

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • MARCH 2001

LIAHONA



LIAHONA



ON THE COVER

Front: Atsuko Yamashita, Young Women president in the Maebaru Ward, Fukuoka Japan Stake. Back: Historic Buddhist shrine Kinkaku-ji in Kyoto, Japan. (Photography by Don L. Searle.)



THE FRIEND COVER

President Gordon B. Hinckley as a young boy.

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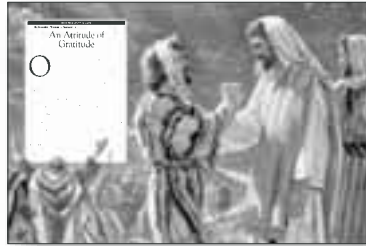
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"AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE"

I appreciate so much the First Presidency
Message in the May 2000 *Liahona* (English),
"An Attitude of Gratitude" by President
Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the
First Presidency. I really came to understand
the importance of gratitude. Making this
message a part of me has blessed my life. I
will ever try to show gratitude to all who
stand as a light and encouragement to me.
I feel an attitude of gratitude to all the
Church leaders for their inspired messages
and testimonies.

Ben Lawrence Ekpezu,
Calabar Second Branch,
Calabar Nigeria District

SPIRITUAL MANNA

I was baptized into the Church when I
was a young girl, and I received a copy of
the *Liahona* (Spanish) the first time I went
to church. Now I have children of my own,
and I'm still enjoying the magazine very
much. My family waits for it each month
the same way the Israelites waited for
manna. The *Liahona* feeds us spiritually
and strengthens our testimonies, and we're
happy to have the opportunity to become
acquainted with the worldwide member-
ship of the Church. I thank my Heavenly
Father for this wonderful gift.

Ingrid de Padrón,
San Juan de los Morros Branch,
Maracay Venezuela Stake



AN EFFECTIVE MISSIONARY TOOL

While I was serving a mission in Chile, I
observed that the people loved to read the
Liahona (Spanish). As missionaries, we
loved to receive the magazine so we could
give it to investigators, less-active members,
or recent converts.

When we met with members, we always
suggested, "Share your copy of the *Liahona*,
because it is a great tool for people to learn
about the Church and our values."

Johnathan Wardle,
Edgemont 11th Ward,
Provo Utah Edgemont South Stake

A BETTER WORLD

Since my baptism I have known that this
is the true Church. Before I felt that a part
of me was lacking. Now I am complete.

I am writing to congratulate you on
publishing this marvelous magazine, A
Liahona (Portuguese). The magazine gives
us a chance to read the testimonies and
experiences of other members throughout
the world and know that out there millions
of Latter-day Saints are working to make
this a better world.

Jonas A. Menezes,
Sumaré Ward,
Vitória da Conquista Brazil Stake

“Behold Your Little Ones”

By President Gordon B. Hinckley



**“Except ye be converted,
and become as little
children, ye shall not
enter into the kingdom
of heaven.”**

My wife and I once took some of our grandchildren to the circus. I was more interested in watching them and many others of their age than in watching the man on the flying trapeze. I looked at them in wonder as they alternately laughed and stared wide-eyed at the exciting things before them. I thought of the miracle of children, for it is children who become the world’s constant renewal of life and purpose. Observing them in the intensity of their interest, even in that atmosphere, my mind reverted to the beautiful and touching scene recorded in the book of 3 Nephi when the resurrected Lord took little children in His arms and wept as He blessed them and said to the people, “Behold your little ones” (3 Nephi 17:23).

It is so obvious that the great good and the terrible evil in the world today are the sweet and the bitter fruits of the rearing of yesterday’s children. As we train a new generation, so will the world be in a few years. If you are worried about the future, then look to the upbringing of your children. Wisely did the writer of Proverbs declare, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and



when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

When I was a boy, we lived in the summer on a fruit farm. We grew great quantities of peaches—carloads of them. Our father took us to tree pruning demonstrations put on by the agricultural college. Each Saturday during January and February we would go out to the farm and prune the trees. We learned that by clipping and sawing in the right places, even when snow was on the ground and the wood appeared dead, we could shape a tree so

"Bring up your children in the love and fear of the Lord; . . . teach them to love you rather than to fear you."

that the sun would touch the fruit which was to come with spring and summer. We learned that in February we could pretty well determine the kind of fruit we would pick in September.

E. T. Sullivan once wrote these interesting words: "When God wants a great work done in the world or a great wrong righted, he goes about it in a very unusual way. He doesn't stir up his earthquakes or send forth his thunderbolts. Instead, he has a helpless baby born, perhaps in a simple home of some obscure mother. And then God puts the idea into the mother's heart, and she puts it into the baby's mind. And then God waits. The greatest forces in the world are not the earthquakes and the thunderbolts. The greatest forces in the world are babies" (quoted in *The Treasure Chest*, edited by Charles L. Wallis [1965], 53).

And those babies, I should like to add, will become forces for good or ill, depending in large measure on how they are reared. The Lord, without equivocation, has declared, "I have commanded you to bring up your children in light and truth" (D&C 93:40).

If I may be pardoned for suggesting the obvious, I do so only because the obvious is not observed in so many instances. The obvious includes four imperatives with reference to children: love them, teach them, respect them, pray with them and for them.

LOVE THEM

How fortunate, how blessed is the child who feels the affection of his or her parents. That warmth, that love will bear sweet fruit in the years that follow. In large measure the harshness that characterizes so much of our society is an outgrowth of harshness imposed on children years ago.

Once, when I met one of my childhood



friends, there came a train of memories of the neighborhood in which we grew up. It was a microcosm of the world, with many varieties of people. They were a close-knit group, and I think we knew them all. I think, also, we loved them all—that is, except for one man. I must make a confession: at a point in my childhood I detested that man. I have since repented of that emotion, but as I look back, I can sense again the intensity of my feeling. His young boys were our friends, but I thought he was my enemy. Why this strong antipathy? Because he whipped his children with strap or stick or whatever came to hand as his vicious anger flared on the slightest provocation.

Perhaps I felt as I did because of the home in which I lived, where there was a father who, by some quiet magic, was able to discipline his children without the use of any instrument of punishment, though on occasion they may have deserved it.

I have seen the fruits of that neighbor's temper come alive again in the troubled lives of his children. Every social worker, every duty officer in the emergency room of a large hospital, every policeman and judge can tell you similar stories. The whole tragic picture is one of beatings, kicking, slamming, and even of sexual assault on small children. And akin to these are those vicious men and women who exploit children for pornographic purposes.

No man or woman who is a professed follower of Christ or a professed member of this Church can engage in such practices without offending God and repudiating the teachings of His Son. It was Jesus Himself who, while

holding before us the example of the purity and innocence of children, declared, "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones . . . , it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

Could there be a stronger denunciation of those who abuse children than these words spoken by the Savior of mankind? Do you want a spirit of love to grow in the

world? Then begin within the walls of your own home. Behold your little ones and see within them the wonders of God, from whose presence they have recently come.

President Brigham Young (1801–77) once said: "A child loves the smiles of its mother, but hates her frowns. I tell the mothers not to allow the children to indulge in evils, but at the same time to treat them with mildness" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* [1997], 340).

He further stated, "Bring up your children in the love and fear of the Lord; study their dispositions and their temperaments, and

deal with them accordingly, never allowing yourself to correct them in the heat of passion; teach them to love you rather than to fear you" (*Teachings*, 172).

Of course, there is need for discipline with families. But discipline with severity, discipline with cruelty, inevitably leads not to correction but rather to resentment and bitterness. It cures nothing and only aggravates the problem. It is self-defeating. The Lord, in setting forth the spirit of governance in His Church, has also set forth the spirit of governance in the home in these great words of revelation:



**Behold your little ones and teach them.
Your example will do more than
anything else in impressing upon their
minds a pattern of life.**

“No power or influence can or ought to be maintained . . . , only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; . . .

“Reproving betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost; and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love toward him whom thou hast reproved, lest he esteem thee to be his enemy;

Pray with your children that they may come to know that source of strength which shall then always be available in every hour of need.



“That he may know that thy faithfulness is stronger than the cords of death” (D&C 121:41, 43–44).

TEACH THEM

Behold your little ones and teach them. Your example will do more than anything else in impressing upon their minds a pattern of life. It is always interesting to meet the children of old friends and to find in another generation the ways of their fathers and mothers.

The story is told that in ancient Rome a group of women were, with vanity, showing their jewels one to another. Among them was Cornelia, the mother of two boys. One of the women said to her, “And where are your jewels?” to which Cornelia responded, pointing to her sons, “These are my jewels.” Under her tutelage, and walking after the virtues of her life, they grew to become Gaius and Tiberius Gracchus—the Gracchi, as they were called—two of the most persuasive and effective reformers in Roman history. For as long as they are remembered and spoken of, the mother who reared them after the manner of her own life will be remembered and spoken of with praise also.

I return again to the words of Brigham Young: “Let it be your constant care that the children that God has so kindly given you are taught in their early youth the importance of the oracles of God, and the beauty of the principles of our holy religion, that when they grow to the years of man and womanhood they may always cherish a tender regard for them and never forsake the truth” (*Teachings*, 172).

I know that there are parents who, notwithstanding an outpouring of love and a diligent and faithful effort to teach them, see their children grow in a contrary manner and weep while their wayward sons and daughters willfully pursue courses of tragic consequence. For such I have great sympathy, and to them I am wont to quote the words of Ezekiel: “The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son” (Ezekiel 18:20).

But such is the exception rather than the rule. Nor does the exception justify others of us from making every effort in showing forth love, example, and correct precept in the rearing of those for whom God has given us sacred responsibility.

RESPECT THEM

Nor let us ever forget the need to respect these, our little ones. Under the revealed word of the Lord, we know they are children of God as we are children of God, deserving of that respect which comes of knowledge of that eternal principle. In fact, the Lord made it clear that unless we develop in our own lives that purity, that lack of guile, that innocence of evil, we cannot enter into His presence. Declared He, “Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3).

Channing Pollock once wrote these interesting and provocative words: “Contemplating the adolescence through which we scorned the wrong, some of us must wish . . . that we could be born old, and grow younger and cleaner and ever simpler and more innocent, until at last, with the white souls of little children, we lay us down to eternal sleep” (“The World’s Slow Stain,” *Reader’s Digest*, June 1960, 77).

PRAY WITH THEM AND FOR THEM

Behold your little ones. Pray with them. Pray for them and bless them. The world into which they are moving is a complex and difficult world. They will run into heavy seas of adversity. They will need all the strength and all the faith you can give them while they are yet near you. And they also will need a greater strength which comes of a higher power. They must do more than go along with what they find. They must lift the world, and the only levers they will have are the example of their own lives and the powers of persuasion that will come of their testimonies and their knowledge of the things of God. They

will need the help of the Lord. While they are young, pray with them that they may come to know that source of strength which shall then always be available in every hour of need.

I love to hear children pray. I appreciate hearing parents pray for their children. I stand reverently before a father who in the authority of the holy priesthood lays his hands upon the head of a son or daughter at a time of serious decision and in the name of the Lord and under the direction of the Holy Spirit gives a father’s blessing.

How much more beautiful would be the world and the societies in which we live if every father and mother looked upon their children as the most precious of their assets, if they led them by the power of their example in kindness and love, and if in times of stress blessed them by the authority of the holy priesthood; and if they regarded their children as the jewels of their lives, as gifts from the God of heaven who is their Eternal Father, and brought them up with true affection in the wisdom and admonition of the Lord.

Said Isaiah of old, “All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children” (Isaiah 54:13). To which I add, “Great also shall be the peace and the gladness of their fathers and mothers.”

I humbly pray for that peace in behalf of all children and all fathers and mothers. □

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

1. The Lord has said, “I have commanded you to bring up your children in light and truth” (D&C 93:40).
2. To do this, we need to:
 - Love little children.
 - Teach little children by example.
 - Respect little children as children of God, as we ourselves are.
 - Pray with and for little children.



ARM OF HONOR

By Gordon Swensen

LEARNING THE VALUE OF HONESTY WAS THE REAL RESULT OF THAT VOLLEYBALL MATCH.

Many of my memories of being a five-year-old consist of volleyball nets, floor polish on gym floors, referee whistles, and roughly scribbled rosters. My dad coached a team of young volleyball players in our ward. I was his “assistant.”

My dad taught the players principles of hard work, team spirit, honesty, trust in self and in others, goal setting, perseverance, and sacrifice. There were prayers before games, 5:00 A.M. practices on Saturdays, and ice cream socials at our house.

One of the most important lessons I learned from my dad and his players was that of honesty. When a player touched the net inadvertently or mishandled a pass, my dad taught that it was important for the player to reveal his error with a raised hand. That lesson would make a lasting impression, not only on the members of the team, but also on a five-year-old “assistant coach.”

Our team had struggled in the beginning. But when the championships were held, we were there to compete. When it was time for the final match, the four years the team had spent playing together paid off. Just one match stood in the way of our winning the championship.

There was a spirited atmosphere at the championship match. Crowds of people came to watch the competition. I took my place next to Dad when the horn sounded to begin play.

I don’t remember much of that match, but I do remember the end of the final game. The crowd cheered as my dad’s team scored the final point. Participants and spectators flooded the floor. Brent, a big, formidable player on our team, had made the final point with a decisive spike. So powerful was his contact with the ball that even the experienced referee didn’t notice that Brent’s finger had brushed the net. It was a penalty that easily could have been forgotten. But amid the excitement, Brent slowly raised his arm into the air.

The teams reassembled, the crowd took their seats, and the game continued. Shortly thereafter, the game ended, and my dad’s team captured the championship they had been working at for four years. They could feel good not only about winning, but also about doing it honestly.

Many years have passed since my days of chasing volleyballs for my father and his players. But the memory of a coach teaching the value of honesty to his team still remains firmly planted in my memory. From my low vantage point on the floor that day, most people seemed tall. But the way I—and everyone else—saw it, Brent stood the tallest. □

Gordon Swensen is a member of the Eastridge Eighth Ward, Draper Utah Eastridge Stake.

HAPPINESS IN THIS LIFE AND IN ETERNITY
DEPENDS ON YOUR MAKING CORRECT DECISIONS
AND HOLDING FAST TO THEM.

Do What Is

By Elder Richard G. Scott

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

*From a Church Educational System fireside address given at
Brigham Young University on 3 March 1996.*

I know that most of you have a determination to do what is right. You have had those feelings in your heart to live worthily no matter what others may say. I speak also to others who want to have such feelings. You are of the finest generation that has come to earth. You have prepared yourself well in the premortal existence and have been selected to come forth in this singularly important time in the unfolding of Father in Heaven's plan. I am deeply moved to be in your presence. I realize that the majority of you do not have the slightest idea of how truly capable, noble, and wonderful you are.

I have prayed about, pondered over, and worked on this message because each one of you is an exceptional daughter or son of our Father in Heaven and I want to help you. Early on, I strongly felt impressed to discuss with you how to make your noble dreams and aspirations a reality. I am sure that each one of you has treasured dreams of what you want your life to be. Having moved down the path of life ahead of you, I have learned that while there are growing challenges along the way, life is most beautiful. As you continue to exercise faith in the Master and are obedient to His commandments, you will receive magnificent blessings. Some of those blessings you will have dreamed about. Other blessings He plans for you are beyond anything you

can conceive of now. My earnest desire is to help you live so that your worthy dreams become realities.

I have wrestled with many different ways to communicate principles that I know—if understood and applied—would greatly help you. I realized I did not yet have a satisfactory way to express what I know to be true. Then a peace enveloped me. I felt that if I strive the best I can to talk to you, and you listen with an open mind and heart, with real intent, having faith in the Lord, then it won't matter too much what I say. You will have impressions come to you that will be individually tailored to your needs. As you write those impressions down and follow them, they will be guidelines for your life and will help you realize your righteous dreams.

You are at a time of life when there are many critically important decisions to be made, and you are understandably unsure of your capacity to make them. You live in a world where it is increasingly more difficult to assure that your worthy dreams and aspirations will come true by avoiding the allurements and temptations that Satan would put in your path to destroy you. You may have doubts about your own self-worth. You want to be accepted. You have questions about your future and about how to gain true and enduring friendships. You want to find an eternal companion who has the same deep desire to live worthily and to accomplish much of good in this life. For many, you want to know if the person you have growing feelings for is indeed the one to be your eternal companion.

Right

A full-page background image showing a person walking away from the viewer down a path in a forest. The path is covered in dappled sunlight and shadows from the trees. The trees are tall and their leaves are illuminated by the sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The person is a small silhouette in the distance.

