

# THE New Era

AUGUST 2010

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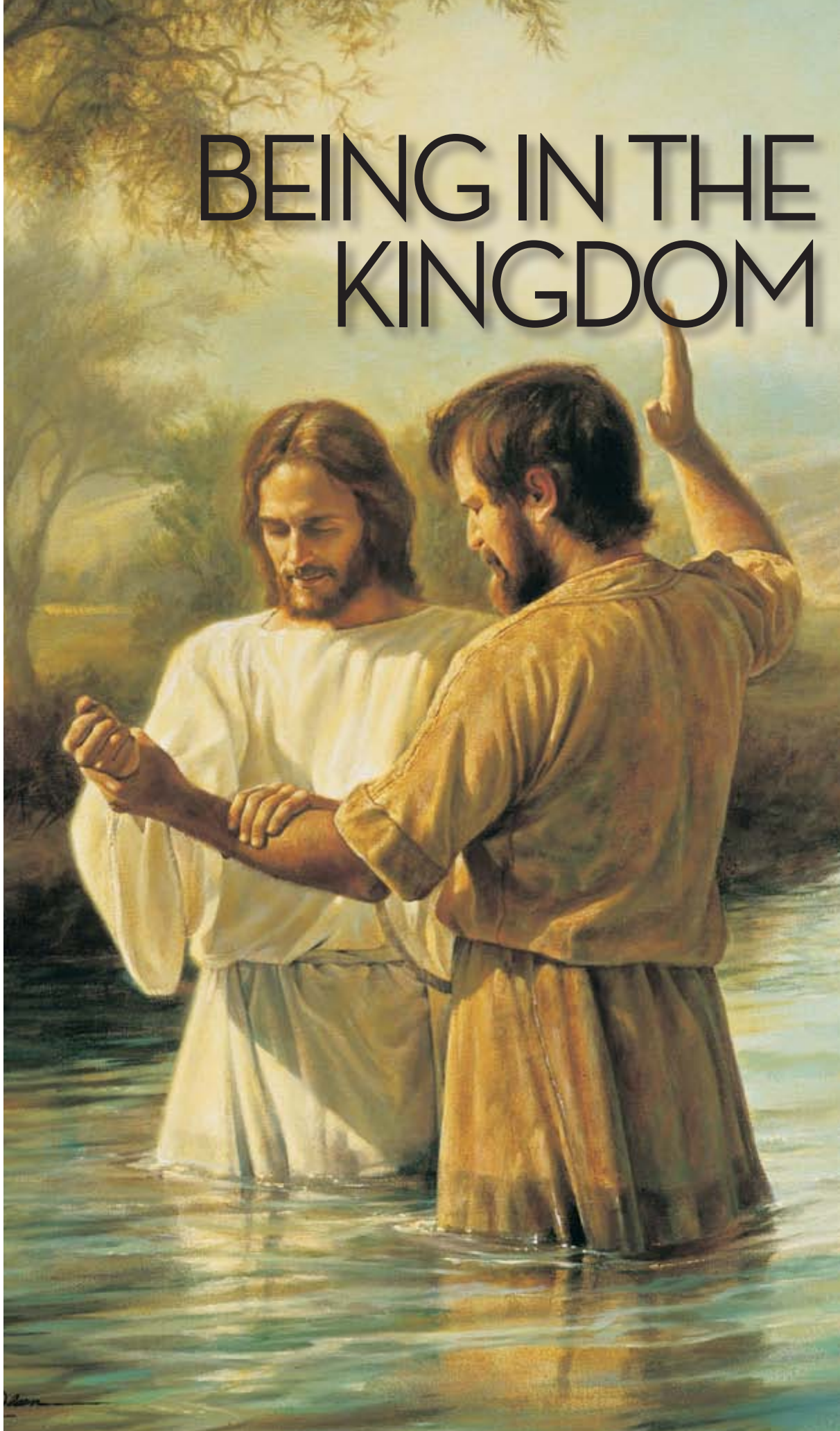
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# BEING IN THE KINGDOM

*Our baptism and confirmation is the gateway into His kingdom. When we enter, we covenant to be of His kingdom—forever!*



# and of the Kingdom

**T**he ordinance of baptism and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost takes us out of this world and into the kingdom of God.

There is a familiar phrase: to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world (see John 17:11, 14–17). Our mortal existence is necessary to fulfill the plan of salvation. We must therefore live in this world, but we must also resist the worldly influences that are ever before us.

## Being in the kingdom and of the kingdom

Jesus taught, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). These words led me to ponder more concerning His kingdom. I concluded that when we are baptized by immersion by one with the proper priesthood authority and choose to follow our Savior, we then are *in* His kingdom and *of* His kingdom.

Being of the kingdom of God requires that we heed the Savior’s admonition “Follow thou me” (2 Nephi 31:10). At baptism we make a covenant with our Heavenly Father that we are willing to come into His kingdom and keep His commandments from that time forward, even though we still live in the world.

## Understanding our covenant changes our lives

When we understand our baptismal covenant and the gift of the Holy Ghost, it will

change our lives and will establish our total allegiance to the kingdom of God. When temptations come our way, if we will listen, the Holy Ghost will remind us that we have promised to remember our Savior and obey the commandments of God.

President Brigham Young said: “All Latter-day Saints enter the new and everlasting covenant when they enter this Church. They covenant to cease sustaining, upholding and cherishing the kingdom of the Devil and the kingdoms of this world. They enter the new and everlasting covenant to sustain the Kingdom of God and no other kingdom. They take a vow of the most solemn kind, before the heavens and earth, . . . that they will sustain truth and righteousness instead of wickedness and falsehood, and build up the Kingdom of God, instead of the kingdoms of this world” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* [1997], 62–63).

## The significance of baptism

Many members of the Church do not fully understand what happened when they went into the waters of baptism. It is very important for us to understand the marvelous gift of the remission of sins, but there is much more. Do you understand that when you are baptized you are changed forever?

When we are baptized, we take upon ourselves the sacred name of Jesus Christ. Taking upon us His name is one of the most



**By Elder Robert D. Hales**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



*When we understand our baptismal covenant and the gift of the Holy Ghost, it will change our lives and will establish our total allegiance to the kingdom of God.*

significant experiences we have in life. Yet sometimes we pass through that experience without having a full understanding.

How many of us really understand that when we were baptized we took upon us not only the name of Christ but also the law of obedience?

### **How the gift of the Holy Ghost helps us**

Each week in sacrament meeting we promise to remember the atoning sacrifice of our Savior as we renew our baptismal covenant. We promise to do as the Savior did—to be obedient to the Father and always keep His commandments. The blessing we receive in return is to always have His Spirit to be with us.

The gift of the Holy Ghost, given to us when we are confirmed, gives us the ability to discern the difference between the giving ways of the kingdom of God and the taking practices of the world. The Holy Ghost gives us the strength and courage to conduct our lives in the ways of the kingdom of God and is the source of our testimony of the Father and the Son. As we obey the will of our Father in Heaven, this priceless gift of the Holy Ghost will be with us continually.

We need the Holy Ghost as our constant companion to help us make better choices in the decisions that confront us daily. You young men and women are bombarded with ugly things of the world. Companionship with the Spirit will give you the strength to resist evil and, when necessary, repent and return to the strait and narrow path. None of us are immune from the temptations of the adversary. We all need the fortification available through the Holy Ghost. Having the gift of the Holy Ghost helps us make wise

choices—choices that will help us return with our families to our Father in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ, to live with Them eternally.

### **Loving God and our fellowmen**

The scriptures confirm that the truly converted do more than just forsake the enticements of the world. They love God and their fellowmen. Their minds and hearts are centered on the Savior's atoning sacrifice. From the moment of their respective conversions, Enos, Alma the Younger, Paul, and others turned wholeheartedly to the task of bringing themselves and their fellowmen to God. Worldly power and possessions lost their former significance. The sons of Mosiah refused an earthly kingdom and risked their lives for the sake of others. These faithful sons were driven by the hope that they might be able to help save even one soul—thus winning for themselves and their brethren a place in God's eternal kingdom.

### **Effects baptism should have in daily life**

By choosing to be in His kingdom, we separate—not isolate—ourselves from the world. Our dress will be modest, our thoughts pure, our language clean. The movies and television we watch, the music we listen to, the books, magazines, and newspapers we read will be uplifting. We will choose friends who encourage our eternal goals, and we will treat others with kindness. We will shun the vices of immorality, gambling, tobacco, liquor, and illicit drugs. Our Sunday activities will reflect the commandment of God to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. We will follow the example of Jesus Christ in the way we treat others. We

will live to be worthy to enter the house of the Lord.

We will be examples “of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

We will receive “a mighty change . . . in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.” We will keep our “covenant with our God to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things . . . all the remainder of our days” (Mosiah 5:2, 5).

We will demonstrate that we “are desirous to . . . be called his people, and are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light;

“Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort” (Mosiah 18:8–9).

### **Gratitude for baptism and confirmation**

I feel great gratitude for my baptism and confirmation into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am grateful for the spiritual strength and guidance the gift of the Holy Ghost has given me throughout my life. I am thankful for goodly parents and teachers who impressed the significance of baptism upon me so that the memory and feelings of that occasion have been an enduring influence throughout my life.

I testify of the divinity of the gospel, restored in this latter day. I testify of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and the efficacy

and power of the priesthood and its gospel ordinances. I pray that each of us as members of His kingdom will understand that our baptism and confirmation is the gateway *into* His kingdom. When we enter, we covenant to be *of* His kingdom—forever! **NE**

*From an October 2000 general conference address.*

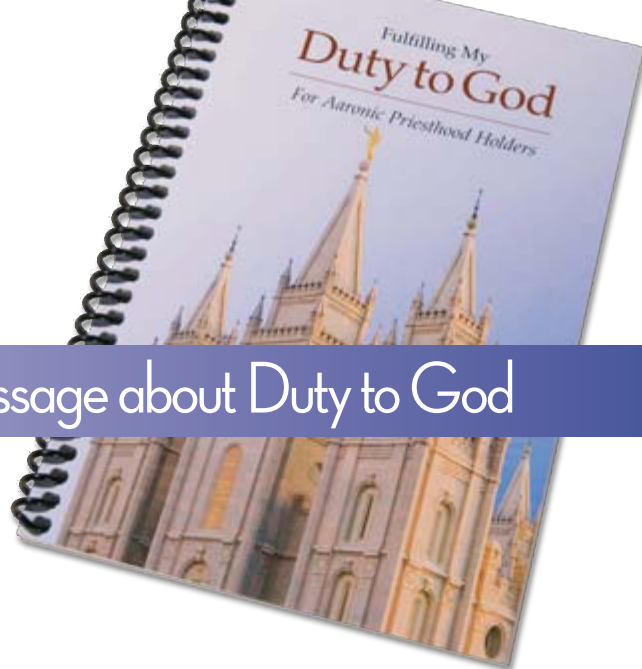
*By choosing to be in His kingdom, we separate—not isolate—ourselves from the world. We will be examples of the believers.*



# THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

*Greater  
Than  
You  
Might  
Think*





## A Message about Duty to God

**F**our years ago I attended a memorial service for my brother Gary. One of the speakers paid a great tribute to my brother. I have been thinking about it ever since. He said: “Gary was a priesthood man. . . . He understood the priesthood, honored the priesthood, and fully embraced the priesthood and its principles.”

When my brother died, he was a high priest in the Melchizedek Priesthood, and he had enjoyed 50 years of priesthood service. You are an Aaronic Priesthood holder. You may not even have 50 days of priesthood experience. Gary was a loving husband and father who had served an honorable full-time mission, married in the temple, magnified his priesthood callings, and served diligently as a home teacher. Your priesthood service is just beginning. But you can be worthy of the same tribute he received. In fact, you *should* be worthy of that tribute. The Lord has called you to a wonderful work, and He expects you to be a priesthood man.

### The Greatness of the Aaronic Priesthood

Just think about the greatness of the Aaronic Priesthood that you bear:

- The Lord sent the resurrected John the Baptist to restore the Aaronic Priesthood. When John conferred this priesthood on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, he called

them his “fellow servants” (D&C 13:1). President Gordon B. Hinckley pointed out that John “did not place himself above Joseph and Oliver. He put them on his same level when he addressed them as ‘my fellow servants.’” President Hinckley went on to say that a 12-year-old deacon can also be John’s fellow servant (see “The Aaronic Priesthood—a Gift from God,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 45).

- The Aaronic Priesthood holds the key of the ministering of angels (see D&C 13:1). As you live righteously and serve diligently, you can receive the ministering of angels to guide and strengthen you. Through your administration of the sacrament, you can help others receive this blessing as well (see Dallin H. Oaks, “The Aaronic Priesthood and the Sacrament,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 37–39).

- The Aaronic Priesthood “holds the keys of . . . the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins” (D&C 13:1). Repentance and baptism join to form the gate that people enter to start on the path to eternal life (see 2 Nephi 31:17–18). Acting under the authority of your priesthood leaders, you can help people open this gate.

