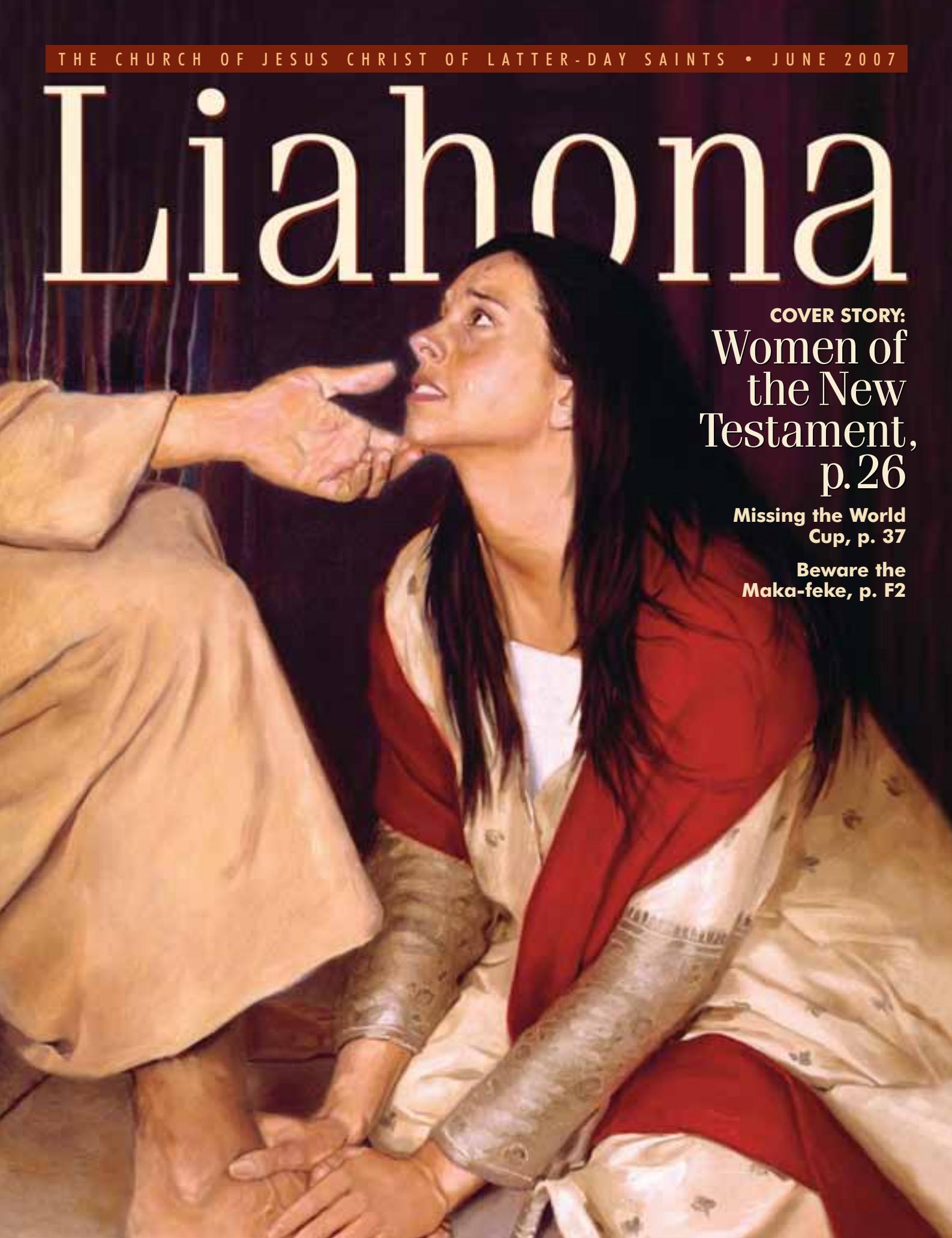


THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • JUNE 2007

# Liāhona

A painting of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red coat over a white shirt, looking up with a surprised expression. A hand in a tan sleeve reaches down towards her face. The background is dark with vertical streaks of light.

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the New  
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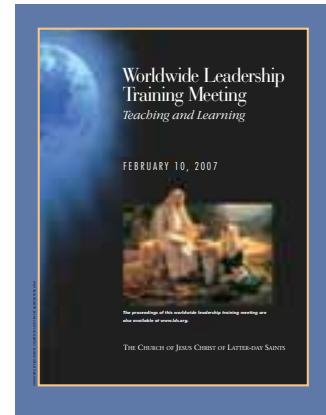
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### FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

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

#### "Put Light in Your

**Life," p. 16:** Have one family member put a box or basket over his or her head. Ask that person to describe what he or she sees. Ask how that experience is similar to spiritual darkness. Select examples from the article to teach what gives us spiritual light.



#### "Supporting Your Bishop,"

p. 30: Have family members write down challenges they face or

may face. Determine the most appropriate people to help with these challenges.

(Answers may include parents, home or visiting teachers, the bishop.)

Read the section "Lighten His Load," and review the bishop's roles. Discuss ways the family can better support and sustain the bishop. Plan a family activity to

## FOR YOUTH

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37 Missing the World Cup *Suzana Alves de Melo*  
48 Poster: Choose



37 Missing the World Cup

do something nice for your bishop or branch president.

### "Missing the World Cup," p. 37:

As you read the story, have family members listen for ways that

Fabiana was a good example. For an activity, toss a ball to different members of the family. As they catch the ball, have them share how they can be positive examples to others.

### "It Made Us a Family," p. 38:

Discuss and evaluate past family home evenings. Review the six things the author's family did to

## F10 Kindness



## THE FRIEND: FOR CHILDREN

- F2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: Deadly Maka-fekes *President Thomas S. Monson*  
F4 Sharing Time: Remember *Elizabeth Ricks*  
F6 From the Life of President Spencer W. Kimball: The Power of Example  
F8 For Little Friends: Remember Jesus Christ during the Sacrament  
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F12 A Miraculous Escape from Danger *Myra Hawke Dyck*  
F16 Coloring Page

## F2 Deadly Maka-fekes



As you look for the CTR ring hidden in this issue, think of how you can keep baptismal covenants.

make their home evenings successful. Create a chart to track family home evening assignments, and brainstorm future family home evening themes.

### "Deadly Maka-fekes," p. F2:

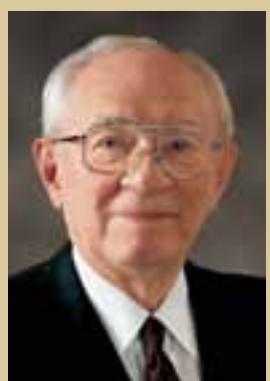
Describe a maka-feke, and list some of the temptations Satan uses to entice people. Have family members draw examples of these modern maka-fekes. Find scriptures that illustrate how to avoid and overcome these temptations. Discuss how to say no to bad things.

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# An Unending Conflict, a Victory Assured

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY



*We are engaged in a great eternal struggle that concerns the very souls of the sons and daughters of God.*

Early 10 decades have passed now since my birth, and for the better part of that time, there has been war among mankind in one part of the earth or another. No one can ever estimate the terrible suffering incident to these wars across the globe. Lives numbered in the millions have been lost. The terrible wounds of war have left bodies maimed and minds destroyed. Families have been left without fathers and mothers. Young people who have been recruited to fight have, in many instances, died while those yet alive have had woven into the very fabric of their natures elements of hatred which will never leave them. The treasure of nations has been wasted and will never be recovered.

The devastation of war seems so unnecessary and such a terrible waste of human life and national resources. We ask, will this terrible, destructive way of handling disagreements among the sons and daughters of God ever end?

But there is another war that has gone on since before the world was created and that is likely to continue for a long time. It is a war that reaches beyond questions of territory or national sovereignty. John the Revelator speaks of that struggle:

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

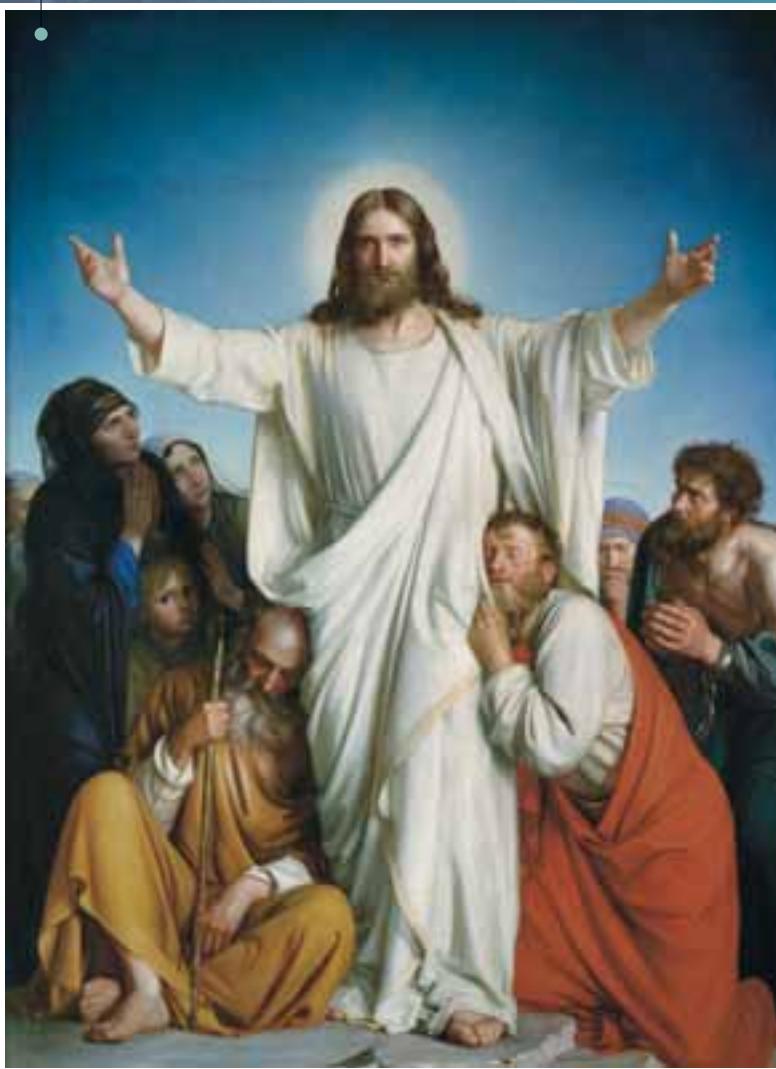
"And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:7–9).

CROSSING THE RED SEA (GOUACHE ON PAPER) © LOOK AND LEARN/THE BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY, MAY NOT BE COPIED







### The Continuing Struggle

That war, so bitter, so intense, has never ceased. It is the war between truth and error, between agency and compulsion, between the followers of Christ and those who have denied Him. His enemies have used every stratagem in that conflict. They've indulged in lying and deceit. They've employed money and wealth. They've tricked the minds of men. They've murdered and destroyed and engaged in every kind of evil practice to thwart the work of Christ.

Murder began on the earth when Cain slew Abel. The Old Testament is replete with accounts of the same eternal struggle.

It found expression in the vile accusations against the Man of Galilee, the Christ, who healed the sick and lifted men's hearts and hopes, He who taught the gospel of peace. His enemies, motivated by that evil power, seized Him, tortured Him, nailed Him to the cross, and spoke in

mockery against Him. But by the power of His godhood, He overcame the death His enemies had inflicted and through His sacrifice brought salvation from death to all men.

That eternal war went on in the decay of the work He established, in the corruption which later infected it, when darkness covered the earth and gross darkness the people (see Isaiah 60:2).

But the forces of God could not be vanquished. The Light of Christ touched the heart of a man here and a man there, and vast good came to pass notwithstanding much of oppression and suffering.

There came a time of renaissance, with struggles for liberty—struggles for which much of blood and sacrifice was paid. The Spirit of God

moved upon men to found a nation wherein freedom of worship and freedom of expression and freedom of agency were protected. There followed then the opening of the dispensation of the fulness of times with a visit to earth of God the Eternal Father and His Beloved Son, the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. This glorious event was followed by visits of angels restoring the ancient keys and priesthood.

But the war was not over. It was renewed and redirected. There was contempt. There was persecution. There were drivings from one place to another. There was the murder of the young prophet of God and of his beloved brother, 163 years ago this month.

The Latter-day Saints fled their comfortable homes, their farms, their fields, their shops, their beautiful temple built at such tremendous sacrifice. They came to mountain valleys, thousands of them dying along the way. They came to the kind of place that President Joseph Smith had instructed



the Twelve to find, “where the devil cannot dig us out.”<sup>1</sup>

But the adversary has never stopped trying. In the October conference of 1896, President Wilford Woodruff (1807–98), then an aged man, stood in the Tabernacle on Temple Square and said:

“There are two powers on the earth and in the midst of the inhabitants of the earth—the power of God and the power of the devil. In our history we have had some very peculiar experiences. When God has had a people on the earth, it matters not in what age, Lucifer, the son of the morning, and the millions of fallen spirits that were cast out of heaven, have warred against God, against Christ, against the work of God, and against the people of God. And they are not backward in doing it in our day and generation. Whenever the Lord set His hand to perform any work, those powers labored to overthrow it.”<sup>2</sup>

President Woodruff knew whereof he spoke. He had then only recently passed through those difficult and perilous days when the government of the nation had come against our people, determined to destroy this Church as an organization. Despite the difficulties of those days, the Saints did not give up. In faith they moved forward. They put their trust in the Almighty, and He revealed unto them the path they should follow. In faith they accepted that revelation and walked in obedience.

#### The Pattern of Conflict

But the war did not end. It abated somewhat, and we’re grateful for that. Nonetheless, the adversary of truth has continued his struggle.

**T**hat war, so bitter, so intense, has never ceased. It is the war between truth and error, between agency and compulsion, between the followers of Christ and those who have denied Him.

Notwithstanding the present strength of the Church, it seems that we are constantly under attack from one quarter or another. But we go on. We must go on. We have gone forward, and we will continue to go forward. In some seasons the issues are major. At other times they are only local skirmishes. But they are all part of a pattern.

Opposition has been felt in the undying efforts of many, both within and without the Church, to destroy faith, to belittle, to demean, to bear false witness, to tempt and allure and induce our people to practices inconsistent with the teachings and standards of this work of God.

The war goes on. It is as it was in the beginning. There may not be the intensity, and I am grateful for that. But the principles at issue are the same. The victims who fall are as precious as those who have fallen in the past. It is an ongoing battle. The men of the priesthood, with the daughters of God who are our companions and allies, are all part of the army of the Lord.

We must be united. An army that is disorganized will not be victorious. It is imperative that we close ranks, that we march together as one. We cannot have division among us and expect victory. We cannot have disloyalty and expect unity. We cannot be unclean and expect the help of the Almighty.

The young men of the priesthood, the deacons, teachers, and priests, have had laid upon them in their priesthood offices the duty to preach the gospel, to teach the truth, to encourage the weak to be strong, to “invite all to come unto Christ” (D&C 20:59). The young women of the Church have no less a responsibility to be obedient



to the commandments of God and to serve as examples of faith and virtue.

No son or daughter of our Heavenly Father can afford to partake of things that will weaken the mind, the body, or the eternal spirit. These include drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and pornography. You cannot be involved in immoral activity. You cannot do these things and be valiant as warriors in the cause of the Lord in the great, everlasting contest that goes on for the souls of our Father's children.

The men of this Church cannot be unfaithful or untrue to their wives, to their families, to their priesthood responsibilities if they are to be valiant in moving the work of the Lord forward in this great battle for truth and salvation. They cannot be dishonest and unscrupulous in temporal affairs without tarnishing their armor. The women of this Church, be they wives, mothers, or sisters who have not found companions, cannot be unfaithful or untrue to their covenants and blessings and serve as the bulwark in the kingdom that they are meant to be.

In our meetings, we occasionally sing an old hymn:

*Who's on the Lord's side? Who?  
Now is the time to show.  
We ask it fearlessly:  
Who's on the Lord's side? Who?  
We wage no common war;  
Cope with no common foe.  
The enemy's awake;  
Who's on the Lord's side? Who?*<sup>3</sup>

**W**e are not losing. We are winning. We will continue to win if we will be faithful and true. We can do it. We must do it. We will do it. There is nothing the Lord has asked of us that in faith we cannot accomplish.

### A Call to Commitment

Some years ago a friend told me of a conversation he had had with another member of the Church. My friend had asked whether his associate felt close to his Heavenly Father. The man replied that he did not feel close. Why not? He said, "Candidly, because I don't want to." Then he went on to say, "If I were close to Heavenly Father, He would probably want some commitment from me, and I am not ready for that."

Think of it—a man who has taken upon himself the name of the Lord in baptism, a man who has renewed his covenants with the Lord in his sacrament meetings, a man who has accepted the priesthood of God and yet has said that if he were close to his Heavenly Father, some commitment might be expected of him, and he was not ready for that.

In this work there must be commitment. There must be devotion. We are engaged in a great eternal struggle that concerns the very souls of the sons and daughters of God. We are not losing. We are winning. We will continue to win if we will be faithful and true. We can do it. We must do it. We will do it. There is nothing the Lord has asked of us that in faith we cannot accomplish.

I think of the children of Israel when they fled Egypt. They camped beside the Red Sea. Looking back, they saw Pharaoh and his armies coming to destroy them. Fear gripped their hearts. With the armies behind them and the sea before them, they cried out in terror.

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew



to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

"The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

"And the Lord said unto Moses, . . . speak unto the children of Israel, *that they go forward*" (Exodus 14:13–15; emphasis added).

The sea parted, and the children of Israel moved to their salvation. The Egyptians followed to their own destruction.

Shall we not also in faith move forward? He who is our eternal leader, the Lord Jesus Christ, has challenged us in words of revelation. Said He:

"Wherefore, lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armor, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day. . . .

"Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which I have sent mine angels to commit unto you;

"Taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked;

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of my Spirit, . . . and be faithful until I come, and ye shall be caught up, that where I am ye shall be also" (D&C 27:15–18).

### A Bright Future

The war goes on. It is waged across the world over the issues of agency and compulsion. It is waged by an army of missionaries over the issues of truth and error. It is waged in our own lives, day in and day out, in our homes, in our work, in our school associations; it is waged over questions of love and respect, of loyalty and fidelity, of obedience

and integrity. We are all involved in it—child, youth, or adult, each of us. We are winning, and the future never looked brighter.

May our God bless us in the work that is so clearly laid out before us. May we be faithful. May we be valiant. May we have the courage to be true to the trust God has placed in each of us. May we be unafraid. "For [to quote the words of Paul to Timothy] God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (2 Timothy 1:7–8). ■

### NOTES

1. *History of the Church*, 6:222.

2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff* (2004), 220.

3. "Who's on the Lord's Side?" *Hymns*, no. 260.

### 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. Use the article to review the history of the war of good and evil that has been going on since before the Creation of the world. Explain that the Light of Christ represents hope in a dark world. Read the section "A Bright Future." Suggest actions we can take to win the war between good and evil.

2. Write the words of 2 Timothy 1:7–8 on a card for each family member. Invite family members to write on the back of the card a personal goal to be a more committed disciple of Jesus Christ. Ask family members to post the card in a place where they will see it daily.

3. Bring a hymnbook as you visit each family. Invite family members to use the index to find hymns that inspire commitment. Choose one hymn to sing or read aloud. Compare these words to portions of President Hinckley's talk. Conclude by reviewing President Hinckley's call to commitment and his testimony of the bright future for those who serve faithfully on the Lord's side.



# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN A SHAKY WORLD



*Don't let something you don't know  
shake your faith in something  
you do know.*

BY ADAM C. OLSON  
Church Magazines

**O**n the morning of November 1, 1755, a massive earthquake leveled many Lisbon, Portugal, neighborhoods, unleashed a devastating 5- to 10-meter-high tsunami that surged into the seaport city, and started a fire that raged for more than three days. The disaster killed thousands.

But the devastating earthquake shook far more than just buildings. Because the catastrophe occurred as Christians gathered to observe a major religious holiday, All Saints' Day, it also shook the faith of believers across the continent.

Such spiritual shaking can occur in life just as unexpectedly as any seismic activity and has the potential to do just as much damage.

"We often face things that can

shake our faith," says Patricia Moreira, a member of the Lisbon Portugal Stake who says she has faced such things in the 20 years since she joined the Church alone. "They could be questions from nonmembers, attacks from those opposed to the Church, or even just things we don't understand."

When questions that don't seem to have answers build stress along the fault line between the world and the gospel, the resulting quake can cause casualties of faith among those whose foundations are weak.

#### How Firm a Foundation

In spiritual tectonics, it is not our proximity to the epicenter that determines the quake's effect on our testimony but our proximity to God.



**"We often face things  
that can shake our  
faith. . . . [In those  
moments] our  
foundation makes  
all the difference."**

— Patricia Moreira  
at Castelo São Jorge,  
restored upon its original  
foundation after the 1755  
Lisbon earthquake.

"Our foundation is Jesus Christ and His gospel" (see Luke 6:47–48), says Sister Moreira in a conversation on the topic with some of her single adult friends in the stake.

"We have no foundation without Him," adds Darryl Nequetela, a convert of just over a year. "Some foundations are weak, but His is sure and true" (see Helaman 5:12).

No flood of doubts, no philosophical fire, no earthshaking skepticism of any magnitude can destroy the rock of our Redeemer, the Chief Cornerstone, our true foundation, Jesus Christ.

"I know I'm safe when I'm built on His foundation," Brother Nequetela says.

#### When the Shaking Starts

These Latter-day Saints are familiar with Satan's ground shaking.

At work, Francisco Lopes (who has since married) was subjected to frequent spiritual tremors. "Some of the people I worked with were skeptical of my beliefs and criticized me for what I believed in," he says. "They often questioned me, using science that seemed to conflict with our faith."

Brother Lopes recalls discussions about evolution, DNA, and more. "They did their best to convince me the Church is false," he says of the questions for which he had few answers. "I had to rely upon my testimony of God and His gospel. I am grateful for that foundation."

But as Brother Lopes can testify, once the ground starts shaking, it's too late to begin preparing.

"We will need to have developed and nurtured faith in Jesus Christ long before Satan hits us,"<sup>1</sup> said Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.



#### OUR DAY OF TESTING

"What we will need in our day of testing is a spiritual preparation. It is to have developed faith in Jesus Christ so powerful that we

can pass the test of life upon which everything for us in eternity depends. . . . We will need to have developed and nurtured faith in Jesus Christ long before Satan hits us, as he will, with doubts and appeals to our carnal desires and with lying voices saying that good is bad and that there is no sin. Those spiritual storms are already raging. We can expect that they will worsen until the Savior returns."

**Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Spiritual Preparedness: Start Early and Be Steady," *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 37, 38.**

#### Build upon the Rock

How do we make Christ our foundation?

Elder Eyring has taught: "We are safe on the rock which is the Savior when we have yielded in faith in Him, have responded to the Holy Spirit's direction to keep the commandments long enough and faithfully enough that the power of the Atonement has changed our hearts. When we have, by that experience, become as a child in our capacity to love and obey, we are on the sure foundation."<sup>2</sup>

It takes faith. It takes obedience and repentance. And it takes time.

"We need to nurture our faith with daily prayer, daily scripture study, service in our callings, keeping the commandments, doing our best to become better people," says Sister Moreira, whose mother and sister have joined the Church since she first began building upon the rock. "I believe we need to follow the advice of President Monson to fill our minds with truth, fill our hearts with love, and fill our lives with service."<sup>3</sup>

"We can prepare ourselves for trials by getting to know the Lord and how He helps His children [see 1 Nephi

2:12]. The scriptures help us with that,” says Brother Nequetela. “We develop our faith by walking the path of righteousness.”

#### Finding Answers to Tough Questions

Sometimes, as with Brother Lopes, members are faced with questions to which they don’t have answers. But he didn’t let something he *didn’t* know shake his faith in something he *did* know.

“There are things that I don’t know yet. But I don’t question those things because I know that in time God will reveal what I need to know,” Brother Lopes says, “not in my time or when I want it, but when He thinks that it needs to be revealed.”

What does one do when faced with tough questions that don’t seem to have answers?

“Most of our answers are in the scriptures,” says Brother Lopes, who has faced questions not only from friends and co-workers but from his parents, who questioned his decision to join the Church at age 14. “But finding and understanding those answers depends on personal revelation. I can also go to my Church leaders or ask God directly. I’m grateful for the Holy Ghost and a caring Father in Heaven.”

#### Patience in Revelation

When searching through praying, reading the scriptures, and studying the words of our leaders doesn’t turn up an answer, we wait (see D&C 101:16).



**“We are here to walk by faith, but we forget that . . . faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of all things. And our faith must be tested.”**

— Darryl Nequetela,  
overlooking parts of  
Lisbon rebuilt after  
the earthquake.



"I seek to be patient," says Brother Nequetela, who came from Angola in 2000 to study in Portugal. "Even though I don't have an answer, the Holy Ghost comforts us with the answer that we should be patient, that God gives line upon line, precept upon precept, and that we should accept the firm decree of a just God. He knows what's best for us, and He reveals everything in His own time."

Patience in revelation is the story of the Restoration. The Church has been restored upon the original foundation—the gospel of Jesus Christ. But it did not occur all at once. According to the Prophet Joseph Smith, answers to gospel questions came "line upon line, precept upon precept; here a little, and there a little; giving us consolation by holding forth that which is to come, confirming our hope!" (D&C 128:21) and will continue to do so.

"We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (Articles of Faith 1:9).

#### Latter-day Restoration

High above modern Lisbon, Brother Nequetela looks over the city from the battlements of Castelo São Jorge (St. George Castle) and considers the restoration work that has taken place since the 1755 disaster.

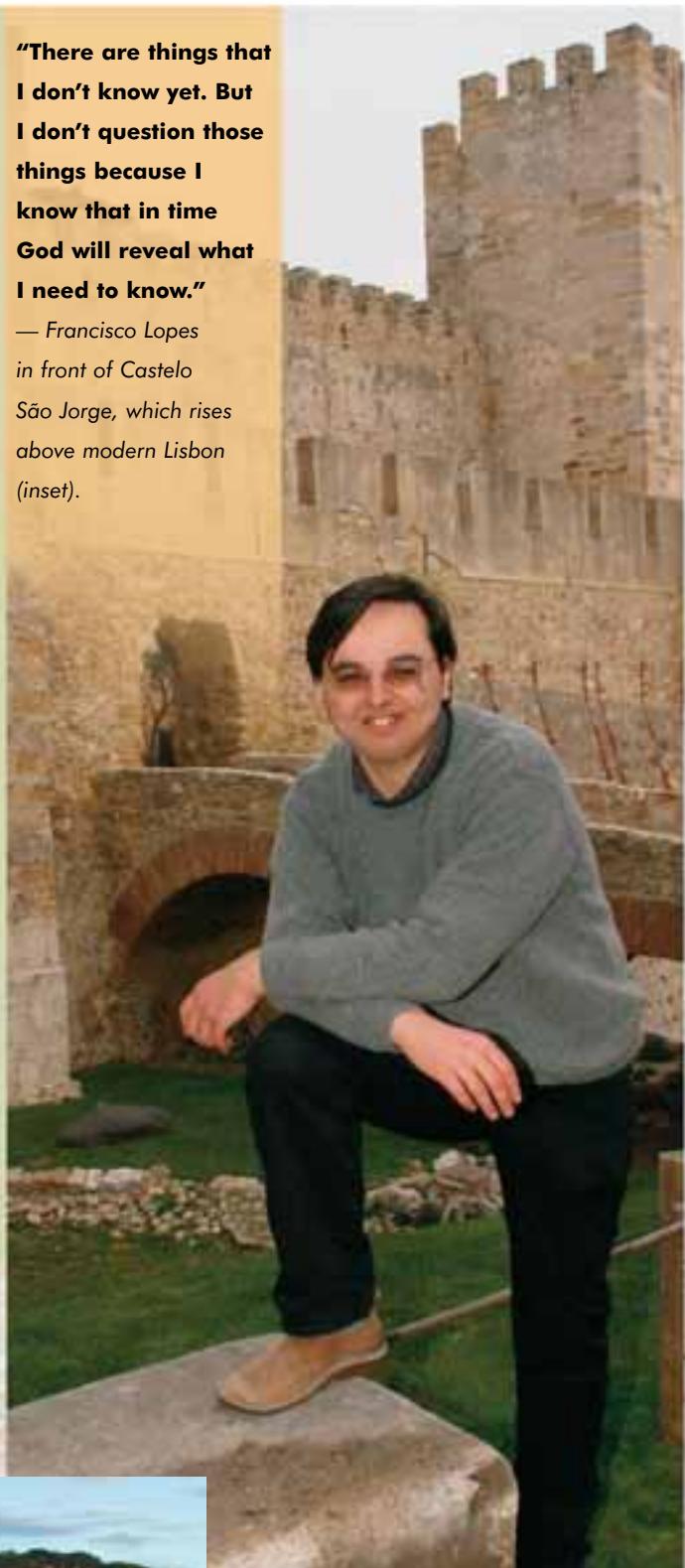
The rebuilt city is again thriving; the castle—severely damaged in the quake—has been restored using the surviving foundation. And through the Restoration of the gospel, the people are learning how and where to establish faith that will stand firm regardless of the source of the shaking. ■

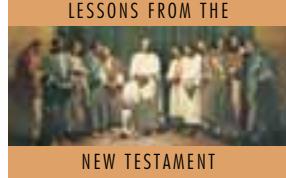
#### NOTES

1. "Spiritual Preparedness: Start Early and Be Steady," *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 38.
2. "As a Child," *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2006, 15–16.
3. See Thomas S. Monson, "Formula for Success," *Liabona*, Aug. 1995, 7; *Ensign*, Mar. 1996, 6.

**"There are things that I don't know yet. But I don't question those things because I know that in time God will reveal what I need to know."**

— Francisco Lopes  
in front of Castelo  
São Jorge, which rises  
above modern Lisbon  
(inset).





# Gratitude for the Atonement

BY ELDER WOLFGANG H. PAUL

Of the Seventy

**N**ear the end of His earthly ministry, the Savior went with His disciples to the Mount of Olives, to the Garden of Gethsemane.

We read in Luke, in the New Testament:

"And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

"And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

"Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

"And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:39–44).

It was there that the Savior paid the price for all the sorrows, sins, and transgressions of every human being who ever lived or

ever will live. There He drank the bitter cup and suffered so that all who repent may not suffer. Following this dreadful experience, He was taken to Golgotha and was nailed to a cross, which was another brutal and painful torture He had to go through in bringing about the Atonement for all humankind.

No human being can imagine what the Savior really suffered when He took this heavy burden upon Him. In a revelation given through the Prophet Joseph Smith in March 1830, we get a glimpse of this suffering when the Savior declared:

"For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent;

"But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I;

"Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—

"Nevertheless, glory



*If we understood the great love the Savior had for us when He atoned for our sins, we would always love Him, be grateful to Him, and keep His commandments.*



be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men" (D&C 19:16–19).

Ultimately, our lives can be healed only through the Atonement. A member described his feelings as he went through the repentance process and discovered the healing power of the Atonement: "The time between transgressing and confessing was terrible. I constantly lived in the knowledge of the terrible thing I had done. I was in a state of deep darkness, depressive and lethargic, first

hopeless and tortured by fears, however, never doubting the truth of the gospel and the saving power of the Atonement. I knew that for me there was only one way to get healed.

"To confess to my wife and my children what I had done was the most difficult thing that I ever did in life. Thereafter, the further way of repentance, to confess before my bishop and the stake president, was not so difficult. Finally, I could relieve myself of the burden which I had brought upon

myself. I felt relieved with the excommunication and the resulting perspectives.

"What joy it was when I was permitted to be baptized and again could have the Holy Ghost with me. Finally, the promise of the Atonement was fulfilled in the clearest and most beautiful way when my blessings were restored again.

"During the course of years, my wife and I experienced that the Atonement brings relief and healing not only to the sinner, but further than that, it has the power to heal and restore the victim as well. Of this I testify with deep gratitude."

If we understood the great love the Savior had for us when He atoned for our sins, we would always love Him, be grateful to Him, and keep His commandments.

As President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972) observed: "One of the greatest sins, both in magnitude and extent . . . is the sin of ingratitude. When we violate a commandment, no matter how small and insignificant we may think it to be, we show our ingratitude to our Redeemer. It is impossible for us to comprehend the extent of his suffering when he carried the burden of the sins of the whole world, a punishment so severe that we are informed that blood came from the pores of his body, and this was before he was taken to the cross. The punishment of physical pain coming from the nails driven in his hands and feet, was not the greatest of

his suffering, excruciating as that surely was. The greater suffering was the spiritual and mental anguish coming from the load of our transgressions which he carried. If we understood the extent of that suffering and his suffering on the cross, surely none of us would wilfully be guilty of sin. We would not give way to the temptations, the gratification of unholy appetites and desires and Satan could find no place in our hearts. As it is, whenever we sin, we show our ingratitude and disregard of the suffering of the Son of God by and through which we shall rise from the dead and live forever. If we really understood and could feel even to a small degree, the love and gracious willingness on the part of Jesus Christ to suffer for our sins we would be willing to repent of all our transgressions and serve him."<sup>1</sup>

The Atonement of the Savior is the greatest event in history. President Gordon B. Hinckley declared: "No other act in all of human history compares with it.

