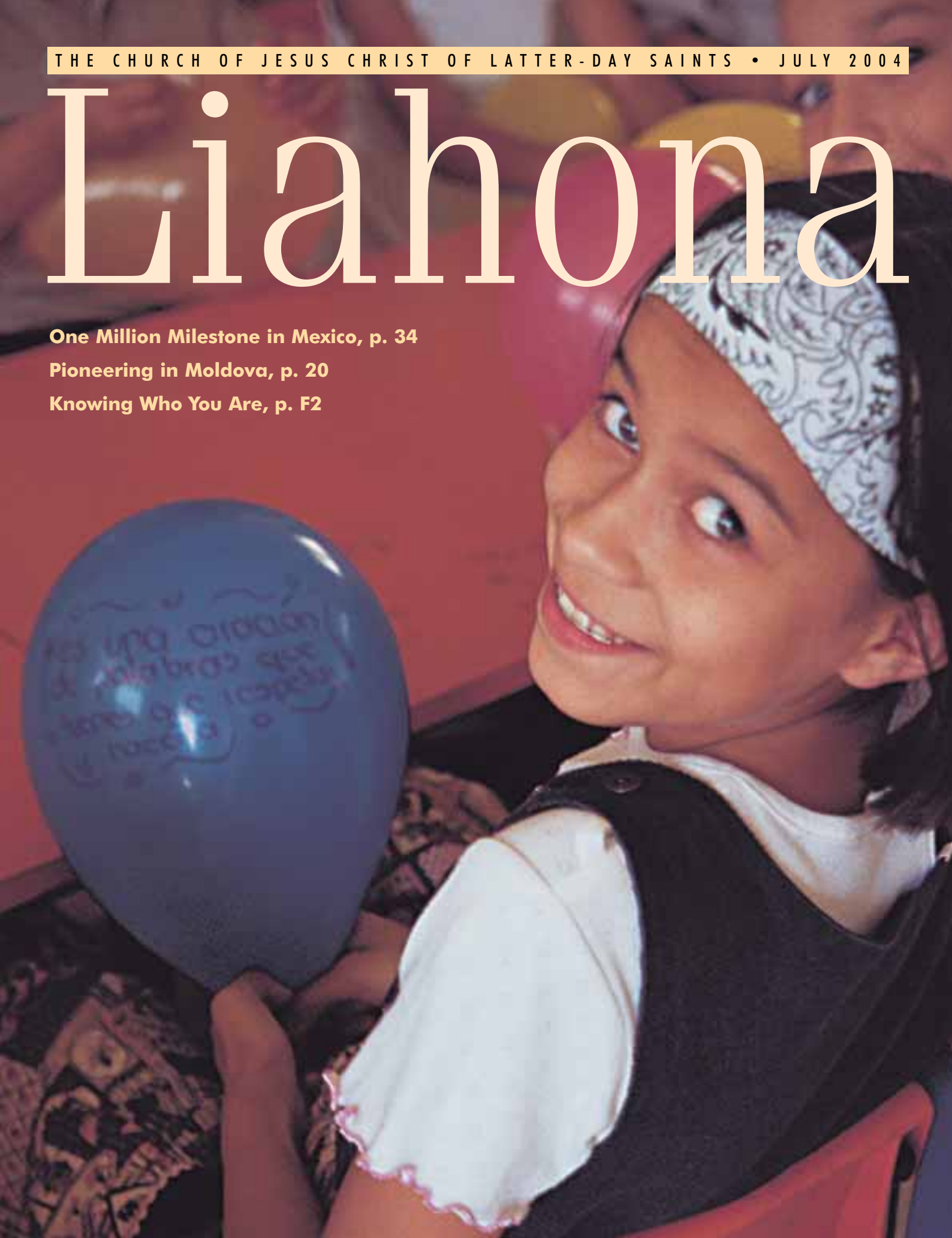


Liahona

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Liahona



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Photography by Don L. Searle.



THE FRIEND COVER
Illustrated by Steve Kropp.



SEE "KNOWING WHO YOU ARE," P. F2

FOR ADULTS

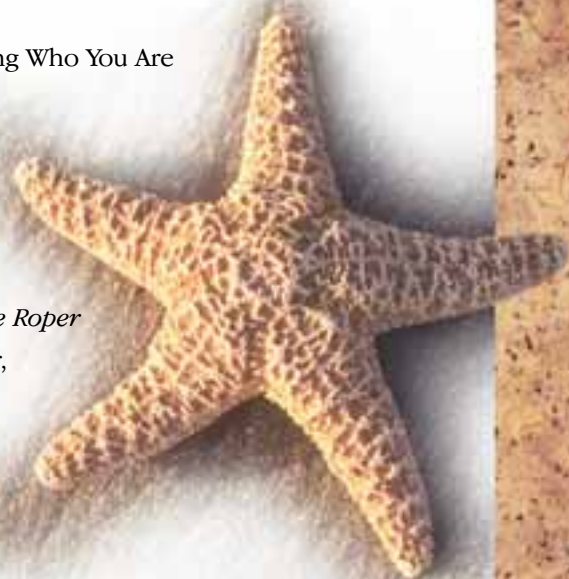
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Family Home Evening Ideas



**"Submitting Our Will to the
Father's,"** p. 30: Discuss the
concept that in our natural,
fallen state we have desires and ten-
dencies to do things that are not
pleasing to God. Ask how we can
overcome these temptations. Help
family members understand that we
cannot win this battle alone. In order
to "have no more disposition to do
evil," we must repent and invite the
Savior to change our hearts through
the power of His Atonement (see
Mosiah 5:2).

**"Protecting Your Child from
Gang Influence,"** p. 26, and
"Outnumbered," p. 29: As parents,
read and discuss the article by
Dennis J. Nordfelt. Talk with your
children about their friends. Express
your love for your children, and help
them gain a testimony of their eter-
nal potential. Bear testimony that
Heavenly Father loves them and wants
them to return to Him someday. If you
feel inspired to do so, share Paolo
Martin N. Macariola's story. Emphasize
that it took great courage for this
young man to choose the right group
of friends.

"All Is Well," p. 16: Read about
William Clayton and the hymn he
called "All Is Well." Ask how it is possi-
ble for all to be well even when we
are experiencing trials and troubles.

"Knowing Who You Are,"
p. F2: President James E. Faust
points out that talents and
accomplishments don't necessarily
make us feel good about ourselves,
but deeds of kindness do. Ask family
members how they feel when they
serve others. Discuss kind deeds they
might perform for others.

"Courage and a Kind Word,"
p. F10: Read with your family the story
of Evan Stephens. Talk about the dif-
ference President Brigham Young's
kind words made in Evan's life. If you
have a Latter-day Saint hymnbook,
have the children see if they can find
hymns by Evan Stephens.

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Miracles of Faith

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Some 50 years ago I received an invitation to meet with President J. Reuben Clark Jr. (1871–1961), a counselor in the First Presidency of the Church, a statesman of towering stature, and a scholar of international renown. My profession then was in the field of printing and publishing. President Clark made me welcome in his office and then produced from his old roll-top desk a large sheaf of handwritten notes, many of them made when he was a law student long years before. He proceeded to outline for me his goal of producing a harmony of the Gospels. This goal was achieved with his monumental work *Our Lord of the Gospels*.

In my library is a personally inscribed, leather-bound copy of this classic treatment of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. As I have perused its pages, I have paused at the section entitled “The Miracles of Jesus.”

I remember as though it were yesterday President Clark asking me to read to him several of these accounts while he sat back in his large leather chair and listened. That was a day in my life never to be forgotten.

President Clark asked me to read aloud the account found in Luke concerning the man filled with leprosy. I proceeded to read:

“And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

“And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him” (Luke 5:12–13).

He asked that I continue reading from Luke concerning the man afflicted with palsy and the enterprising manner in which he was presented for the attention of the Lord:

“And, behold, men brought in a bed a man



My heart fills with gratitude to the Lord for His divine intervention to relieve the suffering, heal the sick, and raise the dead. I grieve for the many, similarly afflicted, who knew not how to find the Master.

which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

“And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

“And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee” (Luke 5:18–20).

There followed in the scriptural account snide comments from the Pharisees concerning who had the right to forgive sins. Jesus silenced their bickering by saying:

“What reason ye in your hearts?

“Whether [it] is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

“But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

“And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God” (Luke 5:22–25).

When I had read these scriptural stories aloud, President Clark removed from his pocket a handkerchief and wiped the tears from his eyes. He commented, “As we grow older, tears come more frequently.” After a few words of good-bye, I departed from his office, leaving him alone with his thoughts and his tears.

As I reflect on this experience with President Clark, my heart fills with gratitude to the Lord for His divine intervention to relieve the suffering, heal the sick, and raise the dead. I grieve, however, for the many, similarly afflicted, who knew not how to find the Master, to learn of His teachings, and to become the beneficiaries of His power. I remember that President Clark himself suffered heartache and pain in the tragic death at Pearl Harbor of his son-in-law Mervyn S. Bennion, captain of the battleship *West Virginia*. That day there had been no ram in the thicket, no steel to stop the shrapnel, no miracle to heal the wounds of war. But faith never wavered, and answered prayers provided the courage to carry on.

His Help Is Near

So it is today. In our lives, sickness comes to loved ones, accidents leave their cruel marks of remembrance, and tiny legs that once ran are imprisoned in a wheelchair. Mothers and fathers who anxiously await the arrival of a precious child sometimes learn that all is not well with this tiny infant. A missing limb, sightless eyes, a damaged brain, or the term “Down syndrome” greets the parents, leaving them baffled, filled with sorrow, and reaching out for hope.

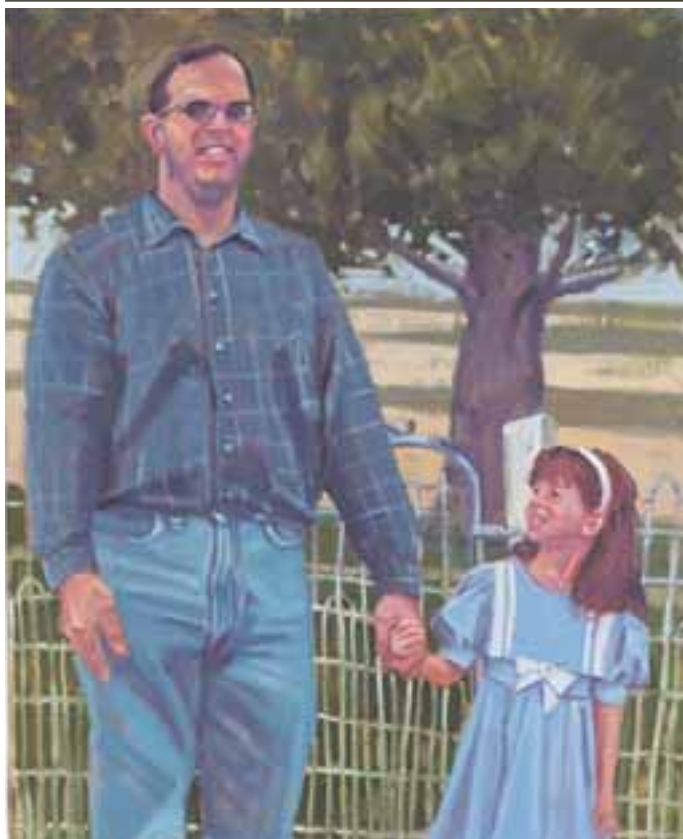
There follows the inevitable blaming of oneself, the condemnation of a careless action, and the perennial questions: “Why such a tragedy in our family?” “Why didn’t I keep her home?” “If only he hadn’t gone to that party.” “How did this happen?” “Where was God?” “Where was a protecting angel?” *If, why, where, how*—those recurring words—do not bring back the lost son, the perfect body, the plans of parents, or the dreams of youth. Self-pity, personal withdrawal, or deep despair will not bring the peace, the assurance, or help which are needed. Rather, we must go forward, look upward, move onward, and rise heavenward.

It is imperative that we recognize that whatever has happened to us has happened to others. They have coped and so must we. We are not alone. Heavenly Father’s help is near.

The Example of Job

Perhaps no other has been so afflicted as the man Job, who was described as “perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil” (Job 1:1). He prospered by every measurement. Then came the loss of literally everything: his wealth, his family, his health. At one time the suggestion was made that he “curse God, and die” (Job 2:9). Job’s summation of his faith, after ordeals demanded of few others, is a testimony of truth, a proclamation of courage, and a declaration of trust:

“Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!



"That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

"Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:23–27).

Let me share with you a brief look into the lives of others, to learn that after the tears of a day of despair, a night of sorrow, "joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

The Coming of Joy

Some years ago, Brigham Young University honored with a presidential citation Sarah Bagley Shumway, a truly remarkable woman of our time. The citation contained the words: "It is often within our homes and among our own family members that the eternally significant—but usually

"I never realized [my father] was blind because he talked about the birds and other things. I always thought he held my hand because he loved me more than other fathers loved their children."

unheralded—dramas of daily living occur. The people in these plain but important places bring stability to the present and promise to the future. Their lives are filled with struggle and deep feeling as they face circumstances that rarely fit neatly within the formulae of plays, films, and newscasts. But their victories, however slight, strengthen the boundaries through which the history of future generations must pass."

Sarah married H. Smith Shumway, then her "friend and sweetheart of nine years," in 1948. The courtship was longer than most because Smith, an infantry officer in World War II, had been blinded and severely wounded by a land-mine explosion in the advance on Paris, France. During his long rehabilitation, Sarah learned Braille so that she could correspond with him in privacy. She couldn't tolerate the idea of others reading her letters aloud to the man she loved.

Something of the spirit of this young couple comes to us in the simple candor of Smith Shumway's proposal of marriage. Finally home in Wyoming after the war, he told Sarah, "If you will drive the car and sort the socks and read the mail, I will do the rest." She accepted the offer.

Years of study led to a successful career, eight accomplished children, a host of grandchildren, and lives of service. Along life's pathway, the Shumways faced problems of a child with severe deafness, a missionary son developing cancer, and a twin granddaughter injured at birth.

My family and I had the privilege of meeting the entire Shumway clan at a summer vacation camp. Each wore an identifying T-shirt on which was a map depicting the location of each child and family, along with the names of all. Brother Shumway, with justifiable pride, pointed to the location on his shirt of his precious ones and beamed the smile of gladness. Only then did I ponder that he had never seen any of his children or grandchildren. Or had he? While his eyes had never beheld them, in his heart he knew them and he loved them.

At an evening of entertainment, the Shumway family was on the stage. The children were asked, "What was it

like growing up in a household with a sightless father?" One daughter smiled and said, "When we were little, occasionally we felt Daddy should not have too much dessert at dinner, so without telling him, we would trade our smaller helping with his larger one. Maybe he knew, but he never complained."

One child touched our hearts when she recounted, "When I was about five years old, I remember my father holding my hand and walking me around the neighborhood, and I never realized he was blind because he talked about the birds and other things. I always thought he held my hand because he loved me more than other fathers loved their children."

Though Sarah has passed away now, she and Smith Shumway and their family offer examples of rising above adversity and sorrow, overcoming the tragedy of war-inflicted impairment, and walking bravely the higher roadway of life.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the poetess, wrote:

*It is easy enough to be pleasant,
When life flows by like a song,
But the man worth while is one who will smile,
When everything goes dead wrong.*

*For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praises of earth
Is the smile that shines through tears.¹*

I am moved by the inspiring example of Melissa Engle of West Valley City, Utah. Melissa was featured in the August 1992 issue of the *New Era*. She told her own story:

"When I was born I only had a thumb on my right hand because the umbilical cord got wrapped around my fingers and [severed them]. My dad wanted to find something I could do to strengthen my hand and make it useful. Playing the violin seemed like a natural because I wouldn't have to finger with both hands, like you would with a flute. . . .



A benefactor's grant enabled young Melissa to attend a music camp for the intensive training she desired in her heart. "That, to me, was a miracle," she said.

"I've been playing for about eight years now. I take private lessons, and I have to work at things like a paper route to help pay for them. I get to [my violin] lessons by riding a bus across town. . . .

"A highlight [of my life] was Interlochen, located on a lake in Michigan, one of the best music camps in the world for [youth]. I sent in my application for the eight weeks of intensive music

training and couldn't believe I [was] accepted.

"The only problem was money. It cost thousands of dollars, and there was no way I [could] make that much before the deadline. So I prayed and prayed, and about a week before I had to send in the money, I was called into the office of a man who had a grant for someone with a handicap who was pursuing the arts. That, to me, was a miracle, and I'm really grateful for it."²

Melissa, when she received the grant, turned to her mother, who had been anxious not to see her daughter disappointed and had thus attempted to curb her enthusiasm and hope, and said, "Mother, I told you Heavenly Father answers prayers, for look how He has answered mine."

He that notes a sparrow's fall had fulfilled a child's dream, answered a child's prayer. Melissa has since gone on to earn a college degree and to serve a full-time mission in Croatia.

A Precious Promise

To all who have suffered silently from sickness, to you who have cared for those with physical or mental impairment, who have borne a heavy burden day by day, year by year, and to you noble mothers and dedicated fathers—I salute you and pray God's blessings to ever attend you. To the children, particularly those who cannot run and play and frolic, come the reassuring words: "Dearest children, God is near you, / Watching o'er you day and night."³

There will surely come that day, even the fulfillment of the precious promise from the Book of Mormon:

"The soul shall be restored to the body, and the body to the soul; yea, and every limb and joint shall be restored to its body; yea, even a hair of the head shall not be lost; but all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame. . . .

"And then shall the righteous shine forth in the kingdom of God" (Alma 40:23, 25).

From the Psalm echoes the assurance:

"My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. . . .

". . . He that keepeth thee will not slumber.

"Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:2–4).

Through the years the Latter-day Saints have taken comfort from the favorite hymn remembered from our youth:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings; name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done. . . .*

*Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings; ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. . . .*

*So amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged; God is over all.
Count your many blessings; angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.⁴*

To any who from anguish of heart and sadness of soul have silently asked, "Heavenly Father, are you really there? . . . Do you hear and answer ev'ry . . . prayer?"⁵ I bear my witness that He is there. He does hear and answer every prayer. His Son, the Christ, burst the bands of our earthly prisons, and heaven's blessings await us. ■

NOTES

1. "Worth While," in *The Best Loved Poems of the American People*, sel. Hazel Felleman (1936), 144.
2. "Something You Really Love," *New Era*, Aug. 1992, 30–31.
3. "Dearest Children, God Is Near You," *Hymns*, no. 96.
4. "Count Your Blessings," *Hymns*, no. 241.
5. "A Child's Prayer," *Children's Songbook*, 12–13.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After you prayerfully prepare, share this message using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach.

1. Ask family members if they or someone they know has been healed in spirit, letting go of anger or discouragement or some past hurt. Talk about how faith in Jesus Christ makes this kind of healing possible. Even though the Lord does not immediately heal every soul suffering afflictions, how does He extend His concern and blessing?

2. Ask family members if they know someone—such as the young violinist in this message—who has triumphed in spite of a physical defect that might have been a disability. Discuss the role that faith in Jesus Christ plays in this kind of healing.

3. Some of Heavenly Father's children carry physical, mental, spiritual, or emotional burdens that might not be taken away in this life. What can others do to help lighten these heavy loads for the individual and his or her family?

BOOK/CHAPTERS	MOSIAH 28–29	ALMA 1–44			
AUTHOR/ENGRAVER	MORMON	MORMON			
REIGN OF THE JUDGES			2	5	7
DATE (Some dates are approximate.)	B.C. 92	91	90	87	85

Book of Mormon

TIMES AT A GLANCE

NEPHITES

- King Mosiah gave his sons and others permission to preach the gospel among the Lamanites. They left on a mission lasting approximately 14 years (see Mosiah 28:1–9).
- The people began to measure their years according to the reign of the judges. Alma and King Mosiah died (see Mosiah 29:44–47; Alma 1:1).
- Amlici's petition to be king was rejected by the voice of the people. A civil war erupted, and Amlici and his supporters were defeated (see Alma 2:1–19).
- Strengthened by the Lord, the Nephites defeated the Lamanites in two great battles (see Alma 2:27–3:27).
- Nehor, a false priest who endorsed priestcraft, was executed for his crimes. The Church prospered despite internal contention and persecution from unbelievers (see Alma 1).

LANANITES

- The sons of Mosiah separated in the land of the Lamanites. Ammon went to the land of Ishmael, and Aaron went to the city of Jerusalem (see Alma 17:6–19; 21:1–2).
- The Lamanites, joined by the Amlicites, went to war against the Nephites (see Alma 2:20–26).

ANTI-NEPHI-LEHIES

The converted Lamanites called themselves Anti-Nephi-Lehies and became friendly with the Nephites (see Alma 23).

- Ammon became a servant to King Lamoni. The king was miraculously converted, many of his people were baptized, and the Church was established (see Alma 17:20–19:36; 21:18–23).

- Aaron and his brethren preached without success and were cast into prison (see Alma 21:1–14).



- Ammon and King Lamoni met Lamoni's father, king over all the Lamanites. Aaron and his brethren were rescued from prison (see Alma 20; 21:14–17).

- Aaron taught the gospel to Lamoni's father, who was miraculously converted and proclaimed religious liberty (see Alma 22–23:3).

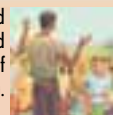
MAJOR TEACHINGS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

SOME STATEMENTS OF GOSPEL PRINCIPLES

(See chart on page 14.)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Alma the Younger asked the people if they had been spiritually born of God (see Alma 5).