- The Aaronic Priesthood includes the authority to administer the sacrament. When you prepare, bless, or pass the sacrament,



**By David L. Beck**

Young Men General President



*As you grow in spiritual strength and help others come unto Christ through your priesthood service, you are truly a priesthood man.*

you represent Jesus Christ (see 3 Nephi 18:1–12). You help your family members and friends remember Him, renew their covenants, and qualify for the companionship of the Holy Spirit.

Such opportunities require the work of priesthood men—men who are spiritually strong and who fulfill their priesthood duties.

### **New Duty to God Book**

Under the direction of our living prophets, a resource has been prepared to help you be a priesthood man. Although the resource is new, it has a familiar name: Duty to God.

I am excited about the new *Duty to God* book. It can help you obey the Lord's command to "learn [your] duty" and "act in the office in which [you are] appointed, in all diligence" (D&C 107:99).

Using the book as a deacon, teacher, and priest, you will participate in activities in two categories: spiritual strength and priesthood duties.

### **A Pattern of Becoming**

Each activity in the *Duty to God* book follows a pattern that will help you become the priesthood holder the Lord wants you to become: First, you *learn* about a gospel principle or a priesthood duty. Then you *act* on what you have learned. Finally, you *share* your thoughts and feelings about what you have learned and experienced. Some of these activities are personal. Others may be adapted for your entire quorum to use in Sunday lessons and in activities during the week.

The following sample from the book shows how this pattern works. The comments to the side are from young men who have already had great experiences with the new book.

**Learn:** *This portion of the activity guides your efforts to learn about a gospel principle or a priesthood duty. It includes instruction for you to make a plan of your own based on what you have learned.*

"You get to learn spiritually" about your priesthood duties before you do them.

**Aaronic Priesthood holder in the United States**

"I liked the idea of trying to come up with things that could really help me as an individual."

**Aaronic Priesthood holder in Guatemala**

"I liked the sections of studying the scriptures and praying and I did these things and am still doing them. I am preparing to serve a mission."

**Deacon in the Philippines**

### **A Priesthood Man**

When I think of the phrase "priesthood man," I obviously think of my brother Gary. But I also think of others. I think of President Thomas S. Monson, who, as a deacon, felt that he stood on holy ground when he helped a disabled man partake of the sacrament (see "Do Your Duty—That Is Best," *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 56). I think of John the Baptist, the great Aaronic Priesthood holder who prepared the way for the Savior's mortal ministry by teaching, testifying, and administering the sacred ordinance of baptism. And I think of you. As you grow in spiritual strength and help others come unto Christ through your priesthood service, you are truly a priesthood man. **NE**

### **NEmore**

For more information about Duty to God, read the introduction to the book or visit [DutytoGod.lds.org](http://DutytoGod.lds.org).

**Act:** In this portion of the activity, you follow your plan and write your thoughts and feelings about your experiences.

"As young men in the branch we decided that we would set a goal to get together and jog. We really liked planning this together and as a group work on becoming more physically fit."

**Aaronic Priesthood holder in Guatemala**

"The book is . . . like a diary or a journal where you can be . . . self-reflective. It's a good process to go through."

**Priest in the United States**

"I have a hard time scheduling my scripture study. . . . The goals I had to read the scriptures and pray helped me to make time and stay focused. It really made a difference for me, and I felt the Spirit as I did it."

**Priest in the Philippines**

**Share:** After you have followed your plan, you have the opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings with family members, quorum members, and others.

"When you share, you want to keep talking with others about it because [sharing has] helped you to better understand."

**Deacon in the United States**

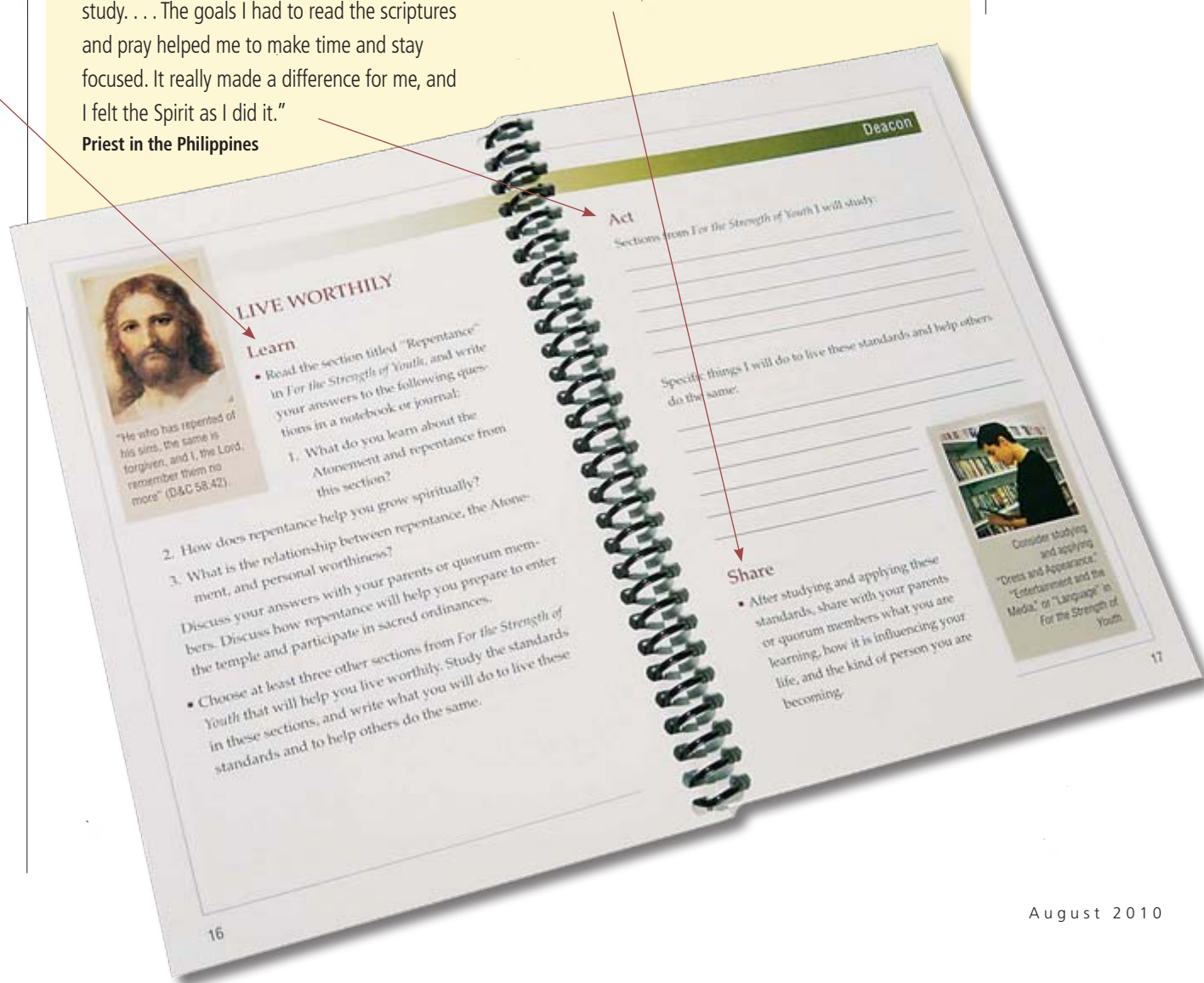
"It was good to be able to talk with my parents."

**Aaronic Priesthood holder in the Philippines**

"In our quorum meeting we liked talking with one another about our goals: what we were doing as individuals and how this was helping us."

**Aaronic Priesthood holder in Guatemala**

*Each activity in the Duty to God book follows a pattern that will help you become the priesthood holder the Lord wants you to become.*



# MORT *the Mormon*

By Paul VanDenBerghe  
Church Magazines

*Ryan Mortimer's religion means that, compared to his bandmates and classmates, he marches to the beat of a different drum.*

When you're six-foot-seven and tower over all your high-school friends, it's easy to be noticed. When you're marching in a band, pounding on drums, you tend to attract a fair amount of attention. When you're one of only a few members of the Church in your entire school, you stand out even more. Such is the lot of Ryan Mortimer of the Kettle Moraine Ward in the Milwaukee Wisconsin South Stake, or Mort as his friends call him—a moniker that has morphed into Mort the Mormon to most of his classmates. "Friends come up to me all the time with questions they have about the Church. They'll say, 'Hey, Mort, what's this all about?' Or 'I saw some of your missionaries the other day,' and I'll say, 'I'm going to be one of those guys in a couple years.'"

Most of the time Ryan likes being the guy with a reputation.

"At my high school people know how I'm going to act and how I'm not going to act, what I'm going to say and what I'm not going to say. They know because of a lot of repetition. You have to keep doing the same things over and over again. You have to watch your language, watch the jokes you tell, you have to act a



certain way and present yourself in the way an LDS person would present themselves, and you have to keep doing it over a period of years. It's nice to know I've kept that reputation."

But sometimes the pressure of always being the example—of always being the "good" guy, especially when there are those around you trying to make you slip up, can become overwhelming. That's what happened to Ryan when he was traveling with his marching band. "Sometimes I get made fun of a lot because I don't swear or tell dirty jokes. I've actually had people say they were going to get me to crack before the end of the band season."





## The Breaking Point

At one point about two years ago during an extended band competition, the harassment got so bad that Ryan reached a breaking point. "I was crying on the bus. I just couldn't handle it anymore. I didn't want to be there anymore. I wanted to go home." When the bus arrived back at the school where the band was staying, Ryan told a friend he was going for a walk and left to find a quiet place to pray.

"I found this spot behind the school, and when I knelt down and started to pray, I broke down. I've never cried so hard in my life. I just didn't know what to do. I didn't know how to get through this. I must have prayed for a good 30 minutes where

I was literally pouring out my soul. It was really the first night where I felt as if Heavenly Father was near to me. When

I felt that, I've never felt so much at peace in my life, and I knew right then that

I would get through this.

"Before I prayed

I was like, 'I  
can't take it,'





**S**tanding tall is part of life for Ryan, who is six-foot-seven (2 m) and often placed in situations where he must explain and defend his beliefs. Prayer has often been a strength to him, and he also finds comfort in the scriptures.

and afterward it was one of the most calm and peaceful feelings I've ever felt. Then there were tears of joy and tears of happiness. What I felt was truly the gift of the Holy Ghost helping me get through what I was going through."

Ryan says that as he felt the loving presence of his Father in Heaven, everything changed. Ryan had felt alone and insignificant; now he felt loved and empowered. "I'm a son of God," Ryan said to himself. "I'm a priesthood holder—a priest in the Aaronic Priesthood. That night I really felt like I was someone important to my Heavenly Father."

### A Chance to Share

"The interesting thing about that is that same night one of the girls who I never would have thought would be interested in the Church came up to me and said, 'How can you handle that?'" She told Ryan she had noticed that he was different and asked what it was that made him act the way he did. They ended up talking about the Church for two hours, with Ryan sharing scriptures and his testimony with her.

The very next day, the band was traveling on a small ship on Lake Michigan. Ryan was in the "quiet" room reading *Jesus the Christ*, cross-referencing passages with his scriptures, when one of the band directors came in carrying his own Bible. "We talked for about three hours about the differences in our religions and about the Book of Mormon," says Ryan. "I bore my testimony to him and talked about Joseph Smith's First Vision." After those three hours, Ryan's director said, "I'm very surprised at how well you know your church and your faith. It's nice to see a 17-year-old with such a testimony of his church."

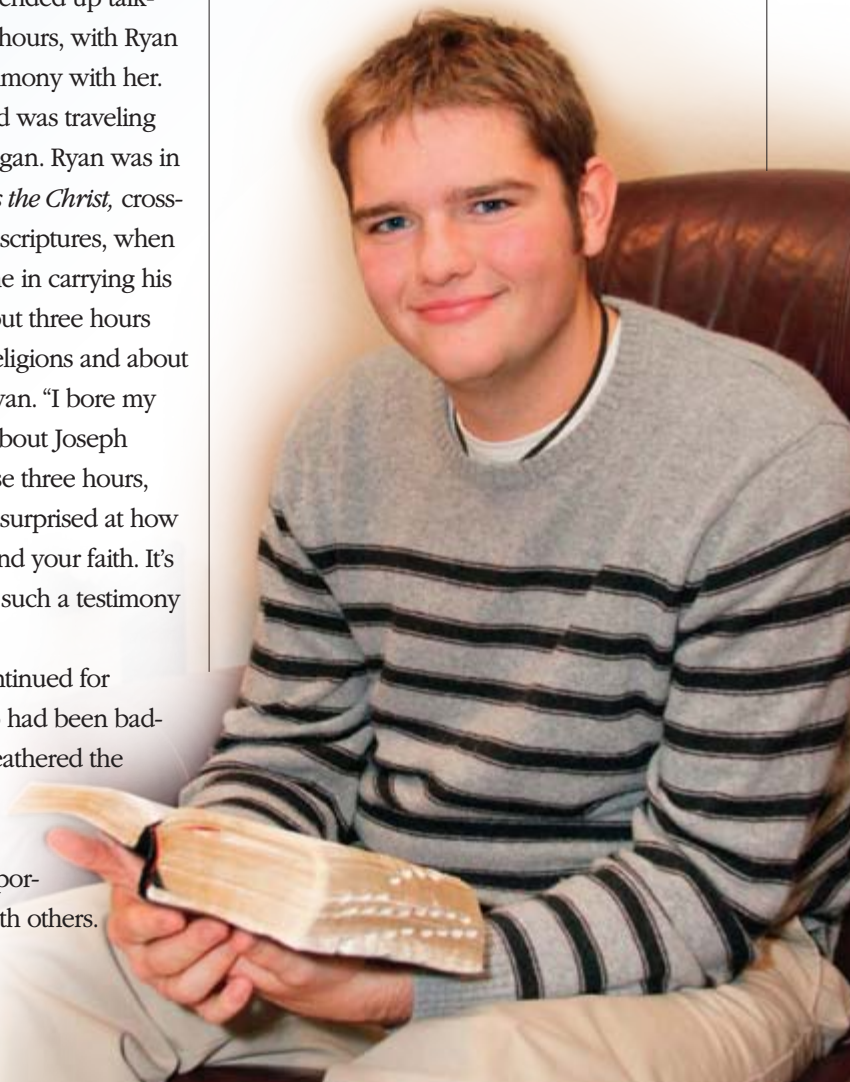
The competition circuit continued for another week, and those who had been badgering Ryan stopped. He'd weathered the storm, his testimony now strengthened, his reputation intact. Plus he'd had a few opportunities to share the gospel with others.

