

Liahona

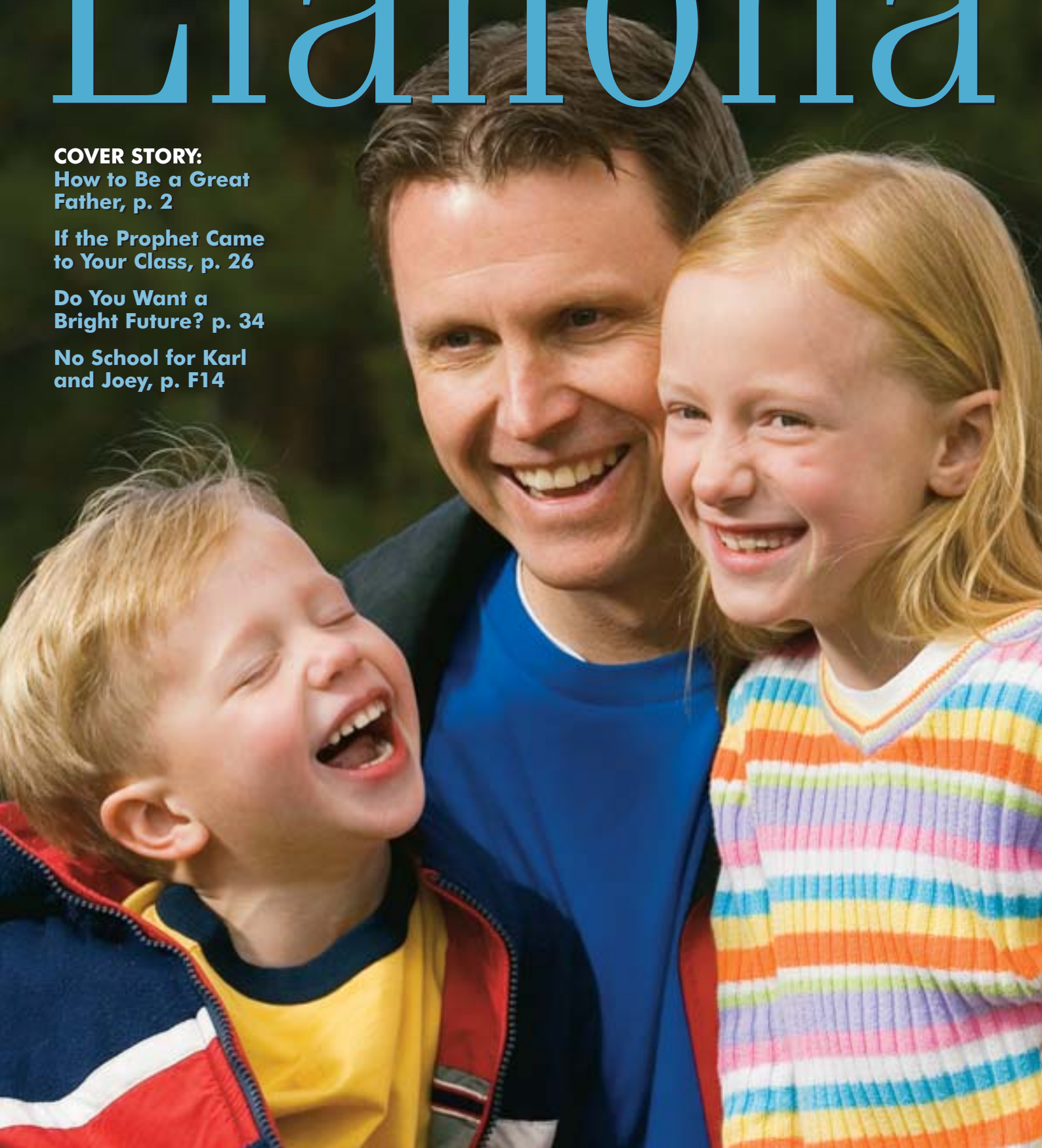
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2 The Father Who Cares

FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

*These ideas can help you use
the Liahona to enhance
your teaching in the
classroom as well as
in the home.*

“Let’s Try Again!” p. 7: Find
scriptural references in
which the Lord invites
us to repent and try again. Using the
author’s experience, discuss how we
can approach repentance in a posi-
tive way. Bear testimony of how the
Atonement enables us to try again.

“Up to the Challenge,” p. 16: List
the temptations mentioned in the
article, and discuss how the young

Japanese Latter-day Saints reacted
to them. Read what *For the
Strength of Youth* says about
those temptations. Bear
testimony of how preparing
beforehand makes it easier
to maintain standards.

**“Trust in the Lord
Forever,”** p. 22: Using the first
section of the article, compare the
circumstances in Isaiah’s day to
our own. How would trusting the
Lord’s guidance have helped then,
and how can it help us now? Search
the rest of the article to find ways
we can be guided by the Lord.



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16 Up to the Challenge

As you look for the CTR ring hidden in this issue, think of your favorite scripture.



“Choose a Bright Future,” p. 34: Relate the first half of the missionary’s story, and have family members guess what happened when he returned home. Finish the story, and ask how he was blessed by continuing to trust the Lord. Review the first two paragraphs of the article to complete the following statement: “If you do what’s right, _____.”

“Truth Will Prevail,” p. F2: Write the words “be not afraid, only believe” on paper, one word per piece of paper. Then mix up the papers, and invite your children

to put them in the proper order. Ask them to describe situations in which they would need courage to choose the right. Find examples in the article of President Gordon B. Hinckley’s courage. Display 2 Timothy 1:7–8 in your home.

“A Legacy of Love,” p. F10: Display a family heirloom, or relate a family tradition. Why is that heirloom or tradition important? Read Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi’s story to find what legacy he wants to leave for his family. Discuss ways your family can leave a legacy of love.

THE FRIEND: FOR CHILDREN

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- F4 Sharing Time: Comfort and Courage from the Scriptures
Linda Magleby and Elizabeth Ricks
- F6 From the Life of President Wilford Woodruff: Inspired Prophet
- F8 For Little Friends: Garden of Eden
Mariam Joyce Grisham
- F10 Friend to Friend: A Legacy of Love
Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi
- F12 Sunday Box: You Are Eternal
Jean McMullin
- F13 Special Witness: Guess Who?
- F14 Sent Home from School
Jenny Rebecca Rytting



F14 Sent Home from School

ON THE COVER

Photographs by Welden C. Andersen, posed by models.

THE FRIEND COVER

David and Goliath, by Sam Lawlor, may not be copied.

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The Father Who Cares

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Some time ago a father of six children who had the sole responsibility for raising the family, beginning when the youngest was in diapers, told of the struggles of doing so alone. One night he came home from work faced with the problems of being both father and mother and felt unusually burdened with his responsibilities. One of his appreciative daughters, age 12, approached him eagerly after having laid on his dresser a rock that she had painted at school. On the flat portion of the rock, she had written, “Happiness is having a dad who cares.” This painted rock and its sublime message instantly and permanently lightened the burden of this father.

Speaking in general conference some years ago, President Stephen L Richards (1879—1959), First Counselor in the First Presidency, quoted from an article, written by a veteran criminal court judge, titled “Nine Words That Can Stop Juvenile Delinquency.” The nine words suggested by the judge were “Put Father back at the head of the family.” President Richards concluded from the article “that the primary reason for the reduced percentages of juvenile delinquency in [certain] European

countries was respect for authority . . . in the home, which . . . normally reposes in the father as head of the family.”

President Richards continued: “For generations we as a Church have been endeavoring to do just what the judge advocates—to put and keep Father at the head of the family, and with all our might we have been trying to make him fit for that high and heavy responsibility.”¹ Since the primary purpose of the Church is to help the family and its members, how well the father functions in his responsibility is of utmost importance.

More recently I read in the paper: “Social scientists across the political spectrum tell us that father absence is a stronger predictor of criminal behavior than family income, education, or . . . race.

“And while individual youngsters can manage life without father reasonably well in many cases, few are able to come unscathed through fatherless *communities*.”²

In urging that fathers be put back at the head of their homes, we wish to take nothing away from mothers. In all the world there is no higher or greater honor or responsibility than motherhood. Hopefully they too will



God bless you fathers to be equal to your overwhelming responsibilities and to have a father's special caring for each one under your protective arms.

have their powerful influence extended to even a greater degree within the home and beyond the home.

To Strengthen Father

In order to strengthen the father in the home, I make two simple suggestions: first, sustain and respect the father in his position; second, give him love, understanding, and some appreciation for his efforts.

There are some voices in our society who would demean some of the attributes of masculinity. A few of these are women who mistakenly believe that they build their own feminine causes by tearing down the image of manhood. This has serious social overtones because a primary problem in the insecurity of sons and daughters can be the diminution of the role of the father image.

Let every mother understand that if she does anything to diminish her children's father or the father's image in the eyes of the children, it may injure and do irreparable damage to the self-worth and personal security of the children themselves. How infinitely more productive and satisfying it is for a woman to build up her husband rather than tear him down. You women are so superior to men in so many ways that you demean yourselves by belittling masculinity and manhood.

In terms of giving fathers love and understanding, it should be remembered that fathers also have times of insecurity and doubt. Everyone knows fathers make mistakes—especially they themselves. Fathers need all the help they can get; mostly they need love, support, and understanding from their own.

A Father's Responsibilities

As fathers we need to set priorities to guide us in allocating our time. Some men forget that their "first priority

should be to maintain their own spiritual and physical strength. Then comes their family, then the Church, and then their professions—and all need time."³ In giving time to his children, a father should be able to demonstrate

that he has enough love for them to command as well as discipline them. Children want and need discipline. As they approach some dangers, they are silently pleading, "Don't let me do it." President David O. McKay (1873–1970) said that if we do not adequately discipline our children, society will discipline them in a way we may not like.⁴ Wise discipline reinforces the dimensions of eternal love. This reinforcement will bring great security and stability into their lives.

In a landmark address to the priesthood in October 2000, President Gordon B. Hinckley focused his remarks on the role of fathers. He told us: "This is a subject which I take very seriously. It is a matter with which I am deeply concerned. I hope you will not take it lightly. It concerns the most precious asset you have. In terms of your happiness, in terms of the matters that make you proud or sad, nothing—I repeat, nothing—will have so profound an effect on you as the way your children turn out."⁵

He went on to give counsel to fathers: that they are to help their children resist temptation, to listen to them, to be patient and prayerful, and to teach them the ways of the Lord.

The exalted position of a father was well stated by American general Douglas MacArthur, who said: "By profession I am a soldier and take pride in that fact. But I am prouder—ininitely prouder—to be a father. A soldier destroys in order to build; the father only builds, never destroys. The one has the potentiality of death; the other embodies creation and life. And while the hordes of death are mighty, the battalions of life are mightier still. It is my hope that my son, when I am gone, will remember me not



In this Church, the husbands and fathers, and members of the family through them, enjoy a power and influence in their lives far beyond the natural gifts of intellect and character of the father. I refer to the priesthood of God.



from the battle but in the home repeating with him our simple daily prayer, 'Our Father who art in heaven.'⁷⁶

It is important to remember that in this Church, the husbands and fathers, and members of the family through them, enjoy a power and influence in their lives far beyond the natural gifts of intellect and character of the father. I refer to the priesthood of God, which every worthy man and boy over 12 years of age enjoys.

A prominent Church and business leader, now healthy, was born without life. His father, exercising his priesthood, made a promise that if his firstborn could live, that he, the father, would do all in his power to provide the proper example and teachings for his son. After a few minutes his infant son began to breathe and is well and vigorous to this day.

It is through the power of the priesthood that marriage and the family unit can extend

into and continue throughout all eternity. The conscientious women of this Church wish to have such a righteous influence in abundance in their homes.

A Legacy of Joy

One gracious mother joyously recounted in a stake conference the marvelous experience of being in one of the temples with her husband and with all of her children but one and being sealed together as husband and wife and family for time and all eternity. Her husband, newly involved in the priesthood, sat in the conference audience a few rows back. For a moment she seemed to forget all of the rest of us and spoke only to him. Over the pulpit and through the loudspeaker, with more than a thousand people in tears watching and listening, she said: "John, the children and I don't know how to tell you what you mean to us. Until you honored the

President Gordon B. Hinckley has counseled fathers to be patient and prayerful, to help their children resist temptation, to listen to their children, and to teach them the ways of the Lord.

priesthood, the greatest blessings of eternity would not open up for us. Now they have. We all love you very much, and we thank you with all our hearts for what you have made possible for us.”

You may recall the story about a child trapped in a hole in the ground who could be extricated only by sending another, smaller child into the tunnel. One little fellow was approached to see if he would be willing to go down and rescue the one who was lodged. The lad said, “I am scared to go in that hole, but I will go if my father will hold the rope.”

Elder Richard L. Evans (1906–71) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles gave the proper dimension for all fathers in this faith when he said: “First of all, fathers are giving a name and a heritage to their children—clean and honorable. Fathers are for long, hard work, mostly their own kind of work; . . . for trying to give their children things [their] fathers never had. Fathers are for talking with, for encouraging, for putting arms around; for understanding mistakes, but not condoning them; for disciplining when needed, then loving all the more; for being strong and forceful, and for being tender and gentle.”⁷

It is always appropriate in all family relationships to ask, “What would Jesus do?” Having turned to the scriptures for the answer to this question, President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988), First Counselor in the First Presidency, testified: “There in the Gospel as recorded by St. John, I found the clear and certain answer: Jesus would always do the will of his Father. . . . ‘For I do always those things that please him’ [John 8:29].”⁸

God bless you children to have listening ears and understanding hearts. God bless you mothers for the endless dimension of your love and for all the help you give the fathers of your children. God bless you fathers to be equal to your overwhelming responsibilities and to have a father’s special caring for each one under your protective arms. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). ■

NOTES

1. “The Father and the Home,” *Improvement Era*, June 1958, 410; quoting from Samuel S. Leibowitz, “Nine Words That Can Stop Juvenile Delinquency,” *Reader’s Digest*, Mar. 1958, 106.
2. William Raspberry, “Crime Rates Rise from Fatherless Communities,” *Deseret Morning News*, Oct. 10, 2005, sec. A, p. 11.
3. *Bishop’s Training Course and Self-Help Guide* (1972), sec. 2, p. 7.
4. See Conference Report, Apr. 1955, 27.
5. “Great Shall Be the Peace of Thy Children,” *Liabona*, Jan. 2001, 61; *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 50.
6. In Emerson Roy West, comp., *Vital Quotations* (1968), 118.
7. *Vital Quotations*, 120.
8. “What Would Jesus Do?” *New Era*, Sept. 1972, 4.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After prayerfully studying this message, share it using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. Following are some examples. (As you teach from this article, be sensitive to families in which the father is not present.)

1. Select from the article principles you feel best apply to the families you teach. Invite family members to read from portions of the article that teach or illustrate these principles. Share testimony and experiences from your own life about these principles.

2. Plan ways in which family members could show love and appreciation for their father. One idea could be to prepare a piece of paper for each family member bearing the words “I love my dad because _____.” Ask each person to write a phrase in the blank and explain why that phrase was chosen. Read the first paragraph of the article, and have family members give their papers to their father.

3. List the priorities for fathers suggested in the article, and discuss why each is important. Drawing from the examples in the article and from personal experience, illustrate ways that fathers can fulfill these four priorities.

4. Read the last paragraph of the article, and discuss how children could more carefully listen to the counsel of their fathers. Talk about times when the fathers (or grandfathers perhaps) helped family members accomplish a hard or difficult task. Share how your own father helped you in your life.



BY MARIANNE MONSON-BURTON

When our son Nathan turned two and a half, we began using occasional time-outs as a consequence for breaking family rules. I became concerned, however, by the negative feelings my son displayed when a time-out concluded. He often seemed sad and discouraged. As I prayed for a way to make the experience more positive, I felt impressed to say the phrase “Let’s try again.”

After the next time-out, I took my son’s hand and said with enthusiasm, “Let’s try again!” Suddenly the focus shifted away from his negative behavior and centered instead on the opportunity he had to start over. I was amazed at the difference this approach made. Instead of coming out of time-out feeling punished, he was eager to make better choices.

I soon started using the phrase in a multitude of situations. I found myself inviting Nathan in lots of ways: “Let’s try again! This time we can do better. This time we can be gentle” or “This time we can be kind.”

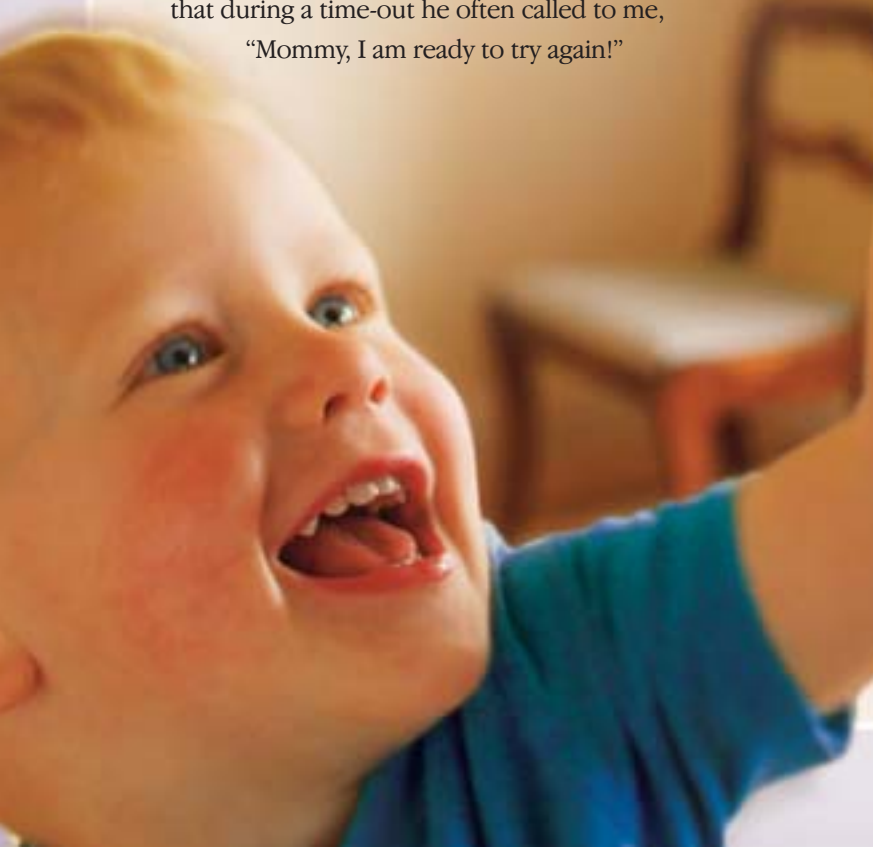
The saying became such a motivator for my son that during a time-out he often called to me, “Mommy, I am ready to try again!”

As I pondered the dramatic effect this simple phrase had on my son, I considered the power contained in the words “Let’s try again!” I realized that God, the

Father of us all, does not want us to dwell hopelessly on the mistakes we have made. Instead, He invites us to sincerely repent and focus on a brighter future where we can improve each day.

To make repentance possible, God was even willing to offer the life of His Beloved Son. His promise is: “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

Watching my son’s renewed determination to do better, I felt a surge of gratitude for a loving Father in Heaven, who is merciful to His children when they repent. I also felt a deep appreciation for the Savior, whose infinite Atonement makes it possible for each of us to say, “Let’s try again!” ■



UNFORGETTABLE

FAMILY HOME EVENINGS



As members worldwide testify, memories of a special family home evening can uplift us, guide us, and even stay with us for a lifetime.