But you are not sure of your ability to decide. You are growing in spiritual discipline—that is, your ability to discern the promptings of the Spirit and your capacity to follow them. Over time, that capacity will increase and grow stronger until it becomes easier and easier to automatically do the right things. You have built a shield against temptation. But now, while that spiritual discipline is developing, you must be very careful to avoid choices that would take you from the path of happiness.

I have learned from personal experience how being helped to make the right decision at a critical time can bless your entire life. I have also seen by working closely with individuals who made wrong decisions how devastating that can be on the rest of their lives. My intent is to give you suggestions on how to be sure you make the right choices. I will share four personal experiences that taught me important lessons, with a sincere desire to help you gain confidence in making the right choices consistently in your life. Then I will try to identify how Satan works so that you will be more prepared to avoid the pitfalls he will place in your path.

In college I was given the privilege of joining a very elect honorary engineering society. As I attended the initiatory activities, everyone was drinking. I asked for a soft drink and was handed a glass. As I raised it to my lips, I could smell alcohol. I looked around the room. All the eyes were on me. These were professionals who had just given me a great honor. Should I pretend to drink so as not

to offend? No. I set the glass down and then noticed that three other inductees also set their glasses aside. Do what is right, and others will follow your example. Every time you make the right choice in the face of potential criticism, you build strength that makes it easier the next time. The reverse is also true. Satan counts on that.

One summer as a teenager, I worked on an oyster boat off the coast of Long Island in New York to earn funds for college. The other members of the crew were seasoned oystermen, hardened by the harsh winter environment in which they spent much of their lives battling the icy ocean and raw wind to secure their catch. I was an enigma to them, easier to distrust than to understand. They shunned me as a company spy, then as a crazy kid who didn't know how to be a man. Later, I became better at my duties and tried to build friendships. They offered to make me "a real man" by inviting me to join all-night indulgences. I thanked them but declined, and the tension grew more intense.

The summer weather was beautiful and the ocean magnificent. We were engaged in relatively simple tasks, such as transferring small oysters to a more distant portion of the sound where the nutrients accelerated their growth and improved their flavor. Except when a dredge full of oysters was dumped onto the deck, signaling a flurry of intense activity, there was much time for contemplation. While my deck mates dozed by their shovels, I read and pondered the content of the Book of Mormon. I cannot adequately express the powerful awakening within me that came from those weeks of study of the Book of Mormon under singularly unusual circumstances.

We slept in envelope-type bunks sandwiched into the restricted space between the ship's diesel engine and hull. One night at dockside I retired early since some of

the crew planned unrighteous activity outside our boat. I was suddenly shaken into consciousness by the powerful hand of a deck mate, Toddy, a giant of a man. He was brandishing a hammer in my face, and his breath reeked of alcohol. Stunned, I realized that there was no way that I could escape him. I thought I had come to the end of the road. Then I heard what he was shouting: "Scotty, get your fins and mask. There's a man overboard, and you can save him."



I was suddenly shaken into consciousness by Toddy, a giant of a man. He was brandishing a hammer in my face, and his breath reeked of alcohol.

That night I learned a lesson I have never forgotten. Publicly the crew members ridiculed me, but privately they respected me for my standards. The confidence that came from that knowledge let me quietly help three of them with some serious personal challenges.

I know that you will find the same response as you consistently choose to obey your principles. You are establishing a reputation. When you make it clear that you will not vary from your standards, you will be led to individuals like yourself and the criticism from others will become less intense. Often those who publicly deride you for your high standards

privately do not want you to violate them. They need your good example. Whether it be turning your back on an off-color joke, refusing to see an R-rated movie or videocassette, or walking out of a party that is moving in the wrong direction, make your standards clear to others by quietly making the right choices when the temptation is first presented. A decisive, correct choice made once and consistently kept thereafter will avoid much heartache. You then can use your energy in keeping your resolve rather than repeatedly wrestling with the same challenge. Also, you will greatly reduce the possibility that you will be overcome by temptation.

I grew up in a home where my father was not a member of the Church and my mother was less active. That all changed later, and they spent much of their life as temple workers. With that background I didn't know much about the Church, even though I thought I did. When I was about to graduate from the university, the Lord brought an angel into my life. Her name was Jeanene Watkins. She was a beautiful girl. It took me a long time to date her because so many others recognized her wonderful qualities. As we began to date, I discovered that she was all I had ever dreamed of finding. I fell completely in love with her. I could tell she had deep feelings for me also. One night when we were talking about the future, she carefully wove into the conversation an important comment. She said, "When I marry, it will be to a returned missionary in the temple." I don't remember anything else she said. I hadn't thought much about a mission and didn't understand much about temple marriage. I went home and couldn't think of anything else. I was awake all night. I couldn't do anything at the university the next day. Soon I was at the bishop's office, having prayed about the importance of a mission. Jeanene and I both went on missions and when we returned were sealed in the temple. Much later I came to realize that she would have left me had I not made the right choices. Jeanene's courage in standing up for her dream of a temple marriage to a returned missionary, regardless of her love for me, has made all of the difference in our lives together. I will never be able to thank her adequately for not compromising her righteous dreams.

Your decisions are like switch points on a railroad system. They determine where you will end up in life. When you consistently make the right choices, you are the happiest, receive the greatest personal growth, and have the most productive life. When you make the wrong choices, you may find yourself at an entirely different destination than you want. While there is the process of repentance to come back, it is often painful and sometimes leaves permanent physical scars that cannot be cured as well as your spirit can.

At one time I worked on the immediate staff of a very hardworking, demanding, misunderstood man who became the father of the nuclear navy that provided great protection for the United States at a critical time in world conditions. His name is Hyman Rickover. I have great respect for him. After 11 years in that service, I received a call from the First Presidency to preside over a mission. I knew I would have to tell Admiral Rickover immediately. As I explained the call and that it would mean I would have to quit my job, he became rather excited. He said some unrepeatable things, broke the paper tray on his desk, and in the comments that followed, clearly established two points: "Scott, what you are doing in this defense program is so vital that it will take a year to replace you, so you can't go. Second, if you do go, you are a traitor to your country."

I said, "I can train my replacement in the two remaining months, and there won't be any risk to the country."

There was more conversation, and he finally said, "I never will talk to you again. I don't want to see you again. You are finished, not only here, but don't ever plan to work in the nuclear field again."

I responded, "Admiral, you can bar me from the office, but unless you prevent me, I am going to turn this assignment over to another individual."

He asked, "What's the name of the man who wants you?"

I told him, "President David O. McKay."

He added, "If that's the way Mormons act, I don't want any of them working for me."

I knew he would try to call President McKay (1873–1970), who was ill, and that conversation would benefit no one. I also knew that in the Idaho Falls area there were many members of the Church whose families depended upon their working in our program. I didn't want to cause them harm. I also knew that I had been called by the Lord. I didn't know what to do. Then, the words of the song we sang tonight began to run through my mind: "Do what is right; let the consequence follow"

(*Hymns*, number 237). While I had never contacted a General Authority in my life, I had been interviewed by Elder Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, so I had a feeling to call him. I explained that the admiral would try to call President McKay and would make some negative comments, but everything was all right and I would be able to accept my call. While doing that, my heart kept saying, “Is this going to turn out all right or will somebody be innocently hurt who depends on our program for livelihood?” The song would come back: “Do what is right; let the consequence follow.” True to his word, the admiral ceased to speak to me. When critical decisions had to be made, he would send a messenger or I would communicate through a third party. We accomplished the changeover.

On my last day in the office I asked for an appointment with him, and his secretary gasped. I went with a copy of the Book of Mormon in my hand. He looked at me and said, “Sit down, Scott. What do you have? I have tried every way I can to force you to change. What is it you have?”

There followed a very interesting, quiet conversation. There was more listening this time. He said he would read the Book of Mormon. Then something I never thought would occur happened. He added, “When you come back from the mission, I want you to call me. There will be a job for you.”

You will have challenges and hard decisions to make throughout your life. Be determined *now* to always do what is right and let the consequence follow. The consequence will always be for your best good. You will learn that it is easiest over the long run to stand for what is right and do the difficult thing to begin with. Once you take that position, following through is not too hard. An individual who

cuts corners and justifies some departure from true standards, for whatever reason, finds that seeds are planted that produce problems later. Those problems are far more difficult to overcome than taking a correct stand initially.

Do what is right even though it seems you will be alone in so doing, that you are going to lose friends, that you will be criticized. What you will find is that by doing what is right, after a period of testing, the finest friends will be discovered and you can mutually support each

other in your resolve to be obedient to all of the commandments of the Lord. I have never been sorry on any occasion that I stood for what was right even against severe criticism. You will learn that truth. You will also discover that when you have taken a determined stand for right, when you have established personal standards and made covenants to keep them, when temptations come and you act according to your standards, you will be reinforced and given strength beyond your own capacity, if that is needed. Difficulty comes when you enter the battle of temptation without a fixed plan. That is what

Satan desires, for then you are ripe for defeat.

Now I want to deal with sensitive issues that are easier to talk about one on one—so, in my mind, I am going to try as hard as I can to imagine you as an individual wanting to know how to make your hopes and dreams for the future come true. I am going to try and block out everything and everybody else so that we can talk privately. You may want to do the same thing.

At this time of life, it is most important that your thoughts and acts be clean and pure so that the Holy Ghost can guide you. Satan is determined at this critical time of your life to overpower you, not with an onslaught of serious temptation suddenly presented, but by carefully placed,



My last day in the office I asked for an appointment with Admiral Rickover. I went with a copy of the Book of Mormon in my hand.

alluring, but seemingly unimportant infractions of your long-established standards. He would use these temptations to skillfully lead you away from the path of righteousness. Satan knows that as long as you can be led by the Holy Spirit, you can resist him. He has no power over a righteous person. The Lord has made it possible for you to resist the devil's temptations. When obedient, you will be inspired to know what to do and have the capacity to do it.

So that you will be forewarned, I will try to show you how Satan works. Let us pretend that to your right are all of the good things that can be done in life. The farther to your right, the better they are. To your left are all of the wrong things that can be done. The farther to your left, the worse they are. In the middle it is difficult to discern where something is just a little good or a little bad. This is where Satan works with righteous people. This is the twilight zone where you cannot clearly discern between that which is good and that which is bad. It is easy to become confused here. Live well within the wonderful area of good the Lord has defined and you won't have any problems with temptation. If you are not sure whether something is appropriate to look at, to listen to, to think about, or to do—*don't do it*. You could be headed for one of Satan's traps.

Now, observe how Satan works. A righteous returned missionary meets a pure, lovely young woman. They are at an age where they can think seriously about marriage. They begin to date. He develops deep, beautiful feelings of love for her and she for him. Neither one intends to do anything that is wrong. They have decided not to cross the boundary into Satan's territory. When he is with her he wants to express the feelings he has for her—somehow, after a while, holding her hand doesn't quite communicate what he feels. Each time they are together they do what they did the time before and a little more to physically express their feelings. They move closer and closer to the boundary, but they are determined not to cross it. One day Satan plants the seeds of rationalization in their minds. By that I mean that he tempts them to believe that something that is really wrong

can be twisted or justified to be acceptable because of their special circumstances. Rationalization is one of the devil's most effective tools. These thoughts are planted: "You really love one another. You plan to be sealed in the temple. You both are worthy and will be true to each other. You are an exception. You have not reached the limit." The boundary is moved farther to the left. So they continue their physical expressions. They are very much in love. Each time they become a little more intimate. Strong, powerful emotions are aroused, but they are sure they can control them. They are going to be sealed in the temple. Then those emotions become overpowering, and they commit acts that they had determined they would never perform outside of marriage. Their lives are terribly complicated—tragically and unnecessarily.

Please recognize that you cannot barely cross the boundary and not encounter the high risk of slipping and being led to places you have no intent of ever visiting or experiences you have no desire to ever have. That is how Satan works. He knows that the powerful emotions of sexual transgression are addictive. One act leads to another and to another. Appetites are generated and powerful emotions experienced until the transgressor loses all perspective of reality and is led deeper and deeper into sin, without recognizing how far he or she has wandered or how rapidly he or she is being imprisoned. You have seen how others begin with experimentation and then are drawn deeper and deeper into sin, apparently without any recognition of how far they have fallen.

How can two people in love avoid crossing the boundary and falling into temptation? First, let us define love. To love another righteously is to protect, to elevate, to keep pure and undefiled, to sacrifice oneself for the benefit of the other. To love is to hold in reserve sacred, intimate experiences for the sanctity of marriage. There, when they are properly used, they draw a couple together and strengthen them for the growing responsibilities of parenthood. They result in the formation of physical bodies for the spirit children Father in Heaven entrusts to

a mother and father. In this sacred setting appropriate intimate expression is beautiful and purposeful.

Satan's agents speak of love, but it is really lust. It is the increasing gratification of personal appetites at the expense of another. It leads to serious violation of the commandments of God. Why does Satan concentrate

you and you can confirm your decisions by sacred impressions. Decide then what you will do and what you will not do to express feelings. The Spirit will guide you. Then do not vary from those decisions no matter how right it may seem when the temptation comes. Don't take the first step, as innocent as it may seem. The realization of your dreams



Surround yourself with good friends by being in the right places doing the right things. Surround yourself with friends who can remind you of your worthy goals.

so intently on sexual transgression? Because he knows that immorality feeds upon itself. At the same time it numbs spiritual sensitivity and will neutralize the will to resist. There is never any place for Satan's kind of love in your life. If elements of it have found place in a relationship, get rid of them—now.

Now some specific suggestions to help you keep from crossing the boundary:

- Choose voluntarily to do what is right. Only willing obedience yields the full blessings that come from obeying the commandments of God.
- Firmly establish personal standards. Choose a time of deep spiritual reflection, when there is no pressure on

depends upon your determination to never betray your standards.

■ Recognize that the boundary between good and evil never changes, but you can be tempted to color your perception of that boundary through rationalization. I mean by trying to justify something you suspect or know is wrong as being acceptable in your special case.

■ Surround yourself with good friends by being in the right places doing the right things. None of us is up all of the time. When you are down it is easier to make a serious mistake. Often, when you are down a good friend will be up and can serve as a reminder of your worthy goals. Some are so anxious for friendship and popularity that they compromise their standards. You will not obtain desirable friends that way, but you can lose your worthy dreams.

■ Stay close to the Church. You will have a constant refreshment of your resolve to do what is right and will be strengthened by the example of others doing it.

■ A safe rule to follow is to never do anything alone that you wouldn't do in the presence of parents shortly before marriage.

■ Do not be misled by what the world defines as acceptable. To intentionally excite emotions that are reserved for sacred purposes within the covenant of marriage is seriously wrong. I solemnly witness that it is transgression to touch the private, sacred parts of another person's body except within the bonds of marriage between a man and woman. Satan has spread abroad the idea that among consenting individuals much intimacy is permissible short of the final act. That is a devastating lie. Such activity is a violation of the law of chastity, and it requires repentance. It is not only wise not to be immoral, it is a fundamental commandment of God that He considers to be very important.

Your spirit body was created by your Heavenly Father. Your physical body is made in His image. He can lead you to happiness beyond what you can imagine now. His purpose is to help you realize your fullest potential in growth, accomplishment, and happiness while you are here on earth. His objective is your eternal happiness.

There is another who is extremely gifted, powerful, and brilliant—but devilish—whose purpose is to bind you to be his servant. One of the most powerful tools he has to take you from the course of happiness is to tempt you to experiment with intimate acts. Sexual transgression feeds upon itself. It stimulates powerful, physical emotions that become increasingly addictive. At the same time it numbs spiritual sensitivity and neutralizes your will to resist. Immorality is foreign to your nature. Knowing that, Satan will tempt you to begin with small addictive doses rather than tempting you to step from a clean and pure life directly into serious immoral transgression.

Nephi gave you a powerful way to succeed in overcoming temptation. He said: "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 to destruction" (1 Nephi 15:24).

If there is anyone who reads this message who has seriously transgressed, with all of the tenderness of my heart, I ask you to decide to repent, *now*. It is not good to violate the commandments of the Lord. It is tragic to do nothing about it. Sin is like cancer in the body. It will never heal itself. It will become progressively worse unless cured through repentance. You can be made completely whole, new, purified, and clean every whit, through the miracle of repentance. If you have transgressed, please decide to see your bishop *now* so that your worthy dreams can be made reality.

For those who commit a serious mistake, Satan whispers: "Your life is ruined. There is no way back. You might as well continue in the path you are on." That is a lie. The Savior gave His life that even the most serious transgressions can be overcome and an individual can be made new, clean, and pure through repentance and obedience to the Lord's commandments. To believe otherwise would be to deny the efficacy of the Atonement of our Savior.

