

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • SEPTEMBER 2002

LIAHONA



LIAHONA



ON THE COVER

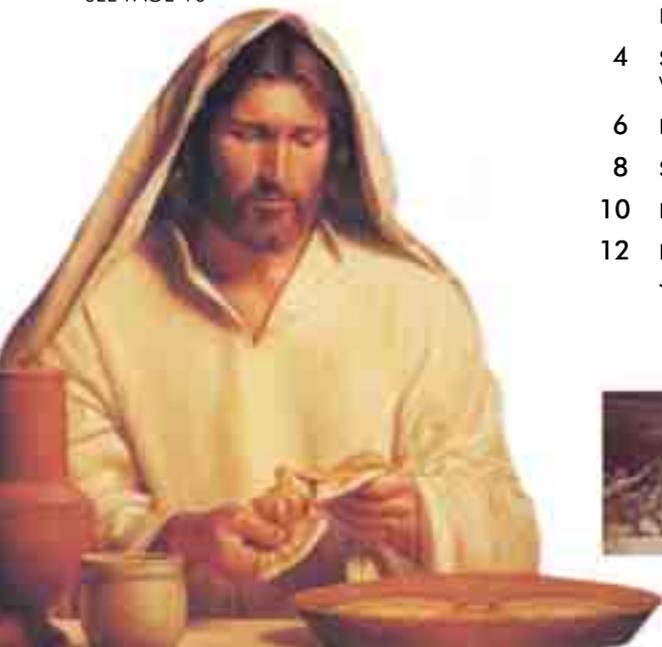
Front: *Light and Truth*, by Simon Dewey.
Back: "Hear Ye Him," by Simon Dewey.
Both paintings courtesy of Altus Fine Art,
American Fork, Utah.



THE FRIEND COVER

The Lord's Harvest, by Marilee B. Campbell.
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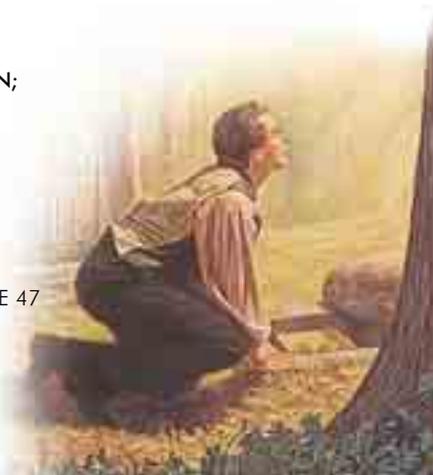
THE FRIEND

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"DO WHAT IS RIGHT"

At my baptism we sang "Do What Is Right" (*Hymns*, number 237), and I immediately felt that this hymn held meaning for me. Elder Richard G. Scott's message "Do What Is Right" in the March 2001 *Liahona* (Spanish) also made a great impression on me. Reading the magazine is like taking a minute to refresh myself.

*Carlos Aníbal Guilarte,
Maracay Ward,
Maracay Venezuela Stake*

CALLINGS HELP PERFECT US

When I became a member of the Church, I didn't know about Church callings. To my great surprise, I was called to teach the young men. I didn't hesitate, in spite of my fear. It was a heavy responsibility for me. But through prayer and faith, the young men and I started to learn divine principles. I have come to understand the blessing of Church callings.

The *Liahona* (French) has also helped strengthen my faith. When I was in a village where the gospel has not yet come, the *Liahona* helped me keep my virtue. I was comforted until I was able to return to my home. Thanks to the *Liahona*, my faith has grown.

*Diemo Kalambay,
Gecamines Second Ward,
Lubumbashi Democratic Republic
of Congo Stake*

READING THE LIAHONA IS A JOY

I have had the gospel in my life since I was six years old. The *Liahona* (Spanish) was always in our home. Each time my father received the month's issue, it was a joy for me because I knew that I could read it too. Now I'm raising my own children in the gospel, and I know that Jesus Christ is the only way back to our Heavenly Father.

*Nancy Galindo de Pérez,
Windy Ridge (Spanish) Branch,
Orlando Florida South Stake*

A TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

It is marvelous to have a testimony of Jesus Christ. And it is even better to share this testimony with other people. I am grateful to have acquired a testimony of my Savior through choosing the right, reading the Book of Mormon, and attending seminary. I bear testimony that He lives and that one day He will return.

*Nayanne Frota Pontes,
Sobral First Branch,
Sobral Brazil District*

LIAHONA HELPS STUDENTS

I love reading the *Liahona* (English). The stories it contains are full of love, hope, and courage. I feel Heavenly Father's and Jesus Christ's love every time I open it. The *Liahona* also helps me in my daily endeavors as a student. It reminds me what a Latter-day Saint should do.

*Florence L. Ricardo,
Aurora Ward,
Burgos Philippines Stake*

Patience

A Heavenly Virtue



By President Thomas S. Monson
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Several years ago I met an old friend I had not seen for some time. He greeted me with the salutation, “How is the world treating you?” I don’t recall the specifics of my reply, but his provocative question caused me to reflect on my many blessings and my gratitude for life itself and the privilege and opportunity to serve.

At times the response to this same question brings an unanticipated answer. Some years ago I attended a stake conference in Texas. I was met at the airport by the stake president, and while we were driving to the stake center, I said, “President, how is everything going for you?”

He responded: “I wish you had asked me that question a week earlier, for this week has been rather eventful. On Friday I was terminated from my employment, this morning my wife came down with bronchitis, and this afternoon the family dog was struck and killed by a passing car. Other than these things, I guess everything is all right.”

APPLY THE VIRTUE OF PATIENCE

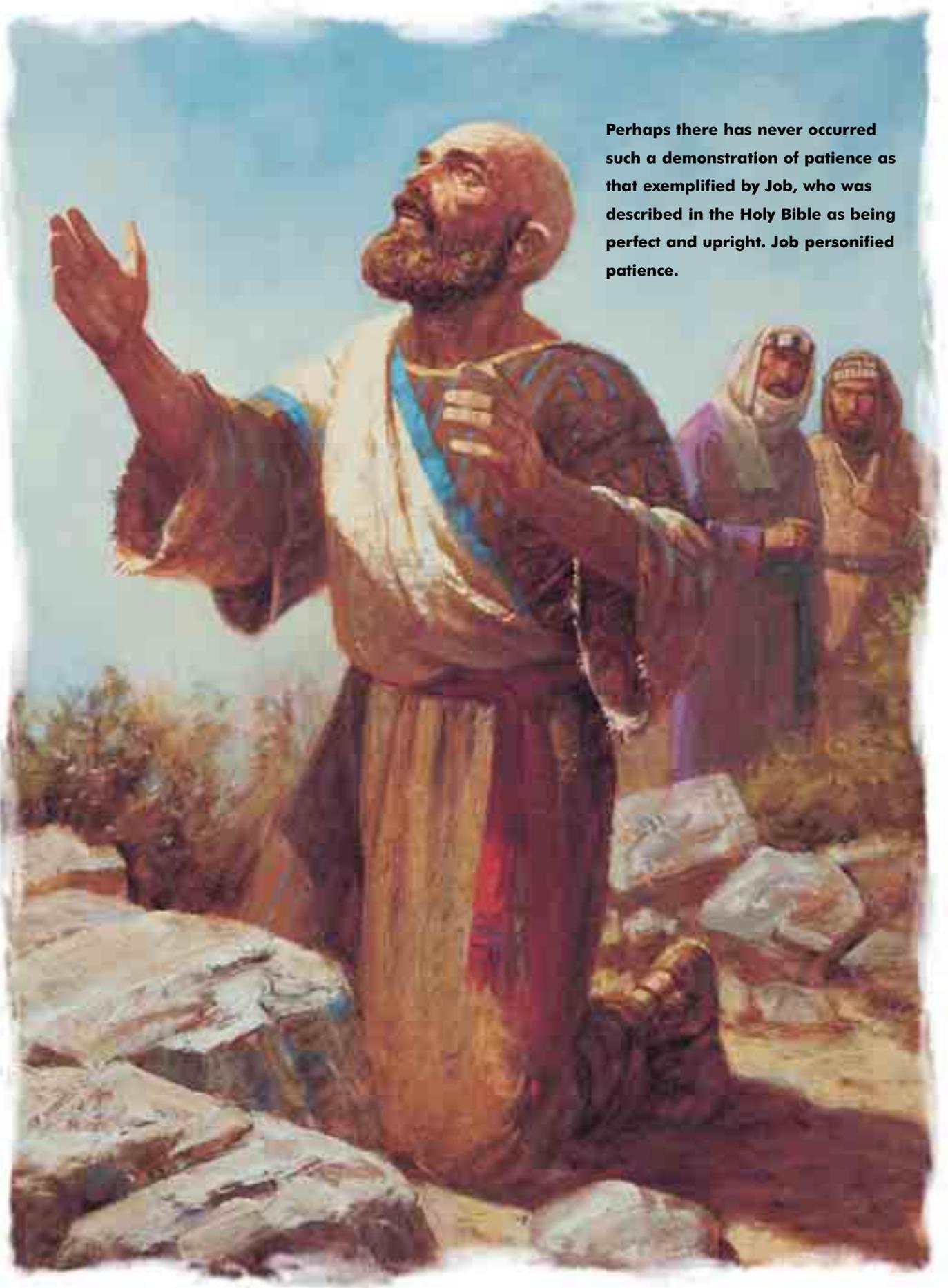
Life is full of difficulties, some minor and others of a more serious nature. There seems to be an unending supply of challenges for one and all. Our problem is that we often expect instantaneous solutions to such challenges, forgetting that frequently the heavenly virtue of patience is required.

The counsel heard in our youth is still applicable today and should be heeded. “Hold your horses,” “Keep your shirt on,” “Slow down,” “Don’t be in such a hurry,” “Follow the rules,” “Be careful” are more than trite expressions. They describe sincere counsel and speak the wisdom of experience.

The mindless and reckless speeding of a youth-filled car down a winding and hazardous canyon road can bring a sudden loss of control, the careening of the car with its precious cargo over the precipice, and the downward plunge that oftentimes brings permanent incapacity, perhaps premature death, and grieving hearts of loved ones. The glee-filled moment can turn in an instant to a lifetime of regret.

Oh, precious youth, please give life a chance. Apply the virtue of patience.

Perhaps there has never occurred such a demonstration of patience as that exemplified by Job, who was described in the Holy Bible as being perfect and upright. Job personified patience.



PATIENCE IN ADVERSITY

In sickness, with its attendant pain, patience is required. If the only perfect man who ever lived—even Jesus of Nazareth—was called upon to endure great suffering, how can we, who are less than perfect, expect to be free of such challenges?

Who can count the vast throngs of the lonely, the aged, the helpless—those who feel abandoned by the caravan of life as it moves relentlessly onward and then disappears beyond the sight of those who ponder, who wonder, and who sometimes question as they are left alone with their thoughts. Patience can be a helpful companion during such stressful times.

Occasionally I visit nursing homes, where long-suffering is found. While attending Sunday services at one facility, I noticed a young girl who was to play her violin for the comfort of those assembled. She told me she was nervous and hoped she could do her best. As she played, one called out, “Oh, you are so pretty, and you play so beautifully.” The strains of the moving bow across the taut strings and the elegant movement of the young girl’s fingers seemed inspired by the impromptu comment. She played magnificently.

Afterward, I congratulated her and her gifted accompanist. They responded, “We came to cheer the frail, the sick, and the elderly. Our fears vanished as we played. We forgot our own cares and concerns. We may have cheered them, but they truly did inspire us.”

Sometimes the tables are reversed. A dear and cherished young friend, Wendy Bennion of Salt Lake City, was such an example. Almost seven years ago, she quietly departed mortality and returned “to that God who gave [her] life.”¹ She had struggled for over five long years in her battle with cancer. Ever cheerful, always reaching out to help others,

never losing faith, she attracted others to her as a magnet attracts metal shavings. While Wendy was ill and in pain, a friend of hers, feeling downcast with her own situation, visited her. Nancy, Wendy’s mother, knowing Wendy was in extreme pain, felt that perhaps the friend had stayed too long. She asked Wendy, after the friend had left, why she had allowed her to stay so long when she herself was in so much pain. Wendy’s response: “What I was doing for my friend was a lot more important than the pain I was having. If I can help her, then the pain is worth it.”

THE SAVIOR’S PATIENCE

Wendy’s attitude was reminiscent of Him who bore



The Savior gave His precious life that the grave would be deprived of its victory, that death would lose its sting.

the sorrows of the world, who patiently suffered excruciating pain and disappointment, but who, with silent step of His sandaled feet, passed by a man who was blind from birth, restoring his sight. He approached the grieving widow of Nain and raised her son from the dead. He trudged up Calvary’s steep slope, carrying His own cruel cross, undistracted by the constant jeers and taunting that accompanied

His every step. For He had an appointment with divine destiny. In a very real way He visits us, each one, with His teachings. He brings cheer and inspires goodness. He gave His precious life that the grave would be deprived of its victory, that death would lose its sting, that life eternal would be our gift.

Taken from the cross, buried in a borrowed tomb, this man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, arose on the morning of the third day. His Resurrection was discovered by Mary and the other Mary when they approached the tomb. The great stone blocking the entrance had been rolled away. Came the query of two angels who stood by in shining garments: “Why seek ye



His Resurrection was discovered by Mary and the other Mary when they approached the tomb. Came the query of two angels: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."²

Paul declared to the Hebrews, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."³

OTHER EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE

Perhaps there has never occurred such a demonstration of patience as that exemplified by Job, who was described in the Holy Bible as being perfect and upright and one who feared God and eschewed evil.⁴ He was blessed with great wealth and riches in abundance. Satan obtained leave from the Lord to try to tempt Job. How great was Job's misery, how terrible his loss, how tortured his life. He was urged by his wife to curse God and die. His later reply bespoke his faith: "I know that my

redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."⁵ What faith, what courage, what trust. Job lost possessions—all of them. Job lost his health—all of it. Job honored the trust given him. Job personified patience.

Another who portrayed the virtue of patience was the Prophet Joseph Smith. After his supernal experience in the grove called Sacred, where the Father and the Son appeared to him, he was called upon to wait. At length, after Joseph suffered through over three years of derision for his beliefs, the angel Moroni appeared to him. And then more waiting and patience were required. Let us remember the counsel found in Isaiah: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."⁶

THE SAVIOR'S INVITATION

Today in our hurried and hectic lives, we could well go back to an earlier time for the lesson taught us regarding crossing dangerous streets. “Stop, look, and listen” were the watchwords. Could we not apply them now? Stop from a reckless road to ruin. Look upward for heavenly help. Listen for His invitation: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”⁷

He will teach us the truth of the beautiful verse:

*Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.*⁸

We will learn that each of us is precious to our Elder Brother, even the Lord Jesus Christ. He truly loves us.

His life is the flawless example of one afflicted with sorrows and disappointments, who nonetheless provided the example of forgetting self and serving others. The remembered verse of childhood echoes afresh:

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!⁹*

And so does the Book of Mormon, so does the Doctrine and Covenants, and so does the Pearl of Great Price. Let the scriptures be your guide, and you will never find yourself traveling the road to nowhere.

Today, some are out of work, out of money, out of self-confidence. Hunger haunts their lives, and discouragement dogs their paths. But help is here—even food for

the hungry, clothing for the naked, and shelter for the homeless.

Thousands of tons move outward from our Church storehouses weekly—even food, clothing, medical equipment and supplies to the far corners of the earth and to empty cupboards and needy people closer to home.

I am inspired by the devotion which prompts busy and talented dentists and doctors on a regular basis to leave their practices and donate their skills to those who need such help. They travel to faraway places to repair cleft palates, correct malformed bones, and restore crippled bodies—all for the love of God’s children. The afflicted who have patiently waited for corrective help are blessed by these “angels in disguise.”



Many years ago in eastern Germany, the flame of freedom had flickered and burned low. Patient waiting was required.

PATIENCE IN GERMANY

In the words of a well-known song, I wish you could “come fly with me” to eastern Germany, where I visited many times. Not long ago, as I traveled along the autobahns, I reflected on a time almost 35 years before when I saw on the same autobahns just trucks carrying armed soldiers and policemen. Barking dogs everywhere strained on their leashes, and informers walked the streets. Back then, the flame of freedom had flickered and burned low. A wall of shame sprang up, and a curtain of iron came down. Hope was all but snuffed out. Life, precious life, continued on in faith, nothing wavering. Patient waiting was required. An abiding trust in God marked the life of each Latter-day Saint.

When I made my initial visit beyond the wall, it was a time of fear on the part of our members as they struggled in the performance of their duties. I found the dullness of despair on the faces of many passersby but a bright and beautiful expression of love emanating from our members.



First, patriarchs were ordained, then lesson manuals produced. Wards were formed and stakes created. Chapels and stake centers were built. Then, miracle of miracles, a holy temple of God was permitted.

In Görlitz the building in which we met was shell-pocked from the war, but the interior reflected the tender care of our leaders in bringing brightness and cleanliness to an otherwise shabby and grimy structure. The Church had survived both a world war and the cold war which followed. The singing of the Saints brightened every soul. They sang the old Sunday School favorite:

*If the way be full of trial; Weary not!
If it's one of sore denial, Weary not!
If it now be one of weeping,
There will come a joyous greeting,
When the harvest we are reaping—Weary not!*

*Do not weary by the way,
Whatever be thy lot;
There awaits a brighter day
To all, to all who weary not!*¹⁰

I was touched by their sincerity. I was humbled by their poverty. They had so little. My heart filled with sorrow because they had no patriarch. They had no wards or stakes—just branches. They could not receive temple blessings—neither endowment nor sealing. No official visitor had come from Church headquarters in a long time. The members were forbidden to leave the country. Yet they trusted in the Lord with all their hearts, and they leaned not to their own understanding. In all their ways they acknowledged Him, and He directed their paths.¹¹ I stood at the pulpit, and with tear-filled eyes and a voice choked with emotion, I made a promise to the people: “If you will remain true and faithful to the commandments of God, every blessing any member of the Church enjoys in any other country will be yours.”

That night as I realized what I had promised, I dropped to my knees and prayed: “Heavenly Father, I’m on Thy errand; this is Thy Church. I have spoken words that



We held a meeting of dedication in Görlitz. The members knew the significance of the occasion. They wept as they sang.

came not from me, but from Thee and Thy Son. Wilt Thou, therefore, fulfill the promise in the lives of this noble people.” There coursed through my mind the words from the psalm, “Be still, and know that I am God.”¹² The heavenly virtue of patience was required.

Little by little the promise was fulfilled. First, patriarchs were ordained, then lesson manuals produced. Wards were formed and stakes created. Chapels and stake centers were begun, completed, and dedicated. Then, miracle of miracles, a holy temple of God was permitted, designed, constructed, and dedicated. Finally, after an absence of 50 years, approval was granted for full-time missionaries to enter the nation and for local youth to serve elsewhere in the world. Then, like the wall of Jericho, the Berlin Wall crumbled, and freedom, with its attendant responsibilities, returned.

All of the parts of the precious promise of almost 35 years earlier were fulfilled, save one. Tiny Görlitz, where the promise had been given, still had no chapel of its own. Now, even that dream became a reality. The building was approved and completed. Dedication day dawned. Sister Monson and I, along with Elder and Sister Dieter Uchtdorf, held a meeting of dedication in Görlitz. The same songs were sung as were rendered all those years earlier. The members knew the significance of the occasion, marking the total fulfillment of the promise. They wept as they sang. The song of the righteous was indeed a prayer unto the Lord and had been answered with a blessing upon their heads.¹³

At the conclusion of the meeting we were reluctant to leave. As we did so, seen were the waving hands of all, heard were the words, “*Auf Wiedersehen, auf Wiedersehen; God be with you till we meet again.*”

Patience, that heavenly virtue, had brought to humble Saints its heaven-sent reward. The words of Rudyard

Kipling’s “Recessional” seemed so fitting:

*The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart.
Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget.*¹⁴ □

NOTES

1. Alma 40:11.
2. Luke 24:5–6.
3. Hebrews 12:1.
4. See Job 1:1.
5. Job 19:25–26.
6. Isaiah 55:8–9.
7. Matthew 11:28.
8. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “A Psalm of Life,” lines 5–8.
9. “Jesus Loves Me!” *Alexander’s Gospel Songs*, compiled by Charles M. Alexander (1908), 139.
10. “If the Way Be Full of Trial, Weary Not,” *Deseret Sunday School Songs* (1909), number 158.
11. See Proverbs 3:5–6.
12. Psalm 46:10.
13. See D&C 25:12.
14. “God of Our Fathers, Known of Old,” *Hymns*, number 80.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

A few examples of how this message could be shared are listed below.

