

Liahona

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FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

*These ideas can be used for
classroom teaching as well
as in the home.*

**"Recipe for a Happy
Home,"** p. 26: Share the
Ronndahls' story, looking
for the ingredients
that make their home

happy. Consider having a special
meal before family home evening.
As you prepare the meal together,
discuss how each ingredient makes
the meal a success, just as each
member of the family is necessary
to create a happy home.



Read the article. Using the
Ronndahls' example, ask your fam-
ily members what they want to
do for family home evening.
Make assignments for the
next family home evening.
You may even wish to
play the blindfolded
conductor game.

"God's Guiding Hand," p. 30:
Begin by relating some of Elder
Paul's experiences with prayer.
Read aloud his promises under
the section "Guiding a Life." Read
Alma 34:18–26, and discuss what



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Photo illustrations by John Luke.

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Crossing the Sweetwater, by David Koch, may not be copied.

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- F4 Sharing Time: I Can Be a Missionary Now *Linda Christensen*
- F6 From the Life of the Prophet Joseph Smith: Joseph Moves to Ohio
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- F15 Trying to Be like Jesus: Family Fast *Regina Moreira Monteiro*
- F16 Coloring Page

As you look for the Indonesian CTR ring hidden in this issue, think of how you can choose the right by sharing the gospel.



Amulek taught the Zoramites about prayer. Have family members share experiences when prayer has helped them.

"Now Is the Time," p. 34: Share the three different ways Sasha read the Book of Mormon. How did his third way of reading differ from the first two? Read Moroni 10:4–5, and discuss Moroni's promise.

"Do You Want to Go to Primary with Me?" p. F12: With your children, discuss what they like about Primary. Summarize the story in the

article with your family. Is there someone they would like to invite to Primary? Make a goal to invite someone to Primary or to a Primary activity.

"Family Fast," p. F15: Read the article, and consider starting a "courtesy jar" with your family. Discuss how Leonardo's and Mariana's fasting and sacrifice blessed them and others. You could also hold a family fast for someone needing a special blessing and then do something helpful for that person.

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Heeding the Voice of the Prophets

BY PRESIDENT DIETER F. UCHTDORF
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

What a joy and privilege it is to be part of this worldwide Church and be taught and uplifted by prophets, seers, and revelators! We members of this Church speak many languages, and we come from many cultures, but we share the same blessings of the gospel.

This is truly a universal Church, with members spread across the nations of the earth proclaiming the universal message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all, irrespective of language, race, or ethnic roots. We are all spirit children of a living and loving God, our Heavenly Father, who wants us to be successful on our journey back to Him.

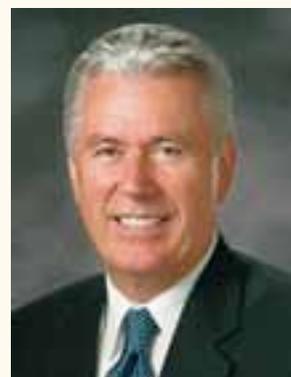
In His kindness, He has given us prophets to teach us His eternal truths and guide us in living His gospel. This year we have bade farewell to a beloved prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), who led us for many years until the Lord called him home. Now we go forward under the direction of the new prophet whom the Lord has called to lead us, President Thomas S. Monson. In our Father's great love for us, He has given us prophets for our time to lead us in an unbroken succession since the Restoration of this great work through the Prophet Joseph Smith in the early 1800s. We

will always cherish our memories of the early Saints—their sacrifices, sorrows, and tears but also their courage, faith, and trust in the Lord as they too followed His prophet in their time.

I have no ancestors among the nineteenth-century pioneers. However, since the first days of my Church membership, I have felt a close kinship to those early pioneers who crossed the plains. They are my spiritual ancestry, as they are for each and every member of the Church, regardless of nationality, language, or culture. They established not only a safe place in the West but also a spiritual foundation for the building of the kingdom of God in all the nations of the world.

We All Are Pioneers

As the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ is now being embraced around the world, we are all pioneers in our own sphere and circumstance. It was in the turmoil of post-World War II Germany when my family first learned about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. George Albert Smith (1870–1951) was the President then. I was only a young child, and we had lost all material belongings twice within



In our Father's great love for us, He has given us prophets for our time to lead us in an unbroken succession since the Restoration of this great work through the Prophet Joseph Smith in the early 1800s.



Are we following the inspired counsel of the prophets? One example of great importance for humanity is strengthening our own families.

only seven years. We were refugees with an uncertain future. However, during those same seven years, we gained more than any amount of money could ever buy. We found a supernal refuge, a place of defense from despair: the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church, led by a true and living prophet.

The good news that Jesus Christ has made the perfect Atonement for mankind, redeeming all from the grave and rewarding each individual according to his or her works, was the healing power which brought hope and peace back into my life.

Whatever our challenges in life may be, our burdens may become light if we not only believe in Christ but also in His ability and His power to cleanse and console our lives. Our lives are healed as we accept His peace.

President David O. McKay (1873–1970) was the prophet during my teenage years. I seemed to know him personally. I could feel his love, kindness, and dignity; he gave me confidence and courage in my young life. Even though I grew up thousands of miles away in Europe, I felt he trusted me, and I did not want to disappoint him.

Another source of strength was a letter written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison, addressed to Timothy, his most trusted assistant and friend. He wrote:

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” (2 Timothy 1:7–8).

These words from one of the ancient Apostles of our Savior rang with great importance for me in postwar

times, even as they do today. Yet how many of us permit our fears to take control of our lives in this time of international tension, economic and political uncertainties, and personal challenges?

A Consistent Voice

God is speaking to us in a consistent voice. God will deal with all the human family equally. We might be in a large ward or a small branch, our climate or vegetation may differ, the cultural background and language might vary, and the color of our skin could be totally different. But the universal power and blessings of the restored gospel are available to all, irrespective of culture, nationality, political system, tradition, language, economic environment, or education.

Today, we have again apostles, seers, and revelators who are watchmen on the tower, messengers of supernal, healing truth. God speaks to us through them. They are profoundly aware of the different circumstances we members are living in. They are in this world but not of this world. They point the way, and they offer help for our difficulties, not through the wisdom of this world but from an eternal Source.

Only a few years ago, in a First Presidency Message, President Thomas S. Monson said: “The problems of our day loom ominously before us. Surrounded by the sophistication of modern living, we look heavenward for that unflinching sense of direction, that we might chart and follow a wise and proper course. He whom we call our Heavenly Father will not leave our sincere petition unanswered.”¹

We have a living prophet on the face of the earth again, even President Thomas S. Monson. He knows our challenges and fears. He has inspired answers. There is no need to fear. We can have peace in our hearts and peace in our homes. We can each be an influence for good in this world by following the commandments of God and relying on true repentance, the power of the Atonement, and the miracle of forgiveness.

The prophets speak to us in the name of the Lord and in divine plainness. As the Book of Mormon confirms, “For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding; for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding” (2 Nephi 31:3).

It is our responsibility not only to listen but also to act upon His word that we may claim the blessings of the ordinances and covenants of the restored gospel. He said, “I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise” (D&C 82:10).

There may be times when we feel overwhelmed, hurt, or on the edge of discouragement as we are trying so hard to be perfect members of the Church. Be assured, there is balm in Gilead. Let us listen to the prophets of our day as they help us to focus on the things that are central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children. The Lord knows us, He loves us, He wants us to succeed, and He encourages us by saying: “And see that all . . . things are done in wisdom and order; for it is not requisite that [men or women] should run faster than [they have] strength. . . . [But] it is expedient that [they] should be diligent” (Mosiah 4:27).

Following Their Counsel

Are we diligent in living the commandments of God, without running beyond our strength? Or are we just leisurely strolling along? Are we using our time, talents, and means wisely? Are we focused on the things which matter most? Are we following the inspired counsel of the prophets?

One example of great importance for humanity is strengthening our own families. The principle of family home evening was given to us in 1915. President McKay reminded parents again in 1964 that “no other success can compensate for failure in the home.”² In 1995 the prophets of our day called upon all the world to strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.³ And in 1999 the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles lovingly stated: “We counsel parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family home evening, gospel study and instruction, and wholesome family activities. However

worthy and appropriate other demands or activities may be, they must not be permitted to displace the divinely appointed duties that only parents and families can adequately perform.”⁴

Let us in humility and faith refresh our dedication and our commitment to follow the prophets, seers, and revelators in all diligence. Let us listen and be instructed and edified by those who hold all the keys of the kingdom. And as we listen and follow them, may our hearts be changed that there will be a great desire to do good (see Alma 19:33). Thus we will be pioneers in building a spiritual foundation that will establish the Church in every part of the world, that the gospel of Jesus Christ may become a blessing for each child of God and unite and strengthen our families. ■

NOTES

1. “Sailing Safely the Seas of Life,” *Liabona*, Nov. 1999, 6–7; *Ensign*, July 1999, 5.
2. Quoted from J. E. McCulloch, *Home: The Savior of Civilization* (1924), 42; in Conference Report, Apr. 1964, 5.
3. See “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liabona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
4. “Letter from the First Presidency,” *Liabona*, Dec. 1999, 1; “Keeping Children Close to the Church,” *Ensign*, June 1999, 80.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

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

1. Ask children what they would need if they were in some distant place and needed to travel back home. Suggest how a map and a guide might help. Explain that prophets are guides Heavenly Father provides to help us get back to Him. Read an excerpt from the message that emphasizes this point.
2. Relate a memory you have of the man who was President of the Church when you were a child or teenager. Tell how the teachings of the living prophets have guided you during your lifetime.

President Henry B. Eyring

Called of God

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

A few years after Henry Bennion Eyring became president of Ricks College (now Brigham Young University–Idaho), he was offered a high-paying, prestige-filled job in southern California.

“It sounds like a great opportunity,” President Spencer W. Kimball told him as Henry described the offer and its benefits. “If we ever needed you, we would know where you were.”

Henry had expected President Kimball, his uncle, to ask him to stay on at Ricks. Instead, it became obvious that Henry and his wife, Kathleen, were to pray and fast about their decision, which they did. Within a week, the Spirit whispered to Henry that he would have the privilege of staying at Ricks College “a little longer.”

He called Jeffrey R. Holland, then Commissioner of the Church Educational System, and told him that he had turned down the job offer. That evening Henry received a phone call from President Kimball.

“I understand you’ve decided to stay,” said President Kimball.

“Yes,” replied Henry.

“Do you think you’ve made a sacrifice?” asked President Kimball.



“No,” said Henry.

“That’s right!” President Kimball assured him. With that, President Kimball ended the conversation.

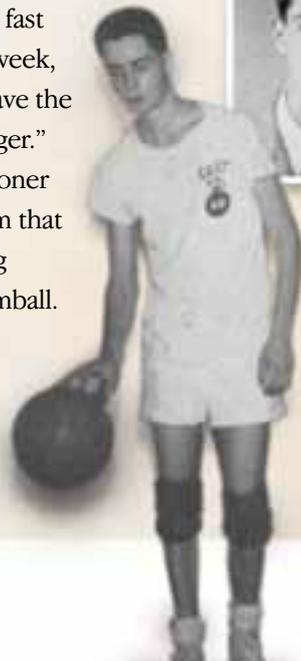
For those who know Henry B. Eyring, his willingness to follow spiritual promptings—even if doing so means giving up what the world considers important—

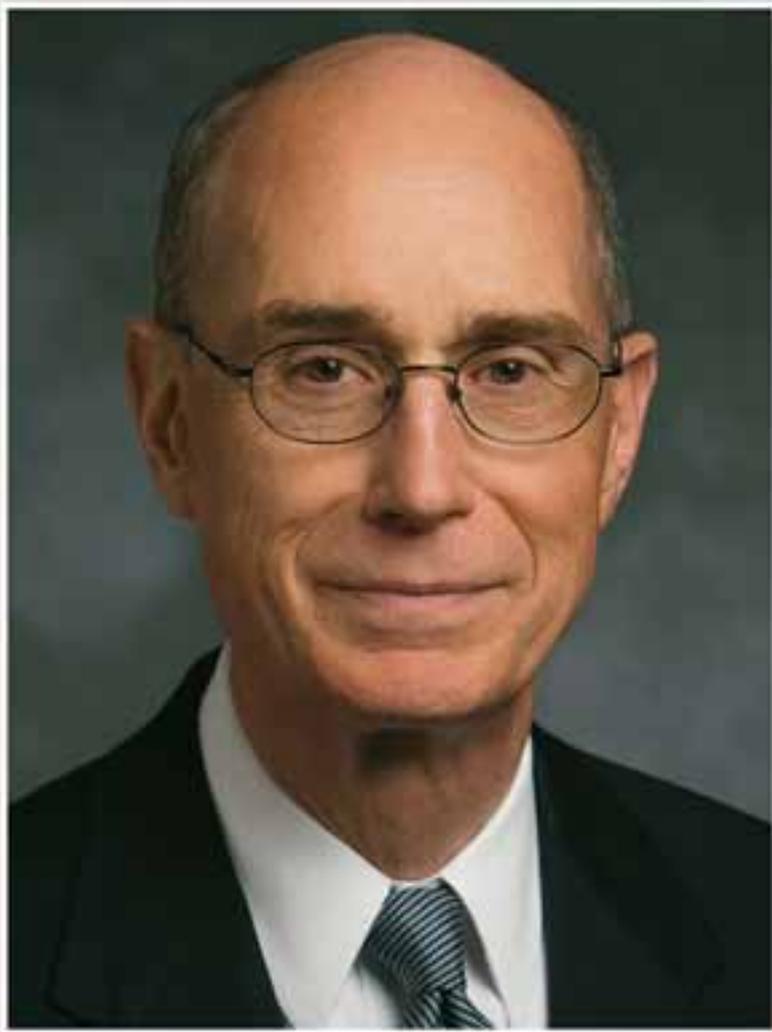
comes as no surprise. He has learned for himself that faith and humility, coupled with obedience, qualify God’s children for blessings richer than worldly wealth.

Following the death of President Gordon B. Hinckley on January 27, 2008, President Thomas S. Monson called President Eyring to serve as First Counselor in the First Presidency. President Eyring had previously served as Second

Counselor for four months, filling a vacancy created by the death of President James E. Faust.

“Hal”—as he is known among family and friends—was born on May 31, 1933, in Princeton, New Jersey. The second of three sons born to Henry Eyring and Mildred Bennion Eyring, he joined a family that put





Opposite page, from top: President Eyring’s family (from left)—his father, Henry; brothers, Ted and Harden; young Henry, or “Hal”; and mother, Mildred. Hal, from a 1951 high school yearbook. Right: Great-grandparents Henry Eyring and Mary Bommeli.

a premium on both spiritual and secular schooling.

His father was a renowned chemist teaching at Princeton University. His mother, an assistant professor who headed the women’s physical education department at the University of Utah, was on leave from the department pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Wisconsin when she met her future husband. Together they passed on to their sons their trust in the Lord and their faith in His gospel.

Heritage of Faith

President Eyring traces the beginnings of his family’s heritage of faith to forebears who listened to and followed

the promptings of the Spirit and the direction of priesthood leaders. His great-grandfather Henry Eyring, who left Germany in 1853 when he was 18, was introduced to the Church the following year in St. Louis, Missouri. His desire for a manifestation regarding the Church was answered with a dream in which Elder Erastus Snow of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, whom he would not meet until later, commanded him to be baptized. A similar dream, in which he saw President Brigham Young for the first time, followed in 1860 while he was serving a mission in present-day Oklahoma and Arkansas.¹

Great-Grandfather Eyring met Swiss immigrant Mary Bommeli when he joined her pioneer company on his trek to Utah following his mission. Mary, whose family joined the Church when she was 24, had been incarcerated in Berlin, Germany, for sharing the gospel. The night she was arrested, she wrote a letter to the judge who was to hear her case. She told the judge, “a man of the world,” about the Resurrection and the spirit world, encouraging him to repent in order to save himself and his family from “great sorrow.” The judge soon dropped the charges, and Mary was released from jail.² Henry and Mary married shortly after reaching the Salt Lake Valley.

From Europe to the deserts of southern Utah and Arizona to the colonies of northern Mexico, President Eyring’s ancestors tamed the wilderness, spread the gospel, fled persecution, established schools, and educated their children.

A Wife’s Influence

With the onset of World War II, gasoline rationing prevented the Eyring family from making the 17-mile (27-km) drive to the New Brunswick Branch for Sunday meetings. As a result, the family received permission to hold meetings in their home, in Princeton, New Jersey. Hal would joke that he never missed a Primary meeting there—an



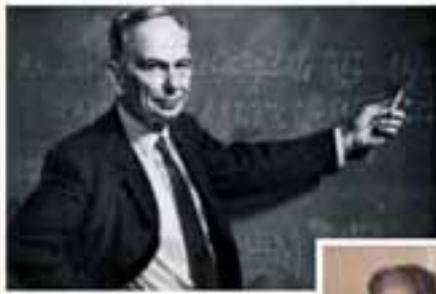
achievement that wasn't too difficult considering that Primary was held only once in their home.

President Eyring often reflects on the beautiful spirit in the sacrament meetings held in this small branch, made up of his family and occasional visitors. He didn't mind that his family were usually the only ones who attended or that he and his brothers constituted the branch's entire Aaronic Priesthood. But as the boys began entering their teenage years, their mother was eager for the family to live among a larger concentration of Latter-day Saints.

In 1946 Henry was enjoying his success and work at Princeton. He had won numerous honorary doctorates and most major awards in chemistry. Given his diligent scientific work with world-renowned scientists, he had an excellent opportunity to be considered for a Nobel Prize.

At about this time Henry received a call from A. Ray Olpin, president of the University of Utah, inviting him to be the dean of the graduate school there and continue his research in chemistry. His wife, Mildred, left the decision up to Henry, but she reminded him of a promise he had made to her years earlier. Henry had promised to move his family closer to Church headquarters when the boys got older. When Henry turned down the offer, Mildred, who had grown up in Utah, asked him to pray about his decision and gave him a letter to read when he arrived at his laboratory.

Upon reading the letter, in which Mildred expressed her disappointment, and after praying and pondering, Henry called President Olpin, saying he would accept the position after all to build up the university's science department. His apparent sacrifice in leaving Princeton turned out to be a blessing for him and his family. One such blessing was Hal's



willingness to follow his father's example when he faced a similar crossroads years later.

Preparing for the Future

"I realized when my brother was a teenager how different he was from other teenagers," says Harden Eyring, who calls his older brother both a mentor and a friend. While Hal was in high school, Harden says, he immersed himself in the scriptures, reading the Book of Mormon five times.

Hal did not hold himself above others, but he refused to participate in activities that would distract from his spirituality. He made time to play basketball for East High School in Salt Lake City, but he put priority on his studies.

"When I was a teenager, I used to go out to the ice-cream parlors that everybody went to," Harden says.

"But Hal wouldn't go out at night to the local hangouts. Instead, he was reading and studying."

His older brother, Ted, a chemistry professor at the University of Utah, was a senior there when he took some classes with Hal. Ted observed that Hal could hold his own with anyone in the class. "When Hal is focused, he can accomplish anything," he says. "He is a genuinely funny guy, and he remains in good spirits even in serious, challenging settings. Hal is much like his father."

As he grew older, however, Hal discovered a major difference between himself and his father.

Henry Eyring encouraged his sons to study physics and to prepare for a career in the sciences. Hal dutifully majored in physics at the University of Utah, but one day when he asked his father for help with a complex mathematical problem, it became apparent to Henry that Hal did not share his passion.

"My father was at a blackboard we kept in the basement," President Eyring recalls. "Suddenly he stopped. 'Hal,' he said, 'we were working at this same kind of problem a week ago. You don't seem to understand it any better now than you did then. Haven't you been working on it?'"



Hal said he had not. He then admitted to his father that physics was not something he constantly thought about. His father paused a moment and then, in tender words that released his son to pursue his own professional passion, he said, “You ought to find something that you love so much that when you don’t have to think about anything, that’s what you think about.”³

Hal nevertheless completed his degree in physics in 1955 before entering the U.S. Air Force. The Korean War had recently ended, and the number of young men called as full-time missionaries from each ward had been restricted. For a period of time the Mission Home in Salt Lake City was closed, and no missionaries went into the field. In a blessing, however, his bishop promised him that his military service would be his mission. Two weeks after arriving at the Sandia Base near Albuquerque, New Mexico, Hal was called as a district missionary in the Western States Mission—a calling he fulfilled in evenings and on weekends during the two years he was in the military.

His military obligation fulfilled, Hal enrolled in the Harvard Graduate School of Business, where he earned a master’s degree in 1959 and a doctorate degree in 1963, both in business administration. Though he had the intellect to succeed in a career in science, Hal found that his passion lay in teaching,



lifting, and strengthening others.

Listening to the Spirit

While attending Harvard during the summer of 1961, Hal met Kathleen Johnson, the daughter of J. Cyril and LaPrele Lindsay Johnson, of Palo Alto, California. She was attending summer school in Boston, and Hal was smitten the first time he saw her. He felt an immediate desire to do his best when he was in her presence—a feeling that has continued throughout their lives together.

They dated that summer and continued their courtship through phone calls and letters after Kathleen returned to California. They were married in July 1962 in the Logan Utah Temple by Elder Spencer W. Kimball. That same year Hal became an assistant professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Nine years later Hal was enjoying tenure at Stanford and serving as bishop of the Stanford First Ward. With his in-laws living nearby, “things were set,” he recalls. But in the middle of the night in 1971, Kathleen woke him with two unusual questions: “Are you sure you are doing the right thing with your life?”

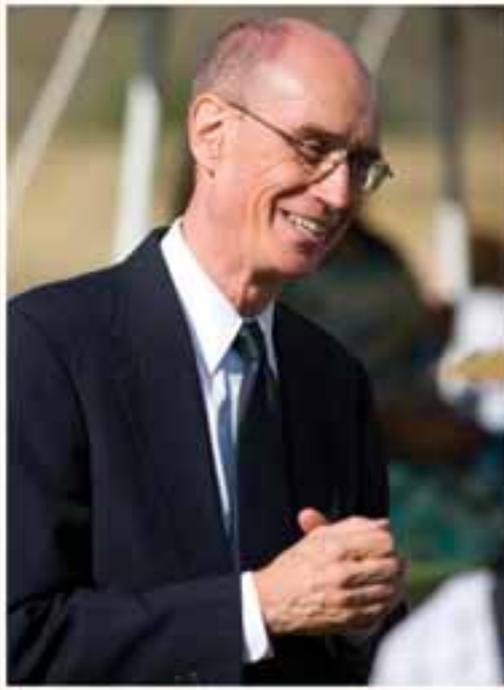
Wondering how they could be any happier, Hal asked, “What do you mean?”