In summary, your happiness—now, throughout this life, and on into eternity—depends upon your making correct decisions and holding fast to them. Some make choices based only on their own personal experience and trust little else. Some make choices by blindly following their peer leaders. Others choose what they think will provide the most friends and greatest success. Some wait for a challenge to present itself and then decide what to do. Each of these alternatives can be disastrous.

With all of the love in my heart, I ask you to resolutely decide to keep the standards of the Lord. Please live so that the Holy Ghost can inspire you to consistently do what is right. I testify that as a result, your worthy dreams or something even better will be yours. Your Father in Heaven and His Beloved Son love you. They want your happiness even more than you can now possibly know. They will help you attain that happiness as you steadfastly do all you can to obey Their commandments. I testify They love you and will help you, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. □



“Let the Consequence Follow”

We are blessed to live in a world governed by law. We know if we take certain actions, specific results will come of those actions—always. For instance, we can confidently place one foot before the other because we know the law of gravity will keep us securely anchored to earth. 🍀 As it is in the physical world, so it is in the spiritual. “There is a law,” the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, “. . . upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law” (D&C 130:20–21). For this reason, we need never fear

doing what our Heavenly Father asks of us. As the following stories illustrate, whether seeking His truth, sacrificing worldly goods, or trusting His care, we know our faith will be rewarded—always. We may not foresee the results, but we can trust in their benefit to us. 🍀 “You will have challenges and hard decisions to make throughout your life,” Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles tells us. “Be determined *now* to always do what is right and let the consequence follow. The consequence will always be for your best good” (“Do What Is Right,” *Liahona*, March 2001, 14).



Sand Trap

By Gary M. Johnson

One Saturday morning many years ago, my brothers and sisters and I scurried around the house, doing our chores early. We were excited because Dad had promised to take the family for a ride in the five-year-old station wagon he had recently bought. We had wanted him to get a newer vehicle, but he said a newer car would be too expensive. Besides, he said, the one we bought was heavier and would

be safer in an accident. That was an important factor for Mom, who had recently been in a terrible head-on collision and had almost died.

Once we had finished preparing everything, we all piled into the car—Mom, Dad, and seven children, including an infant son. Since we were going out for a Saturday-afternoon drive, we didn’t pack a lunch or take anything to drink.

We made our way out to the highway and headed north. It was hot, and we had no air-conditioning. The vista around us was the bleak, open desert, with scattered desert plants, an occasional outcropping of rock or a telephone pole, and the low mountain ranges on the horizon.

As the plane flew off and the sound of its engine faded softly away, we knew we were on our own. The situation was growing desperate.

Despite the heat and barren scenery, we were content to be on a fun family outing.

The mood of contentment was broken, however, by a whimper from my mother. The memory of her accident was still fresh, and the sight of oncoming cars frightened her terribly. Dad decided for her sake to get off the highway. "Here we are," he said in a cheery voice as he turned onto a dirt road that followed a row of huge power lines. Leaving a cloud of dust behind us, the car whistled down the old road. To my 13-year-old mind this was all great fun.

Enjoying the ride, none of us children noticed the troubled look that came to Dad's face. But my mother knew something was wrong. "What is it, Anthony?" she asked.

"Well," he answered, "it's probably nothing, but that sand out there looks treacherous. We had better head back." With that, he found a wide spot on top of a little hill and turned the car around.

We started back down the small incline and headed up the next little hill—and then it happened. The car sank in soft sand. Several of us got out and pushed as hard as we could, but it would not move forward. We managed to back it up onto some solid ground so Dad could get a run at the sandy area and try to drive through it. His

repeated attempts at this failed, however, especially since he had to be careful not to back up too far into another sandy place. Each attempt moved the car a little ahead, but then it would sink even deeper into the soft, powdery sand.

The little children started to cry now. "We're thirsty, Mom." As the hot afternoon sun beat down, we could see heat waves coming up off the sand, distorting the view of the mountains on the horizon.

Then we heard in the distance a faint sound coming toward us. The drone of a single-engine aircraft grew louder and louder as it approached. "Oh, we are saved!" I cried as I saw the airplane. "Let's all wave him down!" Frantically we waved our arms. This was the airplane that inspected power lines, and the pilot was flying so low we could see him leaning out the window. He was returning, with a vigorous wave of his own, what he must have thought was a greeting from us. As the plane flew off and the sound of its engine faded softly away, we knew we were on our own.

The situation was growing desperate. We had no food or water, my mother was struggling with a now hysterical baby, the four girls were crying, and even my brother and I began to doubt our chances of getting home safely.

Dad called us together and said,

"We have only one thing left to do. Let's ask Heavenly Father for help." We all knelt in the burning sand and bowed our heads as Dad poured out his heart in behalf of the entire family. He explained our situation to the Lord in detail, including all of the things we had done to free ourselves, and then he pleaded for help.

After the prayer we stood, and Dad said, "Let's try it one more time." He had all of us stay out of the car while he backed it up to make one more run. The engine roared as Dad took off as fast as he could. The car hit the sand, but this time it kept going as if it were floating. Dad drove to the top of the next hill and stopped on solid, rocky ground. We all cheered and ran toward the car.

When we reached it, Dad was sitting at the wheel, shaking and sobbing, something I had never seen him do before. When we asked him what the matter was, he looked up and said that it seemed to him as if the car had been lifted and carried over the sand by an unseen power.

We rode home quietly as the bright orange colors of the setting sun shone in the western sky. No one spoke, as if not to disturb the reverent feeling that lingered among us in the car. While I recognize that answers to prayers come in various

forms and are not always dramatic, I am grateful to Heavenly Father for the blessings of that day.

Gary M. Johnson is a member of the Needles Ward, Lake Havasu City Arizona Stake.

In the Palm of His Hand

By Emma Ernestina Sánchez Sánchez

The first few years of our marriage seemed nearly perfect. After my husband and I were sealed in the México City México Temple, we both graduated from the university and our first daughter was born. My husband had a good job and was called as bishop in our ward. Then we were able to move to Jalisco, a

part of México where my grandparents had lived. We had always dreamed of rearing our children in a peaceful place, and Jalisco met the desires of our hearts. Our way of life, however, would soon change dramatically.

In Jalisco, our second daughter was born. Unfortunately, I suffered severe complications after her birth. We were able to meet the expenses from our savings, but then, two weeks later, my husband lost his job. With no

income, we had to move from our house. Credit card bills, car payments, and rent were strangling us.

Eventually, my husband began to work nights as a taxi driver. Frequently his expenses exceeded his income, but his work did bring a little food to the table. Then the car broke down, and even that little source of income ended. We sold or pawned many of our possessions. At the same time, México underwent a

**God blessed our little garden,
and it produced an
abundance of food.**



serious currency devaluation, which added greatly to our financial distress.

My husband was emotionally and physically exhausted, so I got a job as a teacher in a bilingual elementary school. The work was hard, the salary small, and I had to leave my little ones in the care of a Church member. To save money, we moved to a cheaper place in a poorer section of town.

As I struggled to go to work, care for the family, keep up the house, and participate at church, I became very depressed. One terrible night I was so distressed I had to be hospitalized. After giving me a sedative, the doctor said, "You're drowning yourself in your problems. That's for cowards, and I don't think that is what you are. Think about it."

Her words resounded in my mind, and I closed my eyes, searching for something to give me courage. I reviewed my life. *Yes, all our material possessions are gone, I told myself, but I am still alive, and I have a wonderful husband and two precious daughters.* I remembered I had not been born to accumulate goods or to live in tranquillity. I had come to serve my family and others and to build the kingdom of God.

When I returned home, I prayed as never before. I pleaded with my Heavenly Father to strengthen me.

I spoke with my bishop, and he told me, "The Lord will remove from your path that which is hurting you." The following day I learned that I had been fired from my job without any explanation. That same day I learned I had been granted a scholarship to further my education. Being able to spend time teaching my little ones did a great deal to heal my spirit.

One morning the telephone, which had not worked for months, rang to bring the news that my husband had received a job as a teacher. The phone immediately stopped working again, but it didn't matter. My husband had work!

As never before, welfare and self-reliance principles took hold in our home. I learned to process wheat and soybeans for storage. I planted corn near the sidewalk, then received permission to plant a garden on property belonging to friends. God blessed our little garden. It produced an abundance of food, including squash and alfalfa.

The hard work—and the food I was able to store—tamed my fear and filled me with hope. As my attitude changed, I was able to see the hand of the Lord in our lives. We were blessed with good health; none of us even had a cold. Never, even in the most difficult times, did we stop feeding the missionaries.

The children always had food, and we had plenty of invitations to eat with friends. One day I was finally able to buy a second cylinder of propane for our stove. Immediately the contents of the previous one ran out. Typically, a cylinder lasts six weeks, but this one had lasted for months.

Out of our trials we learned some important lessons. We learned to value the counsel of our leaders. We learned to receive; it is good to serve, but it is also important to let others serve you. Both my husband and I were able to get additional job training without paying for it. My beloved in-laws were always conscious of our needs, and I found in my mother-in-law a great friend.

And our marriage grew and was strengthened. One night my husband took me in his arms and said, "I don't care if they put us out on the street. If you are by my side, I will have the courage to start all over again."

Perhaps most importantly, we came to see things from an eternal point of view. We came to understand that both in good times and bad, God shelters us in the palm of His hand.

Emma Ernestina Sánchez Sánchez is a member of Las Aguilas Ward, Guadalajara México Moctezuma Stake.



Giving Up My Graven Image

By Manuel J. Rosario

I used to have a 1978 Harley-Davidson motorcycle. I had invested a huge sum of money in it and was indescribably proud of it. It was everything to me. Every Sunday I joined a group of friends in Patillas, Puerto Rico, and we rode our motor-bikes around the island. We forgot all our problems, our families, God—everything—for a brief period of pleasure on those bikes. In essence, my motorcycle was my idol.

That all changed when a former classmate, Jaime Rivera Gómez, introduced me to the Church. I will be eternally grateful to Jaime and to the missionaries for their teachings, patience, and genuine love. My wife and I were baptized on 31 March 1996.

Finding the gospel of Jesus Christ changed our lives completely. I immediately sold my

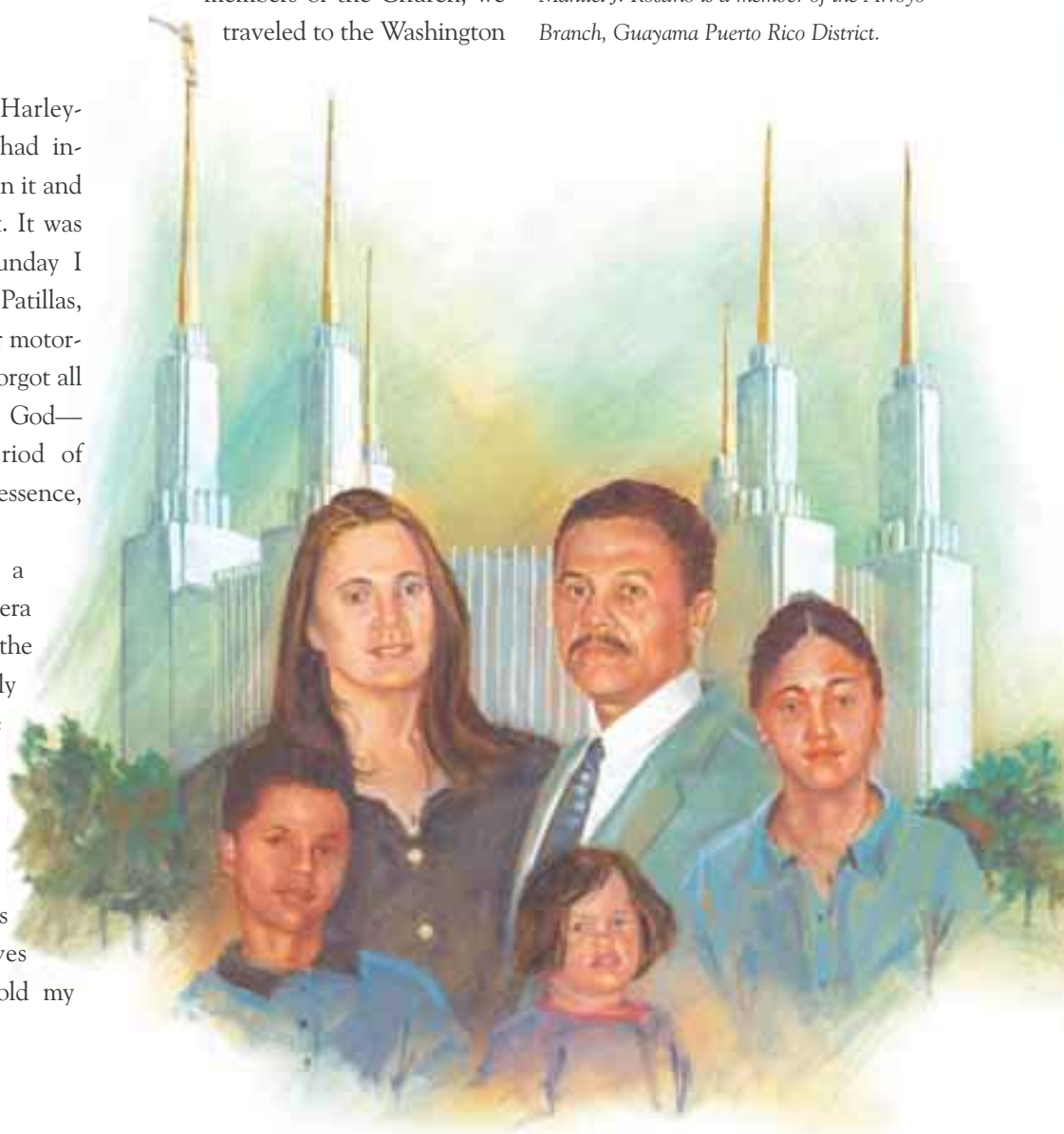
motorcycle, for much less money than I had invested in it. But the sacrifice was worth it. As I changed my life, Heavenly Father—the only true God—poured out blessings on me. Now I am happy. My home is happy. I love my wife and my children. We hold family home evening, and we pray and serve the Lord as a family.

Three months after becoming members of the Church, we traveled to the Washington

D.C. Temple and were baptized for some of our ancestors. Our second visit to the temple was in July 1997. There we received our endowments and performed sacred ordinances for our loved ones.

I know God loves me, and I am striving each day to become more like Him. □

Manuel J. Rosario is a member of the Arroyo Branch, Guayama Puerto Rico District.



M A K E Y O U R S E L F
USEFUL



**Be willing to help and to serve.
Your gifts and talents are needed.**

(See D&C 46:11–26.)

“THAT I MAY HEAL YOU”

President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, assures us: “The gospel teaches us that relief from torment and guilt can be earned through repentance. Save for those few who defect to perdition . . . , there is no habit, no addiction, no rebellion, no transgression, no offense exempted from the promise of complete forgiveness” (“The Brilliant Morning of Forgiveness,” *Ensign*, November 1995, 19).

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

Unrepented sin separates us from our loving Father in Heaven, leaving us feeling guilty and ashamed. Like physical pain, this “godly sorrow” (2 Corinthians 7:10) signals that something is wrong, that we need to pull away from whatever is causing the pain and seek the healing help of the Savior’s Atonement.

President Packer explains: “When the prophet Alma was young, he spent such a time ‘*racked*,’ as he said, ‘*with eternal torment*, [his] soul . . . harrowed up to the greatest degree’ [Alma 36:12; emphasis added].

“He even thought, ‘*Oh, . . . that I could be banished and become extinct both soul and body*’ [Alma 36:15; emphasis added].

“But his mind caught hold of a

thought. When he nurtured the thought and acted upon it, the morning of forgiveness came. . . .

“The thought that rescued Alma, when he acted upon it, is this: Restoring what you cannot restore, healing the wound you cannot heal, fixing that which you broke and you cannot fix is the very purpose of the atonement of Christ” (*Ensign*, November 1995, 19–20).

“HE ACCEPTED OUR REPENTANCE”

A priesthood leader was impressed by the “gospel glow” he saw in a sister he was interviewing. When he asked her what the secret of her success was, with moist eyes she replied simply, “Repentance.”

She explained she had married young—and pregnant. Sorrow for her sin was followed by confession to the Lord and to priesthood authorities and commitment to be obedient to the Lord’s commandments.

“It was hard, and I certainly wouldn’t recommend it to anyone,” she explained. “But Heavenly Father blessed us to make something good out of something bad. The more we struggled to be faithful, the stronger Heavenly Father made us. And the stronger Heavenly Father made us, the easier it was to be faithful.” This woman, her husband, and their baby eventually entered the temple

and were sealed as an eternal family.