Julio Cesar Merlos of the Arlington Texas Stake writes: “I remember when my brothers and sisters and I were growing up. We were new members of the Church, and our family didn’t have many financial resources, but we had faith in the gospel. My father set the example for us by his scripture reading. For him, family home evening was an opportunity to teach us what he himself was learning.

“One of my father’s family home evening lessons really made an impression on me. That was the time he taught us about agency. I remember the words my father spoke: ‘I want to give you a piece of advice to remember for the rest of your lives. When you are tempted to disobey the Word of Wisdom or the law of chastity or any other commandment of God, think about whom you are sinning against. Is it God, the Church, your parents, your family, or yourself? I want to tell you that the one you are sinning against the most is yourself.’

“As I grew up, tests came to me that were as serious as the ones my parents warned me about. I tried to remember the advice my father gave us that night. Twenty-five years after hearing my father’s counsel, it still fortifies me greatly and makes me stronger. Now my children are hearing the same advice from me.”

A Life-Changing Home Evening

Edevanir Leopoldino of the São Paulo Brazil São Miguel Paulista Stake remembers a family home evening that changed his life. He was 16 years old and not a member of the Church when he stopped at his friend Leandro’s house to see if Leandro wanted to attend a local dance. His friend instead invited Edevanir to share in his family home evening. Not sure what to expect, Edevanir reluctantly agreed to take part.

Of the evening, Edevanir writes, “It was great!”

Leandro's brother was going on a mission, so the family home evening was a going-away party. Edevanir recalls: "The Spirit of the Lord touched me in such a way that I felt a warmth inside me so strongly that I didn't know what to do, and I felt a joy so grand that I could no longer feel alone."

"After that family home evening I began the missionary discussions and soon was baptized. The following year I was called to serve in the Brazil Porto Alegre Mission [later the Brazil Santa Maria Mission]. Just eight years after that special family home evening with Leandro, I am now sharing family home evenings with my own family."

At Peace in a Crowd

A family home evening doesn't need to be at home to be memorable. Lyubov Salimova of the Donetsk Ukraine District shares a special family home evening she experienced while vacationing at the seashore. Her sister, who lived nearby, had invited her to family home evening at 8:00 p.m. "Much to my surprise, however, long before the appointed hour, my sister met me at the seashore. 'It won't work out at home,' she explained. She tried to smile, but the smile came out wry and forced. I felt that she was doing her best not to start crying. She was having problems at home. Her suggestion to have family home evening right there on the seashore was surprising in its absurdity. All around, people were walking, sitting, sunbathing, and laughing. Nevertheless, I agreed."

"We placed our towels across from each other and lay down on them. We bowed our heads and prayed. My sister had the July 2002 *Liabona*, in which general conference talks were

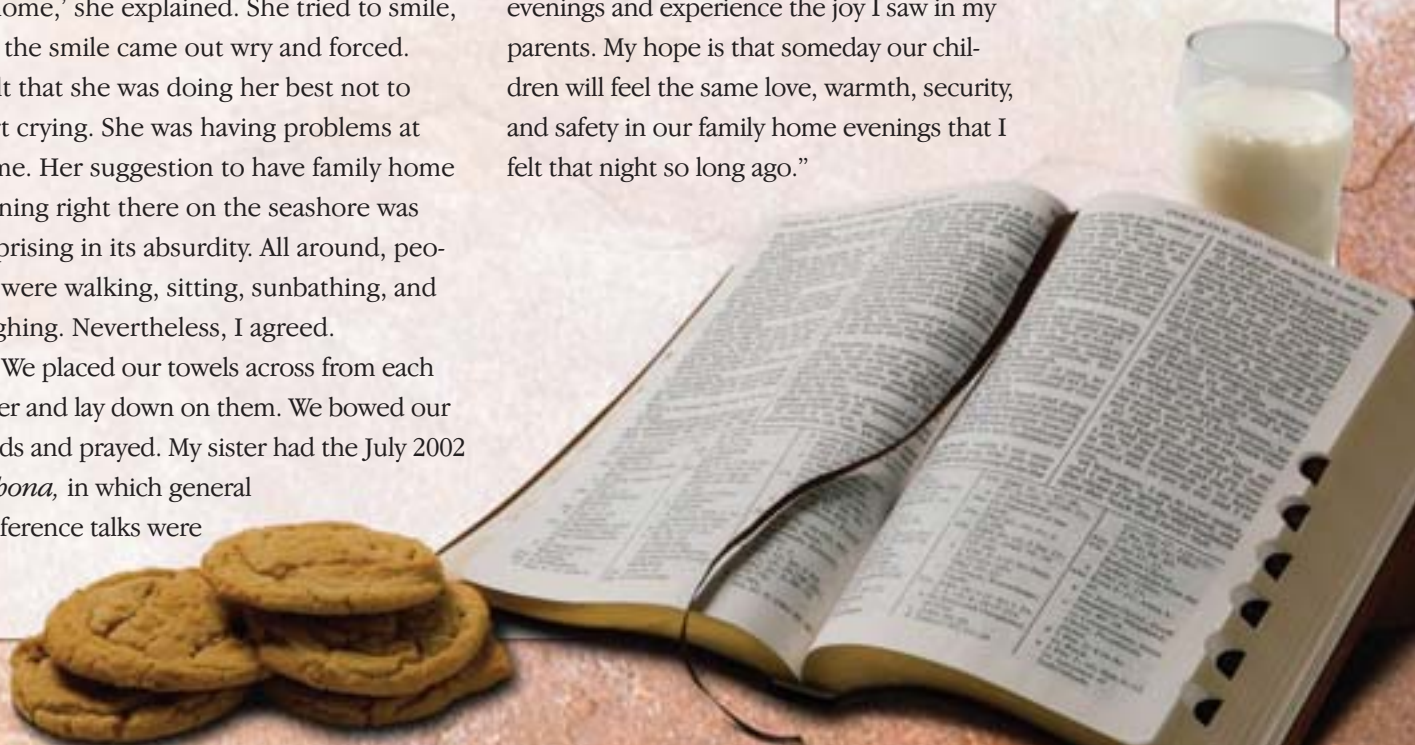
published. She began reading a talk by President Gordon B. Hinckley. It seemed that each of his words explained to us how to conduct ourselves in relation to other family members. As we read the words of our living prophet, I saw that my sister had grown calm, having found support in the Holy Ghost, which was liberally poured out on us. We felt like beloved daughters of God, able to go farther in order to fight for good. Our souls were at peace."

Wanting This Happiness

Carla Santivañez Castro of the Lima Perú Surco Stake writes: "I remember one family home evening in particular. We four children were very attentive to the lesson Papa shared with us. We participated in wonderful games. We not only had a lot of fun, but we learned about the Savior. The thing I remember most about that night was seeing my parents so happy as they enjoyed this time with us, their children. Many times I have remembered the joyful feelings of that night."

"Now my beloved husband and I have the opportunity to hold our own family home evenings and experience the joy I saw in my parents. My hope is that someday our children will feel the same love, warmth, security, and safety in our family home evenings that I felt that night so long ago."

Opposite page: The Velasco family of Manila, Philippines, gathers for family home evening. Next page: The Pardo family of Santiago, Chile, enjoys a game as part of home evening.



Family Home Evening Alone

Berengere Caviale of the Nancy France Stake writes: “A few weeks ago, during an interview with one of the members of the stake presidency, I was given the challenge to hold regular family home evenings. Since I am single, I did not feel it was necessary to have family home evening, but I did commit to trying it as an experiment. The following week I put my commitment to the test, although I was somewhat skeptical. I began with a prayer and then sang a few hymns. From that moment I was able to feel the Spirit very strongly. Then I read a passage in the Bible about the life of Christ. I read it, wrote down some comments, and then decided to follow His example. I ended with several hymns, which lifted my spirit. During those 45 minutes of family home evening, I was able to hold on to a bit of heaven!”

Trying to Inspire a Six-Year-Old

A challenge faced by some families is how to reach and inspire young children during family home evening. Christine Carter of the Syracuse New York Stake writes: “I recently attended the temple to receive my own



TAKE TIME FOR HOME EVENING

“Draw your children around about you. Teach them, guide them, and guard them. There was never a time when we needed so much the strength and the solidarity of the home.”

President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973), “Follow the Leadership of the Church,” Ensign, July 1973, 95.

endowment, and I wanted to hold a family home evening about the importance of the temple. I had prepared well, but my six-year-old son, Tyler, was inattentive and disruptive. I felt discouraged and ready to cancel the lesson.

“Prompted by the Spirit, I looked my son in the eyes and asked him, ‘Do you know that attending the temple is the most important thing you need to do?’ The impact of those

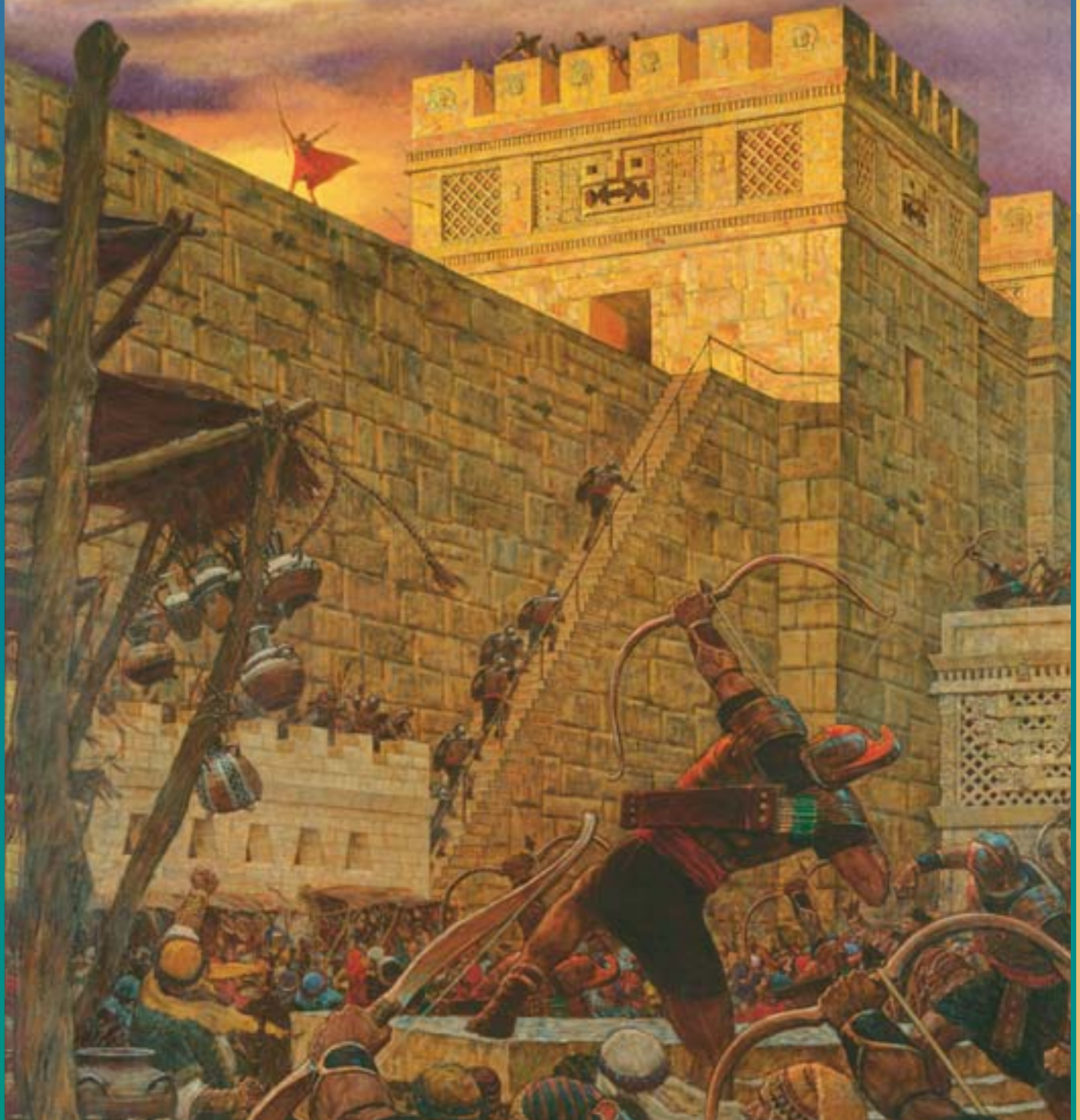
words was incredible. He was sobered and became interested in learning about the temple. We marveled over the pictures of the temples and wondered about the mansion Jesus Christ is preparing for our return to Him. We put together a puzzle of the temple and then did it again because we had so much fun. We sang ‘I Love to See the Temple.’ Later, Tyler decorated our hallway with pictures of different temples. He also decided to make a temple switch plate cover for the hall light, complete with his own drawing of the Salt Lake Temple. Now every time we turn on the light we can remember that the temple lights our way to return home to the Lord.

“I am so grateful that the Spirit guided me during our lesson and that I did not give up on teaching my son of the importance of the temple.” ■



POPULARITY

IT'S OVERRATED. SOMETIMES THE CROWD IS JUST PLAIN WRONG.
(See Helaman 13:2-4; 16:2.)



Sharing Family Heritage



The greatest refuge we will find in our lives will be those wonderful, close associations we have with our immediate family members.

BY ELDER L. TOM PERRY

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The first part of August 2002 I reached a major milestone in my life. I was passing from middle age to old age with my 80th birthday. To celebrate it I decided to take my children and grandchildren on a tour of Logan, Utah, my hometown, to share with them the impact this city has had on my life.

I designated nine stops in Logan that I wanted my family to see. With each stop I selected a scripture to teach a lesson on the importance that particular location had in my life.

1. Logan High School Lesson: Live Up to Your Potential

“With some I am not well pleased, for they will not open their mouths, but they hide the talent which I have given unto them, because of the fear of man” (D&C 60:2).

I was very shy in high school and did not take advantage of opportunities to enlarge and build my talents. I was afraid to try. The lesson I wanted to teach my family is to live up to your potential. Don't be afraid to try. Have confidence in yourself. You won't succeed the first time on anything you do, but successive

attempts will bring confidence and the development of new talents.

2. Logan Tabernacle Lesson: The Joy of Gospel Service

“When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiab 2:17).

My father served in the presidency of the Cache stake in Logan for some 20 years. It seemed appropriate to stop at the tabernacle, where we held our stake conferences, to teach the lesson that Church service brings great joy and is a sure way of developing your skills in human relationships. You enter Church service with the pure intent to build our Father in Heaven's kingdom. The Lord more than compensates you for your time and effort with blessings that increase your talents and abilities to be used in further service. It is impossible to stay even with the Lord.

3. My Father's Law Office Lesson: Build Character, Integrity

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.





Elder Perry talks to his children and grandchildren on the campus of Utah State University, one of nine locations in Logan, Utah, where he shared with his family a scripture and an experience from his life. Opposite page: Elder Perry as a young father with his three children—Barbara (left), Linda Gay, and Lee.

“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:10–12).

I related to my family how I had prepared myself for the banking profession. Dad was the bank attorney. From my newspaper delivery earnings, I saved enough to buy 10 shares of First National Bank stock. Dad insisted that I attend the stockholders’ meetings and vote my 10 shares. He thought that was a way of introducing me to the banking profession. A job offer came after graduation that was much more lucrative than banking. I thought I would accept the

position for a few years and then return to banking. I never did become a banker. I tried to teach my grandchildren that choosing a major in college is not as important as developing integrity, ethics, and good study habits and building character as a person of faith, confidence, and industry.

4. My Birthplace Lesson: The Value of Our Heritage

“Behold, I have given unto you the names of our first parents . . . ; and this I have done that when you remember your names ye may remember them; and when ye remember them ye may remember their works; and when ye remember their works ye may know how that it is said, and also written, that they were good” (Helaman 5:6).



Above, top row: Elder Perry's parents, L. Tom and Nora Sonne Perry; Elder Perry as a boy. Middle row: Elder Perry as a young man (standing in the back) with his family; Logan High School. Bottom row: Elder Perry holding his nephew; Sonne family reunion in 1937. Opposite page: The Logan Utah Temple; Elder Perry in the doorway of his childhood home.

I was given the name of my father. I honored my father and wanted to retain the same values he had established. Our heritage gives us those enduring values that will be with us now and through all the eternities.

5. Old Family Home Lesson: The Blessing of Good Parents

"I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father" (1 Nephi 1:1).

I tried to teach my family that the credit for the success you achieve in life really belongs to the parents who have given you a wonderful start. My father was a hard worker, a good provider, and a sterling example of service, honor,

and integrity. He loved his family and made time for us in his busy life.

Mother was always there to teach and encourage us. She was a great homemaker, a careful housekeeper, an excellent manager of household finances, and a wonderful cook. How I honor and love my parents.

6. Cow Pasture Lesson: Accept the Challenge of Change That Occurs in Your Life

"That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day" (D&C 50:24).

We checked in at the motel. After checking in I told my family, "Tonight you will sleep in the place that used to be our old cow pasture." This is where the motel had been built. My, how times have changed! I will always be grateful that I grew up in an age when we plowed, planted, tended, irrigated, and harvested. These activities were very important in our lives.

Future generations will have little opportunity to enjoy those same blessings we received. We live in a world of rapid change. Somehow we must find a way to hold onto the basic unchanging values and yet be ready for additional revealed light that will lead us to greater opportunities.

7. Ice-Cream Store Lesson: The Value of Traditions

"That same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory, which glory we do not now enjoy" (D&C 130:2).

Having an ice-cream cone on every trip to Logan has become one of our many traditions. More important are traditions of Church activity, Church service, family loyalty, and so forth. Special traditions we establish here with members of our family will endure. We should build traditions that will be strong in our remembrance, a remembrance that will last even into the eternities.

8. Utah State University Lesson: The Value of Taking Time to Have a Happy, Successful Courtship

“Whoso forbiddeth to marry is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man” (D&C 49:15).

I explained that most of my courtship occurred at Utah State University. Dances, ball games, walking across the campus to the library, studying in the library, attending institute classes, meeting in the halls between classes, taking special walks around the campus, and so on, all gave time to becoming better acquainted and enjoying the richness of the relationship that was being developed. It became the most important thing in my life at that time. When this time comes to you, it affects all that you do. Make it precious and special.

9. Logan Temple Lesson: The Importance of the Temple

“In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;

“And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];

“And if he does not, he cannot obtain it” (D&C 131:1–3).

The center of our lives must be the holy temple. We must always be worthy to enter therein. If we live worthy of the covenants we make with the Lord in His house, we literally bind the Lord to give the blessings He has promised us. The Lord will fulfill His promises if we will be faithful to the covenants we make with Him.

We ended the tour later in the evening at the old Logan



Ninth Ward building. We had arranged for a room there in which the family could gather. There was a presentation on my life, including pictures starting with my grandparents, parents, and on through my early life. Then there were pictures of my marriage and of the blessings of children, followed by a collage of pictures of the events we have enjoyed together as a family.

On Sunday morning we attended church in the Ninth Ward chapel. This building was constructed under the supervision of my father while he served as bishop. He was the bishop for 18 years. I had the opportunity that morning to bear my testimony of the blessings of the gospel in my life.

We then drove to our home in Salt Lake City. However, before letting the family enjoy a delicious birthday dinner prepared by my wife, I quizzed them on what they had learned. I again bore witness to the divinity of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am absolutely convinced that the greatest refuge we will find in our life will be those wonderful, close associations we have with our immediate family members.

I add my witness to you. The gospel of Jesus Christ is true. It will not fail you in your life. It is the only hope for individual salvation and refuge from the storms that descend as we journey through mortality. May God continue to bless you with the desire to learn more of His ways and to be obedient to His law. ■

From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University Education Week on August 20, 2002.



UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Tokyo teens talk about how they handle tough temptations.