Opposite page: President Eyring’s parents and a 1969 portrait of his father. Above: While serving as president of Ricks College. Left: With his wife, Kathleen, at their wedding reception. Above left: As president of Ricks College, presenting the Exemplary Woman of the Year Award to Sister Donna Packer, 1973. Also pictured are President Boyd K. Packer and Denece Hansen Johnson, then president of the Associated Women Students.



Above: As a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, 1997. **Right:** During a recent visit to southern Utah. **Far right:** With Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles during a June 2004 worldwide leadership training meeting. **Opposite page:** Family portrait, 1995 (seated, from left)—Mary Kathleen, President and Sister Eyring, Elizabeth; (standing, from left)—John, Matthew, Stuart, and Henry.



Kathleen replied, “Couldn’t you be doing studies for Neal Maxwell?”

Neal A. Maxwell had just been appointed Commissioner of the Church Educational System. Neither Hal nor Kathleen knew him, but Kathleen felt that perhaps her husband could be doing more to change lives.

“Doing studies for Neal Maxwell—at my stage of my career?” Hal responded. After all, he thought, “‘Doing studies’ was something a young graduate student might do.”

Following a pause, Kathleen said, “Will you pray about it?”

At that stage in his marriage, Hal knew better than to ignore his wife’s counsel. He got out of bed, knelt, and uttered a prayer. “I got no answer,” he says, “and I felt terrific about it because I didn’t want to go anywhere.”

The following day during bishopric meeting, a voice that Hal has come to know well came to his mind and rebuked him for treating lightly his wife’s prompting. “You don’t



know what way is up in your career,” he was told. “If you ever get another job offer, you bring it to me.”

Hal was shaken by the experience and immediately returned home. “We’ve got a problem,” he told Kathleen. He feared he had made a mistake by passing up several job offers he had received while at Stanford. “I had never prayed over any of them,” he says. Humbled, he began praying about his future.

Less than a week after Kathleen’s late-night questions, Commissioner Maxwell called and invited Hal to Salt Lake City for a meeting. He flew out the next day, and the two men met at the home of Hal’s parents. The first words out of Commissioner Maxwell’s mouth were “I’d like to ask you to be the president of Ricks College.”

Even his wife’s prompting and the spiritual

rebuke he had received hadn't prepared him for such a surprise. He told Commissioner Maxwell that he would need to pray about it. After all, he knew little about Ricks College. The next morning he met with the First Presidency. Afterward, Commissioner Maxwell told him the job was his if he wanted it.

Upon his return to California, Hal continued praying fervently. An answer came, but he almost missed it. "I heard a voice so faint that I hadn't paid attention to it," he recalls. "The voice said, 'It's my school.'" He called Commissioner Maxwell and said, "I'm coming."

Just like that, Hal gave up the trappings of tenure at Stanford for life in a single-wide trailer in Rexburg, Idaho. It would be several months after his inauguration as president of Ricks College, on December 10, 1971, that he would move his family into their new home, which he helped build.

"I went to Ricks knowing a couple of things," he says. "One is that I wasn't as much of a big shot as I thought I was in terms of my great position at Stanford. Another is that I knew my wife had received revelation before I did. Finally, I knew that I was a lucky guy to be there. So instead of answering the question 'How could I give up my career at Stanford?' I say, 'Heavenly Father took care of that. It never felt like a sacrifice.'"

The six years President Eyring spent in Rexburg proved to be a blessing to his family and the college. Wise counsel from a humble home teacher helped make those years memorable. The home teacher, a farmer with great faith, encouraged President Eyring to get out of his office so he could meet, encourage, and give gratitude to college faculty, staff, and students.

Hal prayed about the matter, felt prompted to follow that counsel, and began spending more time with the school's faithful students and dedicated faculty and staff. With another instructor, he even taught religion classes. As he worked hard to shape the college's spiritual and academic foundations, he and Kathleen grew to love the campus community and the people of Rexburg.



Family First

During their years in Rexburg, Eyring family members grew closer to each other. By then Hal and Kathleen had four sons: Henry J., Stuart, Matthew, and John. Later they would be blessed with two daughters: Elizabeth and Mary Kathleen. But even in a small, rural farm town, Hal and Kathleen had to be vigilant. One of their concerns was the amount and quality of television programming that their sons watched. Henry J., the oldest son, recalls an experience that made a significant difference in the spirit of the Eyring home.

"My brother and I were in front of the TV one Saturday night around midnight," says Henry J. "A tawdry comedy show that we shouldn't have been watching was on. The basement room was dark except for the light from the television. Without warning, Mother walked in. She was wearing a white, flowing nightgown and carrying a pair of shears. Making no sound, she reached behind the set, grabbed the cord, and gathered it into a loop. She then inserted the shears and cut the cord with a single stroke. Sparks flew and the set went dead, but not before Mother had turned and glided out of the room."

Unnerved, Henry J. headed to bed. His innovative brother, however, cut a cord from a broken vacuum and connected it to the television. Soon the boys had plopped back down in front of the television, hardly missing any of their show.

"Mother, however, got the last laugh," Henry J. says. "When we came home from school the next Monday, we found the television set in the middle of the floor with a huge crack through the thick glass screen. We immediately

suspected Mother. When confronted, she responded with a perfectly straight face: 'I was dusting under the TV, and it slipped.'”

President Eyring honored his wife’s wishes, the children honored their mother’s desires, and that was the end of television in the Eyring home. “For the most part, Mother leads through quiet example,” Henry J. observes. “However, she is also inspired and fearless. Mother’s assertiveness has been a great blessing to her children and grandchildren. Both in pivotal moments and in daily routines, she has forever changed the course of our lives.”

President Eyring still credits his wife for giving him a desire to do and be his best, and he’s grateful that she has blessed her children in the same way. He is quick to credit her for her example and spiritual influence on their family. She is equally complimentary, expressing gratitude for his sensitivity to the Spirit and the effective way he has taught and lived the gospel in their home.

“There was no question in Hal’s mind who was first in his heart,” she says. “He lived in a very competitive environment with competent associates at Stanford, but he always put his family first. At the end of every day, when we were together in the evening, he would ask, ‘Who haven’t we called?’ Then, guided by the Spirit, he would go to the telephone and touch base with a member of the family who needed to have contact that evening.”

With no television in the home, family members had more time for each other and more time to pursue interests, develop talents, and engage in sports and other activities as a family. Over the years President Eyring has honed his cooking skills (he makes his own bread), discovered a

knack for woodcarving, and learned to paint with watercolor. On occasion he will send a thank-you note or a watercolor painting as a remembrance.

Today the Eyring home is full of paintings, carvings, and furniture that he has created with the help of skilled mentors. Many of the pieces reflect moral lessons or spiritual impressions. In addition, he makes time to send daily e-mails, affectionately known as “The Small Plates,” to his family, which now includes 25 grandchildren.

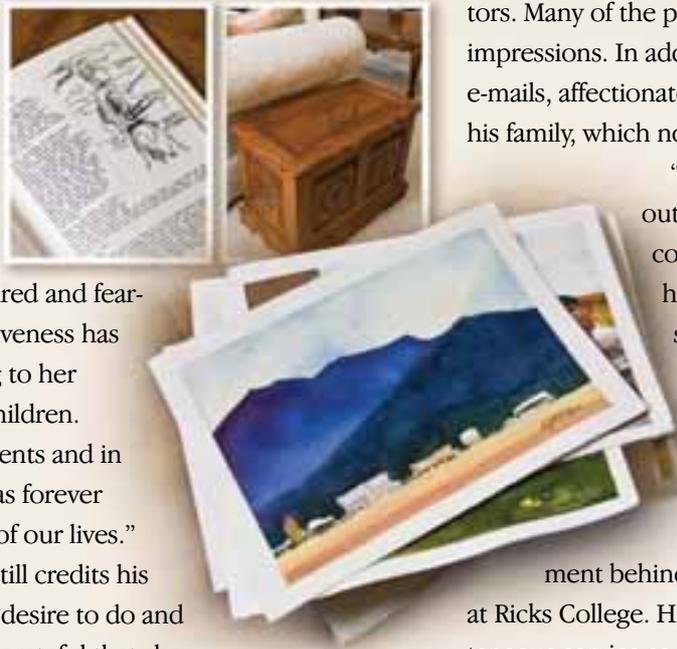
“Dad’s family journal, which he sends out via e-mail each day with photos and contributions from the children, has helped us feel as though we were telling stories around the dinner table each night,” says Henry J.

Willing to Serve

President Eyring didn’t know it at the time, but he left secular employment behind him when he accepted the position at Ricks College. His work as college president and simultaneous service as a regional representative and member of the Sunday School general board brought him into increased contact with leaders of the Church, who recognized his talents and spiritual gifts. The Lord, meanwhile, knew his willingness to serve.

In extending the important callings to President Eyring that followed his six years at Ricks College, Church leaders sought inspiration that led them to him. During a period of preparation for those callings, he was tutored by the Spirit as he worked, sought the will of heaven, listened for answers, and, like his ancestors, acted on the promptings that followed. When the calls came, he was ready.

In 1977 Jeffrey R. Holland, new CES commissioner, asked President Eyring to serve as deputy commissioner. Three years later, when Commissioner Holland became president of Brigham Young University, Hal took his place as CES commissioner. He served in that position until his call in April 1985 as First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric. In that calling he used his many abilities to make significant





contributions in administration, physical facilities planning, temple design and construction, and other temporal affairs. In September 1992 he was renamed CES commissioner and, a month later, was called to the First Quorum of the Seventy.

On April 1, 1995, Henry B. Eyring was sustained to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Since then he has sought an increased portion of the Spirit of the Lord as he has blessed members of the Church throughout the world with his heartfelt sermons, loving ministrations, and powerful testimony of the Savior and His gospel.

Uniquely Qualified

When President Eyring testified during the October 2007 general conference of

the blessings of looking for God's hand in our lives, he spoke from personal experience. By keeping a daily journal of Heavenly Father's dealings in his life, he has felt his testimony grow and he has become "ever more certain that our Heavenly Father hears and answers prayers."⁴

The key to hearing those answers and knowing that God has an interest in our lives, he says, is to develop a listening ear. "We've got to be quiet and listen. In my life, when I have failed to receive a clear feeling or have missed the voice of the Spirit, it is because I was too busy, too noisy inside, and too full of my own world."

President Eyring has always lived the precepts of the thirteenth article of faith. Members of the Church are indeed fortunate to have him serve at the side of President Thomas S. Monson and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf. A rare combination of talents, a heritage of faith, a life of preparation, a dedication to service, and a determination to seek God and do His will uniquely qualify him to serve in the First Presidency. ■

NOTES

1. See Henry J. Eyring, *Mormon Scientist: The Life and Faith of Henry Eyring* (2007), 127–30.
2. See Henry B. Eyring, "The Power of Teaching Doctrine," *Liabona*, July 1999, 87–88; *Ensign*, May 1999, 74–75.
3. In Gerald N. Lund, "Elder Henry B. Eyring: Molded by 'Defining Influences,'" *Liabona*, Apr. 1996, 28; *Ensign*, Sept. 1995, 12.
4. Henry B. Eyring, "O Remember, Remember," *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 67.



Opposite page: A printout of the family's "Small Plates," a wood chest carved by President Eyring, and some of his watercolor paintings. Above: With his wife, following general conference, October 2007. Left: The First Presidency—President Thomas S. Monson (center); President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor; and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

*A Family Man, a Man of Faith,
a Man Foreordained*

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

Can you imagine the terror that must have been in the heart of 11-year-old Dieter Uchtdorf as his family fled their home in East Germany¹ in 1952 to find freedom in the West? For political reasons, the life of Dieter's father was in extreme danger. He would have to escape alone to minimize risks to his wife and children. To avoid suspicion, the rest of the family would not be able to travel together. They would have to make the attempt separately.

A plan was implemented. Dieter's two older brothers, Wolfgang and Karl-Heinz, took a northern route out of their hometown of Zwickau. Their sister, Christel, traveled with two other girls on a train that passed briefly through West Germany en route to its destination city in East Germany. As the train passed through West Germany, the girls persuaded the conductor to open the door for them, and they jumped out of the train.

Dieter, age 11—the youngest of the children—and his courageous mother took still another route. They carried with them only a little food and precious family photographs

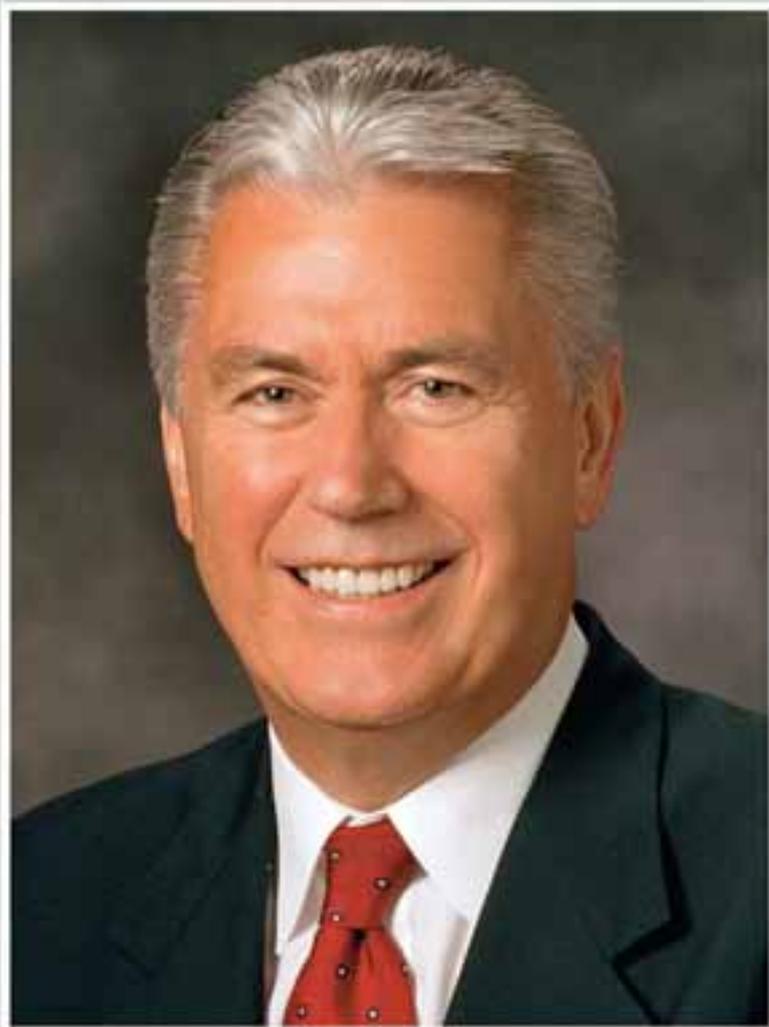


that had been preserved from destruction through World War II. After Dieter and his mother had walked long hours, Sister Uchtdorf's knees began to weaken. Dieter carried their belongings and helped his mother climb a final hill to freedom. There they stopped to eat a meager meal, only to realize, when they saw Russian guards, that they were still shy of the border. The mother and son terminated their picnic, picked up their packs, and climbed even higher before reaching their goal.

Dieter and his mother continued their trek as refugees, hitchhiking and walking to their destination at a suburb near Frankfurt. After many long and perilous days of separation, the family was finally reunited. The brothers arrived first; their father followed. Dieter and his mother then arrived, and his sister came last. Their great reunion was joyful.

Of lesser significance was the fact that they had left behind virtually all of their possessions.

Seven years earlier, toward the close of World War II, they



Left, from top: President Uchtdorf's parents, Hildegard and Karl, at the Bern Switzerland Temple. At age 2 (second from right) with his sister, Christel (right), and two friends. Right, from top: Dieter (right) with friends in front of the Frankfurt meetinghouse. At a young single adult meeting (back row, far left); Harriet, his future wife, is in the front, second from left. With a friend's car in Frankfurt.

had fled from home as foreign forces approached. Now they were refugees again. Once more they owned nothing. Once more they had to start over. But they had each other. They had their deep faith in God, and they had their membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, acquired barely five years earlier.

The family's one-room apartment near Frankfurt was small and infested with mice. Young Dieter was intrigued by the rodents running around. Public

transportation in Frankfurt was relatively inexpensive, but the family could not afford for all to travel to church each week. So they took turns.

It is no wonder that President Uchtdorf feels so passionately about the sacred institution of the family. With great sincerity he testifies that the family is ordained of God. Family is of utmost importance to him. It was within his family that the seeds of his powerful faith were sown and nurtured. There he began to prepare for the fulfillment of his foreordination as a priesthood leader in the Church of God.

A Family Man

Dieter Friedrich Uchtdorf was born of goodly parents, Karl Albert and Hildegard Else Opelt Uchtdorf, on November 6, 1940, in Mährisch-Ostrau, Czechoslovakia. The family left Czechoslovakia in 1944 and moved to Zwickau, Germany. From 1949 to 1990, Zwickau belonged to East Germany and was a center for the mining of coal. Because of its strategic importance during World War II, it became a prime target for Allied bombers. Four-year-old

Dieter was frightened but also fascinated by the lights of aircraft as they flew overhead. He remembers his mother taking him to air-raid shelters for safety. Her husband had been drafted into the German army, and Sister Uchtdorf bravely

fended for her family as the war in Europe swirled about them.

After the war, Dieter's father worked in coal and uranium mines in Zwickau under environmental conditions that predisposed him to the development of





a malignant disease that claimed his life at age 62, in Germany. President Uchtdorf remembers his father as kind and loving, strong and tender. His father cherished his priesthood responsibilities as a deacon, teacher, priest, and elder.

His mother, Hildegard, who died in 1991, was not only courageous, but she was also a true convert and devoted disciple who served in many callings in the Church.

These parents and their children were sealed in the Swiss Temple in 1956. Since then, his brothers, Wolfgang and Karl-Heinz, have passed away. His sister, Christel Uchtdorf Ash, who served a mission in Germany, presently resides in Texas, in the southern United States.

President Uchtdorf met his future wife, Harriet Reich, as they attended meetings of the Church's Mutual Improvement Association. Harriet was baptized when she was nearly 13 years of age, along with her mother and her sister, after missionaries knocked on their door and taught them the gospel. Harriet's father had died from cancer just eight months earlier. Her mother and her sister have since passed away.

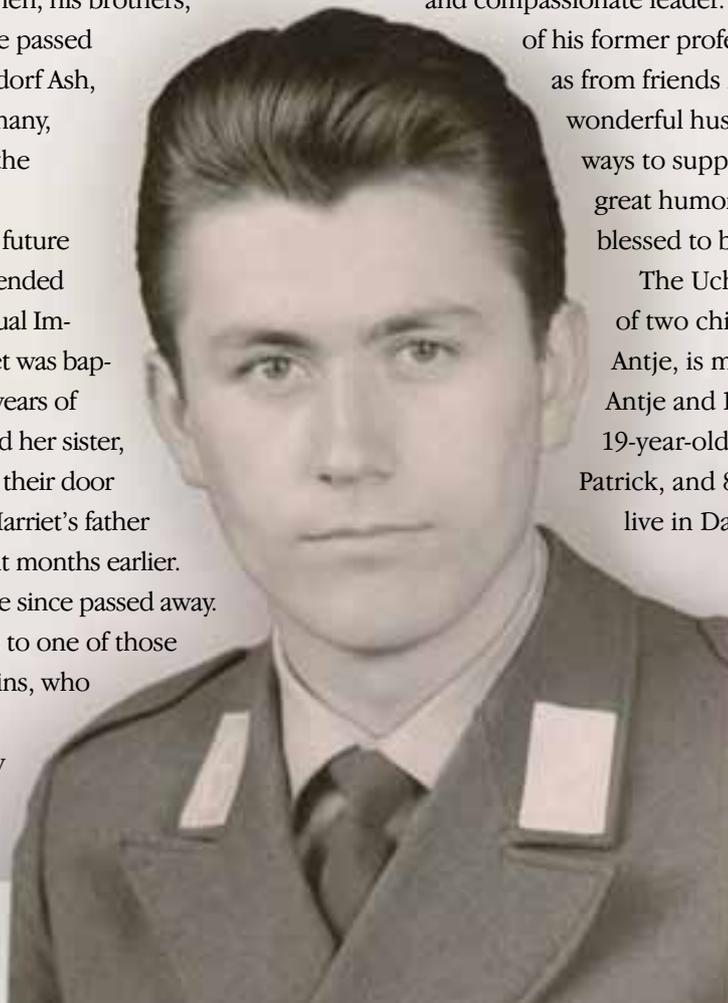
A remarkable reward came to one of those missionaries, Elder Gary Jenkins, who had taught and baptized the Reich family. What a joyful day it was for him, decades later, when on February 16, 2008,

his granddaughter, Crystal, was sealed to her husband, Steven, in the Salt Lake Temple by a member of the First Presidency, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf.

Harriet and Dieter were sealed on December 14, 1962, in the Bern Switzerland Temple. He calls Harriet the sunshine in his life. Her support is a continuous source of strength. She is the love of his life. Harriet describes her husband as having a big heart. "He is kind. He is a good and compassionate leader. We hear that from many of his former professional colleagues as well as from friends in the Church. He is a wonderful husband, always looking for ways to support me. He is a man of great humor and wit. I am very blessed to be his wife."

The Uchtdorfs are the parents of two children. Their daughter, Antje, is married to David A. Evans. Antje and David have three sons: 19-year-old twins, Daniel and Patrick, and 8-year-old Eric. They live in Darmstadt, Germany.