1. Ask a family member to perform a task that requires patience and asking for help, such as putting together a complex puzzle, solving a difficult math problem, or reading and explaining a difficult chapter in the scriptures. Why did the task seem difficult? How was patience needed to complete it?
2. Ask family members to tell of times when the Savior showed patience. Discuss ways Jesus’ promise in Matthew 11:28 could help a person have greater patience.
3. Tell of a time when having patience helped you, and invite family members to share their experiences with patience. Testify of the importance of patience in your life.



Moses spoke to the Lord
“as a man speaketh
unto his friend.” When I
tried the same thing,
something wonderful
happened.

FACE TO FACE

By Kristie Masumi King

I used to look at the Old Testament in sort of the same way I looked at fairy tales—neat stories that didn’t really relate to my life. Separated from me by thousands of years of history, they seemed far removed from reality. However, my seminary teacher loved the Old Testament, and his enthusiasm and humble testimony began to instill in me a greater reverence for these scriptures.

One night as I was studying, I came across this verse: “And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend” (Exodus 33:11).

I read these words, and at first I wasn’t particularly influenced by them. The Lord spoke to Moses. Of course He did. It seemed only natural for the Lord to appear personally to one of His prophets.

Then I prayed, and I really started to think about that scripture. I knew Heavenly Father wouldn’t appear to me that night, but maybe I could try to speak to Him “as a man speaketh unto his friend.” It was then that I felt His love envelop me.

As I prayed, I restated in my own words what I had read: “Moses spoke to Thee face to face, just like a friend.” I stopped. I said it again and again.

Then it hit me. The realization was so profound yet so simple. Moses saw God face to face. Suddenly Old Testament times were not so distant, and I realized that Moses had been a mortal—just like me. The scriptures came to life in my mind; I knew that Moses had actually lived and breathed, that he, too, had experienced challenges and struggled with a lack of confidence. Yet he talked to the Messiah, the Jehovah of Israel, his Lord and Redeemer—my Lord and Redeemer—in the same manner I spoke to my own earthly father.

“Heavenly Father,” I prayed again, “more than anything else, I want to return to Thee!” I closed my prayer and crawled into bed, feeling His love more tangibly than I ever had in my life. □

*Kristie Masumi King is a member of the BYU
162nd Ward, Brigham Young University 19th Stake.*



“He Loved Them unto the End”



By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

I wish to thank you, the faithful members of the Church, for your sustaining vote. It is no small thing to “sustain” another person. The word literally means to “uphold” or, if you prefer, to “hold up.” When we sustain life, we nourish it, we keep it going. When we sustain a friend or a neighbor or a stranger in the street, we give support, we share strength, we provide help. We hold each other up under the weight of present circumstance. We bear one another’s burdens under the heavy personal pressures of life.

JESUS PROVIDES SUSTENANCE

As with all else in our experience, the Lord Jesus Christ is our exemplar and ideal in this very important matter of providing sustenance. His is the ultimate arm of strength and His the endurance which endures all things. At no time did He demonstrate that unflinching devotion more clearly than during the final moments of His earthly life, hours when He might well have wished that others could have been sustaining Him.

As with all else in our experience, the Lord Jesus Christ is our exemplar and ideal in this very important matter of providing sustenance.

As the sacred supper of that ultimate Passover was being prepared, Jesus was under the strain of deep and profound emotion. Only He knew what lay immediately ahead, but perhaps even He did not fully anticipate the depth of pain to which He must go before it could be said, “The Son of Man hath descended below them all” (D&C 122:8).

In the midst of this meal and such thoughts, Christ quietly arose, girded Himself as a slave or servant would, and knelt to wash the Apostles’ feet (see John 13:3–17). This small circle of believers in this scarcely founded kingdom was about to pass through their severest trial, so He would set aside His own increasing anguish in order that He might yet once more serve and strengthen them. It does not matter that no one washed His feet. In transcendent humility He would continue to teach and to cleanse them. He would to the final hour—and beyond—be their sustaining servant. As John, who was there and watched the wonder of it all, wrote, “Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end” (John 13:1).

So it had been, and so it was to be—through the night, and through the pain, and forever. He would *always* be their strength, and no anguish in His own soul would ever keep Him from that sustaining role.

In the moonlit silence of that Near Eastern night, every acute pain, every heartfelt grief, every crushing



wrong and human hurt experienced by every man, woman, and child in the human family was to be heaped upon His weary shoulders. But in such a moment, when someone might have said it to Him, He rather says to us, “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

“Ye shall be sorrowful,” He said—sad, lonely, frightened, and sometimes even persecuted—“but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. . . . Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:20, 33).

How can He speak that way? Of good cheer and joy? On a night like this? With the pain He knew was just ahead? But those are the blessings He always brought, and that is how He always spoke—to the very end.

JESUS ENDURED AND TRIUMPHED

We cannot know to what extent His disciples fully understood the approaching events, but we do know that Christ faced His final moments alone. In one of the truly candid comments He would make to His brethren, He said, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death” (Matthew 26:38). And He left them to do what only He could do. The Light of the World stepped away from human company and entered the garden grove to wrestle

with the prince of darkness alone. Moving forward, kneeling, falling forward on His face, He cried with an anguish you and I will never know, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39). But He knew, for our sakes, that it could not pass and that He must drink that bitter cup to the dregs.

His disciples, understandably, were weary and soon fell asleep. What of Christ’s sleep? What of His fatigue? What rest or slumber will sustain Him through such an agonizing ordeal? That is simply not His concern here, nor does it ever seem to be. He will endure. He will triumph. He will not falter nor fail us.

Even in crucifixion He would reign with the benevolence and bearing of a King. Of those who rend His flesh and spill His blood, He says, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). And to the penitent thief at His side He gently promises paradise. To His beloved mother He is unable to make any caring gesture with His hands. So He simply looks at her and says, “Woman, behold thy son!” Then commending to John her future care, He declares, “Behold thy mother!” (John 19:26–27). He would be concerned for others—but especially for her—to the very end.

Because He must ultimately tread this winepress of redemption unaided, can He endure the darkest moment of them all, the shock of the greatest pain? This comes not with thorns and with nails but with the terror of feeling utterly alone: “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? . . . My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34). Can He bear all of our sins *and* our fear and loneliness too? He did and He does and He will.

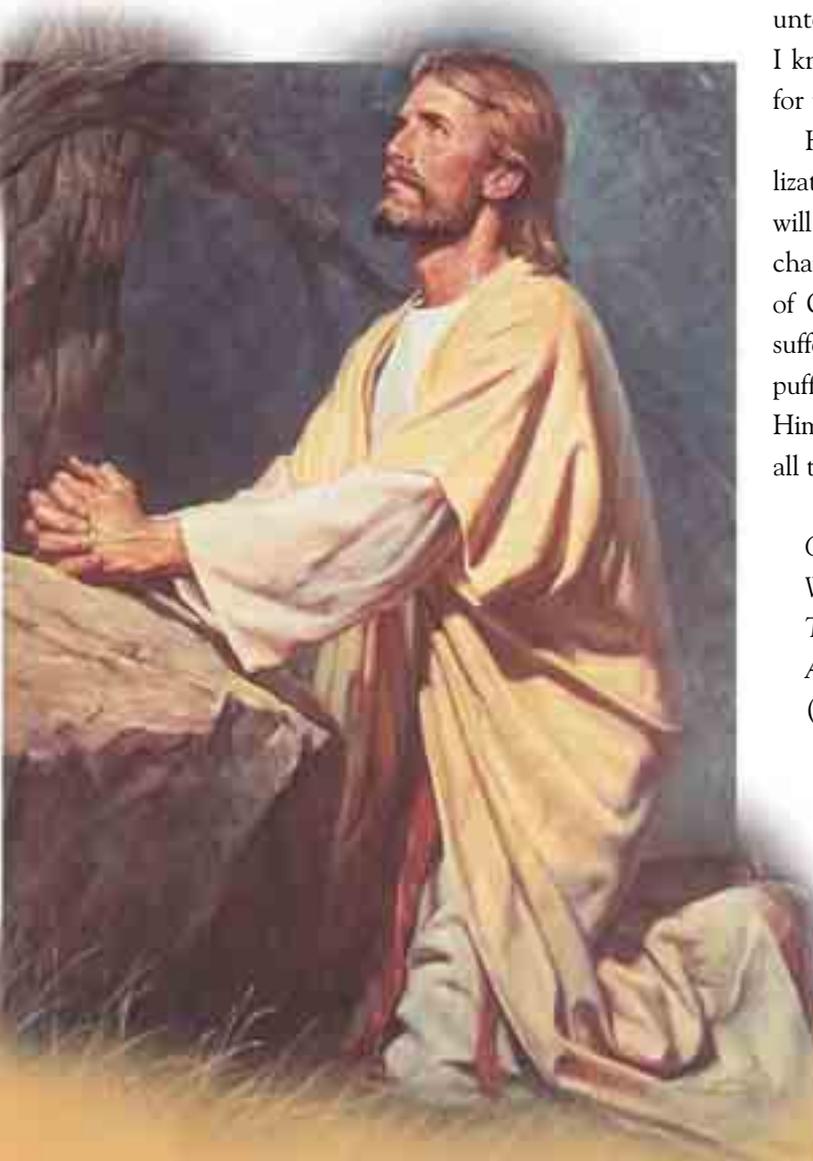
We do not know how such great sorrow can be borne,

Only His pure love enables Him—and us—to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things.

but it is no wonder the sun hid its face in shame. No wonder the veil of the temple was rent. No wonder the very earth convulsed at the plight of this perfect child. And at least one Roman centurion who saw all of this sensed something of what it had meant. In awe, he uttered the declaration for all eternity, “Truly this was the Son of God” (Matthew 27:54).

PURE LOVE OF CHRIST NEVER FAILETH

Life has its share of some fear and some failure. Sometimes things fall short, don't quite measure up. Sometimes in both personal and public life, we are



seemingly left without strength to go on. Sometimes people fail us, or economies and circumstance fail us, and life with its hardship and heartache can leave us feeling very alone.

But when such difficult moments come to us, I testify that there is one thing which will never, ever fail us. One thing alone will stand the test of all time, of all tribulation, all trouble, and all transgression. One thing only never faileth—and that is the pure love of Christ.

“I remember,” Moroni cries to the Savior of the world, “that thou hast said that thou hast loved the world, even unto the laying down of thy life for the world. . . . Now I know,” he writes, “that this love which thou hast had for the children of men is charity” (Ether 12:33–34).

Having watched a dispensation die and an entire civilization destroy itself, Moroni quotes his father for any who will listen in some later (“latter”) day, “If ye have not charity, ye are nothing” (Moroni 7:46). Only the pure love of Christ will see us through. It is Christ's love which suffereth long and is kind. It is Christ's love which is not puffed up nor easily provoked. Only His pure love enables Him—and us—to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things (see Moroni 7:45).

*Oh, love effulgent, love divine!
What debt of gratitude is mine,
That in his off'ring I have part
And hold a place within his heart.
("God Loved Us, So He Sent His Son,"
Hymns, number 187)*

I testify that having loved us who are in the world, Christ loves us to the end. His pure love never fails us. Not now. Not ever. Not ever. □

From an October 1989 general conference address.

RECIFE, BRAZIL

My Friend and Fellow Servant

The Example of Luan Felix da Silva



By Elder Claudio R. M. Costa
Of the Seventy

Whenever I think of the Savior’s parable of the sheep and the goats and of His wonderful promises to those who serve Him (see Matthew 25:31–46), I picture a young boy named Luan.

I first met Luan in February 2001 at a Young Men camp in Recife, Brazil. In Brazil, it was the time of Carnival—a holiday that has become four days of unruly partying. During Carnival, stakes often hold youth conferences and camps to give Latter-day Saint youth a fun and wholesome alternative. In my assignment as President of the Brazil North Area, I was visiting one such Young Men camp in the Recife Brazil Boa Viagem Stake.

When I first saw Luan, I noticed that he was quite thin and did not have even a single hair on his head. I also noticed that he had many friends. And I learned that he had just turned 12 and was going to be ordained a deacon during the camp.

I also learned that Luan had bone cancer in his left leg. In fact, just before camp he had learned that the cancer was progressing so rapidly his leg needed to be amputated immediately. But because Luan wanted so badly to receive the Aaronic Priesthood at camp and to play soccer with his friends one last time, his doctor had agreed to postpone the surgery for a week.

Now, surrounded by his brothers in the Church, Luan literally beamed with happiness. After his priesthood ordination on Sunday, Luan bore a beautiful testimony about his faith in the gospel and his gratitude for the Savior’s love.

I approached Luan, and we became fast friends. After his surgery, I visited him in his home, along with his bishop, Ozani Farias, and his stake president, Mozart B. Soares. These good leaders were a blessing in Luan’s life. They were always there to comfort, support, and help him.

I felt the Spirit very strongly in Luan’s home. Luan, along with his mother and sisters, had joined the Church eight months earlier. There was no father in the home, and Luan’s mother worked hard to provide for the family. Their small house was tidy and clean, and I knew that simple home sheltered a very special family.

During our visit, we noticed that the family lacked many basic things. For example, Luan had to sleep on an uncomfortable couch because he had no bed. But when we asked what the family needed, they replied, “We have the gospel, our friends at church, and a happy family. Thank you, but we need nothing else.”

A short time after our visit, Luan’s condition worsened, and his doctors found a large tumor at the base of his spinal cord. It could not be removed surgically, so Luan went to the hospital for another round of chemotherapy.

One night when President Soares and I visited Luan in the hospital, we found him in a lot of pain. He asked us several questions, including “What is death?” and “What is dying like?”

I explained that dying is part of eternity and that death is not a closing door but a door that opens for us as we go back to the presence of God. Luan understood and smiled. He said that now he was prepared. Then he asked us to give him a blessing, and we did so.

In the bed next to Luan was a 14-year-old boy named

Pedro. Now Pedro asked us to bless him too. I asked if he had faith in Jesus Christ, and he said he did. We explained what the priesthood is and that we would be blessing him in the name of Jesus Christ. He closed his eyes and smiled as we blessed him. Next an 18-year-old young woman asked us to give her a blessing too.

I found out that Luan and his mother had comforted Pedro and many of the other young cancer patients and their parents. As I left the hospital that night, I was edified to see that Luan and his mother, though suffering themselves, found the strength to visit others and minister to their needs.

When President Soares asked Luan what he would like to do when he left the hospital, Luan said he would like to perform vicarious baptisms in the Recife Brazil Temple. After Luan left the hospital, President Soares and Bishop Farias helped him fulfill this desire. Luan performed as many

baptisms as his strength would allow. At the end of his day at the temple, he was beaming with happiness that he could do something for others, even though he was in great pain himself.

Luan Felix da Silva died on 20 August 2001. Whenever I think of my friend and fellow servant, I am reminded of the Savior's words:

"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you . . . :

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

"Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me. . . .

"And the King shall . . . say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:34–36, 40). □

Luan never stopped serving. While in great pain he attended the Recife Brazil Temple. Inset: Luan with Elder Costa, Bishop Ozani Farias, and Luan's mother.





“PLAIN, SIMPLE TRUTHS”

Young Men and Women Apply the SIX B'S

In a special fireside held on 12 November 2000, President Gordon B. Hinckley addressed the youth and young adults of the Church (see “A Prophet’s Counsel and Prayer for Youth,” Liahona, April 2001, 30–41). His message focused on six principles—six B’s—to help young people make correct decisions and successfully deal with the challenges of today’s world. We asked young people to share experiences they have had in applying President Hinckley’s counsel. Following are a few of the many responses we received.

It had been a long week. I walked into the fireside broadcast late, struggling to filter out thoughts of exams, assignments, work, and friends. I hoped that somehow the words of the prophet could pierce through all these concerns and sink into my heart.

Oh, how I hoped and silently prayed for help to focus on the words of the prophet. And my prayer was answered. I walked into the fireside with my view clouded and troubled. When I left, I had a refreshed outlook on life and some plain, simple truths—a recipe for happiness.

Be grateful, be smart, be clean, be true, be humble, and be prayerful. How simple these statements are. How

great a difference they can make in my life!

I know this gospel contains truth that is lacking elsewhere. I know that the prophet loves me. I am grateful that our Heavenly Father and the Savior love us enough to give us specific, individual guidance in our lives through prayer and through the words of our prophet. These things are plain, simple, and true.

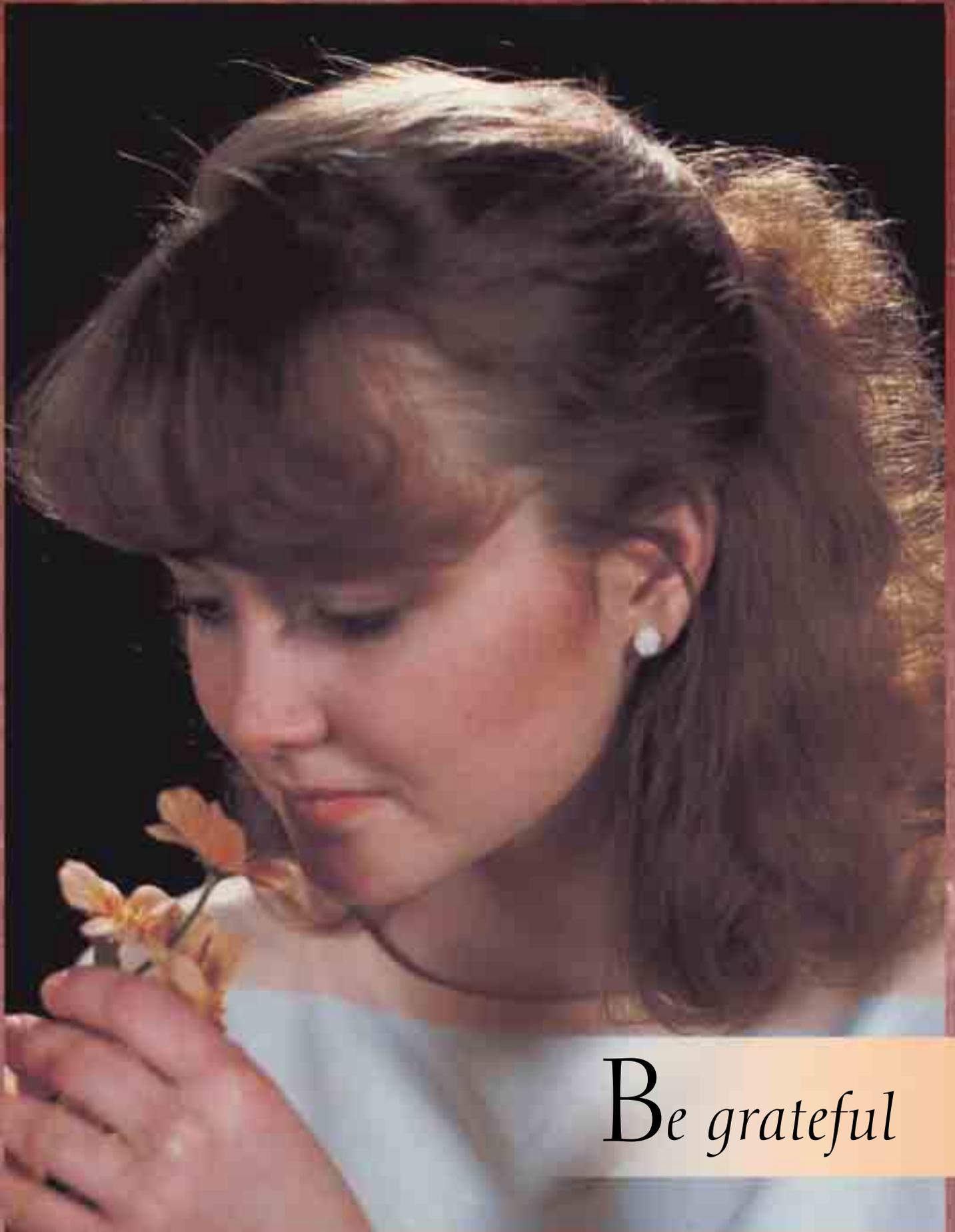
*Lisa Ware, age 19,
Rosedale Ward,
Eight Mile Plains Australia Stake*

BE GRATEFUL

“The habit of saying thank you is the mark of an educated man or woman.

