate in family home evenings with my family. I have two younger siblings named Jared and Sarai, and I love them a lot. I like to help my mother when she is cooking because when I am grown, I want to cook well like she does.

Ambar A., age 9, Ecuador

I know that Jesus Christ lives and that He cares for all of us, and I know the Church is true.

Osiris M., age 6, Brazil

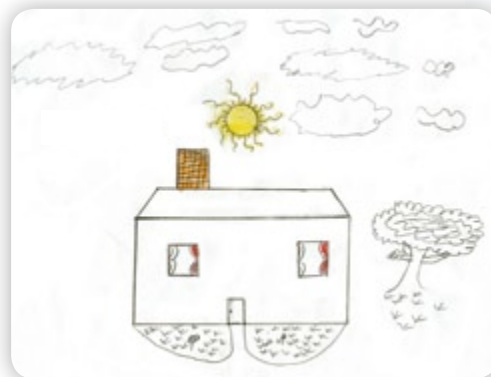


Tris M., age 8, Brazil



I like to help my mom with family home evening. Our family wants to go to the temple so we can be together forever. When I grow up, I want to serve a mission like my cousins. I love Heavenly Father and the prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. I like the Primary song "The Church of Jesus Christ."

Keydi P., age 12, Honduras



Đ. Văn Hiệp, age 11, Cambodia



I have been instructed in the gospel since I was very small. When I was eight, I made the decision to be baptized. I memorized all 13 articles of faith for that special day. When I came out of the water, I felt something very strong. My mother told me those feelings came from the Holy Ghost. I know that Joseph Smith restored the Church of Jesus Christ, that the Book of Mormon is true, and that Thomas S. Monson is a living prophet.

Abigail A., age 8, Spain

Just Like the Scriptures!

We thought the hike was going great, until we saw the trail marker.



By Renae Weight Mackley

Based on a true story

*"I will also ease the burdens
which are put upon your shoulders"
(Mosiah 24:14).*

Ten-year-olds are pretty smart.
We like to figure things out
on our own.

My dad always tells me to liken
the scriptures to myself. *Liken* means
that you try to use what you learn
from the scriptures in your life.
So, when we're reading together
as a family, I sometimes blurt out

something before
Dad can explain it to us.
Like, "I know, Dad, we're
supposed to fast and pray, like it
says in the scriptures."

He smiles because I always get
the right message.

But one time, I found out that



"Let us commit to reading the scriptures . . . with more purpose and more focus."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "Your Potential, Your Privilege," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 59.

the scriptures really can be a lot like my life! It all happened when we went on a family reunion backpack trip.

I carried my own big backpack and sleeping bag, and I didn't complain. After all, it was only supposed to be four miles (6.5 km) to the lake. I could make it, no problem.

The hike wasn't too hard, but I was glad to stop for a rest after two miles (3 km). Then we saw the first trailhead sign. It said that the lake was still six miles (9.5 km) away. My dad didn't have to tell me that the trail was really twice as long as we first thought. I already figured that out. He *did* need to remind us to make our water last longer.

My dad's advice was important but hard to follow. The afternoon sun felt hot, and we hardly had any shade on the trail. It seemed like we were never going to reach the lake.

The grown-ups stayed in the back with the youngest kids, and the older cousins went on ahead. I stayed with three cousins my age, and we ended up somewhere in between.

When we couldn't see anyone ahead or behind us anymore, we started to get nervous. Our backpacks felt heavy, and our water bottles were empty. How much farther did we have to go?

Finally, we got so worried and tired that we decided to stop and pray.

After the prayer, we picked up our backpacks and trudged on.

Just a little while later we heard hoofbeats coming up the trail. We waited and saw a man on a horse riding toward us.

He stopped and gave us some water. He explained that our older cousins had hurried to the lake with a water filter to start pumping water to bring back to us. The man heard about how we needed water and had agreed to help. "Do any of you need help with your backpacks?" he asked.

I looked at my cousins, and they smiled back at me. We actually felt pretty good!

"You better go on and help the others," we said to the man. "We're fine."

And it was true! The rest of the way to the lake it felt like angels were lifting our packs and pushing us along. When I told my parents about it later, Dad beamed and Mom got tears in her eyes.

A week later my family read Mosiah 24. My eyes opened wide when we read these words: "And I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders, that even you cannot feel them upon your backs" (verse 14).

"That's what happened on the trail," I blurted out. I didn't have to think about how to use this scripture in my life—this scripture already described my life! It was amazing! I could hardly wait to find other scriptures that were like my life.

And that's how I learned I could liken the scriptures to me, and I could also liken me to the scriptures! ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.



NOAH

was a prophet of the Old Testament. He kept the commandments and helped his family stay safe from the Flood by listening to the word of God. You can keep the commandments and help your family too by reading from the Old Testament every week this year.

