



THE
NewEra
OCTOBER **2004**

**SPECIAL ISSUE:
FROM FIRST DATE
TO ETERNAL MATE**

**FINDING THE
RIGHT ONE, P. 4**

**YOUR TEMPLE
WEDDING:
WHAT YOU NEED
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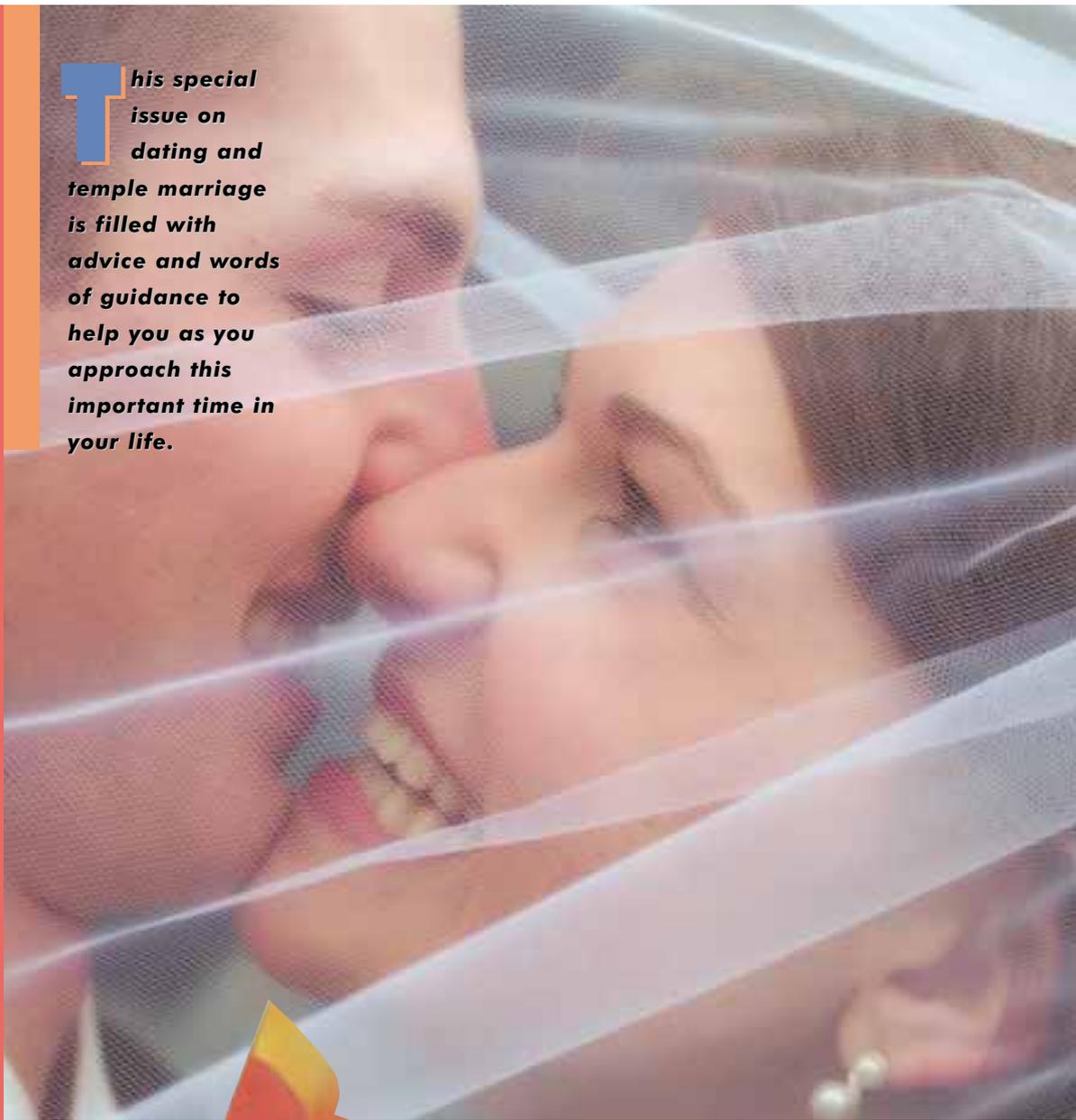
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Cover: A temple mar-
riage is a worthy goal of
every Church member.
See "Love for Eternity,"
p. 20.

Cover photography:
Robert Casey (front)
and Christina Smith
(back)

Above: Todd and Rachel
Morris on their wedding
day. Rachel tells how she
prepared to go to the
temple. See "Preparing
for My Endowment,"
p. 12.

This special
issue on
dating and
temple marriage
is filled with
advice and words
of guidance to
help you as you
approach this
important time in
your life.



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WHOM SHALL I MARRY?

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

First Counselor in the First Presidency



Young people, you live in tumultuous times. You have choices to make—choices with eternal consequences.

But you are not left unaided in your decisions, however small or large they may be.

It has been said that history turns on small hinges, and so do people's lives. Decisions determine destiny. That is why it is worthwhile to look ahead, to set a course, to be at least partly ready when the moment of decision comes.

One of those decisions for us to consider is this: Whom shall I marry?

Marry the Right Person

For a moment let me take you with me back to my college days. As a student at the University of Utah, I was attending a dance on campus. I was dancing with my date, a girl from West High School, when a young lady from East High School danced by with her partner. Her name was Frances Johnson, although I didn't know it at the time. I just took one look and decided that there was a young lady I wanted to meet. But she danced away. I might never have seen her again.

About two months later I did. One day while waiting for the streetcar in Salt Lake City, I looked across the way and couldn't believe my eyes. There was the young lady I had seen dancing across the floor. She was standing with another young lady and a young man whom I remembered from grade school days. Unfortunately, I couldn't remember his name. I had a decision to make. What should I do? I found in my heart an appreciation of the phrase: "When the time for decision arrives, the time for preparation is past." I squared my shoulders and plunged toward my opportunity. I walked up to that young man and said, "Hello, my old friend from grade school days."

He looked at me blankly and said, "I can't quite remember your name." I told him my name. He told me his name, and then he introduced me to the girl who later became my wife. That day I made a note in my student directory to call on Frances Beverly Johnson, and I did. That decision, I believe, was perhaps the most important that I have ever made.

You young people will have the responsibility to make a similar decision. You have an



One day while waiting for the streetcar in Salt Lake City, I looked across the way and couldn't believe my eyes. There was the young lady I had seen dancing across the floor.

important responsibility in choosing not only whom you will date but also whom you will marry. President Gordon B. Hinckley admonished: “Your chances for a happy and lasting marriage will be far greater if you will date those who are active and faithful in the Church.”¹

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–85) counseled: “The most important single thing that any Latter-day Saint ever does in this world is to marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority.”²

Become Well Acquainted

It is essential that you become well acquainted with the person whom you plan to marry so that you can make certain you are both looking down the same pathway, with the same objectives in mind. It is ever so significant that you do this.

I should like to dispel one rumor that is very hard to put to rest. I know of no mission president in all the world who has ever told a missionary that he had the responsibility to marry within six months after his mission. I think that rumor was commenced by a returned missionary, and if not by a returned missionary, by the girlfriend of a returned missionary.

Keep an Eternal Perspective

I would admonish you to maintain an eternal perspective. Make certain that the marriage in your future is a temple marriage. There is no scene so sweet, no time so sacred as that very special day of your marriage. Then and there you glimpse celestial joy. Be alert; do not permit temptation to rob you of this blessing.

In the delightful musical *Camelot*, as the plot thickens and Queen Guinevere becomes infatuated with Lancelot, King Arthur, her husband, pleads with her—and with each of us—“We must not let our passions destroy our dreams.”

Precious young people, make every decision you contemplate pass this test: *What does it do to me? What does it do for me?* And let your code of conduct emphasize not “What will others think?” but rather “What will I think of myself?” Be influenced by that still, small voice. Remember

that one with authority placed his hands on your head at the time of your confirmation and said, “Receive the Holy Ghost.” Open your hearts, even your very souls, to the sound of that special voice that testifies of truth. As the prophet Isaiah promised, “Thine ears shall hear a word . . . saying, This is the way, walk ye in it.”³

The tenor of our times is permissiveness. A most popular feature of one of the leading newspaper Sunday supplements portrays the idols of the movie screen, the heroes of the athletic field—those whom many young people long to emulate—as flouting the laws of God and rationalizing away sinful practices, seemingly with no ill effect. Don’t you believe it! There is a time of reckoning—even a balancing of the ledger. It’s called Judgment Day, even the Big Exam of Life. Are we prepared? Are we pleased with our own performances?

Move Forward with Courage

Once you make a decision concerning whom you would desire to marry, may you have the courage to move forward. After a stake conference in Tokyo many years ago, a young Japanese convert, perhaps 26 years of age, drove Sister Monson and me to the hotel where we were to stay. He was extremely neat and meticulous in all that he did. The car was polished to a brightness seldom seen. He even wore white gloves. I engaged him in conversation and as a result learned that he had a girlfriend who was a member and whom he had dated for some time. I asked him if he loved her. He replied, “Oh, yes, Brother Monson.”

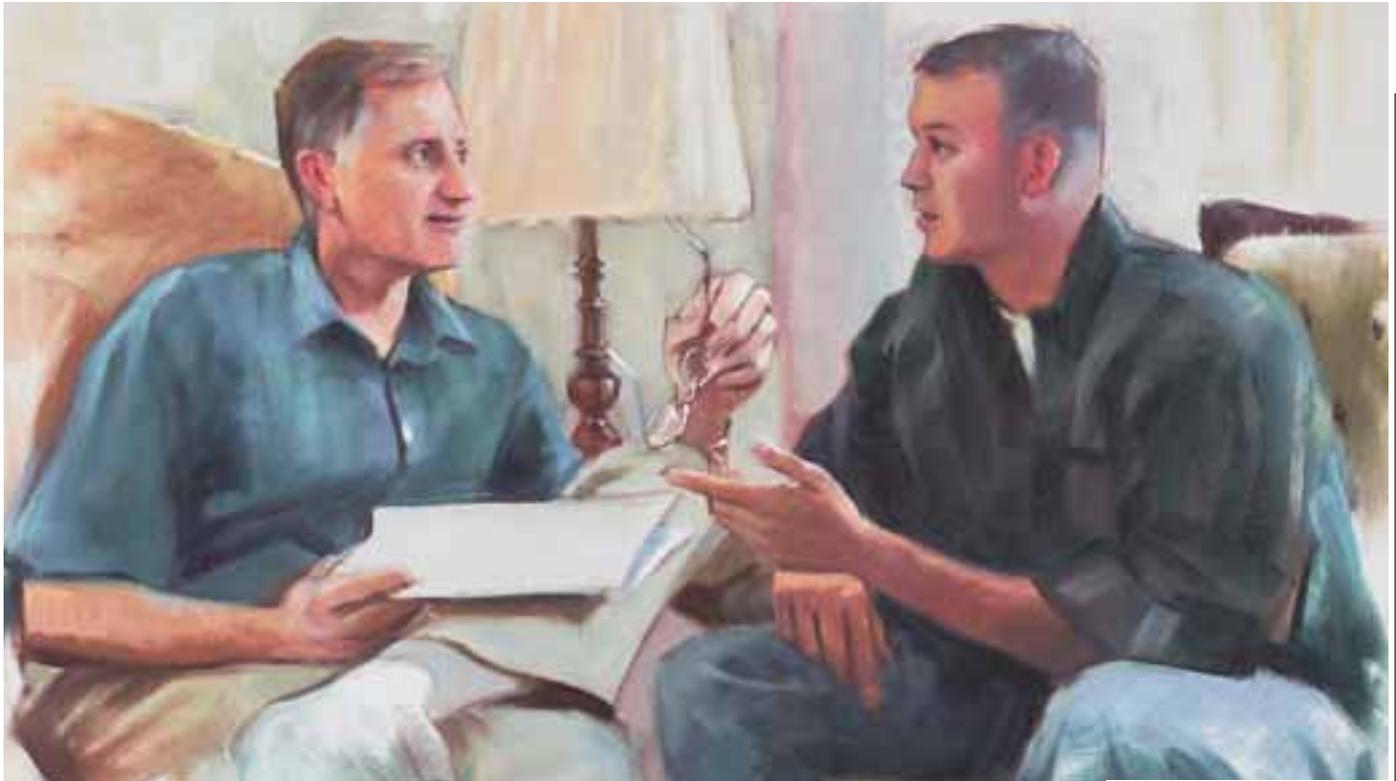
My next question was obvious: “Does she love you?”
“Oh, yes, Brother Monson.”

I then suggested, “Why don’t you ask her to marry you?”

“Oh, I am too shy to ask.”

I then recited, for his benefit, the words of the hymn, “Come, Come, Ye Saints,” with emphasis on the phrase, “Fresh courage take. Our God will never us forsake.”⁴

Some months later I received a lovely letter from my Japanese friend and his new bride. They sent the wedding



announcement. They thanked me for my urging and added: “Our favorite hymn is ‘Come, Come, Ye Saints.’ We took fresh courage. God did not forsake us. Thank you.”

Seek Guidance

In making a decision as momentous as whom you will marry, I suggest you seek the help of your parents. Take the time to confide in them, for they will not leave you nor forsake you. They love you dearly and want for a precious daughter or stalwart son the best in life and the ultimate promises of eternity.

Of course our Heavenly Father will also bless you and guide you in your decision and in making other decisions throughout your life. You have a formula, a guide, to assist you. It is found in Doctrine and Covenants 9:8-9: “You must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.

“But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought.”

That counsel from the Doctrine and

Covenants has directed me, and it will direct you.

My dear brothers and sisters, if you want to see the light of heaven, if you want to feel the inspiration of Almighty God, if you want to have that feeling within your bosom that your Heavenly Father is guiding you to the left or guiding you to the right, instructions from this passage will help you: “Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved.”⁵ By so doing, the Spirit of our Heavenly Father will be yours.

I bear this testimony to you. I invoke upon you the promise of the Lord when He said: “I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end.

“Great shall be their reward and eternal shall be their glory.”⁶

May each of you qualify for that great reward, that eternal glory, is my sincere prayer. **NE**

NOTES

1. “Four B’s for Boys,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 41.
2. “Agency or Inspiration?” *New Era*, Jan. 1975, 38.
3. Isaiah 30:21.
4. *Hymns*, no. 30.
5. D&C 87:8.
6. D&C 76:5-6.

