



AN INSPIRED ROLE

One summer some of the youth in my stake were asked to put on a play commemorating the life of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Many of my friends were involved, and I was excited to watch the performance. About a week before opening night, I received a phone call from one of the directors. She told me that one of the actors would not be able to participate and

asked if I could fill in for him. I was surprised, but I accepted.

Because I'd joined the cast so late in the rehearsal schedule, I had less than a week to learn my lines and know what to do during the scenes I was onstage. By our first performance, I felt confident in my role, but I was still unfamiliar with much of the play's content. One night I decided to watch the rest of the play from backstage. The play was wonderful, and during the scene where Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred, the Spirit testified to me that Joseph Smith truly was

a prophet. I felt the Spirit stronger than I ever had before.

I can never deny the testimony I gained that night. I know the Lord truly helped cultivate the Spirit in that performance, and I know I had the chance to play a role in the production so that I could gain a testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I will be eternally grateful for Joseph Smith's faithfulness and for inspired leaders who asked me to participate in this testimony-promoting experience.

Chad M., Arizona, USA

A SIMPLE INVITATION

When I entered high school, I started going to seminary every evening after school. Beginning in my sophomore year, I became a student-body officer and member of the dance company, and I participated in other extracurricular activities. I had countless meetings and rehearsals and was bombarded with homework and reading assignments.

One day a meeting was held at the same time as my seminary class. The meeting was important, but seminary was much more important; it was an easy decision for me. I immediately told my classmate about seminary and, to my surprise, she got me excused from the meeting so I could go to seminary. After some time, my classmate began asking about seminary. She asked what we did there and what we were learning. I told her and invited her to attend. She was eager and excited. When the time came, she attended the class, where she gained more friends. I found it was really easy to invite my friend to seminary and that by choosing to put seminary first and standing tall, I was able to bring light to someone else.

Cielo Mae D., Bukidnon, Philippines

IT'S TIME TO KEEP A JOURNAL

When my first nephew was born, I felt inspired to start writing in a journal. I'd never been very successful at it before, but seeing this new little person made me think about the fact that someday I would have children too, and I would want them to know what I was like when I was their age. I also wanted to be able to remind myself of my everyday life when I was a teen and of the people who helped shape who I'd become. I always knew that keeping a journal was an important thing to do, but I felt impressed that it was something I needed to do now.

To stay motivated, it helped me to think about how amazing it would be to find a journal of my grandparents or my great-grandparents, to get to know them from their real thoughts and feelings.

I also thought about the Bible and the Book of Mormon. These are records the Lord commanded His people to write. Maybe the writers didn't always feel like engraving another chapter into the plates on a particular day, but I'm glad they did. God inspired them to write a record, and they chose to listen.

I've been steadily keeping journals since that day. I don't think it matters how much or how often you write, as long as you write. Writing in a journal feels like being listened to when you're desperate to be heard. It's turned me into a better writer, and during some harder times, it's made me a happier person.

Millie T., Utah, USA