Nothing that has ever happened can match it. Totally unselfish and with unbounded love for all mankind, it became an unparalleled act of mercy for the whole human race."<sup>2</sup>

May we always be grateful for this wonderful gift, the Atonement of the Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer. ■

#### NOTES

1. *The Restoration of All Things* (1945), 199.
2. "At the Summit of the Ages," *Liahona*, Jan. 2000, 87; *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 73.



**T**he Atonement of the Savior is the greatest event in history.

*Ultimately, our lives can be healed only through the Atonement.*



# PUT LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Many of you are struggling with your identity. Some of you may wonder what the future holds for you. The world presents alluring enticements. It is bewildering. Some of you may not only be unsure about where you are going; you may also be questioning your real worth. Let me assure you, I believe with all my heart that you are a chosen generation.

I speak about coming out of the darkness and into the light. Micah said, "When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me" (Micah 7:8).

## How We Receive Light

We receive light from the Lord. This can happen to us when we study the scriptures and "our eyes [are] opened and our understandings [are] enlightened" (D&C 76:12). Daily scripture study turns on the light of our spiritual perception and opens our understandings to further knowledge. I try to read from the scriptures at the close of the day. It brings a remarkable peace. I sleep better by doing this.

We receive spiritual light when we attend sacrament meeting. Partaking of the sacrament and the inspiration of the worship

service weekly charges our spiritual batteries.

We receive spiritual light when we respond to calls. Serving in a calling in the Church blesses us more than it blesses others.

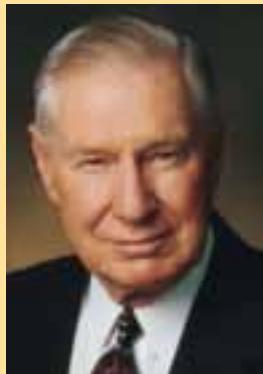
We receive spiritual light when we pay our tithing, as the windows of heaven can then open up (see Malachi 3:10).

We receive spiritual light when we sing the hymns. Singing the hymns strengthens us and brings us together spiritually.

We receive spiritual light when we pray. As a young teenager, the Prophet Joseph Smith read, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally" (James 1:5).

I commend to you his account of the First Vision, which followed as he determined that he would seek wisdom from God. He wrote, "When the light rested upon me I saw . . ." What did he see? He saw the Father and the Son. As the vision ended, he said, "When the light had departed, I had no strength" (Joseph Smith—History 1:17, 20).

Obviously, we do not expect a heavenly visitation, but we are entitled to increased spiritual and intellectual enlightenment if we first seek "the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).



*We do not expect a heavenly visitation, but we are entitled to increased spiritual and intellectual enlightenment if we first seek "the kingdom of God, and his righteousness."*



**T**o be called to serve as a missionary for this Church is not a right but a privilege. Missionary service is joyful, but it is not fun and games; it is hard work.

#### What Is the Focus of Our Faith?

Part of our coming into the light depends upon the focus of our faith. Is it seen as repression or liberation? As young people mature, they feel new power, new passions, and new ambitions. Yet they are told that some of these must be restrained. Bridling our passions, or yielding appropriately to restraint, is necessary for our personal growth and progression. As Alma said, “Bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love” (Alma 38:12).

A few years ago a nationally broadcast program talked about imprisoned criminals who were taming wild horses. As the prisoners formed friendships with the horses, they learned about patience, controlling tempers, respect for others, and the value of working within a system. As they watched the horses learn to obey their commands, they realized how they could have avoided the terrible mistakes that had put them in prison.

In our modern society, so many voices in books, magazines, television, and movies depict sexual intimacy outside of marriage as being socially acceptable, even desirable. Some young people, deceived by this sophistry, ask: “Why is it wrong? We are in love!” Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles answered this question as follows:

*“In matters of human intimacy, you must wait! You must wait until you can give everything, and you cannot give everything until you are legally and lawfully married. To give illicitly that which is not yours to give (remember, ‘you are not your own’ [see 1 Corinthians 6:19]) and to give only part of that which cannot be followed with the gift of your whole self is emotional Russian*

roulette. If you persist in pursuing physical satisfaction without the sanction of heaven, you run the terrible risk of such spiritual, psychic damage that you may undermine both your longing for physical intimacy and your ability to give wholehearted devotion to a later, truer love. . . . On your wedding day the very best gift you can give your eternal companion is your very best self—clean and pure and worthy of such purity in return.”<sup>1</sup>

#### Faith Carries Us Out of Darkness

Our faith is not a bundle of beliefs and practices that are too heavy to bear. Those who have come out of the darkness find that their faith carries them. Faith is not heavy; faith lifts and gives us wings to carry us over hard places. As Isaiah promised, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as

eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Coming out of the darkness into the light frees us from the dark side of our souls, which comes from fear, dis-

couragement, and sin. You can tell one who has come into the light by his or her countenance and attitude. The Savior said it well: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Since September 11, 2001, we have been concerned about another form of darkness—the influence of terrorists and hijackers. You are growing up in a different world than I did. For years we traveled on





airplanes without having our baggage searched or going through metal detectors.

My dear young friends, your enemies are not all terrorists and hijackers. Some are within your peer group—perhaps even among those you look upon as friends—who would encourage you to free yourselves from restraints and to try drugs, alcohol, or intimacy with someone of the opposite sex—or even the same sex. They are the critics, the dissenters, and the skeptics—anyone who keeps us in darkness and tries to keep us from finding the light in our eternal journey. Other spiritual terrorists include pornography pushers, those with no values. These people are in darkness, lack faith, and are unwilling to seek a source higher than themselves for solutions to questions and problems. Some have such egotism, poor self-image, and weak faith that they cannot conceive of obtaining light and knowledge by any other means.

#### Become Defenders of the Faith

All of us ought to become defenders of the faith. As we do defend our faith, we come out of darkness and move

toward the light. You young people share the responsibility of proclaiming the truth of the restored gospel. You will be effective in doing this only if you try to do right in your individual lives. To do this you will need an understanding and testimony of the basic doctrines of the Church. These fundamental absolutes of our faith are first, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the Redeemer of the world and second, that God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, actually appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith, restoring the fulness of the gospel and the true Church.

From this follows the purposes of the Church: First, to prepare its members for the perfect life. “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Second, to foster and encourage its members to become a body of Saints, united in faith and works. Third, to proclaim the message of restored truth to the world. Fourth, to save our dead.

You may be preparing to serve as full-time missionaries. To be called to serve as a missionary for this Church is not a right but a privilege. Missionary service is joyful, but it is not fun and games; it is hard work. The Lord’s admonition



to missionaries is contained in section 4 of the Doctrine and Covenants: “O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day” (v. 2).

All missionary service presumes personal worthiness. The Lord said, “Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord” (D&C 38:42). Some of you are worthy, but because of health problems may not be able to stand the rigors of proselytizing in the mission field. You may find alternative service opportunities that will be a great blessing to you.

### Accepting the Atonement

A few years ago, when Elder Merrill J. Bateman of the Presidency of the Seventy was in Japan, the missionaries introduced him to a young Japanese brother who had just joined the Church. He was from a non-Christian background. When he met the missionaries, he was interested in the message, but he could not understand or feel the need for a Savior, and he didn’t have a witness regarding the gospel. One day the missionaries decided to show him

a film about the Atonement. The young man saw the film, but still he didn’t have a witness.

“The next morning he went to work. He worked in an optician’s shop making eyeglasses. . . . An elderly woman came in. He remembered her coming in a few weeks before. She had broken her glasses. She needed a new pair. When she had come in earlier, she didn’t have enough money and had gone away to save more in order to purchase the new glasses. As she came in that day, she again showed him her spectacles and showed him the money that she now had. He realized that she didn’t have enough yet. Then a thought came to him: *I have some money. I don’t need to tell her. I can make up the difference.* So he told her the money she had was adequate, took her glasses, [and] made an appointment for her to return when he had finished making the spectacles. . . .

“She returned later. He had the glasses ready for her. He handed them to her, and she put them on [and exclaimed] ‘. . . I see. I see.’ Then she began to cry. At that point, a burning sensation began to grow within his bosom and swelled within him. He said, ‘. . . I understand. I understand.’ He

began to cry. Out the door he ran, looking for the missionaries. When he found them, he said, ‘I see! My eyes have been opened! I know that Jesus is the Son of God. I know the stone was rolled away from the tomb and on that glorious Easter morning He arose from the dead. He can make up the difference in my life when I fall short.’<sup>2</sup>

We can all see by the candle of inspiration, which is the Spirit of the Holy Ghost. It will light our way out of darkness and difficulty. The most sure way to come out of darkness and into the light is through communication with our Heavenly Father by the process known as divine revelation. President Wilford Woodruff (1807–98) declared, “Whenever the Lord had a people on the earth that He acknowledged as such, that people were led by revelation.”<sup>3</sup> The inspiration of God is available to all who worthily seek the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is particularly true of those who have received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

#### Revelation Continues

Those who wish to come out of darkness and into the light must make sure they are in harmony with the inspiration and revelation that come through our prophets, seers, and revelators. Amos tells us, “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). The prophets have tuned in over the centuries to the celestial transmitting station with the responsibility to relay the Lord’s words to others.



The best way for you young people to come in closer harmony with the Savior is to sustain His living prophet on the earth, the President of the Church. If we do not follow the living prophet, whoever he may be, we are in danger of dying spiritually.

I can testify that the process of continual revelation comes to the Church very frequently. It comes daily. This is necessary for the Church to fulfill its mission. Without it we would fail. The Church constantly needs the guidance of its head, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Continual revelation will not and cannot be forced by outside pressure from people and events. It is not the so-called “revelation of social progress.” It does not originate with the prophets; it comes from God. The Church is governed by the prophet under the inspiration, guidance, and direction of the Lord.

My belief in and conviction of the divine truthfulness of the Church has now covered a long period of time—as long as I can remember. That testimony has grown stronger as the years have passed. The certain knowledge of the truthfulness of this gospel came before I was called to the holy apostleship and has been reconfirmed many times since. I testify to you young people that the gospel contains the answers to life’s challenges and problems. It is the sure way to happiness and the fulfillment of the Savior’s promise, which is “peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come” (D&C 59:23). ■

*From a Church Educational System fireside talk given on September 8, 2002.*

#### NOTES

1. “Personal Purity,” *Liahona*, Oct. 2000, 42; *New Era*, Feb. 2000, 6.
2. “Stretching the Cords of the Tent,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 65–66.
3. *The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, sel. G. Homer Durham (1946), 138.

**W**hen the optician handed the glasses to the woman, she exclaimed, “I see. I see.” At that point, a burning sensation began to grow within his bosom. He said, “I understand. I understand.... My eyes have been opened! I know that Jesus is the Son of God.... He can make up the difference in my life when I fall short.”



# Questions & Answers

*"I've come back to church and tried to make a fresh start in life after making some mistakes, but I'm afraid of falling again. How can I overcome this fear?"*

## LIAHONA

You're not alone in this challenge. We all make mistakes, and we can all fall if we're not careful. You can find some answers to your question in 1 Nephi 8, a description of Lehi's vision. Here are a few things Lehi saw that can help you:

He saw people "pressing forward" on the strait and narrow path—that is, trying to be faithful. But some of them "wandered off and were lost" (v. 23). Some made it to the tree of life but then "were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost" (v. 28). Others succeeded; they "did press their way forward, continually holding fast to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree" (v. 30). The fruit of the tree represents the love of God—the blessings of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Notice what they did to succeed. If you do these things, you can overcome your fear of falling away.

**To overcome your fear of falling away, "press forward" on the strait and narrow path.**

**Obey the word of God, found in the scriptures and teachings of latter-day prophets.**

**Worship God, seek to feel His love, and repent so the Savior can strengthen you.**

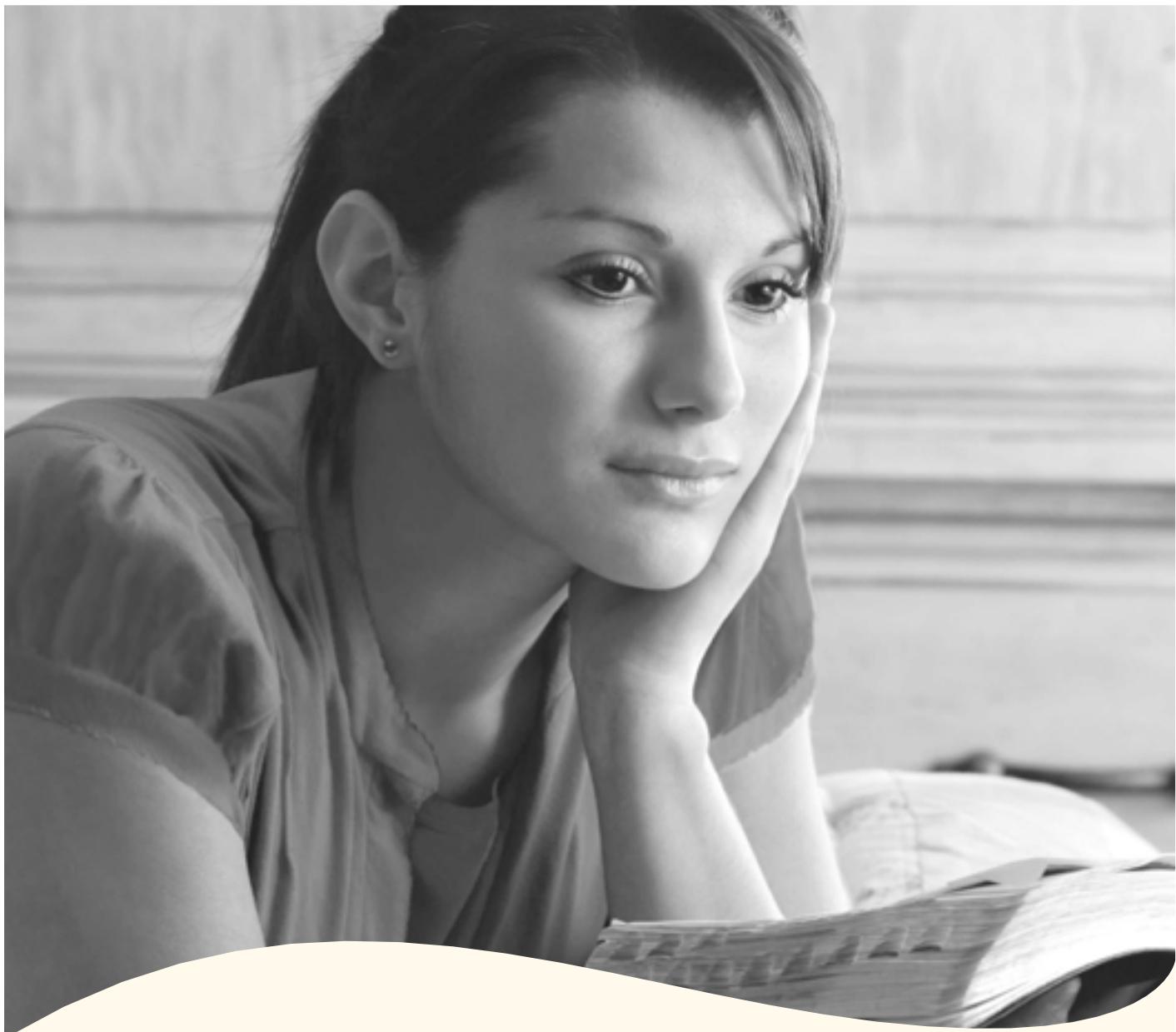
**Disregard people who make fun of you for trying to do what's right.**

**1. Press forward.** Nephi explains: "Ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life" (2 Nephi 31:20).

**2. Hold fast to the iron rod.** Nephi said the iron rod is "the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away" (1 Nephi 15:24).

**3. Partake of the fruit of the tree.** To partake of the fruit means to feel the love of God in your life. You can pray to feel that love, and you can repent, allowing the Atonement to bless your life.

**4. Disregard those who make fun of you for doing what's right.** In Lehi's dream, those who paid attention to the mocking people in the great and spacious building fell away. That



building represents the pride and beliefs of the world. Because that building had no foundation, “it fell, and the fall thereof was exceedingly great” (1 Nephi 11:36). The pride of the world is temporary; doing what’s right will bless you forever.

Doing these four things will help you build on the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, “which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall” (Helaman 5:12).

## READERS



*Three years ago I was away from the Church. My heart became sad because of my mistakes, and I decided to return to the Church. I was afraid of falling into error, so I decided to get on my knees and do what I had not done for a long time: pray to our Heavenly Father. I asked Him to help me leave the temptations so evil wouldn’t have place in my heart because it destroys my peace and*

*saddens my soul. I put my trust in the Lord for Him to enlighten my way. Now I have peace in my heart. If you feel sad because of your sins and mistakes, read 2 Nephi 4:17–35.*

Elder John Sanchez, 21, Perú Piura Mission



*We are tempted and we make mistakes daily even though we may be in the Church. But the important thing is that we sincerely*

**repent for what we have done and constantly strive against temptation and, above all, be worthy and continually pray and ask our Heavenly Father for help, because He never forgets us. If we really want to change, He will help us because He loves us immensely.**

Denise E., 18, Rancagua, Chile



**When you feel afraid, pray, fast, and especially search the scriptures. The word of the Lord is there, and the answers to our questions are there. Remember that the Lord does not give any commandments without preparing the way for us to accomplish them. And He loves us so much that He forgives us when we repent.**

Ana A., 16, Falcón, Venezuela



**First, we must realize that Heavenly Father loves us even when we've fallen. The key is to get up and keep trying. Second, understand that discouragement is Satan's tool to keep us from achieving the true happiness that can be found only in the gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the devil's best tricks is to keep our attention focused on the sins or mistakes of the past and the fear of their reoccurrence in the future. This line of thinking only prohibits us from moving forward and bettering ourselves. Finally, here is a quote that I live by: "Don't let the fear of striking out prevent you from playing the game." We are children of our Heavenly Father, and with His help, we will succeed.**

Chad C., 20, Utah, USA

**In your personal prayers, pour out your fears of falling away. Read the scriptures daily to gain knowledge of the gospel and to feel the Spirit.**



**T**he power of your covenants is greater than the power of temptation. Don't let the fear of past transgressions weaken your resolve to repent and abandon them. Remember! God has promised to save you 'from the hand of him that hated [you], and [redeem you] from the hand of the enemy' (*Psalm 106:10*).

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "What I Wish Every New Member Knew—and Every Longtime Member Remembered," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Oct. 2006, 14.

**Attend every Church meeting, temple trip, and activity possible so you can feel the Spirit as much as possible. It would also be wise to seek counsel from your bishop and parents.**

Jaclyn B., 17, Kansas, USA

**I know how you feel. I have come back to church, and I am now actively participating in all Church activities including missionary work. One of the lessons I've learned is to have strong faith in Jesus Christ. If we have faith in Him, it will help us be strong. I know that Jesus Christ is our only sure foundation, as Helaman 5:12 says.**

Cheenee L., 17, Bulacan, Philippines

**Our Heavenly Father loves us and understands us. He knows we're not perfect and are susceptible to falling. I know my Heavenly Father loves me and gives me strength to continue on through the scriptures, prayer, and fasting. When we fall, we must always get back up.**

Celeste S., 20, Oslo, Norway

*Responses are intended for help and perspective, not as pronouncements of Church doctrine.*

## NEXT QUESTION

**"Can I try alcohol and tobacco at least once so I'll know for myself what they're really like? I'll never do it again. What's the harm if it's only once?"**

**SEND US YOUR ANSWER**, along with your full name, birth date, ward and stake (or branch and district), and photograph (including your parent's written permission to print the photo) to:

Questions & Answers 7/07

50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

Or e-mail: [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org)

Please respond by July 15, 2007. ■

# Become an Instrument in the Hands of God by Standing Strong and Immovable



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

## What Does It Mean to Be Strong and Immovable?

**President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “It is so tremendously important that the women of the Church stand strong and immovable for that which is correct and proper. . . . [You] must begin in [your] own homes. [You] can teach it in [your] classes. [You] can voice it in [your] communities” (“Standing Strong and Immovable,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Jan. 2004, 20).

**President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918):** “After we have done all we could do for the cause of truth, and withstood the evil that men have brought upon us, . . . it is still our duty to stand. We cannot give up; we must not lie down. . . . To stand firm in the face of overwhelming opposition, when you have done all you can, is the courage of faith. The courage of faith is the courage of progress. [Those] who possess that

divine quality go on; they are not permitted to stand still if they would. They are not simply the creatures of their own power and wisdom; they are instrumentalities of a higher law and a divine purpose” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* [1998], 107–8).

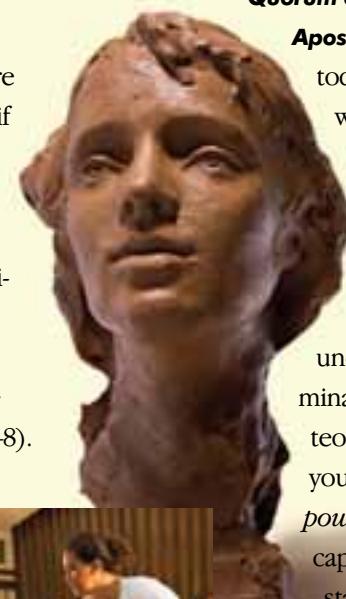
## How Can the Lord Use Me When I Stand Strong and Immovable?

### D&C 84:106:

“If any man among you be strong in the Spirit, let him take with him him that is weak, . . . that he may become strong also.”

## Anne C. Pingree, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency:

**The Lord explained that those who ‘shall be received by baptism into his church’ would be, in part, those ‘willing to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end.’ That means remaining ‘steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works’ each day of our lives. . . . We will be asked to do**



all we can, in some cases, even more than we know how to do” (“To Grow Up unto the Lord,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2006, 74–75, 76).

**Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:**

“You cannot today remotely imagine what that decision to be unwaveringly obedient to the Lord will allow you to accomplish in life. Your quiet, uncompromising determination to live a righteous life will couple you to *inspiration* and *power* beyond your capacity now to understand. . . . You can qualify through that divine power to be instruments in the hands of God to accomplish what you could not do alone” (“Making the Right Decisions,” *Ensign*, May 1991, 34–35).

**President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency:**

“I commend each of you for your day-to-day works of righteousness. Even though your works may be known to only a few, they are recorded in the Lamb’s book of life, which one day will be opened to witness of your dedicated service, devotion, and deeds as ‘instruments in the hands of God to bring about this great work’ [Alma 26:3]” (“Instruments in the Hands of God,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 114). ■

# *“For She Loved Much”*

(Luke 7:47)

## Women of the New Testament



**Above: She Shall Bring Forth a Son, by Liz Lemon Swindle.** “Behold, a virgin [Mary] shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matthew 1:23; see vv. 18–25).

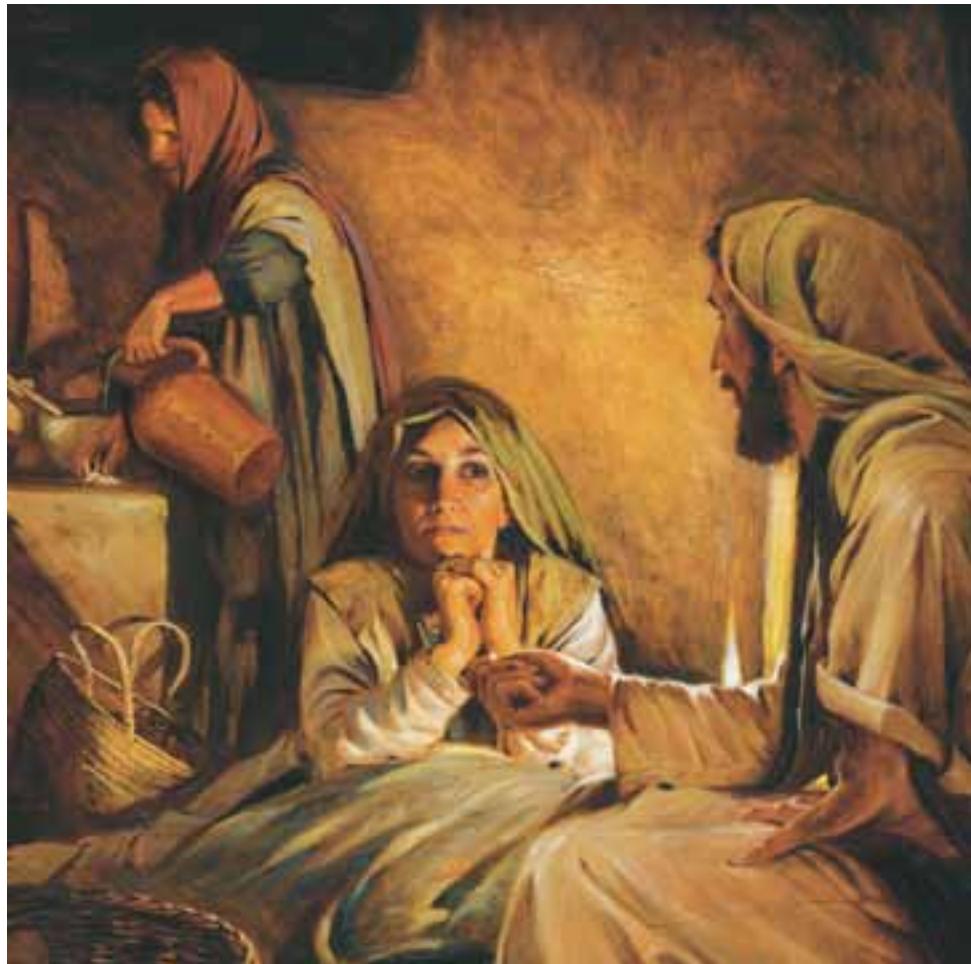
**Above right: Living Water, by Simon Dewey.** “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewst the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (John 4:10; see vv. 6–30).



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**Left: Peace, Not as the World Giveth, by Michael T. Malm.** “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. . . .

“The wise [virgins] took oil in their vessels with their lamps” (Matthew 25:1, 4; see vv. 1–13).

**Above: Mary Heard His Word, by Walter Rane.** “And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

“But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41–42; see vv. 38–42).



**Above: Forsaking All, by Elspeth Young.** Priscilla and her husband, Aquila, were exiled Jews living in Corinth, Greece. The Apostle Paul stayed with them during his second missionary journey. Like many other believers during New Testament times, Aquila and Priscilla forsook all for the gospel’s sake. Here Priscilla contemplates leaving Corinth for Ephesus. (See Acts 18:1–3, 18–19; Romans 16:1–3.)



**Above: That Good Part, by Elspeth Young.**

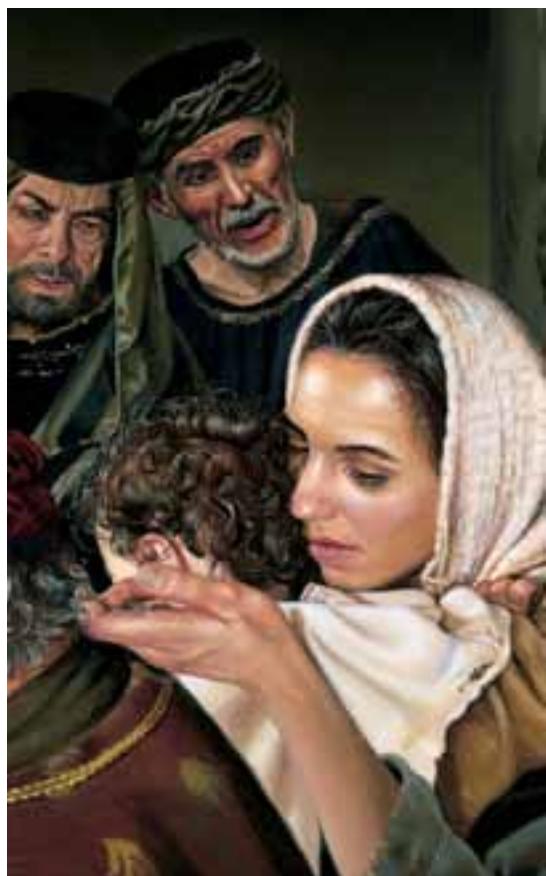
**Young.** Siblings Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, of Bethany, were all devoted disciples of the Savior. On one occasion, "Martha received [Christ] into her house."

"And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word" (Luke 10:38–39).

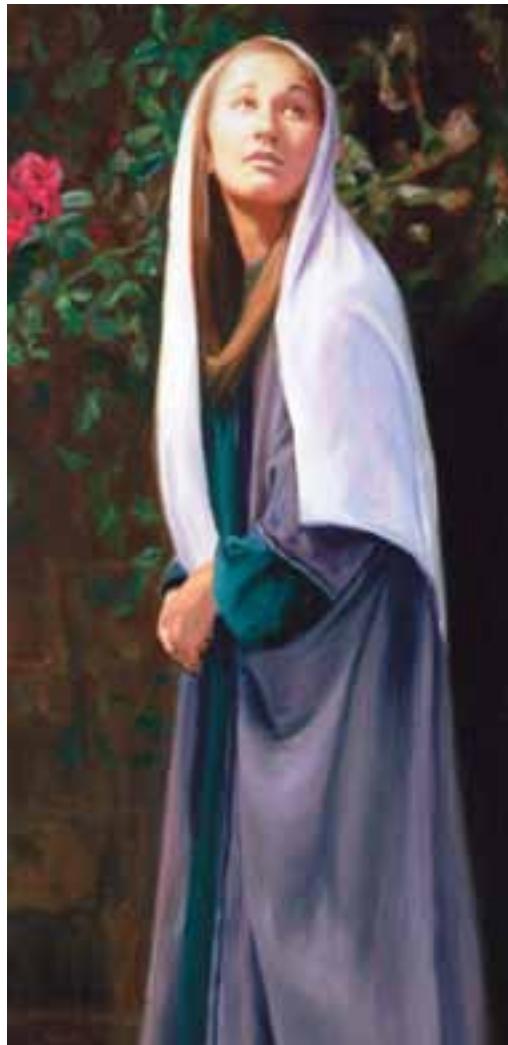
Of this, Christ said, "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42).

**Above right: Discipleship, by Elspeth**

**Young.** "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did" (Acts 9:36; see vv. 36–43).



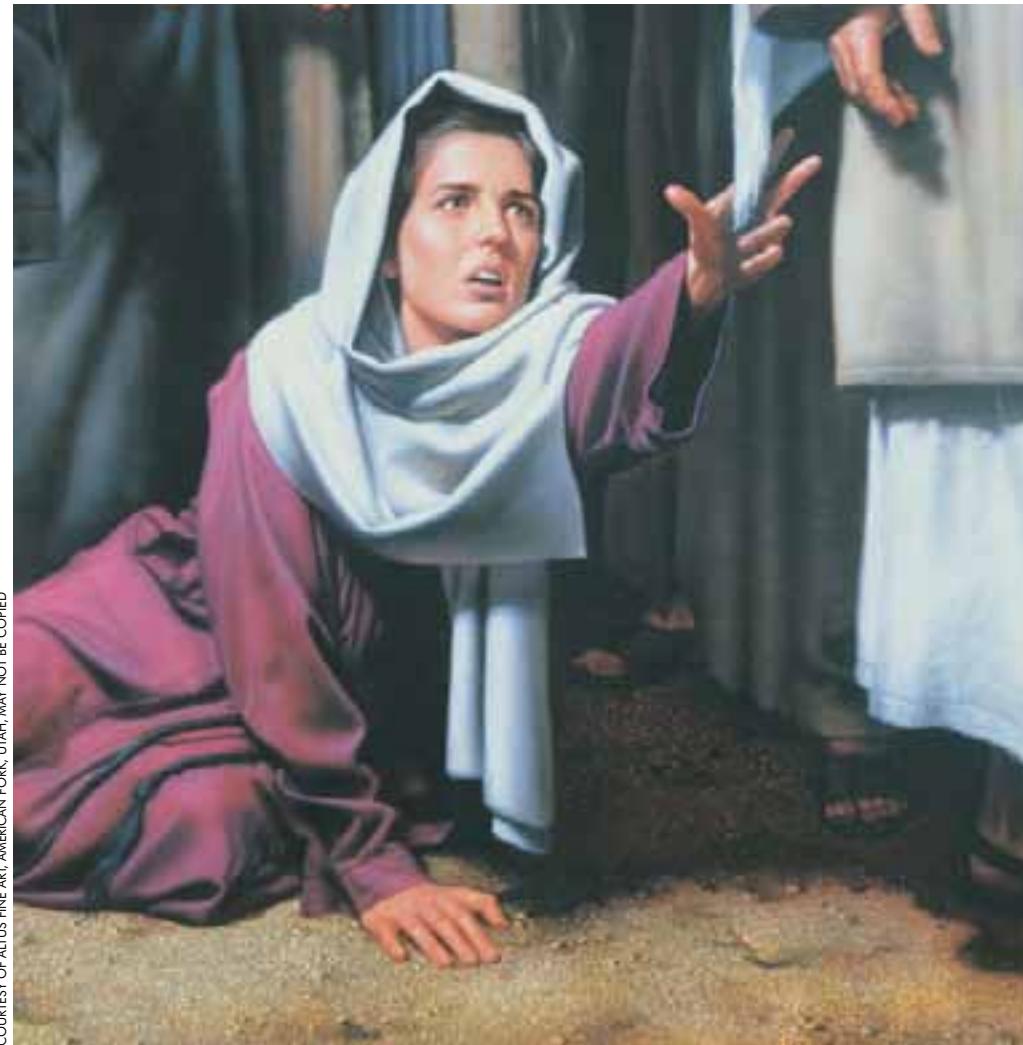
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**Left: Detail from *The Widow's Mite*, by Liz Lemon Swindle.** “And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

“And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all” (Luke 21:2–3; see vv. 1–4).