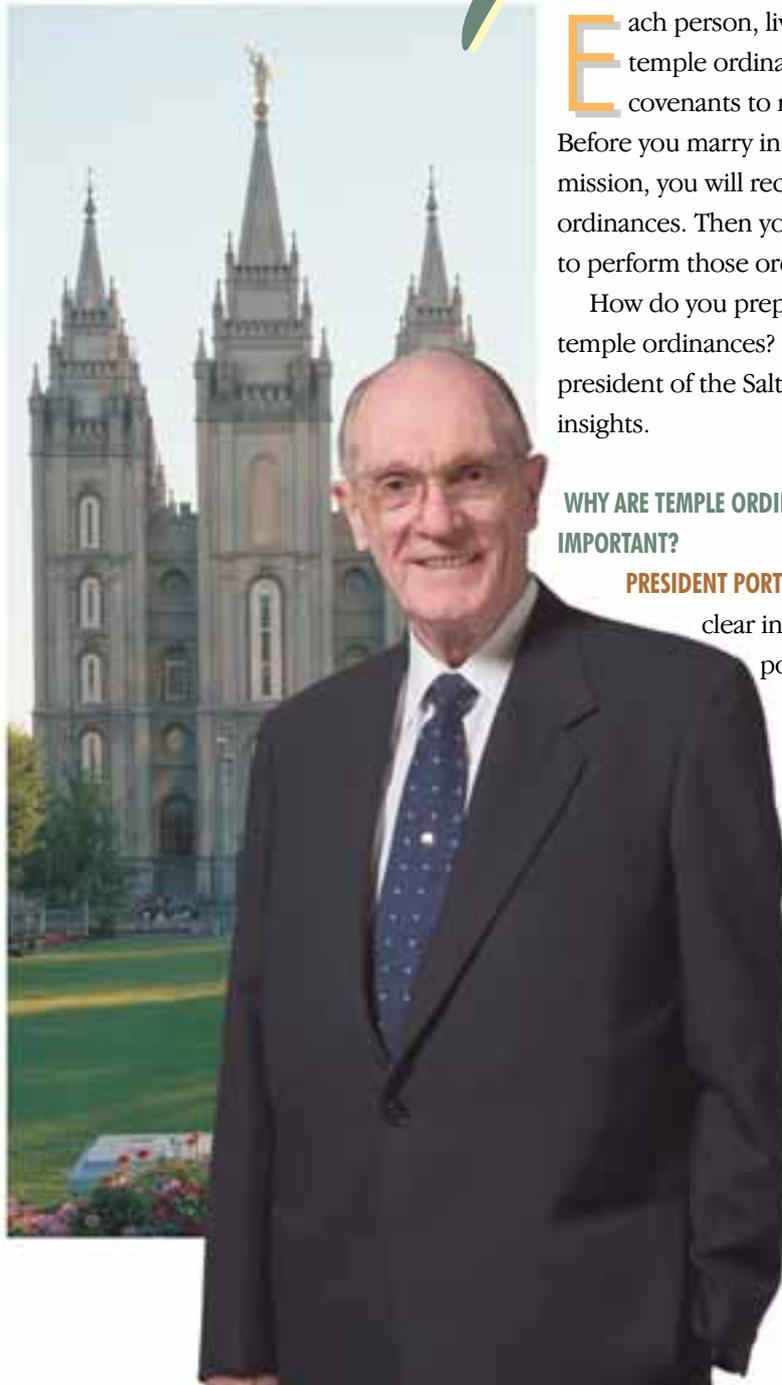
In making a decision as momentous as whom you will marry, seek the help of your parents. Confide in them. They love you dearly and want for you the best in life and the ultimate promises of eternity.

COME TO THE

Temple

The New Era asked President L. Aldin Porter (right) of the Salt Lake Temple how young adults can prepare to enter the holy temple.

Opposite page, top: San Diego California Temple. Right: celestial room in the Mount Timpanogos Utah Temple. Bottom: stained glass in the recently dedicated Manhattan New York Temple.



Each person, living or dead, must receive temple ordinances and keep the covenants to return to Heavenly Father. Before you marry in the temple or go on a mission, you will receive your own temple ordinances. Then you can return to the temple to perform those ordinances for the dead.

How do you prepare to receive your own temple ordinances? President L. Aldin Porter, president of the Salt Lake Temple, shares some insights.

WHY ARE TEMPLE ORDINANCES AND COVENANTS IMPORTANT?

PRESIDENT PORTER: The Lord has made it clear in the scriptures that His purpose is “to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). Temple covenants and ordinances are necessary to achieve that blessing.

WHAT CAN YOUNG ADULTS EXPECT WHEN THEY COME TO THE TEMPLE TO RECEIVE THEIR OWN ENDOWMENTS?

PRESIDENT PORTER: They come to make covenants, and they come to be taught. A temple



recommend gives them entrance to the temple and the right to receive the ordinances and covenants, but it does not give them an education in the temple, the Lord's university. This education is going to take effort.

Young adults shouldn't be surprised if some aspects of the temple seem a little confusing at first. In the scriptures, the Lord often teaches with parables and symbolism. He does so in the temple as well. Understanding the symbolism will require some pondering and prayer. If young adults will look, in faith, beyond the symbols, they will find lessons of eternal substance.

What we learn and feel in the temple is largely determined by how reverent we are.

Reverence is more than silence. Reverence is, among other things, a respect for sacred gifts.

HOW WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN PREPARE TO COME TO THE TEMPLE?

PRESIDENT PORTER: The pure in heart more easily understand and accept the doctrines and commandments of the Lord. Those who live righteously are more in tune with sacred things. The temple will have more meaning to those who have prepared themselves.

The Spirit that youth feel as they read and ponder the scriptures and listen carefully to the living prophets will be compatible with



WHAT IS THE ENDOWMENT?

President Brigham Young said the endowment is "to receive all those ordinances in the House of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father . . . and gain your eternal exaltation" (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe [1971], 416).



Places of peace, reverence, and beauty, temples are the Lord's house.

Top: Toronto Ontario Temple. Bottom: sealing room in the Preston England Temple.

Opposite page, top: bride's room in the Bountiful Utah Temple. Right: endowment room in the Nauvoo Illinois Temple.



the feelings of the temple. Performing baptisms for the dead will also help youth feel the sacredness of the Lord's holy house and prepare them for other temple ordinances.

Bishops will give young adults a booklet titled *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple*. The material in that booklet is worthy of contemplation. They should not skim it and then assume they are prepared. I hope they would study and ponder it before and after their first experiences in the temple. It will be a powerful tool in understanding the temple for many years thereafter.

The world's standards tend to be very casual in dress and speech. But we must not be casual as we take upon ourselves the teachings, ordinances, and covenants of the temple. I hope young adults will come to the temple dressed in their Sunday best, displaying an attitude of reverence in dress, actions, and speech. We can learn what the Lord has for us only if we attend the temple in a sacred and respectful way.

WHAT CAN YOUNG ADULTS EXPECT TO LEARN FROM THE TEMPLE ORDINANCES?

PRESIDENT PORTER: I would not try to explain what can be learned from the ordinances. They are rich in meaning and full of eternal truths. They are encouraging and motivating to those who strive to understand them. If one is to understand the ordinances and covenants fully, it will be through the gentle impressions of the Holy Spirit.



WHY ARE THERE STANDARDS OF WORTHINESS TO ENTER THE TEMPLE?

PRESIDENT PORTER: To protect His holy house and those who enter it, the Lord has given certain requirements. The questions a bishop asks us as we obtain a recommend will help us to be spiritually prepared to make temple covenants. Our Heavenly Father has set these standards of worthiness to bless His children. They are not to keep people out of the temple unless they are unprepared.

WHY DON'T ENDOWED MEMBERS TALK ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN THE TEMPLE?

PRESIDENT PORTER: We have covenanted not to talk about these sacred experiences. In a general priesthood meeting, President Gordon B. Hinckley said: "I remind you of the absolute obligation to not discuss outside the temple that which occurs within the temple. Sacred matters deserve sacred consideration. We are under obligation, binding and serious, to not use temple language or speak of temple matters outside" ("Keeping the Temple Holy," *Ensign*, May 1990, 52).

HOW WILL THE TEMPLE ORDINANCES AND COVENANTS BLESS A MARRIAGE?

PRESIDENT PORTER: The Lord has said: "When we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated" (D&C 130:21). Laws of eternal happiness are given in the temple, where we covenant to obey those laws. Keeping those covenants will help us establish a happy and productive home in this life and a continuation of that happiness into eternity.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUNG ADULTS REMEMBER FROM THEIR FIRST TIME AT THE TEMPLE?

PRESIDENT PORTER: I pray that they will remember the sacredness of the moment. They should feel that they have entered a place that is different from our other church



buildings. They will be in the house of the Lord, where they should feel His love. It is my deep desire that the feelings of holiness of their first experience will be enhanced over the years.

WHAT OTHER ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PREPARING TO COME TO THE TEMPLE?

PRESIDENT PORTER: I hope they come to the temple in faith. They will not understand all at first, nor would they in any other activity with deep meaning. But they will learn more as they return to the Lord's temples.

The Lord honors those who respect His sacred gifts. Those who don't respect them lose them. They drift away from the mind and heart, and the temple and its blessings are soon forgotten. On the other hand, those who honor the Lord's gifts will find greater joy and understanding that cannot be found in any other way in mortality.

If young adults make and keep sacred covenants, they will, in time, experience a fulfillment of the Apostle Paul's words: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). **NE**

This interview was conducted by Ryan Carr of the Church magazines.



WHAT TO TAKE TO THE TEMPLE

"What we gain from the temple will depend to a large degree on what we take to the temple in the way of humility and reverence and a desire to learn. If we are teachable we will be taught by the Spirit, in the temple" (*Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple* [booklet, 2002], 10).

PREPARING FOR *My* Endowment

My bishop has been helpful
I had one met, disappointed
the power of the temple
and suggested the gold of
always being temple worthy.
He said being temple worthy
to the temple helps you to
find happiness.

BY RACHEL BARTON MORRIS

The New Era asked Rachel Barton to keep a journal of her preparations to receive her endowment before her temple marriage. Following are a few entries from her journal.

Rachel Barton met Todd Morris in ward choir, and they were married last November in the temple. In her own words, here's her experience—from the weeks of preparation to the day she received her endowment.

After the Engagement

After Todd and I got engaged, my mom suggested that we go to the temple a lot as a way to prepare for our marriage. Todd and I decided it was a good suggestion. Sometimes Todd performed baptisms with me, and sometimes he went to an endowment session while I participated in baptisms.

Todd and I were sometimes so busy we thought we wouldn't have time to go to the temple. We had work and school and wedding preparations, but we wanted to go to the temple. Once we went to the temple instead of a football game that we had tickets to because we didn't have any other time to go.

The blessings have been amazing. When I do baptisms for the dead, I learn how the Spirit speaks to me. Being able to forget worldly things and focus on the Savior has been really good. Todd and I haven't had struggles or felt tempted because we've been going to the temple so often.

For a lot of years I have been looking forward to receiving my endowment as

much as getting married there. So after I got engaged, one of the first things I thought about was preparing for the endowment. I found a copy of *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple* and read it several times. I've also been studying the magazine "Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." My goal was to read it before I received my endowment.

My bishop has been helpful. When we met, he talked about the power of the temple and suggested the goal to always be temple worthy. He said being worthy to go to the temple helps you find happiness.

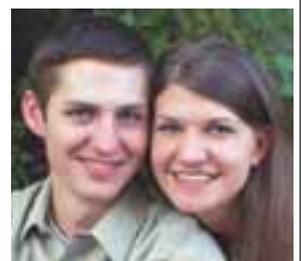
One Month before Receiving My Endowment

Today I went to try on temple dresses at the Distribution Center. Before, when I had tried on wedding dresses, I was filled with excitement and butterflies, but when I tried on temple dresses, I was filled with peace and joy that came from the Spirit. It was such a great experience to be dressed in white and to think of the covenants I will make in one month.

27 Days Before

Today Todd and I took turns reading scriptures about the plan of salvation. Having these basic principles in mind will

For a lot of years I have been looking forward to receiving my endowment as much as getting married in the temple. So after I got engaged, one of the first things I thought about was preparing for the endowment.



EXTRA! EXTRA!

To learn more about the endowment and the temple, read the following scriptures: D&C 43:15–16; 97:12–17; 109; 124:27–41; and “Temple” in the Bible Dictionary.

Also read the following articles in the Gospel Library at www.lds.org: “Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings” (*Ensign*, May 2001) by Elder Russell M. Nelson and “The Most Important Step” (*New Era*, June 2000) by President F. David Stanley.

help me know what to focus on when I enter the temple.

The temple preparation class has a lesson on being worthy to enter the temple. I am so grateful I am worthy. I am filled with joy that Todd and I have kept ourselves morally clean. I feel a great yearning to enter the temple because I know I am clean.

21 Days Before

Todd and I went to the temple early today. It was snowing, and the temple looked so beautiful surrounded in white. We had a wonderful time. Todd was able to baptize and confirm me in behalf of others. I love him even more when I see him in white and watch him using the priesthood.

I know I don't fully understand everything about it yet, but the temple is where you go to learn, and it is a place of peace. I don't feel nervous about what I don't understand. I just feel the Spirit, which makes me excited to go to the temple and make more covenants with the Lord and become closer to Him.

10 Days Before

I am so excited to go to the temple. I think about it every day. I want to make more covenants. I want to draw closer to God. I want to learn more about the Savior. I already feel excited to know everything now, but I know it will take a lifetime and longer to understand the ways of God. It is amazing that He has prepared a place on earth where we can learn things of an eternal nature.

6 Days Before

Today I met with my bishop to receive my temple recommend. It was such a wonderful feeling to be able to answer the questions and know I am worthy to enter the temple. I think that feeling will grow when I talk with my stake president.

4 Days Before

What joy! I wish everyone could sit with his or her stake president and look him in the eyes and honestly answer all the questions to receive a recommend. I am so grateful for the Atonement of Jesus Christ. I am far from perfect, but the Atonement makes me worthy to enter the temple. The Atonement makes that possible for all who are prepared!

My temple recommend is the most valuable piece of paper I have. I feel so blessed to hold a recommend. I feel this joy because I have prepared. I have pondered the things I've read about temples and have planned my whole life and lived worthy to go to the temple.

I'm excited and ready to make more covenants with the Lord. I realize the responsibility that comes with that. I'm ready for that. I can continue being good, but I can see how my progression would stop if I didn't make more covenants. Making the covenants in the endowment and then getting married in the temple will help me progress in ways I couldn't do on my own.