This sister and her husband found forgiveness and peace in the Healer’s touch. “Now it just amazes me to think of how happy we are as a family,” she said. “The Lord could have given up on us. But he accepted our repentance, and . . . helped us make something wonderful out of our lives” (quoted in Joseph Walker, “Singing the Song of Redeeming Love,” *Ensign*, March 1993, 60).

Jeremiah once lamented, “Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?” (Jeremiah 8:22). For those who will partake, there is balm—the amazing gift of the Atonement. And the Physician pleads, “Will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?” (3 Nephi 9:13). □



A Latter-day Testament of Biblical Truth

By Rex C. Reeve Jr.

The Doctrine and Covenants corroborates the truth of the Bible, restores some of the missing plain and precious things, testifies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and witnesses that salvation comes only through Him.

When the Bible was first written, it contained the plain and precious truths of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nephi saw that many of these plain and precious truths, as well as the covenants of the Lord, were taken from the Bible (see 1 Nephi 13:24–29). In this dispensation the Prophet Joseph Smith declared, “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly” (Articles of Faith 1:8). He later wrote, “From sundry revelations which had been received, it was apparent that many important points touching the salvation of man, had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled.”¹

Nephi saw that in the last days, as part of the Lord’s plan of restoration, other books of scripture would come forth by the power of God. President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972) explained that these books include the Doctrine and Covenants.² These other scriptures would have four primary purposes: to corroborate the truth of the Bible, to restore some of the plain and precious truths taken from the Bible, to witness that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Eternal Father, and to

testify that salvation comes only through Jesus Christ (see 1 Nephi 13:39–40). In 1835, 12 men called to be Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ appended their testimony to the Doctrine and Covenants and declared “that these commandments were given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for all men and are verily true.” The Doctrine and Covenants corroborates the truth of the Bible and is “in fulfillment of and in concert with the words of all the holy prophets since the world began.”³ The following are just a few of the doctrinal truths confirmed by latter-day revelation.

VERIFYING BIBLICAL PROPHETS, EVENTS, AND PROPHECIES

The Doctrine and Covenants helps establish the truth of the Bible by verifying the existence of many biblical prophets, by testifying of the reality of biblical events,

The Doctrine and Covenants confirms that Adam was the first man on the earth to receive the priesthood. He conferred that priesthood on his righteous posterity.



and by confirming the fulfillment of a number of biblical prophecies.

Prophets. In a time when many biblical prophets—especially Old Testament prophets—are considered mythical characters, it is refreshing to have a renewed testimony of their actual existence and to receive additional information about their ministries. The Doctrine and Covenants confirms that Adam was the first man on the earth and the first to receive the priesthood (see D&C 84:16–17). He “obtained the first presidency”⁴ and continues to hold a position of great importance through his possession of the keys of salvation under the counsel and direction of Jesus Christ (see D&C 78:16).

The Prophet Joseph Smith referenced “the voice of Michael, the archangel,” as having instructed him (D&C 128:21). At a future time Adam, or Michael, will return again and preside at the great council at Adam-ondi-Ahman (see D&C 116). Adam will sound the trumpet at the Second Coming and say, “It is finished! The Lamb of God hath overcome” (D&C 88:106). He will lead the righteous forces in the final battle against Satan and his followers at the end of the Millennium (see D&C 88:106–16). Finally, Adam will administer to his righteous posterity in the patriarchal order through all eternity.⁵

The Prophet Joseph Smith identified Noah as the angel Gabriel and taught that Noah stands next to Adam in authority in the priesthood.⁶ The Doctrine and Covenants teaches that Noah, who was commanded to build an ark to preserve human and animal life during the Flood (see Genesis 6–8), was among the mighty ones in the world of spirits (see D&C 138:38, 41). He was ordained to the patriarchal priesthood when he was 10 years old (see D&C 107:52). Noah was among those redeemed by the Lord at His Resurrection (see D&C 133:54–55). As a resurrected being, Noah also instructed the Prophet Joseph Smith (see D&C 128:21).

Because Melchizedek, a great biblical prophet, is almost

unknown to the world, many people are confused about his true identity (see Genesis 14:18–20; Hebrews 5:6–10). The Bible record gives the false impression that Melchizedek was without father or mother or descent, with neither beginning of days nor end of life (see Hebrews 7:1–3).

We can look to the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Doctrine and Covenants for revelations concerning Melchizedek, one of God’s ancient high priests of whom “none were greater” (Alma 13:19; see also verses 7–18). Melchizedek conferred the priesthood upon Abraham and received his tithing (see D&C 84:14; Alma 13:15). So great a high priest was Melchizedek that he was honored by having his name used to identify “*the Holy Priesthood, after the Order of the Son of God*,” thus enabling men to avoid the too frequent repetition of the name of Deity (see D&C 107:2–4). In the eyes of his people Melchizedek stood as a prototype of the Son of God: both bore the title “Prince of Peace,” and both were joint heirs of the Father’s kingdom.⁷ We also learn that it was the priesthood, not Melchizedek, that was “without beginning of days or end of years” (D&C 84:17; see also Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 14:28; Hebrews 7:3).

The many other biblical prophets described in the Doctrine and Covenants are too numerous to detail. But among those described are Adam’s son Seth (see D&C 107:42–43, 53), Enoch (see D&C 45:11–14; 107:48–49), Moses (see D&C 84:25–27; 110:11), Elijah (see D&C 110:13–16), John the Baptist (see D&C 13), and Peter, James, and John (see D&C 27:12). We also read that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob “have entered into their exaltation, . . . and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods” (D&C 132:37).

Events. The Doctrine and Covenants testifies of the reality of sacred events recorded in the Bible, such as the Creation of the universe and the Fall of Adam and Eve. It reaffirms that God “created man, male and female, after his own image and in his own likeness” (D&C

20:18). It also affirms that Adam and Eve yielded to the temptation of Satan and transgressed the commandment of God, which caused them to be cast out of the Garden of Eden (see D&C 29:35–43). Thus all people are born into a fallen world and by transgressing the laws of God become sensual, devilish, and fallen (see D&C 20:20). The Doctrine and Covenants confirms that Adam and Eve were taught the gospel of Jesus Christ by angels (see D&C 29:42).

The Doctrine and Covenants testifies of the reality of sacred events recorded in the Bible, including the Savior’s Creation of the earth, the Lord’s taking of Enoch and Zion, the Flood, the parting of the Red Sea, Christ’s suffering in Gethsemane, and the rising of many Saints after the Savior’s Resurrection.

Other biblical events verified by the Doctrine and Covenants include the Savior’s Creation of the earth (see D&C 14:9), the Lord’s taking of Enoch and Zion (see D&C 38:4; 45:11–14), the Flood (see D&C 138:41), the division of land after the Flood (see D&C 133:24), the parting of the Red Sea (see D&C 8:3), the loss of the Melchizedek Priesthood (see D&C 84:23–27), Christ’s suffering in Gethsemane (see D&C 19:15–19), the rising of many Saints after the Savior’s Resurrection (see D&C 133:54–55), and the sounding of a trump on Mount Sinai to announce the resurrection of the dead at the Lord’s Second Coming (see D&C 29:13).

Prophecies. The Doctrine and Covenants testifies of the literal scattering and gathering of Israel. It was prophesied that the house of Israel would be scattered among all nations (see D&C 45:19). Today “the scattered remnants



are exhorted to return to the Lord” (D&C 113:10). On 3 April 1836 in the Kirtland Temple, Moses appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery and committed unto them “the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth” (D&C 110:11). Additionally, we read of the long-promised coming of Elijah, who was to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers (see D&C 2; 110:13–16).

Church missionaries are called to gather the Lord’s elect (see D&C 29:7), to recover the Lord’s people, the house of Israel (see D&C 39:11). Since Moses and Elijah returned to restore priesthood keys, the words of biblical prophets concerning these events have begun to be fulfilled.

The Doctrine and Covenants sheds light on biblical prophecies about the coming forth of the Church in the latter days. Section 65, for example, confirms Daniel’s

prophecy that the Lord’s kingdom would roll forth in the last days (see Daniel 2:34–35, 44–45). And section 86 shows that the parable of the wheat and the tares has reference to our day: Satan sows the tares, and the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness (see D&C 86:1–7).

Many people question or misunderstand the Second Coming of Christ. Bible prophets clearly taught that Jesus Christ would “stand at the latter day upon the earth” (Job 19:25) and that He would build up Zion and

We learn with clarity through the Doctrine and Covenants that Jesus Christ is the Firstborn of the Father’s spirit children. He was chosen before the earth was formed to work out the infinite and eternal Atonement.



appear in His glory (see Psalm 102:16). To His disciples in the meridian of time, Jesus indicated the conditions that would exist prior to His Second Coming (see Matthew 24; see also Joseph Smith—Matthew). Both section 45 and Joseph Smith—Matthew add significantly to our understanding of the Second Coming.

Other sections testify of the reality of the Second Coming. Modern Saints are instructed, “Prepare ye, . . . for the Lord is nigh” (D&C 1:12) and are told, “The day soon cometh that ye shall see me, and know that I am” (D&C 38:8). We learn “that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near” (D&C 110:16) and that “the Lord . . . shall stand in the midst of his people, and shall reign” (D&C 133:25).

In summary, the Doctrine and Covenants testifies,

“The hour is nigh, and that which was spoken by mine apostles must be fulfilled; for as they spoke so shall it come to pass;

“For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand” (D&C 29:10–11).

RESTORING PLAIN AND PRECIOUS THINGS

The Doctrine and Covenants restores many plain and precious truths by expanding or interpreting Bible passages. A few representative examples follow:

1. “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:28).

The Doctrine and Covenants adds that those who do this “shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith and shall fear” (D&C 63:16).

2. “For many be called, but few chosen” (Matthew 20:16).

In the Doctrine and Covenants we learn that they are not chosen “because their hearts are set so much upon

the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn . . . that the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven” and can be controlled “only upon the principles of righteousness” (see D&C 121:34–40).

3. “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them” (Matthew 25:1–3).

The Doctrine and Covenants teaches that the wise virgins are those who “have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived” (D&C 45:57). Those who lack oil shall be cast into the fire and not abide the day of the Lord’s coming (see D&C 45:56–57).

4. “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

The Doctrine and Covenants testifies that the Father and the Son are separate individuals with glorified bodies of flesh and bone (see D&C 130:22) and that this promised visit of the Father and the Son is an actual personal appearance (see D&C 130:3).

In the course of translating the New Testament, Joseph Smith received many revelations that help us better understand passages in the Bible. Some of these revelations are included in the Doctrine and Covenants, in such sections as 77, 84, 86, and 88. One of the most remarkable is D&C 76. Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon said that while they were working on the translation of the Bible in 1832, “the Lord touched the eyes of our understandings . . . , and the glory of the Lord shone round about” (see D&C 76:15–19). What followed was the great revelation on the three degrees of glory.

These few examples, plus many others which could be given, stand as a testimony that the Doctrine and Covenants does restore many plain and precious truths lost from the Bible.

TESTIFYING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD

The Doctrine and Covenants testifies clearly concerning the true nature and reality of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. It provides the foundation of truth essential for building faith that leads to eternal life. Joseph Smith saw God the Father and Jesus Christ as two separate personages “whose brightness and glory defy all description” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17). He later wrote that God the Father “has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also” (D&C 130:22).

We learn with clarity that Jesus Christ is the Firstborn of the spirit children of the Father (see D&C 93:21–23). He was chosen before the earth was formed to work out the infinite and eternal Atonement. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth (see D&C 76:23–24; 93:9–10). As the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh (see D&C 93:11), He redeemed all humankind, making possible immortality and eternal life (see D&C 49:5; Moses 1:39).

Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery saw Jesus Christ in the Kirtland Temple and testified:

“The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened.

“We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us; and under his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber.

“His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying:

“I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father” (D&C 110:1–4).

On another occasion, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon testified:

“And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

“For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

“That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God” (D&C 76:22–24).

TESTIFYING THAT SALVATION IS ONLY THROUGH CHRIST

Jesus Christ told Moses, “This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). *Immortality* refers to the permanent reuniting of the body and the spirit in the Resurrection. The Apostle Paul taught, “As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22). Jacob said, “There must needs be a power of resurrection, and the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the fall” (2 Nephi 9:6). The Doctrine and Covenants likewise teaches that the Atonement of Christ broke the bands of death and that “through the triumph and the glory of the Lamb” all humankind shall be brought forth by the Resurrection (see D&C 76:39; 88:27–32).

The Doctrine and Covenants also testifies that eternal life, which “is the greatest of all the gifts of God” (D&C 14:7), comes through the Atonement of Jesus Christ coupled with gospel ordinances and personal obedience to gospel teachings. The gospel is that Jesus “came into the world . . . to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the

world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; that through him all might be saved whom the Father had put into his power” (D&C 76:41–42).

The Doctrine and Covenants teaches that the Atonement of Christ broke the bands of death and that “through the triumph and the glory of the Lamb” all humankind shall be brought forth by the Resurrection.

The Savior said: “He that receiveth my gospel receiveth me; and he that receiveth not my gospel receiveth not me. And this is my gospel—repentance and baptism by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost” (D&C 39:5–6). This gospel is the rock upon which Christ will build His Church. The gates of hell shall not prevail against those who continue in this gospel (see D&C 33:11–13). Eternal life consists of gaining an inheritance in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, which assures a continuation of the family in eternity (see D&C 131:1–4).

In these latter days, the Doctrine and Covenants stands with the Book of Mormon and the Pearl of Great Price as one in support of the Bible (see Ezekiel 37:15–17). Modern revelation affirms that the saving truths, ordinances, and covenants of the gospel of Jesus Christ are the same now as they were anciently. The Doctrine and Covenants in particular corroborates the truth of the Bible, restores some of the missing plain and precious things, testifies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and witnesses that salvation comes only through Him. It allows us to see more clearly how the Bible stands in fulfillment of and in concert with the words of all the holy prophets since the world began. □

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NOTES

1. *History of the Church*, 1:245.
2. See *Man, His Origin and Destiny* (1954), 411–12.
3. Explanatory introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants.
4. See Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), 157.
5. See Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, compiled by Bruce R. McConkie, 3 volumes (1954–56), 1:99–100.
6. See *Teachings*, 157.
7. See Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd edition (1966), 474–75.



I NEVER LOOKED BACK

By Cameron McCoy

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When I was seven years old, I promised the Lord that, if given the opportunity, I would preach the gospel throughout the world. At that time I regularly attended the Baptist Church with my family. I did not understand many things. For example, I didn't know why only the pastor and his assistants were allowed to speak. I felt everyone should have the opportunity to share his or her feelings and beliefs. However, my family and our church helped me gain a love and appreciation for Jesus Christ and for the scriptures.

As I was growing up, my family lived less than five minutes from the Washington D.C. Temple. The temple fascinated me as a young boy, and I always wanted to enter. But my father assured me, "It won't be part of your life. Don't ever worry about that building."