**Above left: Why Seek Ye the Living among the Dead? by Jan Astle.** “Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they [Mary Magdalene and other women] came unto the sepulchre, . . .

“And they found the stone rolled away. . . .

“. . . Behold, two men stood by them in shining garments [and]

“. . . said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

“He is not here, but is risen” (Luke 24:1–2, 4–6; see vv. 1–13).

**Above: Detail from *Touch of Faith*, by Simon Dewey.** “And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

“For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole” (Matthew 9:20–21; see vv. 18–22). ■

# Supporting Your Bishop

BY JOSEPH STAPLES

My first encounter with a Latter-day Saint bishop occurred before I was a member of the Church. I was 17 years old and was facing the confusion, doubt, and stress that many high school seniors confront. One Saturday morning I was complaining to my best friend about my woes. Even though he had good intentions, he provided me with few answers. But he did offer what turned out to be a profound suggestion. "Sometimes when I don't know what to do," he said, "I talk to my bishop."

"Your bishop? Who is he?" I asked.

"He is the head of my ward," my friend replied.

I now recognize my next question to be a distinct prompting from the Spirit, but at the time it was the most out-of-character question I could imagine coming from my 17-year-old mouth. "Do you think he'd meet with me?" I asked.

My friend said he'd call his bishop and call me right back. An appointment was quickly made for later that morning at the bishop's house.

I didn't know what to expect. As I pulled up in front of the modest rambler home, I was a bit surprised at its normalcy—bikes in the driveway, nicely mowed lawn. I was even further surprised by the man in the nice, casual shirt

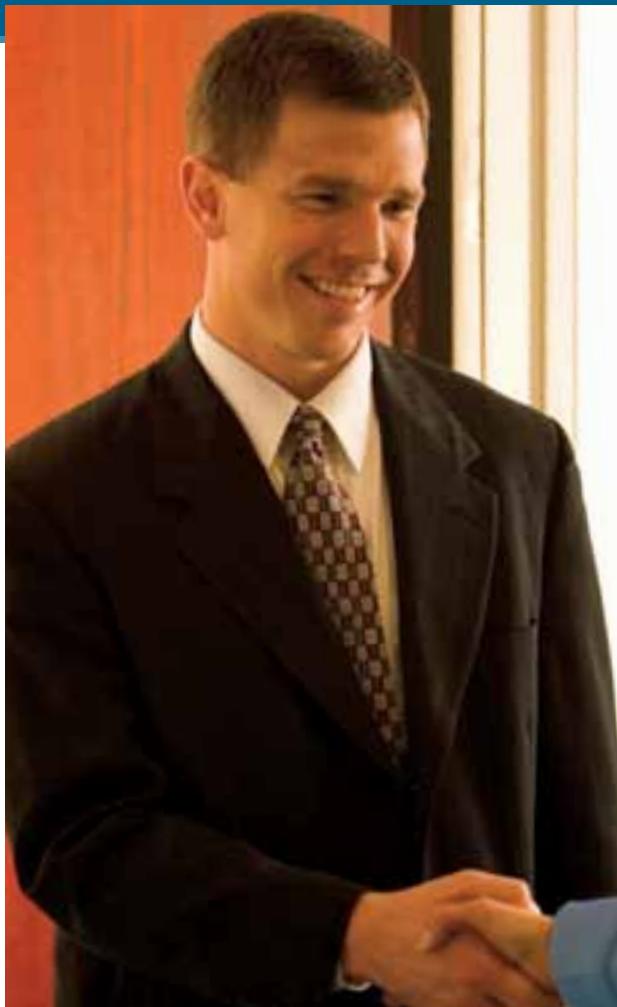
who greeted me at the door. He smiled and said, "Hi, you must be Joe. I'm Bishop Maxwell. Please come in." As we walked to his small, in-home office, my mind was trying to justify it all. "Shouldn't the bishop's home be somehow different?" I asked myself. "Shouldn't he dress in a formal robe or something?"

During the next 45 minutes, what I found was a compassionate man, someone who took a sincere interest in my struggles; an inspired man willing to spend some of his precious time on a Saturday morning to help someone, anyone, of his faith or not, make decisions and draw conclusions.

More than 25 years have passed since that meeting. I don't recall any of the specific advice the bishop imparted that morning, but I still vividly remember the amazing clarity and lightened burden I felt as I left his home. Not until many years later would I realize that meeting was one of my first experiences in feeling the Spirit.

I joined the Church later that year. My friend Bill, who had referred me to Bishop Maxwell, baptized me. Bishop Maxwell was at the baptism. I later served a mission, married a beautiful young woman in the temple with Bishop Maxwell serving as a witness, and am now raising five wonderful children.

**H**ow blessed we are that the Lord sees fit to provide loving, devoted, caring bishops. We can assist them through our support and positive actions.



Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has promised that "if we will sustain and support our bishops, learn to be concerned for their welfare, and pray for their success in all they have to do, it will bless our lives as we are placed under their leadership and have opportunity to follow their inspired direction, as they lead the wards of the Church."<sup>1</sup>

I have come to realize that we can take action to fulfill our responsibility of supporting and sustaining our bishop (or branch president). The following six suggestions provide guidance in accomplishing that objective.

#### **Respect His Family Time**

Your bishop will generally drop whatever activity he is involved in to assist one of his ward members in need. He knows his responsibility as a shepherd of the flock and

works hard at fulfilling his sacred stewardship. Being torn in various directions is something he quickly becomes accustomed to.

Your bishop is also a husband, in most cases a father, and often a father with children still at home in need of his guidance and attention. As we look for our bishop's guidance, we need to be aware and considerate of his time with his family and his responsibility as a provider in his home. While we should never hesitate to call the bishop when we truly need his help, we should still ask ourselves, "Can this wait?" or, "Is there another person, such as a home teacher, who could help me just as well?" Of course, questions of worthiness should be discussed only with our bishop or branch president.

Speaking of bishops and other Church leaders and of the special burdens they bear, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the

*A s we look for our bishop's guidance, we need to be considerate of his time with his family and his responsibility as a provider in his home.*



**W**hen home teachers and visiting teachers properly care for their assigned families, the bishop can focus on those activities that only he can perform.

Twelve Apostles has stated: "I testify of home and family and marriage, the most precious human possessions of our lives. I testify of the need to protect and preserve them while we find time and ways to serve faithfully in the Church."<sup>2</sup>

The bishop will always be busily engaged in the work of the Lord. That includes devoting time to his eternal calling as husband and father. With considerate planning on our part, we can be a great support in helping the bishop manage a busy and demanding load.

#### **Lighten His Load**

Some responsibilities the bishop cannot delegate. These include administering formal Church discipline, conducting tithing settlement, dispensing welfare assistance, and listening to the confessions of repentant ward members. Beyond these responsibilities, however, are many properly delegated things others can do to ease the bishop's burden, such as caring for ward members in need,

planning social activities, and assisting with employment concerns.

When home teachers and visiting teachers properly care for their assigned families, when group leaders and quorum and auxiliary presidents lead in righteousness, the bishop can focus on those activities that only he can perform. If we want to support the bishop and lighten his load, let us be diligent in fulfilling our assigned responsibilities.

#### **Respect the Office**

Some new bishops struggle with the transition from being a regular ward member to that of being the ward leader. They realize that in most cases others are equally qualified to serve. Even as they receive a confirmation that the Lord has chosen them for this assignment, accepting the mantle can be as awkward for them as donning the king's armor was for David prior to his battle with Goliath.

The office of bishop is a sacred calling that the Lord has entrusted to a certain

individual in each ward at any given time. We can help him by showing respect for the office. Call him "Bishop" instead of using his first name or a slang or informal title. Show respect in the way you treat him, and you'll help him better assume the very real mantle the Lord has placed upon him.

### Pray for Him

The scriptures teach, "The alms of your prayers have come up into the ears of the Lord" (D&C 88:2). As we pray for our bishop, the Lord does indeed hear us. And when we pray for our bishop during family prayer, we teach our children important principles of faith, obedience, and trust. Many bishops have testified of the strength they have received through the prayers of their ward members.

### Accept His Challenges and Follow His Counsel

The bishop is a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. He may challenge us. He may ask us to serve in positions that might be out of our comfort zone. He may ask us to stretch and give. For our benefit, for his benefit, and as a means of building the Lord's kingdom here on earth, we should follow the bishop's counsel and accept and magnify the callings he or his counselors extend to us.

### Be Supportive and Nonjudgmental

Bishops, like all of us, are human. They each have different strengths and different leadership styles. As members, we should not compare one bishop with another but know that our bishop is doing his best to follow what the Lord would have him do. We should be complimentary, nonjudgmental, and determined not to engage in criticism or gossip.

A few years ago I was called as a bishop. While serving for several years in that capacity, I experienced some of the greatest joys I have ever known—joys of interviewing enthusiastic eight-year-olds for baptism and confirmation, of working with young men and young women as they prepared to serve missions, and of teaching about the great blessings of the temple to couples preparing for eternal marriage. I thought of Bishop Maxwell on countless occasions during that time. His influence on my life will be eternal.

How blessed we are that the Lord sees fit to provide loving, devoted, caring bishops to shepherd our ward families. Their calling is challenging, and their burden can be heavy at times, yet we have a great opportunity to sustain and assist them through our support and positive actions. ■

### NOTES

1. "For a Bishop Must Be Blameless," *Ensign*, Nov. 1982, 32.
2. "Called to Serve," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 38.



### LIGHTEN YOUR BISHOP'S BURDEN

*"Everyone . . . is accountable to a bishop or a branch president. Tremendous are the burdens which they carry, and I invite every member of the Church to do all that he or she can to lift the burden under which our bishops and branch presidents labor."*

*"We must pray for them. They need help as they carry their heavy loads. We can be more supportive and less dependent upon them. We can assist them in every way possible. We can thank them for all that they do for us."*

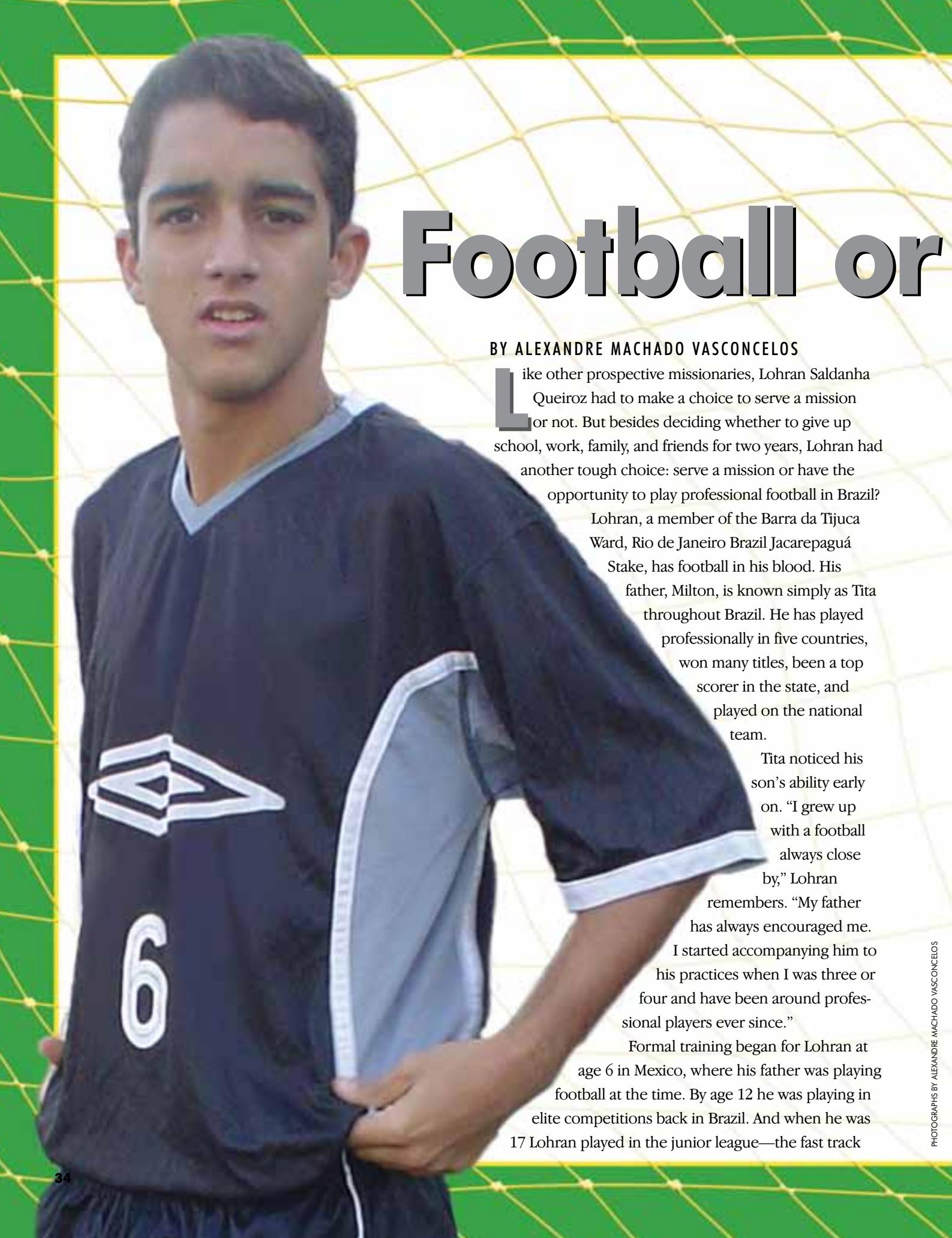
**President Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Shepherds of Israel," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 60.**



### BISHOPS CAN DO ONLY SO MUCH

*"In all the world there is nothing quite like the office of bishop in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Except for parents, the bishop has the best opportunity to teach and to cause to be taught the things that matter most. . . . But be careful not to impose unnecessarily upon his time. Bishops can do only so much. The bishopric must have time to make a living and time for their own families."*

**President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Bishop and His Counselors," *Liahona*, July 1999, 71, 73; *Ensign*, May 1999, 57, 58.**



# Football or

BY ALEXANDRE MACHADO VASCONCELOS

Like other prospective missionaries, Lohran Saldanha Queiroz had to make a choice to serve a mission or not. But besides deciding whether to give up school, work, family, and friends for two years, Lohran had another tough choice: serve a mission or have the opportunity to play professional football in Brazil?

Lohran, a member of the Barra da Tijuca Ward, Rio de Janeiro Brazil Jacarepaguá Stake, has football in his blood. His father, Milton, is known simply as Tita throughout Brazil. He has played professionally in five countries, won many titles, been a top scorer in the state, and played on the national team.

Tita noticed his son's ability early on. "I grew up with a football always close by," Lohran remembers. "My father has always encouraged me.

I started accompanying him to his practices when I was three or four and have been around professional players ever since."

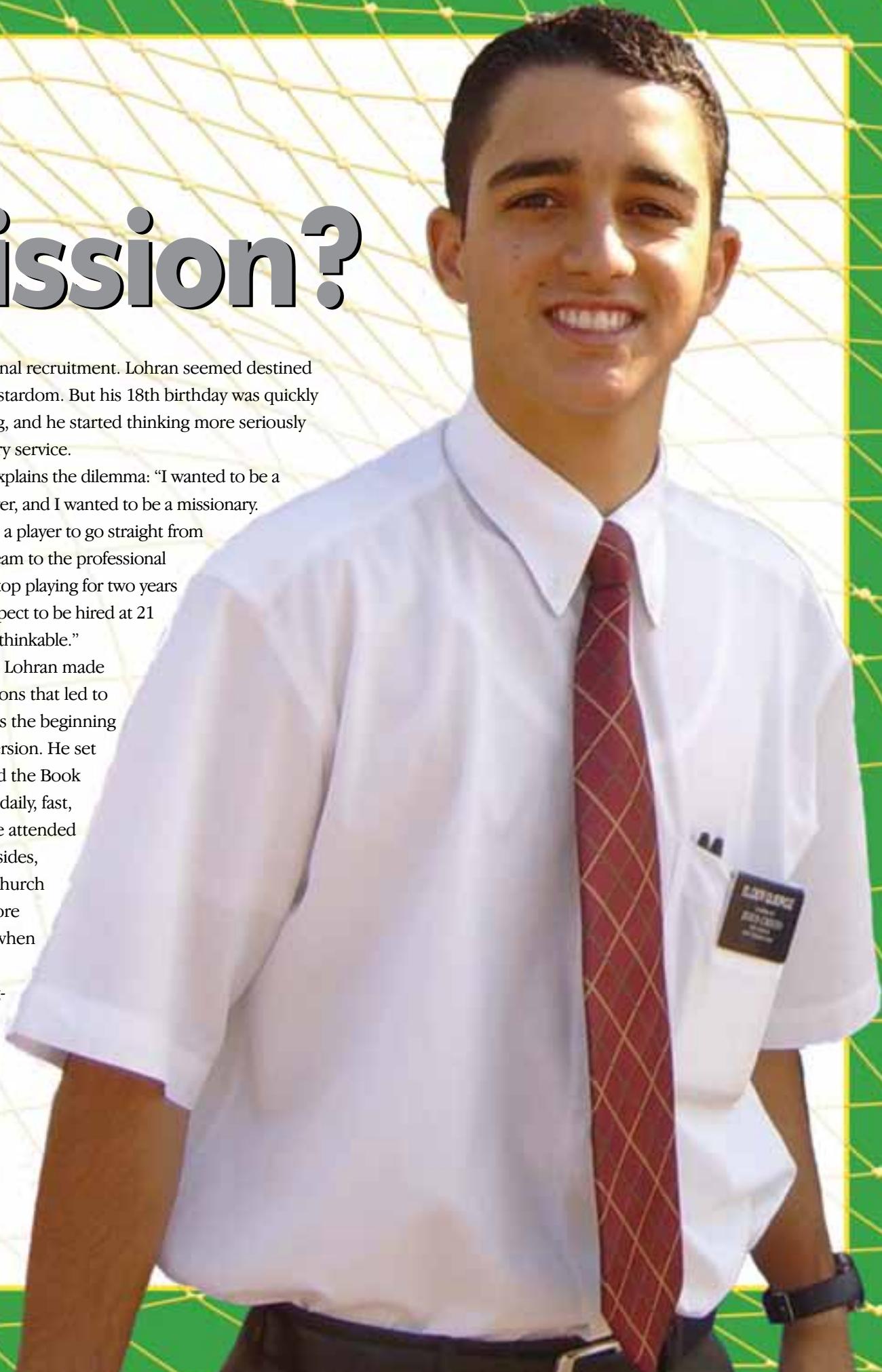
Formal training began for Lohran at age 6 in Mexico, where his father was playing football at the time. By age 12 he was playing in elite competitions back in Brazil. And when he was 17 Lohran played in the junior league—the fast track

# Mission?

to professional recruitment. Lohran seemed destined for football stardom. But his 18th birthday was quickly approaching, and he started thinking more seriously of missionary service.

Lohran explains the dilemma: "I wanted to be a football player, and I wanted to be a missionary. They expect a player to go straight from the junior team to the professional league. To stop playing for two years and then expect to be hired at 21 is almost unthinkable."

At age 17 Lohran made some decisions that led to what he calls the beginning of his conversion. He set goals to read the Book of Mormon daily, fast, and pray. He attended Mutual, firesides, and other Church activities more often. And when he began working regularly with



**Previous pages:**

**Lohran turned in his football uniform for the white shirt and tie of a missionary.**

**Below: Lohran shows his athletic skills at a young age. Top right and bottom: Lohran with his father and with his father's team.**



the missionaries, he found a love of the people he visited and prayed for. He wanted them to have the blessings of the gospel. His desire to serve a mission began to grow. But when would it be best for him to serve? And what would happen to his football career after a two-year interruption?

Lohran sought to learn God's will through fasting and prayer. That very week, he noticed the recently delivered issue of the *New Era* magazine in his home, and he began thumbing through it. He was attracted to the article "Ice Dreams," about ice skater Chris Obzansky, who interrupted a promising skating career to serve a mission at age 19, losing the opportunity to compete in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

One passage in particular caught Lohran's attention: as Chris was in sacrament meeting listening to his Young Men president talk about his own mission call, the Spirit told Chris, "You need to serve a mission when you're 19, or you're going to have a tough life." Chris said, "The message was so clear I actually turned around to see if someone was there. The feeling came back 10 times stronger, and I knew I had to go on a mission."<sup>1</sup>

Lohran smiles. "When I read that, I felt it had been written for me. Age 19 is the age

prescribed by the Lord. I realized that was the answer I needed, and it was like an enormous weight

was taken off my back." The time for Lohran to serve a mission was now. He talked to his bishop, made the necessary preparations, and never looked back. "It was not even difficult to make the decision of leaving football behind," he says, "for I knew it was the right time to do it."

Lohran served in his country's capital, in the Brazil Brasília Mission. He was known as "Elder Happy" because of his contagious enthusiasm. "I am exceptionally happy serving people, sharing with them what I know is true," he says. "It is so gratifying to see people change their lives after learning the gospel."

Like all missionaries, though, he experienced his share of hardships. "Obviously, missionary life is not all fun," he says. "There are difficulties, moments of weakness and loneliness, but all that is next to nothing compared to the treasures of a mission. These are years I'll never forget, that I'll always have in my mind and, more important, my heart."

A few months ago he finished serving a successful mission. Now that he's home, he has joined a football team in Rio de Janeiro and believes more chances to continue his football career will come his way. With faith he says, "I am now waiting for the opportunities to come, opportunities that our Heavenly Father will bless me to enjoy." ■

#### NOTE

1. Quoted in Shanna Butler, *Liabona*, Jan. 2004, 46; *New Era*, Jan. 2004, 22.



# MISSING THE WORLD CUP

BY SUZANA ALVES DE MELO

ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL LEWIS

**T**here is one sport that everyone in Brazil loves—football. And there is no bigger football event than the World Cup. So when Fabiana Silva, a member of the Brasil Ward, Vitória da Conquista Brazil Stake, won a contest and got to attend the 1998 World Cup in France, she was thrilled! But she had no idea it would become a missionary opportunity.

The other contest winners couldn't help noticing Fabiana's standards as they attended football game after football game, and Brazil headed to the final game against France. They respected her modest dress, her positive attitude, and her clean language. That respect turned to disbelief, though, when she told them she would not be attending the championship because it was going to be held on Sunday.

Despite pressure and even ridicule from the group, Fabiana stood firm. Sunday found her

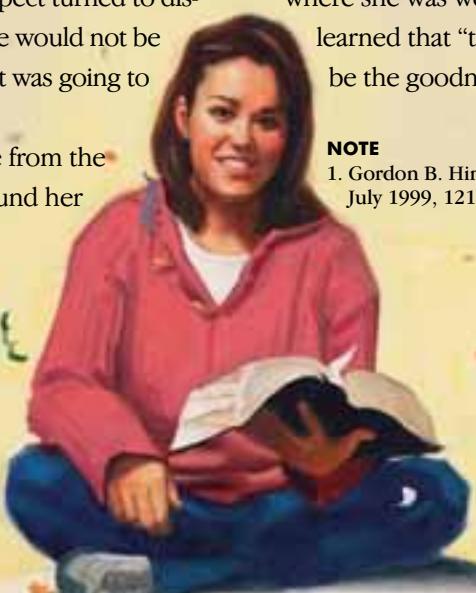
reading scriptures in her hotel room because she didn't know where to find a local chapel. Brazil lost; the group went home.

A few weeks later Fabiana was surprised to receive a letter from Fábio Fan, another contest winner from across the country. He told her he was impressed by her standards and that he was investigating the Church. Later he sent another letter—he had been baptized. Fábio then helped bring members of his family into the Church and served a mission.

Fabiana also served a mission, to Campinas, Brazil, where she was well prepared because she had already learned that "the most effective tract we will carry will be the goodness of our own lives and example."<sup>1</sup> ■

#### NOTE

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep," *Liahona*, July 1999, 121; *Ensign*, May 1999, 107.



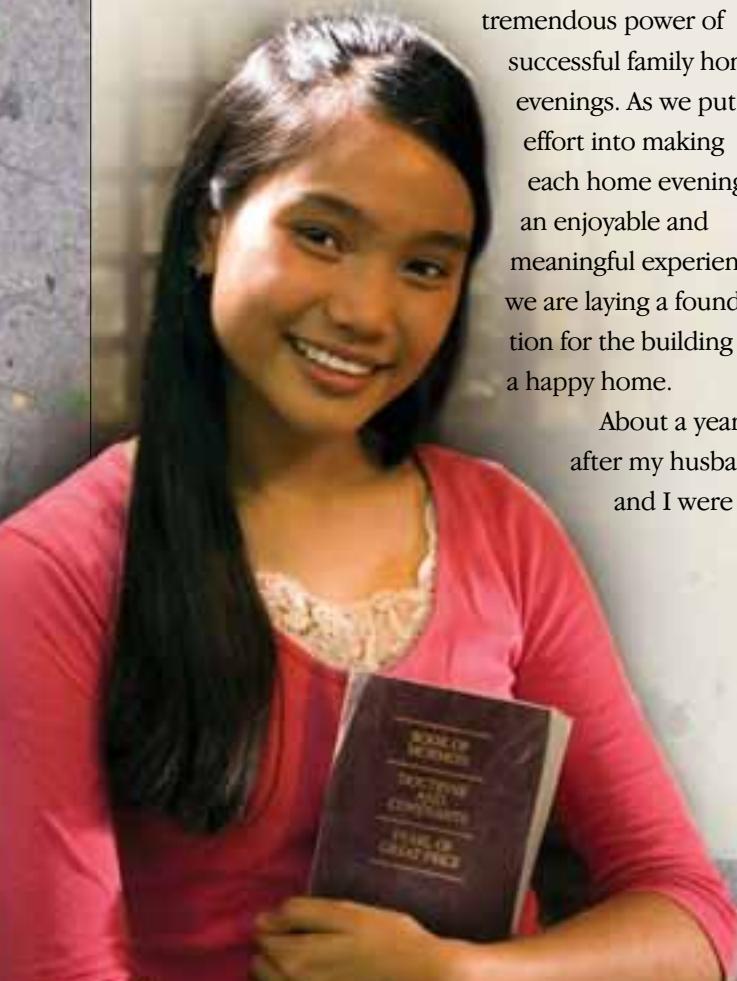
# It Made Us a Family

*Six ways we made meaningful family home evenings.*

RAQUEL M. GARCIA-REBUTAR

**I**t has been my experience that there is no problem so great that a family firmly founded on gospel principles cannot successfully endure or overcome it. It is in this light that my husband and I have come to know the tremendous power of successful family home evenings. As we put effort into making each home evening an enjoyable and meaningful experience, we are laying a foundation for the building of a happy home.

About a year after my husband and I were



married, my youngest brother's three daughters came to live with us. My husband's youngest sister and a girlfriend of mine also asked if they could stay with us for a while, and since we didn't have any children, we welcomed all of them. Suddenly we were no longer just a couple; we were a large family.

Prior to this time, my husband and I were not too serious about holding home evenings because it was just the two of us, but with the new additions to our family, we decided to implement the program earnestly in our home.

From our first family home evening together, our Mondays were never the same, nor will our lives be the same, because of those wonderful experiences. Our usually quiet home started to be filled with music. The children who couldn't read started to learn and developed a love for it. Those who were shy and hesitant to accept assignments developed confidence and showed eagerness to contribute, even volunteering to do special presentations. There was excitement throughout the week as everyone talked about what we had done the previous Monday night and what we were going to do the next one. Excitement would build as Monday neared and as family members were busy making preparations for their "big surprises."

The promise of an exciting home evening even became a motivation for all to do their assigned household chores. Each home evening brought insights and discoveries that enriched our lives.

Following are some ideas that helped make our family home evenings successful and effective:

JUNE 2007

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**1 Plan.** We had regular family meetings to

decide our weekly themes and agreed to have a three-month calendar.

**2 Involve everyone.** Each person had an assignment, from planning the themes and activities to assigning lessons to being the week's home evening leader. The shy and hesitant ones were given special encouragement and assistance to ensure they successfully accomplished assigned tasks and to help them recognize the value of their contribution to home evening.

**3 Create a structured but flexible program.**

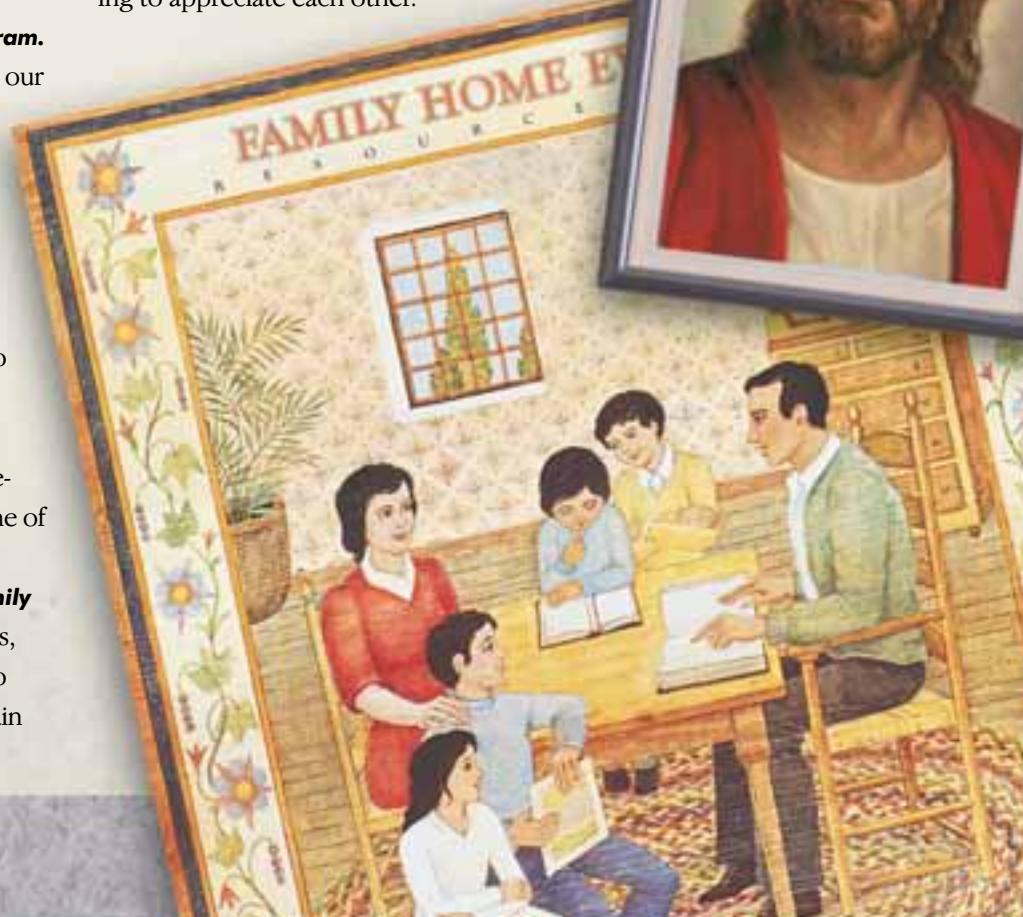
We kept a notebook where we wrote our weekly themes and noted what happened during each home evening. This helped us remember the lessons, games, activities, and themes we had already done and made it easy for us to follow up on previous assignments. It was the responsibility of the person conducting to announce the coming week's theme and ensure assignments for the next home evening were given and noted in the notebook. This person also reminded everyone of his or her part in the next home evening.

**4 Meet the needs and interests of family**

**members.** Themes, lessons, activities, and even games were carefully chosen to address specific family needs and maintain interest throughout the evening. All the

elements were thoughtfully linked together to reinforce the objectives for the evening. In the beginning, my husband and I ensured every activity was linked to the theme and objective, but soon even our youngest family member picked this up.

For example, after a lesson titled "Showing Appreciation for Our Family," the person conducting asked us to sit in a circle and listen to kind words of appreciation expressed by everyone. We then formed groups of two and listed the benefits we could gain from learning to appreciate each other.





**I**nvoke everyone in all parts of family home evening, from planning to leading.

## 5 Be consistent and committed.

Perhaps one of the biggest factors in the success of our home evenings was our consistency in having them and including everyone. We always communicated our willingness to help anyone at any time. Throughout the week we would watch for those needing help, and we took time to see how we could assist them. If there were recommendations or requests that we agreed to implement in the coming days, we helped by posting reminders on walls and creating checklists.

**6 Use available resources.** We had materials, reference manuals, and other resources available in our family library such as the *Family Home Evening Resource Book* (item no. 31106) and other Church manuals, game books, idea books, the scriptures, and Church

magazines.

We also stocked various office supplies for everyone to use for activities.