1 3 5 7
2 4 6 8 9

10
82



12
80



15
77



18
74



Korihor, an anti-Christ, ridiculed Christ, the Atonement, and the spirit of prophecy. He was struck dumb by God and died (see Alma 30).

Alma the Younger led a mission to reclaim the apostate Zoramites. Many poor among them were converted (see Alma 31–34).

Alma and Amulek continued to preach repentance. Peace and righteousness were established (see Alma 16:12–21).

Nephite armies under Captain Moroni defeated the army of Zerahemnah (see Alma 43–44).



Alma the Younger and Amulek were imprisoned and miraculously delivered (see Alma 14).

Zoram, a Nephite captain, defeated the Lamanites in a horrific battle. The prophecy of Abinadi was fulfilled (see Alma 16:4–11; 25:3–12).

The Anti-Nephi-Lehies began to live among the Nephites and became known as the people of Ammon (see Alma 27:25–30).

The Anti-Nephi-Lehies buried their swords, covenanting never again to destroy human life (see Alma 24:1–19).

One thousand and five Anti-Nephi-Lehies were killed without resisting. Impressed by this valiancy, more Lamanites were converted, and the war ended (see Alma 24:21–30; 25:1).

Because of threats, Ammon and the Anti-Nephi-Lehies decided to petition the Nephites for protection (see Alma 27:1–15).

Some Lamanites went to battle against the Anti-Nephi-Lehies (see Alma 24:20).

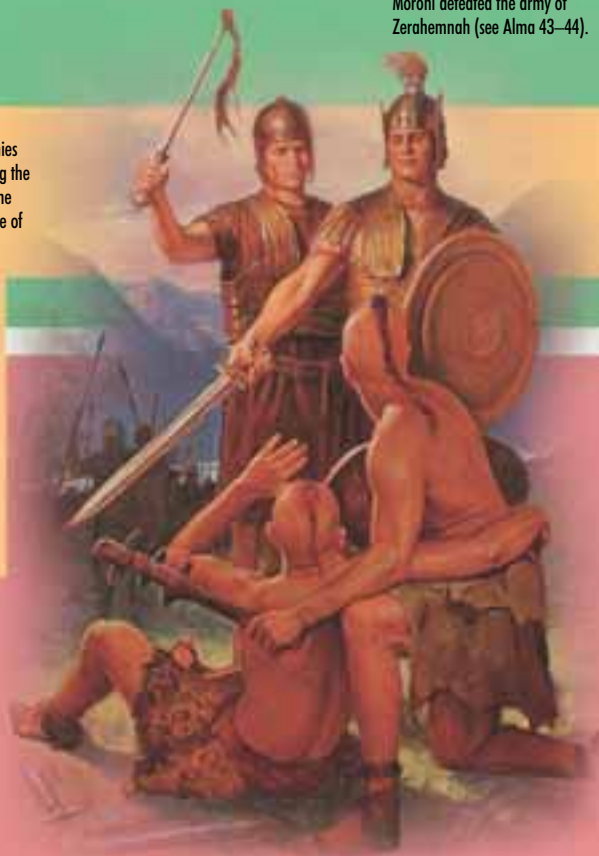


The Lamanites went to war against the Nephites and destroyed the city of Ammonihah (see Alma 16:1–3; 25:2).

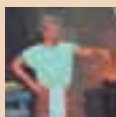
Lamanites continued to be converted. Ammon gloried in the Lord for the success of the mission among the Lamanites (see Alma 25:13–26:37).

The Lamanites went to war against the Nephites. Tens of thousands on both sides died (see Alma 28).

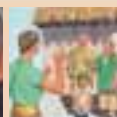
The wicked Zoramites and Lamanites joined in a war against the Nephites (see Alma 35:10–13).



Alma the Younger prophesied of Christ and His Atonement (see Alma 7).



Alma the Younger taught of entering the rest of the Lord (see Alma 12–13).



Alma the Younger taught how to acquire faith (see Alma 32–33).



Amulek explained the need for the great and last sacrifice (see Alma 34).



Alma the Younger told his sons of his conversion (see Alma 36–42).



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32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48

BOOK ALMA 45–63
 AUTHOR MORMON

JUDGES	19	20	26	27	28	29
DATE	B.C. 73	72	66	65	64	63
	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲

NEPHITES

- Amalickiah conspired to be king. Captain Moroni raised the title of liberty, and Amalickiah fled to the Lamanites (see Alma 45:20–46:41).
- Alma the Younger was taken up by the Spirit (see Alma 45:1–19).

During a period of peace, Captain Moroni and Helaman prepared the people for war (see Alma 48:7–25).

- A dispute caused by Nephite dissenter Morianton led to civil war. Captain Moroni and Teancum ended the disturbance by force. Pahoran became the chief judge (see Alma 50:25–40).
- King-men caused dissension by seeking to change the law to set up a king. Captain Moroni swiftly ended the rebellion (see Alma 51:1–21).

Teancum stopped the northward march of Amalickiah and killed him as he slept (see Alma 51:28–37).



- The Nephites recaptured the city of Mulek (see Alma 52:4–40).
- The western city of Antiparah was retaken. Miraculously none of the 2,000 young warriors was killed (see Alma 56:11–57:5).

The western city of Cumeni surrendered to Helaman's forces. A Lamanite army attempted to retake it but was defeated in a great battle. Again, none of Helaman's valiant young warriors was killed (see Alma 57:6–36).

Captain Moroni refused to exchange prisoners. His forces retook the eastern city of Gid and freed the Nephite prisoners without bloodshed (see Alma 55).

ANTI-NEPHI-LEHIES

Helaman led a group of 2,000 young warriors to defend along the western front (see Alma 53:10–23; 56:2–10).



LAMANITES

Amalickiah attacked the Nephites again and captured many cities along the eastern seashore (see Alma 51:22–27).



● Ammoron, Amalickiah's brother, became king. The Lamanites retreated to the city of Mulek (see Alma 52:2–3).

Ammoron attacked along the western seashore and captured many cities (see Alma 53:8–9; 56:12–15).

Ammoron sent a letter to Captain Moroni requesting an exchange of prisoners (see Alma 54).

Amalickiah murdered the Lamanite king, placed himself on the throne, and incited the people to war (see Alma 47:1–48:6).

A great Lamanite army attacked the Nephites but was defeated in a terrible battle at the city of Noah (see Alma 49).

MAJOR TEACHINGS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

GOSPEL PRINCIPLES
 (See chart on page 14.)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

49 50

51

HELAN 1-5 MORMON

30
62
▲

39 42
53 50
▲ ▲

62
30
▲

- Captain Moroni wrote an angry letter to Pahoran, demanding more support. Pahoran wrote back asking for military aid to put down an uprising by the king-men in Zarahemla (see Alma 53:8-9; 60-61).

- Captain Moroni sent aid to Helaman's army, gathered other forces, and joined Pahoran to put down the king-men's rebellion (see Alma 62:1-12).

- Captain Moroni and Pahoran retook the eastern city of Nephihah. The Lamanites were driven out of the land (see Alma 62:14-42).



- Captain Moroni retired and Helaman returned to preaching. The people prospered and were righteous (see Alma 62:43-52).



- Many Nephites departed to the land northward. Hagoth sailed with many into the west sea. Helaman, son of Helaman, took possession of the sacred records (see Alma 63:1-13).

- Helaman, son of Helaman, was elected chief judge (see Helaman 2:1-2).

- The people prospered and lived in peace. The Church grew and was strengthened. Nephi, son of Helaman, became the chief judge (see Helaman 3).

- Pahoran, son of Pahoran, was elected chief judge, but he was murdered by Kishkumen. Pacumoni was elected chief judge (see Helaman 1:1-13).

- Contention weakened the Church. Nephi dissenters stirred up the Lamanites to war (see Helaman 4:1-4).

Moronihah recaptured half of the lost lands. But the spiritually weak Nephites were often defeated because of wickedness (see Helaman 4:9-26).

- Nephi resigned as chief judge. With his brother Lehi, he preached repentance to the Nephites and the Lamanites (see Helaman 5:1-19).

GADIANTON ROBBERS

- Kishkumen tried to assassinate Helaman but failed. Gadianton's secret band fled into the wilderness (see Helaman 2:3-14).

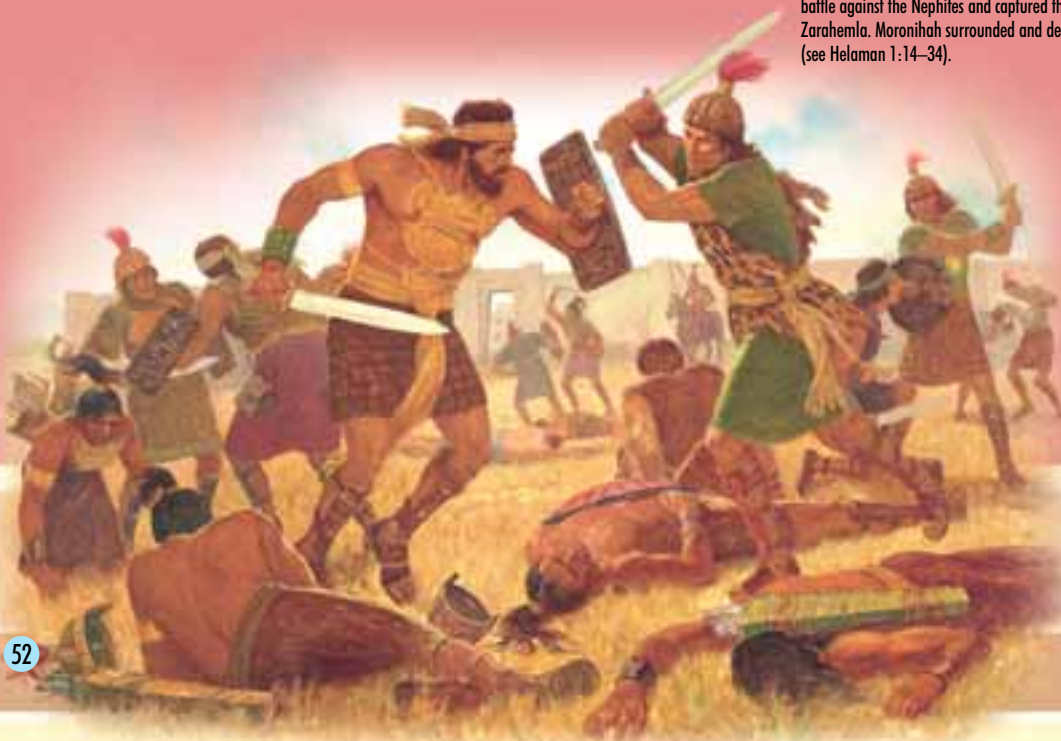


- The Lamanites conquered the eastern city of Nephihah (see Alma 59).

- Lamanites, stirred by dissenting Nephites, went to war against the Nephites and were defeated by Moronihah, son of Captain Moroni (see Alma 63:14-17).

- Coriantumr, a Nephite dissenter, led the Lamanites to battle against the Nephites and captured the city of Zarahemla. Moronihah surrounded and defeated him (see Helaman 1:14-34).

- The Lamanites and Nephite dissenters captured many Nephite lands (see Helaman 4:5-8).



52

53

54

BOOK
AUTHOR

HELANAN 5–16
MORMON

3 NEPHI 1–30
MORMON

JUDGES 63 69

86 91

DATE B.C. 29 23
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NEPHITES

Because of the increasing threat of the Gadianton robbers, Nephi told the people to repent or perish. He announced the murder of the chief judge and revealed his killer (see Helaman 7–9).

The Lord gave Nephi the sealing power. Nephi asked the Lord to send a famine. The people repented, and peace was restored for a short time (see Helaman 10:1–11:23).

The Nephites again became prideful and wicked (see Helaman 11:36–38).



Samuel the Lamanite prophesied of the destruction of the Nephites and the signs of Christ's birth and death (see Helaman 13–16).

● Nephi, son of Nephi, took possession of the sacred records. The sign of Christ's birth was given, and the people began to measure time from this event. Many repented and were baptized (see 3 Nephi 1:1–26; 2:5–8).

● Satan led many to forget or deny the signs of Christ's birth (see 3 Nephi 2:1–4).

● The Nephites and the converted Lamanites became one people and called themselves Nephites (see 3 Nephi 2:14–19).

● Lachoneus, the governor, and Gidgiddoni, the chief captain, led a successful campaign to destroy the robbers. The people forsook their sins and served God (see 3 Nephi 3–5).

● Corrupt leaders secretly murdered the prophets and took over the government. The people divided into tribes, thus destroying the government. Nephi boldly preached repentance, but few were converted to the Lord (see 3 Nephi 6–7).

● The signs of Christ's death were given. Many cities and people were destroyed (see 3 Nephi 8).

● Jesus Christ appeared from heaven and taught His gospel. He gave authority and organized His Church, then ascended into heaven (see 3 Nephi 9–18).

● Jesus Christ again appeared, taught the people, and ascended. His disciples ministered and baptized in His name (see 3 Nephi 19–26).

● Jesus Christ showed Himself to His disciples and taught them concerning His Church and gospel. He promised three disciples they could remain on earth until His Second Coming. They were then translated (see 3 Nephi 27–28).

GADIANTON ROBBERS

The Gadianton robbers enticed the Nephites to corruption and murder. The Lamanites refused to support the robbers (see Helaman 6:15–41).

A new group of Gadianton robbers caused great havoc for the Nephites and the Lamanites (see Helaman 11:24–27).

The Gadianton robbers became so numerous and powerful that they threatened the safety and rights of all people (see 3 Nephi 2:11–13).

LANANITES

Nephi and Lehi were cast into a Lamanite prison, then miraculously freed. A voice commanded the people to repent, and many were converted (see Helaman 5:20–52).



The Lamanites were firm and steadfast in the faith (see Helaman 13:1; 15:4–10).

● Lamanite missionaries were sent to preach to the Nephites. Both peoples enjoyed peace, prosperity, and spiritual strength (see Helaman 6:1–14).

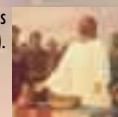


MAJOR TEACHINGS
ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Samuel the Lamanite prophesied of the signs of Christ's birth and death (see Helaman 14).



Jesus Christ taught the Nephites His gospel (see 3 Nephi 11–18).



Jesus Christ expounded all things (see 3 Nephi 19–26).



GOSPEL PRINCIPLES
(See chart on page 14.)

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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

New Testament Gospels and Epistles

35

231

321

400

1823–1830

ONE PEOPLE

- The Nephites and the Lamanites were all converted to the Church of Christ. The people had all things in common among them and lived in peace and joy, having no wickedness among them (see 4 Nephi 1:1–23).

- Great pride and wickedness spread across the land. Many false churches arose, and the Saints were persecuted (see 4 Nephi 1:24–34).

The people divided into two groups. Nephites were the true believers in Christ, and Lamanites were those who rejected the gospel (see 4 Nephi 1:35–41).



NEPHITES

- Ammaron, great-grandson of Nephi (one of the Savior's disciples), hid the sacred records (see 4 Nephi 1:47–49).

- Ammaron instructed Mormon regarding the sacred records (see Mormon 1).

Mormon, an army general and spiritual leader, led his people to many victories over the Lamanites (see Mormon 2:1–3:16).

- Mormon took possession of the sacred records at age 24 (see Mormon 1:2–4; 2:17).

- Mormon compiled a short version of the approximately 1,000-year history of his people (see Words of Mormon 1:3–5, 9–11; Mormon 3:17–4:23).

- Mormon led his people in their last battles. Mormon turned over the sacred records to his son Moroni and was killed. The Nephite nation was destroyed (see Mormon 5–8:6).

GADIANTON ROBBERS

- A new group of Gadianton robbers gained support and spread throughout the land (see 4 Nephi 1:42–46).

LAMANITES

- Moroni finished the record of his father, abridged the Jaredite record, and wrote the book of Moroni. He hid the records (see Mormon 8–9; Moroni).



Moroni appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith and gave him the sacred records. They were translated by the gift and power of God and published to the world as the Book of Mormon (see Book of Mormon title page; Joseph Smith—History 1).



Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to build the Church upon His gospel (see 3 Nephi 27).

Mormon wrote that all little children are alive in Christ (see Moroni 8).

Moroni exhorted all to come unto Christ and be perfected in Him (see Moroni 10).

Book of Mormon Times at a Glance

Some Statements of Gospel Principles

Reference	Principle	Reference	Principle
1 Alma 1:25–30	We can experience continual peace even when there is great persecution.	37 Alma 32:27–43	A testimony comes from exercising faith in and experimenting with—obeying—the word of God.
2 Alma 17:2–3	Searching the scriptures and giving ourselves to much fasting and prayer invite the blessings of the Holy Ghost into our lives.	38 Alma 33	Searching the scriptures, praying, and believing in the Son are ways to develop testimony.
3 Alma 17:11	Being patient in afflictions sets a good example and allows us to be instruments in the Lord's hands.	39 Alma 34:27–29	We are not only to pray for the poor but to visit them and impart of our substance.
4 Alma 17:25; 18:17	Desiring to be of service to others is an important part of teaching them the gospel.	40 Alma 34:32–35	This life is the time to prepare to meet God.
5 Alma 18:9–10	When we serve others, we should serve with distinction.	41 Alma 36:3	Those who trust in God will be supported in their trials and troubles.
6 Alma 18:16, 34	We can teach with power only when filled with the Spirit of God.	42 Alma 36:17–19	By our repentance and the mercy of the Savior, we are freed from the pain of our sins and no longer distressed by their memory.
7 Alma 18:40–41; 19:6	Those who believe and then repent and cry unto Him for mercy will be filled with light.	43 Alma 37:6	Small and simple things can bring about great things.
8 Alma 19:36	The Lord's arm is extended to all people who will repent and believe on His name.	44 Alma 37:37	When we counsel with the Lord in all our doings, He will direct our paths.
9 Alma 3:19	The condemnation of God comes upon us only as the result of our unwise choices.	45 Alma 38:12	When we bridle all our passions, we will be filled with love.
10 Alma 4:19; 31:5	The preaching of the word of God can pull down the pride, craftiness, and contentions of people.	46 Alma 39:13	Those who have led others astray by their example are to return and admit their faults and wrongdoing.
11 Alma 5:7–9	Our souls can be illuminated by the light of the everlasting word and loosed from the chains of hell.	47 Alma 40:6, 11–14	Upon death all enter the spirit world—the righteous to paradise and the wicked to outer darkness.
12 Alma 5:11–14	By faith in the living God and in the words of the prophets, we can have a mighty change of heart, receive His image in our countenance, and be born of God.	48 Alma 41:10	Wickedness can never result in happiness.
13 Alma 5:21–25	We can be saved in the kingdom of God only by being cleansed from the stain of sin through the blood of Christ.	49 Alma 45–47	Defending country, family, and church, preserving rights and freedoms, and supporting others in these ideals are justifiable reasons for war.
14 Alma 5:33–60	We are the sheep of the Good Shepherd only as we hearken to His voice.	50 Alma 48:14–16	We are not to give offense or to cause war but are justified in defending ourselves at the Lord's command.
15 Alma 5:61–62	As prophets often do, Alma spoke by way of command to Church members and by way of invitation to others.	51 Alma 53:8–9	Enemies can gain control when there are internal dissensions and iniquity.
16 Alma 7:7–13	The birth, ministry, atoning sacrifice, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are of greatest importance.	52 Alma 60:23	The inward vessel should be cleansed first, then the outer vessel.
17 Alma 7:14–16	When we have faith in the Savior, are baptized unto repentance, washed from our sins and born again, lay aside the sins which easily beset us, and keep the commandments of God, we shall have eternal life.	53 Helaman 4:24–26	When we sin, we lose the Spirit and become weak.
18 Alma 7:23	A follower of Christ is humble, submissive, gentle, easy to be entreated, patient, long-suffering, temperate, diligent, prayerful, and thankful.	54 Helaman 5:12	When we build upon the rock of our Redeemer, no power can drag us down to the gulf of misery and endless woe.
19 Alma 9:23; 24:30	Those who knowingly transgress against God are in a worse state than those who have no knowledge of Him.	55 Helaman 15:3	The Lord chastens those He loves.
20 Alma 11:37–46; 12:19	Teaching and bearing testimony of Christ, His Atonement, and His judgment can convict and even astonish people.	56 3 Nephi 7:15–22	Signs or miracles are not a sufficient basis of faith or conversion.
21 Alma 12:9–11	The mysteries of God—the greater portion of His word—are given to us according to the heed and diligence we give to Him.	57 3 Nephi 11:29	The spirit of contention is of the devil.
22 Alma 12:30–32	God first revealed the plan of redemption; then He gave His commandments.	58 3 Nephi 12:1–2	Those with humility and faith who are baptized with water and receive the cleansing power of the Holy Ghost receive a remission of sins.
23 Alma 13:1–13	God teaches us through those who are called after His holy priesthood so that by our faith, repentance, and righteousness, we can enter His rest.	59 3 Nephi 12:23–24	When we desire to come unto Christ, we must first be reconciled with others.
24 Alma 14:11; 60:13	The Lord sometimes allows the wicked to destroy the righteous; the exercise of His judgment is just.	60 3 Nephi 13:14–15	If we forgive others, God will forgive us.
25 Alma 15:3–11	The realization of guilt for our sins can cause great anguish of mind and body and can impel us to faith and repentance.	61 3 Nephi 13:19–21	Set your heart upon and seek those heavenly treasures that endure forever.
26 Alma 24:27	The Lord works in many ways to bring about the salvation of His people.	62 3 Nephi 13:33	Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
27 Alma 26:11–12	Through the Lord's strength we may bring about much righteousness.	63 3 Nephi 14:24–27	If we follow the teachings of Christ, we will not fall when the storms of life come.
28 Alma 27:18	Exceeding joy comes to the truly penitent and humble seeker of happiness.	64 3 Nephi 18:32	We are to continue to minister to the unrepentant.
29 Alma 28:13–14	Sin is the cause of great inequality among humankind. Those who labor for the Lord help rectify this inequality.	65 3 Nephi 26:6–10	If we believe the Book of Mormon, God will manifest even greater things to us.
30 Alma 29:4–5	God grants unto us according to our desires, whether they be unto good or evil.	66 3 Nephi 27:10	If the Church is called in the Lord's name and built upon His gospel, the Father will show forth His works in it.
31 Alma 29:6–9	We should desire to perform the specific work God has called us to do.	67 4 Nephi 1:15–16	When the love of God dwells in the hearts of a people, there will be no divisions or evils but they will be children of Christ and heirs to the kingdom of God.
32 Alma 30:40–44	All things denote there is a God.	68 Moroni 6:4	Church members are to be nourished by the good word of God to keep them in the right way.
33 Alma 30:60	The devil will not support his children at the last day.	69 Moroni 7:6–10	When we offer a gift grudgingly or without real intent, it is not counted unto us for righteousness.
34 Alma 31:38	The Lord gives strength to the righteous and their afflictions are swallowed up.	70 Moroni 7:16–17	Whatever invites us to do good and to love God is of God. Whatever invites us to do evil is of the devil.
35 Alma 32:13–16	Blessed are those who are compelled to be humble. More blessed are those who are humble because of the word of God.	71 Moroni 7:40–48	Faith in Christ, hope, and charity are essential for salvation in the kingdom of God.
36 Alma 32:21	Faith is not a perfect knowledge but a hope for true things which are not seen.	72 Moroni 8:8–22	Little children are redeemed through the Atonement of Christ and do not need baptism.
		73 Moroni 10:3–5	When we read, remember the Lord's mercy, ponder, and pray in faith about the Book of Mormon, the Holy Ghost will reveal the truth of it to us.
		74 Moroni 10:32–33	When we come unto Christ and are perfected in Him, deny ourselves of all ungodliness, and love God, His grace is sufficient to sanctify us.