Have an adult help you cut out this coloring page or print it from liahona.lds.org. Each week after you read, color in all the spaces with the number of that week, using whatever color you think best. See page 76 for weekly reading suggestions. You can read by yourself or with your family. When you are done, you will have read some of the most important stories in the Old Testament! ■

ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM KOFORD





Weekly Reading Suggestions for “Old Testament Scripture Challenge” (see pages 74–75).

WEEK	READING	WEEK	READING
1	The Plan of Salvation: Moses 1:39; Abraham 3:12, 22–28; 4:1	26	Gideon: Judges 6:6–16; 7:1–7, 16–22; 8: 22–23
2	The Creation: Genesis 1; 2:1–3	27	Samson and Delilah: Judges 13:1–5, 24; 16:2–23, 28–30
3	Adam and Eve: Genesis 2:7–9, 15–25	28	Ruth and Naomi: Ruth 1:1–9, 14–16; 2:1–8, 15–18; 3:1, 3–11; 4:13, 17; John 7:42
4	The Fall: Genesis 3	29	Samuel, the Boy Prophet: 1 Samuel 1:9–11, 17–20, 24–28; 2:26; 3:1–11, 16–20
5	Cain and Abel: Genesis 4:1–16	30	David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 16:7; 17:1, 4–24, 32–33, 37–51
6	The City of Enoch: Moses 6:21, 26–28; 7:13–21	31	David and Jonathan: 1 Samuel 18:1–9; 19:1–10; 23:14–18; 24:9–10, 16–19; 2 Samuel 1:4, 11–12
7	Noah’s Ark: Genesis 6:5, 7–9, 13–22; 7:1–19, 23–24	32	David and Bathsheba: 2 Samuel 11:1–4, 14–17, 26–27; 12:1–7, 9, 13
8	Noah’s Family Is Saved: Genesis 8:6–13, 15–17	33	King Solomon: 1 Kings 2:1–4, 12; 3:3–28; 6:1
9	The Tower of Babel: Genesis 11:1–9; Ether 1:1–3, 33–43	34	Rehoboam: 1 Kings 11:43; 12:1–21
10	The Abrahamic Covenant: Abraham 1:1–4; 2:6–13; Genesis 17:1–7	35	Elijah the Prophet: 1 Kings 17; 19:11–12
11	Abraham and Lot: Genesis 13:1–13; 19:1, 15–17, 24–29	36	Elijah and the False Prophets of Baal: 1 Kings 18:16–18, 21–39
12	Abraham and Isaac: Genesis 22:1–18	37	Naaman Is Healed: 2 Kings 5
13	Isaac and Rebekah: Genesis 24:1–4, 7–20, 61–67	38	Elisha and the Widow: 2 Kings 4:1–6
14	Jacob and Esau: Genesis 25:21–34; 27:1–23	39	Isaiah and Hezekiah: 2 Kings 18:1–7; Isaiah 36:1–2, 4, 13–15; 37:1–7, 15–21, 33–38; 38:1–7
15	Jacob and Rachel: Genesis 29:1–2, 10–30	40	The Prophecies of Isaiah: Isaiah 1:17–19; 2:2–4; 11:6–10; 53:3–5; 55:8–9; 58:6–14
16	Jacob Becomes Israel; Joseph Is Sold into Egypt: Genesis 35:9–12; 37:3–14, 18–34	41	Josiah and Ezra Read the Scriptures: 2 Kings 22:1–4, 8–13; 23:1–4, 24–25; Nehemiah 8:1–8
17	Joseph in Egypt: Genesis 39:1–4, 7–20; 40:1–3, 5–8; 41:1, 8–12, 14, 29–36, 39–40	42	Psalms and Proverbs: Psalms 1:1–3; 19:1–3; 24:1–4; Proverbs 3:5–6
18	Joseph Forgives: Genesis 42:3–16; 43:15; 44:1–12, 18, 33–34; 45:3–8	43	Esther: Esther 2:5–9, 17; 3:2–13; 4; 5:1–8; 7; 8:3–11, 17
19	Birth and Calling of Moses: Exodus 1:8–14, 22; 2:1–6, 10–21; 3:1–14, 19–20; 4:10–12	44	Job: Job 1; 19:13–26; 27:2–6; 42:10
20	The Plagues: Exodus 7:10–14, 20–21; 8:6, 17, 24; 9:6, 10, 23; 10:14–15, 22; 11:5; 12:30–32, 41–42	45	Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:1, 4–9; 18:1–6; Isaiah 64:8
21	The Exodus: Exodus 14:5–16, 19–31	46	Solomon’s Temple: 1 Chronicles 28:20; 29:6–9; 2 Chronicles 5:1; 6:1–3
22	The Israelites Receive Manna from Heaven: Exodus 16:1–8, 21–31, 35	47	Daniel and the King’s Food: Daniel 1:1, 3–20
23	The Ten Commandments; the Brass Serpent: Exodus 19:1–5, 20; 20:1–17; 31:18; Numbers 21: 4–9	48	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Daniel 3:1, 4–30
24	Daughters of Zelophehad: Numbers 27:1–7	49	Daniel and the Lions: Daniel 6
25	Joshua and the Battle of Jericho: Joshua 1:1–11, 16–17; 2:1–6, 14; 3:5–9, 13–17; 6:1–5, 13–16, 20, 23; 24:14–18	50	Jonah and the Whale: Jonah 1; 2; 3:1–5
		51	Additional Scriptures: Amos 3:7; Nahum 1:7; Habakkuk 3:19; Zephaniah 3:16–20
		52	Malachi: Malachi 3:8–12; Malachi 4:5–6