My husband and I also found that family home evening is an effective tool for addressing family issues in a nonthreatening way. There was no reprimanding, blaming, nagging, or ridiculing. It was a time to communicate love, develop skills, infuse values, build confidence, increase knowledge, and teach eternal principles. By consistently making a united effort to hold home evenings, our family was blessed.

My nieces have since returned to their father, my sister-in-law has moved out on her own, and my girlfriend now lives in a dorm close to the school she's attending. We're back to being just a couple again. But we are still having those fun-filled, meaningful home evenings. Sometimes we invite other families to join us, and other times we take pleasure

in just getting to know each other better, working out our problems together, and expressing our appreciation for each other.

Our themes and activities continue to be simple and focused on meeting our needs.

We have no doubt that family home evening is an inspired program. Each meaningful home evening is a building block that adds to the fortification against the forces that seek to destroy happy and successful families. ■



# He Would Not Touch the Book

By Hermenegildo I. Cruz

In the last area of my mission, Molo, Iloilo, in the Philippines, I prayed hard that before I was released we could baptize and confirm a family. My companion and I prayed one day that we would be directed to the honest in heart, someone who was ready to accept the gospel. We were impressed to knock at a certain house with a bamboo fence. A man came down the stairs, opened the door for us, and invited us to come in.

We befriended him and learned that he was a lawyer. He asked many

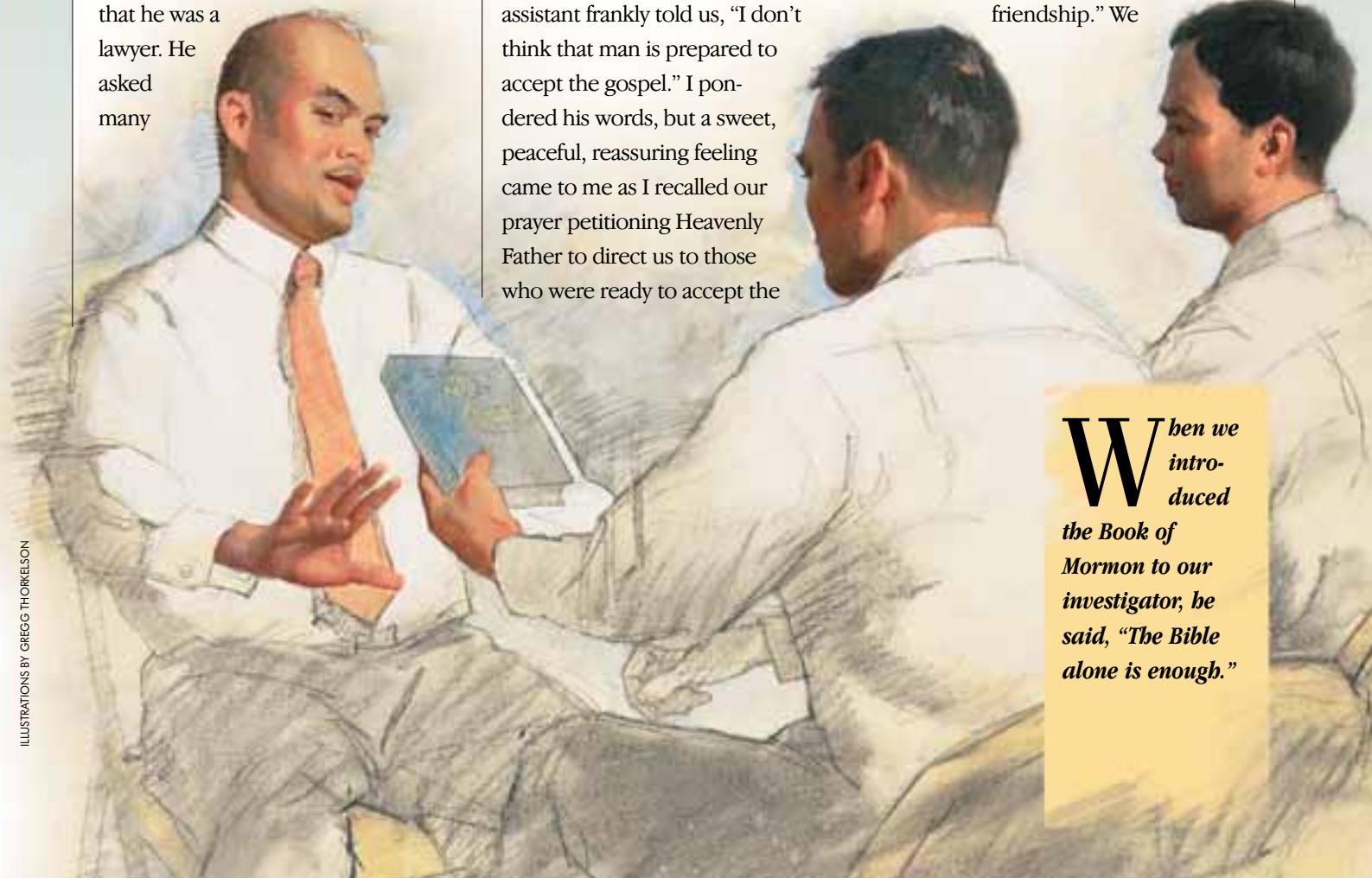
questions that we sometimes could not answer, and when he spoke, it was with such eloquence as to discourage any missionary. He became a difficult investigator. We introduced the Book of Mormon, but he said, "The Bible alone is enough." He would never read or even touch the Book of Mormon, as if his hand would be burned.

One day an assistant to the mission president came to work with Elder Alcos, my junior companion. They met with this man, and afterward the assistant frankly told us, "I don't think that man is prepared to accept the gospel." I pondered his words, but a sweet, peaceful, reassuring feeling came to me as I recalled our prayer petitioning Heavenly Father to direct us to those who were ready to accept the

gospel. I knew our prayer had been answered. I felt that there was something we needed to share with this man. We just did not know what it was or how to do it. But we did not give up on him.

Slowly his heart began to change, and he learned to love the family home evening program that we introduced to him. As the days passed, I felt discouraged that we could not baptize and confirm this family before I left. I had only a few more days before my release. One day I sadly told him, "Brother Garcia, I think I failed my mission."

He said, "No, Elder Cruz, you did not fail. We have developed a friendship." We



**W**hen we introduced the Book of Mormon to our investigator, he said, "The Bible alone is enough."

were delighted at his next words: "Don't worry. We will go to your church on Sunday."

He and his family did come to church, and the members received them warmly. I saw him shed tears as he listened to the inspiring words spoken during sacrament meeting. He went home happy and uplifted that day. I knew his heart had been touched.

When the time was right and we felt he was ready, we challenged him to be baptized and confirmed. He accepted the challenge. We also challenged him to fast and pray and read the Book of Mormon. My companion and I fasted for him and his family.

May 4, 1986, was my last Sunday in the mission field. It was fast and testimony meeting, and I bore my sincere final testimony to the people I had learned to love. After I testified, I saw this lawyer, who had at first been un receptive to our message, stand up and walk to the pulpit, holding the Book of Mormon. His whole frame was shaking, and there were tears in his eyes as he raised the Book of Mormon and cried, "Brothers and sisters, I know the Book of Mormon is true." We rejoiced to hear this testimony.

That afternoon many members of the ward attended the baptism of the Garcia family.

After I was released from my mission, I corresponded regularly with Brother Garcia. He gladly told me when he became a Sunday School president. Later he was called as

bishop. He traveled many hours by boat to attend my wedding in the Manila Philippines Temple. Eventually he was called to serve as a stake president and as a counselor in the Philippines Bacolod Mission presidency.

He has been an instrument in the conversion of many people to the restored gospel. The man who acted as if his hand would be burned if he touched the Book of Mormon became a great witness to the divinity and truth of that book. ■

## The Orange Car

By Elwin C. Robison

Early in our marriage my wife and I attended school in the northeastern United States, where winters are harsh and road salt is plentiful. After several winters, the body of our old car began to corrode, culminating with a passenger stepping through the floor of the car. With optimism I purchased some sheets of aluminum and pop rivets, and we called my parents to see if we could visit that weekend and work on the car.

We arrived late Friday night, and my father and I got up early on Saturday to work on the car floor. We pulled back the rubber mats and started looking for sound metal to which we could fasten the metal sheets. Our search revealed nothing but corroded metal. We looked at each other silently, replaced the mats, and went to breakfast.

After we made the slow and careful five-hour drive back to our apartment, the phone was ringing when we walked in. Mom had decided that she "needed" a new car and wondered if we would like her old one. My dad

cautioned that the car was three years old and had many miles on it. My mom then joked that it couldn't be too bad—it had been driven by a full-tithe payer. We laughed, and after we hung up the phone, we danced around the apartment in honor of this bit of manna from heaven.

The orange car was wonderful. It had four doors, air conditioning, and no rust holes. It got us through graduate school and on to our first job. But after six years of driving and an additional 80,000 miles (129,000 km), it was now the ugly car I drove to work. The shiny orange paint was looking blotchy from sun exposure, the air conditioning no longer worked, the driver's side window wouldn't go down, and my mother was once again shopping for a new car (legitimately this time). The trade-in value of her old car was so little that my parents decided to give it to us.

In the midst of our pleasure in having a newer car, we wondered what to do with the orange car. Yes, it was ugly, but the engine ran reliably. We could



get a few dollars for it at a junkyard, but we both felt we should look for someone to whom we could give it.

On Sunday morning I went into the clerk's office to ask the ward clerk if he needed a car. He and his wife had several teens. He smiled and said no thanks; he didn't need another car.

In the corner of the office, however,

was a ward member writing something. He

perked up at the mention of a car, so I went through the long list of things that didn't work. But I assured him it had good tires, the engine was reliable, and it

couldn't be too bad since it had always been driven by a full-tithe payer.

He and his wife had

only one car, and he

worked nights while she

worked days. He had turned down better employment opportunities because he would have needed the car when his wife also needed it. A

second car would permit them to increase their income and open up advancement potential for him. So we gave them the old orange car.

This would have remained just a fond memory if it hadn't been for our conversation three months later. This ward member and his wife wanted us to know more about their circum-

**W**e looked for someone to whom we could give our old car, but little did we know how the Lord would use it to fulfill His promises.

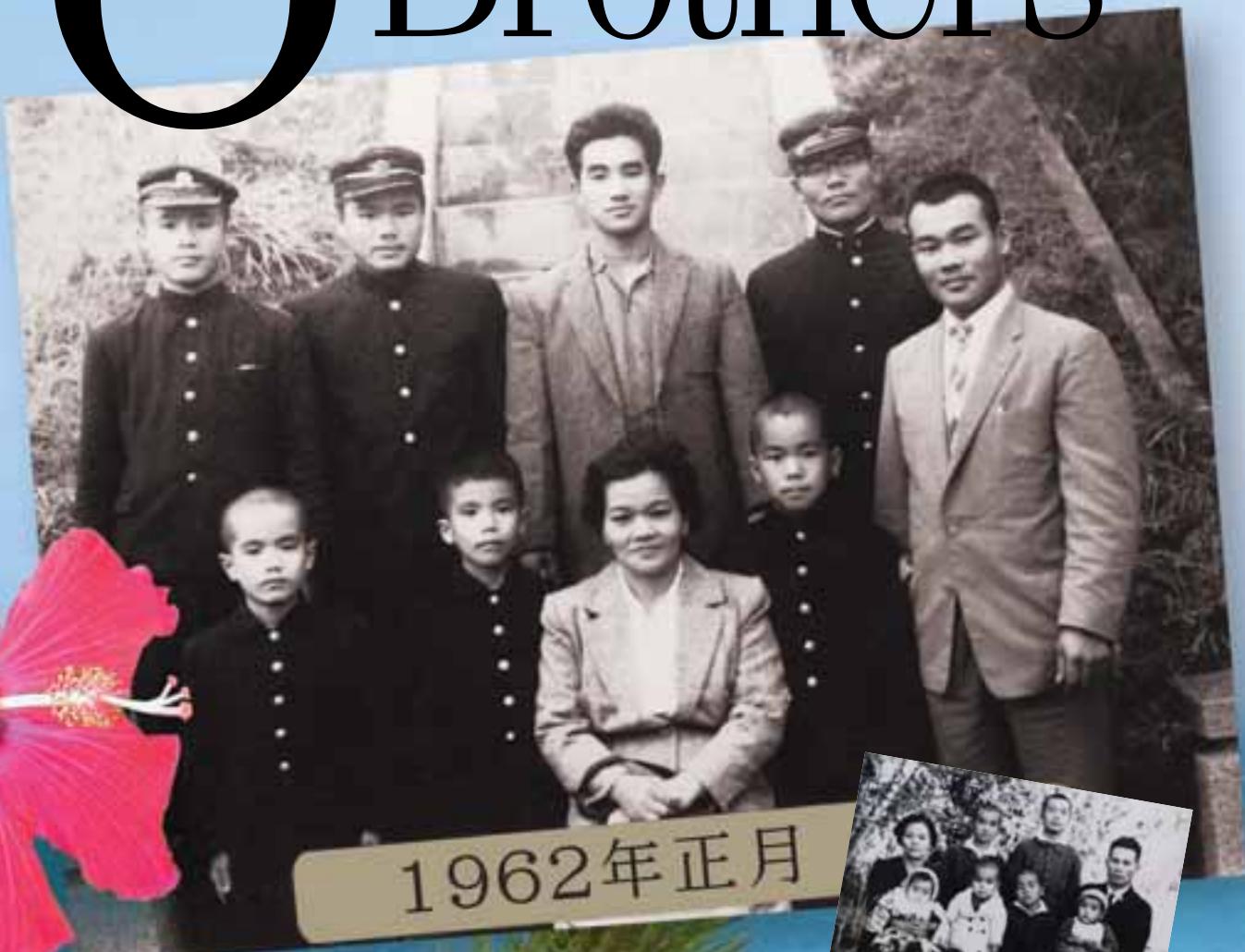
As is often the case with young couples, money was scarce, and with the birth of their first child, expenses had increased

more rapidly than income. They had gotten behind in their tithing and had felt awful about it. With each passing month they felt worse, but they didn't see a way out of their dilemma. They had gone six months without paying tithing, and they had prayed and felt that they just had to make things right with the Lord. That Sunday morning when I walked into the clerk's office, he had been writing out his tithing check, wondering how he was going to meet his financial obligations through the coming month.

My first thought was embarrassment at my joke about the car having been driven by a full-tithe payer. But as I reflected on the situation, I marveled at how the Lord keeps His promises when we keep ours. The ink wasn't even dry on his check when the means to resolve his dilemma unwittingly walked through the door.

I have often looked back at the example of faith shown by this young couple. It comforts me to know that if I show faith, someone somewhere can be in the right place at the right time to help solve my dilemmas. How grateful I am for a Father in Heaven who knows us so well that He can bless us even before we have finished demonstrating our faith. ■

# 8 Japanese Brothers



Sister Haru Kina with her eight sons in 1962. Right: Sister Kina and her husband, Gen-ei, with six of their children.



BY TADASHI KINA

**M**y parents had nine children—eight sons and a daughter. The only girl died as a small child in World War II during the battle of Okinawa. Following the war, my father established a successful automotive repair shop in Nago, located in the northern part of the main island of Okinawa. In 1954, when my youngest brother was 2 and my oldest brother was 17, our father died, and my mother became a widow at the age of 40. Mother could not accept Father's death. Sometimes, in her sorrow, she wanted to follow after him, but she had eight boys she could not leave behind.

Up until that time, my mother, Haru, had relied upon our father to be the breadwinner; but having lost him, she was now forced to work. She tried to forget her sorrow by working and then coming home and caring for her children. She struggled to raise her eight rowdy boys alone. When I was old enough to understand, I realized I never knew when my mother got up or when she went to sleep.

#### Teach My Children about God

Ten years after the death of my father, as if guided by the Spirit, Mother left Nago amid the opposition of friends and relatives and moved to Naha, the capital of Okinawa. A few years later, about 1967, the missionaries knocked on our door. At that time our house was isolated and surrounded by sugarcane

fields and a graveyard. The road to the house was in poor condition, and few people ever called on us. The missionaries were Elder Jackson and Elder Fuchigami, a second-generation Japanese-American from Hawaii. The missionaries asked, "May we speak with you about God?" Mother had been concerned about her sons' education and thought we might learn something good from the missionaries, so she invited the elders in and said, "Please teach my children about God."

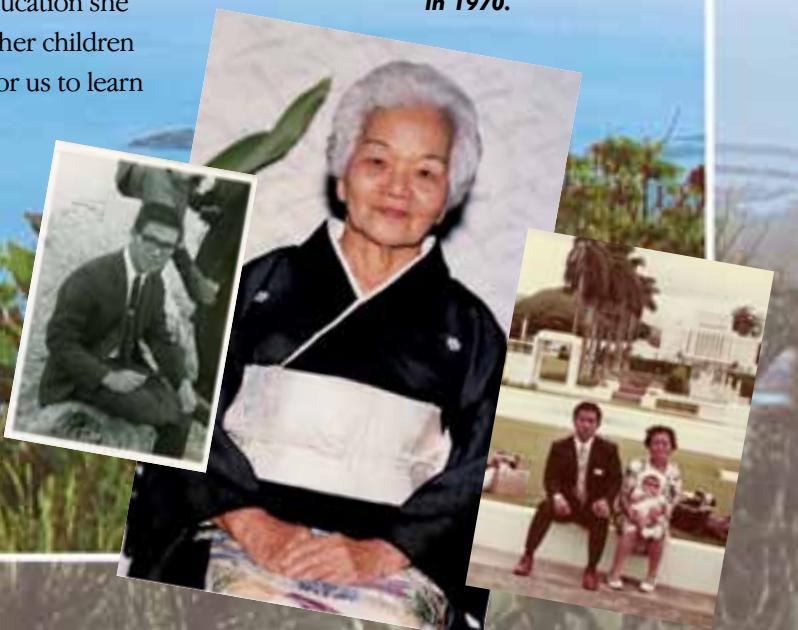
Mother found peace as she learned about the gospel. She was impressed that the missionaries paid their own way and that Elder Jackson was serving a mission, even though he had lost his parents in an automobile accident when he was younger and had struggled along with an older sister. As she listened to the missionaries, Mother shed tears for the first time since my father's death. She felt the Lord's love and the Spirit through the discussions. She knew that this was the church our family had been searching for.

To set an example for her sons, Mother was baptized first. She was touched by the missionaries' message and by their loving, kind behavior. She began to think that the greatest education she could give her children would be for us to learn



*Because of our mother's faith in the missionaries' message, the gospel is blessing our family and many others throughout Japan.*

**Below, left to right:**  
**Elder Fuchigami, one of the missionaries who taught Sister Kina the gospel. Sister Kina at age 85. Sister Kina with her son Toshimitsu and her grandson at the Laie Hawaii Temple in 1970.**





**This monument in Mabuni, Okinawa, lists the names of victims of the battle of Okinawa. Tadashi Kina points to the name of his sister, Fumiko, who died at age two. Below: Missionary Tadashi Kina (right) at a baptism. Below right: The youngest Kina son, Akira, on his mission in 1972.**

the gospel and become missionaries. Mother always told the missionaries, "There are eight boys in our family. Please come to our house and teach the gospel to them. When they are all converted, there will be eight more priesthood holders at church. And they may be missionaries in the future."

#### Serving Missions

Most of my brothers and I were influenced by our mother and joined the Church one after another. As we attended church, our lives changed through the gospel and the help extended to us from the brothers and sisters at church. We became better sons and brothers. We started helping one another more and found life to be enjoyable. Four of us later preached the gospel as missionaries in various parts of Japan. When one of my older brothers, who had moved away from Okinawa, saw the fine stature of one of his younger brothers who was serving a mission, he said, "I can't believe this is my younger brother

who used to be so wild." Then of his own initiative,

he sought out the Church and was soon baptized and confirmed.

Before another of my older brothers was baptized at the age of 27, he had no idea how to live. He was troubled and would drink and party. He caused his family and the people around him much grief. When this brother learned about the purpose of life through the gospel, he was baptized and confirmed and eventually married a wonderful woman in the Church. He found joy in life and began feeling a purpose in being alive. He shared the gospel with friends and was a good influence to many. My brothers who were on missions could hardly believe it when they heard that this brother had joined the Church.

As missionaries, my brothers and I received assistance from our mission presidents and companions as well as Church members and the Lord. We worked hard, and with the help of the Spirit, we were able to baptize and confirm many people. Among those converted, one is now serving as a stake president, some are high councilors, and some are bishops. Those families have been sealed in the temple, and their children are now serving as missionaries. Through the service we were able to give,





**Sister Kina (center) sits surrounded by family members at a family reunion in 2002.**

gospel seeds have been planted all around Japan and are starting to bloom. Mother's dream to have her children be missionaries came true.

#### **Building the Kingdom**

Through serving in callings, my brothers and I have grown spiritually. Each brother who has joined the Church has been sealed in the temple and is now raising a happy family. Mother was sealed in the Laie Hawaii Temple to our father and sister and those of us who have been converted. She was able to realize the fulness of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ as she received the blessings of the temple. She later visited relatives, diligently seeking for information that would help her with her family history work. My mother has served in the Relief Society and Young Women programs and as a seminary teacher.

The Kina family now includes daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren: a total of 66 family members. Of these, 51 are members of the Church and 10 are returned missionaries. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren will continue going out on missions as they become of age. We feel that it is the duty of those who have received the blessings of the gospel to do so.

Kina family members have served or are serving in the following callings: two in the stake presidency (or district presidency), three as high councilors, seven in bishoprics (or branch presidencies), four as high priests group leaders,

eight in elders quorum presidencies, six as mission leaders, and seven in Relief Society presidencies. We feel blessed that we have had these opportunities to serve others.

#### **Mother's Testimony**

Mother received a strong testimony as she watched her children's lives change for the better through the gospel of Jesus Christ. She had a desire to share the gospel with those she loved. She introduced friends and relatives to the missionaries and often held family meetings at home. Through this she was instrumental in bringing many into the Church, including 50 of her relatives.

Mother, now 90, once bore the following testimony: "As a mother, I would gladly sacrifice myself so that my children could return to their Heavenly Father. How can one leave any child he or she loves so much and still go to Heavenly Father? My most important mission here upon the earth as a mother is to return the children I received from Heavenly Father back to Him."

We sons are now of the age that we have children and grandchildren and can understand and appreciate our mother's testimony.

The gospel is true, and truth changes people. Through the gospel we have come to know God's love and mercy. We have made many friends with the wonderful brothers and sisters in the Church and are grateful for the changes we have experienced through their examples. We will go forward as instruments in God's hand here in Okinawa and preach the restored gospel, build churches and temples, and help to establish Zion. ■

# OUR CHOICE

Coming up with ideas for Posters is one of the most challenging and rewarding things we do at the Church magazines.

That's an experience we wanted to share with our readers. So last year we chose a picture that could have a variety of meanings and invited you to send your ideas. And you certainly did send them! Hundreds of responses from all over the world arrived by mail and e-mail. Often, similar ideas with nearly identical wording arrived on the same day from different continents, and it soon became obvious that we couldn't pick just one winning entry.

About half a dozen themes turned up again and again:

- Don't turn your back (on family, friends, the Church).
- Follow the prophet.
- Dare to stand alone.
- Repent—turn around and go in the right direction.
- Choose the right.
- Share the gospel with others.

In the end, we found that more of your responses had to do with making right choices than anything else. So that's *our* choice.

**CHOOSE**

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID TIPUNG © GETTY IMAGES

**GOOD AND EVIL ARE POLAR OPPOSITES.**  
(See 2 Nephi 2:27.)

And the winner is: everyone who participated. You took the time to ponder and to communicate with each other and with the

Spirit to identify and share true principles. And that experience is what *we* wanted to share with you. ■



# Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting

*Teaching and Learning*

FEBRUARY 10, 2007



***The proceedings of this worldwide leadership training meeting are  
also available at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org).***

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

# Principles of Teaching and Learning

**PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER**

Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

**ELDER L. TOM PERRY**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



## Teaching and Learning

**President Packer:** Our theme is teaching and learning the gospel of Jesus Christ, both in the classroom and at home. All of us—leaders, teachers, missionaries, and parents—have a lifelong challenge from the Lord to both teach and learn the doctrines of the gospel as they have been revealed to us.

We will begin with a brief conversation between Elder L. Tom Perry and

myself on principles that build good teaching. My assignment is to convey a few personal experiences that have taught me much about teaching and learning. If you watch and listen carefully, you will notice that to be a good teacher you must also be a willing learner.

Our conversation will be followed by Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, who will instruct us on preparing to teach. He will then join a classroom of students

to demonstrate an example of classroom teaching.

Any of the Twelve could have effectively given this demonstration. Each would have varied his approach from the others. There is no one method that works for all teachers or situations. The Spirit is essential in guiding us to use our own preparation, experience, personality, knowledge, and testimony in any particular teaching situation.

## Leaders' Responsibilities

Leaders have a responsibility to teach, whether they are in councils or interviews or worship services. They also have a responsibility to ensure that teacher development and effective gospel learning are ongoing in the lives of members.

To that end, the First Presidency issued a letter dated November 17, 2006, discontinuing the positions of ward and stake teacher improvement coordinators. Accompanying the letter was a list of "Leaders' Responsibilities for Teacher Improvement." We trust that with the principles taught in this broadcast, together with the suggestions and resources stated in the letter, priesthood and auxiliary leaders will counsel together to improve gospel teaching and learning. It should not be necessary to hold special meetings for teacher improvement other than in your councils and interviews from time to time as needed.

We pray that this training broadcast may help you become better teachers



The presentations from this worldwide leadership training meeting can help you improve as a teacher and learner. To identify and apply the ideas in these presentations, read the information in the yellow boxes that have been placed near the beginning of each presentation. You may also want to mark scriptures and key phrases in the presentations and write impressions you receive.

Read President Packer's opening remarks. Identify ideas that can help you become a better teacher and learner.

Ponder the following question, and write down the ideas and impressions that come to you: What should I do to ensure I have the Spirit in my teaching at home and at church?

What do you think helps make President Packer an effective learner?



and students of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### Willingness to Learn

**Elder Perry:** President, you wrote a book entitled *Teach Ye Diligently*. Every position in the Church requires an effective teacher. It is our most important calling. Could we visit for a few minutes and talk about teaching diligently as a requirement in our several Church callings?

**President Packer:** I was appointed seminary supervisor, and I didn't know anything. I was assigned then, employed, and paid more or less to go about the Church to tell seminary teachers how to teach and what they did wrong. That was very embarrassing, because I would go into a class and see teachers do something and have to correct them when I knew I did that every time I taught, and I had learned something about it.

Elder Harold B. Lee and Elder Marion G. Romney were always teaching, and they would, in a sense, go out of their way to tell me something

or teach me something. I think the reason they did it—I'm not sure they ever saw me in this position or calling—is that I had one virtue: I wanted to learn, and I didn't resent it. And if you don't resent it, and if you want to learn, the Lord will keep teaching you, sometimes things you really didn't think you wanted to know.

Both of those great teachers would teach me. When I would see Brother Romney, sometimes he would say, "Kid, I want to tell you something." I knew it was coming. He was going to tell me I was doing something that I shouldn't do, and I would always thank him.

I learned early on that there is great value in listening to experience in older people. I had a stake president once who said, "I always tried to be in the presence of great people." He was in a little town in Idaho, but he said, "If there was a lecturer coming or something special, I would always try to be there, because I could learn."

I have always been drawn to associate with older people (now I am one).

I remember in the Quorum of the Twelve, LeGrand Richards didn't walk as fast as the other Brethren, and I would always wait and open the door for him and walk back to the building with him. One day one of the Brethren said, "Oh, you're so kind to take care of Brother Richards." And I thought, "You don't know my selfish motive"—as we would walk back, I would just listen to him. I knew that he could remember Wilford Woodruff, and he would speak. One-on-one teaching is very powerful. Generally one-on-one teaching is what happens when you are corrected.

Another principle of teaching is to arise from your bed early (see D&C 88:124)—but the easy part of that, or the hard part, is to retire to your bed—and then reflect in the morning when your mind is clear. That's when the ideas come to teach.

I don't know how often I have had an assignment come and I didn't have a clue in my mind what to do. Yesterday I was in a meeting of the General Authorities. I knew I was

going to speak first, and I thought, “What will I say?” And I was confident it would come, and it came.

#### Using the Scriptures

**Elder Perry:** What is the importance of using the scriptures in your teaching?

**President Packer:** I have always relied on the scriptures. The best example of teaching and how to teach, the best model for teaching methods, besides the subject matter, which is the gospel, is the Lord and His teaching. That's why I don't like to go to the pulpit or stand in front of a class without my scriptures in hand. I have got them in hand today.

**Elder Perry:** President, you've carried those scriptures around with you. Every time I've been with you, you've had those scriptures. You told us the story one time of how they were in the water, and that only helped them because you could turn to them faster.

**President Packer:** Well, I was studying outside on the lawn and was called away and left my scriptures open on the little table—I forgot them, as old men will do—and the sprinklers went on. I came out in the morning and thought, “Oh, my scriptures that I've marked up for 50 years are gone.” I found out it just loosened the pages. I think if I had to get new scriptures, I'd put them out in the rain before I started using them.

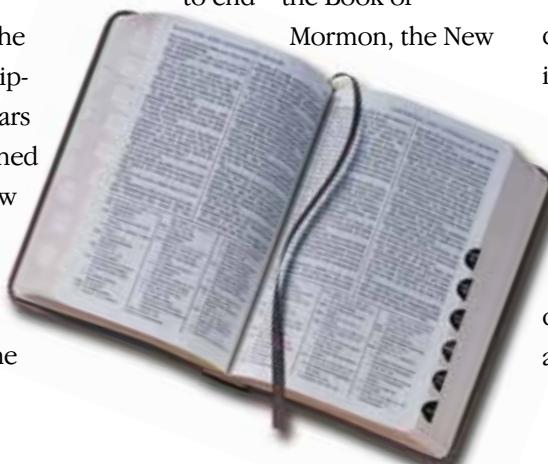
**Elder Perry:** People always talk to us about the scriptures and, some

of them, how difficult it is to get through them. How do you make the scriptures come alive in your teaching?

**President Packer:** Stay at it. I remember when I determined I was going to read the Book of Mormon. I was in my teens. I opened it and read, “I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents” (1 Nephi 1:1). And I went on through the chapters, and I was learning things. It was interesting, and I could follow it until I got over to the Isaiah chapters and the Old Testament prophet language. So a few months later I decided to try again to read the Book of Mormon. I read, “I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents,” but every time I'd hit the barrier of those Isaiah chapters, and I wondered why they were in there. Finally I decided I was even going to read them. So when I was a teenager, I just had to look at the words. I didn't understand it, but I could turn the pages and then go on through. When you get over in Alma, you will sail on through.

So you have to be determined to read them, and not just glean from them, but read them from beginning to end—the Book of

Mormon, the New



Testament, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price. For years I made it a practice to read the scriptures each summer when we had a little time off, to refresh the store that's there.

#### Pray for the Gift of Teaching

**Elder Perry:** What counsel would you give recent converts prior to their first calling as a teacher?

**President Packer:** I would tell them they can do it. Everybody can teach. I would counsel them to pray for the gift of teaching. You know, the Book of Mormon speaks of gifts and outlines several gifts, among them to teach the gospel by the Spirit (see Moroni 10:8–10). When I read that years ago, I thought, “That's a gift I want, to be able to teach by the Spirit.” I found out from the scriptures that you have to ask for it—ask and ye shall receive—so I would tell them to keep asking and seeking, “and ye shall find” (see Matthew 7:7; 3 Nephi 27:29) and that the gift has to be earned, but it can come.

#### Seeking the Spirit

**Elder Perry:** What should teachers do to ensure that they have the Spirit in their teaching?

**President Packer:** You have to live worthily, and you have to ask for help. You can ask for help if you are parents. And then you have to keep the commandments and pray constantly, unceasingly for the ability and the inspiration to know what to

do and when to do it. The Lord won't fail you: "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18). "Whatsoever . . . ye shall ask in faith, believing that ye shall receive," it will be given you (Enos 1:15). Then one of the scriptures adds a little—*if* it's good for you (see Moroni 7:26). The gospel is very practical.

You may be an older person who thinks that your ministry is finished, you may be a young person who is frightened about everything or a mother who is so busy with the children or a father who is preoccupied, but you can teach, and you can pray, and you can be guided. And you will. You'll be blessed of the Lord—I can promise you that.

When the Lord was teaching, He always dealt with things that the people knew about. For instance, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net" (Matthew 13:47)—it isn't really a net, but it's just like unto it; and then He explained why. And "the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking [after] goodly pearls" (Matthew 13:45). When He gave the parable of the sower (see Matthew 13:3–8), that was something they could relate to, and it's not only possible but quite probable, after He gave the parable of the sower and talked about seeds being thrown on hard ground and on productive ground, that a month later one of those who was hearing and out doing some planting, seeing the seeds in his hand, would relive that lesson.

If you use parables and stories and illustrations, it lives after the students are out of the class. His method was remarkably simple. He was at times fairly stern, but always His teachings were on their level.