MAKE WAVES



**Even if you feel like a small pebble dropped into a big pond,
your choices create eternal ripples. Make a splash by choosing the right.
(See 3 Nephi 12:14–16.)**



ALL IS WELL

BY ELDER DAVID B. HAIGHT
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

My first opportunity to really become acquainted with “Come, Come, Ye Saints” (*Hymns*, no. 30) was in a little stone tabernacle in southern Idaho, where I grew up. Inside that little tabernacle built out of lava rock by the local members of the Church back in the late 1880s, there was a stand, a podium similar to what we have today, and then a pipe organ in the back, similar to the beautiful pipe organ we have in the Tabernacle on Temple Square but smaller. In that little tabernacle, when we sang William Clayton’s “Come, Come, Ye Saints,” I felt the spirit and power of the music would raise the roof. You could feel it because of the power, the faith, and the testimony of the members.

William Clayton’s father was a teacher, and William had received a good education. He was a good penman, he was good with figures, and he was good at writing and keeping records. He was taught and baptized by the Heber C. Kimball missionary group in the

early days of the Church in England. They understood and accepted him readily because of his education and his penmanship. He was just a bright young fellow, 23 years old. Soon he was being used as a secretary, a scribe, or as a bookkeeper by the little organization of the Church there.

He and his wife wanted to go to Nauvoo, so they sailed for America. In Nauvoo he met the Prophet Joseph Smith and other leaders of the Church. They used him in interesting ways again because he wrote a beautiful hand and he was a good speller. They could use a young man of that kind.

All Is Well—If We’ve Done Our Best

After the Martyrdom of the Prophet, William left with the Brigham Young company. They left in February; it was now April. Slogging through the fields with the wagons and the horses and the teams and the rain and the mud in Iowa, they were discouraged.



The Saints were discouraged, the going was difficult, and people were dying. So William Clayton wrote, “Come, Come, Ye Saints.”

The going was difficult, people were dying, and babies were born. They were moving slowly, only traveling a few miles a day.

So William Clayton wrote, “Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear.” It was difficult. They were discouraged. “But with joy wend your way. / Though hard to you this journey may appear, / Grace shall be as your day.” He was giving them encouragement to keep going, that the situation would get better.

Then he wrote those wonderful lines, “We’ll find the place which God for us prepared, / Far away in the West.” Even though we’re stuck here in the mud and discouraged, this will all change. If we have the courage and the faith, the Lord will answer our prayers; it will all come about. It gave them hope and encouragement. “We’ll find the place which God for us prepared, / Far away . . . / Where none shall come to hurt or make afraid”—stirring, inspirational words.

And then the last verse, “And should we die before our journey’s through, / Happy day! All is well!” So if we die, we’ve done our best. We’re going to die sometime, as we all know. So “Happy day! All is well!”

“But if our lives are spared again / To see the Saints their rest obtain.” We’ll see if the wagon wheels will stay on and if the rims will stay on the little handcarts and if we can keep up that courage and the strength through our prayers, and

we’ll get there. “If our lives are spared again / To see the Saints their rest obtain.” If we get there, then “All is well! All is well!”—if we get there and if we have the courage to make it work.

All Is Well—If We Live Right

In his journal William Clayton wrote, “I’ve composed a new song—‘All is well’ ” (*William Clayton’s Journal* [1921], 19). I like that original title, “All is Well! All is Well!” which explains our lives if we live as we should. We have the outline, we have the procedures, we have the information, and if we can get there and if our lives are spared again, then we will be able to sing, “All is well! All is well!” That hymn has become the Church’s “national anthem.”

My grandfather Horton David Haight was 15 when the second company arrived in the valley, the company following the Brigham Young company, so he would have walked across the plains. So when we sing of walking with “Faith in Every Footstep,” I have a grandfather who did that. At 15 you were not riding in the wagon; you were out where the action was, hitting the horses and the oxen and doing whatever would need to be done. And the girl whom he later married, Louisa Leavitt, turned 11 when her family arrived in the valley. So Grandmother would have walked across also.

So with that great heritage, I am saying to all of you what a wonderful future we have for the Church, as has been outlined by our prophet. But all of these things are dependent upon how we live, how we accept the truths that we know about, how we live the principles of the gospel, and what kind of examples we become to those people we work and associate with.

All Is Well—If We’re True to the Faith

When I was a young boy, about 12 years old, I loved to play baseball. The only piece of athletic equipment that we had around our house was an old baseball mitt. I thought the great moment in my life would be that I would be playing baseball for the New York Yankees. I would be playing for them in the World Series, the games tied 3 and 3. Now in





Elder and Sister Haight with their 3 children, 18 grandchildren, and 39 great-grandchildren in 1994. They now have a total of 78 great-grandchildren.

the deciding game, guess who would get up to bat? As I stood at the plate, the pitcher would pitch the ball exactly where I'd want it, I'd knock it out of Yankee Stadium, and I would become the hero of the World Series. I thought that would be the great moment of my life. But I want you to know that that isn't true.

A number of years ago I sat in the Los Angeles California Temple in a little sealing room with my wife, Ruby. We had our sons there with their wives—they'd been married for just a short time—and our sweet daughter was kneeling at the altar, holding the hand of the young man she was to be sealed to. And as

I looked around the room, I then realized that this was the great moment of my life because I had in that room everything that was precious to me—everything. My wife was there, my eternal sweetheart and companion. Our three children were there with their eternal companions. And I thought, “David, in your youth you had things all wrong. You thought some worldly event of some kind might be the great event of your life.” But now, I was witnessing that great event. I was there, I was feeling it, I felt a part of it, and I knew in that little white sealing room—clean, sweet, pure in that room—with all of my family there that this was the great moment of my life.

I leave you my love and my witness that this work is true. As Latter-day Saints we need to be true to the faith that we profess. True to it. True to the stirring testimonies that we have been given. True to Him whose name we have taken and to so live and to declare and to help in the spreading of this work. ■

From an October 1997 general conference address.

As I looked around the room, I realized that this was the great moment of my life. I had in that sealing room everything that was precious to me.

A MESSAGE FROM MOLDOVA



Right: At her baptism, Lilia Carasciuc (center) is with her mother and the missionaries, Elder Williams and Elder Wadsworth. All represent firsts in Moldova—first baptisms and first missionaries. Far right: Eujeniea Vacarciuc of Orhei is also a Moldovan pioneer; the new meetinghouse in Chisinau.

With many pioneers in Moldova still in their teens, the Church is offering new hope in this small country by the Black Sea.

BY KARL AND SANDRA FINCH

When you say the name Lilia Carasciuc, you are speaking of two people: a mother and her daughter. Both Lilias are from the Republic of Moldova, a small country next to Romania. And both Lilias are pioneers. They can both claim to be the first Moldovan members of the Church.

Lilia, the mother, was baptized in the United States while she was visiting on a grant from the U.S. government, making her the first Moldovan baptized. That was in May 1997.

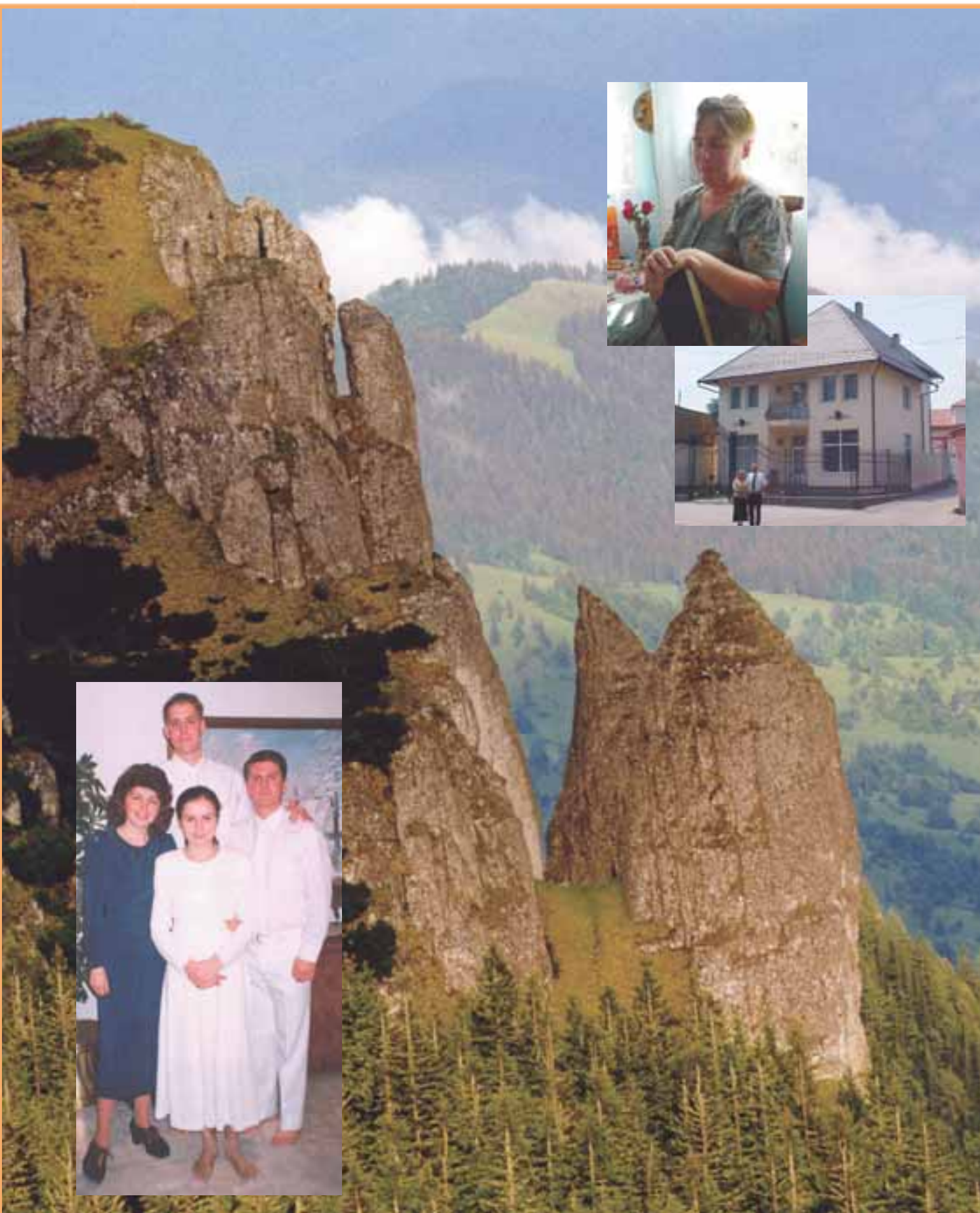
Then just six months later in November, her daughter, Lilia, became the first person baptized actually in Moldova. Since she was the first of several to be baptized that day, she treasures the honor of being allowed to be the first to join the Church in her country.

Today both Lilias have been members for more than six years.

In the Beginning

At first the only Church members in Moldova were three Latter-day Saint Americans: John Nielson and Paul and Betty Morris. They met in the Morrises' home for sacrament meeting. Two elders from the România Bucharest Mission were sent to Moldova, and then the sheep began to recognize the voice of the Shepherd. Lilia and her mother began attending meetings after Lilia's mother returned from the United States.

The younger Lilia tells the story of her conversion: "I started attending Church meetings six months before my baptism. I had my mother's example this entire time. She introduced me to the Church by giving me a hymn-book. I came to love the first hymn I looked at,





Juliana Musteata, Irina Vizitiv, and Mariana Turcanu on a hill overlooking the capital city of Chisinau.

‘Love One Another.’ I knew then that God wanted me to feel special and loved.”

In the six years since Lilia’s baptism, the branch has grown to 180 members, with many of the members being youth or young adults. Five young people from Moldova have already served as full-time missionaries and returned. Four more are serving missions now.

These young people love to talk about how the Church has changed their lives. “It makes me want to shout for joy,” says Alin Constantinescu, “when I realize that I belong to the only true Church. A deep feeling of thankfulness pierces my soul every time I think of the love the Lord has for us and the trust He has put in us as pioneers here in Moldova.” Alin is now serving a mission in Manchester, England.

“It shows in our countenances that we are a happy people,” says Mariana Turcanu, “and it is because of the gospel. It has changed my whole existence here in Moldova.”

Other Firsts in Moldova

The small country of Moldova looks like a slice of melon squished between Romania and Ukraine. The nation has about four and a half million people; they

speak Russian and Moldovan, a language closely related to Romanian. The people who live in the capital city of Chisinau live in concrete high-rise apartment buildings. But in the country and villages, people still live in small self-constructed homes without running water, and many travel by wooden horse-drawn wagons or on foot. The countryside has fertile black

soil that produces beautiful fruits and vegetables. The hills, though not high enough to be known as mountains, are covered with meadows of trees and grass with patches of bright yellow sunflowers.

The largest branch of the Church in Moldova is in Chisinau. President Ion Virlean is the first Moldovan to serve as branch president. His teenage daughter, Natalia, was among the first five to be baptized in November 1997. And a few months later the rest of her family joined the Church. There is also a smaller branch in the town of Orhei.

A lot of the youth activities organized by the Church have been firsts as well. The branch in Chisinau has had its first seminary and institute classes. The youth have held their first Super Saturday. And best of all, the branch has its first brand-new meetinghouse. The building was dedicated



in December 2002 and is a monument to the pioneering efforts in Moldova.

Leading the Way

It may sound a little strange to call such young members of the Church pioneers, but these youth understand they are leading the way for many more from their country. Juliana Musteata says, "Being a modern pioneer in Moldova brings joy and happiness into my heart and soul. I believe that if we work hard, we can influence the growth of the Church. I know that the Lord has blessed each one of us with the opportunity to set an example for others and share the gospel."

"Yes, we are pioneers!" says Gheorghe Zugravu. "It is amazing to be the pioneers of our Lord Jesus Christ. We feel closer to our Savior as we share the gospel here in this country. We are the first, but after us will come many others who will love Jesus Christ as we do. We believe this with the whole power of our hearts."

Taking Care of the Children

Part of their love for the Savior is shown in the ways the young people have chosen to serve. Just like others around the world, the young women in the Chisinau Branch have organized service projects. They made



one project a yearly event. For the past several summers, they have helped care for children at orphanages in the city.

"We young women try our best to make these children's lives more pleasant," says Natalia Gligor. "We try with all our hearts to offer them love and comfort, to play with them, and to make them understand that there is somebody who loves them. We have a special program that can develop certain abilities. We try to inspire them to be attentive and curious. They lack many



Left: Alin Constantinescu and Vasile Botan are now serving full-time missions. Far left: Young men and missionaries on the grounds of the meetinghouse in Chisinau. Below: Branch president Ion Virlan with his wife, Nadejda, and daughters, Marina and Natalia. Bottom: Irina Vizitiv with her brother.



Below: Natalia Gligor, along with the young women of the branch, gives service at an orphanage.
Right: Gheorghe Zugravu and Slava Schiopul are keenly aware of their obligation to spread the gospel in Moldova.

things, both material and spiritual. The spiritual things that are lacking are more painful, and the wounds are much deeper.”

Irina Vizitiv also helps with the orphaned children. She says, “Families are the biggest blessings of our Heavenly Father. I think through this service project, we have brought some light into the children’s lives. And I know this is very important to my Heavenly Father.” Irina, like many of the youth, is the only member of the Church in her family. She hopes her family will someday accept the restored gospel.

Knowing the Savior

Coming to know their Savior is one of the best experiences these young people have. Katerina Bejan was the first seminary teacher in the branch and is currently serving a mission in England. She says, “I know that Jesus Christ is always with us and that He is the cornerstone of this Church.”

“I love to hear people say, ‘Jesus Christ lives!’” says Mariana Turcanu. “It feels so

wonderful to know it for myself. And as sure as He lives, I know that my Redeemer loves me.”

Slava Schiopul knows many Moldovans are waiting to hear about the gospel. He says, “We must concentrate our lives in obedience to the commandments of Heavenly

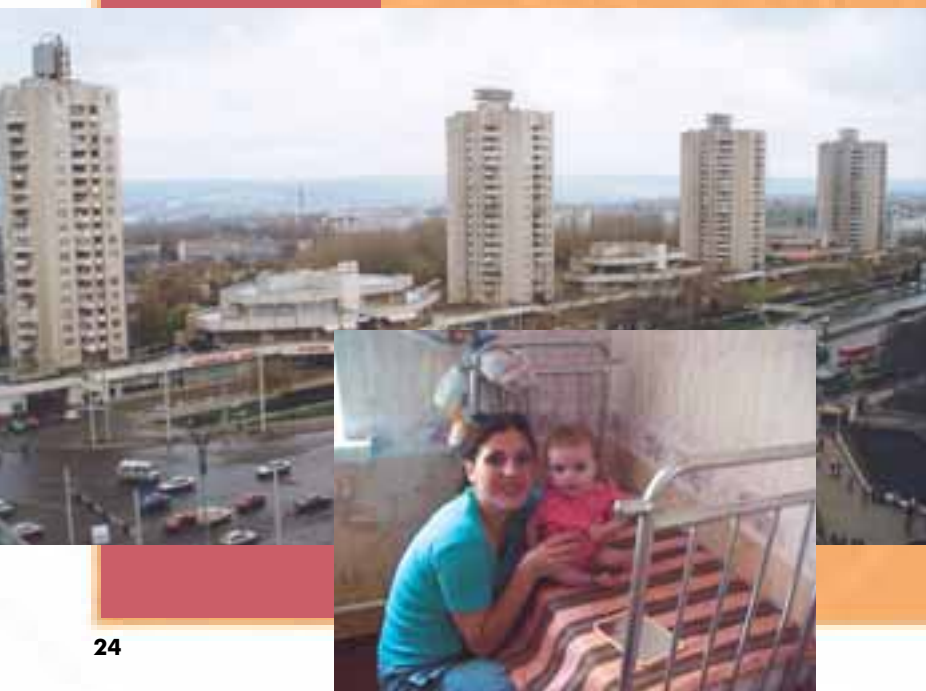


Father, yet there are only a few of us here in this country to help each other. However, by this obedience, we grow closer and closer to our Savior Jesus Christ, and He helps us to live in the light.”

Vasile Botan, now serving a mission in Paris, France, sees the Church coming to his country as one step in fulfillment of prophecy: “I know that before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ here on earth, His restored gospel has to be known by every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. I am very happy that this message has arrived for the people of Moldova. In this tiny country, we know God remembers us too.”

Like most pioneers, members of the Church here are struggling economically. The Republic of Moldova is a young country with few jobs or opportunities available. But Moldovans’ acceptance of the gospel of Jesus Christ and their determination to live righteously are their hope for the future. ■

Karl and Sandra Finch are members of the Modesto Third Ward, Modesto California Stake. They served a Church Educational System mission in Moldova.



Feeling the Love of the Lord through Prayer

Prayerfully select and read from this message the scriptures and teachings that meet the needs of the sisters you visit. Share your experiences and testimony. Invite those you teach to do the same.

In What Ways Have You Felt the Love of the Lord through Prayer?

D&C 19:38: “Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you, and great shall be your blessing.”

Kathleen H. Hughes, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency: “One of the most sublime experiences is to feel in prayer the warmth of the Spirit—a clear manifestation to us that Heavenly Father hears us and loves us. Equally sweet is the recognition as we go about the activities of our lives that a prayer has been answered, that we have experienced a miracle in our lives. Once again we have received a manifestation of His love for us.”

