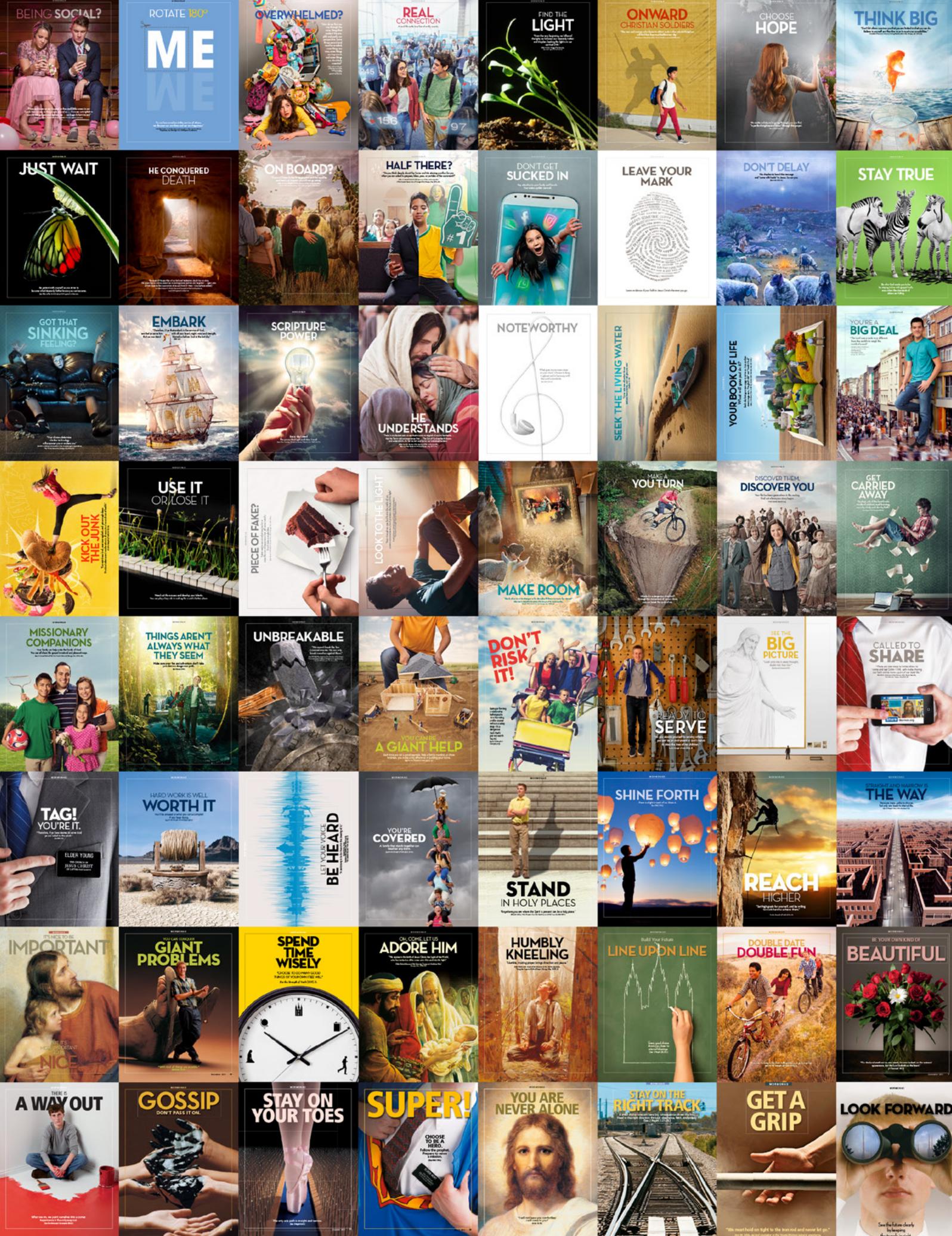


MOR(e) MON

These powerful posters offer hope along life's highway. And they can inspire you to create your own messages of joy, courage, and commitment.

ADS



By Richard M. Romney
Church Magazines

Maybe you've noticed it while you're riding down the freeway. Certain billboards flash by forgettably. Others entice you to read, but you can't get through the words fast enough before they too are gone. The best ones grab your attention, share their message quickly, and linger in your mind.

Now, picture yourself riding down the highway of life. As a young Latter-day Saint, you have a great opportunity to see some memorable messages along the way. They're called Mormonads, and they do exactly what those great billboards do—capture your interest instantly and offer a gospel insight that remains in your memory.