Teaching is a sacred calling, a holy calling. The thing I think I would tell teachers is that they never teach alone. They never have to be alone. The Lord has promised that in the scriptures. Alma said the Lord granteth unto all nations, in every tongue, teachers (see Alma 29:8), and the Lord said, "Teach ye diligently and my grace [will] attend you" (D&C 88:78).

I don't know how to teach the gospel without a constancy of prayer. You can speak a prayer, but you can also think a prayer. A lot of times when I've been teaching a group or a class I've just been praying inwardly, "How can I get through?" And I don't know how to do it other than having that power available.

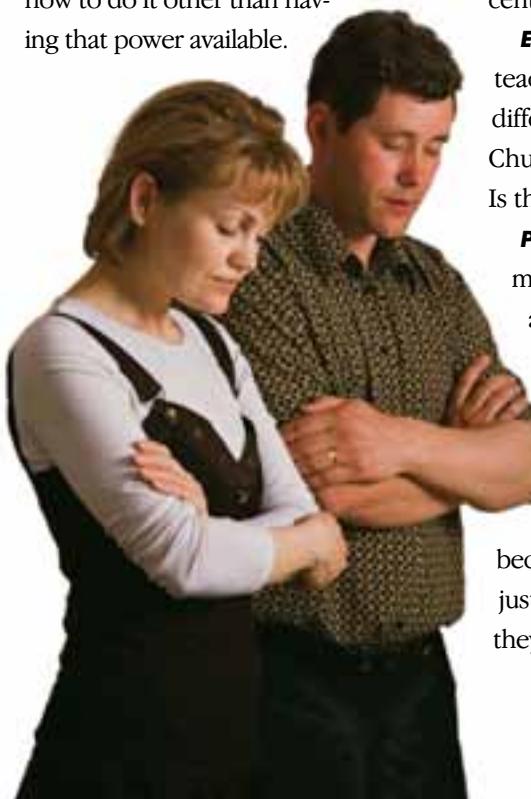
### The Responsibility to Teach

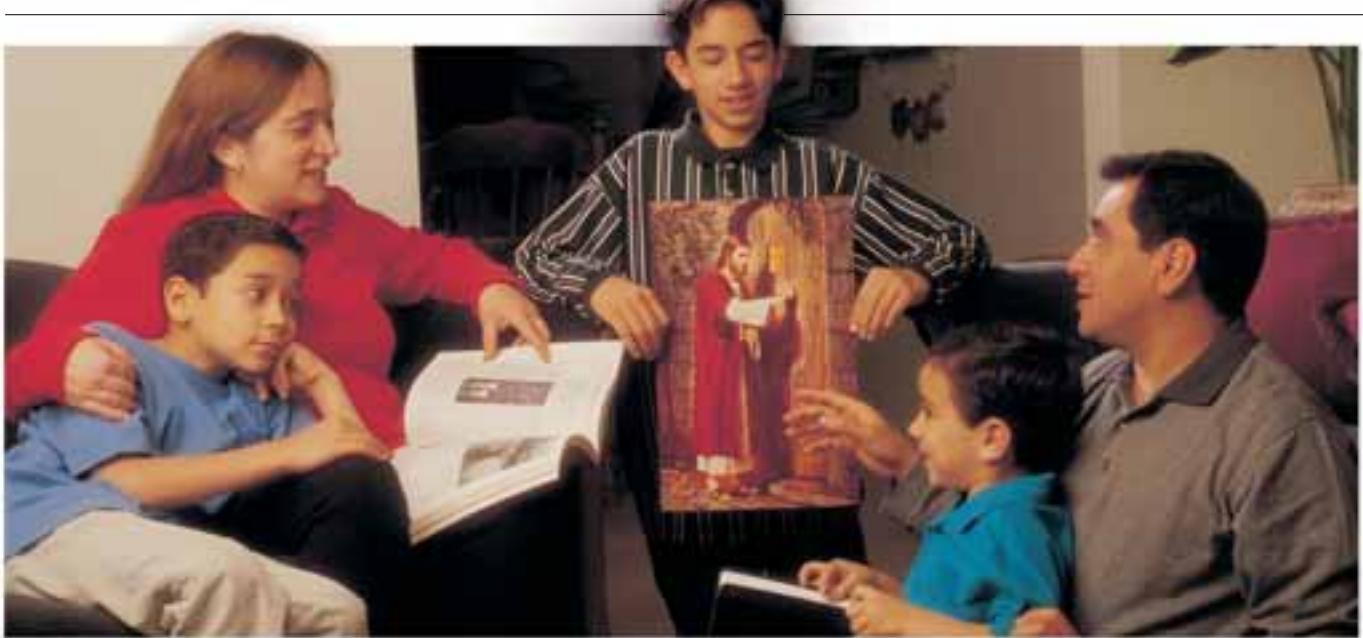
**Elder Perry:** Teaching is central in all the activities of the Church. Who has the responsibility to prepare themselves to teach?

**President Packer:** Everybody is a teacher—the leader is a teacher; the follower is a teacher; the counselor is a teacher; the parents are teachers. So we have a responsibility to learn the principles of teaching. The Lord set up His Church so that we all do everything in the Church. There's a statement in the Doctrine and Covenants that "every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, . . . the Savior of the world" (D&C 1:20). How blessed we are that we have a lay priesthood, as it is called, so that all of the brethren can hold the priesthood. All of the sisters are eligible for callings in the Church, and all of us will be parents. Therefore, teaching is the center of all that we do.

**Elder Perry:** You've mentioned teaching in the home. What is the difference between teaching in the Church and teaching in the home? Is there any great difference?

**President Packer:** In the home it's more intimate and better and easier and less formal, and parents are teaching by example. Parents also teach some things that are kind of painful to kids when they ask "why," and all the parents can say is "because"—because they don't know why, they just know it isn't the thing to do, and they teach them obedience so that





**You have to live worthily, and you have to ask for help. You can ask for help if you are parents. And then you have to keep the commandments and pray constantly, unceasingly for the ability and the inspiration to know what to do and when to do it.**

they will know and understand. And at home there's that powerful bond of love between parent and child that you won't let go until you get it taught.

#### **Teaching by the Spirit**

**Elder Perry:** President, how do you get the Spirit in the classroom from the teacher to the students in such a way that it will be a meaningful experience to them?

**President Packer:** First, they have to know that you love them, that you want to teach them. Then you have to communicate on their level. We can't float around above them—even in the gospel—about subjects that they cannot connect with. That isn't what the Lord did. The Lord walked with them and talked with them in everyday life, and His teachings were on that level always.

If you have something to teach, they really want to learn. Teenagers even—teenagers especially—want to learn. They have a thirst for it.

A lot of teachers think they have

to be prepared to the very sentence. Yes and no. That preparation includes having the presentation loose enough to involve the students and having them ask questions and bringing them into it. You have to leave a little room for inspiration.

We have a memory prompter in the Holy Ghost. If we have a challenge of something to teach, and we think about who we are and what we do, there's always some little experience we've had or someplace we've been or something we've seen that we can bring into the lesson. And the scriptures are part of all of that. They aren't just a book you read now and again to figure out the rules and regulations of the Church.

Quite a bit of teaching that is done in the Church is done so rigidly, it's lecture. We don't respond to lectures too well in classrooms. We do in sacrament meeting and at conferences, but teaching can be two-way so that you can ask questions. You can sponsor questions easily in a class.

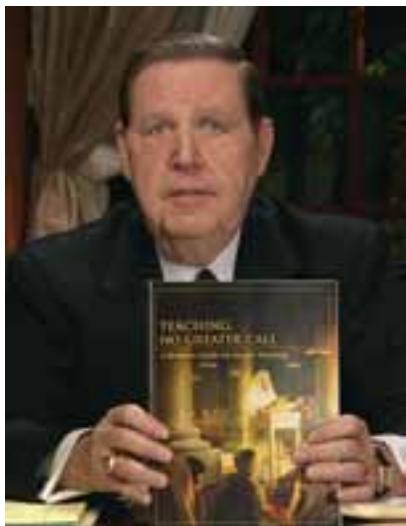
Suppose you were teaching the Martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Here you are a Church history teacher, and you've studied it all, and you know it was on June 27, 1844, at 5:00 p.m. in the Carthage Jail when the Prophet was shot. If you ask them what time of day and where and so on the Prophet was shot, none of them will know. You didn't know before you read the manual. But you can say, "What brought him to that? What do you think brought him to that?" The minute you say, "What do you think?" they have something to say. They can contribute; even the students that are the most backward will have something to say. So there's a way to handle questions and to monitor and manage the class. Respond to questions. Feel free to ask questions in a class.

You can't give away something you haven't got anymore than you can come back from someplace you haven't been. So you have got to have the Spirit. ■



# Teaching and Learning in the Church

ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



## A High Priority

We thank President Packer and Elder Perry for that inspiring foundation for our subject today, and we look forward to the capstone message that will come from President Monson at the close of our meeting.

It's indicative of the high priority the presiding Brethren give to the subject of teaching and learning that we are devoting all of our worldwide leadership training broadcast this year to this subject. Perhaps the reason for

that is obvious. We all understand that the success of the gospel message depends upon its being taught and then understood and then lived in such a way that its promise of happiness and salvation can be realized.

For that reason, Jesus's great final charge to His disciples just prior to His Ascension into heaven was:

“Go ye therefore, and *teach all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

*“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world”* (Matthew 28:19–20; emphasis added).

What the Savior stresses in that passage is that however much there is to do in living the gospel—and there is much we are to do to live it—none of that can be accomplished until we have been taught those truths and have learned the way of the gospel. For several years now, President Hinckley has been counseling us

to hold our people close to the Church, especially the youth and the new converts. He said we all need a friend, a responsibility, and nourishing “by the good word of God” (Moroni 6:4; see also Gordon B. Hinckley, in Conference Report, Apr. 1997, 66; or *Ensign*, May 1997, 47).

Inspired instruction in the home and in the Church helps provide this crucial element of nourishing by the good word of God. And the opportunity to magnify that call exists everywhere—fathers, mothers, siblings, friends, missionaries, priesthood and auxiliary leaders and teachers, classroom instructors, including our wonderful seminary and institute teachers, who join us today. Well, the list goes on and on. In fact, in this Church, it is virtually impossible to find anyone who is not a teacher.

Select some ideas from Elder Holland's presentation that you can apply as a learner or as a teacher.

Elder Holland's class discussion focuses on five principles. Consider them; then make a plan of how you would teach these principles to someone else.

What did Elder Holland *demonstrate* about learning and teaching in addition to what he talked about?

President Packer made that point in his exchange with Elder Perry. He said, “Everybody is a teacher”—the leader, the follower, the parent, the counselor. Little wonder that the Apostle Paul would say in his writings, “God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers.” After that would come the broad blessing of miracles, spiritual gifts, and heavenly manifestations (see 1 Corinthians 12:28).

Underscoring the divine nature of those who were called as instructors, a young Apostle by the name of David O. McKay said in general conference in 1916, “No greater responsibility can rest upon any man [or woman], than to be a teacher of God’s children”

(in Conference Report, Oct. 1916, 57). That’s still true. We picked from that quote the title for our wonderful teacher’s help and manual in the Church, *Teaching, No Greater Call*. That wonderfully revered Primary hymn “I Am a Child of God” has the children singing this request to parents and teachers:

*Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,  
Help me find the way.  
Teach me all that I must do  
To live with him someday.  
(Hymns, no. 301)*

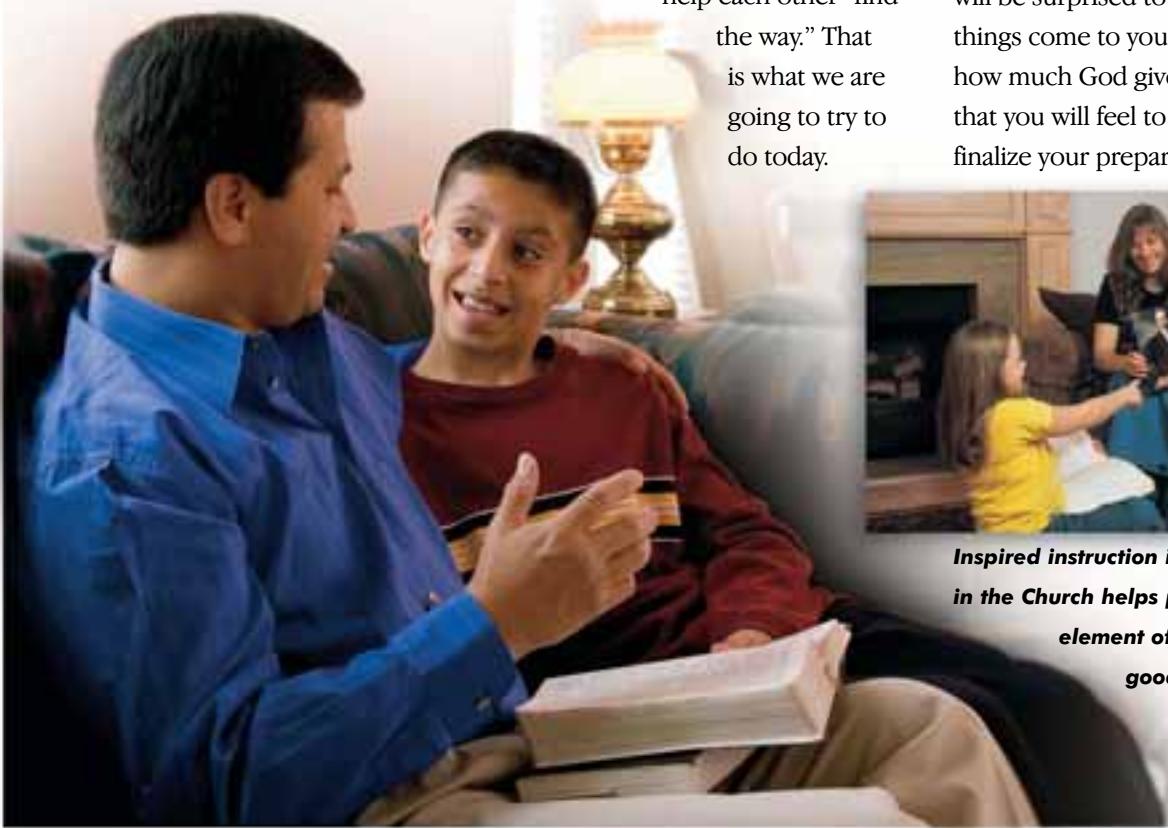
That is our common task in this Church. That is our shared responsibility. We are all children of God, and we must teach each other; we must

help each other “find the way.” That is what we are going to try to do today.

### Preparing to Teach

You can see from these materials spread out on this table that I am trying to prepare a lesson. Does it look familiar? It’s today’s lesson—a lesson for all of you. Preparing for any class is hard work, and it takes time. In that regard, may I encourage you to start thinking about and planning early for any lesson that you are to give.

For example, if I were going to teach a class on Sunday, I would read through and begin praying about that lesson the Sunday before. That gives me a full week to pray, to seek inspiration, to think, to read and watch for real-life applications that will give vitality to my message. You won’t finalize the lesson that early, but you will be surprised to find how many things come to you during the week, how much God gives you—things that you will feel to use when you do finalize your preparation.



**Inspired instruction in the home and in the Church helps provide the crucial element of nourishing by the good word of God.**



**Top:** Elder Jeffrey R. Holland prepares for a teaching demonstration, presented as part of the worldwide leadership training meeting. **Above:** Some members of the Church in the Salt Lake City area were invited to form a class for this teaching demonstration. Some of their additional comments are included in boxes on the following pages.

In discussing preparation, may I also encourage you to avoid a temptation that faces almost every teacher in the Church; at least it has certainly been my experience. That is the temptation to cover too much material, the temptation to stuff more into the hour—or more into the students—than they can possibly hold! Remember two things in this regard: first of all, we are teaching

people, not subject matter per se; and second, every lesson outline that I have ever seen will inevitably have more in it than we can possibly cover in the allotted time.

So stop worrying about that. It's better to take just a few good ideas and get good discussion—and good learning—than to be frenzied, trying to teach every word in the manual. In these materials lying before me,

I already have three or four times the content that I can possibly say or share with you today in the allotted time period of a classroom hour. So, like you, I have had to choose and select; I'm holding some material over for another day.

An unrushed atmosphere is absolutely essential if you are to have the Spirit of the Lord present in your class. Please don't ever forget that. Too many of us rush. We rush right past the Spirit of the Lord trying to beat the clock in some absolutely unnecessary footrace.

#### Teaching Demonstration

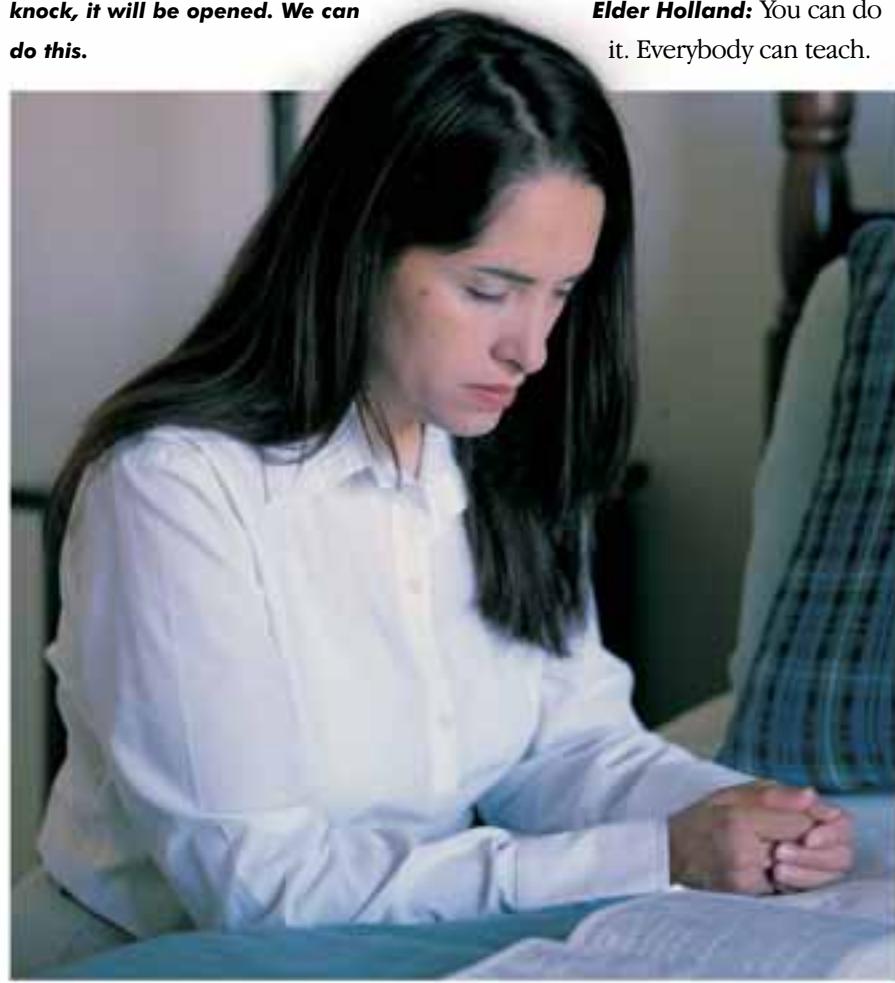
Well, let's return now to that wonderful discussion between President Packer and Elder Perry to find some of the key points for success in this great task of teaching and learning. To do that we are going to enter a classroom here at Church headquarters where we are going to interact in something of the same way we hope you will do in your classroom, wherever that may be in the world. This is unrehearsed and spontaneous, just the way your classes are. The teacher has done his best to prepare and pray—I reassure you that I have done that—and so have the students. Now, having had an opening prayer for our class, we are going to trust in the Spirit of the Lord to guide us in our teaching experience.

Welcome to class. This is intended to be something of an average class size, *más o menos*. Some of you will

have more, and some of you will have less, but the principles for teaching will be essentially the same whatever the size of the class. Here we have 15 absolutely perfect and beautiful people in our audience and a 16th that includes you, out in that worldwide audience we're reaching to.

Listen for new ideas, things that may come to only you. They may not have anything to do with what we are saying. But that is how the Spirit works. Be open to promptings about

**If we ask, we will receive, and if we knock, it will be opened. We can do this.**



how you can teach. And remember, you can teach! You can do this!

### **Everybody Can Teach**

Elder Perry posed a question for President Packer midway in their conversation: "What would you say to a new teacher?" If someone were newly called, what would you advise him or her to do? What would you say to help this teacher take courage and be able to accept the call and fulfill it and enjoy it?

**Brother Charles W. Dahlquist II:**

You can do it.

**Elder Holland:** You can do it. Everybody can teach.

And that is what President Packer said when he answered that question from Brother Perry.

He referred to scriptures that promise you that you can do it. The scriptures always provide an extra reassurance. Do any scriptures come to mind?

**Elder Jay E. Jensen:** Moroni 10:17.

**Elder Holland:** Moroni 10, the last chapter in the Book of Mormon, is a great summary statement about gifts. Do you want to read that, Brother Jensen?

**Elder Jensen:** "And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come unto every man severally."

**Elder Holland:** That's wonderful.

**Elder Jensen:** It excludes no one.

**Elder Holland:** No one is left out of that. Sometimes we think it means, "Everybody but me, everybody can teach but me, or everybody can lead but me." Well, that's not the case. These are gifts to everyone. Note a little warning on that, as long as we are in the subject. Brother Jensen, read the first couple of lines of verse eight.

**Elder Jensen:** "And again, I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God" (Moroni 10:8).

**Elder Holland:** I think there is a little temptation for us to "deny." We kind of hang back. When a call comes, or we're to face a classroom—and that is a pretty intimidating experience for any of us—I think there is something in us that says, "I can't do this, and I'm



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**Sister Delia Rochon**

going to deny. I'm going to deny that the gift can come; I'm going to deny that the gift is mine. I'm going to, in a sense, deny the authenticity of the call." In a way, that is what we're saying. And what Moroni says here is "Don't deny": "Deny not the gifts of God, for they are many."

#### **"Ask and Ye Shall Receive"**

I'm thinking of something the Savior Himself said directly to His disciples in the New Testament, and I am told that it is the scriptural promise and declaration repeated more than almost any other in all of scripture. Someone said that some variation of this appears

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a hundred times in the scriptures. Now, if it appeared only once or twice, I guess we could embrace it once or twice, but something repeated 20, 40, 60, or 80 times obviously has great significance for the Lord.

Does anybody have any idea what this promise is?

**Sister Vicki F. Matsumori:** I would think it is the scripture that says something about ask and knock and you shall receive.

**Elder Holland:** That's it. Sister Matsumori, as long as you've led us into that, would you read Matthew 7:7? This is from the Sermon on the Mount and one of many places where this promise is expressed.

**Sister Matsumori:** "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

**Elder Holland:** Thank you. I love the crisp, clear, declarative spirit of that promise. If we ask, we will receive, and if we knock, it will be opened. We can do this.

Now at this point we are starting to accumulate some ideas. I am going to ask Sister Kathy Hughes of our general Relief Society presidency to be our scribe. We have a theme developing, given to us by President Packer in his exchange with Elder Perry. And that would be "The Gift of Teaching." Would you write that up on the board as a heading for us, Sister Hughes?

We are going to list some of the things we want to remember about how to pursue the gift of teaching.

The one that Sister Matsumori just gave us would be number 1: "Ask, seek, and knock spiritually"—perhaps the most fundamental requirement for a teacher in seeking this gift that God has promised us.

**Elder W. Rolfe Kerr:** It seems to me that it's very important to put the concluding piece to this and even maybe have it in front of us. What comes from asking is that we receive. What comes from seeking is that we find. We knock, and it is opened.

**Elder Holland:** Let's write that on the board, Sister Hughes, that we are going to receive. There is a promise in this.

**Brother Orin Howell:** Along with that, I like Luke 12:12, where it says, "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say."

**Elder Holland:** That starts to open up a wider world, because we are always talking that way to the missionaries. We are forever talking to the missionaries about opening their mouths, telling them that if they have prepared and done the best they can, God will give them what to say in the hour of their need. That is a wonderful, broad, whole new idea about asking and receiving at the appointed hour. That's a terrific verse, Orin.

**Sister Tamu Smith:** I think that sometimes when I am in situations where I feel overwhelmed, being a convert to the Church and being asked to teach a class where people come from pioneer heritage, the Spirit does touch you to say something

that you don't feel inclined to say. In Exodus 4:12, it says, "Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." I think that if we are willing to allow the Spirit to move us to say those things, even though we may not feel like we have all the answers, we let Heavenly Father do His job in speaking through us.

**Elder Holland:** What a wonderful verse. In all of my years of discussing this subject, I don't know that I have ever heard that one used, so thank you, Sister Smith. And the context there, of course, is this overwhelming task that Moses had to help the children of Israel extricate themselves from life's problems. That's what all of us face. That's a terrific verse to say, "Just don't worry; it will be given to you." Thanks for that reference.

Well, keep these citations in mind if you are going to teach such a subject. You can use these or many, many more.

### Teach from the Scriptures

**Elder Steven E. Snow:** Many of us when we are called to teach are just overwhelmed with the enormity of the assignment and feel inadequate and unprepared. But you know, if we will do our best to study the resources we are given and get into the scriptures and then just trust in the Spirit, we will be helped through the process. I think sometimes we just are overwhelmed because we don't know enough.

**Elder Holland:** Absolutely. We all

feel that way; every teacher who has ever taught has felt that way. I think it's fair to say that all of us here represent the collective effort of the Church to put good material in people's hands. We really do have good curricular materials. We have good lesson manuals. They don't teach themselves, but there is a great reassurance there that we are not in this alone, and we don't have to reinvent the wheel. We have wonderful resources, and we are going to talk about those throughout the day. That helps us not feel quite so overwhelmed.

When President Packer was talking with Elder Perry, he said, "I always relied on [blank]," whether at the pulpit or standing in the front of the class. He said he never wanted to go anywhere without them. To what was he referring?

**Sister Julie B. Beck:** The scriptures.

**Elder Holland:** The scriptures, absolutely. Would you write number 2, Sister Hughes: "Teach from the scriptures."

I don't think that we can overstate this or overestimate this in our role of teaching in the Church. Obviously, the very substance of the gospel, the scriptures themselves are the things that we are being called to teach, whether it's Primary or our adult groups or our teenage groups, at home or in the Church. I am reminded of a powerful thing said in Alma 31—a favorite verse that I think says this about as well as any verse that I know of in the scriptures.

Alma had taken on a very serious mission, a very difficult mission—the mission to the Zoramites—and he had just had his exchange with Korihor. He finds what works for him, and he finds what doesn't work in this challenge to teach and to testify.

Brother Wada, would you read Alma 31:5?

**Brother Takashi Wada:** "And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought



*"I will never forget one Sunday morning. We were in Athi River, Kenya, and there was a young man who stood and gave a sacrament meeting talk using only the scriptures. It was so powerful. He must have been only about 15—he couldn't have been more than that. I just kept smiling, and I thought, 'Oh, my goodness, I wish we could all hear this young man bear testimony and talk of Christ and preach of Christ.'"*

**Sister Kathleen H. Hughes**



**The very substance of the gospel, the scriptures themselves are the things that we are being called to teach.**

it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God."

**Elder Holland:** Thank you very much. Somehow over the years, this has become a favorite scripture for me. We all have verses we return to time and again, and I have returned again and again to this one. "The preaching of the word"—the power of the word—"had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just," it had a "more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword [and they have had plenty of sword in this book and in life] or anything else," all the other battlegrounds, conflicts, and challenges. "Therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God."

Another word for *virtue* is *power*. When the woman came to touch the

hem of Christ's garment, in the scene in the New Testament, He said, "Virtue [has] gone out of me" (Luke 8:46). The original Greek New Testament language for that is *power*.

So Alma is saying we should try the power of the word of God, since it has such a powerful effect.

**Brother Wada:** I think that everybody comes to church to learn something and wants to be nurtured. One phrase from the book of Jacob, Jacob 2:8, says, "It supposeth me that they have come up hither to hear the pleasing word of God, yea, the word [of God] healeth the wounded soul." It is satisfying when just after I teach a class somebody says to me, "This is exactly what I wanted to hear. I needed it."

**Elder Holland:** A profound point—thank you, Brother Wada—because people come to church for a spiritual

experience. That's why they come. We come to church and gather in these settings to hear the word of God, to hear declaration, Spirit, testimony, and conviction. When tough times come, when we need to be healed, what the world offers is not going to be enough. We come to be healed by the word of God.

**Sister Matsumori:** For most Primary teachers, teaching from the word of God with children is a real challenge. They don't read; they don't have their own scriptures; they are not familiar with it if their family hasn't taught them. It can be challenging.

**Elder Holland:** Good point. Here's an experienced Primary teacher giving us just a little caution that we are going to get children at all stages of development and that we should bring them along gradually—as



*"Once I was sitting with a six-year-old granddaughter, and she said, 'I want to learn how to study in my scriptures.' And I thought, 'Well, she's only six. Can she really get anything powerful out of the scriptures?' So I said, 'Let's turn to 1 Nephi, chapter 1, and if you read anything you understand or if it means anything to you, you can underline it. And if you want to say something about it, you can write about it.' So we started with that verse: 'I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents' (1 Nephi 1:1), and she stopped and said, 'I have goodly parents.' She was getting it from the first line. She marked her scriptures, and she said, 'I'm going to finish the Book of Mormon before I'm baptized.' 'Some days,' she said, 'I don't understand anything.' But it was powerful for her to read the first verse of the Book of Mormon, the first time she tried it."*

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children need to be brought along. Good reminder, Sister Matsumori.

**Brother Dahlquist:** It's even the same with young men and young women. If they are going to understand it, they have to, as Nephi said, be able to apply it. They need to relate to it.

**Elder Holland:** They need to liken it unto themselves (see 1 Nephi 19:23).

**Brother Dahlquist:** They need to have the scriptures come alive.

**Elder Holland:** Yes, and we are talking about lots of experience here—some experiences in the home, some in seminary and institute. We are talking about something that has to grow over time in our young men and our young women. We won't be impatient if it takes a while for this to develop.

**Elder Jensen:** So far our discussion has concentrated on the four standard works. We do have other scripture.

**Elder Holland:** Yes. Do you want to say a word about the living prophets?

**Elder Jensen:** We do have good manuals, and we do have magazines and stories. Aren't they powerful?

**Elder Holland:** We do have great material, to say nothing of the whole world of the living prophets and semi-annual general conference broadcasts and publications that go to the Church. We have a wealth of the word of God available to us, and we ought to use it.

**Sister Kathleen H. Hughes:** This raises in my mind a question. We frequently see, as Elder Oaks pointed

out in another talk that he gave, that there is just cursory acknowledgement that the manual is even there, and then we go off on our own. Why do we do that? How can we help our brothers and sisters understand that the handbooks and the manuals are for our edification?

**Elder Holland:** Yes, that's a good reminder. It fits with Elder Jensen's comment. In the spirit of the wonderful comments you've made and the insights you've given me—new insights about the power of the word and the healing, the help, and the light that comes from it—I am reminded of a story President Packer told the Quorum of the Twelve some years ago. He talked about a severe winter in Utah when the snow was excessive and had driven the deer herds down very low into some of the valleys. Some of them were trapped by fences and circumstances as they were taken out of their natural habitat, and well-meaning, perfectly responsive, capable agencies tried to respond by feeding those deer to get them through the crisis of the winter. They brought in hay and dumped it everywhere; it was about as good as they could do under the circumstances. Later an immense number of those deer were found dead. The people who handled those animals afterward said that their stomachs were full of hay, but they had starved to death. They had been fed, but they had not been nourished.

Every teacher needs to remember



*"Sometimes when you're teaching, you try to work with the Spirit, teach with the Spirit, use the scriptures. But it seems to me, in my experience, that the one who makes the connection in what we are teaching with the need of the student is the Spirit. And for that reason, sometimes I have had a student come and tell me, 'Oh, thank you, when you said so and so,' and I was thinking, 'Did I say that? When?' I wonder if that person really heard the voice of the Lord, and all that I did was create through the scriptures, through the Spirit, the environment that the learner got the message that was needed."*

**Sister Delia Rochon**

**You are to be taught from on high.  
We're instruments, we're tools, and  
it's our tongues and our lips, but  
the teacher is on high.**

that we have to "nourish by the good word of God." We can be fed too—that can be part of the fun of it—but the significance of teaching is nourishment anchored in the word of God.

#### **Teach by the Spirit**

Sister Hughes, would you write point number 3: "Teach by and with the Spirit."

The Spirit of the Lord is the real teacher, and that's why I said earlier, "Listen." Listen with your heart. Listen with your soul, and you may have

feelings or promptings that don't have anything to do with what we are saying. It may be something very personal, it may be related to something at

home, something in a marriage or with a child, but that's the Spirit, and He's the real teacher.

There's a line from Doctrine and Covenants 43:16 that says you are to be taught from on high. We're instruments, we're tools, and it's our tongues and our lips, but the teacher is on high.

Now, it's a good teaching practice to have the class get to know each other and become a little better acquainted, so we're going to do that for a minute with Orin Howell.

Orin, when did you join the Church?