. . . Be thankful to your parents, who care so very much about you and who have worked so very hard to provide for you.”—President Gordon B. Hinckley

When I finished reading President Hinckley’s talk, I felt a strange sense of happiness and sadness. I am a high school student. My parents are paying all of my school expenses. I had thought that was a given. I also thought it was a given that they would buy my clothes, food, and everything necessary for me. I thought this was just the normal way of life. I almost never said the words *thank you*. If I did not get the things I wanted, I got angry. Now, having read this talk, I am embarrassed. I realize that I am truly fortunate to



Be grateful

have what I have. I think the words *thank you* are wonderful words.

Aya Chikano, age 13,
Kariya Ward,
Okazaki Japan Stake

“Thank the Lord for His marvelous Church restored in this great season of history. Thank Him for all that it offers you. Thank Him for friends and loved ones, for parents and brothers and sisters, for family. Let a spirit of thanksgiving

guide and bless your days and nights.”

—President Gordon B. Hinckley

When I was small I would often go to my parents and family members to get things. But because I was so young, I did not realize that I should say, “Thank you.” I did not understand what thankfulness was. When I grew older, however, I gradually came to understand gratitude. Our attitude toward God is similar. There are those of us who ask of God in prayer, and God gives us appropriate answers and blessings, but sometimes we do not show gratitude. If we thank God sincerely, the blessings we receive will most certainly be even greater.

Chiang Chien-Yen, age 14,
Tao Yuan Second Ward,
Tao Yuan Taiwan Stake

BE SMART

“You belong to a church that teaches the importance of education. . . . [The Lord] wants you to train your minds and hands to become an influence for good as you go forward with your lives. And as you do so and as you perform honorably and with excellence, you will bring honor to the Church, for you will be regarded as a man or woman of integrity and ability and conscientious workmanship.”

—President Gordon B. Hinckley

After I heard President Hinckley’s message, I made many resolutions in my life. I decided I would give every effort to obtaining a better education. I’m a university student right now, and sometimes it has been hard for me to do well in my academic classes and take institute at the same time. Sometimes I have neglected one or the other. But now I realize that the Lord wants us to be intelligent and to accomplish things, so I have decided to graduate from institute as well as from the university.

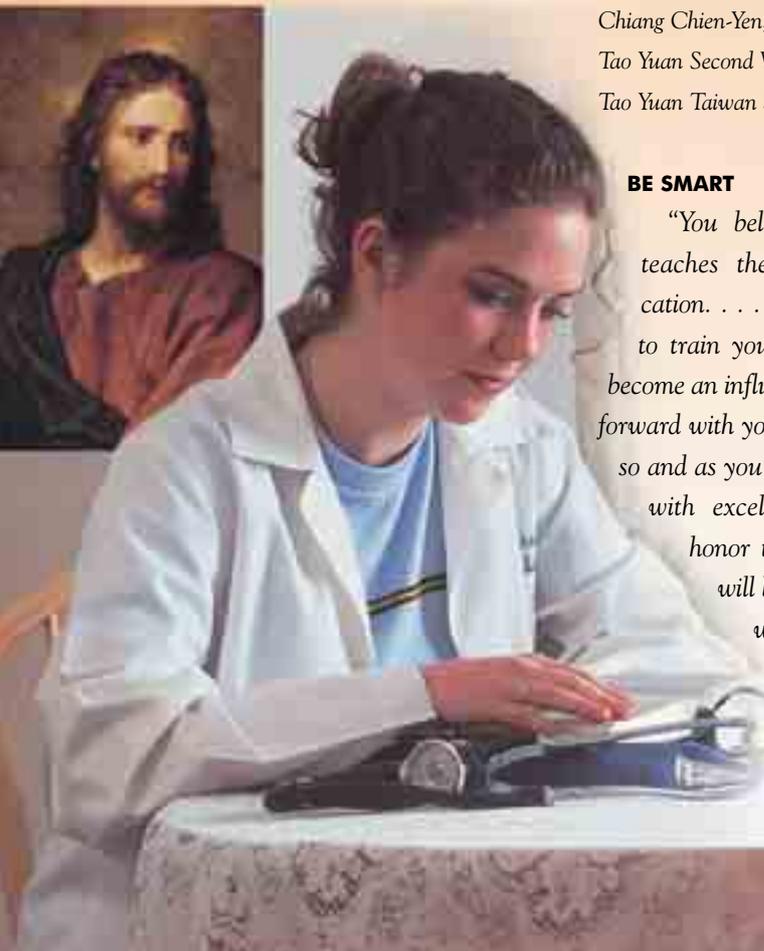
I took notes at the fireside, but having the complete text of the talk in the *Liahona* (Spanish) has enabled me to review President Hinckley’s words. And they are still having an influence on me, as if I had just heard them. No matter where we live—in a small country like mine or in a large nation—I know that if we will listen to the prophet’s voice and follow his counsel, the Lord will bless our lives and help us become better people.

Jenny Elisa Jaimes Utani, age 23,
Job Ward,
Lima Perú Las Violetas Stake

BE CLEAN

“[Illicit drugs] will destroy you if pursued. You will become their slave. . . . My advice, my pleading to you wonderful young men and women, is

Be smart





Be clean

to stay entirely away from them. . . . Stay clean from these mind-altering and habit-forming addictions.
—President Gordon B. Hinckley

I am 16 years old and am encountering some dangerous temptations. If I had not heard President Hinckley’s talk, I might not have known how to react to one of these.

One day at school, a friend called a group of us to come over and see something. When we went to see what she had, we discovered it was a drug, marijuana. I became pale with fear. My friend asked me to try it. Without thinking, I yelled, “You are crazy. You shouldn’t have this. Let’s go!”

My friend did not listen to me, and I began to pray silently for the power to touch the hearts of each of my friends in the group. I grabbed the package and threw it away. At first my friends were

angry, but I could not contain my relief and happiness. I used the opportunity to explain that marijuana is wrong.

As we talked, I remembered what President Hinckley said about drugs, and I was able to pass on those words to my friends. I know the Spirit of

the Lord was whispering to me the words I had in my heart.

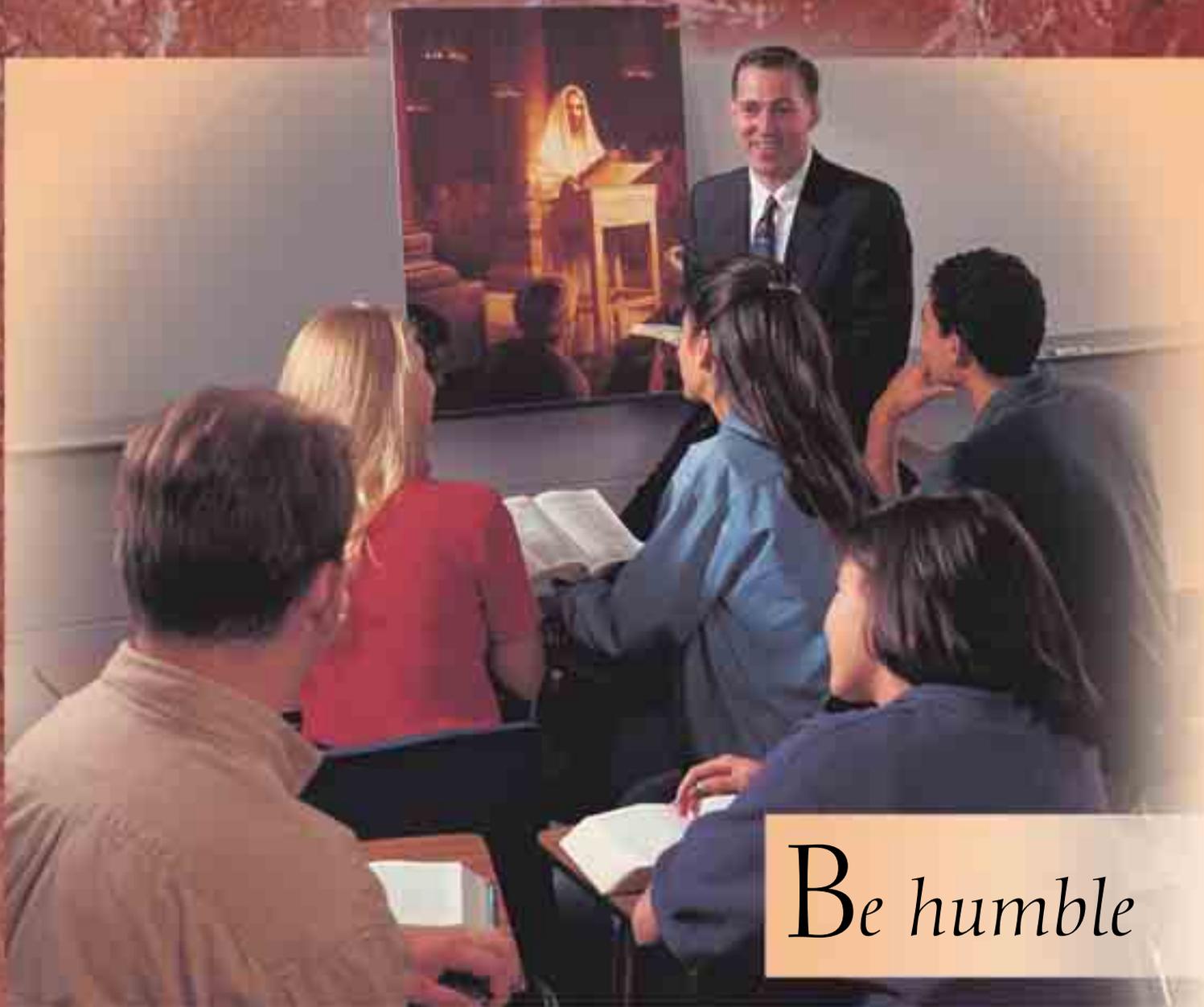
*Daniela Brocca, age 16,
Jardim da Saúde Ward,
São Paulo Brazil Parque Bristol Stake*

BE TRUE

“You who are members of this Church must have a loyalty to it. This is your church. . . . You have embraced its gospel. You have taken upon yourselves a covenant in the waters of baptism. This you have renewed each time you have partaken of the sacrament. . . . Walk in faith before [God] with your heads high, proud of your membership in this

Be true





Be humble

great cause and kingdom which He has restored to the earth.”—President Gordon B. Hinckley

The world today is dangerous and filled with temptations. After reading President Hinckley’s talk, I felt more strongly than ever that I must obey the teachings of the Church. The B that is especially important for me right now is “Be true.”

When school started this year, I made some new friends. One day I had the opportunity to talk about the

gospel. I remembered the video I saw at church about the six B’s. While watching that video I was filled with a spirit of peace that assured me, “You can talk about the Church with confidence.” When the opportunity came, I was able to do so. I am thankful for that chance.

Reading the talk in the *Liahona* (Japanese) later, I noticed the well-known phrase “To thine own self be true.” When some sort of big decision needs to be made, these words lead me to the correct path.

The other B’s are also important, but most of all I want to be true to myself.

*Sakura Kajihara, age 15,
Izumi Ward,
Sendai Japan Stake*

BE HUMBLE

“I believe the meek and the humble are those who are teachable. They are willing to learn. They are willing to listen to the whisperings of the still, small voice for guidance in their lives. They place the wisdom of the Lord

above their own wisdom.”—President Gordon B. Hinckley

In my daily life there are many temptations surrounding me, and whenever they become unbearable I silently sing a hymn in my mind or sincerely pray to Heavenly Father for help. When I do this, those bad thoughts and ideas leave me. I know that Heavenly Father loves me. As long as I am humble, He will listen to my prayers and help me overcome difficulties.

When I have a measure of success, it can be hard for me to avoid some arrogance—believing that the success came by my own effort. But whenever I think like this, I find I am unable to do anything well. Only afterward do I realize that any success I have comes not because of my merit but because God is helping me. I have learned from these experiences and from President Hinckley’s reminder that we must be humble.

*Hsu Wei-You, age 16,
Tao Yuan Second Ward,
Tao Yuan Taiwan Stake*

BE PRAYERFUL

“So live that in good conscience you can speak with the Lord. . . . The miracle of it all is that He hears. He responds. He answers—not always as we might wish He would answer, but there is no question in my mind that He answers.”
—President Gordon B. Hinckley

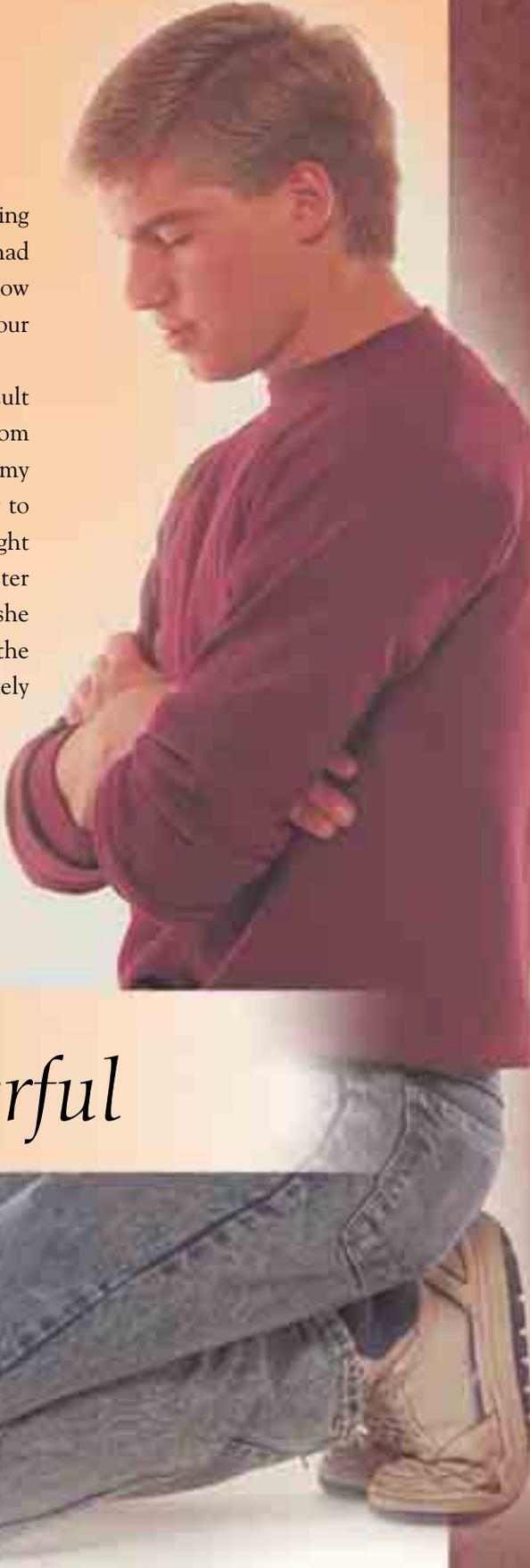
I have found that when I get on my knees and pray, I am comforted and I

feel Heavenly Father’s overwhelming love for me. An experience I had recently with prayer helped me know with a surety that He answers our prayers.

I had been having a very difficult day, and when I got home from school I immediately went to my knees and asked Heavenly Father to help me know that I was loved. Right after I said, “Amen,” my older sister came into my room and told me she loved me. I was overcome with the Spirit, and this experience definitely added to my testimony of prayer.

I pray every day—and try to keep a prayer in my heart. □

*Shannon Watson, age 17,
Highland 20th Ward,
Highland Utah East Stake*



Be prayerful

My Terrible, HORRIBLE Day

Stress, doubt, and more stress.

How was I going to deal with it all?

By Brenda Williams

I sat on the edge of my bed, balancing my thick biology book as I attempted to study for the next day's test. As I slowly turned the pages of the complicated chapter on cellular respiration, my jaw tightened as I tried to concentrate. But it was useless.

My eyes filled with tears. I had failed miserably that evening trying out for the play. It had been my first attempt at high school theater. Although untrained in the arts of dancing, acting, and singing, I had undertaken the challenging musical tryouts at the urging of my friends. I hadn't done well. My dancing and my singing audition seemed about average. But tonight had been the final test, the portion I had counted on for success—a memorized humorous monologue, performed before the critical eyes of the director and audition board. I had prepared for my monologue days in advance, writing and memorizing the script carefully until I was certain I could perform it even in my sleep. But when I reached the school, I couldn't think clearly. I was not only nervous but also tired and worried about my two difficult tests scheduled for the next day. I tried to remember my lines, those words I knew so well, but they slipped from me in fragments and spilled out shaky and uncertain.

Now back at home I felt a hot tear brush my lips, and I tried to muffle a sob. Nothing seemed to be going right

the past few weeks. One of my closest friends was acting cold and distant. My schedule was difficult and stressful. I was feeling nagging doubts about applying to college. And now, after the embarrassment of tonight's audition, I didn't know how I could study or even sleep. I shut my biology book and placed it on the floor, emotion overpowering me as I buried my head in my pillow.

Then I heard my door open and my mother's concerned voice. "Do you need a blessing?" she asked softly. I looked up, tempted to send her away. My puffy red face, streaked by tears, held the imprint of my pillow's seams. As I pulled myself into a sitting position and saw both my parents in the doorway, I knew that a priesthood blessing was what I needed most of all. I nodded wordlessly, sniffing a bit as I stood and followed my parents across the hall into their room.

I had a testimony of the priesthood before that night. I had heard of blessings given by pioneers. And I had heard of blessings given in modern times to fire victims, children in comas, and people who were not expected to survive. I had received my patriarchal blessing two years before and knew the unique truthfulness and love it contained.

But as my father placed his hands on



my head that evening, my testimony of the priesthood was strengthened. I could feel divine power in his phrases, in the gentle pressure of his hands. The blessing swept past my superficial wants into what I needed to hear most. And as my father concluded, my heart sang at the power in those words, those simple, healing words that I knew were not his. My father couldn't remember what he had said, but I could—and my dark tangle of stress and fears had loosened into a soft and gentle peace.

I smiled at my mother, grateful for her inspired suggestion. As I turned around and hugged my father, I could feel in the warmth of his arms an echo of the love of my Heavenly Father and His Son, both watching and caring for me more than anyone else ever could.

I felt so grateful for that modest blessing, those quiet, powerful, and comforting words.

That night I slept deeply for the first time in weeks, unworried and sure of my future as a beloved daughter of God. □

Brenda Williams is a member of the BYU 47th Ward, Brigham Young University 12th Stake.



“Turn Everything Over to Him”

“Each of us is going to experience pain in one form or another. . . . Pain may come from feeling lonely or depressed. It often comes as a result of our disobedience to the commandments of God, but it also comes to those who are doing all they can to keep their lives in line with the example of the Savior. . . .

“Elder Orson F. Whitney wrote: ‘No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God, . . . and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we came here to acquire’ (quoted in *Improvement Era*, Mar. 1966, 211). . . .