### I Am Not Ashamed

One of Ryan's favorite scriptures is Romans 1:16, which reads, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

"The reason it's one of my favorite scriptures," says Ryan, "is because I'm not ashamed to say who I am, I am not ashamed to be who I am, and I'm not ashamed to say what I know."

So that's how it is to be known as Mort the Mormon. Ryan has spent years being an example of the believers and gaining the respect of his bandmates and classmates. He likes knowing that his friends know what he stands for and why he acts the way he does. It's not always easy being the one who's noticed when everyone's expectations are so high. But that's just who Ryan is: he's a big guy, and he's tall enough to stand that high. **NE**



# GOOD MORNING

**"Being of good cheer makes it possible for us  
to turn all of our sunsets into sunrises."**

Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915-94)  
of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,  
"Be of Good Cheer,"  
*Ensign*, May 1986, 68.



## **“How should I react when I’m ridiculed for being a member of the Church and trying to maintain my standards?”**

**B**ecause of the Light of Christ, God’s children know what is right and wrong, but unfortunately some choose to ignore that knowledge and ridicule those who are trying to choose the right. Whenever you can, try to share your testimony with people like that and explain the blessings you have received from living gospel standards.

How you react to ridicule will affect how others view you and the Church. Never argue or react with anger or unkindness. Sometimes you just need to ignore what others say and follow the Savior’s counsel to love and pray for them (see 3 Nephi 12:44). Remember that you are to be “an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Finally, don’t be ashamed of your testimony of the gospel (see Romans 1:16). Your steadfast example will be a powerful witness to those around you of the truth of the gospel. Standing up for your beliefs in a charitable and confident way can also strengthen those who lack the courage to do what is right.

### **Explain Your Beliefs**



Some time ago I was participating on a basketball team that usually played games on Saturdays. When we played on Sunday, however, I would not attend, and my teammates would make fun of this. When they asked me why I didn’t play on Sundays, I responded, “I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I am taught to make the Sabbath sacred and not play sports. I follow the principles of the gospel because I know that God wants the best for us.” After that, my teammates respected my beliefs and stopped making fun of me.

*Nicolás B., age 19, Córdoba, Argentina*

### **Pray for Them**

It can be discouraging when others ridicule your beliefs. However, I try to remember that those who make fun are missing out on the blessings of the gospel. So I pray that Heavenly Father will change their hearts and help them understand the importance of the gospel. I know that if I live a good, exemplary life, my example can help them change.

*Itaobong O., age 20, Rivers, Nigeria*

### **Don’t Be Ashamed**

If someone ridicules you because you are a member of the Church, just tell them that you have a testimony of the Church and that you like going to church. Tell them that you feel that your Heavenly Father is close by. Don’t be embarrassed or afraid of saying the right thing!

*Laura A., age 12, Hesse, Germany*

### **Speak Lovingly**



I read Elder Robert D. Hales’s article about Christian courage and how we should not respond angrily but lovingly to those who are against the Church.<sup>1</sup> If we show we care, then most people will stop acting so badly towards us.

You should always treat people with respect and love because it will actually come back to you. If people tell you to do something against your standards, just calmly decline and say, "I am a member of the LDS Church and do not believe that it is OK to do that." You might even suggest a new activity that isn't against your standards.

*Lucas H., age 15, Arizona, USA*

### Be a Good Friend

First of all, I would think of the Lord's example. When He gave His life for me, He had no flaws or any reason to deserve what He suffered. Second, I would think of the example of Joseph Smith, who knew how to be strong and courageous so that today I am proud to belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Third, I would continue to maintain my principles by being kind and by serving. I would show my love for them by being the best friend and example they could have. I would show them the blessings that obedience to gospel principles can bring them. After all, we're all children of one loving and merciful Father.

*Auguste R., age 15, Tahiti, French Polynesia*

### Let Your Light Shine



We should remember why and for whom we live our standards. If we always keep in mind the example of our Savior, we will be prepared to endure such situations with meekness, without a spirit of discord, and without feeling shame for the standards we have chosen to live. As we act this way, we let our light shine before men, and they will see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven (see Matthew 5:16).

*Lara M., age 21, Paraíba, Brazil*

### Bear Your Testimony



At the university where I used to study, there was a young man who persecuted me because I am a member of the Church. He always wanted to contend, so I just tried to avoid him. Then one day I bore my testimony to him, and he quit persecuting me. We should always stay firm and remember how our testimonies were gained. We should react with self-control so the Holy Spirit may always be with us and strengthen us, no matter what others may say or think. We should pray for those people so that someday they may receive Jesus Christ.

*Brezka E., age 21, Valparaíso, Chile*

### Talk with Church Friends



I have found that reading my patriarchal blessing really helps. It gives me a better understanding of who I am, my weaknesses, and my strengths so that I can better deal with trials such as these. I have only two close LDS friends, but I talk to them frequently about ways to handle trials. I think that would definitely help you. Another good way to deal with this problem is just to show kindness and be an example in everything you do. You definitely cannot force people to change their

minds, but being kind and slow to anger is probably the best way to show them how important the Church is to you.

*William L., age 17, Nevada, USA*

#### NOTE

1. See Robert D. Hales, "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 72; "That Is Christian Courage," *New Era*, July 2009, 2.

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



### DO NOT RETALIATE

One of mortality's great tests comes when our beliefs are questioned or criticized. In such moments, we may want to respond aggressively—to 'put up our dukes.' But these are important opportunities to step back, pray, and follow the Savior's example. . . . When we do not retaliate—when we turn the other cheek and resist feelings of anger—we too stand with the Savior. We show forth His love, which is the only power that can subdue the adversary and answer our accusers without accusing them in return. That is not weakness. That is Christian courage."

**Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 72.**

### NEXT QUESTION

"How should I respond when my friends say that no man can see God?"

Send your answer and photo by September 15, 2010.

Go to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org), click "Submit Your Material," and then select "Questions and Answers."

You can also send your response to [newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:newera@ldschurch.org)

or to:

*New Era*, Q&A, 9/10  
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.

# SEMINARY *or* SPORTS?

*I no longer felt a sense of balance.  
I couldn't continue to juggle  
church, academics, and sports.*

**By Carolina Tenorio Picado**

**W**hen I began high school, I participated on my school's athletic team. Running was my passion—I had been a runner since I was nine years old—and I worked hard at it. I attended training sessions at least three times a week in the evenings. I even had opportunities to represent my city at Costa Rica's national games.

Often, the practices went until late at night. That made getting up early for seminary, which started at 5:00 a.m., extra challenging, but I continued to make that sacrifice.

Halfway through high school, however, when I was 16 years old, I realized that I wasn't putting my heart into seminary. I went, but I wasn't as well rested, prepared, or attentive as I could have been. I also knew that being stretched thin by my very late and very

early hours was affecting my physical performance, which wasn't fair to my team.

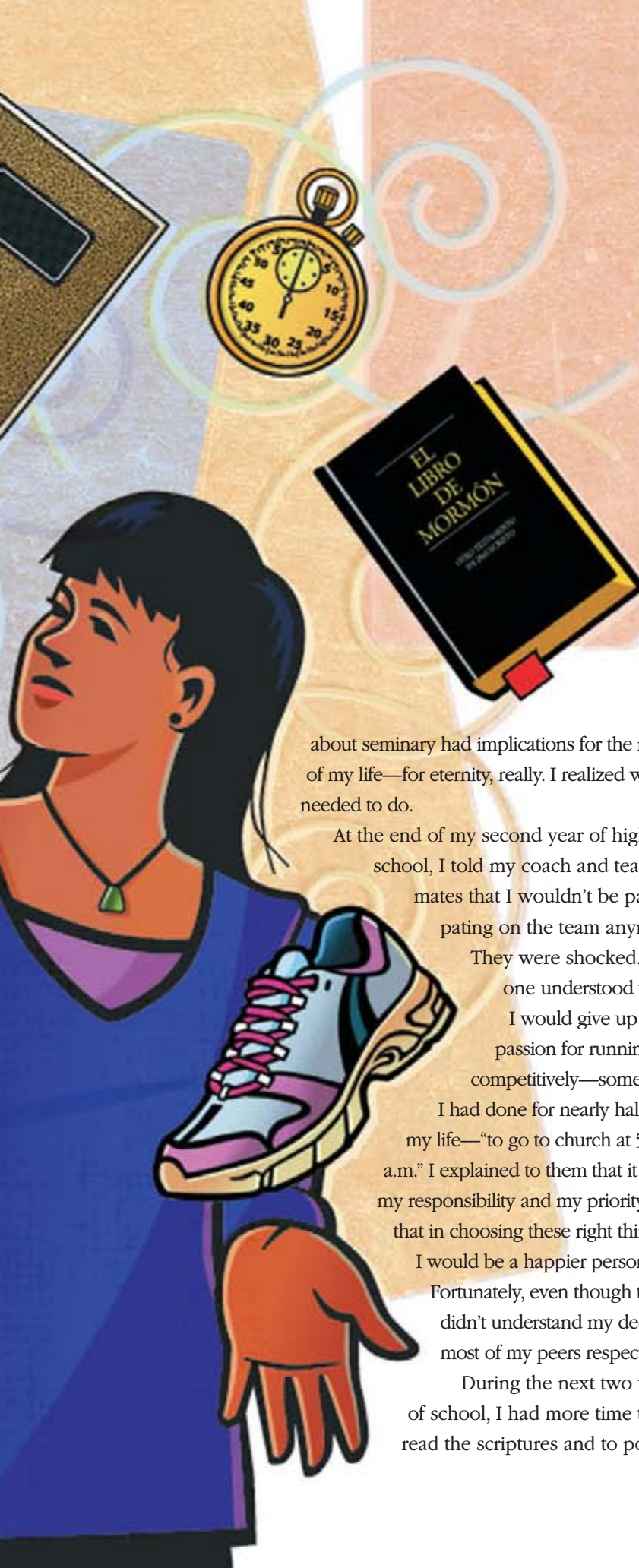
Even though I had always thrived on participating in many activities and had been able to juggle church, academics, and sports up to that point, I no longer felt a sense of balance. I began to wonder if I needed to give something up. Running was a wholesome, healthy activity, one I was good at. It was an opportunity for me to use my talents and to establish patterns of discipline. And at my school, being an athlete was prestigious. I had good friends on my team, and if I left it, I'd miss those associations.

On the other hand, I had a goal of graduating from seminary, and I knew if I stayed on the team, I wouldn't be able to do that.

As I weighed my decision, I thought about what would most benefit all aspects of my life, both during my high school years and for the rest of my life. I thought about my long-term goals. I realized that my attitude



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT GREER



about seminary had implications for the rest of my life—for eternity, really. I realized what I needed to do.

At the end of my second year of high school, I told my coach and teammates that I wouldn't be participating on the team anymore.

They were shocked. No one understood why I would give up my passion for running competitively—something

I had done for nearly half of my life—"to go to church at 5:00 a.m." I explained to them that it was my responsibility and my priority and that in choosing these right things, I would be a happier person.

Fortunately, even though they didn't understand my decision, most of my peers respected it.

During the next two years of school, I had more time to read the scriptures and to ponder



#### SETTING PRIORITIES

**I**n choosing how we spend time . . . , we should be careful not to exhaust our available time on things that are merely good and leave little time for that which is better or best."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Good, Better, Best," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 105.

them. Because I wasn't so rushed all the time, I found myself receiving inspiration more frequently. Those things gave my life balance, peace, and happiness that I had never experienced before.

At the end of high school, I graduated from seminary. That achievement meant a great deal to me. I gained a love of the scriptures and the stories and lessons they contain, I learned discipline in getting up early, and I was blessed with good friendships strengthened by that early-morning hour we spent together each day. But most important, I learned through seminary about making sure that I always put the Lord first.

