

A photograph of two young men standing in a grassy field. They are both wearing white long-sleeved shirts and dark ties. The man on the left is wearing a patterned tie, and the man on the right is wearing a solid dark tie. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a green field with some trees and a fence line.

THE
NewEra

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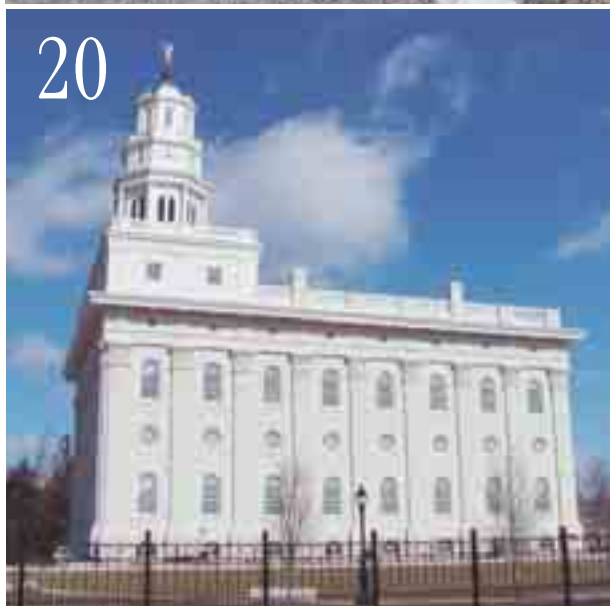
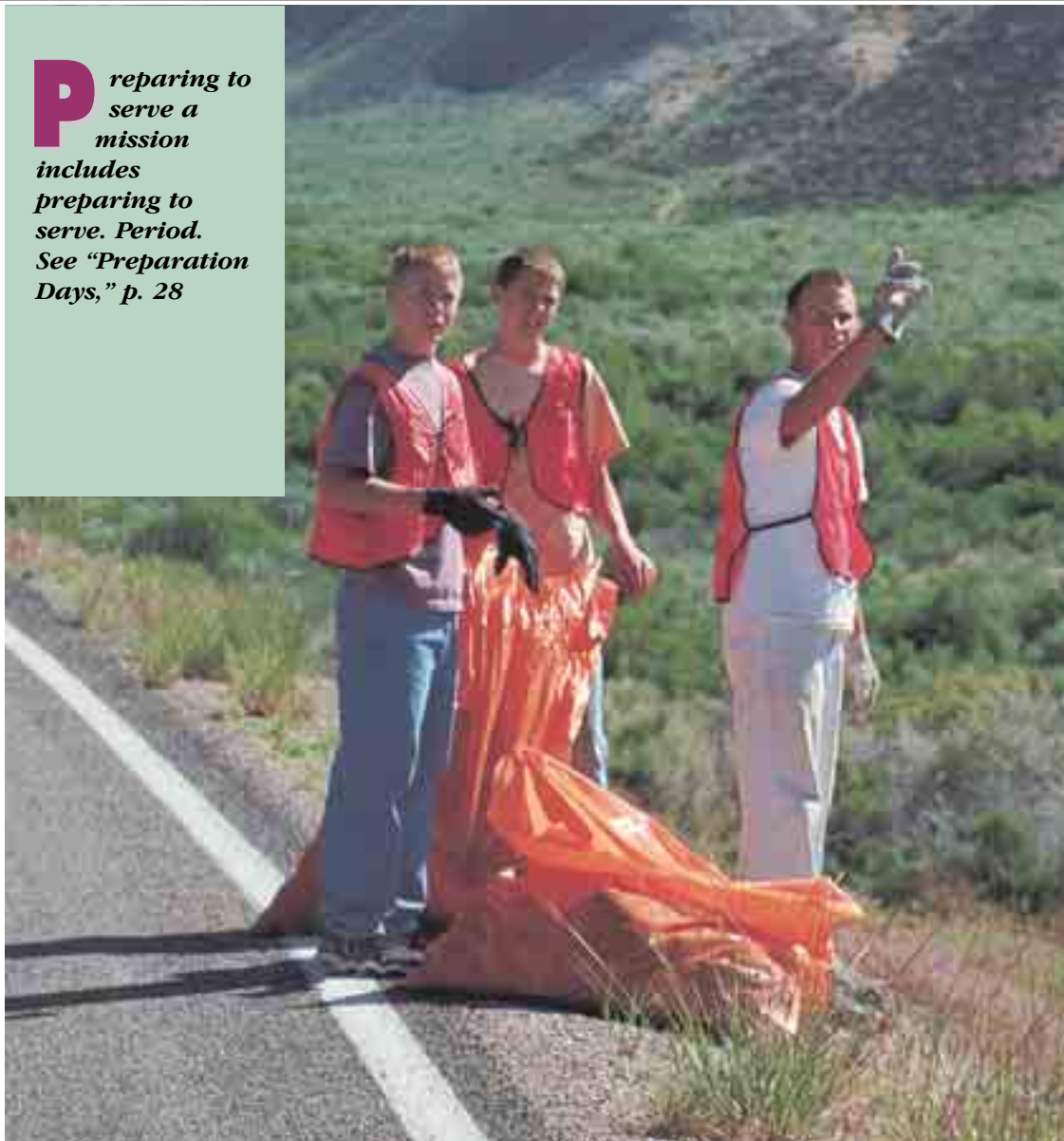
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Cover: Caleb Rowley
and Logan Gines helped
plan the missionary
preparation event in the
Duchesne Utah Stake. See
“Preparation Days,” on
p. 28.

*Front cover photography:
Shanna Gbraznavi*

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serve a
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Upon You My Fellow



by President
Gordon B. Hinckley

John the Baptist laid his hands on the heads of Joseph and Oliver and bestowed a wondrous power that has been passed down to this day.

What do John's words mean for you? Here's some of what President Hinckley has had to say about the Aaronic Priesthood and its restoration.

What a wonderful thing is the priesthood of God. There is nothing to compare with it. It is received only by the laying on of hands by those in authority to bestow it. In this dispensation, that bestowal goes back to John the Baptist and the Lord's Apostles Peter, James, and John. They came to earth and physically laid their hands on the heads of Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery and with audible voices spoke words of bestowal of this wondrous power. Since then every man who has received it has done so through the laying on of hands by one who received it in turn in the same manner traced back to its original bestowal (from *Ensign*, May 2000, 49).

Can you imagine what a wonderful experience this restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood must have been for Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery when John the Baptist spoke to them? Here was a man who had lived upon the earth more than 1,800 years earlier. Now he was speaking in English to two young men

while he held his hands upon their heads (from *Ensign*, Oct. 1988, 69).

My father's challenge

"Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness" (D&C 13).

All of you recognize these words as section 13 of the Doctrine and Covenants. They are the words of John the Baptist to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery as he laid his hands upon their heads and conferred upon them the Aaronic Priesthood on 15 May 1829.

When I was a boy, 12 years of age, and was about to be ordained a deacon, my father challenged me to memorize those words. I did so, and they have remained with me throughout my life. . . .

I urge you to open the Doctrine and Covenants . . . and to read these words and memorize them. They are the charter of the priesthood you hold. They are evidence that this priesthood is valid and genuine in every respect (from *Ensign*, Nov. 1982, 44).

When I became a deacon

When I was 12 . . . I became a deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood. My name was presented to the entire congregation of our ward. Everyone was asked to sustain

SERVANTS





This Aaronic Priesthood, bestowed by John the Baptist, also includes the keys of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. The holding of the Aaronic Priesthood, and the exercise of its power, is not a small or unimportant thing.

me if they felt me worthy of the office. All hands in the large congregation went up. I was honored to think that all of the members of my ward raised their hands in my behalf.

Then two men, good and true and faithful—one of them my father—placed their hands upon my head and conferred upon me the Aaronic Priesthood and ordained me to the office of deacon. . . .

Now, as a boy I knew from what I had learned in Sunday School that John the Baptist had been killed by a wicked ruler, that he had been beheaded to satisfy the lustful desire of an evil woman. And in 1829 it was this same John who had come and given the priesthood to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. He spoke to them. He placed his hands upon their heads. They heard his voice and they felt his hands. This meant that he had to have been resurrected. That was a wonderful thing and a very impressive thing to me. Here was living evidence of the reality of the Resurrection, which had come through the divine power of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same who earlier had been baptized by John in the river Jordan (from *Ensign*, May 1988, 44–45).

Fellow servants

John told Joseph and Oliver that he was acting under the direction of Peter, James, and John, the Apostles who had been ordained by the Lord and who held what we call the Melchizedek, or the higher, Priesthood, as distinguished from the Aaronic, or the lesser, Priesthood.

Joseph Smith was then 23-and-a-half years of age. Oliver Cowdery was about the same. They were young men, and I thought when I was ordained a deacon what a wonderful thing it was that John the Baptist, who was a great man in the New Testament and who lived nearly 2,000 years earlier, had come as a resurrected being and that he should address Joseph and Oliver as “my fellow servants.”

Even though he came as a servant of God and acted under the direction of Peter, James, and John, he did not place himself above Joseph and Oliver. He put them on his same level when he addressed them as “my fellow servants.” If they were his fellow servants, then perhaps I, as a 12-year-old boy, could also be his fellow servant.

He spoke in the name of Messiah, or, as we would say it, “in the name of Jesus Christ.” He set the pattern, and since then, the ordinances which we perform are administered in the name of Jesus Christ. This is something we should never forget, and never overlook, for in the exercise of our priesthood, we are acting in behalf of God our Eternal Father and Jesus Christ, His Son (from *Ensign*, May 1988, 45).

Ministering of angels

Now what are the elements of this priesthood which were restored to the earth by John the Baptist?

He said that this priesthood of Aaron “holds the keys of the ministering of angels.” It is a tremendous thing to have the right to the ministering of angels. . . . I am convinced that the Lord would not have given it to us had He not desired that we have it so that we might enjoy the wonderful gifts, guidance, and protection which come therefrom. . . .

John the Baptist went on to say to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery that this priesthood, which he bestowed upon them, included the keys of the gospel of repentance. What a marvelous and wonderful thing this is! It is our privilege, yours and mine, as those who hold this priesthood, to repent of evil with the expectation that we will be forgiven if we live worthy of the forgiveness of the Lord. Furthermore, it is our privilege to preach repentance, as the Lord has made clear in section 20 of the Doctrine and Covenants. He there sets forth the duties of deacons, teachers, and priests. It is their responsibility to watch over the Church and see that there is no iniquity and to invite all to come unto Christ (from *Ensign*, May 1988, 45–46).

Baptism and the sacrament

This Aaronic Priesthood, bestowed by John the Baptist, also includes the keys of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. It is one thing to repent. It is another to have our sins remitted or forgiven. The power to bring this about is found in the Aaronic Priesthood. . . .

I want to emphasize, boys, that the holding of the Aaronic Priesthood, and the exercise of its power, is not a small



I love the boys who hold the Aaronic Priesthood. Every young man who does so, walking in obedience to the commandments of the Lord, may expect to have the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his life.

or unimportant thing. The bestowal of these keys in this dispensation was one of the greatest and most significant things incident to the entire Restoration. It was the first bestowal of divine authority in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times. It is the priesthood of God, with authority to act in the name of the Savior of mankind.

It is the authority under which the emblems of the Lord's Supper are administered to the membership of the Church. . . .

When you, as a priest, kneel at the sacrament table and offer up the prayer, which came by revelation, you place the entire congregation under covenant with the Lord. Is this a small thing? It is a most important and remarkable thing.

Now, my dear young brethren, if we are to enjoy the ministering of angels, if we are to teach the gospel of repentance, if we are to baptize by immersion for the remission of sins, if we are to administer to the membership of the Church the emblems of the sacrifice of our Lord, then we must be worthy to do so (from *Ensign*, May 1988, 46).

A chosen generation

I wish to say that I love the

priesthood of this Church. It is a vital, living thing. It is the very heart and strength of this work. It is the power and authority by which God, our Eternal Father, accomplishes His work in the earth. It is the authority by which men speak in His name. It is the authority by which they govern His Church.

I love the boys who hold the Aaronic Priesthood. Every young man who does so, walking in obedience to the commandments of the Lord, may expect to have the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his life. That Spirit will bless him in his studies and other pursuits and will lead him in efforts that will bless him and bless the lives of others all about him (from *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 54).

May we reflect on the wonder of that which we have. May we exercise it in righteousness and faithfulness. May we never sully it through behavior unbecoming those who hold this divine power. May we fit the description given by Peter when he said: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Pet. 2:9) (from *Ensign*, Oct. 1988, 72). **NE**

HOW *Lovely* WAS MY MORNING

I was studying and praying to know for myself that Joseph was a real prophet. Why wasn't I getting an answer?

I dragged myself into the dark bedroom, tempted to collapse onto the bed and immediately drift to sleep. My eyes seemed to weigh me down, and my feet felt like lead. I wanted to crawl under my covers, but my desire for an answer to my prayer was greater. I knew I must once again approach the Lord.

I knelt at my bedside and silently pondered the things I was about to ask my Heavenly Father. Would He really answer me this time? Did I deserve to be answered? As I felt my faith wavering, I chose to focus my attention on the countless lessons I had learned in my life, instead of on my doubts. One scripture in particular stood out to me.

"But without faith it is impossible to please

I sat silently and tried to listen for the whisperings of the Spirit. I didn't hear a voice, and I didn't feel anything unusual.

him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

I wanted to know that Joseph Smith was a real prophet. I wanted to know for myself that he truly saw

Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in the Sacred Grove. As a Latter-day Saint, I felt a strong testimony of Joseph Smith was a vital part of my

foundation in the Church. I mustered all the faith I could find within my soul by focusing on the times the Lord had shown His hand in my life. I began asking Heavenly Father to help me really know what I had only believed all my life.

I knew the only way for me to receive this knowledge was by the Holy Ghost telling

by Julianne Pratt



Photography by John Luke. Painting The First Vision by John Scott



me it was true. I wasn't sure I had received that type of communication. How would I know the Holy Ghost was talking to me? Would I hear a voice? Would I feel a burning in my bosom like the scriptures say? I didn't know, but I continued to pray. I sat silently and tried to listen for the whisperings of the Spirit. I didn't hear a voice, and I didn't feel anything unusual. Discouraged, I crawled into bed and fell asleep, telling myself I would get my answer tomorrow night.

The obnoxious beep of my alarm clock rang in my ear at 5:30 the next morning. I reluctantly got up and started getting ready for seminary. Before I knew it, I was pulling into the church parking lot.