The Day I Received My Endowment

Today has been a glorious day—one of the best. I can't even describe the way I feel. I am an endowed member of the Church. The temple is a wonderful place to be. Before going to the temple this morning, I felt so much anticipation, I could hardly sleep. I also felt so much peace. Todd was more enthusiastic than I've ever seen him.

The blessings and promises I received in the temple were incredible. I have never cried for joy so much in my life. I want nothing more than to always keep my covenants and to be worthy of the blessings promised me in the temple.

Because I was prepared, the temple felt like home. I was overwhelmed with all the blessings that I was promised. But I loved it. I know I'll keep learning more every time I go.

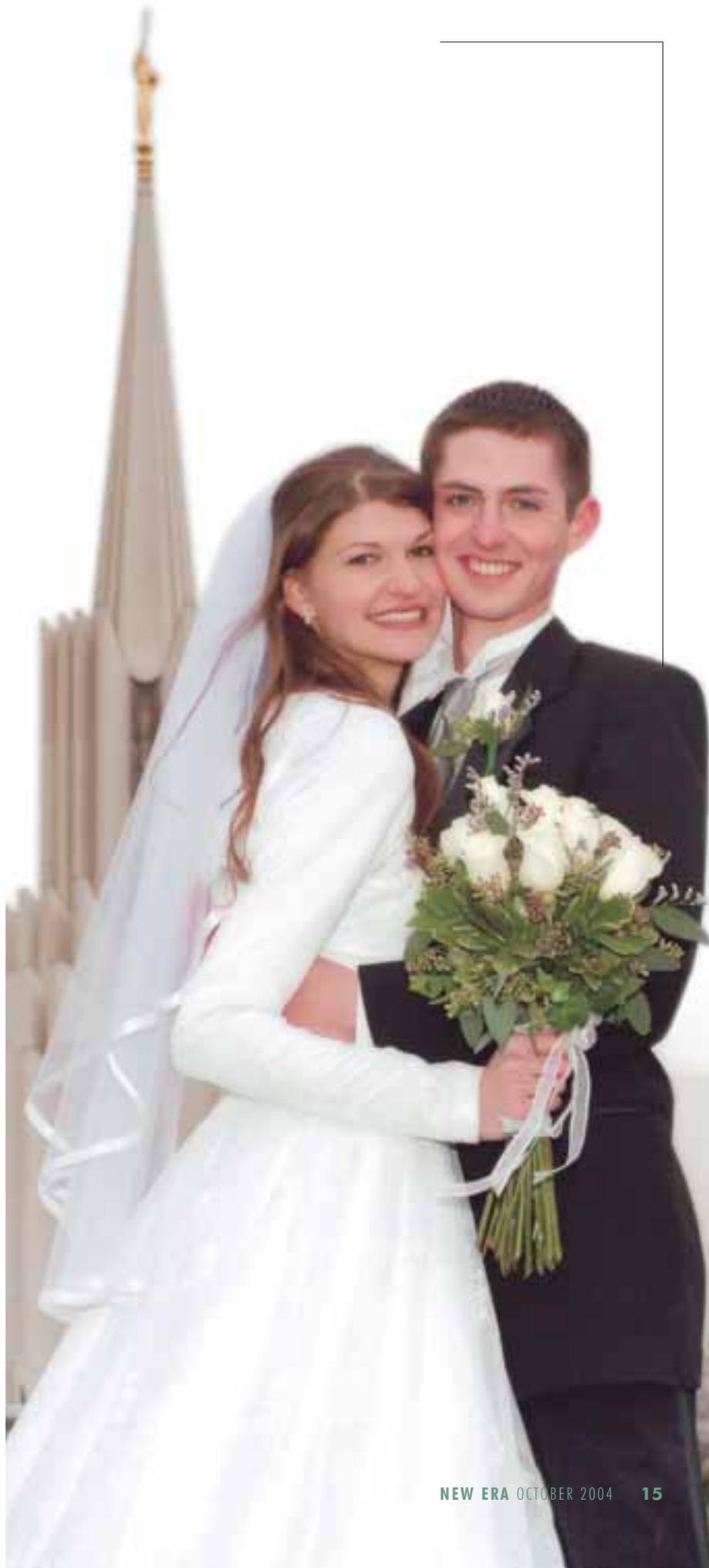
Now that I've received my endowment, I think the most helpful preparation was participating in baptisms for the dead because I was doing temple work and was feeling the Spirit there. Studying the temple preparation manual was helpful, as was talking to Todd, my parents, and my bishop about their testimonies of the temple.

Returning to the Temple

Todd and I went to the temple again today. I realize now that there is still a lot I need to learn. I feel peace though, because I know I don't need to learn everything at once. Todd said, "That's one reason why you go back over and over again."

Todd and I are blessed to live near a temple. We have already decided on a day and time to go every week. I can't think of anything else that will bless our new marriage more. **NE**

Rachel Barton Morris is a member of the BYU 99th Ward, Brigham Young University Eighth Stake.





When EMMA

BY RYAN CARR
Church Magazines

They were a striking couple. She was tall and thin and had black hair, brown eyes, and an olive complexion. She sang well and was educated to be a schoolteacher. He was tall, strong, and broad-shouldered. As a youth he learned to work hard on his father's farm. They both liked to joke and have fun, but they could be serious when they needed to be.

Her name was Emma; his was Joseph. They married when she was 22 and he was 21. Despite trials and persecution, they stayed close through 17 years of marriage, until Joseph's death in 1844.

Emma Hale, who had eight brothers and sisters, grew up in the untamed Susquehanna Valley in Pennsylvania. With her father, she enjoyed canoeing on the Susquehanna River and riding horses. Little did she know then that she would marry the great prophet of the Restoration.

In the fall of 1825, an acquaintance of the Hales, Josiah Stowell, hired young Joseph Smith and others to dig for silver. After a month of digging and finding nothing, Joseph persuaded Mr. Stowell to quit digging. While Joseph was working for Mr. Stowell, Joseph and his father boarded with the Hales. That's when Emma met Joseph.

Over the next year, as Joseph and his father worked at various jobs in the area, Joseph and Emma talked in the evenings after work. She was an excellent cook and had a delightful sense of humor, which Joseph probably enjoyed.

Joseph soon decided to marry Emma. He told his

Met JOSEPH

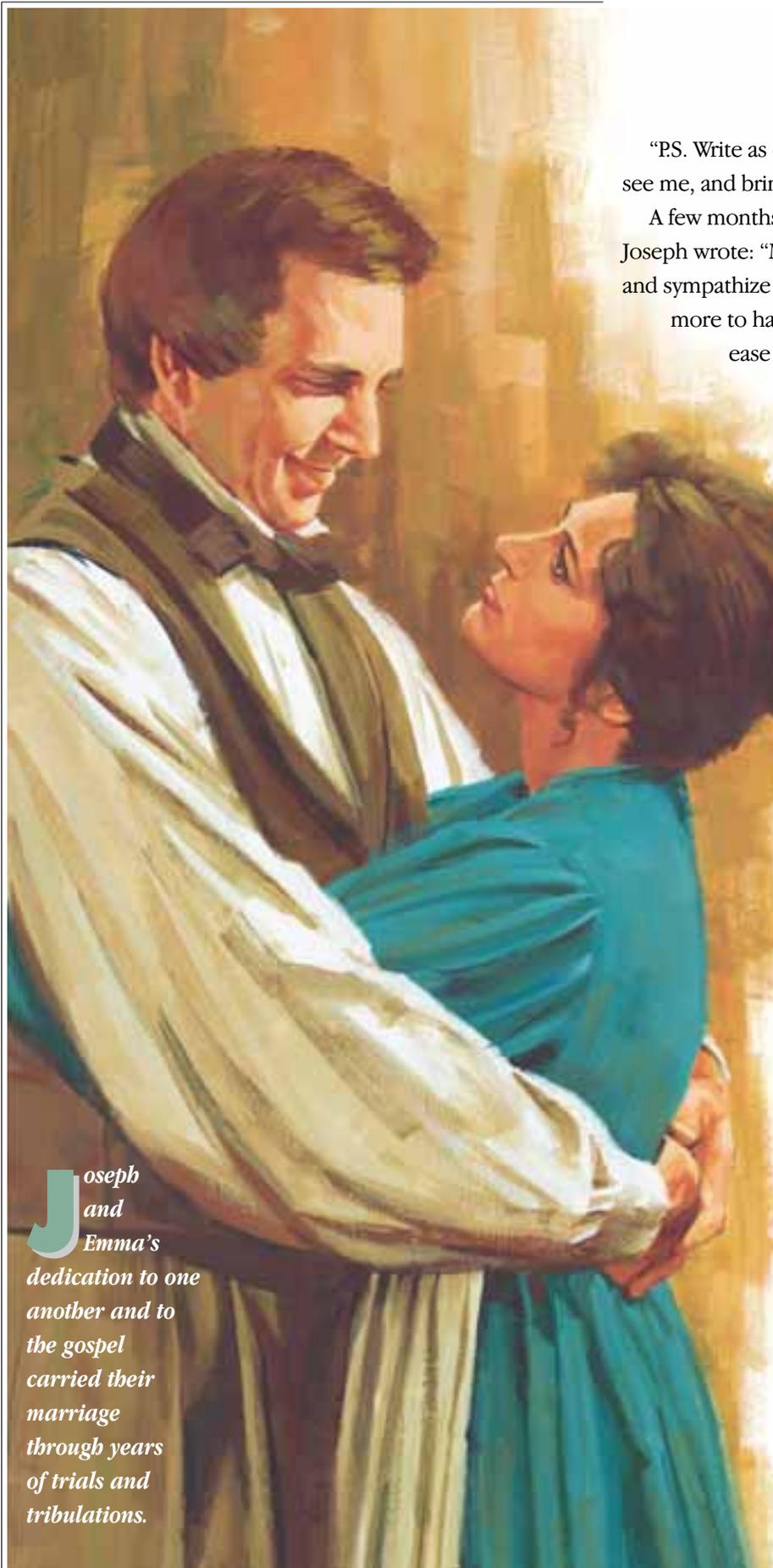
parents: “I have been very lonely ever since Alvin died [three years before], and I have concluded to get married, and if you have no objections with my uniting myself in marriage with Miss Emma Hale, she would be my choice in preference to any other woman.”¹ Joseph’s parents, pleased with his choice, invited Joseph and Emma to live with them after the marriage so they too could enjoy Emma’s company.

About 15 months after they first met, Joseph and Emma married, and Joseph worked that summer on his father’s farm. With this marriage, Emma saw many great events, such as Joseph’s translating the Book of Mormon and organizing the Church, and also many trials, such as the deaths of 6 of their 11 children.

Emma endured the trials well. Joseph’s mother said of Emma: “I have never seen a woman in my life, who would endure every species of fatigue and hardship, from month to month, and from year to year, with that unflinching courage, zeal, and patience, which she has ever done.”²

Joseph was often separated from his wife and children. But mobs and persecution couldn’t separate Joseph’s heart from his family. While away, he wrote letters of love and encouragement to them. In 1838, for instance, he wrote from Missouri, where he was being held prisoner: “O my affectionate Emma, I want you to remember that I am a true and faithful friend to you and the children forever. My heart is entwined around yours forever an ever. . . .





Joseph and Emma's dedication to one another and to the gospel carried their marriage through years of trials and tribulations.

“P.S. Write as often as you can, and if possible come and see me, and bring the children.”³

A few months later from the jail in Liberty, Missouri, Joseph wrote: “My dear Emma, I very well know your toils and sympathize with you. If God will spare my life once more to have the privilege of taking care of you, I will ease your care and endeavor to comfort your heart.”⁴

And the next year from Pennsylvania: “I feel very anxious to see you all once more in this world. . . . I pray God to spare you all until I get home. My dear Emma, my heart is entwined around you and those little ones. Tell all the children that I love them and will come home as soon as I can. Yours in the bonds of love, your husband.”⁵

Fortunately, before Joseph was killed, he and Emma were sealed for time and eternity in Nauvoo, 16 years after they were married. This was the year Joseph received revelations from the Lord about eternal marriage (see D&C 131; 132).

Joseph and Emma's dedication to one another and to the gospel carried their marriage through years of trials and tribulations. And thanks to the Restoration, a temple sealing carried their marriage into eternity. **NE**

NOTES

1. Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith*, ed. Preston Nibley (1958), 93.
2. *History of Joseph Smith*, 191.
3. Letter from Joseph Smith to Emma Smith, 12 Nov. 1838, Richmond, Missouri; Community of Christ Archives, Independence, Missouri.
4. Letter from Joseph Smith to Emma Smith, 21 Mar. 1839, Liberty, Missouri; Bienecke Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
5. Letter from Joseph Smith to Emma Smith, 20 Jan. 1840, Chester County, Pennsylvania; Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois.

DREAM DATE

A bride and groom are standing on a large calendar grid that is superimposed over a sky with clouds. In the background, the Salt Lake Temple is visible. The bride is wearing a white dress and the groom is wearing a black suit. They are looking at each other. The calendar grid has numbers like 16, 17, 23, 24, 19, and 30 visible.

YOUR DREAMS CAN BECOME REALITY IF YOU MAKE IT YOUR GOAL
TO MARRY THE RIGHT PERSON AT THE RIGHT TIME, IN THE RIGHT PLACE,
AND BY THE RIGHT AUTHORITY.

(See Thomas S. Monson, *New Era*, Oct. 2004, 6.)



Love FOR ETERNITY

BY JANET THOMAS
Church Magazines

Being married in the temple is a worthy goal for every Church member.

Participating in Church activities puts young adults in the right setting to meet the right person.

At one time, for many Church members throughout the world, realizing the dream of a temple marriage seemed hopelessly out of reach. Temples were often so far away that seriously consider being married in one seemed like a fairy tale. But with every temple that is built, more and more couples can start their married lives with the blessings of a temple sealing.

Before the wedding, however, there is a courtship. Where do these young Latter-day Saint men and women find each other? What do they do as they prepare to go to the temple?

The following are the stories of young couples who have married in the temple recently. Their stories of where and how they met, how they pursued a common dream of a temple marriage, and how they found happiness in their efforts can serve as inspiration to others who hope for a temple marriage in their future.

In all of these stories are some common threads. First, most couples met at a Church activity. And they usually had to make a great effort to attend those activities. Second, they set the goal of a temple marriage. Third, they lived worthy lives and prepared to go to the temple.