That pattern continues to bless my life now as I study at a university. My classes are more difficult than they were in high school. I have more responsibilities at church. But because I established a habit of putting the Lord first, it has been easy to continue to set correct priorities, and I hope I can continue that pattern for the rest of my life. **NE**

# FOR ONE *and* FOR ALL

*Youth in the Frankfurt Germany Stake know how to stand together and, when necessary, how to stand alone.*

**By David A. Edwards**

Church Magazines

**W**hen Charlotte Baumann stood to bear her testimony at the end of the Frankfurt Germany Stake's youth conference, she shared an experience that many of the other teens could relate to.

"My biology class was discussing the effects of alcohol on the body," she said. "I noted that alcohol is poison, nerve poison, and people drink it only because they think it's fun. The class couldn't understand that, and then I gave my opinion on it, and that led to the question of why. One boy asked me if my ideas were like the Mormons', and then I said, 'Well, I am a Mormon.' At first he didn't believe me, and I thought that was pretty funny."

The questions continued, even into the hallway after class, which is when a thought occurred to Charlotte. "I suddenly remembered that I had the

shortened version of *For the Strength of Youth*, and I passed it around and had people read it. I think some of them did understand me then, and maybe that will have some effect on one or the other of them."

Like Charlotte, other youth in the Frankfurt Germany Stake always look forward to youth conference and other activities that give them opportunities to share experiences like these. It is here that they can come together, have fun, and strengthen each other spiritually, because at other times most of them must stand alone.

## **Standing Together**

At the youth conference, which was held near the Frankfurt Germany Temple, everyone acknowledged that the highlight of the conference was the spiritual uplift they received through gospel instruction, temple attendance, and sharing testimony.

Benjamin Uhlig feels that the youth need to stand together in this way. "We are a community, and we are fighting together in a time that is very bad. We go to school, and we're torn in all directions. Evil influences are everywhere. But the youth are our



*Charlotte: "I suddenly remembered that I had . . . For the Strength of Youth, and I passed it around and had people read it."*





**Benjamin U.:** *"We're fighting together here as youth for the work of the Lord, and to me that's something very beautiful."*

**Ida:** *"I think when you choose friends, you need to choose real friends who are also an example to you. Friends go with you to the temple, and you have spiritual experiences together there."*

### Standing Alone

The strength these youth receive from each other adds to their testimonies of the gospel, which are tested sometimes daily in school and at other times. It is common for them to have to stand up for Church standards.

"I'm the only Church member in my grade," says Jonatan Fingerle. "And now everywhere I go, I'm always 'the Mormon.' I got to talk about it and bear my testimony in class, in front of my ethics class, where absolutely nobody believes in any gospel. The nice thing about it was that afterward, even during the break, people came and asked me questions, and I could really show the testimony that I have."

Sometimes maintaining Church standards can be a lonely experience. Vincent Newsome often has to stand alone in keeping the law of chastity. "My friends from school think it's strange that I stay chaste, because that's not part of their lives, and very early on they're taught differently about it by their parents. Some mothers simply take girls to the

support. We're fighting together here as youth for the work of the Lord, and to me that's something very beautiful."

When Ida Uhlig thinks about her friends in the Church, she also thinks about the temple. Her ward is not far from the temple, so they do baptisms for the dead there regularly. "I think when you choose friends, you need to choose real friends who are also an example to you. Friends go with you to the temple, and you have spiritual experiences together there."

"It's always nice to do baptisms

for the dead," says Michael Fiedler, "because, of course, you help all those people. The temple is always the high point of youth conference because everything points toward it."



**Michael:** *"The temple is always the high point of youth conference because everything points toward it."*



**Jonatan:** *"I'm the only Church member in my grade. And now everywhere I go, I'm always 'the Mormon.' I got to talk about it and bear my testimony in class, in front of my ethics class, where absolutely nobody believes in any gospel."*



gynecologist when they're 14 and get them a prescription for birth control."

But Vincent knows the power that comes from keeping the Lord's commandments. "Living the law of chastity makes me stronger. You could just give in, but it doesn't help at all, because if you were to give in and act the way people usually act in the world, then you'd just be going with the flow and not thinking about what you're doing. I know that it's better if you live chaste, because otherwise you'd just go under."

In standing up for Church standards, sometimes it's possible to turn opponents into allies. When she



**Vincent:** *"My friends from school think it's strange that I stay chaste, because that's not part of their lives, and very early on they're taught differently about it by their parents."*

started at her school, Carina Schultes was bullied and put down by others. "They couldn't accept that I had my religion, my standards, that I didn't smoke, didn't drink alcohol. At first they couldn't cope with it, but luckily after four years they accepted it so they thought it was really cool and really supported me and got others to leave me alone."

### Finding Strength

Strength can come to us in many different ways. Benjamin Rumbach finds strength in his favorite scripture, 1 Nephi 3:7. "That just shows the determination of Nephi and the courage that he was willing to have for the gospel. It helps me when I need the strength to be obedient to the commandments and to withstand temptations better. I know that I can keep every commandment if I really want to."

For Charlotte Baumann, strength came in the form of a wallet-sized *For the Strength of Youth* card: "Sometimes you don't know how you should explain something, but it says something in there about all topics that are relevant to youth. And that's just a great help. I definitely noticed

that it's important that I always stand up for my principles, even when people think it's weird or don't understand, and that makes me stronger."

The strength that Ida Uhlig feels at youth conference and in the temple buoys her up. "I feel the Holy Ghost often. Right at this youth conference, the Spirit is with you, and you can feel it in the temple. I'm thankful for Jesus, and I'll be glad to be with Him again," she says.

And for Carina Schultes, steadfastness and prayer have kept her strong: "I've learned that even when many



*A view from Friedrichsdorf, Germany, near Frankfurt.*



*Carina: "I've learned that even when many temptations are all around you, you simply can't give up."*

temptations are all around you, you simply can't give up. You have to stay steadfast, to hold fast to the word of God so that you don't fall. In Doctrine and Covenants 88:126, it says that we should always pray. When we have problems or need help, we'll receive an answer."

Whether standing together or standing alone, the youth of the Frankfurt Germany Stake are gathering strength in the gospel of Jesus Christ. And this strength will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives. **NE**



I SAW A LIGHT BY JON MCNAUGHTON

## PREPARING FOR A MISSION

**T**he young men in Frankfurt are thinking about their future missionary service and how to prepare for it. Pasquele Picket says: "I'm going on a mission after my education. You don't know where you'll go, to what country, but approaching people, seeing if they're interested in the Church, is something I need to prepare for. Most important for me are prayer and faith."



**Pasquele**

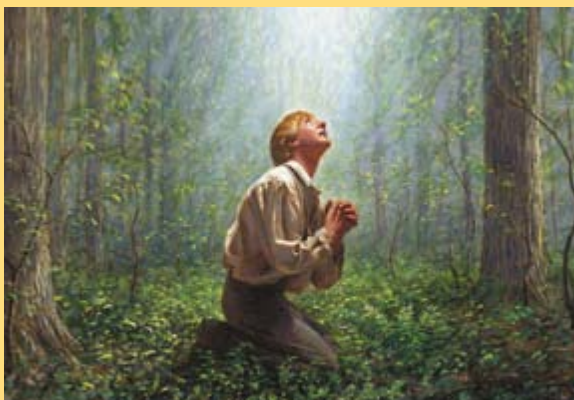
Benjamin Rumbach is also preparing in a number of ways: "Sometimes when my classmates have a question, they already know that I belong to the Church. I don't always bear my testimony directly, but sometimes I do. I've also had some experiences at street displays with the missionaries. I liked that."

He says spiritual preparation is most important. "You need to get a strong testimony and bear testimony and develop this joy in the gospel so that you can also show it to other people, because then they say, 'He's happy. I want to be like him; he has something.'"

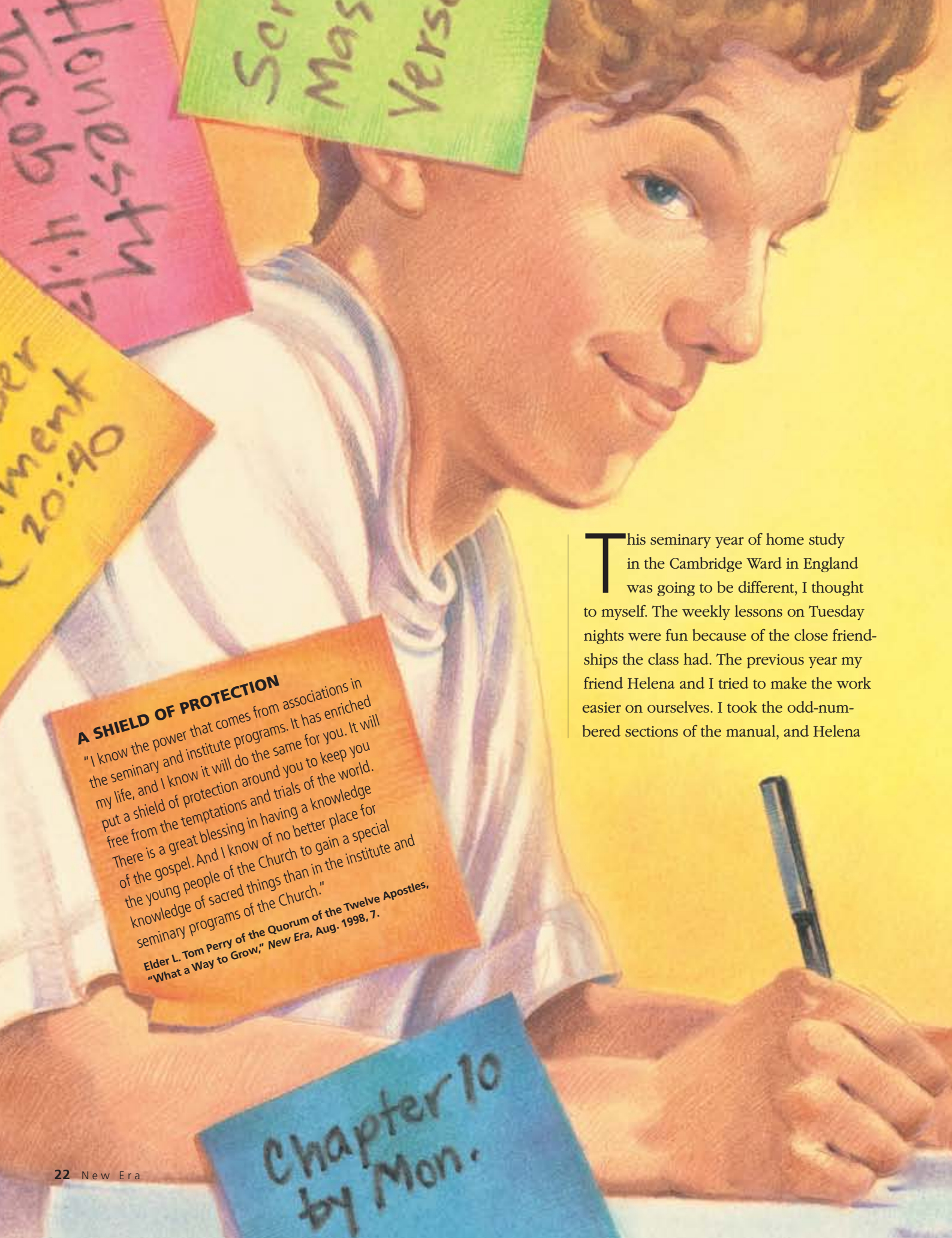
In his own preparation, Benjamin has gained some experience relevant to missionary service. He recalls: "As I sat in a train on my way home, I entered into a conversation with a neighboring passenger. As I told her about the gospel, the scripture from Joseph Smith—History 1:15–24 came to me as a way to explain to her how the Church has been restored. As I read it to her, tears came to my eyes, and I felt that what I was talking about was something very special. I think she felt it too, and we definitely wanted to talk with each other about it later. In any case, it was an experience that strengthened my testimony, especially of the Restoration."



**Benjamin R.**



*Reading about the First Vision in Joseph Smith—History 1:15–24 helped Benjamin explain the Restoration to someone.*



This seminary year of home study in the Cambridge Ward in England was going to be different, I thought to myself. The weekly lessons on Tuesday nights were fun because of the close friendships the class had. The previous year my friend Helena and I tried to make the work easier on ourselves. I took the odd-numbered sections of the manual, and Helena

### A SHIELD OF PROTECTION

"I know the power that comes from associations in the seminary and institute programs. It has enriched my life, and I know it will do the same for you. It will put a shield of protection around you to keep you free from the temptations and trials of the world. There is a great blessing in having a knowledge of the gospel. And I know of no better place for the young people of the Church to gain a special knowledge of sacred things than in the institute and seminary programs of the Church."

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,  
"What a Way to Grow," *New Era*, Aug. 1998, 7.

# on Daily Seminary Study

took the evens. We each completed the work for those sections and then swapped answers. I have to confess: this was a step up from the year before when I had spent a day at her house copying all her work.

I resolved that this year was going to be different. I was going to take the initiative to learn all my scripture mastery scriptures (not just crumple and smooth out every page in my triple combination with a scripture mastery item to make it easier to turn to) and keep up to date with the home-study manual, if not get ahead. I imagined myself as the shining example to all my classmates. I went to the first class of the new term with my manual, pencil, and newly sharpened red scripture marker in hand and smugly told Helena that I would no longer be needing her help. I would, for a change, be doing the work myself. Or at least that was the plan.