The Uchtdorfs' son, Guido, served in the Washington D.C. South Mission. He married Carolyn Waldner from Basel, Switzerland. Guido and Carolyn now live





near Zürich, Switzerland, where Guido serves as bishop of the Wetzikon Ward of the St. Gallen Switzerland Stake. They are parents of three children: Jasmin, age seven; Robin, age five; and Niklas Ivan, age one.

Asked about her father and his new calling, Antje replied, “We are blessed to have such wonderful parents. When we were younger, I didn’t realize how busy my father was because he always had time for us. We were never a second priority. When we have a problem, we seek his advice. And our children feel that Opa will know the answer, whatever the question may be. Now that he is in the First Presidency, we feel an even greater responsibility to do our very best.”

Guido’s recollections are quite similar. He spoke of an occasion several years ago when he, his sister, mother, and father all took skiing lessons. That was the beginning of an enjoyable family tradition—skiing together. Guido realized that his father’s vocation as an airline pilot necessitated his absence from home for lengthy periods. “But when Dad returned home, we played, we talked, and we laughed together,” Guido added. “That was quality time!”



Guido and Antje learned from their parents the importance of time together as a family. Whether an outing was educational or recreational, it helped strengthen family ties. Parenting and grandparenting at a distance are now facilitated for the Uchtdorf family by the use of modern technology. E-mail and telephone calls are augmented by the transmission of movie clips and photographs via the Internet.

But time together is valued. Especially meaningful for Guido was being able to attend the April 2008 general conference and to be present as his father stood at the Conference Center pulpit.

In counseling with his family, President Uchtdorf has always stressed fundamental principles. As Guido explained, “Father teaches of the blessings that come from prayer, scripture study, obedience to the commandments, and a positive attitude. These things are much more important to him than to wonder where Kolob is located.”

On the occasion of President and Sister Uchtdorf’s 40th wedding anniversary, they gathered at the Bern Switzerland Temple with their children, spouses, and older grandchildren to perform sacred ordinances together. That temple is dear to Harriet and

Opposite page:
Following six years in the German Air Force, Dieter earned his wings with the U.S. Air Force and received the Commander’s Trophy award. Above: Even though his job as a pilot required long absences from home, both of his children (pictured with their parents) remember that their father always made spending time together a priority.

Prior to his call to the First Quorum of the Seventy in 1996, President Uchtdorf worked for Lufthansa Airlines. Opposite page: The Uchtdorf family in 2006. Standing, from left: Patrick Evans (grandson), Harriet Dieter, and Daniel Evans (grandson). Seated: David Evans (son-in-law), Antje Evans (daughter), Eric Evans (grandson), Robin Uchtdorf (grandson), Carolyn Uchtdorf (daughter-in-law), Guido Uchtdorf (son), and Jasmin Uchtdorf (granddaughter). President and Sister Uchtdorf's youngest grandson, Niklas Ivan Uchtdorf, was born in 2007.



Dieter because their parents, they, and their children were all sealed there.

A Man of Faith

One cannot study the life of this great man without gaining a sense of his unique and unshakable faith. He has total faith in God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, faith in the Church, and faith that heavenly help will come to him when needed.

His parents risked their lives for their freedom and faith. His father honored the priesthood that had been entrusted to him. He learned from his mother—particularly during their risky escape from East Germany—to pray and to trust in the Lord.

President Uchtdorf describes his mother as brilliant. He explains that she could do mathematics in her head, and she taught him to do the same. Though their family was penniless twice as refugees of war, they lived the law of tithing. They knew that the Lord would open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings upon those who faithfully obeyed this law.²

President Uchtdorf has special feelings of fondness for the late Elder Theodore M. Burton (1907–89), who served as president of the West German Mission. At a time when

many good German Latter-day Saints were leaving their homeland, the Uchtdorf family heeded Elder Burton's counsel to stay in Germany and build up the Church there. It was Elder Burton who ordained Dieter F. Uchtdorf to the office of elder and gave memorable instruction that Dieter heeded precisely. Sister Harriet Uchtdorf understood the importance of Elder Burton's counsel for the Uchtdorf family to remain in Europe to strengthen the Church there. It became an imperative for them. Their children have adhered to that same counsel. Now, in jest, the children chide their parents for leaving for the United States, while *they* have remained in Europe.

Of course, Elder Burton was not the only leader who had a great influence on President





Uchtdorf. Dieter remembers his branch president at the time Dieter was set apart as president of the deacons quorum. The branch president gave thorough instruction regarding the duties and responsibilities of a new quorum president. Dieter remembers the significance of that teaching, which a lesser leader might have slighted simply because there was only one other member of the deacons quorum.

The faith of this family is personified by the faith of President Uchtdorf's grandmother. She was standing in line for food following the end of World War II when an elderly single sister with no family of her own invited her to sacrament meeting. His grandmother and his parents accepted the invitation. They went to church, felt the Spirit, were uplifted by the kindness of the members, and were edified by the hymns of the Restoration.³ In 1947 Dieter's parents were baptized in Zwickau; Dieter was baptized nearly two years later at the age of eight. The family's commitment to the Church became strong and enduring.

His foundation of faith undergirded confidence in his own ability to achieve. His career started with an education in engineering, followed by six years in the German Air Force. Then, thanks to a reciprocal relationship between the German and U.S. governments, he entered pilot training school in Big Spring, Texas, where he won wings with both the German and the American Air Forces. He won the coveted Commander's Trophy for being the outstanding student pilot in his class. In 1970, at age 29, Dieter F. Uchtdorf achieved the rank of captain with Lufthansa Airlines. Ultimately he became chief pilot and senior vice president of flight operations for Lufthansa.

In 2004, prior to his call to the Quorum of the Twelve, and quite by coincidence, Elder Uchtdorf and I traveled together on a Lufthansa flight to Europe. It is not unusual for airline passengers to recognize and greet General Authorities traveling on the same plane. But this time the greetings were quite different. Virtually every member of the Lufthansa crew came eagerly to greet their former

LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM LUFTHANSA; BORDRUCH, COURTESY OF THE LICHTDORF FAMILY; RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPH BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN

chief pilot. They lined up for the privilege of shaking his hand. Their feelings of deserved adoration for him were very evident to me. They seemed to perceive his great faith as well as his caring for them.

President Uchtdorf's faith in the Lord was evident as he accepted calls to serve in the Church. In 1985 he was called to be the president of the Frankfurt Germany Stake. Then, when boundaries were changed, he was called as president of the Mannheim Germany Stake. In 1994 he was called to the Second Quorum of the Seventy, while maintaining his home in Germany and his occupational responsibilities with Lufthansa. In 1996 he became a full-time General Authority to serve in the First Quorum of the Seventy. Three years later Elder and Sister Uchtdorf moved to Utah, which they then regarded as their turn for an "overseas assignment."

When Elder Uchtdorf was called to the holy apostleship in October 2004, some representatives of the media hailed him as the "German Apostle." Then he correctly taught that he was called to represent the Lord to the people, not the other way around. Indeed that is his sacred calling. He is to teach and testify of the Lord Jesus

Christ to "every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."⁴

Elder David A. Bednar was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles at the same time as Elder Uchtdorf. Upon President Uchtdorf's call to the First Presidency, Elder Bednar said, "Sitting next to, serving with, and learning from President Uchtdorf have been great blessings in my life. His teachings and engaging, gracious manner inspire me to labor more diligently and to improve myself. I love and sustain President Uchtdorf in his sacred responsibilities."

A Man Foreordained

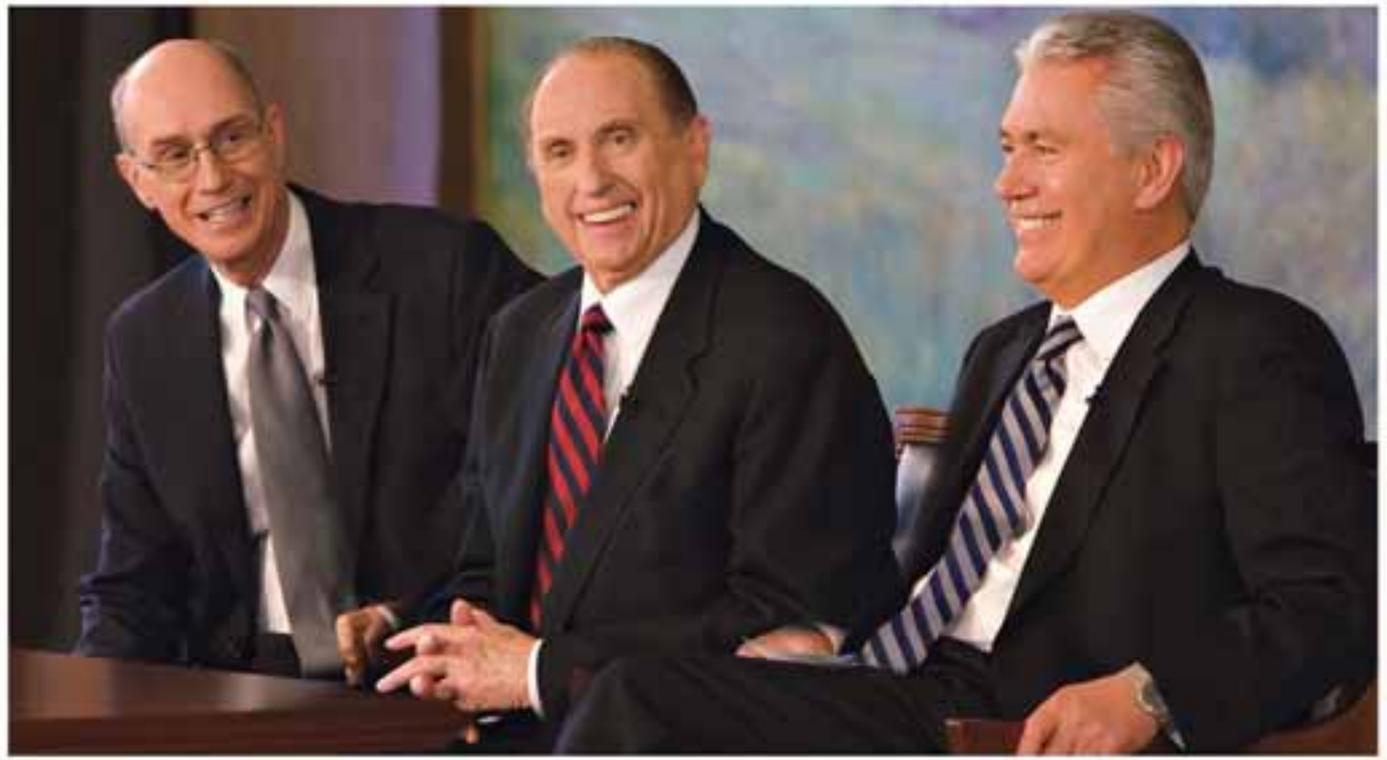
One cannot study the life of this great man without also gaining a sense of his foreordination for the great responsibilities that are now his. This doctrine is taught by ancient and modern prophets. Alma taught that priesthood leaders "were ordained—being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God."⁵

President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) revealed that leaders (such as President Uchtdorf) "were also among the noble and great ones who were chosen in the beginning to be rulers in the Church of God.

"Even before they were born, they, with many others, received their first lessons in the world of spirits and were prepared to come forth in the due time of the Lord to labor in his vineyard for the salvation of the souls of men."⁶

Wouldn't it be nice if it were possible to ask President Uchtdorf's mother if she had any inkling that her youngest son might be called one day to serve in the First Presidency of the Church? What did she sense as she nurtured her young son, enabled his freedom, and saved his life? On one occasion she and the children were in a public auditorium. She was impressed to leave the building immediately. Because of that urgent feeling, she availed herself of a wheeled cart, placed young Dieter in it, and scurried away with her children as quickly as possible. Shortly thereafter, the building was destroyed by an act of war. Most occupants of the auditorium were killed. Sister Uchtdorf and her children were spared.





As a child growing up after World War II, President Uchtdorf remembers playing in bombed-out houses and discovering guns, ammunition, and other weapons deserted in the nearby forest. Through the years, he has lived with the ever-present consequences of war and the awareness that his own country had inflicted terrible pain on others. In fact, he and his family were also victims of an oppressive dictatorship.

Later, he survived an episode while piloting an airplane when the steering control failed to function properly. Uncorrected, this condition would cause the plane to continue to roll and to crash. Numerous attempts to release the frozen steering stick failed. Repeatedly, his flight instructor issued the order to bail out. Finally the powerfully strong pilot, Dieter F. Uchtdorf, overcame the resistance and made a successful emergency landing. President Uchtdorf acknowledges the hand of the Lord in allowing him to survive such an ordeal.⁷

The mathematical probability of this Czechoslovakian-born child of a convert family

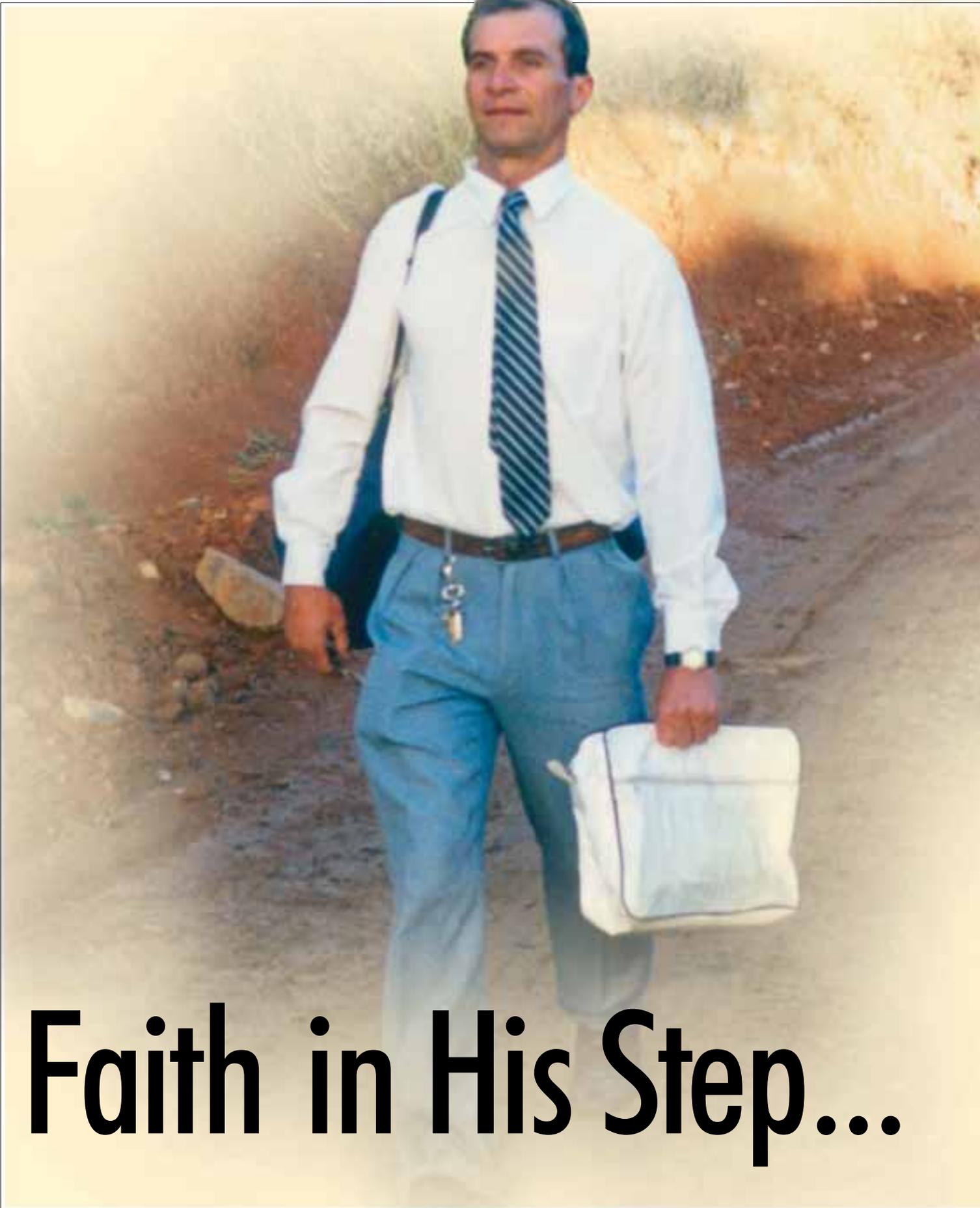
surviving such a risk-laden life and then being called to serve in the First Presidency is most unlikely. But the Lord has known and loved this special man from before the world was formed. Yes, he has been foreordained for his duties as a leader in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Now he stands beside President Thomas S. Monson in his sacred calling. President Henry B. Eyring and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf are great servants of the Lord, willing and able to provide counsel to the President of the Church. These three presiding high priests complement each other. Members of the Church will gladly and gratefully follow their inspired leadership. ■

NOTES

1. Officially designated as the German Democratic Republic.
2. See Malachi 3:10; 3 Nephi 24:10.
3. See Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "The Opportunity to Testify," *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 74.
4. Mosiah 3:20; see also Revelation 14:6; 1 Nephi 19:17; 2 Nephi 26:13; Mosiah 15:28; 16:1; Alma 37:4; D&C 133:37.
5. Alma 13:3.
6. D&C 138:55–56.
7. See Jeffrey R. Holland, "Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf: On to New Horizons," *Liabona*, Mar. 2005, 13; *Ensign*, Mar. 2005, 15.

Opposite page:
President Uchtdorf and Elder David A. Bednar were both called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in October 2004. Above: The new First Presidency was announced at a press conference in Salt Lake City on February 4, 2008.



Faith in His Step...

...and a Song in His Heart

A 40-kilometer walk was not enough to stop Brazilian member Paulo Tvuarde from faithfully attending church.

BY DEIRDRE M. PAULSEN

Whenever I hear or sing the words “We are sowing, daily sowing”¹ or “I’ll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,”² I can’t help but think of Paulo Tvuarde.

I met Paulo on a hot day in southern Brazil. Church meetings had ended, and the meetinghouse was almost empty except for a few members sitting in the hallway. My husband, then serving as president of the Brazil Curitiba Mission, was meeting with Edson Lustoza Araújo, the district president from Guarapuava, in Paraná.

“Sister Paulsen,” said Brother Jason Sousa, who was serving as a counselor to my husband, “did you notice the brother sitting in the hallway with mud on his boots?”

Many roads in southern Brazil are made of red dirt, so mud on shoes is common.

“You mean the thin, dark-haired man in his late 20s?” I asked.

“Yes, his name is Paulo Tvuarde. He walks to church almost every Sunday, except when the mud is so thick that he can’t make it. He’s been doing that for 14 years—since he was 15.”

“How far does he walk?” I asked, unprepared for Brother Sousa’s response.

“Oh, 40 kilometers,” he said matter-of-factly. “He leaves

at 3:00 a.m. to make it to church on time. It takes him eight hours.”

Quickly converting kilometers to miles, I realized that Brother Tvuarde walked 25 miles to attend church in Guarapuava!

“Why would he do that?” I asked incredulously.

“Because he believes that the Church is true.”



While plowing his fields in southern Brazil, Paulo Tvuarde plants gospel seeds by singing Church hymns “at the top of my voice,” generating interest among his neighbors.

“Well, of course,” I said, a little embarrassed at the obvious answer. “What I meant was, why does he have to walk that far?”

Brother Sousa explained that Paulo lived in the country, taking care of the family farm so that his 74-year-old mother, who had a heart condition, could live in Guarapuava, where

she received medical attention. President Lustoza was her cardiologist.

“Paulo lives by himself, plows the fields, and feeds the few animals that they have,” Brother Sousa said. “There is no electricity or running water. The farm is eight kilometers from the nearest bus stop. Worse than that, the bus doesn’t run on Saturdays or Sundays. So he walks to church.”

President Lustoza, who had entered the room with my husband, said Paulo usually attended three out of every four weeks. “He doesn’t miss unless the roads are impassible,” he said. “He stays overnight on Sundays so he can take the bus back on Monday.”

If Paulo attended church three out of every four Sundays, then he spent more than 300 hours walking nearly 1,600 kilometers (1,000 mi) each year just to attend church!



Paulo and Rita Tvarde, with their son, Saulo.

When he is at home on the farm, Paulo has found a way to share the gospel. “I decided that while I was plowing the fields with my plow behind my horse, I would sing hymns at the top of my voice,” he said, smiling. “My

neighbors who are also out in their fields hear me and ask me what I’m singing. That way I can teach the gospel.”

Walking to church wasn’t the only regular trek Paulo made in exercising his faith. Twice a year he traveled 530 kilometers (330 mi) to attend the São Paulo Brazil Temple. On one of those temple trips he was introduced to Rita de Cássia de Oliveira, who worked in the temple. Odete Lustoza, wife of President Lustoza, had previously met Rita at the temple and had encouraged Paulo to write to her.

Rita was accustomed to life in a big city, and she enjoyed her friends and the blessings of being a member of a ward with a nearby chapel. But after a long-distance courtship



Paulo studies the gospel by lamplight on his farm, located 40 kilometers (25 mi) from the nearest Latter-day Saint meetinghouse.

that resulted in her marriage to Paulo in the São Paulo temple in 2003, Rita joined him on the farm.

She has adjusted to farm life and is thankful for the blessing of a temple marriage. “The hardest part was finding a husband,” she said. “The rest I can adapt to.”

As he plows his farm today, Paulo still tries to plant gospel seeds by singing hymns for his neighbors, and he still travels 40 kilometers to church in Guarapuava. But now he travels with Rita and their son, Saulo, at his side, and rather than leave early Sunday morning, they take the last bus of the week late Friday night. After spending the weekend associating with the Saints and attending Sunday meetings, they return by bus to the farm on Monday morning—happy to have gone where the Lord would have them go. ■

NOTES

1. “We Are Sowing,” *Hymns*, no. 216.
2. “I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go,” *Hymns*, no. 270.

All Human Beings Are Created in the Image of God



Teach the scriptures and statements that meet the needs of the sisters you visit. Bear testimony of the doctrine. Invite those you teach to share what they have felt and learned.

What Do We Know about Being “Created in the Image of God”?

