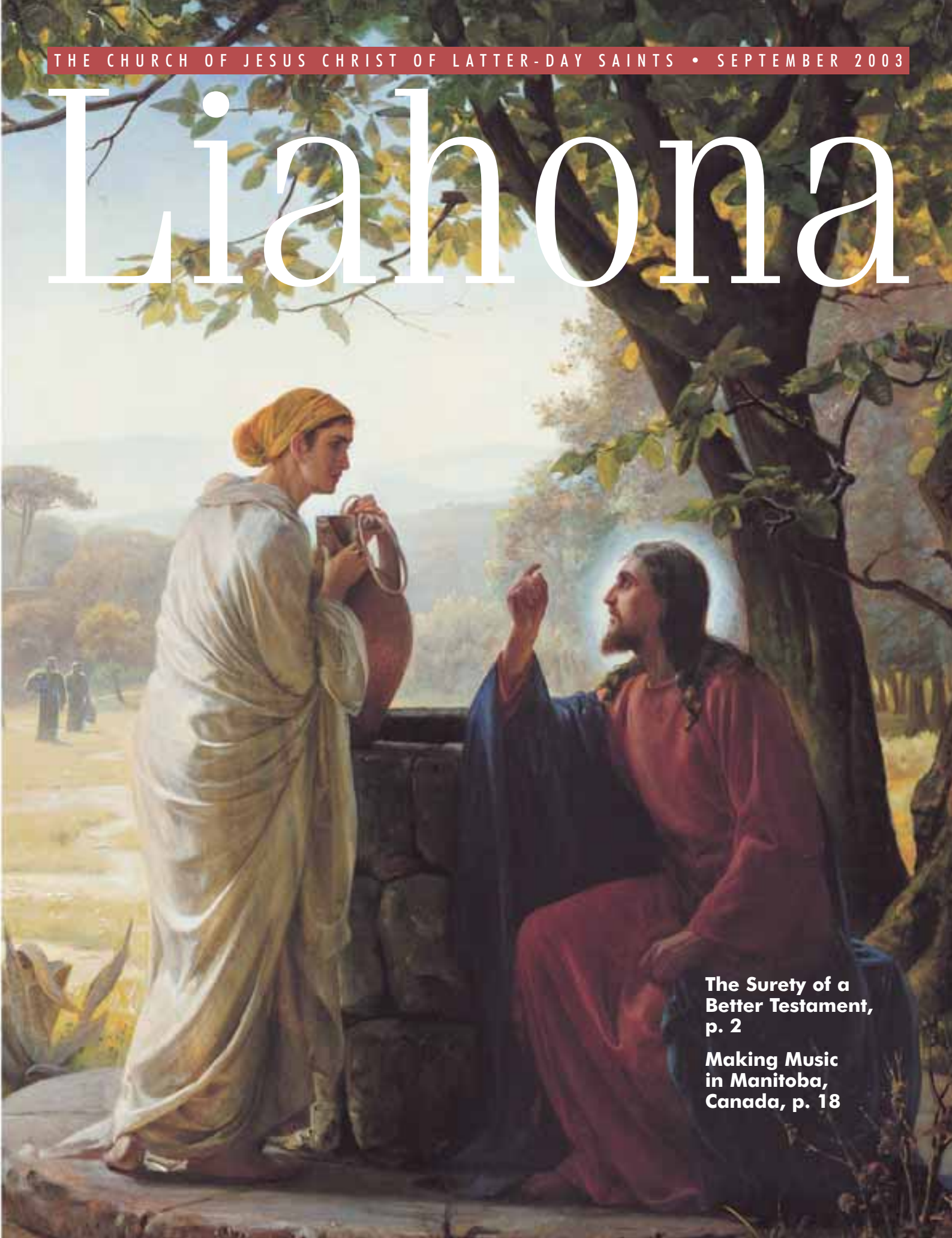


THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • SEPTEMBER 2003

Liahona



**The Surety of a
Better Testament,
p. 2**

**Making Music
in Manitoba,
Canada, p. 18**

Liahona



ON THE COVER

Front: *Christ and the Samaritan Woman*, by Carl Heinrich Bloch, courtesy of the National Historic Museum at Frederiksborg in Hillerød, Denmark. Back: *Christ Teaching the Parable of the Good Samaritan*, by Robert T. Barrett.



THE FRIEND COVER
Illustration by Mark W. Robison.



SEE "TEACHING BY FAITH," P. 10

FEATURES

- 2 First Presidency Message: The Surety of a Better Testament
President James E. Faust
- 10 Teaching by Faith *Elder Robert D. Hales*
- 25 Visiting Teaching Message: Prepare to Receive Personal Revelation
- 30 Finding Grandpa Pablo *Raquel Pedraza de Brosio*
- 32 Parables of Jesus: The Laborers *Elder Henry F. Acebedo*
- 36 Words of the Early Apostles: Building Up the Church
Elder Richard J. Maynes
- 40 Latter-day Saint Voices
 - My Father's Medal of Courage *Emmanuel Fleckinger*
 - My Daughter's Prayer *Kari Ann Rasmussen*
 - Finding Peace through Forgiveness *Name withheld*
 - A Compass in Heavy Fog *Lin Tsung-Ting*
- 44 Unto the Least *Victor Guillermo Chauca Rivera*
- 48 Using the September 2003 *Liabona*

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH

- 7 Poster: Be a Strong Link
- 8 Finding a Fortune *Elder D. Rex Gerratt*
- 18 Note by Note by Note *Shanna Ghaznavi*
- 22 With Love *Stefania Postiglione*
- 24 Idea List: Making the Most of Mutual
- 26 Coming Up Short *Chad Morris*
- 47 Did You Know?

THE FRIEND

- 2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice:
Tracks in the Snow
President Thomas S. Monson
- 4 Sharing Time: Do What Is Right
Vicki F. Matsumori
- 6 A Teacher Cared *Tamra Flake Kriser*
- 8 All Over the World *Jan Pinborough*
- 10 New Testament Stories: Wicked Men
Kill Stephen; Paul Learns about Jesus
- 14 Friend to Friend: We're Going to Primary
Elder Robert R. Steuer
- 16 Temple Cards



SEE "TRACKS IN THE SNOW," P. F2

September 2003 Vol. 27 No. 9
LIAHONA 23989
Official international magazine of
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The First Presidency: Gordon B. Hinckley,
Thomas S. Monson, James E. Faust

Quorum of the Twelve: Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry,
David B. Haight, Neal A. Maxwell, Russell M. Nelson,
Dallin H. Oaks, M. Russell Ballard, Joseph B. Wirthlin,
Richard G. Scott, Robert D. Hales, Jeffrey R. Holland,
Henry B. Eyring

Editor: Dennis B. Neuenschwander

Advisers: Monte J. Brough, J. Kent Jolley, W. Rolfe Kerr,
Stephen A. West

Managing Director: David L. Frischknecht

Editorial Director: Victor D. Cave

Graphics Director: Allan R. Loyborg

Managing Editor: Richard M. Romney

Assistant Managing Editors: Marvin K. Gardner,
Vivian Paulsen, Don L. Searle

Editorial Staff: Collette Nebeker Aune, Susan Barrett,
Ryan Carr, Linda Stahle Cooper, LaRene Porter Gaunt,
Shanna Ghaznavi, Jennifer L. Greenwood, Lisa Ann
Jackson, Carrie Kasten, Melvin Leavitt, Sally J. Odekirk,
Adam C. Olson, Judith M. Paller, Jonathan H. Stephenson,
Rebecca M. Taylor, Roger Terry, Janet Thomas, Paul
VanDenBerghe, Julie Wardell, Kimberly Webb, Monica
Weeks

Managing Art Director: M. M. Kawasaki

Art Directors: J. Scott Knudsen, Scott Van Kampen

Production Manager: Jane Ann Peters

Design and Production Staff: Kelli Allen-Pratt, Fay P.
Andrus, C. Kimball Bott, Howard Brown, Thomas S. Child,
Reginald J. Christensen, Brent Christison, Kerry Lynn C.
Herrin, Kathleen Howard, Denise Kirby, Tadd R. Peterson,
Randall J. Pixton, Mark W. Robison, Brad Teare, Kari A.
Todd, Claudia E. Warner

Marketing Manager: Larry Hiller

Printing Director: Craig K. Sedgwick

Distribution Director: Kris T. Christensen

For subscriptions and prices outside the United States and
Canada, contact your local Church distribution center or
ward or branch leader.

Send manuscripts and queries to *Liahona*, Room 2420,
50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-
3220, USA; or e-mail: cur-liahona-imag@ldschurch.org

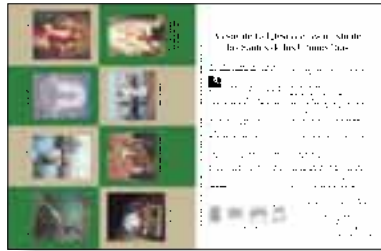
The *Liahona* (a Book of Mormon term meaning "compass"
or "director") is published in Albanian, Armenian (East),
Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chinese, Croatian,
Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Fijian, Finnish,
French, German, Haitian, Hungarian, Icelandic,
Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kiribati, Korean, Latvian,
Lithuanian, Malagasy, Marshallese, Mongolian,
Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian,
Samoan, Sinhala, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog,
Tahitian, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tongan, Ukrainian, and
Vietnamese. (Frequency varies by language.)

© 2003 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
Printed in the United States of America.

For Readers in the United States and Canada:

September 2003 Vol. 27 No. 9. *LIAHONA* (USPS 311-480)
English (ISSN 1080-9554) is published monthly by The
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 East North
Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150. USA subscription
price is \$10.00 per year; Canada, \$16.00 plus applicable
taxes. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah, and
at additional mailing offices. Sixty days' notice required for
change of address. Include address label from a recent issue;
old and new address must be included. Send USA and
Canadian subscriptions to Salt Lake Distribution Center at
address below. Subscription help line: 1-800-537-5971.
Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) may
be taken by phone. (Canada Poste Information: Publication
Agreement #40017431)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Salt Lake
Distribution Center, Church Magazines, PO Box 26368,
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368.



USING AND CUTTING THE LIAHONA

The *Liabona* has been a great help to
me. I've learned much from it, and I love to
read the words of the living prophet.

I get lots of ideas from *The Friend* that
I use to teach my children the gospel in
family home evening. The material from
this section is excellent. But I'm very sorry
that when I cut out some of the games and
activities, I have to ruin a story or picture
that I might like to use on some other occa-
sion. I would really like to be able to use
this material without damaging the follow-
ing or preceding page.

*Magdalena Velázquez de Cervantes,
Frontera Ward,
Ciudad Juárez México North Stake*

Editor's note: We receive this com-
ment frequently and understand the
inconvenience cutting a story or article
can create. Unfortunately, if we were to
design the children's section so that cutting
one page did no damage to another, we
would have to leave some of the 16 chil-
dren's pages blank. Rather than do this, we
try to design the magazine so that any cut-
ting will do the least possible damage. In
some areas readers may be able to photo-
copy the game or activity and cut the copy
rather than the original.

FROM RUSSIA WITH GRATITUDE

We would like to express our sincere
gratitude for the full-time missionaries serv-
ing in our branch. During the past two years
our town has been blessed by these elders
and sisters. They have left behind their
warm homes, loving families, and close
friends to save souls from the evils
of the world.

We are grateful for English lessons,
because there are not enough English teach-
ers in our schools and colleges. We can also
add kind words about the missionaries' ser-
vice to the old and the sick in homes and
hospitals. The most important characteristic,
though, is their deep and strong faith in
Jesus Christ.

We wish to thank their mothers and
fathers for raising such good, devoted young
people. We are grateful for their honesty
and hard work, for their interest and care,
for their tender hearts and skillful hands,
and for their love of all people.

*Members of the Surgut Branch,
Russia Yekaterinburg Mission*

INSPIRATION TO KEEP PROGRESSING

Since returning from my mission, I've
had to live far from home because of my
schooling. But even though I'm by myself,
I have one of the best possible incentives
for the soul—the *Liabona* magazine. It is a
source of inspiration to keep me progress-
ing in life. It is a voice of encouragement,
and each day it helps me to be better than
the day before.

*Lenin Enrique Colonia Córdova,
Pueblo Libre Branch,
Cajamarca Perú Stake*



GOSPEL ACCORDING
MATTHEW

1. In that day Jesus went out, and began to teach them many things. And they were astonished at his doctrine. For he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes and Pharisees.

2. And he said unto them, Whosoever will be the first must be last of all.

3. And he said, Whosoever will be saved must lose himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

4. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

5. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

6. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

7. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

8. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

9. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

10. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

11. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

12. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

13. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

14. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

15. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

16. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

17. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

18. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

19. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

20. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

21. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

22. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

23. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

24. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

25. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

26. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

27. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

28. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

29. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

30. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

31. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

32. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

33. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

34. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

35. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

36. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

37. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

38. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

39. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

40. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

41. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

42. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

43. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

44. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

45. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

46. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

47. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

48. And he said, Whosoever will be my disciple, let him take up his cross, and follow me.

49. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

50. For the Son of Man must be so delivered, and be killed, and after three days shall rise again.

THE SURETY OF A Better Testament

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

The Apostle Paul was well acquainted with the adjustment in thinking needed when moving from the Old Testament to the New Testament. It is a journey from the rigid formality of the letter of the law taught by Moses to the spiritual guidance found in the Holy Spirit.

In his epistle to the Hebrews, Paul described this adjustment: “For the law [of Moses] made nothing perfect, but [was only] the bringing in of a better hope . . . ; by the which we draw nigh unto God. . . . [And] by so much was Jesus made [the] surety of a better testament” (Hebrews 7:19, 22; see also Joseph Smith Translation, Hebrews 7:19–20).

It is important that we study, learn, and live the hard doctrines taught by the Savior— “[the] surety of a better testament”—that our Christlike behavior may move us up to a much higher level of spiritual attainment.

The Guarantor of a Better Covenant

What is a surety? We find in turning to the dictionary that *surety* is a “state of being sure”; it is also a pledge “given for the fulfillment of

an undertaking”; it also refers to “one who has become legally liable for the debt, default, or failure in duty of another.”¹ Does not the Savior, with His mission, have claim upon all these meanings?

What is a testament? To us, the primary meaning of *testament* is that it is a covenant with God. It is also holy scripture, a will, a witness, a tangible proof, an expression of conviction.² So the Savior as a surety is a guarantor of a better covenant with God.

Harder Doctrine

The New Testament is “a better testament” because the intent of a person alone becomes part of the rightness or wrongness of human action. So our intent to do evil or our desire to do good will be a freestanding element of consideration of our actions. We are told we will be judged in part by the intent of our hearts (see D&C 88:109). An example of being convicted by freestanding intent is found in Matthew:

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

“But I say unto you, That whosoever



It is important that we study, learn, and live the hard doctrines taught by the Savior, that our Christlike behavior may move us up to a much higher level of spiritual attainment.

looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27–28).

This New Testament is harder doctrine.

Because of the formality and rigidity developed in the administration of the old English common law, in order to obtain justice the law of equity was developed. One of my favorite maxims in equity is "Equity does what ought to be done." The New Testament takes the concept of law even farther. In a large measure we will be judged not only by what we have done but what we should have done in a given situation.

A Higher Law

Much of the spirit of this higher law of the New Testament is found in the Sermon on the Mount. Here Jesus taught that His law requires a reconciliation of differences with others before coming unto Him:

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

"Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23–24).

Another example of the harder doctrine is this passage, in which swearing is completely prohibited:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

"But I say unto you, Swear not at all. . . .

"But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Matthew 5:33–34, 37).

The text that follows is more of the hard doctrine of the New Testament:

"Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

"And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. . . .

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:39–40, 43–44).

In the New Testament, the Savior teaches a new and higher form and content of prayer. It is profoundly simple and uncomplicated.

"When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

"Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

"Give us this day our daily bread.

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" (Matthew 6:7–13).

Also in the New Testament, the Savior teaches that the doing of our good works ought to be done a better way, namely in secret:

"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

"That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:3–4).

But the greatest challenge, the hardest doctrine, is also found in the Sermon on the Mount: "Be ye therefore



As "the mediator of the new testament," the Savior introduced a higher law. The challenge Jesus issued was for people to replace the rigid, technical "thou shalt not" of the law of Moses with the spirit of the "better testament."



perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

As “the mediator of the new testament” (Hebrews 9:15), the Savior also introduced a higher law of marriage. When some Pharisees came to Him and asked, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?” (Mark 10:2), He answered:

“From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

“And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Mark 10:6–9).

A Monumental Task

The challenge Jesus issued was for people to replace the rigid, technical “thou shalt not” of the law of Moses—needed by the spiritually immature ancient children of Israel—with the spirit of the “better testament.” How was this to be done? Time was short. The Savior

had only three years. How should He begin? Obviously He must begin with the Apostles and the small group of disciples around Him who would have the responsibility to carry on the work afterward.

President J. Reuben Clark Jr. (1871–1961), a counselor in the First Presidency, describes this challenge as follows: “This task involved the overturning, the virtual outlawing, of the centuries-old Mosaic law of the Jews, and the substitution therefor of the Gospel of Christ.”³

It was not easy for even Jesus’ Apostles to understand. Thomas was an example of their lack of comprehension. Thomas had heard the Savior, on several occasions, foretell of His death and Resurrection. Yet when Thomas was told that the resurrected Christ lived, he said, “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25). Perhaps Thomas can be forgiven because so great an event had never happened before.

Peter’s conversion to the great principle

Much of the spirit of this higher law of the New Testament is found in the Sermon on the Mount.

that the gospel of Jesus Christ is for everyone is another example of this slowness to comprehend. He had been an eyewitness, as he stated in 2 Peter: “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (1:16). To what had he been an eyewitness? He had been an eyewitness to everything in the Savior’s ministry.