A month later I knew I was already over my head and would need to slog it out for a whole weekend to catch up. A few weeks later I still hadn't done as much as open the manual, and I tentatively asked Helena how she was doing in her home-study manual, in the hope we could come to an arrangement.

"Oh, when you said you were going to get ahead in the manual, I followed your example and I'm now a whole month-and-a-half ahead in the book. Thanks. You were right," Helena said smugly, knowing I had reverted to my old ways. I was stuck and had lost my partner in crime.

I decided that I needed a daily reminder to read my scriptures and fill out my manual. It would be hard, and

wading through at least three sections of the manual in a short amount of time did not sound appealing. I tried several techniques to remind me to do at least an hour of seminary work every day.

I tried reasoning that after my favorite TV show I would do an hour every evening, but favorite shows were followed by favorite shows, and even when the evening news came on, I was still not motivated. The prayer rock placed on my pillow or where I would tread on it to remind me soon ended up in the back garden after countless bruises on my forehead and stubbed toes. Willpower was not working, and I needed a way to be a bit more diligent in my seminary study.

I decided to pray to Heavenly Father to forgive me of my laziness and asked if He would help me to get down to work. I started putting up bright yellow sticky notes on my bunk bed and desk where I would see them and be reminded to read and study. For the most part they worked. I just had to back them up with constant prayer so that I wouldn't become complacent.

A week before we had to have all our work turned in, I still had a few sections left to complete. I ended up at Helena's home again, but this time we completed the remaining work together, reading through the scriptures and answering the questions. Even though I had left a lot of the work till late and had struggled to catch up, seminary turned out to be enjoyable and rewarding as I learned and retained more knowledge than any previous year of seminary. All thanks to Heavenly Father and a few well-placed sticky notes. **NE**



*Teens in British Columbia experienced Church history by stepping back in time.*

# Walking into the Past

**By Paul Christensen and Chris Leonard**

When he arrived at stake youth conference, Jade Meynders got out of the car, picked up his things, including his sleeping bag, and started walking down a dirt road cut through a thick forest. Those around him were dressed as if from a day long past—the girls in long dresses and bonnets, the boys in shirts with full sleeves and some in long-tailed coats, styles from 150 years ago.

As they walked, they noticed markers set up several yards apart with years painted on them. Each step took Jade back in time. “It really helped prepare my mind to comprehend and feel what was going to happen,” said Jade.

At the end of the road, the groups walked into a full-size replica of a pioneer town, complete with the Whitney store and the Grandin press, although those two businesses, significant in the history of the Church, were not originally in the same town. The Abbotsford British





PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ZUSKIND



*Rings made out of horseshoe nails and bracelets made of leather served as souvenirs of the event.*



Columbia Stake was taking the youth back in time so they could witness several events from a variety of locations in Church history.

The town, in a forest setting, was a remarkable replica made possible by the volunteer work of some 120 men in the stake. It was originally a partially built movie set of a typical town in the western United States or Canada during pioneer times. The leaders of the Abbotsford Stake made arrangements for volunteers to help the owners finish the buildings, including adding roofs, hanging doors, installing windows, and painting the buildings. The owners then agreed to let the stake use the movie set as the location of their youth conference.

So when Jade and his friends entered the town, it really felt like they had stepped back in time to the 1830s.

### Holding a County Fair

The town was dressed with garlands and flowers. The teens, their leaders, and members of the stake who agreed to play the parts of prominent Church members in history gathered for a typical fair from pioneer times. The group played games, held competitions, and enjoyed entertainment. At the end of the day, the mayor gathered everyone together and organized them into families. Under the direction of their leaders, the “families” set up their camps in a nearby wood, which would be home for the next week.

“I finally understood what the early Saints lived through and how their testimonies were their only possessions that were certain,” said Alex Loewen. “It inspires me to keep a strong testimony and rely on the Lord like they did.”



### Joining Zion's Camp

The next morning, the daily newspaper, the *Times and Seasons*, was delivered to each family before breakfast. It reported on the events of the previous day and announced the schedule for the upcoming day. The most anticipated event was a meeting called by the Prophet Joseph Smith for the entire village to meet in the square.

The person playing the part of Joseph Smith recounted the persecution the Saints had suffered in Jackson County, Missouri. Then he

called for young men to volunteer to leave the village and march to redeem Zion. Later, the volunteers followed their leaders down main street as young women gave them bottles of water and supplies for the journey.

While the young men were gone, the young women reenacted the organization of the Relief Society, where Emma Smith and her counselors and secretary were sustained.

The young men marched a good distance with meager rations of beef jerky, crackers, and dried apples. A heavy rain fell, and the young men had only tarps to sleep under, but no one complained that wet, weary night. Instead, their heads were filled with thoughts of those who walked the 1,000 miles on the real Zion's Camp.

### Building a Temple

The next morning, everyone gathered to listen to the person playing the Prophet Joseph Smith announce the building of the Kirtland Temple. A wooden frame replica had been erected by volunteers a few weeks earlier. Each family took turns helping to finish the outside of the structure,

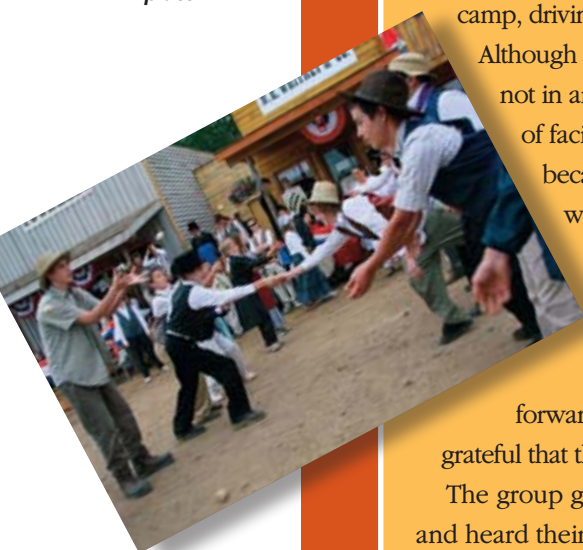


*Carving stool legs and setting them in place helped each participant create a sturdy seat for both daytime and evening programs.*

*Games such as checkers, stick pulling, and gunny sack races were just as enjoyable as they have been in pioneer times.*



*Each "family" took turns finishing the outside of the temple, cutting tiles and gluing them in place. Others painted the steeple that had to be lifted and mounted in place.*



using cut tiles of Styrofoam and gluing them in place. Aleisha Anderson said that working on the temple was the highlight of the conference for her and that "it was spiritual and made me feel really good."

The temple dedication was then reenacted. Rebekah Leonard said it was her favorite part of the week. "The weather was perfect, and the Spirit was so strong."

### Facing the Mob

On the final evening the teens put on their cleanest clothes and stepped out to the town's midsummer square dance. Then, just as the dance was winding down and the sun was setting, the town gathered to witness a moving reenactment of the Prophet Joseph Smith's being dragged from his home and tarred and feathered by a mob. Youth and leaders quietly and solemnly talked on the way back to their camps, where they gathered to discuss how opposition and faith still work together.

At about 10:30, the peace of the camp was shattered by the sound of shouts and gunshots. A mob of jeering men, some on horseback and some with lighted torches tore through the camp, driving the Saints out into the dark.

Although the teens knew that they were not in any real danger, still the feelings of facing what early Saints had to face became vivid for them. "In a weird way, I loved getting driven out of our camp by a mob," said Alyssa Bill. "It showed me a small portion of the faith the Saints had to have to go forward with the Church. I'm really grateful that they stayed strong."

The group gathered again by lamplight and heard their stake president talk about facing up to today's dangers.

### Meeting Brother Joseph

For many participants, the best part of the conference was feeling what it must have been like to have the Prophet Joseph Smith in their midst talking to them, playing games, and enjoying their company. Clayton Jensen said, "The conference made me realize there was more to Church history than we read. Now I know that the Prophet Joseph was someone who actually had fun and had friends like any other person."



On the last day, the sheriff came to town and arrested Joseph and Hyrum Smith. The teens watched in dismay as the two were taken away. Later, the news spread that the Prophet and his brother had been martyred. Reactions were powerful and heartfelt. Jillian Collingridge said, "The reenactments definitely made things seem more real to me. The conference

strengthened my testimony so much. I want more than ever to be the best I can be."

### Building Testimonies

On the final day, the group met together like the pioneers in Kirtland and Nauvoo did before leaving their towns. The gathering was used as an opportunity for teens to bear their testimonies.

Shoshana Okana loved the conference. She said, "It was amazing. It was a great way to learn more about our heritage and the strong Saints who helped keep the Church going through terrible persecution. My testimony is so much stronger, and not just my testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the sacrifices of the early Saints, but of the truthfulness of the gospel and the love our Church leaders have for us youth."

That love held the Saints together in the past, and it will continue into the future. **NE**



*On the last day of the youth conference, the whole group gathered in front of the replica of the temple and listened to men portraying the Twelve Apostles as they described the succession of the First Presidency.*

# Shiblon

## MY BOOK OF MORMON HERO



**By Elder Michael T. Ringwood**  
Of the Seventy

*He isn't one of the most prominent people in the record, but he is a great example.*

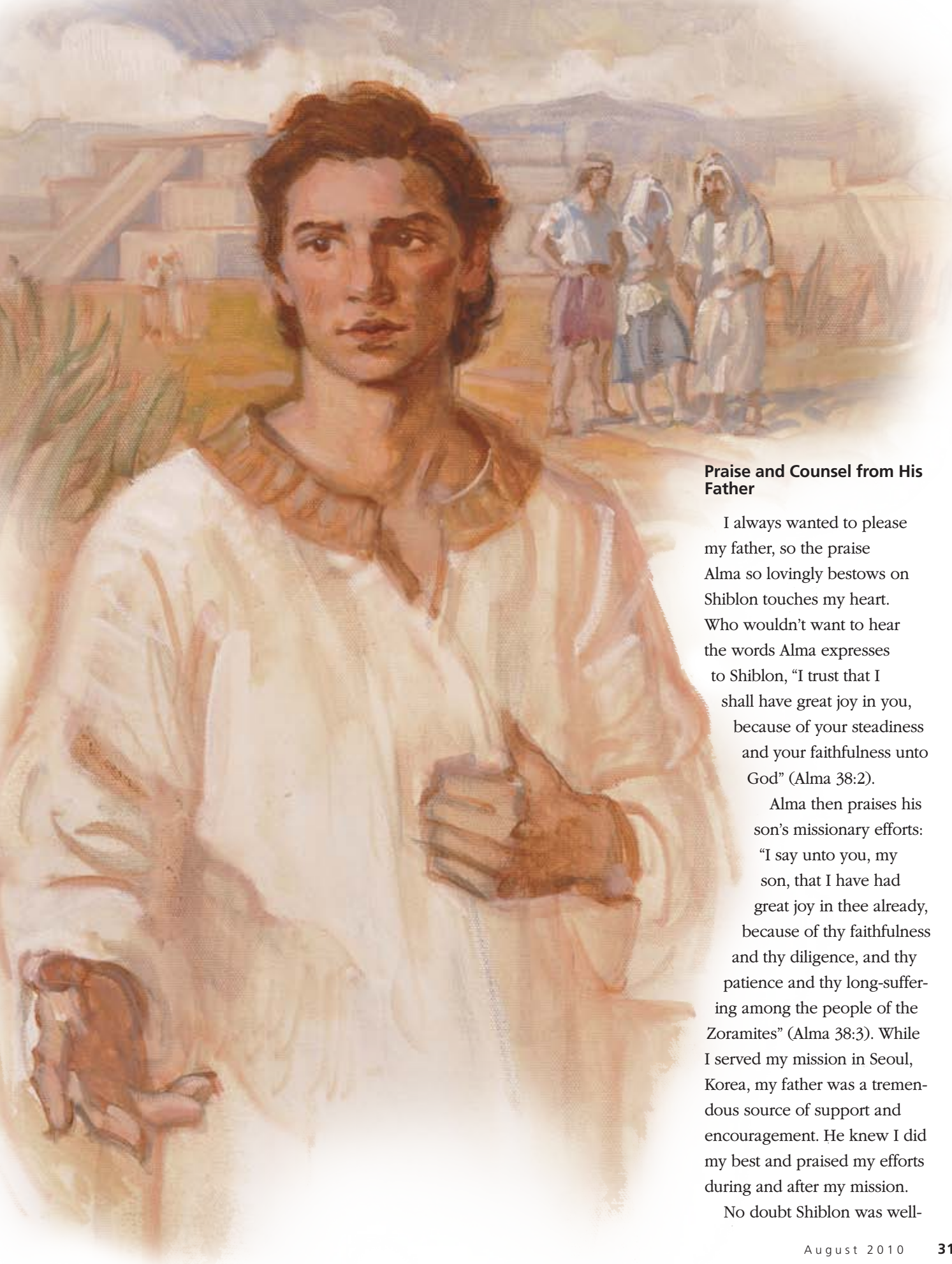
When people talk about their heroes in the Book of Mormon, most people think of charismatic leaders like Nephi, Captain Moroni, or King Benjamin. But I tend to think of an unsung hero, someone whose virtue is often overshadowed by his more illustrious brothers.