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985): “Learning the language of prayer is a joyous, lifetime experience. Sometimes ideas flood our mind as we listen after our prayers. Sometimes feelings press upon us. A spirit of calmness assures us that all will be well. But always, if we have been honest and earnest, we will experience a good feeling—a feeling

of warmth for our Father in Heaven and a sense of his love for us. I have felt sorrow because some of us have not learned the meaning of that calm, spiritual warmth, for it is a witness to us that our prayers have been heard. And since our Father in Heaven loves us with more love than we have even for ourselves, it means that we can trust in his goodness, we can trust in him; it means that if we continue praying and living as we should, our Father’s hand will guide and bless us” (“Pray Always,” *Tambuli*, Mar. 1982, 5; see *Ensign*, Oct. 1981, 5).

How Can You Improve Your Prayers to Better Feel the Love of the Lord?

Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “If you . . . begin to do what you covenanted with God to do, I can promise you that you will feel more love for God and more of His love for you. And with that, your prayers will come from the heart, full of thanks and of pleading. You will feel a greater dependence on God. . . . You will pray always. And you will not forget Him. . . . He loves us. He hears our prayers, and He answers with what is best for us.



As we come to know Him through His words and in His service, we will love Him more” (“Prayer,” *Liabona*, Jan. 2002, 19; *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 17).

Moroni 7:48: “Pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ.”

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

“There is nothing that we are enduring that Jesus does not understand, and He waits for us to go to our Heavenly Father in prayer. I testify that if we will be obedient and if we are diligent, our prayers will be answered, our problems will diminish, our fears will dissipate, light will come upon us, the darkness of despair will be dispersed, and we will be close to the Lord and feel of His love” (“Behold, We Count Them Happy Which Endure,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 77). ■



PROTECTING

Your Child from Gang Influence

BY DENNIS J. NORDFELT

There are positive things you can do to steer your child away from gangs.

On 11 February 1999 the First Presidency began a letter to Church members throughout the world with the following statement: "All about us we see evidence of the corrosive elements targeted to injure our youth."¹ When I served as the police chief of West Valley City, Utah, I discovered that one of the most corrosive elements in the world today is the influence of gangs.

By definition, a gang is any group of three or more people who form an allegiance to the exclusion of others and engage in unlawful or criminal behavior. The impact of gang influence is reflected by recent studies that show two crime trends moving in opposite directions: adult crime is decreasing while youth violence is increasing. The most common denominator in the commission of violent crime by young people is gang membership.

Since young people who join gangs come from every neighborhood, race, religion, culture, and economic level, parents need to know how to most effectively protect children from this menace. The following are signs that might indicate your child is identifying with or has become part of a gang:

- Wearing of gang-style clothing. Styles change often; police or local antigang organizations can help you know what is currently in style.



- Gang-style doodling on homework, notebooks, bedroom walls, or personal property. Look especially for a "moniker" (a gang nickname).
- Significant changes in behavior and attitude, including withdrawal,

secrecy, and disrespect for authority.

- Association with a new group of friends and rejection of relationships with longtime friends and acquaintances.
- Use of hand signs and monikers and a different style of language.
- An interest in gangster rap or heavy metal music.
- Increased contact with law enforcement officers, beginning with truancy, curfew violations, graffiti marking or vandalism, or possession of drugs or alcohol.

If you suspect your child is a gang member or in danger of becoming one, don't make the mistake of denying your suspicions. Your feelings are probably right; you know this child better than anyone else. Talk with your child, and express your love. But don't feel you have to deal with the problem alone. Let your bishop or branch president know, and ask him to solicit the help of youth leaders. Take advantage of community agencies, groups, and school programs that can offer you and your child support, encouragement, and even gang intervention.

You can begin while your children are small to protect them from future gang involvement by strengthening your family. In their letter, the First Presidency urged "parents to devote their best efforts to the teaching and rearing

of their children in gospel principles which will keep them close to the Church.” In fact, everything you do to strengthen the family can help protect your children against the influence of dangerous groups. Every individual has a basic need to belong. If the family—the basic unit of society—isn’t fulfilling that need, something else will. Sometimes, even in strong families, children will make poor choices. But if parents do everything possible to make the family the most attractive option, most children will use their agency wisely.

Efforts to educate your children about gang problems may need to start earlier than you think. Experts advise letting your children know as early as their preschool years that there are people who are not good for them and that gangs are bad. With older children, discussing issues surrounding gangs and violence can be vital to preventing their involvement or to intervening if they are already involved. If you are not sure how to begin, help may be available. Some communities have organizations or police officers who can offer assistance in combating gang influence.

As with all “corrosive elements targeted to injure our youth,” the most effective way to steer a child away from gang influence is through teaching and applying gospel principles. In their letter, the First Presidency counseled “parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family

home evening, gospel study and instruction, and wholesome family activities.” At times it may not seem that these have any effect, but they will. And young people who can be persuaded to be involved in seminary, Sunday meetings, and Church youth programs are more likely to avoid the misery, wasted opportunities, transgression, physical injury, or even death that may come with gang involvement.

Even when parents have done their best, children sometimes become involved with the wrong group. Do not dilute your values or lower your expectations, but be patient and maintain your efforts to communicate. Gang-involved youth usually place a very high value on personal respect. While you must let them know their inappropriate behavior is not acceptable, you must also let them know that you love them and are concerned for them as individuals.

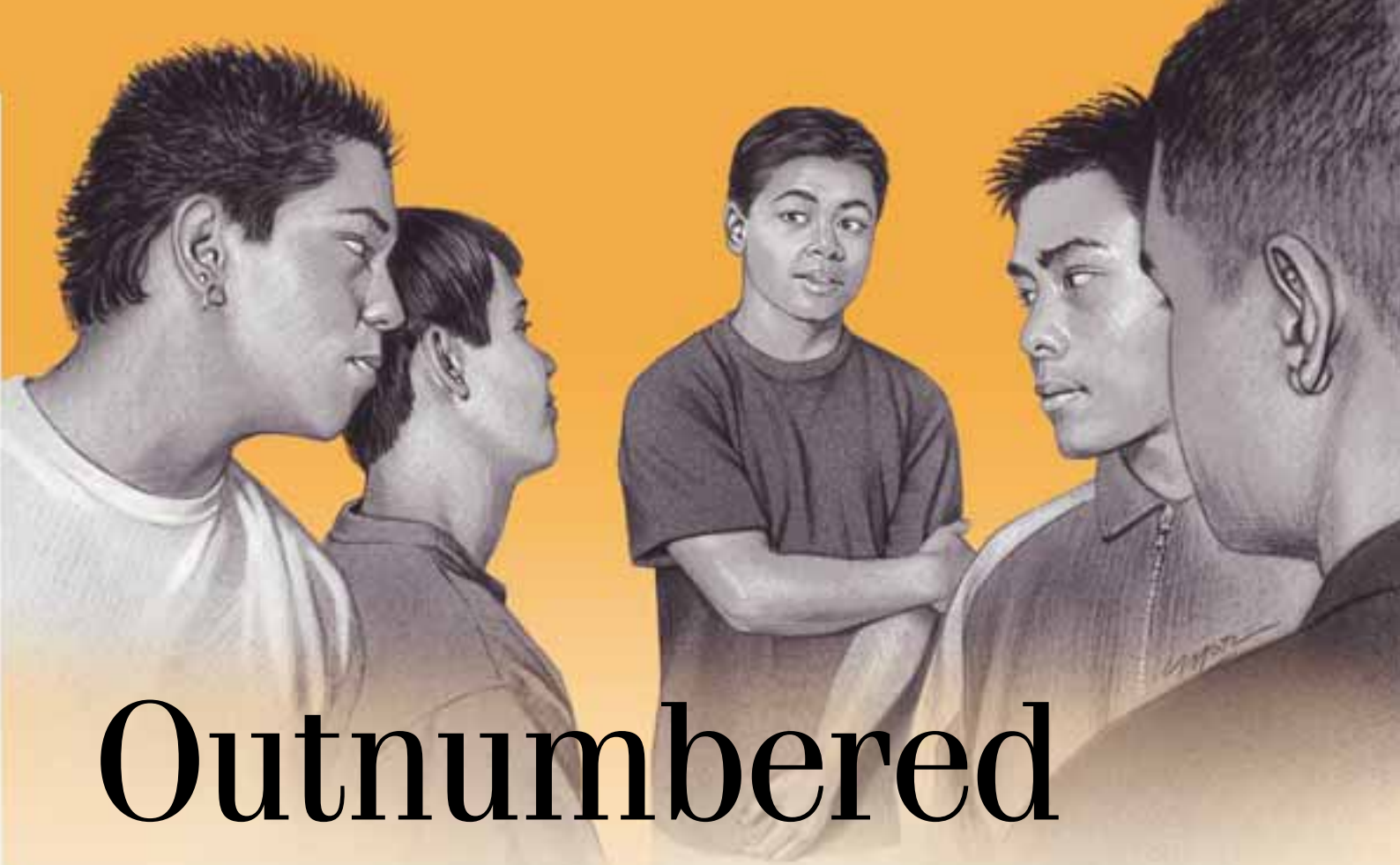
Whatever choices our children might make, our Father in Heaven expects us never to give up on them, just as He will never give up on us. “Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3), and helping them avoid the pitfalls of the world is worth the best and most inspired efforts all of us can give. ■

Dennis J. Nordfelt is a member of the Jordan North Third Ward, Salt Lake Jordan North Stake.

NOTE

1. See “Letter from the First Presidency,” *Liabona*, Dec. 1999, 1; “Policies, Announcements, and Appointments: Keeping Children Close to the Church,” *Ensign*, June 1999, 80.





Outnumbered

BY PAOLO MARTIN N. MACARIOLA

On Monday morning I went to school, where I am one of only five Church members among 1,200 students. A group of boys approached me and invited me to be a member of their group. I was outnumbered. They had body piercings and were taller and bigger than most kids. They bullied those who didn't join them.

I'm also bigger than most kids, and I considered joining the group because I am shy. I thought that being part of a group would make up for my shyness. I asked them, "Can I think it over first?" They said yes.

I asked my parents for their opinion. They said I should pray and read the scriptures. Before I went to sleep, I read the scriptures and *For the Strength of Youth*. It says, "Choose friends who share your values so you can strengthen and encourage each other in living high standards" ([2001], 12). I also prayed

for help: "Are they the right friends for me?"

The next morning during class, I opened my wallet-size *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet. I read it again and knew what I had to answer. When they asked me, "So now will you join our group?" I said, without a doubt, "No."

They asked me why not, and I simply said I didn't want to get body piercings or to use my strength to hurt others. I said I wanted to be nice to everybody by following Jesus Christ. They looked at me as if to say, "You are wasting an opportunity to have popular friends."

Today I have a group of friends who are different from that gang. My friends are good students, look clean, and behave well. Now I know that if I seek our Heavenly Father's help, He will help me. ■

Paolo Martin N. Macariola is a member of the Tangub Ward, Bacolod Philippines South Stake.

When they asked me to join their group, I felt outnumbered. Then I took the matter to the Lord.



Submitting

Our Will to the Father's

BY ELDER BENJAMIN DE HOYOS

Area Authority Seventy
Mexico South Area



Abinadi helps us understand how bringing our desires into harmony with God's will can bring us spiritual power.

Without a doubt, one of the great sermons in the Book of Mormon is found in the powerful words of the prophet Abinadi. With great clarity, he gives expression to the doctrine of the Atonement of Christ and its effects upon all humankind.

One aspect of the Atonement made clear by Abinadi has to do with the power we receive as we follow the Savior's example and submit the desires of the flesh to the will of God. The prophet Abinadi describes this characteristic:

"I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people.

"And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son. . . .

"And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged, and cast out, and disowned by his people. . . .

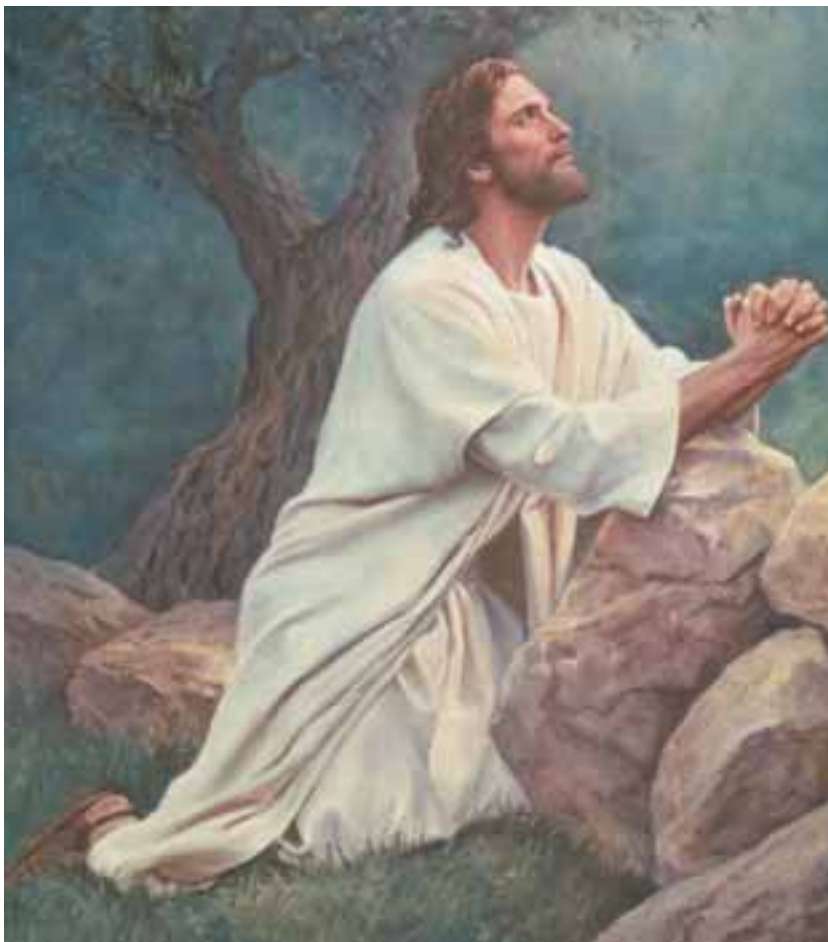
"Yea, even so he shall be led, crucified, and slain, the flesh becoming subject even unto death, the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father" (Mosiah 15:1–2, 5, 7).

Seeking a Mighty Change

As we read the scriptures daily, searching the inspired words that lead many to know of their surety and to live accordingly, the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent can work a mighty change in our hearts. At the conclusion of King Benjamin's powerful address, his people declared "that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually" (Mosiah 5:2). They had obtained the ability, surely after persistent effort, not only to renounce all that is evil, but to incorporate all that is good into their words, their works, and their thoughts (see 2 Nephi 9:39; Mosiah 4:30; Alma 12:14). Is there any desire of the heart greater than this?

As we ponder the words of Abinadi and seek to obtain that great desire of the heart, which is to put off the natural man and become "a saint through the atonement of





Jesus Christ's example of subjecting the flesh to the will of the Father is particularly evident in His atoning sacrifice. His suffering and plea to the Father in Gethsemane reveal the great love both He and His Father have for each of Their children.

Christ" (Mosiah 3:19), we see that the prophet is telling us about one of the principles that gave Jesus Christ power to make intercession for the children of men: the subjection of His flesh and the subjection of His will to the will of the Father (see Mosiah 15:8). We realize that in our Heavenly Father's plan, everything was provided so that the natural man could be overcome. The words of the prophet Mormon express this truth: "Yea, we see that whosoever will may lay hold upon the word of God, which is quick and powerful, which shall divide asunder all the cunning and the snares and the wiles of the devil, and lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared to engulf the wicked" (Helaman 3:29).

Following the Savior's Example

Jesus Christ's example of subjecting the flesh to the will of the Father is particularly

evident in His atoning sacrifice. His great suffering and His plea to the Father in Gethsemane—"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)—reveal His great willingness to open the way for us and the great love both He and His Father have for each of Their children.

As we follow the Savior's example of humility in facing opposition in all things, we know He will always sustain us (see Alma 36:3). How often have we felt what Nephi expressed in his psalm? He wrote:

"Nevertheless, notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth: O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh; my soul grieveth because of mine iniquities.

"I am encompassed about, because of the temptations and the sins which do so easily beset me. . . .

"And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? Why am I angry because of mine enemy? . . .

"O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm" (2 Nephi 4:17–18, 27, 34).

One of the many qualities that each of us needs to incorporate into our lives as Latter-day Saints and that the prophet Abinadi stressed is a willingness to submit our flesh to the will of the Father by becoming disciples of Christ.

Submitting through Service

Latter-day Saints have the opportunity to serve each other through our callings in the Church. Since we do not have a professional clergy, we are all called to serve, administer, and minister to each other. This opportunity requires time, effort, an open heart, and submission to the will of God—which is communicated to us through inspiration and through His authorized servants.

The following are just a few ways we can submit our flesh to the will of the Father as we serve with all our “heart, might, mind and strength” (D&C 4:2). We can lay aside the temporal things in our daily lives to go to the house of the Lord and perform saving work for others. We can regularly and devotedly attend sacrament meeting to partake of the sacrament, that we may always have His Spirit to be with us (see D&C 20:77, 79). By keeping ourselves pure and morally clean, we can serve as part of the greatest generation of missionaries, missionaries who teach by the Spirit. We can fast regularly, drawing near to our Heavenly Father, sharing our bread with the hungry, clothing the naked, and seeking out the needy. Fasting helps loose the bands of wickedness, undo heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free, breaking every yoke (see Isaiah 58:6–7).

We can submit our flesh to the will of the Father when we forget our own needs and relinquish our own comfort; when we make time to visit others, including new converts who need to be “nourished by the good word of God” (Moroni 6:4); or when we “succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees” (D&C 81:5).

We can submit our flesh and our will to God when we are “anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of [our] own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness” (D&C 58:27). Indeed, we should be “willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon [us]” (Mosiah 3:19). And perhaps more than at any other time, we can bring our will into harmony with the Father’s

when we are building our families on the foundation of the gospel of Christ.

Understanding the Nature of Happiness

Submitting to the will of God is easy when we assign a proper value to the things around us because we understand the eternal nature of our existence. It is said that once the Greek philosopher Socrates stopped to admire many kinds of magnificent merchandise in the marketplace. He

said, “How many things I can do without!”

In our hurry to find happiness, we often find ourselves yearning after things that are completely useless and even destructive. But in our desire for self-mastery, we must invest our time in those things that are indispensable to our goal.

Happiness does come to those who follow the Father’s counsel. King Benjamin said: “I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and

if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness” (Mosiah 2:41).

Everything in the kingdom of God, or in His Church, is structured in such a way that the weakest of the Saints can follow Jesus Christ. We can, in fact, submit our flesh and will to the will of God and gain the power to become the sons and daughters of Christ (see Mosiah 5:7).

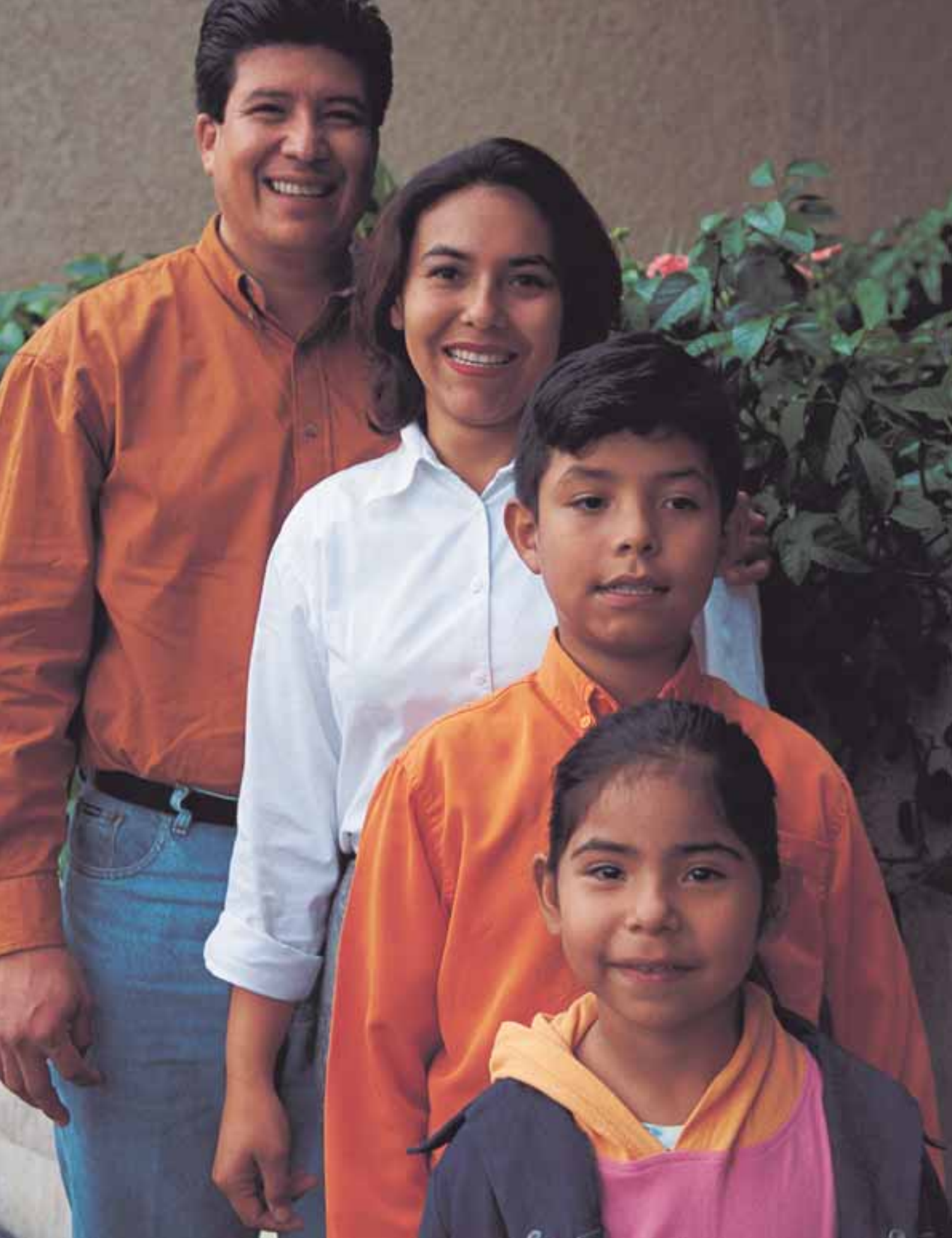
To become true disciples of Christ, we need to remember the inspired message of Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles that the only possession we have that we can give our Father is our will.¹ Our Savior’s Atonement and Redemption make it possible for us, even in our weakness, to overcome the opposition of the flesh little by little and line upon line—until we become even as He is. ■

NOTE

1. See “Swallowed Up in the Will of the Father,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 24.



We should be willing to lay aside the temporal things in our daily lives to go to the house of the Lord.