BY ADAM C. OLSON
Church Magazines

After school one day Yuriya Kitahara's friends wanted to show her a new comic book. It took only a moment for Yuriya, a Laurel, to realize that there was nothing funny about these comics—the book was pornographic.

Around the same time, Junko Saijo, a Mia Maid, was with her friends when one of them lit a cigarette and offered it to Junko.

Not long after, a group of students at Sho Watanabe's school was arrested for selling drugs to other students.

Fortunately, Yuriya dropped the comic book. Junko refused the cigarette. And Sho, a priest, has tried to be careful in choosing his friends.

Though the Church is growing in Japan, these teens still have to face the temptations of the world every day. That's part of the test we came to earth to take. The question is: are we up to the challenge? And if we aren't, how can we be?

Living with Temptation

Breaking the Word of Wisdom is a common temptation in Tokyo, according to a group of young members from different stakes who have gotten together to talk about the challenges they face.

Several of the youth were faced with the temptation of tobacco as soon as they were teenagers. Others are lucky enough to have avoided it altogether so far. Not everyone faces the same temptations. But tobacco is a common trap for Tokyo teens.

"It's so easy to buy tobacco here; it's difficult for some *not* to buy it," says Hikaru Watanabe, a deacon and Sho's younger brother.

Alcohol is another problem presented early on to many youth.

"After a school activity ends, all the students usually go somewhere to have a party," says Yuriya. "Sometimes my friends ask me to go. They don't say they're going to drink, but to many teens, going to a party means going to drink. They don't think that's bad." The other youth all nod in agreement—they've been in similar situations.

The teens also agree that pornography and immorality are running rampant among their peers.

"Music is getting bad too," says Keiko Saijo, a Laurel and Junko's older sister. "The lyrics are just awful."

These are temptations and challenges Latter-day Saint teens are facing all around the world. What are they doing about it? They are learning that through the gospel, they can find the strength they need to overcome all their challenges.

Finding the Strength

The youth agree that to overcome the temptations thrown at them every day, they need the guidance of the Holy Ghost.



Yuriya Kitahara



Sho Watanabe



Junko Saijo



Yuuya Kitahara



Keiko Saijo

“It’s not just my own strength, but relying on the Lord that gets me through,” says priest Yuuya Kitahara, Yuriya’s younger brother. “Coming closer to the Lord helps us avoid the temptations and overcome them.”

That is a valuable lesson. “If we don’t do things to be closer to the Spirit, we would probably end up just like many youth outside of the Church, smoking, watching pornography, and worse,” says Yuriya.

It’s a lesson taught several times in the Book of Mormon. Without the Spirit of the Lord, the Nephites became “weak, like unto their brethren, the Lamanites” (Helaman 4:24; see also Mosiah 1:13; Mormon 2:26).

“When I feel the Spirit, I feel like the temptations just go away,” says Hikaru.

“That strength comes from the Spirit.”

Yuuya says praying morning and night helps bring the Spirit. Yuriya feels closer to the Holy Ghost by studying the scriptures every day. Yuuya’s twin brother,

Yuuki, mentions youth activities and seminary. And

Junko says going to church and family home evening have not only helped her feel the Spirit but have taught her ways to overcome temptations.

強さのために
の務めを果たす



YOUR EXAMPLE CAN HELP OTHERS



“God bless you, my dear young friends. You are the best generation we have ever had. You know the gospel better. You are more faithful in your

duties. You are stronger to face the temptations which come your way. Live by your standards. Pray for the guidance and protection of the Lord. He will never leave you alone. He will comfort you. He will sustain you. He will bless and magnify you and make your reward sweet and beautiful. And you will discover that your example will attract others who will take courage from your strength.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “An Ensign to the Nations, a Light to the World,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 84.

And each says attending the temple has made a big difference. “I feel a special power when I come to the temple of the Lord,” says Sho. He says he can resist temptations better when he goes to the temple regularly.

For the past few years, Sho and Hikaru have tried to go to the temple every Thursday to perform baptisms for the dead. Keiko and Junko, and Yuriya and her brothers try to attend every Friday.

“Coming to the temple strengthens me,” Keiko says.

For the Strength of Youth

And then during their conversation, someone mentions the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet, and half of them pull out the wallet-sized version.

“This is written for us,” says Yuuya. “It’s

easy to understand and easy to apply. When I apply the principles taught in this pamphlet, it helps protect me from temptation.”

The others agree. Most of them refer to it regularly. “We read from it almost every week in Young Women,” says Junko.

Hikaru says it helps him overcome temptation. Church leaders, he says, “tell us that when we are struggling with a temptation, we should think of a scripture. But sometimes it’s hard to carry the scriptures with you. I can keep this card with me all the time, and it helps.”

For many of the youth, the pamphlet has helped them learn how to apply the gospel to how they live and the choices they make.

“The gospel isn’t about just knowing what’s right, but doing what’s right,” says Yuuki. “When I read *For the Strength of Youth*, I learned what to *do*. It tells you how to apply the gospel to your life.”

“Before the pamphlet came out, our leaders would talk about Church standards, but we can’t remember everything,” Sho says. “*For the Strength of Youth* is so easy to understand. It helps explain how the scriptures apply to us. And I can carry it with me.”

“I’m not a great reader,” Keiko says. “But the pamphlet is easy. When I concentrate on its words, I feel this really is right. I think God prepared this for our day.”

The pamphlet *was* prepared for our day, and so were the youth of this generation.

“You have been told often, and I will say it again: You are a chosen generation,” said Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “You have been raised up by the Lord to carry His Church and kingdom into the 21st century. You have been chosen by the Lord to come forth on the earth when wickedness and evil are very powerful. But you are up to the challenge” (“Growing into the Priesthood,” *Liabona*, Jan. 2000, 48–49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 41).

What does it take to be up to the challenge? A willingness to stay close to the Spirit and follow the counsel of the Lord. ■



Yuuki Kitahara



Hikaru Watanabe

WHAT TO DO WHEN A TEMPTER IS A FRIEND

Whom you choose as friends makes a difference. “If you choose bad friends, many temptations will follow,” says Sho Watanabe.

The first time you stand up to someone can be the hardest, but it’s usually easier after that. “Cigarettes aren’t good for you,” Junko Saijo told a friend after the girl offered her a cigarette. “My friend didn’t stop smoking, but she has left me alone about it since then.”

Standing up doesn’t always work. Sometimes you have to leave the situation. “When my friends start talking about bad things, I try to change the topic,” says Yuuki Kitahara. “If they don’t stop, I walk away.”

In many cases you can handle situations politely. Once, Keiko Saijo’s friend was listening to music on her headphones. “She offered it to me, but the music made me feel bad inside. I said, ‘Nice music but not for me,’ and gave the headphones back.”

RICARDO KNOWS

BY R. VAL JOHNSON

Church Magazines

Have you ever felt so unimportant that you thought God wouldn't pay attention to your prayers? If so, Luis Ricardo da Silva of Brazil has some experiences to share with you.

Ricardo and his friends stood outside one of the sealing rooms in the São Paulo Brazil Temple, wondering why they couldn't go in. No one was stopping them; after all, the temple was being rededicated, and this was its open house. They asked the leader they were with why they couldn't go in, but he couldn't tell them. He felt the same restraining spirit. It was a good spirit, but still it stopped them from entering.

Then it occurred to the leader. This room was reserved for President Gordon B. Hinckley. He would be there shortly, looking for some time alone in the Lord's house, seeking the Lord's peace and inspiration in prayer.

Ricardo and his friends quietly left.

We expect, of course, that Heavenly Father listens to the prayers of the prophet. But what about the rest of us? Can we really expect God to listen to our prayers?

Luis Ricardo da Silva can answer that question. At one time he considered himself too unimportant for the Lord to pay attention to him. "I felt, why would God pay attention to someone of no importance like me? But now I know that Jesus loves me. I feel His Spirit, and

I know Heavenly Father listens to my prayers."

He knows because he has had prayers answered. He speaks quietly of times at home and school and church when the Lord has responded to his prayers. One experience stands out: "I was in the temple with friends one day doing baptisms for the dead.





After an experience at the open house of the São Paulo Brazil Temple, Ricardo wondered, “Why would God pay attention to someone of no importance like me?” But now, he says, “I know that Jesus loves me. I know Heavenly Father listens to my prayers.”

We decided to have a prayer in the dressing room of the baptistry. While we were praying we felt something special, as if a light had filled the room and someone else was with us. I had been praying to know that God really lives, and this was my answer. The feeling that I had was powerful. I just *knew*. Prayer is sacred.”

Ricardo’s testimony was strengthened that day, but before he was 11, he didn’t even know what a testimony was. Then one day a friend invited him to church. He enjoyed it so much he kept coming back.

Unfortunately, his mother didn’t like him going. And she didn’t want him joining the Church when he asked to be baptized. “But the missionaries talked to my mother, and she liked them, so she finally gave permission,” he says.

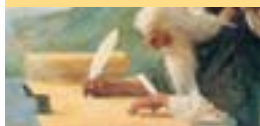
Ever since then Ricardo has been a devoted and energetic disciple of Christ. He

currently holds the priesthood office of priest in the Barueri Ward, Barueri Brazil Stake. Ricardo is usually the first one at church, even though he must walk two and a half miles (4 km) to get there. He says he wants to come to every meeting, even those not on Sunday.

Although he is the only Church member in his family, he still does all he can to build the Lord’s kingdom. That’s what you want to do when you have a testimony, he says. He is even learning to play the piano so he can accompany the singing in priesthood meeting.

“What is important is eternity,” he says. “Now that I’m a member of the Church, I see everything in an eternal light.”

Does heaven’s light shine for anyone who seeks the Lord? Even for those who consider themselves the least in the kingdom? Indeed it does. Ask Ricardo. He knows. ■



Trust in the Lord Forever



We will recognize His guiding hand in our lives as we live worthy to receive the promptings of His Spirit and then as we act upon those promptings.

BY MARGARET S. LIFFERTH

First Counselor in the Primary General Presidency

Isaiah was called to a difficult task. He was the prophet for the people of Judah when they lived in apostasy and, for the most part, followed the leadership of wicked rulers. It was a time of oppression of the poor, increased idolatry, and transgression of moral laws as the kingdoms of Judah and Israel faced the advancing armies of hostile neighbors.

Isaiah's counsel to the people was to repent, believe in the coming Messiah, and "trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:4). When the people listened, they prospered. But Isaiah watched in sorrow as the covenant house of Israel ultimately rejected divine counsel. Moved by inspiration, Isaiah prophesied of the destruction and scattering of Israel and lived to see the captivity of the ten tribes of Israel and the approaching end of Judah's power and prosperity.

But in his great prophetic calling, Isaiah also saw us, the covenant people of the latter days. He received comfort in knowing that not only would the kingdom of God again be established on the earth but that Saints in the latter days would seek and live worthy

of the blessings promised to the house of Israel. "Yet now hear, . . . Israel, whom I have chosen: . . . I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring" (Isaiah 44:1, 3).

The words of Isaiah are preserved specifically for us. They are referred to throughout the scriptures. The Book of Mormon prophet Jacob reminds us: "There are many things which have been spoken by Isaiah which may be likened unto you, because ye are of the house of Israel" (2 Nephi 6:5). How do the teachings of Isaiah apply to us? How can we liken his words to each of us individually?

Seeking the Lord

Just as Isaiah and the people of his day lived on a political and moral battlefield, we do too. When Isaiah entreated his hearers to trust in the Lord, he was also talking to us. How do we seek the direction, strength, and protection of the Lord and then recognize and acknowledge His hand in our lives?

Great blessings become available to us as we make and keep covenants. Specifically, when we are baptized and confirmed, we are given the gift of the Holy Ghost. As we keep our covenants and renew them every week when we take the sacrament, we are

promised that we may “always have his Spirit to be with” us (Moroni 4:3; D&C 20:77). The promises of the Lord are sure. We will recognize His guiding hand in our lives as we live worthy to receive the promptings of His Spirit and then as we act upon those promptings.

In addition to the scriptures and guidance of living prophets, I have found at least three ways that the Lord can give direction to our lives:

1. We can receive answers to specific prayers.
2. The Lord will often influence our thoughts, words, and actions even when we have not sought specific direction.
3. When we face adversity and think we have been abandoned by the Lord, He will bless

Suddenly it became clear to me that I needed to go early to my daughter's school and pick her up. How grateful I am that the Lord will guide a mother to comfort her child.



us with the strength to learn the important lessons of life.

Divine Guidance

It is a privilege and a blessing to seek the guidance of the Lord as we come to Him in prayer. We seek His will for us in the diverse circumstances of our lives:

when we are deciding whom to marry and when; what education or career to pursue or where to live; when we are seeking to know how to serve in a calling, how to help in family matters, or how to assist a neighbor or a child; and when we need to know what lessons we should learn from adversity.

Most of the time my prayers on matters such as this are answered



Sometimes the Lord answers our prayers specifically. At other times we are left to make decisions according to our own best judgment.

specifically. At other times I am left to make a decision with my own best judgment. Sometimes the Lord has a different timetable in mind for me, but I gratefully acknowledge His hand in my life as He answers my prayers.

I have also discovered that the Lord is generous and will often guide us in matters for which we have not sought direction. Some time ago one of our children had run for an elected office at the junior high school she attended. It was the day of the election, and I was home, busy with the routine of the day. Suddenly, it came clearly to my mind that our daughter had lost the election and I needed to go early to the school to pick her up. I watched the clock, and when I knew it was time for the election results to be announced, I arrived at the school. As I walked through the front door, all the youth who had participated in the election were seated in the front hall. They were listening to the results before they were announced to the other students. Our daughter was grateful for an early ride home in order to collect her thoughts, emotions, and priorities before meeting her friends the next day. I am grateful that the Lord, who created the universe, will also guide a mother to comfort the heart of a child.

I have felt the promptings of the Spirit at other times when I have not sought specific direction. It has been there to warn me. It has helped me when I didn't know what to say or do in my efforts to "mourn with those that mourn . . . and comfort those that stand in need of comfort" (Mosiah 18:9). It has confirmed the truths taught in a lesson or a talk and has directed my response when my children

have had questions or doubts or when they felt desires to follow the world. I have discovered that often the necessary words to say or actions to take "shall be given you in the very hour" (D&C 100:6).

As we each face adversity, there may be times when we wonder if the Lord is mindful of us. Isaiah teaches us to trust the Lord even then:

"And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isaiah 30:20–21).

Adversity often makes us more receptive to the promptings of the Spirit. And we "shall return even to the Lord, and he shall be intreated of [us] and shall heal [us]" (Isaiah 19:22). When we trust in the Lord during adversity, we open the door to His strengthening and healing power.

"We Will Be Glad and Rejoice"

I know that as we liken the teachings of Isaiah to our own lives, we will rejoice in his counsel to "trust ye in the Lord for ever." As we make and keep covenants and as we follow the promptings of His Spirit, the hand of the Lord will guide our lives and we can be sure of promised blessings.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces. . . .

"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:8–9). ■

Serving and Supporting Each Sister



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.

Blessings of Belonging to Relief

Society: Relief Society helps sisters feel needed, included, valued, and loved regardless of their personal circumstances. Sisters in Relief Society support each other as they share their faith, friendship, and love.

How Can Relief Society Help Us Feel Valued and Loved?

Mosiah 18:21: “He commanded them that . . . they should look forward with one eye, . . . having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another.”



Bonnie D. Parkin, Relief Society general president: “Every time we watch over one another, godlike qualities of love, patience, kindness, generosity, and spiritual commitment fill the souls of those we visit and enlarge our souls as well. In the process, we honor our covenants. I see legions of faithful sisters around the world going forward on the Lord’s errands, performing simple yet significant service” (“Visiting Teaching: The Heart and Soul of Relief Society” [address given at the fall 2003 open house]).

Kathleen H. Hughes, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency: “We sometimes hear women say that they don’t feel the love of the Lord. But perhaps they would feel more of His love if they looked for His hand in the actions of those who care for them. It may be a member of their branch or ward, a neighbor, or even a stranger who blesses them and manifests Christ’s love” (“What Greater Goodness Can We Know: Christlike Friends,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2005, 75).

How Do We Serve and Support One Another through Relief Society?

1 Thessalonians 5:11: “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley: “Who can measure the joy that has

come into the lives of . . . women as they have mingled together? . . .

“Who . . . can fathom the uncountable acts of charity that have been performed, the food that has been put on barren tables, the faith that has been nurtured in desperate hours of illness, the wounds that have been bound up, the pains that have been ameliorated by loving hands and quiet and reassuring words, the comfort that has been extended in times of death and consequent loneliness?

“Lucy Mack Smith, mother of the Prophet, in speaking to the sisters in Nauvoo, said, ‘We must cherish one another, watch over one another, comfort one another and gain instruction that we may all sit down in heaven together.’ . . . Women of the Church have not had to wait to sit together in heaven to taste the sweet fruit of the kind of activities she described. They have experienced much of heaven on earth as in life they have cherished one another, comforted one another, and instructed one another” (“Ambitious to Do Good,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1992, 4–5).

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “The Church is not a place where perfect people gather to say perfect things, or have perfect thoughts, or have perfect feelings. The Church is a place where imperfect people gather to provide encouragement, support, and service to each other. . . . We are here with the same purpose: to learn to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves” (“The Virtue of Kindness,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2005, 28). ■

Learning to Hear the Lord's Voice

If we approach Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society meetings in the right way, we will return home from church with a testimony that we have heard the Lord's voice and that we know His words.

BY AARON L. WEST
Curriculum Department

Imagine that you are sitting in an elders quorum, high priests group, or Relief Society meeting. The teacher is just beginning a “Teachings for Our Time” lesson when President Gordon B. Hinckley walks into the room and takes a seat. Everyone turns and looks at the prophet, not knowing what to say.

President Hinckley breaks the silence. He excuses himself for being a few minutes late and asks if he might share some counsel with the members in attendance.

Now imagine that the teacher nods in President Hinckley's direction, smiles, and goes on with his or her lesson. A few members raise their hands and share lengthy comments and personal experiences—without any mention of the prophet sitting in their midst.

About 40 minutes later, you can bear it no longer. You raise your hand. When the teacher calls on you, you say,

“Um, I wonder . . . could we hear from President Hinckley now?”

The teacher looks at the clock. “Oh!” he or she exclaims. “I had so much prepared. It seems like we never have enough time to cover it all. Well, uh . . . let me conclude, and then we'll hear a few words from President Hinckley.”

After President Hinckley says a few words, the teacher

thanks everyone for participating. Someone says a prayer, and everyone files out of the room.

This is an extreme example, of course. If President Hinckley ever visits your elders quorum, high priests group, or Relief Society, the teacher will surely give him all the time he needs. But what happens when we are assigned to discuss a general conference address by President Hinckley or the teachings of President Wilford Woodruff? Do we give the words of the prophets the attention they deserve? Do we study each talk or chapter in preparation for our Sunday lesson? Do we allow ourselves to be taught by latter-day prophets?

A second example:

Imagine that a few weeks later, you attend another meeting with your elders quorum (or high priests group or Relief Society). The quorum president makes a few announcements and turns the time over to a teacher.



Then the teacher walks to the front of the room and says, "Today's lesson is chapter 17 in the Wilford Woodruff book." He opens the book to the first page of the chapter and starts reading.

As the teacher reads about the blessings we can receive in the temple, someone in front of you raises his hand. It's Brother González, who was sealed to his wife and children a few months ago. After keeping his hand in the air without acknowledgment from the teacher, Brother González finally gives up. The teacher continues reading.

A few pages later the teacher begins reading a statement that really inspired you when

you studied the chapter last night. You raise your hand, only to lower it a minute later. The teacher reads on as your heart burns with a testimony that you have not been permitted to share.