A Powerful Pairing

Professional communicators know that when you combine a powerful visual with memorable text, people pay attention. The power of a Mormonad is that when you see it, a gospel principle becomes—immediately—crystal clear.

In today's world of memes, picture quotes, snaps, and tweets, Mormonads can inspire you as you combine words and images to understand and explain the gospel. You may want to share them—or even create your own to share—via social media.

On the following pages, you'll find some that the *New Era* staff remember from their own journeys, along with some fun insights about how and why they work.



A TIME LINE of TIMELESS TEACHINGS

Before there were memes, picture quotes, or even social media, there were Mormonads. Posters have actually been part of the *New Era* since the magazine began.

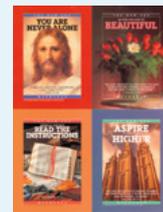
INTERNATIONAL SERMONS:

Mormonads are also translated and printed in up to 48 languages.



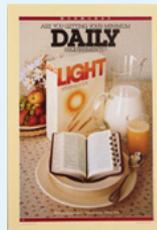
OVER THE YEARS:

Mormonads are produced as full-size posters, magazine-page messages, tear-out cards, mobile device wall-paper, and even videos. You can see a partial collection at mormonads.lds.org.



THE TERM MORMONAD IS CREATED:

The first poster labeled as a Mormonad is published in September 1973. With it, the magazine asks readers to use a single sheet of paper to "share your great gospel ideas with other *New Era* readers throughout the world."



1971

1975

1980

1985

1990

1995

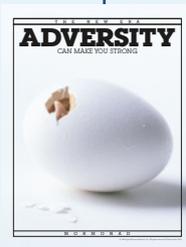
2000

2005



IN THE BEGINNING:

An intern suggests including gospel-oriented "advertisements" in the magazine. A folded poster is stapled in the September 1971 issue.



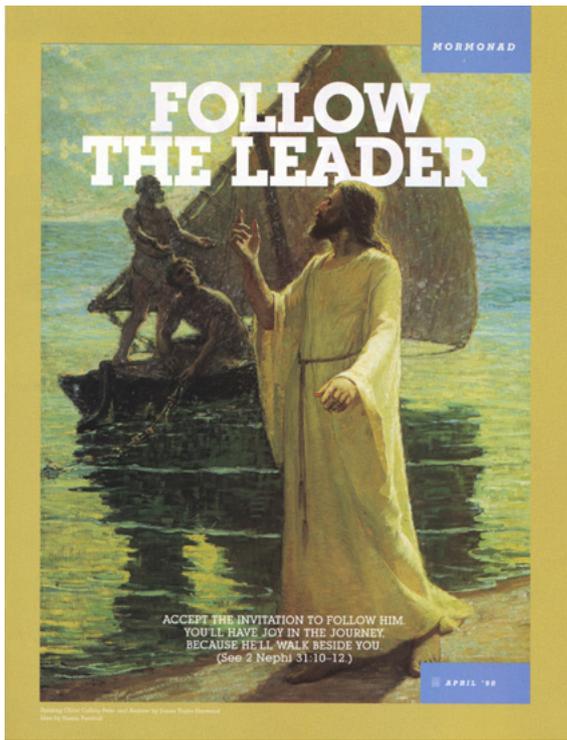
INCREASING POPULARITY:

Mormonads appear in the magazine with increasing frequency. Many are based on suggestions from readers.

SELECTED MORMONADS GET A MAKEOVER:

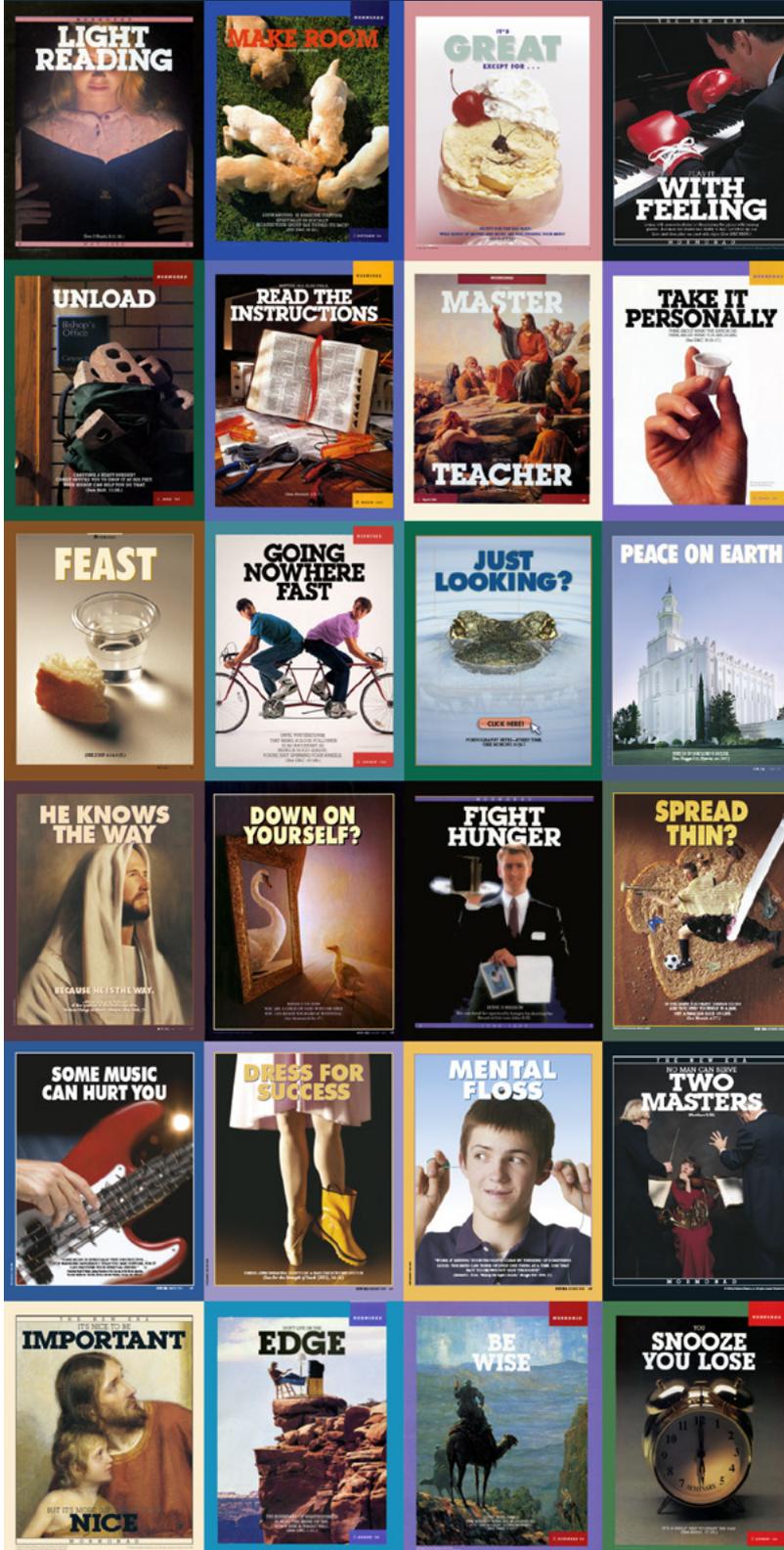
This is a redo in color of a horizontal poster that was originally done in black and white.





The Classics

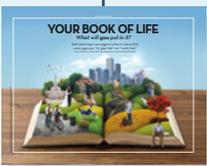
Great ideas and images, working together, stand the test of time. Memorable Mormonads, powerful when they were first published, still make us stop and think today. They quickly convey enduring gospel principles and values.



CREATING MORMONADS:
Today, some Mormonads use a single photograph, some are digitally collaged using multiple images, and others are rendered with CGI (computer-generated imagery).

Mormonads continue to appear in the *New Era* each month (see page 49 in this issue).

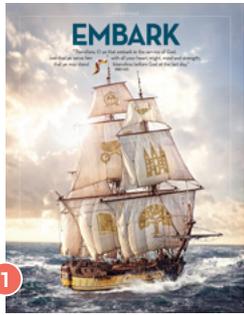
2010 2015 2018



MORMONADS COME TO LIFE:
Animated GIFs enable this Mormonad to depict the elements of a young man's life as an open book.

CONCEPTS GENERATED FROM MEMBERS:
Mormonads celebrate the missionary age change. The concept for this Mormonad was sent in by a Church member.