**Brother Howell:** I joined the Church in June 1996.

**Elder Holland:** Where did you join the Church, Brother Howell?

**Brother Howell:** In Bosnia.

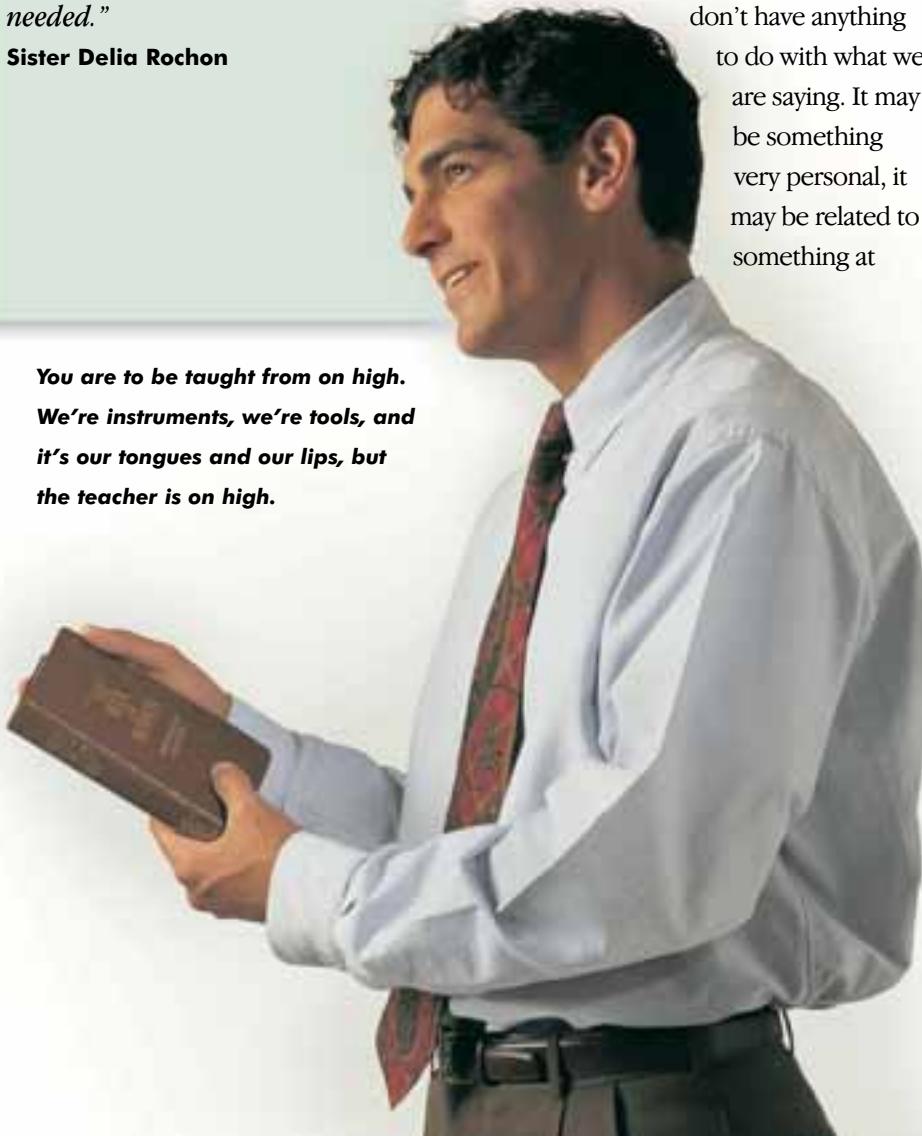
**Elder Holland:** What were you doing in Bosnia, Brother Howell?

**Brother Howell:** I was in the military at the time.

**Elder Holland:** Where and in what in Bosnia were you baptized?

**Brother Howell:** I was baptized in Tuzla, in a Russian bar that had been converted to a chapel. We got a used cover of a tank, turned it upside down, brought it into the chapel, and used that as a font.

**Elder Holland:** This is a wonderful young man in the military, who is touched by the lives of other Latter-day Saints in the military, and he receives a testimony of the gospel and wants to be baptized. So in the converted chapel in wartime conditions, the engine cover of a tank was tipped





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*"Parents face this situation all the time. Parents have to seize the teaching moment because it may not come again. We must prepare the best we can, then trust that the Lord will take us into some unexpected opportunities in a given class. We need to be prepared to go where He leads us."*

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**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland**

upside down to form a basin-like structure and filled with water, and Orin filled the basin. He was baptized. Orin, who confirmed you a member of the Church in that setting?

**Brother Howell:** You did, Elder Holland.

**Elder Holland:** I had the wonderful privilege in the summer of 1996 to confirm Orin Howell a member of the Church in Tuzla, Bosnia, under wartime conditions, where we were scrambling for our lives. This wonderful young man is now a high priest serving the Church faithfully here in the Salt Lake Valley. He's a very distinguished member of our class today. Thank you, Orin, for that little bio. It lets the class get to know each other a little better.

I am going to have Brother Howell develop the theme "Teaching by the Spirit" with us. Turn to section 50, part of a series of verses that we regularly and urgently use with the missionaries. But we should use it equally with everyone. Brother Howell, would you read Doctrine and Covenants 50:13?

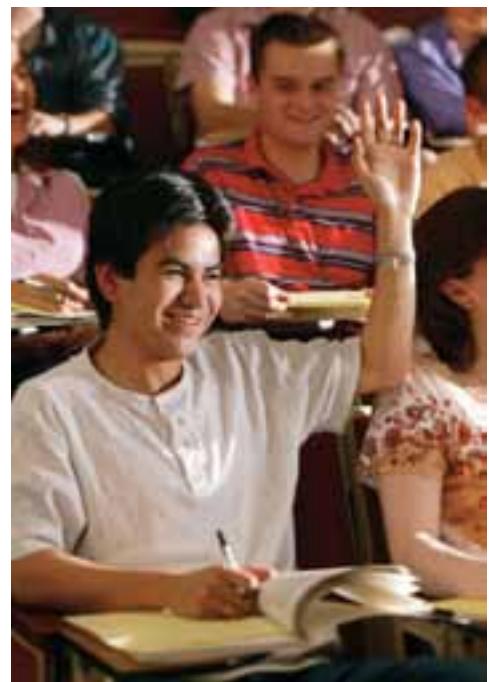
**Brother Howell:** "Wherefore, I the Lord ask you this question—unto what were ye ordained?"

**Elder Holland:** To shift the emphasis a little for broader purposes here, let's substitute the word *called* for *ordained*. *Ordained* would be priesthood language, and we are going to talk about the general call to teach. So, "Wherefore, I the Lord ask you this question—unto what were ye [called]?"

Now, Brother Howell, read the Lord's answer in verse 14.

**Brother Howell:** "To preach my gospel by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth."

**Elder Holland:** That is a scriptural assertion to underscore what we are trying to develop and have already



**Elder Richard G. Scott told seminary and institute instructors that the "use of agency by a student authorizes the Holy Ghost to instruct. It helps the student to retain your message."**

said—that the real teacher is the Spirit. I am not the teacher, and you are not the teachers. We all need to be receptive to the Holy Spirit, to the guidance of heaven, which is the teacher. We are "to preach [the] gospel by the Spirit, even the

Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth."

Now, a caution: What if we try to do it in some other way? What if we try to teach without the Spirit or are unmindful of or unreceptive to the Spirit? What is the Lord's verdict on that kind of teaching?

Sister McKee, do you want to read verse 18?

**Sister Maritza McKee:** "And if it be by some other way it is not of God."

**Elder Holland:** Say it one more time. That is so powerful.

**Sister McKee:** "And if it be by some other way it is not of God."

**Sister Beck:** So does this mean that if I sit down and study my books and manuals and I write up an outline and have my plan, I can't teach that? I prepare, but do I have to be ready to set it aside and be directed by the Spirit with the preparation I have?

**Elder Holland:** Are there any comments on that question before I offer my own response? It's a legitimate question.

**Brother Dahlquist:** It's not that the Spirit whispers just when you are standing up not using your notes. I think the Spirit can whisper beginning with the preparation and when you are putting together the lesson. It's much like general conference. General conference has a marvelous way of touching our lives, but there's a lot of preparation.

**Elder Holland:** OK, let's have some more comments about this. What is

the role of the teacher, and what is the role of the Spirit?

**Sister Beck:** I prepared; I worked on it. But then, if someone in my class has had a challenge that week, that changes the dynamic of the lesson. Help me understand how I know where the blend comes of being prepared and being guided and directed to say what comes into my heart at that time or to use a different scripture.

**Elder Holland:** That's a terrific question, and every teacher will face it.

**Elder Kerr:** I think the key—beyond the preparation and treasuring up—is to not be bound by the lesson plan, but let that be just the background and then be open to the prompting.

**Elder Holland:** It wouldn't be fair to just walk into a class and say, "I haven't prepared, but the Spirit is going to guide us." On the other hand, to be so locked in to preparation that we are not going to entertain any prompting we get along the way would be the other extreme.

I think Sister Beck is steering us toward some combination of these. We have prepared, but we are open to the Spirit, and we have that freedom to move where we should go at that given hour, in the moment of our delivery.

**Elder Snow:** We have to understand that every member of that class may go home with a slightly different prompting from the Spirit, and it's just so important that the Spirit be present. But how many of us have been in a class when there has been

a wonderful discussion going on, and the teacher has said, "This is a very good discussion, but I must complete the lesson."

**Elder Holland:** Yes, we have all heard that.

**Elder Snow:** And we miss opportunities sometimes by doing that.



*"I saw a wonderful example when I went teaching with two missionaries. They were teaching a fifth discussion.*

*The one missionary was German, bad the language; he had been on his mission for a number of months. The other one was really fairly new, first fifth discussion he had ever taught.*

*"And I watched. The one was confident; he was a good missionary. He taught with confidence. The other had to rely a little bit on his lesson plan—but, you know, as I sat and watched those two, the Spirit came through on both of them. And so with teachers at different teaching levels, the Spirit can whisper wherever we are if we have done our part. It was wonderful."*

**Brother Charles W. Dahlquist II**



*"I think it could be boldly said that we are not successful if at the end of 40 minutes, a student walks out the door*

***and says, 'My, wasn't that nice?' If it ends when the student walks out the door, I think we have failed in the ultimate sense of teaching, the ongoing sense of teaching. Our instruction ought to be so provocative, so spiritually sweet, so new and interesting that the students say to themselves, 'I felt so much that I will think about it this afternoon and tomorrow and next week and next month.' In that way, our lesson will take on a life of its own and bring new thoughts.***

*"There is a real danger of classroom performances that seem to be so self-contained or dazzling that people are entertained for 45 minutes and say, 'Boy, I can't wait to get here to be entertained next week—and never have another thought through the week or through the month about the substance of the doctrine they have been taught."*

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland**

**Elder Holland:** Yes, we do. And those are realities we will have to learn to accommodate, and we will have to be sensitive to those impressions so that we do right by the moment and seize that opportunity.

**Sister Hughes:** You know, this has always been a really interesting and somewhat perplexing issue for me. How do we know, and how can teachers know that they are teaching with the Spirit? I don't know. I'm not sure, when I go to teach, that I'm always confident of that.

**Elder Holland:** Does anyone have a response to that? What is the teacher's reassurance that she or he is teaching by the Spirit? What would you look to for an indication of that, or do you just do it in faith and hope that it's happening even though you won't always know?

**Elder Jensen:** I have the same question. And I'm wondering if the answer isn't, at least for me, back in Doctrine and Covenants 50:21–22:

"Therefore, why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth?"

"Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together."

**Elder Holland:** Maybe a little rejoicing, Kathy—maybe if your heart rejoices, that is at least one indication.

**Elder Jensen:** Is the teacher up there, the talking head, delivering

and not inviting participation? I have a little quote I carry in my scriptures related to that verse, and I think I have a new appreciation for it today as we've been talking about it. Elder Scott taught this in a CES training meeting: "Ensure that there is abundant participation because that use of agency by a student authorizes the Holy Ghost to instruct. It helps the student to retain your message. As students verbalize truths, they are confirmed in their souls and strengthen their personal testimonies" (Richard G. Scott, *To Understand and Live Truth* [address to CES religious educators, Feb. 4, 2005], 3).

**Elder Holland:** That's wonderful. That triggers a thought that I remember from President Marion G. Romney, who said once, "I always know when I've spoken under the influence of the Spirit because I learned something I didn't know." He's the teacher, and suddenly he's either saying things or thinking things that he had not thought before—or if he thought them before, they have come with new delight, new power. Those might be some of the ways to get an indication you are teaching by the Spirit.

In many cases, we won't know. We will do all we can do, and we hope that hundreds of things are happening in people's hearts or will happen because of this experience or other Church experiences, but we may never know.

Maybe part of the teacher's divine

calling is to be an instrument and move on, to trust that we have been as spiritual and as devoted as we can, and then let the miracle of personal revelation go on and on and on. I think that is a very gratifying idea about teaching and being a teacher.

## The Responsibility for Learning

Item 4: "Help the learner assume responsibility for learning."

What do you do when you come to a class cold, and there isn't much going on—where somebody says by body language, "I defy you to teach me. I am going to slump in this chair, and I am going to sit with my head down, and I'm going to look at my shoes. And when I look at you, I'm going to scowl." It may not always be that bad, but I have had some of those classes. We've probably all been in situations where it seemed like people had not come prepared to learn. How do we help people do that?

**Sister Beck:** Sometimes I work on crafting my questions. But I think this seems to be what we are saying: the more questions we can get from the learners about something, the more they are engaged in the learning.

And the thought that came to mind was that when Joseph Smith read a verse of scripture in James, it created questions in his mind, and he said, "How am I going to know? And will I ever know? And if I don't figure this out, I'll never know." And he was in a learner mode when he asked God. But that to me is a challenge as a teacher—not so much the questions I am asking but what is happening that is helping other people to ask questions so the Holy Ghost can teach them.

**Elder Holland:** One of my favorite books in the Church, written by a professorial, longtime friend of mine at BYU, Dennis Rasmussen, is called *The*

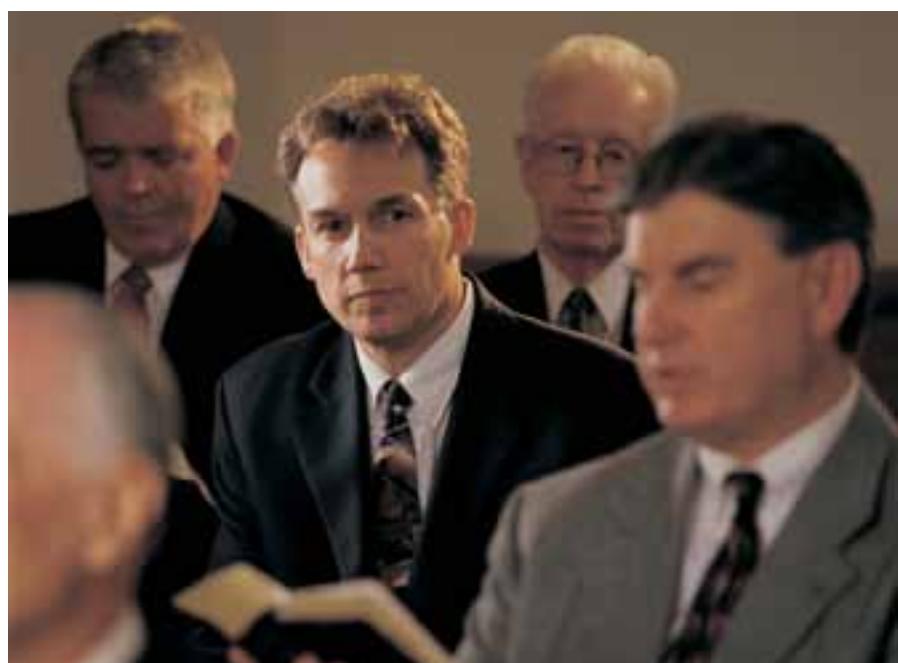
*Lord's Question*. It's a sample of how the Lord always teaches with a question. As early as Adam, the Lord said, "Where art thou?" (Genesis 3:9). He knows exactly where Adam is. He needs to know whether Adam knows where Adam is. That is why He asks the question: "Adam, where art thou?" And so on—"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). The Savior's life was built around teaching by asking questions. Many of the revelations—I don't know how many; I haven't counted—but many, many of the revelations of the Doctrine and Covenants came in response to a question that the Prophet or the brethren took to the Lord.

**Sister Matsumori:** I have been struggling just a little bit with this

topic in relation to children, even back when President Packer said he wanted to learn. But to be honest with you, I think it's an advanced concept to think that the learner is going to assume responsibility for learning, especially little children. And so how does a Primary teacher do that?

**Elder Holland:** That's a great point. What do you do if that is what you face and you are still the teacher? You still have to perform. By the way, it's number 4 because we do realize it is a little more mature and a more advanced concept. But it is one we probably don't talk about enough, so let's talk about Sister Matsumori's question. A child, a seminary student, a 14-year-old teacher or Mia Maid—sometimes they are not very

***The more questions we can get from the learners about something, the more they are engaged in the learning.***





*"Be patient, and above all do not lose the Spirit. We can't in any way be offended or get angry or disappointed that we've worked so hard on our lesson, and it doesn't seem the students are with us. We just have to be patient and loving. More is happening in their hearts than we think."*

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland**

interested or at least don't act like they are. They are probably more interested than they want you to know, but they don't act like they're interested. How do we deal with that? How do you help them?

**Brother Wada:** Learning does not happen right in the classroom sometimes. Sometimes it happens outside. When I was learning about the Church, the missionaries would teach me, and a week later I thought about it and said, "This is what it is." So we do not need to assume that the exact learning needs to happen at that moment.

**Elder Holland:** Great point. I am confident that was the Spirit of the Lord working on you for a week or as long as required.

That's the classic case of investigators in the Church. We want that Spirit working on them for hours and days after the missionaries have gone and before they come back for their next lesson.

**Sister Naomi Wada:** Sometimes children have so many, many questions, and I have prepared so many examples or experiences or visual aids, and I can't utilize all of them. I'm sometimes busy answering questions. Is it all right? I have tried to simplify the lesson, and if there is just at least one topic I can focus on and just be able to teach them, at least they feel comfortable.

**Elder Holland:** Good. You said that better than I said it at the start. Don't try to do too much. With a Primary child—well, maybe with any child,

maybe with any of us—if we can get one thing across, one idea, one principle, something sterling and significant that Brother Wada still feels a week later, that is probably worth any good classroom experience. So be reassured. Don't be reluctant about that.

**Elder Kerr:** What she just said has opened my eyes. What more exciting environment in the classroom is there than the fact that the children or the adults in the class are asking questions?

**Elder Holland:** Somebody is responding.

**Elder Kerr:** They're thinking.

**Elder Holland:** What if you meet a situation where the student is not yet participating, and the burden for a while is on you?

**Brother Bruce Miller:** Should we forge ahead with the lesson then, or should we stop and do some of the things that invite the Spirit, even though we have had an opening song, a prayer, a scriptural thought? If it's still not there, instead of moving ahead with the lesson, do we stop and say, "OK, how can we get the Spirit here?"

**Elder Holland:** Does anyone want to respond to that?

**Elder Snow:** I think it's a long-term process. It doesn't happen the first class. I think sometimes you have to do your best, and then there's going to be a moment when it really works, when the Spirit's there and everyone's contributed to the class. And then you stop and say, "Do you see

what's happening right now? Do you see the difference?"

**Elder Holland:** Earlier Sister Hughes said, "How do we know if we have had the Spirit?" That may be in its own way the question that Brother Miller wants to know—with this unresponsive class in front of me, how do I know how I'm doing? Somehow at the heart of that for them and for you is *how do you feel?* Can you feel that the Lord is with you, that the Lord loves you, that you have done the best you can do, that He loves them? If we can just have some feelings for the gospel, if we just love each other, I suppose that's a place to begin. And if those children are unresponsive, maybe you can't teach them yet, but you can love them. And if you love them today, maybe you can teach them tomorrow.

But I think that is totally within our power. None of that is dependent upon them. We can love them from start to finish, and miracles will happen, the kind of miracles that you're talking about.

If I, the teacher, want questions from you, the student, I may have to prime the pump a little, as we have tried to do here today. I may try to pose a question that will then take on a life of its own, and all I have to do is direct traffic in order to get the students to participate.

Now, may I pause and make an editorial comment? A teacher could know that Brother Merrill talked on a subject in conference and say, "Good. I'll go to the materials center, and I'll get that video clip. I can play it, and I can show the class Brother Merrill."

If you do that, great. We ought to do it from time to time. But audio-visual aids are just that—they are aids. They are not a substitute for a lesson. Use them in the way that you would use spice in cooking—to flavor, to heighten, to accentuate, to enrich. A

***My plea to one and all is please do not overdo visual aids. Use them when you need them.***

map or a painting or a video clip or a key point written on the board—these can often make the difference between a good lesson and a great lesson. But no one wants a meal of spices only. So my plea to one and all is please do not overdo visual aids. They are not a substitute for the teacher, they are not a substitute for the course material, and they are not a substitute for the Spirit of the Lord. Use them when you need them.

**Sister Wada:** There is a child who is really, really disruptive sometimes in the Primary class, and I try to imagine that child wearing white and being a spirit of the Lord. The bottom line is we are all children of God, and that intelligence, even though the shape is small, came here to this earth to learn something, and there is a reason for him to be there. It really helps to think that.

**Elder Holland:** Thank you very much. That's a sweet comment.



*"I went to early-morning seminary, and I feel that my seminary teacher assumed responsibility for teaching us. He assumed that we were receiving the message that he was giving us. There were times that we arrived in seminary in pajamas; there were times where some of us brought pillows and blankets; there were times where girls would be painting their nails while they were listening to him teach, but we were blessed with a seminary teacher who assumed that we were listening to him. We were not engaging him in conversation, but there was never a day in seminary that I was not paying attention and listening with my ears and with my heart to what he said."*

*"I think that as teachers, if we've done everything that we need to do, we've done our part, and we have the Spirit there, then we can assume that the students are taking the responsibility to listen."*

**Sister Tamu Smith**



**Brother Howell:** What I'm hearing is that sometimes the teacher is the learner and the learner is the teacher.

**Elder Holland:** Almost always the teacher will be getting more than the class. That is one of the joys of teaching.

### Testify

Let's conclude. Number 5, one word: "Testify."

May we conclude here the way that every teacher must conclude his or her class, in the Church and at home—in the spirit of testimony.

For many years, I have loved the story that President Packer has told about William E. Berrett's boyhood Sunday School teacher. An elderly Danish brother was called to teach a class of rowdy boys. It didn't seem like much of a fit. He didn't speak the language very well; he still had a heavy Danish brogue; he was much older, with big farm hands. Yet he was to teach these young, rambunctious 15-year-olds. For all intents and purposes, it would not have seemed like a very good match. But Brother William E. Berrett used to say—and this is the part President Packer quotes—that this man taught them somehow; that across all those barriers, across all those limitations, this man reached into the hearts of those rowdy 15-year-old kids and changed their lives. And Brother Berrett's testimony was "We could have warmed our hands by the fire of his faith."

Every student deserves at least that.

We may not give the fanciest lesson. We may not be skillful with audiovisual aids (though we can use any we know how to use). But we can share with all students the fire of our faith, and they can warm their hands by it.

I have been painfully disappointed over the years at wonderful lessons, given by loyal, gifted teachers who, somehow, at the end of a class, say, "Well, there is the bell. Brother Jones, would you give the prayer?" And it's over. There's no closing of the books, no looking in the eye for just a minute, no settling down to say, in effect, where have we been and where are we going and what does the Lord want us to do? In some cases—I'm being a little unfair and a little extravagant, but to make a point—not a single reference is made to what this lesson was supposed to mean to the student or to the teacher. I'm left to walk away saying, "I wonder how he felt about that. I wonder what she thought about it or what it was supposed to mean to me." There is so much effort to get some doctrine, some principle, some map, some video clip across to the students, but not a hint of personal testimony about what that doctrine or that principle meant to the teacher, the one who was supposed to lead us and guide us and walk beside us.

As President J. Reuben Clark Jr. once said, "Never let your faith be difficult to detect." May I repeat that? "Never let your faith be difficult to detect." Never sow seeds of doubt. Avoid self-serving performance and

vanity. Don't try to dazzle everyone with how brilliant you are. Dazzle them with how brilliant the gospel is. Don't worry about the location of the lost tribes or the Three Nephites. Worry a little more about the location of your student, what's going on in his heart, what's going on in her soul, the hunger, sometimes the near-desperate spiritual needs of our people. Teach them. And, above all, testify to them. Love them. Bear your witness from the depths of your soul. It will be the most important thing you say to them in the entire hour, and it may save someone's spiritual life.

Say that you "speak [out] in the energy of [your] soul" (Alma 5:43). I love that phrase. I want to testify out of the energy of my soul. If we feel inclined, we could ask the congregation what Alma asked his, namely, "Do ye not suppose that I know of these things myself?" He continues, "I testify unto you that I do know that these things whereof I have spoken are true. . . . I say unto you, that I know of myself that [they are] true" (Alma 5:45, 48).

I know that God lives and loves us. I know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. I know that this is His Church, and I know that teaching matters.

To that end I know that heaven will help us if we will teach as we have here described. And this won't be all; this will be only a beginning. Welcome to the quest for the gift of teaching.

*Gift of Teaching  
Ask, and knock spiritually.  
—Listen  
Teach from the scriptures  
with the Spirit  
Help the learner assume responsibility*



But as we search for that gift and pray for it, if we will ask and seek and knock spiritually, if we will teach from the scriptures, if we will teach by and with the Holy Spirit, if we will help the learner assume responsibility for learning, and if we will testify of the truths that we have taught, God will confirm to our hearts and to the hearts of our students the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, near and far, close at hand and around the world, the gospel of Jesus Christ means everything to me. It means everything to me. It is my whole life. It is my hope and my safety and my quest for salvation. It is everything that I want for my children and my children's children.

And I feel what I feel about the gospel because of you, because people like you taught people like me. Somewhere in those little Primary classes

and in those first family home evenings and in the deacons quorum and on a mission and everywhere else, somebody like you taught somebody like me. And I am not all that I want to be yet. I'm not all that I should be, but whatever I'm going to be, I owe to great teachers, starting with my own beloved parents and every other good person who has touched my life along the way, up to and including the magnificent councils and quorums in which I now sit, where I am able to be taught by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve, other General Authorities, and wonderful auxiliary leaders like all of you.

I testify and I bear witness of love. I know God loves us. And I know that in part because I love you, and I love the experience of teaching. I pray that we will be better at it, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

### The Gift of Teaching

1. Ask, seek, and knock spiritually.
2. Teach from the scriptures.
3. Teach by and with the Spirit.
4. Help the learner assume responsibility for learning.
5. Testify.

# Examples of Great Teachers

PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

First Counselor in the First Presidency



We have heard from some of the greatest teachers in the Church, who have given us wonderful insights into many of the elements and principles of good teaching.

As has been mentioned, we are all teachers in some respect, and we have a duty to teach to the best of our ability.

I should like to share with you some examples of individuals I have known who have touched my life and have taught me important and never-to-be-forgotten lessons.

## Everyone Has a Story

I have been thinking of one of our emeritus General Authorities, even Elder Marion D. Hanks, who has excelled in teaching seminary, institute, and the Church generally. He has utilized many different teaching methods.

On one occasion, Elder Hanks toured a mission, interviewing each of the missionaries laboring in that particular area. I had been on an assignment in an adjoining area and was given a ride to the airport with Elder Hanks and the mission president.

Elder Hanks told the mission president what a privilege it had been to visit with and interview each of the missionaries. He said he had felt prompted to ask one sister missionary, "Please tell me about your mission and how you felt about being called as a sister missionary."

She told him that her humble father, a farmer, had willingly sacrificed much for the Lord and His kingdom. He was already sustaining two sons on missions when he talked with her one day about her unexpressed desires to be a missionary and

explained to her how the Lord had helped him to prepare to help her.

He had gone to the fields to talk with the Lord, to tell Him that he had no more material possessions to sell or sacrifice or to use as collateral for borrowing. He needed to know how he could help his daughter go on a mission. He felt the inspiration to plant onions. He thought he had misunderstood. Onions would not likely grow well in this climate; others were not growing onions; he had no experience growing onions.

After wrestling with the Lord for a time, he was again impressed to plant onions. So he borrowed money from the bank, purchased seeds, planted and nurtured, and prayed.

The elements were tempered; the onion crop prospered. He sold the crop; paid his debts to the bank, the government, and the Lord; and put the remainder in an account under his daughter's name—enough to support her during her mission.

As you read the experiences in President Monson's talk, what impressions come to you about learning and teaching? What experiences have you had as a learner or as a teacher that are similar to the examples in these accounts?

How does each experience President Monson relates illustrate qualities of the Savior's teaching? Pray and ponder what you can do to follow the Savior's example.





PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTINA SMITH

**The white envelope containing our precious party fund passed from the delicate hand of our teacher to the needy hand of a grief-stricken father.**

Elder Hanks then told the mission president, "I will not forget the story or the moment or the tears in her eyes or the sound of her voice or the feeling I had as she said, 'Brother Hanks, I don't have any trouble believing in a loving Heavenly Father who knows my needs and will help me according to His wisdom if I am humble enough.'"

Elder Hanks was teaching a most important lesson: each child in each classroom, each young man or young woman, each student in seminary or institute, each adult in Gospel Doctrine classes, each missionary—yes, every one of us—has a story waiting to be told. Listening is an essential element as we teach and as we learn.

#### **"It Is More Blessed to Give Than to Receive"**

It was my experience as a small boy to come under the influence of a most effective and inspired teacher

who listened to us and who loved us. Her name was Lucy Gertsch. In our Sunday School class, she taught us concerning the Creation of the world, the Fall of Adam, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. She brought to her classroom as honored guests Moses, Joshua, Peter, Thomas, Paul, and, of course, Christ. Though we did not see them, we learned to love, honor, and emulate them.

Never was her teaching so dynamic nor its impact more everlasting as one Sunday morning when she sadly announced to us the passing of a classmate's mother. We had missed Billy that morning but did not know the reason for his absence.

The lesson featured the theme "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Midway through the lesson, our teacher closed the manual and opened our eyes and our ears and our hearts to the glory of God. She asked, "How much money

do we have in our class party fund?"

Depression days prompted a proud answer: "Four dollars and seventy-five cents."

Then ever so gently she suggested, "Billy's family is hard pressed and grief stricken. What would you think of the possibility of visiting the family members this morning and giving to them your fund?"

Ever shall I remember the tiny band walking those three city blocks, entering Billy's home, greeting him, his brother, sisters, and father. Noticeably absent was his mother. Always I shall treasure the tears which glistened in the eyes of all as the white envelope containing our precious party fund passed from the delicate hand of our teacher to the needy hand of a grief-stricken father.

We fairly skipped our way back to the chapel. Our hearts were lighter than they had ever been, our joy more full, our understanding more profound. A God-inspired teacher had taught her boys and girls an eternal lesson of divine truth: "It is more

blessed to give than to receive."

Well could we have paraphrased the words of the disciples on the way to Emmaus: "Did not our heart burn within us . . . while [she] opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

Lucy Gertsch knew each of her students. She unfailingly called on those who missed a Sunday or who just didn't come. We knew she cared about us. None of us has ever forgotten her or the lessons she taught.

Many, many years later, when Lucy was nearing the end of her life, I visited with her. We reminisced concerning those days so long before when she had been our teacher. We spoke of each member of our class and discussed what each one was now doing. Her love and caring spanned a lifetime.

### The Articles of Faith

Another inspired teacher in my life was Erma Bollwinkel, a member of our stake Primary board. She constantly stressed the importance of learning the Articles of Faith. In fact, we could not graduate from Primary until we successfully recited each article of faith to her—something of a challenge for rambunctious young boys, but we persevered and succeeded. I have, throughout my life, as a result, been able to recite the Articles of Faith.

For many years as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, I had responsibility for East Germany, also known as the German Democratic Republic. In this assignment, my

knowledge of the Articles of Faith was most helpful. On each of my visits throughout the 20 years I supervised this area, I always reminded our members in that area of the twelfth article of faith: "We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law."

Our meetings behind what was known as the Iron Curtain were always monitored by the communist government there. In the early 1980s, when we sought approval from the government officials to build a temple there, and later when we asked permission for young men and women from that area to serve missions throughout the world and for others to come into their country to serve missions, they listened and then said, "Elder Monson, we've watched you for 20 years, and we've learned we can trust you and your Church because you and your Church teach your members to obey the laws of the land."

I share another example of the value of learning the Articles of Faith. Forty-five years ago I worked with a man named Sharman Hummel in the printing business in Salt Lake City. I once gave him a ride home from work and asked him how he came to receive his testimony of the gospel.

He responded, "It's interesting, Tom, that you asked me that question, for this very week my wife, my children, and I are going to the Manti Temple, there to be sealed for all eternity."

He continued his account: "We lived in the East. I was journeying by bus to San Francisco to establish myself in a new printing company, and then I was going to send for my wife and children. All the way from New York City to Salt Lake City the bus trip was uneventful. But in Salt Lake City a young girl entered the bus—a Primary girl—who sat next to me. She was going to Reno, Nevada, there to have a visit with her aunt. As we journeyed westward, I noticed a billboard: 'Visit the Mormon Sunday School this week.'

"I said to the little girl, 'I guess there are a lot of Mormons in Utah, aren't there?'