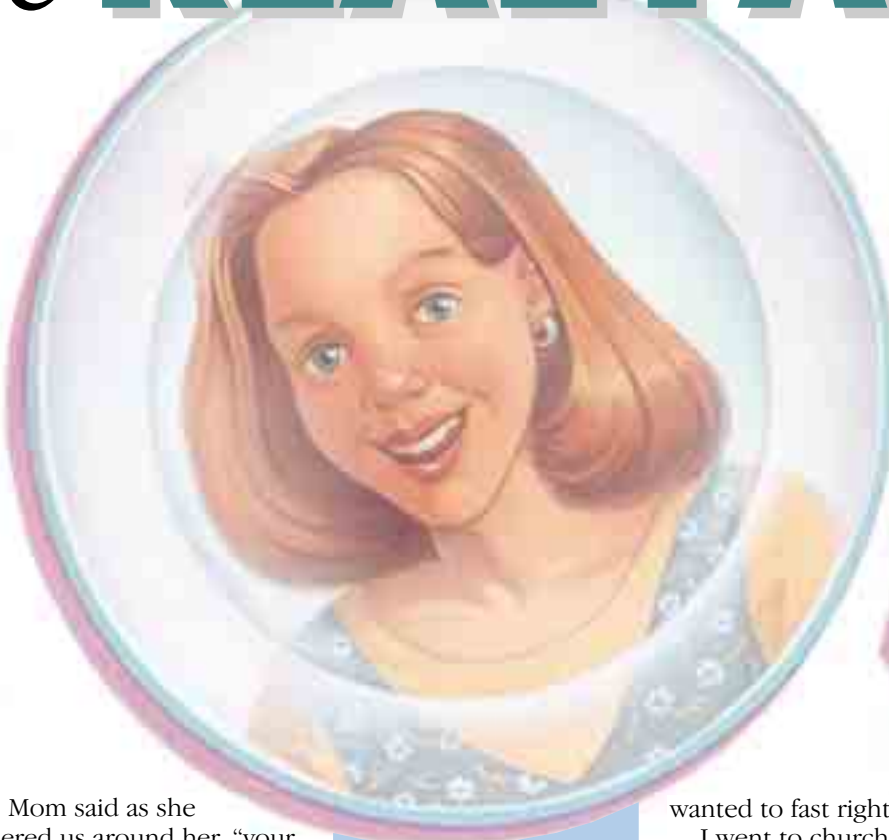
As I walked into my classroom, my teacher was pulling a television into the center of the room. I quickly took a seat on a cold, folding chair near the back. I had obviously missed the introduction to the video we were about to watch. However, once the movie started to play, I

The answer, when it came, was real and convincing. It just didn't come when I expected it. Part of doing the right things to gain a testimony is being in the right places.

recognized it quickly. It was "The First Vision," produced by the Church. I had seen it a number of times and thought I understood all there was to learn from it. But as I watched Joseph's experience in the grove, something incredible happened to me. A powerful, peaceful feeling rested on me and I knew it was the Holy Ghost. The Spirit began to testify that what I was seeing really happened. I knew that Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus.

I was surprised. I was not expecting my answer to come that morning. I thought it would come while I was praying. The Spirit spoke to me, and I knew this was the answer I had been asking for. I'm very grateful for the way Heavenly Father answered my prayer. I now have a strong testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I know if I exercise faith by reading the scriptures and praying, I can receive personal revelation through the Holy Ghost. **NE**

The REAL FAST



Kids,” Mom said as she gathered us around her, “your uncle has to have surgery. He has a tumor. Would you be willing to fast for him?” she asked, her eyes wet with tears.

“Sure, Mom, we’ll fast for him,” I said in unison with my brothers and sisters.

Dad continued, “This surgery is very risky because the tumor is near his brain. We are going to have a family fast on Sunday, the day before his surgery. Do you think you can help?” he added while we all nodded.

I really wanted to do this for my uncle, but I was a bit nervous. It had always been hard for me to fast. I would usually just give up because I was so hungry. I decided this was my chance to do it right.

Sunday came, and I started my fast with a prayer. I asked Heavenly Father to let my uncle get through the surgery. I asked Him to bless the doctors that they would know what was best. I also asked Him to help me through the fast. I really wanted my uncle to be all right, and I

Fasting had always been difficult for me. In fact, I usually gave in to hunger. This time I was determined to do it right.

wanted to fast right for once.

I went to church thinking about my uncle and hoping the operation would work. I was glad to get home from church. I decided to read the *New Era* to try and keep the day holy. And before I knew it, it was time to end the fast. I ended it with a prayer.

I noticed that this fast felt different from all the other times I had tried to fast. When I didn’t think about myself, or crave food, the fast went smoothly and felt meaningful.

The next day my uncle had surgery. Again I asked Heavenly Father to bless him. The surgery was successful, and my uncle was fine.

I felt great. I knew my fast had helped him. I thanked Heavenly Father and was filled with joy and love.

Not only did my uncle make it through his surgery, but I had a great feeling. I would no longer think fasting was just going without food. I would always remember the power that helped my uncle and taught me the value of fasting and prayer. **NE**

by Esther Hansen

Bind on Thy SANDALS

Do you feel like you are sitting on the sidelines? Be prepared. There are opportunities ahead. You don't want to miss them.

Some years ago I read an article that told of the less-than-spectacular career of a quarterback on the football team of a small rural high school. This young man managed to make the team, but it was clear he was not going to be all-state or all-American. Indeed, it didn't look like he was going to be all-anything, except perhaps all battered and bruised. He was the fourth of the four quarterbacks.

By season's end he had never been called into a game and had given up hope. During the final game of the year he pulled off his shoes, wrapped himself in a blanket, and settled on the bench to watch his buddies play.

Midway through the game he heard the coach shout his name. He was startled and wondered if he had been mistaken. Then it came again, right from the coach's lips, "Hey, you! Get in there and move the ball!"

What should he do? His first impulse was to lapse into a coma. His second was to pretend he didn't hear. His third was to say, "Wait, coach. Wait while I put on my shoes." He did the only manly thing.



by President
Howard W. Hunter
(1907-1995)

The fourth-string quarterback pulled off his shoes and settled back on the bench to watch his buddies play. Midway through the game the coach shouted his name. Shoeless, he ran into the game and into disaster.

Strapping on his helmet as he ran, he made straight for the huddle; his white-stockinged feet were conspicuous to the players on both teams, as well as to the spectators and the coach, who also must have been ready to lapse into a coma.

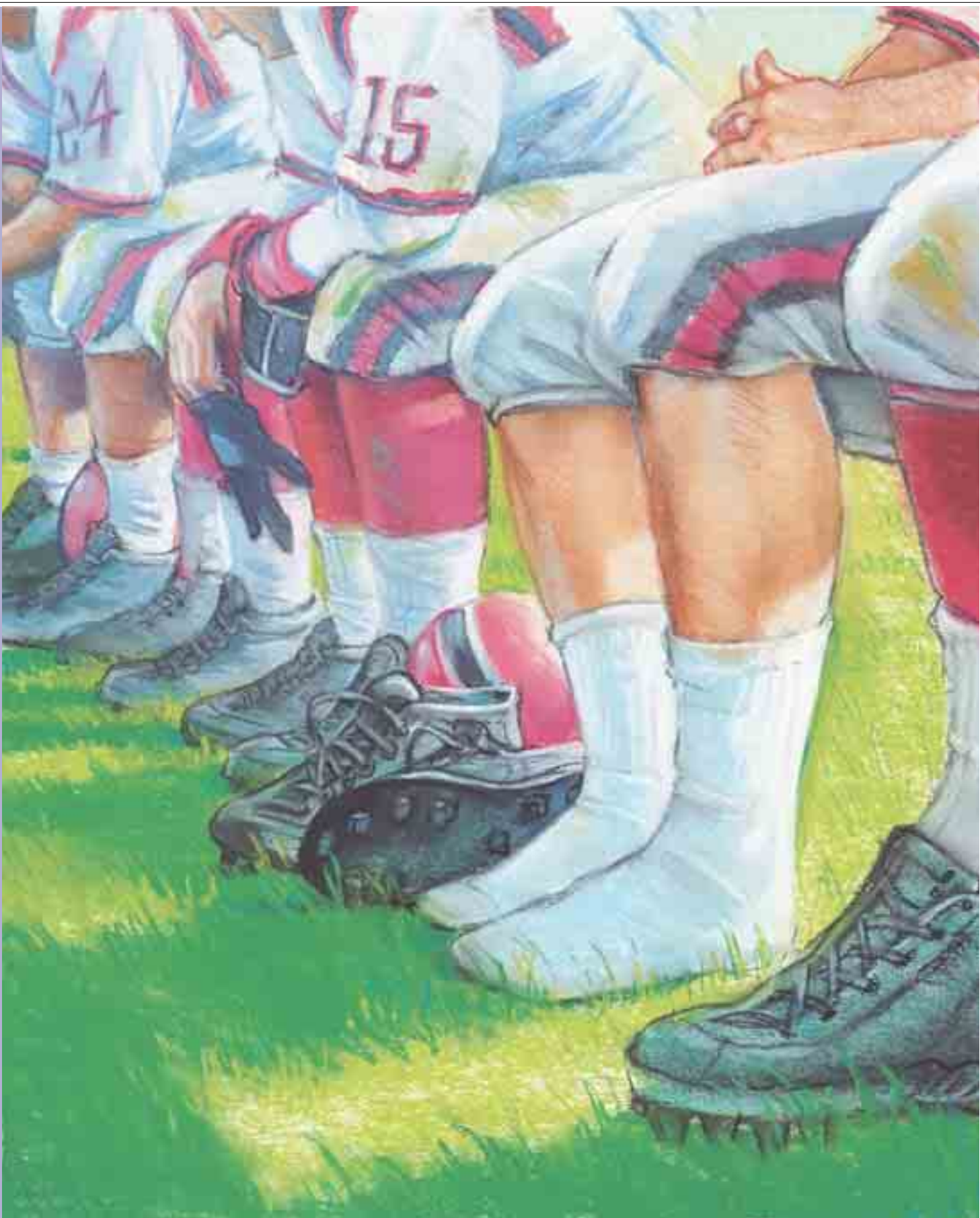
He called the play, but the shock of his first game was obviously a little disconcerting. By the time he took the snap from center he had forgotten the play he had called. His teammates moved to the right, but he gamely went left. There, alone against the world, he met the opposition head-on and was swallowed up in the snarl of the onrushing linemen.

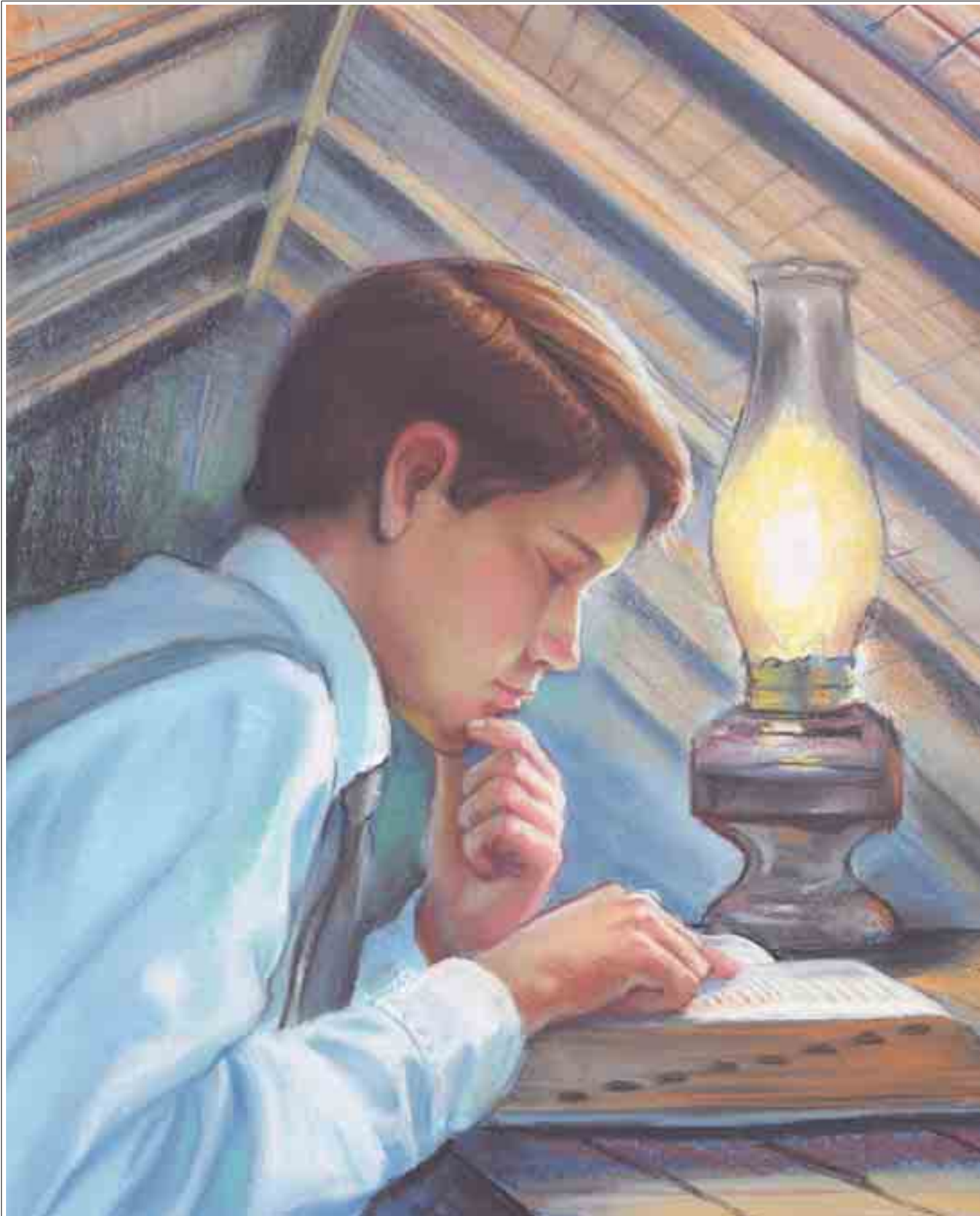
He said later, "No one expected me to make a touchdown. Even running the wrong way was understandable. But there was no excuse for a quarterback without shoes" (*Improvement Era*, Sept. 1969, 44).

Be prepared

I want to invite the young men to keep their gospel shoes on, to believe in the opportunities that lie ahead. I am reminded of what Abraham Lincoln said when he sat on the sidelines for a long time, losing election after election and struggling to make a professional contribution. He said simply, "I will prepare, and perhaps my chance will come." He lived long enough to learn what everyone learns—that chance always favors the prepared life.