Justin and Tiffany Walker, United States

Although Justin and Tiffany now live in Utah while they are finishing their schooling, they grew up hundreds of miles apart. Tiffany grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and Justin's family lived in Roanoke, Virginia, both largely non-Latter-day Saint environments. They would likely have never met, except that both decided to make every effort to attend school where they could be around other members of the Church. They chose to attend Brigham Young University—Idaho. They were assigned seats next to each other in their geology class. At first, Justin, a returned missionary from the London



Tiffany and Justin Walker, United States

England South Mission, was quiet (he insists he was just trying to concentrate). Soon they started having fun discussions.

As their friendship developed, it changed to courtship. But because they were apart during the summers, they dated for more than two and a half years. During this time, Tiffany and Justin discovered they shared a rock-solid desire for a temple marriage. Tiffany says, "I first developed a desire to be married in the temple when I realized that there were special covenants I could make there that could not be made anywhere else. I knew that if I was married in the temple there would be no other place I could possibly be married that would be more right."

Aries and Lowenna Janssens, England

The first time Aries and Lowenna saw each other was at a young single adult dance. It was just a glance; neither spoke. Six months later, Aries and a couple of his friends traveled 120 miles (190 km) to a young single adult housewarming activity at Lowenna's student house. He says, "I guess it was the normal thing to do where the young single adults are so far spread."

They both recognized each other from the dance, and Aries wasted no time inviting Lowenna and her sister to go wakeboarding with him. Lowenna and her sister didn't

make it because the distance to pick them up and return would have been too difficult for Aries, but they continued to see each other a couple of times a month at dances and activities. They grew to be good friends. As their feelings became stronger, they would regularly call and talk on the phone.

As Lowenna says, "Our feelings were stronger than we had ever experienced with past boyfriends or girlfriends. We both wanted to be the best that we possibly could for each other."

Aries planned to propose and secretly bought a ring and overcame the daunting task of asking her dad's permission. The couple planned to walk to a beautiful waterfall in a place where Aries spent a lot of his childhood. As Aries knelt to rummage in his backpack for the ring, Lowenna, thinking he wanted to take everything slower, said, "Is there anything you would like to change in our relationship?"

Aries replied, "Yes, there is actually. I would like to change quite a lot." He pulled out a box with a ring inside.

The couple immediately started making plans. They were married 10 weeks later in the Preston England Temple, with Lowenna's grandfather performing the temple sealing.

Lowenna says, "The Spirit was really strong through the day and served as an excellent introduction to the gospel to all our nonmember family and friends. We felt that there was nothing more important in this life than our eternal marriage. We are so grateful for the strength that we were to each other during our courtship, which enabled us to enter worthily into our Father's house to make the sacred covenants that guide us in our married life today."

Pang King Yeung Dono and Pang Bobo Ka Po, Hong Kong

Shortly after Ka Po was baptized, the sister missionaries encouraged her to take an institute class. It was held early Saturday mornings, and Ka Po remembers how hard it was to wake up and get to class on time.



Aries and Lowenna Janssens, England





Pang Bobo Ka Po and Pang King Yéung Dono, Hong Kong

A classmate called Ka Po every Saturday morning to wake her up and encourage her to attend class. One day the classmate gave the responsibility of calling to King. That was the beginning of their friendship.

Ka Po says, “Church activities helped us know more about each other.” Their first date was a dance practice for young single adults.

Ka Po and King dated for four years. King helped Ka Po share the gospel with her grandmother and brother. Then on the night he proposed, he met Ka Po in the playground of the school where she was attending night school. She had just finished a big exam and was exhausted, but she felt wonderful when he asked her to marry him and gave her an engagement ring.

They were married in the Hong Kong China Temple. Ka Po says, “I will never forget the day we were sealed in the temple. It was so beautiful and amazing that we could be together for eternity. I could not stop crying, and my heart was so full I couldn’t speak. I love the temple and the great blessing that we can go to the temple in our own country.

“Our temple marriage will influence not only us, but it can influence our children and their children. It is so important that we have

the same purpose and goals on earth. I love the gospel, and I love my eternal spouse.”

Tururarii and Taiana Teturu, Tahiti

“By the time I was 12,” says Taiana, “my desire for a temple marriage became more and more firm. It was more than just an objective I had to achieve. I wanted to become a person worthy to marry in the temple. So I worked toward it, especially through Personal Progress. And there were lots of people helping me—my parents, my Young Women leaders—and many Church activities to help keep me on track.”

Tururarii, on the other hand, has not been

With temples being built throughout the world, a temple marriage is becoming possible for more and more Latter-day Saint couples.



Tururarii and Taiana Teturu, Tahiti



a member for most of his life. He joined the Church at the age of 25. “But having received the gospel,” says Tururarii, “and learning more and more about the blessings, I immediately set a goal to be married in the temple.”

Tururarii and Taiana met during choir rehearsals for an Easter concert fireside put on by the Church. They performed with the choir, became better acquainted, and began dating. But it was at a young single adult conference on a neighboring island that they decided they should be married. When they returned from the conference, they talked to their bishops and began making plans to be married in the Papeete Tahiti Temple.

Tururarii explains the closeness that working toward a temple marriage brought into their lives: “Since I joined the Church, it has always been my goal and my desire to be married in the temple. Then when I met Taiana, it became our goal and our desire, together.”

Alexander and Rachel Sarafian, Australia

Alexander and Rachel had a mutual friend who introduced them at a young single adult activity. But the first time they really talked was at a young single adult convention held in Brisbane. Alexander said hello to Rachel as they were leaving the food hall. Rachel had a lot on her mind and needed someone to talk to. So they sat on the grass outside one of the dormitory buildings and talked.

Alexander promised to take Rachel out for her birthday, but before their first date, he was hospitalized because of a motorbike accident. They began spending a lot of time together. But since they lived a long distance from each other, they ended up breaking up and going their separate ways.

More than a year later, Alexander bought another motorbike. While riding home from church, he was struck by a vehicle and was again hospitalized. Rachel’s mother found out about the accident and mentioned it to her daughter. Rachel decided to make the long trip from Brisbane to Sydney to visit Alexander.

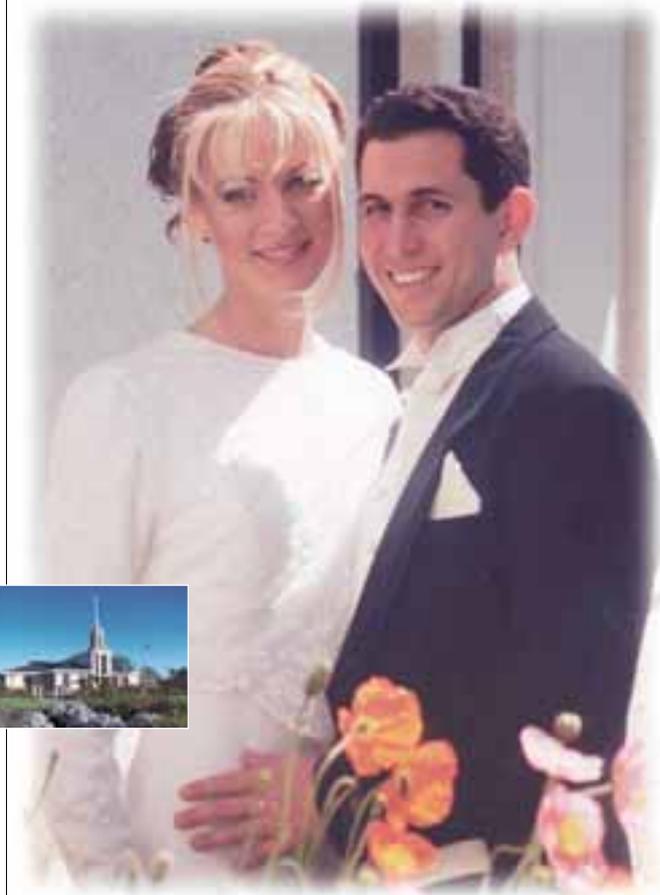
Alexander says, “I still had feelings for Rachel, and she must have had feelings for me if she was willing to make the trip from Brisbane just to visit me.” The couple had spoken

about marriage when they were going out, but now Alexander felt it was time they prayed about getting married. Rachel was startled by the question but agreed to pray about it.

Alexander already knew his answer. When Rachel prayed to know if they should marry, she felt she should say yes. Alexander was her best friend.

With a cast still on his leg, Alexander took Rachel to the same grassy spot where they had first talked, and then, while sitting on a bench overlooking the ocean, he officially asked her to marry him.

In three months, with the help of family and friends, Rachel moved to Sydney and made plans for a temple marriage. For Alexander and Rachel, their sealing in the temple represents commitment and a promise that they will work on creating an eternal marriage together. **NE**



Rachel and Alexander Sarafian, Australia

PLANNING YOUR

Temple WEDDING

BY SHANNA BUTLER

Church Magazines

Congratulations! You are engaged to the one you love, the one you want to be with forever. You probably have many questions about your upcoming temple marriage. Here are answers to some of the questions frequently asked by engaged Latter-day Saint couples.

How do we set a date to be married in the temple?

Call the temple you want to be married in, and schedule a date and time for your marriage. Remember to consider temple operating hours and closure times. You can ask your bishop or branch president for the phone number of the temple. You can also find the contact information and hours of operation for all Latter-day Saint temples at www.lds.org. Click on “Temples.”

How soon before our temple date should we make an appointment with the bishop or branch president for temple recommend interviews? What else should we know about getting a temple recommend?

Make your appointment to speak with the bishop or



Planning a temple marriage isn't too difficult if you know the right steps. Some important things to remember are to schedule a date and time for your sealing, have a temple recommend interview with your bishop and stake president (or branch president and mission president), and obtain a marriage license if needed.

branch president and the stake or mission president enough in advance that neither you nor they feel rushed or pressured for time to get the interviews done. You need to be worthy and endowed before you can be sealed in the temple, and you need to be a member of the Church for a year before you can receive a temple recommend. You and your fiancé or fiancée must each have two recommends signed by the bishop or branch president and the stake or mission president: a temple recommend and a Recommend for Living Ordinances.

Where and when do we get a marriage license?

You must get a marriage license and comply with all local legal requirements before the temple ceremony can take place. Call your local government offices to find out what is required in your area. Be sure to ask what fees you will need to pay, how long the marriage license is valid, how long it takes to get a marriage license, and how soon after the wedding it needs to be filed with the appropriate government office.

How much does it cost to get married in the temple?

Getting married in the temple does not cost money. But there is a small fee if you rent temple clothing in temples where that service is available.

What do we wear to our temple wedding?

The couple and their guests should arrive at the temple in their best Sunday dress.

In the temple, brides' dresses worn during the ceremony should be long sleeved, modest, white, and not elaborately ornamented. Dresses worn in the temple should also have high necklines. Dresses with trains are not permissible in the temple,

unless the trains can be removed or bustled for the ceremony. Tuxedos, cummerbunds, formal headwear, and flowers are not appropriate in the sealing room. If you have specific questions regarding clothing, you can call the temple where you will be getting married for further instructions or advice.

Grooms will wear their temple clothing for the ceremony and change into appropriate clothing for picture taking afterward. Brides can also wear a temple dress for the



ceremony and change into appropriate wedding clothing later—if they wish.

Whom can we invite to our temple wedding?

It is appropriate to invite family and close friends to your temple marriage. They must be endowed Church members with current temple recommends. Each temple has sealing rooms of varying sizes. When you schedule your ceremony, the temple will ask how many people you expect to attend and tell you the time your guests need to arrive.

What if we have family who are not Church members?

Family or friends who are not able to enter the temple may wait in the temple waiting room, if available, or on the temple grounds. You can invite your home teacher,

bishop or branch president, or other appropriate Church members to wait with those who will not be able to attend your temple ceremony and to bear testimony of the sacredness of temple marriage.

What if some of our guests speak a foreign language?

If you need help with translation during the temple ceremony, contact the temple in advance to see if assistance is available.

Can we exchange rings in the temple?

You can exchange rings after the marriage ceremony while still in the sealing room. The temple will provide guidelines on this. Exchanging rings is not part of the ceremony, and it is not appropriate to exchange rings anywhere else on temple grounds.

TRADITIONS

You may have seen people throw rice, honk horns, or decorate cars at weddings. None of these is appropriate on temple grounds.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Of course photographs are not permitted inside the temple, but you can take wedding photos just about anywhere else on temple grounds.

RECEPTIONS

If you have a reception or other celebration after your temple wedding, keep it simple. The most important part of your wedding day will be the sacred marriage ceremony. You will be

eternally sealed by priesthood authority to the one you love. Remember to make this a day of family and close friends and not let other festivities overshadow the importance of your eternal marriage.

DON'T BE NERVOUS

Don't worry if you've never been to the temple before or if you're not quite sure what will happen during the sealing ceremony. You will have loving temple workers and endowed family or friends to guide you in the temple.



Can we exchange vows outside the temple?

It would be inappropriate to exchange vows after you have been married in the temple, where you have already entered into sacred covenants with one another and the Lord. But in some areas civil law may require you to be married outside the temple first.

How long is the temple marriage ceremony?

The sealing ceremony usually takes only about 20 to 30 minutes. The temple will tell you how soon before your sealing ceremony you should arrive at the temple to be properly prepared.

What should we do if there is not a temple close enough to us?

A temple marriage is worth any sacrifice. Many couples wait for a long time until they can afford to travel to the temple closest to them. If you marry outside the temple, you will need to wait at least a year before you can be sealed in the temple, unless civil law in your area requires you to be married outside the temple first. Your bishop or branch president can give you additional counsel.

Is there anything else we need to be aware of?

Two male witnesses are needed for your temple marriage ceremony. They must be worthy, endowed Melchizedek Priesthood holders with current temple recommends. Often the bride's and groom's fathers act as witnesses. You can also choose two other worthy priesthood holders, or the temple will provide two witnesses upon request. **NE**



MAKE DATING Smooth Sailing

BY SUSAN W. TANNER
Young Women General President



As you date, seek friendships that have enduring strength and that can provide a firm foundation for a marriage.

I want to share some gospel perspectives on three “ships”: friendship, courtship, and physical relationship.

First, friendship is a gospel principle; it is necessary to our emotional and spiritual well-being. Second, friendship is the foundation upon which courtship and marriage should be built and can thrive. And third, a physical relationship before marriage can prevent the building of a strong friendship foundation, but after marriage it can enhance that friendship.

Friendship

How important is friendship to you? How does it bless your life? Have you ever felt friendless? It’s miserable to feel lonely and without friends. Friendship is necessary to our well-being—not just nice but necessary. We all hunger for it; it’s a universal need.

This was brought home to me by one of my Young Women general board members who took some personal trips this past summer. In her travels, she visited with young women in Idaho, Brazil, Mongolia, and Russia. In each place, she asked them questions about their lives and compiled their answers. Here are the questions she asked, along with the most frequent response she

received to each question.