"She replied, 'Yes, sir.'

"Then I said to her, 'Are you a Mormon?'

"Again her reply: 'Yes, sir.'"

Sharman Hummel then asked, "What do Mormons believe?" And that little girl recited the first article of faith; then she talked about it. Continuing, she gave him the second article of faith and talked about it. Then she gave him the third and the fourth and the fifth and the sixth and all of the Articles of Faith and talked about all of them. She knew them consecutively.

Sharman Hummel said, "When we got to Reno, and we let that little girl off into the arms of her aunt, I was profoundly impressed."

He said, "All the way to San Francisco I thought, 'What is it that prompts that little girl to know her doctrine so well?' When I arrived in San Francisco, the very first thing I

did," said Sharman, "was to look through the yellow pages for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I called the mission president, and he sent two missionaries to where I was staying. I became a member of the Church, my wife became a member, all of our children became members, in part because a Primary girl knew her Articles of Faith."

I think of the words of the Apostle Paul: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

Just three months ago, the Hummel family came to Salt Lake City for the wedding of their daughter Marianne. They stopped by the office; we had a wonderful visit. All 6 daughters came, along with 4 sons-in-law and 12 grandchildren. The entire family had remained active in the Church. Each of the daughters has been to the temple. Countless are those who have been brought to a knowledge of the gospel by the members of this family—all because a young child had been taught the Articles of Faith and had the ability and the courage to proclaim the truth to one who was seeking the light of the gospel.

#### **"Be Ready Always"**

I love the Lord's injunction found in the 88th section of the Doctrine and Covenants: "I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. Teach ye diligently and my grace

shall attend you" (D&C 88:77–78).

Many years ago, as I was traveling by air to an assignment in southern California, a lovely young lady sat down in the empty seat next to me. She began reading a book. As one is inclined to do, I glanced at the title: *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*.

I said to her, "Oh, you must be a Mormon."

She responded, "Oh, no. Why would you ask?"

I replied, "Well, you're reading a book written by a very prominent member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

She said, "Is that right? A friend gave this to me, but I don't know much about it. However, it has aroused my curiosity."

Then I wondered, "Should I be forward and say more about the Church?" And the words of the Apostle Peter came to mind: "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). I decided that this was the time when I should bear my testimony.

I told her that it was my privilege years before to have assisted Elder Richards in printing *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. I told her something about that great man. I told her of the many thousands of people who had embraced the truth after reading that which he had prepared.

Then it was my privilege, all the way to Los Angeles, to answer her questions relative to the Church—

intelligent questions that came from a heart which was seeking the truth. I asked if I might make arrangements for two sister missionaries to call upon her. I asked if she would like to attend our branch in San Francisco, where she lived. Her answers were affirmative.

Upon returning home, I wrote to President Irven G. Derrick of the San Francisco stake and passed along to him this information. Can you imagine my delight when, a few months later, I received a call from President Derrick in which he said, "Elder Monson, I'm calling about Yvonne Ramirez, an off-duty flight attendant, a young lady who sat next to you on a flight to Los Angeles, a young lady to whom you said that it was not coincidence that you sat next to her and that she was reading *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder* on that trip. Brother Monson, she has just become the newest member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She'd like to speak to you and express her gratitude." Of course I was overjoyed. It was a wonderful call.

#### **President McKay's Example**

An example of a master teacher was President David O. McKay, who called me to be a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He taught with love and with sensitivity. He was the epitome of what he taught. His heart was kind, and his manner was gracious. He was a teacher of truth after the pattern of the Savior.



**Sunday dinner always seemed to taste a bit better after I had returned from my errand.**

I observed this trait when, long before I was a General Authority, I entered his office to review some printing proofs of a book that we were printing. On that particular occasion, I noticed a picture on the wall, and I said to him, "President McKay, that's a lovely painting. Is it a rendition of your childhood home in Huntsville, Utah?"

He sat back in his chair and gave a familiar David O. McKay chuckle and said, "Let me tell you about that picture. A sweet woman came in to see me one autumn day and presented to me that beautiful painting, framed and ready to be placed on the wall. She said, 'President McKay, I spent much of the summer painting this picture of your ancestral home.'" He said he accepted the gift and thanked her profusely.

And then he said to me, "Do you know, Brother Monson, that dear woman painted the wrong house."

She painted the house next door! I didn't have the heart to tell her she painted the wrong house."

But then he made this comment—and here is a vital lesson for all of us. He said, "In reality, Brother Monson, she painted the right house for me, because when, as a young boy, I would lie on the bed which was on the front porch of my ancestral home, the view I had through that screened porch was of the very house she painted. She *did* paint the right house for me!"

**Lessons about Serving Others**

Some of the best lessons learned in life come from our parents. Mine taught me valuable lessons as I was growing up. Frequently those lessons had to do with serving others. I have many memories of my boyhood days. Anticipating Sunday dinner was one of them. Just as we children hovered at our so-called starvation level and sat anxiously at the table with the

aroma of roast beef filling the room, Mother would say to me, "Tommy, before we eat, take this plate I've prepared down the street to Old Bob, and hurry back."

I could never understand why we couldn't first eat and later deliver his plate of food. I never questioned but would run down to his house and then wait anxiously as Bob's aged feet brought him eventually to the door. Then I would hand him the plate of food. He would present to me the spotlessly clean plate from the previous Sunday and then offer me 10 cents as pay for my services.

My answer was always the same: "I can't accept the money. My mother would tan my hide."

He would then run his wrinkled hand through my blond hair and say, "My boy, you have a wonderful mother. Tell her thank you."

I remember too that Sunday dinner always seemed to taste a bit better after I had returned from my errand.

My mother's father, Grandfather Thomas Condie, also taught me a



**Grandfather reached into his pocket and removed a key and handed it to Old Bob.**

powerful lesson which involved this same Old Bob, who came into our lives in an interesting way. He was a widower in his 80s when the house in which he rented a room was to be demolished. I heard him tell my grandfather his plight as the three of us sat on the old front-porch swing of my grandfather. With a plaintive voice, he said to Grandfather, "Mr. Condie, I don't know what to do. I have no family. I have no place to go. I have little money." I wondered how Grandfather would answer.

We just kept rocking the swing. Then Grandfather reached into his pocket and took from it an old leather purse from which, in response to my hounding, he had produced many a penny or nickel for a special treat. This time he removed a key and handed it to Old Bob.

Tenderly he said, "Bob, here is the key to that house I own next door. Take it. Move your things in. Stay as long as you like. There will be no rent to pay, and nobody will ever put you out again."

Tears welled up in the eyes of Old Bob, coursed down his cheeks, then disappeared in his long, white beard. Grandfather's eyes were also moist. I spoke no word, but that day my grandfather stood 10 feet tall. I was proud to bear his given name. Though I was but a boy, that lesson has had a powerful influence on my life.

These are but a few of the lessons I have learned from those who have touched my life and have taught me.

Again, I reiterate that we are all teachers. We should ever remember that we not only teach with words; we teach also by who we are and how we live our lives.

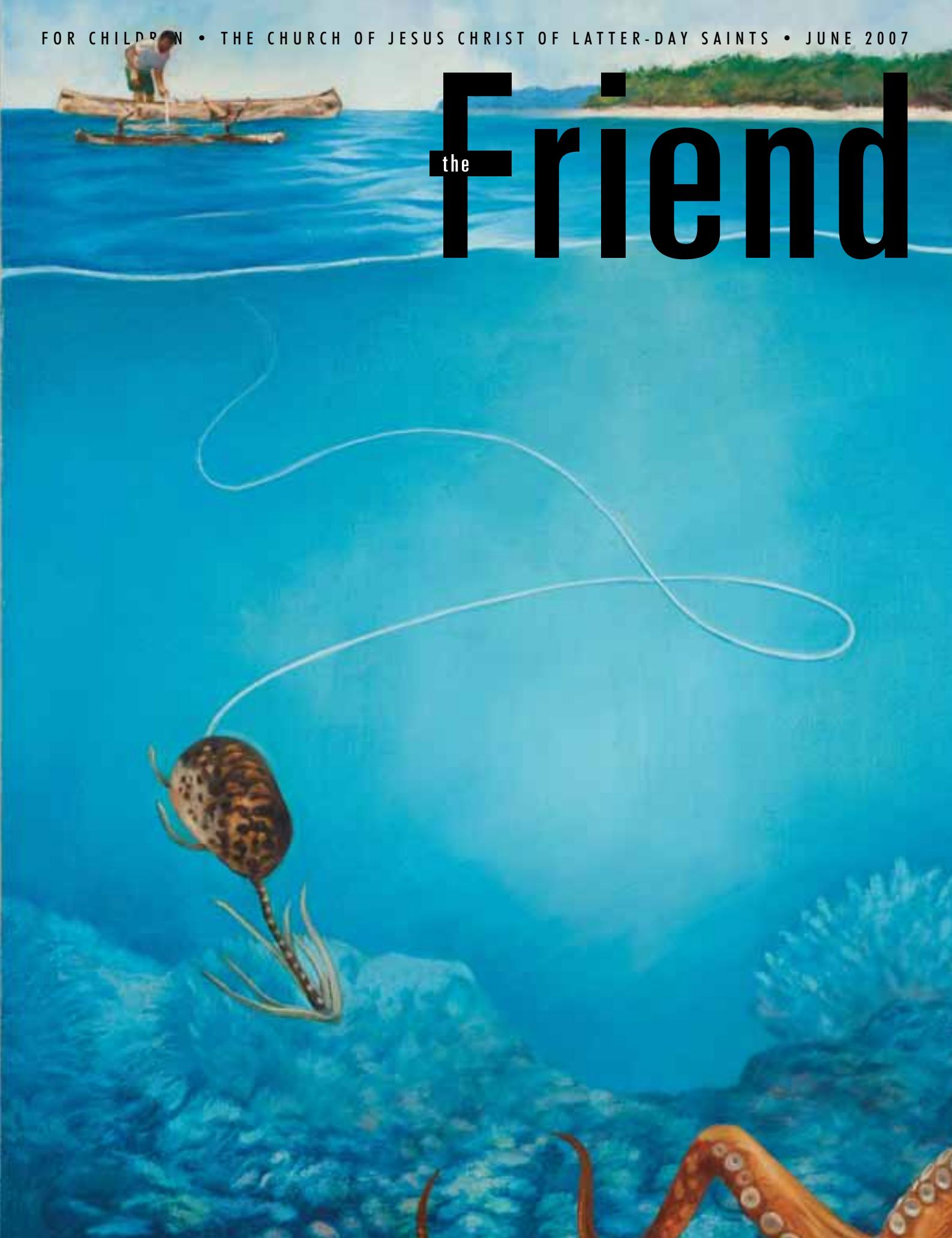
#### **The Perfect Example**

As we teach others, may we follow the example of the perfect teacher, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He left His footprints in the sands of the seashore but left His teaching principles in the hearts and in the lives of all whom He taught. He instructed His disciples of that day—and to us He speaks the same words—"Follow thou me" (John 21:22).

May we go forward in the spirit of obedient response, that it may be said of each of us as it was spoken of the Redeemer, "Thou art a teacher come from God" (John 3:2). May this be so, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■



FOR CHILDREN • THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • JUNE 2007



# the Friend



# DEADLY MAKA-FEKES

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

First Counselor in the First Presidency

Many years ago, on an assignment to the beautiful islands of Tonga, I was privileged to visit our Church school, the Liahona High School. Entering one classroom, I noticed the rapt attention the children gave their instructor. In his hand he held a strange-appearing fishing lure made with a round stone and large seashells. I learned the Tongan word for this lure is *maka-feke*. It means "octopus lure."

The teacher explained that Tongan fishermen glide over a reef, paddling their outrigger canoes with one hand and dangling the maka-feke over the side with the other. An octopus dashes out from its rocky lair and seizes the lure, mistaking it for a much-desired meal. So determined is the grasp of the octopus and so firm is its instinct not to give up the precious prize that the fisherman can flip it right into the canoe.

It was easy for the teacher to point out to the wide-eyed youth that the evil one—even Satan—has fashioned maka-fekes with which to ensnare unsuspecting persons.

Today we are surrounded by the maka-fekes with which Satan attempts to entice us and then ensnare us. Once grasped, such maka-fekes are ever so difficult—and sometimes nearly impossible—to relinquish.

Constantly before us are the maka-fekes of immorality



**President Monson  
warns of attractive  
lures that can  
destroy us.**

and pornography. I mention next the maka-feke of drugs, including alcohol.

There are countless other maka-fekes which he dangles before us to lead us from the path of righteousness. Cunningly positioned are those cleverly disguised maka-fekes beckoning us to grasp them and to lose that which we most desire. Do not be deceived. Our Heavenly Father has given us the capacity to think and to love. We have the power to resist temptation.

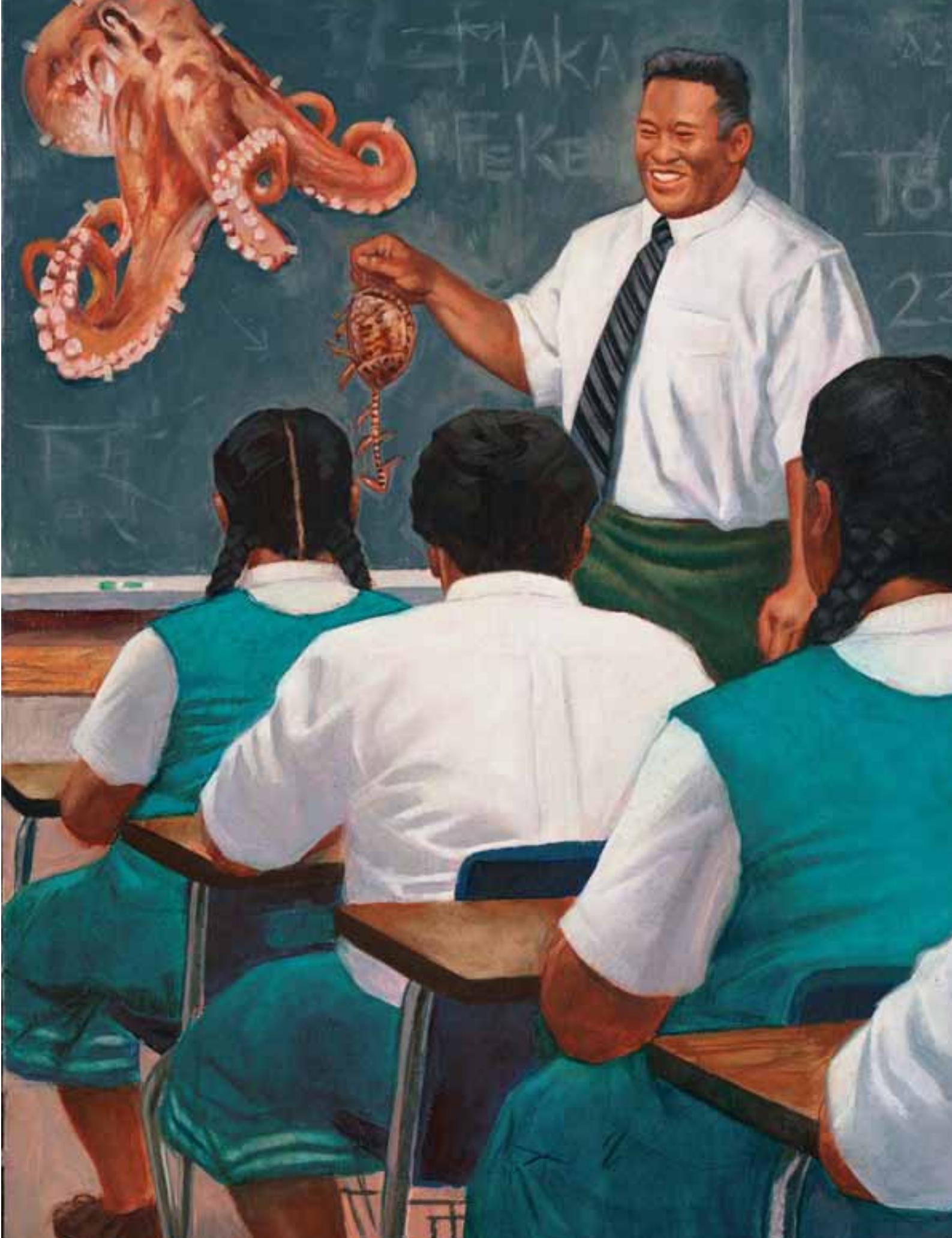
Pause to pray. Listen to that still, small voice which speaks to the depths of our souls. By doing so, we turn from destruction, from death, and find happiness and life everlasting. ●

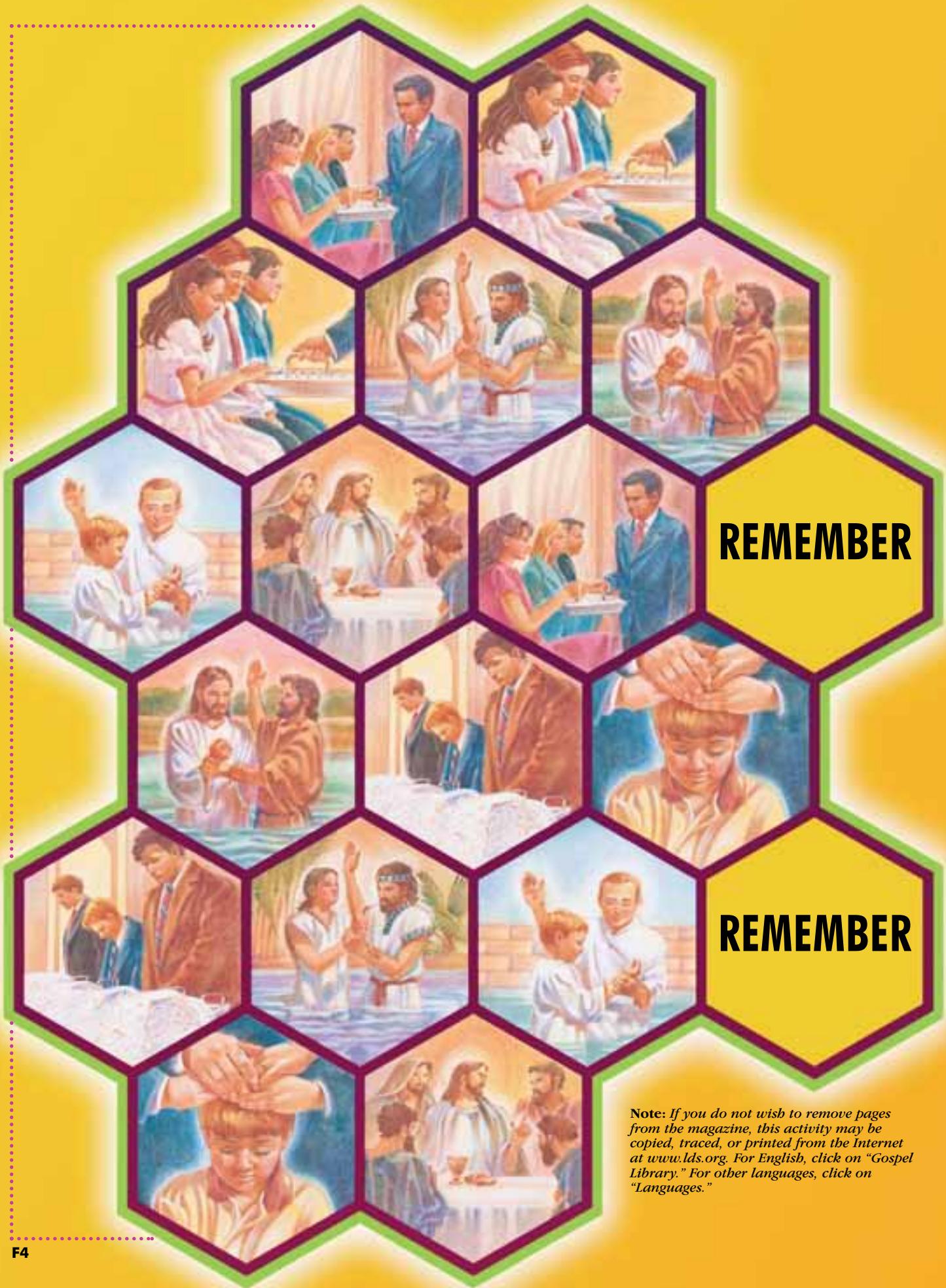
*From an April 2006 general conference address.*

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- 1. Why does an octopus grab a maka-feke? Why won't it let go? How does this relate to your own choices?**
- 2. How can we recognize Satan's maka-fekes?**
- 3. Besides the maka-fekes of immorality, pornography, and drugs, what are some others to beware of?**







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

# Remember

**"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).**

BY ELIZABETH RICKS



What do you think is the most important word in the dictionary? President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) said that perhaps the most important word is *remember*. He said our greatest need is to remember (see “Circles of Exaltation,” address to religious educators, Brigham Young University, June 28, 1968, 8).

The Book of Mormon prophet Helaman knew how important it is to remember. He urged his sons Nephi and Lehi to remember to keep the commandments of God. He asked them to remember the great men they were named after. He asked them to remember the words of the prophets. Most of all, he asked them to remember that Jesus Christ would come to redeem the world. Helaman said, “My sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation” (Helaman 5:12; see also vv. 5–9).

Nephi and Lehi did remember the teachings of their father. They were valiant men who kept the commandments of God all their lives.

We go to sacrament meeting every Sunday to take the sacrament. It is a time to remember our baptismal covenants. When a priest blesses the sacrament, we hear him say, “Always *remember* him and keep his commandments” (D&C 20:77; emphasis added).

Your faith will grow when you make baptismal covenants. After you are baptized and confirmed, you must remember to keep those covenants throughout your life. Your faith will continue to grow as you remember Jesus Christ.

## Activity

Mount page F4 on heavy paper, and cut out the pictures. Place them face down. Turn over two of the pictures. If they match, put them in a pile, and take another turn. If they don’t match, turn them back over, and let the next person turn over two pictures. Try to remember where each picture is. Keep playing until all of the pictures and the word *remember* have been matched.

## Sharing Time Ideas

1. Write each word of John 3:5 on pieces of paper, and distribute the papers to the children. Ask the children to read the words in random order, and ask them what the scripture might be about. Explain that key words such as water, Spirit, and enter might help them. When the children correctly guess that the scripture is about baptism, give them the scripture reference, and help them put the words in order. Repeat the scripture several times together. A week ahead, invite several children to give a short report on what their names mean or why their parents chose their names. After their reports, ask the children what it means to take upon themselves the name of Christ. Conduct a discussion on taking upon oneself the name of Christ. Be prepared with examples, such as the missionaries having the name of Jesus Christ on their name tags because they are some of His representatives.

2. Divide the Primary into two groups. Ask the first group to find a scripture that tells who the third member of the Godhead is. Ask the second group to find a scripture that tells what the fourth principle and ordinance of the gospel is. If they need a clue, remind them that the Articles of Faith are part of the Pearl of Great Price. Review the first and fourth articles of faith. Tell the children that it is difficult to explain exactly what the Spirit feels like. Ask an older child to read John 14:26. Tell the children to listen for another name for the Holy Ghost (Comforter). Point out the ways the Holy Ghost is the Comforter. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT SPENCER W. KIMBALL

# The Power of Example

When Spencer decided to serve a mission, he moved away for the summer to work at a dairy to earn money.

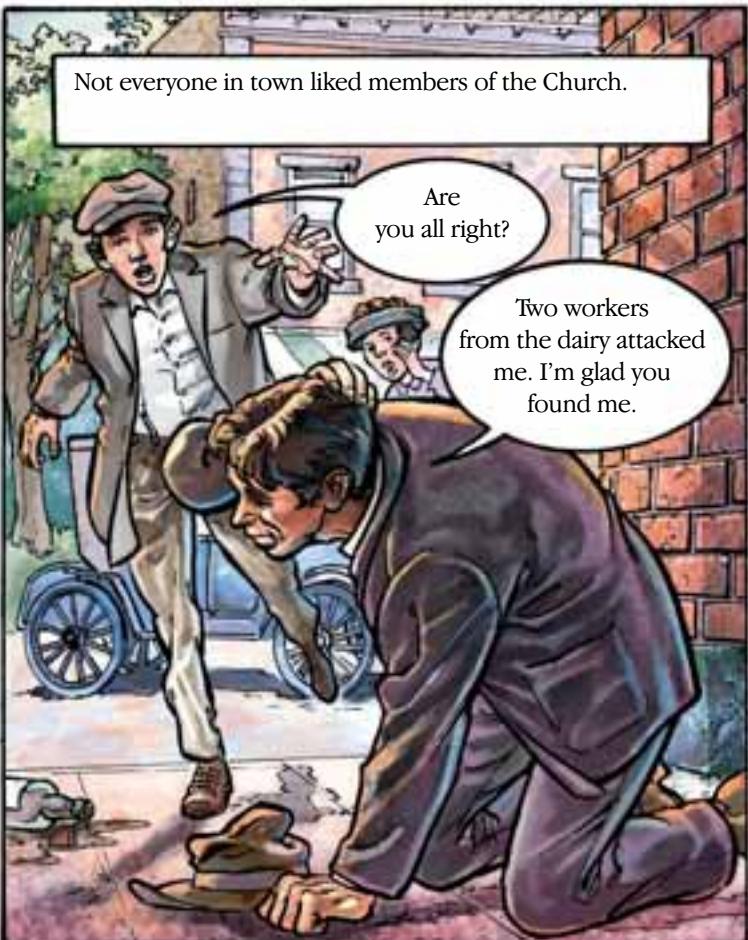
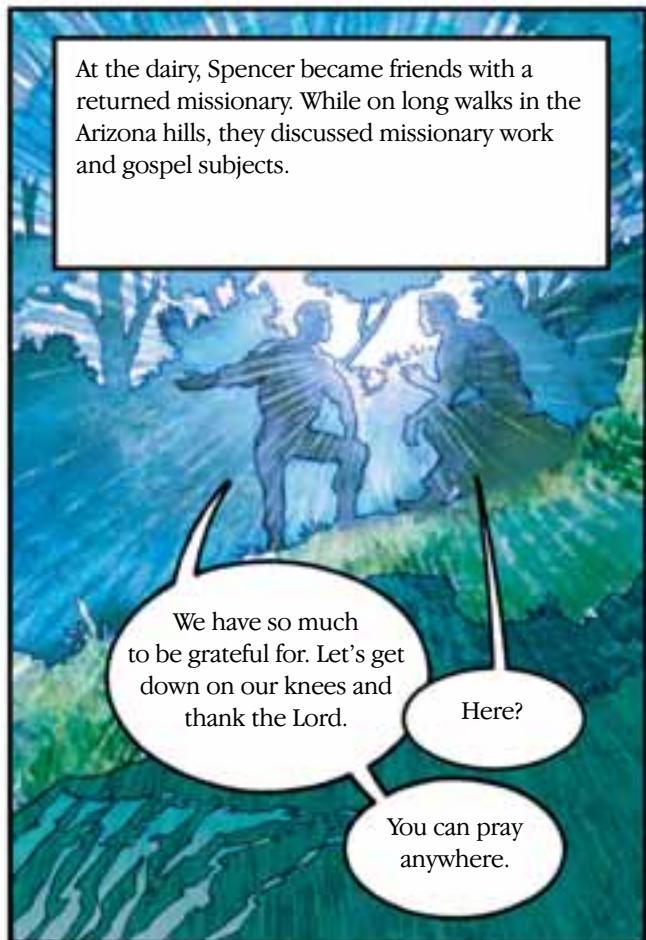
The work is hard.  
Our hands bleed.  
But I don't shy away  
from work!

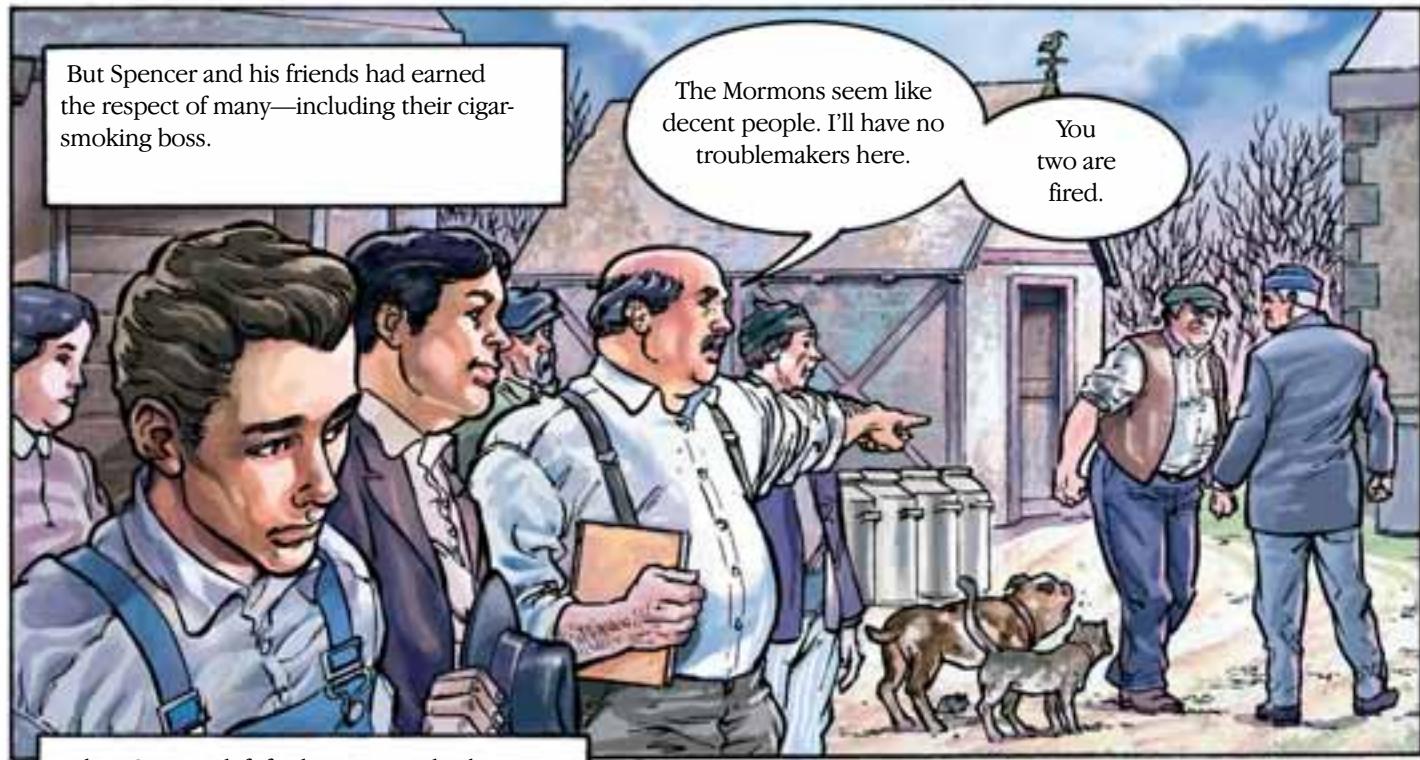
At the dairy, Spencer became friends with a returned missionary. While on long walks in the Arizona hills, they discussed missionary work and gospel subjects.

We have so much  
to be grateful for. Let's get  
down on our knees and  
thank the Lord.  
Here?  
You can pray  
anywhere.

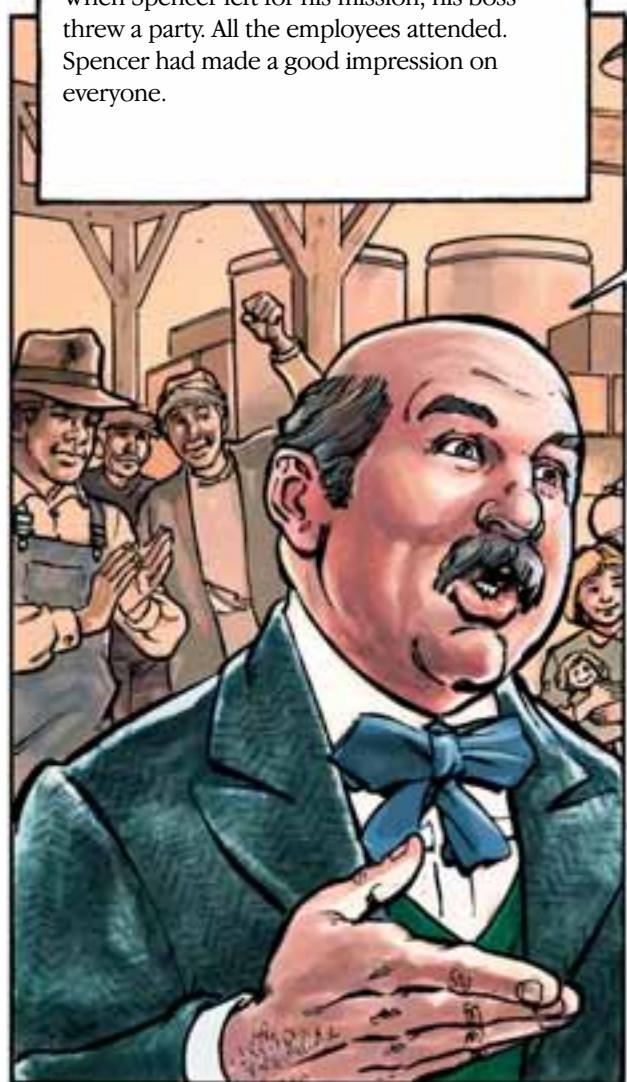
Not everyone in town liked members of the Church.