As surely as I know anything, I know you young men are needed and will be





called on to help the kingdom in the years ahead. Indeed, we call upon you now. We need your company and your friendship and your service and your standards. Some of your assignments may seem small to you, but they are very important and they prepare you for greater service to come.

Oliver Cowdery was one who, for just a moment, slipped his shoes off while the game was still going, and it led to one of the great disappointments in Church history. He had been serving as scribe for the Prophet Joseph Smith as the Book of Mormon was being translated, and the Lord told him that he, too, would be granted the gift of translation (see D&C 6:25).

Oliver was not as ready as he might have been—or as he once had been. His belief in himself and in this great latter-day work had faltered just a bit, and he cried out, “Wait while I get ready.” But he learned that eternal work can seldom wait for long. The Lord eventually replied to him, “Because . . . you did not continue as you commenced, . . . I have taken away this privilege. . . . You feared, and the time is past, and it is not expedient now” (D&C 9:5, 11). The opportunity of a lifetime had not been seized, and it was gone forever.

President Kimball

Certainly President Spencer W. Kimball was not ambitious to be President of the Church, but when the call came, unexpected as it may have been, he was ready. He never slipped off his shoes while the game was still on—not ever.

Let me cite just one example of that preparation which started many years ago, when President Kimball was the age of many of you. When he was 14 years old, a Church leader visited a conference of the stake over which his father presided and told the congregation that they should read the scriptures.

President Kimball, in recalling that experience, said: “I recognized that I had never read the Bible, [so] that very night at the conclusion of that very sermon I



President Kimball was an example of one who never took his shoes off while the game was on. As a 14-year-old, when challenged to read the Old Testament, he rose to the occasion and read it all. Though he never dreamed of becoming President of the Church, he prepared himself in this and a thousand other ways.

walked to my home a block away and climbed up in my little attic room in the top of the house and lighted a little coal-oil lamp that was on the little table, and I read the first chapters of Genesis. A year later I closed the Bible, having read every chapter in that big and glorious book. . . . It was formidable, but I knew if others did it that I could do it.

“I found,” said President Kimball, “that there were certain parts that were hard for a 14-year-old boy to understand. There were some pages that were not especially interesting to me, but when I had read the 66 books and the 1,189 chapters and 1,519 pages, I had a glowing satisfaction that I had made a goal and that I had achieved it.

“Now I am not telling you this story to boast,” President Kimball concluded, “I am merely using this as an example to say that if I could do it by coal-oil light, you can do it by electric light. I have always been glad I read the Bible from cover to cover” (*Ensign*, May 1974, 88). In this and a thousand other ways, young Spencer Woolley Kimball silently and efficiently prepared, never dreaming of what lay ahead.

Be ready

I say once more to the youth of the Church—prepare, believe, be ready, have faith. Do not say or do or be that which would limit your service or render you ineffective in the kingdom of God. Be ready when your call comes, for surely it will come. Keep your gospel shoes on, or as Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “Stand therefore, having . . . your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:14–15). The Lord would say to you tonight what the angel said long ago to Simon Peter: “Arise. . . . Bind on thy sandals. . . . Follow me” (Acts 12:7–8).

What a glorious thing it is to have the privilege of bearing the priesthood. God does live and Jesus Christ is His Son—our Lord and Savior. **NE**

Adapted from an April 1978 general conference address.

Q & A

*“I’m about to receive my patriarchal blessing.
I’m a little nervous.
What are good ways to prepare for it?”*

NEW ERA

Receiving a patriarchal blessing is a wonderful opportunity. Preparing to receive it is a serious responsibility.

The personal revelation you receive from a patriarchal blessing shows how much love Heavenly Father has for you. He wants you to be happy and live with Him again. Receiving this blessing is a chance for you to hear what Heavenly Father expects of you and some of the blessings you can receive if you live righteously. President Thomas S. Monson said, “A patriarchal blessing literally contains chapters from your book of eternal possibilities” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 66).

The experience of receiving a patriarchal blessing will be even more meaningful if you are prepared. Here are some suggestions to help you get ready.

Study. The more you understand what a patriarchal blessing is and why you receive one, the more you will be able to appreciate its significance. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask your parents or bishop.

Keep the commandments. Living righteously will allow you to feel the

Study. The more you understand what a patriarchal blessing is and why you receive one, the more you will appreciate its significance.

Talk to your bishop. If he feels you are prepared, he will give you a recommend to receive your blessing.

Fast and pray to be spiritually prepared to receive your patriarchal blessing.

Read and ponder your blessing often.

Keep your blessing sacred by sharing it only with close family members.

READERS

If you pray and have the Spirit with you to comfort and help you, you cannot go wrong. It is a sacred experience that is meant for you and you alone. Do what you feel is right, and let the Spirit guide you.
Colby Park, 17
Salt Lake City, Utah



I think a good way to prepare for your patriarchal blessing is to be in tune with the Spirit. Also, speak to Heavenly Father on a daily basis. Let Him know your concerns, hopes, and plans for the future. Get to know Him by studying His teachings. By doing these things, you’ll become anxious to find out what His plans for you are because you’ll see how much He loves you.
Josy Petit, 15
Woodside, New York





Spirit. It is through the Spirit that you will understand your blessing. And, like any blessing, the fulfillment of promises made to you in your patriarchal blessing will depend on your faithfulness.

Talk to your bishop. Your bishop or branch president will interview you to determine your worthiness. If he feels you are prepared, he will give you a recommend to receive your blessing. It is your responsibility to make an appointment with the patriarch.

Fast and pray. Fasting and prayer are good ways to make sure you are spiritually prepared to receive your blessing. If you feel nervous about receiving your blessing, pray for the comfort of the Holy Ghost. As well as praying for your own preparedness, it is also appropriate to pray for the patriarch, that he will receive the inspiration he needs.

Learn humility. The blessings and promises you receive in your patriarchal blessing will only be possible if you are willing to live worthy of those blessings. Prepare yourself to do whatever the Lord asks of you in your blessing.

Keep your blessing sacred. Remember that your patriarchal blessing is your personal scripture. You may wish to invite your parents to be present when you receive your blessing. If you choose to share it with others, only do so with close family members.

Study your blessing. Your blessing will be recorded and you will receive a printed copy. You should study it often. "It is a sacred guideline of counsel, promises, and information from the Lord; however, a person should not expect the blessing to detail all that will happen to him or her or to answer all questions," said President James E. Faust. "The fact that one's patriarchal blessing may not mention an important event in life, such as a mission or marriage, does not mean that it will not happen" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 63). **NE**

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

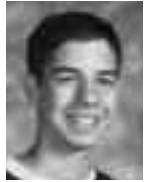


A patriarchal blessing is the inspired and prophetic statement of your life's mission together with blessings, cautions, and admonitions as the patriarch may be prompted to give. . . . Receive your patriarchal blessing under the influence of fasting and prayer, and then read it regularly that you may know God's will for you" (*Ensign*, May 1986, 44–45).

—President
Ezra Taft Benson
(1899–1994)

I know I was very nervous when I was going to receive my patriarchal blessing. I talked to my bishop and asked him about the things I should do to prepare. He told me to fast and pray for the Spirit to be with me. A patriarchal blessing is truly from God, and I encourage everyone to get theirs when they are ready.

Scott Ostermiller, 16
Fruit Heights, Utah



To prepare for it, I would ask some of the members of your family, some friends, and your bishop to help you gain knowledge about what a patriarchal blessing really is. After you receive it, go over it on a regular basis. It will really help you to preserve and strengthen your testimony.

Shawn Goodman, 15
Dillon, Montana



In my Young Women class, they told us that before your patriarchal blessing you should talk to your parents about how they prepared for their patriarchal blessings. They also told us to fast and pray that the patriarch will be inspired.

Jessie Caldwell, 13
Kennesaw, Georgia

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send us your answer to the question below, along with your name, age, and where you are from. Please include a snapshot of yourself that is 1 1/2 by 2 inches (4 by 5 cm) or larger.

Q&A, New Era
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

QUESTION

Why should I pay tithing on the money I'm earning now since I'm planning on using my earnings to pay for my mission? Won't all that money go for the same purpose anyway?

Please respond by July 1, 2002.

SET YOUR SIGHTS

WITH AN EYE SINGLE TO HIS GLORY,
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR TEMPLE BLESSINGS.
(SEE D&C 88:67–68.)

THE NAUVOO TEMPLE: CORNERSTONES OF FAITH

For a century and a half, the Nauvoo Temple was just a beautiful and sad story in Church history. Now, as the walls of the rebuilt temple (right) rise up to gleam in the sunlight again, Latter-day Saint teens living in Nauvoo talk about their feelings and experiences as the temple dedication nears.

by Ann Whiting Orton

Andy Mair has heard many of the stories about sacrifices made in building the first Nauvoo Temple. He knows about the men and boys who cut stone by hand, hauled heavy loads with just horses and mules, went without good food and clothing, and spent every minute they could building a beautiful House of the Lord.

Andy has plenty to eat and wear and because he's only 14 he's not really allowed to work on the temple site. But Andy has made sacrifices. He willingly left his friends and home to come with his family to Nauvoo where his father would oversee the reconstruction of the Nauvoo Temple. "I am not sorry that I came," says Andy. "I have been able to learn a lot more about the history of the Church and Joseph Smith. I can say that I have walked and lived where the Prophet Joseph and the early leaders of the Church did. As I see the temple workers, I notice that they all have shoes and shirts. They also have modern equipment like cranes, lifts, cement trucks, dump trucks, tractors, and power tools. I try to imagine how people in the 1840s built such a huge building without these things."

Also, during the construction of the temple, Andy has seen what kind of man his dad is. "It means a lot to me to have my dad be able to oversee the construction of this temple, because I know I am one of a few young men who is able to participate so closely in such an historic event. My dad is a great example to me of hard work and dedication."

Andy and his new friends in Nauvoo keep track of the reconstruction. One friend, Tally Smith, says, "It's special to drive by and notice more stone going up or another window in place."



Amanda Smith also has loved watching the temple go up. "It's amazing to have a temple right up the road—a temple that's really a part of your life because you've watched it and seen the changes."

Laying the cornerstones

One unique event that took place at the start of the construction was the laying of all four cornerstones. For most temples built today the cornerstone laying is completed as the building is dedicated, but in rebuilding the Nauvoo Temple, the sequence of events from the nineteenth century was duplicated as much as possible.

On April 6, 1841, the members of the Church in Nauvoo gathered at the temple site for the laying of all four cornerstones. Under the Prophet Joseph's instructions, each cornerstone was moved into place under the direction of the presidents of the various quorums of the priesthood. In those days, the Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidents were all grown men.

But on November 5, 2000, the quorum presidents of the Aaronic Priesthood—representing the deacons and teachers—



A TEMPLE-BUILDING PEOPLE

“**E**ach temple that stands today is a vindication of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and a triumph for them and all of our people who suffered the destruction, the beatings, and the murders at the hands of the cruel tyrants in the mobs who drove our people west” (*Ensign*, August 2001, 2).

—President
James E. Faust



Andy Mair came with his family to Nauvoo to help rebuild the temple.



Watching the new temple take shape became a part of Amanda Smith's daily routine.



LIVING IN NAUVOO

“I have lived in Nauvoo all my life. I remember as a little boy visiting the temple site and helping my dad plant the flowers and water them to make the grounds beautiful. We used to play on the slopes where the temple once stood. My dad would tell us how sacred the grounds were because of the sacrifices the Saints made for the temple to be built, and then they had to leave before they could fully use it for a long period. I am excited to see the temple here. I feel like the people who lived here with Joseph Smith are watching us and hoping we appreciate it and don't take it for granted.”
—Nathan Nelson, 17



Remembering how it felt to be part of the special cornerstone-laying ceremony, Hans Smith, Jared Brown, and Bishop Merlin Reittinger (left to right) of the Nauvoo Illinois First Ward get a glimpse of how the Saints may have felt at the original cornerstone ceremony.

were Jared Brown, 13, and Hans Smith, 15, both from the Nauvoo Illinois First Ward. They were surprised and honored to be asked to participate in the cornerstone laying.

“I had always thought it would be cool if the Nauvoo Temple were rebuilt,” says Hans. “Now it is happening, and I am going to be here to see it.”

“One evening, my stake president, Durell Nelson, came over to my house and told me there was going to be a special cornerstone ceremony. He asked me if I would be interested in being part of this historic event since I was the teachers quorum president of the Nauvoo Ward, and the original teachers quorum president had helped at the original cornerstone ceremony. Wow!”

On the day of the ceremony, Hans was right there with President Gordon B. Hinckley and Bishop H. David Burton, the Presiding Bishop of the Church. Hans says, “I was humbled to represent teachers all over the world at this event. Because I have cerebral palsy, I needed help to scoop in the mortar and was grateful to have Bishop Burton help me. I was grateful that those in charge didn’t let my handicap stand in the way of my participating in this great event.”

As deacons quorum president, Jared also participated. “I felt really blessed because there are so many other young men who would have loved this opportunity. It was probably the best experience of my life. I got to meet the prophet. I also got to keep the trowel I used. It’s something I can always remember and someday tell my children.”

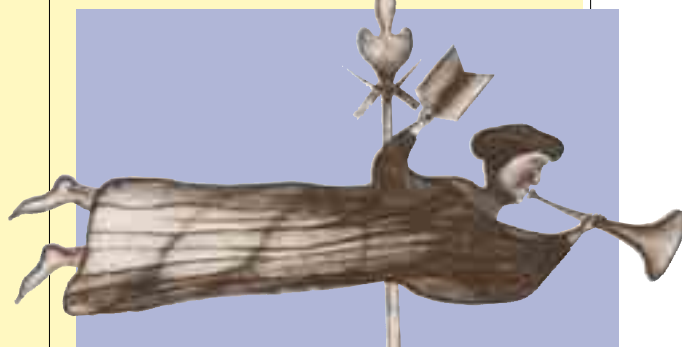
A busy time in Nauvoo

A tree-lined road still follows the curves of the Mississippi River as it winds to the small town of Nauvoo. With a little more than a thousand residents, Nauvoo is so small and quiet that it often gets left off road maps. But with the temple construction, more attention is focused on Nauvoo, and the temple’s construction workers and their families have increased the number of Church members.

Lisa and Joanne Church are new Nauvoo residents. Their father is the temple engineer. They have a strong connection to both this temple and the one built last century. “My great-great

grandpa Hayden Wells Church left his home in Tennessee and came to Nauvoo,” says Lisa, 17. “He heard the missionaries sing and was so impressed.”