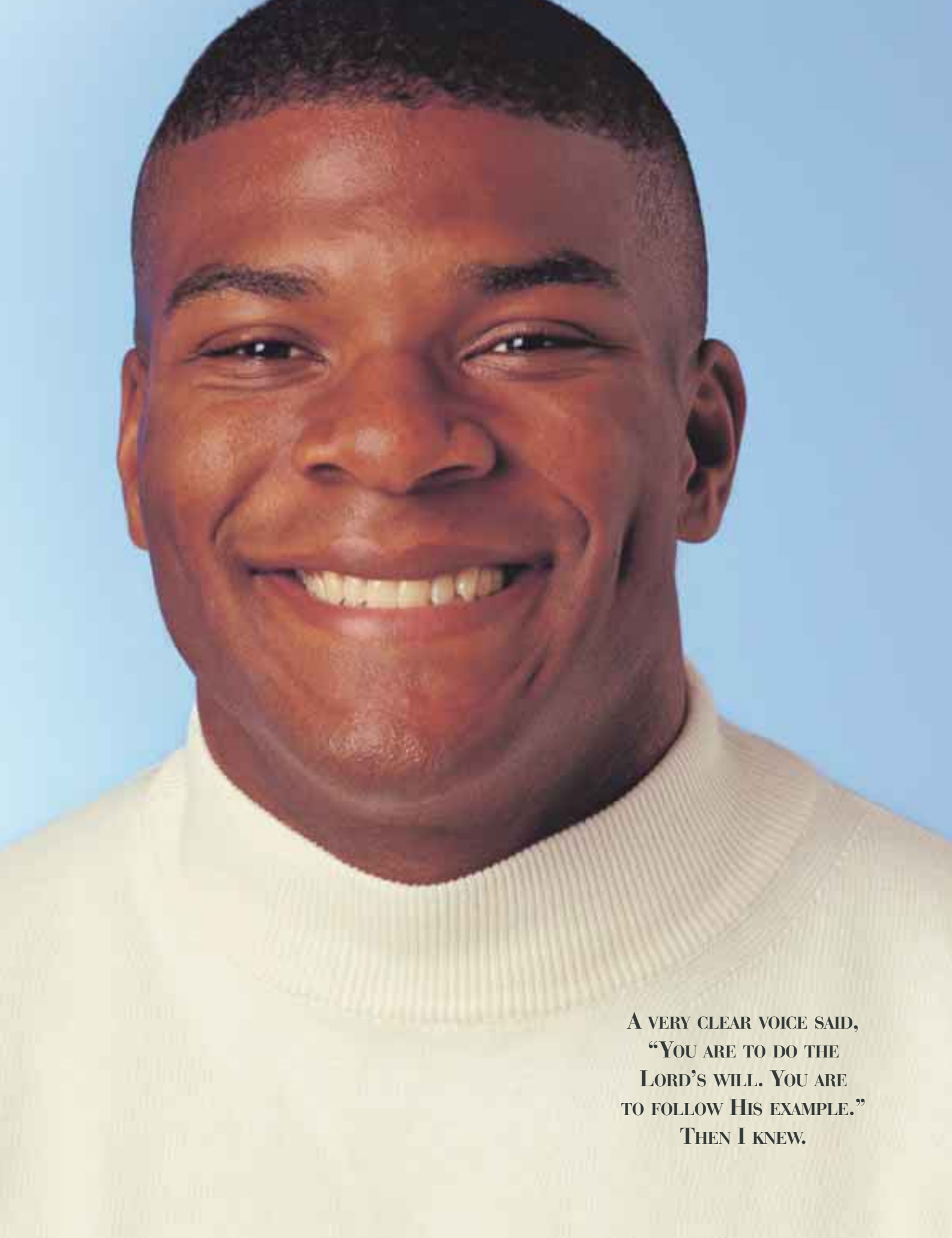
Every day I would watch my father study the Bible intensely. I knew my father was a man of God, and I began to pose many questions. He would always tell me to read the Bible and find out for myself.

A decade later I was serving as a United States Marine security guard for the American Embassy in the Republic of Djibouti, a small country in northeast Africa. I decided to search for the truth, so I read the Bible cover to cover. As I grew closer to God, I realized the Bible was the true

word of God. I did not have to rely on the testimony of my father. But I felt I still did not have the whole truth, and I longed to know why I felt compelled never to drink, smoke, or swear and to remain morally clean. Why did I always strive to obey the commandments?

After 15 months I was reassigned to the American Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. I was selected as the first Black Marine security guard ever to serve in South Africa. In each place I was assigned, I was handpicked because of my standards. Interestingly, U.S. president Bill Clinton phoned to ask me to accept the South Africa assignment. Those were some of the reasons I received many recognitions and awards.

In South Africa I met the Cleverlys, who were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The mother of the family invited me to their home at various times. She always told me about young adult activities, but I could never attend due



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to my job schedule. Then she invited me to attend church, and I accepted. But before Sunday came, I had three nights of duty. I went downstairs to the embassy library where there was a computer with a huge search capacity. I just typed in *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. All kinds of information came up, and I read for eight hours the first night, eight hours the second night, and eight hours the third night. What I looked at most of all was what Latter-day Saints believed and how they applied it in their lives. Did they live according to what they had established as laws or standards of the Church?

The week preceding my visit to church, I had a dream. I was sitting at a table, and there were two young men with white short-sleeved shirts and black name tags. They were sitting at the sides of a table, and I was seated at the head. When I woke up, I didn't think much about the dream.

The first time I walked into a Latter-day Saint meeting, I knew there was something different about this church. It happened to be the first Sunday of the month, which meant the members had an opportunity to stand and bear testimony. *Now this is the true order of church*, I thought.

I was introduced to two missionaries. One of the young men was one of those in my dream, the exact person. Sister Cleverly invited the missionaries and me to her home for dinner. She placed us at the table exactly as my dream had predicted. The missionaries began teaching me.

Later, when I learned the principle of baptism for the dead, I thought it amazing that one could go to a sacred place and do these things for people who had passed away. I thought about my two grandfathers and my grandmother who had passed away. That's when I

started to feel the Holy Ghost. The teachings sounded right to me.

We got to the next principle, which was about families, and I realized I had always known that was true. When I heard about eternal families, I told the missionaries, "I knew this existed."

Then the missionaries taught me about the Word of

Wisdom, and it was then I made a discovery. It felt as if my soul unfolded, and I shed a sort of shell and a new person came out. I felt like I was floating off the ground. I had always lived the Word of Wisdom, and I had wanted to know why I was the way I was. No one had ever had the answer for me. But the Lord did, and I learned that answer through the missionaries and the discussions. I knew everything they had taught me previously was true and everything they would teach me would be true. I had never felt the Spirit so strongly reading the scriptures as when I read Doctrine and Covenants 89:18–21. I knew it was true. I always knew my body was important, and I knew it was never to be defiled.

From this point forward, I began to experience mixed emotions about becoming a member of the Church. I was concerned about my father's opinion and his reaction to my decision.

During the sixth discussion, I received the message that I had an incoming call from my father. The phone rang. I picked it up, and it was indeed my dad.

He said, "Your mother informed me you've made a decision to join the Latter-day Saints."

I said yes.

He said, "I'm here to prevent that from happening."

And I said, "You know what, Dad? I love you and



you'll always be my dad. You've done a great job with me. But I'm 22. I'm a man now, and these decisions are for my family and my future. I want to thank you for everything you've done for me and will continue to do for me, but this is my decision. I'm going to do it, and I know the Lord wants me to do this."

My dad wasn't very happy when he hung up the phone. Immediately I got on my knees and asked the Lord to help me see and understand that what I was going to do was correct. I was thousands of kilometers from home. I was all alone, and nothing was going right. Only when I was with the missionaries did I feel good. At that moment the Spirit testified to me that it was the Lord's will and that the Lord wanted me to be baptized. A very clear voice said, "You are to do the Lord's will. You are to follow His example." Then I knew. I never looked back after that. I was baptized on 12 October 1995.

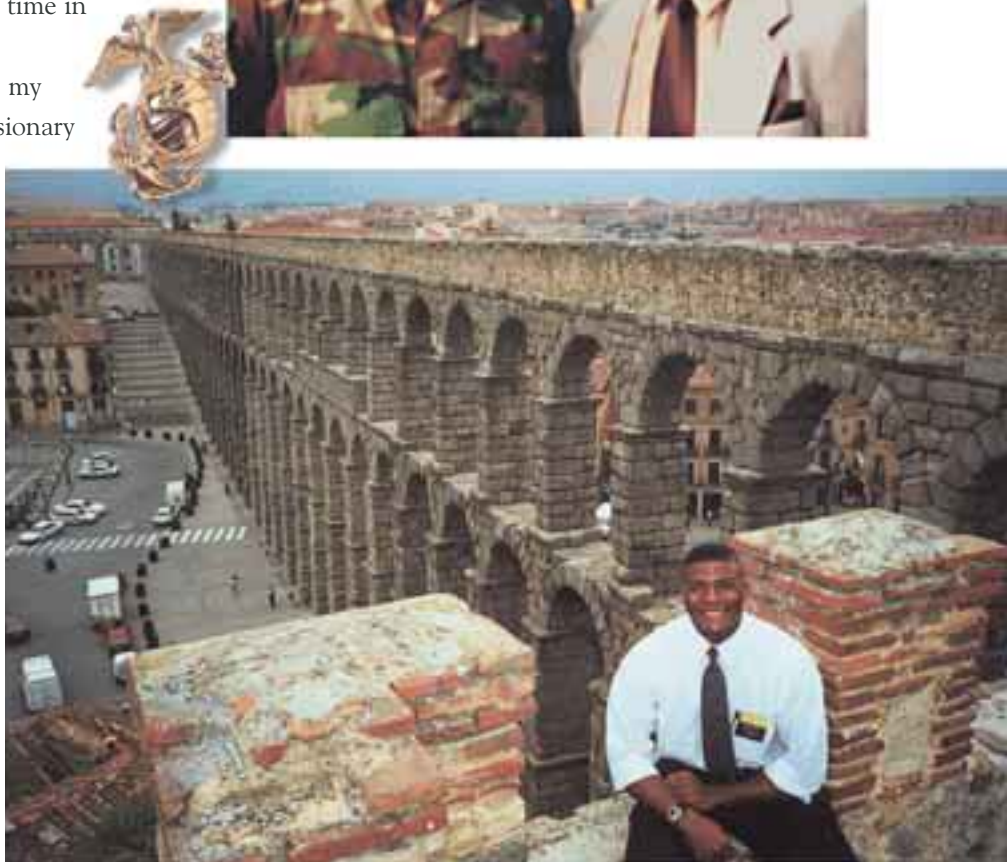
It was a year to the day of my baptism, 12 October 1996, that I entered the Washington D.C. Temple to be endowed in preparation for serving full time in the Spain Madrid Mission.

During the first year of my mission, my parents were not supportive of my missionary service. The Lord revealed to me while I was on my mission that my family was fine and they would be taken care of. Then things changed all of a sudden. The last six to eight months of my mission, my family was very supportive. They said they were receiving blessings, and they knew it was because of my mission.

After I returned from my mission,

I stayed with my family for three weeks before leaving to enter Brigham Young University. Before school started my father visited me, meeting my friends and seeing Salt Lake City. When I took him to the airport, he embraced me and said, "Out of all 46 years of my life, never ever have I felt more love or the Spirit of God in my home than when you were home the last few weeks. I know we owe it to the service you gave in Spain for two years." □

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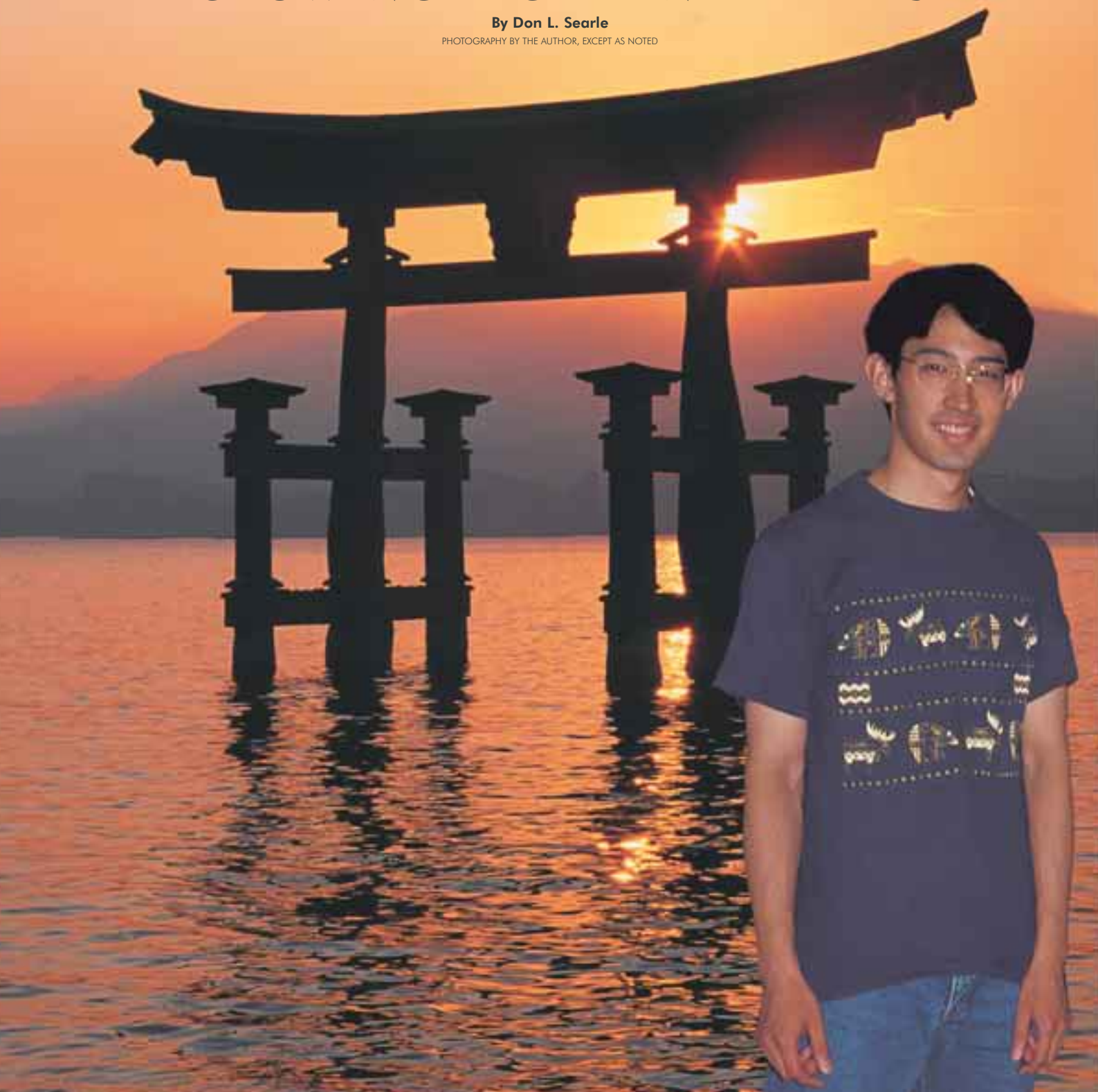
Left: Cameron and fellow Marines at the American Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. Above, right: Cameron and his father at boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina. Right: Elder McCoy at the aqueduct in Segovia, Spain.

JAPAN

GROWING LIGHT IN THE EAST

By Don L. Searle

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE AUTHOR, EXCEPT AS NOTED





Above: Family home evening with the Takamatsus in Fukuoka.

Below: Nobuyuki Nakamura (center) with wife, Mywako, and son, Mikio, members of the Kichijoji Ward, Tokyo Japan Stake. Background: A floating Shinto shrine.



Mikio Nakamura has prepared himself well to teach the gospel. A returned missionary who grew up in a Latter-day Saint home, he is fluent and articulate in three languages—Japanese, Russian (learned as a missionary in Vladivostok), and English (polished with American missionary companions). His intelligence and poise command attention.

But still he finds it difficult to share the gospel with his friends who are not members. Their questions about his beliefs are usually intellectually motivated. They listen politely to what he says when he discusses his beliefs, but once they realize the commitment his faith involves, they usually lose interest rapidly.

Mikio's father, Nobuyuki, is the owner of a textile company and bishop of the Kichijoji Ward, Tokyo Japan

Stake. Bishop Nakamura says sharing the gospel with neighbors and co-workers must be delicately handled, or the door may be tightly shut and locked against further opportunities. Religious beliefs in Japan are a sensitive, personal topic, even though many people are not deeply committed to any particular religious faith.

While it is common for a Japanese citizen to be married by a Shinto priest, espouse Confucian ethics, and be buried or cremated according to Buddhist practice, many are never deeply touched by religious belief. And despite the high visibility of religious symbols and landmarks, Japan has been largely a secular country for many years.

This secularization is one of the major challenges for the Church in Japan. In a country where only 1 percent of the population is Christian and Latter-day Saints account for about 10 percent of that number, bringing the Church out of obscurity is no easy task.