MORMONADS—*Behind the Scenes*



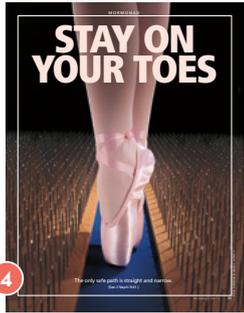
1



2



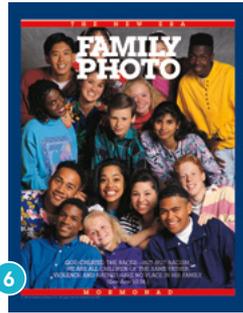
3



4



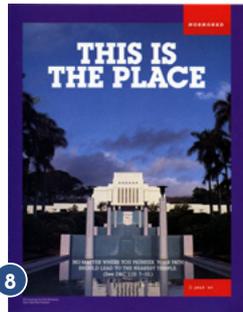
5



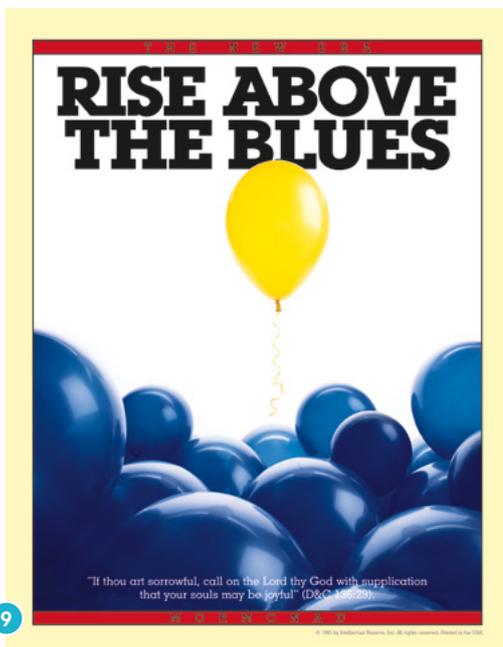
6



7



8



9

1. Embark

A number of Mormonads, like this one, were inspired by annual Mutual themes. (See D&C 4:2.) See a poster tied to this year's Mutual theme in the January issue.

2. Be Your Own Kind of Beautiful

The original idea was to have a single lily among a vase of roses. But a lily seemed too elegant to convey the intended message. A daisy was better—a symbol of the beauty in the ordinary.

3. Gossip—Don't Pass It On

Models for this photo came dressed in their Sunday best, only to be asked to roll up their sleeves and be careful passing, hand to hand, gauze that had been drenched in used motor oil mixed with oatmeal.

4. Stay on Your Toes

The photographer spent hours drilling holes and driving nails into boards. Then, leaning on parallel bars unseen in the photo, the dancer went on pointe. Boards were slid next to her feet, and the photo was taken.

5. You Can Conquer Giant Problems

Blending two photos of different scales brought a ready answer to the question: "How does the Old Testament story of David and Goliath apply to you today?"

6. Family Photo

This Mormonad demonstrates how words and images combine to convey the powerful message that we are all children of the same Heavenly Father.

7. Faith Works

Color adds power to a visual. In this case, a staff member's father-in-law let the magazine paint his old gray fishing boat with a new, vibrant color. The family still calls it the "banana boat."

8. This Is the Place

Many Mormonads guide us to the temple. They remind us that in the house of the Lord we are able to accurately envision eternity.

9. Rise above the Blues

At first, the text said, "Rise above It All," and the balloons were many different colors. Then someone said, "What if all of the balloons were blue except one?" ... And the rest is history.

10. You're Covered

Each person in the photo was raised up in a harness and photographed, then the photos were digitally blended to create this image with a message about family members helping each other to weather the storms of life.



10

SEVEN TIPS *for* MAKING MEMORABLE MESSAGES

Successful communicators know that a powerful visual matched with just the right phrase can influence people. When you use this method to convey a message that the Holy Ghost can testify of, it's an even more powerful kind of communication. That's the vision behind Mormonads. How can you pair text, visuals, and the Spirit as you create your own Mormonads, memes, posts, and other messages to promote righteousness? Here are some tips to get started:



1. SOMETIMES IDEAS WILL JUST POP INTO YOUR HEAD. TRUST YOUR INSPIRATION. BRAINSTORM AND KEEP NOTES. YOU CAN WORK ON DETAILS LATER.

