


Liahona



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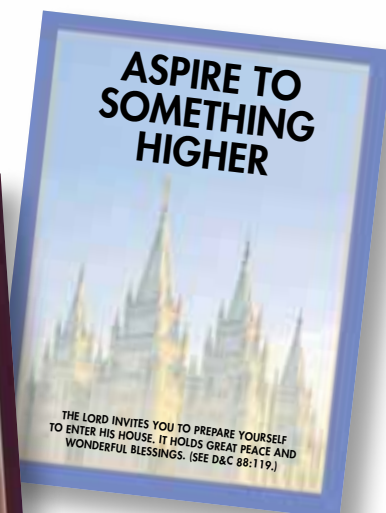
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THE FRIEND COVER
Illustration by Jim
Madsen.



See if you can find
the Korean CTR
ring hidden in this
issue. Choose the
right page!

Comment

Closer to Heavenly Father

I am truly pleased to receive the *Liahona* each month. It brings important articles about how to live our lives. Thanks to the conference issues, which bring the messages from the prophet and other Church leaders, I have learned what Heavenly Father wants us to do and how we should do it. The issues have excellent messages to use in our family home evenings. The first things I look for in the *Liahona* are the articles for the youth, and each time I read them, I feel more secure and closer to Heavenly Father.
Karina Chavez, Nicaragua

Strength to Overcome

I use the *Liahona* as a guide in my life. It lets us observe modern people's lives and see ourselves in the same situations. I also use their experiences in my talks and in family home evening. The examples in the *Liahona* have also helped a friend understand that we are Christians and that while we face problems just as everyone does, the gospel gives us the strength to overcome.
Ana Perlini, England

Please send your feedback or suggestions to liahona@ldschurch.org. Letters that are printed may be edited for length or clarity.



Sugar Beets and the Worth of a Soul

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

Many years ago, Bishop Marvin O. Ashton (1883–1946), who served as a counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, gave an illustration I'd like to share with you. Picture with me, if you will, a farmer driving a large open-bed truck filled with sugar beets en route to the sugar refinery. As the farmer drives along a bumpy dirt road, some of the sugar beets bounce from the truck and are strewn along the roadside. When he realizes he has lost some of the beets, he instructs his helpers, "There's just as much sugar in those which have slipped off. Let's go back and get them!"

In my application of this illustration, the sugar beets represent the members of this Church for whom we who are called as leaders have responsibility; and those that have fallen out of the truck represent men and women, youth and children who, for whatever reason, have fallen from the path of activity. Paraphrasing the farmer's comments concerning the sugar beets, I say of these souls, precious to our Father and our Master: "There's just as much value in those who have slipped off. Let's go back and get them!"

Right now, today, some of them are caught in the current of popular opinion.

Others are torn by the tide of turbulent times. Yet others are drawn down and drowned in the whirlpool of sin.

This need not be. We have the doctrines of truth. We have the programs. We have the people. We have the power. Our mission is more than meetings. Our service is to save souls.

Our Service: Save Souls

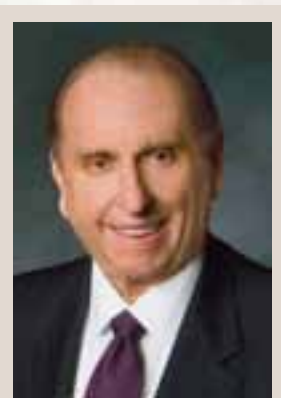
The Lord emphasized the worth of each man or woman, youth or child when He declared:

"The worth of souls is great in the sight of God. . . .

"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!

"And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" (D&C 18:10, 15–16).

Remember that you are entitled to our Father's blessings in this work. He did not call you to your privileged post to walk



The sugar beets represent the members of this Church for whom we who are called as leaders have responsibility. I say of these souls: "There's just as much value in those who have slipped off. Let's go back and get them!"

Richard said that the turning point in his life was when his bishop found him hiding in a grease pit and helped him to return to activity.

alone, without guidance, trusting to luck. On the contrary, He knows your skill, He realizes your devotion, and He will convert your supposed inadequacies to recognized strengths. He has promised: "I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up" (D&C 84:88).

Primary leaders, do you know the children you are serving? Young Women leaders, do you know your young women? Aaronic Priesthood leaders, do you know the young men? Relief Society and Melchizedek Priesthood leaders, do you know the women and men over whom you have been called to preside? Do you understand their problems and their perplexities, their yearnings, ambitions, and hopes? Do you know how far they have traveled, the troubles they have experienced, the burdens they have carried, the sorrows they have borne?

I encourage you to reach out to those you serve and to love them. When you really love those you serve, they will not find themselves in that dreaded "Never, Never Land"—*never* the object of concern, *never* the recipient of needed aid. It may not be your privilege to open gates of cities or doors of palaces, but true happiness and lasting joy will come to you and to each one you serve as you take a hand and reach a heart.

Lessons Engraved on the Heart

Should you become discouraged in your efforts, remember that sometimes the Lord's timetable does not coincide with ours. When I was a bishop many years ago, one of the leaders of the young women, Jessie Cox, came to me and said, "Bishop, I am a failure!" When I asked why she felt this way, she said, "I haven't been able to get any of my Mutual girls married in the temple, as a good teacher would have. I've tried my very best, but my best apparently wasn't good enough."

I tried to console Jessie by telling her that I, as her bishop, knew that she had done all she could. And as I followed those girls through the years, I found that each one was eventually sealed in the temple. If the lesson is engraved on the heart, it is not lost.

I have learned as I have watched faithful servants like Jessie Cox that each leader can be a true shepherd, serving under the direction of our great and Good Shepherd, privileged to lead and cherish and care for those who know and love His voice (see John 10:2-4).

Seeking the Wandering Sheep

May I share an additional experience I had as a bishop. I noted one Sunday morning that Richard, one of our priests who seldom attended, was again missing from priesthood meeting. I left the quorum in the care of the adviser and visited Richard's home. His mother said he was working at a local garage servicing automobiles. I drove to the garage in search of Richard and looked everywhere but could not find him. Suddenly, I had the inspiration to gaze down into the old-fashioned grease pit situated at the side of





the building. From the darkness I could see two shining eyes. I heard Richard say, “You found me, Bishop! I’ll come up.” As Richard and I visited, I told him how much we missed him and needed him. I elicited a commitment from him to attend his meetings.

His activity improved dramatically. He and his family eventually moved away, but two years later I received an invitation to speak in Richard’s ward before he left on a mission. In his remarks that day, Richard said that the turning point in his life was when his bishop found him hiding in a grease pit and helped him to return to activity.

My dear brothers and sisters, ours is the responsibility, even the solemn duty, to reach out to all of those whose lives we have been called to touch. Our duty is to guide them to the celestial kingdom of God. May we ever remember that the mantle of leadership is not the cloak of comfort but rather the robe of responsibility. May we reach out to rescue those who need our help and our love.

As we succeed, as we bring a woman or man, a girl or boy back into activity, we will be answering a wife’s or sister’s or mother’s fervent prayer, helping fulfill a husband’s or brother’s or father’s greatest desire. We will be honoring a loving Father’s direction and following an obedient Son’s example (see John 12:26; D&C 59:5). And our

names will forever be honored by those whom we reach.

With all my heart I pray that our Heavenly Father will ever guide us as we strive to serve and to save His children. ■

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. For a family with small children, read the section “Seeking the Wandering Sheep.” Ask the children to describe what Richard might have looked like when he was in the grease pit. Then have them describe how Richard would look as a missionary. Ask the family, “Why do you think it was important for the bishop to look for Richard?” Conclude by reading Doctrine and Covenants 18:10, 15–16.

2. As you begin the lesson, drop a few coins on the floor. Ask, “Would it be important for me to pick up the coins? Why?” As you pick them up, explain that people have infinitely more value than the coins. Tell the sugar beet story. Ask how we can help “take a hand and reach a heart” to bring people back into Church activity.



The

Joseph Smith

Papers: The Manuscript Revelation Books

The manuscript revelation books contain many of the earliest known copies of the revelations received by Joseph Smith and provide insights into the revelatory process.

BY ELDER MARLIN K. JENSEN

Of the Seventy
Church Historian and Recorder

In the 1970s Latter-day Saint scholars began to recognize the benefits of collecting and making available to the public documents related to the Prophet Joseph Smith's life and works. The Joseph Smith Papers Project is the culmination of this decades-long effort. Project scholars intend to collect all journals, diaries, correspondence, discourses, revelations, written histories, notices, and legal papers—everything of a written nature that Joseph Smith generated or directed to be created.

When finished, *The Joseph Smith Papers* will consist of about 30 volumes containing more than 2,000 documents. The volumes will be divided into six series based on areas of emphasis: documents, history,

journals, administrative papers, legal and business affairs, and revelations and translations. By providing transcriptions (typed versions) of all original documents, *The Joseph Smith Papers* will provide scholars and other interested persons with readable texts while also reducing the need to handle and potentially damage fragile historical documents. Each transcription undergoes a three-step process that meets scholarly standards designed to ensure accurately transcribed texts.

The study of these historical sources, particularly in their earliest forms, provides students of Joseph Smith with an enriched understanding of the Prophet's life and the development of the restored Church. *The Joseph Smith Papers* will also make detailed historical research easier. Documents housed in a variety of locations—including collections held by the Church, universities, historical societies, and private owners—will be published and available in many locations and eventually on the Internet. Because this comprehensive project will offer a deep pool of primary sources, including many that scholars would not otherwise have been able to locate, *The Joseph Smith Papers* will lift the standards and accuracy of future scholarship dealing with Joseph Smith and early Church history.



The study of these historical sources provides students of Joseph Smith with an enriched understanding of the Prophet's life and the development of the restored Church.

One of the Prophet's priorities after the organization of the Church in 1830 was the recording and preservation of his revelations.

Below: Revelation Book 1. Above right: Revelation Book 2. Below right: First edition of A Book of Commandments.

The Revelations and Translations Series

The volumes in the series titled "Revelations and Translations" will reproduce the earliest manuscripts of Joseph Smith's written revelations and translations, together with the official editions of these documents as they were published during his lifetime. These publications include the first edition of the Book of Mormon (1830); the first publication of a collection of Joseph Smith's revelations, called A Book of Commandments (1833); and the first edition of the Doctrine and Covenants (1835).

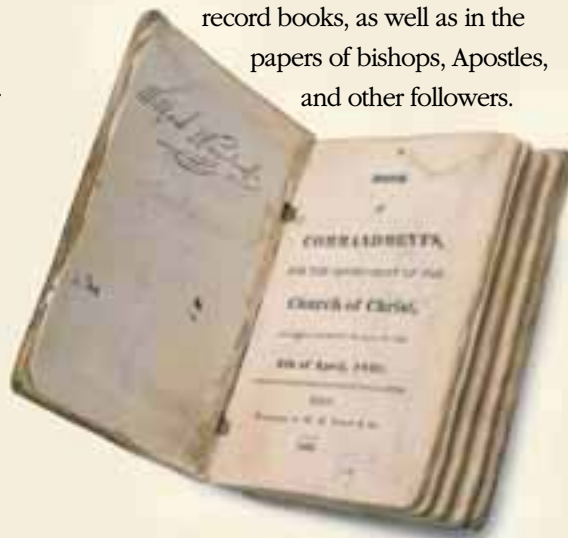
One of the Prophet's priorities after the organization of the Church in 1830 was the recording and preservation of his revelations. Although more comprehensive record keeping did not emerge until 1832, Joseph Smith and John Whitmer began in the summer of 1830 to assemble the revelations the Prophet had received to that point. By at least March of 1831, John Whitmer began copying this early collection of revelation manuscripts into what he titled the "Book of Commandments and Revelations." This manuscript book, which *Papers* editors have designated as Revelation Book 1, contains items that were copied from around March 1831 to the middle of 1835.

Commissioned during a November 1831 Church conference in Ohio to publish the collected revelations, John Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery carried the "Book of Commandments and Revelations" to Missouri where they, along with W. W. Phelps, set about publishing A Book of Commandments (see D&C 67). By early 1832, with the first book of revelation manuscripts in Missouri,



Joseph and his scribes procured another book in which to copy revelations. Known as the "Kirtland Revelation Book," this second book has been labeled as Revelation Book 2 by the *Papers* editors. It was created from late February or early March 1832 to the end of 1834. The first volume in the Revelations and Translations Series features these two books of revelation manuscripts.

Through careful study, Joseph Smith Papers Project scholars have determined that the "Book of Commandments and Revelations" served as the principal source for the 1833 publication of A Book of Commandments and that both the "Book of Commandments and Revelations" and the "Kirtland Revelation Book" became the basis for the first edition of the Doctrine and Covenants in 1835. These manuscript books were no longer used after publication of the Doctrine and Covenants but were safely stored with other Church records. Later revelations were recorded in Joseph Smith's journals and record books, as well as in the papers of bishops, Apostles, and other followers.



Following the publication of the Doctrine and Covenants in 1835, these two manuscript books were largely ignored because the published volumes were available. However, scholars in recent years have gained a strong interest in examining early manuscripts of Joseph Smith's revelations. Revelation Book 2 had not been readily accessible until the Church published images of the original manuscripts as part of its 2002 *Selected Collections from the Archives* DVD collection.¹ Also, only in recent years have scholars begun to assess the value of Revelation Book 1, which had been in the possession of the First Presidency.

Revelation Book 1 contains the earliest known copies of many revelations and, in some cases, the only surviving early manuscript copies. It was the source for the revelations published in the first issue of the Church periodical *The Evening and the Morning Star*. Four leaves that had been removed from the book at some point are currently owned by the Community of Christ Library-Archives in Independence, Missouri, and are being reproduced with permission in *The Joseph Smith Papers*.

Revelation Book 1 is a near comprehensive collection of early revelations, containing 64 of the 65 items published in 1833 in *A Book of Commandments*² as well as 95 of the 103 sections published in 1835 in the Doctrine and Covenants. Only 10 items from the manuscript book do not appear in either *A Book of Commandments* or the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants.



Joseph seemed to regard the manuscript revelations as his best efforts to capture the voice of the Lord.

Preparing the Manuscript Revelation Books for Publication during Joseph Smith's Time

One of Joseph Smith's tasks in reviewing the manuscripts prior to their publication was to "correct those errors or mistakes which he may discover by the Holy Spirit."³ Joseph knew from experience that the human process of writing down revelations, copying them into manuscript books, and then passing them through various hands in preparation for publication inevitably introduced unintentional errors. Sometimes changes were required to clarify wording. Occasionally, later revelations would supersede or update previously received revelations, necessitating the editing of documents to alter previous versions. Various other changes were also made from time to time. Most of these, such as dividing the text into verses or clarifying meaning, did not involve substantive corrections.

Joseph seemed to regard the manuscript revelations as his best efforts to capture the voice of the Lord condescending to communicate in what Joseph called the "crooked, broken, scattered, and imperfect language" of men.⁴ The revealed preface to the published revelations also seems to express this principle: "I am God and have spoken it; these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their weakness, after the manner of their language" (D&C 1:24).

Joseph and his associates were appointed by the actions of Church conferences to prepare the revelations for publication by correcting

the texts. Recent analysis of both manuscript revelation books reveals how and when many of the changes were made. For example, some changes were made before selected items were published in Missouri, while others were made in Ohio before the 1835 publication of the Doctrine and Covenants.

One common example involves changes made by Sidney Rigdon. He often changed the language in the revelations from the biblical “thee,” “thy,” and “thine” to the modern “you,” “your,” and “yours.” Many of these changes

were later reversed. He also corrected grammar and changed some of the language to clarify and modify words and meaning.

In a few cases, more substantive changes were made as revelations were updated for the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants. For example, section 20 was originally received in 1830, before much of the leadership structure of the Church as we know it today was revealed to Joseph Smith. By 1835 Joseph had organized many offices and quorums by revelation. To include this newly revealed ecclesiastical order, several text changes and additions were incorporated into section 20. Our current verses 65–67 on ordaining men to priesthood offices, for

instance, had been revealed after the 1833 publication and were subsequently added to the 1835 publication.