You look around at your brethren in the quorum. Some are reading along. Others are staring at the floor, glancing at their watches periodically. A few are struggling to stay awake. No one raises his hand.

As we teach
and read
the words
of latter-day
prophets, we hear
the words of the
Lord.





Let one speak
at a time
and let all
listen unto his
sayings, . . . that
all may be edified
of all.”

By the time the teacher has read the entire chapter, his time is almost up. He bears his testimony and concludes the lesson a little bit earlier than he needs to. Someone says a prayer, and everyone files out of the room.

Another extreme example? Certainly. Most teachers are anxious to hear the testimonies and experiences of quorum and class members. But as a Church of teachers and learners, we could probably improve in our efforts to encourage and participate in meaningful discussion.

Teaching and Learning in the Church

Although these examples seem unlikely and may even sound a bit ridiculous, they highlight two common challenges with teaching and learning in the Church: Sometimes we are so eager to conduct a good class discussion that we stray from Church-produced resources. On the other hand, we are sometimes so intent on following the prepared curriculum that we shut off valuable discussion.

When we have opportunities to teach, how can we be true to the Church’s curriculum and encourage good discussion? I have pondered this question, desiring to teach the truth by the power of the Spirit and receive the truth by that same power (see D&C 50:17–22). While I don’t have all the answers, I have rediscovered two scripture passages that have helped me.

“You Have Heard My Voice”

The Lord declared:

“These words are not of men nor of man, but of me; wherefore, you shall testify they are of me and not of man;

“For it is my voice which speaketh them unto you; for they are given by my Spirit unto you, and by my power you can read them one to another; and save it were by my power you could not have them;

“Wherefore, you can testify that you have heard my voice, and know my words” (D&C 18:34–36).

This counsel refers to the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants, but it also applies to the teachings we discuss in Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society meetings—and in all our Sunday meetings. As we read the words of latter-day prophets to one another, we read the words of the Lord (see D&C 1:38).

I believe that if we approach teaching and learning in the right way, every one of us will return home from church with a testimony that we have heard the Lord’s voice. Isn’t that our hope when we share the gospel with one another? When a lesson is over, we don’t want people to marvel at what we have said; we hope they will rejoice in the word of the Lord.

“All May Be Edified of All”

Still, we don’t gather every Sunday merely to read to one another. The Lord taught,

“Appoint among yourselves a teacher, and let not all be spokesmen at once; but let one speak at a time and let all listen unto his sayings, that when all have spoken that all may be edified of all, and that every man may have an equal privilege” (D&C 88:122).

We need one another’s strength, and class discussions provide a great opportunity to share that strength. I love to see a teacher act as an instrument of the Lord, testifying of truths he or she has learned during lesson preparation. And my testimony grows as I hear the testimonies of others. My experience is enriched when others share their experiences. I am grateful for insightful, honest, faith-promoting discussions at church.

Reading and Discussing

Can we apply Doctrine and Covenants 18:34–36 and 88:122 in the same lesson? I believe we can—if we follow one simple rule: begin with Doctrine and Covenants 18:34–36. Begin by reading the teachings of the prophets. Establish the word of the Lord as the foundation for discussion, and then build on that foundation by following the principle in Doctrine and Covenants 88:122.

This rule is so simple that it almost doesn’t need to be said. However, it can have a profound effect on the way we approach teaching and learning in the Church. For specific ideas on how teachers and learners can follow this rule, we can consult the following Church-produced resources:

- *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff*, introduction. These pages include help for individual study and lesson preparation. They outline a pattern teachers can follow as they prepare lessons from the book.
- *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff*, chapter 6. This chapter, titled “Teaching and Learning by the Spirit,” contains inspiring counsel on what we should do when we gather to learn the gospel.

- Instructions for “Teachings for Our Time,” found in the final pages of each general conference issue of the *Liabona* and *Ensign*. These instructions outline a simple process for preparing a “Teachings for Our Time” lesson.

When It All Comes Together

One more example. This one really happened.

I remember sitting in my elders quorum meeting several years ago, enjoying a lesson based on “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.” At one point in the lesson a member of the quorum read part of the proclamation. The instructor was about to move forward with the lesson when another quorum member raised his hand. “I have a question,” he said. Quoting a phrase that had just been read, he asked, “How can we teach our children ‘to love and serve one another?’” The expression on his face and the sound of his voice revealed that this was more than just a question—it was a plea for help. I was grateful that he asked because he expressed a plea that was in my heart as well.

This heartfelt question changed the pace of the lesson. Our teacher put his lesson plan aside temporarily. Quorum members paused to think, and some shared ideas and experiences in response to their friend’s question. Then the teacher shared an insight of his own and continued with the lesson, focusing on other truths in the proclamation. The discussion lasted only a few minutes, but it continues to influence my family and me.

Doctrine and Covenants 18:34–36 and 88:122 came together in that quorum meeting. The process began with a teacher who was humble and wise enough to invite us to read the words of the prophets. It continued when a quorum member had the courage to ask a question—to ask for help. Then, as different men with different backgrounds spoke one at a time, “all [were] edified of all.” I testify that by the power of the Holy Ghost, I heard the Lord’s voice that day—first through His prophets and second through my neighbors and friends. And I went home knowing the word of the Lord better than I had the day before. ■



Falling into a Miracle

BY JANET THOMAS
Church Magazines

The incident made news headlines around the world. A Latter-day Saint missionary had fallen off a 230-foot (70-m) cliff in Australia—and lived! That’s like falling from the top of a 23-story building.

Sometimes a miracle can be told in a single sentence. But for Elder Matthew Weirich—the missionary who fell—every detail of his story testifies to him that the Lord has a plan for his life that he has not yet completed.

Elder Weirich, from Fredricksburg, Texas, had just three months left of his missionary service in the Australia Sydney South Mission. On a preparation day in June 2004, Elder Weirich and three other missionaries got permission to visit a local park to see some of the animals unique to Australia. On the way back from the park they saw a sign pointing to the Grand Canyon lookout. It was close by, so they decided to stop and see what the Grand Canyon looked like in Australia. It is at



*Matt Weirich
fell from
this cliff in
Australia and
lived to tell
about it.*

this point that Elder Weirich’s memory of the day ends. Days later, in the hospital, he had to ask his companions what happened next.

The group had walked to the lookout and then followed marked paths below the lookout to some caves.

The path had some crude rock steps back up to the lookout, and one of the missionaries lost a shoe that had been loosely tied. The shoe rolled partway

down an incline. From his position

Elder Weirich could see that the shoe was caught in a bush just a few steps from the path. It seemed easy to retrieve, and he offered to get it. His companions said that Elder Weirich called out that he had the shoe. Then they heard the noise of sliding rocks. Since they couldn’t see Elder Weirich, they didn’t know what had happened. But when he no longer answered their calls, they were afraid he had fallen.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANET THOMAS AND COURTESY OF THE WEIRICH FAMILY, EXCEPT AS NOTED



A helicopter rescued Matt from the base of the cliff. Matt's ring (which says "faith") shows how he felt.

Opposite page: A few weeks after his fall, Matt and his companion, Elder Peterson, baptized Marcus and May Wong. Matt and his parents at the Sydney Australia Temple.

The three missionaries looked as far over the cliff edges as they dared, then prayed and went looking for a cell phone to call the police. They heard a car door slam in the parking lot and ran to ask the man who had just arrived if he had a phone they could borrow. He did, and they called 000, the emergency number.

An hour later a rescue squad arrived just as darkness was falling. It was turning cold, and the heat-seeking helicopter flying overhead could find no sign of Elder Weirich. Everyone was afraid there was no longer a survivor to rescue.

But they were wrong.

At dawn the next day searchers made their way to the bottom of the cliff. They found Elder Weirich, alive but semiconscious. They carefully loaded him into a stretcher and flew him out by helicopter. He was taken to the hospital, where the medical staff expected to

work on someone with many broken bones and other serious injuries. It turned out Elder Weirich had some swelling in his brain, but the only broken bones were his nose and two small fractures above his eye, all of which were left alone to heal.

A List of Miracles

Looking back, Matt lists the miracles that helped him survive.

Before his mission, Matt had been a pole-vaulter. In fact, he was a national champion in high school and was planning on going to college on a track scholarship. Perhaps—although Matt can't remember exactly what he did while falling—his training took over and helped him adjust as he fell so he landed in a way that reduced his injuries.

At the top part of the cliff he hit several ledges that slowed him down, evidenced by the scrapes and cuts on his arms, before he took the final 90-foot (27-m) free fall.



Today, Matt is healthy and regularly takes a fall of about 17 feet (5 m) onto a pad as a pole-vaulter for BYU.

All I know is that I was an instrument in the Lord's hands. I have seen some of the effects on other people. I've come to the conclusion that the Lord has things for me to accomplish. When temptations come my way, I realize that I wasn't saved to fall into sin. I have to remember that the Lord has a plan for us all."

Matt Weirich has returned from his mission. He has recovered and is a pole-vaulter on the track team at Brigham Young University, where he continues his studies. ■

The weather had been below freezing every night. But on the night he spent at the bottom of the cliff, the temperature was 10 degrees warmer than usual and did not dip below freezing.

He crawled a few feet after he landed, his head ending up downhill, which may have helped maintain good circulation to his injuries.

He was rescued by experts and given excellent medical care.

His survival story created great interest throughout Australia. Suddenly people everywhere wanted to talk to missionaries. Doors were opened. Many people wondered why this apparent miracle had happened and were asking searching questions about God and the Church this missionary represented.

Matt found other blessings from this experience. He says, "This whole event has brought me closer to my family and has helped me understand the value of life. It is more than just living day to day or thinking that you'll be able to make up for mistakes later.

"I have stopped asking why. I'm now asking, 'What can I learn from this?'



CHOOSE A BRIGHT FUTURE



BY ELDER JOHN H. GROBERG

Of the Seventy

One of the biggest decisions you'll ever make is whether or not you are going to trust the Lord. If you want a bright future, you have to make the decision right now: do you trust the Lord or not? If you trust Him, you will keep His commandments.

You can either trust man, or you can trust the Lord. You are a lot better off trusting the Lord, because if you trust man, who knows where you will end up? I have a little saying: "If you do what's right, things will turn out right. If you do what's wrong, things will turn out wrong." It's as simple as that. Trust the Lord. Obey Him.

A Huge Difference

How do we obey the Lord? There are a lot of ways. I would like to address one particularly for the young men.

You have a responsibility. When you received the priesthood, you took upon yourself the responsibility to share the gospel. One of the best ways to do that is to serve a mission. Now, in order to serve a mission, there are a lot of things you have to do. You have to pay your tithing. You have to attend church.

You have to be morally clean. You have to be worthy in every respect. You have to prepare. You have to study the scriptures. But I promise you that if you will prepare yourself, if you will keep the Lord's commandments, and if you will serve a mission, it will make a huge difference in your life, and it will make a huge difference in the world.

On a mission you not only teach others the truth, but you learn more of the truth yourself. I can honestly say that I learned more eternal gospel principles on my mission than any other single time. Even today I look back on my mission and realize lessons I learned then.

Go on a mission. Prepare.

Now you young women might say, "Well, you have talked about the young men. What about us?" Young men have the *responsibility* to go on a mission, and young women have the *opportunity*. You have the choice. You can go or not go.

My wife and I have quite a few daughters. About half of them went on missions. Those who went are very happy they went. Those who didn't are also very satisfied. They're married and have families of their own. It's your choice.

But you young women have the responsibility to make sure that the young men you

If you do what's right, things will turn out right.



As I visited with the stake president prior to leaving, he said, “Do you have time to visit with a young man? This young man is a good young man. He always planned on going on a mission. But just recently he said he isn’t going. We’ve talked to him, and we can’t seem to make any difference. Would you talk to him?” I said I’d be happy to.

The young man had grown up active in the Church, but he had seen his father in and out of work in the mines. Just before this young man turned 19, he had a job in a store.

associate with are eager and worthy to serve. Don’t do anything, and don’t allow them to do anything with you, that would discourage or disqualify them from serving a mission. Always encourage them.

Jill’s Answer

Sometimes you wonder, “Do I really have much power to encourage others to serve?” You have more power than you think. Let me give you an example. Several years ago I had a stake conference assignment in a small mining town.

The manager was so impressed with him that he said, “If you’ll take this job right now, I’ll make you the assistant manager, and in a couple of years you’ll be the manager.”

“I was planning on going on a mission,” he said.

The manager said, “Well, you can do whatever you want, but you’ll lose this job. I need you right now.”

Well, he thought about it. He had a girlfriend named Jill. And he thought, “I really love Jill. If I get this job, I won’t have to work at the mine. We can get a house. We can get married and have a family.” So he made up his mind that he wasn’t going on a mission because he had this tremendous opportunity.

He talked to his father, and his father did everything he could to persuade him to go on a mission. He couldn’t persuade him. The father asked his son to talk to the bishop. The bishop couldn’t persuade him. The stake president couldn’t persuade him. I talked to him, and I couldn’t persuade him. He was determined to work at this store.

Finally, when it became evident that he wasn’t going to go, his father said, “Well, what are your plans?”

“I’m going to marry Jill.”

“What does Jill have to say about it?”

“Well, I haven’t talked to her yet.”

“How do you know she’ll even marry you?”

He had just assumed that she would.

His dad told him, “You’d better talk to Jill.”

So he explained to Jill about this great job and how he would make good money. Finally, he said, “You know, with this job we can buy a house. We can start a family.”

Jill asked, “Are you proposing to me?”

“Well, yeah, I guess so.”

“What about your mission?”

“I’ve already told you that if I go on a mission, I’ll lose this job. If I lose the job, we won’t have the income. We won’t be able to get married. We won’t be able to have a home.”

Now, remember, four priesthood brethren—father, bishop, stake president, and General Authority—couldn’t sway him.

Jill looked at him and said, “No mission, no Jill.”

He was in the bishop’s office the next day filling out his papers to go on his mission.

The Lord Will Prepare a Way

He served a mission, and while he was serving, Jill married someone else. But he had been out on his mission long enough that he had gained a solid testimony.

When this elder came home after serving a wonderful mission, he went to his folks and said, “I’ve decided I’m going to go on to college.”

They almost fainted and said, “No one in our family has gone to college. How can you do that?”

“I don’t know, but I talked to my mission president, and he said he thought it was a good idea and, if it was right, the Lord would prepare the way.” And the Lord did prepare a way. He was a smart young man. He eventually became a dentist, married a wonderful woman, and they raised a great family.

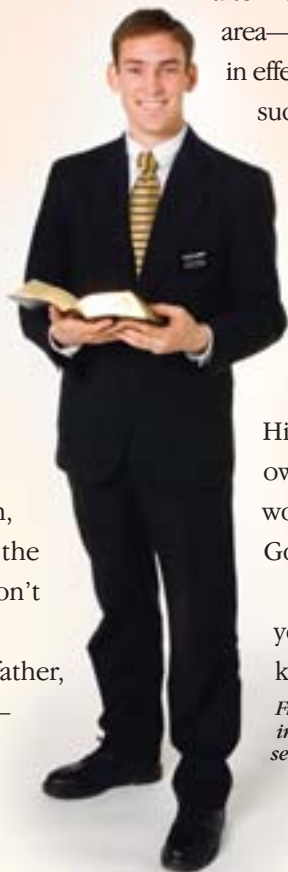
Now the sequel to this story is that not very many years after he had started his dental practice in a different area—guess what happened? They closed the mine, in effect, closing the town. And the store that was such a big thing to him years earlier closed. It couldn’t stay in business.

What if he had followed the dictates of man or just his own feelings? He might have married Jill, and they would have had a mortgage they couldn’t have paid and a house they couldn’t have sold.

God always blesses you when you keep His commandments. But if you go on your own thinking, you are at the mercies of the world. It’s a lot better to be at the mercies of God—a lot better.

By doing right, things will turn out right. If you want a bright future, trust the Lord and keep His commandments. ■

From a youth devotional address given on June 8, 2004, in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Elder John H. Groberg served as a member of the Seventy from 1976 to 2005.



LEARN TO SHARE

Most of us *want* to share the gospel with our friends. Sometimes we just don't know *how*. So we asked seminary students in the Des Moines Iowa Stake for their ideas. They know something about the subject because one of the students is a recent convert himself and two others in the early-morning class are not Church members. Here's what the class said:

Pray. Pray to be guided to someone who will be interested in hearing the gospel. Pray to know what to say and do to help that person.

Be a friend first. When you are a true friend, you'll share the gospel out of love, and your friend will sense that and not be offended.

Be an example. It is pretty hard to ask a friend to accept principles you don't live yourself.

Give service. That is how the Savior lived His mortal life. It is how the sons of Mosiah won the hearts of their Lamanite converts (see Alma 17–18).

Help your friend have uplifting experiences. Spending time with you at Church activities or just having fun with you and your Latter-day Saint friends can provide an environment where the Spirit will touch your friend's heart.

Listen with interest and respect. Listening is part of being a friend. And it invites the other person to show the same interest and respect when you share how you feel about the Savior and His Church.

Share the Book of Mormon and your testimony. Mark a few of your favorite passages, and point out the promise in Moroni 10:3–5.

Invite your friend to meet with the full-time missionaries.

The missionaries can explain our beliefs clearly and answer any questions your friend has. Take part in the lessons with your friend.

Believe in the power of the Spirit to touch hearts. Remember that even the simplest testimony or explanation of gospel truth invites the witness of the Spirit. Pray for the Spirit to be with you and to guide you.

Believe in your friend. Be supportive and encouraging. Above all, if your friend does not show interest in the Church at this time, remain a friend. ■





NICARAGUA

Hungering for the “Beautiful Fruit”

By sharing the “beautiful fruit” of the gospel, Nicaraguan members and missionaries are helping loved ones and friends find peace.

BY DON L. SEARLE
Church Magazines

I believe Nicaragua’s moment has come,” says Larry Zúniga of the San Miguel Ward, Masaya Nicaragua Stake. He is speaking of growth in the Church that increased the number of stakes in his country from two to seven in just one year.

If Brother Zúniga is right, then the arrival of this happy moment in the history of the Church in Nicaragua is the result of at least two factors: the influence of the Holy Ghost on people who are seeking truth and the influence of *Preach My Gospel* in helping members share the gospel. Priesthood leaders will tell you they see both of these factors at work in people’s lives.

Bishop Luís Castrillo of the Ciudad Sandino Ward, Managua Nicaragua Stake, explains that many people in Nicaragua are seeking answers to life’s questions and finding those answers in the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He compares their condition to being very thirsty on a hot day and unable to find a place



to get a drink. When at last they find the way to quench their thirst, they drink freely and gratefully of the water that the gospel of Jesus Christ has to offer.

Looking at the overall picture of what is happening in Nicaragua, Elder Spencer V. Jones of the Seventy, President of the Central America



Area, offers three reasons for the Church’s growth there. First, Nicaraguans seem to feel a “spiritual hunger.” After a long period of conflict in their country, “people are looking for peace in their lives, and the gospel is providing that peace.” Second, “there has also been a succession of strong mission presidents who have developed a good working relationship with the local leaders and members. Basically, the missionaries don’t have to knock on doors very often. They have tremendously large teaching pools because of this relationship.” Third, as a result, “the missionaries have developed a faith that they have the capacity to baptize. They’re not afraid to challenge investigators to prepare for baptism. They have that confidence and faith in the Lord.”