Let me introduce you to Shiblon, the second of Alma's three sons. As the middle son, he doesn't get much play in the Book of Mormon. He is first mentioned in Alma 31:7 as one of Alma's two sons who accompany their father on a mission to the Zoramites (the eldest son, Helaman, "he took not with him"). Later in the book of Alma, where Alma records his commandments to each of his sons, Helaman, the eldest son, receives 77 verses of counsel in two chapters, while Corianton, the youngest son, receives 91 verses of counsel in four chapters. Alma's words to his middle son, Shiblon, are brief—only 15 verses in a single chapter (see Alma 38). Yet that short chapter reveals some significant insights into Shiblon's character, as well as the relationship he had with his father.

### A Just Man

I discovered the virtues of Shiblon many years ago, and ever since then, I've tried to live up to this tribute of him as recorded by Mormon in the book of Alma: "He was a just man, and he did walk uprightly before God; and he did observe to do good continually, to keep the commandments of the Lord his God" (Alma 63:2).

In many ways the relationship between Shiblon and his father, Alma, reminds me of the relationship I had with my own father during my youth. When I was a teenager, I really looked up to my father. Whenever I was faced with temptation to do something that was wrong, I was always stopped from doing it by the thought of how disappointed my father would be if he knew what I had done. I imagine Shiblon was like that, too. His father, Alma, was probably a hero to him, and he never wanted to disappoint him. Perhaps Shiblon had witnessed his younger brother's misdeeds (recall that Corianton had had some problems with morality when he was supposed to be preaching to the Zoramites) and was determined to never cause his father any sorrow. I was the same way with my own father. I never wanted to let him down.



### **Praise and Counsel from His Father**

I always wanted to please my father, so the praise Alma so lovingly bestows on Shiblon touches my heart. Who wouldn't want to hear the words Alma expresses to Shiblon, "I trust that I shall have great joy in you, because of your steadiness and your faithfulness unto God" (Alma 38:2).

Alma then praises his son's missionary efforts: "I say unto you, my son, that I have had great joy in thee already, because of thy faithfulness and thy diligence, and thy patience and thy long-suffering among the people of the Zoramites" (Alma 38:3). While I served my mission in Seoul, Korea, my father was a tremendous source of support and encouragement. He knew I did my best and praised my efforts during and after my mission.

No doubt Shiblon was well-

***I'd like to think that Shiblon treasured the counsel of his father. Our own fathers know us sometimes better than we know ourselves and can offer counsel specific to our needs.***

acquainted with his father's dramatic conversion experience, yet Alma records it for Shiblon's benefit, along with his testimony of the Savior: "There is no other way or means whereby man can be saved, only in and through Christ. Behold, he is the life and the light of the world. Behold, he is the word of truth and righteousness" (Alma 38:9). Like Shiblon, I have always been strengthened by my own father's testimony and never tire of hearing it.

Sometimes we fail to appreciate the counsel of our parents, but I'd like to think that Shiblon treasured the counsel of his father: "See that ye are not lifted up unto pride; yea,

see that ye do not boast in your own wisdom, nor of your much strength.

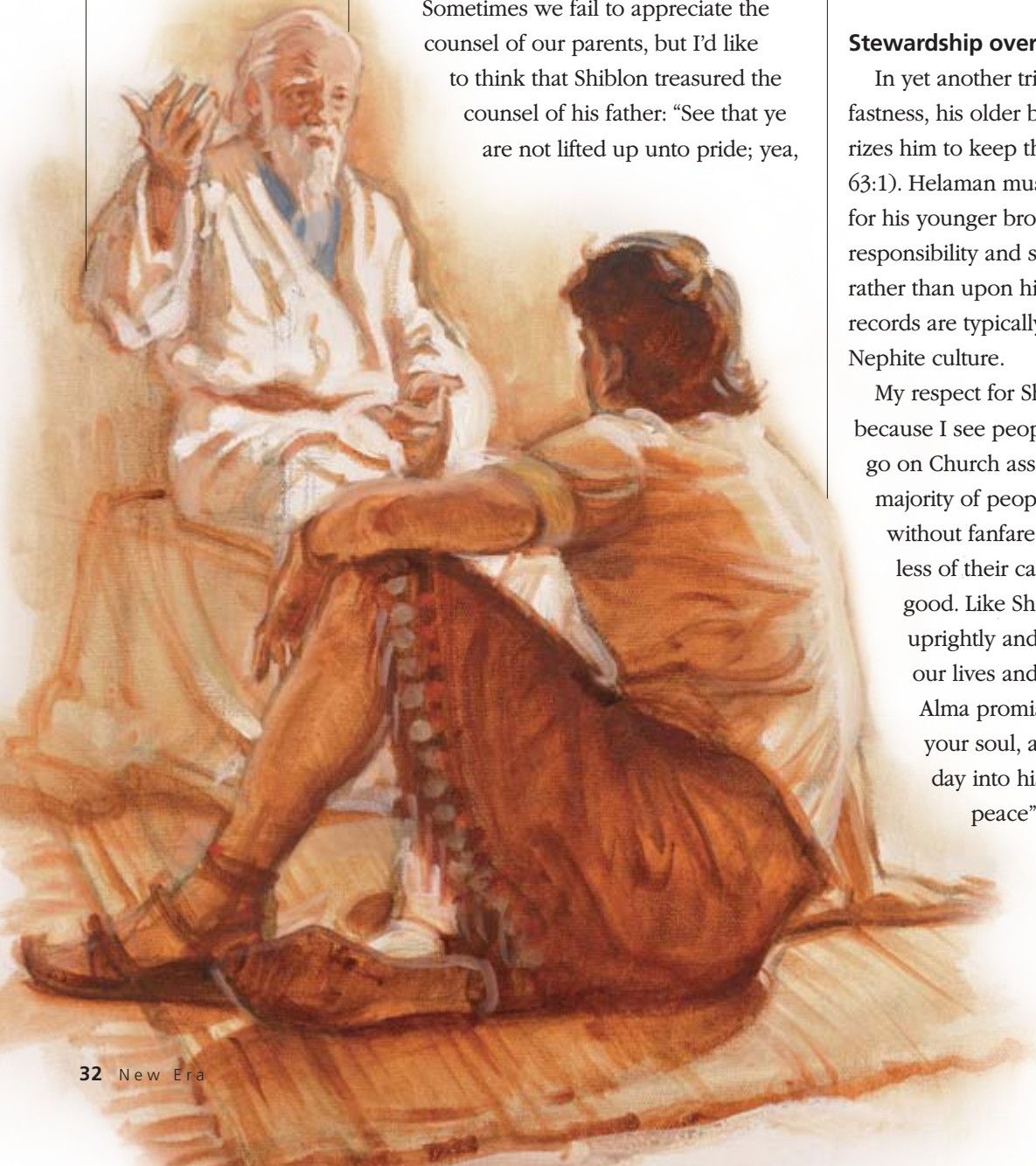
"Use boldness, but not overbearance; and also see that ye bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love; see that ye refrain from idleness" (Alma 38:11–12).

I believe this counsel is specifically tailored to Shiblon's needs. Clearly, Alma knew Shiblon's nature. Our own fathers know us sometimes better than we know ourselves and can offer counsel specific to our needs.

### **Stewardship over the Records**

In yet another tribute to Shiblon's steadfastness, his older brother, Helaman, authorizes him to keep the records (see Alma 63:1). Helaman must have had great respect for his younger brother to confer such a responsibility and stewardship upon him rather than upon his own son, which is how records are typically passed down in the Nephite culture.

My respect for Shiblon continues to grow because I see people like him wherever I go on Church assignments. He is like the majority of people in the Church, who, without fanfare or notoriety, or regardless of their calling, go about doing good. Like Shiblon, we can walk uprightly and do good all the days of our lives and thereby earn the reward Alma promised: "May the Lord bless your soul, and receive you at the last day into his kingdom, to sit down in peace" (Alma 38:15). **NE**



# Doctrine and Covenants 1:38

*We should heed all of the Lord's words given through His prophets.*

## What I the Lord have spoken

Here are a few things the scriptures teach us about revelation from God:

- Man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord (see Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; D&C 98:11).
- “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).
- The Lord will do nothing without revealing His secret to the prophets (see Amos 3:7).
- God will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept (see 2 Nephi 28:30; D&C 98:12).

for the time and season, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.

38 What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

For behold, and lo, the Lord is God, and the Spirit beareth record, and the record is true, and the truth abideth forever and ever.

- Whatever God's servants speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be the voice of the Lord (see D&C 68:4).



## My word shall not pass away

Prophecies and blessings spoken by the Lord's prophets are not always fulfilled at the time or in the manner people expect. Think of some examples of prophecies and blessings that were fulfilled at an unexpected time or in an unexpected way, and write in your journal how this principle can apply in your life.



## By mine own voice or by the voice of my servants

“It is no small thing, my brothers and sisters, to have a prophet of God in our midst. Great and wonderful are the blessings that come into our lives as we listen to the word of the Lord given to us through him. . . . When we hear the counsel of the Lord expressed through the words of the

President of the Church, our response should be positive and prompt. History has shown that there is safety, peace, prosperity, and happiness in responding to prophetic counsel as did Nephi of old: ‘I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded’ (1 Ne. 3:7).”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “His Word Ye Shall Receive,” *Liahona*, July 2001, 80; *Ensign*, May 2001, 65.

## I excuse not myself

“When critics mock, when enemies deride, when cynics belittle this work, there comes into my mind this tremendous statement of the Almighty. The Lord does not excuse Himself for what He has said or done. Every promise shall be kept, every prophecy fulfilled.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), “The Order and Will of God,” *Tambuli*, Aug. 1989, 3; *Ensign*, Jan. 1989, 4.



Editors' note: This page is not meant to be a comprehensive explanation of the selected scripture verse, only a starting point for your own study.

# The Lord Placed Him

*We need to share the gospel with those we come in contact with because we never know who is prepared to hear our message.*

**By Joni Larsen Marshall**

It was a warm, sunny day in Shilin, Taipei, Taiwan, and my companion, Sister Verhagen, and I were riding our bikes to visit a member. As usual, the traffic was congested and busy. Cars, motor scooters, and bikes filled the streets, heading in many directions.

I rode, as I always did, close to the shoulder of the road so other vehicles could pass by. Suddenly, I crashed and was thrown to the ground. After looking up, I saw a man who kept repeating he was sorry. Apparently, he had been in his parked car on the side of the road. When he opened his door to get out, I crashed into it. I did not see him, and he did not see me.

When I looked down at my right leg, I saw the point of impact. My leg had a large indentation and was swollen and blue. An ambulance that had been close behind us stopped, examined me, and took me directly to the hospital. My leg was examined and X-rayed to see if it was broken. The man with whom I had been in

the accident also came to the hospital to see if I was OK.

While waiting for the results of the X-ray, Sister Verhagen and I talked to the man, Chung Wei. He repeatedly asked me how I was and apologized for the situation. I apologized too and told him I was happy that only my leg was injured.

We learned that Chung Wei was a college student studying the violin. After talking with him for a while, we said, “We don’t want to pressure you, but if you’d like to hear our message, we’d love to schedule a time for you to meet with the elders.” He paused for a moment and then agreed. We exchanged information and set a time for him to meet with the elders.

The results of my X-ray came back. Luckily, my leg was not broken. It just hurt a lot and looked ugly.

Later that week Elder Criddle told me that he and his companion had met with Chung Wei. The lesson had gone well. A couple weeks later I found out that he had attended

church twice and was planning to be baptized. I was so happy and excited.

On April 27, 2002, Chung Wei was baptized, the newest member of the Tien Mu Ward. I was not able to attend his baptism because I was transferred, but I heard the baptism went well.

Later I saw the missionary, Elder Packer, who had given Chung Wei his baptismal interview. Elder Packer asked him why he started hearing the discussions and decided to be baptized. Chung Wei told him he was impressed by Sister Verhagen’s and my attitude toward him. Since we were kind to him and not angry because of the accident, he said he knew this must be the true Church. Later, during the discussions, he was able to feel the Spirit and build his testimony.