Following Christ’s encounter with the Samaritan at the well of Jacob, Peter had seen the Savior welcome the Samaritans, who were loathed by the Jews (see John 4). But when Peter saw a vision and heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common” (Acts 10:15), he was thoroughly confused. Finally, when Peter was fully converted to the instruction and had received a spiritual confirmation, he “opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34–35).

The Apostles eventually did come to understand and embrace the “better testament.” We are grateful for their profound statements as “eyewitnesses of his majesty.” They form part of the footings of our faith in the higher law taught by the Savior.

It is so strengthening to review the testimonies of the Apostles that Jesus is, in fact, the Christ. These testimonies are also “a surety of a better testament.” For example, following the great bread of life sermon, in which the Savior made clear to those who had been fed by the loaves and fishes that He and His doctrine were the bread of life, John records:

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

“And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:66–69).

But the miracles performed by the Savior and the testimonies of those who saw and heard were far from

convincing to everyone. This is perhaps because a testimony is such a personal, spiritual conviction.

Our Challenge Today

The New Testament is “a better testament” because so much is left to the intent of the heart and of the mind and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. This refinement of the soul is part of the reinforcing steel of a personal testimony of Jesus Christ. If there is no witness in the heart and in the mind by the power of the Holy Ghost, there can be no testimony.

Let us study, learn, and live the hard doctrines the Savior taught in the New Testament, that our Christlike behavior may move us up to a much higher level of spiritual attainment. ■

NOTES

1. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed. (1993), 1185.
2. See *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 1218.
3. *Why the King James Version* (1956), 51.

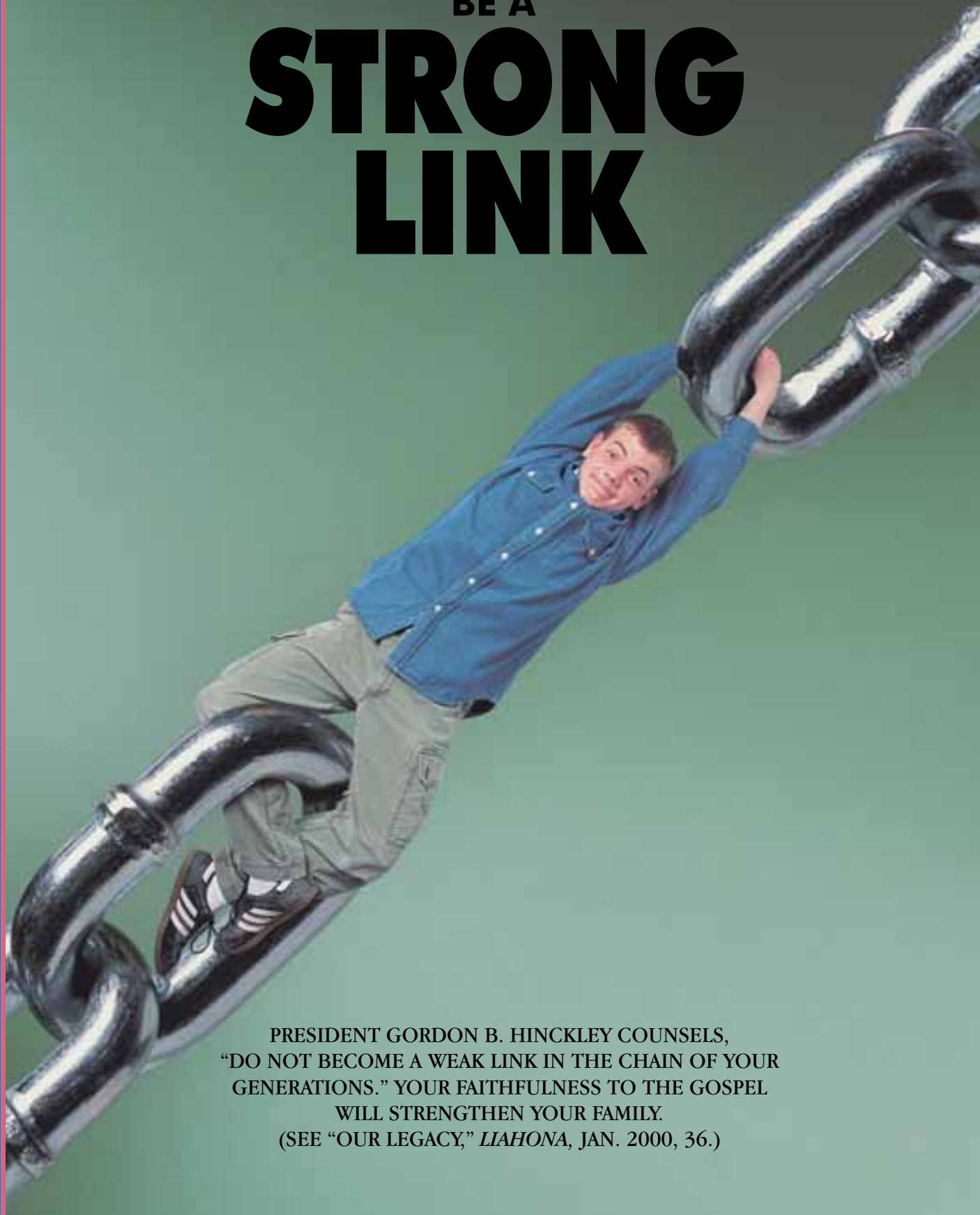
IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After you prayerfully prepare, share this message using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. A few examples follow:

1. Ask family members to name some commandments that they think are the hardest to keep. Read a few of the harder and higher doctrines mentioned by President Faust, and discuss why each can be difficult to live. Read and discuss the last two paragraphs. Bear your testimony of the Savior’s New Testament doctrine.

2. Show a Bible, and invite family members to share thoughts or feelings about the New Testament and the Old Testament. Ask them what they think are some of the differences between the two books. Read the first three paragraphs of this message. Share some of President Faust’s teachings as to why the New Testament is “a better testament.” Show a painting of Jesus Christ, and express your gratitude for the New Testament.

BE A **STRONG LINK**



PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY COUNSELS,
“DO NOT BECOME A WEAK LINK IN THE CHAIN OF YOUR
GENERATIONS.” YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE GOSPEL
WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FAMILY.
(SEE “OUR LEGACY,” *LIAHONA*, JAN. 2000, 36.)

FINDING A FORTUNE

BY ELDER D. REX GERRATT
Of the Seventy



When you see a \$10 bill, you really don't know how much it may be worth.

One day, when I was 13 or 14 years old, I went to the grocery store that was a couple of blocks from my school. The store had spectacular ice cream, and my classmates and I went there often during our lunch hour to get double-decker ice-cream cones.

One day when we had our ice-cream cones, I looked down at my feet and saw a \$10 bill lying on the floor. A U.S. \$10 bill more than 50 years ago was really something to a young man. Satan tried to tempt me with “Think what you could do with this \$10 bill.”

Because of the teachings of my parents, I didn't listen. I took the money over to the cashier and told her I found it on the floor. She said, “Well, you are an honest young man. Let me write your name on this note, and if someone doesn't claim this \$10 bill, I will see that you get it back.”

I left it with her. That afternoon a young man came in to see if she had seen a \$10 bill. She said, “Yes, and here is the fellow's name who found the money.”

This boy looked me up to thank me, and we became close friends.

But that is just the start of the story. Because of our friendship and his good

feeling toward me, he introduced me to his family. As the children in the family grew up and married, I became a good friend with their families as well. And over a lifetime, I have been a close friend to 10 or 12 families just because of that \$10 bill. I have been in their homes. As a bishop, I have interviewed some of their children. I have been invited to temple weddings and other family occasions during the past 50 years. I have enjoyed great friendships, not only with those kids but also with their parents over that time. They are a wonderful family.

I am grateful that I wasn't really tempted to keep that \$10 bill, because my wonderful father and mother taught me the principle of honesty. I am grateful for the blessings that have come to me throughout my life from being honest—honesty has opened many doors. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to look people in the eye and say, “I have always tried to be honest.”

I have talked to my own nine children about being honest. I told them that when you see a \$10 bill, you really don't know how much it is worth. It has a face value, but my friendship with that family is worth more than a fortune. They are such a blessing in my life. ■



Teaching by Faith



Although Abinadi taught by the Spirit, King Noah was not touched. Alma, however, was converted. I promise you that as you teach and testify by the Spirit, you will reach those who are ready to be taught.

When we teach youth by the Spirit, hearts will be touched and lives will be affected.

BY ELDER ROBERT D. HALES
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The responsibilities of gospel teachers in the home and at church are many, and in order to meet these responsibilities, teachers must first strive for personal righteousness. As teachers and parents of youth, we must live the gospel in such a way that we will have the Spirit to ever be with us. If we live worthily, the Spirit will always be with us. We can then teach by the Spirit. When we teach by the Spirit, youth will be able to feel it and to receive the Spirit. Hearts will be touched, and lives will be affected.

You will recall the story related in the book of Mosiah about Abinadi standing bound before the wicked King Noah. Abinadi taught the gospel with the fire of the Spirit. He gave stern and specific warnings as he boldly taught the principle of repentance. Although Abinadi taught by the Spirit, King Noah was not touched. Alma, however, who was in the court and heard the testimony, was converted (see Mosiah

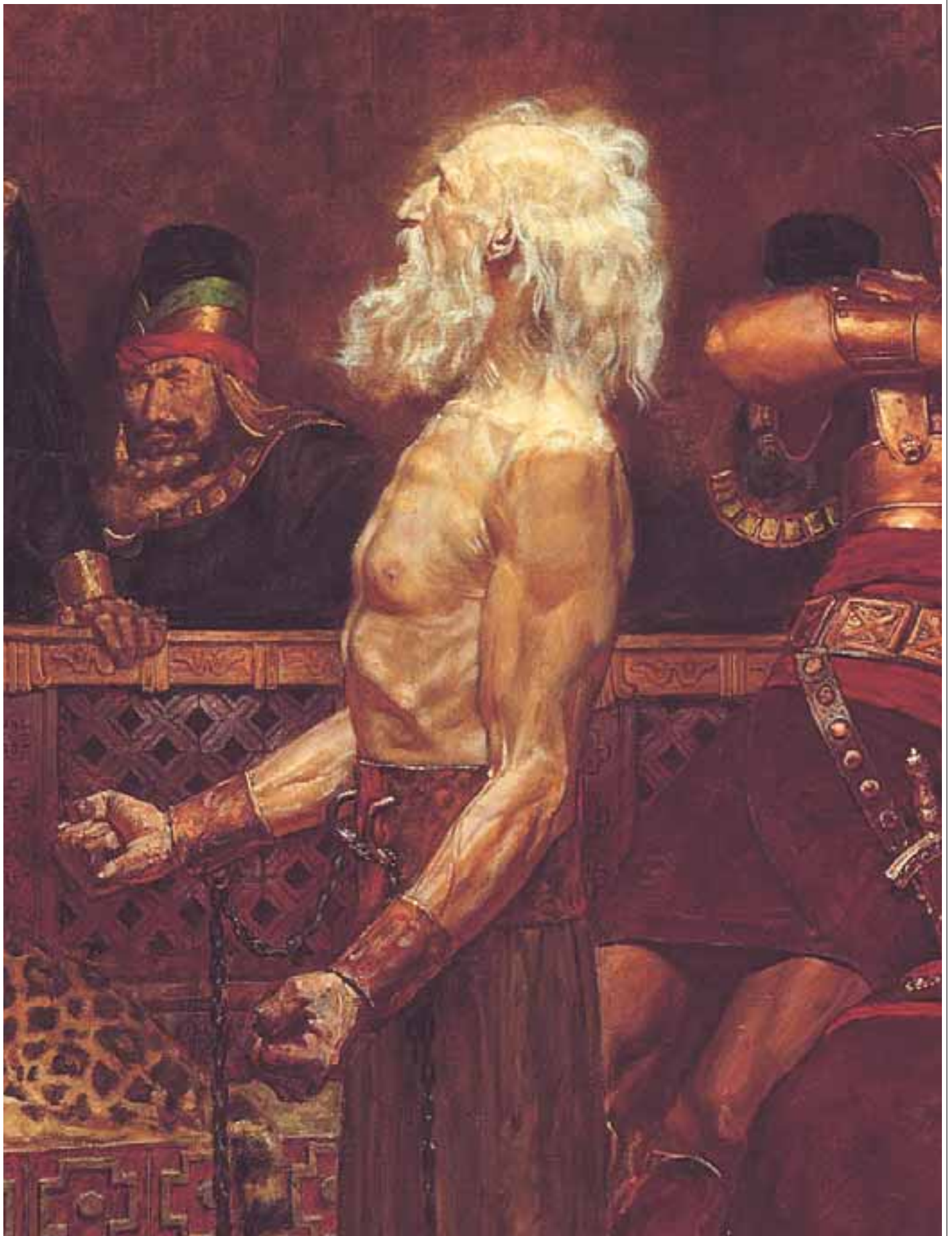
12:9–17:2). We do not always know whom we will reach, but I promise you that as you teach and testify by the Spirit, you will reach those who are ready to be taught.

We cannot forget the importance of faith. Teaching by the Spirit is really an exercise in faith. For every concept that we teach and everything of which we testify, we need to rely on the Holy Ghost, that we may touch the hearts of those for whom we have responsibility. We teach by faith; we teach by the Spirit; we boldly declare our testimony.

Apply Gospel Principles

My concern is that there is a difference between what our youth *know* about the gospel as opposed to what they *do* to apply gospel principles in their lives. This is where we as teachers are very important.

As teachers, we must require our young people to think. I will never forget the lessons I learned from a Sunday School teacher when I was about 10 years old. For Christmas we were given a large card that had small, individual booklets inside, each with a story from the Bible: David and Goliath, the Creation, Daniel and the lions' den. There was a long series of wonderful Bible stories. We read each one at home and came to class



prepared to discuss them. I can vividly remember those teaching moments to this day.

After discussing each story, we were asked questions such as “What does that mean to you?” “How does this scripture [or story or principle] relate to your life?” “How can you apply this teaching in your home?” “How do you feel about it?” I later found in my own home with my boys that once I asked these questions, they began to live and feel what they were being taught.

We were asked to think. We were not learning only the stories. We were discovering how we could apply them in our lives. My teacher was planting the seed of faith and helping it grow within each of us.

We teach the scriptures in story form, and we need to apply them in the lives of these young people where they can be more effective. Our youth have to be able to recall stories and the truths of the gospel principles in their lives when they need them the most.

John Greenleaf Whittier eloquently wrote, “Of all sad words of tongue or pen, / The saddest are these: ‘It might have been!’”¹ There is nothing more tragic than for a person to look back at what might have been. Nor do we want those we teach to go through life without knowing that they are children of God; without knowing the plan of salvation; and without knowing why they are on this earth, who they are, and how to conduct their lives. If they realize this great plan, they can endure all of the tests of life, deflect the fiery darts of the adversary, endure to the end, and gain the final rewards of the plan of happiness.

Teach the importance and power of pondering; provide time to ponder, to think, and to exchange ideas. Use practical application: “What does that mean to you?” Ponder and pray. Ask the youth to describe the thoughts and impressions given to them and what they are feeling. Faith-promoting incidents occur in teaching when students take a role in teaching and testifying to their peers. It is very

important to have open discussion about the importance of prayer and scripture study so that the youth can help one another and be supportive.

It is a process. Allow them to emerge in the time they are with you. We need to give them the ability to learn from the mistakes of others, such as an older brother or

sister or maybe a friend, and give them examples from the scriptures, so they don’t have to go through each mistake themselves. The scriptures tell all of the things that happen when we are not obedient. Our youth do not have to repeat the mistakes and endure the pain.

Get to Know Youth

Learning for some people comes with more difficulty than for others. This aspect of learning requires teachers who know their students and their learning ability. Great teachers not only know the subject they are teaching but, just as important, they understand the needs of their students. Great students learn from their teachers, are willing to take correction, and express gratitude for a teacher’s caring counsel. You, as great teachers, teach young people who they are and motivate them to fulfill their potential for eternal salvation.

Get to know what is happening in the lives of the youth. We have to know of their concerns and what they are facing—why they act the way they do and why they say the things they say.

Recognize when a young person is ready to use his or her agency and has the strength to make decisions. Part of the teaching process is to give our students a fore-shadowing to help them prepare for the challenges they are going to have to meet in the future.

Wouldn’t we all sometimes like to avoid the tests and trials of this mortal probation?

Achilles, one of the great heroes of Greek mythology, was the hero of Homer’s *Iliad*. In addition to Homer’s

Great teachers not only know the subject they are teaching but, just as important, they understand the needs of their students. Get to know what is happening in the lives of the youth. We have to know of their concerns and what they are facing.



account of Achilles, there are other fables or folklore about Achilles and his mother, Thetis.

According to some accounts, Thetis endeavored to make Achilles immortal by dipping him in the River Styx. She succeeded in making Achilles invulnerable, with the exception of his heel by which she held him. Achilles grew up to be invincible, a warrior of great strength, leading the Greek army against Troy in full armor.

The death of Achilles is mentioned in Homer's *Odyssey*. In other stories he is said to have been killed by an arrow of Paris directed by Apollo to his only vulnerability—his heel.

Wouldn't every parent or every gospel teacher like to find the secret of protecting youth, making them invulnerable to the fiery darts of the adversary? Unfortunately, we cannot protect our children from the slings and arrows of mortality. Our challenges, learning experiences, and opposition are meant to strengthen us, not defeat us or destroy us.

Develop Faith to Prepare for Life's Storms

How important it is during troubled times, when we are tested, that we do not do anything to lose the Holy Ghost's gentle persuasions, comfort, peace, and direction. These impressions will help us make the correct choices in

life in order to weather the storms and bring us closer to God's ways.