Moses 2:27: “I, God, created man in mine own image, in the image of mine Only Begotten created I him; male and female created I them.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008): “Our bodies are sacred. They were created in the image of God. They are marvelous, the crowning creation of Deity. No camera has ever matched the wonder of the human eye. No pump was ever built that could run so long and carry such heavy duty as the human heart. The ear and the brain constitute a miracle. . . . These, with others of our parts and organs, represent the divine, omnipotent genius of God” (“Be Ye Clean,” *Ensign*, May 1996, 48).

President Thomas S. Monson: “God our Father has ears with which to hear our prayers. He has eyes with which to see our actions. He has a mouth with which to speak to us. He has a heart with which to feel compassion and love. He is real. He is



living. We are his children made in his image. We look like him and he looks like us” (“I Know That My Redeemer Lives,” *Tambuli*, Apr. 1988, 6; *Ensign*, Apr. 1990, 6).

How Does Knowing I Am Created in God’s Image Make a Difference in My Life?

Elder LeGrand Richards (1886–1983) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “There are many who think their bodies are their own and that they can do with them what they will, but Paul makes it plain that they are not their own, for they are bought with a price, and that ‘If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are’ [1 Corinthians 3:17]” (*A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, rev. ed. [1966], 380).

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “We should come to ‘know . . . the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent’ (John 17:3). ‘. . . To know God is to think what he thinks, to feel what he feels, to have the power he possesses, to comprehend the truths he understands, and to do what he does. Those who know God become like him, and have his kind of life, which is eternal life.’ . . . He instructed his Nephite disciples: ‘What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am’ (3 Ne. 27:27)” (“Our Lord and Savior,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 7).

Susan W. Tanner, Young Women general president: “[Did] your mother or father ever [remind you] to ‘remember . . . that you are a child of God and must act accordingly’[?] Missionaries wear a badge as a constant reminder . . . to dress modestly and comely, to treat people with politeness, and to strive to have Christ’s image in their countenances. . . . By covenant, we too have all taken upon ourselves Christ’s name. His name should be engraven inwardly upon our hearts. Likewise, we are expected to act as worthy children of Heavenly Father, who, at least figuratively, has sent us to earth with the admonition ‘Remember who you are!’” (“Daughters of Heavenly Father,” *Liabona and Ensign*, May 2007, 107).

For additional study, see Job 7:17; D&C 110:2–3; Joseph Smith—History 1:17. ■



Recipe for a Happy Home

Togetherness, the gospel, and family fun—those are the ingredients this Swedish family mixes into a satisfying standard of love.

BY PAUL VANDENBERGHE
Church Magazines

You wake up to funny-sounding, high-pitched falsetto singing coming from the kitchen.

Naturally, you're a bit confused and most likely thinking one of two things: (1) "It's my little sister looking for cookies in the kitchen" or (2) "I'm in the wrong house." But if you happen to be a member of the Ronndahl family from Kavlinge, Sweden, you're not confused at all. In fact, you look forward to this each week—not the singing but what the family calls "hotel breakfast."

"I love the breakfast on Saturday morning," says Isabelle Ronndahl, 14, when asked about some of her favorite things about her family. "Dad always prepares it, and he always makes it excellent." There is a chorus of happy yeses as the other Ronndahl children enthusiastically nod in agreement.

"We wake up to Dad's singing," explains Andreas, 16. A few of his brothers and sisters volunteer impersonations, and they all laugh, including the parents, Brynolf and

Kristina. Laughter breaks out a lot in the Ronndahl home. Then they continue describing how, after the singing, the smell of fresh bacon and eggs draws the family out of bed each Saturday morning. Even more than sharing the food, they seem to enjoy just being together.



They also talk about another ingredient in their recipe for a happy home—family home evening. But that wasn't always the case. "I remember when our family home evenings were mostly very long lessons," says Christoffer, 18, with a playful glance in his mother's direction.

"Sometimes I would get bored and fall asleep," adds Andreas, who was only about five at that time. "But then I'd wake up, and there would be refreshments."

Brother Ronndahl explains that when the children were quite young, Sister Ronndahl would regularly prepare lessons that were over an hour long. The lessons were difficult for the young children to sit through. Now the Ronndahls have eight children, ranging in age from 8 to 23 years old—the oldest, Rebecka, has served a full-time mission and is now attending college in the United States.

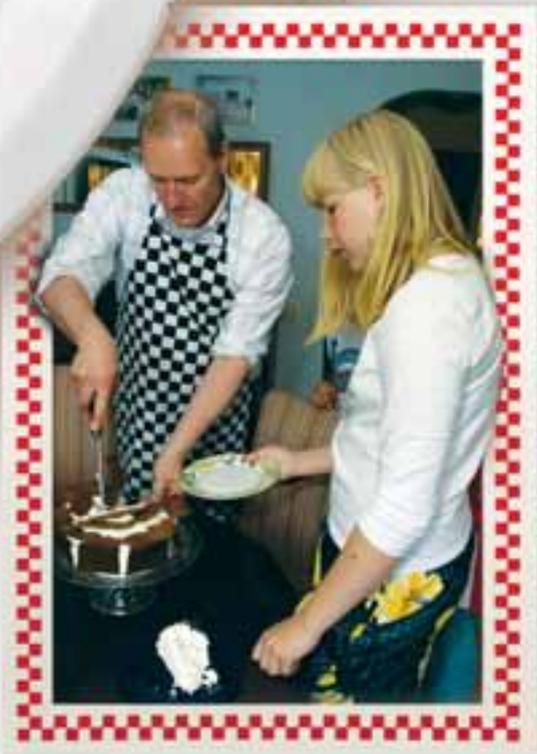
Brother and Sister Ronndahl decided to change their approach to family home evening. "We gathered the family together and said, 'Hey, what do you like to do?'" says Sister Ronndahl. The parents weren't too surprised to learn that the kids liked the food, the games, and singing hymns—they even liked the idea of a lesson, if it were only shorter. Brother Ronndahl sums it up well when he says the right ingredients were there but maybe not in the right amounts. "We discovered we should focus on the fun side of things too," he says.

Sister Ronndahl decided to make an extra-nice dinner so Monday would start out as a special night. Then for family home evening



CHARITY

Fourteen-year-old Isabelle's favorite scripture is Moroni 7:45–48. These are the verses that talk about charity, the pure love of Christ. "I especially love verse 45," says Isabelle. "It tells about all of the wonderful qualities of charity and love. It helps me remember that charity is what really matters most for us to get back to our Heavenly Father."



PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RONNDAHL FAMILY BY PAUL VANDENBERGHE, OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN LUKE



HOW TO PLAY BLINDFOLDED CONDUCTOR

Twelve-year-old Josefin's favorite family home evening game is easy to play and a lot of fun. Everyone forms a circle, and one person, the "conductor," is blindfolded and placed in the center. The conductor directs the people in the circle to walk either to the right or the left with a point of her finger—changing the rotation of the circle whenever she changes the direction of her pointing. When the conductor lifts her hands, the circle stops. The conductor then blindly points toward the circle. Whoever is pointed at by the conductor must make a noise, any noise—loud or soft or funny or whatever. If the conductor guesses who made the noise, that person becomes the conductor; if the guess is wrong, the game continues with the same conductor.

they added a healthy measure of games and singing. They also shortened the lessons to about 10 minutes. The mixture worked well. "The children started to look forward to Monday nights," says Kristina. "Everybody loved it."

Now that the children are older, the lessons have lengthened and deepened. Rosanna, 20, says, "We actually can do very good lessons nowadays. We love to discuss the gospel and other things. It's fun because we have so many opinions and ideas. Now it is more interesting because we're talking about things that we want to talk about." But the music, games, and refreshments are still part of the recipe.

"My favorite things are the refreshments and games," says Josefin, 12.

"Refreshments and games of course," echoes Christoffer.

"I think the songs and music are the best," says Rosanna.

"The lessons," Isabelle chimes in meekly. Her brothers and sisters immediately offer Isabelle some good-natured teasing. "No, really," she adds earnestly.

"I think the whole family home evening is my favorite," says Andreas. "The lesson, songs, games, refreshments—all of them together make it very fun. If we had a family home evening without a lesson or games or songs, it would feel like something was missing."

"I love it when Brynolf and I don't have to do anything for family home evening," says

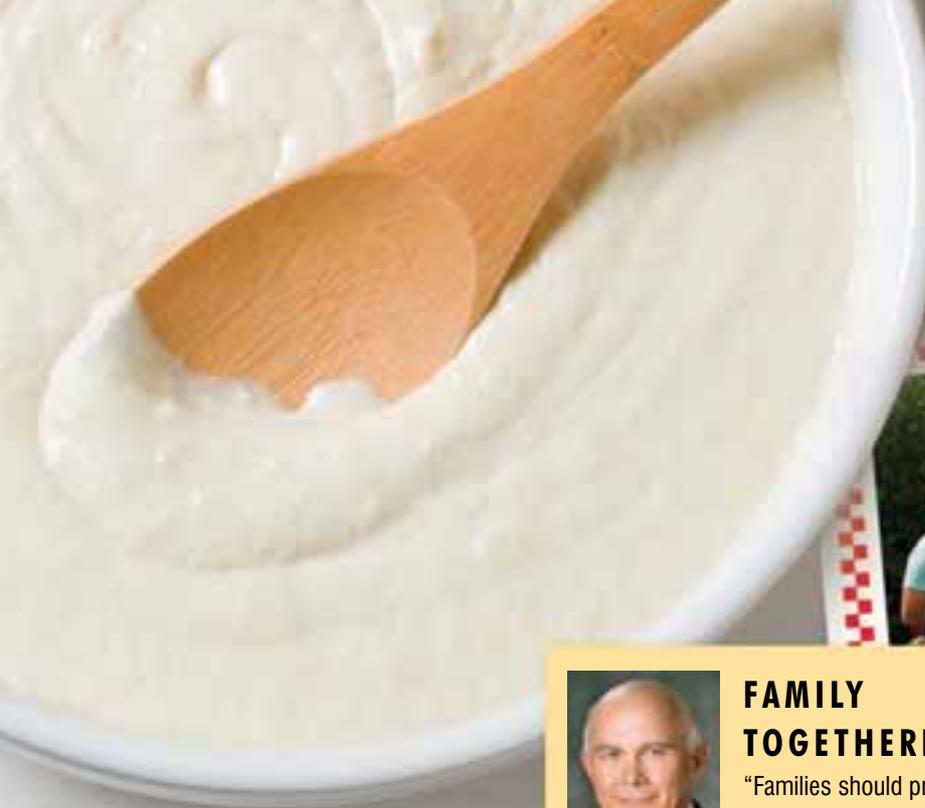
Sister Ronndahl. "We can just sit aside, and the children lead and they have the lesson and they have the refreshments. They do everything. That's my favorite."

Another key ingredient in the Ronndahls' recipe for a happy home is a family council every Sunday after church. They go through each person's assignment for the next family home evening. And since they rotate assignments, everyone gets a chance at all the jobs—from the lesson to the refreshments to



the scripture. They also talk about their regular household chores and how things are going with each member of the family.

Getting together as a family doesn't happen just on Sunday and Monday, however. Samuel, 10, and Johannes, 8, the youngest of the children, both say they like the fun outings and picnics the family takes



FAMILY TOGETHERNESS

“Families should pray together, kneeling night and morning to offer thanks for

blessings and prayers for common concerns.

“Families should worship together, participating in church services and family devotionals.

“Families should study and learn together. . . .

“Families should work together. . . . Families should also play together, so that happy recreational experiences are associated with the activities of the family.

“Families should counsel together, treating all matters of concern to the family and its members.

“Families should eat together. Mealtimes is a natural time for the family to assemble and communicate.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Parental Leadership in the Family,” *Ensign*, June 1985, 10–11.

together. Their father agrees. “We all love to go swimming, everywhere—in lakes, in the ocean, in rivers,” says Brother Ronndahl. They also get together to sing and play music as a band since just about everyone plays one or more instruments.

All this family togetherness has made the Ronndahls best friends as well as family. They love each other and lean on each other. They draw strength from one another. That’s probably why they like to spend so much time together.

And while the members of the Ronndahl family strengthen each other, they also strengthen their ward and stake. “We go to all the activities in the stake and all the outings and conferences for the youth,” says Brother Ronndahl. “We encourage our children to be a part of all the things that happen in the stake and in the ward. The wards are not so big here, so we have a lot of stake activities to bring the youth together as much as possible.” The older

children attend seminary as well. At times, both of their parents have served as seminary teachers. Of course, they’re also involved in their classes and quorums at church.

Those are the ingredients that, mixed together with care, help this family get along so well. From youngest to oldest, from parent to child, they all love to be together because they all love each other. And they have a lot of favorite things to do together, from swimming in the ocean to playing blind-folded conductor during family home evening (see sidebar). “One of my favorite things about our family is the music,”

says Sister Ronndahl. “We are a music family. We love to sing a lot.”

Yes, the Ronndahls all love to sing. They also love to hear singing—especially the silly falsetto coming from the kitchen on Saturday morning. ■



God's Guiding Hand



The Lord will shape your life to His purposes if you will let Him. And great blessings will result.

BY ELDER WOLFGANG H. PAUL
Of the Seventy

What will your life be like in, say, 10 years, 20 years? What kind of job or career will you have? What Church callings will come to you? What will your family be like?

I can answer all of those questions for you with absolute certainty: I'm certain I don't know. But I'm equally certain that God *does* know. And if you trust in Him and place yourself in His hands, you may find Him taking you in unexpected directions, giving you wonderful experiences and opportunities.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

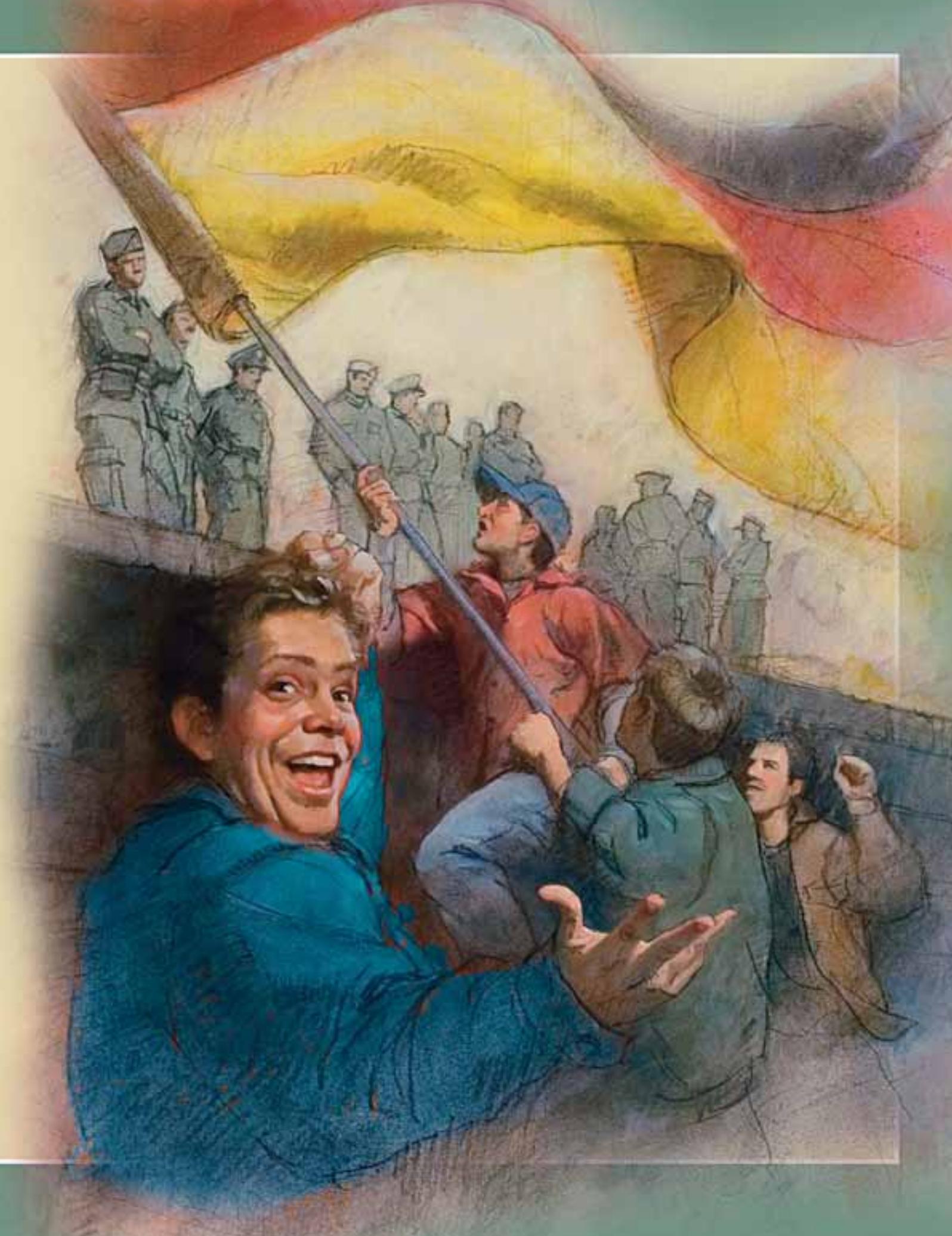
"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6).

The same God who directs the course of nations cares enough about you, one of His children, to bless you personally. I have witnessed and experienced both of these examples of the guiding hand of God.

Blessing Whole Nations

When I was growing up, Germany was a divided nation. The west, where I lived, was free and democratic and became prosperous. The east was ruled by a communist system that was allied with the Soviet Union. A border separated east and west, marked by walls, barbed wire, minefields, and towers manned by guards with machine guns. Trapped in the east, behind that border, were a number of faithful Latter-day Saints who longed for freedom to worship and for the blessings of the temple.

We members of the Church knew that someday—in fulfillment of prophecy—the gospel would be preached in every nation (see Matthew 24:14). But because the armies seemed so powerful and the governments so hard-hearted, we feared that only a major international conflict or other world calamity would bring the necessary changes to East Germany, Poland, and the other countries under Soviet domination.



The same God who speaks to prophets and who changes the course of nations is willing to speak to your heart through His Spirit. He will guide the course of your life and make much more of you than you could ever make of yourself.

The Lord knew better. President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) challenged all Church members to pray that the borders would be opened. And slowly but surely miraculous things began to happen. The East German government allowed a temple to be built on its territory, and the Freiberg Germany Temple was dedicated in 1985. Then in 1988, following a request from Church leaders, the government agreed to allow missionaries into the country and missionaries from East Germany to serve out of the country. In November 1989 the East German government opened the Berlin Wall, and it was soon demolished. The government fell, and Germany became united under a democratic government.

Historians list many causes for these great events. But there is no doubt in my mind that behind it all, the Lord was guiding the destinies of these nations so that His purposes could be fulfilled.

Guiding a Life

That same God is interested in you personally and will guide and shape your life for your own blessing and for the blessing of others—if you will invite Him to do so. I know it because He has shaped my life and kept His promise that when I put Him first, He will bless me with all other things that I need. I have seen this happen many times in my life.

Our family were the only Latter-day Saints in our town of 60,000 people. We did our best to live the gospel. I felt the Spirit often, and I never really doubted that the Church was true. But while serving in the military, I felt a strong desire to know for myself that

the Book of Mormon is true. So I went to a private place and did just as the Book of Mormon counsels (see Moroni 10:4–5). I asked God. And I received a witness—a spiritual feeling of warmth, comfort, peace, and great happiness that I shall never forget.

After my military service, I pursued an education in military administration in the West German government. It was quite demanding, but I gained a broad background in such things as finance, real estate, legal affairs, and so forth. I also had a calling to serve in the district presidency. While my fellow students were busy studying on Sundays, I was fulfilling Church assignments and spending time with my family. It was hard, but the Lord's promises are true, and you can rely on them. I did as well as any of my fellow students.

After graduation, I worked for the government for eight years. I was guaranteed a lifetime job and a very good pension. It looked as if my life was comfortably laid out before me. Then the Church's Presiding Bishopric asked me if I would be willing to move to Frankfurt and work as the area representative for Europe. I would have to give



up my secure job and future pension. But when my wife and I prayed about it, we felt that it was the right thing to do. From then on, my life went in a different but very blessed direction.

My government training had prepared me for many of the things I dealt with in my new responsibility. And taking this job allowed me to serve later as a mission president, something I would never have been permitted to do if I were still working for the government.

I share these things with you with deep gratitude and not to boast but to show you that the Lord will shape your life to His purposes if you will let Him. And great blessings will result. I can promise you that not only will He bless you in such important things as your career, but if you turn to

Him in prayer, He will bless you in small, everyday challenges.

I have experienced this many times in my life.

**Blessed from Day
to Day**

I remember when I was serving as a branch president and was working

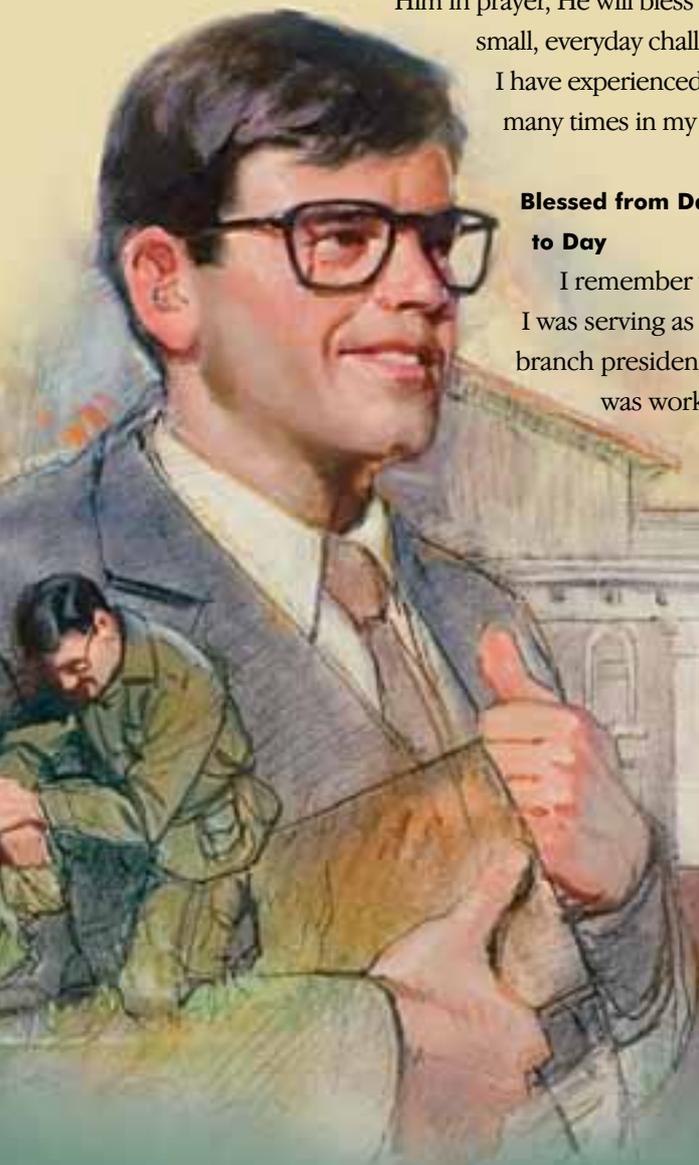
on our annual tithing report. It was a beautiful winter day, and my wife was waiting to go for a walk with me. I was used to doing finances as a government officer, so this was no big task for me. But every time I tried to balance the figures, they did not add up right. I kept trying and trying, but nothing worked, and I was getting frustrated. I asked Heavenly Father to help.