Joseph Smith reviewed many of his associates’ editorial changes and made slight alterations in his own hand before *A Book of Commandments* was published in 1833. He made additional changes, including adding surnames to individuals mentioned in the revelations, just before the Doctrine and Covenants was published in 1835.



Joseph Smith



John Whitmer



Sidney Rigdon



Oliver Cowdery

Sometime around 1834–35 in Kirtland, Ohio, Revelation Book 2 was used for the preparation of the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants, and all but eight items in the manuscript book were published in that 1835 volume. In contrast, just three of the revelations copied into the book were published in *A Book of Commandments* in 1833. Two of the manuscript book’s revelations were first published in the 1844 Doctrine and Covenants.

Subsequent editing changes through the



William W. Phelps

1981 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants involved occasional word changes, but the major substantive changes occurred under the Prophet Joseph's guidance for the 1835 edition.

New Information

In editing these manuscript books, *Papers* editors have uncovered new information. For example, scholars interested in the chronology of Joseph Smith's life have long relied upon the generic month-only dating of many early revelations. Revelation Book 1 provides the specific dates for many of these revelations. In addition, John Whitmer's brief historical introductions to many of the revelations also provide historical context for scholars.

Through careful analysis, editors have been able to identify the handwriting of most of the editing marks on the manuscript pages. When the Revelations and Translations Series is published, images of documents will be included with transcriptions on facing pages. Thus, readers will be able to see the original handwriting, editing marks, and even the texture of the documents but will not need to be experts in deciphering handwriting. The changes made in the original documents will be color coded in the transcriptions so readers can identify the handwriting of the individuals who wrote on each page.

Another interesting development from work on the Revelations and Translations Series has been the identification of a previously unpublished revelation on securing a copyright for the Book of Mormon in Canada. David Whitmer, after he left the Church, recalled that the revelation promised success in selling the copyright, but upon return of the men charged with the duty, Joseph Smith and others were disappointed by what seemed like failure. Historians have relied upon statements of David Whitmer, Hiram Page, and William McLellin for decades but have not had the actual text of the revelation. Revelation Book 1 will provide it.

Although we still do not know the whole story, particularly Joseph Smith's own view of the situation, we do know that calling the divine communication a "failed

revelation" is not warranted. The Lord's directive clearly conditions the successful sale of the copyright on the worthiness of those seeking to make the sale as well as on the spiritual receptivity of the potential purchasers.⁵

The Prophet's New Understanding

The editing and updating of revelation texts in the early years of the Church demonstrate the process of continuing revelation to Joseph Smith. The revelation manuscripts reveal how men grappled in trying to make certain that the ideas and doctrines Joseph received were transcribed and printed accurately—a process that for the publication of any work risks the introduction of error. In some instances, when a new revelation changed or updated what had previously been received, the Prophet edited the earlier written revelation to reflect the new understanding. Thus, as his doctrinal knowledge clarified and expanded, so did the recorded revelations. They were characterized by the changing nature of his understanding of the sacred subject matter. The Prophet did not believe that revelations, once recorded, could not be changed by further revelation.

The preservation and publication of these manuscript revelation books provide a significant resource for students of Church history. This project will lead to a greater understanding of how our printed revelations were organized and published, as well as greater insight into the mind and intent of Joseph Smith. A study of these books of revelations will increase not only our knowledge but also our testimony in recognizing the Lord's plan of continuing revelation that provides for the ever-changing needs of the growing Church. ■

The author acknowledges the assistance of Robin S. Jensen, of the Joseph Smith Papers Project, and Joshua J. Perkey, of Church magazines, in the preparation of this article.

NOTES

1. Richard E. Turley Jr., ed., *Selected Collections from the Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (DVD, 2002).
2. The single revelation published in A Book of Commandments but not found in Revelation Book 1 is Revelation, May 1829–B, in A Book of Commandments 11 (see D&C 12).
3. Minute Book 2 (also called "Far West Record"), Nov. 8, 1831.
4. Joseph Smith to William W. Phelps, Nov. 27, 1832, in *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, comp. Dean C. Jessee, rev. ed. (2002), 287.
5. See Revelation Book 1, 30–31.



PIONEERS IN GHANA

1. Stand Alone—For Something, Adjoa, by Angela Nelson

"It is good to be a member when we are at home or among people," says Adjoa Amoa-Ampah, who is studying to become a doctor. "But a true Latter-day Saint woman can still call herself a member when she is alone. The Church is sometimes misunderstood, so it is important for me to be an example of the truth."

2. Joseph William Billy Johnson: Holiness to the Lord, by Emmalee Glauser Powell

"Gratitude and love emanated from him," the artist wrote of Brother Johnson of Cape Coast. "He taught the gospel for 14 years, and over a thousand people were ready for baptism when the missionaries arrived in 1978. He is a man who consecrates his life and soul to God. He inspired me to strive to make the Christlike attributes of love and charity a part of my being."

3. Bitner Johnson: Grandson of the Patriarch, by Jesse Bushnell

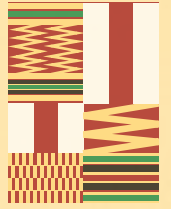
Named after President Gordon Bitner Hinckley, Bitner Johnson is the son of Brigham Johnson and the grandson of Joseph William Billy Johnson.

When GayLynn Ribeira, an art student at Brigham Young University, heard the amazing stories of the pioneer Saints in Ghana, she knew she wanted to create their portraits for her bachelor of fine arts illustration project. In the fall of 2005, she began to pursue a way to do this. The result was a grant allowing her and three other art students—Jesse Bushnell, Emmalee Glauser Powell, and Angela Nelson—to spend May and June of 2006 in Ghana. BYU faculty member Richard Hull oversaw the project. The five gathered stories and images of not only pioneer Saints but newer members also. The wealth of information found its way onto canvas in the months following the trip and onto the walls of the B. F. Larsen Gallery at BYU in October 2007. Following is some of that artwork.





4



5

4. Busua Morning, by GayLynn Ribeira

5. Bring Up Your Children in Light and Truth, by GayLynn Ribeira

Bishop Kofi Sosu and his wife, Linda, of Kumasi strengthen their family through regular family prayer, scripture study, and family home evening.

6. Dr. Emmanuel Kissi—"He Raised the Woman Up," by Jesse Bushnell

In 1983 a poverty-stricken woman with a severely malnourished child came to Latter-day Saint doctor Emmanuel Kissi for help. Dr. Kissi had food items sent to him by the Church to treat those with malnutrition. At no charge, he gave her rice, corn, beans, and cooking oil. The woman fell down in gratitude before the doctor. Dr. Kissi raised the woman up by the hand and said, "This food has been sent to you from God. You must give all your thanks to Him."

6



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7. Sisters in Zion, Emma Boateng, by Angela Nelson

"It was like we found a long lost sister," artist Angela Nelson wrote of returned missionary Emma Boateng. "She was our guide in Kumasi and still had that missionary glow about her. Emma was studying journalism, attending institute, had concerns and hopes about dating, and was trying to keep the gospel the center of her life. She was going through the same experiences as we were as young single adults."



8. Bishop Kofi Sosu and His Father: Forgiveness of Father and Son, by Emmalee Glauser Powell

After his mission, Kofi wanted to return home, but his father had disowned him. He felt impressed to go anyway. When he arrived, his father saw him and said, "Stop." So he stopped.

"Who are you?" asked his father.

"I am your son."

"My son?"

"Yes, your son, Kofi." At this he saw tears running down his father's face. His father stood up and embraced him.

"Oh, my son, my son. I am so sorry. I know you did the right thing. I have accepted you as my son."

9. William and Charlotte Acquah: One Heart and One Mind, by Emmalee Glauser Powell

William and Charlotte (members of 30 years) have grown in the gospel together through many years of hardship and joy. Through it all, they are becoming one with God and with each other. They hold hands to show their love for one another—something William learned from the couple missionaries who taught him to pray and to know that he is a child of God.

10. Baptism Beach, by Jesse Bushnell

This peaceful beach has been the site of hundreds of Ghanaian baptisms.

11. Theodora Acquah: Third-Generation Daughter, by Jesse Bushnell

Theodora is a third-generation Latter-day Saint in Cape Coast, thanks to the faith of her grandmother who joined the Church and taught her children and grandchildren the gospel. As a new Latter-day Saint, Theodora's grandmother took it upon herself to sweep the meetinghouse, fetch buckets of water to scrub the floor, and make sure things were clean before church.



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12. How Firm a Foundation, Kaku Family, by Angela Nelson

"When Brother and Sister Kaku invited us into their home in Cape Coast, I felt like I was walking into my own home in Utah," wrote artist Angela Nelson. "My favorite part was after the commotion of dinner, all the children gathered around their parents with scriptures open. I will never forget being with this family and watching the children look to their parents for guidance and their parents turning to the scriptures for answers."



12

13. Hannah, by Richard Hull

Of this portrait of Hannah Bafuh, a Latter-day Saint in Kumasi, the artist said, "I tried to capture her brilliant, animated personality."



13

14. Preparing Dinner, Emma Boateng, by Angela Nelson

"It was like watching a dance; they were in perfect sync with each other," wrote Angela Nelson, describing how the Boateng family made the food staple, fufu, from the cassava root. "One would raise the pole high and bring it down with a loud thud while the other would quickly gather the cassava in a ball just in time for the other to pound it again. There is also a rhythm in their daily life, a diligence in keeping the commandments. Time here is measured in relationships, in helping friends and family, not in objects obtained. I see a steady resolve to be consistent—especially in their testimonies."



14

Scripture Stories as Patterns for Our Lives

BY ELDER JAY E. JENSEN

Of the Presidency of the Seventy



I have been led to a significant scripture study pattern that can help us better understand the scriptures.

As young parents reading the scriptures with our children, my wife and I struggled to make these holy words come alive and have meaning to them.

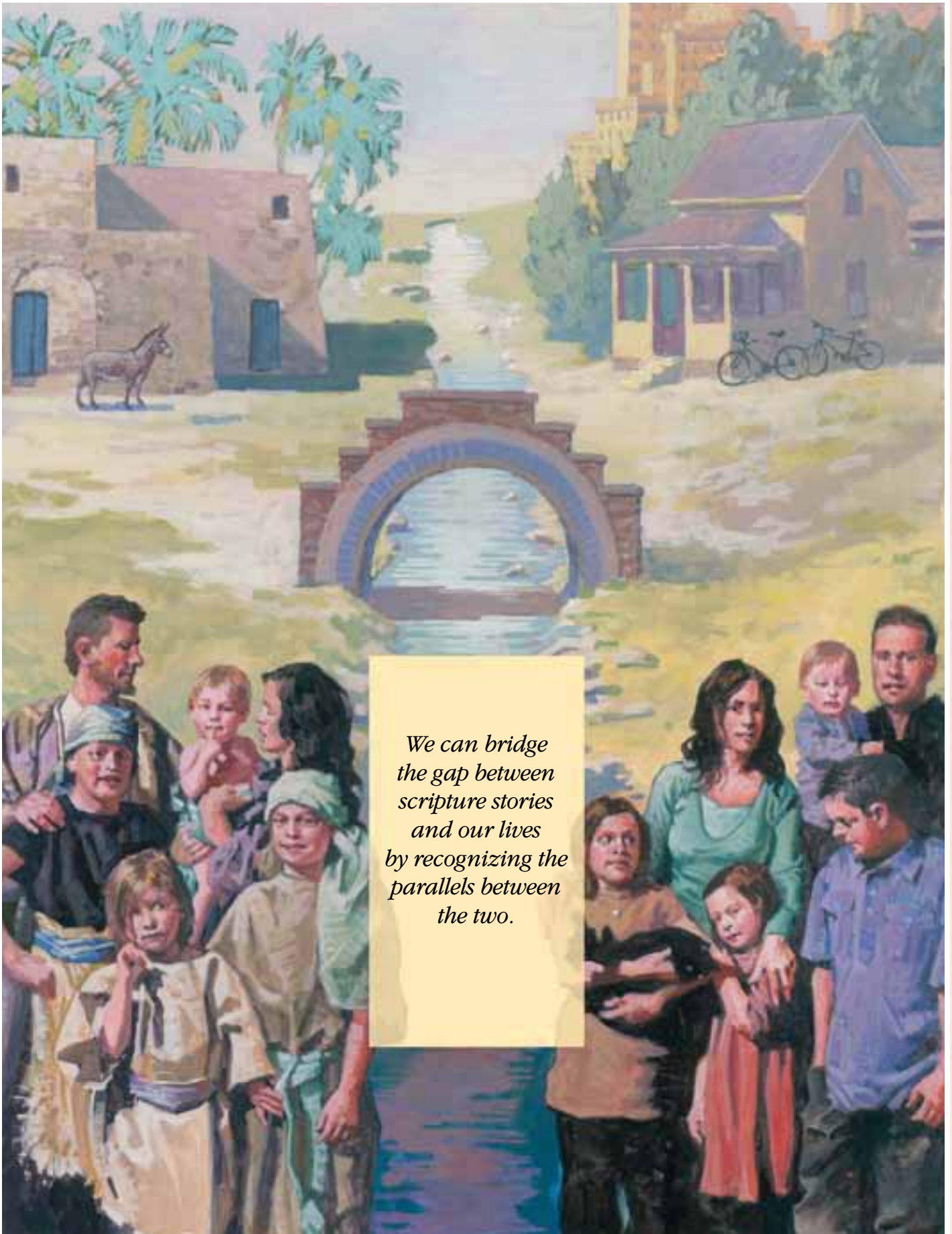
Sometimes we had successful experiences, and other times we did not. One morning one of our children said, “Dad, this is boring! I don’t understand what we’re reading.” Perhaps you have had similar experiences. Fortunately, since then I have been led to a significant scripture study pattern that has helped us individually and as a family to better understand the scriptures.

Bridging the Gap

I learned this pattern when I was in my second year of teaching in the seminary program of the Church. We were informed that Leland Andersen, a master teacher and a professional in-service trainer in the

seminary and institute program, would be visiting our classes that day. We knew that we had only to invite him to say a few things to the students and he would take a good portion of the class time. Such was the case when he came into my Old Testament class that morning. He took a piece of chalk in hand and began with the story of David and Goliath. Within seconds he had the class’s full attention, but more important, I knew I was watching a master teacher at work as he taught the class and me a pattern to make the scriptures relevant using a concept I call “bridging the gap.”

Imagine a bridge. One side of the bridge is anchored in the past and is made up of three parts: (1) they—the prophets and people of the past, (2) there—the place where these people lived, and (3) then—the time period when they lived.



*We can bridge
the gap between
scripture stories
and our lives
by recognizing the
parallels between
the two.*

The other side of the bridge is anchored in the present and is made up of three parallel parts: (1) I—who live in the present, (2) here—the place where I live, and (3) now—the time period I live in.

The goal is to build a bridge from *they-there-then* to *I-here-now*, identifying common parallels between their day and ours.

Here’s how Brother Andersen did it as he told the story

of David and Goliath. First, he took us to 1 Samuel 17 and pointed out the setting of the conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines. He reminded us of the challenge to find someone in Israel to fight Goliath. Full of faith, young David volunteered. In that narrative, Brother Andersen identified a pattern consisting of four phrases from that chapter that parallel our day. They created a bridge from the past to the present (see table 1).



TABLE 1. PROVING GOD’S ARMOR IN HIS CAUSE (SEE 1 SAMUEL 17)

Verses	Phrases from the Scriptures	Parallels to Our Day
37	“He will deliver me.”	The Lord will deliver us today.
39	“I have not proved them [the armor].”	What armor have I proved, or tested?
45	“I come to thee in the name of the Lord.”	As covenant people, we come and go in the name of the Lord.
46	“All the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”	Our purpose is to help others know there is a God in Israel.



