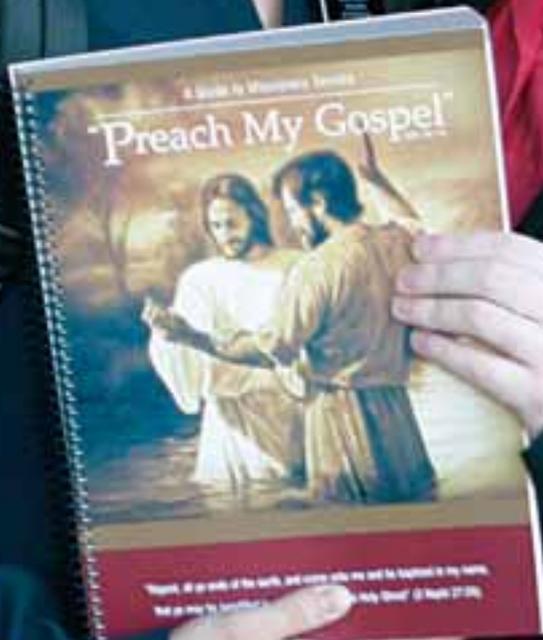


THE

# New Era

SEPTEMBER

2005



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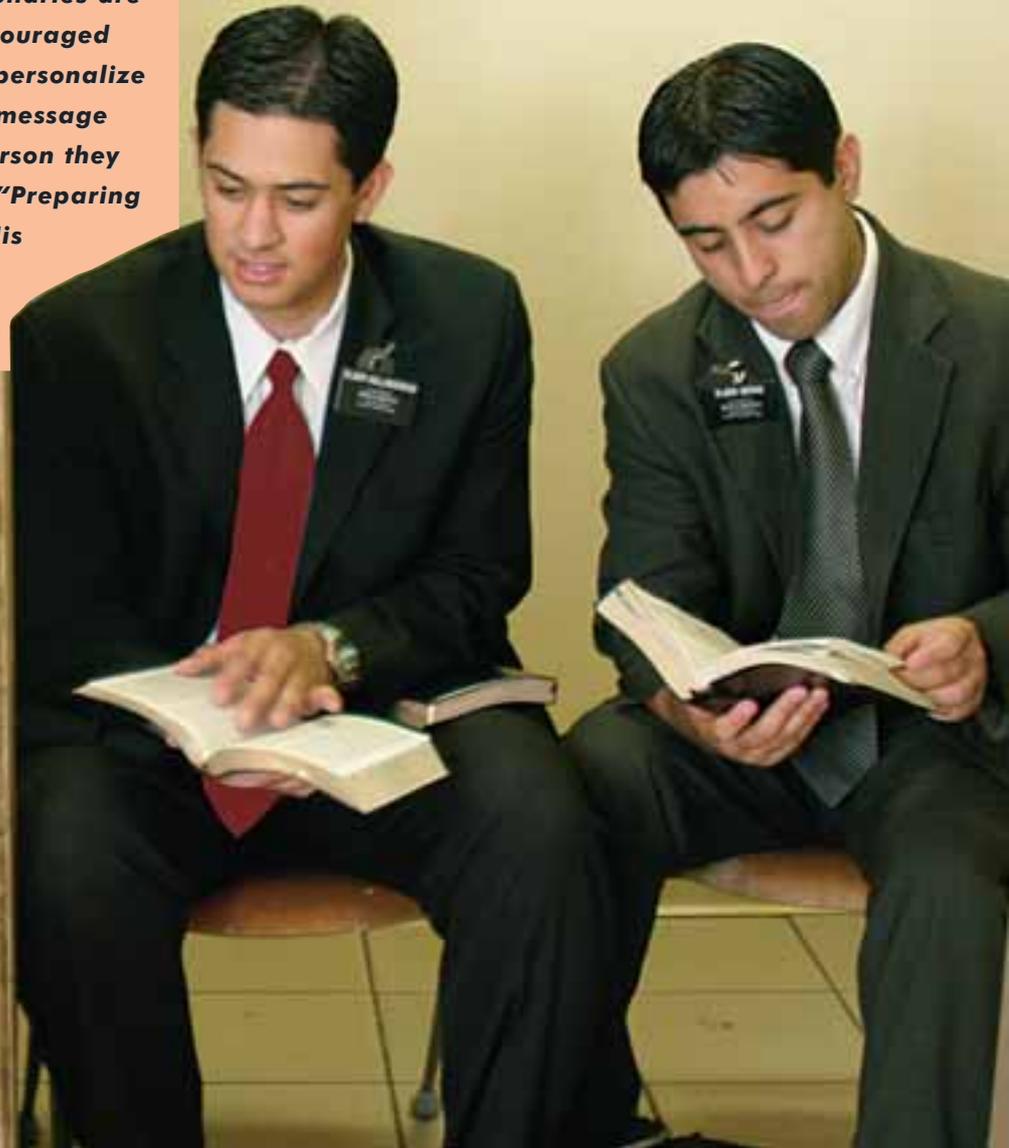
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*Cover photography:  
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# A CODE TO LIVE BY