After I got up from my knees, I couldn't see that anything had changed. But I felt prompted to review a specific portion of the donation receipt file again. In those days the receipts were glued together in pads, and this time I discovered that two receipts had stuck together and looked like one receipt. The problem was solved.

Your challenge may be as ordinary as one I had not long ago. I had bought a new high-speed modem for my computer, but when I hooked everything up according to the directions, it did not work. I went through the troubleshooting instructions, reconnected everything, and called the help desk of the manufacturer, but still it didn't work. The equipment was even tested at the store where I bought it, and they couldn't find anything wrong. So I took it back home. But this time I remembered to pray. That was the only thing I did that was different. This time the equipment worked, and it still works.

Now, some of these events affected whole nations. Some affected the whole course of my life. And some are quite small on the grand scale of things. But that is precisely my point. The same God who speaks to prophets and who changes the course of nations is willing to speak to your heart through His Spirit. He will guide the course of your life and make much more of you than you could ever make of yourself. And He will help you with the everyday challenges of your life if you will trust in Him and lean on Him.

He knows you, He loves you, and His promises are sure. ■



Now Is the

Being a young Latter-day Saint in Ukraine means serving and leading in the Church—right now.

BY JANESEA CLOWARD

Imagine being a member of the Church in a place where everyone is a convert. Missionaries have been here for only a few years. And when you turn 17, instead of becoming Laurel president, you are called to be Primary president.

For Oksana Fersanova, that's exactly what the Church is like. Oksana, who lives in Khmel'nyts'kyy, Ukraine, was



one of the first people to be baptized when her city opened for missionary work in 2006. Not long after her baptism she was called to serve as Primary president for the small group

that meets in her city.

Oksana is typical of Latter-day Saint teenagers throughout the Church here—deeply involved in serving and eager to share the truth in a land where the message of the gospel is now taking hold. In areas like Khmel'nyts'kyy, the young converts provide energy, optimism, and unwavering testimonies of the gospel, which strengthen the Church in Ukraine.

Waiting for the Gospel

Oksana had a testimony of Jesus Christ, but it wasn't until her friends gave her a copy of the Book of Mormon that she gained a testimony of His restored gospel.

"As I read about Jesus Christ talking to the Nephites, a strong feeling came over me, and I knew that He loved

me. I prayed and had a witness that He is my Savior and the Book of Mormon is true," Oksana says.

"I knew that if Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon and the Book of Mormon was true, he was definitely a prophet of God and had restored the gospel of Jesus Christ," she says.

Her friends taught her more about the gospel because there were no missionaries in Khmel'nyts'kyy at that time. For four years she studied the gospel and lived its principles as best as she could, praying for the missionaries to come.

Finally, in March 2006, they came. Oksana and her friend Sasha Kubatov were the first two people baptized in Khmel'nyts'kyy.

Sasha was only 14 when he received a Book of Mormon from his older sisters, who had joined the Church in another city.



Time



“They emphasized the fact that I was 14, just as Joseph Smith was when he had his First Vision. He was greatly blessed at a young age, and I could be too,” he says.

So he started reading. He read until he got to the Isaiah chapters in 2 Nephi, and then he stopped. He read the Book of Mormon again a year later, but as a historical document, not with a desire to know if it was true.

But when he read the Book of Mormon the third time, Sasha focused less on its history and more on the work of God it recorded.

“As I read it, I thought it was true, but I didn’t have a firm testimony yet,” he admits. “I wanted to talk to the missionaries.”

When the elders arrived a few years later, they answered all of his questions and helped him prepare to be baptized and confirmed.

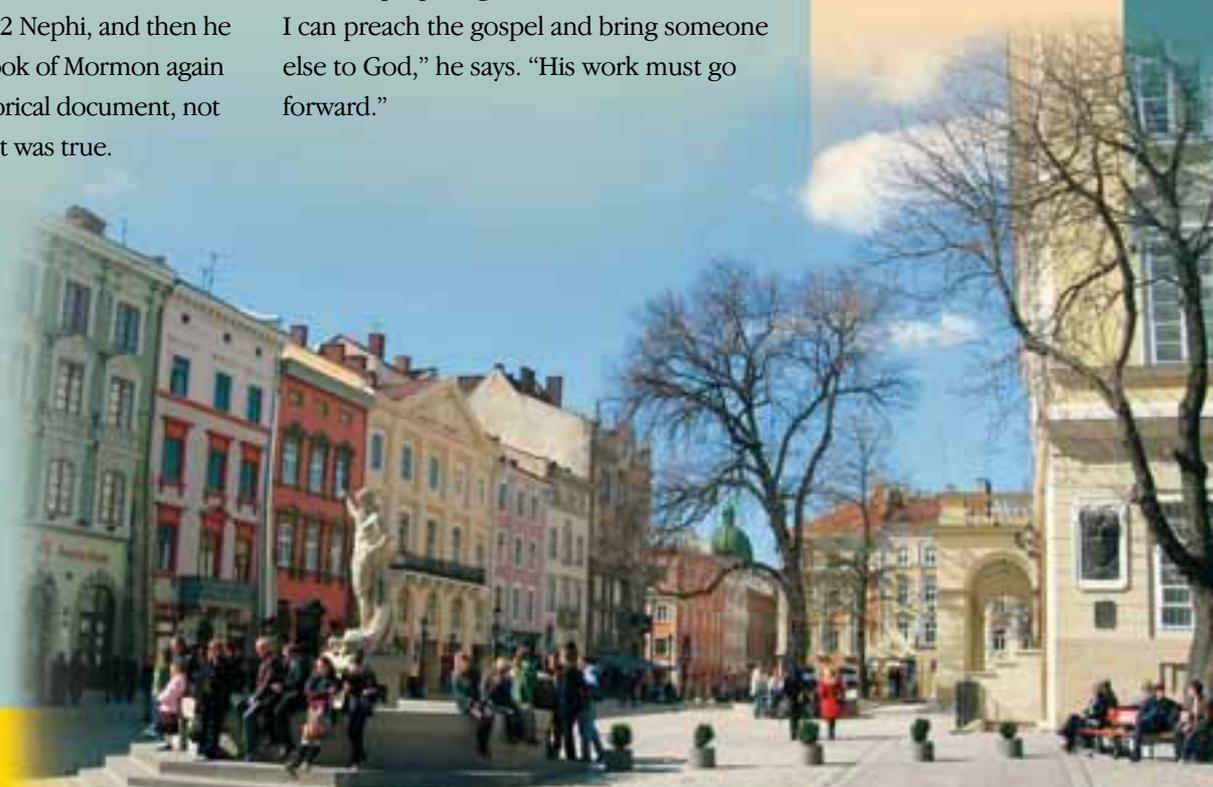
“As I walked into the waters of baptism, all my doubts were gone, and I knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet and the gospel is true,” he says. “I was not afraid, even though I knew the rest of my life would be different.”

His life *is* different now. As a home teacher Sasha is learning how to magnify the priesthood he holds and serve in the Lord’s kingdom.

Within a year of his baptism Sasha baptized his mother and his grandfather. His entire family has now joined the Church, and Sasha is excited to bring the gospel to others.

“I am preparing to serve a mission so that I can preach the gospel and bring someone else to God,” he says. “His work must go forward.”

Opposite page: Oksana Fersanova, a convert to the Church, loves teaching Primary. A group of children in Chernihiv hold up issues of the Liahona. Left: Sasha Kubatov shared the gospel with his family and is now preparing to serve in the Russia Yekaterinburg Mission. Below: The city center of L'viv.





Above: After being baptized at age 16, Misha says of his confirmation, "I felt power come to me as hands were laid on my head, and I felt awesome." **Right:** Misha baptized his mother, Olga, six months after he was baptized. **Bottom:** Missionaries, branch members, and family supported Olga on the day of her baptism. **Opposite page:** Yuri Voynarovich loves serving as branch mission leader and clerk.



Following His Lead

Misha Sukonosov never imagined that attending English classes with the missionaries in Chernihiv would lead him to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. But that changed after several months of attending the classes.

Misha loved the spirit he felt as the missionaries taught him English. And when he finally accepted their invitation to attend Church meetings with them, he was surprised to feel the same spirit at church.

Finally, one of the elders invited Misha to simply do what he knew was right and be baptized.

Misha knew it would take a great deal

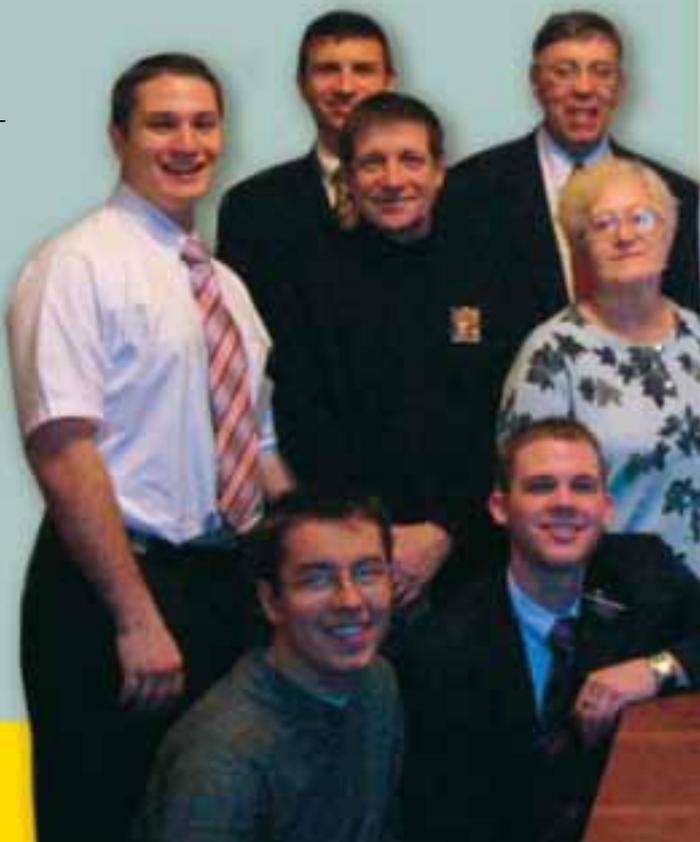
of courage to go against his family's traditions. In Ukraine most people are lifelong members of the predominant church. His family was no exception.

His mother wanted him to wait a few years to be baptized, so he agreed to wait until he turned 16. In the meantime he attended church every week and began serving as branch pianist.

"That helped me come every Sunday, because I had to come or there would be nobody to play," Misha says.

Finally, when the wait was over, Misha was baptized in the Desna River on July 1, 2006. At the time, he had no idea how quickly his family would follow his example.

His mother, Olga, started coming to church to learn more about her son's new religion. She came so often that the branch president asked her to play the organ in sacrament meeting so Misha could be called as the music director.



After six months of hearing the members' testimonies, including her son's, Olga developed a testimony of her own. Misha baptized his mother in December 2006.

Olga still plays the organ every week. Misha, now 17, keeps busy by helping the branch presidency, serving as a branch missionary, and leading the hymns in sacrament meeting.

"I know the Church needs me," he says. "I am so grateful for these chances to serve. The Church helps me as I help others."

Finding the Faith

In L'viv, a city in western Ukraine, Yuri Voynarovich and his family started searching for truth when he was just 10 years old. For years they visited different churches. Then his uncle invited them to attend a branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Yuri's parents were soon baptized and confirmed.

"I didn't go at first," Yuri says. "I kept searching on my own."



But his parents, who knew the Church was true, didn't give up on their son. They invited Yuri to English lessons and youth activities as well as Sunday meetings. Finally, the missionaries themselves invited him to English classes.

"I couldn't say no to them," Yuri says. So he went. Then he went to church. Eventually he too was baptized.

"Since that day I've had many more experiences that have built and molded my testimony and character into who I am today," he says.

"I often see people who suffer from bad choices they've made," he says. "I understand sometimes it's hard because of temptations and peer pressure, but we shouldn't give up. Later we can see the blessings that come from obedience."

Yuri, now 17, serves as the branch mission leader and branch clerk in L'viv.

"I am so thankful for the Church and all it has done for me," Yuri says. "I love this Church. I encourage everyone to hold to the iron rod and never let go." ■



One year before the *Liahona* issue date: planning is completed. Articles are selected or written.

Ten months before the issue date: articles written by staff editors, auxiliary presidencies, or General Authorities are edited. Readers' submissions are edited at this time as well.

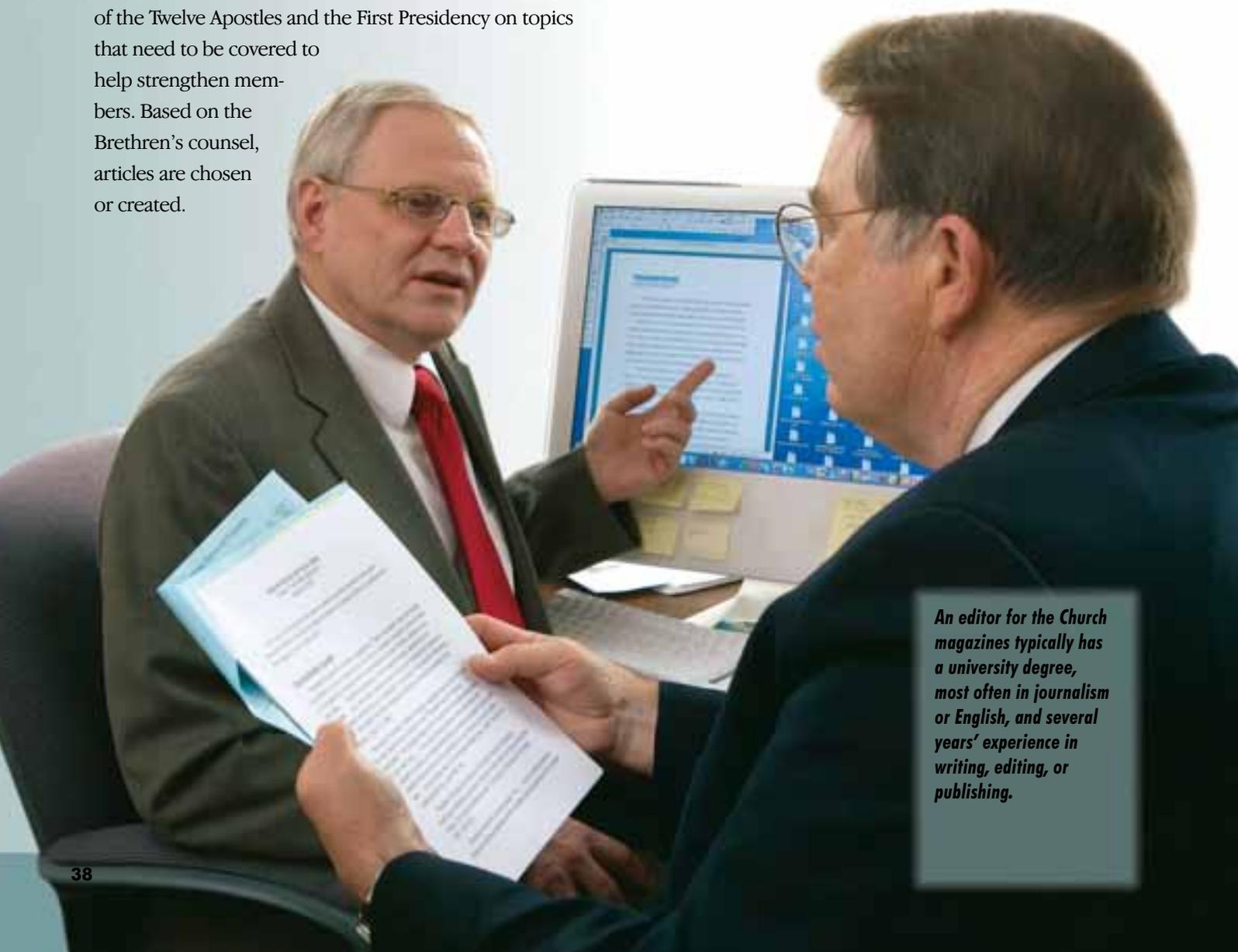
MAKING Church

Have you ever wondered how your Church magazine came to be? When you look at the magazine you are holding in your hands, do you wonder just who put it together and how it was done?

Come along for an editor's tour of the Church magazines, to show how these publications are put together.

As you read this magazine, planning has already begun for the magazine that is one year away. In preparing it, magazine editors will follow direction from several members of the Seventy, who share counsel from the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the First Presidency on topics that need to be covered to help strengthen members. Based on the Brethren's counsel, articles are chosen or created.

The managing editors of the Liahona and Ensign discuss an article to be used in an upcoming issue.



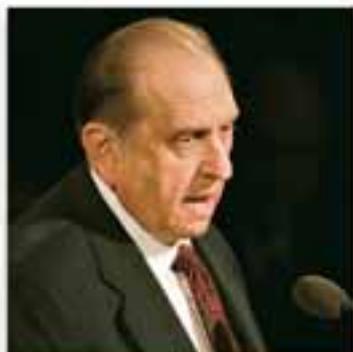
An editor for the Church magazines typically has a university degree, most often in journalism or English, and several years' experience in writing, editing, or publishing.

Nine months before the issue date: articles are reviewed by an assigned committee and by General Authorities.

Eight months before the issue date: articles are assigned positions in the magazine. (Similar deadlines for the *Friend*, *New Era*, and *Ensign* follow two to three months later.)

Magazines

Four Main Sources for Magazine Articles



Talks or writings of the prophet and other General Authorities or Church leaders may be turned into articles.



Members of the Seventy and auxiliary presidencies write articles in support of Church courses of study.



Church magazine editors write articles after doing research on a topic or visiting Latter-day Saints in a particular place.



You, the readers, write articles. Your submissions allow the voices of Latter-day Saints from around the world to be heard in the magazines.

Planning an Issue

Planning always begins with the *Liabona*, which is published in up to 51 languages. It is published monthly in 21 languages. In languages with lower numbers of subscribers, readers may receive the *Liabona* four or six times a year. Those languages with the fewest subscribers receive a magazine one, two, or three times a year.

The *Liabona* includes articles for adults, youth, and children, a local section including, in part, news for members in their particular area of the Church.

Church leaders have asked that as nearly as possible the content used in the *Liabona* match the content that is printed in the Church's English-only magazines: the *Ensign*, *New Era*, and *Friend*. In planning monthly issues of the *Liabona*, editors prayerfully try to judge which articles are most needed by members worldwide. The choices of articles are reviewed by the General Authorities who are advisers to the Curriculum Department.

KNOWING OUR AUDIENCE

Staff members who write and edit the articles for adults, for youth, and for children must keep in mind the basic differences among our readers. Those who produce articles for children know that between the ages of 6 and 12, children make great changes in their intellectual ability and their emotional growth. Editors understand that this is also happening as teenage readers mature. Those who produce articles for adults try to keep in mind that readers differ in ages, stages of life, and marital status.

Add to this the complexity of addressing the needs of readers all over the world, and the task can seem daunting. While it is impossible to meet the needs of all readers in one issue, we make an effort through the issues of each year to provide useful, inspiring material for all of our readers at different stages of life or within an age group.

Seven to eight months before the issue date: graphic designers conceptualize and lay out articles; illustrators and photographers are contracted to produce assigned artwork or photography.

Graphic Design and Production



Editors of the *Liahona* and *Ensign* discuss placement of articles within an upcoming issue.



Designers choose a format and art or photographs to help teach the spiritual principles covered in articles. Here, the art director of the *Liahona* shows proposed layouts to staff editors and designers.



As graphic designers create the layouts of articles, they commission illustrations or photography, as needed, from professional artists and photographers.

Putting It All Together

On any given day of the year, magazine staff members will be preparing several different issues for coming months. These will be at different stages, from early planning to proof-reading to on-the-presses for next month's issue. (The Church's printing center in Salt Lake City, Utah, prints the English-only magazines and most editions of the *Liabona*.) Writing and editing of articles are completed about eight months before the publication date for each issue of the magazine. However, if something develops in the next three or four months that must be covered in the Church magazines, editors may pull out a scheduled article and replace it with a new one.

All of the Church magazines undergo review of their contents at more than one stage. After articles are edited, they are read by assigned reviewers, including a few members of the Seventy. Following this review

the approved text goes to staff graphic designers, who design page layouts. They may choose existing photography and art or may commission new photography and art. Because pages for the *Liabona* must accommodate expansion of the translated text in various languages, extra space is designed into each article. When the design is finished, the pages are reviewed by members of the Seventy and one or more members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

The magazine production process includes about a month for translation of *Liabona* articles. Translators are Church members who live all over the world. They exchange *Liabona* articles electronically with Church headquarters.

Six months before the issue date: several General Authorities review page layouts for *Liahona* articles. Articles are sent to translators.

Six months before the issue date: electronic versions of English *Liahona* pages begin going to prepress personnel for preparation for printing. Versions in other languages follow as they are translated and laid out.