What the Savior experienced as He started His ministry has become for me a true pattern for spiritual growth, a pattern that is found in many other scripture stories, including the experiences of Lehi and Joseph Smith.

Identifying Story Parallels

We can follow the same pattern in our teaching. Identifying story parallels is a spiritual matter. As you read and study the scriptures, pray often. Pray before you begin studying and, of course, following a study session. Pause at times as you study, and express gratitude for what you are learning. Ask for additional light and truth. When you are reading stories from the scriptures, pray to find parallels that will link the past to the present. Most of those that I have found came through praying, studying, searching, pondering, and listening to the Spirit.

Brother Andersen developed each of four parallels from the account of David and Goliath by emphasizing the key phrases, and then he illustrated them with examples from today. Watching a master teacher develop these four points opened a door to scripture study for me—that of searching for a pattern of parallels in stories.

The following elements are normally present in scripture stories and can easily be transferred with relevance to our day:

1. A story line is followed.
2. The story line has a beginning and an ending.
3. Phrases or sentences from the story are principles that illustrate eternal truths.
4. These phrases or sentences depict truths applicable both in the past and in our day.

A Story Parallel from the New Testament

One of the most useful illustrations of a story line came to me as I helped write a New Testament lesson for seminary teachers. When the Savior started His ministry,

He fasted 40 days and 40 nights and went into the wilderness to commune with God (see Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 4:1–11). What He experienced has become for me a true pattern for spiritual growth:

- He sensed His sacred responsibility and sought communion with God.
- Revelation and enlightenment came to Him.
- He was severely tested.
- Passing the test, He proceeded with increased light and truth.¹

This pattern is found in many other scripture stories. For example, Lehi sought help (see 1 Nephi 1:5); help came (see 1 Nephi 1:6); he was severely tested (see 1 Nephi 1:19–20); and he proceeded with increased light and truth (see 1 Nephi 2:1).

The Prophet Joseph Smith experienced a similar pattern:

- He sought communion (Which church is true?).
- An answer came after he read James 1:5 and prayed.
- He was severely tested.
- He passed the test and proceeded with increased light and truth.

While I have had many experiences in my life that follow this pattern, my call as a member of the Seventy is illustrative. The call came the first week of June 1992, and my first assignment was to serve as a member of the Central America Area Presidency beginning on August 1. During my vacation time in July, I immersed myself in the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon, and spent hours studying, praying, and pondering to help me prepare and overcome my feelings of inadequacy.

Based on Matthew 4:1–11 and the Joseph Smith Translation of Matthew 4:1–11, the parallels shown in table 2 came to me.

The Joseph Smith Translation of Matthew 4:11 differs substantively from Matthew 4:11; however, the truth taught in the latter—“angels came and ministered unto him”—is a true principle.

You, too, may examine your own life and reflect on times when you have gone through this pattern of spiritual growth.

A Story Parallel from the Book of Mormon

While I was serving as a bishop, a ward member who had committed a serious transgression came to me seeking

counsel and direction. His standing in the Church was in jeopardy, and his confession to me, a judge in Israel, would help him in the repentance process. A story parallel from Alma 36 helped this ward member begin to repent (see table 3).

Note that after Alma was forgiven, he did not remember his pains, nor was he harrowed up by his sins. However, he did remember his sins (see v. 16). But when he remembered them, he was not troubled by them. The Lord grants us a memory of sins to help prevent them from happening again, but He does take away the pain and hurt.



TABLE 2. A PATTERN FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH (SEE MATTHEW 4)

Verses	Phrases from the Scriptures	Parallels to Our Day
1	The Savior sensed His sacred responsibility and sought to commune with God.	I sensed my sacred responsibility and sought to commune with God.
1	He communed with God.	Enlightenment came as I studied, fasted, pondered, and prayed.
3–10	He was tempted and challenged.	I was challenged with feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness.
11	Angels ministered to Him.	The Holy Ghost comforted, taught, enlightened, and strengthened me to go forward with divine assistance.



TABLE 3. REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS (SEE ALMA 36)

Verses	Phrases from the Scriptures	Parallels to Our Day
6	Alma went about seeking to destroy the Church.	This member went about sinning.
6–11	God sent His angel to stop Alma.	He was caught in his sin.
11–16	Alma was struck with fear; he was racked with torment.	He was tormented, afraid, remorseful, and penitent.
17	Alma remembered to have heard his father prophesy of the Atonement.	He remembered that his father and mother had taught him about the Atonement in family home evening.
18	Alma prayed for mercy.	He prayed for forgiveness.
19	Alma could remember his pains no more.	He felt no more pains for his sins.
21–23	Alma received joy, light, and strength.	He received joy, light, and strength.
24	Alma labored without ceasing to save souls.	He labored to save souls.
27	Alma was supported in his trials.	He was supported in his trials.

For Our Profit and Learning

Story parallels begin with stories in the scriptures or from the events surrounding them. As you read and study these stories, you will see a word, a phrase, or a principle that seems as applicable today as it was in the past. As you continue your prayerful study, other principles will become apparent. As you put the principles together, you will begin to bridge the gap between the prophets and

people who lived in the past—*they-there-then*—and us in our day—*I-here-now*. Perhaps this is what Nephi meant when he said that he “did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning” (1 Nephi 19:23). Furthermore, by so doing we are treasuring up the Lord’s words (see Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:37). ■

NOTE

1. See *Life and Teachings of Jesus* (Church Educational System manual, 1974), 41.



FROM BOTTOM TO TOP

This young woman from Uruguay knows how to get where she wants to go.

BY DON L. SEARLE
Church Magazines

When you have talent, people sometimes tell you it will take you straight to the top. But in Joselén Cabrera's case, her talent took her all the way to the bottom of the world—Antarctica. And along the way she learned that worthy dreams are worth pursuing, and with those dreams there will be people to help when they are needed.

When she was 14, Joselén won a drawing contest sponsored by the Asociación Civil Antarkos in her native country, Uruguay. The prize: a trip to Antarctica for her and her schoolteacher, with a group of other students and teachers. Her father and the woman who taught her art helped show Joselén how to finish the drawing she had envisioned.

Her trip was an exciting three-stage journey: first, a



military transport flight from Montevideo, Uruguay, to Punta Arenas, Chile, then an overwater flight to the Chilean base in Antarctica, followed by an overland trip to the Uruguayan outpost, Artigas Antarctica Scientific Base, some 3,000 kilometers from Montevideo. Several nations have scientific bases clustered on King George Island off the coast of Antarctica.

Joselén's drawing and her account of her trip were featured in a national magazine, *Uruguay Natural*.

Antarctica was not quite the way she had imagined it, Joselén says, smiling. Her drawing showed penguins and ice. It was summer when she visited—snow in patches on barren ground and few penguins. But that gave her the opportunity to see a few more of the sights. She enjoyed hiking along the coast, where she saw Collins Glacier, the Drake Passage, and Lake Uruguay, from which her country's base draws fresh water. She was also able to visit other bases.

The trip was a dream come true for Joselén, who is now 19 and a member of the Colonia Suiza Branch,



Scenes from Joselén's visit to Antarctica.

Colonia Uruguay District. Since the trip, she has made other dreams come true as well. One of those was to complete her Personal Progress experiences and receive her Young Womanhood Recognition. Joselén wears her medallion, she says, so that she will remember what she has achieved and what she can become as a daughter of God. Now that Joselén has finished her secondary schooling, she plans to study architecture at the university level.

So far, there have not been many opportunities to share her testimony at school. While friends respect her beliefs, they do not discuss religion very much. Joselén is quiet but never afraid to speak up for what is right. That happened once when a student told others in class that Latter-day Saints are forced to pay tithing. No, it's not that way, she corrected. "We give willingly," she said, explaining that tithing is a voluntary offering to God.



Joselén grew up in the Church, but she found her own testimony when she was about 12 and came to understand that she could not always rely on her parents' knowledge. She says gaining a testimony "was not one 'Wow!' moment. But I knew the gospel brought me joy."

She goes out with the sister missionaries often during her summer vacations. Occasionally, there are opportunities to bear testimony to people she knows. One day the missionary lesson turned out to be with her best friend from school. "I told her truly what I feel," Joselén says. Joselén is glad that she was able to share her testimony with her friend.

"I like the story of Joseph Smith, when he was facing a difficult time in the Sacred Grove and still went ahead with his prayer," she says (see Joseph Smith—History 1:15–17). "I'm fascinated by his courage." She admires the way the young prophet stayed true to what he knew, even when others made fun of him.

Nephi is another of her heroes. "I am impressed by the valiance of Nephi when he did not let himself be held back

by his brothers," she says (see 1 Nephi 3:14–21; 4:1–4).

There is another dream she's working on now, and it involves another of her favorite pastimes: music. Joselén and her sister, Ileana, recently completed their certifications as organ teachers. Joselén loves to play music—from Primary songs to movie music—and she loves to listen to music, especially to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

"When I have a problem, a hymn will come to my mind," she says. "Hymns help me find answers." She attends seminary every school day in the branch meetinghouse not far from her home. "Sometimes I go early and just sit at the piano and play hymns," she says.

When there is a general conference broadcast, she goes early so she can sit and listen to the prelude music by the Tabernacle Choir.

Now that Joselén has been to Antarctica—a place few people on earth will ever see in person—is there another special place she would like to visit?

"I'd like to go to general conference and hear the choir sing," she says.

Who knows? If Joselén can make it to the bottom of the world, what's to keep her from coming out on top in whatever she wants to do. ■

Below: Joselén (in red) with her mother, Raquel; her father, Ruben; and her sister, Ileana. Center: Joselén with mementoes of her trip. Right: Joselén practicing the keyboard.



Now that Joselén has been to Antarctica—a place few people on earth will ever see in person—is there another special place she would like to visit?

"I'd like to go to general conference and hear the choir sing."

Qualify for and Partake of Temple Worship



Teach these scriptures and quotations or, if needed, another principle that will bless the sisters you visit. Bear testimony of the doctrine. Invite those you visit to share what they have felt and learned.

How Can I Prepare for Temple Worship?

Silvia H. Allred, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency:

“The temple is the house of the Lord. He directs the conditions under which it may be used, the ordinances that should be administered, and the standards that qualify us to enter. . . . Personal worthiness is an essential requirement to enjoy the blessings of the temple. We prepare by obeying the commandments and seeking to do God’s will” (“Holy Temples, Sacred Covenants,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 113).

Elder David B. Haight (1906–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “We who would attend the temple must be living in a manner which helps us be worthy to enter and fully partake. . . . We examine our worthiness to enter the temple in . . . interviews with priesthood leaders. Our signature, with theirs, on our temple recommend testifies of our worthiness to enter the temple”

(“Come to the House of the Lord,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 15).

What Are the Blessings of Qualifying for and Partaking of Temple Worship?

D&C 110:7: “I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house.”

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95): “Let us hasten to the temple as frequently as time and means and personal circumstances allow. Let us go not only for our kindred dead, but let us also go for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety which is provided within those hallowed and consecrated walls. The temple is a place of beauty, it is a place of revelation, it is a place of peace” (“The Great Symbol of Our Membership,” *Tambuli*, Nov. 1994, 6; *Ensign*, Oct. 1994, 5).

D&C 38:32: “I will give unto you my law; and there you shall be endowed with power from on high” (see also D&C 95:8).

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “The temple endowment blessings are as essential for each of us as was our baptism. For this reason we are to prepare ourselves that we may be clean to enter into the temple of God. Temple work is an opportunity to perform our personal endowments and covenants

for the living and also perform these same ordinances for the redemption for the dead. It is for this reason we are instructed in the scriptures to build temples and prepare our lives to be worthy to partake of the sacred temple ordinances and covenants. . . .



“The primary purpose of the temple is to provide the ordinances necessary for our exaltation in the celestial kingdom. Temple ordinances guide us to our Savior and give us the blessings that come to us through the Atonement of Jesus Christ” (“Temple Blessings,” in *Brigham Young University 2005–2006 Speeches* [2006], 1, 4).

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008): “Every man or woman who goes to the temple in a spirit of sincerity and faith leaves the house of the Lord a better man or woman. There is need for constant improvement in all of our lives. There is need occasionally to leave the noise and the tumult of the world and step within the walls of a sacred house of God, there to feel His spirit in an environment of holiness and peace” (“Of Missions, Temples, and Stewardship,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 53). ■



An Honesty Test

BY PATRICIA A. JACOBS AND FRANCINI PRESENÇA

Patricia: My best friend, Francini, and I are some of the only members of the Church in our school in Brazil, and we often find that the small things we do make a big difference.

One such small thing occurred in a Saturday math class Francini and I had together. On this particular day, Francini was absent. During class, the tests we had taken a few days before were passed back. I wasn't paying much attention when the teacher placed Francini's test on my desk and asked me to give it to her.


Since Francini and I had already discussed how we thought we had done, I was surprised that her grade was higher than we had expected. I looked at her test and saw that the teacher had failed to mark one incorrect answer as wrong. Without even considering, I told the teacher that Francini's grade was too high.

It wasn't a test of our math skills or of our friendship; it was a test of our honesty.

What I didn't realize was that the whole class was watching. As soon as I spoke, the class began to criticize me, saying that I was wrong to do that to a friend and that I only wanted my grade to be higher than hers. I was confused and upset by the response. I was sure I had done what Francini would have done. But someone said it was impossible for anyone to be honest to the point of lowering his or her own grade. Everyone saw me as a traitor to my friend. I tried to tell them that Francini would have been honest about her grade and that truly honest people still exist in the world.

After much debate, the teacher and class decided that they would test us. The teacher said he would keep Francini's grade wrong and that we would wait and see her reaction on Monday.

I didn't like the idea. I felt that testing Francini was not fair. But the teacher had made his decision, and I couldn't change it.



That weekend I was anxious about what would happen, even though I had confidence that Francini would do what was right. I fervently prayed that she would notice the error on her test.

In math class on Monday, the whole class was alert as they watched Francini pick up her test.

Francini: Shortly after class started on Monday, the teacher handed me back my math test. I was about to put it away without really looking at it, but then I noticed that my grade was higher than I had expected. I raised my hand and went to the teacher's desk. I asked if he had graded the test correctly, and he answered that he had. I then pointed to my test and said, "But I made a mistake." At that moment Patricia also came up to the teacher's desk and told him that he had also left a wrong answer unmarked on her test and with all the confusion on Saturday, she had not noticed it.

The classroom immediately erupted. Some people began to murmur about Patricia telling me, but others gave embarrassed smiles. I was confused by all the different reactions to these events.

Later, Patricia explained what had happened on Saturday. I was surprised to know that I had been through a test unrelated to math and that my classmates had responded to my friend in that way. However, I was happy that I had been honest and that Patricia's prayers had helped me be prompted to notice the mistake on my test. I am also grateful that my friend believed in me.

Patricia and Francini: Both of us learned a great lesson from this experience. Our testimonies have grown about the important role Latter-day Saints have in being witnesses of Jesus Christ and examples of His principles. We are grateful to the Lord for His gospel, which gives us the opportunity to make a difference. ■

Modesty: A Timeless Principle for All

BY SILVIA H. ALLRED

First Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency



The way we dress demonstrates our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the challenges members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints face today is obeying principles of modesty in an increasingly immodest world. Difficult though it may be, we can show our discipleship to the Savior Jesus Christ by obeying the Church's standards of modesty. Modesty encompasses dress, language, thought, and personal conduct, but here I would like to focus on dress.

Originally, the main purpose of clothing was to cover our bodies and protect them from the elements. Those purposes continue, although clothing now serves more complex purposes too. Today it can be an expression of many things such as wealth, social status, individuality, or belonging. But clothing also reflects our attitudes and values. For Latter-day Saints, the way we dress demonstrates our understanding of and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In a world that constantly tries to undermine our sense of who we are and what we can become, observing the principle of modesty can improve our confidence. By living and teaching this principle, we can help instill that same confidence in the next generation.