“He came here and was baptized by the Prophet Joseph,” adds Joanne, 14. “It was hard for him to leave his home



THE ANGEL MORONI

The original Nauvoo Temple was the first temple to have the Angel Moroni on top of the spire.

However, the angel on the first Nauvoo Temple was horizontal instead of standing upright as on modern temples. The original angel holds an open Book of Mormon, representing the restored gospel and in the other a trumpet is pressed to his lips. It was an illustration of what John wrote in Revelation 14:6, “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” He is dressed in robes that reach to his feet, and on his head he wears a round cap like those worn by the priests in ancient Israel in the temple (see Ex. 28:40).

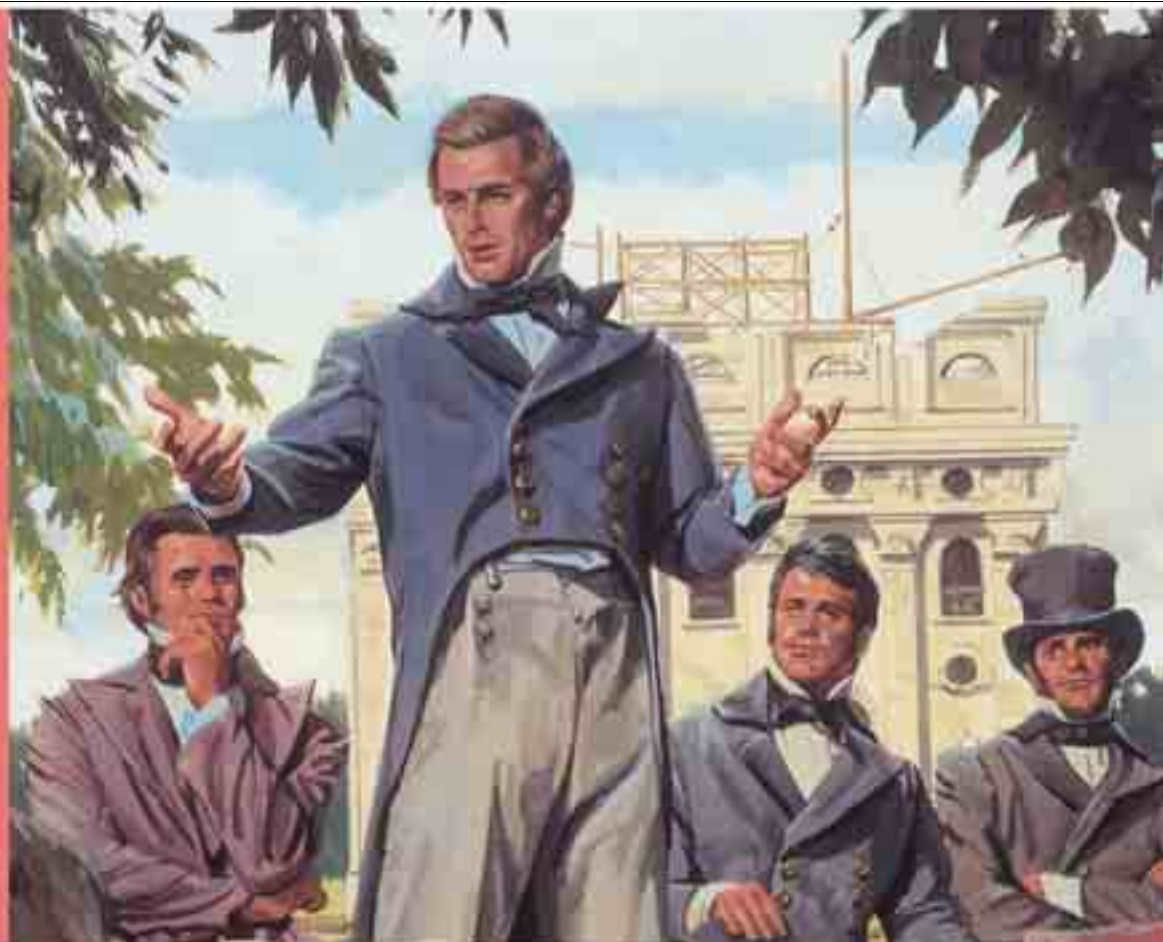
After the mobs took possession of the temple, as the Saints were being forced out of Nauvoo, the story is told that a bolt of lightning struck the shaft that held the figure of the angel atop the belfry (see *The Nauvoo Temple*, 139).

behind and come to Nauvoo. He’s such an example to me. His testimony made me want to come here and see the things he saw and share the feelings he felt.”

Ashlie Wilson also gets to share the feeling of one of her ancestors working on the temple, only this ancestor, her grandfather Charles Allen, is alive and well and working on the windows of the



Tanisha Lambert, Joanne Church, and Lisa Church (left to right) are pleased to watch the temple take shape like the original did in the days of the Prophet Joseph.

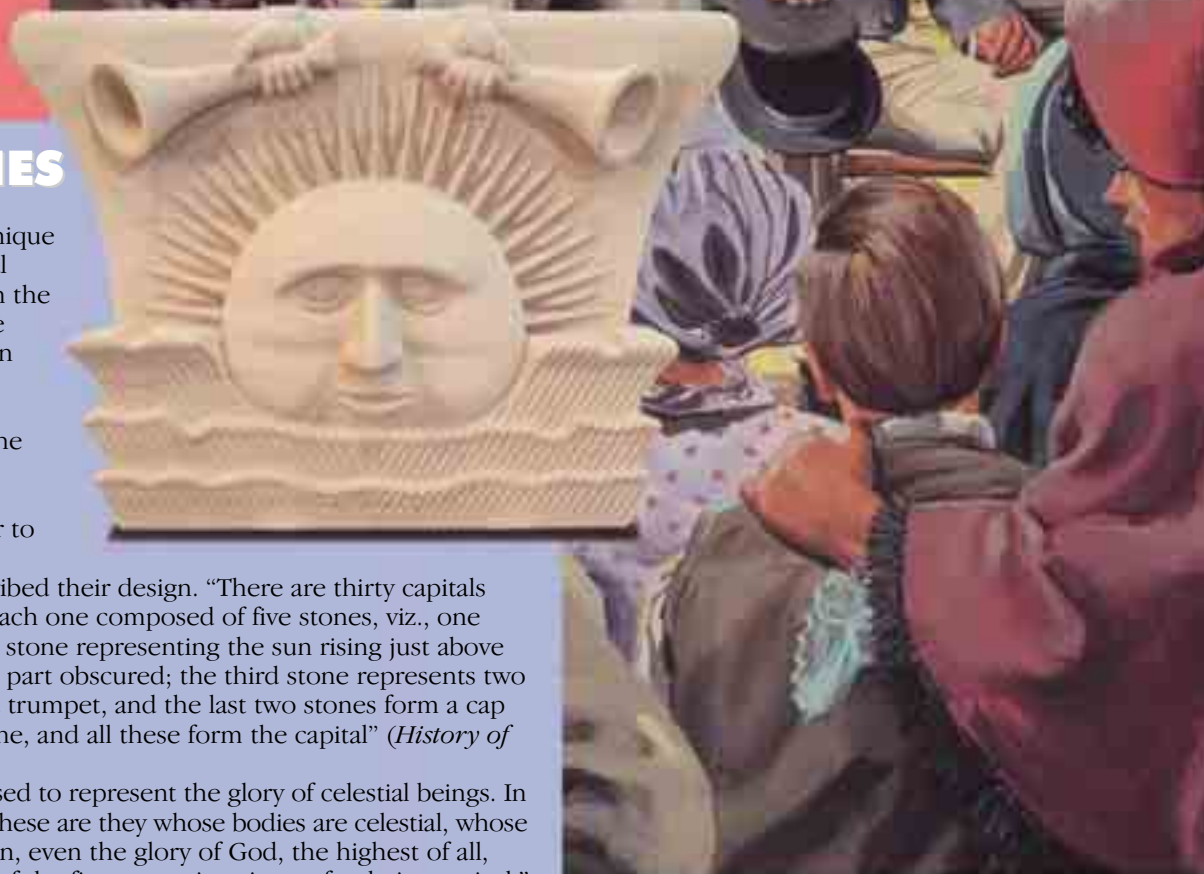


SUNSTONES

One of the unique architectural elements on the Nauvoo Temple is the sunstones. They sit on top of the 30 pillars surrounding the building. Originally, the sunstones were each made of five stones, carefully put together to create the whole.

Brigham Young described their design. “There are thirty capitals around the temple, each one composed of five stones, viz., one base stone, one large stone representing the sun rising just above the clouds, the lower part obscured; the third stone represents two hands each holding a trumpet, and the last two stones form a cap over the trumpet stone, and all these form the capital” (*History of the Church*, 7:323).

The sun is often used to represent the glory of celestial beings. In D&C 76:70, it says, “These are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all, whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical.”



NAUVOO TEMPLE: THEN AND NOW

	Original Nauvoo Temple	New Nauvoo Temple
Groundbreaking:	Fall 1840	October 24, 1999
Cornerstones laid:	April 6, 1841	November 5, 2000
Under construction:	Five years	More than two years
Dedicated:	April 30, 1846 and May 1, 1846 (private dedication April 30) (public dedication May 1)	June 27, 2002
Dedicated by:	Joseph Young Wilford Woodruff Orson Hyde	Gordon B. Hinckley Thomas S. Monson James E. Faust
How many attended:	About 25 because of the danger from mobs	Thousands will watch as the dedication is broadcast to nations throughout the world.
Dimensions:	*130 feet long *90 feet wide *based on archaeology about 165 feet high	130 feet long 90 feet wide 162 1/2 feet high
Made of:	solid limestone	limestone-clad reinforced concrete

temple, including the unique red and blue star windows similar to those in the original temple. Ashlie was there when her grandfather was notified that he would be creating the windows. “I stood there when he told my grandma that he had the window contract. He said he felt so honored, yet humbled, at the job. Then he started to cry. I’d never seen my grandpa cry before.”

Tanisha Lambert, 15, has lived in Nauvoo all her life. She is so grateful to have the temple constructed again. “Having the temple rebuilt recognizes the role of the Prophet Joseph Smith in the restoration of temple ordinances. It’s really important to go to the temple.”

Strong enough to leave

In the 1840s, construction on the temple continued even after the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum in 1844. Despite being driven from their homes and harassed by mobs, the Saints worked to complete the temple. “Those Saints were

amazingly strong and faithful—faithful enough to build a temple they knew they’d have to leave,” says James Porter, who is moving from Nauvoo before the temple is complete. “They built that temple like they thought they’d be able to use it for the rest of their lives.”

A day of dedication

Three years ago, President Hinckley announced in general conference that the Nauvoo Temple would be rebuilt. Dallin Hitchcock, 13, remembers the day of that announcement while in the chapel in Nauvoo watching the conference broadcast. “Everyone started cheering. Some people stood to cheer; others were crying. People were so excited.”

Now another great day is coming. The dedication will take place on June 27, an anniversary of the day that Joseph and Hyrum were martyred. For those who live in Nauvoo, it’s a dream come true. The empty hillside where the temple once stood is filled again with a beautiful building Joseph saw in vision. **NE**



Knowing her grandfather built some of the windows helps Ashlie Wilson appreciate the craftsmanship that’s gone into the temple.



The Aaronic Priesthood is well represented by Hans Smith and Drew Downs (front) and by Isaac Day, Dallin Hitchcock, Jared Brown, and John Hasek (rear, left to right).

LOST & FOUND

Lost in an unfamiliar section of town, my call home didn't seem to be answered. So I made another call—prayer.

Every Saturday, it's my responsibility to service one of the vending routes my dad owns in the Phoenix, Arizona, area. I drive on the sparsely populated freeway, listen to '70s music, and enjoy the rare time alone. I love the long distances between the various locations of family entertainment centers and pizza restaurants. My first time making the rounds, however, proved to be more than just a way to earn some extra money and enjoy my time alone.

I had serviced all the booths without incident and felt pretty confident about my skills as a driver and my knowledge of the extensive freeway system in the valley. However, as I drove toward home, I soon found myself in unfamiliar territory and had no idea where I was. Frustrated more than worried, I picked up my dad's cellular phone, swallowed my pride, and dialed home. No answer.

Getting a little anxious and noticing that I had wandered into a rougher part

of town, I locked my doors and dialed again. No answer. I had no idea how to get home, and looking at my directions gave little help. I knew I needed my Heavenly Father and paused to pray. I thanked Him for the opportunity to earn extra money and humbly asked for His assistance to end my predicament. I closed my prayer and paused for a moment to listen. About a minute later, the phone sounded its computerized ring.

"Hello," I answered.

My dad's voice crackled through, "Raquel, how are things going? I'm out with your mom, and I felt I needed to call."

Gratefully, I explained my situation, and he told me where I was and what I needed to do to get home. We disconnected, and I said a simple prayer of thanks, with unbidden tears streaming down my cheeks.