By Rosemary M. Wixom
Primary General President

The Victory Tunnel

*“How great the plan of our God”
(2 Nephi 9:13).*

During the spring, my husband and I attended our four-year-old grandson’s football game. Excitement was in the air as children ran in every direction chasing the ball. When the final whistle blew, the players didn’t know who won or who lost. They simply had played the game.

The coaches asked the players to shake hands with the other team. Then we saw something quite remarkable. Their coach called for a victory tunnel.

Parents, grandparents, and anybody who came

to see the game stood up and formed two lines facing each other. Then they raised their arms and created an arch. The children squealed as they ran under the arms of the cheering adults and down the path.

Soon the children from the other team decided to join in the fun.

All of the players were cheered on by the adults as they ran through the victory tunnel.

In my mind I could see another picture. I had the feeling I was seeing these children living the plan Heavenly Father created for every child. They were running on the strait and narrow path, under the arms of the people who loved them. Each child felt the joy of being on the path.

Jesus Christ has “marked the path and led the way” for each of us.¹ If we follow His lead, we will all return to our heavenly home and be safe in Heavenly Father’s arms. ■

NOTE

1. “How Great the Wisdom and the Love,” *Hymns*, no. 195.



Learn more about this month's Primary theme!

Heavenly Father Prepared a Way for Me to Return to Him

Before we came to earth, we all lived in heaven with our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father presented His plan for us. We chose to follow Heavenly Father's plan and come to earth.

Heavenly Father loves us and wants us to return to Him. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to show us the way and help us get back to Him.



When we return to Heavenly Father, He will welcome us back with open arms!

We follow the path back to Heavenly Father by:

being baptized and confirmed,



taking the sacrament,



making temple covenants,



and living with faith.





A PATH FOR ME

Make a poster representing your path back to Heavenly Father. Draw a path on paper or poster board. Have an adult help you cut out the little pictures and glue or tape them along the path. Add photos or draw pictures of yourself at important times like baptism.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A piece of paper or poster board
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Crayons, markers, or pencils

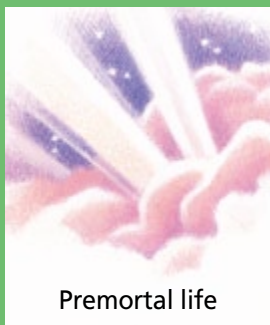
SONG AND SCRIPTURE

- "He Sent His Son"
(*Children's Songbook*, 34–35)
- John 3:16

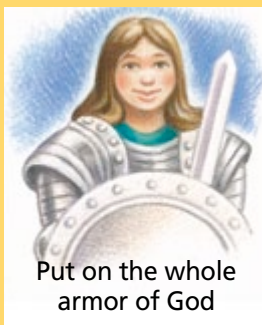
IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

This message explains Heavenly Father's plan in a very simple way. You could have members of the family take turns using the visuals to explain the different parts of the plan. Then you could talk together about how you can help one another stay on the path that leads back to Heavenly Father.

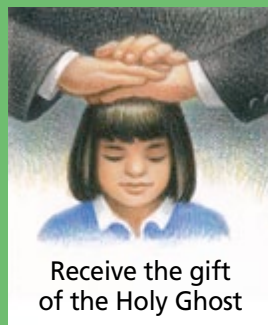
This is me!