What Is Modesty?

The pamphlet *For the Strength of Youth* offers basic guidelines for modesty. This booklet is valuable for both youth and adults: "Immodest clothing includes short shorts and skirts, tight clothing, shirts that do not cover the stomach, and other revealing attire. . . . Women should wear clothing that covers the shoulder and avoid clothing that is low-cut in the front or the back or revealing in any other manner. . . . Men should also maintain modesty in their appearance. All should avoid extremes in clothing, appearance, and hairstyle. Always be neat and clean and avoid being sloppy or inappropriately casual in dress, grooming, and manners. Ask yourself, 'Would I feel comfortable with my appearance if I were in the Lord's presence?'"¹

Seek the guidance of the Spirit as you choose modest apparel. Additionally, as you consider the principles associated with modesty, you might also benefit from asking yourself specific questions like these:

- Am I exposing too much of my body when I sit down, bend over, reach up, or climb stairs?

DON'T BE A DUMMY



A MANNEQUIN WEARS WHATEVER THE WORLD IS SELLING. YOUR STANDARDS ARE HIGHER THAN THAT.

- Do I call attention to myself by wearing clothing that is revealing or provocative?
- Do I need to adjust, tuck, or rearrange my temple garments in order to wear a particular item?

Why Modesty?

When we better understand the doctrine behind the principles of modesty, we realize that modesty is the virtue that guides and moderates action.

The doctrine behind modesty begins with our knowledge that we are children of God, created in His image (see Moses 2:27). Our bodies are sacred gifts from Heavenly Father and have specific purposes that He has planned. As grateful recipients, we acknowledge this gift by treating our bodies as He has asked us to (see D&C 88:33). We learn to train, control, and bridle our bodies and their physical uses to become like Heavenly Father.

ARE YOUR STANDARDS SHRINKING?



IF IT'S TOO TIGHT, TOO SHORT, OR TOO REVEALING, IT DOESN'T FIT CHURCH STANDARDS. DON'T STRETCH YOUR STANDARDS TO FIT THE WORLD'S. (SEE FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH, 14-16.)

From the beginning, the Lord has asked His children to cover their bodies. After Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened and they became aware that they were naked. Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with simple aprons made of fig leaves. But the aprons were not enough, so the Lord made them more modest coats of skins. (See Genesis 3:7, 21.)

God had a higher standard then, just as He does now. His standards are not those of the world. As He says in Isaiah 55:8-9:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A Timeless Principle

Because modesty is one of the Lord’s “higher ways” and not a passing social trend, it has been taught throughout the ages. Consider these other scriptural examples about clothing and what they teach us about modesty.

Modesty shows humility. The Book of Mormon prophet Jacob denounced pride and love of riches. He admonished his people to prevent their prideful hearts from destroying their souls. One of the ways they had showed their excessive pride was in their manner of dress. Jacob told them, “Because some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts, and wear stiff necks and high heads because of the costliness of your apparel, and persecute your brethren because ye suppose that ye are better than they” (Jacob 2:13).

The idea of being humble in how we dress is further reflected in Doctrine and Covenants 42:40: “Thou shalt not be proud in thy heart; let all thy garments be plain.” Does this mean that we cannot dress stylishly? No, we should dress appropriately for the occasion, but we should not consume ourselves with brand names or with always having the latest fashion. It is better to use financial resources for more lasting and meaningful purposes.

The way we dress for worship shows our reverence for the Lord. The Lord asked Moses to prepare sacred clothing that would be worthy of use in His holy house (see Exodus 28:2). It is clear from this commandment that the Lord felt everyday clothing was inappropriate for such a

purpose. Do we, like Moses, reflect our feelings of love for Heavenly Father by dressing appropriately for worship?

As these examples show, “prophets of God have always counseled His children to dress modestly.”² In our own time we have been reminded that “the way you dress is a reflection of what you are on the inside. Your dress and grooming send messages about you to others and influence the way you and others act. When you are well groomed and modestly dressed, you invite the companionship of the Spirit and can exercise a good influence on those around you.”³



STANDARDS

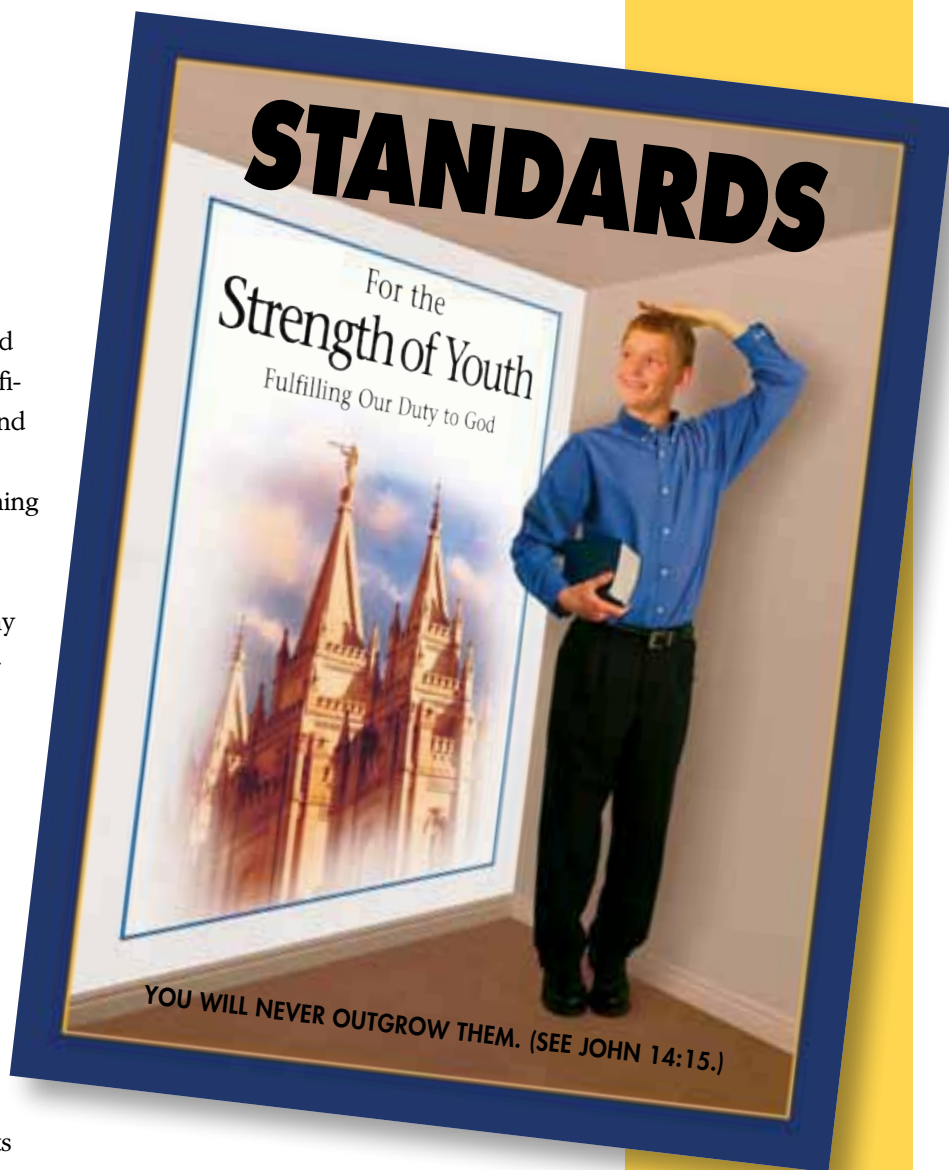
Blessings Associated with Modesty

One of the foremost blessings associated with modesty is an increased sense of confidence. One sister shares the story of a friend who learned—and was blessed by—the principle of modesty in the course of learning about the gospel:

“Several summers ago, a colleague attended church with me. She arrived at my home beforehand dressed in what is traditional for our warm climate: a sleeveless sundress. I appreciated her sense of occasion in wearing a dress to church, and off we went. Other ward members welcomed her to our congregation, and she returned several times in the ensuing weeks. She even began attending home, family, and personal enrichment meetings and bringing her several children to Primary and youth activities. During those midweek activities on those hot summer days, she usually wore a sleeveless blouse and shorts that reached mid-thigh. She was not vulgarly dressed, but it was apparent that she did not yet understand Latter-day Saint standards.

“After several weeks, I asked her if she would be interested in learning more about the Church from the missionaries. She told me that she was shy and that she was uncomfortable talking to people she didn’t know. She wanted simply to continue to participate in our ward’s worship and activities and assured me that if she had any questions, she would ask me or some of the other people in the ward with whom she was already acquainted.

“It was interesting to me that as she continued to come to church and Church activities, she began wearing longer skirts, longer shorts, and shirts that had sleeves. Initially



I thought it had to do with the oncoming autumn weather, but I soon realized that she was simply taking note of how her Latter-day Saint associates dressed.

“I don’t know that her change in apparel was solely responsible for the increase in confidence I started to notice in her, but I think it was part of it. As she continued to learn gospel principles, such as her divine heritage as a daughter of God, her sense of self-worth seemed to escalate. Her confidence increased as she began to better understand the reasons behind some of the things we do. And as her confidence increased, she was eager to learn more about the gospel—including taking the missionary discussions, something that had previously made her nervous.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

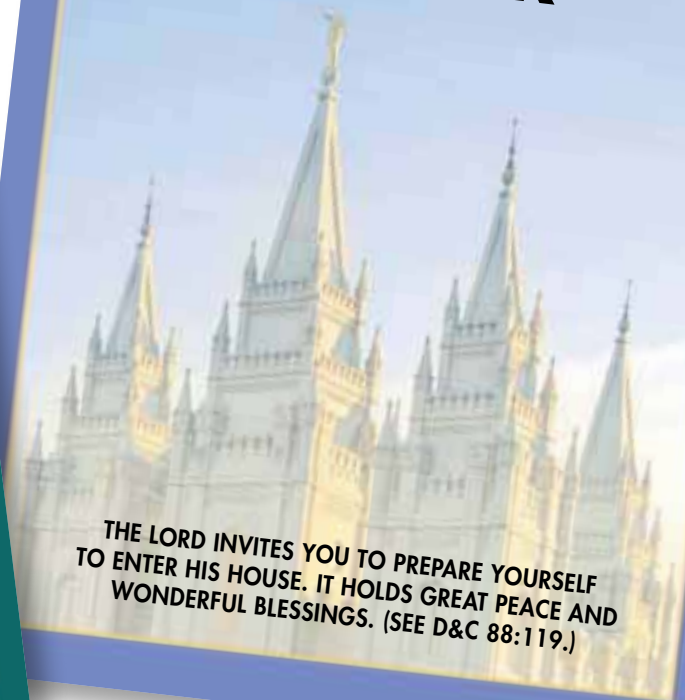


DRESS APPROPRIATELY. DON'T LET A BAD CHOICE TRIP YOU UP. (SEE FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH, 14–16.)

“Her dress was just one aspect of her coming to know and understand gospel principles and standards, but as she found she was able to adjust that area of her life, she saw that she could make more significant changes too. Eventually, these changes led to her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ and her joining the Church. Later, she was endowed in the temple, and her wardrobe required no change because she had already been practicing the principles of modesty.”⁴

As modesty becomes the virtue that regulates and moderates action in our lives,

ASPIRE TO SOMETHING HIGHER



THE LORD INVITES YOU TO PREPARE YOURSELF TO ENTER HIS HOUSE. IT HOLDS GREAT PEACE AND WONDERFUL BLESSINGS. (SEE D&C 88:119.)

we too will find an increased sense of self-worth. Recall the promises of Doctrine and Covenants 121:45–46:

“Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.

“The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth.”

May we all endeavor to qualify for these blessings. ■

NOTES

1. *For the Strength of Youth* (pamphlet, 2001), 15–16.
2. *For the Strength of Youth*, 14.
3. *For the Strength of Youth*, 14–15.
4. Personal correspondence.

STANDARDS: ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Adults in one stake in England are discovering for themselves the blessings that come from paying closer attention to For the Strength of Youth.

BY DEBBIE TWIGGER

Sarah Edwards, Emily Bowles, and Eleanor McKee love shopping, and when they hit the clothes shops in Northampton, England, these young Latter-day Saint women take both cash and a certain booklet. That same booklet guides their parents when buying clothes or looking for a film to view.

In the Northampton England Stake, adults as well as teens are taking *For the Strength of Youth* to heart. It has helped parents evaluate the films and TV programs they watch and the activities they participate in. It has helped others to live the Sabbath more fully and enjoyably with their families. In fact, the adults of the stake have begun to call it “For the Strength of *You*” because it applies equally to them.

President Clive Joliffe, who was released as the stake president last year, says, “We discussed and prayed about helping families progress in the gospel and helping to prepare our children for missions and temple marriage, and we were inspired to use the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet. We wanted the whole family to understand the standards that would bring happiness and joy to all members of the family.”

Youth in the stake have noticed—and appreciate—the



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIMON JONES



Sarah Edwards, Eleanor McKee, and Emily Bowles have found *For the Strength of Youth* to be a handy guide when they shop for clothes.

difference this emphasis has made in their own families. “It’s really important to uphold standards, and as youth we look up to adults, so *For the Strength of Youth* reminds them of the standards we should all live,” says Eleanor McKee, 19. “It’s good for all of us to be reminded of what is expected of us and to make sure there are no double standards.”

Seventeen-year-old Daniel Kitsell, of the Huntingdon Ward, adds, “I like *For the Strength of Youth* because it is not just for the youth, but I know my parents are hearing it too, and it helps them keep the standards.”

One family that has felt the effects of following this counsel is that of Bishop Richard Auger of the Banbury Ward; his wife, Gill; and their two daughters, Hannah and Charlotte, both recently married in the London England Temple. Bishop Auger, an inspector with Thames Valley Police, is very aware of the world’s poor standards and their effects on youth and their behavior. “Gill and I used *For the Strength of Youth* to learn about parenting so we could be consistent and based on the scriptures,” he says. “Throughout the girls’ teenage years, we used it as a ready guide and in many different ways. When the girls wanted to shop for their own clothes, it was a worry to us, so we sent them out with the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet so they could refer to it when making choices.”

Hannah, 21, says, “We kept the booklet in our purses as it states clearly what is and what isn’t appropriate.” The sisters learnt they could make some clothing more modest

with a little sewing or by adding accessories. Charlotte, 19, adds, “Hannah and I never felt that our parents made decisions for us. We knew that our parents followed the prophet and the Savior, and so by following our parents, we would always be living the teachings of the Savior too.”

A number of adults say that in addition to providing standards of modesty and wise media choices, the booklet benefits them by helping them pay attention to prophetic counsel on Sabbath observance. Sue Preece, Relief Society president in the Kettering Ward, sees *For the Strength of Youth* as a “tool for us to use as we strive for perfection. We don’t stop needing those guidelines when we reach 18. They prompt me into evaluating how I am doing, and there have been some changes made in my life that can only bring me closer to my Father in Heaven. For example, the Sabbath has become a real oasis to me, just by my making a minor change in the way that I observe this day.”

Sister A. J. Hough, also of the Kettering Ward, tells of how emphasis on *For the Strength of Youth* has helped her



The Auger family—Charlotte, Gill, Richard, and Hannah—have long recognized that it’s important for parents and children to be on the same page where standards are concerned.



When Josh Reynolds faced a choice about Sunday sports participation, his parents' good examples and teaching helped him make the right decision.

be a better parent: "Having three teenagers, I wanted to ensure that I, too, was living the standards completely. I was keen to find ways I could 'raise the bar' and set a good example. I decided on the section on 'Sabbath Day Observance' and have set myself new goals to improve the example I am personally. I hope I can be a better influence to those I love the most—my family. We now use the booklet during family home evening. And whether we're being creative with our family activities or planning ahead to fully observe the Sabbath, we use these standards to guide us."