Far right: Working via e-mail, production artists communicate with translators all over the world.
Right: Magazine production in as many as 51 languages requires creating page layouts on the computer and reviewing proofs in each language.



Church magazines designers create page layouts electronically for each article in English. Production artists will later reproduce those layouts with translated text.



A designer for the Church magazines typically has a university degree, several years' experience in a design studio, and skill with several computer design and production programs.

Two months before the issue date: printing begins. The *Friend*, *New Era*, and *Ensign* will follow the *Liahona* on the presses at the Church's printing center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

One to two months before the issue date: a few language editions of the *Liahona* are printed in their countries of distribution.

The web press at the Church's printing center in Salt Lake City can print from 8 to 64 pages on both sides of the paper, then cut and fold the printed pages into "signatures" (large multiple-page printed sheets that fold, forming the individual pages). The web press averages 30,000 impressions per hour. It operates 24 hours a day Monday through Saturday, with four-person crews working on rotating shifts.

The web press prints on 2,800-pound (1,270-kg) rolls of paper that contain about 80,000 feet (24,380 m), or 15 miles (24 km), of paper. Printing the June 2008 *Ensign* required 105 rolls of paper—about 1,590 miles (2,560 km). The paper shown below is running through a dryer as it exits the press. The paper appears blurred because it is moving so quickly.

This press operator has unfolded a 16-page signature and is inspecting it for proper "registration" (ensuring that the printing plates are properly aligned) and color match. The press prints all the colors seen in the magazines by combining only four colors: cyan, magenta, yellow, and black.

A press operator at the Church's printing center will have at least five years' experience and will have completed a Graphic Arts Training Foundation course that lasts from six months to a year.

Liahona Languages (2008)

Albanian	Fijian	Korean	Slovenian
Armenian	Finnish	Latvian	Spanish
Bislama	French	Lithuanian	Swedish
Bulgarian	German	Malagasy	Tagalog
Cambodian	Greek	Marshallese	Tahitian
Cebuano	Haitian	Mongolian	Tamil
Chinese	Hindi	Norwegian	Telugu
Croatian	Hungarian	Polish	Thai
Czech	Icelandic	Portuguese	Tongan
Danish	Indonesian	Romanian	Ukrainian
Dutch	Italian	Russian	Urdu
English	Japanese	Samoan	Vietnamese
Estonian	Kiribati	Sinhala	

One to two months before the issue date: magazine printing, packaging, and distribution begin. Magazines are sent first to areas farthest from Salt Lake City. In many countries, they are delivered to subscribers through local postal systems. In other countries, they are distributed through wards and branches.

CONTRIBUTING YOUR ARTICLES

Members often wonder how they can contribute to the Church magazines. You can send us manuscripts on almost any topic, but you will probably notice that articles teaching the meaning of doctrine or the meaning of scriptures are usually written by General Authorities.

Your best opportunity to contribute to the magazines will be to write about your own spiritual insights or experiences. When you write about what you know and have experienced, your writing carries the weight of truth and authenticity. Please remember that what you write needs to be applicable in principle to readers in many nations and cultures.

You might want to contact us to ask whether we would be interested in an article before you write it. That way, we can tell you whether the topic fits with the magazines' editorial plans.

The postal address for the Church magazines is *Liahona* (or *Ensign* or *New Era* or *Friend*), 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA. The e-mail address is the name of the magazine followed by @ldschurch.org, for example, liahona@ldschurch.org.

Printing and Distribution



Printed signatures pass through a machine that collates them, adds the cover, and then “saddle stitches” (staples) them together. Each magazine is then trimmed of excess paper.



Finished magazines are packaged for mailing or shipping from the Church's central distribution center in Salt Lake City.



In the warehouse where other printed Church materials are stored, an employee inspects the magazines that are packaged for shipping.

Getting Magazines to You

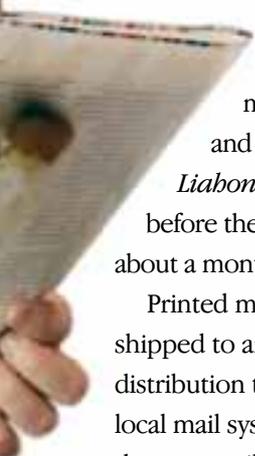
The final designed proofs of the magazine pages are delivered to editors for proofreading. The pages are then sent electronically to the printing center five months before the issue date for the English *Liabona*, two months for other languages of the *Liabona*, and two months for the *Ensign*, *New Era*, and *Friend*. News sections of the *Liabona* go to press about two months before the issue date and for the *Ensign* about a month before the issue date.

Printed magazines are bundled and shipped to areas outside the United States for distribution through various means, including local mail systems. Within the United States, they are mailed through the United States Postal Service. Magazines are sent to more distant areas first and mailed to readers in

Utah last. Plans call for magazines to arrive by the first Sunday of the month for which they are dated, but this can sometimes vary.

Now that you have this magazine in your hands, we hope you will find that it contributes to your spiritual growth. Articles might touch on physical health, finances, or other topics that we all have to deal with in this mortal life, but their primary purpose is to help strengthen you spiritually.

If you have anything you want to say about the articles you read here, we will be glad to hear from you (see our address at right). If you would like to suggest ways we can do better in addressing your spiritual needs, we would like to hear about that too. Anything we can learn to help us serve readers better will benefit you and us as well. ■



Samaritan with a Screwdriver

By Heidi Bartle

I was busy gathering my things after teaching a Mia Maid lesson, and my husband, Garry, stood in the back of the room holding our one-year-old boy. Our three-year-old son, Zach, slipped past us into the crowded hall and followed someone toward the meetinghouse doors. Because my husband and I each thought the other had Zach, it took us a few minutes to realize he was missing.

Just as we realized he was gone, Zach appeared at the end of the hall. But something was wrong. His cheeks were red, he had tears streaming down his face, and he was clutching his right hand. Our bishop, who was ushering him toward us, looked concerned. A pit of guilt settled in my stomach. My son had gotten hurt, and I hadn't been there to help him.

The bishop had heard Zach's urgent cries and had hurried to his aid. Zach's predicament was immediately clear, but the solution was not. His fingers had become wedged between the heavy outer door and its frame. Opening or closing the door only exacerbated the injury; the swing of the door further pinched his fingers and pulled his hand, causing significant pain.

As the bishop and a couple in the ward frantically tried to figure out how they could release Zach's fingers, a brother from another ward that met in our building saw what was happening. He took a screwdriver from his pocket and inserted it into the space between the door and its frame. Then, using the screwdriver as a lever, he widened the gap enough to release Zach.

Amid sighs of relief, the brother explained that as he prepared for Sunday services that morning, he experienced what seemed like an odd prompting to bring a screwdriver to church. The impression was so strong and clear that he slipped the tool into the pocket of his dress pants.

This kind act of service resulting from heavenly inspiration touched me deeply and filled my heart with

The brother explained that as he prepared for Sunday services, he experienced what seemed like an odd prompting to bring a screwdriver to church.

gratitude. Heavenly Father was watching over my three-year-old boy and prompted a good brother to respond. ■

In the Shadow of His Wings

By Paul B. Hatch

Having recently completed basic flying instruction in Phoenix, Arizona, I had certified after a few hours of solo flying to take my first solo flight across the state. This would entail a two-hour route from Phoenix to Tucson and back to Phoenix.

Excited by the anticipation of flying by myself 10,000 feet (3,000 m) above the earth and viewing the beauty of the clouds, mountains, valleys, and desert, I thought little



of my inexperience and any possible dangers that might await me.

I checked the weather, filed my flight plan, and gathered a radio, compass, and basic flight instruments. As is common at this stage of flight instruction, I still lacked training in the use of advanced instruments. But the older plane I would be flying had none of the sophisticated instruments that would allow a pilot to fly without visual cues.

I was a little nervous taking off by myself in my small yellow single-engine monoplane, but the flight from Phoenix to Tucson went well. I was thrilled with my new aerial skills.

Elated and confident and with only 120 miles (190 km) to go, I took off

from Tucson for Phoenix late in the afternoon. However, after I was barely airborne, I unexpectedly experienced strong wind currents that made it difficult to control the altitude of my plane. A dust storm suddenly engulfed me, and I could no longer see. Tossed side to side, I lost control and became frantically disoriented and afraid, realizing that I was dangerously close to the Catalina mountain range.

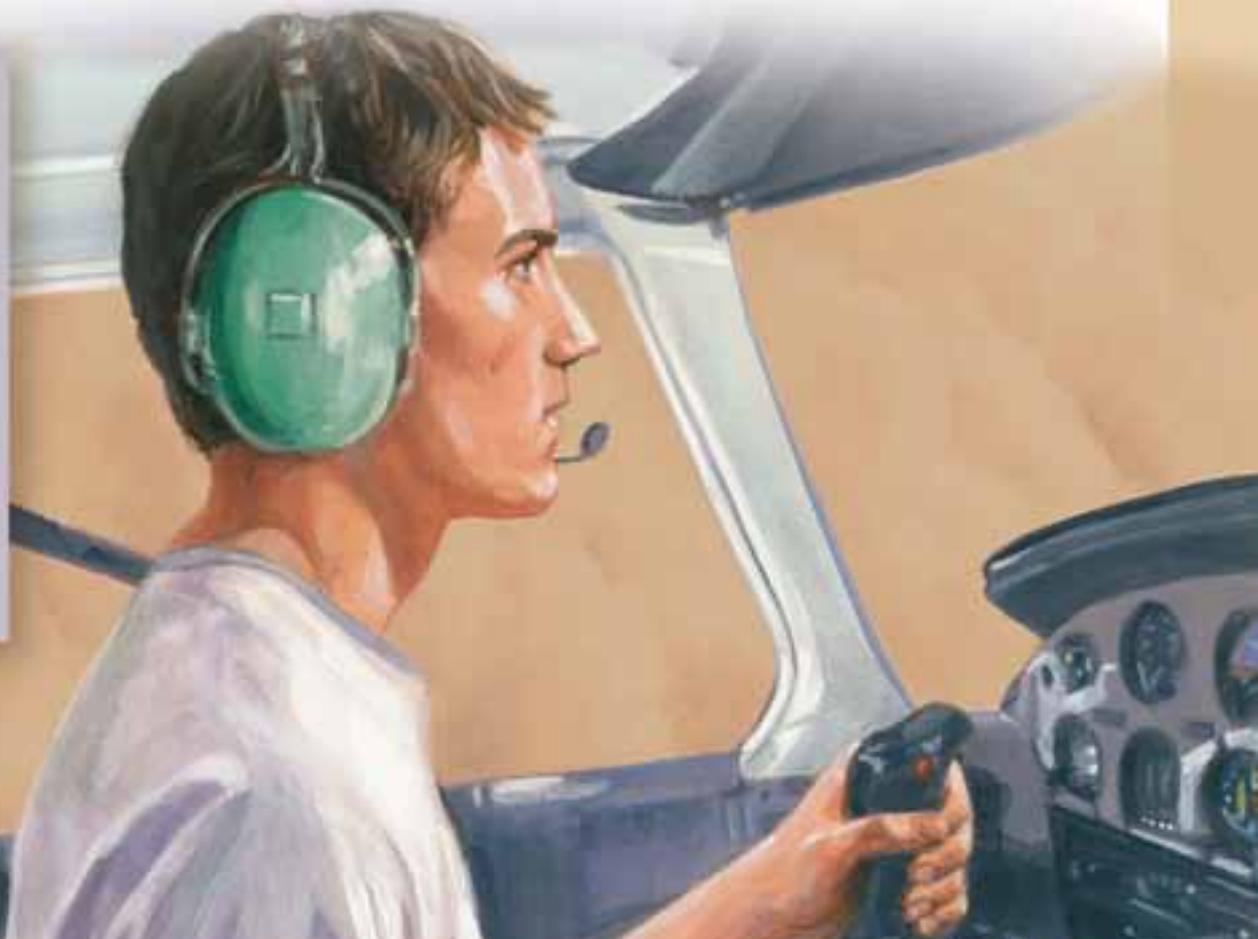
In a panic I thought of my life. I was engaged to be married the following month in the Mesa Arizona Temple. I had served an honorable full-time mission. I had always tried to obey the commandments and listen to the promptings of the Holy Ghost. If I ever needed divine

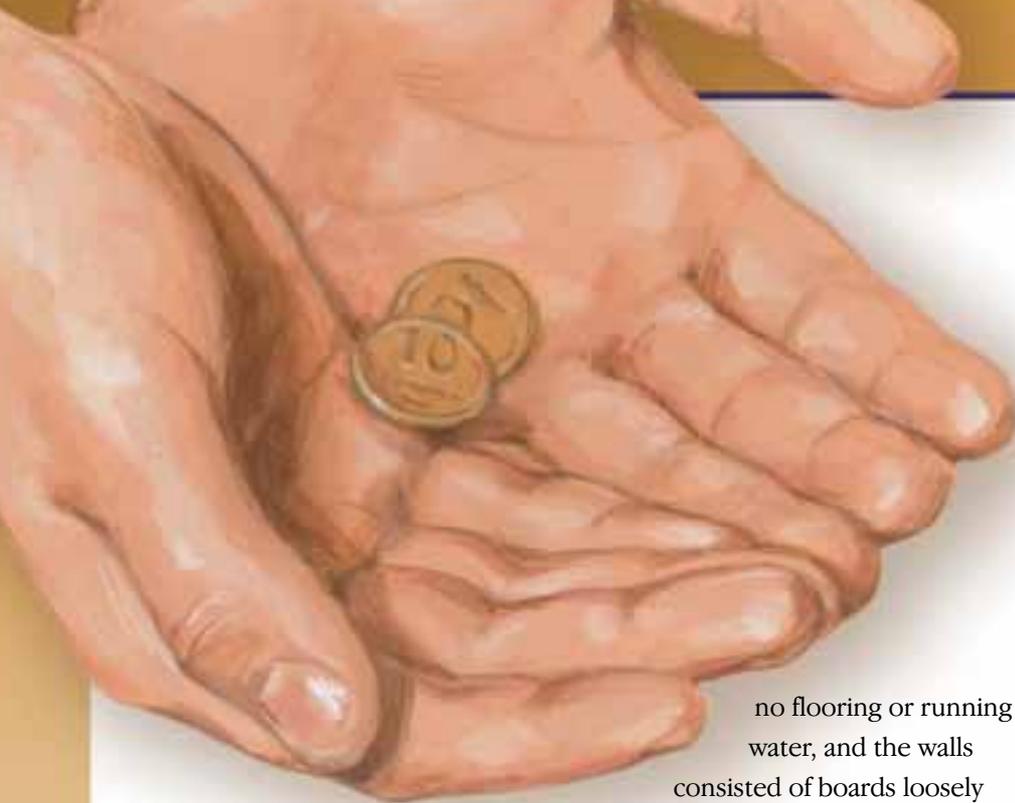
guidance, it was now. Almost despairing, I uttered a silent prayer. The Spirit immediately whispered to me, “Rely on your radio, your compass, and your instrument panel, and drop your altitude.”

I quickly descended several hundred feet. Visibility was still poor, but below me I could make out a highway and railroad tracks. By using my instruments and following visual landmarks, I was able to finally land at the airport in Phoenix after a harrowing two-hour experience.

I will always be grateful for the promptings of the Holy Ghost and the promise in Psalms: “In the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge” (Psalm 57:1). ■

The Spirit immediately whispered to me, “Rely on your radio, your compass, and your instrument panel, and drop your altitude.”





The Muchacho's Mite

By Natalie Ross

My missionary companion and I were deciding where to tract when we spotted a woman entering a home. We were sure she was arriving home to prepare lunch because the suburbs of Buenos Aires, Argentina, were already shutting down for siesta. Before I realized it, my companion was teaching her a gospel principle, and I was testifying of its truthfulness. Narda enjoyed our message and invited us to return the following week.

When we arrived at Narda's home, her five children were sitting around the table waiting for us. Neither parent had full-time employment, and our hearts ached as we realized that they had barely enough to survive. Their humble home had

no flooring or running water, and the walls consisted of boards loosely

hammered together. Their only source of heat was a small single-burner stove.

However poor the family's circumstances, they were rich in a desire to learn more about God. Narda loved and studied the Bible and wanted her children to have a similar foundation. Twelve-year-old Cristian especially enjoyed listening to the missionary lessons. After we left a copy of the Book of Mormon with the family, he eagerly read the first few books. Narda's husband was also interested, but he was shy and listened from the bedroom.

Because of their financial situation, we hesitated to teach them about fast offerings and tithing. We wanted them to have a solid testimony of Jesus Christ and the Restoration before we introduced principles that would require more faith. But because the older children had begun reading

the Book of Mormon and attending church, they had questions that we needed to answer.

"Sister," said Cristian, "at church and in the Book of Mormon, everyone talks about fasting. What does fasting mean?" We taught and testified of the importance of fasting and then silently prayed that the family would accept this commandment.

Cristian later shared his testimony with us: "The other day, my mom gave me some money to buy candy. While walking to the store, I remembered your lesson on fasting, and I wanted to try it. But I only had 20 centavos. I decided to fast anyway and use those 20 centavos as my offering."

Narda discouraged Cristian from contributing such a small sum, but he was determined. He wanted to live

all of God's commandments and give what he could. A few weeks later he and two of his siblings were baptized. His parents joined the Church the following year.

Now whenever I think that I can't afford to give fast offerings, I remember Cristian and his faithfulness, and I realize that I have more than enough to give.

His offering reminds

me of the widow's mite (see Mark 12:42–44). It may have been small, but Cristian gave because he truly loved God and wanted to obey. ■

Whenever I think that I can't afford to give fast offerings, I remember Cristian and his faithfulness, and I realize I have more than enough to give.

Did Jesus Really Visit the Americas?

By Carlos René Romero

In 1960 I met a young man at a party who told me that Jesus Christ had visited the Americas after His Resurrection. I found the idea incredible and wanted to know more, so I began searching in libraries and inquiring of the various religious denominations in my hometown of San Miguel, El Salvador.

I searched for almost three years but found nothing. When I mentioned to various religious leaders that I had heard of Christ's coming to the Americas, they told me I had been deceived. Because my search turned up no information, I eventually came to believe they were right.

One day two missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came to my home and said they had an important message for my family. I immediately remembered my previous inquiries and asked them, "Do you know if Jesus Christ came to the Americas?"

One of the young men said, "We bear witness of that."

At that moment I felt a great excitement in my mind and heart, and I asked, "How do you know that?"

He took a book out of his bag and said, "We know Christ came

here because of this book, the Book of Mormon."

What the missionaries taught me during that first discussion troubled me, and I doubted the account of the Prophet Joseph Smith's vision of the Father and the Son. However, the Book of Mormon intrigued me, and the missionaries kept teaching me the lessons.

One afternoon, the elders asked me, "Have you prayed to find out if what we are teaching you is true?"

I told them I had done so but had not obtained an answer.

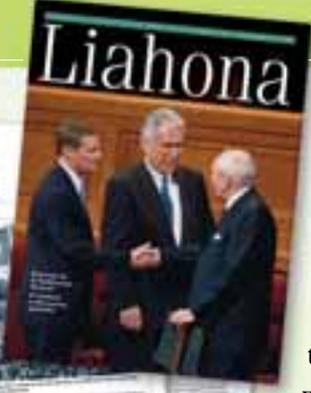
"You must pray with real intent," they said.

I had been reading the Book of Mormon for several nights and had read about and believed in Jesus Christ's appearance to the Nephites, but I still could not accept Joseph Smith's vision. My internal struggle was terrible.

One night I knelt alone and opened my heart to God. I told Him that I needed to know if He had really manifested Himself to Joseph Smith. If He had, I promised Him I would be baptized into the Church and serve Him all my life.

When I arose early the next morning, the answer came to me through the Holy Ghost. My mind cleared, and my heart filled with peace. From that moment on, I have had no doubts whatsoever that Joseph Smith truly was a prophet of God, that the Book of Mormon is another testament of Jesus Christ, and that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer.

I know that Christ came to the Americas after His Resurrection. My soul delights in this marvelous knowledge, taught to me with certainty by the power of the Holy Ghost. ■



Holy Ghost has confirmed to me the truthfulness of the articles and filled me with gratitude.

As a result of these spiritual experiences, I have had a desire to share the messages in the magazine with other people. I sent a gift subscription to my cousin. He has told me that he loves the magazine and always reads it. I hope that it will help him learn the importance of making and keeping covenants.

I also send copies of the *Liahona* to a friend and teacher in another country. She has told me that she likes the magazine and wants to keep receiving it. This is how I am preparing the ground for her to one day hear and accept the restored gospel.

*Penélope B. Woodward,
Texas, USA*

The Spirit of Conference

When I get the conference issue of the *Liahona*, I look at the pictures on every page. I love to see the faces of the people and all the different

scenes of conference. They help me feel the spirit that exists all around the world at conference time. How beautiful all of Heavenly Father's children are! The issue always brings a smile to my face. Thank you for your unseen efforts—thank you for the *Liahona*.

Jung Yeji, Korea

Honest Elias

I wanted to let you know how much we like the *Liahona*. My son, Elias (who was two years old at the time), loved the story "Honest Morgan" in the March 2007 issue.

I read it to him often. He was even

able to retell the story correctly. I would appreciate it if you would continue to offer such short stories.

As for myself, I read the *Liahona* from cover to cover and enjoy the news, the articles, and the ideas.

Thank you for the opportunity to obtain spiritual food.

Sonja Gorgen, Germany



The Best Decision

In December 2005 some relatives who are members of the Church visited my wife and me in Colombia. Before they returned home, my uncle gave me two wonderful gifts—a triple combination and some old issues of the *Liahona*.

I began to read the November 2004 issue, which contained the talks from October conference. I read "Condition of the Church," by President Gordon B. Hinckley, and "Prophets, Seers, and Revelators," by Elder Jeffrey R. Holland. The testimonies of these great men led me to begin reading the Book of Mormon and the Bible.