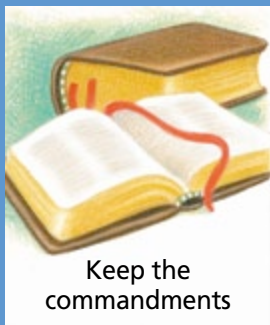
Premortal life



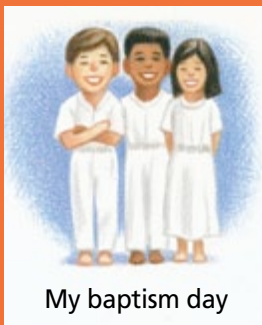
Put on the whole armor of God



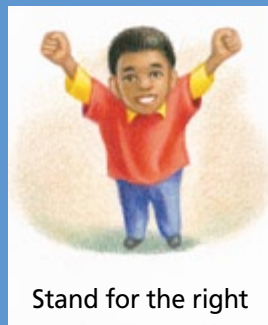
Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost



Keep the commandments



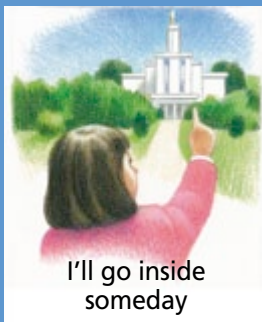
My baptism day



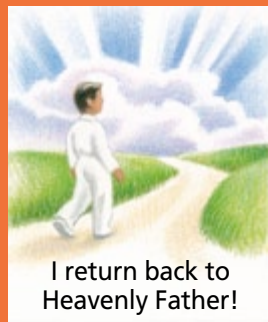
Stand for the right



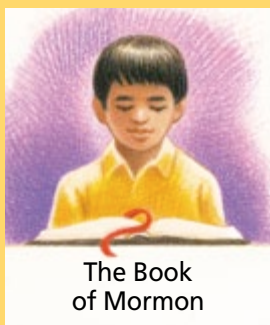
I'll follow Jesus Christ



I'll go inside someday



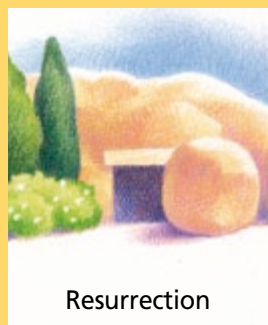
I return back to Heavenly Father!



The Book of Mormon



My future family



Resurrection

CAN HE SEE ME?

By Teresa Starr

It was the morning before my son, Daniel, had his first day of kindergarten, and he had a few concerns about leaving home to attend school. I wanted to make sure that he felt prepared to meet the challenges in the “real world.” I told Daniel that I would miss him very much while he was away. I assured him that even though I couldn’t be with him at school, he would never need to feel afraid or lonely because his Father in Heaven would watch over him. I reminded him that he could pray anytime, anywhere and that God would always hear him.

As I spoke, Daniel, barely five years old, listened very intently. After some thought he responded, “Can He see me when I’m in my house?”

“Yes,” I assured him.

“Can He see me when I’m outside?” he asked.

“Yes, He can always see you,” I replied.

With a look of excitement, Daniel ran immediately to the backyard. I followed closely behind him. Daniel looked upward at the cloudless, blue sky and asked, “If I look up at the sky and smile, will He see me and will He smile back?”



Daniel ran into the yard and asked me, “If I look up at the sky and smile, will God smile back at me?”

Rendered speechless from the lump in my throat and the tug on my heartstrings, I nodded, “Yes!”

Still looking heavenward, this time with squinted, searching eyes and perfect, childlike faith, Daniel thoughtfully asked, “Can I see Him?”

“You might not be able to see Him,” I replied, “but you will know He is there because you will feel His smile in your heart.”

Daniel stood smiling as he gazed into the heavens. From the peaceful look on his angelic face, I knew he was experiencing that divine smile deep in his soul.

From the mouths of babes we learn much about pure faith—the faith we hope they’ll cling to forever. Inevitably they discover that although life is good, it’s sometimes hard. We pray that their faith will sustain them.

When times get tough in my own life, I remember Daniel’s example, and with all the childlike faith a grown-up can muster, I too look searchingly heavenward and ask, “Can He see me?” Then, Daniel-like, I quietly ponder, “Can I see Him?” As I consider the multitude of His tender mercies in my life, the Holy Ghost confirms that I have truly felt Heavenly Father’s love. Renewed in my faith and inspired by hope, the Spirit assures me that I always can. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.



HAROLD B. LEE

Harold B. Lee learned to recognize the Spirit at an early age. One day he started toward some rundown **sheds**, but a voice called his name and told him not to go there. Harold obeyed. He continued to follow the Spirit throughout his life, such as when he led the **Church Welfare Program**. He also led the Church department that developed **learning materials** to help members recognize the Spirit in their own lives.

Also in This Issue

FOR YOUNG ADULTS

p. 42



Enduring Well

We should not expect to escape our trials by promising the Lord that we will always be faithful. We should plan instead to endure well, and then we will be blessed.

FOR YOUTH

BOTH PARTS OF THE BLESSING



What blessings come from doing family history and taking ancestors' names to the temple? These youth from New York, USA, share their experiences.

p. 60

FOR CHILDREN

p. 69



Passport

Look for country stamps in the *Liahona* to add to your passport this year!

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



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