The problems encountered by Akiko Ohta, public affairs director for the Fukuoka Japan Stake, are typical. It was difficult to place stories in the news media about the building of the temple in Fukuoka and the preparations for its opening because newspapers and broadcast outlets commonly refuse to run items they see as possibly promoting religious groups. (In 1997, for example, Japanese media covered the reenactment of the Latter-day Saint pioneer trek across the central United States without ever mentioning the name of the Church.) The extreme behavior of some religious groups does



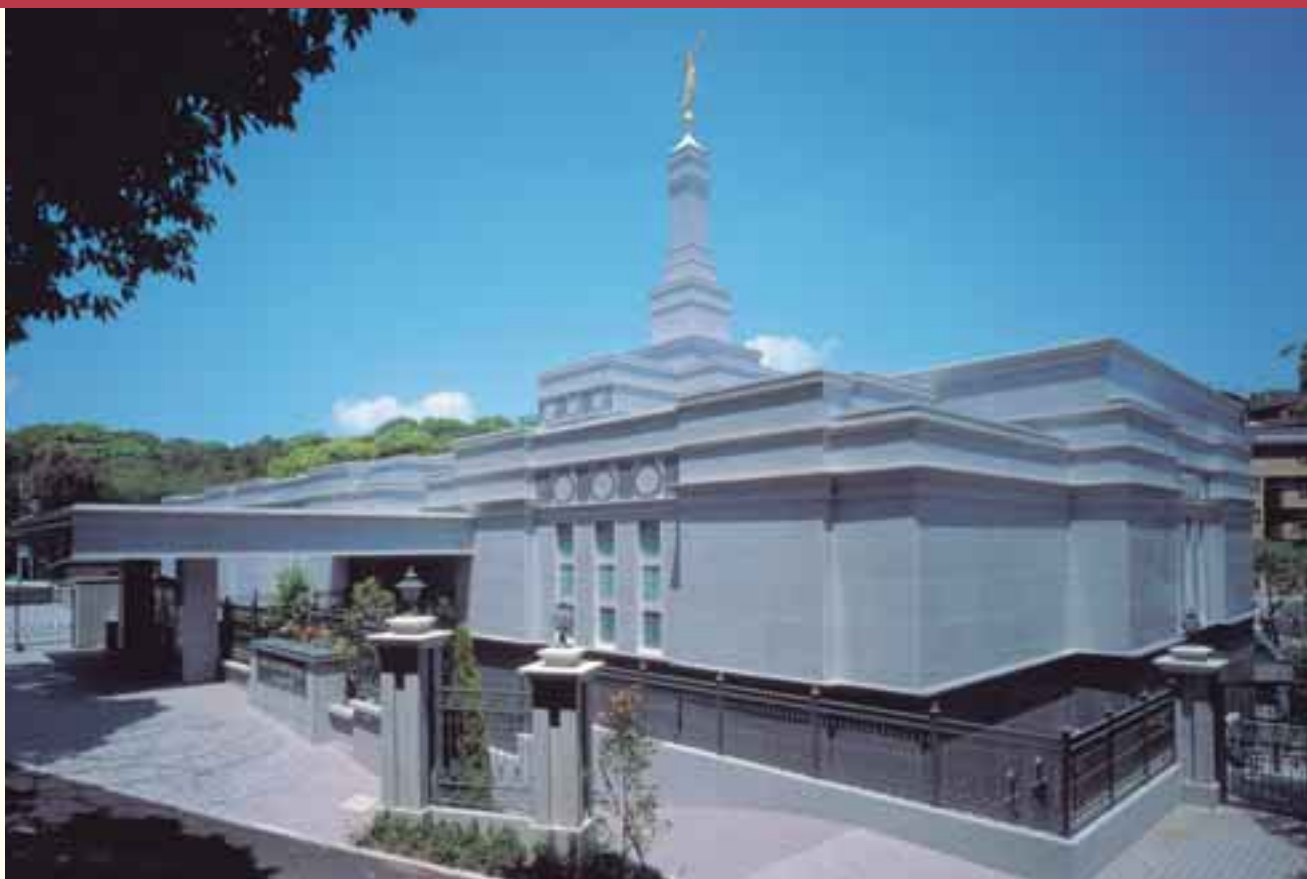
Insets, from left: Toshiko Yamashita, Fukuoka; Makoto Fukuda, Tokyo; and Masako Horii, Osaka. Left: Toshiro Yoshizawa and his wife, Midori, pioneers in the Church in Fukuoka. Right: The new Fukuoka Japan Temple.

get news coverage, however, and as a result, religious groups from outside the country, including Christian groups, often have a bad reputation in Japan.

Yet despite these difficulties, the future of the Church in Japan seems bright. There are signs of change in Japanese society that may open new doors, and the members themselves are sending forth a light of faith that is becoming ever more visible.

BEGINNINGS

The first Latter-day Saint missionaries to Japan were sent by President Lorenzo Snow in 1901, with Elder Heber J. Grant of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as their leader. Missionaries labored in Japan for more than 20 years, but there were still fewer than 200 Japanese members when the mission was closed in 1924. For the next two decades, missionary work in Japanese was carried out among Americans of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii. And when the Church reentered Japan after World War II, Church leaders



called on some of those who had preached the gospel in Hawaii to serve as missionaries and mission presidents.

Latter-day Saint military personnel stationed in Japan after the war also helped reintroduce the gospel. (Among these was a young pilot from Utah named Boyd K. Packer, now Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.) These military personnel and the first missionaries who followed them found a small core of members who had endured faithfully since the 1920s. They also found a few who were ready to hear the gospel.

One day Toshiro Yoshizawa, who served in the army during the war, encountered two young Americans holding a meeting in the street; they were among the first LDS missionaries

called to serve in Japan after the war. One of them, Elder Ray Price, spoke with respect of the service Japanese soldiers had given their country and talked of how all men and women are brothers and sisters and ought to treat each other with love. This message drew Toshiro to gospel study and eventually to conversion. He and his wife, Midori, baptized in 1953, are among Japanese pioneers whose service helped sustain the Church after its postwar establishment. Brother Yoshizawa went on to become a branch president, district president, counselor to four mission presidents, stake president, and mission president. He was called as patriarch of the Fukuoka stake in 1986. Sister Yoshizawa has served as a teacher in the Sunday School and in numerous Relief Society teaching and leadership

callings, often holding several callings at the same time in the early years.

“THERE ARE RICH RESOURCES”

The Church that was once so small in Japan has grown to more than 114,000 members today. Nearly three-quarters of the members are single adults, but this ratio is not reflected in Church meetings; it appears that about two-thirds of those attending are husbands, wives, and children, while about one-third are single adults.

Despite a troubling economic downturn in Japan in recent years, most people enjoy the blessings of prosperity. Streets in large cities are clogged—sometimes literally choked off—by mostly late-model cars and large trucks. Everyone from business people to schoolchildren seems to

Below, insets: Seminary class in Osaka. Far right: Three generations in the Church: the Nishihara family of Ushiku. Kikuno and Yoshio (center), baptized in 1957, were pioneers in the Hiroshima area.



carry a tiny cellular telephone, and many families have sophisticated television sets, entertainment centers, telephones, and fax machines in their apartments. In major cities, the vast majority live in apartment buildings. The price of a single-family dwelling in a city like Tokyo is out of reach for all but the wealthy.

Yet this prosperity comes at a high price. Lights are ablaze in Tokyo office buildings late into the evening because many people are still at work. (As a result, notes Bishop Nakamura of the Kichijoji Ward, the only time he can get ward leaders together during the week for a priesthood executive committee meeting is at 10:00 P.M., after all of them come home.) The high cost of living is undoubtedly one of the factors in this national devotion to work. To pay for housing and schooling for their children, large numbers of Japanese wives, including Latter-day Saints, now work at least part time outside the home.

Despite the difficulties, members of the Asia North Area Presidency are optimistic about the growth and strength of the Church. "If we look

back to where we were a year or two ago, the trend lines are very encouraging," says Elder L. Lionel Kendrick of the Seventy, former Area President. Efforts in response to priesthood direction have raised the retention rate for new converts to nearly 75 percent. Leadership is strong at stake levels in both priesthood and auxiliary organizations; the challenge is to build depth at ward and branch levels. Missionary work does better outside big cities, "but we're getting better in the cities, too," says Elder Kendrick.

Elder L. Edward Brown, current Area President, notes that more missionary referrals are coming from members, including the less active. Elder E. Ray Bateman, First Counselor, says members are so diligent in carrying out assignments that "every task they put their minds to is as close to perfection as they can make it."

"While we have challenges, there are rich resources," Elder Kendrick comments. The members in Japan "are wonderful people to work with."

Members of the Area Presidency see a continuing effort to support and teach principles set forth in "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" as one way to help the Church come out of obscurity in Japan. Church leaders and members agree that both individuals and families in Japan need



something to shore them up against the undercutting influences of their modern society. An entire nation needs the Lord's solution—the gospel.

Those same Church leaders and members also agree that the best way to spread the gospel and overcome negative stereotypes may be simply to live the commandments and let others see the effect on their lives and families. Most members say it was the example of other Latter-day Saints that brought them to the gospel. If you ask how doors can be opened more easily for the gospel in Japan, the answer is invariably the same: by the example of members.

"THE NAIL THAT STICKS UP"

It is especially important, priesthood and auxiliary leaders say, to teach youth about the strength found in living the gospel of Jesus

Christ. While drugs, alcohol, and immorality do not seem to be significant problems for LDS youth in Japan, young people face tremendous pressures in their schooling that work against Church activity.

Mandatory after-school activities and studying extend the school day well beyond classroom hours. (The government has recently taken steps to end half-day sessions on Saturdays.) Required club or sports activities are often held on Sunday, and sometimes there are also Sunday study sessions because of the pressure on teens to do well on high school and university entrance exams. Young people who skip school activities or study sessions to go to church can be hurt educationally and socially. It is painful to stand out due to lack of participation; an old adage is often

cited: "The nail that sticks up gets hammered down."

Early-morning seminary may be the only contact youth have with the Church when school activities dominate their Sundays. But many LDS students face a weekday schedule like that of Yuka Kouchi, Osaka Ward, Osaka Japan Stake: seminary at 6:15 A.M., then school at 8:00 A.M., club activities at 3:30 P.M., and on certain days a part-time job preparing lunches and clerking in a store from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. Yuka is one of few students with a job; other students fill the evening with studying or school activities. Most don't get home before 9:00 P.M.

If she could change anything, Yuka would like a little more time to help her mother at home and maybe more time to listen to her favorite music—or to sleep.



Far left: Ayako and Masanao Morimoto of Fukuoka with the youngest of their four children. **Left:** Yoshie Sumiya of Kitakyushu. **Below:** The Taira family of Fukuoka: mother, Shinko (front left) with twins, Mami and Mino, son Makoto, and father, Hisashi (not shown are daughter Sayaka, away at school, and son Kaname, serving a mission). **Background:** Fishpond at a historic site in Dazaifu.



Atsuko Yamashita, Young Women president in the Maebaru Ward, Fukuoka stake, is impressed with the strength of the youth. In 1999, the youth of her branch asked for the opportunity to visit the Tokyo temple to do baptisms for the dead. Their three-day visit in Tokyo included opportunities to sightsee and have fun, but the young people kept as their first priority performing temple ordinances each evening and experiencing some of the training at the Missionary Training Center.

Sister Yamashita found the gospel while in high school and has come to love the Book of Mormon. “It doesn’t matter where we live; we receive the restored gospel through Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. The blessings of the gospel are the same wherever we are.” She is grateful that her husband supports her in her Church service even though he is not a member.

ALONE IN THE GOSPEL

Not all who marry outside the Church are so fortunate. One sister recalls the serious problems she encountered with her in-laws, strong in another religion, when they learned she was an active Latter-day Saint. They threatened to end any relationship with her. Her husband took their side, and she did not attend Church meetings

for several years. But when this sister and her husband were no longer living with his family, a caring Relief Society president and loving sisters in the ward helped bring her back. Now she serves in a leadership calling, trying to reach out to other sisters.

There are still difficulties in the home, however. Working hard to support the family, her husband feels he is fulfilling all the obligations of a husband and father. But his influence has been absent in some areas where it is badly needed, his wife says. Their son is becoming rebellious, and the father is beginning to see that he needs to change in order to help their son. One particular missionary has touched the man’s life, helping him make progress, and he and his wife are working through issues of religion in the family. This sister expresses gratitude for gospel teachings that help her understand “we can work the problems out.”

There is a growing realization in Japan that fathers must take a more active role in their families, a realization that would have met strong resistance four or five years ago, says Kouichi Hayase, bishop of the Hachioji First Ward, Tokyo Japan West Stake. Establishing personal priorities is one focus of the management seminars Bishop Hayase

teaches in his professional role. “I teach them to think, deep down in their core, what is important to them,” he explains. He doesn’t tell participants that the answer will come to them through the light of Christ—but it does. “By the end of two days, they know what I’m talking about, even if they don’t know how to express it.” Many male participants tell him privately after the seminars that they are determined to refocus their lives, putting more emphasis on family relationships. The number of women in management positions is growing in Japan, Bishop Hayase says, and this trend has strengthened the motivation for finding balance between family and career roles.

Faithful Latter-day Saints are well prepared to reinforce family values in Japanese society, Bishop Hayase says. But “I think we’ve got to become bold. We are not bold enough in sharing the gospel.”

LEADING THE FAMILY

In this light, many Japanese priesthood holders speak of the joy they have discovered in fatherhood as they put family above material possessions or advancements in the world. Masahido Sumiyoshi is one example. While he was in the process of helping rear three children, he came to a dual realization: it was his



Above: Daisuke Hirota of Kyoto. **Foreground:** Mieko and Hiroshi Aki of Osaka. **Background:** High-rise buildings in downtown Osaka.

responsibility to help his children get back to Heavenly Father, and it was also his opportunity to go with them. As mission leader in the Kita Kyushu Ward of the Fukuoka stake, he sees the value of that knowledge while he observes that his peers are often too caught up in their jobs to give enough time to their families.

His wife, Katsuko, is glad their children were raised in a home with a father who understood the worth of the gospel. She knows well the power of parental example. Her parents were among the pioneers of the Church in Hiroshima, joining in 1957. Now her parents live with her younger brother, Satoshi Nishihara, and his family.

Satoshi has also followed the example of service set by his parents. Currently high priests group leader in the Ushiku Ward, Abiko Japan Stake, he works as a seminary coordinator for the Church Educational System. He was called as stake president in Hiroshima at age 29 and later served as president of the Osaka mission. The elder Nishihas, Yoshio and Kikuno, have served two full-time proselyting missions together—the first one shortly after Satoshi returned from his full-time mission at age 22—and four temple missions.

Yoshio and Kikuno Nishihara exemplified what they preached as their children were growing up.

Satoshi remembers well an argument with his mother when he was young; it was resolved when she asked him to kneel and pray with her. That was a sweet learning experience. Now it comes naturally for Satoshi to counsel and pray with his own wife, Noriko, and their children in handling family business. They handled one recent decision this way after a family fast; as they prayed together and as he listened to his wife and children express their feelings, it became clear to him what the family should do.

Satoshi and Noriko have five children, an unusually large family in a country where the average is about one child per couple. Sister Nishihara says she finds it difficult to imagine raising a family of any size without the benefit of gospel teachings, but she was especially grateful for gospel light with five children whose needs and challenges became ever more complex as they grew up.

Brother Nishihara says life tends to be simpler as one views it through the lens of the gospel. Too many people let the pressure of the world trouble them when they need not, he believes. Once they forget themselves and look outward, they discover many useful and rewarding things they had not realized they could do with their lives. “When we

are helping other people, we often forget the problems in our own lives,” he says. With that perspective, he and his wife have consciously tried to involve their children in service, to teach them that when they live and share the gospel, the blessings of the Lord will take care of all other needs. “When you reach out to other people, it always brings joy.”

Japanese members say many of their neighbors seem to be seeking for some anchor in their lives without being able to put a name to their need. Latter-day Saints feel they have found what so many others are seeking—this joy in the gospel that Satoshi Nishihara talks about. In their lives and examples, the Japanese Saints may hold the key to sharing this joy with others. □

JAPAN TODAY

Members: More than 114,000

Stakes: 31

Wards: 175

Missions: 8

Mission districts: 19

Branches: 142

Missionaries: Approximately 1,000;
about 18 percent are Japanese

Temples: Tokyo and Fukuoka

Using the March 2001 *Liahona*

Are you looking for a story or quotation for a talk, class, family home evening lesson, or seminary devotional? You might find some helpful ideas in this issue of the *Liahona*. (The numbers refer to pages in this issue. F=*The Friend*.)

FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

■ “Behold Your Little Ones,” page 2: Discuss specific ways in which you as parents can follow President Hinckley’s counsel and treat your children with greater patience, understanding, and love. As a family, set specific goals to improve your relationships.

■ “Do What Is Right,” page 10: Read or tell the story of Elder Scott’s experience with Admiral Rickover. Ask family members for examples from their own lives of situations in which doing the right thing might be difficult. Discuss what it means to “do what is right; let the consequence follow.”

■ “Robby’s New Words,” page F6: Talk about anger and its consequences. As a family, think up alternate phrases, such as “How exasperating!” that you might use instead of saying angry words. Challenge family members to use these new words instead of hurtful, angry words.