Those kinds of examples are not lost on the youth of the stake. Like many young men, 16-year-old priest Josh Reynolds, from the

Kettering Ward, loves football and found initial success as a youngster. But conflict arose when he wanted to play alongside some of his friends on a local team whose matches were held on Sundays. "My mum and dad explained why and how as members of the Church we need to keep the Sabbath day holy. I accepted this and after a while did not feel upset. I am extremely grateful to my parents for setting a good example to me and teaching me to keep the Sabbath day holy."

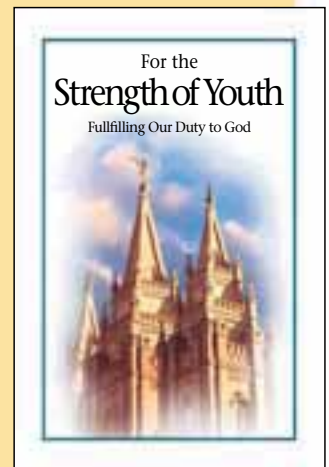
A parent of five children, Heather Slattery, of the Kettering Ward, says, "Sometimes as parents and adults we think of these standards as youth values and forget that we are just as susceptible to temptation as the young people are. *For the Strength of Youth* is a constant reminder that we need to hold on to the iron rod alongside our youth and work together, strengthening and supporting

each other as children of our Heavenly Father."

There is no doubt the members of the Northampton stake feel stronger as individuals and families by following the guidelines in *For the Strength of Youth*. President Joliffe sums up his feelings: "The pamphlet is inspired and is simply put so each of us can see clearly what Heavenly Father expects from His children. I have tried to live by the standards so that my children would be encouraged to follow my example. I have a strong testimony that we are blessed to have clear counsel on how we should live in order to qualify for all the Father has for us." ■

IDEAS FOR USING FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH

- Regularly read and discuss subjects from the booklet in family home evening.
- With the approval of your bishop or branch president, make the booklet a lesson topic for first-Sunday lessons in Relief Society and priesthood quorum meetings.
- Encourage family members to keep a copy with them to help them make correct choices.
- Base youth activities on the guidelines.
- Use the guidelines as a theme for a single adult activity.
- Refer to the guidelines when buying clothes, choosing a film, or planning activities.
- Have regular ward and stake youth firesides based on subjects from the booklet.





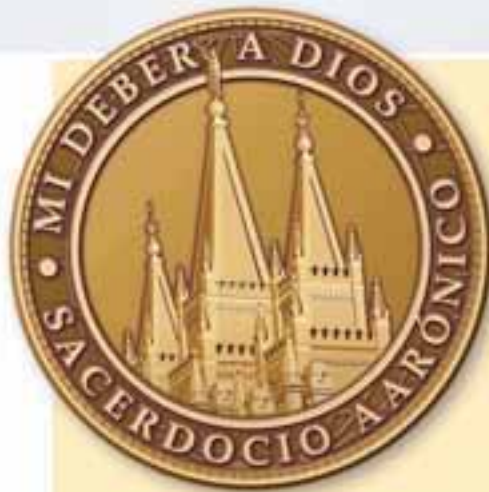
BEAUTIFUL THINGS AHEAD

By Lia McClanahan

Is anyone still awake?" The first time I asked, I had received two whispered responses in the affirmative. Now, hours later, the silence answered that I was the last one in the room who couldn't get to sleep.

It was my first night in the Missionary Training Center (MTC). That day, I had said good-bye to my parents, met my companion and the other new missionaries going to Italy, and been to the first set of classes. I was exhausted, but my mind was spinning with anxiety. "What have I gotten myself into?" I asked myself over and over. I didn't know if I could really learn to be a missionary. Would I have the courage to fly to a foreign country and talk to strangers about the gospel? Maybe I wasn't supposed to be here. Tears started to roll down my cheeks.

Then I remembered something my mom had told me about her brother Larry. Uncle Larry served his mission in Uruguay and Paraguay in the 1970s. At first he had spent sleepless nights worrying about his inadequacies. When he felt like he couldn't bear it anymore, he would get out of his bed, go into the bathroom, and kneel down to plead with Heavenly Father for peace. Somehow, with the Lord's help, Uncle Larry made it through



and served a faithful mission.

I felt some hope at this thought and crept down the hall to the bathroom. In the dim light, I knelt on the cold tile floor and sobbed. I begged Heavenly Father to grant me a feeling of peace so that I could have the courage to move forward.

I waited. Nothing happened. I waited some more, hearing only the sound of my crying. Finally, there was nothing to do but go back to bed.

In the moment before I fell asleep, the answer came. The Spirit filled my mind with a bright, warm impression of a beautiful place. Suddenly I knew that although I might have a hard time with fear in the beginning, if I pressed forward, I would get to where the Lord meant me to be. The thought filled me with peace, and I fell asleep.

The Spirit had hinted of beautiful things ahead. In hard moments during my stay at the MTC, I closed my eyes and remembered what I had felt. With prayer and hard work, I outlasted my fears.

It wasn't long before I found myself in Genoa, Italy, with my new companion. In the kitchen of our apartment was a glass door that led to a balcony. I stepped out on the balcony and gazed at the city. I already knew and loved this city. This was the place I had seen in my mind's eye that night at the MTC. I knew the Lord had led me to this moment, and I was right where I belonged. ■

A CHANCE TO CHANGE

By Angel Luis Sanches Notario

I have been a member of the Church for seven years. During that time, I have always known that this is the only true Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, but at one time in my life, I wasn't very active.

The problem started when our family moved to a new town. It took us a few months to identify the location of the meetinghouse we were supposed to go to and a few more weeks to start attending. I wasn't very excited about the change, and after a few weeks, I stopped attending.

One day I received an unexpected but welcome visit from my bishop. He invited me to come back to church on Sundays and to attend seminary. I decided to accept these invitations.

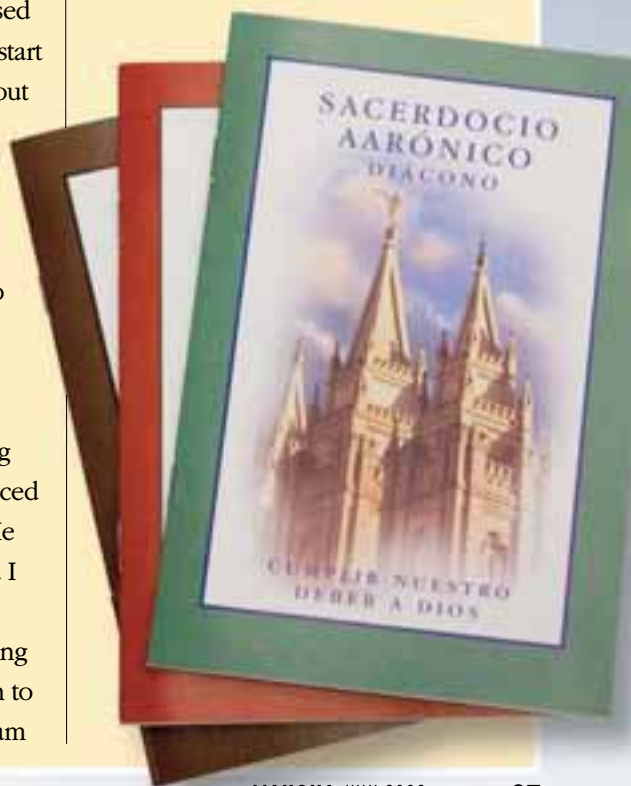
A few weeks after I started going back to church, the bishop introduced the Duty to God program to me. He explained what it consisted of, and I became interested in starting on it.

I started filling out and completing the goals in the pamphlets. I began to realize that the Duty to God program

was helping me change my life for the better. I became more active in the Church and loved going to seminary. I am trying to live the standards of the Church better, and I love to read the scriptures and the *Liahona*.

When I started the Duty to God program, I set goals such as going on a mission and attending the Latter-day Saint preparatory school Benemérito de las Américas, along with many other goals. Last fall, I received the Duty to God Award and the Melchizedek Priesthood, and I'll be going on a mission soon.

I thank my Heavenly Father each day for giving me the chance to change and become a worthy member of His Church. I am grateful for the programs and leaders of the Church that helped me change. ■



Always Make the Effort

BY ELDER OCTAVIANO TENORIO

Of the Seventy



If you want to succeed, you need to concentrate, put forth effort, and be happy with what you are doing.

When I was 15 years old, missionaries used to eat with some of our neighbors. My older sister saw them coming and going every day, and she asked them if they were selling something. They said no, and that was the way they were introduced to our family. My father, my mother, and my brothers and sisters received the lessons and were all baptized. But I didn't join. At that time I was investigating another church, but I was sincerely searching.

The 10th of May in Mexico is Mother's Day. That day, my mother asked me if I loved her. I said, "Yes, I love you."

She bore her testimony to me and asked me to be baptized. I decided to get baptized that day. The following Sunday, I was confirmed and received the gift of the Holy Ghost. At that time my life completely changed. I started reading everything I could get about the Church, especially the teachings of Joseph Smith. I had faith, and as I studied, I accepted the teachings of the Church. My faith grew as I grew in the gospel.

Making the Effort

Before I tell you two stories from my life, I would like to point out something that I used to talk to my missionaries about when I was serving as a mission president. In *Preach My Gospel*,

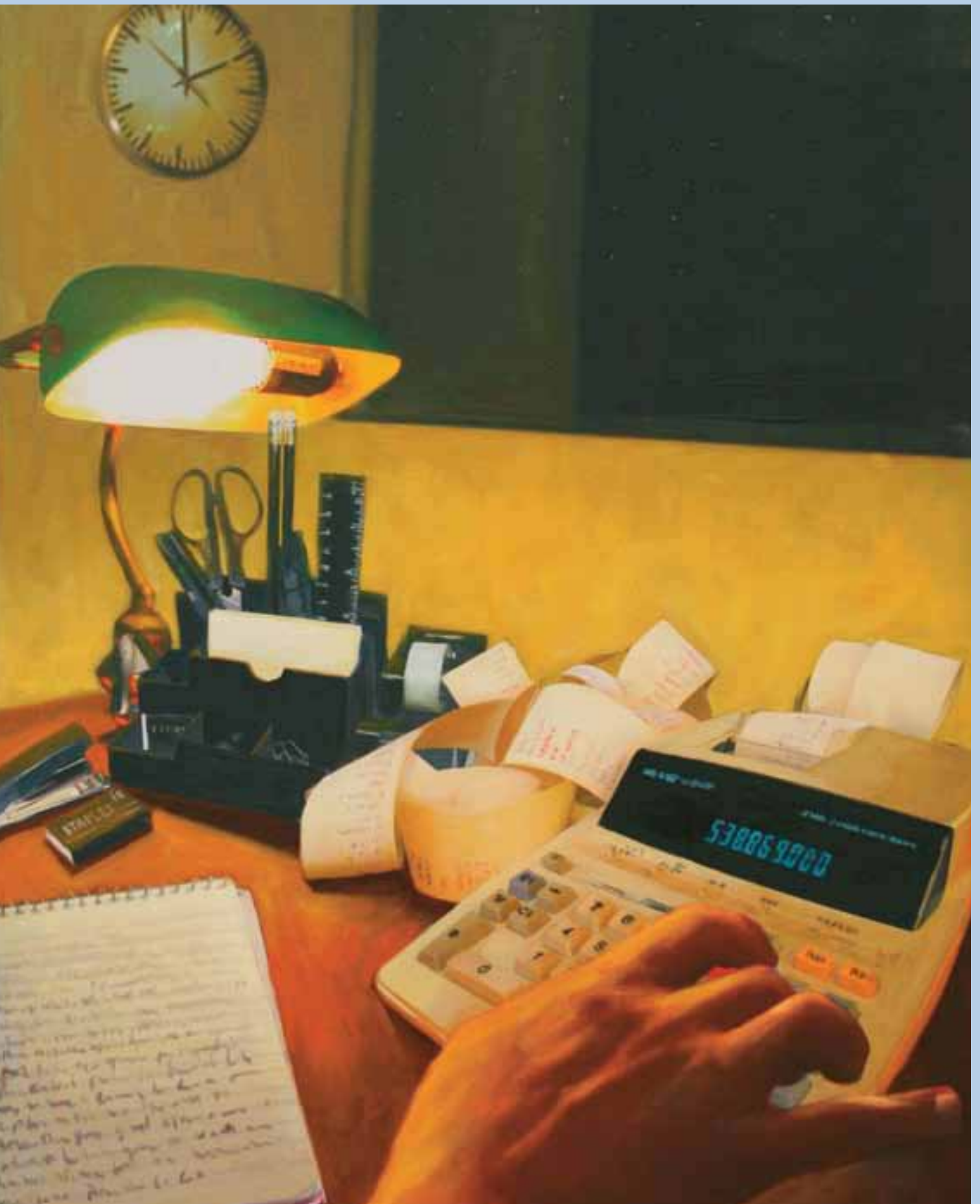
President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) is quoted as saying: "I have often said one of the greatest secrets of missionary work is work! If a missionary works, he will get the Spirit; if he gets the Spirit, he will teach by the Spirit; and if he teaches by the Spirit, he will touch the hearts of the people and he will be happy. There will be no homesickness, no worrying about families, for all time and talents and interests are centered on the work of the ministry. Work, work, work—there is no satisfactory substitute, especially in missionary work."¹

In the Spanish version of the *Missionary Guide*, which we used before *Preach My Gospel*, the word *work* was translated as *effort*. In addition to making an effort, you need to concentrate all of your time, talents, and interests. This focus is necessary for success. And if you are happy instead of angry or resentful, your work will lead to good things.

I learned this formula in my own life. I started working for a big oil company shortly after I was baptized. These truths about work came into my life and led to my progress in the company.

Practice Makes for Opportunity

One manager in particular at the company had a lot of power. He requested that each department send two people to help him do



an inventory. And he said the only requirement was that the people knew something about accounting.

I had studied at a trade school, and I had a certificate from my accounting classes. My department boss said, "Go tell him that you are going to help with the inventory and that you are an accountant." He wanted to see the reaction of the other man because I was so young.

When I arrived, the manager asked what I wanted. I answered, "I'm going to help you do the inventory." I did as I was instructed by my boss and told him I was an accountant. He laughed.

Then he said, "Well, Mr. Accountant, come to my chair. Take this adding machine, and add everything in every column as fast as you can."

I started with one finger, very slowly. He pushed me out of the chair and said, "You don't know anything; you are going to be punished. You are going to sit there in a chair in front of me for two weeks, watching how I do the work."

I moved to another chair. He said, "Watch me." He started adding so fast, not even looking at his hands. I was amazed. I thought he was joking about having me watch him work for two weeks, but he wasn't.

That first day I sat there for six or seven hours. That evening I stayed after work and waited for everyone to leave the building. Then I went to his office and changed the roll of paper in the adding machine and started practicing adding the same columns he did. For hours I worked and got faster and faster and faster. When I felt I was doing it as fast or faster than he did, I went to sleep for an hour or two.

The next morning I just washed my face and went out the front doors when they opened early, then walked in again after the manager arrived. I knocked on his door. He said, "OK, you sit there and watch what I'm doing."

When he started on the adding machine, he seemed slow to me. I had practiced for seven hours straight. I gently pushed him aside and asked him to sit in my chair. I started adding so fast. He was surprised.

He said, "What did you do?" He forced me to tell him. He said, "From now on, because you learned this, you will work with me, and I'm going to teach you everything I know."

I switched departments. After a few years he resigned, and I was able to take his place because of his recommendation. I used effort and concentration, and I was happy in what I was doing. I was not angry because he punished me at first.

The Secret to Succeeding

You can do any good thing. You just need to put forth the effort, the concentration, and be happy.

The company I was working for closed. I moved to Mexico City, and because I liked to work, I applied for a temporary job with an international editorial

company. They wanted me to take an inventory, which was something of a specialty with me. I did the inventory in two weeks. They offered me a permanent job at good pay, and I accepted.