Committed to Serve

Brother Zúniga typifies the commitment to missionary work found among Latter-day Saints. “There are many members willing to help here,” he says. A returned missionary himself, he goes out to work with the full-time



Opposite page: Jeannethe Campos de Espinoza, former Managua stake Relief Society president; Bishop Luís Castrillo, Ciudad Sandino Ward, Managua stake. Below: Victor Vallecillo and his son, Victor. Right: Cindy Orozco teaches a Young Women class in Managua's Miraflores Ward. Bottom right: Managua stake center.



THE CHURCH IN NICARAGUA

National population: approximately 5,500,000

Managua area: approximately 1,400,000

Members in Nicaragua: more than 52,000

Stakes: 7

Districts: 5

Wards: 44

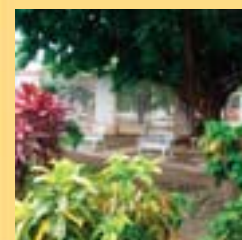
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missionaries as often as he can. Almost all of his friends have been willing to at least listen to the gospel.

From the time he was a boy, Larry Zúniga wanted to serve a full-time mission. His father, a carpenter, made him a small box for a bank, and Larry began to save money for his mission. But when he was 18, his mother became seriously ill. He had to give up his mission savings and sell his bicycle to help pay for her treatment, but he sacrificed gladly for her.

Nevertheless, through the help of other members and also of relatives, including some who are not members of the Church, he was blessed with the resources he needed to serve a full-time mission. Brother Zúniga's commitment to missionary work helped bring five of his good friends into the Church, and two of them have also served missions. He continues to work with other friends.





Above: Melchizedek Priesthood holders of the Miraflores Ward meet on the patio of a rented facility while their meetinghouse is remodeled. Top right: Paula Merlo, Chinandega. Right: Sergio Saenz, Managua.

Paula Merlo of the Acome Ward, Chinandega Nicaragua Stake, is another member who never passes up an opportunity for missionary work. If the missionaries ask members to help them find people to teach, she simply does it. Visitors to her home are likely to find a missionary meeting in progress. On one Saturday, for example, she arranged for missionaries to teach a total of 11 investigators in separate group meetings in her home.

Sister Merlo came into the Church 14 years ago after being introduced to the gospel by a daughter who had been baptized. She has a daughter in Panama and a son in Honduras and tries to share the gospel wherever she travels in Central America. Even she is not sure how many people she has helped bring into the Church. If people decline her invitation to hear the missionaries, she invites them to family home evening in her home so they can feel something of the spirit of the gospel.

What motivates her in missionary work? “First, it is a commandment the Lord has given us. And then, after going to the temple, I realized that if we’re not doing anything for our dead or for the living, we’re not doing anything for the Lord.”

Sister Merlo’s stake president, Ernesto Maravilla, holds her up as an example of what he wishes every member would do. President Maravilla works constantly with members and missionaries to help them remember that they have both the commandment and the precious opportunity

to share the gospel. He leads by example, also inviting friends and acquaintances to family home evenings in his own home to introduce them to the gospel.

“I have two roles in missionary work,” he says, “one to supervise and one to motivate members to work at the level of the missionaries.”

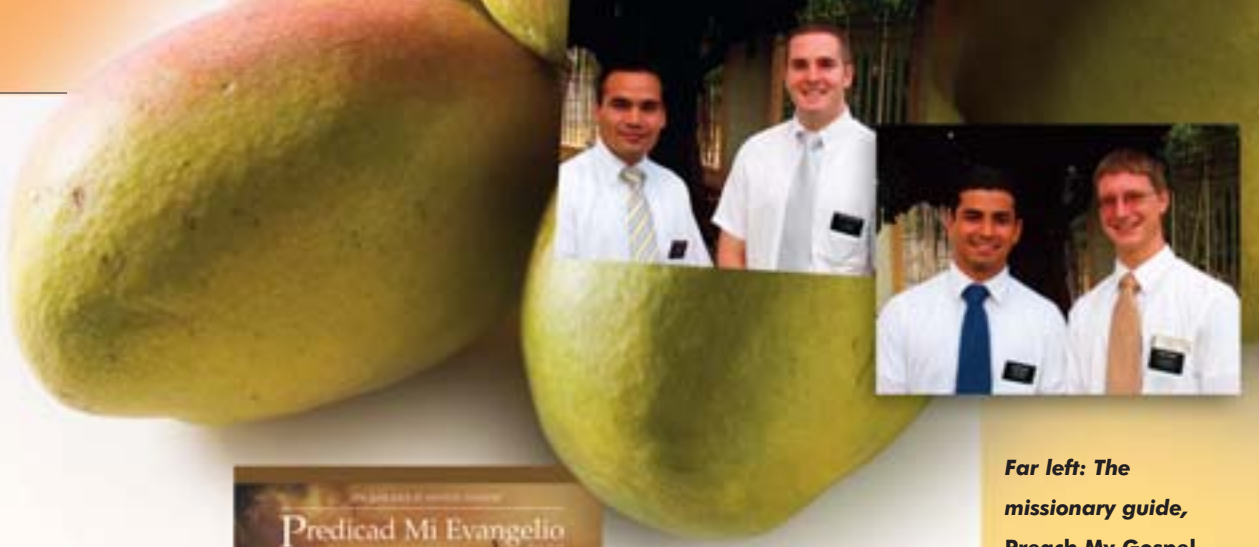
Because of the meaning of his surname (*maravilla* means “marvel” in Spanish), friends joke that he is a marvel in missionary work. A man of good humor, President Maravilla laughs with the joke, but he is serious about missionary work. He meets regularly with missionary zone leaders to coordinate efforts in the stake. He strongly encourages bishops to actively direct missionary work in their wards through ward council meetings and to follow up on assignments. Those councils are “the heart of missionary work in the ward,” the president says. When the meetings are not held, the work slows down. “We have learned this in practice.”

The Chinandega stake averages 45 baptisms per month.

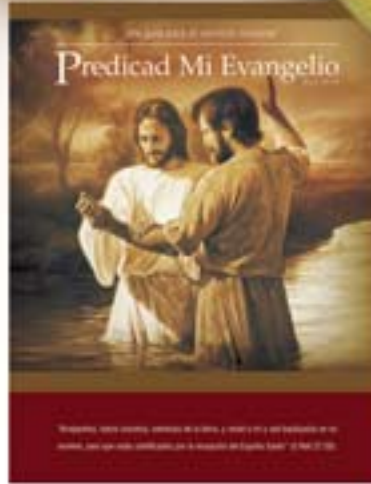
Partners in Teaching

“Everything starts with the planning meeting we have with members,” commented Elder William J. Reano of Waverly, Tennessee, USA, a missionary in the Nicaragua Managua Mission. Elder Reano, who has since finished his mission, and his companion met weekly with members in their area of Managua. Members supplied new missionary referrals or directed the missionaries to someone who could. “We formed a chain of referrals,” Elder Reano said. “I’ve learned that the basis of success in missionary work is this planning.”

His companion, Elder Rodrigo León of Costa Rica, attributes their success in teaching both to the experience of his companion and to *Preach My Gospel*, the approach to teaching that missionaries are now using. “That approach is 100 percent effective when it is used



Far left: The missionary guide, *Preach My Gospel*. Above: Elders Rodrigo León and William J. Reano. Above left: Elders Jonathan Estrada and Joshua Kasteler. Below: Silvia Zamuria Vanegas, Granada.



correctly,” Elder León says. Success breeds success, Elder Reano adds; members who see regular baptisms want their friends to have the opportunity to learn about the gospel too. Elder León notes that many members bring investigators to Church meetings each week.

Elder Joshua Kasteler of Murray, Utah, says missionaries find it is important to help members know they are necessary to missionary work. He and his companion, Elder Jonathan Estrada of Santa Ana, El Salvador, try to help leaders and members know that the missionaries care about what is happening in the ward. They work with the ward after a baptism to help the new members become assimilated and receive callings. This is important for both the new members and the ward, Elder Estrada points out, because in serving, people are nourished by the word of God.

The enthusiasm and love of the missionaries for the people they teach comes through strongly at a mission-wide meeting in Managua with their president, Ricardo Valladares. There is a spirit of gladness among the missionaries as they receive instruction and hear of successes in the work. When transfers are announced, no one says, “Oh, Elder, too bad you are going to *that* place.” They offer each

other congratulations and speak of new opportunities.

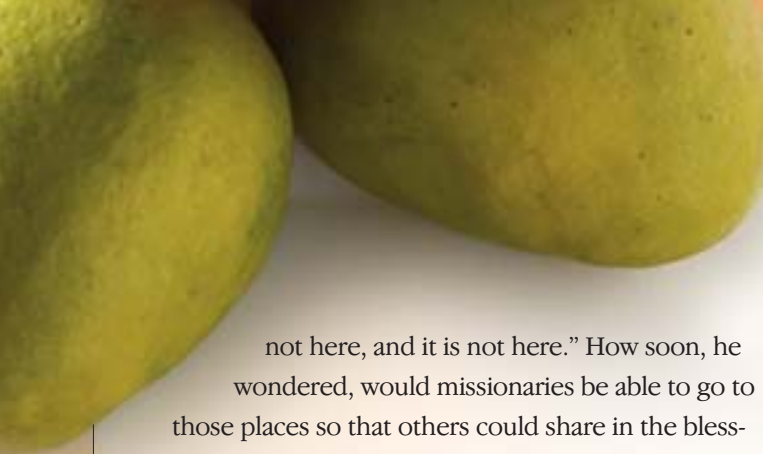
Testimonies at Work

The enthusiasm of the missionaries is infectious.

Victor Vallecillo is a co-worker of Pedro Aviles, president of the Managua

Nicaragua Stake. When Victor was seeking religious truth, President Aviles gave him a Book of Mormon. Brother Vallecillo feels so joyful about the gospel that since his baptism in November 2004 he has adopted the habit of inviting friends to hear the gospel, and he often goes out with missionaries to teach. His wife and two children have the spirit of missionary work too. One night, Brother Vallecillo recalls, his teenage son was studying a map of Nicaragua, looking at the northern part of the country where Brother Vallecillo grew up. “Papa,” his son said, pointing to places on the map, “the gospel is not here, and it is





not here, and it is not here.” How soon, he wondered, would missionaries be able to go to those places so that others could share in the blessings of the gospel?

Silvia Zamuria Vanegas of the Granada Branch, Granada Nicaragua District, recalls, “When I was baptized, I made a promise to the Lord that one day I would teach other people because what I had found brought me so much joy.” In May 2005, four years after her baptism, she left to serve a mission in Guatemala. But she had been sharing the gospel with friends and working with the sister missionaries long before her call. Sister Zamuria quotes a favorite saying that calls on those who can light a candle to share the light with people around them.

Raúl Díaz Hernández of El Coyolar Branch, Leon Nicaragua District, grew up in the Church and has been preparing to serve a mission since his childhood. He has worked with the missionaries and begun to study *Preach My Gospel*. It is a privilege to share his testimony with anyone, he says, but he has a more personal reason for helping the missionaries teach his brother-in-law. He would like his sister to be able to enjoy the blessings of the temple with her family.

The Influence of Members

José Contreras, president of the Masaya Nicaragua Stake, estimates that more than three-quarters of convert baptisms in his stake come about through the assistance of members who want to share the joy they found in the gospel. But even with recent growth, President Contreras says, “we need to do more to take the missionaries out to people we may not have thought of yet.” The president and his counselors are not only helping members develop their own ability to share the gospel, but they are also accompanying some of them as they go out with the missionaries to teach.

President Contreras keeps track of the rate of activity for members in the stake, and he is concerned about those who are not enjoying the blessings of the gospel right now. How to reach those members? He favors a basic approach:

teach them again the simple doctrines they learned from the missionaries—the pure doctrines of Christ. When they remember these, he says, they will want the promised blessings. Efforts to retain them are efforts to bless them.

Jeannethe Campos de Espinoza, former president of the Relief Society in the Managua stake, admires the creativity of one visiting teacher who helped activate a woman she visited. The visiting teacher asked the sister to prepare a message from the Book of Mormon to share with her visiting teachers; this helped the woman discover what she was missing spiritually. The same approach has been used to activate others as well. Sometimes Relief Society leaders also ask to hold small group meetings in the homes of less-active members to remind them of gospel blessings.

Sister Espinoza, baptized in 2001, has a strong desire to share the gospel with others “so they can taste this beautiful fruit.” It gives her pain, she says, to see people wandering in paths that lead them away from happiness.

Sharing the gospel so others can taste the “beautiful fruit” seems to be a theme in most Church meetings in Nicaragua.

President Aviles of the Managua stake was one of the first stake presidents in the country, and he has been an eyewitness to the Church’s growth over the past several years. His is a country burdened by great poverty, a country where the pull of old traditions and temptations is very strong. But it is a country where Church facilities are often unable to keep up with growth because of missionary work and because retention has improved. President Aviles knows how the Holy Ghost and loving members can touch people’s lives.

Speaking at a ward conference in Managua, he takes up the theme of reaching out to others so they may taste that sweet fruit of the gospel. With faith, he says, members can overcome the challenges the adversary puts in our paths. “We ought to move forward so that we can be perfected.”

“We need to be strengthened in righteousness,” he adds. “We want to be blessed for doing good.” Let the Saints be drawn together in unity, he pleads; let unity be our strength. This is the way for the spiritual growth in Nicaragua to continue. ■

Did You Know?

Leadership Tip

Learning to delegate is an important part of being a leader. Jesus Christ offered the perfect example of involving His disciples. He shared work with them, He gave them specific things to do, and He trusted them. By following the

Savior's example and delegating to your class or quorum members, the job will get done and everyone will grow in ability.

You can delegate effectively if you . . .

- Know and understand the assignment.

- Ask someone to accept the assignment.
- Tell them what needs to be done, not just how to do it.
- Set a date for completion.
- Have the person report to you after completing the assignment.

Scripture Study: How Dedicated Are You?

Are you a scripture whiz or a "Scriptures? What?" kind of person? This quiz will clue you in. Use the key at the end to find your score.

1. You're about to begin reading your scriptures. The first thing you do is:

- A. Check to see what time it is, so you make sure to read for at least 10 minutes.
- B. Get on your knees and pray to understand what you read through the Spirit.



- C. Wonder if Laman and Lemuel will still murmur as you read 1 Nephi again.

2. You receive an impression to do something while reading the Book of Mormon. You make up your mind to:

- A. Write it down, so you don't forget. You always knew that scripture journal would come in handy!
- B. Do your best to remember it for at least a week.



- C. Read your scriptures more often so you'll get more impressions like that, but then forget what you were supposed to do by the next day.

3. You get home from school. You're tired and you have a load of homework to do, so you:

- A. Take a nap, eat dinner, and do homework until you fall asleep.
- B. Do homework, eat dinner, and study scripture mastery verses for your seminary quiz in the morning.



- C. Take a nap, do your homework, eat dinner, and go to bed. You already read your scriptures in the morning when you were awake.

4. If someone picked up your set of scriptures, he or she would most likely say:

- A. Wow. Why are all these pages still stuck together?



- B. Hey, your bookmark is in Mosiah. Aren't we studying Alma in seminary now?

- C. There is a lot of underlining, and the binding is worn. You must use these a lot.

See How You Did!

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | a = 2 | b = 3 | c = 1 |
| 2. | a = 3 | b = 2 | c = 1 |
| 3. | a = 1 | b = 2 | c = 3 |
| 4. | a = 1 | b = 2 | c = 3 |

1–4 Points: Scripture Hungry

Well, at least it sounds like you have scriptures. Now it's time to open them and feast on the words of Christ. There's a lot to learn, and much comfort can be found in the scriptures. Just read them and you'll see!

5–8 Points: Scripture Seeker

You're trying to read your scriptures. Good job! But you still have some work to do. Set aside some time to really get into the scriptures, and remember to pray before you study.

9–12 Points: Scripture Powerful

There is so much to learn from the scriptures, and you're making a great start. Keep up the good work. Remember to study the scriptures daily and to start sharing them with others to stay "Scripture Powerful."

Heart Condition

By Raquel Pedraza de Brosio

I had just started a new job and was trying to save money to serve a mission. As time went on, new employees were hired, and I was assigned to train a young woman about my age.

Maria (name has been changed), my new co-worker, was obviously concerned with her appearance. She conformed to the popular trend of wearing short skirts, dark makeup, and bold hairstyles, and she also had developed some bad habits, such as smoking. Despite our differences, Maria and I worked well together. She was pleasant to talk with, and time passed quickly when we were together.

One day at work she asked, “Raquel, do you ever go dancing?” I told her I attended dances at my church. She asked which church it was, and I explained that it is called The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and that its members are often called Mormons. Maria told me she had heard of the Mormons, but she didn’t know any of our beliefs. I was excited to share more about the Church with her, and I offered her a copy of the Book of Mormon, which she was happy to accept.

In time I invited her to attend the

branch closest to her home. I was quite surprised when she accepted my invitation. We decided to meet at the train station the following Sunday so we could go to the meetings together.

Sunday arrived, and as my train approached the station where we were to meet, I peered out the window, looking for the Maria I knew from work. To my surprise, I saw instead a young lady whose skirt was modest and whose hair and makeup were all that could be asked

of a Latter-day Saint young woman. But it was Maria!

I confess that I had doubted she would be there waiting for me, and I also doubted that the gospel would produce any changes in her life—inside or out.

We greeted each other and walked the 15 minutes to church. We went to Relief Society first, where Maria wanted to answer the questions and participate in everything the teacher asked us to do. She also enjoyed Sunday School and sacrament meeting. I introduced her to the sister missionaries, who invited her to hear the lessons, and Maria readily agreed.

A short time later we lost contact

As my train approached the station where we were to meet, I peered out my window, looking for Maria.



Attached to
the e-mail
was a
page Cesare had
scanned from a
Book of Mormon
I had given him.

because she didn't continue with her job. But it wasn't long before I received an invitation to her baptism. I was disappointed I couldn't attend, and again we lost contact.

After serving for nine months in the Argentina Mendoza Mission, I read in the local pages of the *Liabona* that Maria was serving in the Argentina Resistencia Mission. I started jumping for joy and immediately wrote to her.

In her reply she told me about her mission preparation. Her parents had not supported her desire to join the Church. Yet she had attended church and institute classes and had sacrificed much in order to serve a mission.

Many years have now passed, and Maria and I have seen each other again. She is a temple worker in the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple and is enjoying the love of her husband and children. She lives the gospel and radiates its light. Today her appearance reflects all that is in her heart, and although she does not know it, she has not only given me a special memory but has taught me a great principle—the gospel is for everyone. As members of the Church, we should not refrain from sharing our testimonies just because, in our judgment, a person's appearance indicates he or she might reject our message.

Now, whenever I think about Maria, 1 Samuel 16:7 comes to mind: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; . . . for the

Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Heavenly Father knows the hearts of His children, and to Him the heart is what matters. ■

Delayed Harvest

By Rian W. Jones

I sat at my desk one Monday morning looking at all the e-mails that had piled up over the weekend. Always suspicious of a computer virus, I was almost ready to delete an e-mail and its attachment that were from an unknown sender. But as my finger paused on the mouse button, ready to click, the Spirit prompted me to open the message.

"Hello, Elder Rian Jones," it began.

"You are now around 50 years old, and I am 37. I have only a vague remembrance of your person, and I am not sure if the man I remember is the one I am writing to." Actually, I was 45 years old, and who was this person who would address me as "Elder"? I hadn't been called that since my mission. The writer then asked if I was still active in the Church and had kept the spirit of my mission. My curiosity was really piqued now.

"I was only 12 years old when you and your companion taught me the gospel in Taranto, Italy. The year was 1975." My mind raced as I tried to recall the writer. "You are probably asking yourself if you baptized me. No, you didn't, because my mother and father refused permission." The writer went on to explain how painful



and embarrassing it was for him and his brother to stop the missionaries on the steps of their apartment building as we were going to ask his parents for permission to baptize him. He recounted how he kept coming to church for a while but eventually stopped because he could not be baptized. "But I kept the teachings in my heart and never betrayed the principles I was taught," he wrote.