Question: What makes you happy?

Answer: Friends.

What are your greatest worries? Friends.

What do you like to do in your free time? Be with friends.

What do you spend most of your time thinking about? Friends.

Why don’t young women come to Mutual? No friends.

Why do young women become less active? Pressure of friends.

Isn’t that amazing! Friends are of paramount importance for young women all over the world. And I believe young men would give similar answers. So too would many adults. We all need friends.

Prophets have taught that friendship is an integral part of keeping the covenants we have made. Consider the example of the people of Alma at the Waters of Mormon. There, they expressed their desire to come into the fold of God. Alma asked them if they were willing to bear one another’s burdens, to mourn with those that mourn, and to comfort those who stand in need of comfort. That is, he asked them if they were willing to covenant to act as friends. They clapped their hands for joy to enter into such a covenant.

And their hearts were knit together in unity and love. This is a great scriptural example of friendship. (See Mosiah 18.)

We can look to Jesus Christ for the greatest example of friendship. “Friend” was the highest compliment He could pay His disciples. He said:

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

“Ye are my friends. . . .

“I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:12–15).

If friendship is so important in the teachings of our prophets and our Savior, shouldn't we be striving to be great, covenant-keeping friends? To be such a friend is Christlike; to have such friends is heavenly. As Latter-day Saints, we know that exaltation involves the privilege of spending eternity where our true Friend, the Savior, and others who have become like Him are. The scriptures give us this glorious promise: “That same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory” (D&C 130:2).

Courtship

This brings me to my second “ship,” or relationship: courtship. Friendship should play a key role in courtship and marriage. I see friendship as the foundation in the

courtship pyramid. A little story will help to illustrate this point.

It is the story of Isaac and Rebecca. This is not the biblical account, however. It is about our daughter Rebecca and her suitor Isaac. Our Rebecca was not persuaded to marry her Isaac nearly as easily as was the Old Testament Rebekah. Nor was she readily willing to give up her lifestyle and immediately leave her family to be part of another's life.

Our Becky was 21. She had signed up to do a summer internship through Brigham Young University in Mozambique, Africa. She wasn't sure if she should serve a mission, but she had at least started the paperwork by getting dental and doctor appointments. She was also thinking about applying for a



Friendship is necessary to our well-being—not just nice but necessary. We all hunger for it; it's a universal need.





master's program in her field. In short, she was trying to decide what to do with the next phase of her life. We all wondered which would win out of the three Ms—Mozambique, mission, or master's.

Meanwhile, Isaac came along in pursuit and soon offered a choice of a fourth M—marriage. He was headed for medical school in a few months, and he did not want to go without Becky. He later told us that he had his own three Ms that he hoped she would choose—marriage, medical school, and eventually motherhood. "If she did not," he said, "I knew I would be the fourth M—miserable."

Becky was a woman of the 21st century. The world and its many glamorous opportunities were available to her, and it was hard for her to set aside some of her dreams. What finally won her over were Isaac's intrinsic goodness and his kindness to her. He did the romantic things too, like sending beautiful bouquets of flowers, taking her on nice dates, and so on.

But those things would not have won her over on their own. What was most winning to her was how he continually put her feelings and her needs above his own. He did little thoughtful things, the kind that one friend would do for another. For example, when he learned that her watch was too big for her wrist, he removed a couple of links from it and made it perfect for her. Another time she found her car spotless and sparkling inside and out because he had washed it, a deed unsolicited by her. Another time she found a little list he had made of ways to improve himself; many of his goals were service oriented. These kindnesses promised an enduring friendship; they expressed qualities of character that would last even when physical beauties eventually faded.

Becky realized that he had the qualities that would endure through good and bad times, the very qualities she would seek out in a good friend. So she did marry Isaac.

And now she reflects that she was right about his great strengths being a wonderful asset to their relationship. She feels she is married to her best friend. And this is what marriage should be.

Friendship, then, should form the foundation of romantic love—the love that leads to courtship and marriage. Likewise, both friendship and romantic love can become what God intends them to be only when they are founded on charity, "the pure love of Christ" (Moroni 7:47). As we learn in Moroni and 1 Corinthians, charity is patient, long-suffering, kind, free from envy, and unselfish. Charity leads couples to rejoice in truth, to believe, to hope, and to endure. Couples whose love is based on charity want the best for each other. Their love is infused with the pure love of Christ. These are the qualities we should seek for in courtship and marriage. (See 1 Corinthians 13:4–7; Moroni 7:45.)

One of the ways to develop a strong, loving relationship is with sound communication. Communication is the way a good relationship begins and also endures. My unmarried children ask me constantly how it is that anyone ever gets together. It seems like such a mysterious puzzle. I know that everyone's falling-in-love story is different. But there seems to be at least one commonality among most stories. This is a spontaneity in conversation. So many couples say things like, "We just talked and talked; I lost track of time when we were talking; it was so comfortable to talk; we share the same sense of humor; we loved talking about our similar interests and values."

It was like that on my first date with my husband. All evening we were surrounded by people, but I felt like it was just the two of us. John and I talked to each other nonstop.

I've heard it said that "love is a long conversation." I believe it. In fact I often joke with our children that if I ever run out of things to say to Dad, then the marriage will be over. I'm pretty safe saying that, because we love to talk to one another about everything.

This communication that is so fun in a friendship is also essential as you really get to know someone's deeper self. A relationship may never develop into a

courtship because it can't get beyond inch-deep generalities.

We sometimes look for happiness in exotic places and for romance in mystique, money, or charm. We sometimes look just for looks. Instead, we need to look for friends who embody Christlike character. As you date, seek friendships that have enduring strength and that can provide a firm foundation for a marriage. After you have established a solid, virtuous base in your relationship, there is a place for physical intimacy—in marriage.

Physical Relationship

The physical relationship between a man and a woman can be wonderful and good—a beautiful blessing. However, if the physical part of romance comes too early or too fast in a relationship, it can take over. Then it can become the tail that wags the dog. Our physical emotions are powerful and exciting. This is how they are meant to be. But this is precisely why they need to be kept in check until after marriage—when other fundamental parts of the relationship are developed.

We have taught our children some principles that we hope have provided protection for them. We tried to create some catchy phrases so they would remember them easily in times of danger and decision. Let me share just four principles that will protect you if you remember them and abide by them.

1. Avoid the dangers of the dark. Stay in well-lit places—literally and figuratively. There's wisdom to leaving the lights on—on the porch, in the living room, at the dance. And there's safety in shunning places that feel dark in spirit.

2. Beware the hazard of the horizontal.

Don't lie down together with a date. Just don't do it—not to watch a movie or to read a book or to rest at a picnic.

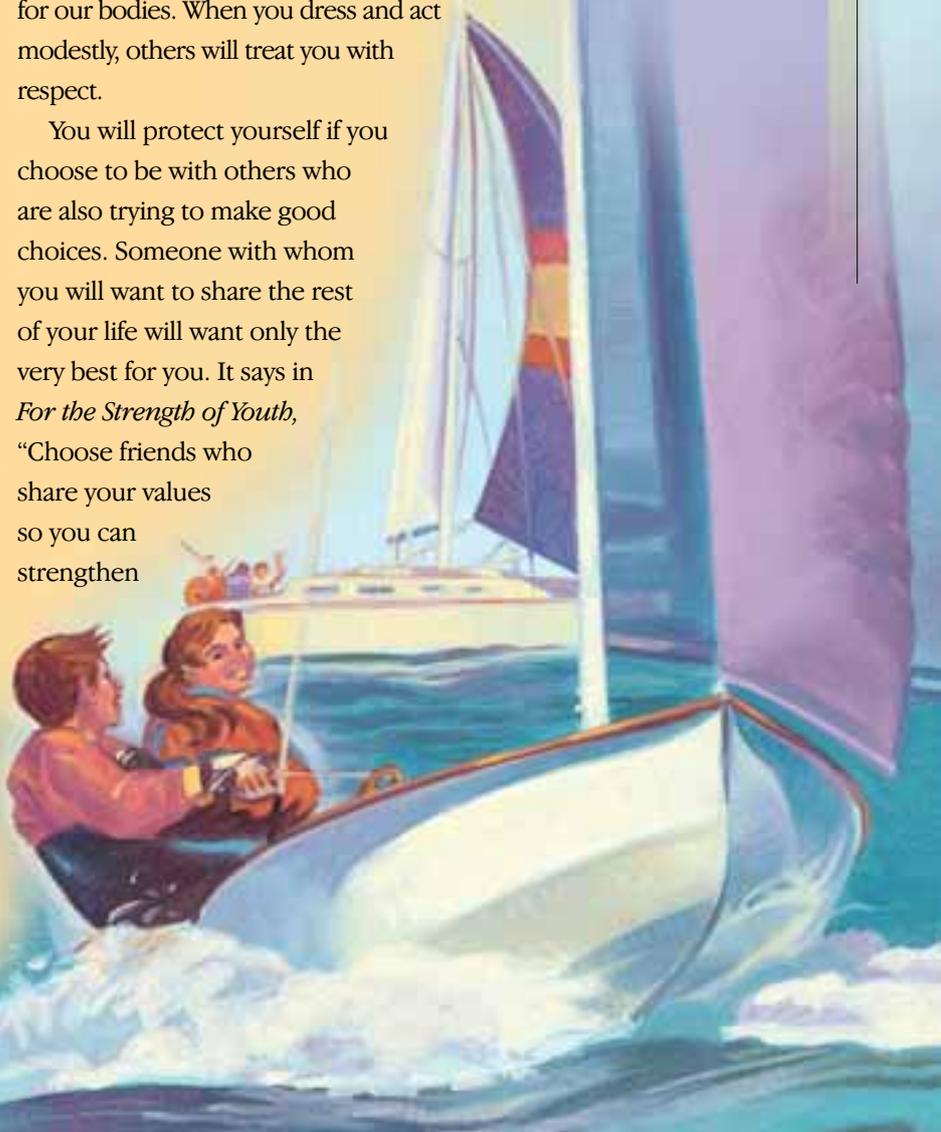
3. Remember the perils of privacy. Find public places to be alone. Learn to have your intimate talks where others are. There is great safety in being together where you can easily be interrupted.

4. Modesty is a must. Everything about your appearance, your speech, and your demeanor should bespeak that you are a literal spirit son or daughter of Heavenly Father. If we truly understand the significance of our bodies in our Father's plan, we will show great honor for our bodies. When you dress and act modestly, others will treat you with respect.

You will protect yourself if you choose to be with others who are also trying to make good choices. Someone with whom you will want to share the rest of your life will want only the very best for you. It says in *For the Strength of Youth*, "Choose friends who share your values so you can strengthen



One of the ways to develop a strong, loving relationship is with sound communication. Communication is the way a good relationship begins and also endures.





Couples whose love is based on charity want the best for each other. Charity is a quality we should seek for in courtship and marriage.

and encourage each other in living high standards. A true friend will encourage you to be your best self” ([2001], 12).

The Lord planned for us to become one in every way. The physical relationship in marriage can help cement our spiritual union. We are made for each other.

Our model is in the very first love story. The Lord said that it was not good that Adam should be alone. So the Lord created Eve to be “an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18). The meaning of this scripture is that Eve was created to be a help “meet” for Adam. *Meet* means fit or suitable. So Eve was a helper who was “suited to, worthy of, or corresponding to him” (Genesis 2:18, footnote *b*). After that, Adam was taught that they should “cleave unto” one another, “and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). So here are all of the elements—being suited for each other first and then

adding the physical relationship after marriage.

I know what it is to have such a friend. My husband, John, was kind and thoughtful and romantic in our courtship. Then even when he was going to school full time, working full time, and we had three children under the age of four, he continued to be kind and thoughtful and romantic with me. He has shown this by helping me in my busy roles. He bathed the children every night. He scrubbed the kitchen floor. He was also my window to the world—keeping me abreast to what was happening out there. He provided for us. He encouraged me as a mother. He supported the children in plays, concerts, athletic events, and papers they had to write. He would give me moments of rest—on walks or weekend getaways, taking me to the temple or occasionally on his travels. When I come home tired at night, he makes cheese toast and other such delicacies, so I don’t have to cook. He is my muse and my editor in my writing and talks. He prays for me and gives me priesthood blessings. He is a help suited for me in every way.

I hope that each of us will find such joy in our lives through our relationships with friends, family, and God. We must remember that deep friendships are built on Christlike virtues. Such friendships form a sound base upon which to build a courtship. And finally, very carefully, the physical relationship will enhance that holy friendship in marriage. I testify that these principles are true. May we find joy in the holy socialities that the Lord has provided for us. **NE**

Adapted from a Brigham Young University—Idaho devotional address given on 18 November 2003.

GREAT GROUP DATES

If you've tried to coordinate a great group date before, you know a little creativity is essential. Here are some ideas you can try if your creative juices are running low.

- ❖ Bon voyage! Take a vacation by having a culture night where you eat food from and learn about another area of the world.
- ❖ If the weather's good, head outdoors for a hike or nature walk. Try building your own kites. Playing outdoor games is fun for big groups.
- ❖ If the weather's bad, you can bring the outdoors inside! Hang cutout stars from the ceiling, and gather all the plants in your house. Play board games while you cook tinfoil dinners in the oven.
- ❖ Journey back to childhood by reading each other children's books at a library. You could bring your little brothers and sisters along to liven things up. But remember to be respectful and keep the noise down.
- ❖ It's not showing off to teach each other things you're good at. Take turns being the teacher and the student. Maybe you're great at fly-fishing or your date loves racquetball.

- ❖ Finding opportunities to serve is easy. You could visit a rest home or wash someone's car.
- ❖ Learn how to swing, ballroom, or country dance, and then have a dance at an appropriate place or just at your own home.
- ❖ For something frugal, fancy, and fun, have a formal dinner in the park instead of going to an expensive restaurant.
- ❖ Visiting a local art or history museum makes a great educational date and is a better opportunity for conversation than sitting through a movie. Afterwards, create your own works of art by finger painting or making collages.
- ❖ Try cooking or baking your favorite foods together. If your creations turn out edible, share them with family and neighbors. Bon appétit!
- ❖ Invite your date to activities with your family. This is more fun than it sounds, and seeing how a date interacts with your parents and siblings can tell you a lot about him or her.
- ❖ Borrow a video camera and make a movie with props you find around the house. If there is a big group, divide up to make different movies and have an awards ceremony after viewing them all. **NE**



HOW TO BE A FIRST RATE DATE

Here are a few suggestions for some of those awkward dating situations.