2. WORDS AND PICTURES SHOULD STRENGTHEN AND REINFORCE EACH OTHER TO TEACH A GOSPEL TRUTH AND INVITE THE SPIRIT. SOMETIMES THE WORDS INSPIRE THE PICTURE. SOMETIMES THE PICTURE INSPIRES THE WORDS.

3. THE MOST MEMORABLE MESSAGES ARE SHORT AND SIMPLE. IMAGINE YOUR MESSAGE AS A BILLBOARD. COULD YOU UNDERSTAND IT AS YOU DRIVE PAST?

4. VISUAL ELEMENTS ALSO NEED TO CONVEY MEANING QUICKLY. THEY SHOULDN'T REQUIRE EXPLANATION.

5. LISTEN TO SUGGESTIONS. YOU MAY DISCOVER GENIUS IN COLLABORATION.

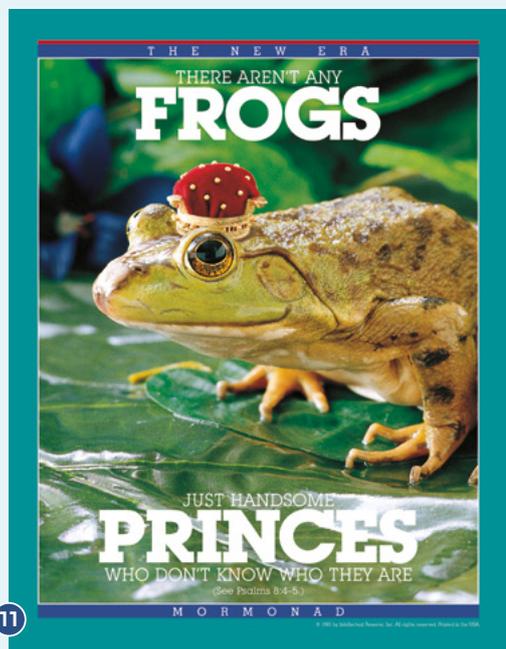
6. DON'T BE AFRAID TO OFFER A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE. SOMETHING UNEXPECTED CAN MAKE PEOPLE STOP AND THINK. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SACRED GROVE POSTER WAS PRINTED IN LANDSCAPE. NOT PORTRAIT. THAT SIMPLE CHANGE GOT PEOPLE TO SAY, "WHAT'S THIS?"

7. TAKE TIME TO MAKE IT RIGHT. SOMETIMES AN IDEA CAN TAKE A LONG TIME TO GERMINATE. LET IT REST IF YOU CAN. THEN COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE REFRESHED.

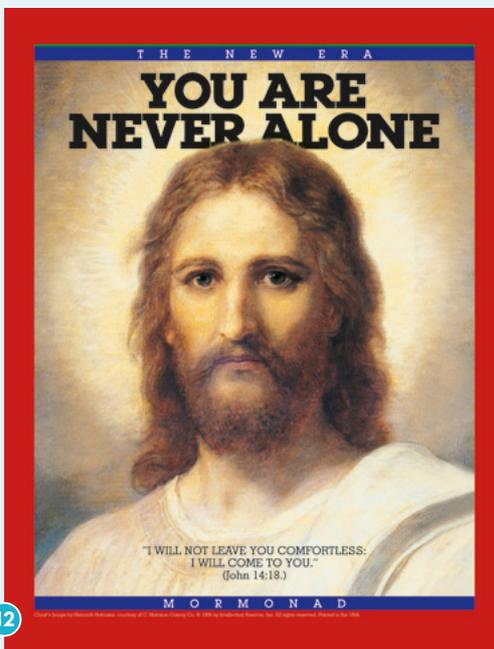


MAKE YOUR OWN. *Then Send Us Your Best*

Making your own Mormonads, individually or as a group, is a great way to think about and share gospel principles. It can be a fun lesson or a great family home evening activity. And remember, we're always looking for great Mormonad ideas. Share them with us at newera.lds.org.



11



12

11. Frogs and Princes

The leaves were plastic, but the frog was real—and it was hard to get him to sit still, until photographers lowered the temperature. (Cold-blooded creatures move more slowly when it's cold.) The crown is also real, held in place with petroleum jelly.

12. You Are Never Alone

"That phrase just came into my mind," says the man who thought of this poster. The simple, direct message became one of the most widely distributed Mormonads ever. More Mormonads have been about the Savior Jesus Christ than any other subject.

442

We counted 442 Mormonads that have been published over the years. But more are on the way, so look for them in each *New Era*!