I served in the Italy Rome Mission from 1975 to 1977, and Taranto was my first city. But I could not recall the story that was unfolding in this e-mail. The writer explained that when he was 22 years old he was called into compulsory military service in northern Italy. There he suffered a spiritual crisis that caused him to pray for the first time as an adult. He received an answer to his prayers, and because of this, he sought out the missionaries in that area. He found them at a fast-food restaurant and told them he wanted to be baptized. "Nothing like that ever happened to me on my mission," I thought. Those elders must have been shocked.

He was baptized and later married in the temple at Friedrichsdorf, Germany. He now had three children, had moved to Canada several years ago, and was an active member of the Church.

"I don't know if you will ever answer this e-mail. If you do, I will tell you many other things about my life and how I have been blessed by your mission. Elder, you never know

where a small, good action can lead." He signed his e-mail "Cesare Quarinto." Later he told me he had found my e-mail address on the Italy Rome Mission Web site.

Try as I might, I could not recall the experience of teaching a 12-year-old boy in Taranto. But the attachment to the e-mail was a page he had scanned from an old copy of the Book of Mormon. It was a dedication, written in my handwriting in Italian, dated September 14, 1975. It read:

"Dear Cesare,

"I am giving you this gift so that you can read it to find the beautiful truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Don't ever forget prayer, because it is only through prayer that you can find the truth. . . . I know this is the true Church, and I hope to share this truth with you.

"Your friend,

"Elder Rian Jones"

Suddenly I had a perfect recollection. Seeing the words I had written caused the memory to return. I recalled vividly the rented space we used for a chapel in Taranto. We taught young Cesare the gospel in that building. I had given him his own copy of the Book of Mormon shortly before I was transferred to another city. Recalling the circumstances and reading Cesare's e-mail, I was overcome with joy.

I did have some success on my mission, but unfortunately most of the people I baptized had fallen away from the Church over the

years. Now a scripture came to mind: "And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!" (D&C 18:15). ■

A Unique Combination

By Francis Davis

It was 5:30 p.m. on a Friday in June 2001, and I was working in my home office when the phone rang. It was my wife calling in a bit of a panic. She and our three daughters had been on a bike ride and had stopped at the supermarket for a cold drink and some ice cream. When they came out of the store, the combination lock securing the bicycles wouldn't work. The combination was 3690, but it didn't open the lock, which was firmly holding the bicycles against a metal fence just outside the store.

I jumped in our minivan and drove to the supermarket, but I had no more luck than they had had. I drove my wife and daughters home and began to think of what I could do. The first counselor in the branch presidency repairs saws, so I called and explained my predicament to him. He told me that most bicycle locks of this kind are made from

toughened steel that is impervious to saws and bolt cutters. But he said I could at least try to cut the lock.

I found the box containing my electric saw and an extension cable. I called the store to ask if I could use their power for my saw. They kindly said I could. By the time I arrived, it was 7:45, and the store would close at 8:00. I was under pressure and started to panic too.

If the bicycles were there overnight, they would surely be a target for vandalism, and besides, my wife, who couldn't drive at that time, used them every day to get the children to and from school.

When I got to the store I grabbed my electric saw's hard plastic case, opened it, and found I had brought my cordless drill by mistake. They

both have the same black plastic casing. It was now 7:55 and too late to get home and back before the store closed.

I tried the lock again, tugging as hard as I could to separate the two pieces, but nothing moved. A couple of people were staring at me, and employees were starting to close the store.

I sat in the minivan and thumped the steering wheel, feeling utterly frustrated. Then in my "mind's ear" I heard my daughter singing the hymn

I tried the lock again, but nothing moved. It was getting late, and I was getting worried.

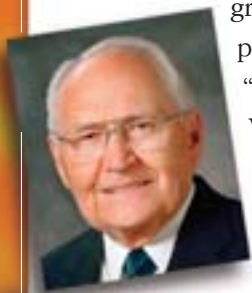
"Did You Think to Pray?" (*Hymns*, no. 140).

In my panic I had failed to do the simplest thing. I had forgotten to pray. So I bowed my head and explained my situation to Heavenly Father. I left nothing out. I even told Him how silly I felt about the drill/saw mistake. In an instant I felt prompted to try the lock again. I got out of the car, and as I started to tumble the combination to read 3690 again, I heard a number whispered in my ear: 2591. I looked around, but no one was standing there. I tried 2591, and the lock fell open in my hands.

Never before or since have I had an answer to my prayers given so clearly or so quickly. Tears rolled down my face as I loaded the bicycles into the back of our minivan. I hurried home and related the story to my wife and children.

Later when I turned the numbers to 3690, just as I expected, the gaps in the teeth inside the cylinder didn't line up so that I could put the two pieces of the lock back together. I then tried 2591, and it didn't work either. On closer inspection I realized that the tumblers had broken. Every time I turned them, a different number would open the lock. So, considering the thousands of possible combinations I could have tried that Friday evening, only heaven could help me find the one unique combination. And all I had to do was ask in faith. ■



A Motto for Life

I would like to express my gratitude for the publication of “Becoming Men in Whom the Spirit of God Is,” by Elder L. Tom Perry in the July 2002 *Liabona*. At that time I had recently returned from serving a mission in Uruguay, and I needed spiritual help. This article was the answer to my afflictions and temptations. It touched my heart and strengthened my testimony, and it has become the motto for my life.

Because of the *Liabona*, my level of spirituality as a bearer of God’s priesthood has grown.

Luis Carvajal Arce, Chile

Modern Miracles

I was very moved when I read “The Clam Chowder Story,” in the December 2005 issue. It reminded me that modern miracles still happen when we do our best to solve a problem. Then, through our faith, the Lord takes care of the rest.

Irene Taniegra, Philippines

Always Something to Be Thankful For

I love the *Liabona*. After reading each issue I always have a desire to say thanks because there is always something to be thankful for.

I am especially grateful for the first three issues of 2005. “Doctrine and Covenants Times at a Glance,” in January; “What Happened to Christ’s Church?” in February; and “Now Let Us Rejoice,” in March were of great interest to me and to my husband as well. He is not a member of the Church, but he is very interested in history, and he enjoyed reading these articles, which parallel the history of our Church with world events. I was so happy to find something for my husband in the magazine!

Olga Khripko, Ukraine

The True Word

I am so thankful to Heavenly Father for this marvelous magazine. The missionaries gave me a copy, and I am grateful for the wise messages it contains. It truly provides us with the true word.

Célio Borba, Brazil

Messages from Heavenly Father

I’ve always loved reading the *Liabona*. The articles are so important—they are messages from Heavenly Father, and they help me keep going in spite of my problems. Thanks for strengthening our spirits.

Jenny Mazariegos, Guatemala

COMING NEXT MONTH . . .**An edition of the *Liabona* especially for new members**

In the October issue, you’ll find answers to questions like these:

- “In what ways does the Church help new members?” President Gordon B. Hinckley himself explains.

- “How do I develop the spiritual strength I need for the road ahead?” You’ll like what Elder Jeffrey R. Holland has to say.

- “How do I handle the concerns of family members who remain members of another faith?”

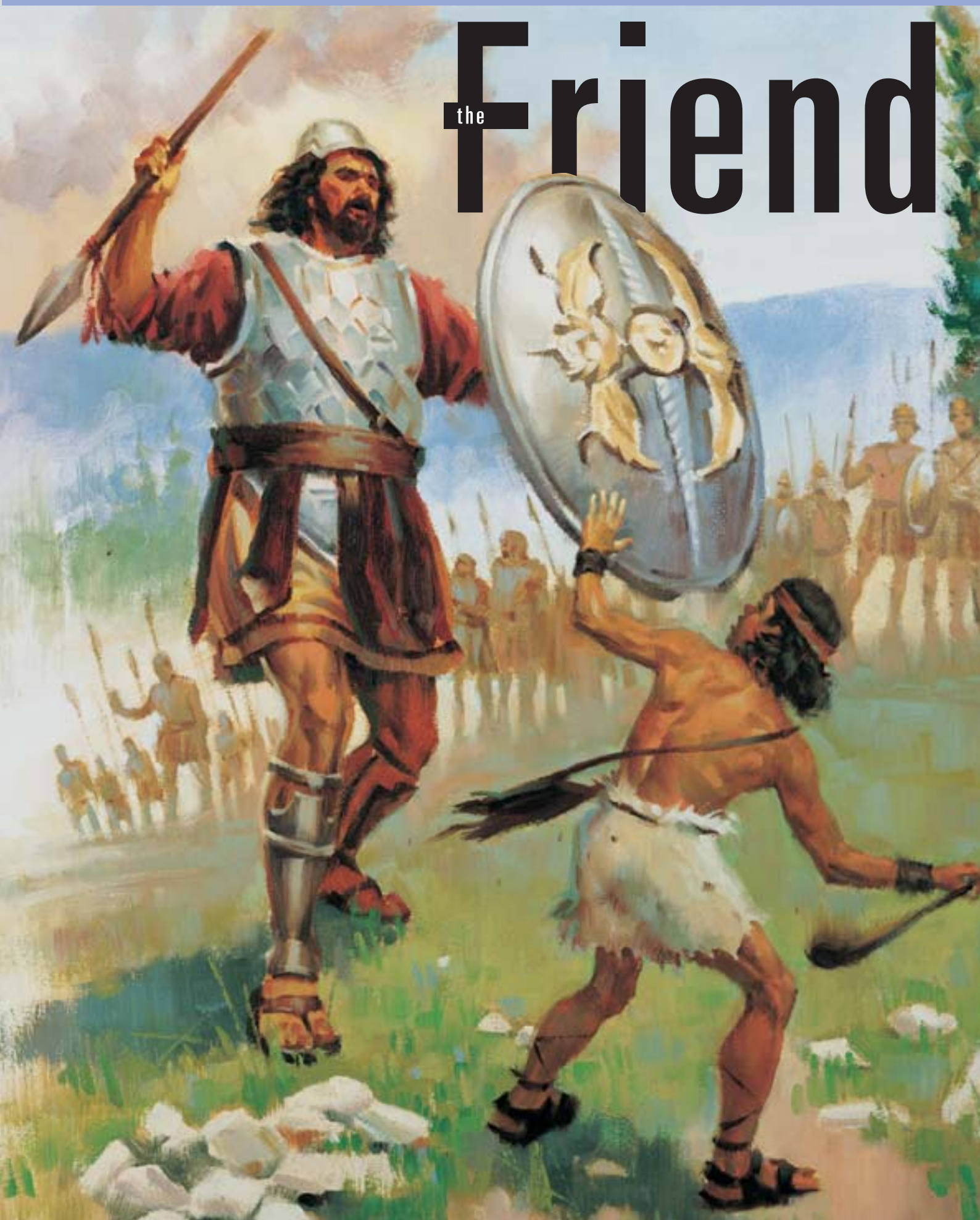
- “Where do I go for answers to questions I don’t even have yet?”

And if you are a longtime member? You’ll find new perspectives on the basic doctrines of the gospel and articles to use in helping friends or family who are new members.

Of course, if you don’t subscribe to the *Liabona*, you can get a copy at your distribution center. But why not just go ahead and subscribe? You’ll find something special in every issue.



the Friend



Truth Will Prevail

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

I am optimistic [positive] concerning the work of the Lord. I cannot believe that God has established His work in the earth to have it fail. I know that it is getting stronger. I realize, of course, that we are beset [faced] in the world with many tragic problems.

And yet I am optimistic. I have a simple and solemn faith that right will triumph and that truth will prevail. I believe that “truth crushed to earth will rise again.”

When I left for a mission, my good father handed me a card on which were written five words. They were the words of the Lord to the ruler of the synagogue who had received news of his daughter's death: “Be not afraid, only believe” (Mark 5:36).

If ever your faith is inclined to weaken as you see the onward march of evil and oppression, read again the story of Daniel who, putting his trust in the “God in heaven that revealeth secrets” (Daniel 2:28), interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream. He said concerning our day that the God of heaven shall “set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these [other] kingdoms,



President Hinckley teaches us to have courage and faith so that we can overcome evil and fear.

and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44).

Yes, this work requires sacrifice, it requires effort, it requires courage to speak out and faith to try. This cause does not need critics; it does not need doubters. It needs men and women of solemn purpose. As Paul wrote to Timothy: “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” (2 Timothy 1:7–8).

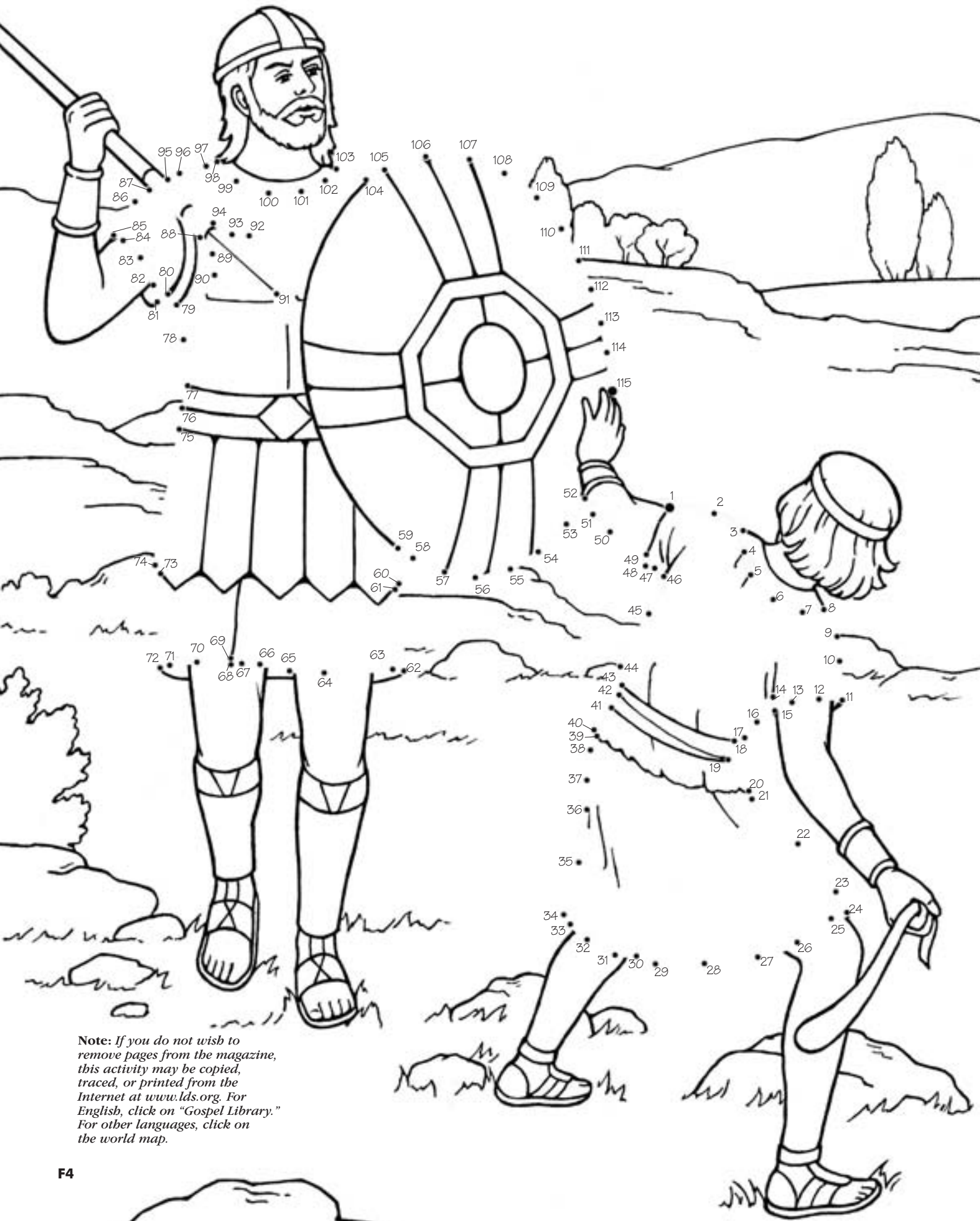
I wish that every member of this Church would put those words where he or she might see them every morning as he or she begins the day. They would give us the

courage to speak up; they would give us the faith to try; they would strengthen our conviction of the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that more miracles would happen over the earth.

I know that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, that this is Their holy work, and I plead with you and with the God of heaven that we shall have the power and faith and the devotion to roll it forward to its great destiny. ●

From “Be Not Afraid, Only Believe,” Liahona, May 1996, 3–6; Ensign, Feb. 1996, 2–5.





Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at www.lds.org. For English, click on "Gospel Library." For other languages, click on the world map.

Comfort and Courage from the Scriptures

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” (Psalm 27:1).

BY LINDA MAGLEBY AND ELIZABETH RICKS



The Philistines and the Israelites were at war. Goliath, a giant Philistine warrior, challenged any one of the Israelites to fight him. A young boy named David asked if he could fight the man. David had great courage and faith.

As David went onto the battlefield, Goliath made fun of him because he was so young. David said, “Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel” (1 Samuel 17:45).

David put a stone in his sling and swung it at Goliath. It struck Goliath’s forehead, and he fell to the ground.

Today there are “Goliaths” all around us. They are evil things that may tempt us—alcohol and drugs; inappropriate TV shows and movies; even laziness and selfishness.

President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency, said: “David went to the brook and carefully selected five smooth stones with which he might meet his enemy. . . . Just as David went to the brook, well might we go to our source of supply—the Lord. What polished stones will you select to defeat [your] Goliath?” President Monson suggests choosing the stones of courage, effort, humility, prayer, and love of duty (see “Meeting Your Goliath,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1987, 2–5).

We show courage when we do what is right. We show effort when we work hard. We show humility by relying on the Lord, and we pray to ask for His help. We fulfill our duty by keeping our commitments and our baptismal covenants. When we use these five stones and others, like scripture study and family home evening, we can defeat the Goliaths in our lives.

David and Goliath Dot-to-Dot

Connect the dots to make a picture of what David and Goliath might have looked like. Color the picture, and hang it where you can see it often. Seeing the picture will remind you to defeat your own Goliaths!

Sharing Time Ideas

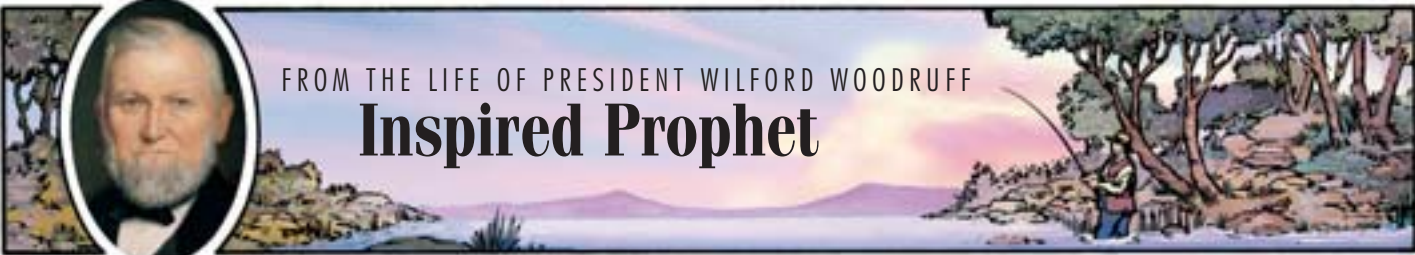
1. Invite an adult to portray one of the people of Alma from Mosiah 24:8–15. Have him or her bring a backpack and retell the story. Give the children a piece of paper, and ask them to write a trial or challenge children face today, such as immodest clothing, inappropriate media, and so on. (Younger children can draw pictures.) As the children share the trial, have them wrap the paper around a small rock and place it in the backpack. Pass the backpack to some of the children. Discuss ways Heavenly Father helps them with their trials. With each suggestion, remove several rocks. Pass the backpack again. Sing a song or hymn about the Savior. Explain that Jesus will always help us and comfort us.