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON  
First Counselor in the First Presidency



*You can share your testimony in many ways—by the words you speak, by the example you set, by the manner in which you live your life.*

**T**he First Presidency of the Church loves you and has confidence in you. You are an example of righteousness in a world which desperately needs your influence and your strength.

Perhaps your battle cry might well be the charge given by the Apostle Paul to his beloved Timothy: “Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”<sup>1</sup>

Today, permissiveness, immorality, pornography, and the power of peer pressure cause many to be tossed on a sea of sin and crushed on the jagged reefs of lost opportunities, forfeited blessings, and shattered dreams.

May I share with you a code of conduct to guide your footsteps safely through mortality and to the celestial kingdom of our Heavenly Father. I have divided this code of conduct into four parts:

- You have a heritage; honor it.
- You will meet temptation; withstand it.
- You know the truth; live it.
- You possess a testimony; share it.



### Honor Your Heritage

There come thundering to our ears the words from Mount Sinai: “Honour thy father and thy mother.”<sup>2</sup>

My, how your parents love you, how

they pray for you. Honor them.

How do you honor your parents? I like the words of William Shakespeare: “They do not love that do not show their love.”<sup>3</sup> There are countless ways in which you can show true love to your mothers and your fathers. You can obey them and follow their teachings, for they will never lead you astray. You can treat them with respect. They sacrifice much in your behalf.

Be honest with your mother and your father. One reflection of such honesty with parents is to communicate with them. Avoid the silent treatment. The clock ticks more loudly, its hands move more slowly when the night is dark, the hour is late, and a precious son or daughter has not yet come home. If you are detained, make a telephone call: “Mom, Dad, we’re OK. Just stopped for something to eat. Don’t worry; we’re fine. Be home soon.”

A number of years ago, while attending a youth gathering at the Clarkston, Utah,



"HONOUR  
THY FATHER  
AND THY  
MOTHER."



MAINTAIN  
AN  
ETERNAL  
PERSPECTIVE.

cemetery, where each of the group viewed the memorial which marks the grave of Martin Harris, one of the Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, I noticed another marker—a small stone in which was inscribed a name and this poignant verse: “A light from our household is gone; a voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our hearts that never can be filled.”

Don’t wait until that light from your household is gone; don’t wait until that voice you know is stilled before you say, “I love you, Mother; I love you, Father.” You have a heritage; honor it.

