



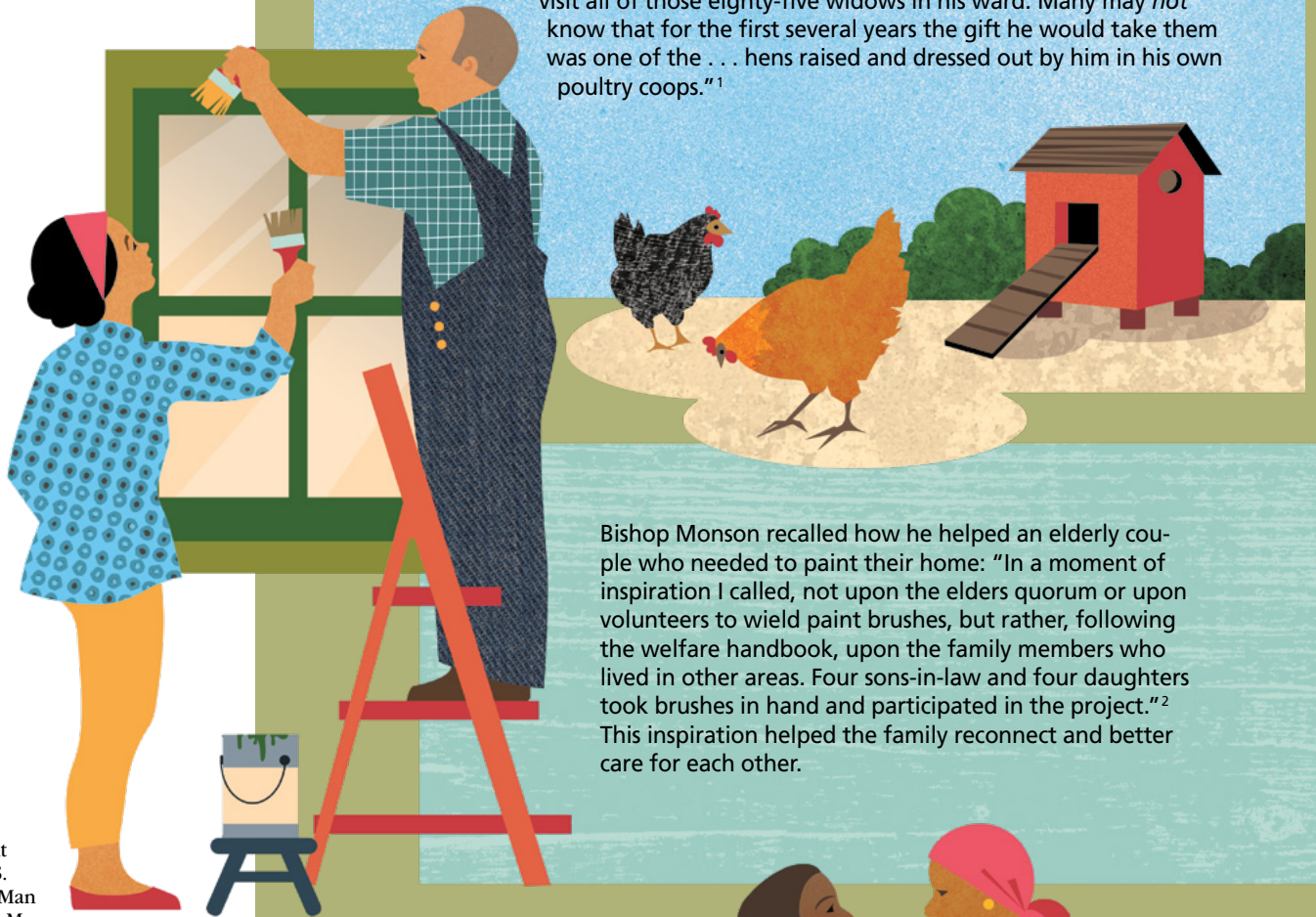
Ministering to Our Fellow Travelers

“**S**uccor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees” (Doctrine and Covenants 81:5).

President Thomas S. Monson: An Example of Ministering

Age when called as bishop: 22
Number of ward members: over 1,000
Number of widows in his ward: 85

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shared how Bishop Monson cared for the widows: “Many may know that young Bishop Monson took a week of his personal vacation time every Christmas season to visit all of those eighty-five widows in his ward. Many may *not* know that for the first several years the gift he would take them was one of the . . . hens raised and dressed out by him in his own poultry coops.”¹



Bishop Monson recalled how he helped an elderly couple who needed to paint their home: “In a moment of inspiration I called, not upon the elders quorum or upon volunteers to wield paint brushes, but rather, following the welfare handbook, upon the family members who lived in other areas. Four sons-in-law and four daughters took brushes in hand and participated in the project.”² This inspiration helped the family reconnect and better care for each other.

NOTES

1. Jeffrey R. Holland, “President Thomas S. Monson: Man of Action, Man of Faith, Always ‘on the Lord’s Errand,’” *Ensign*, Feb. 1986, 12–13.
2. Thomas S. Monson, “The Bishop—Center Stage in Welfare,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1980, 89.
3. Thomas S. Monson, “Love—the Essence of the Gospel,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 91.

“We cannot truly love God if we do not love our fellow travelers on this mortal journey.”³ —President Thomas S. Monson