It is our job to help our youth prepare to make the weighty decisions so that when challenges come, they will choose wisely. Because we know that they have their agency and that there is "opposition in all things" (2 Nephi 2:11), our objective is to help them take upon themselves "the whole armour of God" (Ephesians 6:11, 13; see also D&C 27:15) so that they will be able to withstand "the fiery darts of the adversary" (1 Nephi 15:24; D&C 3:8; see also Ephesians 6:16) with "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17; see also D&C 27:18) and "the shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16; D&C 27:17) and to endure to the end and be worthy to stand and live in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, for all the eternities.

There are many examples in the scriptures of those who learned these lessons well and listened to the still, small voice of warning. Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife. Joseph was told to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt. Lehi and his family were also told to flee. The youth must learn that they cannot stay around in an evil situation. Too often I have met young people who think they can stand with one foot in Babylon, or wicked and worldly circumstances.

As gospel teachers, we want nothing more for our youth than for them to succeed. Sometimes we want it so badly we try to *will* it to happen. But we cannot will faith in our children. Faith comes from the inside, based upon our desire to receive it and to exercise it in our lives, that through the Spirit we will have abiding faith and show it in our actions.

So often we try to bring someone into the gospel by only our desire. That may be very important in the initial phases. But a true teacher, once he or she has taught the facts and the students gain the knowledge, takes them a step farther to gain the spiritual witness and the understanding in their hearts that bring about the action and the doing.

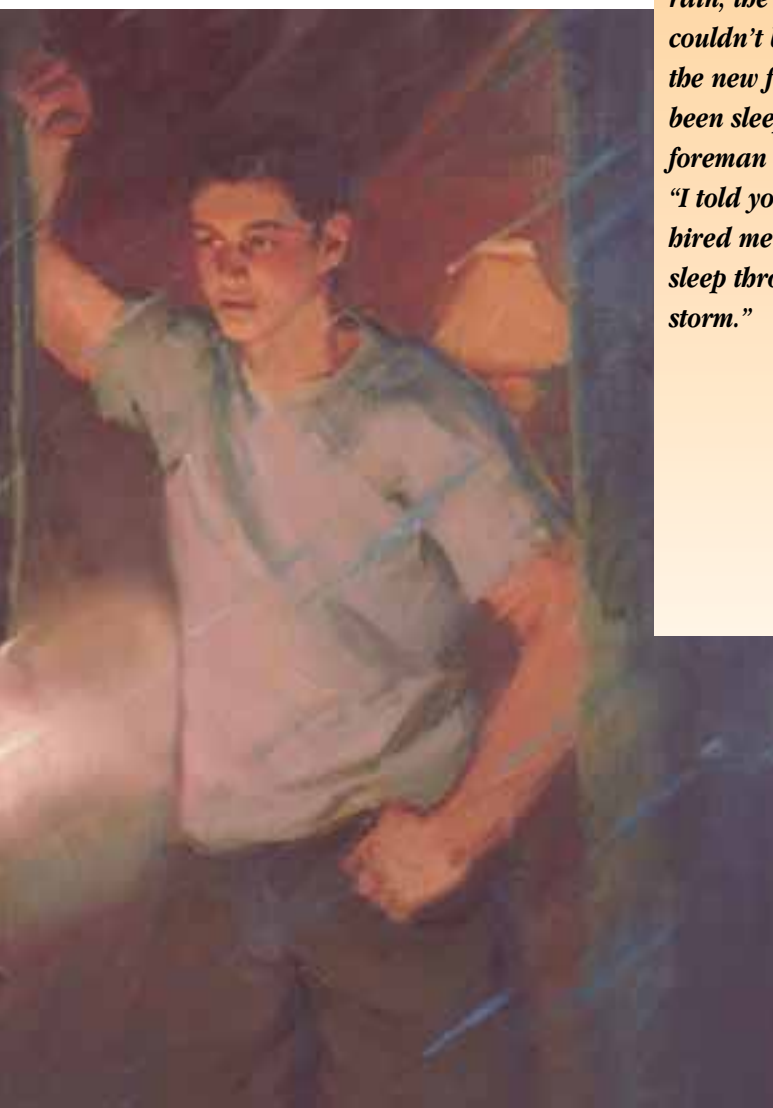
This is what we have to do in measuring another's understanding with our questions and discussions. We must be doing our best to measure where each young person is on the road to faith. In many cases young people will not know where they are on that journey until they have opposition. That is when they will be tested. That is why we were given this marvelous scripture: "And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith" (Ether 12:6).

The reason we pray, study the scriptures, have good friends, and live the gospel through obedience to the



commandments is so that when—not if, but when—the trials come, we are ready.

A rancher interviewed a number of men in the process of trying to find a new ranch foreman. All one man said when asked if he could do the job was, “I can sleep through the storm.” Soon after he was hired, a torrential storm came with gale-force winds and pelting rain. The rancher went to the bunkhouse and banged on the door. He couldn’t believe that the new foreman was in there sleeping. He was angry with the foreman and let words fly. The foreman responded, “I told you when you hired me that I could sleep through a storm.”



When a
torrential
storm
came with gale-force
winds and pelting
rain, the rancher
couldn't believe that
the new foreman had
been sleeping. The
foreman responded,
“I told you when you
hired me that I could
sleep through a
storm.”

Upon inspection of the ranch, the rancher found that the animals were all taken care of, tarps covered the equipment and the haystacks, buildings were secure, everything was tied down—everything was taken care of. After riding through the night inspecting the ranch, the ranch owner understood what it meant to be able to say, “I can sleep through the storm.”

As we help our youth develop faith, we are preparing them for the storm—the storms of life that will come. We are preparing them to make the right choices, but we are also preparing them to endure to the end.

An insightful poem has been written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox entitled “The Winds of Fate”:

*One ship drives east and another
drives west
With the selfsame winds that blow.
'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales
Which tells us the way to go.*

*Like the winds of the sea are the ways
of fate,
As we voyage along through life:
'Tis the set of a soul
That decides its goal,
And not the calm or the strife.²*

The turbulent storms will come in the lives of our young people, just as they have and will continue in ours. Teaching our youth to weather the storm comes back to the basics: faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, prayer, study, pondering, changing our hearts, and repentance.

When the storm comes because of the problems youth put upon themselves because of disobedience, we can teach them and help them to understand that they can be forgiven. As the Lord said, “Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more” (D&C 58:42).

A Testimony Is Not Genetic

When we teach our children that they must walk the straight and narrow path that leads to eternal life, we must understand that a testimony is not genetic. That is, we are not born with a testimony. Likewise, a testimony does not pass automatically from generation to generation without the examples of good teachers instilling a testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and of gospel truths. The Spirit will bear that testimony deep within the heart, so there is an understanding of the heart.

What does pass through generations is the believing blood of Israel, which affords one the opportunity to be taught and to believe and eventually to know with a surety of gospel truths.

President Heber J. Grant (1856–1945), when he was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, taught:

“I have heard people say that their children were born heirs to all the promises of the new and everlasting covenant, and that they would grow up in spite of themselves, with a knowledge of the Gospel. I want to say to you that this is not a true doctrine, and it is in direct opposition to the commandment of our Heavenly Father. We find that it is laid down to the Latter-day Saints, not as an entreaty, but as a law, that they should teach their children:

“And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her Stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands when eight years old; the sin be upon the heads of the parents;

“For this shall be a law unto the inhabitants of Zion, or in any of her Stakes which are organized;

“And their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands,

“‘And they shall also teach their children to pray and to walk uprightly before the Lord’ [see D&C 68:25–28].”³

Teachers assist parents in this responsibility. Many young people don’t have parents who can teach them the gospel, so many of them rely on their teachers. In those cases the teacher’s role becomes critical, as teachers may be their main source of example and gospel knowledge.

Youth and young adults need guidance as they study the gospel, live it, and gain a testimony for themselves.

Turn Youth to the Lord

Each teacher has the desire of the heart to be as an angel. This is good, but it is a great temptation to play the part of the Pied Piper and to figure that you are going to gather the youth around you and love them into a testimony, or to feel that if you can become very popular, you can lead and be the role model and make a difference in the lives of your youth.

While this may be true to a degree, there is nothing more dangerous than when students turn their love and attention to the teacher—the same way a convert sometimes does to a missionary—rather than to the Lord. And then if the teacher or missionary leaves or conducts his or her life contrary to

the teachings of the gospel, the students are devastated. Their testimonies falter. Their faith is destroyed. The really great teacher is careful to have the students turn themselves to the Lord.

Once we have touched the lives of the youth, we have to turn them to God the Father and His Son, our Redeemer and Savior Jesus Christ, through prayer, study, and the application in their lives of gospel principles.

Gospel knowledge is for the benefit of others as well as ourselves. We need to teach our youth that with all they are learning about the gospel, they are being placed on higher ground to lift others through their faith and testimony. Having an understanding of the heart is more than

We need to teach our youth that with all they are learning about the gospel, they are being placed on higher ground to lift others through their faith and testimony. Having an understanding of the heart is more than just saving themselves.



just saving themselves. Through knowledge, faithfulness, spirituality, and strength, they become greater servants.

We don't receive the reward of exaltation alone. We help bring along our eternal companions, our families, our extended families, and our friends.

We live in the last dispensation, the dispensation of the fulness of times. The priesthood will never be taken from the earth again as we prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. No one knows when He will come. We are told in the scriptures that Satan will tempt us in the last days before the Savior comes again. For this reason, our children need to know that God and Jesus Christ will always love them and answer their prayers. This knowledge will bring them abiding strength.

In Romans chapter 8 we read:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . .

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

"Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God,

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vv. 35, 38–39).

Faith is a gift of God. As we seek for faith, it will be granted unto us. Then we can teach others how to gain faith and have that faith with us always. Faith comes through our obedience to living laws and ordinances. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine" (John 7:17).

May the Lord's choicest blessings be with you as you teach and testify of this great work and influence the next generation of Saints and parents. May you have the Spirit attend you to discern the spiritual needs of the youth as they prepare themselves to live in this world and not be of the world. May you listen to their pleas for guidance and be positive role models in their lives.

In your teaching labors, impress upon the youth that they are indeed children of God. May blessings attend you as you love, care, and lead them in righteousness. As you live the gospel in your lives and homes, so will you teach by the Spirit of God. ■

From an address to Church Educational System educators given in Bountiful, Utah, on 1 February 2002.

NOTES

1. "Maud Muller," *The Complete Poetical Works of Whittier* (1894), 48.
2. James Dalton Morrison, ed., *Masterpieces of Religious Verse* (1948), 314.
3. "Duty of Parents to Children," *Deseret Weekly*, 2 June 1894, 733.

NOTE *by* NOTE *by* NOTE

Myka Ugto (far right) and the other youth (right) in the London Ward stepped in to help their ward when there was no one else. They learned to play the piano and organ to provide music in their Sunday meetings.

Music makers in Manitoba brought singing back to life in their ward when they started sharing their talents.

BY SHANNA GHAZNAVI
Church Magazines

It's a beautiful sound when all the members of the London Ward in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, sing hymns with the organ music in their chapel. Thirteen-year-old Marvin Cardona is the organist. Anywhere there's music in the London Ward, you'll most likely find one of the youth from the ward providing the accompaniment.

It's strange to think that only a few months ago the members in this ward would either sing without accompaniment in their meetings or play the Church-produced tapes of the hymns as they sang.

Everyone prefers having the young people in the ward play the hymns now. Andrew Cardona, 17, says, "Everyone actually sings in time now. Sometimes we were off a few beats [from the tape]. You feel the Spirit more now." Jackie Famini, 13, agrees. "It's nice to have someone play the piano instead of listening to the tapes."

When the London Ward was split from



another ward, there was no one left in the ward boundaries who could play the organ or the piano well enough to accompany the congregation. That's where Elder and Sister Heap entered the scene. They are a missionary couple who realized that once they left the ward, there would be no one who could play the piano. So they decided to teach music lessons to anyone who was interested.

Almost all the youth in the ward signed up. "I heard about all the other people taking lessons, and I was interested because



The youth are not only making a difference in their ward, they also feel a difference within themselves as the spirit of their service and of the hymns touches their hearts and lives.

Right: Jonathan Famini. Far right: Sherri Cardona.



I wanted to play the piano,” says Sherri Cardona, 15. “So I asked Sister Heap, and she said yes.” Sherri now rotates with other girls in the ward to play the keyboard for Young Women opening exercises.

Rheygan Famini, 17, switches off with his brother, Jonathan, 14, to play the piano in priesthood meetings. “I like doing it,” Rheygan says. “I can play when I’m needed. When I go on my mission, I can play. The hymns strengthen my testimony.”

The youth in the ward are grateful to Elder and Sister Heap for all they’ve taught them. They say the Heaps were not only good music teachers but also good friends.

Anything You Can Do

Jonathan had his own motivations when he took lessons from the Heaps. “At first I wasn’t really keen on the idea,” he says. “Ever since I was young, I wanted to play the piano, but Marvin was always a better piano player than me. So when I was younger, I kind of gave up.”

Marvin and Jonathan are best friends, so they have a healthy rivalry in a lot of the things they do. When Marvin saw that Jonathan wasn’t too excited about taking lessons from Elder and Sister Heap, Marvin challenged him to do better. “I said, ‘Let’s see if you can catch up to me. I want to see

how good you can get and how much you can practice.”

Jonathan responded to Marvin’s challenge. “I realized I should just give it a try, and after the first time I tried, everything turned out OK. I got into the habit of playing, and I started to get good at the piano. And now I can sight-read music pretty well.”

Although Marvin’s challenge got him going, Jonathan says the real reason he loves to play has nothing to do with competition. “We feel the Spirit when playing these songs,” he explains. “I want to encourage others to learn how to play the piano, to bring music into everyone’s life, and to make people happy so they can feel joy and comfort in their souls.”

As for Marvin, he has his work cut out for him. His calling is to play the organ in sacrament meeting. He can play the organ using

the foot pedals, and he even knows how to use all the little knobs at the sides of the keyboards to control the organ’s sound.

Each week, he and the ward music director pick the hymns for the next Sunday. “I have to practice every day because four songs is a lot,” he says. “And if they’re hard, I have to practice more.”

Marvin loves playing. He agrees with Jonathan that good music, especially the hymns, just makes people happy. And, he adds, “my Sunday School teacher says it makes you live longer because you have less stress when you play the piano.”

Playing Their Part

The youth of the London Ward are making a difference in their ward, and they also feel like their lives are made much better through their service. Sherri says, “I think it’s really good because the youth are more involved, and they are being recognized for their talents and what they’ve learned.”

And they’ve learned a lot more than just how to play the piano. “I’ve learned to organize my time. I’ve learned to practice,” says Myka Ugto, 16. And to those who are learning to play the piano or going through the Church’s Basic Music Course, she encourages, “Be patient. Just take time to practice, and you’ll be fine.” Jonathan says, “You have to put it all together slowly, note by note by note.”

As with any talent, learning to play a musical instrument takes time, effort, and a lot of heart. And sometimes it just takes putting it all together—“note by note by note.” ■

Shanna Gbaznavi is a member of the BYU 61st Ward, Brigham Young University Second Stake.



SING A HYMN

“Inspirational music is an essential part of our church meetings. The hymns invite the Spirit of the Lord, create a feeling of reverence, unify us as members, and provide a way for us to offer praises to the Lord.

“Some of the greatest sermons are preached by the singing of hymns. Hymns move us to repentance and good works, build testimony and faith, comfort the weary, console the mourning, and inspire us to endure to the end.

“... We encourage all members, whether musically inclined or not, to join with us in singing the hymns.”

The First Presidency, Hymns, ix.



WITH LOVE

*A dividing sword came between us.
That's when I learned I needed to teach
my friend the gospel with love.*

BY STEFANIA POSTIGLIONE

My friend Roberta and I had always shared everything—until it came to the Church. We met the missionaries in our hometown in Italy and listened to the first few discussions together. But while my testimony grew day by day, Roberta became less and less interested. I found myself struggling to choose baptism, knowing my friend would not be coming into the Church with me.

One evening as I was skimming the Bible, I chanced to read Matthew chapter 10. Verses 34–38 struck deep into my heart:

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

“For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother. . . .

“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

The Spirit testified that I should follow the path of righteousness, even though my friends and relatives might not understand. So I was baptized.

My friendship with Roberta did not end, but we were not as close. She could not understand my enthusiasm for the gospel, and I could not understand her desire for the worldly things that no longer seemed so important to me.

The dividing “sword” the Savior spoke of



had fallen between us. I suffered because of this, but I also began to judge my friend:

How could she reject something as simple and beautiful as the gospel? She must have a hard heart if she could not accept something so obvious.

Sensing my attitude, Roberta grew defensive. Naturally, she didn't like being thought of as hard-hearted. Every time I mentioned religion, she changed the subject. God became someone we argued about.

Two years passed. One day I asked Roberta if she would travel with me to the city of Foggia, where I was to receive my patriarchal blessing. She agreed to go, mostly because she hadn't been on a trip in a while.

While Roberta waited in another room, Brother Vincenzo Conforte gave me a wonderful blessing. Afterward, I was so caught up in the Spirit that I completely forgot about Roberta, who must have been feeling like a fish out of water as she waited for me. But Brother Conforte noticed her. When he learned she was not a member of the Church, he humbly knelt by her chair. Looking into her eyes, he bore a sweet and powerful testimony. God truly lived and loved her, he testified, and she could come to know Him through simple prayer.

That testimony touched Roberta's heart. And it completely changed the way I thought about sharing the gospel with others. With that simple gesture, the patriarch taught me how to be a true witness of God.

Now I realize that we can help bring our loved ones closer to God if we will speak about Him with the sweet, loving voice of the Spirit. God is love, and it is through love that we choose Him.