I didn't speak English at that time. Our director, a man from Texas who didn't speak any Spanish, said to my boss, "This boy is doing good work. If he knew English, we would pay more. We would send him to New York for training, and he could eventually be a manager here."

When my boss told me that, I asked, "All I have to do is learn English?"

I was married by then. My wife spoke English because she was born in the Church colonies in Mexico. The first time I tried to speak a few words in English, someone told me not to try. It was not my gift.

Now I was motivated by the thoughts of improving my job position and having opportunities such as traveling to New York. I went to a language school and told them I wanted to learn to speak English as soon as I could.

They asked, "How much do you know?"

I said, "Not a word. Not even 'Good morning.'"

They said, "We have an intensive course: two weeks, 16 hours a day. Eight hours here with teachers and eight





hours in your home with tapes. It costs \$1,000.”

I said, “I can do that. I will ask for my vacation, and I can study 16 hours a day for two weeks.”

I went to my boss and said, “I’m going to learn English in two weeks, and you have to pay only \$1,000.” He laughed and said, “It is not possible. I learned in two years.”

I told my boss, “Ask the director to give me two weeks’ vacation and pay for the course. If after these two weeks I cannot talk to him in English, then you can take the fee out of my salary.”

He gave permission.

I went to the school. Every 45 minutes for eight hours, they changed teachers. They drilled and drilled the vocabulary, sentences, and conversations.

After eight hours in school, I went into the streets looking for English-speaking tourists to talk to. Then I listened to eight more hours of tapes.

The main reason I went to school was not to learn English. I really wanted to be a manager and go to New York City. Because I was

highly motivated, learning English wasn’t hard for me. I enjoyed every second of it.

When I finished the 224 hours of study, I could communicate somewhat in English. I knew that the test was communicating with my director. If I couldn’t, I would have to pay back the \$1,000. So I made up a plan. I would talk to him about all that I had learned. When I entered his office, I talked and talked for 20 minutes without letting him say a word. He said, “That’s enough. Send him to New York.” And I went to New York!

A Learning Experience

I can tell you that if you want to succeed in anything, you need to concentrate, put forth effort, and be happy with what you are doing. This approach can give you everything. You can learn much and achieve any worthy goal. Enjoy what you are doing, even if it is hard. Do it on a mission or in any aspect of your life. As President Benson said, “Work, work, work.” ■

NOTE

1. *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* (1988), 200.

After eight hours in school, I went looking for English-speaking tourists to talk to. I put forth the same kind of extra effort I had used to learn how to work an adding machine.

PULL TOGETHER



**Work with each other
and you'll move ahead.
(See Mosiah 18:21.)**

Charity Filled Our Hearts

By Fiona Maile

My daughters, ages 8 and 10, seemed to be growing farther and farther apart. As their mother, I ached inside to see the bickering between them and the mean looks they often directed at each other.

During this time I was praying earnestly to the Lord to help me with my own weaknesses. I prayed that He would help me learn what I needed to learn about charity, and I was led to some beautiful passages of scripture.

One night things came to a head with my daughters. I lost my temper and, after ranting and raving at them, stormed outside to cool down and think. After a few minutes, the Spirit began to soften my heart, prompting me to go inside and apologize to my eldest daughter, who had caught the worst of my temper.

As I entered her bedroom, I saw my 10-year-old daughter kneeling beside her bed, weeping. She looked up at me with tears in her eyes and said, "I don't know what to do." She told me she wanted to pray and read her scriptures so she

would feel better, but she couldn't because she felt so bad.

When she told me how sorry she felt for her part in our quarrel and then said I was not to blame, oh, what shame I felt. We talked a while and then turned to the scriptures, where I read to her about charity, "the pure love of Christ" (Moroni 7:47), and shared some of the things I had learned. At that point her younger sister looked in the room, and we invited her to join us. I then explained, in words an eight-year-old could

understand, what we had read about charity.

After I had finished, both girls turned to me with big eyes and expressed a desire to be filled with this great love spoken of in the

We embraced and expressed our love for each other. At that moment I saw an eternal sisterhood and friendship begin to bloom between my daughters.

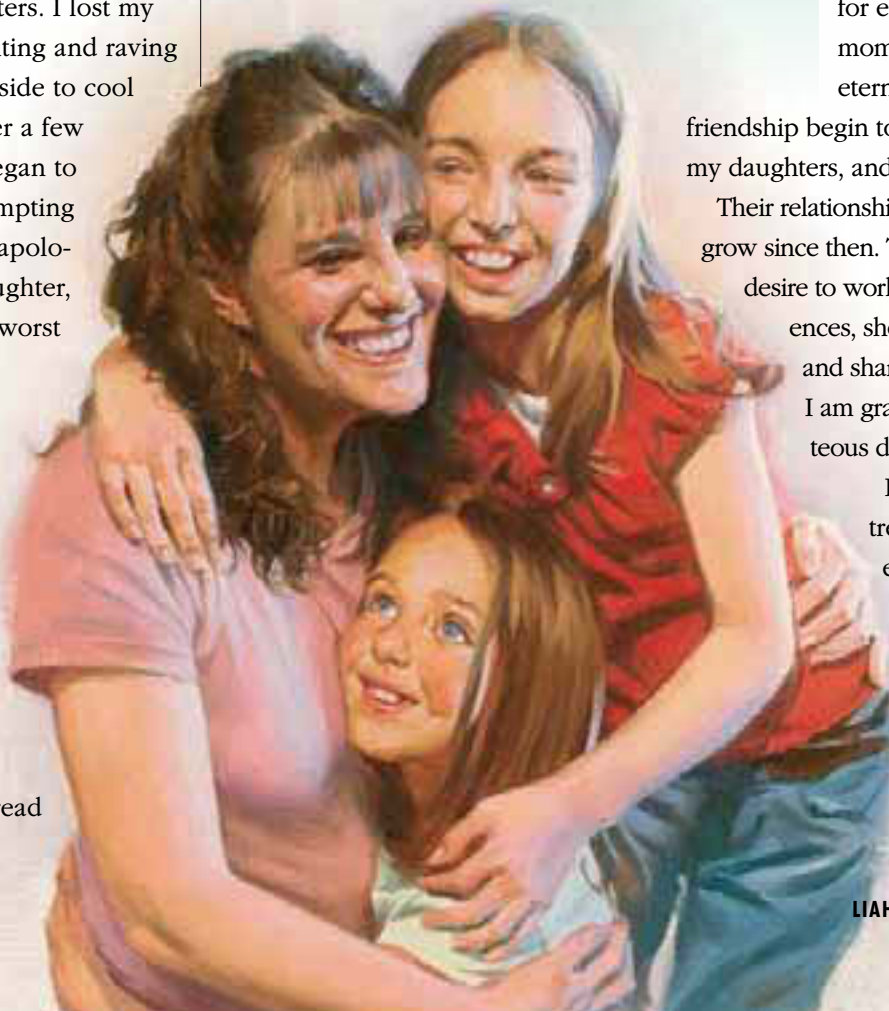
scriptures. We then knelt and, as Mormon counseled, humbly asked the Father to fill us with this love (see Moroni 7:48).

Touched by the Spirit, we could not help but weep. We rose from our knees, embraced, and expressed our love for each other. At that moment I saw an eternal sisterhood and

friendship begin to bloom between my daughters, and I was comforted.

Their relationship has continued to grow since then. They have a greater desire to work out their differences, show more patience, and share their belongings. I am grateful for their righteous desires and efforts.

I will always treasure that experience, and I pray that there will be more like it as we continue to strengthen the bonds of charity and love in our home. ■



Our Little Piece of Heaven

By Roseli de Oliveira Ribeiro

After we were baptized in 1992, my family did everything together, including attending Sunday meetings, Church conferences, and other activities. But time passed, things changed, and I eventually found myself alone at church—the rest of my family having become less active. Thereafter, whenever I heard someone in church teach about eternal families, my heart ached and a profound sadness overcame me.

In 1995 I decided to receive my patriarchal blessing to learn more of what the Lord expected of me and to receive strength. My blessing contained the following promise: through fasting, prayer, and family home evening, I would have my family “in the gospel.” I constantly prayed and fasted for my family, but I didn’t follow the counsel to hold family home evening.

I eventually left my home in São

Paulo, Brazil, to serve a mission.

While serving, I saw many broken homes, but as I studied my patriarchal blessing, I found the solution for those homes: family home evening. Through teaching people about family home evening, I saw families strengthened, couples reconciled, and siblings united. In short, I saw homes transformed into little pieces of heaven.


“If this can happen to families in my mission,” I wondered, “why not to my own family?”

After my mission I was determined to hold family home evening with my family. At first, all participated grudgingly, and I had trouble finishing my lessons as planned. But I knew the Lord wouldn’t counsel me to do something that wouldn’t be a blessing, so I didn’t give up. Eventually, the promise in my patriarchal blessing was fulfilled.

If I didn’t hold family home evening, I heard about it. Family members all participated with opinions, ideas, and counsel, and they listened attentively to the message. Even though we were older then, when game time came, we had a party!

As a result, members of my family once again began obeying commandments they had ignored, and they became more active in the Church.

I can truly say that my home was transformed into a little bit of heaven, thanks to an inspired program that should be a tradition in every home: family home evening. ■



If families I taught on my mission could be strengthened by family home evening, why not my own family?

Was I Living the Gospel Fully?

By Carolynn R. Spencer

My scripture study would have to wait. All three of our sons had awakened—and much earlier than usual. The youngest, Caden, then 18 months old, was screaming in his crib. I went into his room and saw instantly that he was sick.

Thus began a Monday of one challenge after another. At one point, shortly after I had changed Caden's clothes and tried to feed him, he flung a large jar onto the floor, spilling applesauce everywhere and sending shattered glass across the kitchen. As I was cleaning up the mess, I thought about all the things I wasn't getting done: family history, service, home storage, missionary work.

"How in the world can I do everything I know I should be doing when I am barely managing the basic tasks of my day?" I wondered. By early evening I was exhausted, but I set aside discouraging thoughts during dinner, family home evening, and the boys' bath and bedtime routine.

Finally, with the children in bed, I sat down to do what I had not had time for earlier. I picked up the May 2006 *Ensign*, which was open to a talk by President Henry B. Eyring titled "As a Child." My eyes fell on a

As I read, I wondered, "How can I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and help people spiritually and temporally when I can scarcely take care of my own family?"

passage I had previously marked: "To keep the blessing of [changed natures] in our hearts will require determination, effort, and faith. King Benjamin taught at least some of what that will require. He said that to retain a remission of our sins from day to day we must feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and help people spiritually and temporally" (*Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2006, 17).

Immediately, I again felt that I wasn't living the gospel fully. I wondered, "How can I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and help people spiritually and temporally when I can scarcely take care of my own family?"

That's when I experienced an overwhelming feeling of divine

approval. It was so clear, precise, and tangible that I knew I had to write it down so I wouldn't forget. I could see my day replay in my mind—full of feeding the hungry, doing laundry to clothe the naked (I changed Caden's outfit multiple times), gently caring for our sick baby, helping our five-year-old prepare a family home evening lesson on missionary work, and then discussing the power of example with my family—in other words, helping people spiritually and temporally.

The impression flowed with such an overpowering feeling of peace that I knew the Lord was telling me He had accepted my offering. In caring for my family, I was fulfilling the admonitions of King Benjamin and President Eyring. ■



Take Me to the Temple

By Alejandro Robles V.

One Saturday morning while I was serving in the Lima Peru Temple, a group of about 20 children from one of the Lima stakes came for a visit. After warmly shaking the hand of each child, the temple president spoke to them about the sacred work of the temple. He especially emphasized the continuation of family relationships and the meaning of the phrase “Families are forever.”

The children were reverent and listened carefully. One of these visitors was a little girl named Rosita, who was five years old. That night she stayed up late until her father returned from work, waiting for him on the edge of her bed.

When he arrived, he was surprised to see his daughter still awake. Rosita jumped off the bed and ran to him. He picked her up, and she put her arms around his neck and kissed him.

“And how is my little Rosa?” he asked.

“I am well, Papi.”

“Were you a good girl today?”

“Yes, Papi.”

“Was there something you wanted me to do for you?”

She nodded her head.

“What is it? What do you want, sweetheart?”

“Papi,” she said, pausing briefly, “when are you going to take me to the temple?”

Her father paused a few seconds before answering.

“I’m going to take you, Rosa. It’s just that I’m working hard right now, and I’m really busy. But I promise I will take you.”

“Thank you, Papi,” said Rosita, hugging and kissing her father again.

“Now go to bed and try to sleep.”

Many months later, Rosita’s family gathered in one of the sealing rooms of the temple. Moments of great rejoicing followed the sealing ceremony. Rosita’s father, with

great love and tenderness, embraced each of his children, ending with the youngest—Rosita.

“Some months ago this little girl made a trip to the temple with the Primary children from our stake,” Rosita’s father told the sealer who had performed the ceremony. “That night she waited for me to get home from work and asked me when I was going to take her to the temple. I knew she didn’t just want to see the outside of the temple, so I have had to put my life in order and get rid of my bad habits. It has taken a lot of effort, but I have finally succeeded. Today is the most beautiful day I have ever experienced because today my family has been united for all eternity.” ■

Papi,” Rosita asked her father, “when are you going to take me to the temple?”



Could Tithing Ease My Worries?

By Nancy Kay Smith

While my older children were at school and the little ones napped, I spread the household bills across the kitchen table. I began this dreaded monthly task by praying for wisdom and ability to stretch our meager income. The tithing check, as always, would be the first one written.

When I joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a young wife and mother, I had committed to pay tithing. I had never wavered from that promise. I was deeply distressed, however, by inadequate funds to cover yet another month of utility, mortgage, and insurance bills.

Now I was a single mother of six young children. I frequently felt overwhelmed by the constant workload, financial worries, and endless decisions involved in my efforts to be both mother and father with no extended family to give me relief or support.

As I sat at the table pleading with the Lord for His help and mercy, the Holy Ghost opened to my view a beautiful and comforting manifestation of the Savior's love. I was able to see the money owed for household expenses with a new perspective as the sacred priorities of life were brought to my remembrance. I knew that our

Heavenly Father wanted me to have the blessings promised to those who faithfully paid tithes and offerings. I also knew that tithing should be a joyful act of love, devoid of fear and worry.