2. Invite two brethren approved by the bishop or branch president to come prepared to tell (1) the story of the Liabona guiding the ship toward the promised land (see 1 Nephi 18:8–22) and (2) the story of Lehi’s dream and the iron rod that leads the people to the tree of life (see 1 Nephi 8). Ask the children what the people had to do to show faith and receive guidance. What are the Liabona and iron rod of our day? Read Alma 37:44 and 1 Nephi 11:25 (words of Christ, word of God). How do we receive the words of Christ? Tell the children that you are going to give them music clues to answer that question. For each song, play the first few measures, and let the children guess the song and its message. The message will tell us where we must look to hear the words of Christ. Play songs about prophets, the Holy Ghost, and scriptures. Point out that we must do the same things to be guided today as did the people of Nephi. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

Inspired Prophet



When Wilford Woodruff became the prophet, many Church members did not have enough money. Wilford especially worried about some of the farmers.

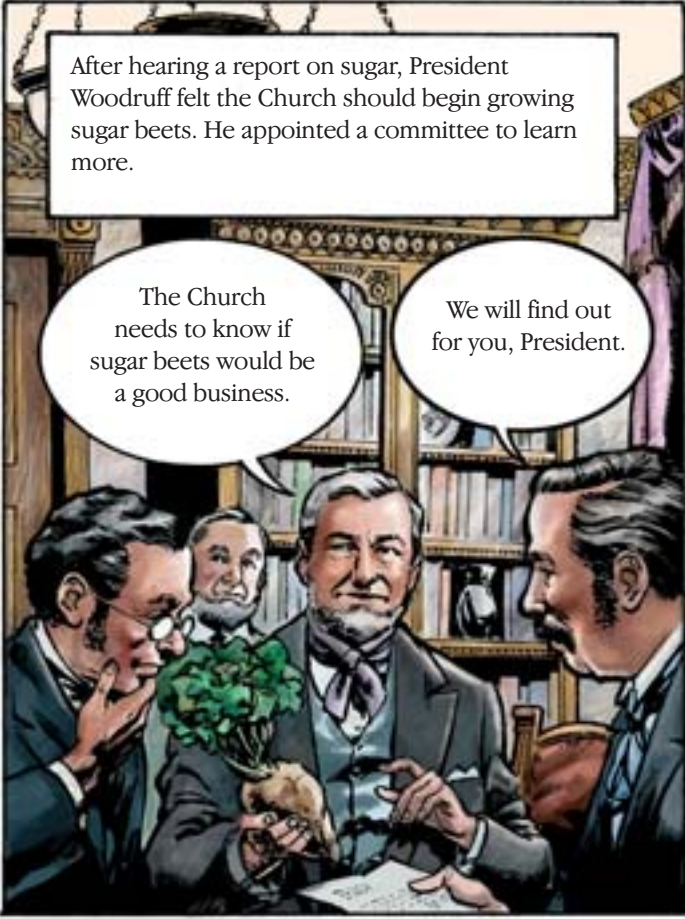
What can the Church do to help the people?



After hearing a report on sugar, President Woodruff felt the Church should begin growing sugar beets. He appointed a committee to learn more.

The Church needs to know if sugar beets would be a good business.

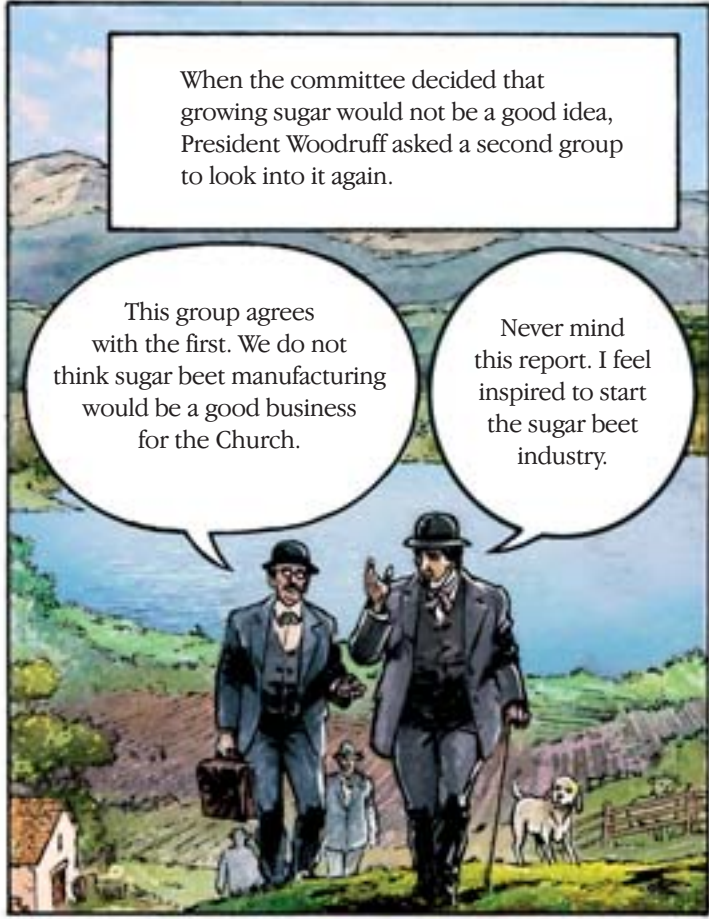
We will find out for you, President.

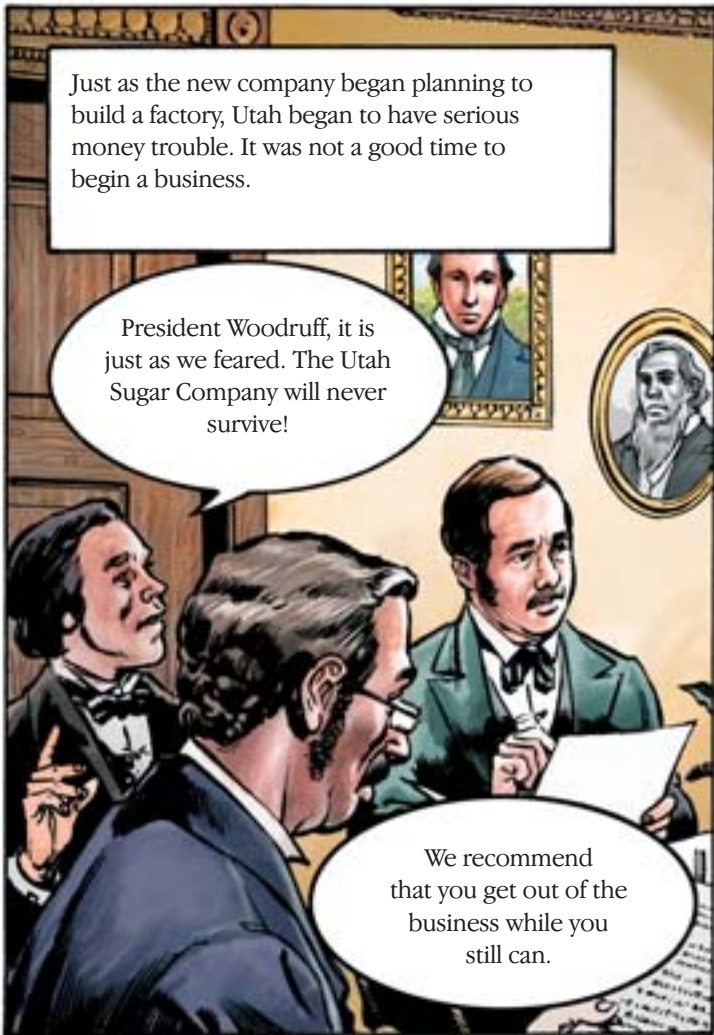


When the committee decided that growing sugar would not be a good idea, President Woodruff asked a second group to look into it again.

This group agrees with the first. We do not think sugar beet manufacturing would be a good business for the Church.

Never mind this report. I feel inspired to start the sugar beet industry.

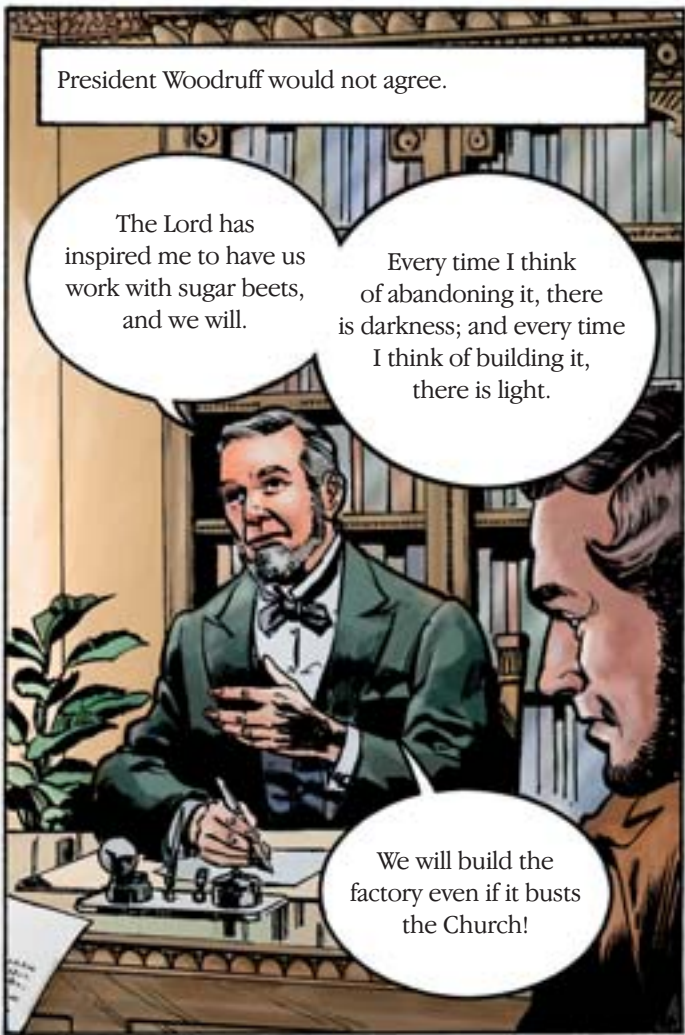




Just as the new company began planning to build a factory, Utah began to have serious money trouble. It was not a good time to begin a business.

President Woodruff, it is just as we feared. The Utah Sugar Company will never survive!

We recommend that you get out of the business while you still can.

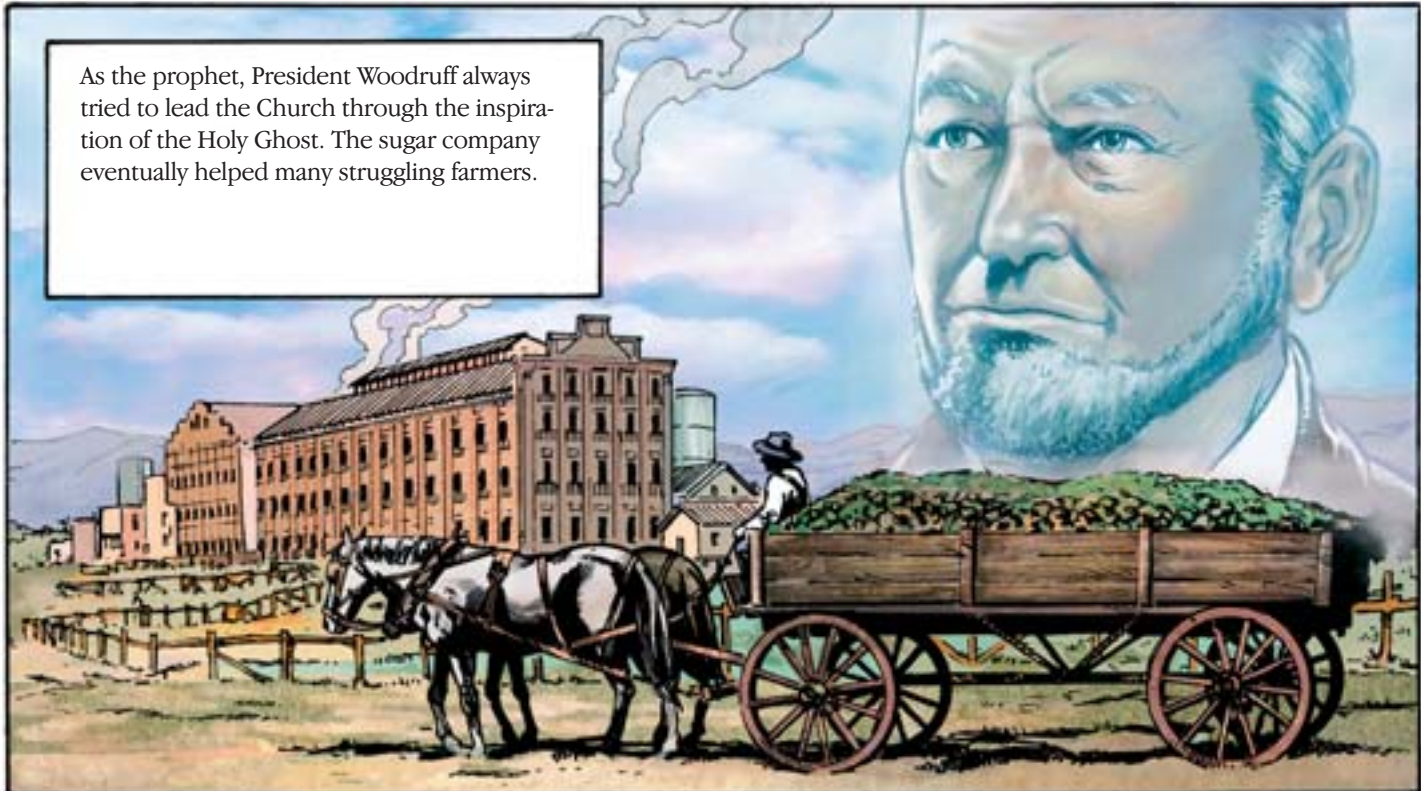


President Woodruff would not agree.

The Lord has inspired me to have us work with sugar beets, and we will.

Every time I think of abandoning it, there is darkness; and every time I think of building it, there is light.

We will build the factory even if it busts the Church!



As the prophet, President Woodruff always tried to lead the Church through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. The sugar company eventually helped many struggling farmers.

FOR LITTLE FRIENDS

Garden of Eden

BY MARIAM JOYCE GRISHAM



Instructions: Remove these pages from the magazine, mount them on heavy paper, then cut out the trees and figures on the heavy solid lines. On each figure, fold the tabs back along the broken lines, and tape or glue the

ends together to make a finger puppet. Use these puppets to help you tell the story of Adam and Eve in a family home evening lesson or Primary talk (see Genesis 2:15–25; 3).

ILLUSTRATED BY JULIE F. YOUNG

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Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at www.lds.org. For English, click on "Gospel Library." For other languages, click on the world map.

A Legacy of Love

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).



**From an interview
with Elder
Yoshihiko Kikuchi
of the Seventy;
by Monica Weeks**

I lost my father during World War II, when I was four years old. I learned how to work because my father was not there and my mother gave us children assignments. I helped cook dinner for my family because Mother had to work. My older sister and brother had part-time jobs to help the family, and when I got older, I did too. I worked on a farm and with a fishing business.

After I finished junior high school, I had to work to support myself. As a young man I found a full-time job at a bean-curd shop in a larger city about nine hours away from my home. I went to high school in the evenings, so I got home late. Early the next morning at work, I made bean curds and sold them on the street or delivered them to various stores.

I became very sick from working so hard and had to stay in the hospital. I thought I might die. I was born into a Buddhist family. I always felt that there was a God in heaven, but I had never been taught about God. I was very desperate to talk to Him. I didn't even know the word for “Heavenly Father,”

so I asked, “God, are You there? Please help me.” After eight days I was able to leave the hospital, and I lived with my uncle while I recovered.

A few days later the missionaries came to my uncle's door. When I saw them I told them to go away. But one of them said, “We have a great message for you. A boy just like you saw your Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.” I couldn't resist because I had been praying and seeking Heavenly Father just a few days before. So I said, “You can have 10 minutes. Come in.”

The missionaries taught me the beautiful and sacred story of Joseph Smith. And I was touched. I really felt the power of the Spirit. The missionaries asked me to pray and ask Heavenly Father if their message was true, and then they taught me how to pray. I prayed that evening. Even now I remember exactly how I felt that day.

I asked the missionaries to come back almost every day after that. I believed what they taught me. I believed that Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in the Sacred Grove. But before I could be

baptized, I needed to get permission from my mother. I called her and said, “Mother, I’ve found a wonderful church. I need to get your permission to join.”

She said, “No. I lost my husband; I don’t want to lose my son.” She was afraid that if I joined the Church I would leave her.

I said, “I’m not going anywhere.” And then she hung up.

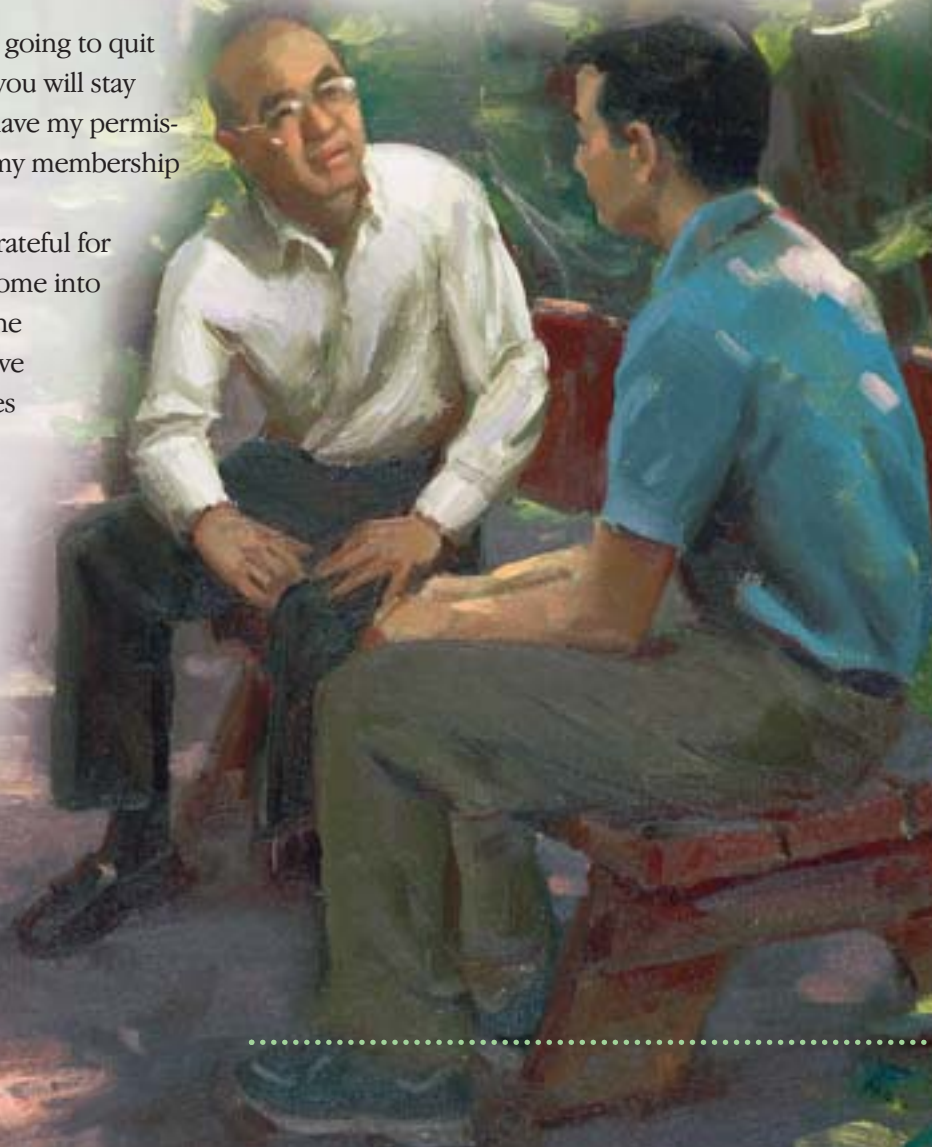
The missionaries fasted and prayed for me, and I did too. I called her again and said, “Please don’t hang up on me until I’ve really explained it.” She suggested that I study more and take some more time to decide. But I felt strongly that now was the time I should be baptized.