Because of His love for us, God called Joseph Smith to restore His Church, so

that we can learn to love perfectly. And the one we bear witness of is Jesus Christ, the most humble and meek Son of God.

Since I had this experience, many of my friends have come into the Church. My friend Roberta is even considering studying the gospel. And I have learned something I

will never forget: Whenever we testify of the Savior and His gospel, we must do so with love. ■

*Stefania Postiglione
is a member of
the Flegreo Branch,
Naples Italy
District.*



MAKING THE MOST OF MUTUAL

Time to plan your next Mutual activity? Mutual can do a lot of good for a lot of people if you know what Mutual is for. Here are some fun activity ideas.

Preparing for the Future

- Learn basic cooking skills to prepare for your future families and for serving a mission. Enlist the help of some good cooks in your ward or branch, and then be sure to taste all the delicious things you make.
- Have a lesson on celestial marriage, and then write a letter in your journal to your future husband or wife. Strive to be all those things you are hoping your future spouse will be.

Serving

- Prepare a list of household chores, and go out and find people who would like help with those jobs. If you identify some families and their needs beforehand, you can be sure your service is making a difference.

Practicing Gospel Principles

- Exercise your artistic abilities by pairing up and drawing portraits of each other. After displaying your masterpieces, have a lesson on how to receive the image of Christ in your countenances (see Alma 5:14–19).

- Have a “dessert lesson.” Choose a gospel topic you want to learn more about, and have one member of your group prepare and present ideas on the topic to the group. Make sure everyone knows the topic beforehand so you can all have things to say and be spiritually fed while having dessert.

Building Unity

- Even if you’ve known them all your lives, there’s still more to learn about the youth in your ward or branch. Play some get-to-know-you games. Or hold a testimony meeting, sharing some of your favorite hymns or scriptures and why they are special to you.
- Everyone has an interest. Let members of your quorum or class present a class or workshop on something they like to do. Find ways to tie their interests to the gospel.

Completing Personal Progress and Duty to God

- Many of the above ideas could fulfill the quorum and class requirements for Personal Progress and Duty to God.

Feeling the Spirit

- With prayerful preparation, each of the above ideas can bring the Spirit. Find ways to give the Holy Ghost every opportunity to be present. ■



Prepare to Receive Personal Revelation

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

President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “The flow of revelation depends on your faith. . . . As you test gospel principles by believing without knowing, the Spirit will begin to teach you. Gradually your faith will be replaced with knowledge. . . .

“Be believing and your faith will be constantly replenished, your knowledge of the truth increased, and your testimony of the Redeemer, of the Resurrection, of the Restoration will be as ‘a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life’ [D&C 63:23; see also John 4:14; Jeremiah 2:13]. You may then receive guidance on practical decisions in everyday life” (“Personal Revelation: The Gift, the Test, and the Promise,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 60–61).

Alma 17:2–3: “These sons of Mosiah . . . had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God. But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting; therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “Let us qualify ourselves for our Savior’s promise that by partaking of the sacrament we will ‘be filled’ (3 Ne. 20:8; see also 3 Ne. 18:9), which means that we will be ‘filled with the Spirit’ (3 Ne. 20:9). That Spirit—the Holy Ghost—is our comforter, our direction finder, our communicator, our interpreter, our witness, and our purifier—our infallible guide and sanctifier for our mortal journey toward eternal life” (“‘Always Have His Spirit,’” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 61).

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “Humility . . . germinates the seeds of personal growth. When cultivated through the exercise of faith, pruned by repentance, and fortified by obedience and good works, such seeds produce the cherished fruit of spirituality. (See Alma 26:22.) Divine inspiration and power then result. Inspiration is to know the will of the Lord. Power is the capability to accomplish that inspired will” (“The Plan for Happiness and Exaltation,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 12).

Sydney S. Reynolds, first counselor in the Primary general presidency: “I am grateful for a teacher who encouraged his students to keep a journal of the whisperings

or promptings of the Spirit in their lives. He directed us to note what we felt and what resulted. Little things became evident” (“A God of Miracles,” *Liabona*, July 2001, 12).

Anne C. Pingree, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency: “In our lives there are unsettling seasons and circumstances when we are called upon to move out of our comfort zone and place complete trust in the Lord. As we put fear behind us and exercise faith in Jesus Christ, the Spirit becomes a trusted companion, a tutor, and a directing force. We rely upon the promise in 2 Nephi 32:5: ‘The Holy Ghost . . . will show unto you all things what ye should do.’ The Holy Ghost also teaches us the things we should know.”

- *What can we do to increase our ability to receive personal revelation?*
- *How might fear keep us from receiving direction from God?* ■



A person wearing a red t-shirt and blue shorts is holding a basketball with their right hand. They are standing on a wooden block, and their legs are visible. They are wearing white socks and white sneakers with black stripes. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

BY CHAD MORRIS

Though life isn't fair, give it your best shot. The Lord will make up the difference.

Whenever my older brother got to stay up late or he got more ice cream than I did, I said, "That's not fair." Then, and at many other times in life, the answer always came back: "Life isn't fair."

In junior high, I didn't think life was fair. I was short—not just a little below average, but officially vertically challenged. One day my entire grade lined up by height for a picture. I was at the end of the line—the short end.

Despite my height, I loved basketball and was determined to make the team. As a gym full of boys began running drills to win their places on the squad, I hoped my many hours of practice would pay off. The coaches stood in the middle of the gym, observing us and taking notes on their clipboards. At my size, I just prayed they would notice me.

After warm-ups, the head coach blew his whistle and explained our first shooting drill. He handed me a ball. I was one of the first to dribble from half court and pull up inside the three-point line for a jump shot. I knew everyone was watching; my shaking hands reminded me with every dribble. I stopped at the top of the key, jumped, and let go of

**COMING
UP short**

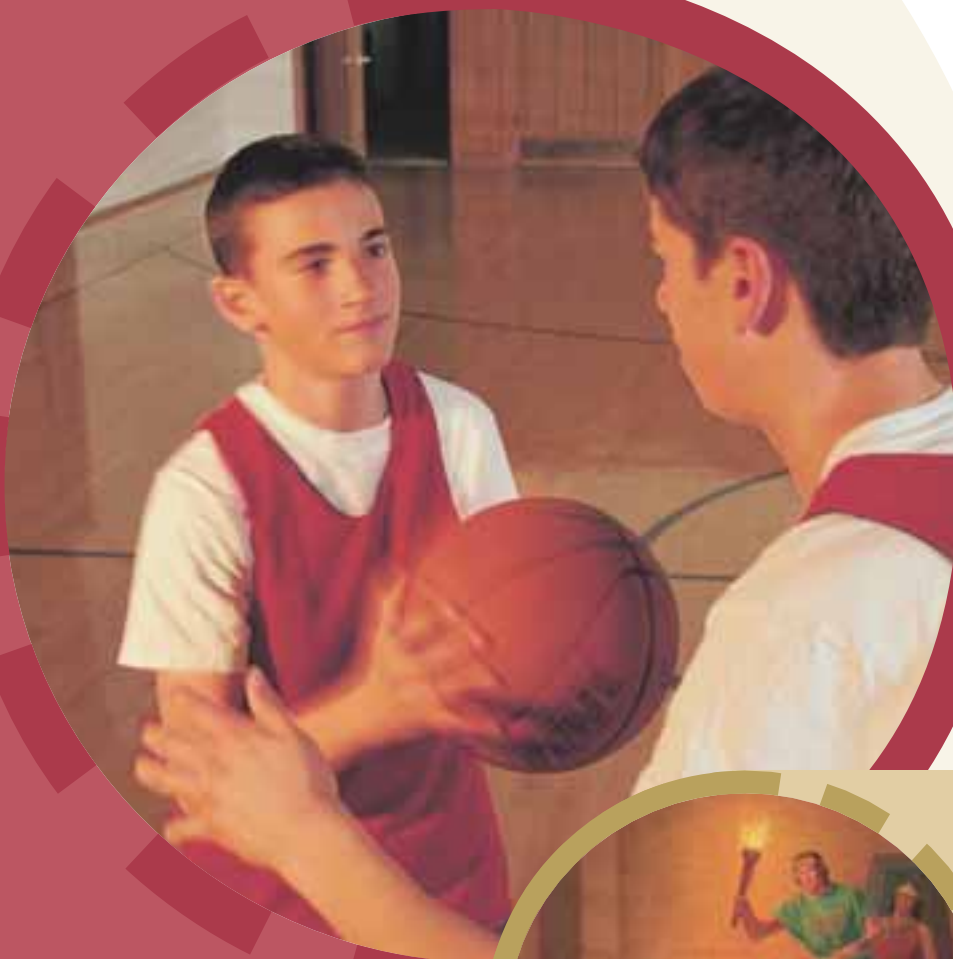


PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LUKE, POSED BY MODELS



“Certain mortal ‘whys’ are not really questions at all but are expressions of resentment. Other ‘whys’ imply that the trial might be all right later on but not now, as if faith in the Lord excluded faith in His timing. Some ‘why me’ questions, asked amid stress, would be much better as ‘what’ questions, such as, ‘What is required of me now?’ or, to paraphrase Moroni’s words, ‘If I am sufficiently humble, which personal weakness could now become a strength?’ (see Ether 12:27).”

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “‘Apply the Atoning Blood of Christ,’” *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 22–23.



the ball. I hoped that it would at least hit the rim. The ball rolled around the iron and dropped through the net.

Sooner than I wanted, it was my turn again. Again my shot found its way through the hoop. Through the next rotation, my luck continued. The returning center of the team noticed me and decided to help out an underdog. He began calling attention to me right before each of my next shots. Thankfully, I kept making my shots.

At the end of the day, when the list of those who made first cuts was posted, my name was there. I had just climbed the first leg of my Mount Everest.

After a few more days of tense nerves and early-morning drills, another cut was posted.



I made it past my second hurdle. With only one or two cuts left, my chances were getting better, but my competition was stiffer.

At the end of the week, tryouts were over. I tried to remain calm as I walked to the coaches’ office to see if I made the team. My name was missing from the list.

The assistant coach, who was also my science teacher, pulled me aside. “You’re a good little ball player. You’ve got a lot of potential.” His compliments didn’t help my

disappointment. “It’s hard to cut people. It’s just that right now you don’t have the size to play for the team. Maybe next year.”

Why me? One of my dreams crashed, and it wasn’t because I didn’t try or practice. It was because of something out of my control. Life just didn’t seem fair.

Why Me?

Although I have read the Book of Mormon several times, only recently did I realize how unfair Ammon’s success could have felt to Aaron, Ammon’s brother. They and other Nephites went to teach the Lamanites. Yet while Ammon was defending the king’s flocks, being overcome by the Spirit, and baptizing King Lamoni and his people, Aaron and his companions struggled. The Lamanites “had cast them out, and had smitten them, and had driven them from house to house, and from place to place, even until they had arrived in the land of Middoni; and there they were taken and cast into prison, and bound with strong cords, and kept in prison for many days” (Alma 20:30).

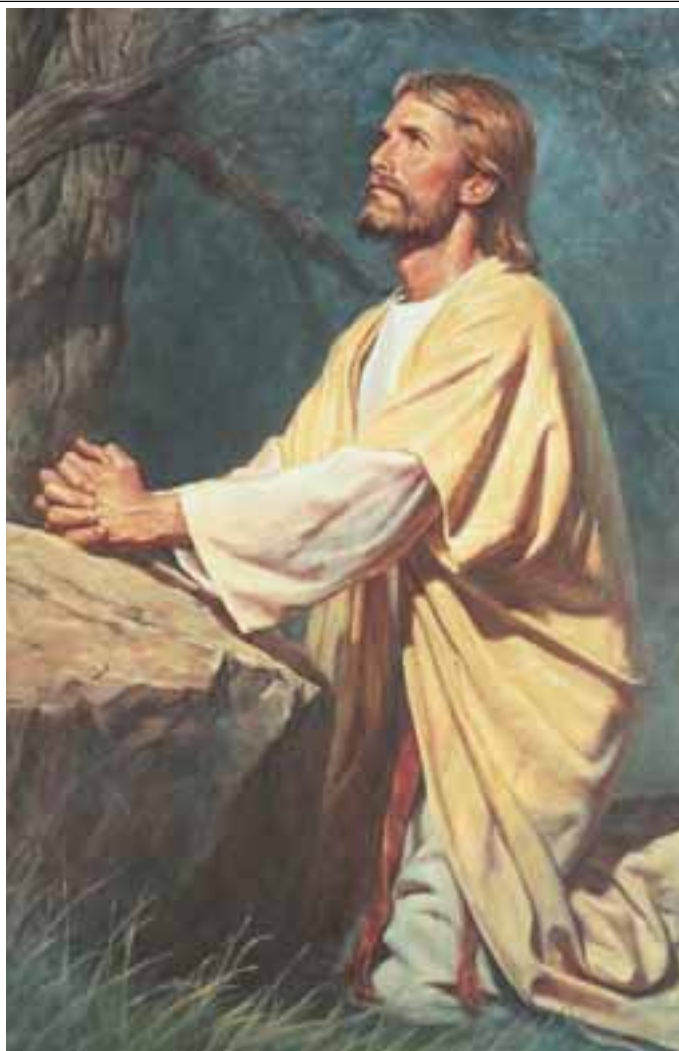
Think of all the reasons Aaron had to ask, “Why me?”

Compared to Ammon’s life, Aaron’s seemed unfair. After his release from prison, Aaron preached unresentfully to the Lamanites.

Ammon was seeing great success while Aaron had seen only failure and prison walls. Even Aaron’s deliverance from prison was another of Ammon’s successes. Aaron’s life wasn’t fair.

Despite the unfairness, Aaron showed no signs of resentment. Out of prison, he immediately resumed his missionary service with the attitude of asking what the Lord wanted him to do. Then the Lord blessed him. Aaron taught and baptized Lamoni’s father, the king over all of the Lamanites, and his household.

I realized, to a small extent, that my situation was like Aaron’s. Others around me had great success, but for



reasons beyond my control, I didn’t. I had a choice: I could wallow in self-pity, asking, “Why me?” or, like Aaron, I could be patient and trust in the Lord.

I’ve realized that, though my life isn’t fair at times, I can cast my cares on the Savior. Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “The Atonement will not only help us overcome our transgressions and mistakes, but in His time, it will resolve all inequities of life—those things that are unfair which are the consequences of circumstance or others’ acts and not our own decisions” (“Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 54). When I turn to Christ, my life doesn’t suddenly become fair. But as I strive to be like Him in my unfair circumstances, He helps me not to become bitter and even to love an unfair world. ■

Chad Morris is a member of the West Jordan 44th Ward, West Jordan Utah East Stake.



Finding Grandpa Pablo

BY RAQUEL PEDRAZA DE BROSIO

My family history research always ended with one particular name. But when my father happened to see that name in an unexpected place, our search for Grandpa Pablo was on.

My father was born in the Chaco region in northeastern Argentina, where the sun is hot and people work the soil, growing cotton and other crops. Neighbors have known each other for generations, and traditions are followed to the letter. My father's family lived in Villa Ángela, where they had a comfortable middle-class life.

Then, when my father was nine years old, his parents separated, and my father went with his mother and sisters to live in Buenos Aires. This was quite a difficult change for a young boy who couldn't understand why he had to leave his hometown and his friends and didn't know when he would see his father again. As the months of separation turned into years, my father's memory of his own father faded. He didn't even have a photograph of him.

Our family was introduced to the restored gospel and eventually joined the Church. When I was 15, I became quite interested in family history work. Seeking out my ancestors became a passion with me, and I was able to become well acquainted with my family on my mother's side. But on my father's side all of my attempts ended with one name: Grandpa Pablo Pedraza.

When my father told me the story of his childhood, I had a strong desire to find out more about Grandpa Pablo. We began to pray as a family to find out more about him so

we could complete our family history. My father probed his memory, and he managed to recall the address of an elderly aunt. He wrote to her, but she passed away before we were able to get the information we were seeking. We didn't give up but continued to pray.

One day on my father's way to work the bus he was riding stopped at a traffic light beside a mail truck. My father could see several large packages in the truck, and one drew his attention. On its label was the name Pablo Pedraza, and it gave an address in my father's childhood hometown.

Very excitedly my father wrote down the address. He knew his father had been an auto mechanic, and he thought the large box on the truck could easily have been for him. For several years we wrote to this address, expressing our hope that we had found our father and grandfather and our desire to meet with him. But we never received an answer.

Then one day my father was telling this story to a friend in our ward. The friend suggested, "Why don't you just go there and find him?" Fear flooded our minds. Maybe Grandpa Pablo did not want us to find him, or maybe this was not his address.

But after praying about it, we felt we needed to travel to the Chaco to look for Grandpa Pablo. Our whole family



loaded into a van and traveled for 28 hours. Driving straight to the address on the package, we stopped in front of a pretty, well-kept house. A man of about 60 was out washing his car. My father gathered his courage and got out to introduce himself and verify that we were on the right street.

Our family watched expectantly through the van windows, and after several minutes we saw our father and the man exchange a big hug. Then they both began to motion for us to get out of the van. It was indeed Grandpa Pablo—the father my father had not seen for 40 years!

The meeting was not an easy one, but a spirit of love was there. We learned that because of the inadequate postal service in his small hometown, Grandpa Pablo had not received any of the letters we had sent him over the years. We also learned that he had tried to find my father for many years but that he had his own fears about meeting us. We met Grandpa's wife and children and learned about their joys and sorrows. We learned that Grandpa Pablo was a good man who believed in God. He was a loving husband and father and a good neighbor. And we could see that he was as excited to get to know us as we were to finally find him.

Now we have photographs of Grandpa Pablo and vital information about him and some of his ancestors. He died one year ago, and we are preparing to go to the temple to do ordinance work for him and other family members. My father can hardly contain his joy that he will finally be able to be sealed to his parents. The work on our family history chart continues.