“The Lord is the ultimate caregiver. We must surrender ourselves to the Lord. In doing so, we give up whatever is causing our pain and turn everything over to Him. ‘Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee’ (Ps. 55:22). ‘And then may God grant unto you that your burdens may be light, through the joy of his Son’ (Alma 33:23).” —Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (“Healing Soul and Body,” *Liahona*, January 1999, 18–19) □

LOVING LIFELONG LEARNING

Read the following with the sisters you visit, and discuss the questions, the scriptures, and the teachings from our Church leaders. Share your experiences and testimony, and invite those you teach to do the same.

President Gordon B. Hinckley: “You belong to a church which espouses education. . . . There is an essence of the divine in the improvement of the mind. ‘The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth.’ (D&C 93:36.) ‘Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection.’ (D&C 130:18.) . . . Education is an investment that never ceases to pay dividends of one kind or another” (“Rise to the Stature of the Divine within You,” *Ensign*, November 1989, 96).

D&C 88:118: “As all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek

learning, even by study and also by faith.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “We seek learning by studying the accumulated wisdom of various disciplines and by using the powers of reasoning placed in us by our Creator. We should also seek learning by faith in God, the giver of revelation. . . . Seekers who have paid the price in perspiration have been magnified by inspiration. The acquisition of knowledge by revelation is an extra bonus to seekers in the sciences and the arts, but it is the fundamental method for those who seek to know God and the doctrines of his gospel. In this area of knowledge, scholarship and reason are insufficient” (“Alternate Voices,” *Ensign*, May 1989, 29).

D&C 88:77–79: “I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in . . . all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand; of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at

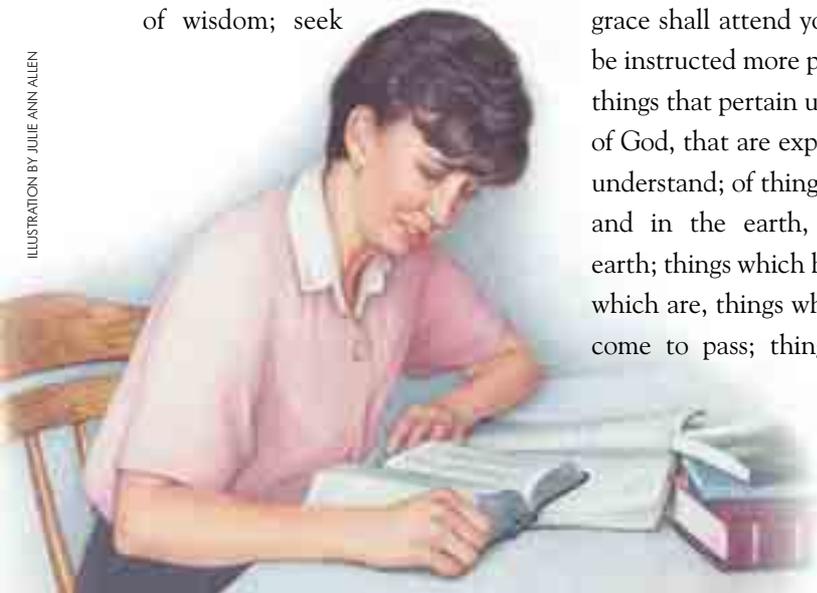
home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms.”

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985): “We must be trained to clarify minds, heal broken hearts, and create homes . . . in which mental and spiritual health may be nurtured. . . . Our schooling must not only teach us how to bridge the Niagara River gorge, or the Golden Gate, but must teach us how to bridge the deep gaps of misunderstanding and hate and discord in the world” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, edited by Edward L. Kimball [1982], 391).

President Brigham Young (1801–77): “I shall not cease learning while I live, nor when I arrive in the spirit-world; but shall there learn with greater facility; and when I again receive my body, I shall learn a thousand times more in a thousand times less time; and then I do not mean to cease learning” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* [1997], 195).

■ *How can an understanding of “line upon line” (D&C 98:12) guide our efforts as lifelong learners?*

■ *As we become lifelong learners, how can we encourage our families and all who fall within our sphere of influence to become the same?* □

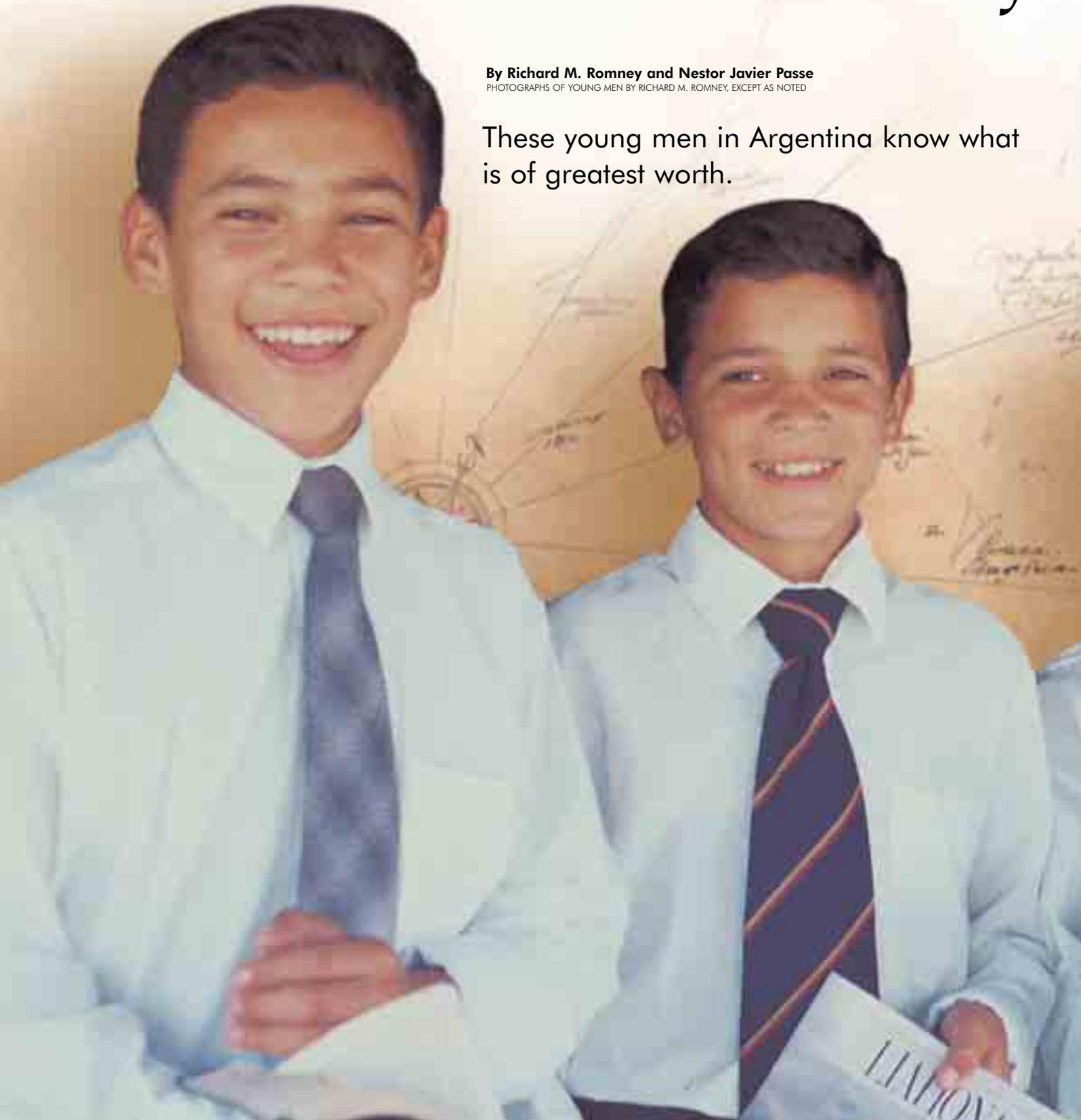




The Treasure of

By **Richard M. Romney and Nestor Javier Passe**
PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUNG MEN BY RICHARD M. ROMNEY, EXCEPT AS NOTED

These young men in Argentina know what is of greatest worth.



El Dorado

"If ye seek the riches which it is the will of the Father to give unto you, ye shall be the richest of all people, for ye shall have the riches of eternity" (D&C 38:39).

In legend, El Dorado was a place of great treasure, with cities of gold. It was so sought after that a man named Coronado spent his life searching for but never finding it. Others have fought and died over treasure too, giving their lives in pursuit of riches.

But others, including four young Latter-day Saints in Buenos Aires,

Argentina, know about treasure of another kind. It is not treasure of this earth but of eternity. It is the treasure of the restored gospel, a treasure that was literally brought to their doorsteps.

One afternoon in April 1999, in a Buenos Aires suburb known as El Dorado, two young men wearing



When Matías and Elías Vallejos first heard the missionaries speak about a restoration of the true Church, it seemed strange to them. But as they studied and prayed about the Book of Mormon, they realized they had been offered a great treasure.

white shirts and ties knocked at the door of the Vallejos family. The young men introduced themselves as missionaries spreading the word of God throughout the world. Their message, they said, included an invitation for all to find Jesus Christ and the true path that will lead us back to God the Father.

Such a message would be treasure indeed! The father of the family, Don Rubén Orlando Vallejos, felt he must hear what these young men had to say. He started meeting with them and discussing the gospel. Although his wife was not interested, his sons,

Matías, age 12, and Elías, age 11, would sometimes listen in.

At first the boys did not comprehend all this talk about a restoration of the true Church. But as time went by they became increasingly convinced of the value of what the missionaries were saying. They asked to be taught the discussions too.

“When we had our first official lesson with the missionaries,” Elías explains, “they told us to pray and ask if the Book of Mormon and the Church were true. That night I prayed, and when I woke up the next day, I had a desire to do all the things the missionaries asked us to do. I learned that when we say our prayers with a sincere heart, those prayers are always answered.”

An understanding of the power of prayer. The beginnings of a testimony of the truth. These were treasure indeed.

Matías also began to find treasure. “The scriptures and publications of



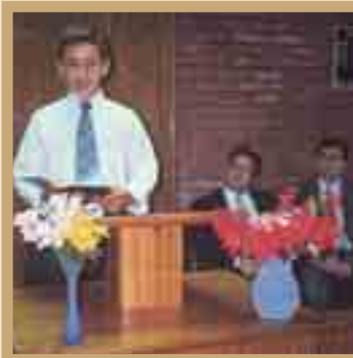
the Church helped me a lot,” he says. One particular scripture from the Book of Mormon made a deep impression on him: “O, remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God” (Alma 37:35).

The brothers started attending the meetings of El Dorado Ward, Florencio Varela Argentina Stake. On 29 September 1999, with their parents’ permission, Matías and Elías were baptized.

They continued to learn just how spiritually rich they could become. Two weeks after his baptism, for example, Matías received the Aaronic Priesthood and was ordained a deacon. “I immediately felt that I had received power from heaven,” he says. He also felt the influence of the Holy Ghost, a gift he had received when he was confirmed a member of the Church.

“I had been tempted into wearing an earring,” he says. “Then I received a booklet that told me how to dress for church and activities.

Discovery of one treasure led to another. Elías learned about the rich experience of prayer.



Matías discovered that a testimony of the truth grows more valuable when shared.

After I read that, I repented. My mother asked me if I was going to put the earring in again. I told her I didn’t feel right about wearing it anymore. That was it. I felt strength in being able to overcome temptation. I felt the Spirit whispering to me and telling me to do what was right.”

Power in the priesthood. Guidance from the Holy Ghost. Surely these were treasure too.

Matías and Elías were so impressed with the things they were learning that they wanted to share their newfound understanding. They began talking with some neighborhood friends, the Anríquez brothers. Juan Carlos was age 12, Esteban, age 11. Juan Carlos seemed particularly interested, and he soon began to listen to the missionary discussions and attend Church meetings. Several months later he was baptized, and shortly afterward he was ordained a deacon.

Matías and Juan Carlos continued to progress in the priesthood. At age 13, Matías was called as president of the deacons quorum. Elías turned 12 and became a deacon. A year later Matías turned 14, became a teacher, and was soon called as president of the teachers quorum. Juan Carlos also turned 14 and was ordained a teacher.



Esteban found that priesthood power increases as it is used to bless and serve as the Savior would.

And Juan Carlos (right) found a never-ending source of inspirational gems by studying the scriptures.



Then something wonderful happened. Don Rubén Orlando Vallejos, the father of Matías and Elías, was finally baptized. Brother Vallejos is a butcher by profession, and his work schedule made it difficult for him to attend church. But watching his sons progress and serve others had inspired him. There was a great celebration on his baptism day, with *asado* (grilled beef) to top it off! Even more impressive, however, were the spiritual feelings of those who attended.

Matías and Elías asked their friend Esteban what he thought about the baptism. “I answered that I had felt something special and I liked it very much,” Esteban recalls. They asked if he would like to listen to the discussions. “I said that I would. ‘In fact,’ I said, ‘I’d like to be baptized.’” A few weeks later, having been taught the gospel,

Esteban was baptized. And soon he was ordained a deacon.

Service in the priesthood, a treasure of fellowship. The thrill of seeing others accept the gospel, a treasure of joy. Such riches are beyond measure, for they are treasure of eternal wealth.

Visit the Aaronic Priesthood of El Dorado Ward today, and you will see the Vallejos and Anríquez brothers in action. Elías is deacons quorum president, with Esteban as a counselor. Matías is teachers quorum president, with Juan Carlos as a counselor. They spend time each week visiting quorum members who do not attend church. They have succeeded in bringing back several

young men who might otherwise have fallen away. Matías and Juan Carlos are old enough now to attend early-morning seminary. On Sundays all four of these friends participate together in preparing and passing the sacrament. And the Vallejos brothers will tell you that their father has shared his testimony with some of his customers, and several of them are currently taking the discussions.

The boys’ own testimonies have grown as they have shared them

with others. Matías talks about one of his recent testimony-building experiences: “A little while ago, on Saturday before I went to bed, I was praying and asking that more people would come to church. That Sunday there were a lot of people there. I felt good about it. Things like that strengthen my testimony. Reading in the Doctrine and Covenants about Joseph Smith strengthens my testimony. I want to pray like he did—he was my age!”

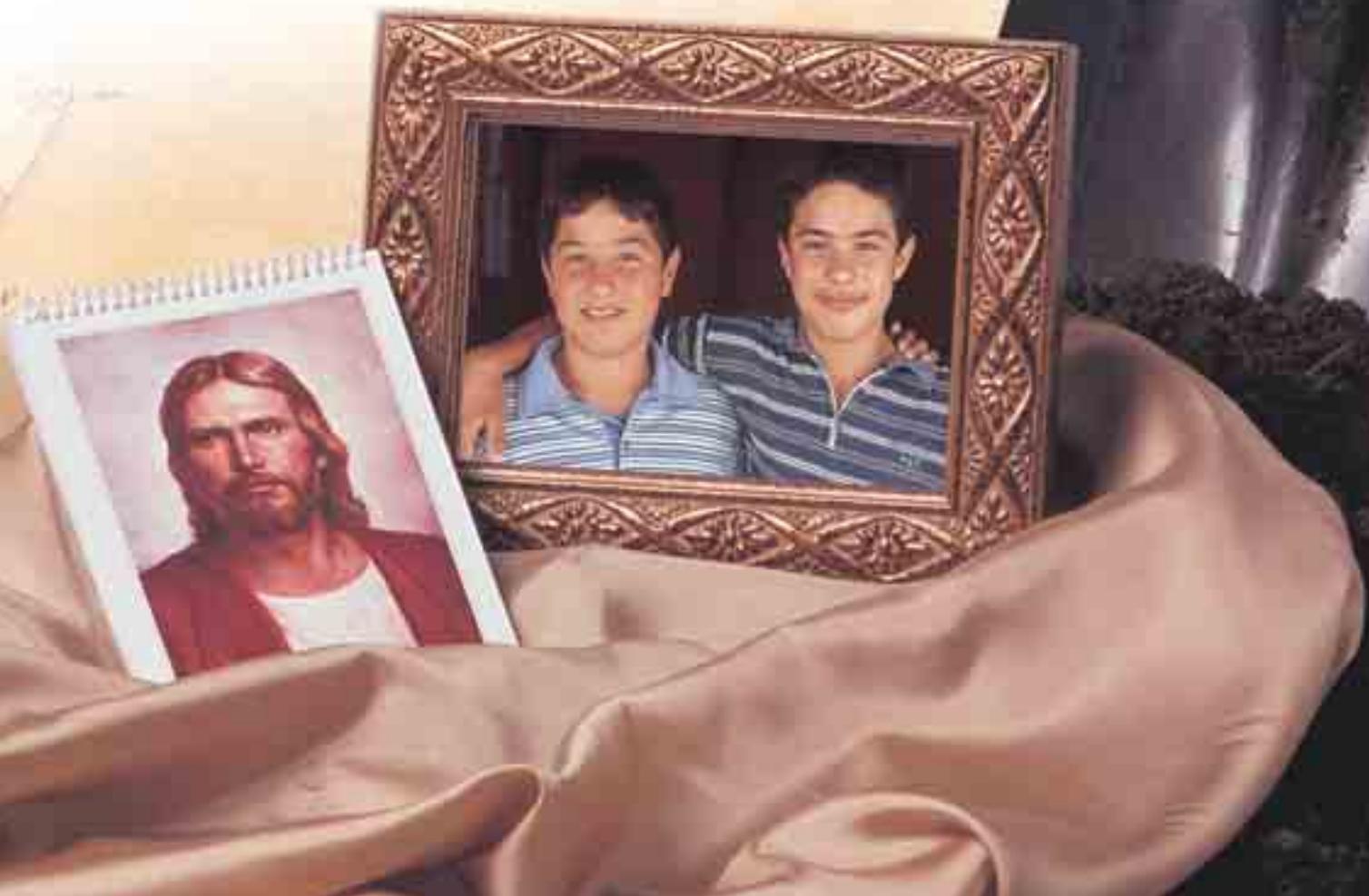
Elías also knows the power of prayer: “I know from my prayers that the Book of Mormon is true. I know

from my prayers that the Church is true. I know that I will continue progressing toward the goals I have for myself. I’ll continue progressing until I leave on my mission.” And then he will progress even more.

Juan Carlos is thankful for the progress he has made so far. “I am grateful to Matías and Elías for talking to my brother and me about the Church,” he says. Esteban agrees. “They helped us find the greatest treasure of all,” he declares. “They helped us find the truth.”

Testimony upon testimony. Eternal perspective. Riches of the heart and of the soul. Yes, one can find treasure in El Dorado. It is a pearl of great price, a spiritual treasure of infinite worth. □

Today Juan Carlos and Esteban Anríquez are grateful to Matías and Elías for guiding them to the gospel. “They helped us find the greatest treasure of all,” Esteban says. “They helped us find the truth.”



LOVING AND SUSTAINING OTHERS

When we sustain a friend or a neighbor or a stranger in the street,” says Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “we give support, we share strength, we provide help. We hold each other up under the weight of present circumstance. We bear one another’s burdens under the heavy personal pressures of life.” This responsibility comes to us as members of the Lord’s Church because “as with all else in our experience, the Lord Jesus Christ is our exemplar and ideal



in this very important matter of providing sustenance” (see this issue, page 11). ♡ Because we receive such great love and sustenance from the Savior, we desire to follow His example and love and support others. It is this desire that moves young men and women to serve as missionaries and to testify of Him. This desire also motivates members to reach out in love to those who have strayed. The following stories illustrate how this desire changes lives—of those who give this sustaining love and those who receive it.

.....