To open the door? Or not to open the door? That is the question. Should you help a young lady put her coat on, or does she want to put it on herself? Should you call a young man if he said he was going to call but hasn't?

You've probably had questions like these while spending time with members of the opposite sex. What you do can make your date think you are either a first-class lady or gentleman or a first-class jerk.

Here are a few suggestions on what you could do in some of those awkward situations. You might think some of these customs are old-fashioned, but treating other people respectfully is never out-of-date.

FOR YOUNG MEN

- **The phone call.**

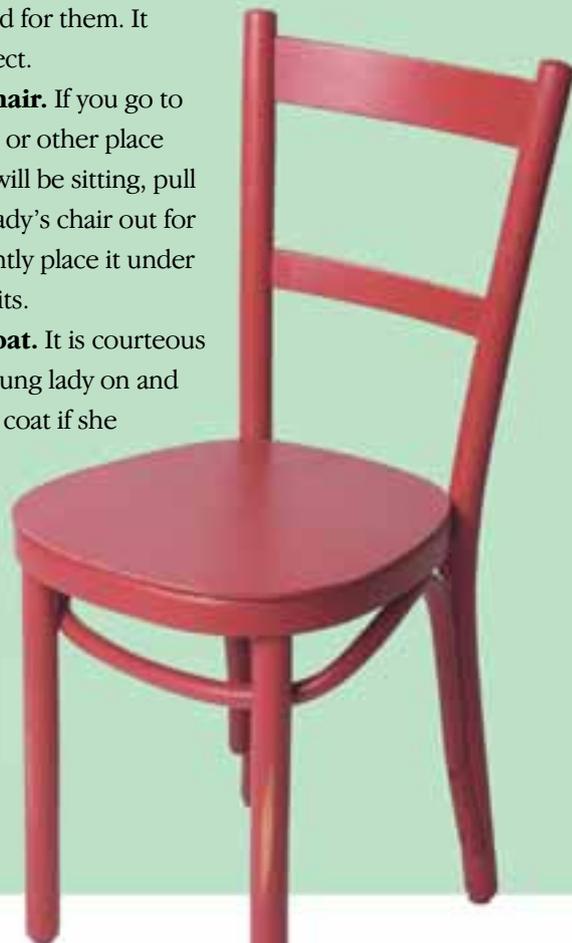
However you choose to ask a young woman out, remember to plan well the time you spend together. Try not to call too late at night or just before you want to spend time with her. No young woman likes to feel like she was a last-minute detail.

- **The door approach.** When you pick a young lady up, you should knock on the door or ring the doorbell—honking your horn is not an acceptable substitute. Give her a sincere compliment to start things off right.

- **The car.** Most young women like to have the car door opened for them. It shows respect.

- **The chair.** If you go to a restaurant or other place where you will be sitting, pull the young lady's chair out for her, and gently place it under her as she sits.

- **The coat.** It is courteous to help a young lady on and off with her coat if she is wearing one.



• **The parents.** When you meet them, stand when they come into the room, greet them politely, and ask them what time you should bring their daughter home.

• **Watch the clock.** Be sure to get your date home on time.

• **The doorstep.** As you say good night, remember to thank her for spending time with you or for taking you on a date, as the case may be. When you say good night, be sure to follow the guidelines in *For the*



Strength of Youth.

• **If she asks you.** If a girl asks you out, does that mean she's going to pay for everything? She's probably planning on it, but it would be a good idea to offer to pay for one of the activities or to drive or help in some way, to make sure she knows you appreciate what she's doing.

FOR YOUNG WOMEN

• **The outfit.** One great way to show respect for whomever you are with is to dress modestly. Your date



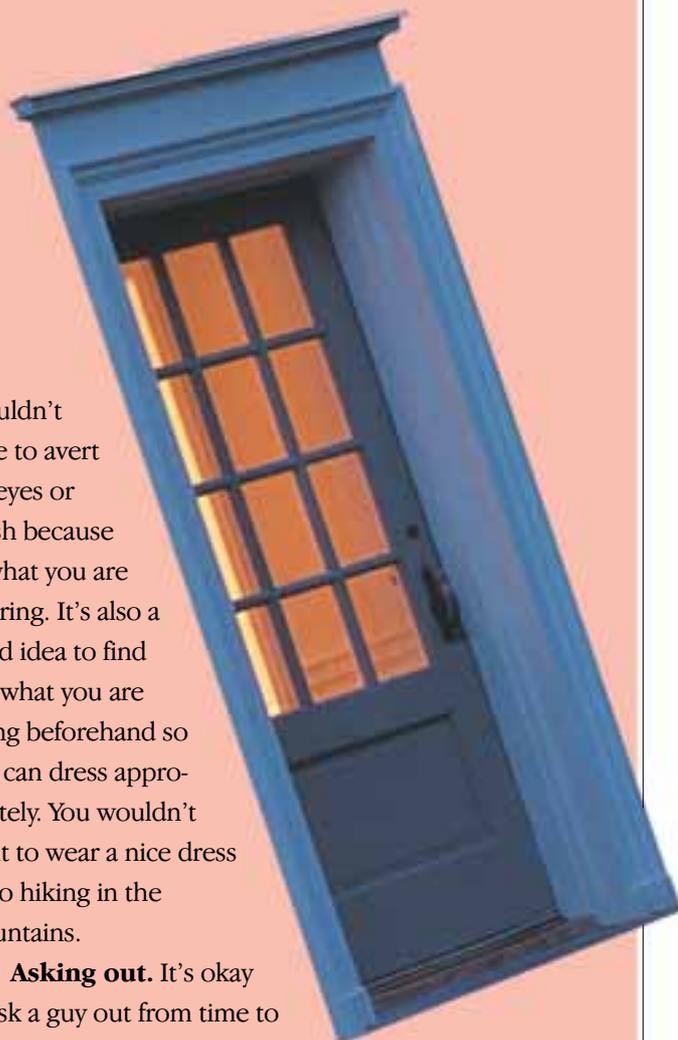
shouldn't have to avert his eyes or blush because of what you are wearing. It's also a good idea to find out what you are doing beforehand so you can dress appropriately. You wouldn't want to wear a nice dress to go hiking in the mountains.

• **Asking out.** It's okay to ask a guy out from time to time, but be sure you are considerate in your asking. If you know he's interested in you, you might want to let him ask you the first time. A few subtle hints will help him; he needs to know if you're interested, too.

• **The car.** Give boys the opportunity to open the door for you. If his door isn't already unlocked, it's polite to reach over and unlock it for him once you're in the car.

• **The doorstep scene.** If it's not too late and your parents won't mind, you can invite your date (and your friends, too, if you're on a group date) in for a few minutes. This not only diffuses the awkwardness of saying good-bye on the doorstep, it also gives you a chance to thank your date for taking you out.

So, the answer to your question? Open the door! It never hurts to enhance your etiquette and reveal your respect for others. **NE**





*was horrified
to see my ring
flying off my
finger and heading
toward disaster.*

BY ARIANNE B. COPE

When I was single, it seemed like engaged girls with sparkly diamond rings loved to show them off so everyone would know how much their husband paid for them. It's like in the film *Johnny Lingo*, where islanders are shocked when Johnny buys his wife with eight cows instead of the typical three or four. I couldn't wait until I got the chance to wave around an "eight cow" ring of my own.

But if you judge me by the plain, thin, silver-colored ring I currently wear, you'd think my husband was a cheapskate. Actually my husband worked for months so I could have a beautiful ring. Unfortunately, it was an *uninsured* beautiful eight-cow ring . . . and I flushed it down the toilet.

We'd only been married for two weeks, and I'd already formed the habit of carefully pulling off my ring and placing it safely in a little box above the sink each time I washed my hands. I didn't want to run the risk of tainting my ring's sparkle with soap scum buildup. As I pulled it off one Saturday morning, the pressure built, and it popped right off my knuckle. I watched in disbelief as my lovely ring sailed straight for the toilet and hit the open bowl dead center, just as it finished flushing.

I screamed. I cried. I tried to jump in after it, but grown women just don't fit in toilet bowls no matter how desperate the circumstances. My poor husband took the toilet apart for me, stuck his whole arm down the sludge hole, and felt around for the ring. We called every person in town that had anything to do with the sewer system and pleaded our case.

"Lady, your line is connected to the largest high pressure pipe in the city. Your ring is long gone," I was told. In one swift swirl of water, my ring was gone forever.

Over the next few days, I became understandably depressed. My marriage preparation classes hadn't covered crises of the flushing variety. I worried I'd ruined my chances for a happy marital relationship. After all, my husband had insisted on buying me a nice ring because

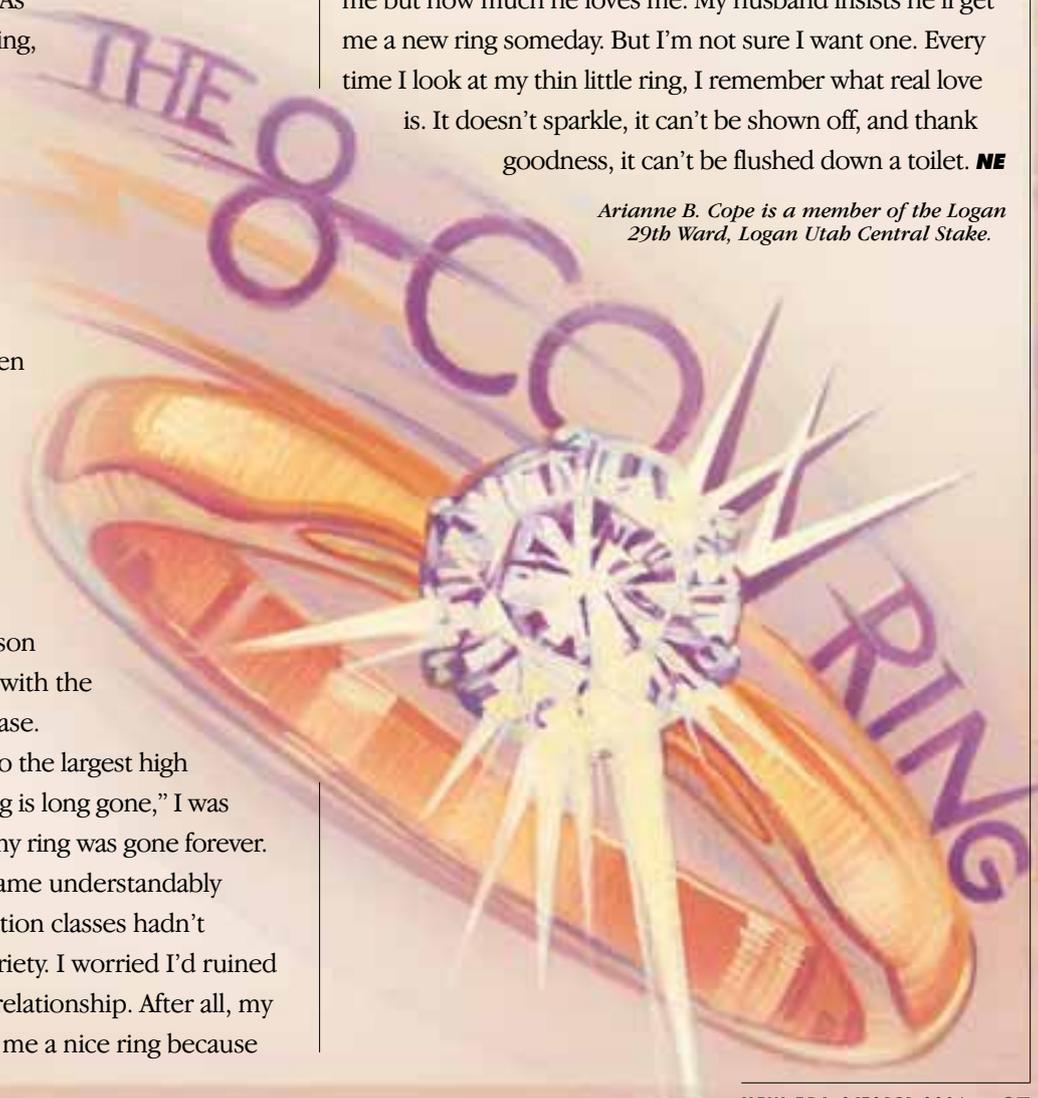
the sacrifice it would take for him to be able to buy it would represent his love for me. Now I'd flushed the symbol of his love down the toilet.

I was telling my husband for the 42nd time how oafish I was and how sorry I was that he'd worked so hard for something I'd clumsily lost. He took me by the shoulders, looked me in the eyes, and said, "Please stop, Arianne. I don't care about the ring. I didn't do all that work for some sparkly rock. I did it for you, and I'd do it all over again a hundred times if you wanted me to. You're worth more than all the diamonds in the world. I love you."

My husband's comforting words and warm embrace that day made me realize how silly I'd been acting. The ring was gone, but everything it symbolized still exists.

So even though I still punish the toilet with a hard kick from time to time, I've learned to focus on what's most important. And that's not how much my husband spent on me but how much he loves me. My husband insists he'll get me a new ring someday. But I'm not sure I want one. Every time I look at my thin little ring, I remember what real love is. It doesn't sparkle, it can't be shown off, and thank goodness, it can't be flushed down a toilet. **NE**

Arianne B. Cope is a member of the Logan 29th Ward, Logan Utah Central Stake.



ILLUSTRATED BY DILLEEN MARSH

WHAT
DO

KISSES

MEAN?

BY JOHN BYTHEWAY





There's an old nursery rhyme that begins, "Georgie Porgie, pudding and pie, kissed the girls and made them cry." When you've heard that little poem, you may have wondered, "What made the girls cry?" Aren't kisses nice things that anyone would appreciate? Perhaps it all depends on whether or not Georgie Porgie was an honest person or just a selfish young man who didn't think about the consequences of his actions.



Actions Speak Louder than Words

An important part of dating is communicating. We communicate by sharing our thoughts, ideas, and feelings. We enjoy being with someone

when we have an easy time communicating or when we have a lot to talk about. There's another aspect of communication, however, that doesn't involve talking—or using any words at all.

All of us know how to communicate without using words. Some of our nonverbal communication speaks loud and clear. With that idea in mind, let's ask a few questions.

Suppose you are on a date, and you put your arm around your date's shoulder. This is a common gesture of affection, but what does it communicate?

How about, "I like you"?

What if you hold hands with your date? That's perhaps a stronger message, isn't it? Maybe that's like saying "I really like you."

Finally, what if you kiss your date? Then what are you saying? What do kisses mean, anyway?