We have been promised that “the heart of the fathers [shall turn] to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers” (Malachi 4:6). Our family was greatly blessed to have the Lord lead us by the hand so that this promise could literally be fulfilled. ■

Raquel Pedraza de Brosio is a member of the Chacarita Ward, Buenos Aires Argentina Belgrano Stake.



The Laborers

The Lord invites each of us to examine our motives for serving in His kingdom.



BY ELDER HENRY F. ACEBEDO

Area Authority Seventy

When I joined the Church in 1975, there were few members in the Philippines. Since that day the Church has grown dramatically. My homeland now has almost half a million members. I have been honored and pleased to labor in the Lord's vineyard during these years in many positions of responsibility. But my years of service raise a question: Am I entitled to a greater reward in heaven than a new convert who is faithful but who lives only a few years before passing beyond the veil? The Savior has answered this question, like many others, with a parable.

"What Shall We Have Therefore?"

One day as the Savior was with His disciples, a rich young man came to Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16). "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor . . . and come and follow me" (Matthew 19:21), Jesus responded. This answer astonished His disciples. They wondered among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" (Matthew 19:25). Jesus discerned their thoughts and explained

that eternal life is possible for those who forsake all things for His sake (see Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 19:26).

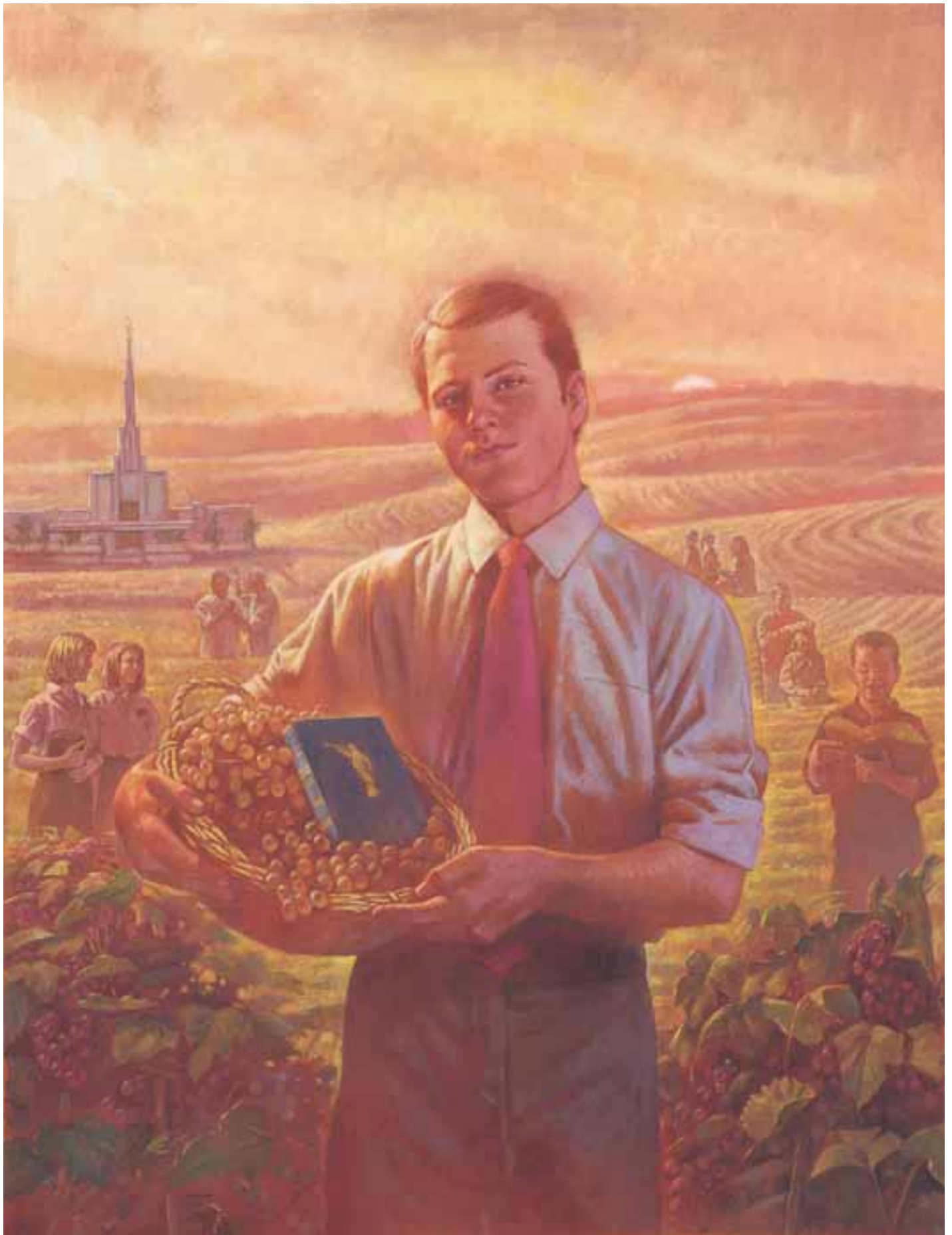
Peter then asked on behalf of all the Apostles, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?" (Matthew 19:27).

Jesus' answer was both a glorious promise and a stern rebuke. First, He assured them that after the Resurrection they, the Apostles, would sit upon 12 thrones and judge the house of Israel. He then warned, "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first" (Matthew 19:30), and He taught them the parable of the laborers.

Every Laborer a Penny

Jesus likened the kingdom of heaven to a householder who went out early one morning to hire laborers. In Jesus' day unemployed men often gathered in certain public places to meet potential employers. The householder agreed to pay his laborers the usual daily wage of a penny (a Roman *denarius*) and sent them into his vineyard. Later, at about the third hour (9:00 A.M.), the householder went again to the marketplace and found others standing idle, waiting for work. These he also hired,

Many of us have jobs that pay by the hour. For all of us, the harder and longer we work, the more we expect to be paid. But the economy of heaven is different.





DETAIL FROM THE LAST JUDGMENT, BY JOHN SCOTT

T*o those who qualify for the celestial kingdom, the promise of the Father is that all who labor, no matter when each is called into the vineyard, will be “equal in power, and in might, and in dominion.”*

but this time he did not tell them how much they would be paid. He agreed to pay “whatsoever is right” (Matthew 20:4). The laborers readily agreed and took their places beside the other workers in the vineyard. At about the sixth and ninth hours (noon and 3:00 P.M.), the householder again hired more workers. Then one last time, at the eleventh hour (5:00 P.M.), he went to the marketplace and hired new laborers. As before, he told them their pay would be whatever was right.

When evening came, the householder called all his laborers together, paying first those who had worked but one hour. To the surprise of all the workers, the one-hour laborers received a full day’s pay! The householder then proceeded to call forth all the part-day workers, paying each the same amount, regardless of the number of hours spent in the vineyard.

We can imagine that when those who had worked the longest saw what was being given to the part-day workers, they jumped to the conclusion that they would receive not only the promised penny, but also a bonus—after all, they had worked more than anyone else! So when the householder

paid them but a penny, they complained, “These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day” (Matthew 20:12).

The householder responded, “Friend, I do thee no wrong” (Matthew 20:13) and reminded them that they had been paid their promised wage. He asked the murmurers two penetrating questions: “Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own [money]? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?” (Matthew 20:15).

Surely the householder had been fair and charitable with all who had worked in his vineyard. Jesus then concluded, “So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen” (Matthew 20:16; see D&C 121:34–40).

Beware of Pride

Many of us have jobs that pay by the hour. For all of us, the harder and longer we work, the more we expect to be paid. But the economy of heaven is different. When we are baptized, ordained to the priesthood, or participate in the ordinances of the holy temple, we covenant to be

obedient to God and magnify our callings. In return, the Lord promises that if we are faithful we will receive “all that my Father hath” (D&C 84:38), or exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God (see D&C 84:33–41). There is no higher wage or reward that the Lord can offer; it is the greatest of all His gifts (see D&C 14:7).

Do our feelings ever seem to echo those of the ancient Apostles, who asked, “What shall we have therefore?” Do we think we deserve a greater reward because we were called first or labored longest? The bargaining spirit of those hired first has no place in the gospel. Although while we labor we may not comprehend the full significance of His reward, we can trust that we will receive from the Lord “whatsoever is right.”

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) cautioned us to beware of pride, for it “is essentially competitive in nature. . . . Some prideful people are not so concerned as to whether their wages meet their needs as they are that their wages are more than someone else’s. Their reward is being a cut above the rest. This is the enmity of pride.”¹

Beware of Murmuring

When I was in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps in college, our commandant used to tell us, “Obey first before you complain.” When I joined the Church, I said to myself that I would do the same thing. Whenever I am asked to comment on the topic of obedience, I explain how this philosophy has blessed my life.

When the Lord calls, we should not worry about the pay. We should simply go to work and do our best. What does it matter who gets the credit? We should thank the Lord for the opportunity to work in His vineyard.

I hope we never murmur against the Goodman of the House, our Savior Jesus Christ, or against His servants—from the First Presidency to our local leaders. Let us remember the Lord’s instruction: “Whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).

The Reward Is the Same

Experienced and new members will be greatly blessed as they work side by side to accomplish the great latter-day harvest. Each of us needs to work at our own assignments with all our heart, might, mind, and strength. We are to avoid becoming jealous of the rewards or accomplishments of other disciples. When we work with an eye single to the glory of God, we leave the eventual reward or glory for such labors to the judgment of the Lord.

Does my service of more than 25 years entitle me to a greater reward in heaven than a new convert who is faithful but who may give only a short period of service before passing beyond the veil? The Lord’s answer is no. To those who qualify for the celestial kingdom, the promise of the Father is that all who labor, no matter when each is called into the vineyard, will be “equal in power, and in might, and in dominion” (D&C 76:95). The Lord is a generous paymaster. He will surely pay “whatsoever is right.” ■

NOTE

1. “Beware of Pride,” *Ensign*, May 1989, 4–5.

Elder Henry F. Acebedo is an Area Authority Seventy serving in the Philippines Area.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Ask family members to make a list of the rewards they believe a person can receive from laboring for the Lord. Read the “Every Laborer a Penny” section, and review why the full-day laborers were so unhappy. Bear testimony that the Lord is a generous paymaster.

2. Ask a family member to perform a simple but useful task, such as a household chore. Ask another person to perform a much harder task. Offer to pay them both the same amount for their efforts. Discuss why this may seem unfair. Read the last three sections of this article. What are some ways Elder Acebedo says we can avoid pride and murmuring?



Words of
the Early
Apostles

Building Up the Church

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9).



Many experiences have reaffirmed for me that our Church is divinely led and that priesthood leaders are inspired as to whom to call.

BY ELDER RICHARD J. MAYNES
Of the Seventy

Throughout their ministries, the Apostles Peter and Paul proclaimed the gospel, organized branches, and instructed the Saints in their ecclesiastical responsibilities. Their words and deeds reveal three basic elements that are required for establishing the Lord’s Church:

1. Church organization and structure must be established through authorized representatives and according to divine design.
2. True doctrine and principles are revealed by God through His prophets.
3. All members have responsibilities to help build up the Church.

These three principles continue to be relevant in our day.

1. Church organization and structure must be established through authorized representatives and according to divine design.

The Lord instituted the process of organizing the Church through the proper application

of priesthood keys and by revelation. Alternatives to this process are not acceptable to Him.

Paul said regarding the bestowal of priesthood authority, “No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron” (Hebrews 5:4). Priesthood power is a gift from God for those who spiritually qualify. It is not given upon demand, as Peter’s encounter with the sorcerer Simon illustrates:

“And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

“Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost” (Acts 8:18–19).

Peter rebuked him, saying:

“Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

“Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God” (Acts 8:20–21).

One cannot buy priesthood power or obtain it for selfish reasons. It must be



The Lord instituted the process of organizing the Church through the application of priesthood keys and by revelation.

bestowed by those with authority. Similarly, specific callings within the Church are extended by those in authority exercising their priesthood keys under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Without this foundation principle in place, the Church could be established differently throughout the world, depending on individual personalities and local customs.

When Paul instructed Timothy, he said, “Lay hands suddenly on no man” (1 Timothy 5:22). He knew that prayer, pondering, and inspiration must precede the giving of callings.

Many experiences have reaffirmed for me that our Church is divinely led and that priesthood leaders are inspired as to whom to call. One of those experiences took place in 1997, when I was a newly called General Authority. One of my first assignments was to assist Elder Robert D.

Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in reorganizing a stake. Although I looked forward to this opportunity, I was a bit apprehensive because of my lack of experience.

During the reorganization process, we interviewed many priesthood brethren in the stake. It became apparent that several of these brethren were

fully capable of successfully accomplishing the responsibilities of a stake president. The question then became: Which of these men did the Lord desire to be called?

After considerable discussion and pondering, Elder Hales and I felt prompted to select a particular candidate. Elder Hales then asked me to offer a prayer. What happened next was one of the most spiritual experiences of my life. During the prayer, I asked for confirmation of the Spirit. As I uttered the name of this priesthood brother, the Holy Ghost bore such a powerful witness that he was

the Lord's choice that I could barely finish the prayer. Elder Hales and I both knew by revelation that this was the man the Lord had chosen. How blessed we are to be members of the Church, which is directed by divine inspiration!

2. True doctrine and principles are revealed by God through His prophets.

Paul described the foundation upon which the Church of Jesus Christ stands: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:19–20).

Peter exhorted the Saints to "be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets," warning that in the last days many would turn away from them: "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts" (2 Peter 3:2–3).

Prophets reveal the mind and will of the Lord to us so that we do not have to be "carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14). Paul taught that if we keep ourselves worthy and protect the purity of this revealed doctrine, great blessings will come: "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Timothy 4:16).

During the Sunday afternoon session of general conference in April 1998, President Gordon B. Hinckley closed by announcing the construction of 32 new temples. As those words left his mouth, the Holy Ghost testified to me that Gordon B. Hinckley was a living prophet and that it was the Lord's will that those temples be built. This same confirmation from the Holy Ghost came to me during the April 1999 general conference when President

Hinckley announced the construction of the Nauvoo Illinois Temple.

The Lord has always revealed His will and His priesthood power and authority through His servants the prophets (see Amos 3:7). He administers His kingdom the same yesterday, today, and forever.

3. All members have responsibilities to help build up the Church.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, the Apostle Paul emphasizes that every member is needed to help successfully establish the Church:

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. . . .

"For the body is not one member, but many. . . .

"And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. . . .

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (vv. 12, 14, 21, 27–28).

Each member of the Church has been blessed with special gifts or talents.

Just think how difficult it would be for a bishop or branch president to successfully staff a ward or branch if everyone had the same talents. A great youth leader may have different talents than the choir director, but both are important to the overall well-being of the ward or branch. Just as each part of the body is essential to the health and strength of the whole body, each member is essential to the health and strength of the ward or branch.

When members willingly donate their time and talents to the Church, their testimonies grow and their spiritual lives



Like other prophets throughout the various dispensations, President Gordon B. Hinckley reveals the mind and will of the Lord to us.

are strengthened. In various locations throughout the Church, I have observed members' lives change as they become fully engaged in helping to establish the Church. Two such individuals are Carlos and Rosario Casariego.

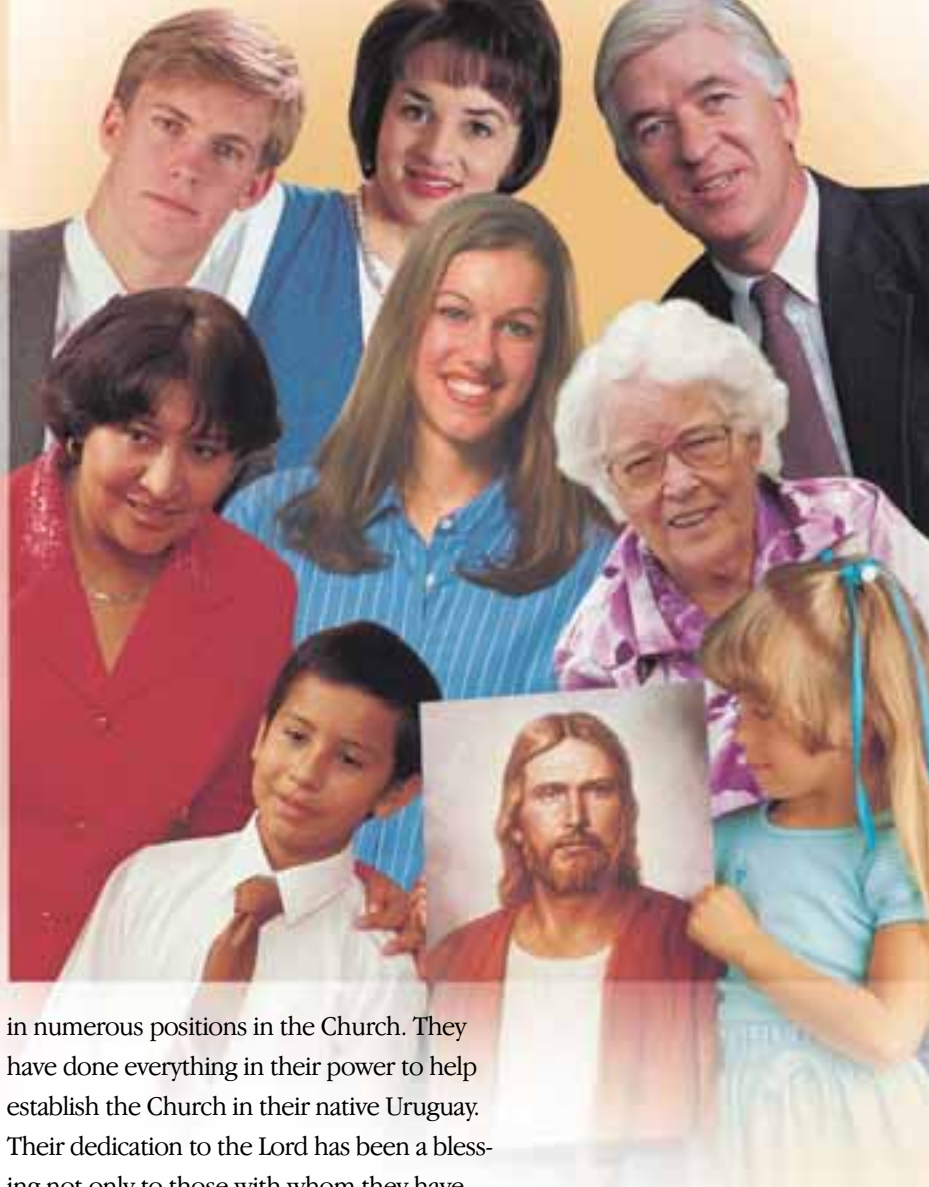
I was serving a full-time mission in Uruguay when I first met Carlos and Rosario. They were teenagers at the time, and both were receptive to the gospel and eager to live by its principles.