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

By Francisca Cristina Villar Rey

During the winter of 1990, I was serving as a full-time missionary in Lérida, a city located in the Spain Barcelona Mission. My companion, Sister McKee, had become ill, and we had to stay in our apartment for several days. We were frustrated, especially because we finally had some investigators who were making progress and needed to be taught. We had others who weren’t progressing and needed to be encouraged. We prayed

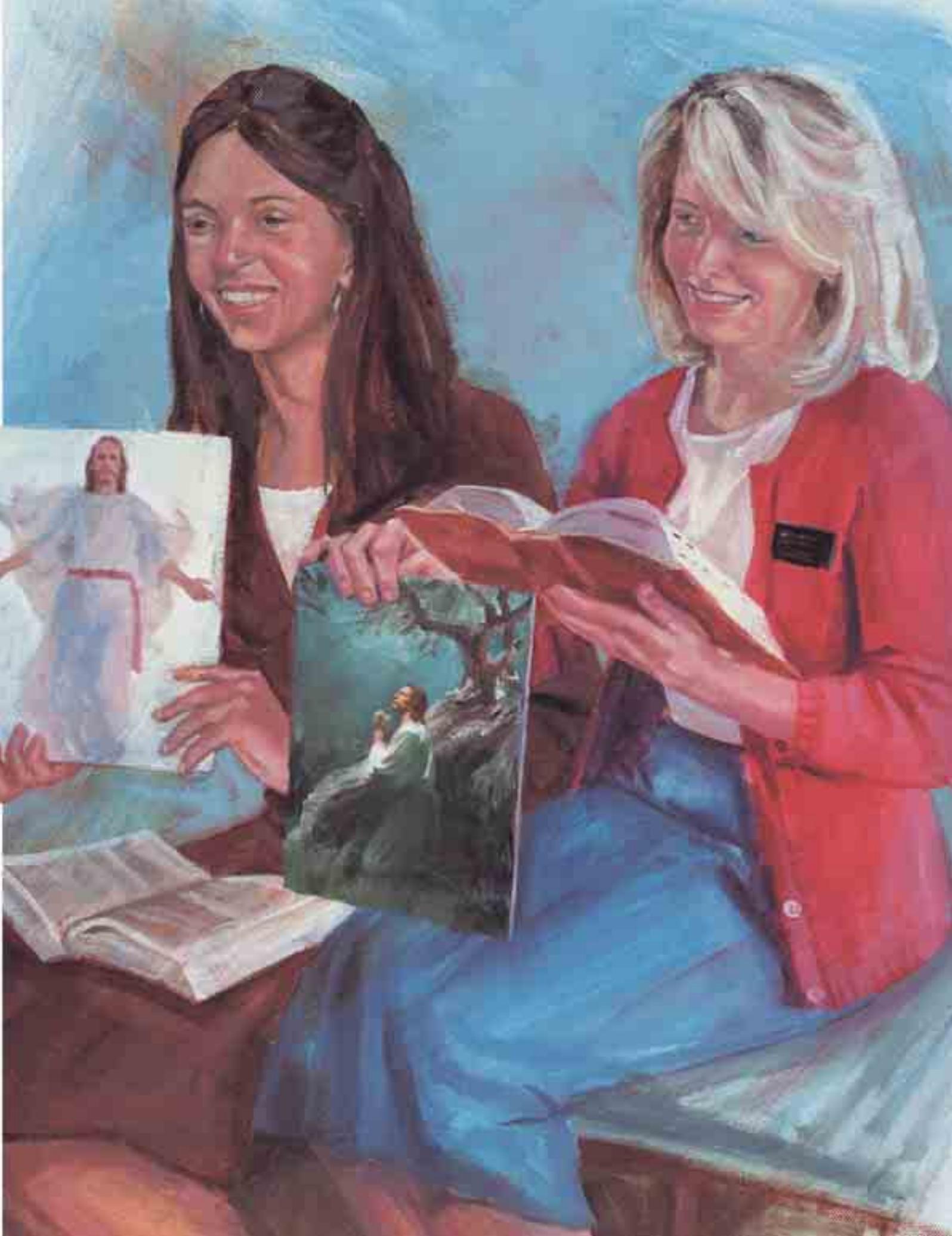
for ways to be useful during this difficult time.

One morning we were reading about the Savior, and we began to share our feelings about Him. Suddenly we knew how we could put our time to good use. We could create a presentation about the life and mission of Jesus Christ.

As we prayed for assistance, a feeling of peace came over us. We began to envision the illustrations

we needed and to hear the words that would accompany them. We felt prompted to look in specific places, and there we found phrases or paintings that were exactly what we needed. We remembered issues of the *Liahona* and the *Ensign* where

As we gave the presentation, Sister McKee and I could hardly read our parts because our emotion was so great.



certain pictures were printed. We asked the members and other missionaries to help us get pictures we didn't have. We had similar experiences locating music.

After working for several days, we finished the planning part of our work. We began practicing again and again to coordinate the music with the text, so that everything would fit together when we shared the presentation.

The name for our work became obvious. In the process of completing our project, we had come to understand aspects of the Savior's mission we had never been aware of. Each of us could now say with much greater conviction, "I know that my Redeemer lives." That phrase became the title.

As soon as Sister McKee was well, we started sharing the presentation with some of the people we were teaching as a supplement to the discussions. Our most spiritual experience was with the Aranda family. The Arandas wouldn't commit to baptism even though they were praying and reading and asking questions. We decided to make a final effort. We would share our presentation about the Savior with them.

So began one of the most unforgettable experiences of my mission. As we gave the presentation, Sister McKee and I could hardly read our parts because our emotion was so

great. When it was over, no one dared to break the silence and interrupt the peace that had filled the room. Brother Aranda had his head down. When he finally spoke, his eyes were filled with tears. "I don't know what it is that I am feeling here"—he pointed to his chest—"but it is so strong, so wonderful, that I can't express it."

When we returned a few days later, the Arandas had decided to be baptized.

Three weeks later I completed my mission and returned home to La Coruña, Spain. The greatest blessings I received from serving a mission were my increased knowledge of the Savior and my conviction that we can be useful in the Lord's service if we truly desire to do so.

Francisca Cristina Villar Rey is a member of the Madrid Fourth Ward, Madrid Spain East Stake.

"Why Are You So Different?"

By Juana Rivero de González

I was converted to the gospel when I was very young. Throughout my youth, I held different Church callings, and it is impossible to describe the joy I received from them. But one of the most remarkable experiences I had as a young person came the week before my mission.

I turned in my mission papers in January 1976. After some time, which seemed very long to me, I received a letter calling me to serve in the México Monterrey Mission.

Because my stake president was about to be released, he set me apart a week before I was to leave for my mission. He cautioned me about how I would need to live now that I had been set apart, but we agreed that I would continue at my job for one more week—as I had planned. I wanted to continue working as long as possible to earn more money for my mission and to help my family. As I left the stake president's home on the Sunday evening I was set apart, I felt a beautiful warmth fill my entire body.

The next morning I got up to go to work as usual. As I entered the office building where I worked, I greeted the elevator operator and told him which floor I wanted. The operator did not answer but just stared at me. Then the owners of my company got on the elevator, and we greeted each other. After the elevator doors closed, I noticed my bosses were staring at me too. They asked me what had happened. I answered that nothing had happened.

When I walked into the department where I worked, my coworkers stopped talking and looked at me. I still could not understand why.



When the owners of the company got on the elevator, they stared at me. They asked me what had happened.

Later that day my bosses called me into their office. They asked me to recommend someone responsible to take my place. Then they asked why I seemed so different. I told them about my religion and my mission. They congratulated me and refused to accept my resignation. They said they would instead allow me to take leave for a year and a half so I wouldn't lose my job benefits. And they asked me to return to work as soon as I finished my mission.

As I looked at my coworkers on my last day of work, I realized how much I loved them, even though their standards were very different from mine. María, who worked near me, asked, "What is happening to you? Why are you so different?" She said she could see a light in my countenance. "Why is that?" she asked.

Finally I began to understand the importance of missionary work from a new perspective. I had been called

as a servant of the Lord, and the influence of the Holy Ghost was shining through me.

I am grateful to our Heavenly Father for that week of preparation before my mission. I am also grateful for my coworkers. They strengthened my testimony of the gospel by letting me see the importance of my calling through their eyes.

Juana Rivero de González is a member of the Juárez Ward, México City México Arbolillo Stake.

A Leap of Faith

By Walfre Ricardo Garrido

I was only 15 when I first met the full-time missionaries—two nice young men with something unusual in their countenances. Although I didn't remember much of what they said during the first missionary discussion, I couldn't forget the good feeling I had when I talked with them.

I was president of my church's local youth group, and I was not interested in changing religions. In fact, when my older brother and sister decided to be baptized, I felt betrayed. Even though I did not approve of what they were doing, I went to their baptismal service to support them. It was hard for me to admit, but at the baptism I felt that good feeling again.

As time passed, I became better and better friends with the missionaries. Finally, I resigned from my position as my church's youth group president, but I still wasn't sure I wanted to be baptized.

Then one day one of the elders came to my home with a ward member. I said, "Elder, I would like to work with you sometime." He replied, "I'm sorry, but you must be a member of the Church before you can be a missionary."

Several days later I picked up the pamphlets the elders had left at my home. Reading them one by one, I looked up the Bible and Book of Mormon scriptures they referred to. Then, putting Moroni's promise to the test, I prayed to know if the Book of Mormon was true. The Spirit testified to me that it indeed was true, and six months after meeting the missionaries, I was baptized.

The first thing I did after my baptism was ask the missionaries if

I could work with them now. “You must wait until you receive the Aaronic Priesthood,” they replied. Two weeks later I did receive the priesthood. That same day, I went out with the elders. And as I walked along with them, I decided that someday I too would be a full-time missionary.

For the next several years, I enjoyed all the blessings Latter-day Saint youth have. I attended seminary and Young Men activities, blessed and passed the sacrament, and eventually received the Melchizedek Priesthood. Unfortunately, my mother opposed my Church activity, protesting that I spent too much time at church. When I turned 19 and began to fill out my mission papers, my mother asked me to stop. I decided to respect her wishes and to serve the Lord in whatever other ways I could.

For the next four years, I served as stake clerk, giving my might, mind, and strength to my duties. And I often worked with the full-time missionaries. I dreamed of someday becoming a full-time missionary.

In time, I was called to teach seminary. This opportunity, along with my stake calling, kept me busy enough to feel that at least I was serving the Lord—even though I was not on a mission.

Then one day my sister came to visit with her two beautiful little

daughters. It was one month before my 24th birthday. Time was running out, and I knew I needed to decide what I was going to do with my life. That day one of my nieces fell asleep in my arms. As I watched her sleep I realized that someday I would have children and they would ask me, “Daddy, why didn’t you go on a mission?” At that moment I made my decision.

My decision was not easy for my mother to accept. She and my father were separated, and I was the only child at home with her. Still, I knew that what I was doing was right, so I filled out my papers and sent them in. When my call to serve in the Honduras Comayagua Mission came, my mother was so upset she became ill. But in time, she began to accept my decision, and she even helped me prepare to leave.

On the day I left for the Missionary Training Center, I gave my mother a priesthood blessing. And as I served I began to understand the Lord’s promise: “I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say” (D&C 82:10). How great was my joy when the calling I had so long dreamed of holding was finally mine—that of full-time representative of the Lord and His Church. How great was my joy when one year into my mission I received word that my mother had accepted

the truth and had been baptized. How grateful I am that I took a leap of faith.

Walfre Ricardo Garrido is a member of the Atiquizaya Ward, Atiquizaya El Salvador Stake.

The Home Teachers Who Wouldn't Quit

By David Head

A year after my wife, Anthea, and I joined the Church in 1965, we were sealed with our two small daughters in the London England Temple.

At that time the Church in Britain had only one stake. Because there was a great need for priesthood leadership, I was soon called to serve as a branch president in a town 15 miles (25 kilometers) away from my home branch. I welcomed the challenge this new calling brought and eventually served in the district presidency and then in the bishopric when our branch became a ward.

As our family grew in the gospel, the sales management position I held became more and more demanding, often requiring me to be away from home two or three nights a week. I also had found some new friends not of our faith who caused me to start to have doubts about some aspects of Church doctrine.



Upon returning home, I found our home teachers had already assembled the shed.

I enjoyed discussions with these new intellectual friends. They tried to use the scriptures to prove that the Church was not following some basic concepts given as commandments since the time of Adam. I should have borne testimony of the restored gospel and turned away. Instead, I began to listen to them, and my little doubts about doctrine started to grow. Soon I stopped paying tithing and going to the temple. When I stopped attending church, my wife protested, as did our daughters when we ceased holding family home evening.

During this time, two people from the Church never gave up on me. Our home teachers invited me to church every Sunday, sometimes in person and other times by a phone call. They visited our home

at least once and sometimes twice each month. They even knew when we needed something. I especially remember the time I ordered a garden shed that was delivered unassembled during my absence. Upon returning home, I found our home teachers had already assembled the shed.

I particularly admired our senior home teacher, Des Gorman, an Irish Canadian. He was a genuine person who truly cared for people. To me he represented the Church, and I felt the Church must be a good organization, even if I wasn't attending.

Eventually we were blessed with a baby boy. Our home teachers reminded me that it is a priesthood practice to name and bless a baby at fast and testimony meeting. I did not want to participate, though I finally

agreed to allow our baby to be blessed by others.

Brother Gorman stood in my place and was the mouthpiece for a beautiful blessing on our son, Ronan. As I listened I received a powerful witness from the Spirit. I had been proud. I had made some big mistakes. I had nearly lost my testimony of the truthfulness of the restored gospel. I still had my family, but I had almost lost the sweet peace the gospel brings. Many tears flowed while my wife, Brother Gorman, and the bishopric supported me as I repented.

From that time on I have been active in the Church. Our home teachers have continued to support me. Our baby boy is now a returned missionary, married in the temple, and raising a family of his own. I feel his life is a tribute to the man who gave him a name and a blessing.

I shall ever be grateful to two dedicated home teachers who took their assignment seriously. Although Brother Gorman has been deceased for some years, I know I won't forget him or his patient consistency in inviting me back. He never gave up.

Today I seek to emulate his quiet and loving persistence in my own home teaching and other Church callings. □

David Head is a member of the Worcester Ward, Cheltenham England Stake.

Putting the Student into Action

How to Increase Participation in Lessons

When class members get involved, effective teaching can happen.

A stake leader was teaching the elders quorum lesson in ward conference. He had obviously spent a good deal of time and effort in preparing, and he spoke with sincerity. But quorum members were inattentive; some even fidgeted restlessly. Why? After the closing prayer, as the teacher thought about his lesson, he realized that instead of involving his students, he had just given a very long talk.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles recently emphasized the need for Church members to improve their gospel teaching: “Now, at a time when our prophet is calling for more faith through hearing the word of God, we must revitalize and re-enthroned superior teaching in the

By **Jon D. Claybaugh**
and **Amber Barlow Dahl**

Church” (“A Teacher Come from God,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 25).

WHAT IS EFFECTIVE GOSPEL TEACHING?

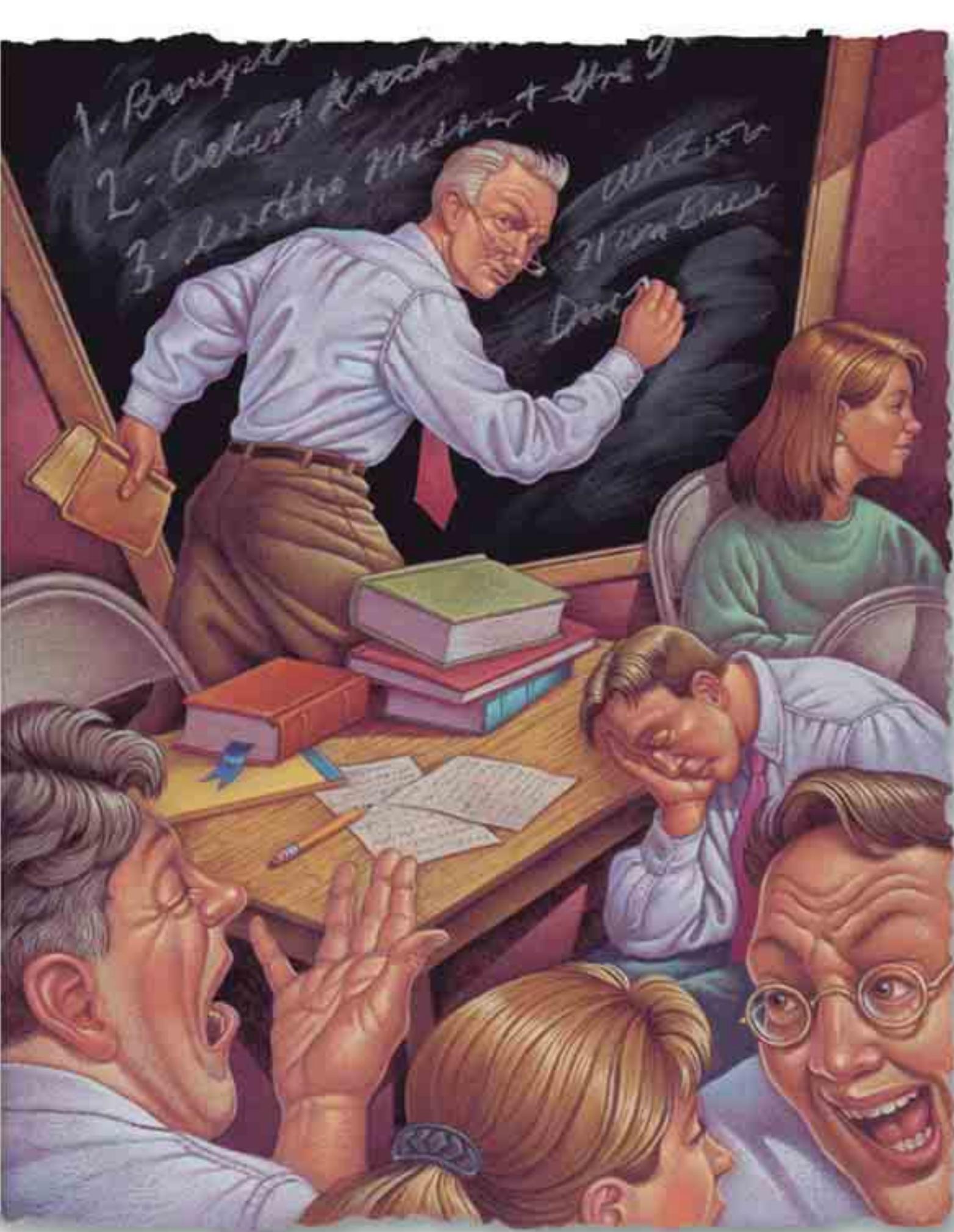
The role of a gospel teacher “is to help individuals take responsibility for learning the gospel—to awaken in them the desire to study, understand, and live the gospel and to show them how to do so” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 61).

“The learning has to be done by the pupil. Therefore it is the pupil who has to be put into action” (Asahel D. Woodruff, *Teaching the Gospel* [1962], 37). Successful teachers focus less on imparting what they know and focus more on helping class members

develop their own desires to seek knowledge and inspiration.

At home and in Church classrooms we are less effective when we try to “pour” knowledge and growth into others. In sacrament meetings, conferences, and other formal settings, speakers do not usually invite participation. But in classrooms, we can follow the model established by the Lord’s instructions for the School of the Prophets: “Appoint among yourselves a teacher, and let not all be spokesmen at once; but let one speak at a time and let all listen unto his sayings, *that when all have spoken that all may be edified of all, and that every man may have an equal privilege*” (D&C 88:122; emphasis added).

What then are some ways we can help students take an active part in gospel lessons?



The amount of material covered is less important than helping each class member feel the influence of the Spirit.