One Million in Mexico

As Mexican members reach a milestone in history, their faith and examples are influencing more and more lives in their country.

BY DON L. SEARLE
Church Magazines

Sometime this year, if it has not happened already, Mexico will become the first country outside the United States to reach the significant membership milestone of 1,000,000 Latter-day Saints.

This milestone is indicative of the way the Church has blossomed in Mexico and Central and South America in recent years. While preaching of the gospel began well over 100 years ago in Mexico (see “Important Events for the Church in Mexico,” p. 42), Church growth accelerated beginning in the 1950s and 1960s. When President Spencer W. Kimball became twelfth President of the Church in 1973, there were just over 3.3 million members throughout the world; now Mexico and Central and South America alone have more members than that.

Many members bear testimony that the growth has come as fulfillment of prophecy or in answer to the prayers of the righteous. They express deep gratitude for

the blessings this growth has brought. One example: for decades members in Mexico had to travel to the United States to visit a temple. It was thrilling for them when a temple was dedicated in Mexico City in 1983. Today Mexico has 12 temples, 20 missions, and 199 stakes.

Church membership is diverse, ranging from professional people living in the urban megalopolis of Mexico City to farmers and laborers in isolated rural areas. What ties them together is a testimony of Jesus Christ and a desire to serve others as He might direct. It would be impossible to depict in words or photographs the full richness of Latter-day Saint life in Mexico, but the words and pictures that follow provide a window into the lives of representative members.

The Wedding They Really Wanted

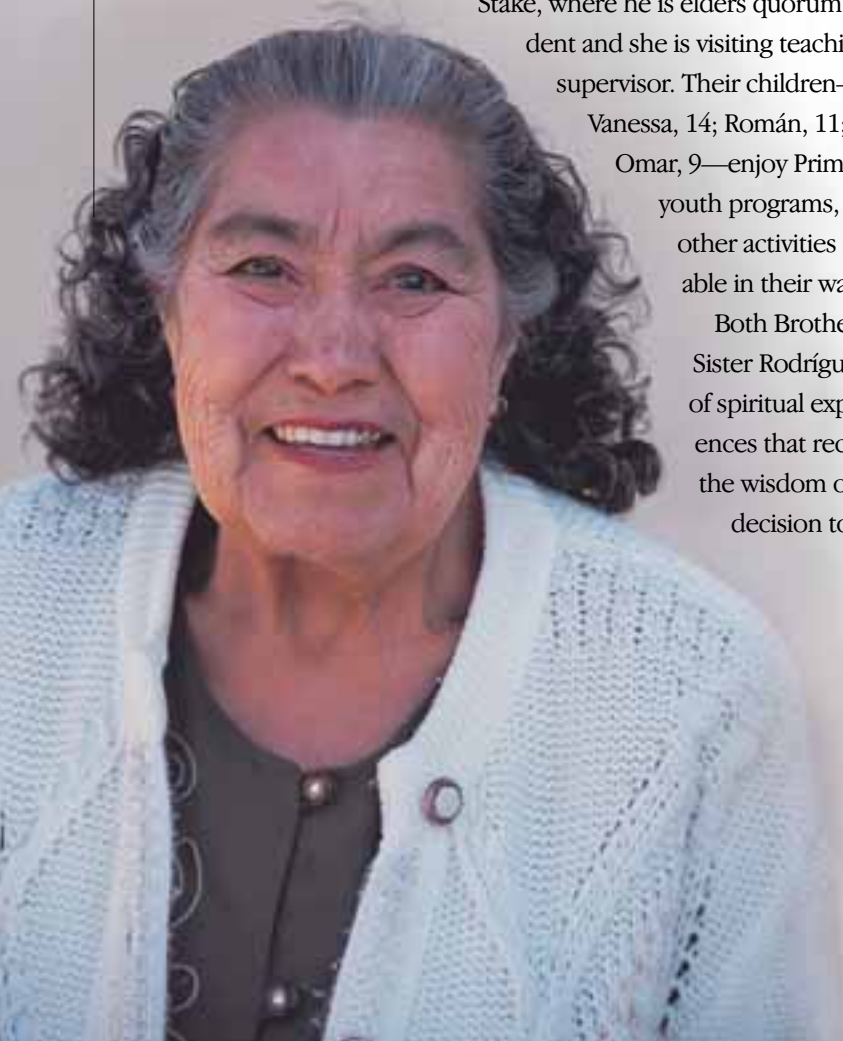
The Monterrey México Temple stands prominently on a hill next to a major highway. It is impossible to pass without noting the majesty of the building and its setting. When Román and Norma Rodríguez first passed the temple, there were signs announcing an open house. Feeling drawn to it, they stopped and went in with their family.

Originally married in a civil ceremony as required by law, they were, after 15 years and three children, involved in planning the impressive church wedding they had never had. But during their visit to the Monterrey temple, they felt something they had never felt before. There was a peace and joy Román could not explain. Norma felt it too.

Grandparents and parents who pioneered in the Church left a spiritual legacy for members like Isaías Martínez of the Chalco México Stake; his wife, María; son, Isai; and daughter, Jatsiri.



Like the statue of Moroni atop the Monterrey México Temple, members are fast becoming standouts in Mexico.



They agreed that they had to learn more about the teachings of the church that had built this temple, so they left their names and a request for the missionaries to visit.

“I remember when we were preparing for that other wedding,” Sister Rodríguez says. “I kept wondering if we were doing the right thing. I prayed to the Lord to help me, and I feel my prayer was answered as we learned about eternal marriage.”

On 15 May 2003, just one year and eight days after their baptism, Brother and Sister Rodríguez and their daughter and two sons returned to the house of the Lord for the kind of wedding they really wanted—their eternal sealing as a family. They are members of the Santo Domingo Ward, San Nicolás México

Stake, where he is elders quorum president and she is visiting teaching supervisor. Their children—

Vanessa, 14; Román, 11; and Omar, 9—enjoy Primary, the youth programs, and the other activities available in their ward.

Both Brother and Sister Rodríguez tell of spiritual experiences that reconfirm the wisdom of their decision to



PRESIDENT KIMBALL'S DREAM

“When I was in Mexico in 1946, . . . I had a dream of your progress and development. . . .

“ . . . Instead of working for others I could see you getting the management of the positions of responsibility. . . .

“I saw the people of Lehi as engineers and builders. . . .

“I saw many of your sons becoming attorneys and helping solve the world's problems. I saw your people as owners of industries and factories. . . .

“I saw doctors as well as the lawyers looking after the health of your people. I saw young Mexican men and women becoming great lecturers, owners of newspapers with their influence on public affairs. I saw great artists among you. . . .

“I saw the Church growing with rapid strides, and I saw them organized in wards and stakes. . . . I saw a temple of God and expect to see it filled with men and women and young people. . . .

“Now, that was my dream. Maybe it was a vision. Maybe the Lord was showing to me what this great people would accomplish.”

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), in Conference Report, Mexico City Area Conference 1977, 31.





Left: Amalia Estrada Catero, Mexico City; members of the Noriega family on their farm near Guadalajara; two employees at the Church's employment resource center in Monterrey. Top: Students from the Church's Benemérito School in Mexico City prepare wheelchairs to be given to people in need. Above: A class at the Missionary Training Center in Mexico City.

become members of the Church. Before, Brother Rodríguez says, they were running after the common things of life. Now they see with real depth and spiritual clarity. "I feel like our life is beginning to come together," he says.

The Way It Used to Be

Latter-day Saint pioneers from different areas of Mexico share stories of similar experiences: years of isolation, sometimes persecution, slow growth, and more recently—as Church members have become more visible in Mexican society—acceptance and respect.

Francisco and Estela Magdaleno of Las Aguilas Ward, Guadalajara México Moctezuma Stake, were baptized in the mid-1960s. The area where they live is strongly traditional with regard to religion. At first, neighbors wanted little to do with them or their faith. The Magdalenos continued to live their religion and tried their best to maintain

good relationships with those around them. They and their three children have all served missions in Mexico. The Magdalenos have lived to see the day when neighbors turn to them for advice on questions of faith.

Sixta María Martínez of the Aeropuerto Ward, Mérida México Centro Stake, was already 62 when she was baptized in 1974. She quickly learned to love temple work and made several long trips on temple excursions from southern Mexico to Mesa, Arizona, in the United States. She delighted in a later opportunity to visit the temple in Salt Lake City. Over the years Sister Martínez has completed temple ordinances for her own family back five generations. She has lived to see a temple built just a few kilometers away in Mérida. At 92, she tries to go there once a week. "It is my joy. It is my life," she says.

Amalia Estrada Catero of the Narvarte Ward, México City México Ermita Stake, grew up as a member of the Church. Her grandparents joined in the late 1880s. But in her youth, she and her family were the only members in their small town. Sister Estrada was not able to be fully active in the Church until she moved to Mexico City in 1956, in her mid-30s. She first went to the temple on an excursion to Mesa in 1963. Now she goes to the nearby Mexico City temple as often as possible. A teacher by training, Sister Estrada has taught in all of the Church auxiliaries and has been Relief Society president. In her early years in that small town, there was pressure for her to follow the dominant faith. Now she too has lived to see the day when neighbors come to her with questions on how to live a better life. As one young man in the neighborhood put it after a visit with her, "I talked to the teacher."

Strengthening the Stakes

"I was telling my husband just a short time ago how blessed our children are," says María Hernández de Martínez of the Huitzilzingo Ward, Chalco México Stake. As a convert, she is grateful for a temple sealing and all the blessings the gospel brings to her family.

Isaías Martínez, her husband, says, "Every time I look at the pictures of my grandparents, I'm filled with gratitude for what they did as members of the Church." They were

baptized in the 1940s. His grandfather and father both served as local priesthood leaders. Brother Martínez, called as a bishop at age 25, now serves as stake clerk.

Brother Martínez is an electronics engineer, and his wife was trained as an educator. In a way, he says, they represent what happened to members because grandparents and parents struggled to provide education for their offspring. As a result, many members of the current generation of Church leaders in Mexico are visible symbols in their communities of personal growth through following gospel principles.

Armando and Claudia Galíndez of the Estrella Ward, México City México Churubusco Stake, are examples. A lawyer, he also owns a company that offers employee training to businesses. Sister Galíndez, trained in tourism management, works with him in his company. Successful in Mexico, Brother Galíndez resists the lure of greater prosperity to the north. Though he might be able to establish a business in the United States, he chooses to stay in Mexico to help build up the Church. He says he wants to help fulfill President Spencer W.

Kimball's dream of the roles of members in Mexican society (see "President Kimball's Dream," p. 36).

Even before their marriage, Armando

and Claudia made gospel-centered goals for themselves and their family. Brother Galíndez uses a number of gospel-based principles in the training he offers, including this one: "The only thing we need to do to move from ordinary to extraordinary is to understand who we are."

As in other areas of the world, there are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mexico who drift away weeks or years after baptism, some never to return. Yet priesthood leaders who have followed President Gordon B. Hinckley's counsel—making sure that every member has a friend, a responsibility in the Church, and spiritual nourishment with the word of God—say it is very effective in reaching out and bringing back many who are not enjoying the blessings of full activity. And some members return on their own when a spiritual whisper or insight reminds them of how much the gospel has to offer.





Roots in Mexico

As early as the mid-1870s, President Brigham Young sent emissaries to Mexico looking for places to colonize, both as a refuge from persecution in the United States and as a way to introduce the gospel in Latin America. The first Latter-day Saint colonists arrived in 1885, and eventually seven colonies were established on the Casas Grandes River in northern Chihuahua and two more on the Bavispe River in northern Sonora.

Despite the hardships of pioneering in the desert, the colonies thrived in peace for some years. In 1895 the first stake in Mexico was organized at Colonia Juárez. Anglo colonists were driven out of Mexico during the revolution that began in 1910, but some later returned to reclaim their homes and lands. Most of the colonies faded away, but Colonia Dublán and Colonia Juárez in northern Chihuahua are still home to many descendants of the early colonists.

Many names of the Anglo colonists are well known in Church history: Bowman, Brown, Call, Eyring, Hatch, Ivins, Romney, Smith, Taylor, Turley, and others. President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988), First Counselor in the First Presidency, was born there. So too were siblings Camilla and Henry Eyring, respectively wife of President Spencer W. Kimball and father of Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Those early settlers



performed well their duty to implant the gospel, and today the descendants of Anglo pioneers are outnumbered in local congregations by members of Mexican ancestry.

Colonia Juárez is now the home of one of the Church's temples in Mexico; the Colonia Juárez Chihuahua México Temple was dedicated in 1999.



Left: Carlos and Iliana Moreira with their young son, Carlos, in Monterrey; opening of a sacrament meeting in Guadalajara; members in a Mexico City Sunday School class. Above: The Mario Martínez family of Monterrey.

Yolanda Elsie Díaz de Vega of the Jardines Ward, Guadalajara México Reforma Stake, recalls staying up late to study the gospel with her husband after they were baptized in 1979: "It was as though we hungered for the scriptures." But after seven months as a member of the Church, she felt that she was criticized unfairly by an older member and that she could not go to the next meeting. For four years the Vegas did not go to church—until concern for the blessings their family was missing led them back.

The Vegas have been active for many years now, sharing strength with their family, their ward, and their neighbors. There have been great blessings in learning how to be a better couple and in serving others, Brother Vega says. The gospel "changed our way of thinking, our way of living." Their children have grown up learning and living the gospel, and now grandchildren are enjoying the same



Above: Members visit at a ward social in Mérida.

Right: The Mérida México Temple.

spiritual opportunities through Church activity. “I’m proud of our children because we’ve never had to worry about people knowing we are members of the Church,” Sister Vega says. Their four children respond that they live the way they do because of parental example.

Sharing the Blessings

Eleven-year-old Samuel Briones of the Primavera Ward, Guadalajara México Moctezuma Stake, helped interest his schoolteacher in the gospel by inviting her to the open house for the Guadalajara temple. After her visit, she began meeting with the missionaries. The man who taught karate to Samuel and his 12-year-old brother, José Julio, became interested in the gospel because of his association with the two boys; he was baptized and now serves as stake executive secretary.

“Many are looking for the truth, but they don’t know where it is,” says the boys’ father, also José Julio. It is easy to share beliefs with people when we, as members, are attentive enough to the Holy Ghost to know their need, Brother Briones says. His wife, Josefina, learned that the seeds we plant may take time to sprout, then grow quickly. She had shared her beliefs with one couple who seemed ready to listen but declined her invitations to attend Church meetings because of conflicts in their schedule. When they finally were able to attend with her, even she was surprised at how readily and quickly they accepted the gospel.

Mauro Gil of Mérida, who served as president of the México Torreón Mission from 1999 to 2002, says the example of members is probably the major factor in the reception missionaries receive. Reflecting on the influence of exemplary members, he says, “I think the gospel

is going to make a greater nation of Mexico.” He has witnessed steady progress in the lives of members in the Yucatán Peninsula over the past 20 years not only spiritually but also temporally as they have obeyed principles of the gospel, including the law of tithing.

The temples in Mexico, he says, are just one visible symbol of the blossoming and growth among members. “They are going to bless the lives of people. They are going to bless our children.”

The Temple Effect

Members who recall the era of weeklong excursions to the temple in Mesa, Arizona, rejoice at having a temple now within a day’s drive from almost any point in their country. On a typical Saturday, the parking lots of temples in Mexico accommodate several buses bringing members from outlying areas.

Some rejoice in simply helping to clean the house of the Lord. In Guadalajara, Alfredo Gómez, second counselor in the temple presidency, greets a member who is leaving after a shift of cleaning the temple. President Gómez asks if the man is tired. Yes, the man replies—but it is a good kind of tired, and he is leaving strengthened.

“The value of the temple to members here is incalculable,” President Gómez says. Some from outlying areas will even skip necessities, such as food, to pay the cost of the trip. “Members know it is *their* temple. They have made it theirs when they come here to perform ordinances—or even to clean.”

Local leaders encourage and support them in this work, he explains. “If I may say it this way, President Hinckley’s plan was to take the temples to the members and then to take the members to the temples.”

Throughout Mexico, members are taking to temple worship and the blessings that flow out of it. From Matamoros and Ciudad Victoria to Mazatlán and Guaymas, from Puebla and Campeche to Acapulco, there are members who rejoice in blessings received through temples that are now within reach of their homes.

In Monterrey, there was much opposition to the building of the temple. And yet there are members who can testify



Important Events for the Church in Mexico



The San Pedro Mártir meetinghouse was dedicated in 1938.

July 1847: Latter-day Saint pioneers led by President Brigham Young arrive in the Salt Lake Valley, which is within Mexican Territory.

1874: President Brigham Young calls Daniel W. Jones to translate the Book of Mormon into Spanish, but Brother Jones does not have a command of the language. Melitón G. Trejo, a Spaniard, comes to Salt Lake City, and with his help selections from the Book of Mormon are published.

6 January 1875: The first Latter-day Saint missionaries enter Mexico.

1876: A second missionary effort begins—in the state of Sonora. The first members are baptized.

15 November 1879: The first LDS missionaries arrive in the capital city: Elder Moses Thatcher of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Melitón G. Trejo, and James Z. Stewart.

November 1879: The first branch is organized in Mexico, with Plotino Rhodakanaty as president.

25 January 1880: Mexico is first dedicated for missionary work by Elder Thatcher, in a hotel room in Mexico City.

6 April 1881: At Popocatepetl, Elder

Thatcher again dedicates Mexico for the preaching of the gospel and establishment of settlements. Eight others join him on the slopes of the volcano for the first Church conference in Mexico.

1885: The initial attempt by Anglo Latter-day Saints to colonize in Mexico begins. Seven colonies are eventually established in Chihuahua and two in Sonora.

1886: Melitón G. Trejo and James Z. Stewart finish the Spanish translation of the complete Book of Mormon, and it is published.

Mid-1889: All missionary efforts in Mexico are temporarily closed because of persecution of the Church in Utah.

9 December 1895: The Juárez Stake is organized in the LDS colonies of Chihuahua, with Anthony W. Ivins (later a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles) as president.

8 June 1901: The Mexican Mission is reopened.

September 1907: Rey Lucero Pratt (later a member of the Seventy) is called to preside over the Mexican Mission. His tenure will last 24 years. Between 1901 and 1910 the Mexican Mission expands to include the states of Mexico, Hidalgo, Morelos, and the Federal District.

29 August 1913: The Mexican Revolution, which began in 1910, forces President Pratt and his missionaries to abandon Mexico, closing the mission. The revolution causes great suffering among members. Some are killed; Rafael Monroy and Vicente Morales, executed in 1915, become known among members as

martyrs for their faith. The war spurs an exodus of members from the colonies.

1922: Missionaries from the United States return to Mexico.

1937: The Mexican Mission begins publishing the magazine *In Yaotlapiyoui*, forerunner of the *Liahona*.

1960: An LDS Church school system is established in Mexico. Benemérito de las Américas, a preparatory school established in Mexico City in 1964, has become known for the quality of its students.

3 December 1961: The first stake among Saints largely of Mexican ancestry is formed in Mexico City. It is the first Spanish-speaking stake in the Church.

1967: The Mexico City Stake is divided, and the Mexico City North Stake is organized, with Agricol Lozano Herrera as president—the first stake president of Mexican ancestry.

1972: Membership in Mexico reaches 100,000.

2 December 1983: The Mexico City Temple and Visitors' Center are dedicated.

25 July 1989: Mexico becomes the first country outside the United States to reach 100 stakes, with the creation of the Tecalco México Stake. Membership in Mexico is estimated at more than half a million.

11 December 1994: Visiting Mexico, President Howard W. Hunter creates the Church's 2,000th stake, the México City México Contreras Stake.

2004: Mexico, with 2 administrative areas, 12 temples, 20 missions, and nearly 200 stakes, reaches 1,000,000 members.

Courtesy of El Museo de Historia del Mormonismo en México, A. C.



that they saw it in dreams and knew it would be there, says temple president Eran A. Call, a member of the Seventy from 1997 to 2000. Here too members speak of it as *our* temple. There are no missionaries serving in it, President Call says—all the workers are local members. Many in the temple district have caught the spirit of the work. Not long ago a stake group came bringing 3,000 names of deceased persons for whom they would perform temple ordinances.