Carlos was baptized in December 1970, and three months later he met Rosario when he was asked to speak at the baptismal service for her family. Following their baptisms, both Carlos and Rosario were called to serve with the youth, and soon they became the presidents of their respective groups. They were among the first students when the seminary and institute programs started in Uruguay. Additionally, Rosario served in the stake Primary presidency, and Carlos appeared on the Church's weekly television program *Nuestro Mundo* (Our World).

By 1975 Carlos and Rosario were planning their wedding. Then they attended a regional conference, and the course of their lives was changed. During the conference, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) told the youth that every qualified young man should seriously consider going on a full-time mission and that young women should be supportive of that goal.

Carlos and Rosario determined that they would follow the counsel of the prophet. Later that year, Carlos received a call to the Uruguay-Paraguay Mission. Rosario commenced a full-time mission to Argentina six months later. Due to Carlos's and Rosario's dedicated service, many good people and future leaders were baptized into the Church.

Since their marriage in July 1981, Carlos and Rosario have had four children and have served



in numerous positions in the Church. They have done everything in their power to help establish the Church in their native Uruguay. Their dedication to the Lord has been a blessing not only to those with whom they have served, but in their own lives as well. They are examples of good people who have become fully engaged in helping to establish a strong, multigenerational church in their own country.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Similarly, Peter taught, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house . . . to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). Let us individually commit to do our part in building up His Church. In the words of a great modern prophet, Brigham Young (1801–77), "When we conclude to make a Zion we will make it, and this work commences in the heart of each person."¹ ■

NOTE

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* (1997), 113.

All Church members have gifts and talents that can contribute to the strength of their wards or branches. As members donate their time and talents to the Church, their testimonies grow.

My Father's Medal of Courage

By Emmanuel Fleckinger

During the somber days of World War II, my father was taken prisoner by German troops. He was part of a group of French prisoners from Alsace (which had once been part of Germany) who lacked everything, even the most essential items. Many of the prisoners, especially those who were ill, died of hunger and exposure to the elements or simply of exhaustion during their long marches from one camp to another.

During one of these long and difficult marches into Germany, a sudden explosion detonated in a house not far from this sad string of prisoners. They could hear cries of panic coming from those caught inside the house. The guards quickly tightened the ranks to better guard the prisoners and prevent their escape. However, my father, listening only to his conscience, bolted from the ranks and ran as fast as his weak legs would

permit. Without worrying about his own safety, he outran the guards who were pursuing him and shooting in his direction.

Miraculously, he wasn't hit, and the guards stopped in surprise when they realized he was running into the flame-engulfed house. He soon emerged, carrying a child about eight years old. He had heard the child screaming for help, had rescued him, and now turned him over to the astonished German soldiers. Almost immediately, an officer addressed him in a severe tone: "Do you know what you did? You just saved a future enemy."

My father, exhausted and drained of all strength from his heroic gesture and from the many hardships of the preceding months, answered with surprising assurance: "I didn't see an enemy. I saw a human being, a child who needed my help. I did what had to be done—and if it had to be done over, I would do it again without hesitation."

The guards stopped shooting when they realized my father was running into the flame-engulfed house. He soon emerged, carrying a child about eight years old.



He was led back to the prisoners—but with a little more respect. And after this act of heroism, all of the prisoners were treated better than they had been before. The most astonishing part of all was that after this group arrived in the camp, my father, in his French uniform, received a German award of distinction.

My father understood the Savior's commandment to "love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). He died in 1959 without having had the opportunity to hear the restored gospel. But I believe he will be given that opportunity where he is now and will be able to receive all the teachings and blessings the gospel has to offer. ■

Emmanuel Fleckinger is a member of the Colmar Branch, Nancy France Stake.

My Daughter's Prayer

By Kari Ann Rasmussen

After a year of extreme financial burdens, I was feeling hopeful that things were beginning to look up for my family. Then came fresh setbacks. For an entire year I had trusted the Lord that everything would work out and we would one day see our trials as growing experiences. But with the new setbacks, I stumbled in my spiritual footing. I felt abandoned and lost and soon stopped feeding my spirit.

Though I never stopped attending church, I stopped praying, fasting, and reading the scriptures. I no longer went to the temple. I did the bare minimum for my calling as a Primary teacher. I felt hopeless and wondered why I should try to live righteously if it wouldn't protect me from getting hurt.

One night as I was watching television in my bedroom, my 10-year-old daughter walked in carrying her Book of Mormon. She had been trying to read it, but she said she couldn't pronounce a word. I helped her and then sent her out of the room.

In a few minutes she was back, saying she was having a hard time understanding what she read. Feeling sorry for myself, I was in no mood to spend time in the scriptures. In an irritated tone, I said, "Samantha, go pray to Heavenly Father and ask Him to help you understand what you are reading."

My daughter didn't move. She looked at me steadily and said quietly, "I did pray. I have a really strong feeling that I need to read scriptures with you."

I stared at her in surprise and then clicked the television off. I patted the bed beside me, she climbed up, and we read a chapter from the Book of Mormon together. I didn't pay much attention to what we were reading because I was marveling at Heavenly Father's reminder to me that I needed to seek Him as I dealt with my trials.

After that night I started saying my

personal prayers again and spending time in the scriptures daily. I set a goal to attend the temple at least once a month. Amazingly, everything I read in the scriptures and Church magazines seemed to apply to me and the problems I was facing. Once again my soul was being fed, and I found I was able to bear my burdens. I often got down on my knees and asked forgiveness for not trusting the Lord as I should have. I will always be grateful for the spiritual sensitivity of a 10-year-old and a gentle reminder from a loving Heavenly Father. ■

Kari Ann Rasmussen is a member of the Murray 10th Ward, Murray Utah West Stake.

Finding Peace through Forgiveness

Name withheld

My husband's brother, John*, was being transferred out of state. It was hard to accept the fact that he, his wife, Annie, and their family were leaving. We had spent a lot of time together and had grown quite close.

After John's family had been gone a few months, my husband, Ron, called to see how they were doing. They had adjusted well and were enjoying their new area. My husband owned a small business and let his brother know the door was always



I tried to avoid Annie at the wedding reception, but when it was nearly over I found myself sitting alone with her. I looked at her, and the Spirit filled my heart.

open if he ever wanted to move back and work with him. At that point in the conversation John's wife, Annie, spoke up and told Ron in no uncertain terms that they were not interested. She apparently said some unkind things about Ron as well as his business.

Ron came home and shared this conversation with me. Although he tried to appear as if it didn't bother him, I could tell he was deeply hurt. I was enraged and wanted to call Annie immediately and set her straight.

I didn't call, but once I had allowed myself to be offended, I opened the

gates to a flood of foul thoughts. I began finding fault with Annie and gossiped about her with other family members and friends. In essence, I allowed pride to creep into my heart and take root, while charity withered away.

Just as an infection can spread and cause deterioration and pain to the physical body, pride can do the same to the spirit. Although my husband had long forgotten the incident, my heart remained infected. My thoughts were focused on how hurt I was. I was on edge with my family and quick to see the worst in every situation. I had no desire to love and serve others because I was caught up in myself.

After several months we heard that John and Annie were coming to town for a family wedding. I would finally have to face her. I dreaded seeing

her, but there was no way around it. As the wedding day approached, my anxiety mounted. I didn't like the way I had been feeling, and I knew it was wrong. I prayed often for the Savior to help me overcome my negative feelings. Eventually, good thoughts about Annie started to fill my mind.

When I saw her at the wedding, we exchanged shallow greetings. I tried to avoid her the rest of the evening, but I watched her. And as I watched her I realized how much I missed her. My heart began to ache for the peace of forgiveness, and I was overcome with love for Annie.

When the evening reception was nearly over, I found myself sitting alone with Annie. We still hadn't spoken since our first greeting. I looked at her, and the Spirit filled my heart. I reached out and put my hands on her cheeks. With tears in my eyes, I said, "Annie, I have missed you so much." We hugged and cried and rejoiced in the peace that comes through forgiveness.

I don't remember if we ever said we were sorry or if we explained our earlier feelings. All that didn't matter. The only thing that mattered was the love we felt and our desire to forgive. I didn't realize until afterward what a huge burden I had been carrying. Pride is a heavy load and an unnecessary one. Feeling the Savior's perfect love, however, was a sweet and humbling joy. ■

**Names have been changed.*

A Compass in Heavy Fog

By Lin Tsung-Ting

A few years ago I was drafted to serve in Taiwan's naval forces. I served as a chief petty officer and squad leader on a harbor support craft, assisting all incoming and outgoing ships.

One morning in early spring my colleagues and I received the routine instruction to assist a ship approaching the harbor. Initially, the weather was clear. But after leaving the harbor, we ran into heavy fog. Visibility was less than three meters. Because we had

After leaving the harbor, we ran into heavy fog. Visibility was less than three meters, and we quickly became lost.

never seen such a heavy spring fog, we were tense and disoriented. We were quickly lost. We did not know where we were or where we should go.

Because I was the most experienced hand on board and the most familiar with the area, the skipper ordered me to use the boat's compass to find our bearing, lead everyone back to the mouth of the harbor, and suspend mission operations. Otherwise, we might at any moment enter an area of submerged reefs or sail too close to mainland China.

I had never experienced fog that required a compass, and I had neglected the work of periodic compass inspection, maintenance, and repair. So when we desperately needed the compass to find our direction, it did not work at all. With rebuke in his voice, the captain said, "You've put us in danger. We could run into a reef at any moment!"

I realized he was right. I sadly

bowed my head and silently prayed, asking Heavenly Father to forgive my negligence and help me find a way to escape the fog and return to the pier. After my prayer, a sudden thought came into my mind. I recommended to the skipper that we turn in a certain direction, travel very slowly, and find the coast. He agreed, and not long after taking this action, we arrived at the granite cliffs south of the harbor mouth and slowly followed the cliff wall into the harbor. Soon we were safely home.

Because of this experience, I know that Heavenly Father listens to my prayers. I am grateful that in spite of my neglecting proper preventative measures, the compass of spiritual guidance started to work, and it led us home.

Now I often ask myself: Am I doing all I can to prepare for the fog? Have I inspected my spiritual compass lately? Am I in harmony with God? Am I loyal to my faith? Am I untarnished? These are items we should review. If we do not, when spiritual fog comes, we may fall into the reefs of sin and perhaps never find our way home.

I am thankful that Heavenly Father has installed within each of us a spiritual Liahona. If we are diligent and faithful, we can rely on the Holy Ghost; then we can sail on to the harbor of safety and return to our heavenly home. ■

Lin Tsung-Ting is a member of the Taichung Fourth Ward, Taichung Taiwan Stake.



Unto the Least

BY VÍCTOR GUILLERMO CHAUCA RIVERA



When we give care and service to our fellow beings, we feel the true joy that comes from serving God.

It was Saturday, and there was work to do at my law office. But as stake president, I had committed to attend a service project with our stake Relief Society sisters. The sisters would be visiting sick children and expectant mothers in the Sergio Bernales de Collique-Comas Hospital in Lima, Peru. They would lend spiritual support, as well as deliver quilts and toys they had made during the year.

As I left behind everything else I had to do and headed for the hospital, the words of the

first of many scriptures I thought of that day came to me: “When saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and 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 25:39–40).

A warm, peaceful feeling flooded my heart, and I knew this would be a special experience. The Spirit also whispered to me that the Lord had called me as stake president to love and help others—especially the sick and afflicted. Throughout the day, thoughts of our Savior and His compassionate ministrations were never far from my mind. In our small way, we labored to be like Him.

Relief Society sisters of the Lima Perú Comas Stake meet with President Chauca to offer service at a local hospital.



When I arrived at the hospital, I was greeted by the 60 warmest hearts and the 60 warmest smiles I had ever seen. And as the Relief Society sisters entered the hospital, I watched this sad and gloomy place begin to be filled with light and joy.

"It came to pass that Jesus blessed them . . . , and the light of his countenance did shine upon them" (3 Nephi 19:25).

Our first visit was to a very small boy who had pneumonia and who was connected to a respirator. The boy's mother sat at the foot of his bed. "Have faith," the sisters encouraged her. I could see the hope and happiness she felt as she listened to the comforting words of these good sisters.

"Jesus . . . saith unto them, Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22).



Next we met a father whose young son was ill. He placed his son in a wheelchair so he could have his picture taken with us. One of the sisters gave the boy a pair of blue jeans that seemed to have been made just for him. "When I get out, I will put them on immediately," the little boy told me very excitedly.

"He that bath two coats, let him impart to him that bath none" (Luke 3:11).

We visited teenage mothers who had just given birth. One was a young girl of just 14 whose baby had been born dead. The sisters put their hands on her shoulders, comforted her, and gave her much wise advice. My eyes filled with tears as I watched these wonderful

Above: When a young boy received a pair of blue jeans, which seemed to have been made just for him, he said, "When I get out, I will put them on immediately."

Bottom left: A baby boy and his mother receive gifts and encouragement from President Chauca and a Relief Society sister.

Bottom right: A teenage mother who has just given birth is buoyed up by a Relief Society sister's radiant smile.



Right: Sister Fanny Mandujano Urquiaga (left) comforts a mother whose baby has died. Bottom left: A woman whose daughter is seriously ill accepts a copy of the Liahona—and a promise of future visits. Bottom right: Nila Machado de Villa Nueva, president of the Lima Perú Comas Stake Relief Society, gives presents and encouragement to a young girl.



women of Zion who had laid aside their own problems, which were many, to give of what they had.

“Ye are . . . willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light” (Mosiab 18:8).

In one room a woman sat alone at the bed of her daughter, who was brain dead. For many days the mother had been living and sleeping at the hospital because she wasn’t from the city and she had nowhere else to stay. I felt inspired to say, “I am a priesthood holder in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Would you like me to give your daughter a blessing?” Her eyes filled with tears, and she answered, “I would.” Never before had I had such a feeling as on this occasion, and

I thanked Heavenly Father for the opportunity to hold His holy priesthood and bless that little girl.

“He . . . put his hands upon them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:16).

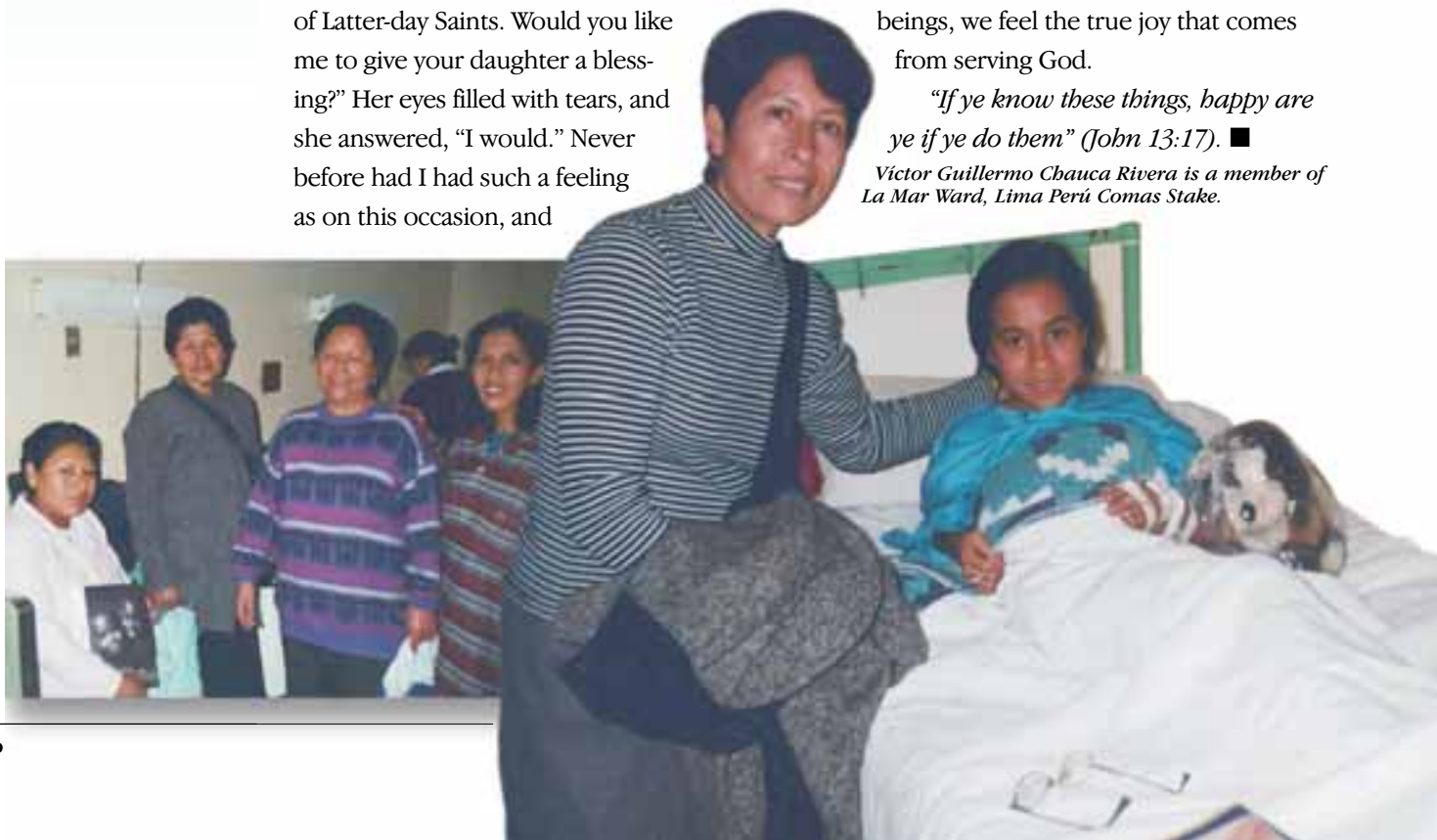
The sisters gave this afflicted mother an issue of the *Liahona* and promised to come back again on another day.