Expressions of affection, like putting your arm around someone's shoulder, holding hands, or giving a kiss good night, involve the principle of honesty. Elder Bruce C. Hafen of the Seventy cautioned young adults to make sure their actions match their intent: "During the time of courtship, please be emotionally honest in the expression of affection.

Sometimes you are not as careful as you might be about when, how, and to whom you express your feelings of affection. You must realize that the desire to express affection can be motivated by other things than true love."

If you are emotionally honest you should mean what you say but also mean what you do. Because our expressions of affection send such powerful messages, they involve powerful feelings. Elder Hafen continued: "When any of you—men or women—are given entrance to the heart of a trusting young friend, you stand on holy ground. In such a place you must be honest with yourself—and with your friend—about love and the expression of its symbols."¹

One young woman allowed a young man to kiss her and later discovered that he had also kissed someone else he was dating. She felt betrayed. Why? Because his expressions of affection didn't carry the level of commitment she thought they did. This kind of miscommunication often leads to hurt feelings and tears. President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency, cautioned, "Men, take care not to make women weep, for God counts their tears."²

Had this couple communicated better in words what expressions of affection mean, they would have postponed the sharing of affection and avoided the heartache that comes when it appears that one has lied with his actions.

Likewise, young women should not put



Expressions of affection, like putting your arm around your date's shoulder, holding hands, or giving a kiss goodnight, involve the principle of honesty.

A casual attitude about kissing can cause a lot of heartache. Your kisses will mean more when they are saved for someone you really care about.



young men in awkward or uncomfortable situations by their actions. They have an equal obligation to keep affection within appropriate bounds.

Remember, before you are married, you will be more respected and more attractive for the affection you withhold than for the affection you give.

Save Your Kisses

While I am aware of no counsel on whether kissing should be reserved only for post-mission dating or courtship, I am aware of plenty of counsel concerning honesty in our actions and treating others with respect and kindness. Casual attitudes about expressions of affection such as kissing can cause much grief and heartache.

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) taught: “Kissing has . . . degenerated to develop and express lust instead of affection, honor, and admiration. To kiss in casual dating is asking for trouble. What do kisses mean when given out like pretzels and robbed of sacredness?”³

Notice the words President Kimball used to describe a kiss: *affection, honor, admiration, sacredness*. Kissing and other expressions of affection communicate powerful messages of commitment that others may believe and act on. If you don’t have a commitment, your actions are dishonest and likely harmful. Two thousand years ago, someone else’s actions didn’t match his words either. Listen to the stinging rebuke: “Judas, betrayest thou the

Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:48). Judas used a symbol of affection as a tool of betrayal. We should not leave others feeling betrayed by our actions.

Can We Talk?

Another reason for being careful with our physical expressions of affection is that they can interfere with the development of a healthy long-term relationship, even marriage. Brother Lowell Bennion, an LDS author, has written: “Once a couple begins to share affection in a physical way, this activity tends to become the focus of interest. Often such a couple ceases to explore the other significant dimensions of personality: mind, character, maturity, religious faith, moral values, and goals.”

So when is the right time to share affection? Brother Bennion continues: “Affection should grow out of genuine friendship and brotherly love, not precede them, if one wishes to be sure of having real and lasting love in marriage. Kissing for the sake of kissing invites more affection, and many fine young people become more deeply involved than they actually wish to be.”⁴

Too much sharing of physical affection can cloud thinking to the point that a couple doesn’t really know why they like to be together, other than the opportunity to share affection. A couple may even get married, and when the honeymoon is over and they’re back to everyday life, they may discover they have little to talk about. One wise bishop suggested that



PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE BUNDERSON



if young adults feel that their relationship is too physical, they should try spending the next two weeks without even holding hands to see if they still enjoy being together.

The desire to be with someone, to spend time together, and to share affection is natural and God-given. But the Lord has cautioned us to be careful, considerate, and honest not only in what we say but in what we do. When kisses are reserved only for

those we respect, admire, and are committed to, they are much more meaningful and definitely worth waiting for. **NE**

John Bytbeway is a member of the Winder 10th Ward, Salt Lake Winder Stake.

NOTES

1. "The Gospel and Romantic Love," *Ensign*, Oct. 1982, 67.
2. "That We May Touch Heaven," *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 47.
3. *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 281.
4. Q&A: "How much kissing is too much?" *New Era*, Feb. 1971, 5.



EXTRA! EXTRA!

To learn more about dating, kissing, and showing love, read the following articles in the Gospel Library at www.lds.org: "That We May Touch Heaven" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1990) by President Thomas S. Monson, "Love Takes Time" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1975) by Elder Marvin J. Ashton, and "Speaking of Kissing" (*New Era*, June 2001) by Bruce Monson.





A PROPHET'S LOVE STORY

As a boy, President Gordon B. Hinckley lived across the street from Marjorie Pay. She first caught his eye at a ward social when she gave a reading. Their first date was to the Gold and Green Ball, a Church dance. At that time, Gordon went to the University of Utah and Marjorie was a senior in high school. They became good friends, and their friendship later turned to courtship.

When the time came, Marjorie supported Gordon in his decision to

go on a mission to the British Isles. They parted as best friends and wrote each other while they were separated. Marjorie dated others while Gordon was on his mission, but she didn't think anyone measured up to him. After he got home, Gordon and Marjorie discovered they still loved each other's cheerfulness and optimism. They continued their educations, waiting until they felt it was the right time to get married. They were sealed together eternally in the Salt Lake Temple on

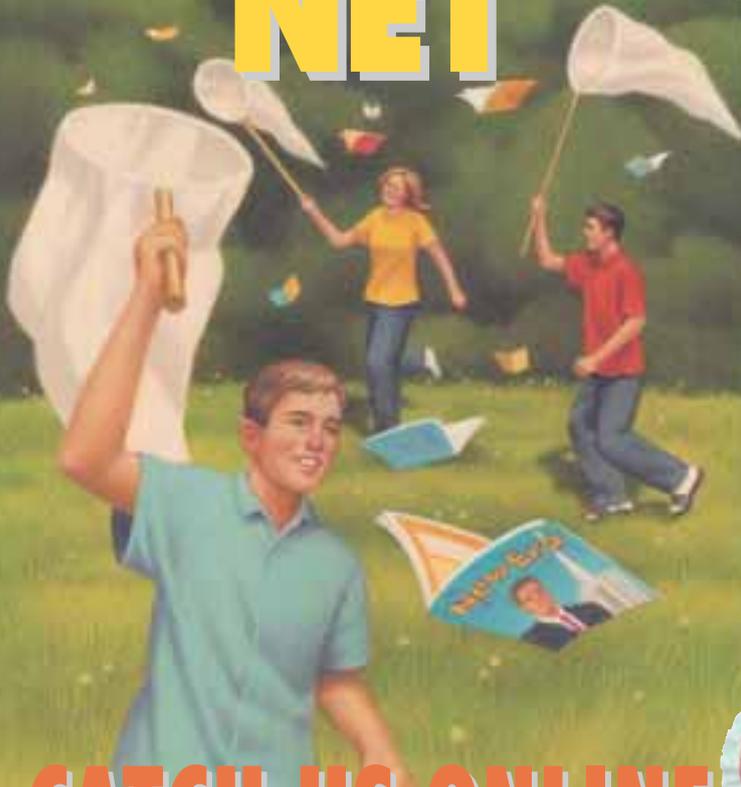
29 April 1937.

Since their early days together, President and Sister Hinckley kept their marriage strong by always putting the Lord first. Sister Hinckley said, "It seemed to me that if you understood the gospel and the purpose of our being here, you would want a husband who put the Lord first. I felt secure knowing he was that kind of man." (See Sheri L. Dew, *Go Forward with Faith: The Biography of Gordon B. Hinckley* [1996], 41, 58–59, 83, 106–7, 113–16.)

“
BE SURE
YOUR
COURTSHIP
REFLECTS THE
PATTERNS
YOU WANT
IN YOUR
ETERNAL
MARRIAGE.
”

—President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), "Live for the Future," *New Era*, Nov. 2002, 12.

USE THE NET



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"Just Hanging Out" — August 2001

"Idea List: The Do's of Dating" — November 2000

"Marriage Prep 101" — October 1999

"In Tune: Marriage for Eternity" — September 1993

Just go to www.lds.org and click on Gospel Library. You can do a search to find what you're after. It's all out there, so cast your net and bring it in.

OF ALL THINGS



RX FOR LONELINESS

To you . . . who wish to be married I say this, *Do not give up hope. And do not give up trying. But do give up being obsessed with it.* The chances are that if you forget about it and become anxiously engaged in other activities, the prospects will brighten immeasurably. . . .

"Let us face the fact that in this life some of you will marry, some of you may not. For those of you who do, it must be a total commitment, without reservation. It must involve total

and unequivocal loyalty. It must be a covenant for eternity, a companionship that will require constant attention and nurturing.

"For those who do not marry, this fact of life must be faced squarely. But continuous single status is not without opportunity, challenge, or generous recompense.

"I believe that for most of us the best medicine for loneliness is work and service in behalf of others."

—President Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Conversation with Single Adults," *Ensign*, Mar. 1997, 60–61.



HAVE A HEART

Letting that special someone in your life know you love them isn't always easy, but it's important. Here are a few ways you can show him or her your love without ever saying a word. And even if you aren't in love, you can use these ideas to tell your family and friends you care about them, too.

♥ Give them a "heart attack." Cut out paper hearts, and tape them to their door or car. On the

hearts, you could write little notes of appreciation.

♥ Make them an "I love you" book. Without your loved ones knowing, give sheets of paper to their friends and family and have them write a letter to your loved ones or a list of the things they like best about them. Make a cover, gather the pages, and staple the sheets together like a book.

♥ Leave some candy or a flower and a nice note where they will find it.

HELPING YOUR FAMILY

Share Your Joy

BY CONNIE MYERS

When your family can't attend your temple ceremony, you can still involve them in your wedding.

When my husband and I married in the Jordan River Utah Temple, his parents, grandparents, and other relatives were in the sealing room with us. My mom, a worthy Church member who had not yet received her temple recommend, waited for us in the lobby. She knew the importance of temple covenants and wanted me to be married for time and all eternity. Still, “It was the loneliest hour of my life,” she told me later.

A temple wedding should be filled with joy, but the joy can be bittersweet if your parents can't attend the ceremony. With some prayerful planning, however, you can help your parents share your joy even when they can't witness your sealing.

Bryce & Danielle

As Bryce and Danielle made wedding preparations, they wanted to be sure Danielle's dad was a part of every detail. “We had a family talk and went over the details of the day and made sure my dad was comfortable with everything,” Danielle says.

Danielle and Bryce also shared with her dad what they could appropriately tell about temple sealings. “We let him know that the sealer would give us a few words of counsel and then perform the marriage. We made it relevant to him and his experiences,” Danielle says.

As the wedding day approached, Danielle and her mom received their endowments on the same day. During Danielle and Bryce's marriage at the Salt Lake Temple, Danielle's dad and grandparents toured Temple Square and the visitors' center. “The most important thing is making sure they're not alone,” Danielle says. “A few of my relatives offered to stay with my dad instead of coming to the sealing. That helped.”

After the wedding, Danielle and Bryce had pictures taken in front of the temple, including some photos of Danielle and her parents. The group then went to a wedding luncheon, where Danielle's dad spoke to the group about his daughter and her new husband. “Having my dad speak at the lunch made him a part of things,” Danielle says. Before and after the wedding, Danielle made sure her dad knew how much she loves him. “I think expressing that you love your parents, that you want them to be part of your day, that they're not any less a part of your life because they can't come to the ceremony—I think that is the most important thing.”

Danielle suggests that preparing parents for your temple marriage begins long before your engagement. “I would make sure that your parents know that it's a priority for you, so it's not a surprise when it comes up,” she says. “I would pray a lot. Not only do you need to be blessed



with the right words, but your parents need to be softened to understand that you're not doing this to hurt them. Be patient and loving and understanding."

Jeff & Kourtney

Jeff and Kourtney were married in the Oakland California Temple three years after Jeff's baptism. When Jeff joined the Church, his parents had many concerns. "One was that they wouldn't be able to see him get married," his wife Kourtney recalls.

As Jeff and Kourtney made wedding plans, they spent a lot of time with both sets of parents. Jeff says, "Brothers

and sisters also feel they're missing something as well. Include them in the wedding planning so they're a part of it as much as they can be."

Every step of the way, Jeff and Kourtney were sensitive to the feelings of Jeff's parents. Jeff bore his testimony of the gospel and the temple to his family and gave his parents a book that explained the purposes of the temple and said that it's not secret but sacred. "Explain to them why this is important to you, and hopefully they'll see things through your eyes," Jeff advises.

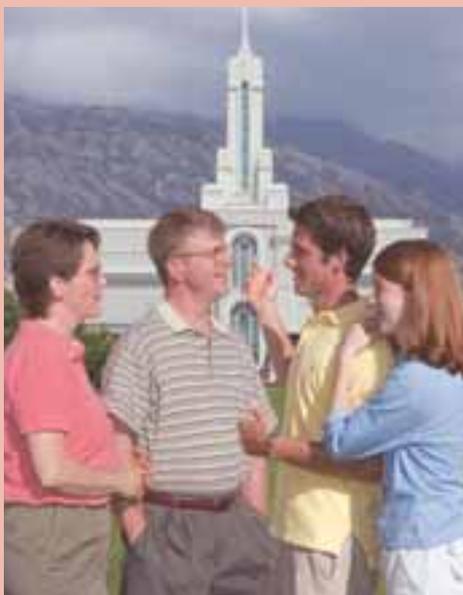
"Looking back, part of what made things go so well was the education and preparation of those not knowledgeable

INCLUDING MOM AND DAD

With some planning, your wedding day will be meaningful for your parents and friends, whether they can enter the temple or not. Here are some ideas to help you prepare. Prayerfully consider how best to include your parents on your wedding day. Advance preparations will not only help your parents feel part of your marriage but will help them feel the reverence and sacred spirit of the temple.

BEFORE THE WEDDING

- ♥ Make sure your parents understand why a temple sealing is important to you. Share your testimony with them.
- ♥ Show your parents pictures of the sealing room and celestial room, such as those in the publication "Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (item #35863000, available online at www.ldscatalog.com or through the Church Distribution Services).
- ♥ If your parents are Church members, encourage them to attend their ward's temple preparation class.
- ♥ Make sure you are fully prepared to enter the temple. You'll be better able to help your parents understand your decision.
- ♥ Involve your parents in wedding preparations as much as possible. Call on their talents and strengths so they know you still need them and want them to be a part of your day.
- ♥ Remember to include your siblings and extended family in your plans. They will want to be a part of your special day too.