Hope for Eternity

The first meetinghouse built by the Church in Mérida was very significant for members who helped build it—and, as was the policy then, pay for it—recalls Saidy Castillo de Gaona of the Zacil-Ha First Ward, Mérida México Stake. “The members paid our half with our work—pure hard labor,” she says. Young Saidy learned to operate the brick-making machine while she worked on the project. And it was there that she met her future husband, Noé, a labor missionary helping to construct the building.

“When they knocked that building down, it was very emotional for me,” Saidy continues. “But the important

was going to be a temple. I asked the Lord to let me live long enough to see it.”

She and her husband were married more than 35 years ago. They were sealed in the temple in Mexico City shortly after it was dedicated. Through the years they supported the Church faithfully in a wide variety of priesthood and auxiliary callings. When the Mérida temple was dedicated in 2000, the Gaonas were prepared to serve there too; they were the first two temple workers set apart.

He was serving in the temple on the day he died suddenly in late 2002. Saidy says it was only her knowledge of the eternal nature of marriage that allowed her to cope with the loss of her companion. “I think if it hadn’t been for the gospel, I would have wanted to die. The knowledge of the gospel gives me strength to go on. The gospel is everything for me. It was everything for my husband too.”

She turned once more to service in the gospel for help in healing the hurt of her loss. In addition to serving in the temple, she found solace in giving of herself to her five children and grandchildren and also in her Church callings. “I think I’m happiest when I’m working,” she explains.

That may well be true for every member in Mexico. Those who seem happiest are those who are working to serve others and spread the gospel. Perhaps without even thinking about it, they are helping day to day to fulfill President Kimball’s dream of a vital, growing Church membership in

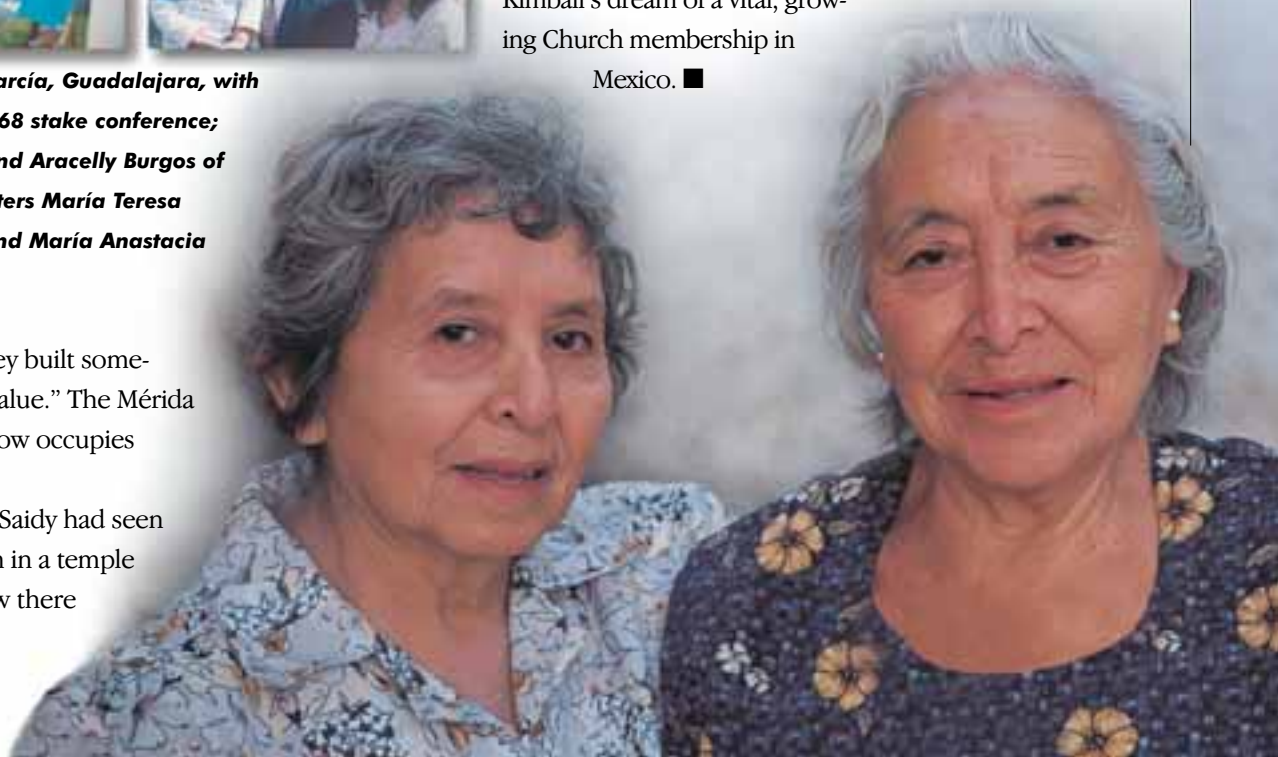
Mexico. ■



Above: Manuel García, Guadalajara, with booklet from a 1968 stake conference; Carlitos, Carlos, and Aracelly Burgos of Mérida. Right: Sisters María Teresa Solís de Hercila and María Anastacia Solís of Mérida.

thing was that they built something of greater value.” The Mérida México Temple now occupies that site.

As a teenager, Saidy had seen herself in a dream in a temple in Mérida. “I knew there



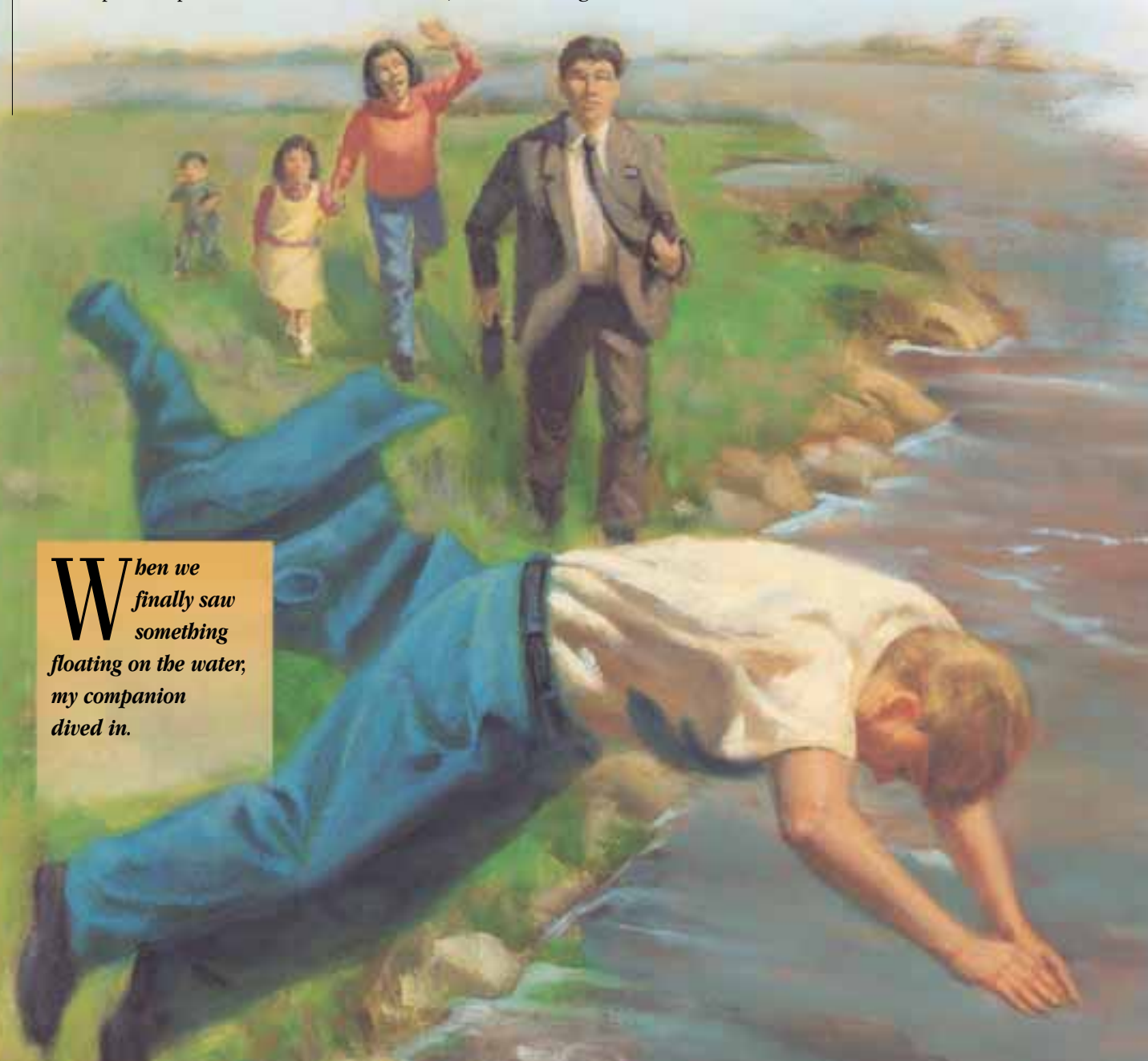
My Child Is Drowning!

By Hirofumi Nakatsuka

Our Sunday School teacher once asked if any of the returned missionaries in the class would like to share a story about hardships we experienced on our

missions. I had not experienced any particular hardships on my mission, but I decided to share the following story about one of my senior companions, a hard-working zone leader.

My companion's shoes had worn out, and as a result of our street contacting, his foot had developed many blisters. One day we had to return to the house early for lunch to change his shoes. When we left our house after lunch that day, I expected that we would walk to an area nearby because of his blistered foot. But



When we finally saw something floating on the water, my companion dived in.

instead my companion felt impressed to tract in a distant area.

As we were walking along a river-bank, a woman and several children ran toward us. The woman screamed, "Please help! My child is drowning!" He had fallen into the river, and they were not able to find him because the water was so muddy. We watched the river for a few minutes and finally saw something floating on the water. My companion dived into the dirty water and was able to catch the child and pull him out. The child's lips had lost their color, he wasn't breathing, and he appeared dead.

Our attempts to revive him had no effect. When at last the paramedics arrived and tried resuscitating him, the child finally threw up some water and started breathing again. By then many people surrounded us, and when they saw him breathing, they were moved to tears.

This experience was a great lesson for me. The Lord taught me that missionaries do for people's spirits the same thing my companion had done for this boy physically. It was our calling to save people spiritually.

When I finished telling this story in the Sunday School class, a member who had recently returned from his mission asked me where I had served.

"In the Japan Sapporo Mission," I answered.

"Was it in Asahikawa that you helped this child?" he asked.

"Yes," I answered.

Then he said, "The child in your story was baptized by my companion.

One week after the baptism, I was transferred to Asahikawa and I met him. He mentioned that a missionary had saved him from drowning in a river."

The Lord guides us in miraculous ways. It was not mere chance that my companion felt inspired to work in a distant area that afternoon despite his difficulty with walking or that we walked along the river at just the right moment.

Now the young man who was saved wants to be a missionary, just like the one who saved him. I thought I had completed my mission 14 years ago, but when this young man goes on a mission, in a sense my mission will continue. ■

Hirofumi Nakatsuka is a member of the Yonago Ward, Okayama Japan Stake.

Two-of-a-Kind Table

By Son Quang Le,
as told to Beth Ellis Le

Having fled Vietnam just three days before the takeover of Saigon in 1975, five members of my large family and I found ourselves living in a small trailer home in Provo, Utah. We had been allowed to bring only a small bag in our flight, and as refugees we were just learning English. Some of my sisters had joined the Church in Vietnam, and I was a recent convert. Now ward members saw to many of our needs,

and a close-knit community pooled its resources to make life comfortable for us newcomers.

As a member of the priests quorum, I was assigned to home teach with Brother Johnson, who lived nearby with his large family. One day Brother Johnson noticed that our family had no kitchen table. He appeared the next day with an odd-looking but very functional table that fit nicely against the trailer wall across from the kitchen sink and counters. I say odd-looking because two of the table legs matched the tabletop and two did not. Also, several small wooden pegs stuck out along one edge of the worn surface.

Soon we used this unique table daily for food preparation and for eating some quick meals. We still ate our family meals while we sat on the floor—with food, bowls, and chopsticks spread on a cloth in true Vietnamese fashion.

One evening I stood inside Brother Johnson's front door as I waited for him before a home teaching appointment. There in the nearby kitchen—I was surprised to see it—was a table practically identical to the one they had given to my family. The only difference was that where our table had pegs, the Johnsons' table had holes! I then realized that, seeing our need, this charitable man had cut his kitchen table in half and had built two new legs for each half.

It was obvious that the Johnson family could not fit around this small piece of furniture—they probably

didn't fit comfortably around it when it was whole. I like to imagine that the Johnsons learned to eat their family meals on the floor, just as we did, in true Vietnamese fashion.

Throughout my life this kind act has been a powerful reminder of true giving. ■

Son Quang Le and Beth Ellis Le are members of the Park Glen Ward, Hurst Texas Stake.

She Was My Answer

By Dori Wright

It was on an overcast day years ago that my friend called and asked me to attend the Jordan River Utah Temple with her. I wasn't sure I wanted to go out, as that day the things of the world were weighing heavily upon my soul. I felt I had little self-worth, and among other things, I didn't feel needed in my ward.

But after some hesitation, I accepted my friend's invitation with a prayer in my heart that if I would go and do the Lord's work, He would help me find peace of mind and an answer to my prayers.

At the temple I enjoyed the session but felt no particular answer to my plea for help. After I had prepared to leave and was waiting for my friend, a woman in a wheelchair bumped into

me. As I bent down to rub the pain in my leg, I heard her say in a sweet voice, "Oh, I am so sorry. Please forgive me." She gently touched my head. "Are you OK, dear sister?"

I looked up into an angelic face of pure love. She then looked me in the eye and, with a squeeze of the hand, said, "This Church needs you, and there are so many that need your love. Reach out to others, and they will reach out to you. You are needed, wanted, and loved in the Lord's kingdom."

Tears filled my eyes, and I cried for a few minutes as she held my head against her. When I regained control, I wiped away tears of joy and replied, "You have answered my prayer."

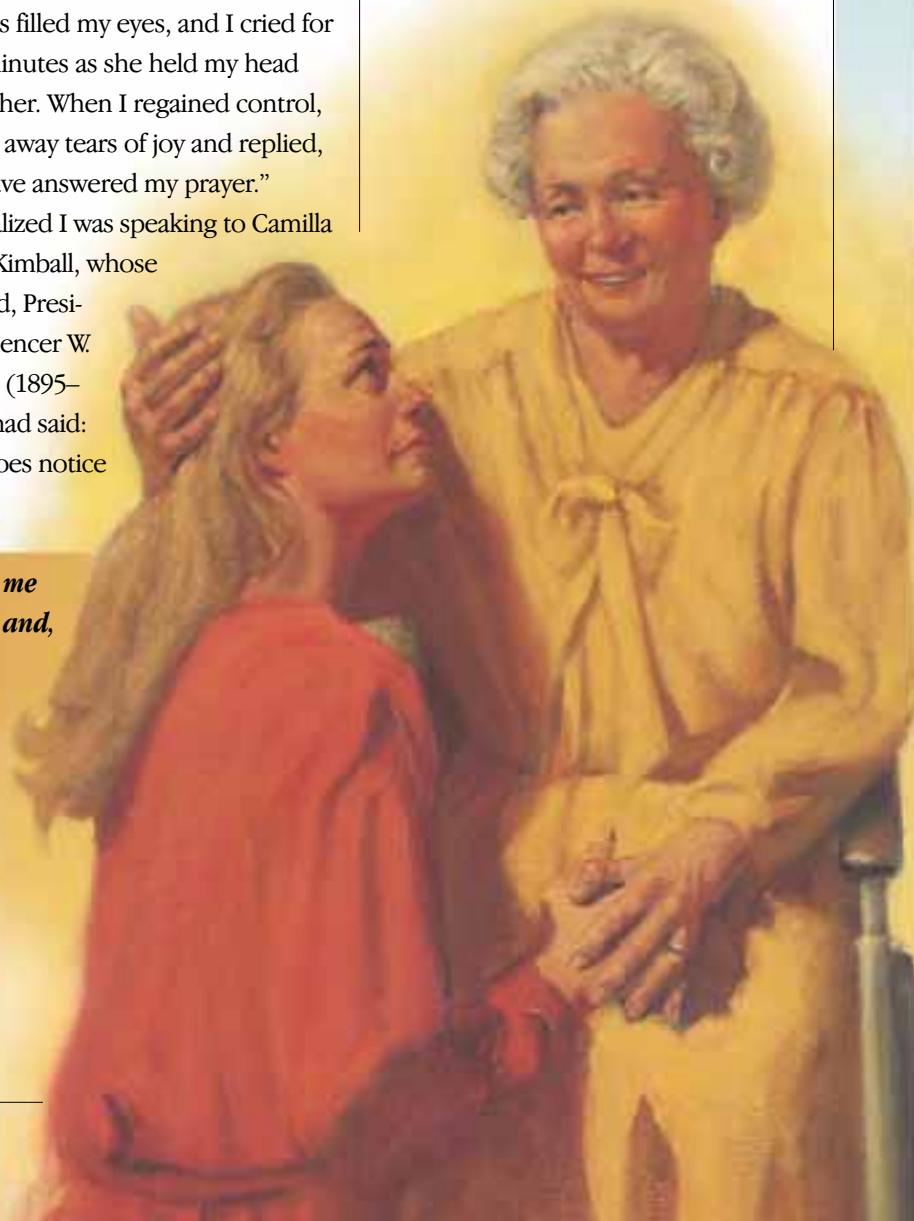
I realized I was speaking to Camilla Eyring Kimball, whose husband, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), had said: "God does notice

us, and he watches over us. But it is usually through another person that he meets our needs" ("The Abundant Life," *Tambuli*, June 1979, 3; *Ensign*, July 1978, 4).

I then found the strength to go home with joy and to give love from that day forward. I shall never forget how I was given peace and an answer to my prayer in an unexpected way on that glorious day in the house of the Lord. ■

Dori Wright is a member of the Lakeview Ward, Tooele Utah East Stake.

She looked me in the eye and, with a squeeze of the hand, said, "This Church needs you."



Did You Know?

Pioneer Days

From 22 to 24 July 1847, the first Latter-day Saint pioneers came into the Salt Lake Valley looking for a land free of persecution where they could worship God. Those pioneers built up the Church in the American West, and the gospel has continued to go forth among many nations of the earth.

Here are a few ways you can commemorate the sacrifices of the pioneers and learn more about them this month:

- If you have pioneer ancestors, read their journals and histories. Their lives have many lessons we can learn from today.
- Learn about the first members to be baptized in your country or family. They are also pioneers.
- Memorize a hymn that celebrates the pioneers or the Restoration.
- See what you can do to become more self-reliant. You could try growing your own garden, learning to sew, or practicing first aid.



Leadership Tip

As a counselor in a class or quorum presidency, you can do a lot to uphold your president, your Young Men or Young Women leaders, and your priesthood leaders. Be on the lookout for ways you can ease their burdens, including making yourself available for assignments or just getting to your meetings on time.

When the Israelites were attacked by Amalek and his people, Israel prevailed only when Moses held up his hands. But Moses was getting tired. He put down his hands, and Amalek's side began to win the battle.

“But . . . they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun” (Exodus 17:12).

The Israelites were able to win the battle through the power of the Lord because Moses' counselors upheld him. As a counselor, you can follow their good example.

BACKGROUND PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTY MAYO; AARON AND HUR UPHOLDING THE ARMS OF MOSES, ARTIST UNKNOWN; IN EMIGRATION CANYON—JULY 24, 1847, BY VALOY A. EATON

- As a group of youth, volunteer to help clean up a local historical site for a Duty to God or Personal Progress project.

- Begin today to write in your journal on a regular basis, so your posterity can learn about your life and your faith in God.





Scriptures and *Liabona* Meet Spiritual Needs

I am 19 years old and was baptized four years ago. I am grateful that I am a member of this true Church. I have received so many blessings from reading the scriptures and the Church magazines. I am so thankful for having access to the *Liabona*. My testimony is strengthened from reading it, and I gain more knowledge about the Church in different parts of the world. I love my scriptures and the *Liabona* because they meet my spiritual needs.

*Emelyn M. Quinit,
Rosario Ward,
Agoo Philippines Stake*

Liabona Brings Comfort and Joy

The *Liabona* brings comfort and joy to those who read and ponder it. In everyday life we often face difficulties, but God answers our needs through our prophet and other Church leaders.

I liked very much the March 2003 *Liabona*. Its messages have given me solid support. If we obey these principles and put them into practice, we can improve our lives and receive rich blessings.

*Saskia Carra Pierre-Louis,
Centrale Ward,
Port-au-Prince Haiti Stake*



Good and Profitable

Every time the *Liabona* arrives, I become happy because it teaches good and profitable principles. The parts I most like to read are

Questions and Answers, the First Presidency Message, and News of the Church. I feel very grateful that the Church was restored and that I am a member.

*Geruza Silva dos Santos,
Expedicionários Ward,
Fortaleza Brazil Montese Stake*

Decided to Serve

When I saw the cover of the October 2001 *Liabona*, I decided to serve a mission. It was the special missionary issue, and as I prepared spiritually and physically, I found in the *Liabona* everything I needed to know about a mission.