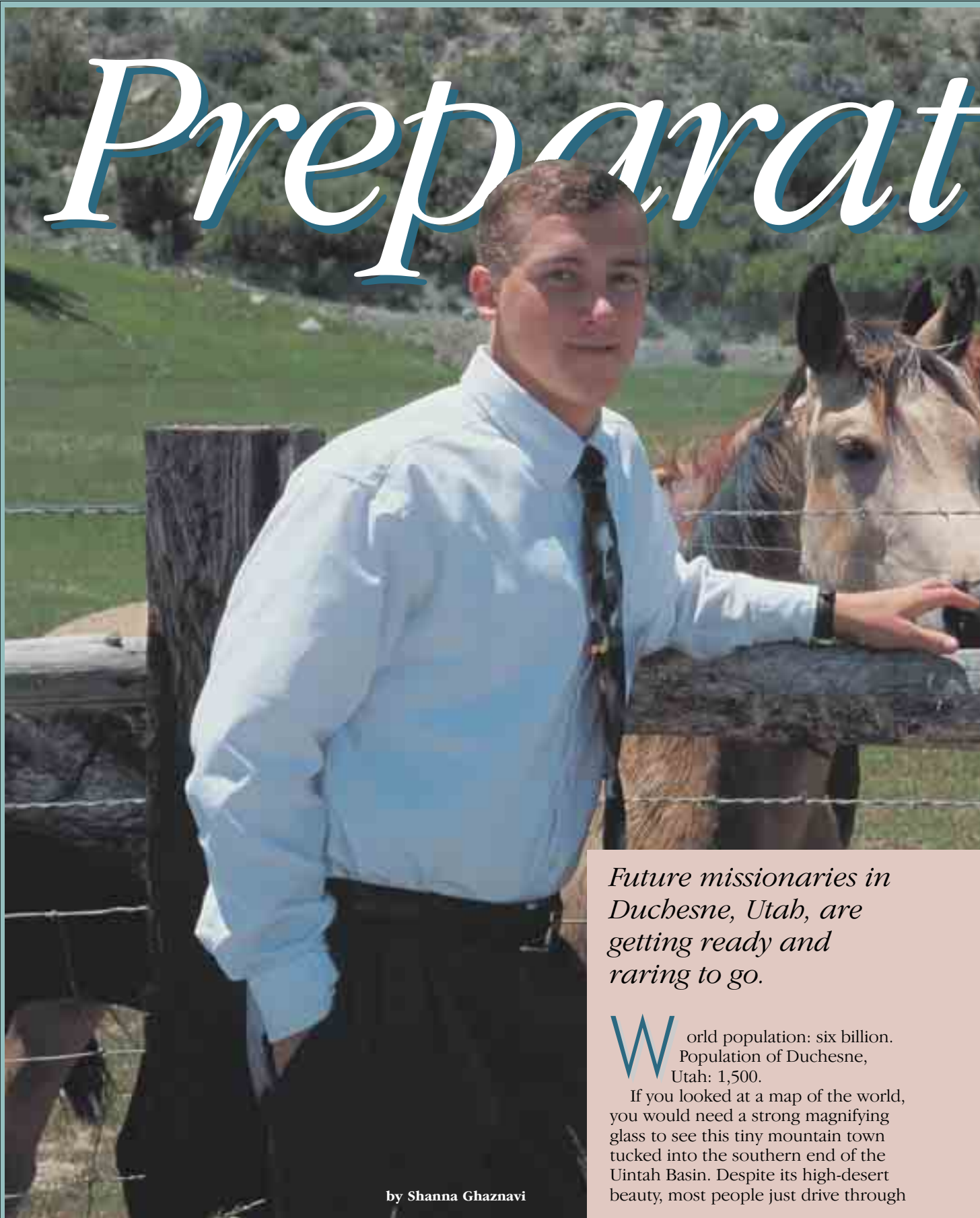
Most likely, I would have found my way home eventually. I doubt even that my situation was very dangerous, but the experience gave me firsthand knowledge that my Heavenly Father listened to my prayers. Now, when serious decisions are thrown my way or when heartfelt questions must be asked, I know He's near, giving me faith and confidence. Whether I'm lost in an unfamiliar section of town, or lost in an unfamiliar section of life, I know without a doubt He cares and listens. **NE**

I soon found myself in a part of town I didn't recognize. Frustrated more than worried, I picked up my dad's cellular phone, swallowed my pride, and dialed home. No answer.

by Raquel Wood



Preparat



Future missionaries in Duchesne, Utah, are getting ready and raring to go.

World population: six billion.
Population of Duchesne,
Utah: 1,500.

If you looked at a map of the world, you would need a strong magnifying glass to see this tiny mountain town tucked into the southern end of the Uintah Basin. Despite its high-desert beauty, most people just drive through

by Shanna Ghaznavi

ion Days

Duchesne on their way to somewhere else.

But this small Utah town is important—so important it could change the world. And if those people driving through stopped for a while and really looked, they would see what's so special about what they thought was just a dot on their map.

Stopping to look

The young men, 16 and older, in the Duchesne Utah Stake have had a tantalizing taste of what it feels like to be a missionary. They held a stake missionary conference, planned by their leaders and two youth cochairs, that attempted to



At a missionary training conference, the priests of the Duchesne Utah Stake received valuable preparation for their missions. Each future missionary had a name tag, a companion, and a real missionary experience.



include some aspects of a two-year mission experience into two days. Of course, the young men only got a sampling of what it will really be like to be on a mission, but the experience is one they won't soon forget.

Nearly 50 would-be missionaries arrived on a Friday afternoon at the Duchesne missionary training center—a.k.a. the Duchesne stake center—in their suits, toting their luggage, with their parents in tow. After a short devotional the young men went through one door into the cultural hall and their parents exited another to head back home (a la MTC fashion).

In the cultural hall, the young men were greeted with dinner, missionary packets, and an assigned companion. Outfitted with name tags that read "Brother _____," the companionship headed to their first training classes. The classes covered a whole range of topics from learning the first missionary discussion and mission rules, to how to sort laundry and pack a suitcase.

Deciding to go

Going to the conference was easier for some than for others. "I thought I had better things to do," said Jeff Foster of the First ward. But he decided to go anyway. By Saturday afternoon he had changed his tune. "My parents are going to say, 'I told you so!'" Jeff says. "There are people who don't want to go on missions because they don't want to leave their stuff behind—like their jobs and their music or whatever— but it's worth it!"

"Those are all things you have to give up if you want to go on a mission," agrees Eric Peatross, who was just called to the England Leeds Mission. Eric has many scholarship offers that won't wait for him to come back in two years. He's also leaving behind a job he loves, as well as his band. He says, "It involves a lot of prayer. You really have to know the gospel is true before you can turn all of those things down." A testimony won't come all at once, Eric says. His didn't. He says his testimony, and his determination to go on a mission, came to him bit by bit as he did the things he knew he should be doing to be obedient. In other words, he prepared.

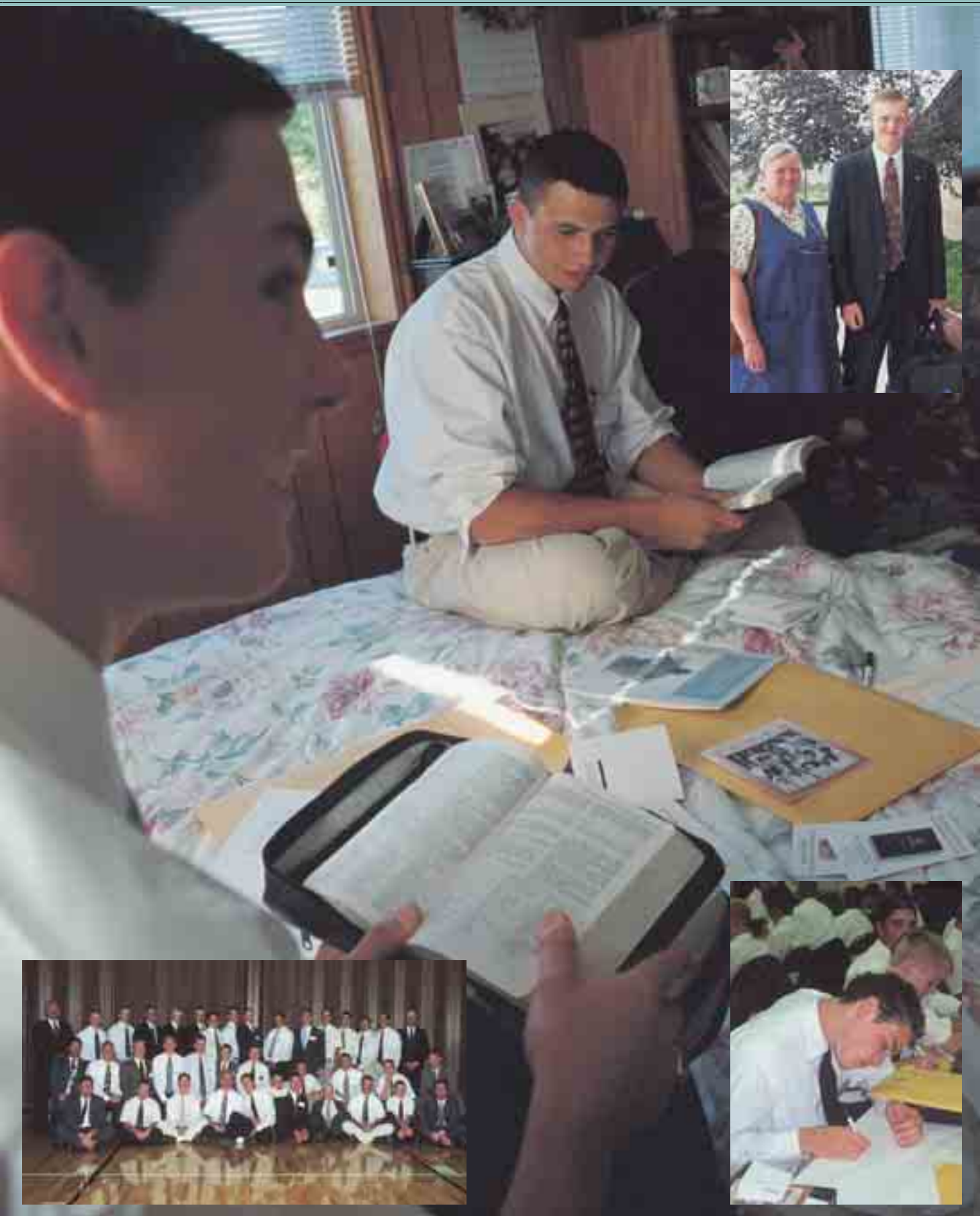
Teaching with the Spirit

The conference was added preparation for Eric. "These two days have been like spiritual boot camp," he says.

The levels of preparation at the conference varied from young man to young man. In one class, only one of eight knew how to sort laundry.

Housekeeping details aside, these young men know spiritual preparation is the most important aspect of getting ready for missionary work. Brian Bleazard says, "If I've learned anything at this conference it's that I'm not the greatest teacher. You need the Spirit. It's the Spirit that teaches."

"It all comes down to your personal worthiness," says Eric. Being worthy and obedient means you qualify for the companionship of the Spirit. All the young men were interviewed by their bishops before they went to the conference. The interview gave them a good idea of the things they need to be doing to be worthy to go to the temple and ready to go on a mission.





Besides teaching the first discussion, the young men also did what every missionary spends a fair amount of time doing: service. They spent all morning landscaping around a chapel, cleaning a section of highway, and beautifying the Duchesne River boardwalk.



Their Saturday classes were not only preparing the young men for their missions but also for their teaching appointments later in the day. The companionships were assigned to teach the first discussion to families in their stake, some of which were part-member and less-active families.

A missionary's life

"When we went to teach the first discussion I was really nervous, but it was fun," says Roy Poulsen of the Fourth ward.

Courtney Moon, who was just called to the Mississippi Jackson Mission says, "I've always known the gospel is true in my mind, but trying to explain it to someone else really opens your eyes."

"You're nervous," says Cris Hoopes, "but it is a good experience. It's hard to teach investigators. You have to rely on the Spirit."

Besides teaching the first discussion, the young men also did what every missionary spends a good deal of time doing: service. They spent all morning landscaping around a chapel, cleaning a section of highway, and beautifying the Duchesne River boardwalk. It was so hot many of the young men were tempted to jump into the river, but a quick check of their missionary handbooks told them swimming was against the rules.

They chose to obey mission rules, just as they are choosing to prepare themselves to go on full-time missions when they turn 19. They are working on their faith and obedience to the gospel. As future missionaries, they know that's a top priority. Delaney Mecham of the First ward says, "We should all go on missions to bring people to the gospel and to help ourselves. When we're on our missions our testimonies will grow even more than they have at this conference."

The importance of Duchesne

So what exactly is so important about Duchesne? For one thing, it is the future missionaries preparing to serve the Lord. Their faith and missionary service will change the world one person at a time. And the person each missionary is planning to start with is himself. **NE**



THE CHALLENGE

"I throw out a challenge to every young man. . . . Prepare yourself now to be worthy to serve the Lord as a full-time missionary. He has said, 'If ye are prepared ye shall not fear' (D&C 38:30). Prepare to consecrate two years of your lives to this sacred service. That will in effect constitute a tithe on the first twenty years of your lives. Think of all that you have that is good—life itself, health, strength, food to eat and clothing to wear, parents, brothers and sisters, and friends. All are gifts from the Lord.

"Of course your time is precious, and you may feel you cannot afford two years. But I promise you that the time you spend in the mission field, if those years are spent in dedicated service, will yield a greater return on investment than any other two years of your lives. . . .

"And above and beyond all of this will come that sweet peace in your heart that you have served your Lord faithfully and well. . . .

"And so, my dear young brethren, resolve within your hearts today to include in the program of your lives service in the harvest field of the Lord as a missionary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 52).

—President Gordon B. Hinckley



"Young men and women who serve missions are never the same. They return home with qualities and strengths that seem to come from no other experience. They know, as they never knew before, that this work is true and that it is the most important work on the face of the earth" (*Ensign*, Dec. 1986, 4).

—President Gordon B. Hinckley

LEAD THEM TO SAFETY

We were lost in thick clouds at low altitude. A wrong move would be disastrous. Then we heard a welcome voice.

Before I was a General Authority, I had an extremely frightening experience while flying from Reno, Nevada, to San Rafael, California, with a friend in his twin-engine Aztec airplane.

When we left Reno, the weather was a little cloudy, and my friend was somewhat worried about it. Because of his concern, we landed at the Lake Tahoe airport to get a second report on the weather. It did not indicate that the weather was too bad, so we continued our flight to San Rafael.

Our destination was an airport in the northern part of San Francisco Bay. As we approached the Bay area, the clouds became increasingly low and dense. We tried to stay under the clouds so we could see the water and keep our bearings. But suddenly we flew into dense clouds and could see nothing.

When you fly into such clouds, you become totally disoriented. You do not know whether you are flying straight, sideways, or upside down. You lose your sense of forward motion, and it takes a few minutes for the pilot to



by Elder
M. Russell Ballard
of the Quorum of
the Twelve

***You and I
have no
better way
to demonstrate
our love for the
Lord than to
personally lead
someone into the
safety of full
activity in the
Church.***

orient himself from visual flying to instrument flying. At 180 miles an hour, you move a long distance in that few minutes and can get into serious trouble very quickly. Unfortunately, my friend had not flown entirely on instruments for two years.

My friend struggled intensely and was near the point of panic as he tried to recall all that he had learned about instrument flying. I knew very little about instrument flying, so I could not help him. All I could do was put my hand on his shoulder and tell him to take a deep breath and get hold of himself. The only instrument that I could read was the altimeter. I said, "We are now at 500 feet. Don't make any quick moves; just think it out, and you can pull us through."

It seemed an eternity before he finally made radio contact with Hamilton Air Force Base. He said to the people there, "I am in trouble; please help me." The air traffic controllers had us on their radar screen and immediately began to help my friend regain control of the plane. They told us where we were and started to give us instructions to help guide us to safety.



When my friend heard the voice from Hamilton Tower, he regained a sense of confidence that enabled him to gain control. But he knew that the plane was completely out of control and that our chances of pulling out of this danger were marginal. We could easily go the wrong way. The foothills, buildings, towers, and bridges were not far away. At one point we dropped to only 200 feet. We must have been flying upside down at one time because the maps and other items in the visor above my head fell into my lap.