The result was the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to us. My wife and I made the best decision we have ever made—we were baptized members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Edgar Henry Muñoz Porras, Colombia

Preparing the Ground

I want to express my deep gratitude for the *Liahona* magazine. My testimony has been greatly strengthened by my thoughtful reading of each inspired issue. Many times the



E-mail your comments to liahona@ldschurch.org. Or send them to:

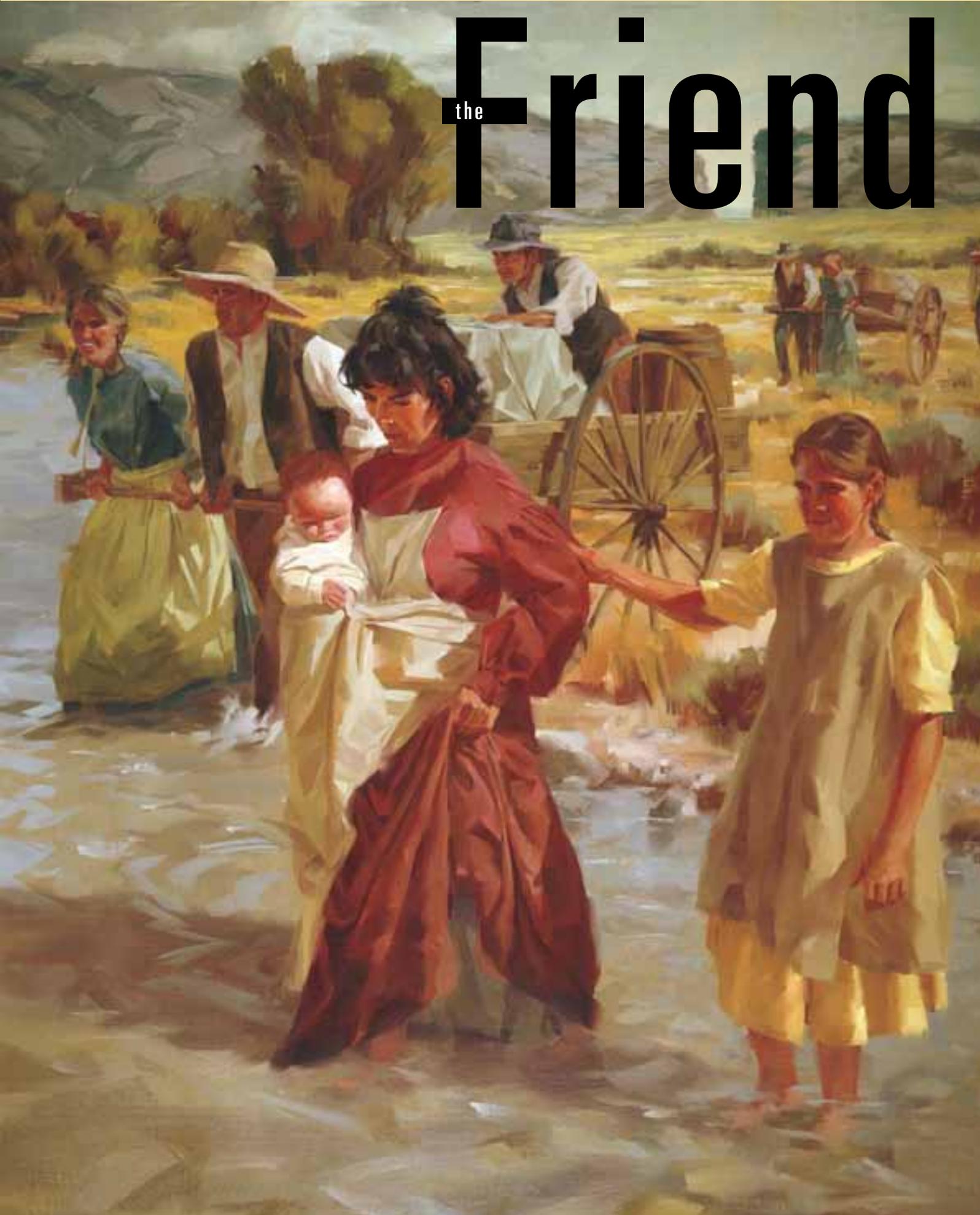
Liahona, Comment

50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

the Friend



THE GIFT OF THE GOSPEL

BY PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Saturday is a market day across the world. In Ghana, Ecuador, and the Philippine Islands, people bring produce and handi-crafts to town to sell. They talk with those they meet on the road. Among those are Latter-day Saints. Much of their talk would be the same as you would hear anywhere in the world. But there will be a difference in the Latter-day Saints. It would be noticeable in their eyes as much as in their words. They listen carefully with the look of someone who cares.

If the conversation lasts more than a few minutes, it would turn to things that matter deeply to both of them. They would talk of what they believe brings happiness and what brings sadness. Sometimes the Latter-day Saint would be asked, “Why are you so much at peace?” And then there would come a quiet answer. Perhaps it would be about Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appearing to the young boy Joseph Smith. It might be about the resurrected Savior’s loving ministry, as described in the Book of Mormon.

You might ask, “How could I do that? How could I become better at sharing my faith?”

I’ve studied carefully and prayerfully some who are faithful and effective witnesses of the Savior and His Church. There is no single pattern in what they do. Some always carry a Book of Mormon to give away. Others set a date to find someone for the missionaries to teach. Each has prayed to know what to do.



President Eyring encourages us to share the gospel.

To do what we are to do, we will have to become like them in at least two ways. First, they feel that they are the beloved children of a loving Heavenly Father. Because of that, they turn to Him easily and often in prayer. Second, those who speak easily of the gospel are grateful disciples of Jesus Christ. They prize what the gospel has meant to them. The memory of the gift they have received makes them eager for others to receive it. They have felt the love of the Savior.

Pray for the chance to encounter people who sense there could be something better in their lives. Pray to know what you should do to help them. Your prayers will be answered. You will meet people prepared by the Lord. And you will feel yourself drawing closer to your Heavenly Father, knowing you have done what He asked of you, because He loves you and trusts you. ●

From an April 2003 general conference address.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- 1. What do you think it means to “listen carefully with the look of someone who cares”? How is that part of sharing the gospel?**
- 2. How can you feel closer to Heavenly Father and know you are His child?**
- 3. Why are you grateful to be a member of the Church? Can you think of people who might be looking for the same blessings in their lives?**



Pray for missionary opportunities.

Be friendly.

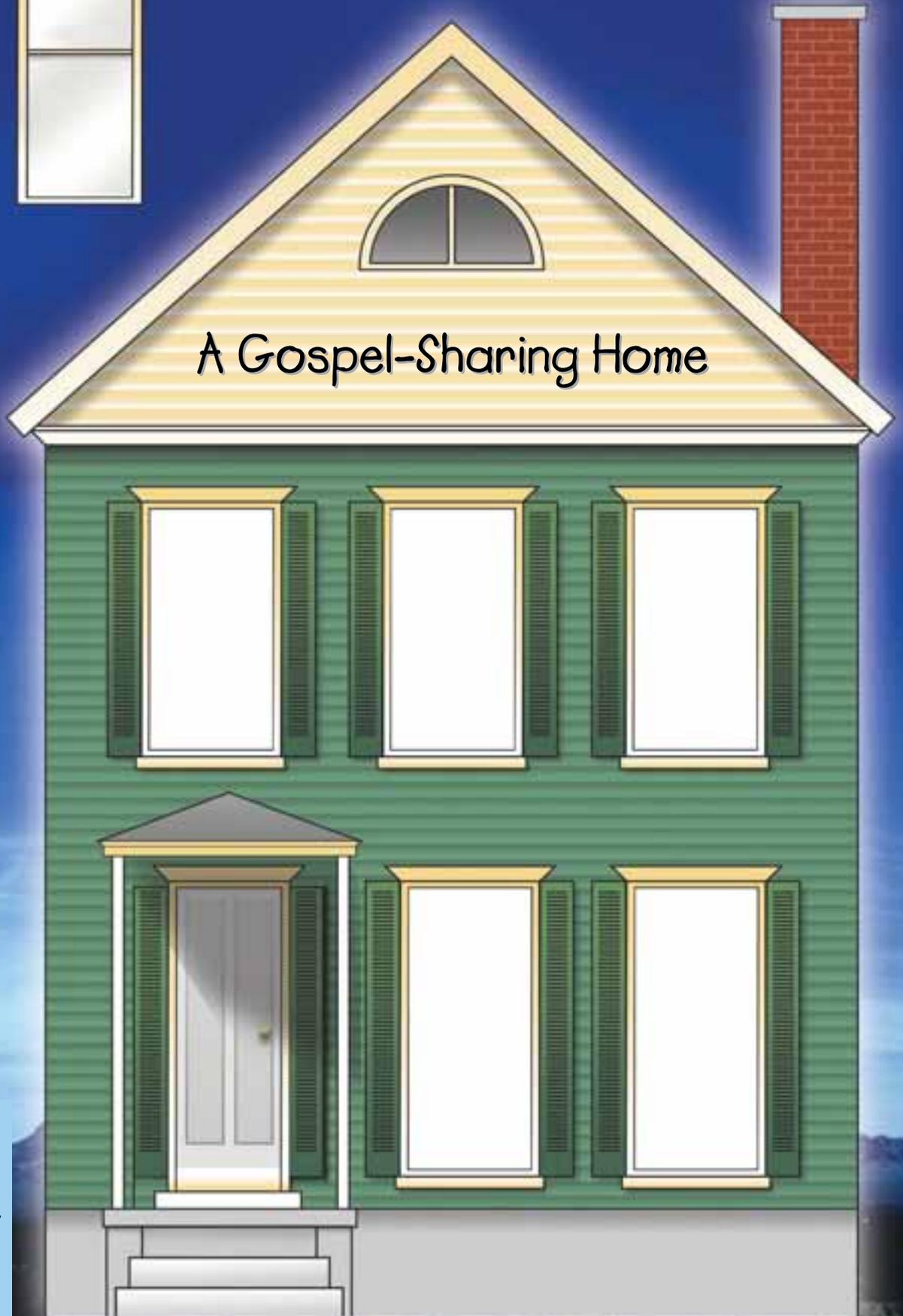
Invite your friends to Church activities.

Be a good example.

Share the gospel with others.

A Gospel-Sharing Home

Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.lds.org. For English, click on "Gospel Library." For other languages, click on "Languages."



I Can Be a Missionary Now

“And if it so be that you should . . . bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy” (D&C 18:15).

BY LINDA CHRISTENSEN



The Apostle Paul was a great missionary. He said, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ” (Romans 1:16). Paul traveled to many places to share the gospel. He found joy in sharing the gospel and helping people be happy.

The Prophet Joseph Smith’s brother Samuel was the first missionary in the latter days. Since that time, more than one million men and women have served missions. Each missionary, like Samuel Smith and Paul, has a testimony of the gospel and wants to share it with others.

President David O. McKay (1873–1970) said, “Every member a missionary.”¹ That means you can be a missionary now! Sharing the gospel with others will remind you of your baptismal covenant to always remember Jesus Christ. Remember these words:

*I can be a missionary now.
I don't have to wait until I'm grown.
I'll live each day the best that I know how,
And they'll see I have a testimony of my own,
A testimony of my very own.²*

Activity

Remove page F4. Cut out the home and the five windows. Glue each window in the window outlines on the gospel-sharing home. With your family, talk about the ideas on the home. Decide together what you can do to be missionaries now. Place the gospel-sharing home where your family can see it.

NOTES

1. In Conference Report, Apr. 1959, 122.
2. “I Want to Be a Missionary Now,” *Children’s Songbook*, 168.



Sharing Time Ideas

1. Gather items for simple tasks that require preparation to complete. (For example, task: washing dishes—items could include soap and a dishcloth; task: cooking—items could include a recipe and ingredients.) Prepare a bag with a different task for each class. Ask each class to open the bag, determine what task needs to be completed, and explain why each item is necessary to complete the task. Invite each class to share with the Primary.

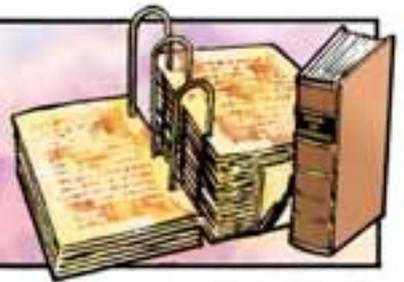
Explain that just as we need certain things to prepare to do a task, we need to do certain things to prepare to be a good missionary. Place Gospel Art Picture Kit 605 (Young Boy Praying) and 617 (Search the Scriptures) on the chalkboard, and write below them, “I will prepare to be a missionary by praying and reading the scriptures daily.” Ask the children to share how living this principle can prepare them to be missionaries. Summarize the story of Alma the Younger and the sons of Mosiah. Help the children find Alma 17:2–3, and read it together. Underline the phrases “they had searched the scriptures diligently” and “they had given themselves to much prayer.” Bear testimony of the power of prayer and daily scripture study and how they can prepare us to be missionaries.

2. Label an empty container “Faithful and Obedient.” Prepare several case studies about faith and obedience for both younger and older children (see Teaching, No Greater Call [1999], 161–62). Begin sharing time by writing “I will prepare to be a missionary by being faithful and obedient” on the chalkboard. Read it with the children. Invite a child to choose a case study. Let the child or class answer what to do. Point out that their answer requires faith or obedience, and let the child put some small objects (beans or pebbles, for example) into the container. After each case study, sing the phrase “I’ll do what is right; I’ll follow his light. His truth I will proclaim” from “The Church of Jesus Christ” (Children’s Songbook, 77). The phrase “His truth I will proclaim” means we will be missionaries. Continue until the container is full. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

Joseph Moves to Ohio



In 1831, Joseph and Emma traveled to Kirtland, Ohio. When they reached the Newel K. Whitney and Co. store, Joseph jumped out of the sleigh to greet a Church member he had never met.

Newel K. Whitney!
Thou art the man!

You have the advantage of me. I could not call you by name as you have me.

I am Joseph the Prophet. You've prayed me here.

Now what do you want of me?

Joseph had seen a vision of the Whitney family praying for him to come to Kirtland. He recognized Brother Whitney from the vision.

At this time the Church had about 400 members. Most of them lived in Kirtland. Other members moved there to be near the Prophet.

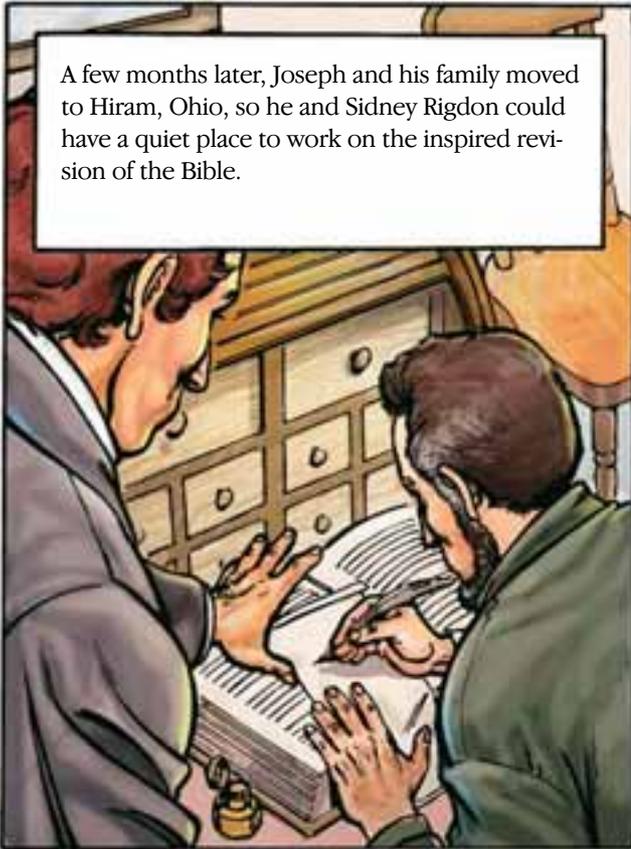
This is the Prophet Joseph.

Joseph and Emma stayed with Brother and Sister Whitney for a few weeks.

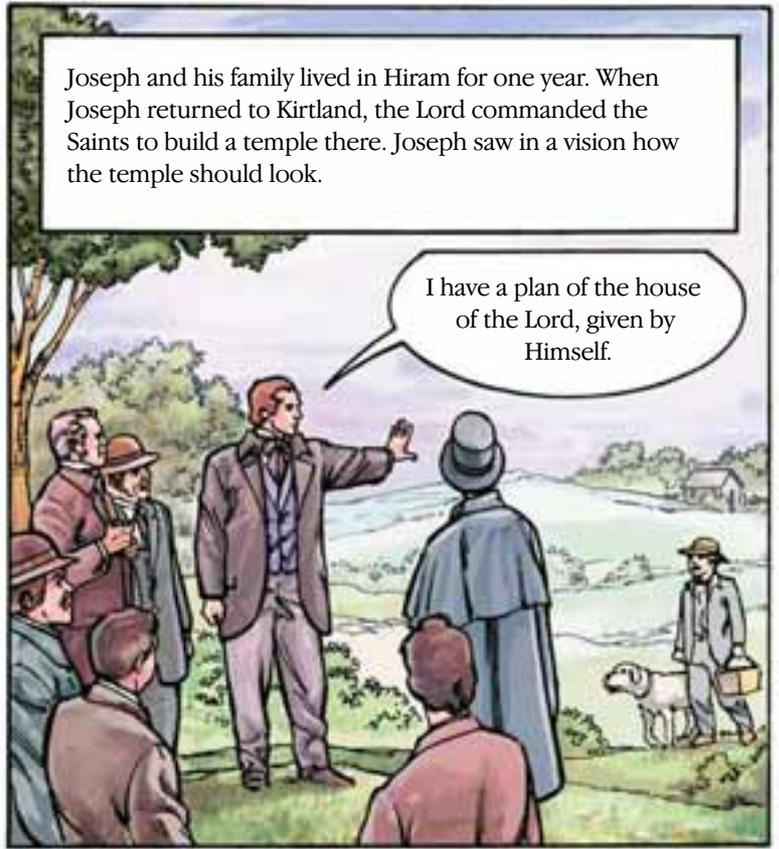
Joseph!

Joseph!

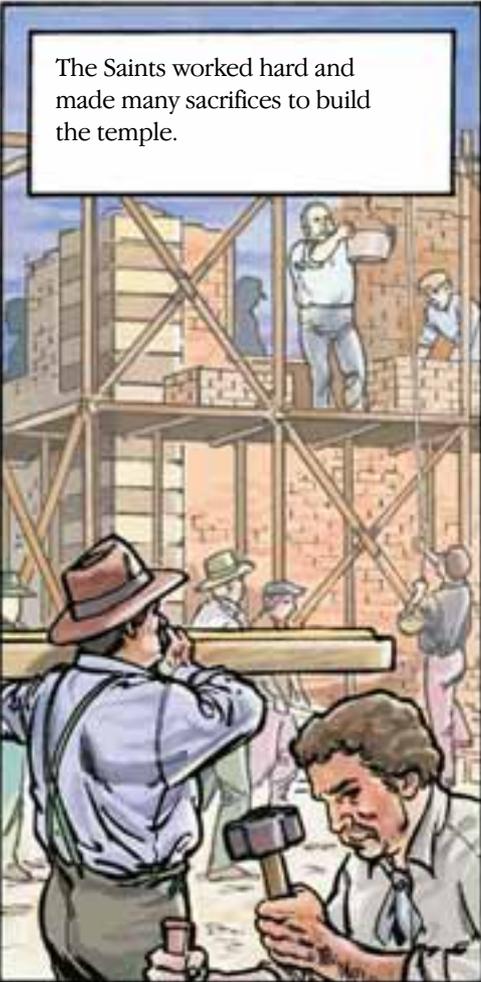
A few months later, Joseph and his family moved to Hiram, Ohio, so he and Sidney Rigdon could have a quiet place to work on the inspired revision of the Bible.



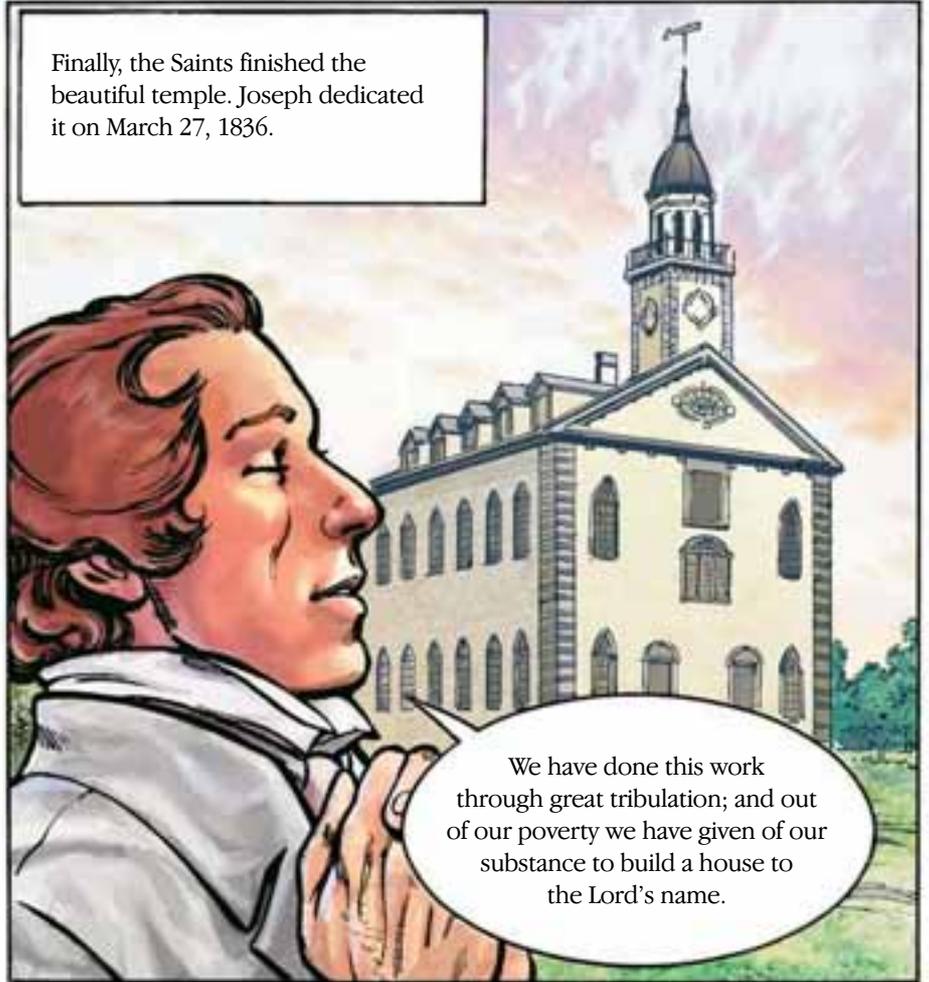
Joseph and his family lived in Hiram for one year. When Joseph returned to Kirtland, the Lord commanded the Saints to build a temple there. Joseph saw in a vision how the temple should look.