“Jesus answered and said unto her, . . . whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13–14).

When our visit was over, I felt that each of those who had visited the hospital that day was a new person. As I saw the beautiful smiles on the sisters’ faces, I realized that when we give care and service to our fellow beings, we feel the true joy that comes from serving God.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:17). ■

Victor Guillermo Chauca Rivera is a member of La Mar Ward, Lima Perú Comas Stake.



Did You Know?

"Bound in Heaven"

For a time the Prophet Joseph Smith could not meet openly with the Saints because of persecution. But on 1 September 1842 the Prophet addressed the Saints in a letter. This

you concerning your dead: When any of you are baptized for your dead, let there be a recorder, and let him be eye-witness of your baptisms; let him hear with his ears, that he may testify of a truth, saith the Lord;

"That in all your recordings it may be recorded in heaven; whatsoever you bind on earth, may be bound in heaven; whatsoever you loose on earth, may be loosed in heaven" (D&C 127:6–7).

The Saints were excited to be able to perform baptisms for those who had passed away. These instructions from the Prophet helped them keep accurate records. Recording the names of those who have received ordinances is still an important part of temple work.

letter is now section 127 of the Doctrine and Covenants, and it contains important directions on baptism for the dead:

"Verily, thus saith the Lord unto

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH OF CARDSTON ALBERTA CANADA TEMPLE BAPTISTRY © INTELLECTUAL RESERVE, INC., NO REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED OR PERMITTED; JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATING THE BOOK OF MORMON, BY DEL PARSON; PHOTOGRAPH OF LORENZO SNOW; THE HANDCART FAMILY, BY MINERVA K. TEICHERT; THE BATTLE OF NAUVOO, BY C. C. A. CHRISTENSEN, © COURTESY OF BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

It Happened in September

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

17 September 1846: The remaining Nauvoo Saints were driven from the city in violation of a treaty of surrender. The siege leading up to the surrender became known as the Battle of Nauvoo.

24 September 1860: The last of 10 groups of handcart pioneers to cross the plains between 1856 and 1860 arrived in Salt Lake City.

13 September 1898: President Lorenzo Snow was set apart as fifth President of the Church. He was 84.



Test Your Knowledge

After four years of preparation, Joseph Smith went to Hill Cumorah early one morning in September and received the gold plates. Joseph then began the important work of translating the Book of Mormon. How much do you know about the translation and original publication of the Book of Mormon?

1. Joseph Smith first received the gold plates in the month of September. Do you know the day and year?

- a. 21 September 1822
- b. 22 September 1823
- c. 22 September 1827

2. Although Joseph Smith had the gold plates for well over a year, he did not work on the translation every day. About how many working days did it take to translate the Book of Mormon?

- a. 60
- b. 80
- c. 100

3. A number of people served as scribes at different times. Who helped Joseph Smith with the largest section of the Book of Mormon?

- a. Martin Harris
- b. Oliver Cowdery
- c. Emma Smith



Using the September 2003 *Liahona*

Discussion Ideas

- “Teaching by Faith,” p. 10: Elder Robert D. Hales cautions parents and teachers that they cannot will children to have faith. “Faith comes from the inside,” he explains, “based upon our desire to receive it and to exercise it in our lives.” What can we do to help children desire to have faith? How can we best prepare them to weather the storms that will surely come into their lives?

- “Unto the Least,” p. 44: A stake president tells about Relief Society sisters visiting a local hospital. He likens the experiences they had to specific passages of scripture. Discuss how stories from the scriptures can inspire you to perform acts of service. Perhaps you could choose one particular scriptural experience and use it as a pattern for planning a service project for your class or family.

- “Tracks in the Snow,” p. F2: Read with your class or family the story President Thomas S. Monson tells. Discuss the meaning of the phrase “With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

Topics in This Issue

F = *The Friend*

Adversity.....	26, 40
Agency.....	F4
Apostles.....	36, F10, F12
Book of Mormon	47
Church callings	36
Church history	47
Conversion.....	F12, F14
Faith	10, 40, F2, F10
Family history.....	30
Family home evening.....	48
Fellowshipping	22, F14
Friendship	8, 22, F6
Holy Ghost.....	10, 40, F4
Integrity	8
Jesus Christ	2, 32, 44, F12
Leadership	48
Love.....	30, 40
Missionary work.....	F2
Music.....	18
New Testament	2, 32, F10, F12
Obedience.....	F4
Parables	32
Patriarchal blessings.....	22
Preparation	25
Pride.....	32, 40
Primary.....	F4, F14
Prophets.....	36
Repentance	40, F6
Revelation	25
Scripture study.....	2, 26, 40
Service.....	18, 32, 36, 44
Teaching.....	10, 48, F6
Temples and temple work	47, F16
Testimony.....	2, 10
Visiting teaching.....	25
Worldwide Church.....	F8
Youth.....	10, 18, 24

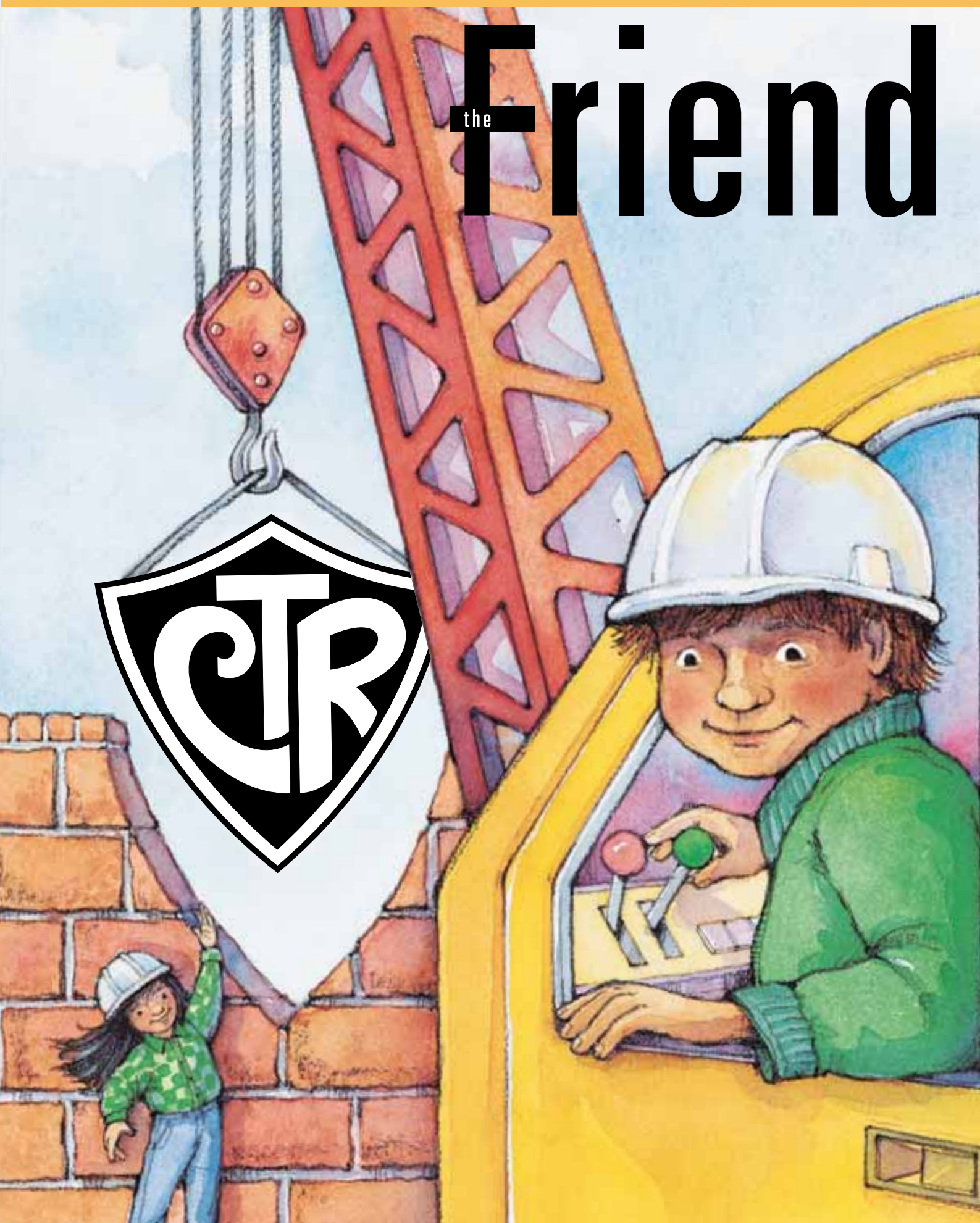
From the Distribution Center

Did you know that *Book of Mormon Stories* (item no. 35666), a book for families with younger children, is available in many languages? This publication contains illustrated Book of Mormon stories told in a simplified manner for young readers or for parents who wish to read these scripture stories to their children. These illustrated stories can also be used for Sharing Time or for family home evening lessons. Contact your local distribution center or your ward or branch leaders for ordering and price information.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG DIMOND, POSED BY MODELS



the Friend



Tracks in the Snow



If we choose to serve the Lord, President Thomas S. Monson assures us that we will have the best of guides in finding the right path.

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

First Counselor in the First Presidency

The promise from the book of Proverbs gives us courage: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”¹

The Lord revealed this assurance: “I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.”²

Inspiring is the missionary service rendered by Walter Krause, who lives in Prenzlau, Germany.

Homeless following World War II, like so many others at that time, Brother Krause and his family lived in a refugee camp in Cottbus and began to attend church there. He was immediately called to lead the Cottbus Branch. Four months later, in November of 1945, the country still in ruins, district president Richard Ranglack

came to Brother Krause and asked him what he would think about going on a mission. Brother Krause’s answer reflects his commitment to the Church. Said he: “I don’t have to think about it at all. If the Lord needs me, I’ll go.”

He set out on December 1, 1945, with 20 German marks in his pocket and a piece of dry bread. One of the branch members had given him a winter coat left over from a son who had fallen in the war. Another member, who was a shoemaker, gave him a pair of shoes. With these and with two shirts, two handkerchiefs, and two pairs of stockings, he left on his mission.

Once, in the middle of winter, he walked from Prenzlau to Kammin, a little village in Mecklenburg, where 46 attended the meetings which were held. He arrived long after dark that night after a six-hour march over roads, paths, and finally across plowed



fields. Just before he reached the village, he came to a large, white, flat area which made for easy walking, and he soon arrived at a member's home to stay the night.

The next morning the game warden knocked on the door of the member's house, asking, "Do you have a guest?"

"Yes," came the reply.

The game warden continued, "Then come and take a look at his tracks." The large, flat area on which Brother Krause had walked was actually a frozen lake, and some time earlier the warden had chopped a large hole in the

middle of the lake for fishing. The wind had driven snow over the hole and covered it so that Brother Krause could not have seen his danger. His tracks went right next to the edge of the hole and straight to the house of the member, without his knowing anything about it. Weighed down by his backpack and his rubber boots, he would certainly have drowned had his pathway been one step closer to the hole he couldn't see.

Should any of us feel inadequate to serve the Lord, let this divine truth be remembered: "With God all things are possible."³ ●

From an April 2002 general conference address.

NOTES

1. Proverbs 3:5–6.
2. D&C 84:88.
3. Matthew 19:26.

Choose the Right

1. English

a. Choisis le bien



2. Danish

b. Piliin ang Tama

3. Dutch

c. Filifili Mea Tonu

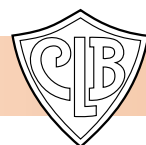


4. French

d. Kies de goede weg

5. German

e. 옳은일을 선택하라



6. Italian

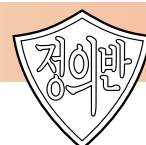
f. Velg det rette

7. Russian

g. Conserve a Tua Rota

8. Ukrainian

h. Choose the Right



9. Japanese

i. Wähle das Rechte

10. Tagalog

j. Vælg det rette

11. Tongan

k. Fili ki he Totonú

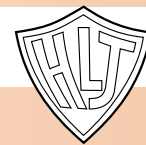


12. Finnish

l. せいぎをえらぶ

13. Spanish

m. Haz lo justo

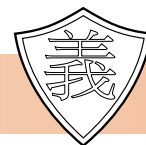


14. Norwegian

n. Scegli il giusto

15. Korean

o. 選正義



16. Swedish

p. Välj det rätta

17. Samoan

q. Выбирай истину

18. Portuguese

r. Выбирай правильно



19. Chinese

s. Valitse oikein

Do What Is Right

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI

"Thou shalt do that which is right . . . in the sight of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:18).



How do you remember to choose the right? Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles tells a story about a young boy and his friends who found a package of cigarettes: "They decided to go down on the cliff alongside some large boulders and smoke. . . . They lit up, and the young man said that as he was looking down at the smoldering cigarette that he held between his fingers, he saw his CTR ring. He quickly put the cigarette out. . . . He chose to choose the right, as he remembered what the emblem stood for" ("Choose the Right," *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 66).

Sometimes we find ourselves in the same type of situation. We must choose what to do. Fortunately, we can listen to the whisperings of the Holy Ghost.

More than 30 years ago, Primary leaders thought of a way to help children remember to choose what is right so the Spirit could be with them. A ring shaped like a shield and with the letters *CTR* on it reminded the children to make right choices. Children today are also reminded to choose the right when they see this symbol.

Great blessings come when we listen to the Holy Ghost and do what is right. Elder Perry said, "I promise you that you will receive everlasting happiness if you consistently choose to do what is right" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 68).

CTR Rings

To make a CTR ring, cut out the rectangular piece of paper and fold it on the broken line. Form a circle that fits your finger, and glue the ends together. Color the CTR shields, and cut out the one in your language and

glue it to your ring. Then match each translation of the words *Choose the Right* to the correct language.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. To help the children understand how the Holy Ghost can help them, post the following wordstrips: *ABIDE WITH YOU, TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH, WITNESS TO YOU, SHOW YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD DO, BEAR RECORD OF THE FATHER AND JESUS CHRIST, and HELP YOU KNOW THE TRUTH OF ALL THINGS*. Have the children locate and read aloud these scriptures: John 14:16–17; John 14:26; John 16:13; Hebrews 10:15; 2 Nephi 32:5; 3 Nephi 28:11; Moroni 10:5. Ask them to match the scriptures with the wordstrips. Have one child leave the room and another child hide a wordstrip. Sing a song about choosing the right, and have the first child locate the wordstrip by the others singing more loudly as he or she gets closer to, and more softly as he or she gets farther from, the wordstrip. Repeat the process with the other wordstrips and references. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16–17. Challenge the children to choose the right and keep their bodies clean so they will be worthy to have the influence of the Holy Ghost.

2. Review My Gospel Standards (see Liahona, Apr. 1999, F8–9) by dividing the Primary into groups and having each group choose one of the standards, write it on a piece of paper, and then think of a case study for it (see Teaching, No Greater Call [1999], 161–62). Place the papers facedown on the floor. Have the children take turns choosing a standard by tossing a beanbag or other small marker onto the papers. Have the appropriate group present the case study for that standard, and invite the other children to discuss the best way to live it. Sing songs and hymns about choosing the right. ●

A Teacher Cared





BY TAMRA FLAKE KRISER

A true story

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep" (John 10:14).

Mandy* was a friend in my ward when I was growing up. We went to Primary together. She had no brothers or sisters and lived with her mother, who seldom went to church.

In those days, Primary was held on a weekday afternoon. One time while we were waiting for Primary to start, some of the girls in our class said some things that hurt Mandy's feelings. She began to cry and went home.

Later in class when our teacher was taking roll, she paused when she came to Mandy's name and asked if anyone knew where she was. The room became silent,

and a couple of girls began to squirm in their chairs. It didn't take long for our teacher to learn what had happened.

Our Primary teacher set aside the lesson she had prepared and taught a lesson I have never forgotten. She stood up and told us that we were all going to Mandy's house to apologize and to mend our friendships.

We were silent as we walked the two or three blocks to Mandy's house. At first, it was awkward when she came to the door with red and swollen eyes. But apologies were given and accepted. Our friendships were renewed, and soon we were all in tears.

Mandy came back to Primary that day. She continued to come every week and remained faithful as a youth. When she grew up, she married a returned missionary in the temple. Today she and her husband are raising a beautiful family. They remain active and involved in the Church.

I am thankful for a Primary teacher who cared enough to teach us about love and repentance by taking us to find a lost lamb. Through her example, I came to know just how much Mandy—and each one of us—mattered, not just to her, but also to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. I have never forgotten that lesson. ●

**Name has been changed.*



1. Bonjour! My name is Laurence. I live in a beautiful town near a very big city known for its beautiful art and architecture. In my country many families have one or two children, so my family of nine people really stands out! Some members from my country travel to the temple in Frankfurt, Germany, and others go to The Hague Netherlands Temple.