At the peak of this crisis, an instant replay of my entire life flashed through my mind. I thought of my wife, my seven children, my parents, my business partners, the 37 priests whom I was the adviser to, and many other things. I prayed fervently all through this crisis and made a commitment more deep and more sincere than ever before in my life. I began, "Heavenly Father, guide us out of this thick, dense cloud, and help my friend remember all he knows about instrument flying." And then I said, "In the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of the holy priesthood, bless my friend that he might regain control." My prayer continued. I committed to Heavenly Father that if He would help us, I would place my life in His hands. I promised Him that I would be what He wanted me to be.

Finally, we saw the lights on the runway. The white line in the center of the runway was a most welcome sight.

Make a commitment

Every member of the Church has a great work to do. Each one of us has the power to demonstrate to our Heavenly Father that we really love Him and desire to serve Him with all of our hearts.

Each of us can make a sincere and meaningful commitment to Heavenly Father right now. Please find a small piece of paper and a pencil. Now write on your piece of paper the name of one inactive member or neighbor of a different faith who lives in your ward. Will you make a commitment that you will do all in your power, with the help of



The instruments we use in saving souls are love and sharing our testimonies of the divine mission of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

the Lord, to lead that person out of darkness into the full light of the gospel? You can be to your neighbor as the voice from Hamilton Tower was to my friend and me, and you can guide him or her safely into full fellowship in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Just a few months after I made my full commitment to the Lord that I would give my life to His service if He so desired, I was presiding over the Canada Toronto Mission. During that mission, President Spencer W. Kimball called me to spend the rest of my life in the service of the Lord as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy. In 1985, I was called to be an Apostle.

No work is more important than helping bring the gospel into the lives of our brothers and sisters. You and I have no better way to demonstrate our love for the Lord than to personally lead someone into the safety of full activity in the Church.

The Lord has said in the Doctrine and Covenants, "Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God;

"For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him.

"And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance.

"And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth!

"And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!" (D&C 18:10–13, 15).

The light of the Lord is real. He will lead every soul out of the clouds of darkness and away from the fog of doubt and uncertainty with a perfect eternal signal that will guarantee safety, peace, and confidence. He said to all the world, "Come, . . . follow me" (Mark 10:21), and "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Life's flight pattern can be changed.

The instruments we use in saving souls are love and sharing our testimonies of the divine mission of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Thousands of our lost brothers and sisters, both adults and youth, can be led to a safe landing if we will keep the commitments that we have made. The power of the Holy Ghost that is within each one of us is a greater power than any radar, radio, or any other communication system. Nothing is more important to the Lord than saving souls.

God bless us to keep this commitment to bring into full fellowship one precious son or daughter of God, I pray.

Adapted from an April 1980 general conference address.

Thousands of our lost brothers and sisters can be led to safety if we will keep the commitments that we have made.





PEACE

We need a more peaceful world, growing out of more peaceful families and neighborhoods and communities. To secure and cultivate such peace, ‘we must love others, even our enemies as well as our friends’ (*History of the Church*, 5:498–99). The world needs the gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who are filled with the love of Christ do not seek to force others to do better; they inspire others to do better, indeed inspire them to the pursuit of God. We need to extend the hand of friendship. We need to be kinder, more gentle, more forgiving, and slower to anger. We need to love one another with the pure love of Christ” (*Ensign*, May 1992, 63).

—**President Howard W. Hunter (1907–1995)**



SHARING A SUIT

While he was on a mission in Hawaii in 1854, President Joseph F. Smith lost most of his belongings in a fire. The fire destroyed his house, his books and journals, his clothing, and his trunk. All the belongings in his trunk were reduced to ashes except his missionary certificate. The certificate was scorched around the edges, but otherwise untouched—even though the book it was in was completely burned.

Since their clothes were destroyed in the fire, Elder Smith and his companion had to

share a suit for a short while. One elder would wear the suit while the other waited at home for his turn to go to meetings. (Mission rules were a little different back then.)

There were many difficulties for Elder Smith on his mission—and not all of them as amusing as having to share a suit—but he said, “I am happy to say that I am ready to go through thick and thin for this cause in which I am engaged; and truly hope and pray that I may prove faithful to the end” (see *Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith*, 76–77).



LOUISIANA LIGHTS

One-hundred-and-fifty youth from the New Orleans and Baton Rouge stakes in Louisiana volunteered for three days at a youth program for a national spina bifida conference in New Orleans. While their parents were in classes, the children and teens with spina bifida were entertained by the Louisiana youth. They played games, read, did puppet shows, danced, and just chatted. Spending one-on-one time with the children and teenagers was challenging for the LDS youth at first, but by the end of their youth conference the youth realized that although they were setting a good example by serving, those they served were the real shining examples.



TEST YOUR LDS I.Q.

- 1 What is another name for the Aaronic Priesthood?
- 2 Who was the first person baptized by the authority of the Aaronic Priesthood in this dispensation?
 - a) Joseph Smith Jr.
 - b) Joseph Smith Sr.
 - c) Oliver Cowdery
 - d) David Whitmer
- 3 How many offices of the priesthood are there?
 - a) 3
 - b) 4
 - c) 6
 - d) 10
- 4 When President Brigham Young sketched the Salt Lake Temple for the temple architects, he told them there would be three towers on the east and three towers on the west, with the center towers being higher than those on the sides. What did he say the six towers would represent?
 - a) The offices of the priesthood
 - b) The First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric
 - c) The dispensations of the gospel



GOAL KEEPING

The Utah Valley Ranger soccer team is succeeding at something that's difficult to do in the sports world. The Rangers are a top team, but they don't play on Sundays. The team is made up of 17 deacons, only two of whom are from the same ward. The players train hard and arrange friendly games with out-of-state teams. Last year, the Rangers were Utah's state champions. The boys travel for their games sometimes, but they set a goal to keep the Sabbath holy and be in church on Sundays.

“We should commence our labors of love and kindness with the family to which we belong; and then extend them to others.”

(Discourses of Brigham Young, 271.)
—President Brigham Young (1801–1877)

Answers: 1. The Levitical Priesthood (see Bible Apostles, President of the High Priesthood or Bishop, elder, high priest, patriarch, seventy, Dictionary); 2c; 3d (deacon, teacher, priest, President of the Church); 4b.



Be

TRUE



You'll gain wonderful blessings as you live true to Church teachings.

You have a tremendous inheritance," President Gordon B. Hinckley told the youth at his special fireside in November 2000 (see *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 4). He explained that whether we have pioneer ancestors or not, we all belong to a church with a history of faith and dedication—"a Church which has been made strong by the loyalty and unwavering affection of its members throughout the generations." Because of this great inheritance we each have a responsibility to be true to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This is your church

Be true was one of the six B's President Hinckley presented at the fireside. He reminded the youth that as "members of this Church [we] must have loyalty to it. This is your Church."

President Hinckley's counsel about being true impressed one young man from Arizona.

"I have always thought about this," wrote Scott Moore. "I have pondered about my past and about how loyal and true I have been to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I can remember that there have been many times when I could have spoken up and declared that I am a Latter-day Saint. After President Hinckley's talk, I thought

about my loyalty to the Church and how I could change myself to be better in this particular aspect of my life. The answer that came to my mind is that there should be no hiding myself and who I am when the opportunity arises."

Scott went on to describe a time soon after President Hinckley's talk when he was able to share his beliefs with some friends even though he was nervous they might not accept him after he did. But Scott's friends were impressed with his beliefs, and he experienced the joy that comes with being true.

In all circumstances

In some situations it may be inconvenient or uncomfortable to stand up for what we believe in. But it is still important to follow the commandments and live righteously. We must, as President Hinckley reminded the youth, "Be loyal to the Church in all circumstances."

Tiffany Roy, of the Port Charlotte Ward in Florida, had an experience in which she was true to the teachings of the Church even though it was uncomfortable.

"I had just moved to another state and started school. There was a group of girls who found out that I was Mormon and started asking me all these questions. When they found out that I would not swear, this little group of girls blocked me from going inside the classroom. They told me that they would not let me go in until I would swear. I told them that we would be sitting there all day because I would not lower my standards for them.



You know what is right and you know what is wrong. You know when you are doing the proper thing. You know when you are giving strength to the right cause."

—President Gordon B. Hinckley

by Caroline H. Benzley



This is your church," said

President Hinckley. "It belongs to you just as it belongs to me."

Many Latter-day Saint youth are realizing that one important way to be true is to be willing to share their beliefs with others.

The girls let me go inside because they knew I wouldn't do it. They avoided me the rest of the year. I did not care what they thought of me. I stood true to my faith by doing this."

A great responsibility

By standing up for what we believe in, we set examples for those around us.

"You have as great a responsibility in your sphere of action as I have in my sphere," President Hinckley said. For many of us our sphere of influence includes friends and peers. If we live the gospel teachings, we are true to our beliefs as Latter-day Saints.

"I want everyone to know that I am a member of this Church," wrote Brie Brown. "But even more I want everyone to know how much I love it. I want to be a living, walking, and talking testimony of the love that I have for my Savior and how thankful I am for all that He has blessed me with. I want to stand as a witness at all times, even if I am doing something as simple as smiling at someone who needs to be cheered up. By being true to the Church I am true to myself, and I have never been happier."

When we realize how important it is to live the gospel, other things in our life will no longer seem as important.

As Dave Martin explains, "By being faithful and being diligent in following the prophet's words, I found that my life

fell in order, and all the things that are important like church, my priesthood calling, and living the gospel eliminated the things that I don't really need in my life. By following the prophet's counsel I can learn more and strive toward establishing a place at God's right hand."

The hardest decision

Being true to the Church means following the commandments. President Hinckley reminded the Church's youth that "You know what is right and you know what is wrong. You know when you are doing the proper thing. You know when you are giving strength to the right cause."

Choosing the right is not always easy, but a comforting spirit will accompany the decision. Emily Naegle of Woods Cross, Utah, felt the peace of the Spirit when she decided to obey the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy.

"A few months ago I had to make one of the hardest decisions of my life," writes Emily. "I am an athlete, and for the past three years I have been involved in volleyball year-round. The only downside to this is that it required me to play on Sundays. I knew that playing on the Sabbath was wrong, but I wanted to be successful in volleyball too.

"When tryouts rolled around again this year I decided not to play. It was the hardest week, and I had to pray continually to reaffirm that I had made the right decision. I wanted to play so badly, but I wanted to follow the prophet even more. When I went to the fireside, I was still shaky about my decision. But when I left the Conference Center, a warm feeling of peace and comfort surrounded me, and I knew I had done the right thing."

Walk in faith before Him

By being true we can walk before our Heavenly Father in faith. As President Hinckley stated, you can "walk in faith before Him with your heads high, proud of your membership in this great cause and kingdom which He has restored to the earth in this, the last dispensation of the fullness of times." We will gain wonderful blessings as we walk in faith before the Lord, live up to our tremendous inheritance, and live true to the teachings of the Church. **NE**

T H E E X T R A S M I L E

Many years ago, my five-year-old brother wanted to know all about death. I began, "Well, Mikey, when we die, only our bodies really die." He stopped, then turned to me with a lifted eyebrow and said, "Not our heads?"

Carolyn Varga
Tempe, Arizona

"I'm sorry your laundry got ruined, but I think the important thing is your sister tried to do service for you."

"The important thing is I now have pink underwear!"

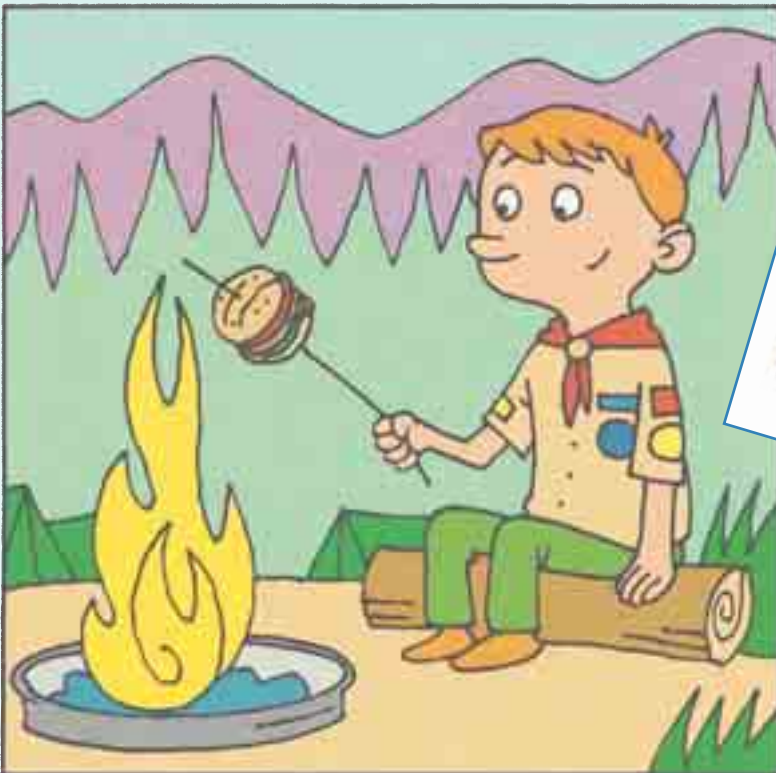


Ryan Stoker

"I think you gave us the wrong suit."



Chris Deaver



Adam Koford

YOU CAN'T PET A *Rattlesnake*



by Elder
David E. Sorensen
of the Presidency
of the Seventy

At first I was afraid. Then curious. I leaned closer to get a better look. The snake became still.

Some years ago, Sister Sorensen and I visited India. At one airport I saw some men sitting in front of wicker baskets, playing flutes. As they started to play the music, they would take the top off the basket and a cobra would appear! As the music continued, the snake would rise higher and higher, nearly reaching its full length until the cobra would collapse back into the basket. Once I noticed a cobra fall outside the basket. The man playing the flute reached over, petted the cobra, and carefully put it back into the basket. I was amazed that a man could handle such a dangerous creature, apparently without being harmed. But our guide quickly told me that this was very risky and told us that a major cause of death in this province was indeed poisonous snakebite.