The Saints worked hard and made many sacrifices to build the temple.



Finally, the Saints finished the beautiful temple. Joseph dedicated it on March 27, 1836.

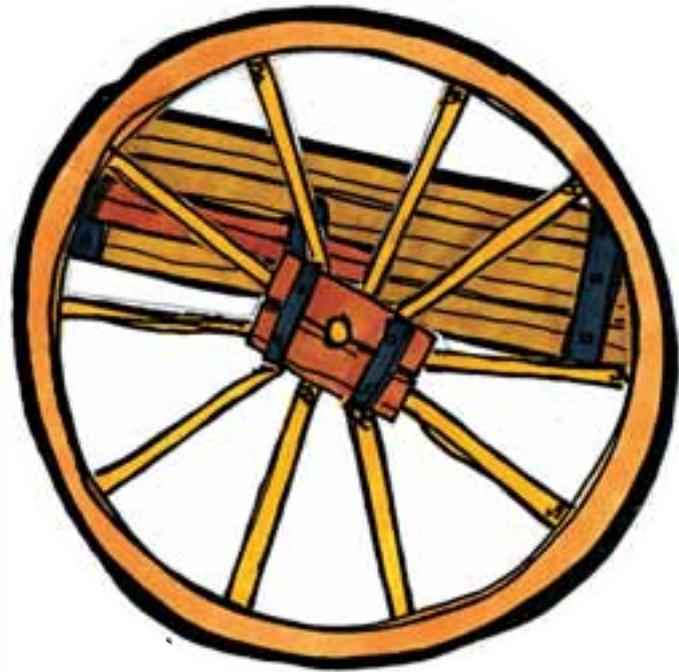


In 1856 the first handcart company of Latter-day Saint pioneers started its journey to the Salt Lake Valley. Over the next four years, more than 3,000 people pulled and pushed handcarts across the plains. To make your own handcart, follow these instructions. As you load the supplies, think about what you would have taken on the journey.

Instructions

Remove these pages from the magazine, mount them on heavier paper, and cut out the pieces. To make the bed of the handcart, fold up its sides, front, and back, and glue the tabs. Glue a wheel and a pulling shaft on each side. Glue the crossbar to the tabs on the ends of the pulling shafts. Fold the tabs on the rest of the figures so they can stand up. Place the father and mother inside the crossbar. (Glue the father's arm outside the shaft so it looks like he's pulling.) Put the daughter and supplies in the cart, and place the son where he can help push. Don't forget to hang the pot on the back!

CREATE YOUR OWN HANDCART





ILLUSTRATIONS BY VAL BAGLEY

Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.lds.org. For English, click on "Gospel Library." For other languages, click on "Languages."

Sons and Daughters of God



From an interview with Elder Paul K. Sybrowsky of the Seventy, currently serving as President of the Australia Area; by Melvin Leavitt

*“Have we not all one father?”
(Malachi 2:10).*

I was born of goodly parents. My father and mother held to the values of honesty and integrity that the Church teaches, but they were not active in the Church. Still, my friends went to Primary, so I did too. I felt happy there and never wanted to miss it.

The Primary became my Church family. I went to sacrament meeting each week and sat with my Primary friends. I did not fully understand the meaning of the sacrament, but I knew that I felt something special when I partook of it. I understood the feeling of a covenant before I ever learned that word.

When I turned 12, my Aaronic Priesthood quorum became my second Church family. I felt a great love and reverence for the priesthood. As a deacons quorum president, I conducted quorum meetings, and when a new deacon was ordained, I welcomed him with a little speech. I remember saying, “This is the priesthood of God. You need to honor it.”

After high school I joined the army reserve. My commanding officer gave me the opportunity of becoming a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. He was very gracious but also very large and imposing. People didn’t turn him down. I asked if I could go home and think it over.

I prayed that night, and into my mind came the baptism prayer found in Doctrine and Covenants 20:73: “Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

I went back the next morning and told my commanding officer that I had decided to accept a commission—but that I would be commissioned by Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. I explained that I was going to serve a mission for my church.



Elder Sybrowsky and his family in 2006.

The feeling of having that prayer answered was wonderful, and I have felt it again and again as I have prayed about important decisions.

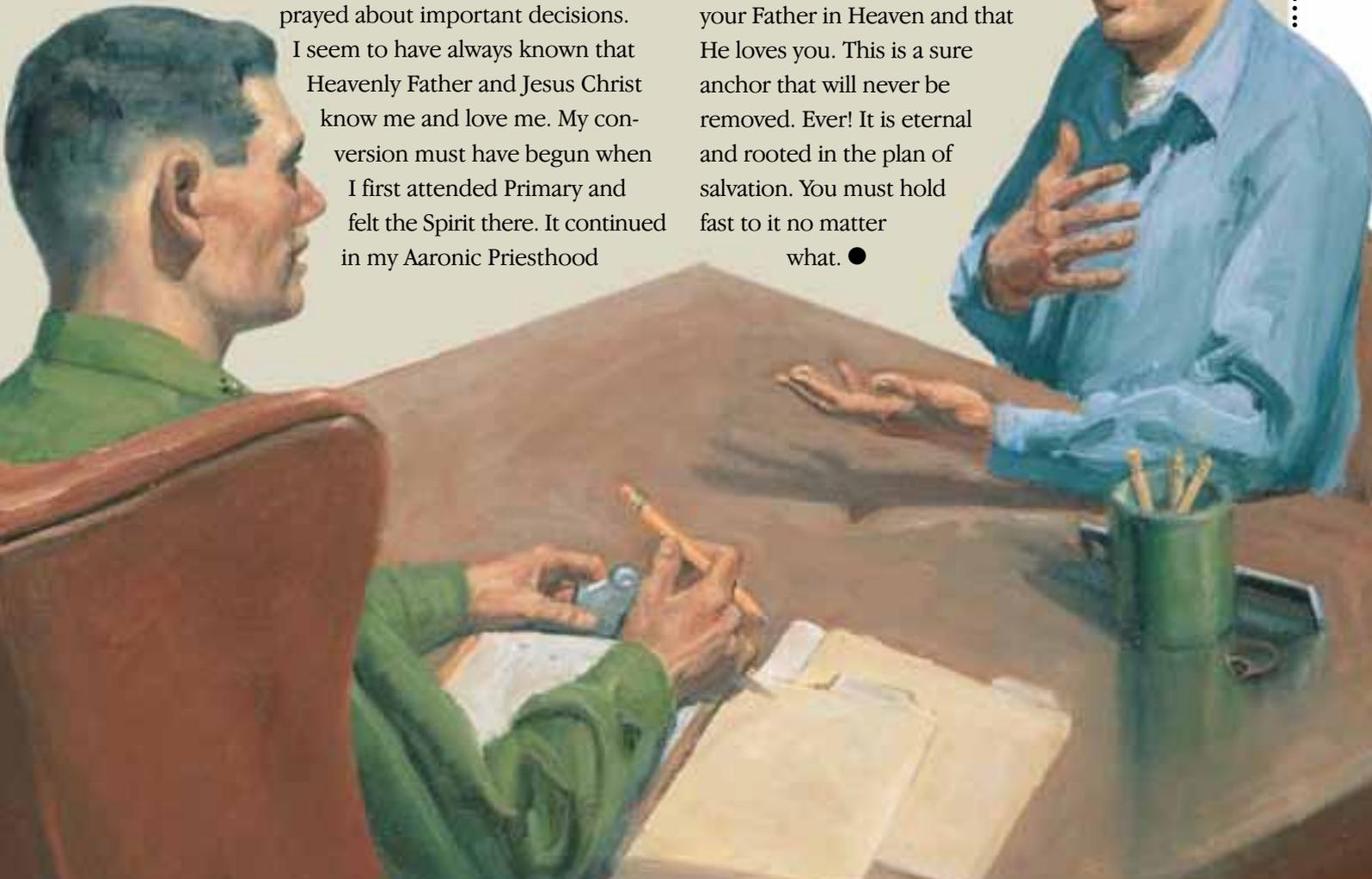
I seem to have always known that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ know me and love me. My conversion must have begun when I first attended Primary and felt the Spirit there. It continued in my Aaronic Priesthood

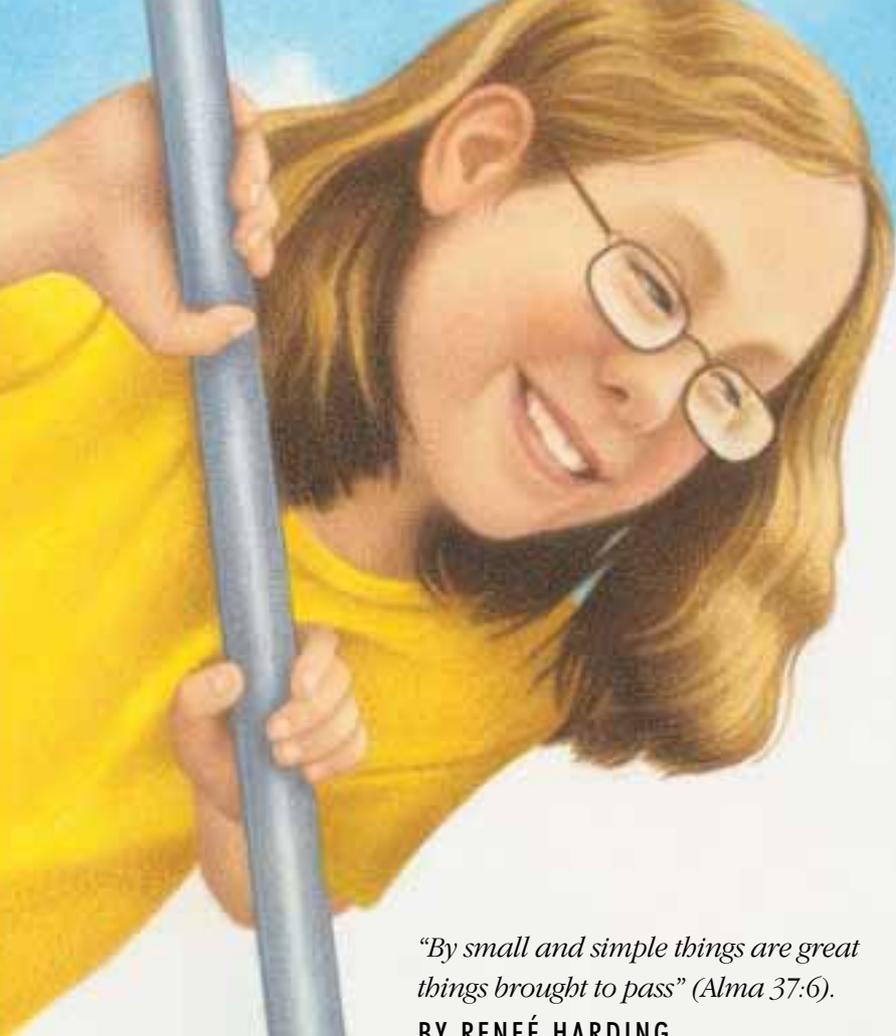
quorums and in the mission field. It still continues today.

We are all sons and daughters of Heavenly Father. He never forgets this, but we sometimes do. So He has given us the principle of faith to help us remember. To help us develop faith in Him, Heavenly Father gives us the gift of experience. As I look back over my life, I'm grateful for the experiences that have helped increase my faith.

Enjoy the experiences that Heavenly Father will give you. Learn from them the things that He wants you to learn. Heavenly Father gives each of us experiences that will help increase our faith in Him and in His Son.

If some of your experiences are sad, please remember that you are a son or daughter of your Father in Heaven and that He loves you. This is a sure anchor that will never be removed. Ever! It is eternal and rooted in the plan of salvation. You must hold fast to it no matter what. ●





Do You Want to Go to Primary with Me?

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

BY RENEÉ HARDING

Based on a true story

Everyone in the third grade would agree, including me, that Christy was queen of the monkey bars and swings. No one could climb as fast or swing as high as Christy could. And she was equally as good at playing games. But the most important thing to me about Christy was that she and I were good friends. One day at school during recess, Christy asked, "Do you want to go to Primary with me?"

I'd never heard of Primary before.

"What's that?" I asked.

Christy explained, "Primary is something special at my church, just for children. If you go, you'll sing songs, make new friends, learn new things, and you can meet my Primary teacher, who is really, really nice."

"As nice as Mrs. Palmer?"

I asked, certain that no teacher could

be as nice as our third-grade teacher.

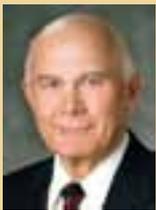
Christy laughed. "Yes, she's as nice as Mrs. Palmer."

After school I ran all the way home to ask my mom if I could go to Primary. But Mom wasn't as thrilled about the idea as I was. "I need a little bit more information," she said. "What's the name of Christy's church?"

Well, that was a tough question to start out with because, as I told Mom, "I can't remember the name. It's a long name

I've never heard before." I could tell by Mom's worried expression that was the wrong thing to say. "Hold on. I'm going to call

Christy right now!" I ran to the phone and dialed Christy's number before Mom could say another word. The phone rang twice before Christy



"The most effective missionaries, member and full-time, always act out of love."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Sharing the Gospel," *Liahona*, Jan. 2002, 8; *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 8.



picked it up. “Hello?”
“Christy!” I exclaimed.

“What’s the name of your church again?” I listened carefully and then said, “Mom, the name of Christy’s church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” When the frown on Mom’s face didn’t disappear, I knew I needed help. I said into the phone, “Christy, do you think your mom could talk to my mom about Primary?”

I think Christy heard the desperation in my voice because she got her mom on the phone in five seconds flat. Our moms were soon talking and laughing like old friends. Then my mom told Christy’s mom that, yes, I could go to Primary!

When I went to Primary for the first time, it was everything Christy said it would be and more. Christy was right—our Primary teacher was really, really nice. Every bit as nice as Mrs. Palmer. She even gave me my very own booklet about faith in God.

I went home that day and showed Mom my booklet and told her all about Primary.



of questions, and the man seemed excited to answer every one of them. When the tour was over, Mom wrote her name and address in the guest book and then checked a box with the word “YES” next to it, saying she’d like to receive more information about the Church.

When we got home from our vacation, two young men who called themselves elders came to our apartment. They told us they were missionaries who got a message all the way from the visitors’ center in Salt Lake City that Mom would like more information about the Church. They said they would love to teach our family about Heavenly Father’s plan and the gospel of Jesus Christ. That’s when the missionaries started teaching our family.

The first time we went to church together, I told my family to be sure to fold their arms when we walked into the chapel. I’d learned at Primary that this was a way to show reverence. We all tried that day to keep our arms folded, but so many people came up to us to shake our hands and welcome us to church that our arms didn’t stay folded for very long.

At the end of our lessons with the missionaries, they asked Mom if she would like to be baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She said she needed to pray about it. The next morning at 6:00 a.m., Mom called the missionaries and said she had prayed all night about being baptized and the answer was yes! My brothers and I also told them we wanted to be baptized.

I still remember stepping into the water in the baptismal font. I was wearing white and feeling so happy inside that I wanted to laugh and shout at the same time. I looked up and saw Mom crying happy tears. Then I looked at Christy, who was just about as excited as I was because it really all started with her when she asked, “Do you want to go to Primary with me?” ●

I even sang the “Hello Song” (*Children’s Songbook*, 260) to her and my two brothers, which all the kids had sung to me. As Mom studied the picture of Jesus Christ on the front of my booklet and read some of the pages inside, she got a quiet, thoughtful look on her face. Then she said I could go with Christy to Primary every week if I wanted to.

I definitely wanted to, but I actually went only a few more times after that because school let out and our family went on a summer vacation. We loaded up our car and drove from California all the way to my grandmother’s farm in Illinois.

On the second day of our trip, as we drove into Utah, we saw billboards on the highway with the name of Christy’s church on them. They invited people to see something called the visitors’ center in Salt Lake City. Mom said she’d like to stop there so she could find out more about the Church.

When we walked through the door of the visitors’ center, we were greeted by a friendly man wearing a name tag. As he showed us around, Mom had a lot

Family Fast

“He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

A few years ago our family decided to hold a special fast for the victims of a faraway natural disaster. I proposed that after our fast, we give the coins in our savings jars to the Church’s humanitarian fund. We have two jars that we put coins in. One is a courtesy jar, and each time someone helps or does a kind deed, I put a coin in the jar. At the end of the year we normally use the money in this jar for a fun family activity. The other jar is a rudeness jar, and each time someone is grouchy or quarrels, he or she puts a coin in the rudeness jar. The money in this jar is donated to children in need.

When we began our fast, we also began to count our coins. Leonardo, age 9, then went and got his own bank. He took all of his money and some of his toys and said that he wanted to donate them too. Mariana, age 12, also got her money to add to the donation.

Although the children had only a few dollars to give, it was all that they had.

Fasting is a sacrifice for Leonardo and Mariana, and so was giving up the jar money. But when they donated their own savings, I knew that they truly cared about Heavenly Father’s children suffering on the other side of the world. ●

Regina Moreira Monteiro, Brazil

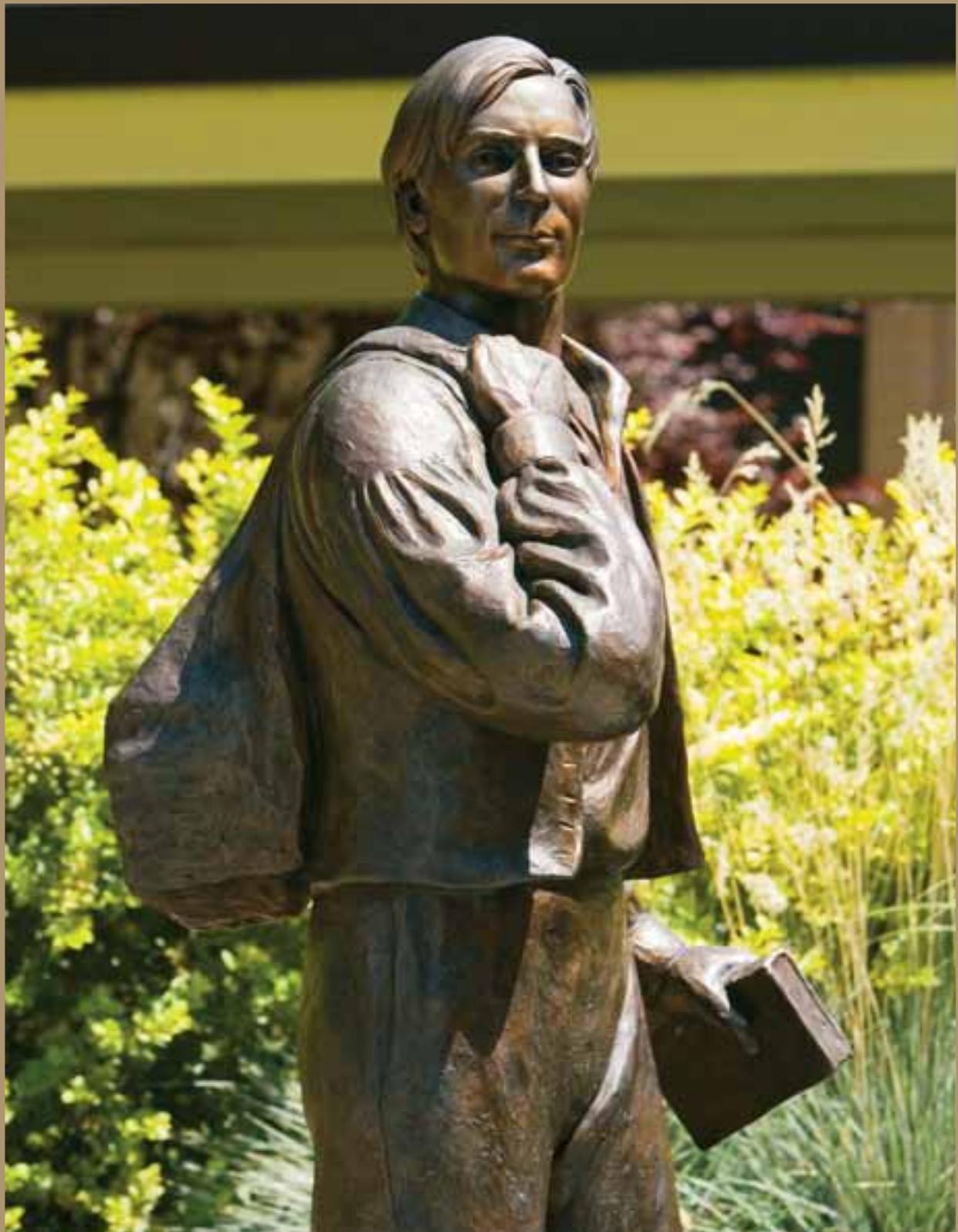




ILLUSTRATION BY APRIL STOTT

BECAUSE I KNOW WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD, I WILL SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

“And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!” (D&C 18:15).



Bronze statue of Samuel H. Smith, by Dee Jay Bawden

Samuel H. Smith, faithful brother of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, was among the earliest Church missionaries. From the spring of 1830 through December 1833, Samuel walked more than 4,000 miles (6,400 km), distributing copies of the Book of Mormon from his knapsack.

March 13, 2008, marked the 200th anniversary of Samuel's birth.



Have you ever wondered how your Liahona came to be? When you look at the magazine you are holding in your hands, do you wonder who put it together and how it was done? Come along for a tour of Church magazines, telling how these publications are put together. See “Making Church Magazines,” p. 38.