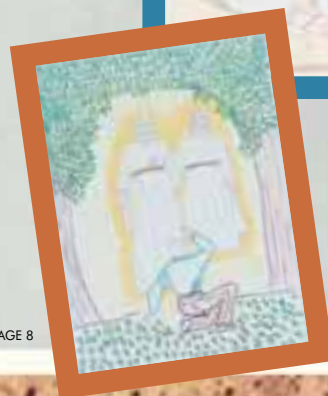
I love to read the magazine from cover to cover, especially Latter-day Saint Voices. These experiences strengthen my testimony.

*Elder David Ávalos Banda,
México Veracruz Mission*

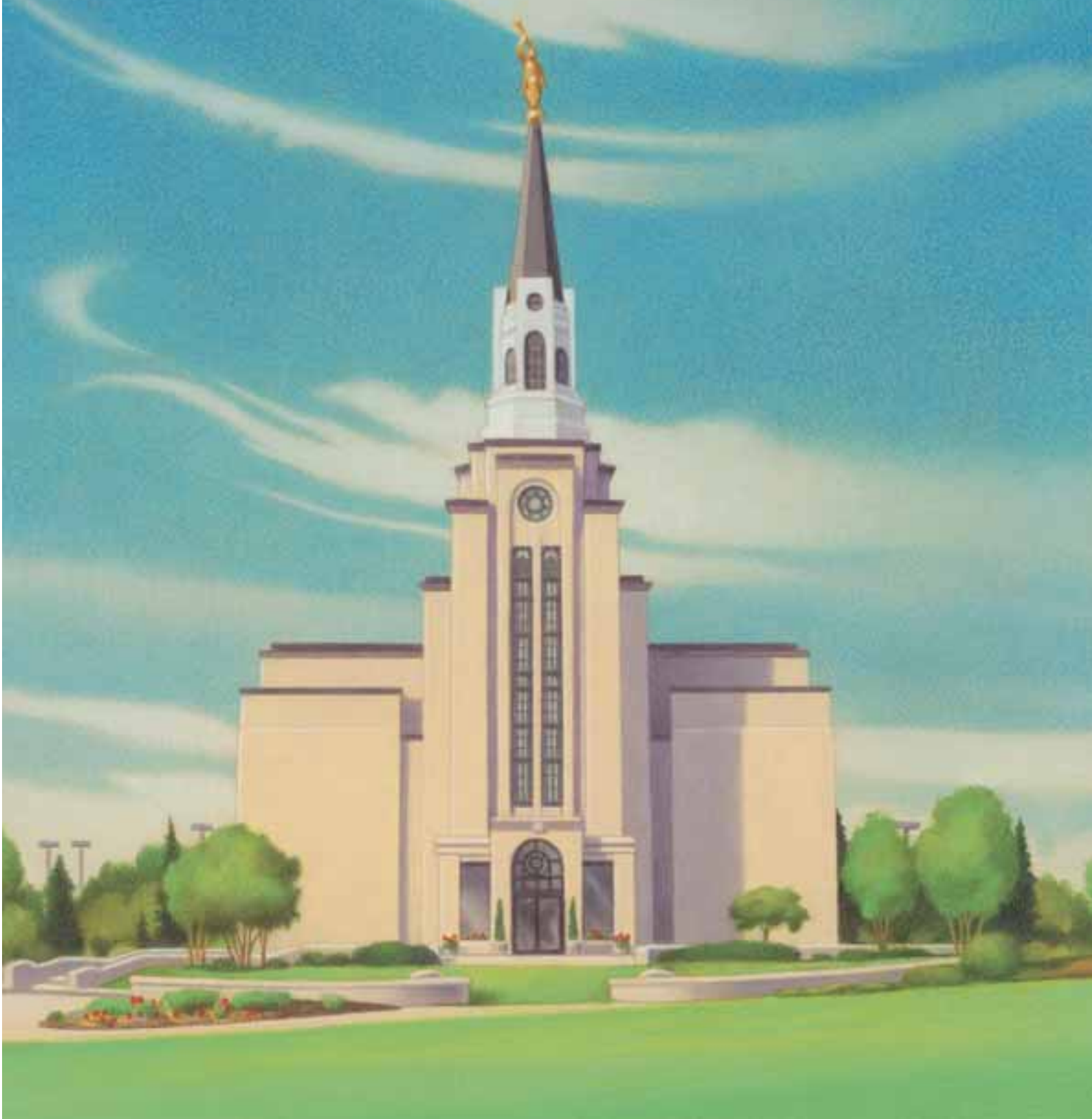
Call for Children's Art

The *Liabona* is interested in children's art depicting the Prophet Joseph Smith and the events of his life. If you are between the ages of 3 and 12 and would like to contribute, please send your artwork to Children's Art, *Liabona*, Room 2420, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA; or e-mail to cur-liabona-imag@ldschurch.org. Please include your full name, age, address, ward and stake (or branch and district), and a short description of your artwork.

ARTWORK BY SAMI SAN JUAN RAMBAO, AGE 8, AND ADRIAN C. VEGA FRANCO, AGE 8



the Friend



Knowing Who You Are

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency



President Faust reminds us that, above all, we are children of God.

I salute you young people as chosen, special spirits who have been reserved to come forth in this generation. You have great challenges. I hope you are beginning to achieve in some special way. Perhaps it is your smile, your personality, or your ability to lift others. Perhaps you are discovering your talent as an athlete, scholar, musician, artist, or in a hundred different areas. These accomplishments may cause you to think about who you really are.

Many [people] measure their self-worth solely in terms of their talent and accomplishments instead of who they really are inside. It is not always true that the more you achieve, the happier you will be.

God knows you and what you can become because He has known you from the beginning when you were His spirit sons and daughters. What you become will depend in large measure upon how you follow righteous principles and do good works.

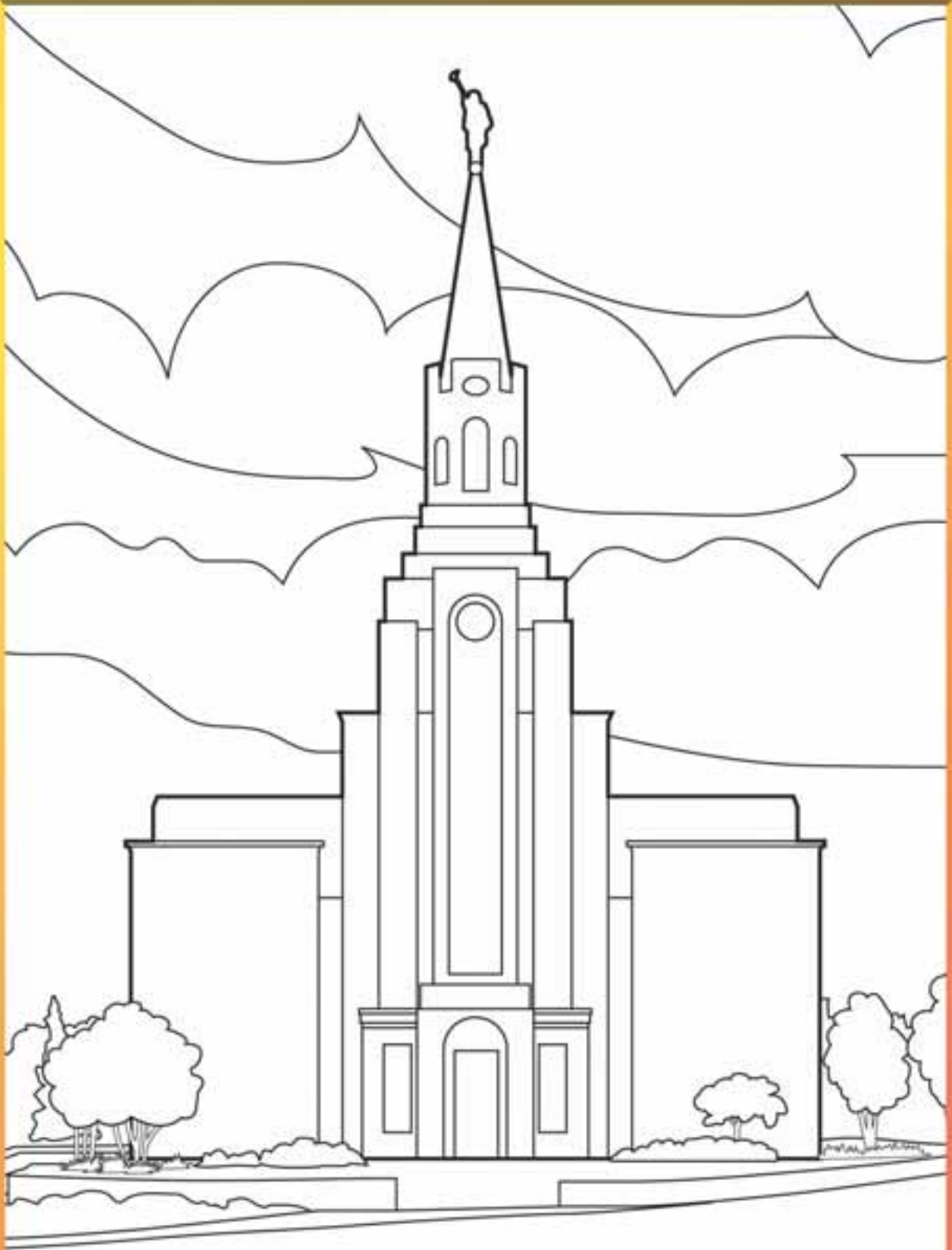
If we really want to feel better about ourselves, we should do deeds of kindness. Kindness shapes our character and makes us more like our Father in Heaven. Great satisfaction can come in helping the poor, the sick, the elderly, or others who have special needs. Look around you; there are all kinds of opportunities.

Being friendly to our neighbors [and] to people at school [and] at church is a great way to show the Lord that we want to keep the covenant we made at baptism “to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light” (Mosiah 18:8). So many people are shy or lonely and need a kind word or smile. Lifting others is the way of the Master.

So who do you think you are? Knowing who you are—who you *really* are—is closely tied to knowing God, for you are His children. ●

*Adapted from “Who Do You Think You Are?”
Liahona, June 2001, 2–7; Ensign, Mar. 2001, 2–7.*





Name _____

Date _____



A SPECIAL DAY

BY SHEILA E. WILSON

“Let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people” (D&C 124:40).



Have you ever been excited for a special day? Maybe it was your birthday or a vacation. Seven-year-old Adair was excited for a special day. Her family set a date to go to the temple one year from the time of their baptism.

Adair’s family held a special family home evening. Her dad and mom explained how important it was for everyone to prepare to go to the temple. They made a list of the things they could do: pray individually and as a family, read the scriptures, pay tithing, keep the commandments, and follow the prophet.

Adair’s mother gave her a picture of the temple and wrote Adair’s name and the date that her family would be going to the temple underneath. Every day Adair tried her best to prepare for when her family would be sealed in the temple. Adair felt good inside as she realized that each day she prepared to receive the blessings of the temple was a special day. She felt a surge of excitement as the special day came. Being sealed as a family was a blessing Heavenly Father gave them that brought them closer to Him and to each other.

Families can be together forever through making and keeping temple covenants and ordinances. The prophets have encouraged each of us to prepare to go to the temple. You can prepare to go to the temple with your family. You can also prepare to go at age 12 to do baptisms for the dead or to go when you are an adult—perhaps when you receive a mission call or before you are married.

Great blessings come from going to the temple. As you prepare now to receive the blessings of the temple, each day will be a special day!

Temple Day Picture Reminder

To make a mosaic, remove page F4 and glue it to heavy paper. Cut or tear small pieces of paper, and sort them according to color. Glue each piece of cut or torn paper on the scene. (You can also use crayons or paints.) Write your name at the bottom, and place the mosaic in your room. When will you go to the temple?

Sharing Time Ideas

1. To help children learn about temple ordinances, cut a picture of a temple into puzzle pieces. Label each piece with one of the following scripture references and songs: Baptism for the dead—D&C 124:29, 31; 127:6–7, “When Jesus Christ Was Baptized” (Liahona, Sept. 1997, F5); Confirmation—D&C 20:41; 138:33, “I Like My Birthdays” (Liahona, Oct. 1999, F16); Endowment—D&C 95:8; 105:12; 110:9, “Thy Holy Temple” (Liahona, Apr. 2002, F13); Marriage and sealing—D&C 132:19, 46, “Families Can Be Together Forever” (Tambuli, Mar. 1993, F8). Have one helper leave while another hides a puzzle piece. Have the second helper look for the puzzle piece as the Primary sings the song more loudly as the helper gets closer to the puzzle piece and more softly as he or she moves away. Post the puzzle piece, look up the scriptures, and discuss the ordinance in appropriate detail. Repeat the process. Bear testimony of temple ordinances.

2. To review songs for the children’s sacrament meeting presentation, write the names of the songs on large paper keys. Invite a child to choose a key, and ask him or her to wait outside the room. Have the Primary choose a keyword from the song. This is the word they will not sing in the song. Write the word on the blank side of the key. Invite the child to come back. Hold the keyword above the child’s head as a reminder of which word not to sing. Sing the song, and let the child guess which word is missing. Remind the children of the message of the song. Repeat for the other songs to be reviewed. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

Learning to Sing



When Heber J. Grant was 10 years old, he took a singing class.

You can't carry a tune, Heber. You'll never learn how to sing.

Years later Heber heard Horace S. Ensign sing.

I would give you three months of my spare time if I could learn to sing one or two hymns!

Anyone can learn to sing. Are you willing to practice?

After two weeks, Heber had learned to sing "O My Father." Two months later he could sing four other hymns.

Elder Clawson, Elder Kimball, we have a long journey ahead. Shall I sing 100 hymns on the way?

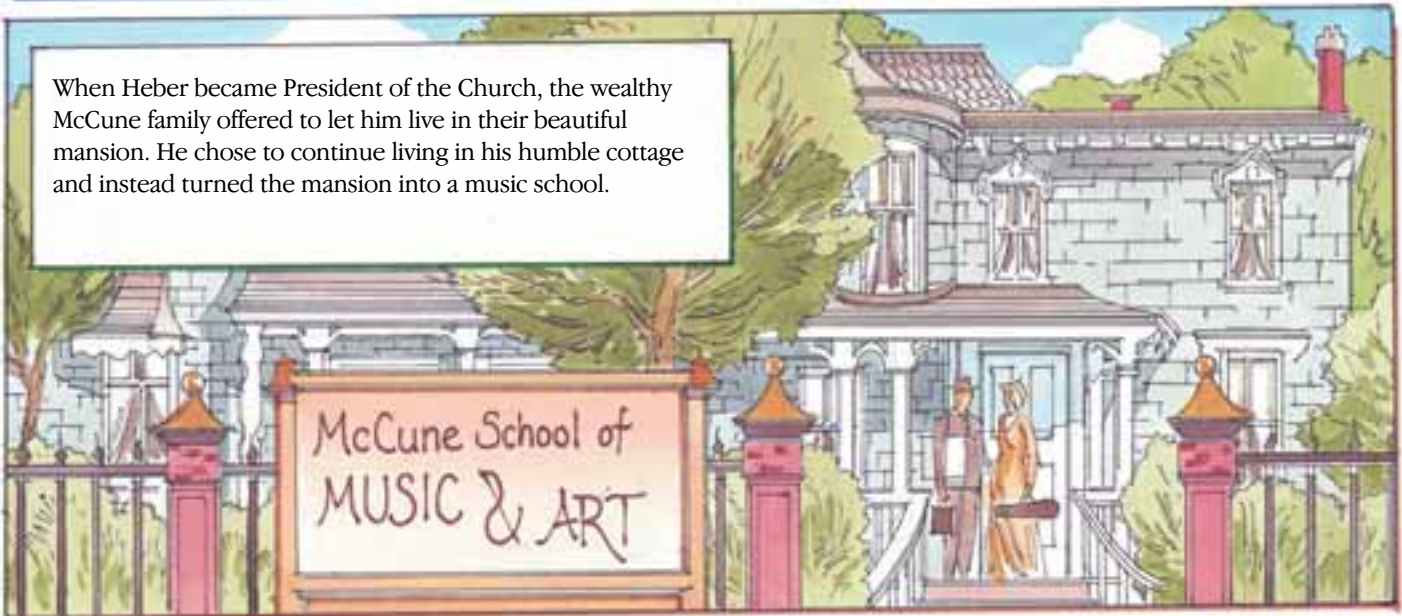
One hundred hymns? Sure!

Heber enjoyed practicing while he traveled.

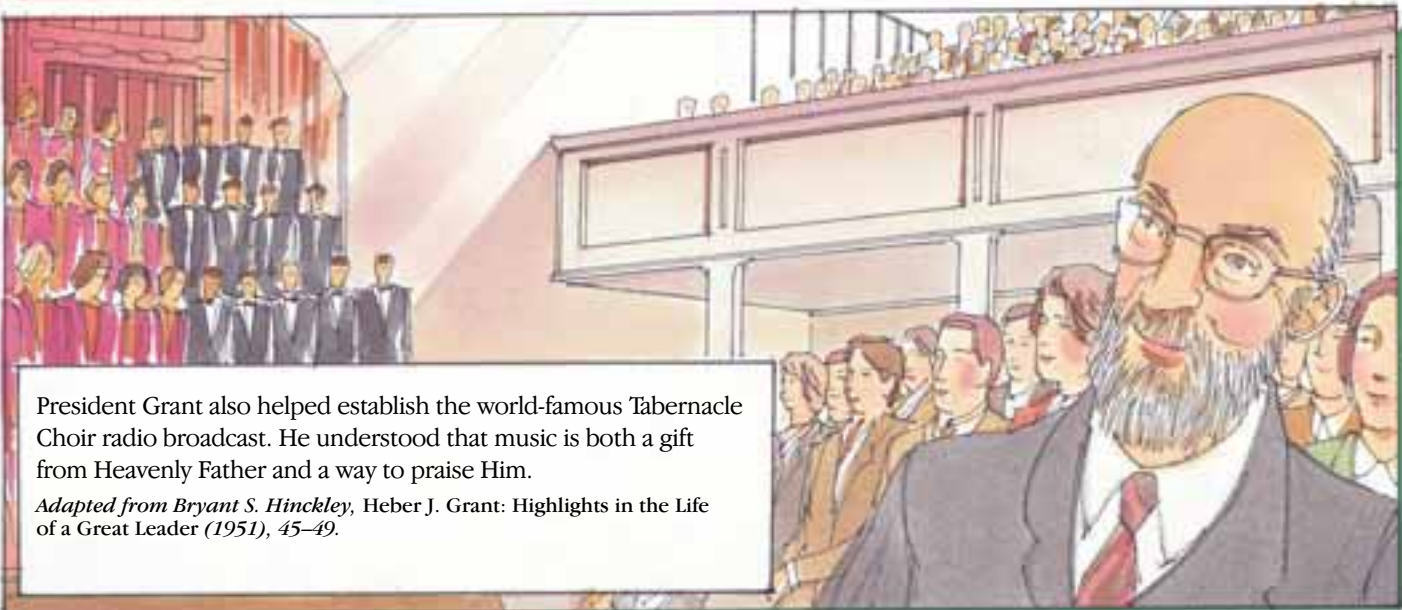


I said I would sing
100 hymns, and I will. Cheer up,
Elders—only 60 more!

After 40 hymns, the two General Authorities realized
Heber wasn't joking, and they begged him to stop.



When Heber became President of the Church, the wealthy
McCune family offered to let him live in their beautiful
mansion. He chose to continue living in his humble cottage
and instead turned the mansion into a music school.



President Grant also helped establish the world-famous Tabernacle
Choir radio broadcast. He understood that music is both a gift
from Heavenly Father and a way to praise Him.

*Adapted from Bryant S. Hinckley, Heber J. Grant: Highlights in the Life
of a Great Leader (1951), 45–49.*

Temples Bless Families

“Let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people” (D&C 124:40).

At baptism, we make covenants with Heavenly Father to obey His commandments. If we keep these covenants, someday we can go to the temple to make more covenants, participate in sacred ordinances (special ceremonies with spiritual meaning), and receive blessings.

Temple ordinances create eternal families. Through temple sealings, entire families—brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, grandparents, great-grandparents, and other ancestors—can be together forever.

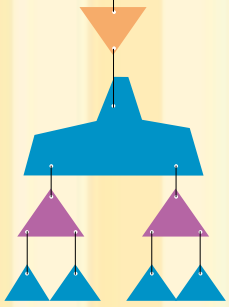
You can prepare now by living righteously and learning about family history. At age 12 you can go to the temple and be baptized for your ancestors, helping to connect them to your eternal family.

You can also prepare to be an eternal family by treating one another with love and kindness. Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained, “To receive the blessings of the sealing that our Heavenly Father has given to us, we have to keep the commandments and conduct ourselves in such a way that our families will want to live with us in the eternities” (“The Eternal Family,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 65).