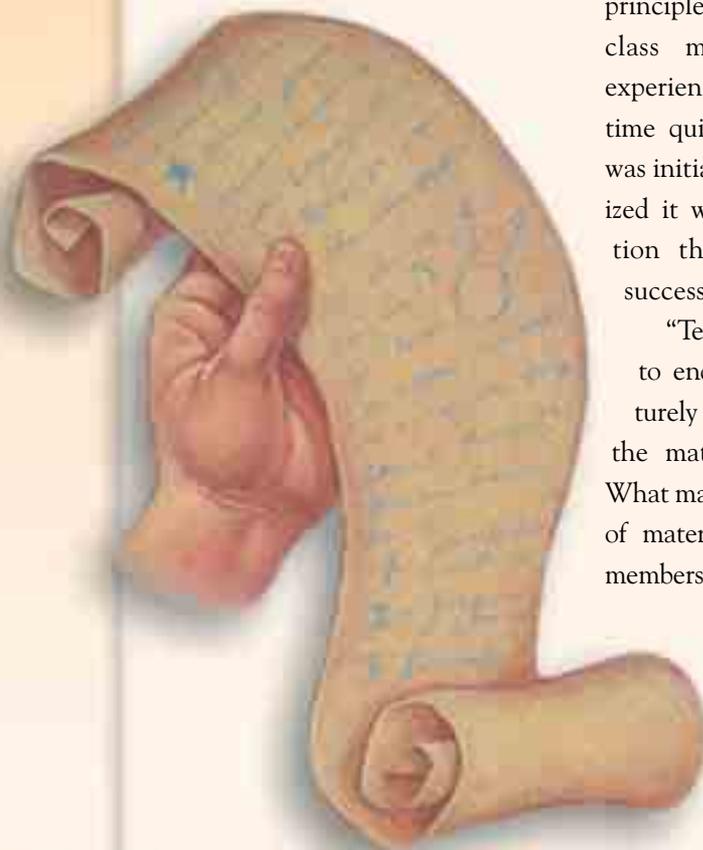
1. TALK LESS

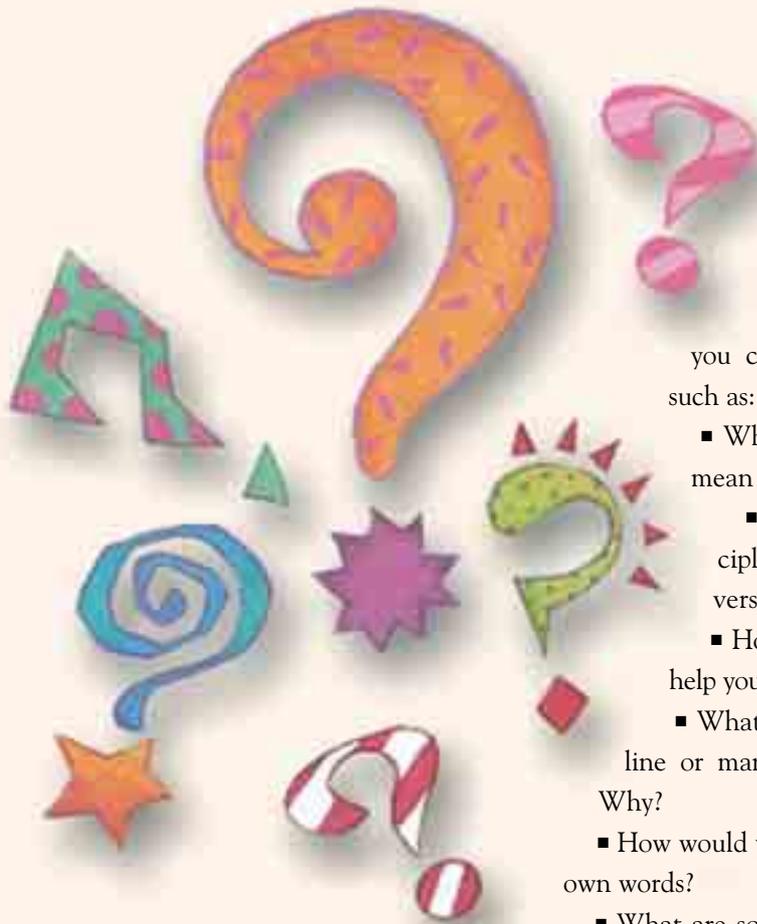
Teachers who speak for 90 percent of class time are probably talking too much. Of course, as the teacher you will need to give explanations, instructions, examples, stories, testimonies, and so forth, but speaking should be part of your plan for promoting participation. In an effective lesson, students might speak for 40 to 60 percent of the time. This approach will help you avoid being just a lecturer or the dispenser of information. Instead,

you can be a facilitator—helping students learn from the scriptures, from other students, and from the Spirit. Of course, you will need to introduce the lesson and help lay some groundwork and, at the end of class, clarify and summarize the doctrine taught. However, you will want to be careful not to take a great deal of time doing this.

One Sunday School teacher prepared a lesson on Doctrine and Covenants 135–37. However, in class the students became involved in a wonderful discussion about principles in section 135. As many class members shared insights, experiences, and testimonies, class time quickly ran out. The teacher was initially frustrated but then realized it was the students' participation that had made the lesson successful.

“Teachers should be careful not to end a good discussion prematurely in an attempt to cover all the material they have prepared. What matters most is not the amount of material covered but that class members feel the influence of the Spirit, increase their understanding of the gospel, learn to apply gospel principles in their lives, and strengthen their





commitment to live the gospel” (“Gospel Teaching and Leadership,” *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders* [1998], 304).

2. ASK EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

To begin the class, you might have a class member read a scripture passage or a quote from the lesson material. Then you might ask questions that elicit meaningful responses. Questions that require only a “yes” or “no” answer, questions that most class members know the answer to, and questions that require students to guess what you are thinking will usually not encourage participation and meaningful responses. Instead,

you could ask questions such as:

- What do these verses mean to you?
- What gospel principles do you see in verses . . . ?
- How does _____ help you understand . . . ?
- What would you underline or mark in these verses? Why?
- How would you say this in your own words?
- What are some conclusions we can draw from this?
- How can we apply this in our lives?
- What comments or feelings do you have about this?
- Would anyone like to share a testimony of or an experience with this principle?

Here are some examples of possible questions for teaching 1 Nephi 16:

- How did each member of Lehi’s family feel when Nephi broke his bow?
- Which verses indicate Nephi’s feelings?
- Would someone tell about a challenge or affliction that brought spiritual growth?
- Which verse in this chapter do you like best? Why?



PARTICIPATION LEADS TO GROWTH

The more class members read their scriptural reading assignments, the more they bring their scriptures to class, and the more they discuss what the gospel actually means in their lives, the more will be their inspiration, growth, and joy as they try to solve their personal concerns and challenges.”—Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (“Teaching by the Spirit,” *Ensign*, January 1989, 15) □

Effective gospel teachers are humble, willing to give up the spotlight and let class members have an important role.

Be sure to give students time to think about and respond to your questions or invitations to participate. You could let class members know that the silence does not need to be uncomfortable by saying something like, “We’ll take a few seconds to think about this, and when someone is ready to respond, please raise your hand.” If you are comfortable with the silence, the class members will be also. Teachers should not pressure class members to tell about personal experiences or feelings if they do not freely volunteer. Some experiences may be too sacred to share.

3. GIVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

“You can help those you teach feel more confident about their ability to participate in a discussion if you respond positively to every sincere comment” (*Teaching, No Greater Call*, 64). Teachers should not ridicule or criticize any questions, comments, feelings, experiences, or testimonies. They should show courtesy and love and do their best to encourage helpful participation. You can help your students feel that their contributions are valued and that their participation is important, even

if sometimes you must kindly clarify doctrinal misunderstandings. Keep in mind that students are taking social, emotional, and spiritual risks when sharing personal insights. They will hesitate to share again if they do not receive positive feedback.

Don’t be overly concerned if a student’s comment seems to be taking the lesson in a direction you did not intend. If a comment is not helpful to the progression of the lesson, you can simply respond positively to the comment, introduce a new topic, and ask again for participation. Some ways to respond to class members’ comments are:

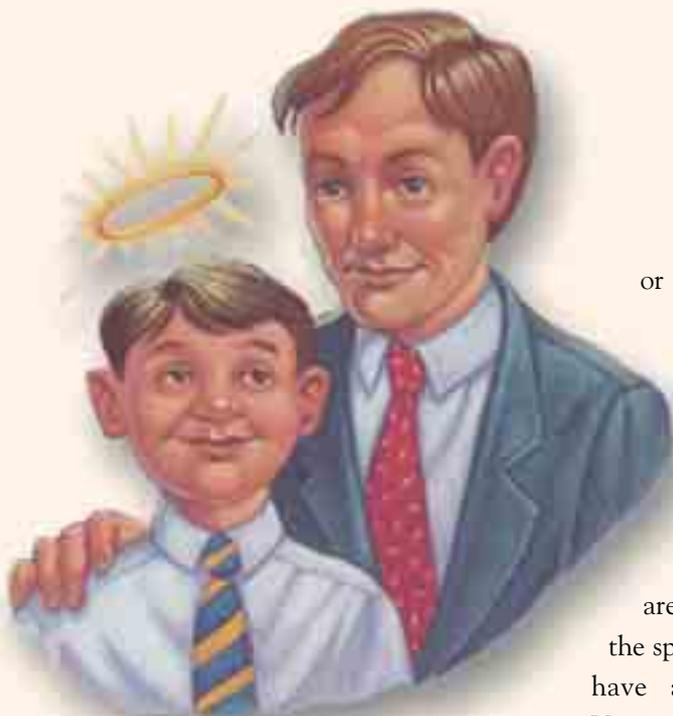
- Thank you for that comment.
- I like the way you put that!
- Thank you for sharing your feelings.

You can also encourage more participation by saying:

- That is a good question. Who would like to respond to it?
- That’s interesting. Please explain more about what you mean.
- How did you come to feel that way?

If a class member states something that is inappropriate or incorrect, you might want to say:

- Thank you. The principle I want you to think about is . . .



or make class members uncomfortable while attempting to involve everyone.

THE JOY OF GOSPEL TEACHING

Effective gospel teachers are humble, willing to give up the spotlight and let class members have an important role. Sister Virginia H. Pearce, who served as first counselor in the Young Women general presidency, said: “The skilled teacher does not want students who leave the class talking about how magnificent and unusual the teacher is. This teacher wants students who leave talking about how magnificent the gospel is!” (“The Ordinary Classroom—a Powerful Place for Steady and Continued Growth,” *Ensign*, November 1996, 12).

The gospel of Jesus Christ truly is magnificent, and we can strive to let that magnificence shine through as we use the knowledge, feelings, ideas, experiences, and testimonies of all class members. Through effective gospel teaching “all may be edified of all.” □

Jon D. Claybaugh is president of the Costa Rica San José Mission. Amber Barlow Dahl is a member of the Centennial Ward, Eagle Idaho Stake.



TEACH STUDENTS, NOT JUST LESSONS

A gospel teacher does not focus on himself or herself. One who understands that principle will not look upon his or her calling as ‘giving or presenting a lesson,’ because that definition views teaching from the standpoint of the teacher, not the student.”—Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (“Gospel Teaching,” *Liahona*, January 2000, 96) □

■ I’ve heard that too, yet my understanding is . . .

You may have one or two class members who seem always willing to answer questions or make comments. Be grateful for their willingness to participate. But President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95) counseled: “Do not fall into the trap that some of us fall into by calling on the ones who are always so bright and eager and ready with the right answer. Look and probe for those who are hanging back, who are shy and retiring and perhaps troubled in spirit” (*Eternal Investments* [address to Church Educational System instructors, 10 February 1989], 4). Teachers should not, however, pressure or force participation from students who, for whatever reason, prefer not to respond. And teachers should not embarrass



LATTER-DAY PROPHETS SPEAK ABOUT GOSPEL TEACHING



**DAVID O. MCKAY (1873–1970),
NINTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“That leader or teacher fails in the work assigned if the leader or teacher directs the love of the member only to the personality of the leader or teacher.

It is the leader’s duty, or the teacher’s duty, to teach the member to love—not the leader or teacher, but the truth of the gospel. Always, everywhere, we find Christ losing himself for his Father’s will; and so also should our leaders and teachers, so far as their personalities are concerned, lose themselves for the truth he desires to have them teach.

“When the people came to Jesus and asked for bread, or the truth, he never turned them away with a stone. He always had truth to give. He understood it. It radiated from his being. He understood how to use illustrations, the natural things around him, to impress that truth upon his hearers. In other words, he was filled with his subject and then was enabled to give that subject to his hearers. It is not always what you say, but what you *are*

that influences children, the young, or that influences your associates. ‘What you are,’ said [Ralph Waldo Emerson,] the alleged wisest of Americans, ‘thunders so loud in my ears I cannot hear what you say’” (in Conference Report, October 1968, 143–44).



**SPENCER W. KIMBALL (1895–1985),
TWELFTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“We were driving north on an Oklahoma highway and noted the afternoon sun going out of sight behind the clouds. The grayness got deeper and more ominous. We said, ‘It looks like a storm brewing.’ As darkness increased and the winds began to howl, we said, ‘This storm will be violent.’ As it broke with all its hellish fury, we said, ‘This rain and wind have become a raging whirlwind.’

“These are turbulent times. The newspapers give front page to ever-increasing acts of violence, and magazines devote pages to the growing menace. . . .

“Can it be arrested? Can we turn the tide and bring

back decency and order out of chaos? The answer is yes—a positive, stentorian yes. But the solution is not easy. . . .

“Home life, home teaching, parental guidance [are] the panacea for all the ailments, a cure for all diseases, a remedy for all problems. . . .

“Oh, my brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters of God, the members of Christ’s Church, the people of all religious affiliations, the people of all nations, let us take hold of this general panacea and heal our wounds and immunize our children against evil by the simple process of teaching and training them in the way of the Lord. Every father and mother in Zion, and every Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Mohammedan, and all other parents have the same responsibility: to teach their children to pray and walk uprightly before the Lord!” (in Conference Report, April 1965, 60–65).



**HOWARD W. HUNTER (1907–95),
FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“Let me take just a moment to mention a little incident that made an impression upon me when I was a boy. . . .

“It was on a summer day early in the morning. I was standing near the window. The curtains obstructed me from two little creatures out on the lawn. One was a large bird and the other a little bird, obviously just out of the nest. I saw the larger bird hop out on the lawn, then thump his feet and cock his



head. He drew a big fat worm out of the lawn and came hopping back. The little bird opened its bill wide, but the big bird swallowed the worm.

“Then I saw the big bird fly up into a tree. He pecked at the bark for a little while and came back with a big bug in his mouth. The little bird opened his beak wide, but the big bird swallowed the bug. There was squawking in protest.

“The big bird flew away, and I didn’t see it again, but I watched the little bird. After a while, the little bird hopped out on the lawn, thumped its feet, cocked its head, and pulled a big worm out of the lawn.

“God bless the good people who teach our children and our youth” (“A Teacher,” *Ensign*, July 1972, 85).



**GORDON B. HINCKLEY (1910–),
FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“To all who hold positions of leadership, to the vast corps of teachers and missionaries, to heads of families, I should like to make a plea: In all you do,

feed the spirit—nourish the soul. . . .

“I am satisfied that the world is starved for spiritual food. Amos prophesied of old: ‘Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:

“‘And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.

“‘In that day shall the fair virgins and the young men faint for thirst.’ (Amos 8:11–13.)

“There is hunger in the land, and a genuine thirst—a great hunger for the word of the Lord and an unsatisfied thirst for things of the spirit. Ours is the obligation and the opportunity to nourish the soul” (in Conference Report, October 1967, 89–90). □

Did You Know?



“WHATE’ER THOU ART, ACT WELL THY PART”

In 1898 David O. McKay (1873–1970), who later became the ninth President of the Church, was a homesick missionary in Scotland. He

had been in the city of Stirling only a few weeks and was discouraged. He and his companion spent one morning walking around Stirling Castle. On the way back into town they noticed an unfinished building. “Over the front door,” President McKay later explained, “was a stone arch, something unusual in a residence, and what was still more unusual, I could see from the sidewalk that there was an inscription chiseled in that arch.

“I said to my companion: ‘That’s unusual! I am going to see what the

inscription is.’ When I approached near enough, this message came to me, not only in stone, but as if it came from One in whose service we were engaged:

“‘Whate’er Thou Art, Act Well Thy Part” (in Conference Report, October 1956, 91).

The message the young elder received that morning was to act his part well as a missionary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was also a message President McKay lived and taught throughout a lifetime of service.



IT HAPPENED IN SEPTEMBER

Following are a few significant events that happened in Church history during the month of September.

21–22 September 1823: The angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith, teaching him of the existence of an ancient record from which Joseph would later translate the Book of Mormon.

22 September 1827: Joseph Smith received the gold plates from the angel Moroni at the Hill Cumorah near Joseph’s home in Palmyra, New York.

9 September 1850: The United States Congress created the Territory of Utah. On 20 September Brigham Young was appointed governor of the territory.

2 September 1898: President Wilford Woodruff died at age 91 in San Francisco, California, and on 13 September of the same year Lorenzo Snow became the fifth President of the Church.

LEADERSHIP TIP

Sometimes people called to leadership positions are unsure of their own abilities. They may compare themselves to others—even to those they have been called to serve—and find themselves wanting.

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles reminds us that we don’t have to compare ourselves with anyone else. The Lord asks us simply to do what we can do. “The only thing you need to worry about,” Elder Wirthlin says, “is striving to be the best you can be. And how do you do that? You keep your eye on the goals that matter most in life, and you move towards them step by step” (“One Step after Another,” *Liahona*, January 2002, 29). □



Using the September 2002 *Liahona*

DISCUSSION IDEAS

■ “Patience, a Heavenly Virtue,” page 2: President Thomas S. Monson tells of the Saints in the German Democratic Republic who patiently endured. Has the Lord given you promises, perhaps in your patriarchal blessing, that you are waiting to see fulfilled? How can you develop patience and faith like the Saints in Germany?

■ “He Loved Them unto the End,” page 10: Elder Jeffrey R. Holland explains that one thing will never fail us: the pure love of Christ. How can you draw on this unfailing source of spiritual sustenance and support?

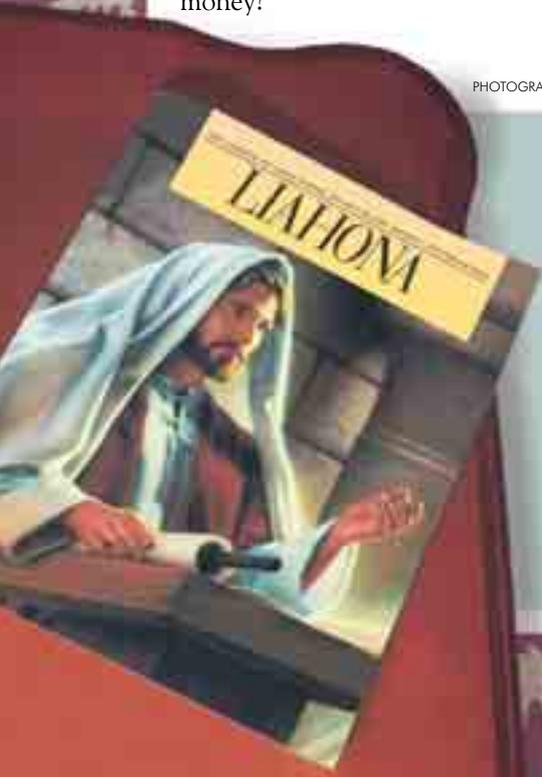
■ “My Friend and Fellow Servant: The Example of Luan Felix da Silva,” page 14: Are we often so tied up in our own troubles that we fail to reach out to those who need us? How can you be more like Luan Felix da Silva in concentrating on the needs of others?

■ “Opening the Windows of Heaven,” page F2: President James E. Faust’s grandfather gave the best of his farm’s produce as tithing. How can we exhibit that same spirit today, even though we pay tithing with money?

PHOTOGRAPH BY KELLY LARSEN

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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. Send your ideas, stories, and accounts to Family Home Evening Experiences, *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 ■ SEPTEMBER 2002



Opening the Windows of Heaven

*Tithing is a principle
of sacrifice and a key
to opening the windows
of heaven.*



By President James E. Faust

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

As a boy, I learned a great lesson of faith and sacrifice as I worked on my grandfather's farm during the terrible economic depression of the 1930s.