Finally she told me, “Son, if you are going to quit right in the middle, don’t do it. But if you will stay with it all the way through, then you have my permission.” That caused me to always take my membership in the Church very seriously.

I am grateful for my mother. I am grateful for Heavenly Father who allowed me to come into contact with the restored gospel. All the experiences I’ve had in the Church have been wonderful. But nothing compares with my depth of appreciation for the

Savior, for His grace and mercy, and for what He has done for my wife and children.

When my son was called on a mission to Brazil, we took a father-son trip to the Sacred Grove in Palmyra, New York. We spent three days doing nothing but walking and talking there. On the final day we sat on a bench and bore our testimonies to each other. I shared my own conversion story once again with my son, and we cried. I hope his children and his grandchildren carry on this legacy of love and faith for years to come. ●



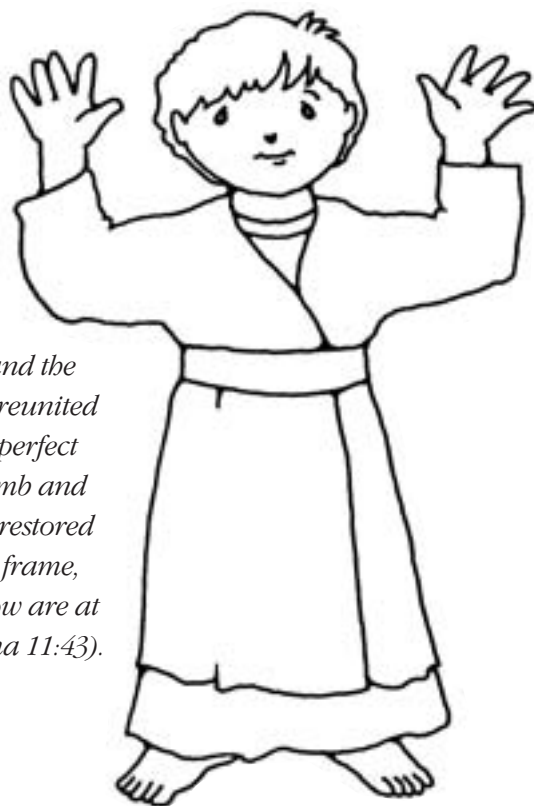
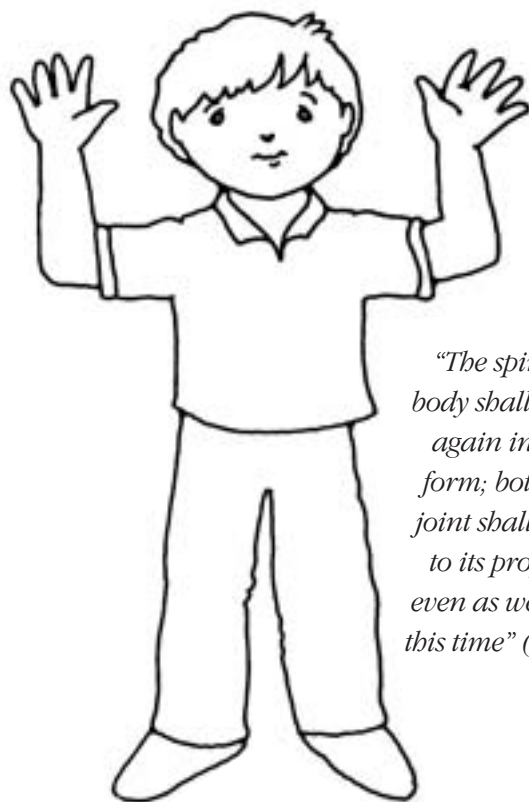
SUNDAY BOX



Instructions: With the help of an adult, trace the puppet pattern (the dark outline), and cut it out. Place the pattern on a folded piece of colored fabric, trace, and cut it out. Repeat these steps on plain white fabric.

You Are Eternal

BY JEAN McMULLIN



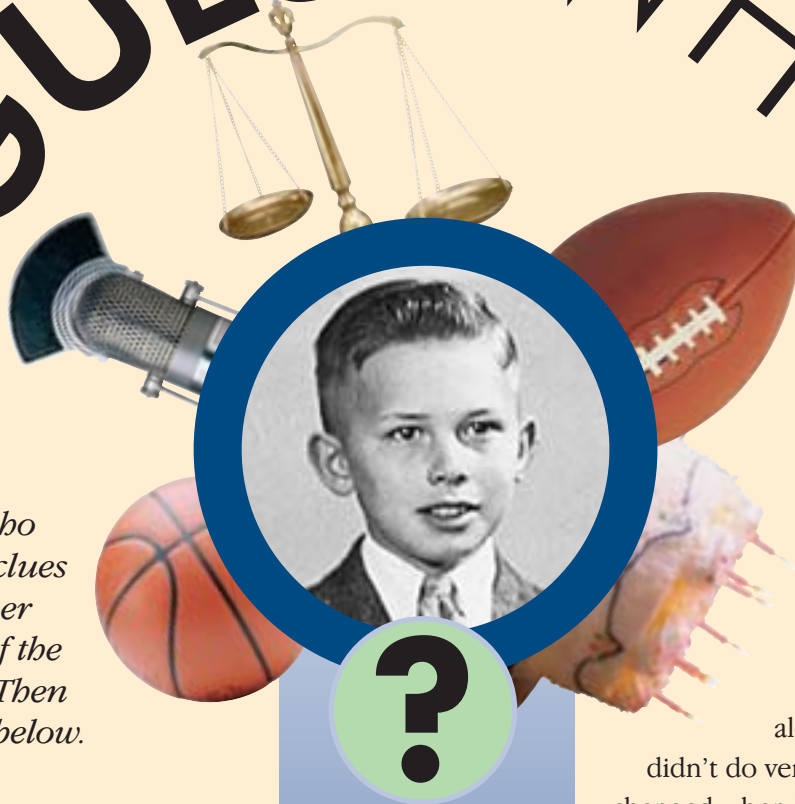
“The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time” (Alma 11:43).

Draw and color the boy (or change the figure to a girl) in pants on one piece of colored fabric, and draw the boy in a robe on one piece of white fabric. Place the drawing of the boy in pants facedown on the other piece of colored fabric, and sew or glue the pieces together using a half-inch (1.5-cm) seam, leaving the bottom open. Repeat sewing procedures for the white fabric.

Place the puppets in your Sunday Box, or use them in family

home evening to teach about our journey through life. The white puppet represents the spirit, which lived in the pre-earth life with Heavenly Father. To represent the spirit receiving a mortal body at birth, slip the colored-fabric puppet over the spirit puppet. At death the body and spirit are separated again. Remove the colored-fabric puppet from the spirit puppet. The body is buried, but the spirit lives on. At the Resurrection the body and spirit will be joined again forever. ●

GUESS WHO



Can you guess who this is? Read the clues about this member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Then find the answer below.

- 1** He and his younger brother and sister were raised by their mother after their father died. His mother taught him about faith, love, and setting goals.
- 2** When he was 15, he got a radio operator's license and soon had a job at a local station. He later broadcast basketball games on the radio.
- 3** In high school he played basketball and football.
- 4** He and his first wife, June, have six children. June died of cancer, and two years later, he married Kristen McMain.
- 5** After attending law school in Chicago, he practiced and taught law and served as a justice of the Utah Supreme Court.

The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are called as prophets, seers, and revelators to be special witnesses of Jesus Christ. They have the responsibility to testify of Him to the whole world.

- 6** His birthday is August 12.
- 7** After his father died, his mother

became ill. He was alone and unhappy and

didn't do very well in school. That changed when his fifth-grade teacher, Ms. Shaffer, helped him to learn and have confidence.

- 8** In 1971 he became president of Brigham Young University. His first wife, June, wasn't even surprised at the call. "He's the most outstanding man I know," she said.

Words of Wisdom

"I testify that Jesus Christ lives and loves us. I testify that as the Light and Life of the World, He has provided the way for us to return to our heavenly home to enjoy the associations and highest blessings of God our Eternal Father, even eternal life"
 ("Special Witnesses of Christ," Liahona and Ensign, Apr. 2001, 13).

Sent Home from School

“Blessed are ye, when men shall . . . separate you from their company, and shall reproach you . . . for the Son of man’s sake” (Luke 6:22).

BY JENNY REBECCA RYTTING

Based on a story from the author’s family history

When Karl woke up, he jumped right out of bed. Usually he liked to stay curled up in the covers until his mother called him

for breakfast, but today was special: today he started school. Karl could hardly wait to learn to read and write. And his friend Joey would be starting school too.

Karl put on a clean shirt and trousers and slicked his hair with water from the well. Then he took the milk pail his mother had packed his lunch in. He walked carefully along the dirt road so he wouldn’t scuff his shoes. When he reached the one-room wooden schoolhouse, he slid into a seat beside Joey.

The schoolmaster was a stern-looking man with bushy eyebrows. He called the classes up one by one to recite their lessons. Karl studied his primer so he wouldn’t make any mistakes. Soon he could read, “B-a, ba, b-e, be, b-i, bi, b-o, bo, b-u, bu.”

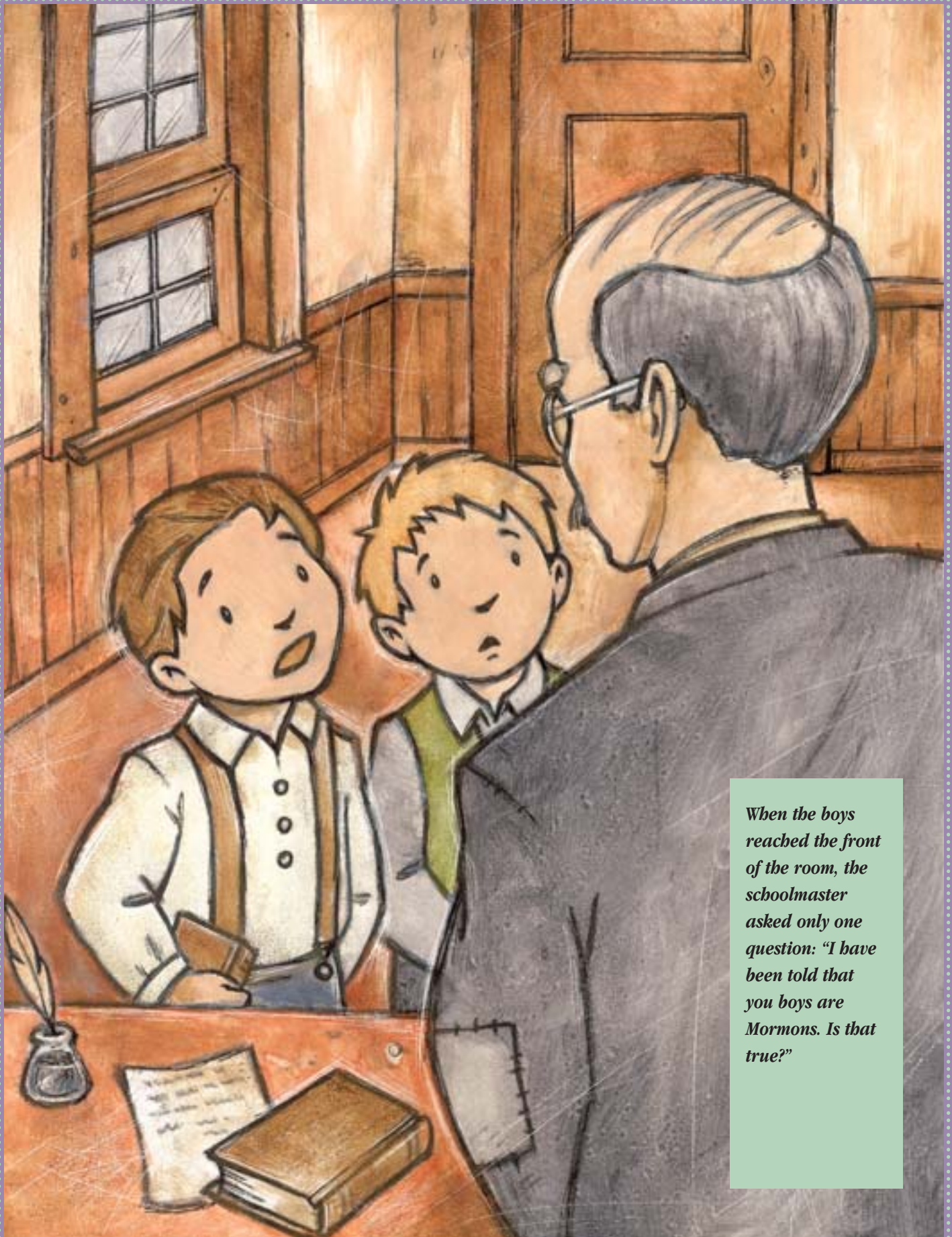
At lunchtime he and Joey ate beside the brook that ran by the schoolhouse and played with the other boys until the schoolmaster rang the bell to call them inside. When all the boys and girls were seated, the schoolmaster called out two names: “Karl Rytting and Joseph Hoagland, please come forward.”

Karl felt his insides churn. He hadn’t had time to study his afternoon lessons. What if he made a mistake? But when he and Joey reached the front of the room, the schoolmaster asked only one question. “I have been told that you boys are Mormons,” he said. “Is that true?”

Karl’s mouth was dry and his knees shook, but he looked right at the schoolmaster and said, “Yes, it is true.” Joey did the same.

“Then you must go home. We do not allow Mormons in our school.”



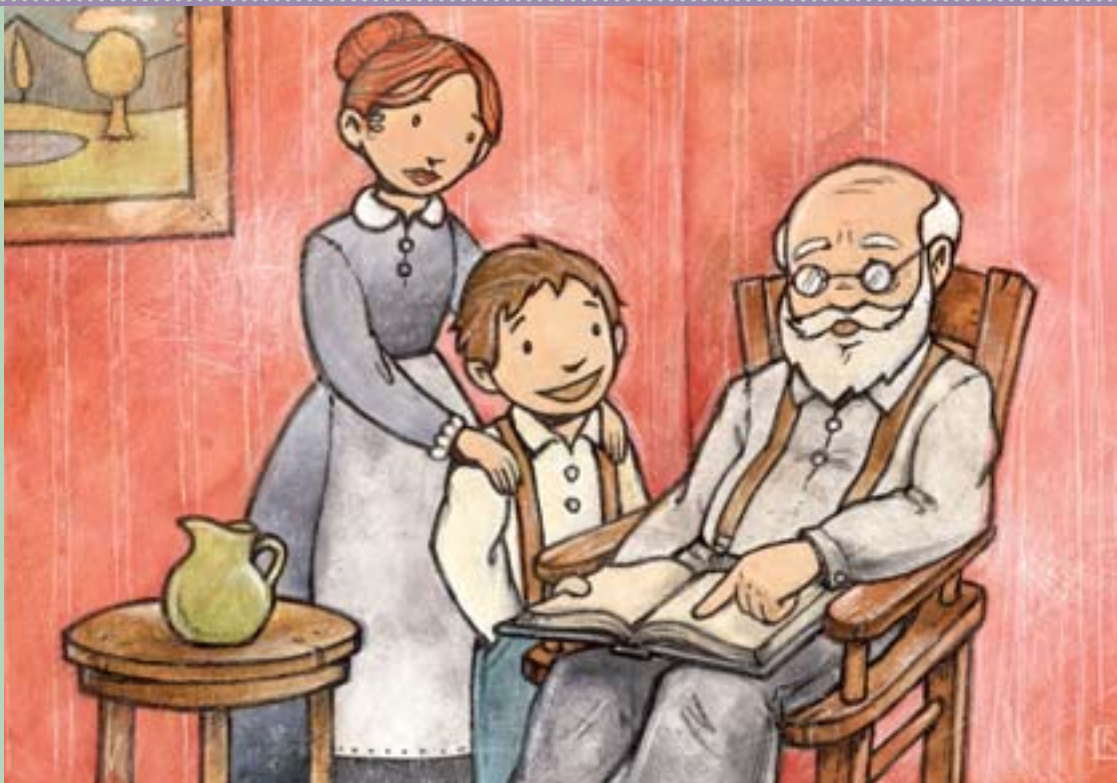


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THEIR MISSIONS TO SWEDEN

Karl Frederick Rytting moved to Utah with his family in 1880. Thirteen years later he returned to Sweden as a missionary and met his old friend Joey, who was then Elder Hoagland.

Karl's early studies with his grandfather served him well on his mission. On one occasion he was arrested and taken before an archbishop and 12 bishops of the state church. They questioned him until one of the bishops said it was useless to try to catch him, for it was "obvious that he had the Bible memorized."



Karl fought back the tears as he picked up his coat and milk pail. As he and Joey walked back along the dusty road, he began to cry.

Soon Joey turned into the path that led toward his house, and Karl continued on toward his. When he walked in the door, his mother asked, "Karl, what's wrong? Why are you home from school so soon? Are you sick?"

"No, Mother," Karl answered. "The schoolmaster said Joey and I can't go to school because we are Mormons." He felt his tears welling up again.

"Oh, Karl, I am so sorry," his mother said as she held him close. "We knew when we were baptized that some people would not understand. But the true gospel of Jesus Christ is worth anything we have to give up."

"I know," Karl said, crying into his mother's skirt.

Then a voice came from the corner of the room. It was Grandfather Jansson, who had first brought the missionaries to their home two years ago. "You can

still learn to read if you want to," he said.

"How can I learn to read if I can't go to school?" Karl asked.

Grandfather Jansson smiled. "I will teach you," he said. "We will read the Bible together. Would you like that?"

"Yes, very much."

Grandfather opened the Bible and beckoned for Karl to stand by his chair. His finger pointed at the words as he said them: "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1).

"In the beginning was the Word," Karl repeated, looking at the letters. It was a good beginning, after all. ●



"You . . . will need a lot of courage—courage to stand up to peer pressure, to resist temptation, to withstand ridicule or ostracism, to stand up for the truth."

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

**"The Virtues of Righteous Daughters of God,"
Liahona and Ensign, May 2003, 110.**



Father Lehi, by Glen S. Hopkinson

After Lehi and Sariah had given thanks that the Lord had delivered their sons out of the hands of Laban, Lehi “took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, . . . and he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses . . . [and] a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph . . . , who was sold into Egypt” (1 Nephi 5:10–11, 14).



God bless you children to have listening ears and understanding hearts. God bless you mothers for the endless dimension of your love and for all the help you give the fathers of your children. God bless you fathers to be equal to your overwhelming responsibilities and to have a father's special caring for each one under your protective arms." See President James E. Faust, "The Father Who Cares," p. 2.