I am so grateful Chung Wei was prepared. I’m happy he followed the promptings of the Spirit, was

# in Our Path



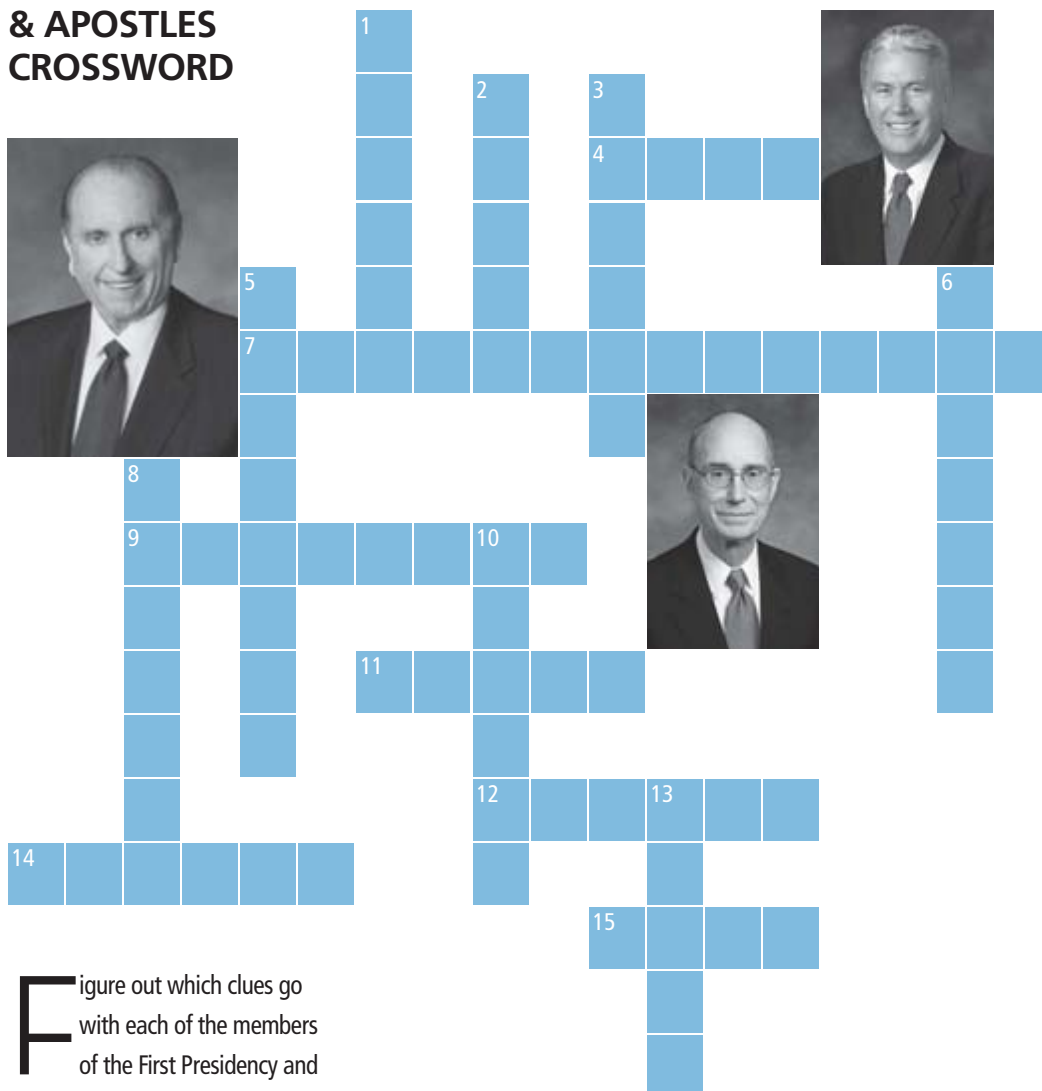
baptized, and now has the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I didn't know Heavenly Father was placing Chung Wei in my path that day. I didn't know he was prepared to hear the gospel. But I do know we

always need to be disciples of Christ and try to act as He would act. I know we need to share the gospel with those we come in contact with because we never know whom the Lord has prepared to hear the gospel. **NE**

*When he opened his door to get out, I crashed into it. I did not see him, and he did not see me.*

# TODAY'S PROPHETS & APOSTLES CROSSWORD



**F**igure out which clues go with each of the members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; use their last names to complete the crossword puzzle. As you do you'll get to know a little more about these special witnesses of the Savior.

## ACROSS

4. His first job was sweeping out a radio repair shop; later he became a state Supreme Court judge.
7. He learned a lot from living around animals, especially as he helped care for his family's large flock of sheep.
9. He can speak three different languages: French, Spanish, and Portuguese.
11. Growing up he learned to work hard on the family farm, particularly helping take care of the family cow.
12. He plays the organ each week when

the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles meet.

14. He met his wife while playing flag football in college. She impressed him by catching one of his passes.
15. In high school he was quarterback on the football team and earned all-region honors in both football and basketball.

## DOWN

1. He loves to paint and make wood-carvings of birds.
2. He once pitched a shutout as the varsity pitcher on his high school baseball team.
3. When he was eleven he started the hobby of raising pigeons.

5. He was a jet fighter pilot in the air force and later became an airline pilot.
6. As a teenager he worked as a service station attendant, a paper-boy, and a grocery bagger.
8. Both of his grandfathers served as members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.
10. He was an associate professor at a school in California and later became president of Ricks College in Idaho.
13. He played the saxophone and the clarinet in a college jazz band.

**Answers:** Across: 4. Oaks, 7. Christofferson, 9. Andersen, 11. Perry, 12. Nelson, 14. Ballard, 8. Holland, 10. Eyring, 13. Scott  
Down: 1. Packer, 2. Hales, 3. Monson, 5. Uchtdorf, 6. Ballard, 10. Eyring, 13. Scott

FROM CONFERENCE

**“THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF ALL SCRIPTURE IS TO FILL OUR SOULS WITH FAITH IN GOD THE FATHER AND IN HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.”**

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Blessings of Scripture,” *Ensign*, May 2010, 34.

Thomas S. *Monson*  
Henry B. *Eyring*  
Dieter F. *Uchtdorf*  
Boyd K. *Packer*  
L. Tom *Perry*  
Russell M. *Nelson*  
Dallin H. *Oaks*  
M. Russell *Ballard*  
Richard G. *Scott*  
Robert D. *Hales*  
Jeffery R. *Holland*  
David A. *Bednar*  
Quentin L. *Cook*  
D. Todd *Christofferson*  
Neil L. *Andersen*

## TEMPLE SERVICE

What started out as a simple conversation about temple work and a desire to see the different temples in the area turned into a full-scale youth conference for the young men and women of the Salt Lake Valley First Ward (Deaf). They decided not only to visit but also to perform baptisms for the dead at several temples in their area.

Over the summer, the youth were able to do work for 1,196 souls; many of them were names provided by ward members or even family names the youth had researched. "Every time you visit the temple you can feel the Spirit," said Austin Duran, 14. "As you visit the temple more, your spirit becomes stronger and you become attached to the temple and want to go all of the time."

Many of the youth have gained a new perspective on the importance of the temple as a result of their temple service youth conference. "I have a new standard," explained Riley Case, 13. "Now every time I think of something I should or shouldn't do, I decide if that will help me go to the temple or not."

## THE CHURCH IN USA—ALABAMA

The experience of missionary John Brown in Alabama is typical of other early missionaries for the Church. Local community members assumed the 17-year-old in ragged clothing was a simple cotton picker. They gathered to hear him speak one day in 1843, expecting entertainment by mocking the young preacher. After he began, however, the crowd members silenced and "were as motionless as statues of marble." Brown was well treated afterward.

In early 1844, there were approximately 120 members of the Church in Alabama. Three months later, in areas including Mississippi, there were about 190 members. Early converts were often baptized in the Alabama River.

Here are a few facts about the Church today in Alabama:



Membership	34,357
Missions	1
Temples	1
Wards & Branches	73
Family History Centers	35

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 4,164

Number of references to the Godhead in the Book of Mormon.

*Editor's note:* This number was sent in by Nathan G. from Texas. As he recently read the Book of Mormon, Nathan underlined each reference to Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. He sent us a detailed, eight-page spreadsheet of all his research. Thanks, Nathan.



## OVER 500 BOOKS

Amber Martin and Kortney Kline are closer to earning their Young Women Personal Progress Award after organizing all the youth in the Valley Forge Pennsylvania Stake to donate their reading books to an inner-city school in Philadelphia. A stake youth dance was held and the "admission fee" was to bring some books. Amber and Kortney managed to collect over 500 books. These two young women said it was an awesome experience to give youth in their stake an opportunity to donate books to students in need.



## MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:7

This Old Testament scripture mastery verse touches me because it tells me that the Lord cares about who we are—not about how naturally gifted we are but whether we're trying and our hearts are in the right place.

**Brian C., 18, Massachusetts, USA**

Tell us about your favorite scripture in one or two sentences. Go to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org) and click on Submit Your Material.





# He WE FORGOT, BUT REMEMBERED

By Rebecca Arrington

*We were happy for the chance to serve, but we had forgotten about the opportunity to share.*

I always knew God cared about us, but I never realized how much He cares. It took a long day in Mexico for me to even begin to fathom how intricate His designs are.

My family rose on a Saturday morning, so early that the San Diego, California, sky had only just begun to turn the soft gray of predawn June. We packed into the car, all eight of us squashing into every available seatbelt of our van.

Our group—a collection of stake leaders, high councilors, and their families—met up at the church, forming a caravan of nine cars. President Heap had included Project Mercy in the stake calendars with good reason. An isolated Tijuana community needed volunteers to help build houses for their families, and who among us couldn't spare a single Saturday?

The 20-mile (32-km) drive from San Diego to Mexico passed quickly. In the streets of

Tijuana, my first impression was that no one cared about these neighborhoods. Surely, no one looked very hard at them, if they even admitted to seeing them at all.

We reached our destination on the outskirts of Tijuana soon after the sun began rising to greet us. All around we saw clusters of families. Their clothes were worn. Many had no shoes. Dogs trotted through the grounds, unclaimed and uncared for. Each family was delighted at our arrival: today they might have a home.

Our supplies were simple, our directions simpler still. Laborers had poured concrete foundations a month ago. Planks of plywood lay neatly stacked to one side of the road. Build four walls; add a roof; paint the finished handiwork of last week's volunteers. And so we did, bursting into activity. The men immediately pulled on gloves and strapped on tool belts. The women handed out paintbrushes, mixing bright, fresh colors into large paint buckets.

The sun broke over us glaringly. Each and every one of us broke into a hard sweat before the second hour was up, but at the end of the day we left two families with freshly painted houses, and one with a new home altogether. It was still unpainted, but



*We cut lumber while children watched (below). We built walls, raised them, and nailed everything into place (above). Our work made a difference to them and to us (next page).*





I could see that it didn't matter to the father. He looked past the rough surfaces to the stable walls.

This last family transformed my day's labor into joy. President Heap asked to say a blessing over their new home, and they allowed it. We all clustered into its one common room, the father standing beside President Heap. Brother Woods, still fluent from a Spanish-speaking mission, offered words I couldn't understand, but which rolled through the house and left peace in their wake. The family bowed their heads with us in gratitude. The father cried.

After the prayer, we gathered into the cars and reversed down a narrow lane, into a wide, flat area before we could turn and pull onto the road's shoulder. My family, last in the caravan, took the most time in this procedure, our van being the largest car in the group. I reflected back on all I had seen, now mindful of the stability of my own life. I had full access to the "necessities." These families gained them in gradual, lurching steps, always according to the schedules of helpful strangers.

The day left us tired and satisfied, but with one regret: no one had thought to bring a Book of Mormon.

With all the men and women who had come, I wondered how we could have forgotten this single item. Finally our van was turned around, rolling into place on the road. No others from our group left. A hand pointed out an open window, over the tracts of desert.

Hiking across the road, 30 feet behind us, were two missionaries.

President Heap stepped out of his car and waved the missionaries over. They spoke for a few brief minutes, before President Heap pointed them on, smiling, toward the home we had left only minutes ago.

Even though none of us had thought to bring a Book of Mormon for that family, Someone else had thought to provide one.

I recalled my first impression of this place and realized how wrong I had been. Someone had seen this neglected community. Someone had cared.

When we had forgotten, He had remembered. **NE**



# Don't Get Caught

*Pay attention to the warnings. They can save your life.*

By Matt Garner

Walking back to our missionary apartment near the Alaskan seafont, I looked across a beautiful stretch of sandy beach and noticed a number of brightly colored warning signs stating “Danger! Do Not Step on Sand. Extreme Risk of Death.” Startled by the harsh warning regarding something that seemed so innocent, I asked my companion, who explained the hidden danger.

Along this coast, a number of rivers flow into the sea from the mountain peaks and valleys upstream. Along those mountain valleys, giant glaciers slowly travel their way toward the ocean. These ancient ice flows grind the rocks into an extremely fine, blue-gray silt that flows into the rivers and settles on the beaches. If you step on this silt, you sink very quickly. Pressure on the muddy silt causes the water to squeeze out and the sand instantly hardens around you with

as much strength as concrete. Once a person is caught in these mudflats, it is nearly impossible to escape without assistance.

Along this particular beach, the ocean tides are among the strongest in the world. The water level fluctuates by as much as 30 feet every six hours. When the tide comes in, the water rises rapidly, completely submerging the beaches within a short period of time.

While each of these two factors is dangerous in itself, in combination they create a grave yet unobvious danger where unsuspecting victims can become quickly trapped and are unable to escape the rising tide.

Since then, I have reflected on the warning given by those grim signs. The signs were placed on the beach by those who recognized the unseen danger. Our loving Father in Heaven, likewise, has placed clear signs and boundaries to protect us from dangers we may not always recognize. When we cross over the Lord’s boundaries, we are often caught in a quicksand of sorts. The ways of the world are often dangerous and difficult to escape, yet are often enticing and appear from the outside to be harmless.