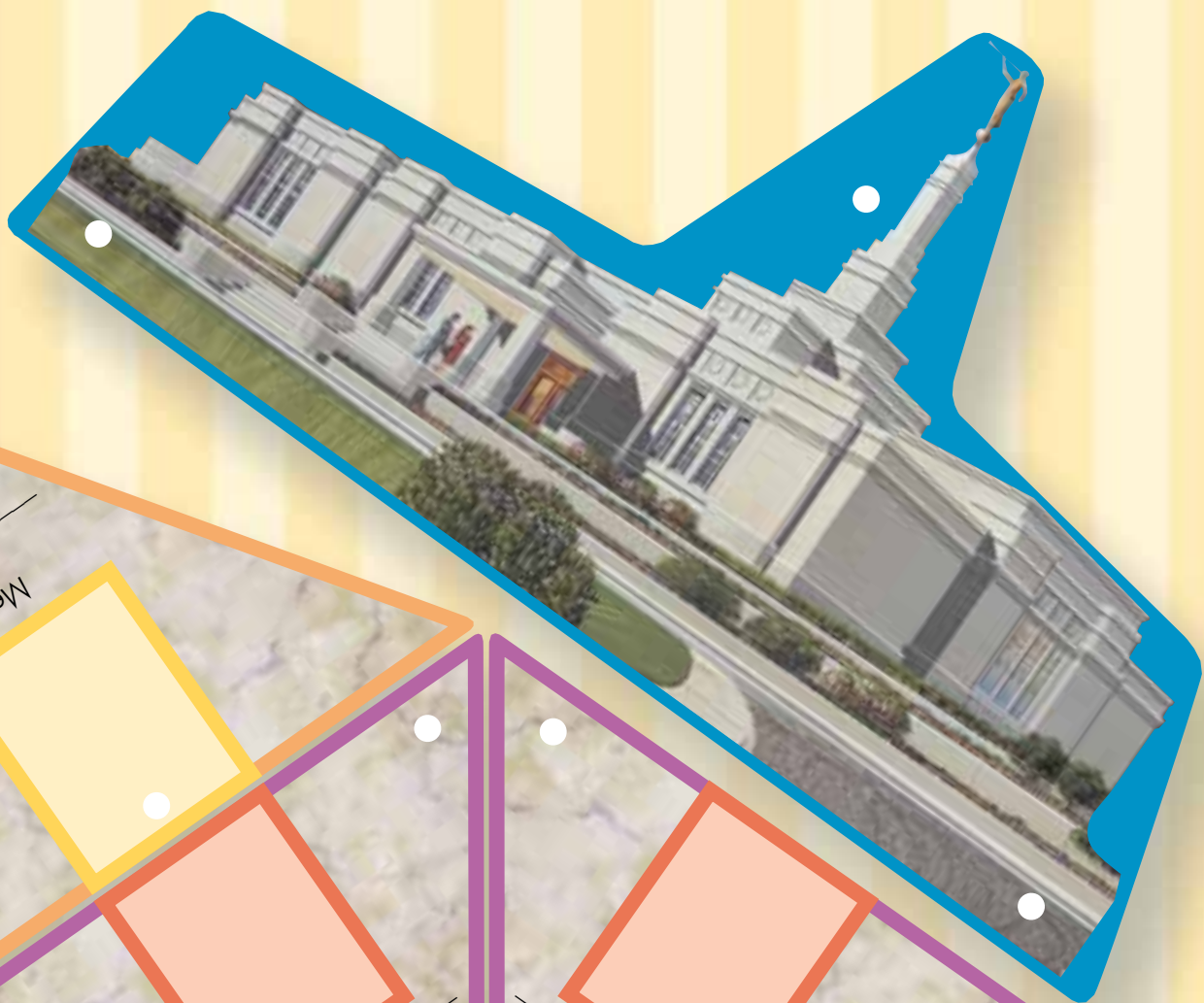
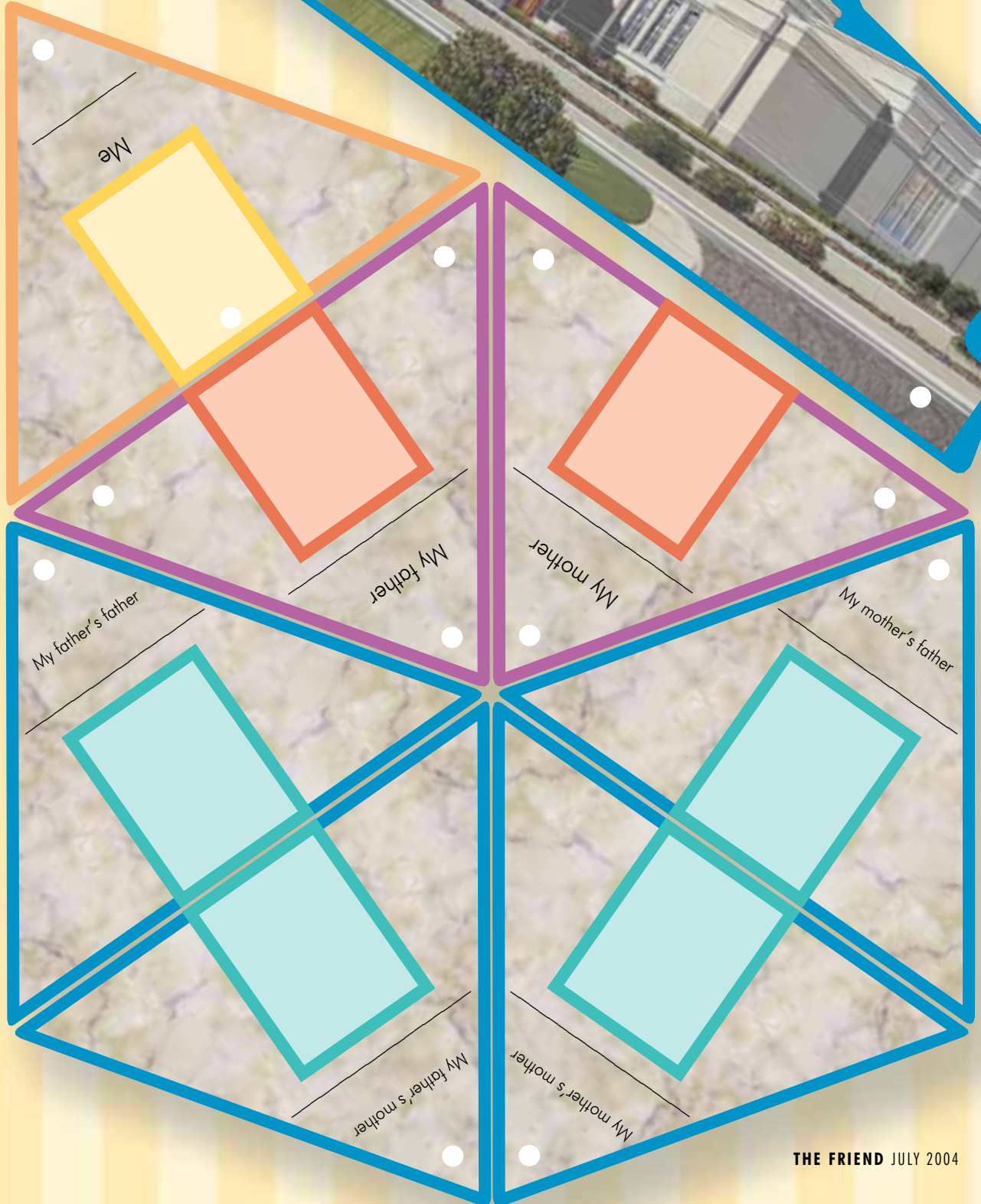
Family Home Evening Activities and Ideas

1. Remove page F9, and glue it to heavy paper. Cut out the picture of the temple and the seven triangle frames. Punch a hole at each circle. In each frame, glue or draw a picture of the person listed. Then write his or her full name on the line. Use string to tie the top hole on the temple picture to the bottom hole on your picture (leave a short piece of string between the temple and frame; see illustration). Then tie your parents’ pictures to the holes at the bottom of the temple picture. Tie the pictures of your grandparents to the bottom of your parents’ pictures. (Remember to tie your mother’s parents to her picture and your father’s parents to his picture.) On the back of the temple picture, write a goal that will help you stay worthy to enter the temple someday. Tie a string to the top of the mobile, and hang it where you can see it often.

2. For a family home evening lesson or Primary talk, discuss the statement by Elder Robert D. Hales. Display your mobile, and explain that the strings represent sealing powers. What would happen to your mobile if you cut the string between the temple and your picture? Cutting the string—or making wrong decisions—separates you from the blessings of the temple and your eternal family. ●



Illustration





COURAGE

and a Kind Word

"For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads" (D&C 25:12).

BY PATRICIA REECE ROPER

A story from the life of Evan Stephens

Evan looked down at the dusty road and dragged his feet as he walked home from choir practice. Everyone else in the Willard town choir had cheered at the invitation to sing for President Brigham Young. The men clapped each other on the back, while the women whispered excitedly from behind their books and fans. No one noticed the glum look on 12-year-old Evan's face as he slumped down in his chair. The "Boy Alto," as he was known, quietly slipped

through the church doors and left practice by himself.

The problem wasn't that Evan didn't want to sing. He loved music. When his family settled in Willard, a town about 50 miles (80 km) north of Salt Lake City, he had been delighted to learn about the unusually good town choir. As the 10th child in the Stephens family, Evan had found little time between farm chores to learn much about music. In the Willard choir, he could finally learn more about it. He found himself moving in rhythm as he worked and dancing as he herded the cows. He felt music everywhere now.

No, the idea of singing for the prophet didn't upset Evan. But choir members would need to dress in their best Sunday clothes for the performance, and Evan didn't have any good clothes. His family

Evan Stephens was born in Wales in 1854. By the time he was 12 years old, his family had moved to Willard, Utah, where he sang in the town choir. But when Evan learned that President Brigham Young was coming to hear the choir, he had a problem.



Evan Stephens later wrote a hymn about courage, including the words, “*Courage, for the Lord is on our side*” (“*Let Us All Press On*,” Hymns, no. 243).

didn’t have much money. He had never owned a nice coat or a pair of black Sunday shoes. He was ashamed to sing in front of the prophet while looking so shabby.

Evan looked down at his dusty feet.

They were covered with dirt from the trail. He would have to scrub them hard before going to church Sunday morning. Otherwise, his feet would look black. Evan’s heart jumped at this thought. He could get black feet—really black feet—by using polish.

Everyone would be looking at the faces of the singers, so no one would notice that Evan had black feet instead of black shoes.

On the day the choir was to sing to the prophet, Evan felt sweat on his forehead and the palms of his hands as he looked down at his black feet. He knew he must go—the choir needed him—but he wanted to hide so the prophet would not see him. With tears racing down his cheeks, he ran toward the bowery where the choir was going to sing.

At the bowery, Evan stopped. What if the prophet *did* see him? What would he think

of a poor farm boy with painted black feet and no coat? Evan couldn't let the prophet see him. Turning around, he bolted like a frightened colt. He ran right into the very man he had hoped not to see.

President Brigham Young grabbed the frightened boy by the shoulders. "Now, now, what's this?" he asked. "What's the matter? Why are you running away?"

Tears filled Evan's eyes as he bowed his head and whispered, "I have no coat for the program and no shoes." Swallowing the lump in his throat, he continued, "I painted my feet black with polish."

The grip on Evan's shoulders relaxed, and he felt the prophet pat him on the head. Looking up, he was surprised to see a kind look on President Young's face and tears in his eyes too. "Never mind that," he told Evan. "Don't you hesitate a moment. Go right on in."

Relief wrapped around Evan like a soft, warm blanket. He blinked away the tears and returned the prophet's smile with one of his own. He hurried to take his place with the choir. Happy to be accepted by the prophet, Evan sang his part perfectly.

President Young gave Evan an encouraging word and courage to do his part. This kindness influenced Evan long after the choir performance. He continued to study music and taught himself new skills.

When Evan grew up, he became director of the Tabernacle Choir. He served in that position from 1889 to 1916. Evan also wrote many sacred hymns and patriotic songs. He remained humble and always remembered the lesson he had learned from the prophet. Evan treated people like he did his music—with love. And like President Young, he listened with his heart. ●

Patricia Reece Roper is a member of the Leamington Ward, Delta Utah Stake.



SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD

BY CALLIE BUYS

Church Magazines

This month the Tabernacle Choir will finish a special yearlong celebration of its famous program *Music and the Spoken Word*. This program has been broadcast on the radio every week for 75 years—longer than any other network program in the world. Your grandparents and great-grandparents could have listened to it when they were your age!

On 15 July 1929 a radio station in Salt Lake City placed a microphone on a stand atop the pulpit of the Tabernacle on Temple Square to broadcast the first *Music and the Spoken Word*. A young man stood on a tall ladder near the microphone throughout the program so he could announce each song the choir sang. He couldn't climb down between the songs because he would make too much noise!

Every week since then, first on Tuesday and now on Sunday morning, people around the world have listened to the beautiful music and peaceful words of the 30-minute program. While the choir usually performs and records *Music and the Spoken Word* at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, it has also recorded the program in Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America.

Today millions of people in 19 countries hear or see *Music and the Spoken Word* on radio, network television, cable, or satellite. Have you ever watched or listened to this record-setting program?

To learn other interesting facts about the Tabernacle Choir, go to www.tabernaclechoir.org. See also Lisa Ann Jackson, "Church, Choir Celebrate Broadcast's 75th Anniversary," Liahona, Apr. 2004, News of the Church.

Medgine Atus of Miramar, Florida

BY TIFFANY E. LEWIS

Medgine Atus doesn't remember the first time she was "baptized," but her family does. When Medgine was three years old, a friend of the Atus family was getting ready to enter the font for his baptism. Medgine followed him and fell right into the water!

"I had to jump in with all my clothes on and rescue her!" says her father. She wasn't hurt, and now the family jokes that Medgine was so active in the gospel that she was "baptized" twice—once when she was three and once when she was eight. Medgine, now 11, is a member of the Haitian-speaking Morningside



Branch, Hialeah Gardens Florida Stake.

The gospel is important to the Atus family and to Medgine. She says it has helped her become more obedient and has taught her the importance of praying often for help.

Her favorite Book of Mormon story is about Nephi going to get the brass plates from Laban. Even though his brothers were scared and didn't want to go, Nephi was brave and obeyed Heavenly Father. "It's important to be obedient to Heavenly Father," Medgine says.

Medgine takes obedience seriously. Brother Atus says Medgine likes to laugh, but she can also be very strict, especially when she sets up "school" for her younger sisters, Christie, 6, and Ann, 5. Medgine likes order. And it has paid off! She has taught both her sisters to read and write. She has also taught singing and dancing classes.

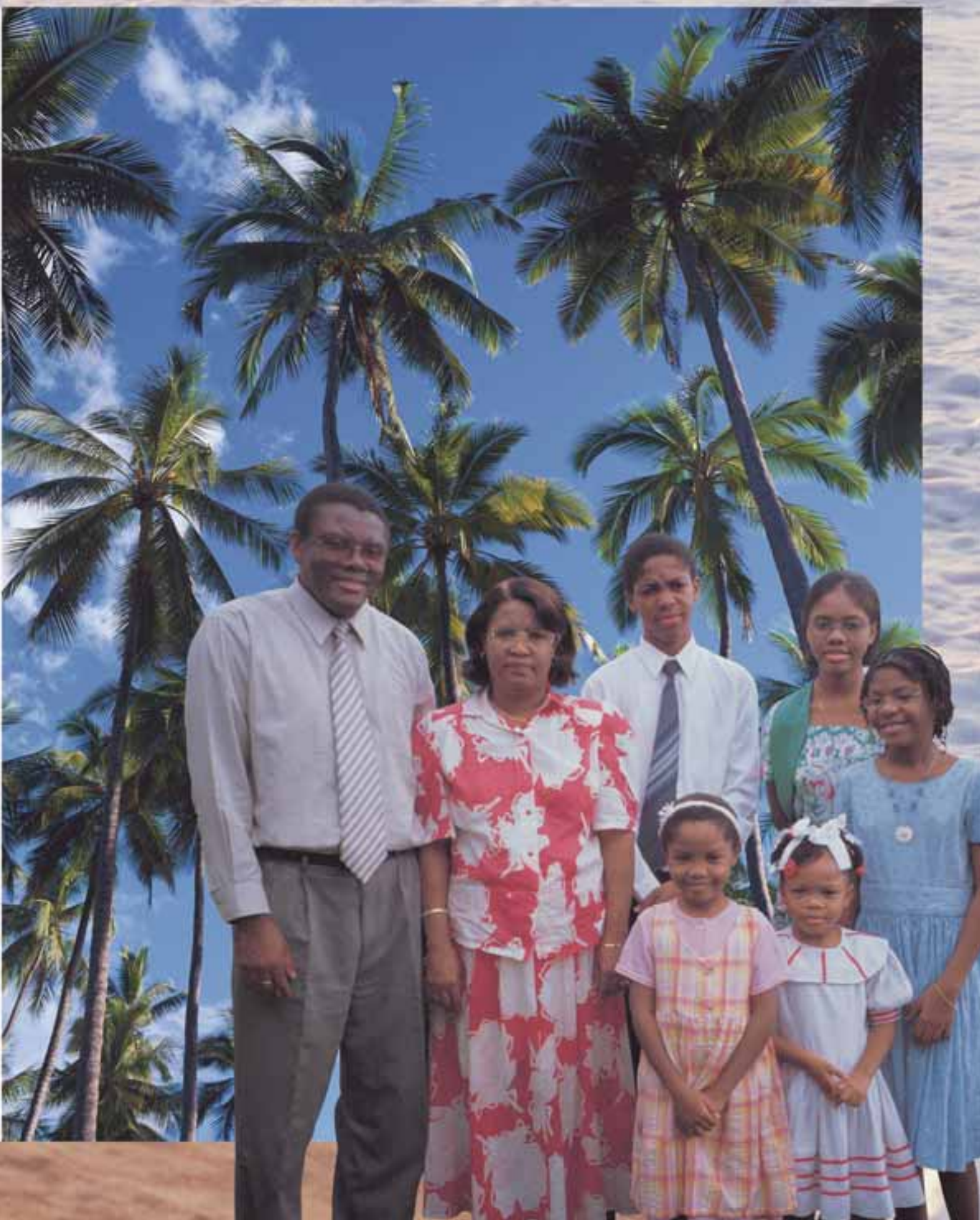
Medgine is close to her father, Oriol; her mother, Mireille; and her four siblings. Her younger sister Christie likes to read. She speaks French and Haitian and is learning English quickly. Her family says she always asks questions. When her youngest sister, Ann, makes a decision, it's final! She won't change her mind. Ann is also creative and likes to pretend to be an actress. Her father says she makes regular tasks seem fun. Both Christie and Ann like to draw pictures for their father.

Medgine's older brother, Joseph, 17, likes to play basketball. Her sister Christelle, 15, has a beautiful

Below: Medgine (right) with her sisters Ann and Christie.

Right: The Atus family—Oriol, Mireille, Joseph, Christie, Ann, Christelle, and Medgine.







Above: The Church meetinghouse Medgine and her family attend. Right: Medgine, Christie, and Christelle dance gracefully in unison.

singing voice and won first place in a singing competition.

The family enjoys playing sports at a park near their home. They also hold regular family councils to talk about the importance of following the Lord, serving a mission, and getting an education. One of their favorite family games is called “cric-crac.” They sit in a circle and quiz each other about dates, names, and events from Church history and the scriptures.

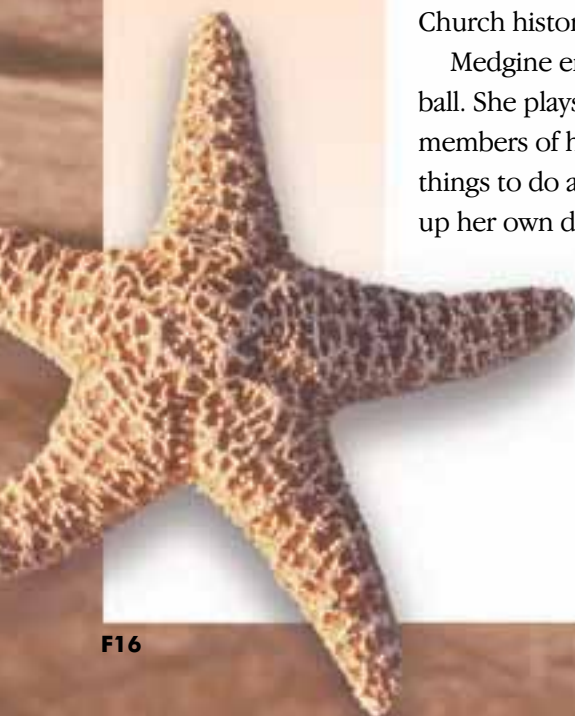
Medgine enjoys sports, especially basketball. She plays basketball every Friday with members of her branch. But her favorite things to do are sing and dance. She makes up her own dances, and she also taught

herself to play the piano. She even wrote her own song, “God of Love,” in French. Singing is something the



whole Atus family likes to do. When someone turns on the stereo and music begins to float through the room, their toes begin to tap. Soon they’re up and dancing, moving their arms gracefully in unison. Medgine smiles, and her eyes light up. When she begins to sing, she bears her testimony through song. ●

Tiffany E. Lewis is a member of the Miami Shores Ward, Hiialeah Gardens Florida Stake.





COURTESY OF WAIT AND KATIE CASSER, MAY NOT BE COPIED

Crossing the Sweetwater, by David Koch

In 1856 J. D. T. McAllister wrote a happy tune for the handcart pioneers: "For some must push and some must pull, / As we go marching up the hill; / So merrily on our way we go / Until we reach the Valleyo" (Children's Songbook, 220). Here pioneers cross the Sweetwater River.



Front cover: A Primary child in Guadalajara, Mexico, participates in an activity about prayer. Top left: The José Ramos family of Guadalajara. Top right: The historic San Pedro Mártir meetinghouse in Mexico City. Above: The visitors' center (foreground) and México City México Temple. Right: The new Madero meetinghouse, Mérida México Centro Stake. See "One Million in Mexico," p. 34.