### **Withstand Temptation**

The Prophet Joseph Smith faced temptation. Can you imagine the ridicule, the scorn, the mocking that must have been heaped upon him as he declared that he had seen a vision? I suppose it became almost unbearable for the boy. He no doubt knew that it would be easier to retract his statements concerning the vision and just get on with a normal life. He did not, however, give in. These are his words: “I had actually seen a light, and in the midst of that light I saw two Personages, and they did in reality speak to me; and though I was hated and persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true. . . . I had seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it.”<sup>4</sup> Joseph Smith taught courage by example. He faced temptation and withstood it.

Essential to your success and happiness is the advice “Choose your friends with caution.” We tend to become like those whom we admire, and they are usually our friends. We should associate with those who, like us, are planning not for temporary convenience, shallow goals, or narrow ambition—but rather with those who value the things that matter most, even eternal objectives.

Maintain an eternal perspective. Let there be a temple marriage in your future. 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.

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 which testifies of truth. As the prophet Isaiah promised, "Thine ears shall hear a word . . . saying, This is the way, walk ye in it."<sup>5</sup>

The tenor of our times is permissiveness. All around us we see the idols of the movie screen, the heroes of the athletic field—those whom many young people long to emulate—as disregarding 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. Every Cinderella has her midnight—it's called Judgment Day, even the Big Exam of Life. Are you prepared? Are you pleased with your own performance?

Help can come to you from many sources. One is your patriarchal blessing. Such a blessing contains chapters from your book of eternal possibilities. Read your blessing frequently. Study it carefully. Be guided by its cautions. Live to merit its promises.

Now, if any has stumbled along the journey, there is a way back. The process is called repentance. Our Savior died to provide you and me that blessed gift. Though the path is difficult, the promise is real: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow,"<sup>6</sup> "And I will remember [them] no more."<sup>7</sup> You will meet temptation; it is my prayer that you will withstand it.



#### **Know and Live the Truth**

After Joseph Smith's vision in the Sacred Grove, he received no additional communication for three years.

Can you imagine how you would feel if you had seen God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son, if Christ had spoken to you, and then you had no additional word or communication for three years? Would you begin to doubt? Would you wonder or question why? The Prophet Joseph Smith did not wonder; he did not question; he did not doubt the Lord. He had received the truth, and he lived it.

My dear young friends, you have been taught the truths of the gospel by your parents and by your teachers in the Church. You will continue to find truth in the scriptures, in the teachings of the prophets, and through the inspiration which comes to you as you bend your knees and seek the help of God.

Remember, faith and doubt cannot exist in the mind at the same time, for one will dispel the other. Cast out doubt. Cultivate faith. Strive always to retain that childlike faith which can move mountains and bring heaven closer to heart and home.

When firmly planted, your testimony of the gospel, of the Savior, and of our Heavenly Father will influence all that you do throughout

**Y**ou have been taught the truths of the gospel by your parents and teachers. You will continue to find truth in the scriptures, in the teachings of the prophets, and through inspiration as you seek the help of God in prayer.



**N**ever underestimate the far-reaching influence of your testimony. You can strengthen one another; you can reach out and rescue others of your age.

your life. It will help to determine how you spend your time and with whom you choose to associate. It will affect the way you treat your family, how you interact with others. It will bring love, peace, and joy into your life. It should help you determine to be modest in your dress and in your speech.

In the past year or so we have noticed a dramatic change in the way some of our young people are dressing. Styles in clothing change; fads come and go; but if the dress styles are immodest, it is important that we avoid them. When you dress modestly, you show respect for your Heavenly Father and for yourself. At this time, when dress fashions are styled after the skimpy clothing some of the current movie and music idols are wearing, it may be difficult to find modest apparel in clothing stores. However, it is possible, and it is important. The Apostle Paul declared: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? . . . The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”<sup>8</sup> You know the truth; live it. Finally, you possess a testimony; share it.

#### Share Your Testimony

Never underestimate the far-reaching influence of your testimony. You can strengthen one another; you have the capacity to notice the unnoticed. When you have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to feel, you can reach out and rescue others of your age.