I am grateful for the wisdom of a loving Father in Heaven who protects us with clear boundaries. I am also grateful for the wise and inspired leadership of our latter-day prophets, who help navigate us safely through a world of ever-growing hazards. **NE**



# Losing My

# Father

By Chris Deaver

*I had taught others about the plan of salvation, but what did I really believe?*

One night while I was on my mission in the beautiful mountains of Cajamarca, Peru, my companion and I arrived home from a hard day's work, happy with the efforts we had made. The phone rang. I picked it up, and my mission president's voice cracked with emotion as he said, "Elder Deaver, your father just had a stroke. He's in critical condition and will probably die tonight."

The next thing I knew, I was sitting in front of my desk, where I had worked and studied for one and a half years, in a place where I felt I had literally given my soul to the Lord and the people. I was in shock. I simply could not believe it. These things were always supposed to happen to other people. Why me?

Fortunately, my companion, Elder Allen, was a spiritual giant. We knelt down and began to pray for understanding. We wanted to understand the will of the

Lord. Still, in my heart, I was pained and suffering. I didn't sleep that whole night.

We went out to preach the next morning with a desire to find some listening soul. My companion, an Idaho cowboy, led the way. We arrived at the home of the Reyes family. A woman invited us in, and we sat down at the table of the dining room and started a discussion. She was confused about the purpose of life. She had seen family members die and didn't understand why. In my heart, I somehow knew that this opportunity would arise, though I still had an emotional hole in me, where it felt like my dad was missing. Even though I felt weak, I knew it was time for me to bear testimony. I had testified about the eternal nature of families during my whole mission, but did I really know *now*?

This was my test, my time to shine. I shared my part of the discussion, and the moment came when I bore testimony that families can be together forever.

The woman was touched deeply as the Spirit testified. Families are forever. That is our message. The Book of Mormon is a book about families. The plan is to save the family of Heavenly Father.

I also found comfort in other scriptures. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). This scripture means a great deal to me because of this particular experience.

My father passed on, and I managed not only to live through the ordeal, but also to grow in faith and feeling in the gospel. I came to know our Father in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ, like I never had before and even felt the presence of my father with me in the mission field.

As you become a full-time representative of the Lord, set aside all of your worldly concerns, and focus strictly on the work. And never, ever give up. As a result, you will find power in the Lord Jesus Christ, who strengthens you. **NE**



# SERVING SISTER SIMMONS

By Susanna Jones

**M**y day had been absolutely miserable. I wasn't prepared for a pop quiz in biology, the teacher put me on the spot in English, and after our class ran laps for the entire period in P.E., I was exhausted.

I was a Mia Maid and my Young Women leaders had planned a service project that night for Sister Simmons, an elderly woman whose husband had passed away a few years ago. Sister Simmons's health was failing, so it was almost impossible for her to accomplish simple tasks. Tonight the Mia Maids were going to do some deep cleaning in her home.

I had had such a terrible day at school, and I did not want to go and participate in this activity. All I wanted to do was watch TV and relax. While sitting in front of the TV, something kept nagging at my heart: "Would you deny this woman of your service?" As I sat there I pondered the Young Women value; good works. Yes! This was definitely good works. I knew that I must go and serve Sister Simmons.

My mom drove me to the church. I walked in feeling tired and worn out, but I was glad I had made the



right decision to come to this activity.

Sister Simmons lived a block away from the church, so after opening exercises the seven of us Mia Maids ran in the rain to her house, carrying cleaning supplies. Sister Stout, our Mia Maid adviser, knocked, and Sister Simmons slowly opened the door, looking a little shocked to see us all. She said "Oh my, I had forgotten that you were coming."

We all filed inside and were assigned chores. Carlene and I were assigned to scrub down the kitchen. Carlene washed all the dishes and the countertops, while I meticulously cleaned the front of all the oak cabinets and the old, white stove. As we worked, Carlene and I were giggling and talking. I was actually having fun.

An hour and a half later we had finished, and the house was sparkling clean. Time had gone by so fast. As we were all heading towards the door telling Sister Simmons "good night," and giving her a hug, she stopped us and, with tears in her eyes, thanked us profusely.

I left that night with tears in my own eyes. I had learned so much about service. I had always been taught that when you serve someone else, you forget about your own problems. Now I knew that was true. I fell asleep peacefully that night, not thinking about myself at all.

The next morning Mom came into my room as I was getting ready for school. She sat me down on the side of my bed and explained to me that Sister Simmons had passed away in her sleep that night. I was shocked as I sat on my bed sobbing, thinking to myself how glad I was that I had been prompted to go and serve Sister Simmons. I am so grateful for the promptings of the Holy Ghost, and what I learned that night about serving others. **NE**

## WHO AM I REALLY?

By Michelle Martin

**W**hen I was 17 years old, I had been to many different Church dances, early morning seminary classes, and even a few Church meetings, but I was not a member of the Church.

One Sunday afternoon I was home with my mom. I think I had disappointed her and was feeling very down. My friend Karen called to see if I wanted to go to a fireside with her. I wasn't familiar with that meeting. I truly thought that we would be outdoors by a campfire.

I agreed and attended the fireside with her and several other friends. I remember that as the speaker came to the pulpit, he started by saying, "Who am I?"

I thought to myself, "I am a horrible person. My mom is mad at me." The speaker continued, "I am a son, I am a father, I am an uncle, I am an American citizen." And then he paused. It became very quiet, and he said, "I am a child of God."

He looked into the audience. He looked at me and said, "You are a child of God." And then he looked to someone else and said again, "You are a child of God."

I was not yet familiar with the Spirit and what it felt like, but I got a lump in my throat and started to cry. I was a little embarrassed and didn't know what to think, so I left. I walked down the hall and found a phone and called my sister and



## SIMPLE MUSIC

By Tracey Goodwin

**I**t was Easter Sunday here in Southern Australia, and I was staying at a friend's house while my mum was away for the weekend. As it turned out, the people that usually provided the music at church had gone away too.

I am only a beginner at the piano, but when asked to play, I reluctantly accepted as there was no one else. That Sunday I realized what an important part the sacrament hymns play in our meetings. Even though I only played with my right hand and missed many notes, the congregation sounded like angels.

I am grateful for the Saints that provide the music for us in sacrament meeting, and even though I was terrified, I am truly grateful for that Sunday because it helped me develop my talents. **NE**

her husband, who are Church members, and asked if I could talk to the missionaries that night. We met with them, and I was baptized three weeks later. The Spirit truly witnessed to me that night that I was a child of God. **NE**



RANDY GLASBERGEN

"So? Don't keep us in suspense! Did you pass your driver's test?"



RYAN STOKER

"Look, Elder—investigators!"



Missionary Mirages

KEVIN BECKSTROM

"I love roughing it!"



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

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week at  
[newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org).

# Drawing ON TRUTH



When leaders from around the world came to her hometown, young artist Noel Peterson put her best art forward. Selected to display her drawing “The Visionaries of Pittsburgh” in a show for Michelle Obama and other first ladies of the G-20 Summit, Noel took the chance to share both her talents and her beliefs. “While I stood by my piece and answered the leaders’ questions, I was often able to mention that I draw my inspiration from God. It was my goal to let people know that I believe in Him.”

**How have you used art to serve others?** I’m able to draw things for people to make them feel better, and I’m able to illustrate gospel principles and my own faith. Once I drew a portrait for my mother’s friend who was having a hard time. When she got it, she said, “It captures who I really am. Every time I look at it, I am reminded of a better me.”

**What helped you decide to pursue art in school?** I realized that God gave me a gift, and in praying and asking Him, I realized that art was what He wanted me to pursue. I started drawing more and doing more pieces, and when I auditioned for my school, they accepted me. I saw how direct the hand of the Lord is in people’s lives when you are trying your best to follow the commandments and read your scriptures and pray every day.

**As you’ve shared your beliefs through your art, have you come up against opposition?** Absolutely. One of my friends asked me how an intelligent person could possibly believe in God. I bore my testimony to her, saying that I know there is a God because I’ve asked Him myself in prayer, and He answered me. His words are true.

**What advice would you give to other aspiring artists?** I would admonish them to be wise hearted like it says in Exodus 31:6: “And in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee.” If you follow the commandments strictly and try your hardest to do the Lord’s will, you will succeed. The Lord will bless you with intelligence and wisdom to be able to create things more beautiful than you can possibly imagine. He’s done that in my life. **NE**

—As told to Janet Thomas, Church Magazines

**Name:** Noel Peterson  
**Age:** 16  
**Location:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
**Achievements:** Ranked first in her class at Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School; past president of National Junior Art Honor Society; appeared on local television with her work; received two scholarships from Carnegie Mellon University; studies drawing, painting, sculpture, glass-blowing, and ceramics.

**DATING ISSUE**

The April 2010 issue rocked! A friend and I were having some tough times, but then I read this issue and it helped me put life in perspective. We are still good friends, but now our relationship is where it needs to be for us to enjoy our teenage years.

*Christopher S., Virginia*

I could not stop laughing while reading "What's the Deal with Boys/Girls?" and the responses. I wish everyone in my school would read this issue.

*Laura B., Utah*

When I heard that there was a special issue dedicated to dating, I have to admit I laughed a little. After reading an article or two, along with the list of date ideas, I thought, "These are pretty good." I found the whole issue is filled with great recommendations from prophets and Church leaders, and it has motivated me to go on more dates and build stronger relationships with my friends.

*Andrew H., Minnesota*

**STAY STRONG**

Thank you for the article "18 Ways to Stay Strong" in the October 2008 issue. We used this article in our family home evenings for several weeks to learn to apply the standards and principles found in the *For the Strength of Youth* booklet. The article gave good information to me and my brother and sisters to be an example to others in our area who are not of our faith.

*Cole C., Texas*

*I am grateful  
to know that standing  
for the right  
can be peaceful.*

**BESTING THE BULLY**

I read the story "Getting the Best of the Bully" (March 2010), and it has improved my life a lot. I was in a situation similar to the kid in the story, and every day I dreaded going to school, but I went anyway. I started being nicer to the bully, and the day after I started acting nicer, he did the same. He even stood up for me when somebody accused me of doing something I did not do.

*Spencer H., Arizona*

**DEAR DAD NOTES**

Whenever I am down I know that I can pick up the *New Era* and feel better. My favorite article was "Dear Dad Notes" (June 2007). That is a very good idea for bringing together family.

*Rebekah R., Washington*

*Editor's note: You can find past issues of the New Era online at [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org).*

**HELP WITH QUESTIONS**

When I received the February 2010 issue, I was surprised to see how many of the articles answered questions that I had. It answered my questions with principles from the gospel and words of comfort from the modern-day prophets. It helped put my personal struggles into a new light and helped me see how the Lord is always there. It strengthened my testimony about the love the Lord has for me and that He knows each and every one of us personally.

*Christian W.*

I often have trouble getting people to stop swearing and making inappropriate comments. The February 2010 *New Era* helped me to convince others to respect my beliefs. Although it is still difficult, it is easier to stand up for what I believe in.

*Craig S.*

**CHRISTIAN COURAGE**

My favorite article is "That is Christian Courage" by Elder Robert D. Hales (July 2009). It teaches us that members of the Church can be strong without getting angry or defensive. In the world today so many people are defensive of their beliefs in very aggressive ways. I am grateful to know that standing for the right can be peaceful.

*Emily R., Wisconsin*

*We love hearing from you. Write to us by going online to [newera.lds.org](http://newera.lds.org) and clicking Submit Your Material.*

*Or you can e-mail us at: [newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:newera@ldschurch.org) or write to New Era  
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024*



## I Celebrate

By Jennifer Mower

I celebrate the child  
who overcomes circumstance  
who overcomes hurt and fear  
and learns forgiveness

I celebrate the child  
who rises above the world  
and looks beyond the pain and terror  
and sees that goodness and beauty  
do exist

I celebrate the child  
who searches for truth and light  
and rejoices in its discovery  
embracing pure knowledge and  
understanding

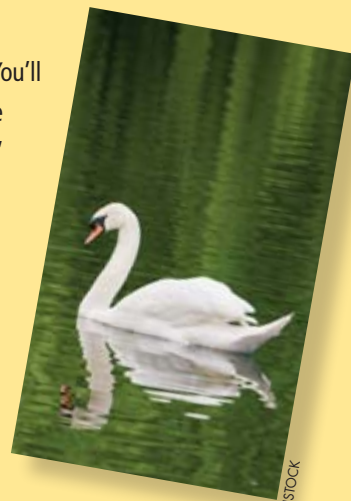
I celebrate the child  
who makes mistakes and stumbles  
but learns humility  
and can continue on steadfast

I celebrate the child

## WHAT'S ONLINE

***Want to learn more about the new *Duty to God materials*?*** For a variety of resources and videos, go to [DutyToGod.lds.org](http://DutyToGod.lds.org).

***Have you been to *youth.lds.org* lately?*** You'll find interesting videos like "Mothers and Daughters" and "Fathers and Sons," as well as the story of the Ugly Duckling, as told by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, in "Our True Identity."



***How can you help combat pornography?*** LDS Family Services has launched a new Web site to help people overcome this addiction, including a section specifically for youth. It's located at [CombatingPornography.org](http://CombatingPornography.org).



***What's on the New Era Web page?*** This month at [NewEra.lds.org](http://NewEra.lds.org) you'll find answers to your gospel questions, cartoons, podcasts, scripture helps, Mormonads, music, and experiences from youth just like you.