The taxes on the farm were unpaid, and Grandfather, like so many, had no money. There was a drought in the land, and some cows and horses were dying for lack of grass and hay.

One day when we were harvesting what little hay there was in the field, Grandfather told us to take the wagon to the corner of the field where the best hay was, fill the wagon as full as we could, and take it to the tithing yard as payment of his tithing.

I wondered how Grandfather could use the hay to pay tithing when some of the cows that we were depending upon to sustain us might starve. I even questioned if the Lord expected that much sacrifice. Ultimately I marveled at his great faith that somehow the Lord would provide. The legacy of faith he passed on to his posterity was far greater than money, because he established in the minds of his children and

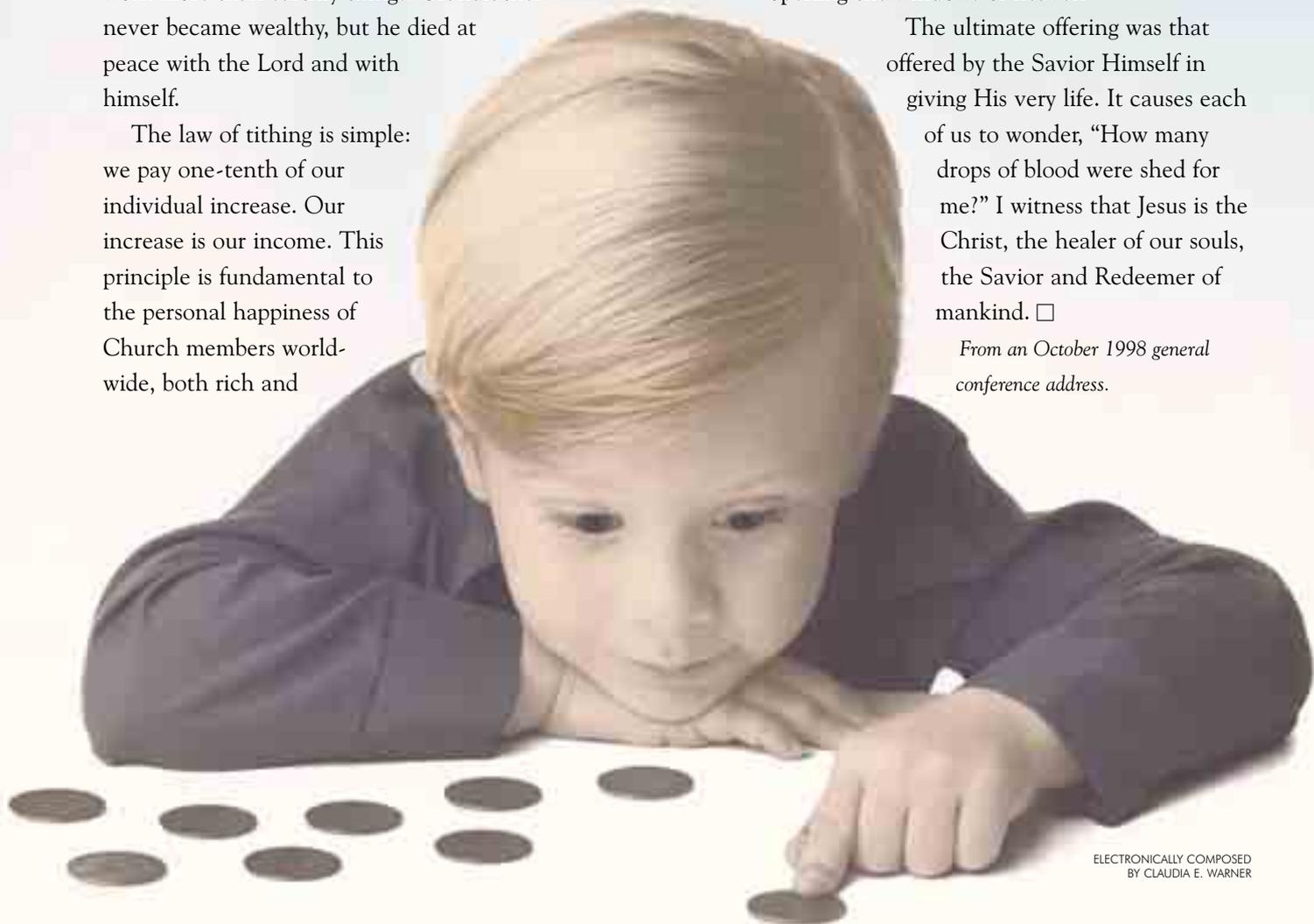
grandchildren that he loved the Lord and His holy work more than earthly things. Grandfather never became wealthy, but he died at peace with the Lord and with himself.

The law of tithing is simple: we pay one-tenth of our individual increase. Our increase is our income. This principle is fundamental to the personal happiness of Church members world-wide, both rich and

poor. Tithing is a principle of sacrifice and a key to opening the windows of heaven.

The ultimate offering was that offered by the Savior Himself in giving His very life. It causes each of us to wonder, "How many drops of blood were shed for me?" I witness that Jesus is the Christ, the healer of our souls, the Savior and Redeemer of mankind. □

From an October 1998 general conference address.



“The Field Is White Already to Harvest”

By Vicki F. Matsumori

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me” (John 14:21).



In some parts of the world, it is harvest-time now. Green vegetables, juicy fruits, and healthy grains are ripe and ready for harvesting. Farmers work hard so everything can be gathered and nothing is lost.

The Lord has said that “the field is white already to harvest” (D&C 4:4). His harvest is humble people who are ready to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Missionaries work hard to find and teach as many of these people as possible.

President Gordon B. Hinckley has asked us to help. He said: “I wish I could awaken in the heart of every man, woman, boy, and girl . . . the great consuming desire to share the gospel with others. If you do that, you live better, you try to make your lives more exemplary because you know that those you teach would not believe unless you back up what you say by the goodness of your lives” (regional conference, Anchorage, Alaska, 18 June 1995).

When you try to live a better life, you obey the prophet’s counsel. You also show that you love Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. You prepare to go to the temple and to serve a mission. You are exemplary, which means you are a wonderful example.

It is harvesttime. Like the farmer or the full-time missionary, you can see the fruits of your labor. What is your harvest? Others have noticed your good example and want to come to church. And Heavenly Father is pleased because you have shown your love by keeping His commandments. As you continue to keep the commandments, you will continue to have harvests.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Explain the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy by having the children role-play the gathering of manna (see Exodus 16:11–31). Then read D&C 59:9–15, and make a list of good things to do on the Sabbath. Discuss the list, and add other ideas such as read the scriptures and write to missionaries. Ask the children to listen for promised blessings as you read D&C 59:16–19. Sing a song or hymn about the Sabbath. To review, have the children sit in a circle and establish a rhythm by lightly tapping their hands on their laps two times, clapping their hands two times, then snapping their fingers two times. When they snap their fingers, have a child say something good to do on the Sabbath. Continue around the circle, allowing children to add to the list of good things to do.

2. Read Articles of Faith 1:5, and explain that bishops are called of God. Then read Titus 1:7–9, and have the children list the qualities of a bishop. Explain that we honor priesthood leaders by using their correct titles. Write the offices listed in Articles of Faith 1:6 on the chalkboard: apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists. Write the following titles on separate pieces of paper: Elder, President, Bishop, Brother, and Patriarch. Place the titles in random order on the chalkboard. Read Articles of Faith 1:6. As you get to each office, stop and have a child match the correct title to the office. Apostles are addressed as “Elder.” The prophet is called “President” because he is the President of the Church. A pastor is now called “Bishop.” “Teacher” refers to someone who holds that priesthood office; he is called “Brother.” The Prophet Joseph Smith explained that evangelists are our patriarchs. Write a letter to your bishop or branch president and thank him for his service. Have the children sign their names or draw pictures of themselves. □



Instructions

Can you find the bicycle, bucket, button, coveralls, hoe, journal, needle and thread, packet of seeds, piggy bank, rake, scriptures, watering can, temple recommend, and work boot hidden in this picture? As you find them, color with one color the objects a farmer would use. With a different color, color the objects you can use to prepare for a full-time mission.

ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT A. PETERSON

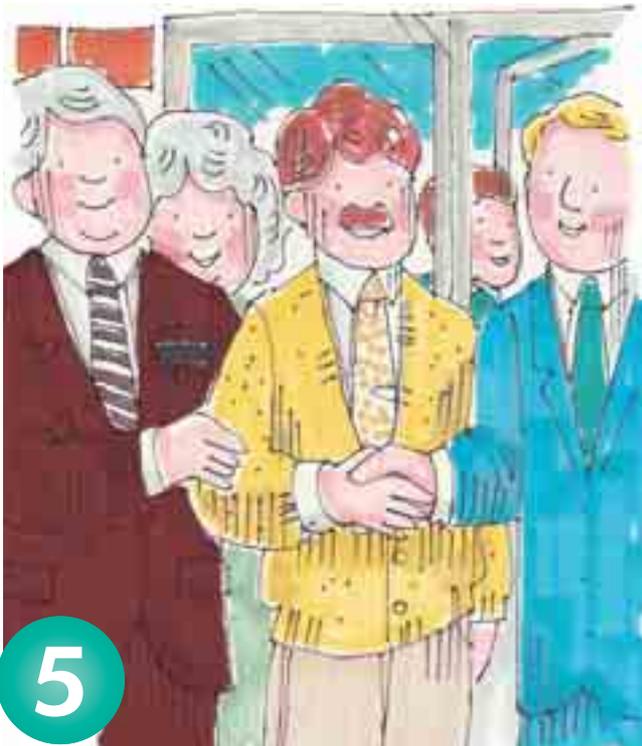
What Missionaries Do



1



2



5



6

A story for **you** to tell



Sandy's Missionary Chart

By Craig E. Moore
A true story

1.



I am a member of the Church because of a five-year-old member missionary.

When I was young, my mother was searching for a church to answer all her questions. We attended a different church each week, but none of them satisfied Mom. Finally she gave up.

My best friend at the time was Sandy Guthrie. We played together nearly every day. One Saturday evening she asked me if I would like to attend church with her the next day. I asked her which church she belonged to, thinking I had visited them all. She told me it was The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

It was a church I had not attended, and I agreed to go. Unfortunately, when I asked Mom, she said she had other plans that Sunday.

The next week Sandy invited me again, and once again I asked Mom. She had another excuse, and I wasn't allowed to go.

Being a good missionary, Sandy didn't give up. She suggested I get up on Sunday morning and get ready by myself before asking my mother if I could go. I thought it was a great idea. If Mom didn't have to make a special effort to help me get ready, she might be more willing to let me go.

On Sunday morning I put on my best clothes and woke up Mom. This time she flatly refused. She offered no excuse and left no room for bargaining. She simply

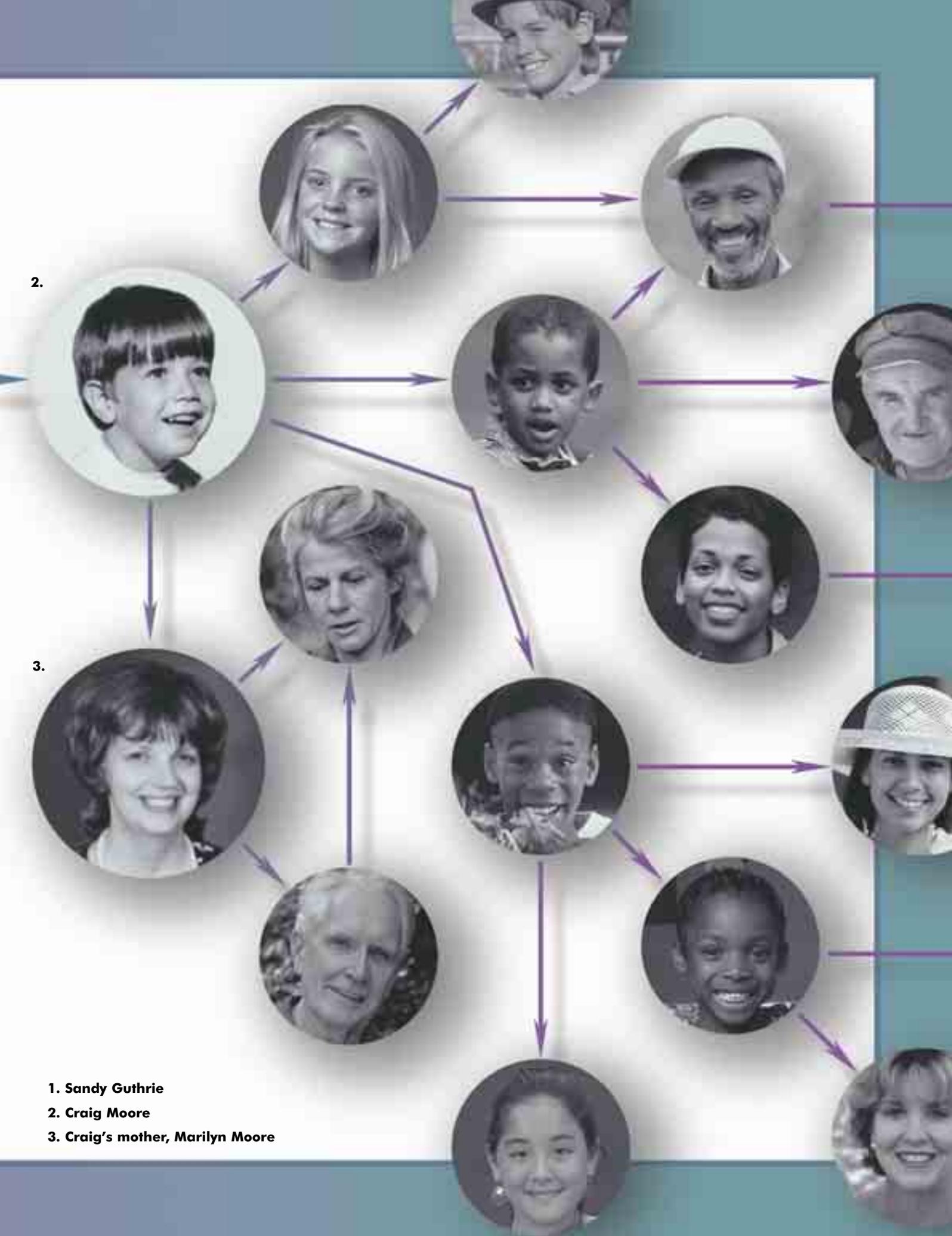
said no. So I did what most five-year-olds would do. I cried.

I suppose the tears and my desire and determination touched my mother, because she agreed to let me go on the condition that she go with me.

Mom and I attended church with Sandy and her family that morning. Mom felt the Spirit very strongly and knew immediately we had found the true Church. That evening the missionaries taught her the first discussion, and she agreed to be baptized.

More than 20 years have passed since then. When I tell my own two children this story, I draw a chart showing everyone who joined the Church because Sandy invited me to come with her. There are more than 100 people on the chart. Many of them, like me, not only accepted the gospel but also served full-time missions and helped bring others to the knowledge of the truth. The chart proves that one child's dedication to sharing the gospel can bless the lives of many people.

I don't know how many others Sandy invited to church or how large her complete chart might be. I do know that I am more grateful to her than I can say. I also know I can't repay her. But I can follow her example and share the gospel whenever and wherever possible—just in case I meet another family looking for the truth. □



2.

3.

1. Sandy Guthrie

2. Craig Moore

3. Craig's mother, Marilyn Moore

Elder Athos M. Amorim

Of the Seventy

From an interview by Jan Pinborough



Let me tell you how I got my unusual first name. My parents wanted their children to be unified, so they named us for the three main characters in a famous book, *The Three Musketeers*.

This is a book about the adventures of three friends whose motto was “One for all, all for one.” My older brother’s name is Aramis, my younger brother’s name is D’Artagnan, and my name is Athos. Each of us is very different from the others, yet we have always been very close.

When I was about 10, my older brother had a serious health problem. The blood in his hands was not circulating properly, and they hurt very badly. At that time, my family lived in a small town on the

border of Brazil and Argentina. The medical facilities there were not very good, so my mother and my brother traveled to the big city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to see the doctor. Because my father had to work during the day, my baby brother had to stay with another family. So every day I went to visit him. And every day I prayed for my older brother.

The doctors told my mother they needed to amputate (cut off) my brother’s hands. Mother refused. “No, I know the Lord will take care of my son,” she said. One night after my mother and brother had returned home, he was in great pain. I shared a room with him, and I remember him crying because his hands hurt so much. While he cried, Mother knelt by his bed, praying. The next morning, I saw him sleeping peacefully. Mother was also asleep, still kneeling at his bedside. We were not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but Mother had great faith. Eventually my brother’s hands did get better. He lost the tips of some of his fingers, but he did not have to have his hands amputated.

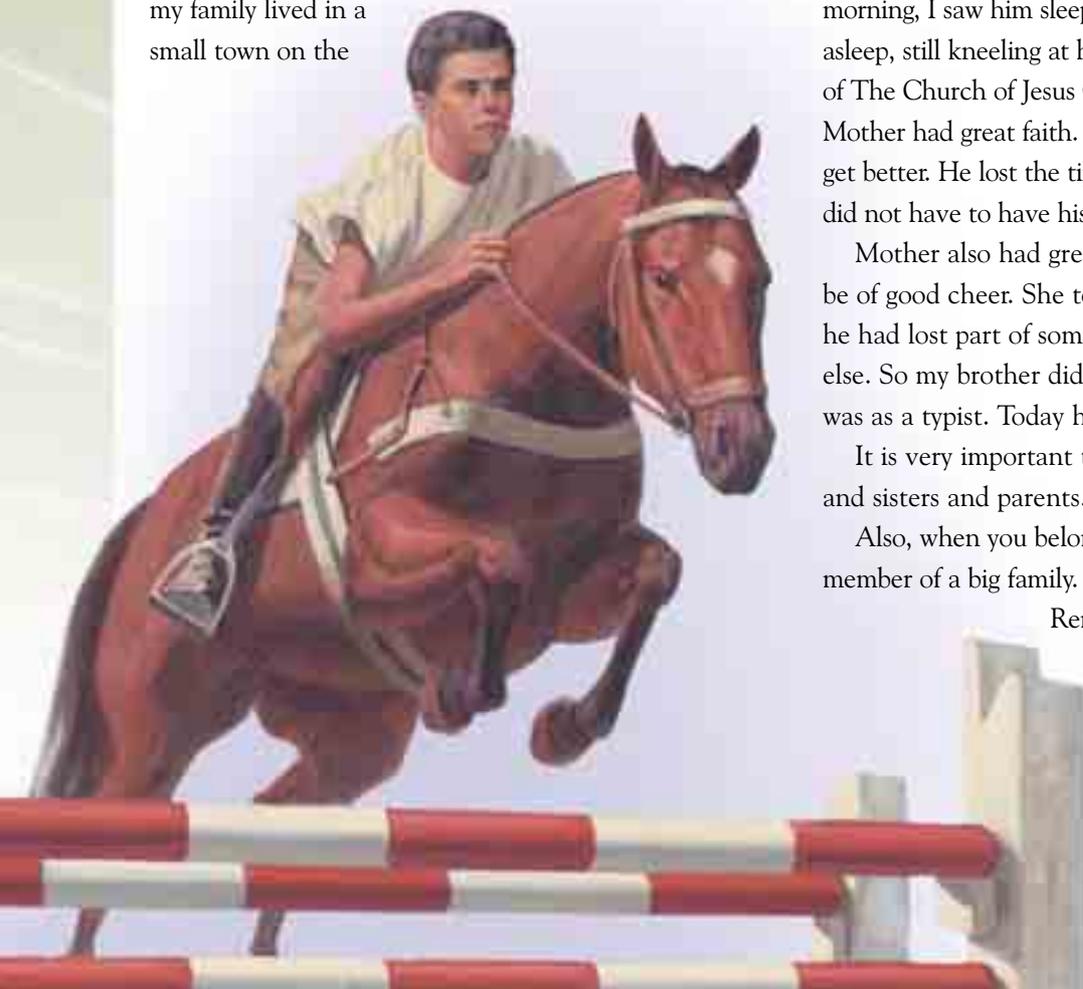
Mother also had great courage. And she taught us to be of good cheer. She told my brother that even though he had lost part of some fingers, he still had everything else. So my brother did not get discouraged. His first job was as a typist. Today he is an attorney.