My mind raced back to the days of my youth on the farm. In the summertime one of our responsibilities was to haul

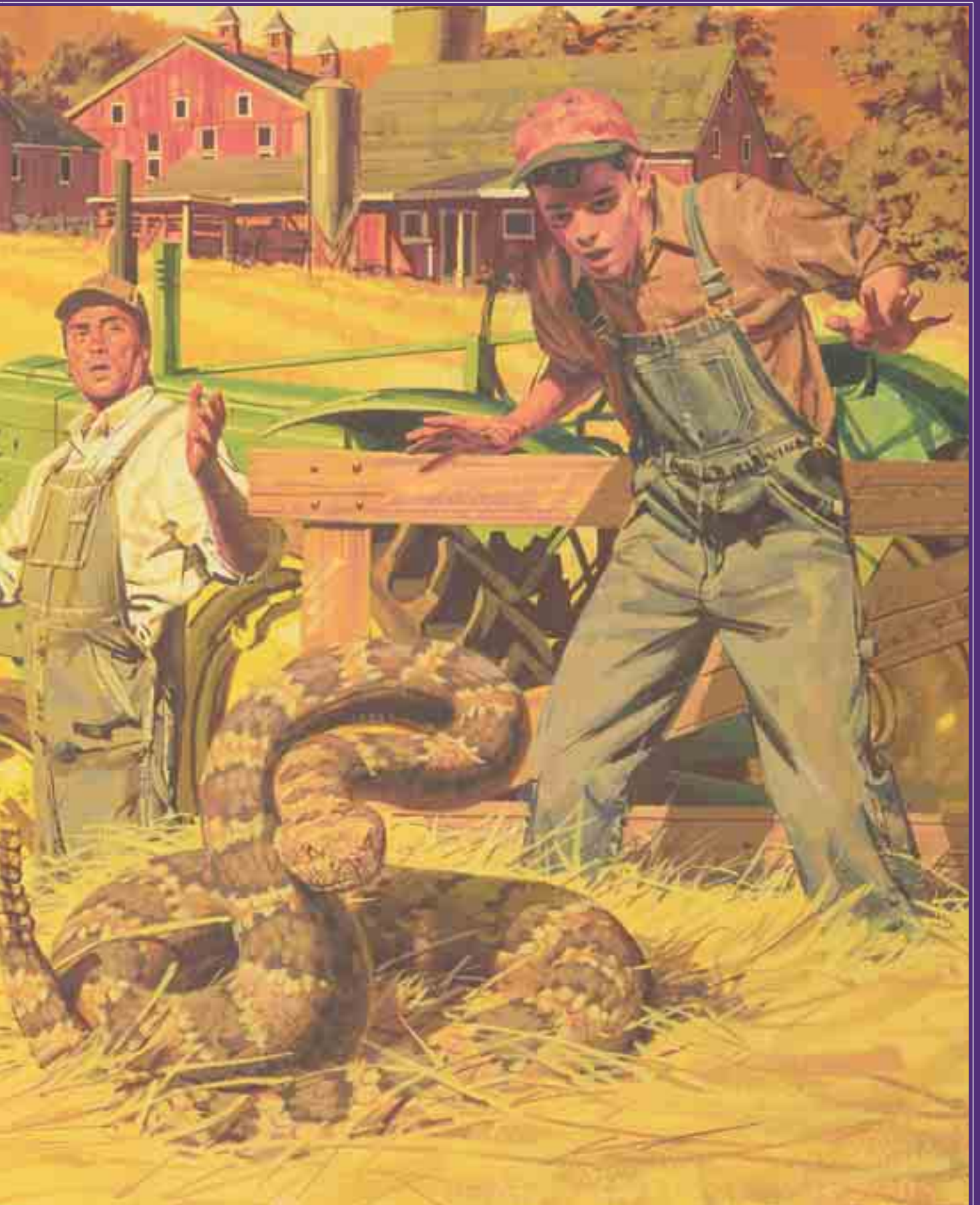
hay from the fields into the barn for winter storage. My dad would pitch the hay onto a flatbed wagon. I would then tromp down the hay to get as much as possible on the wagon. One day, in one of the loose bundles pitched onto the wagon was a rattlesnake! When I looked at it, I was concerned, excited, and afraid. The snake was lying in the nice, cool hay. The sun was glistening on its diamond back. After a few moments the snake stopped rattling, became still, and I became very curious. I started to get closer and leaned over for a better look, when suddenly I heard a call from my father: “David, my boy, you can’t pet a rattlesnake!”

Snakes in the grass

It’s dangerous to pet poisonous snakes. The ones I refer to do not have long, slithering bodies but come in many other forms.

Often the world makes these dangers look harmless—even exciting and interesting.

But
petting





Be like
Captain
Moroni.
Recognize your
places of
weakness and
strengthen them.

such snakes fills the mind with poison—poison that drives away the Holy Spirit.

Today's popular entertainment often makes what is evil and wrong look enjoyable and right. Let us remember the Lord's counsel: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil" (Isa. 5:20).

Pornography, though billed by Satan as entertainment, is a deeply poisonous, deceptive snake that lies coiled up in magazines, the Internet, and the television. Pornography destroys self-esteem and weakens self-discipline. It is far more deadly to the spirit than the rattlesnake my father warned me not to pet.

Strength in fortifications

Resisting the temptations of today's electronic media is not easy. It takes focused courage and effort. In the small town where I grew up, you would have had to drive at least an hour to find trouble. But today on the Internet, trouble is just a few mouse clicks away. To avoid such temptations, be like Captain Moroni of old; set up "fortifications" to strengthen your places of weakness. Instead of building walls of "timbers and dirt" to protect a vulnerable city, build "fortifications" in the form of personal ground rules to protect your priceless virtue (see Alma 53:4, 7).

When you're on a date, plan to be in a group and avoid being alone. I know men, young and old, who have simply determined not to turn on the TV or surf the Internet anytime when they are alone.

Remember, such "fortifications" are not a sign of weakness. On the contrary, they show strength. The scriptures tell us Captain Moroni was so strong that if all men would be like him, "the very powers of hell would [be] shaken forever" (Alma 48:17).

Remember, Moroni's "strongholds" were the key to his success (see Alma 53:4–5). Creating your own "strongholds" will be the key to yours.

Decide now

One key fortification you can build is to decide now, before you face a challenge, where to draw the line. Our prophet teaches that if we decide now not to watch inappropriate media but instead to walk away, "the challenge is behind us" (*Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 4).

Recently my granddaughter Jennifer was invited to go with some of her school friends to a dinner and a movie. The girls all agreed on the movie they were going to see, and Jennifer was comfortable attending. However, the girl who left dinner to buy the movie tickets for the group returned with tickets to a different movie than was planned. She said, "It is a great show, and it's R-rated."

Jennifer, caught by surprise, couldn't

believe the situation had changed so quickly. But fortunately she had made up her mind before she ever found herself in this position that she would not watch R-rated movies. She was able to stand firm and say to her friends, "I can't go see an R-rated movie. My parents would not approve." To which the girls replied, "Oh, come on! Your parents will never know." Confronted with this, Jennifer went on to say, "Well, actually it doesn't matter whether my parents will know. I just don't go to R-rated movies."

Her friends were upset and tried to get her to relent. They told her she was ruining everything. When she would not give in, they threw the ticket and change in her face and deserted her for the R-rated movie. It wound up being a lonely night full of rejection from her friends. But it was a great moment for Jennifer and our family. She gained confidence, self-worth, and spiritual power.

Repentance— a spiritual snakebite kit

Knowingly petting a poisonous spiritual snake is doubly dangerous. Those who do remind me of the little boy who was overheard praying, "Heavenly Father, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

Don't be like that shortsighted boy. Those who plan to sin, thinking they can repent before they receive the sacred covenants and ordinances of the temple, risk losing their spiritual health. They find it is a painful process to come back to the right path.

For those who suffer from a poisonous snakebite, there is a painful cleansing process. Often a stay in the hospital is required. My plea to you is to avoid petting that rattlesnake. It is much better not to commit the sin.

Some young men, as they advance in the priesthood, plan for a mission, or prepare to go to the temple, realize they suffer from a snakebite that has spiritually poisoned them. Sexual sins are among the most poisonous.

If you or someone you know has been

poisoned spiritually, there is a spiritual snakebite kit. It's called repentance. And like the remedy for a temporal snakebite, it is most effective if applied quickly and early. It can combat even the most venomous spiritual poisons. "For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him" (D&C 18:11). The miracle of forgiveness is real. Your repentance is honored of the Lord.

An important step in obtaining the cure for spiritual poison is to get on your knees and ask Heavenly Father to forgive you. Pray for the desire to do what is right. Pray for the courage to talk to your parents and the bishop if necessary. Regardless of your fears, they will continue to love you. You don't have to do this alone. The path of repentance, though difficult, need not be traveled alone. Parents and leaders can provide valuable encouragement and support.

The power and freedom of forgiveness is real. Joy comes from living the way the Savior lived. He has asked us to keep our thoughts pure. He has promised He will help us live His standards. He has said: "Take my yoke upon you. . . . For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:29–30).

Pattern our lives after the Master

Join me right now, once again to commit and to take upon you the name of Christ. Can you rise up and wield the power of God to defend righteousness? Can you stand in holy places?

We have all accepted the responsibility to pattern our life after the Master. He has committed the keys of the priesthood and of divine revelation to our living prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley. He counsels: "Stay away from pornography" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 54). "I plead with you to get it out of your life" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 51).

Don't allow the poison to touch your souls. **NE**

Adapted from an April 2001 general conference address.

If you or someone you know has been poisoned spiritually, there is a spiritual snakebite kit. It's called repentance. And like the remedy for a temporal snakebite, it is most effective if applied quickly and early.

Aaronic Priesthood Manual 3 *(Use to supplement, but not replace, lessons 26-49.)*

Note: The manual does not include a specific Christmas lesson. If you want to teach a special Christmas lesson (22 December), consider using conference addresses, articles, and hymns that focus on the birth, Atonement, Resurrection, and the life and mission of the Savior.

Lesson 26: Blessings of Chastity

Bruce C. Hafen, "The Gospel and Romantic Love," *New Era*, Feb. 2002, 10-14.

"My friends have a hard time understanding why I live the law of chastity. . . ." *New Era*, Dec. 2000, 16-18.

"As Zion's Youth in Latter Days," *Hymns*, no. 256.

Lesson 27: The Body Is a Temple

Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 4-15; or *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 2-11.

Janet Thomas, "More Than Skin Deep," *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 44-48.

David A. Burton, "Is there anything wrong with getting a tattoo or body piercing?" *Ensign*, Feb. 1999, 52-53.

Lesson 28: Withstanding Temptation

Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Live in Obedience," *Ensign*, May 1994, 39-42.

"Ways to Win," *New Era*, Sept. 2000, 37.

Jeni Willardson, "I Didn't Fit In," *New Era*, May 2000, 37.

John S. Netherton, "Sticking to Standards," *Friend*, May 2000, 47.

Lesson 29: Sabbath Observance

James E. Faust, "The Lord's Day," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 33-35.

Earl C. Tingey, "Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy," *Ensign*, Feb. 2000, 48-55.

Douglas B. Bernard, "Ultimate Victory," *New Era*, Aug. 1999, 34-36.

"Gently Raise the Sacred Strain," *Hymns*, no. 146.

Lesson 30: An Aaronic Priesthood Holder Cherishes Womanhood

Russell M. Nelson, "Our Sacred Duty to Honor Women," *Ensign*, May 1999, 38-40.

Sheri L. Dew, "We Are Women of God," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 12-14.

Lesson 31: Choosing an Eternal Companion

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Living Worthy of the Girl You Will Someday Marry," *Ensign*, May 1998, 49-51.

"... Wouldn't it be all right to date nonmembers?" *New Era*, July 2001, 16-18.

"Why does the Church say we should not date until we are 16 years old?" *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 16-18.

Lesson 32: Preparing for the Temple Endowment

James E. Faust, "'Who Shall Ascend into the Hill of the Lord?'" *Ensign*, Aug. 2001, 2-5.

F. David Stanley, "The Most Important Step," *New Era*, June 2000, 20-23.

"Endowed with Covenants and Blessings," *Ensign*, Feb. 1995, 38-40.

Lesson 33: Celestial Marriage—a Preparation for Eternity

Richard G. Scott, "Receive the Temple Blessings," *Ensign*, May 1999, 25-27.

Cree-L. Kofford, "Marriage in the Lord's Way, Part One," *Ensign*, June 1998, 6-12.

Gale Sears, "The Thirty-Dollar Wedding Dress," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 44-46.

Lesson 34: Obedience

James E. Faust, "Obedience: The Path to Freedom," *Ensign*, May 1999, 45-47.

Henry B. Eyring, "A Life Founded in Light and Truth," *Ensign*, July 2001, 6-13.

James Pedersen, "Faith and \$45," *New Era*, Feb. 2000, 8-10.

"Keep the Commandments," *Hymns*, no. 303.

Lesson 35: Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

"The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles," *New Era*, Apr. 2000, 20-21; or *Ensign*, Apr. 2000, 2-3.

James E. Faust, "The Shield of Faith," *Ensign*, May 2000, 17-19.

James O. Mason, "Faith in Jesus Christ," *Ensign*, Apr. 2001, 22-27.

"I Believe in Christ," *Hymns*, no. 134.

Lesson 36: Patriarchal Blessings

James E. Faust, "Priesthood Blessings," *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 62-64.

Wayne M. Hancock, "Friend to Friend," *Friend*, Sept. 2000, 6-7.

Daniel Thomas Brady, "Twice Blessed," *New Era*, Aug. 1999, 11.

Lesson 37: Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit

Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Covenant People," *Friend*, Jan. 2000, inside front cover.

Merrill J. Bateman, "Living a Christ-Centered Life," *Ensign*, Jan. 1999, 6-13.

Marilyn Feik, "I Said Yes," *New Era*, May 1999, 11.

Lesson 38: The Pure Love of Christ

Thomas S. Monson, "Those Who Love Jesus," *Ensign*, Mar. 1999, 2-5.

Margaret D. Nadauld, "Come unto Christ," *Friend*, Jan. 1999, inside front cover.

"Cleave unto Charity," *Ensign*, June 2000, 48-53.

"Love One Another," *Hymns*, no. 308.

Lesson 39: Feasting on the Words of Christ

Russell M. Nelson, "Living by Scriptural Guidance," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 16-18.

"Scripture Study Suggestions," *New Era*, Mar. 2001, 15.

T. S. Hettinger, "Press Forward, Saints," *Friend*, Jan. 2000, 28-30.

"As I Search the Holy Scriptures," *Hymns*, no. 277.

Lesson 40: Doing Missionary Work

Jeffrey R. Holland, "Witnesses unto Me," *Ensign*, May 2001, 14-16.

Shanna Ghaznavi, "Fields Ready to Harvest," *New Era*, May 2001, 28-31.

Barbara Jean Jones, "It's Your Call," *New Era*, June 2000, 16-19.

"Called to Serve," *Hymns*, no. 249.

Lesson 41: Becoming More Like Our Savior

Dallin H. Oaks, "The Challenge to Become," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 32-34.