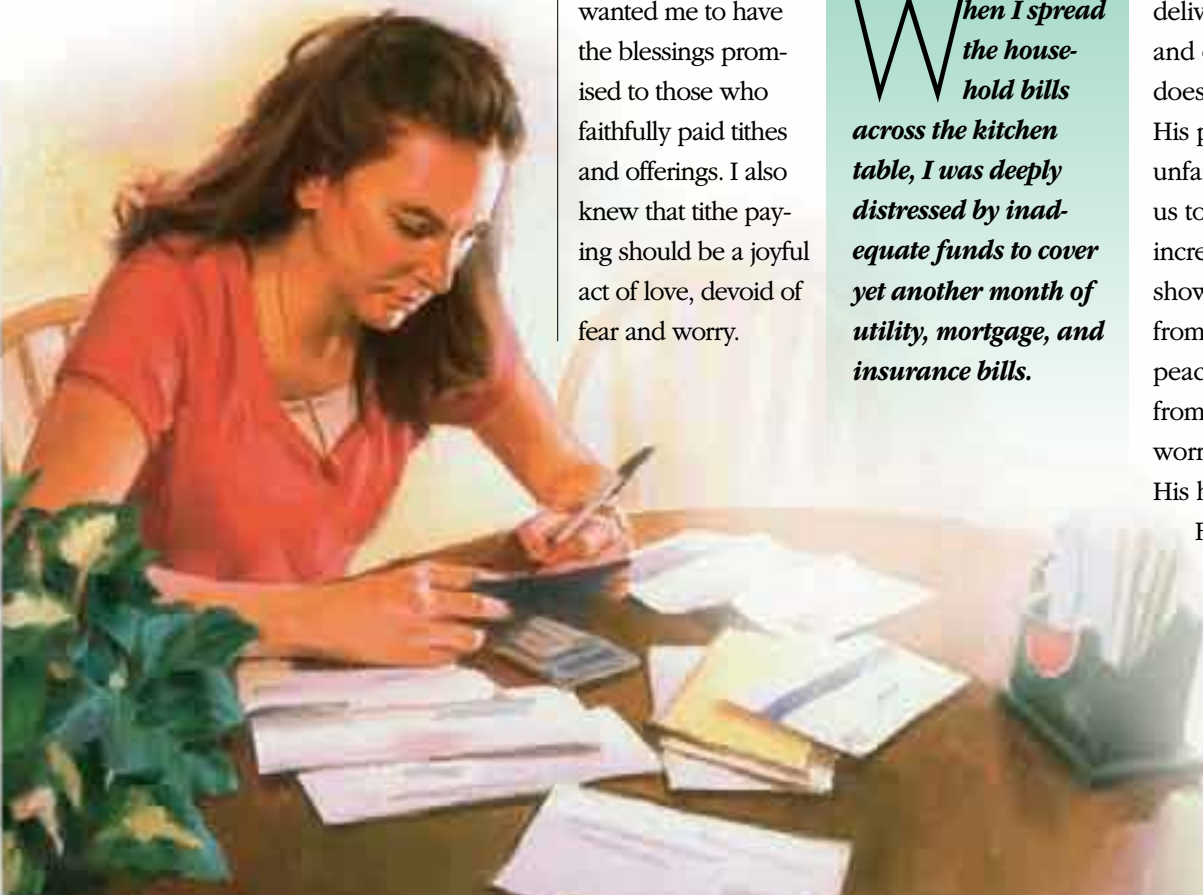
When I spread the household bills across the kitchen table, I was deeply distressed by inadequate funds to cover yet another month of utility, mortgage, and insurance bills.

As the Spirit of the Lord filled me, I found myself bearing testimony of convictions I had long held firm and sacred. My voice broke the silence of the kitchen as I declared that I would rather lose the water source to my house than lose the living water offered by the Savior. I would rather have no food on our table than be without the Bread of Life. I would prefer to endure the darkness and discomfort of no electricity than to forfeit the Light of Christ in my life. I would rather abide with my children in a tent than relinquish my privilege of entering the house of the Lord.

The burden of worry immediately lifted. My love for the Lord overcame the weakness generated by my fears.

Our Heavenly Father is our deliverer, our benefactor, and our protector. He truly does supply all our needs. His promises are sure and unfailing. He commands us to pay tithing on our increase so that He may shower down blessings from heaven—including peace of mind, freedom from worldly and material worry, and confidence in His holy name.

From that day forward I have counted it a joy to pay my tithing, without reservation or fear, to Him and for Him who first loved me. ■



FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

These teaching suggestions can be used in the classroom as well as in the home. You may tailor these ideas to your family or class.

“Scripture Stories as Patterns for Our Lives,”

p. 16: Begin by reading the account of David and Goliath, using the model from the article. As you tell another scripture story, search for the “they-there-then.” List these on paper. Ask how the story parallels our day, listing the “I-here-now.” Discuss how this method could help your personal and family scripture study.

“Modesty: A Timeless Principle for All,” p. 28: Prayerfully prepare this lesson, as this topic could be a sensitive one. Explain modesty and why it is important, using the sections “What Is Modesty?” “Why Modesty?” and “A



Timeless Principle.” Emphasize the idea that modesty invites the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Tell the story from the section “Blessings

Associated with Modesty,” and invite family members to share blessings they have received or observed from dressing modestly.

“Beautiful Things Ahead,”

p. 36: Read the story, and have family members list situations that require courage. (You may need to explain the concept of courage to younger children. The stories on pages F6–F7 are good examples.) Discuss how the missionary gained courage and how family members can apply the same principle to the items on their lists.

“Always Make the Effort,” p. 38: Give a towel to each family member. Ask each person to fold the towel

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with one hand behind his or her back, and see who can fold it the fastest. Share the stories from Elder Octaviano Tenorio’s life. Discuss what qualities he had that helped him reach his goals. Ask family members to fold the towels with both hands in front of them. Discuss why giving a full effort helps achieve a better result.

Scripture Plays in Family Home Evening

When our two children were preschoolers, we occasionally struggled to keep their attention in family home evening. One week when we were planning a lesson on obedience, my wife and I agreed we would share the story of Ammon. We also felt that after we had shared the story from the scripture reader, we should try acting it out. We gathered toy animals for sheep and made a

simple paper sword. Our children loved it and asked to do it again and again. Later that week, both asked which story we were going to play out next Monday.

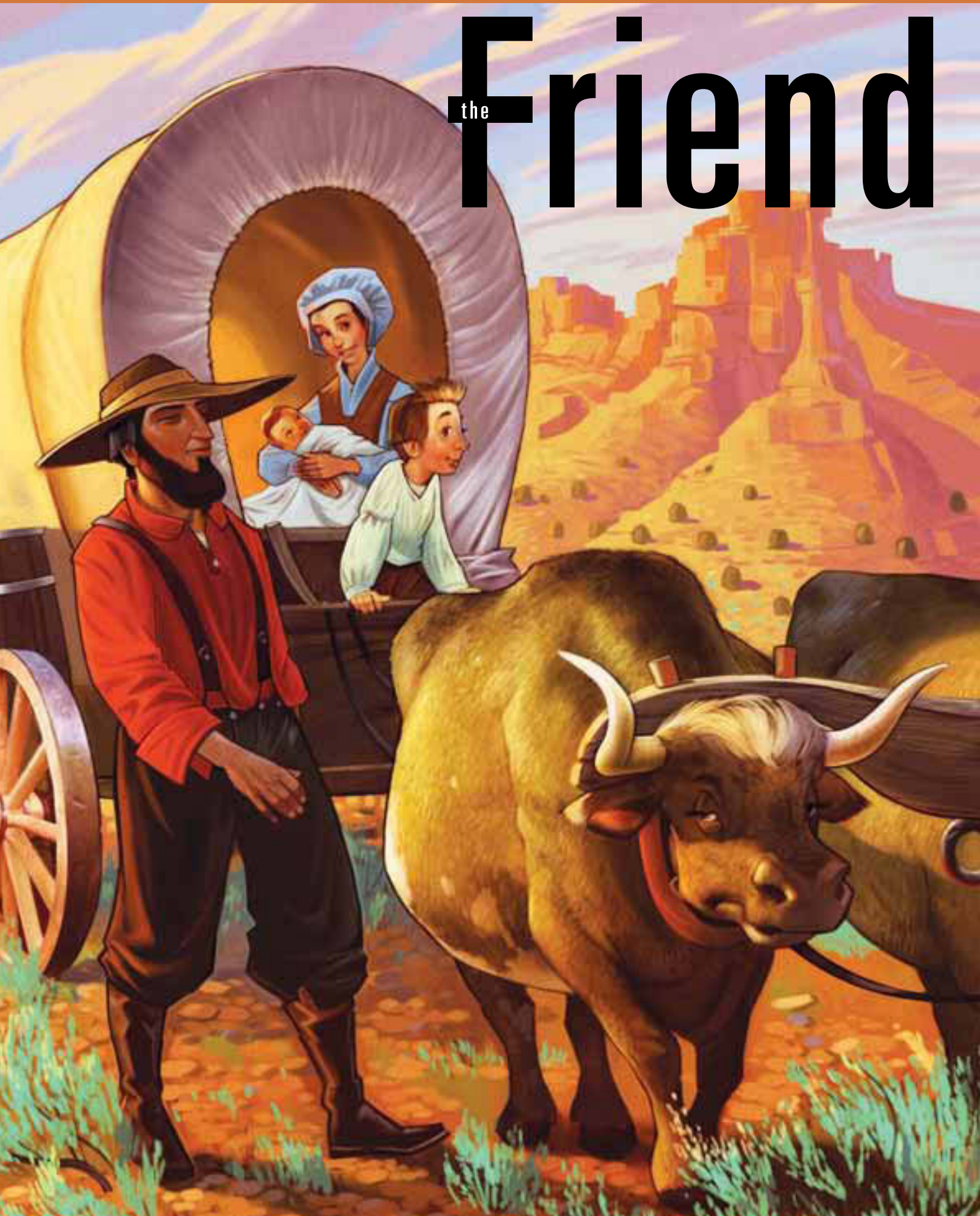
Over the next few years, we included “scripture plays” in our family home evenings several times. Our children often helped us find or make simple props after we had reviewed the story in family scripture reading. We even saw

them rehearsing the stories in their playtime.

We acted out Nephi retrieving the plates, Noah building the ark, David confronting Goliath, the experiences of pioneers, and many others. We pointed out gospel principles we learned from these examples, and our children were able to testify how Heavenly Father helps us in similar ways today.

Scott and Connie Mooy, Utah, USA

the Friend



BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

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



When you look at your newspaper and your television, you don't see much about peace. Every day the news is filled with violence across the world.

The Savior said, "And blessed are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (3 Nephi 12:9).

When I read that as a boy, I wondered about the promise. It didn't sound like anything very glorious. But I see now that the promise is both glorious and sure.



Those who will have eternal life are the children of God.

I testify that God knows you. He cares about those around you, and He loves you. You are His disciple, and that makes you a light to people. When you act with faith to offer the gospel and peace to those around you, they will feel the light of the Savior. You will have pointed the way.

I testify to you that God lives; Jesus is the Christ. I feel His love for you. I know the Savior spoke the truth when He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." ●

From an address given at Brigham Young University on February 6, 1994.

AN UNPEACEFUL FAMILY HOME EVENING

Every home has times when a peacemaker is needed. President and Sister Eyring have four sons and two daughters. Once when their children were young, President Eyring was teaching a family home evening lesson about peace. While he was teaching, he noticed that two of his little boys were kicking each other! But as those two boys grew older, they learned how to be peacemakers and became each other's greatest friends and helpers.

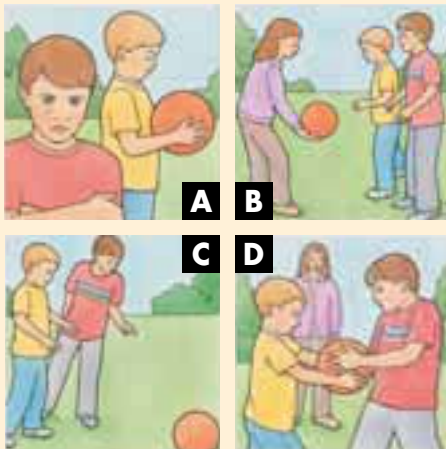
When are some times that your family needs a peacemaker?

What can you do to help?



PEACEMAKER WANTED!

Here's a situation when a peacemaker was needed. Put the pictures in order from first to last to see how one child's desire to be a peacemaker affected her family.



ANSWER: THE RIGHT ORDER IS C, A, D, B.



HOW WE GOT THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the peacemakers” is one of the teachings of Jesus called “the Beatitudes” (see Matthew 5:1–11). The Beatitudes are ways to live a happy life. Each one tells a certain blessing we receive when we follow a certain teaching. This is how we got the Beatitudes:

- 1.** One day a crowd of people was following Jesus. They had heard He could heal people and do other miracles. They wanted to hear Him teach.
- 2.** Jesus was near a hill, or mount. He walked a little way up the hillside and gave a talk, or sermon.
- 3.** In His sermon, Jesus taught the people how they should live so God could bless them. The word *beatitude* means “to be happy” or “to be blessed.”
- 4.** The talk Jesus gave that day is called the Sermon on the Mount. After He was resurrected, Jesus gave a similar sermon to the people in the Americas when He visited them (see 3 Nephi 12:3–11).



Our Family Will Be Strong

“And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably” (Mosiah 4:13).

BY CHERYL ESPLIN



A rope is made up of many strands that are tightly woven together. If one strand is broken or cut, it weakens the rope.

Your family can be compared to a rope. Each member can represent a strand. When you work together for good, the whole family becomes stronger. Every family member has a responsibility to help strengthen one another.

Think about Nephi and how he helped strengthen his family. While they were traveling in the wilderness, Nephi's bow broke. They couldn't get any food, and they were all tired and hungry. Many family members were angry with Nephi, and they murmured against the Lord.

Nephi didn't murmur or get angry. He made another bow out of wood and an arrow out of a straight stick. He asked his father, Lehi, where he should go to hunt for food. Nephi was then able to get food for his family. They were happy, and they humbled themselves and gave thanks unto the Lord. (See 1 Nephi 16:18–32.)

You and your family members can help each other be strong by praying together, helping each other, showing kindness and love, reading scriptures together, enjoying activities together, and having family home evening.

Activity

Remove page F5 from the magazine, and mount it on heavy paper. In family home evening, talk about things that can strengthen your family. Write these ideas on the chart. Two ideas have already been suggested. Hang the chart where your family can see it and refer to it often.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Family prayer strengthens my family. While the oldest class reads 3 Nephi 18:21 out loud, ask the other children to listen for what Jesus Christ commands us to do (pray in our

families). Get responses. Ask six children to come to the front of the room. Tape one of the following wordstrips on each child in random order: family, prayer, will, strengthen, my, family. Ask the other children to help unscramble the children so the words are in the right order. Recite the sentence together. Show Gospel Art Picture Kit 606 (Family Prayer), and explain that we are encouraged to have family prayer every night and every morning. Let the children suggest things they can do to help with their family prayers. Write their suggestions on the board. Have the children close their eyes and picture their families kneeling in prayer while you sing a song or hymn about prayer. Hand out pencils and pieces of paper that say “Family prayer will strengthen my family.” Ask the children to draw their families kneeling in prayer. Encourage them to take the picture home and hang it in a place where it will remind their families to have family prayer.

2. Reading the scriptures strengthens my family. Display the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. Play a guessing game by giving clues to help them guess which of the four books you are referring to. For example: “This book tells about Joseph Smith's history and has the Articles of Faith” (Pearl of Great Price). As each book of scripture is identified, have the children repeat its name together. Teach that the scriptures are the word of God. They teach about Jesus Christ and His gospel. The scriptures can strengthen our families if we will read them regularly. Pass out one of the following scripture references to each class: Exodus 20:12; John 13:34; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Nephi 3:7; 3 Nephi 18:21; Doctrine and Covenants 59:7. Give each child a blank wordstrip and a pencil. Tell the children to follow along while their teacher reads the scripture. Then each child should find one thing the scripture says that would help his or her family be strong and happy. Have the children write it down on a wordstrip and then share with class members. Invite each class to read their wordstrips to the rest of the Primary. Tell an experience when the scriptures have strengthened your family. Encourage the children to read the scriptures individually and as a family. ●

Our Family Will Be Strong

1. Our family can pray together.

2. Our family can spend time together.

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

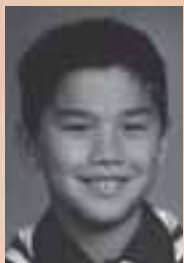


Trying to Be Like Jesus

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



TEACHING A FRIEND



I went on a two-day school field trip with other fifth and sixth graders to study paleontology. I shared a motel room with three of my friends. One of my friends found a Bible in the nightstand drawer. He flipped through

some of the pages and then asked me if I would help him read it. I was surprised that he didn't know any of the Bible stories I thought everyone knew. I taught him about the Creation, Adam and Eve, and the Resurrection. I also told him about Joseph Smith. I told him some of the stories I learned in Primary.

Afterward, I felt like we should have a prayer. I let my friend say the prayer. I led him through it by saying one phrase at a time and having him repeat it. I had a warm feeling, and my friend said he felt good inside.