- ♥ Keep the guest list small not only to help keep the ceremony sacred but to help your parents not feel overwhelmed and outnumbered at the temple.

AT THE TEMPLE

- ♥ Call the temple you are planning to get married in and find out what they can do to help you include your parents.
- ♥ Have a friend or family member keep them company and answer questions.
- ♥ Write a letter of appreciation to your parents expressing your love and gratitude for all they've done for you. Have a friend or family member deliver the letter to them

during the ceremony.

- ♥ Before or after the ceremony, have family photographs taken in front of the temple. Take some photos of you with just your mom and dad.
- ♥ Even with all you can do in advance, your parents may still feel left out when your wedding day finally arrives. Be aware of their feelings. Express your love to them often throughout the day.

AFTER THE WEDDING

- ♥ Invite your parents to stand and speak to your guests at an after-wedding meal or gathering.
- ♥ If you have a reception or open house, set aside a time to honor your parents in front of your guests.
- ♥ Write your parents a thank-you note.

about the Church,” Jeff says. “My parents may not have agreed with my decision to join the Church and the resulting effect that I would get married without their participation, but they completely supported my wife and me that day. Their love for us transcended any disagreement about the Church.”

Brad & Jenna

Brad introduced Jenna to the gospel when they were 17. He baptized her just a week after she turned 18. “My parents were

marriage and then waiting a year to be sealed. However, I knew in my heart that I needed to stand up for what I believe in. We needed to be an example to my parents, our friends, and family.”

While Brad and Jenna were being sealed, one of the temple workers talked to Jenna’s parents about the temple. Jenna had planned one more thing: “I gave my parents each a card telling them how much I loved them and that I knew someday they would understand why I had made this decision.”

You can invite your parents to speak to your guests at a meal or gathering to celebrate your wedding.



present when I took the discussions and were not shy about asking questions,” Jenna says. “But they always thought that this was a fleeting thing with me.”

Brad and Jenna wrote to each other during Brad’s mission. When Brad returned from his mission and asked Jenna to marry him, “my parents realized that this was not a fleeting thing,” Jenna says. “For two years my parents knew they would not be able to see me be married, but it wasn’t until Brad and I began to plan and prepare that their hurt began to show. They felt left out. They felt as if they were being told that they weren’t good people because they weren’t members and didn’t have temple recommends. Brad and I had even considered having a civil

The day after their sealing, Brad and Jenna continued their wedding celebration. Back home in Wisconsin, they publicly exchanged rings and held a reception at the church. “My mom and father-in-law both gave talks,” Jenna says. “We tried to make my family feel as involved as possible.”

As Jenna looks back on her wedding, she remembers the tender feelings she shared with her parents. “I know more than anything that they were able to feel the Spirit in the temple waiting room and that Heavenly Father helped them to feel at peace and to know that the decision I was making was right.” **NE**

Connie Myers is a member of the Cameo Park Ward, Sandy Utah Alta View Stake.

AT THE TOP OF MY LIST

BY RYAN CARR
Church Magazines

Before I married my wife, Stacey, people told me how to find the right person to marry. They said I should make

a list of the qualities I was looking for in a spouse.

My list went something like this: I want to marry a young woman who is spiritual, is a returned missionary, has a strong testimony, and wants to be a mother and raise our children in the gospel. It would also be nice if she is tall, athletic, and has blonde hair.

As I was dating, I had a hard time finding a young woman with all of those characteristics. Young women are much more than a list of characteristics. They have different personalities, different likes and dislikes. Some are easier to talk to than others. Some are tall, some short. Some like sports, some don't.

I began to revise and prioritize my list.

The most important change came from a sentence in my patriarchal blessing that says Heavenly Father was preparing a young woman for me to marry in the temple. That sentence, along with prayer and the Spirit, was my guide.

My wife is short, has dark brown hair, didn't go on a mission, and doesn't play

MY GREAT FIRST DATE



sports. But as we dated, I found that she is kind, easy to talk to, fun to be with, has a strong testimony, and wants to raise children in the gospel.

So I decided that hair color and athletic ability weren't as important to me as seeking to know Heavenly Father's will in deciding whom to marry. When I was with Stacey, I felt at peace. I felt she was the one Heavenly Father had prepared for me to marry. Stacey and I were sealed in the temple.

I'm glad I put learning and obeying Heavenly Father's will at the top of my list. **NE**

DATING DILEMMA

BY TIFFANY DAY

I met him at school when I was 17. He was funny, smart, and really cute, but best of all he was spiritual. We quickly became great friends.

We started dating, always going in groups and keeping it casual. It was fun being with him, and he made me want to be a better person. Although we were never seriously dating, I started to wonder what my Heavenly Father thought about all the time and energy I was putting into this relationship.

I decided to fast and pray about it. I was surprised at how quickly the answer came. I felt the promptings of the Spirit telling me the opposite

BY ESTHER LIDDICOAT

Before I was old enough to date, my parents discussed the rules for dating and the expectations they had for me. Based on those expectations, we have a tradition in our family that the first date be a double date arranged by an older sibling. When I turned 16, my older sister and her future husband arranged a perfect double date for me.

Our first destination was to grab strawberry ice-cream cones. Then we headed to a beach,

of what I'd hoped to hear. I knew that I needed to stop spending so much time with my friend, but I wasn't exactly sure why. Despite my doubts, I wanted to follow what my Heavenly Father had in mind for me. It was hard to tell my friend that I couldn't see him so often, but I knew it was the right thing to do.

had dinner, and walked around. We went to the fun alley for some air hockey and games.

At a playground, we ate yummy birthday cake. What a great first date!

By following my parents' rules, I have been able to enjoy each stage in life. I have experienced group dating, then single dating, and now the blessing of a temple marriage. **NE**

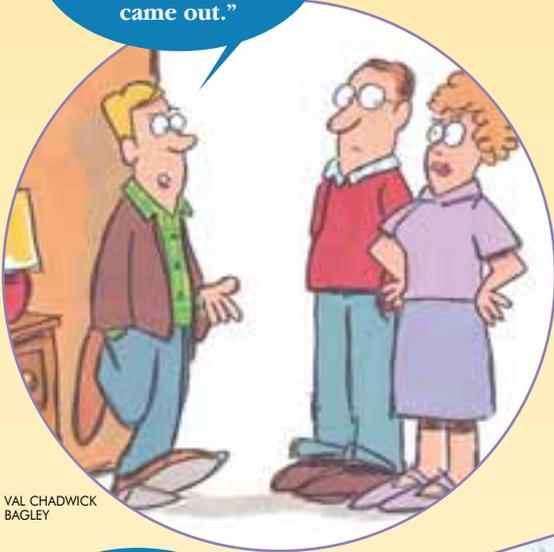
Esther Liddicoat is a member of the Warwick Ward, Perth Australia Warwick Stake.

I learned that answers do come through prayer and fasting, and that even when I don't know why the Lord guides me in a certain direction, I can trust His wisdom. He has prepared a plan for me, and I am happiest when I follow His will. **NE**

Tiffany Day is a member of the Dawson Hollow Ward, Layton Utah Kays Creek Stake.

THE EXTRA SMILE

"It wasn't much of a date. I honked and honked, but she never came out."



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

"As soon as Brad and I began dating, our friendship started getting deeper and deeper . . . like the *Titanic!*"



RANDY GLASBERGEN

"No!"



RYAN STOKER

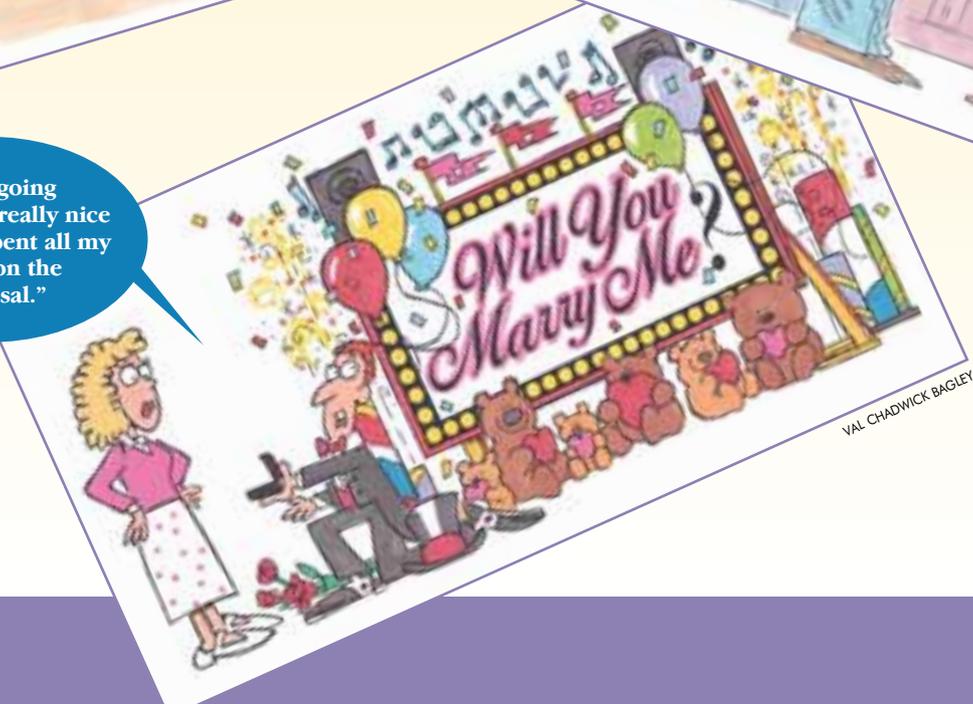
"Hey! Is this Karen? Hi, Karen! This is . . . uh . . . this is . . . uh . . ."

"Kevin! Your name is Kevin!"



RYAN STOKER

"I was going to get you a really nice ring, but I spent all my money on the proposal."



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

THE TEMPLE

BY CALLIE TAGGART

I see my picture of the temple
Posted on my bedroom mirror;
When I think of this beautiful building
I know God's love is near.

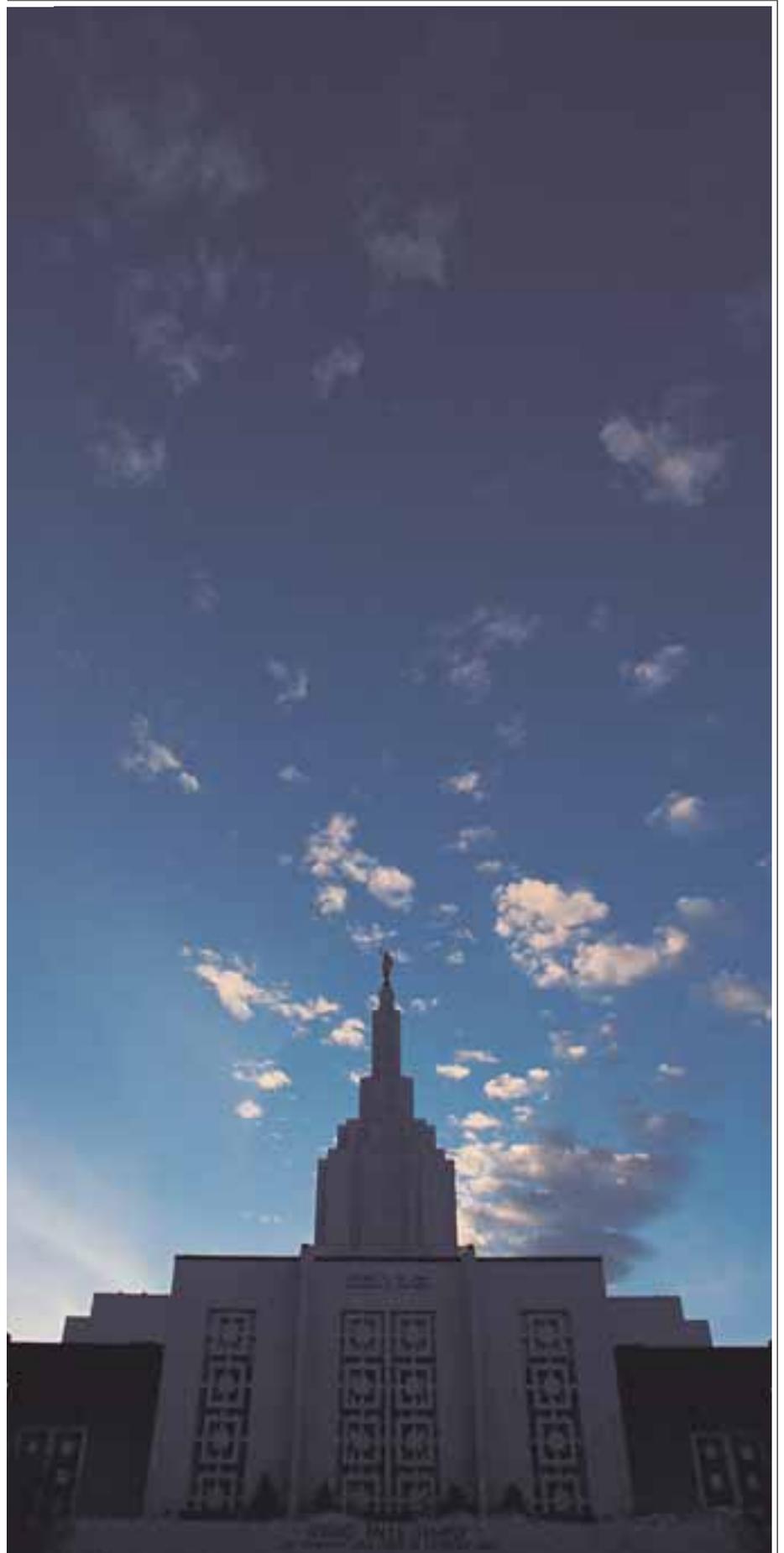
I know that in the Lord's sacred house
The world is left behind,
And the powers of the kingdom
Past and present bind.

The Spirit is so strong and warm
As sacred ordinances are made.
We start on the path to eternal glory,
Family ties will never fade.

I always want to be worthy
To someday enter in,
And with a wonderful husband
Our family will begin.

With clean hands and a pure heart,
I always want to be.
The celestial temple is my goal,
With blessings to eternity.

BY LANE V. ERICKSON





*“Make certain that
the marriage in your future
is a temple marriage.
There is no scene so sweet,
no time so sacred
as that very special day
of your marriage.
Then and there you glimpse
celestial joy.”*

See “Whom Shall I Marry?” p. 4.