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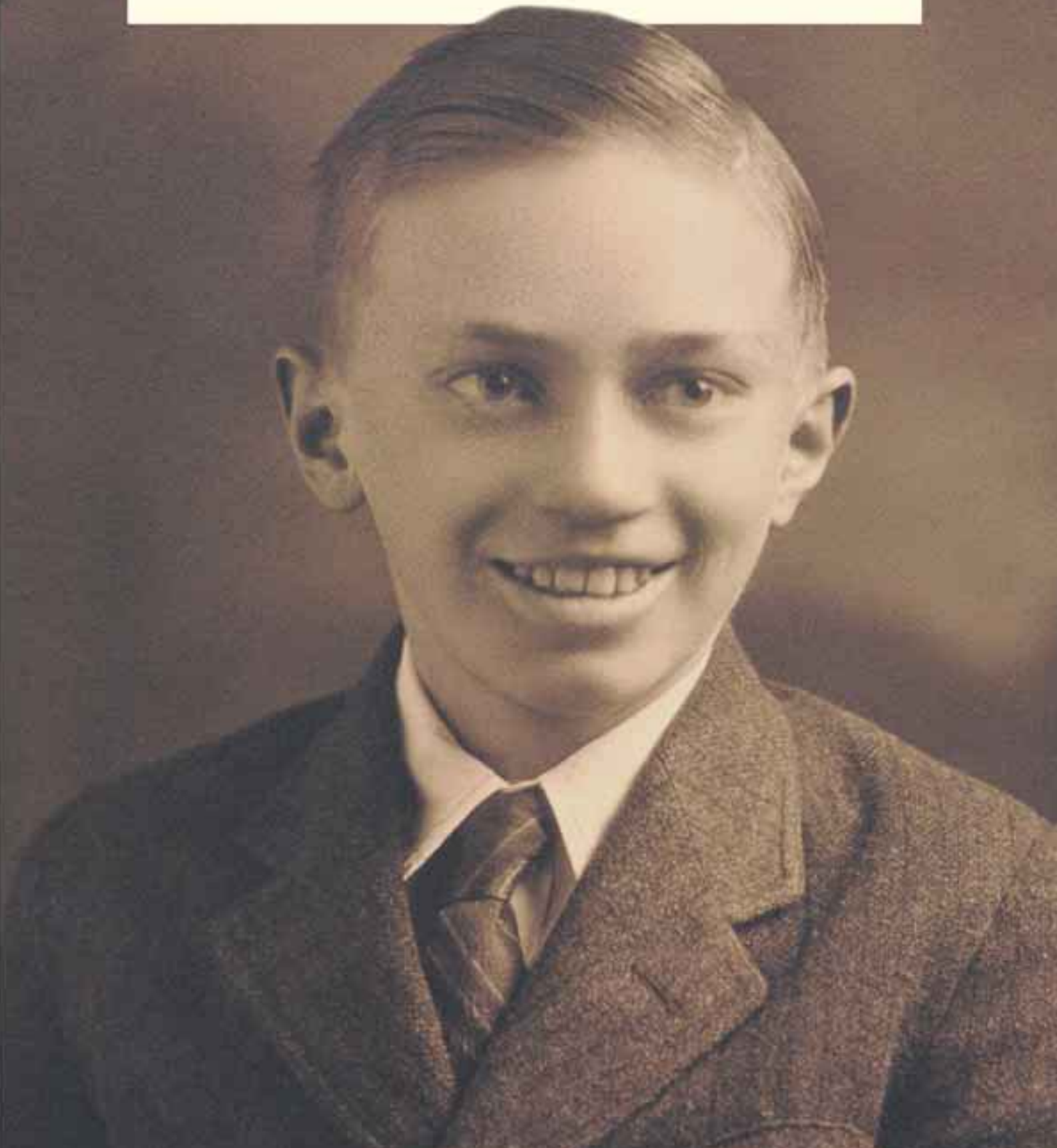
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CALL FOR FAMILY HOME EVENING EXPERIENCES

We invite you to share with us an account of your most successful family home evening. Tell us what you did and what made it effective. We also invite you to send feedback, suggestions, and other articles to *Liahona*, Floor 24, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA; or e-mail to CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org. Please include your complete name, address, telephone number, and ward and stake (or branch and district).

The Friend

FOR CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ■ MARCH 2001



Heavenly Father Prepares the Prophet

By Diane S. Nichols

**“God saw these souls that they were good, . . .
and he said: These I will make my rulers” (Abraham 3:23).**



Heavenly Father gave you gifts and talents to help you bless others. Heavenly Father also gave our prophet certain gifts and talents and prepared him to become the prophet for our day.

When President Gordon B. Hinckley was small, he became severely ill with whooping cough. The doctor told his mother he needed good clean air to breathe. The family moved to a farm during the summer months. Young Gordon worked hard. He learned that we can harvest food only after planting and caring for it. He learned that Heavenly Father blesses us, but He expects us to do the work first.

One day when President Hinckley was about five years old, he was sitting on his front porch with some friends. A family of another race walked down the street. Young Gordon and his friends made some unkind remarks. His mother talked with them and told them that all people are sons and daughters of God. That day he learned we must respect and help one another, regardless of race, religion, wealth, or anything else.

President Hinckley grew up in a home where learning was very important. His parents had a room filled with books, and he and his brothers and sisters often went there. Now in his 90s, he still loves to learn.

Soon after young Gordon was ordained a deacon, his father took him to stake priesthood meeting. To open the meeting, the men sang “Praise to the Man” (Hymns, number 27), a wonderful song about the Prophet Joseph Smith. Of that experience, President Hinckley said: “Something happened within me as I heard those men of faith sing. There came into my boyish heart a knowledge,

placed there by the Holy Spirit, that Joseph Smith was indeed a prophet of the Almighty” (“Joseph the Seer,” *Ensign*, May 1977, 66). Throughout his life, Gordon B. Hinckley has borne powerful testimony of Joseph Smith.

In his patriarchal blessing, President Hinckley was told, “Thou shalt ever be a messenger of peace; the nations of the Earth shall hear thy voice and be brought to a knowledge of the truth by the wonderful testimony which thou shalt bear” (quoted in “President Gordon B. Hinckley,” *The Friend*, May 1996, 2–3). President Hinckley has visited many countries and spoken to millions of people. Everywhere he goes, he shares his love. By his example, President Hinckley invites us to follow the example of the Savior.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Invite a member of the bishopric or branch presidency to talk about what it means when we raise our hands to sustain someone in a calling. Have him explain how people sustain him. Place the titles of various Church callings in a bag. Have a child draw a title from the bag; then ask how the children can support the person in that calling. Tell the children we also sustain our prophet by our actions. Have them list ways we can sustain him.

2. Select pictures from the Gospel Art Picture Kit or the Primary manuals depicting some of President Hinckley’s counsel (obeying parents, serving a mission, appreciating nature, attending the temple, studying the scriptures, praying, and so on). Place the pictures on the wall. On the floor, place pieces of paper facedown with some of these teachings written on them. Have a child throw a beanbag onto a piece of paper, pick it up, and read it aloud. Help the children match the quality or teaching with the picture. □

PRESIDENT HINCKLEY'S EXAMPLE

Instructions

Make a book about President Hinckley's example by mounting this page on heavy paper and cutting out the five numbered boxes. Color the pictures, and fill in the blanks. Punch holes where indicated, and put the pages in order. Thread string through the holes, and tie the ends.

1

President Hinckley worked hard—and still works hard.



I can follow his example by

2

President Hinckley studied and learned—and still does.



I can follow his example by

3

President Hinckley developed a testimony of Joseph Smith.



I can follow his example by

4

President Hinckley respects all people.



I can follow his example by

5

President Hinckley serves Heavenly Father.



I can follow his example by

FRIEND TO FRIEND

Elder Duane B. Gerrard

Of the Seventy

From an interview by Kellene Ricks Adams

ILLUSTRATED BY DILLEEN MARSH

One Sunday morning when I was only five years old, I was playing with a neighbor's cat. Eventually the cat got tired of playing with me and ran into a nearby cornfield. I wasn't tired of playing with the cat, however, so I followed him into the field.

The corn was very high, and when I couldn't find the animal, I decided to go home. It didn't take long to discover I didn't know where I was, and I had no idea where home was. I was lost in the large cornfield.

As I wandered around, the corn seemed to get taller and taller until it reached the sky. I was disoriented and felt more and more frightened.

I began to run, yelling for help, but the wind drowned out my cries. I got very hot and sweaty, and the corn plants scratched my skin. I didn't know what to do.

As I was rushing through the cornfield, I remembered a lesson my Primary teacher had

taught only a few weeks earlier. "If you're ever frightened," she had said, "or if you're ever lost, get down on your knees and pray."

Then I remembered my parents telling me the same thing as we knelt in daily family prayer. "Heavenly Father cares about you," my mother and father had taught me. "He will always hear your prayers. He will take care of you."

As soon as I remembered the words my parents and my Primary teacher had spoken, I dropped down on my knees. I don't remember exactly what I said, but I know I shared my thoughts and fears with the Lord.

After my prayer, I felt very peaceful. My parents and my Primary teacher had told me Heavenly Father would hear my prayers, so I knew help was on the way. I was tired from running around so much, so I decided to rest until someone came. I promptly lay down and fell asleep.

It wasn't long before my mother realized I was no longer in our yard. She had seen me playing with the cat, so she guessed I had followed it somewhere. She began searching for me. A block from our home, she saw the cat near a large irrigation canal and feared the worst. She thought I had fallen in and drowned.



She ran home and sent my older sister to the nearby Church building, where my father and other priesthood holders were gathered for a meeting. Mother then fell to her knees and immediately began praying to Heavenly Father, asking Him to protect me. She promised that if I was found safe, she would do all she could to make sure I was raised in righteousness.

After pouring her heart out to the Lord, Mother stood up. As she did, she thought of the neighboring cornfield. She ran outside to begin searching there. Some of the men from the meetinghouse met her, and she told them she thought I might be lost somewhere inside the field of corn.

Some men searched along the irrigation canal while others began searching through the tall stalks of corn. One of them, Bud Phillips, found me quietly sleeping. He picked me up and carried me to Mother, who was weeping. I remember wondering why everyone was making such a fuss. After all, I had prayed and I knew everything would be fine.

My prayers and my mother's were answered, and she always did all she could to see that I was raised in righteousness.

Prayer has always been a great source of comfort for me. Once, I lost our family dog, a beautiful Irish setter that belonged to my brother. I prayed for help and was

able to locate the beloved pet.

Another time, my mother was ill. I was very close to my mother, and it frightened me that she didn't feel well. I made that a matter of strenuous prayer, and Mother soon felt better.

Always know that when you are lost or alone or frightened, you can fall on your knees, and Heavenly Father will be there for you. He will send help. He loves you very much. Turn to Him.

I testify that prayer truly is communication with our Heavenly Father. He hears our prayers. He knows our fears and our hopes. He knows what we want and need. I promise you He will answer your prayers. Sometimes His answers come immediately; other times they come more slowly. Sometimes we might even feel He didn't answer our prayers at all. But I promise you He does answer all prayers. Have faith in Him. Trust Him. In time, you will see and understand the answers to your prayers. □



FICTION

Robby's New Words

By Patricia R. Roper

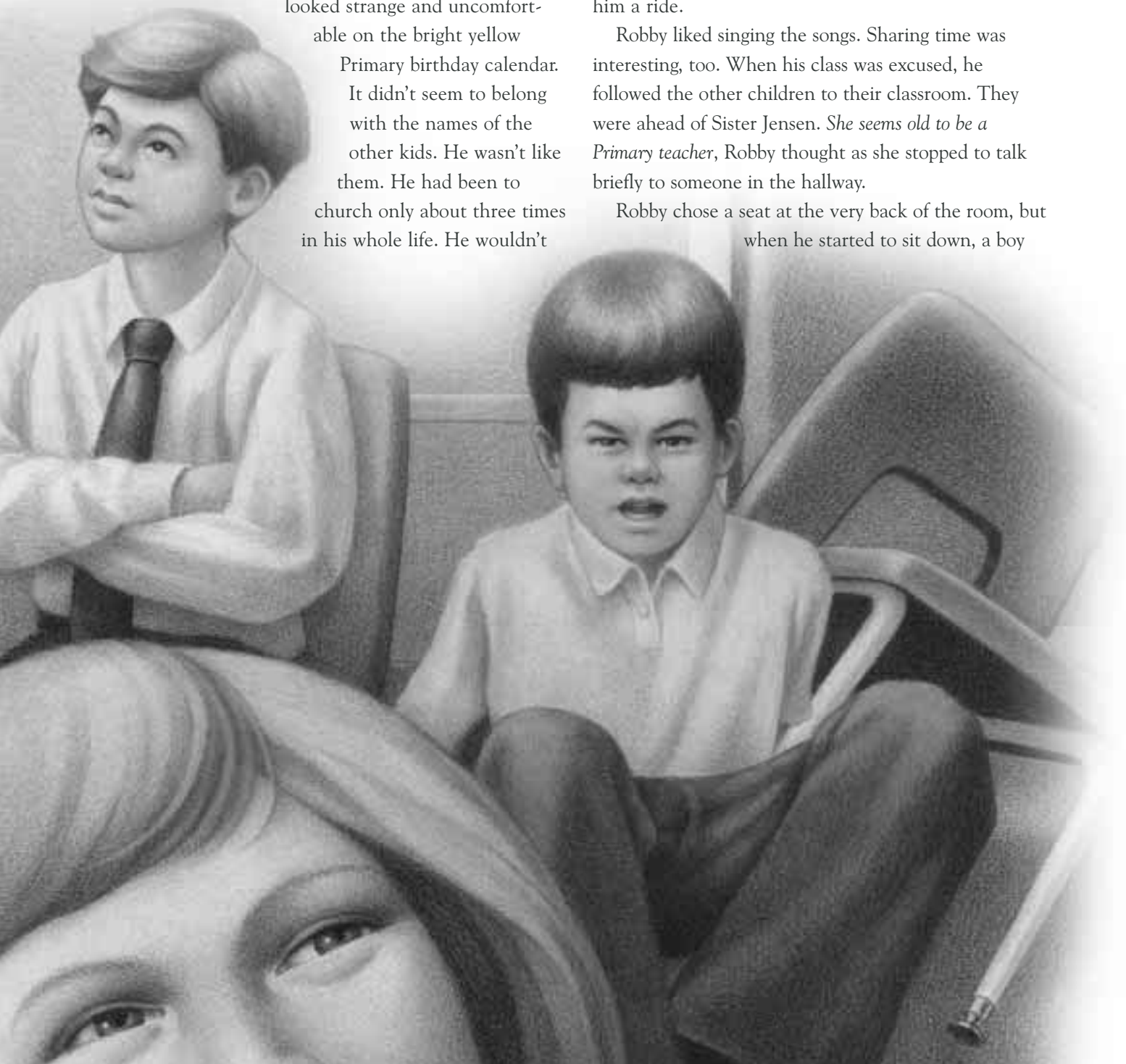
ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE KROPP

Robert Wood. Robby frowned as he read his name. All his friends called him Robby. His whole name looked strange and uncomfortable on the bright yellow Primary birthday calendar. It didn't seem to belong with the names of the other kids. He wasn't like them. He had been to church only about three times in his whole life. He wouldn't

have come today except his new teacher, Sister Jensen, had sent him a special invitation and offered him a ride.

Robby liked singing the songs. Sharing time was interesting, too. When his class was excused, he followed the other children to their classroom. They were ahead of Sister Jensen. *She seems old to be a Primary teacher*, Robby thought as she stopped to talk briefly to someone in the hallway.

Robby chose a seat at the very back of the room, but when he started to sit down, a boy



kicked his chair out from under him. An ugly word popped out of Robby's mouth. He was immediately sorry, and he blushed a deep red when he saw Sister Jensen standing in the doorway. She must have seen the whole thing.

The girls raised their hands and pointed at Robby. The boys snickered.

Robby wanted to run home. But Sister Jensen closed the door and smiled at him. Then, turning to the girls, she said, "I just love to see so many volunteers for the prayer." The girls put their hands down quickly, but Sister Jensen still assigned two of them to give prayers.

During class, Robby watched Sister Jensen. She smiled a lot. She made Robby feel he was just as important as the other children.

After class, Sister Jensen hugged the children as they left. When it was Robby's turn, she quietly shut the door. Robby was alone with Sister Jensen, and he knew why. She was going to scold him for saying that angry word. Well, at least she hadn't embarrassed him by doing it in front of everybody.

"I'm so glad you came today, Robert," Sister Jensen said with a smile.

Robby looked down and traced on the floor with his shoe.

When he didn't answer, Sister Jensen continued,



"I know you're embarrassed about what you said. If someone kicked a chair and made me fall, I would be pretty upset, too."

"They wouldn't do it to you," Robby said. "They just do it to me because I'm not a church kid."

Sister Jensen looked thoughtful as she bent to gather some of her things. When she

straightened up, she was wearing her big smile again. "Sit down a minute, Robert," she said, pointing to a chair.