I never expected that to happen on a school field trip. I was glad that when I had an opportunity to be a missionary, I was prepared and I wasn't afraid to share my beliefs. ●

Christian S., age 10, Arizona, USA

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS

When I was little and learning to read, it was really hard. But with my mom's and Heavenly Father's help, I learned to read. My best friend, Renzo, was also having a hard time learning to read.

One day I told him that I would give him a secret to help him learn to read because it worked for me. We went into the schoolyard. I

taught Renzo how to pray, and he said a prayer to Heavenly Father, asking for help.

At the end of the school year, both Renzo and I received a medal of honor in reading because of Heavenly Father's help. I know Heavenly Father answers our prayers. ●

Edis Hazel T., age 11, El Salvador

SUNDAY FOOTBALL



My football team went to a tournament on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. My mom asked me what I was going to do about Sunday's game. I said I didn't know what to do. My dad encouraged me to pray, so I prayed about it. That night, the song "Nephi's Courage"¹ got stuck in my head. I knew Heavenly Father answered my

prayers through that song so I would remember to have courage to obey His commandments. On Sunday after church, I knew my team was playing. I was a little sad that I couldn't help my team, but I knew I was doing the right thing. I am glad that Heavenly Father helped me make the right choice, even though it was hard to make. ●

DJ W., age 9, South Dakota, USA

NOTE

1. "Nephi's Courage," *Children's Songbook*, 120–21.

THE IMMODEST COSTUME



For the year-end program at my school, we were putting on a musical. I was so excited, especially when I got a part.

I went to all the rehearsals even though no one could drive me there. But when my teacher showed us the costume we were to wear, I was disappointed. It was immodest.

I told my teacher that I would not wear the costume, and she was upset with me. She told me that none of the other girls had a problem with the costume and if I didn't want to wear it, I couldn't perform. She even tried to get my mom to pressure me to wear it. But I knew I had to keep the commandments, so I said I wouldn't perform.

Then, just a few days before the program, the teacher got new costumes that were modest. I'm happy that I didn't think that "just this one time" it would be OK to be immodest. ●

Estera C., age 12, with help from Cecilia Squarcia, Italy

MODESTY

The Invisible Visitor

“All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them” (Matthew 7:12).

BY HEIDI PYPER

Based on a true story

Julia’s heart pounded as she peeked into the empty room. The Primary classroom, with its half circle of folding chairs and dusty chalkboard, looked exactly like hers at home. But Julia’s stomach flip-flopped as she walked through the door. Things might look the same, but Julia knew they weren’t. Today she was a visitor.

Julia sank into the chair farthest from the door. She loved everything about her family’s summer visits to see cousins and grandparents, except for being a visitor in a different ward. Singing Primary songs and learning about the Savior was nice, but she didn’t like sitting by herself and not knowing anyone.

Julia also didn’t like listening to the other kids talk and laugh together while no one even looked at her. To her, it felt like no one cared if she came or not. It was like being invisible—Julia, the amazing invisible visitor!

Julia twirled her long blonde braids and wished she were back home with her own Primary teacher, Sister Johansson, and her best friend, Hanna. “Maybe this time will be different,” she told herself as she adjusted her glasses and smoothed her skirt one more time. “Maybe if I try really hard, I can make it different.”

Julia jumped as the door opened. Three girls stepped into the room, talking excitedly. Two boys followed. Julia took a quick breath and forced her mouth into a smile.

“Hi!” she burst out. Suddenly everyone’s eyes were on her. Julia’s face got hot.

“Uh, hi,” mumbled one of the girls.

“Are you new?” another girl asked.

Julia cleared her throat. “No, I’m just visiting my grandma.”

“Oh.”

Everyone chose a seat. Julia’s smile faded when she



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JENNIFER TOWMAN



"We cannot fully love God without loving our neighbor. We cannot fully love our neighbor without loving God."

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Blessed Are the Peacemakers," *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 40.



realized that each chair was taken except the one next to her. No one said a word to Julia. She stared at her hands. "The amazing invisible visitor strikes again," she thought. A tear slid down her cheek.

A week later Julia's heart seemed to float as she hurried down the hallway at church. It was so good to be home! When she walked into her classroom, Hanna was already there.

"Hi, Julia! I'm so glad you're back!" Hanna said. Julia sat down next to Hanna. Soon they were laughing and talking. Julia had just started to tell Hanna all about her week with Grandma when a tall, slender girl with reddish-gold hair appeared in the doorway. Julia watched the girl slip into the chair farthest from the door and sit by herself.

"She must be a visitor," Julia thought. "Boy, am I glad



it's not me this time!" The girl raised her eyes to look around and then stared down at her hands. Julia's heart twisted as no one said a word to the visitor. "I wish being the visitor didn't have to be so hard," she thought. "It should be different!" Last Sunday flashed through her mind for a moment as she remembered being the sad, invisible visitor. She blinked. Wait a minute—she could make it different this time!

Julia stood up. "Hi," she said with a smile. She crossed the room and sat down in the chair next to the girl. "Are you visiting today?"

The girl looked up with wide eyes, and then her face lit up. "Yes, I'm visiting my aunt. Are you visiting too?"

Julia shook her head. "No, but I know how it is,"

she explained. "I'm Julia. What's your name?"

"Ella."

"Want to come over and sit with Hanna and me?"

Ella grinned and nodded. As the two girls moved back across the room, Julia felt warm inside. "No invisible visitors allowed!" she thought. "Not if I can help it!" ●

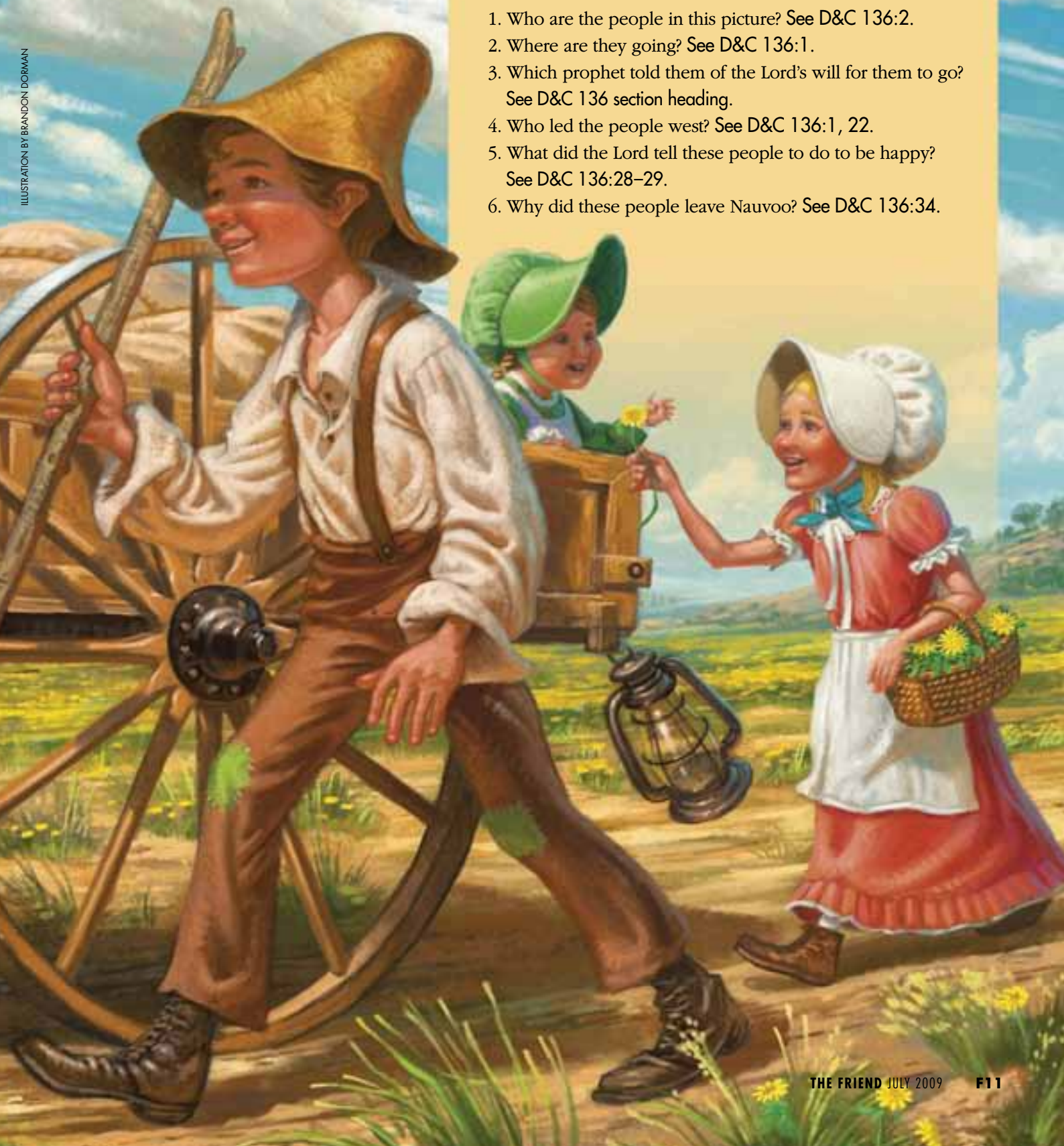
FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEA

Role-play this story by having family members take turns coming into the room pretending they are visitors to a Primary class. Practice different ways of welcoming the person into the class. Conclude by reading and discussing Matthew 7:12.



Going West

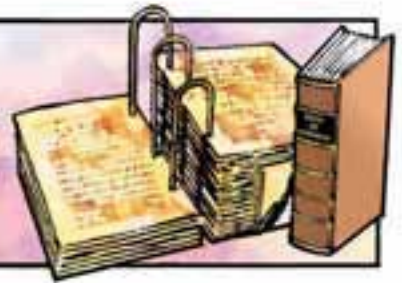
1. Who are the people in this picture? See D&C 136:2.
2. Where are they going? See D&C 136:1.
3. Which prophet told them of the Lord's will for them to go? See D&C 136 section heading.
4. Who led the people west? See D&C 136:1, 22.
5. What did the Lord tell these people to do to be happy? See D&C 136:28–29.
6. Why did these people leave Nauvoo? See D&C 136:34.





FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

The Prophet's Voice



When Joseph Smith spoke to a congregation, the people listened. He held their attention for hours at a time, and often the children preferred to listen to the Prophet rather than to play.



Joseph would often speak outside so that more people could hear him. On one such day in Nauvoo, a heavy wind and storm came up in the middle of his preaching.

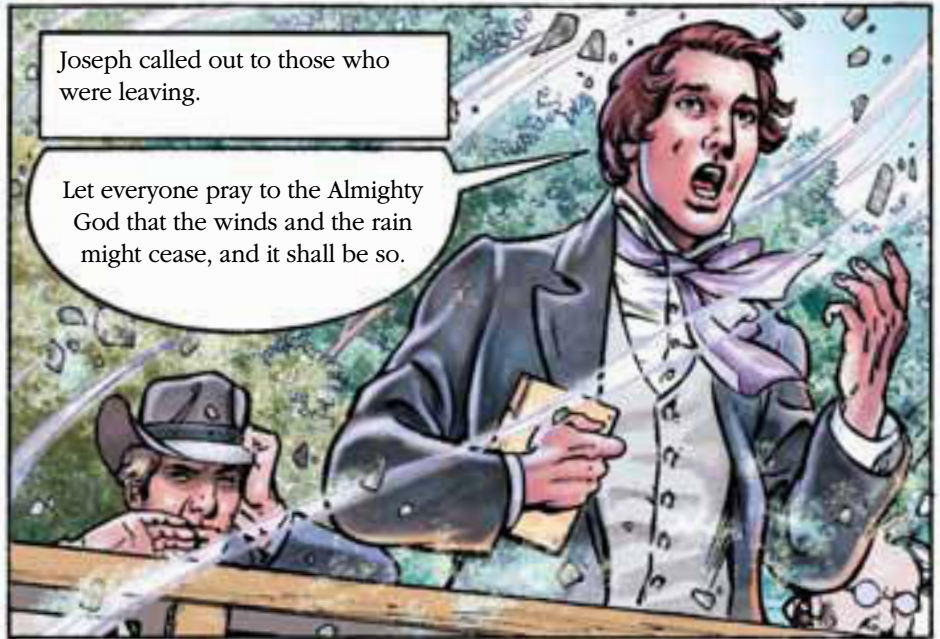
This dust is so thick; I can't see anything.

Let's go home before it gets worse.



Joseph called out to those who were leaving.

Let everyone pray to the Almighty God that the winds and the rain might cease, and it shall be so.



O Father, bless that the wind and the rain will cease.



After several minutes, the storm divided. The bushes and trees on either side of the group were waving in the wind, but there was calm where Joseph spoke.

Now, brothers and sisters, I would like to speak to you about some important truths.

An hour later the Prophet concluded, and the storm returned.

Return quickly to your homes and think about what I have said.

Hurry, children.

Joseph's preaching and way of living were so powerful that many bore strong testimonies of the truth of the gospel and of Joseph's calling as the Prophet.

I know him to be what he professed to be—a true prophet of God.

He was a true prophet of the living God; and the more I heard his sayings and saw his doings, the more I was convinced.

Today, the Prophet Joseph Smith is still remembered by millions around the world who know he was called of God to restore the gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth.

Praying and Singing to Heavenly Father

"The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads" (D&C 25:12).

When I was a little boy, I used to lose things. I would look all around, but I couldn't find them. After going through the house two or three times without finding anything, I would pray to Heavenly Father to help me. When I started looking

again, I would find what I was missing. That happened to me several times as a child.

Those times helped me learn to trust that Heavenly Father hears and answers my prayers.

When I was older, my testimony was strengthened as Heavenly Father answered my prayers. Heavenly Father never fails you.



From an interview with Elder Michael John U. Teh of the Seventy, currently serving as Second Counselor in the Philippines Area Presidency; by Sarah Cutler

The scriptures say, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). I know that if you ask with a sincere heart and with real intent, Heavenly Father will give you the answers you seek.

When I was young, I loved Primary songs. I loved to sing them, even though I didn’t always understand all the words. As I grew older, I remembered the songs, and they helped me do the right things. I still love to sing the songs. I remember “Our Primary colors are one, two, three—red, yellow, and blue. Each one has a message for you and me. Each is a symbol true!”¹ I also remember “If you chance to meet a frown, do not let it stay. Quickly turn it upside down and smile that frown away.”² The song about the

wise man and the foolish man is another one of my favorites.³

I know Primary songs have been a source of strength for me. Now it makes me happy to see children learning Primary songs. I know the songs will help you the way they helped me.

Praying and singing Primary songs when I was a little boy helped me to get to know Heavenly Father. I know I’m a child of God. I’ve always known it. Even when I make mistakes, He is loving and generous to me. I have learned that when you do even one simple, small right thing, He pours out blessings upon you. There’s no doubt about it. He knows me. He loves me. I am His son.

Like me, you are a child of our Father in Heaven. No matter what happens, even if others turn their backs to you, our Father in Heaven will not. He’s always there. He loves you. ●

NOTES

1. “Our Primary Colors,” *Children’s Songbook*, 258.
2. “Smiles,” *Children’s Songbook*, 267.
3. See “The Wise Man and the Foolish Man,” *Children’s Songbook*, 281.



I WILL STRENGTHEN MY FAMILY

“And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably” (Mosiah 4:13).



Crossing the Sandridge, by Jeremy Winborg

When newly married Robert and Annie Brighton Thornley traveled from their home in northern Utah in 1859 to pick up supplies, one of their oxen gave out in an area called the Sandridge. They continued on for 20 miles (32 km) with Robert sharing the yoke with the healthy ox.

When they arrived at Maughan's Fort, the only food available was sugar beets, which the Thornleys then lived on during the winter.



Nova, Vera, Georgina, Karen, and Rebecca are among the pioneering members of the Church in Ghana, Africa.

For the paintings and stories of other Latter-day Saints in Ghana, see "Pioneers in Ghana," p. 12.