Two workers  
from the dairy attacked  
me. I'm glad you  
found me.

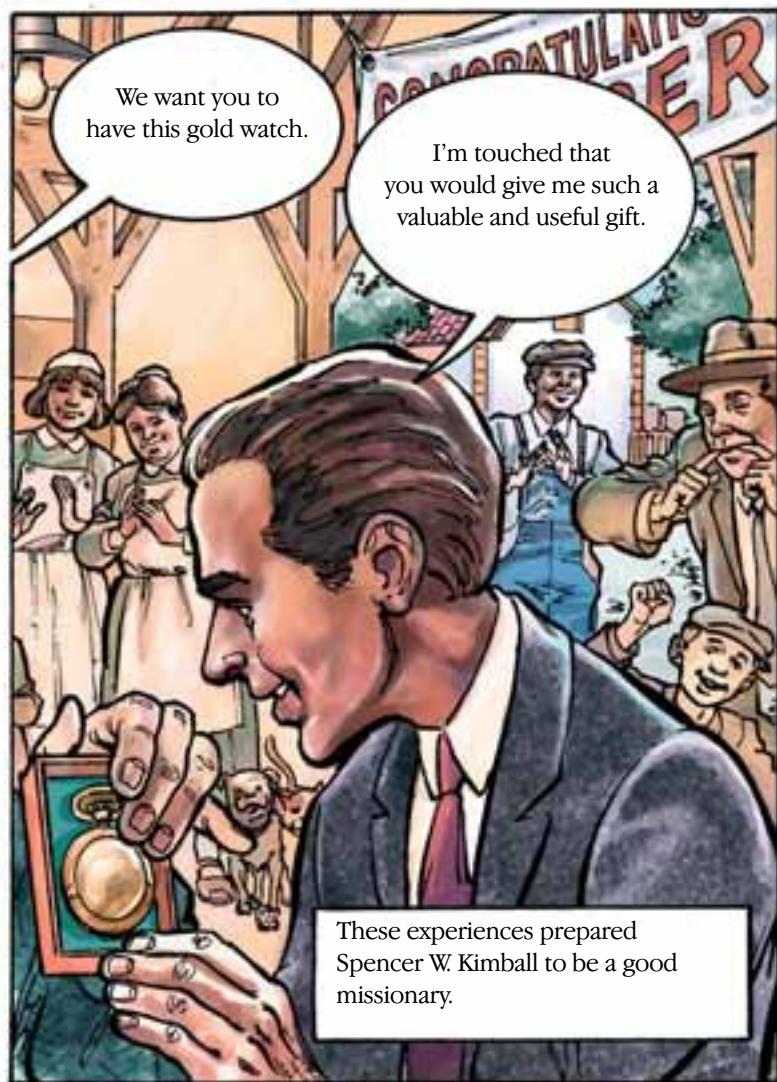




But Spencer and his friends had earned the respect of many—including their cigar-smoking boss.

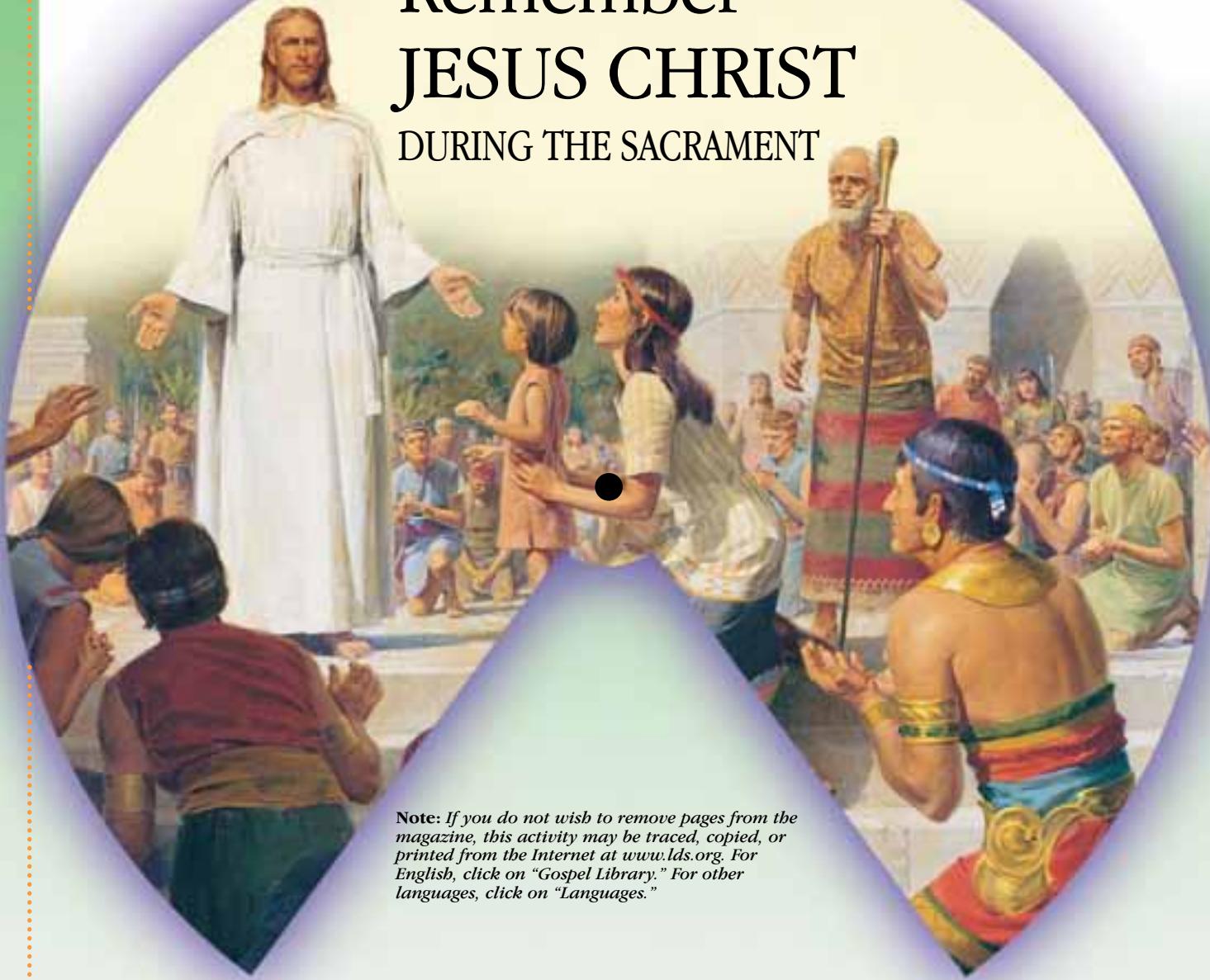


When Spencer left for his mission, his boss threw a party. All the employees attended. Spencer had made a good impression on everyone.



These experiences prepared Spencer W. Kimball to be a good missionary.

# Remember JESUS CHRIST DURING THE SACRAMENT



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

BY LAUREL ROHLFING

There are many ways we can reverently remember Jesus Christ, especially while the sacrament is being passed. We can remember how He suffered for our sins and how He died and was resurrected. We can remember His life and teachings. We can think about how we can become more like Him.

We can remember the things we have done wrong and ask for forgiveness. And we can remember the many blessings He has given us. Jesus said, “If ye do always remember me ye shall have my Spirit to be with you” (3 Nephi 18:11). The sacrament is a great blessing in our lives.

**Instructions**

Mount the two circles on heavy paper, and cut them out. Put the circle with the cutout wedge on top of the other circle. Fasten the two circles in the center with a

brass fastener. Turn the top circle so you can see each picture. Think about what it represents. You can also use the picture circles in a Primary talk or family home evening lesson. ●



# Kindness



**From an interview  
with Elder Won  
Yong Ko of the  
Seventy, currently  
serving in the Asia  
North Area; by  
Melvin Leavitt,  
Church Magazines**

*"Kindness begins with me"* (Children's Songbook, 145).

**W**hen I was a 16-year-old high school student in Seoul, Korea, a Latter-day Saint classmate invited me to a branch activity. I was amazed at how many people greeted me as if I were an old friend. I thought, "What a wonderful church this must be to have such kind members!"

That Sunday I returned and was again greeted warmly. I was also introduced to the missionaries, and they soon began teaching me the gospel. Two months later I was baptized and confirmed. I didn't yet have a deep understanding of the gospel, but I felt good about the principles I had learned. I especially liked the plan of salvation and the doctrine of eternal progression. It was comforting to know that if I would do all I could for myself, the Savior would do the rest. But the warmth of the members was what really led to my conversion.

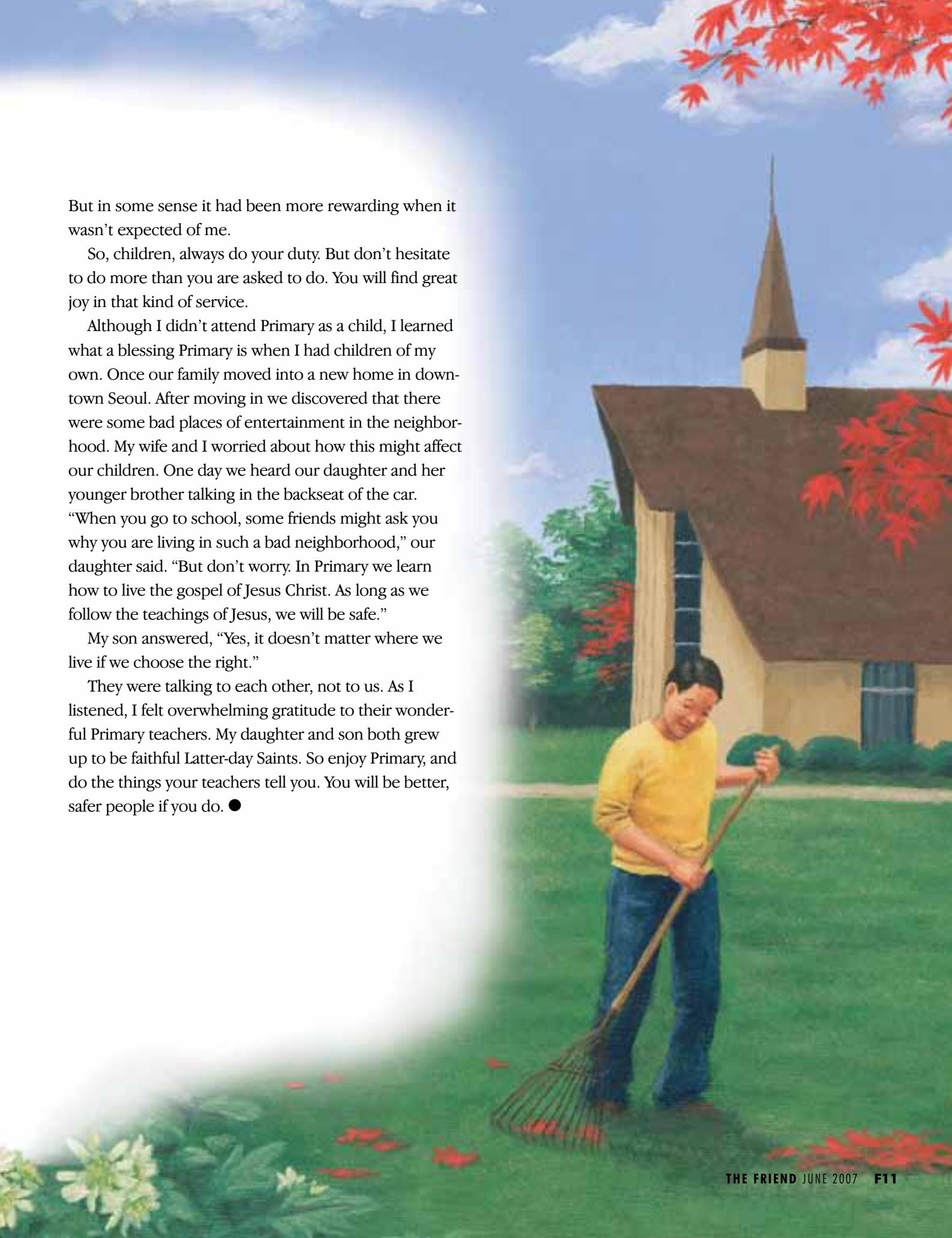
Since then I have tried to be nice to everyone I meet. I want to pass on the kindness I received from the members of

that branch. I don't ever want to be a road-block to anyone joining the Church.

After my baptism I helped clean the chapel and the grounds every Saturday. Nobody asked me to. I did it because I felt it was a great honor. When I was ordained a deacon, I learned that one of my responsibilities was to clean the meetinghouse. I kept doing so, and it was still a pleasure.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE KO FAMILY; ILLUSTRATION BY BRITTA PETERSON



But in some sense it had been more rewarding when it wasn't expected of me.

So, children, always do your duty. But don't hesitate to do more than you are asked to do. You will find great joy in that kind of service.

Although I didn't attend Primary as a child, I learned what a blessing Primary is when I had children of my own. Once our family moved into a new home in downtown Seoul. After moving in we discovered that there were some bad places of entertainment in the neighborhood. My wife and I worried about how this might affect our children. One day we heard our daughter and her younger brother talking in the backseat of the car. "When you go to school, some friends might ask you why you are living in such a bad neighborhood," our daughter said. "But don't worry. In Primary we learn how to live the gospel of Jesus Christ. As long as we follow the teachings of Jesus, we will be safe."

My son answered, "Yes, it doesn't matter where we live if we choose the right."

They were talking to each other, not to us. As I listened, I felt overwhelming gratitude to their wonderful Primary teachers. My daughter and son both grew up to be faithful Latter-day Saints. So enjoy Primary, and do the things your teachers tell you. You will be better, safer people if you do. ●

*"It is by faith that miracles are wrought" (Moroni 7:37).*

# A Miraculous Escape from **DANGER**

BY MYRA HAWKE DYCK

Based on a true story

**I**t was a sunny spring afternoon, a week after my eighth birthday—a perfect day for a bike ride. My sister Marla, our friend Lisa, and I headed out on a backcountry road that was part of my family's cattle ranch in British Columbia, Canada. The mountaintops glowed as the sun reflected off their snowcapped peaks. Excitement filled my chest as I pedaled.

I had been riding a two-wheeler for only about a week, so I was still a little shaky. The first part of the road was smooth dirt, flattened by regular tractor and hay-wagon trips. As the road wound past the thick green alfalfa fields, we began to pedal faster. I felt strong and free, coasting through the fresh mountain breeze.

Then we came to a division in the road. We could keep going straight along the edge of the field, or we could turn and take the road that went along the creek at the base of the mountain. We decided to take the more adventurous route.

Marla and I had been on this road several times before with our family, but this was my first time riding a bike here. I was a little nervous as my bike jiggled across a cattle guard, a ditch covered with evenly spaced bars to keep cows from crossing. I pedaled hard to stay with Marla and Lisa. The sunlight pierced

through the majestic pine trees, creating a cheerful, bright pattern on the bumpy path.

As the road became rockier, I became more nervous. I was having a hard time keeping my balance. I wondered if the rocks would puncture my tires.

"I think maybe we should go back," I said.

"Why?" Marla asked. "Are you scared?"

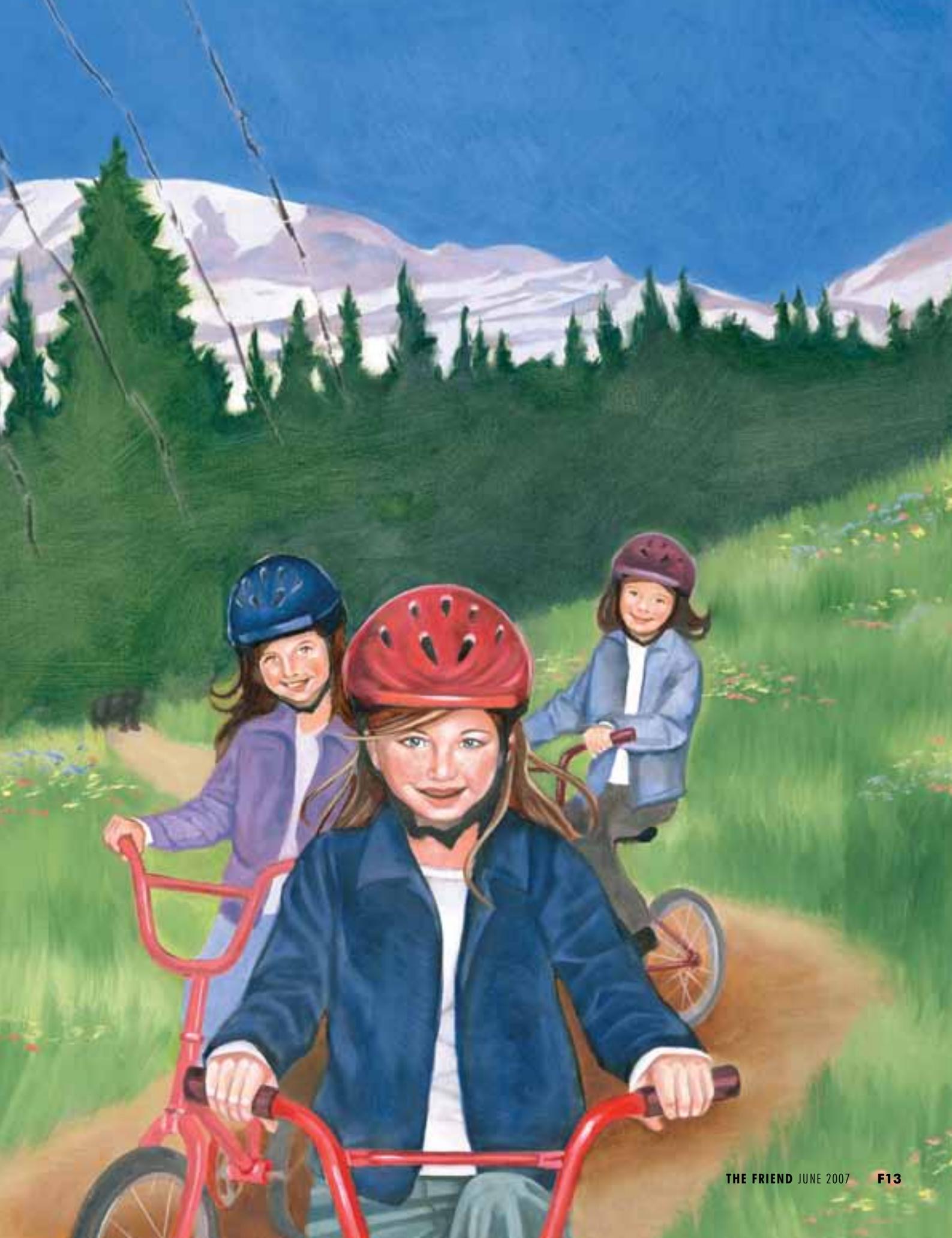
I would never admit to my older sister that I was afraid. "No. I just don't want to get a flat tire."

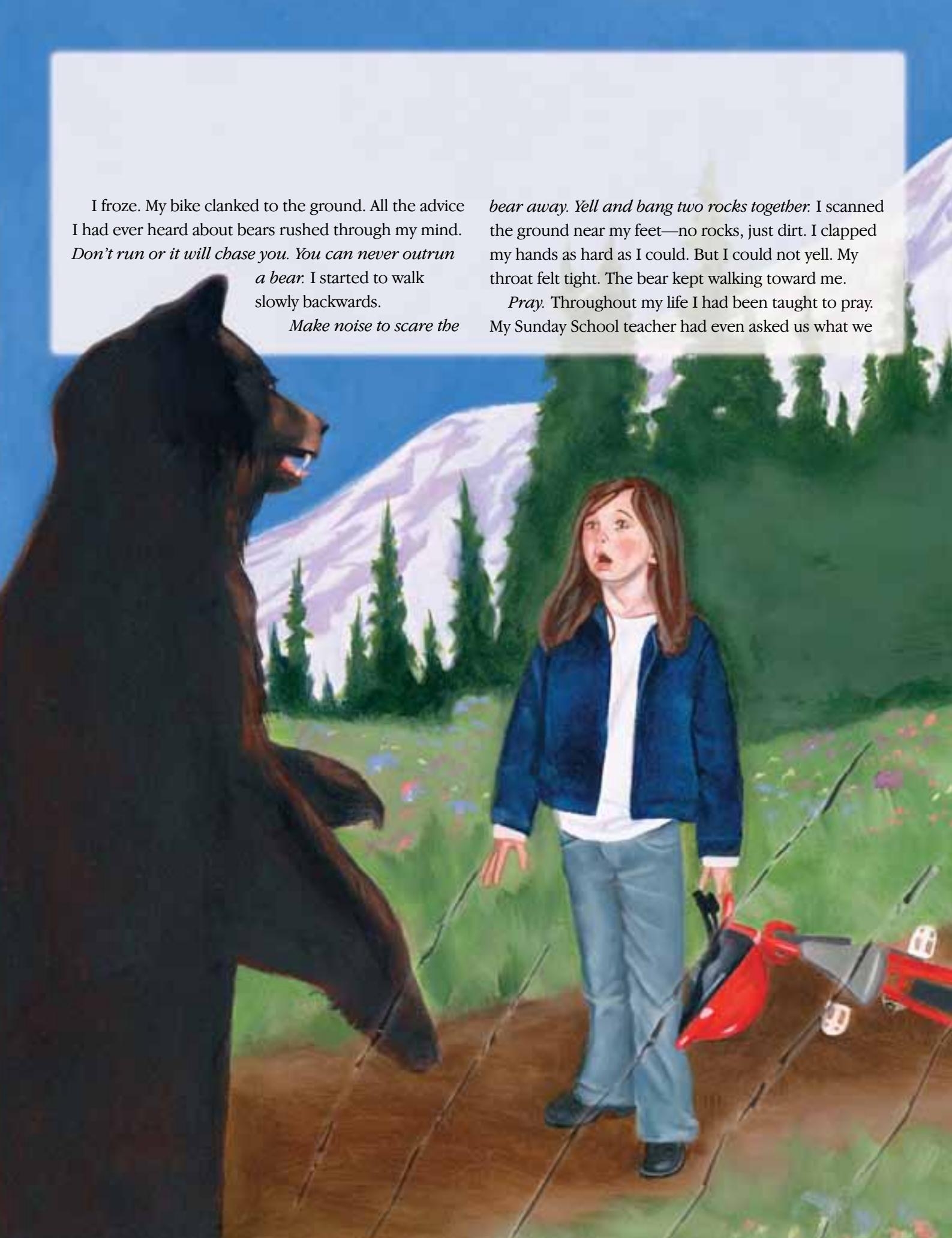
"Well, you can go back if you want, but we are going to keep going," she said.

"Bye," I called as I turned my bike around.

"We'll see you at home," Marla said. "We probably won't go too much farther."

I started toward home, all alone. The patterns on the road did not seem so cheerful now. I was suddenly aware of the strange sounds coming from the dark forest. But knowing that the comfort of home was near, I pedaled on. I was almost to the cattle guard when I sensed someone behind me. "Marla and Lisa must have decided to come home too," I realized with relief. "Now I won't have to ride home alone." Swinging my leg over my bike, I stopped and turned around to see where they were. Marla and Lisa were nowhere in sight, but walking straight toward me was a black bear!





I froze. My bike clanked to the ground. All the advice I had ever heard about bears rushed through my mind. *Don't run or it will chase you. You can never outrun a bear.* I started to walk slowly backwards.

*Make noise to scare the*

*bear away. Yell and bang two rocks together.* I scanned the ground near my feet—no rocks, just dirt. I clapped my hands as hard as I could. But I could not yell. My throat felt tight. The bear kept walking toward me.

*Pray.* Throughout my life I had been taught to pray. My Sunday School teacher had even asked us what we

should do if we saw a bear, and she had emphasized prayer. I had been taught to pray with my head bowed and eyes closed, but that was impossible now. I kept my eyes on the bear and silently prayed: "Heavenly Father, please help me! Please save me from this bear! Please help me know what to do."

Praying and clapping, I walked slowly backward toward the cattle guard. Maybe if a cow couldn't cross it, a bear would have trouble too. Maybe it would trip, giving me a chance to run home! I stepped carefully across the widely spaced beams.

The bear snorted and drooled. I watched as it followed me easily across the cattle guard. It rose onto its hind legs. I stood horrified as the grunting bear came toward me with outstretched paws. It towered over me, and I could see its sharp, wet teeth. Suddenly, the bear swiped for my head! I screamed as its large, curled claws got tangled in my hair and jerked me to the ground. I jumped back up. The bear, on all fours again, bit my inner thigh and pulled me down. It started dragging me across the road.

By then, Marla and Lisa had found me. Marla tried to distract the bear, but nothing worked. In seconds, the bear had dragged me across the dirt road to the base of the mountain. It surely would have pulled me into the thick bushes, but suddenly my pants ripped. They tore into two pieces, from front to back, even through the elastic waistband. Miraculously, its teeth had not punctured my skin. I leaped up. "Run!" a voice said to my mind.

I ran toward Marla and Lisa, leaving the bear with my pant leg in its mouth. Pantless and wearing only one shoe, I ran as fast as an Olympic track star. I overtook Marla and Lisa, who were also running. We lunged into the bushes and raced toward the creek. The thorny brambles scratched my legs, but I didn't slow down.

Without pausing or looking back, I crossed a barbed-wire fence and sloshed into the creek. I lost my other



"As a result of the many miracles in our lives, we should be more humble and more grateful, more kind and more believing."

**President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95),  
"The God That Doest Wonders," *Ensign*,  
May 1989, 17.**

shoe when it got wedged under a log. Almost home, I plunged through the water and ran across the wet cow corral. I squeezed through a fence and sprinted up the porch steps and through the front door.

My parents bombarded me with questions when they saw me without shoes or pants and covered with scratches.

"What happened?" Mom cried.

"Where are your pants?" Dad asked. "How did you get all those scratches?"

Still afraid, I couldn't catch my breath. Stuttering, gasping, and crying, I finally managed, "I . . . ah . . . buh . . . buh . . . bear!"

Marla and Lisa ran onto the porch, and Marla told Mom and Dad what she had seen. Trying to calm me, Mom helped me into a warm bath.

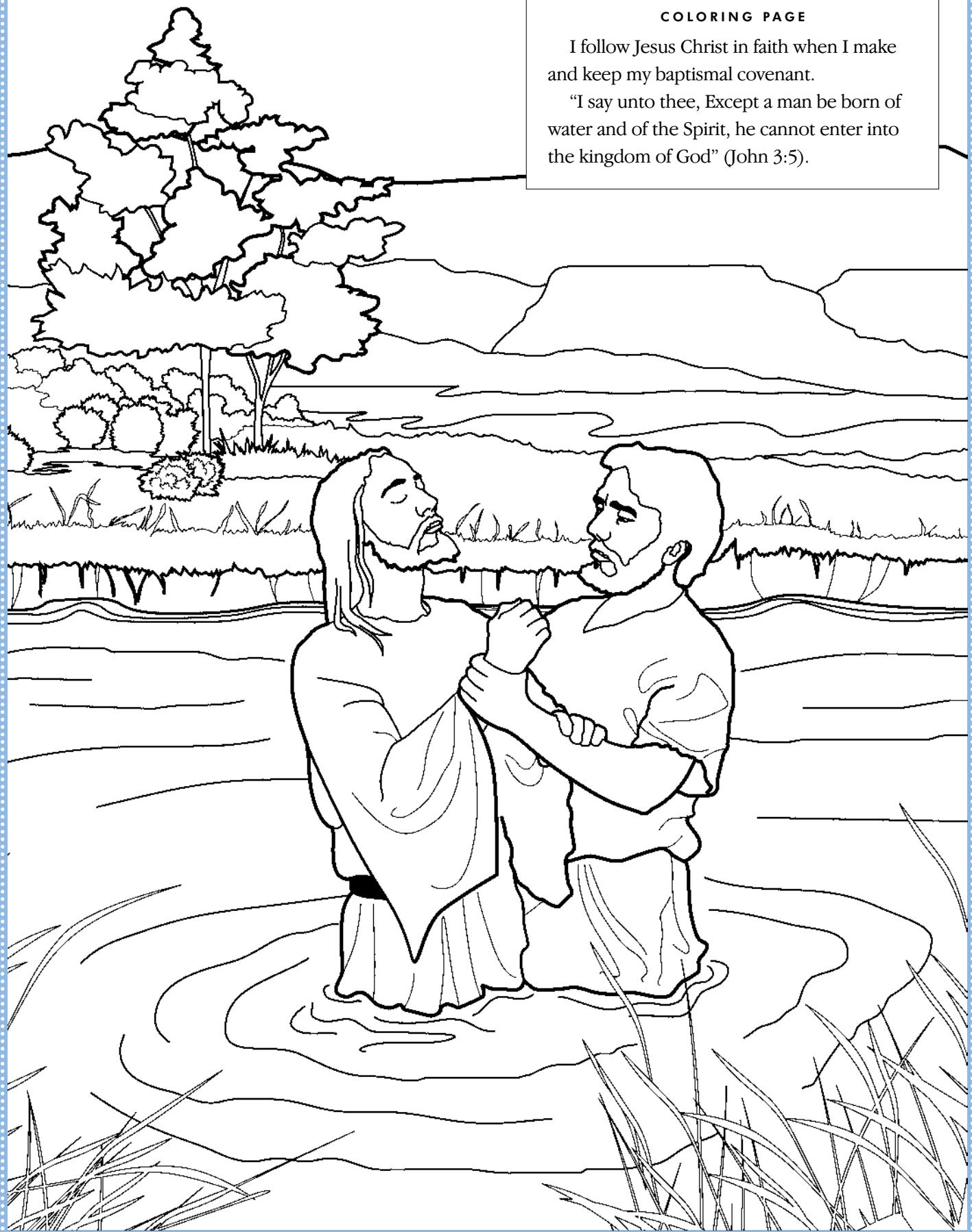
Later that evening, clean and safe, we discussed the terrifying event. My palms were blue with bruises from clapping so hard, and my legs were covered in scratches from the bushes, but I had no marks from the bear. Its claws had brushed my head, and its teeth had gripped my leg, but my skin had not been broken. If the bear's claws had been any closer to my head or if its teeth had bitten into my thigh, I could have been seriously hurt and would not have been able to run away.

I know Heavenly Father heard my prayers that day, and I know I heard the voice of the Holy Ghost telling me to run. Heavenly Father blessed me with a miracle. ●

COLORING PAGE

I follow Jesus Christ in faith when I make  
and keep my baptismal covenant.

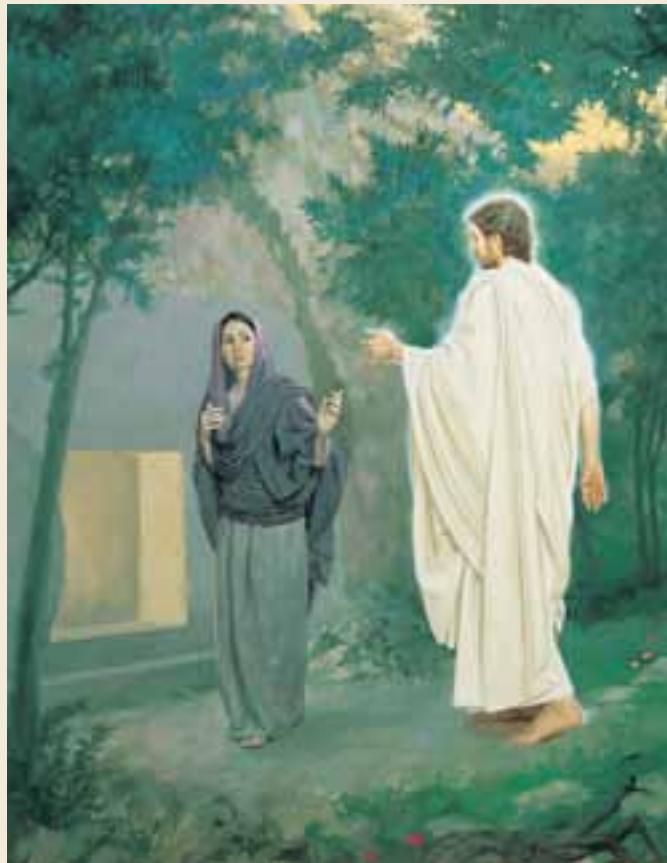
"I say unto thee, Except a man be born of  
water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into  
the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).





**Anna the Prophetess, by Elspeth Young**

*Anna, a widow and a prophetess of the tribe of Asher, was 84 years old at the time of Christ's birth. She "departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day" (Luke 2:37). She was one who greeted the infant Jesus at His presentation in the temple.*



The New Testament tells of many women who knew and followed the Savior, including Mary Magdalene, to whom the Savior first appeared following His Resurrection (above), and also of a woman (front cover) who “began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head.” Of this woman, the Savior said, “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much” (Luke 7:38, 47). See “For She Loved Much: Women of the New Testament,” p. 26.