Robby sat quietly while Sister Jensen pulled up a chair beside him.

"Do you like our bishop?" she asked.

Robby thought for a minute. He remembered the time the bishop came to his house when his mother was sick and couldn't care for the family. After that, some ladies came by to help take care of his mother and his family. The bishop seemed really nice. "Yeah, I think he's nice," Robby said.

"Well, believe it or not, I used to be his Primary teacher," Sister Jensen explained.

"Oh." Robby nodded. "I guess you could have been; you *are* old." Robby blushed when he realized what he'd said.

Sister Jensen laughed heartily. "That's true! He was a sweet little boy, just like you. You and he have a lot in common—his parents never brought him

to church, either. I used to pick him up all the time. He even sat with me in sacrament meeting.

“When he was about your age,” Sister Jensen continued, “he decided to make choices that would help him the rest of his life. He had a little problem with angry words, and he decided that when he became upset, he’d say ‘How exasperating!’ I told

him that was a good start but he also needed to fill his mind with good things. That way only good things would come out of his mouth.”

Robby traced on the floor with his other shoe. “Well, maybe when I’m a grown-up, I can do that, too,” he told her.

“But now’s the time to make important choices that will bless you throughout your life, including your choice of words.”

“How can words bless me?”

“When you are careful with the words you choose to say, you show others you care enough about them not to offend them. Choosing good words helps you gain more friends, and you’re also not offending your Heavenly Father. Besides, when you have good words inside, good actions often follow.”

Robby nodded that he understood, and he helped



Sister Jensen gather up the rest of her teaching materials.

The next Sunday, Sister Jensen picked Robby up in time for sacrament meeting. The bishop was conducting, and he seemed to be having a difficult time with some of the announcements. Finally he put down the paper he was reading, smiled at the ward members, and exclaimed, “How exasperating!”

Robby giggled as Sister Jensen nudged his arm. He leaned over and whispered, “That’s what I’m going to say when I’m mad, too.”

“Good for you, Robby,” Sister Jensen said with a wink.

Later, in the Primary room, Robby again noticed his name on the yellow birthday board. “That’s funny,” he said.

“What’s that?” Sister Jensen asked.

“Last week my name seemed different.”

Sister Jensen looked puzzled. “What do you mean?” she asked.

“Well, last week my name looked out of place up there by the names of the church kids. But today it looks like it belongs.”

Sister Jensen put her arm around Robby, and he noticed tears in her eyes. “That’s because you *do* belong here,” she said. □

A MEMBER MISSIONARY

By Monahra L. de Q. Freitas

ILLUSTRATED BY ROGER MOTZKUS

When a sister in our ward started coming to church again after six years, my mother told my brothers and sisters and me that we should be friends with the sister's two children. Their dad had died just a year before, and they were still very sad. One of the children, a girl named Evelyn, was a little younger than I am.

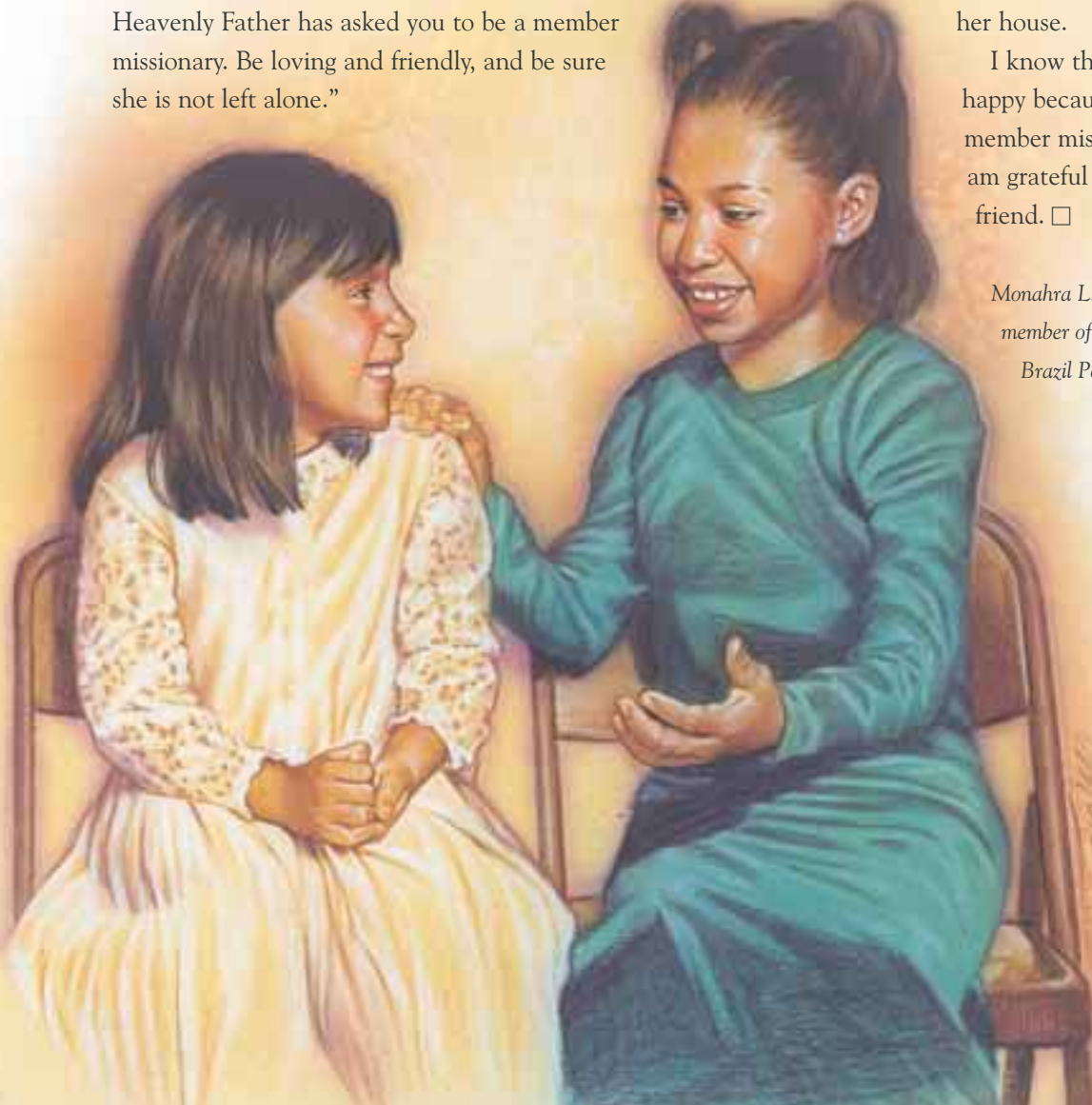
When we arrived at church on Sunday, Mama called me to a secluded corner and whispered in my ear, "Monahra, will you be Evelyn's friend? Heavenly Father has asked you to be a member missionary. Be loving and friendly, and be sure she is not left alone."

I told Mama I would, and since that day I have tried to be a member missionary for Evelyn. Since I want to be a missionary when I grow up, I am trying my best to be a missionary now.

Evelyn is a great friend, and she smiles a lot now. We play, go to Primary, and sing hymns together. Sometimes, we have family home evening together at her house.

I know that Heavenly Father is happy because I have tried to be a member missionary and a friend. I am grateful to have Evelyn as a friend. □

Monahra L. de Q. Freitas, age 6, is a member of the Pajuçara Ward, Natal Brazil Potengi Stake.



NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL



ILLUSTRATED BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

When Jesus left Judea to go into Galilee, He traveled through Samaria and came to Jacob's well.

John 4:3–6



He was tired, and He rested by the well. When a Samaritan woman came to get some water, Jesus asked her to give Him a drink.

John 4:6–7



Since the people of Judah usually had nothing to do with the Samaritans, the woman was surprised.

John 4:9



Jesus told her He could give her water that would cause her to never thirst again. He explained that He was the Messiah and that the water He offered her was the “living water” of eternal life.

John 4:10, 13–15, 25–26



The woman went to the city and told many people what she had heard. They went to the well and spoke with Jesus themselves, and many of them believed His words.

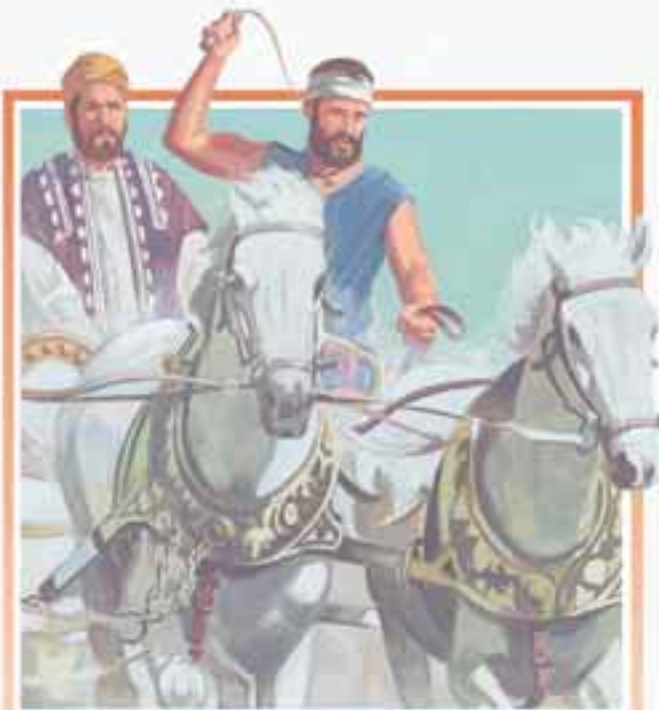
John 4:28–30, 39–42

THE LEADER'S SON



A leader of the people had a very sick son. Everyone thought the son would die.

John 4:46–47



The leader left his son at home and traveled many kilometers to the city of Cana, where he found Jesus.

John 4:46–47



The leader asked the Savior to come and heal his son, who was very near death. Jesus told the leader to go home. Jesus said his son would be healed. Because he had faith in Jesus Christ, the leader went home.

John 4:47–50



His servants came to meet him and told him his son was getting better and would live. He asked them at what time his son began to get well. They told him. It was at the same time Jesus had said the son would be well.

John 4:51–53



The leader knew Jesus Christ had healed his son, and he and all his family had even more faith in the Savior.

John 4:53

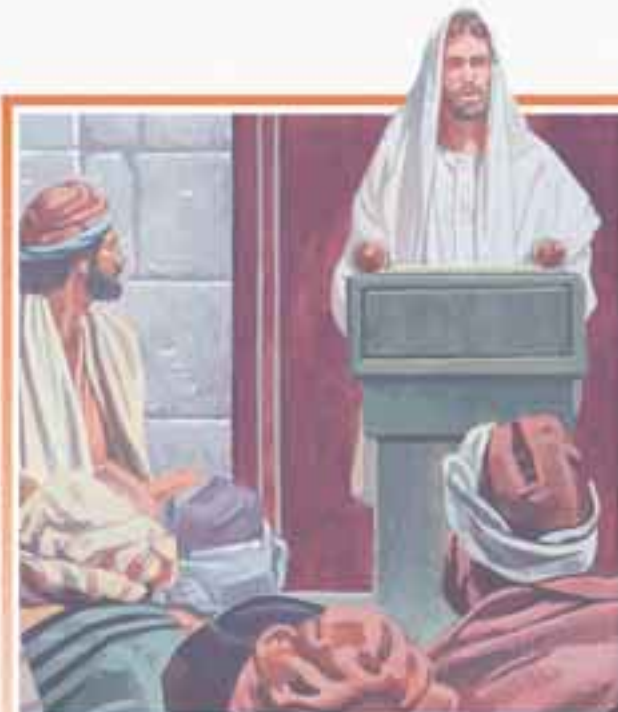
NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

ANGRY PEOPLE IN NAZARETH



Jesus went to Nazareth, the city where He grew up.

Luke 4:16



He went to a synagogue, a building where Jews go to church, and stood up and read from the scriptures. He read what the prophet Isaiah wrote—that the Savior would come to earth and help all people.

Luke 4:16–19



When Jesus sat down after reading Isaiah's words, the other Jews looked at Him.

Luke 4:19–20



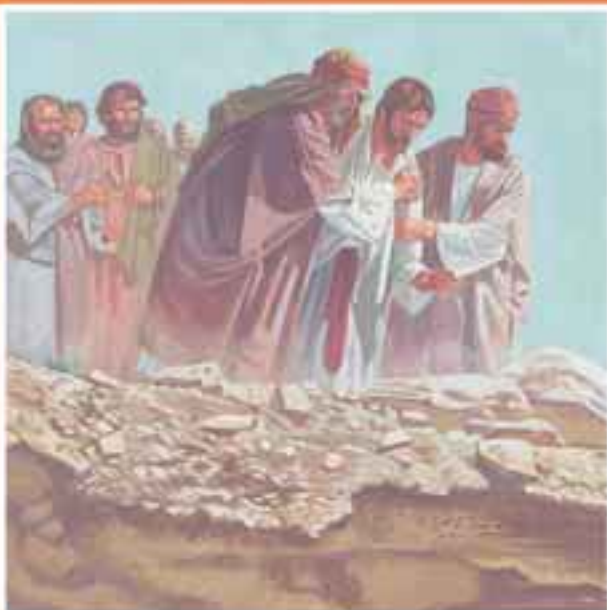
Jesus said that Isaiah's words were about Him, that He was the Savior. The people wondered at His words. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" They did not believe He was the Son of God.

Luke 4:21-22



The Savior knew what they were thinking. He knew they wanted Him to perform a miracle. But Jesus told them He would not do miracles for people who did not have faith.

Luke 4:23-27



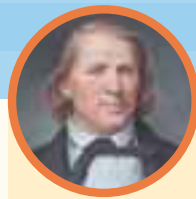
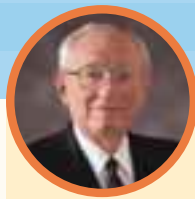
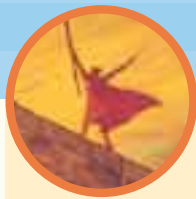
The people were angry. They took Him to the top of a hill and wanted to throw Him off it.

Luke 4:28-29



They could not do it. Jesus walked away from them.

Luke 4:30



FUN PAGE

Prophets & Prophecies

By Lois T. Bartholomew

The scriptures are the words God has revealed to His prophets. Match each scripture below to the prophet to whom it was revealed. Look up the scriptures if you need help.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. "Make thee an ark of gopher wood" (Genesis 6:14). | 10. "The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). |
| 2. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, . . . and prove me now herewith, . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing" (Malachi 3:10). | 11. "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee" (Genesis 12:1). |
| 3. "Five years more cometh, . . . then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name" (Helaman 14:2). | 12. "And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye . . . shall be led to a land of promise" (1 Nephi 2:20). |
| 4. "Let all the people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and those who journey with them, be organized into companies" (D&C 136:2). | 13. "I speak of these temples as smaller temples. Actually, they do not look small, they look large. They are beautiful. They are built of the best materials and in the best fashion of which we know. Each will be a house of the Lord dedicated to His holy purposes" ("Benediction," <i>Liahona</i> , January 1999, 104). |
| 5. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth" (Revelation 14:6). | |
| 6. "A marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men" (D&C 4:1). | |
| 7. "On this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world" (3 Nephi 1:13). | a. Adam |
| 8. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" (Genesis 3:19). | b. Noah |
| 9. "The long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the Church may receive the holy priesthood" (Official Declaration 2). | c. Abram (Abraham) |
| | d. Samuel (in the Old Testament) |
| | e. Nephi (son of Lehi) |
| | f. Malachi |
| | g. Samuel the Lamanite |
| | h. Nephi (great-grandson of Helaman) |
| | i. John |
| | j. The Prophet Joseph Smith |
| | k. President Brigham Young |
| | l. President Spencer W. Kimball |
| | m. President Gordon B. Hinckley |



Answers: (1) b, (2) f, (3) g, (4) k, (5) i, (6) j, (7) h, (8) a, (9) l, (10) d, (11) c, (12) e, (13) m.



If Father Will Hold Me, by Liz Lemon Swindle

When the Prophet Joseph Smith was a young boy, a severe infection necessitated the removal of bone from his leg. The surgeon wanted to tie Joseph down to keep him still or at least to have him drink liquor to ease the pain. Joseph refused, saying he would be able to bear the pain if his father held him in his arms (see Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith by His Mother*, edited by Preston Nibley [1958], 56–58).



In Japan, a country of traditional religious symbols, growing numbers of Latter-day Saints are demonstrating how the gospel strengthens individuals and families. See “Japan: Growing Light in the East,” page 38.