Richard C. Edgley, "Behold the Man," *New Era*, May 2000, 4-7.

Spencer J. Condie, "Even As I Am," *Friend*, Feb. 1999, inside front cover.

"Lord, I Would Follow Thee," *Hymns*, no. 220.

Lesson 42: Being Humble and Teachable

Henry B. Eyring, "Finding Safety in Counsel," *Ensign*, May 1997, 24-26.

Marlin K. Jensen, "To Walk Humbly with Thy God," *Ensign*, May 2001, 9-11.

L. Lionel Kendrick, "Friend to Friend," *Friend*, Jan. 2000, 6-7.

"Be Thou Humble," *Hymns*, no. 130.

Lesson 43: Thoughts and Language

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart," *New Era*, July 1999, 4-7.

Paula K. Boothe, "Standing Up to Profanity," *Ensign*, Apr. 2001, 35-37.

"I know we're not supposed to take the Lord's name in vain, but what about other kinds of swearing?" *New Era*, Mar. 2001, 16-18.

"Clean Thoughts," *New Era*, Feb., 2001, 15.

Lesson 44: Service to Others

Thomas S. Monson, "Priesthood Power," *New Era*, May 2001, 4-7.

Shara Braithwaite, "Look What I Found," *New Era*, Sept. 2000, 12-13.

Felecia Angus, "My Memory Trees," *New Era*, July 1999, 12-14.

"Because I Have Been Given Much," *Hymns*, no. 219.

Lesson 45: Strengthening Testimonies by Bearing Them

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Building Your Testimony," *New Era*, Apr. 1999, 4-7.

Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Pure Testimony," *New Era*, Sept. 2001, 8-11.

Susan L. Warner, "Bear Record of Him," *Friend*, Sept. 1999, inside front cover.

"Testimony," *Hymns*, no. 137.

Lesson 46: Effective Home Teaching

Thomas S. Monson, "Home Teaching—A Divine Service," *New Era*, Nov. 1998, 4-9.

John L. Haueter, "Junior Companion," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 36-38.

Chace Randall, "Extra Helping," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 11.

"Home Teaching and the Aaronic Priesthood," *Ensign*, Feb. 2000, 60.

Lesson 47: Honesty

James E. Faust, "We Seek after These Things," *Ensign*, May 1998, 43-46.

Jane McBride Choate, "The Promise," *Friend*, Aug. 2000, 8-10.

Gordon Swensen, "Arm of Honor," *New Era*, Aug. 2000, 26-27.

Tamara Leatham Bailey, "Building Integrity," *New Era*, July 1999, 15.

Lesson 48: Preparing to Serve through Education

Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 4-15; or *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 2-11.

Harold G. Hillam, "What Matters Most," *New Era*, Apr. 2001, 46-48.

"A Major Decision," *New Era*, Sept. 1999, 15.

Lesson 49: We Have a Wonderful Legacy

Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Miracle of Faith," *Ensign*, May 2001, 67-69.

Joseph Shumway, "Searching for Mary Ellen," *New Era*, Aug. 1999, 26-27.

"Carry On," *Hymns*, no. 255.

Young Women Manual 3 (Use to supplement, but not replace, lessons 26-47.)

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Lesson 26: Repentance

Boyd K. Packer, "The Touch of the Master's Hand," *Ensign*, May 2001, 22-24.

Jay E. Jensen, "Do You Know How To Repent?" *New Era*, Nov. 1999, 4-7.

"Renew Your Baptismal Covenants Anew," *Friend*, July 2000, 24-25.

"Come unto Jesus," *Hymns*, no. 117.

Lesson 27: Forgiving Ourselves

Gordon B. Hinckley, "How Can I Become the Woman of Whom I Dream," *New Era*, Nov. 2001, 4-8; or *Ensign*, May 2001, 93-96.

"Can I Be Forgiven?" *New Era*, Mar. 2000, 8-10.

Lesson 28: Consecration and Sacrifice

M. Russell Ballard, "The Law of Sacrifice," *Ensign*, Oct. 1998, 6-13.

Carol B. Thomas, "Sacrifice: An Eternal Investment," *Ensign*, May 2001, 63-64.

Robert J. Whetten, "How Can I Help?" *Friend*, Aug. 2000, inside front cover.

"I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go," *Hymns*, no. 270.

Lesson 29: A Change of Heart

James E. Faust, "Born Again," *Ensign*, May 2001, 54-58.

Spencer J. Condie, "A Disposition to Do Good Continually," *Ensign*, Aug. 2001, 13-19.

Christopher Aulepp, "Turnaround," *New Era*, Aug. 2000, 8-10.

Kristin Bowen, "Change of Heart," *New Era*, May 1999, 36-37.

Lesson 30: Scripture Study

L. Tom Perry, "Let the Word Fill Your Hearts," *Friend*, Mar. 1996, inside front cover.

"Ways to Study the Scriptures and Understand Them Better," *Friend*, Dec. 2000, 48.

Eric Nelson, "And a Child Led Me," *New Era*, Oct. 2000, 34-36.

"As I Search the Holy Scriptures," *Hymns*, no. 277.

Lesson 31: Service in the Church

Henry B. Eyring, "Watch Over and Strengthen," *Ensign*, May 2000, 66-68.

Matthew Baker, "Coming Clean," *New Era*, Apr. 2001, 28-31.

Linda Galley, "The Elephants," *Ensign*, Dec. 2000, 48-49.

Corliss Clayton, "Fernando's Call," *Friend*, Oct. 2000, 2-4.

Lesson 32: Service in the Community

Thomas S. Monson, "An Example of the Believers," *Ensign*, Nov. 1992, 97-99.

Alexander B. Morrison, "A Caring Community: Goodness in Action," *Ensign*, Feb. 1999, 12-19.

Jennifer Cheesman, "Unlikely Pair," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 32-34.

Elyssa Renee Madsen, "Storms of Service," *New Era*, Feb. 2000, 12-15.

Lesson 33: Each Person Is Divine and Eternal

Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Light within You," *Ensign*, May 1995, 99.

Keith B. McMullin, "Welcome Home," *Ensign*, May 1999, 79-81.

Megan Wright, "My 'Buddy,' My Friend," *Friend*, Oct. 1998, 40-41.

"O My Father," *Hymns*, no. 292.

Lesson 34: Avoiding Dishonesty

James E. Faust, "Honesty—A Moral Compass," *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 41-44.

Gordon Swensen, "Arm of Honor," *New Era*, Aug. 2000, 26-27.

Cornelia Dettingmeijer, "Not Expected of You," *Friend*, May 2000, 8-10.

Lesson 35: Dating Decisions

Gordon B. Hinckley, "True to the Faith," *Ensign*, June 1996, 2-8.

"... Wouldn't it be all right to date nonmembers?" *New Era*, July 2001, 16-18.

"Why does the Church say we should not date until we are 16 years old?" *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 16-18.

"The Do's of Dating," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 15.

Lesson 36: Marriage Standards

Jeffrey R. Holland, "Personal Purity," *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 75-78.

Brad Wilcox, "Marriage Prep 101," *New Era*, Oct. 1999, 30-33.

"Families Can Be Together Forever," *Hymns*, no. 300.

Lesson 37: The Word of God as a Standard

L. Tom Perry, "Give Heed unto the Word of the Lord," *Ensign*, June 2000, 22-29.

Marlin K. Jensen, "Making a Mighty Change," *New Era*, June 2001, 4-7.

H. David Burton, "A Time to Stand Tall," *Friend*, July 1999, inside front cover.

"Stay Safe," *New Era*, June 2001, 30.

Lesson 38: Good Health Habits

Boyd K. Packer, "'Ye Are the Temple of God,'" *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 72-74.

"Get Some Zzzzs," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 40.

Jeni Willardson, "I Didn't Fit In," *New Era*, May 2000, 37.

Mark J. Rowe, "Where can I find accurate information on nutrition that is not faddish or inconsistent with Word of Wisdom guidelines?" *Ensign*, Feb. 1996, 64-65.

Lesson 39: Recognizing Our Individual Worth

James E. Faust, "Who Do You Think You Are?" *New Era*, Mar. 2001, 4-9; or *Ensign*, Mar. 2001, 2-7.

Russell M. Nelson, "We Are Children of God," *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 85-87.

Sheri L. Dew, "We Are Women of God," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 12-14.

"I Am A Child of God," *Hymns*, no. 301.

Lesson 40: Loving Ourselves and Others

James E. Faust, "'Them That Honour Me I Will Honour,'" *Ensign*, May 2001, 45-47.

Rebekah Lowe, "About Sara," *New Era*, Mar. 2000, 37.

Pam McEwen, "Her Best Shot," *New Era*, Jan. 2000, 15.

Ray Goldrup, "Billy," *Friend*, May 1999, 2-5.

Lesson 41: Being Dependable

Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Priceless Integrity," *New Era*, July 1994, 4-7.

F. Burton Howard, "Commitment," *Ensign*, May 1996, 27-28.

Denalee Chapman, "The Three Questions," *New Era*, Feb. 2000, 26-27.

Richard Moore, "My Trust Fund," *New Era*, Oct. 1999, 34-36.

Lesson 42: Preparing for Change

James E. Faust, "This Is Our Day," *Ensign*, May 1999, 17-19.

Lance B. Wickman, "The Future You," *New Era*, Mar. 2000, 4-6.

Ariana Lobo, "Wherever You Go," *New Era*, Mar. 2001, 39.

Lesson 43: Associations with Others

Thomas S. Monson, "The Lighthouse of the Lord," *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 4-9; or *Ensign*, Feb. 2001, 2-7.

Stephen A. West, "'Thy Neighbor As Thyself,'" *Friend*, June 2000, inside front cover.

"... How can I do what is right and still be accepted by my friends?" *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 16-18.

"Each Life That Touches Ours for Good," *Hymns*, no. 293.

Lesson 44: Avoiding Crisis Living

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Be Prayerful," *New Era*, Oct. 2000, 4-7.

David B. Haight, "The Basics Have Not Changed," *Friend*, Sept. 1998, inside front cover.

Dallin H. Oaks, "Focus and Priorities," *Ensign*, May 2001, 82-84.

"Sweet Is the Peace the Gospel Brings," *Hymns*, no. 14.

Lesson 45: Choosing a Vocation

Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 4-15; or *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 2-11.

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel," *New Era*, July 2000, 4-7.

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Life's Obligations," *Ensign*, Feb. 1999, 2-5.

"A Major Decision," *New Era*, Sept. 1999, 15.

Lesson 46: Money Management

L. Tom Perry, "'If Ye Are Prepared Ye Shall Not Fear,'" *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 35-37.

Elyssa Renee Andrus, "Fantastic Plastic," *New Era*, Apr. 2001, 32-35.

Bernard Poduska, "Debt Doesn't Have to Be Forever," *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 59-63.

Lauradene Lindsay, "What does self-reliance mean . . . ?" *Ensign*, Apr. 1996, 51-52.

Lesson 47: Messages of Latter-day Prophets

Gordon B. Hinckley, Thomas S. Monson, James E. Faust, "Be a Standard-Bearer," *Friend*, June 2001, 24-25.

M. Russell Ballard, "'His Word Ye Shall Receive,'" *Ensign*, May 2001, 65-66.

"From Latter-day Prophets: John Taylor," *Friend*, Jan. 2001, inside front cover.

Kimberly Wright, "Ashamed to Meet a Prophet," *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 26-27.

Wendi Wixom Taylor, "We Have One! We Have One!" *New Era*, Nov. 2000, 36-37.



On the dot

I am writing in regards to the September 2001 issue. "Beauty Tips" by Sheralee Bills was so on the dot. I believe a lot of young women are battling these issues every moment of every day. I even fought with the same thoughts. There is so much pressure in the world on outside beauty. I know that many times my parents and other Church members were quick to tell me what they thought, which made me feel like I had to defend myself. Yet the only thing I wanted was to be somewhat understood. Thanks for this article.

*Sara Nelson
St. George, Utah (via e-mail)*

She realized

I would like to thank you so much for publishing "Beauty Tips" (Sept. 2001). It helped me realize that even if I don't feel beautiful, my spirit is, and that some people are beautiful in ways you can't see. The *New Era* has been an inspiration to me in the past few years, and I just wanted to thank you for helping youth who need help and guidance.

*Sara Simmons
Lexington, Kentucky (via e-mail)*

Make them more valuable

I'm really thankful for the article about the do's of dating in the November 2000 issue. I'm very glad for this article, and now I know how to make the Young Women values more valuable in my life. Let us all remember to project our values in our life and not forget to make a good date.

*Dian R.Chandra
Surabaya, Indonesia (via e-mail)*

More pictures

I enjoy the *New Era* for its inspiring messages. But there is one problem I would like to address. Since this is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I think the *New Era* ought to include more pictures of Christ. Having just completed a Laurel project involving pictures of Christ, I realize how important and inspiring these great works of art can be. I believe that the greatest comfort a person can have is the knowledge that

"If I had it my way, I would have the New Era come out daily."



Christ loves us and is always there when we need Him.

*Lauren Layton
Newark, Delaware (via e-mail)*

Every Sunday

Thank you for being a light in my life. Every Sunday my mom has us read one article from the *New Era*. I very much enjoyed the September 2001 issue. "Ray Roundup" was my favorite. Thanks a lot.

*Becky Haput
Danville, California*

Big change

I really want to thank you for the article "Just Hanging Out" in the August 2001 *New Era*. It has made a big change in my life. Before, my friends and I would just hang out and watch movies and stuff, like the guy in the article. Now we plan things to do like go to a movie or go bowling, and we make sure there's a parent around when there needs to be. We always obey our curfews and get out of uncomfortable situations. I now have so much more fun thanks to the difference the *New Era* has made in my life.

*Justin Beckett
Maple Valley, Washington (via e-mail)*

Daily?

I love the stories you put in the *New Era*. They are so awesome. When I read them I always feel the Spirit. I love reading the magazine before I go to sleep because it makes me have good dreams. If I had it my way, I would have the *New Era* come out daily.

*Sariah Biere
Vancouver, Washington*

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Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

Gratitude

by Kristi Ann Harkey

What do you say to someone
Who's always been there,
No matter what,
The only person you can trust;
The only person who really understands?
Words fall far short.
A simple thank-you is not spoken,
Because it seems inadequate.
What can you do to show your gratitude?
Always be there for them.



by Christine Spencer



*“We should
all go on
missions to
bring people
to the gospel
and to help
ourselves.
When we’re
on our
missions our
testimonies
will grow
even more
than they
have at this
conference.”*

*See
“Preparation
Days,”
p. 28*