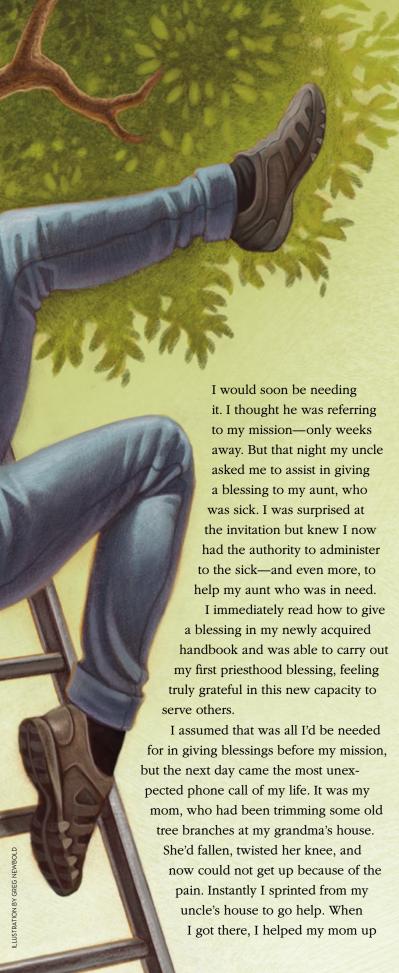
GIVE A BLESSING? Opportunities to serve came sooner than I expected. By Karl Applegarth few weeks before leaving on my mission to Ecuador, I was ordained an elder and received all the responsibilities that come with the Melchizedek Priesthood. Soon afterward, my mom and I were visiting some family members, and my uncle gave me a white missionary handbook, saying that 16 New Era



and we slowly walked inside my grandma's home so that Mom could sit down.

Then came the request I will never forget: my mom asked me for a blessing. I, being only an 18-year-old teenager, but also being a newly ordained elder, could accept that call to serve for the second time that week. The blessing finished with everyone in tears and my mom feeling much better.

I am forever grateful to know that I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and have received the priesthood authority to act in His name and bless others. I'm grateful I was worthy and ready to serve my family in a time of need. I know that as a holder of God's priesthood, I will continue to receive opportunities to serve and bless the lives of others with these new and sacred responsibilities that He has entrusted to me. NE

Elder Karl Applegarth is from Missouri, USA, and is currently serving a mission in Ecuador.



THE JOY OF SERVING

'Let us embrace and understand the wonder and privilege of the priesthood. Let us accept and love the responsibilities we are asked to fulfill—responsibilities in our homes and in our Church units, no matter

how large or small they may be. Let us constantly increase in righteousness, dedication, and priesthood service. Let us find the joy of serving in the priesthood!"

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Joy of the Priesthood," Ensign, Nov. 2012, 59.