2. My name is Maria. I live in a village high in the Andes Mountains. The language I speak at home is called Aymara, and I also learn Spanish at school. My family usually eats potatoes for dinner, and I often help my mother by carrying water from the well. My country has a temple in a city called Cochabamba.



3. My name is Lani. My home is on a beautiful island, and almost half the people in my country are members of the Church. My favorite food is made of meat and coconut milk, wrapped in taro and banana leaves. The closest temple is in our capital city of Nuku'alofa.



4. My name is Isaac. I live in a village surrounded by a beautiful green forest of banana trees, palm trees, ferns, and bamboo. I was baptized in a river. The first missionaries came to my country in 1978, and now a temple is being built in the city of Aba!



5. My name is Sarah. I live in the small town of Nauvoo, Illinois, on the edge of a big river. The Prophet Joseph Smith and early Church members lived in this city in the 1840s. The beautiful temple they built here was later destroyed and has recently been rebuilt.



6. My name is Neil. About a billion people live in my country, and many of them practice a religion called Hinduism. The huge city I live in, New Delhi, has two branches of the Church. My mother and father and I traveled to the Hong Kong China Temple to be sealed together.



7. My name is Norberto. I speak two languages—French at school and Malagasy at home. My country, which is a big island, is home to many interesting animals, including lemurs. When my family traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, to be sealed in the temple, my parents sold our house to help pay for the trip.



8. My name is Young-Jin. I live in a city near the Sea of Japan, and I love to play on the beach. I go to school six days a week, and when I come home, I always remember to take off my shoes at the door. My favorite holidays are Children's Day and New Year. I love to see the temple when I visit the city of Seoul.

BY JAN PINBOROUGH

Did you know that children who are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints live in more than 100 countries? Read the clues above; then match each child to the country on the map where he or she lives.

All Over the World

A MATCHING GAME



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT GREER

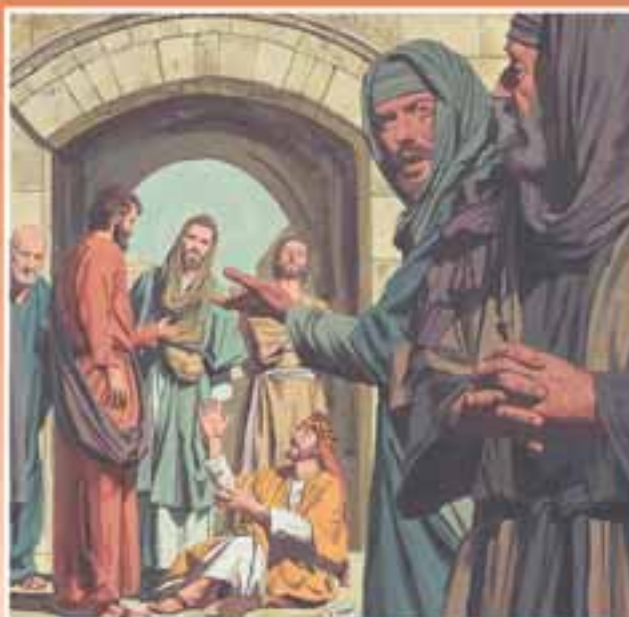
ANSWERS: 1. FRANCE, 2. BOLIVIA, 3. TONGA, 4. NIGERIA, 5. UNITED STATES, 6. INDIA, 7. MADAGASCAR, 8. KOREA

WICKED MEN KILL STEPHEN



Afraid of the Apostles, the leaders of the Jews put Peter and John in prison. King Herod Agrippa had the Apostle James killed.

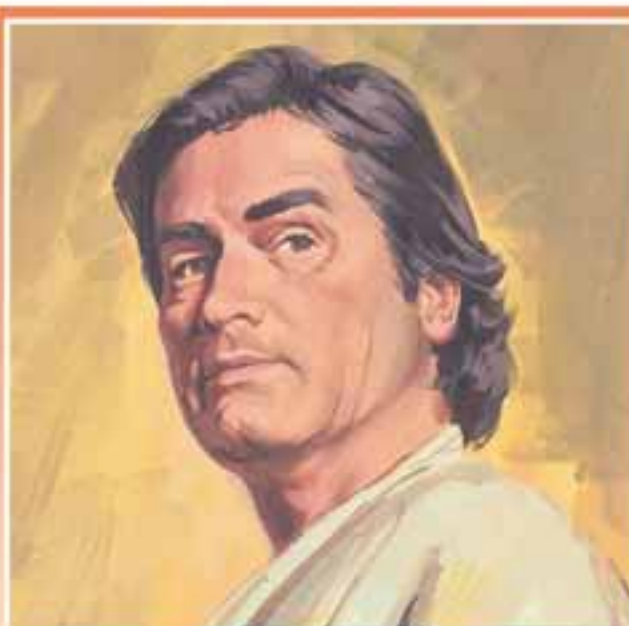
Acts 4:3; 12:1-2



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL MANN

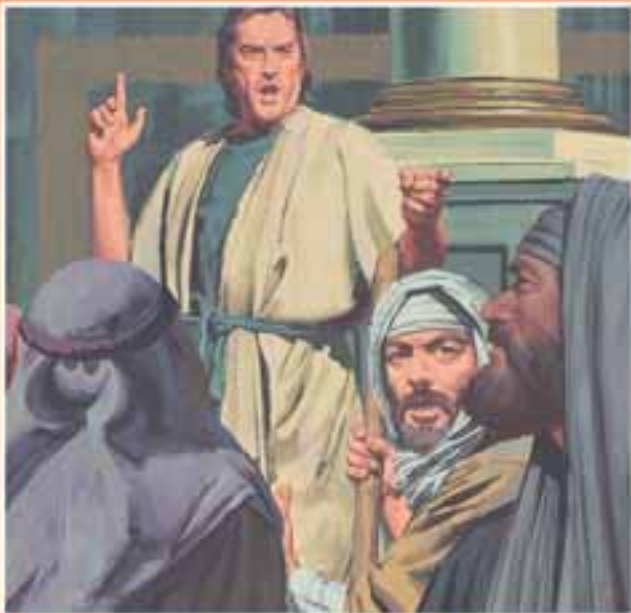
Many Pharisees thought that miracles would stop when Jesus died. But because the Apostles did miracles like Jesus had, many people believed in Him and joined the Church.

Acts 4:1-4, 13-17; 5:14



The Apostles called other men to help lead the Church. One of these men was a righteous man named Stephen. He was filled with the Holy Ghost and did many miracles. He taught the gospel to many people.

Acts 6:3-10



Stephen told the leaders of the Jews that they were wicked. He said they had killed Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Acts 7:51-52



Stephen looked up into heaven and saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.
Acts 7:55-56



Angry, the people took Stephen out of the city to kill him. They laid their coats by a young Pharisee named Saul, who was later called Paul, then threw stones at Stephen. As Stephen was dying, he asked the Savior to take his spirit to heaven. Then he died.

Acts 7:57-60

PAUL LEARNS ABOUT JESUS



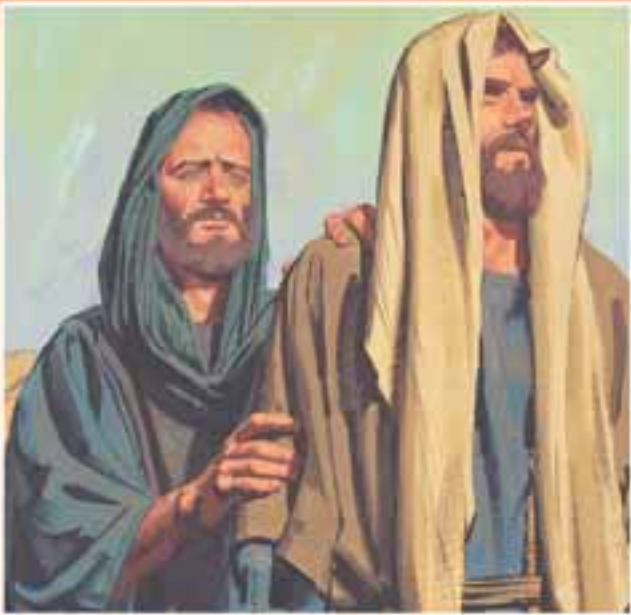
Paul had watched the people kill Stephen. One day Paul was going to the city of Damascus with some friends to put more disciples into prison.

Acts 7:58; 9:1-2



Suddenly a bright light came down from heaven and surrounded him. He fell to the ground. Then he heard the voice of Jesus from heaven, asking him why he was trying to hurt the Saints. Paul was afraid. When he asked Jesus what to do, the Savior said to go to the city, where he would be told what he needed to know.

Acts 9:3-6



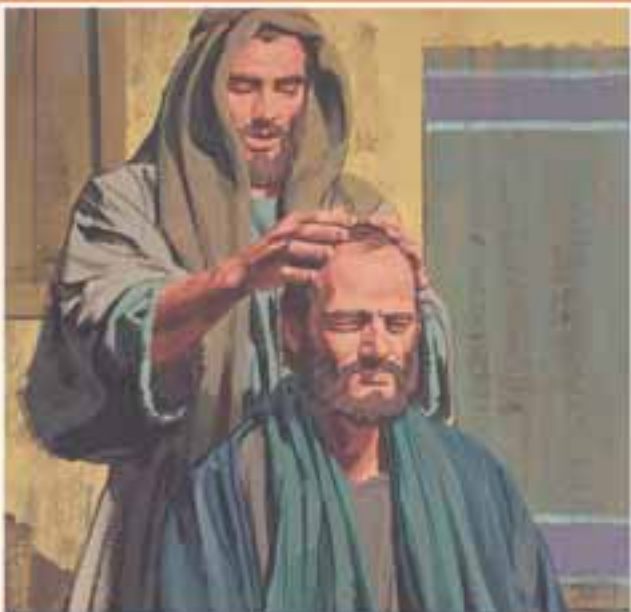
Paul got up and opened his eyes, but he could not see. He was blind. His friends took him into Damascus.

Acts 9:8–9



A disciple named Ananias lived in Damascus. In a vision, Jesus told Ananias to go to Paul.

Acts 9:10–11



Ananias had the priesthood. He put his hands on Paul's head and gave Paul back his sight. Then Ananias baptized Paul and gave him the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 9:17–18



Paul became a missionary for the Church. He wrote many letters. He went to many lands and taught the gospel. And when some of the other Apostles were killed, Paul was also ordained an Apostle.

Acts 26:16–23; Romans 1:1

We're Going to Primary



From an interview with Elder Robert R. Steuer of the Seventy, currently serving in the Brazil North Area Presidency; by Hilary M. Hendricks

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

My family moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when I was two years old. My parents were born in Germany and belonged to the Lutheran Church, but as I grew up, many of my friends were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

My friends and I were playing together one afternoon when one of them said, "We're going to Primary. Would you like to





Above: As a 7-year-old; at age 4; just before his mission to Brazil; with his wife, Margaret, and his young family; with his family.

come?” Primary was held on a weekday then. I went. I was interested in the lessons and being with my friends. I knew my teacher cared about me, and the Primary songs touched my heart.

After a few weeks, the Primary teacher asked me if I would like to learn more about the Church. She invited my parents to learn too. The ward missionaries came to our home. My parents chose not to join the Church, but they could see my desire and said I could be baptized. After my baptism, I continued to go to Primary with my friends but only occasionally attended Sunday meetings.

When I was 12 years old, my bishop said I was the right age to become a deacon. The bishop explained that Heavenly Father shares His power with the Church through the priesthood. If I kept the commandments, I could act for Jesus Christ—passing the sacrament, teaching the gospel, and someday giving priesthood blessings to help people who were ill or sad. I wanted to have the priesthood and become that kind of boy. I said I would come to Sunday meetings, trying very hard not to miss.

Soon I was prepared to become a deacon, and my parents came to my ordination. I remember the next Sunday, when I passed the sacrament for the first time. I was assigned to take the bread up to the bishop and then to the others on the stand. As I was walking up the stairs, the sacrament tray came detached from the handle, and the tray and the bread fell onto the floor. I felt as if everyone in the whole universe was looking at me. The bishop came over, put his arm around me, and whispered, “Let’s just pick up this bread and put it in the tray. Then sit down here until they’re through passing the bread, and you can pass the water.” Luckily, I passed the water without any problems. The bishop’s

kindness and warmth helped me not to feel embarrassed. I felt a great love for him and was glad that he was my bishop.

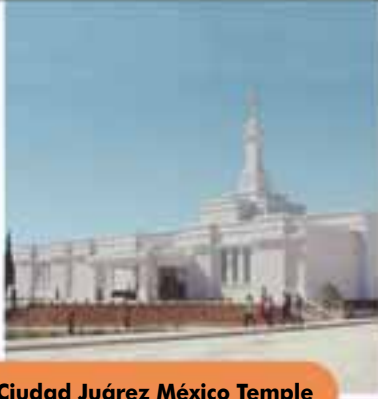
When I was a priest, our quorum adviser promised us that if we would stop doing homework on Sunday and start studying the scriptures, our grades would improve and we would gain a testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I had a strong feeling that if I would accept my adviser’s challenge, I would be blessed all my life. My study of the gospel helped me learn that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God who restored the Church in the latter days.

Throughout my youth, my Church leaders watched out for me. Because my mother died when I was 15 years old and my father had a serious illness, I needed to work at night to earn money and go to high school during the day. I wanted to serve a full-time mission, but I didn’t know how I could save enough money for it. Then the elders quorum president of my ward told me that the quorum would help support me on my mission. I was happy and grateful that they would help me be a missionary. With their help, I served a mission in Brazil. Years later, my wife and children came with me to Brazil while I served as mission president.

I encourage you children of the Church to watch how your leaders live the gospel. In your wards and branches there are many Saints who believe in Jesus Christ and try to obey His teachings. By following their examples, you will grow to be righteous leaders yourselves. Cultivate your sense of right and wrong; pay attention to how you *feel* when you go to Primary. Invite your friends to church and to Primary activities. They too can learn of Jesus Christ and grow to love Him, as I did when I was a boy. ●

Temple Cards

In 2003 each issue of *The Friend* contains Temple Cards. Remove the Temple Cards from the magazine, glue them to heavy paper, and cut them out. Collect the cards to remind you of the importance of temples.



Ciudad Juárez México Temple

Dedicated on 26 February 2000
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



Hermosillo Sonora México Temple

Dedicated on 27 February 2000
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



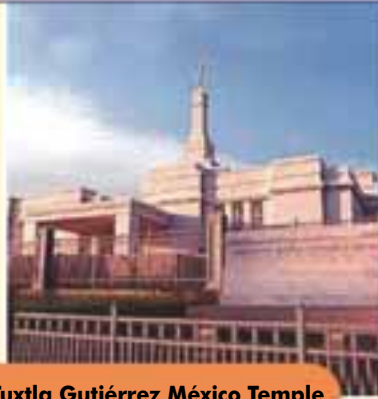
Albuquerque New Mexico Temple

Dedicated on 5 March 2000
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



Oaxaca México Temple

Dedicated on 11 March 2000
by President James E. Faust



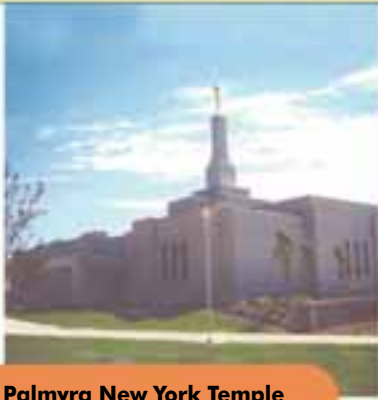
Tuxtla Gutiérrez México Temple

Dedicated on 12 March 2000
by President James E. Faust



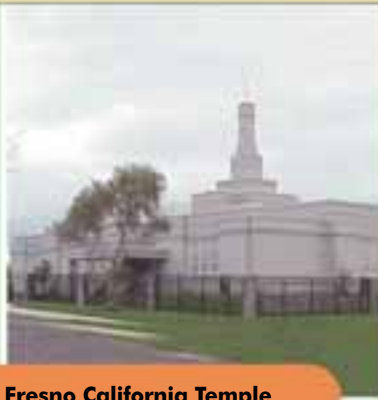
Louisville Kentucky Temple

Dedicated on 19 March 2000
by President Thomas S. Monson



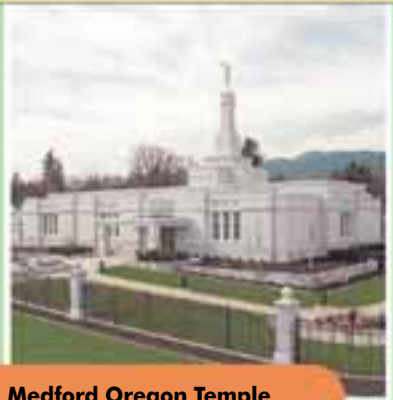
Palmyra New York Temple

Dedicated on 6 April 2000
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



Fresno California Temple

Dedicated on 9 April 2000
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



Medford Oregon Temple

Dedicated on 16 April 2000
by President James E. Faust



Christ Calls Two Disciples, by Gary E. Smith

“Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:18–19).



Following the Savior's conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well (front cover) and His teaching of the parable of the good Samaritan (above), the Apostle Peter received his own testimony that "in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:35). "The New Testament is 'a better testament' because so much is left to the intent of the heart and of the mind and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. This refinement of the soul is part of the reinforcing steel of a personal testimony of Jesus Christ. If there is no witness in the heart and in the mind by the power of the Holy Ghost, there can be no testimony." See President James E. Faust, "The Surety of a Better Testament," p. 2.