It is very important to be unified with your brothers and sisters and parents.

Also, when you belong to the Church, you are a member of a big family. And we must be unified.

Remember the motto of the Three Musketeers: “One for all, all for one.”

It is also very important for you to obey your parents. I had an experience that





taught me the importance of obedience. I love horses, and I love to train them to jump. As a young man, I was invited to compete in the Pan-American Games, which are something like the Olympic Games for the countries of North, Central, and South America. For two years I worked very hard to train for this competition. Then one day not long before the games, I disobeyed my coach. I had just finished my training session, and he had told me it was time to stop. But I decided to make a few more jumps. As I did, I fell with my horse and was seriously injured. After all my hard work, I was not able to take part in the competition. We must all learn to be obedient to our trainers—our parents, our leaders, and our teachers. They know how to help us avoid dangers and problems.

Working with horses also taught me to be patient and never to give up. Progress comes a little at a time. Once I had a colt named Planchet. Someone said, “That horse is weak. He will never be worth anything.” But someone else told me if I would be patient and exercise my colt’s muscles, he would someday be a good horse. I fed Planchet and took care of him and loved him. For one whole year, I walked him to strengthen his muscles. I worked and worked with him. And, sure enough, this weak colt won the Brazilian championship in a three-day competition.

You may think you are weak now. But never give up. One day you can be strong. But you must be patient in doing simple things. Pray to the Lord. Study the scriptures a little bit each day. Love and obey your parents. Love and serve your family and friends.

One of the most important days of my life was the day I was baptized. I was 40 years old. The missionaries

had knocked on my family’s door in Brazil. Whenever I read in the Book of Mormon about the sons of Mosiah, who were such powerful missionaries, I think of Elder Hansen and Elder Furness. They were well groomed, so it was easy for us to invite them into our home. They were well educated and polite. They had beautiful smiles and a good spirit with them. I love those missionaries who taught me to know the Lord. After I was baptized, they placed their hands on my head to confirm me. I cried a lot because I had never had such a wonderful feeling. And I have had this same wonderful feeling ever since.

One of the most important times of my life was when my wife and I were serving in the São Paulo Brazil Temple. We could feel the presence of the Lord in His house. Whenever I saw families being sealed, I could feel how much the Lord loves His children. □

Above: With his family in Brazil.

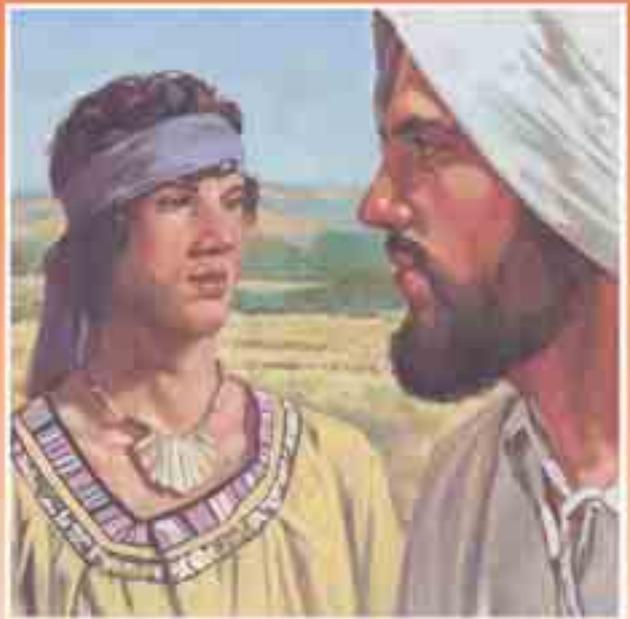
Left: At age three (left) with his brother

Aramis, age four. Right: With his wife,

Maria, as newlyweds.



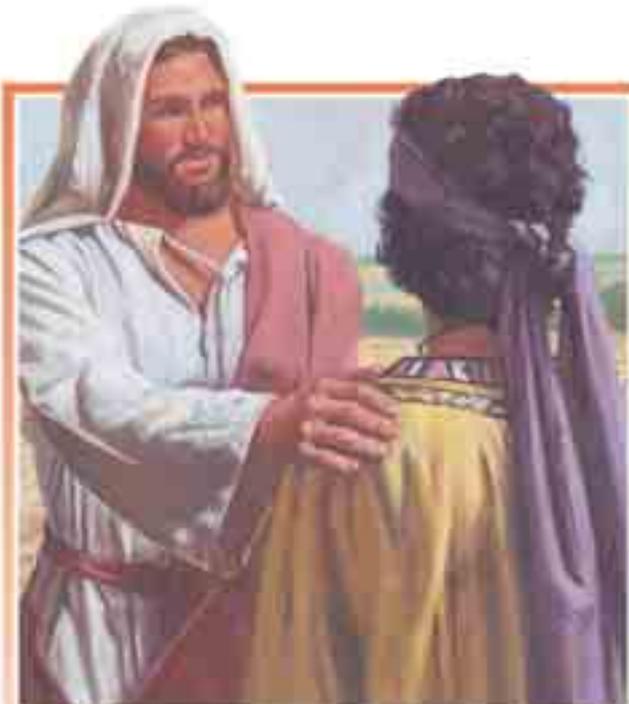
THE RICH YOUNG MAN



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

One day a very rich young man came to Jesus and asked Him what he should do to go to heaven.

Mark 10:17



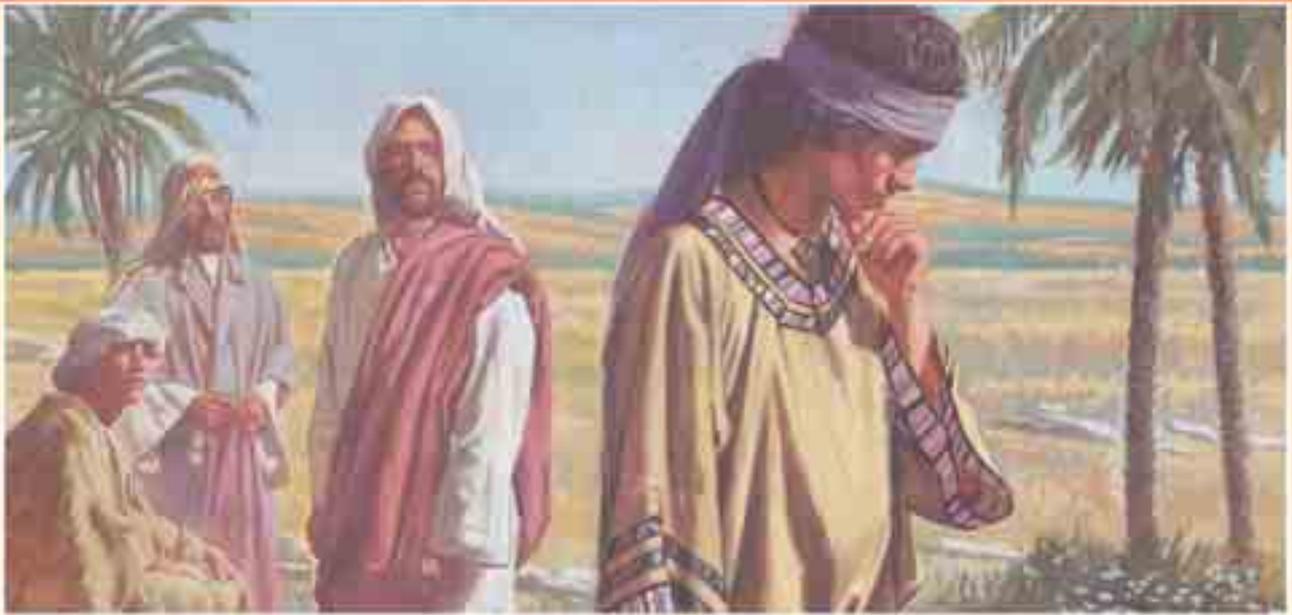
The Savior told him to obey God's commandments, to love and honor his father and mother, and not to kill anyone or lie or steal. The rich young man said he had always obeyed those commandments.

Mark 10:18–20



Jesus loved the young man. Wanting to help him, Jesus told him he needed to do one more thing—sell everything he had and give the money to the poor, then follow Him. If the young man did that, he could go to heaven.

Mark 10:21



The rich young man did not want to give away everything he had. He loved his possessions more than he loved God. The young man left sad.

Mark 10:22



The Savior told His disciples that it is hard for those who love riches to go to heaven. Not understanding, they asked who can live with God. Jesus said that people who love God with all their hearts can live with Him in heaven.

Mark 10:23, 26, 29–30

JESUS BRINGS LAZARUS BACK TO LIFE



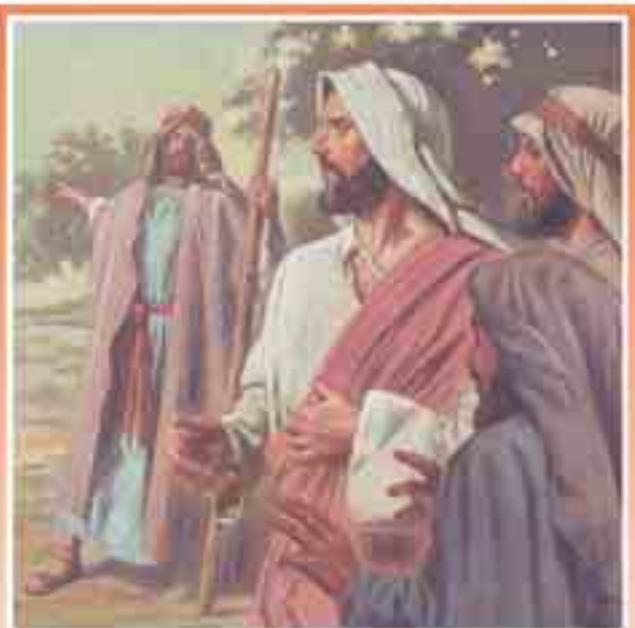
A man named Lazarus lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters, and they loved Jesus very much.

John 11:1-2, 5



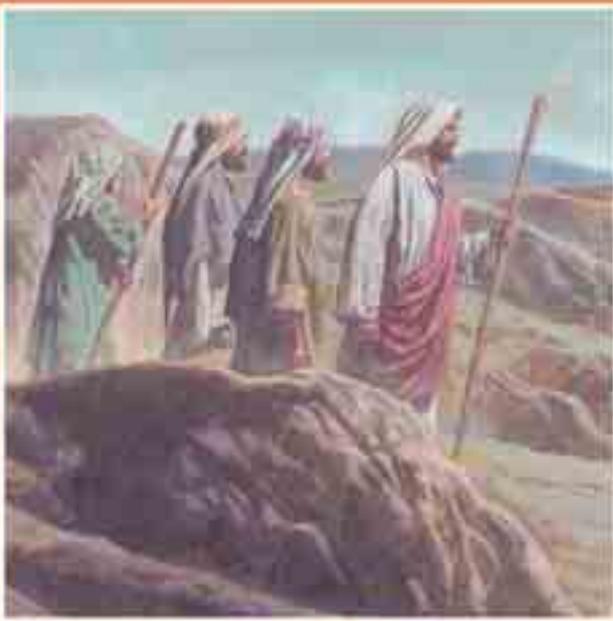
Lazarus became very sick while the Savior was teaching in another town. Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was sick.

John 11:3



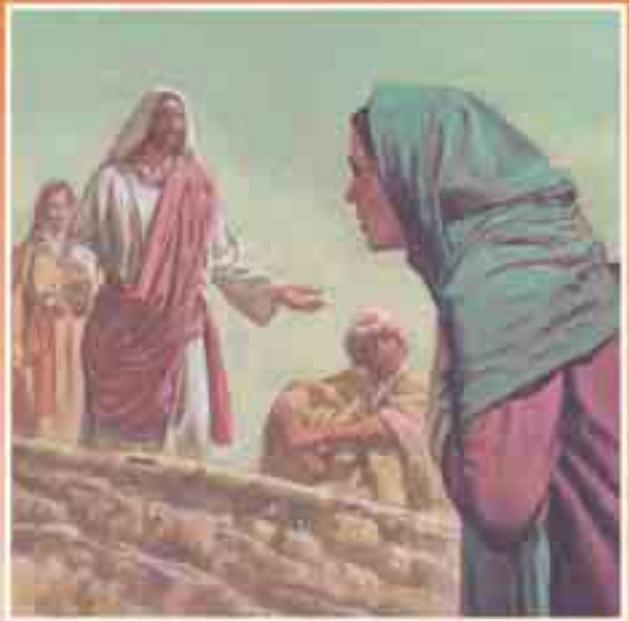
The Savior asked His disciples to go with Him to help Lazarus. The disciples were afraid to go to Bethany. It was near Jerusalem, and some of the people there wanted to kill Jesus. The disciples did not want Him to go near Jerusalem again.

John 11:6-8



Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus was dead and that He would bring him back to life. His miracle would help the disciples know that He was the Savior. Jesus went to Bethany.

John 11:11–17



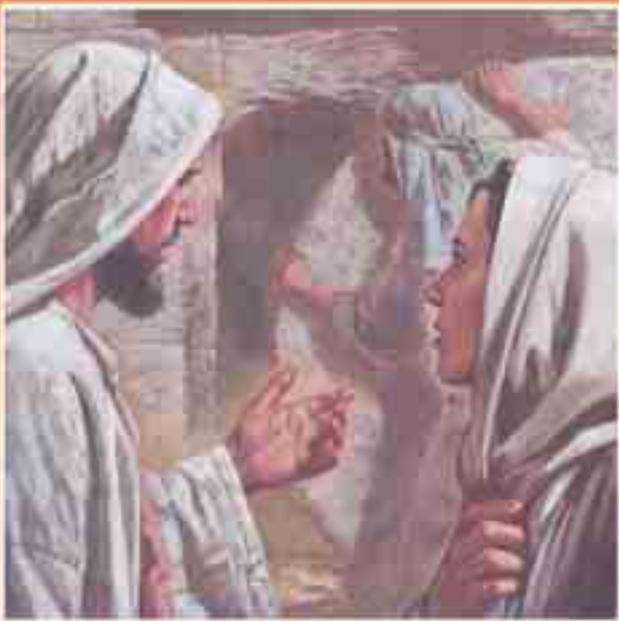
Lazarus had been dead for four days. When Jesus came, Martha told Him that Lazarus would not have died if He had been there. Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would live again and asked Martha if she believed Him. Martha said yes. She knew Jesus was the Savior.

John 11:17–27



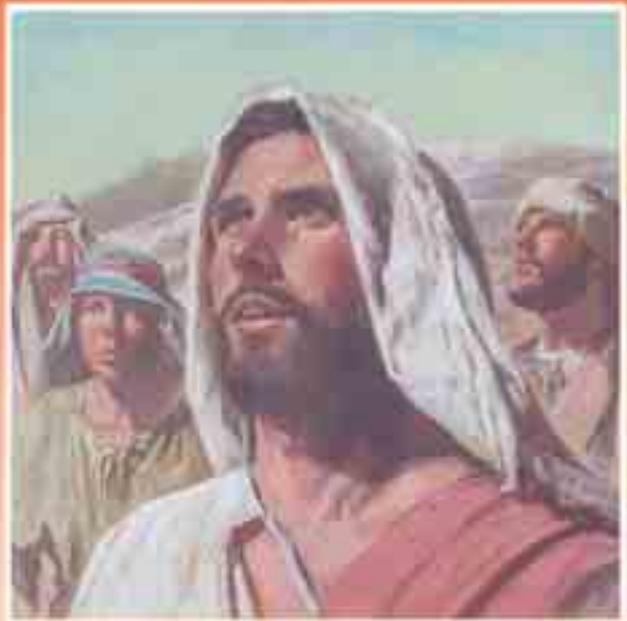
Then Martha left Jesus to get her sister, Mary. Mary went to meet Jesus too. Many people went with her. She knelt, crying, at the Savior's feet. The people with her were also crying. Jesus cried. The people knew He loved Lazarus very much.

John 11:28–36



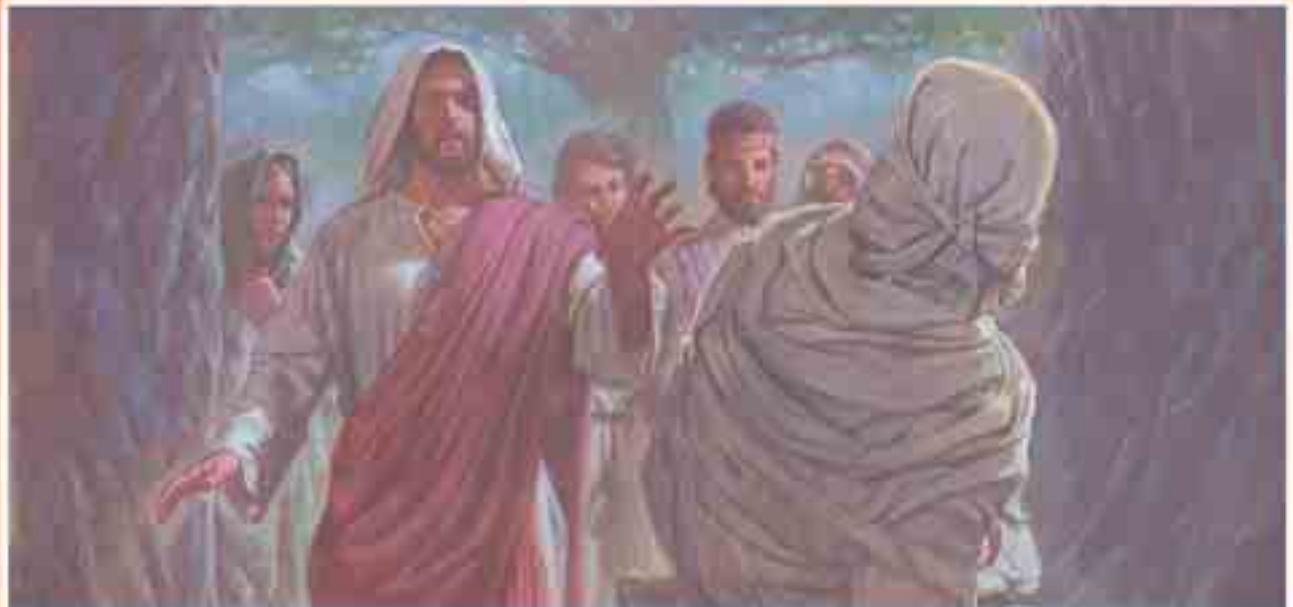
Jesus went to the cave where Lazarus was buried. There was a stone in front of it, and He told the people to move the stone.

John 11:38–39



Looking up, He thanked Heavenly Father for hearing His prayers. Jesus asked Heavenly Father to help the people believe He was the Savior.

John 11:41–42



Then, in a loud voice, Jesus told Lazarus to come out of the cave. Lazarus, alive again, came out. The people saw the miracle, and many knew Jesus was the Savior.

John 11:43–45



The Taking of Jericho, by Frank Adams

“So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and . . . the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, . . . and they took the city” (Joshua 6:20).



“It is the leader’s duty, or the teacher’s duty, to teach the member to love—not the leader or teacher, but the truth of the gospel. Always, everywhere, we find Christ losing himself for his Father’s will; and so also should our leaders and teachers, so far as their personalities are concerned, lose themselves for the truth he desires to have them teach.”

See President David O. McKay, “Latter-day Prophets Speak about Gospel Teaching,” page 44.