

GENERAL WOMEN'S MEETING



Saturday, March 29, 2014 | 6:00 p.m. MDT

Learn more at lds.org/go/gwm14.

FRIENDS YOU CAN COUNT ON

Josh C., a 13-year-old from Alberta, Canada, loves hanging out with his tight-knit group of Church friends as often as possible. All in the same deacons quorum, they love to play basketball, hit the ski slopes, and do all sorts of other activities together. They also look out for and support one another.

About a year and a half ago, when Josh's life took an unexpected turn, his deacons quorum was there for him every step of the way. Toward the end of sixth grade, Josh began having small seizures. Despite trips to the doctor and antiseizure medication,

the seizures grew worse over the summer. Several months into seventh grade, Josh had to drop out of school for health reasons.

Throughout this time, his friends helped him every chance they could—even if that meant just taking him treats and playing games with him when he wasn't feeling well enough to leave the house. "I feel lucky," Josh says about his quorum members. "They are always there for me."

Ultimately, neurologists recommended surgery to remove the lesion in Josh's brain that was causing the seizures. Josh's friends decided as a group that

they would fast for him on the day of his surgery. The eight-hour surgery took place during a school day. His friends went to school and spent lunch together as they normally did, but they didn't eat. "It was neat they thought of doing it on their own," says Josh.

The surgery was a big success. While Josh's recovery hasn't always been easy, his friends have stayed by his side all along.

Now in eighth grade, Josh



hasn't had a single seizure since the surgery 14 months ago. He feels so grateful for his friends and for the gospel. "People are there for you. Heavenly Father is there for you," he says. "Look at your blessings—not at your trials—and see how Heavenly Father is helping. You don't have to be afraid."

WE'VE GOT
MAIL

MISSION LIFE

I really enjoyed the article "Mission Life" in the October 2013 *New Era*. I especially liked the part of the article that talks about the daily personal and companionship study. It said this daily study is essential for missionaries to focus on the scriptures and the doctrines of the lessons in *Preach My Gospel*. I also enjoyed the section that describes how missionaries teach investigators and what they teach them. My brother is currently on a mission in Texas, USA, and I really enjoyed reading about what he does, how he prepares for the day, how he sets goals during planning sessions, and how prayer impacts his decisions.

Elliott H., 15, Washington, USA

Editor's note: The October 2013 New Era has several articles on missionary work. If you've been curious about full-time missionary work, check out the issue at lds.org/go/missionNE3.

Tell Us What's Up

Do you have an inspiring story or favorite scripture to share? We love hearing from you. Go to newera.lds.org and click "Submit Your Work." Or you can email us at newera@ldschurch.org. You can also leave a comment on any article at youth.lds.org.

YOU'RE INVITED

You're invited to gather with women ages 8 and up as sisters, daughters, mothers, and friends. Invite others to join with you at local meetinghouses to hear from a member of the First Presidency and the general presidents of the Relief Society, Young Women, and Primary organizations.

Come be inspired by messages, music, and videos.
Which friends will you invite?

Invite others through social media at lds.org/go/share14.

NUNCHAKUS AND MANICURES

When youth from one ward in Birmingham, England, needed to raise money in order to attend stake youth camps, they knew just what to do: it was time to roll up their sleeves and teach nunchaku lessons. And origami lessons. Oh, and some one-on-one rugby training sessions for good measure.

After leaders counseled with the bishop and obtained his approval, ward members pulled together to support the youth in their efforts by holding a ward auction for promised services. At

the auction, people could bid on all manner of "I owe you"-type services. The youth donations included manicures, basketball lessons, shoe shining, gardening help, babysitting time, ukulele lessons, and more.

The adults pitched in as well. Their donations ranged from a personal tour of a prison by the prison governor to chauffeur services for a day and even to a tutorial from the bishop on how to buy and sell on eBay. In the end, the ward

raised enough money for the youth to attend the camps, all while having fun and getting to know one another by serving in creative ways.