To illustrate, may I share with you an experience which took place several years ago when Sister Monson had been hospitalized because of a fall. She asked me to go to the supermarket and purchase a few items.

This was something I had not done before. I had a shopping list which included potatoes. I promptly found a grocery cart and placed a number of potatoes in it. I knew nothing of the plastic bags in which produce is normally placed. As I moved the cart along, the potatoes fell out and onto

the floor, exiting through two rather small openings in the back of the cart. A dutiful clerk hurried to my aid and called out, “Let me help you!” I tried to explain to her that my cart was defective. It was only then that I was told that all the carts had those two holes in the back and that they were meant for the legs of children.

Next the clerk took my list and helped me find each item. Then she said, “You are Bishop Monson, aren’t you?”

I answered that many years earlier I had been a bishop. She continued: “At that time I lived on Gale Street in your ward and was not a member of the Church. You made certain the girls who were members contacted me each week and took me with them to Mutual and other activities. They were fine young women whose friendship and kindness touched my heart. I want to let you know that the fellowshipping you arranged for me led to my being baptized and confirmed a member of the Church. What a blessing this has been in my life,” she said.

You can share your testimony in many ways—by the words you speak, by the example you set, by the manner in which you live your life.

May each of us emulate the Prophet Joseph’s great example. He taught the truth; he lived the truth; he shared the truth. You possess a testimony; share it.

May God bless you. We love you; we pray for you. Remember that you do not walk alone. The Lord has promised you: “I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.”<sup>9</sup> **NE**

*From an address given at the general Young Women meeting on March 26, 2005.*

#### NOTES

1. 1 Timothy 4:12.
2. Exodus 20:12.
3. *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, ed. William Aldis Wright, Cambridge edition (1936), act 1, scene 2, line 31.
4. Joseph Smith—History 1:25.
5. Isaiah 30:21.
6. Isaiah 1:18.
7. Jeremiah 31:34.
8. 1 Corinthians 3:16–17.
9. D&C 84:88.

SHARE  
YOUR  
TESTIMONY.

# ELDERS IN MY ENGLISH CLASS

BY ANETTE MALZL KNAPP

I was nervous and insecure as I walked to my new classroom with 30 other girls who did not know each other. I would be attending school with them in a Catholic private school for the next five years. First thing, our teacher asked if everybody had been christened in the Catholic Church. As I was the only one to say no, everybody's eyes were directed at me.

That was my first day in a new school in Salzburg, Austria, a school managed by nuns. I quickly became used to the crucifixes hanging in each classroom, the morning devotionals, and the nuns. However, it was unusual for my schoolmates to have a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with them. They were curious to learn what I believed. I was not able to answer all their questions precisely. I wondered how I could receive permission to invite the missionaries.

This opportunity finally presented itself. We did not have a native speaker in our English class one year. I asked my classmates if it was a good idea to invite the missionaries. Then I asked the missionaries if they were allowed to come to schools. And finally I asked my English professor if they could come. I passed out a list on which everyone wrote what she would like the missionaries

to talk about. I was amazed to see that the majority wanted to know why they had decided to go on missions, what kind of work they were doing, and how our Church differed from other churches.

Elder Allen and Elder Jones came to class and took most of the class period talking about the Church. It was awesome! After they left, I was bombarded with even more questions.

Later that year, two of my Latter-day Saint friends began attending the school. We introduced the song "A Child's Prayer" (*Children's Songbook*, 12–13) to our schoolmates, and now the song is part of the music teacher's repertoire.

It was not as difficult as I expected to talk about the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am so grateful to Heavenly Father for His Son, Jesus Christ, and for His wonderful gospel. I am also grateful for every opportunity to share my testimony by the Holy Spirit. **NE**

*Anette Malzl Knapp is a member of the Graz Ward, Vienna Austria Stake.*

*The missionaries not only helped us with our English, they also helped me answer all the questions my friends had about the Church.*

NAME WITHHELD

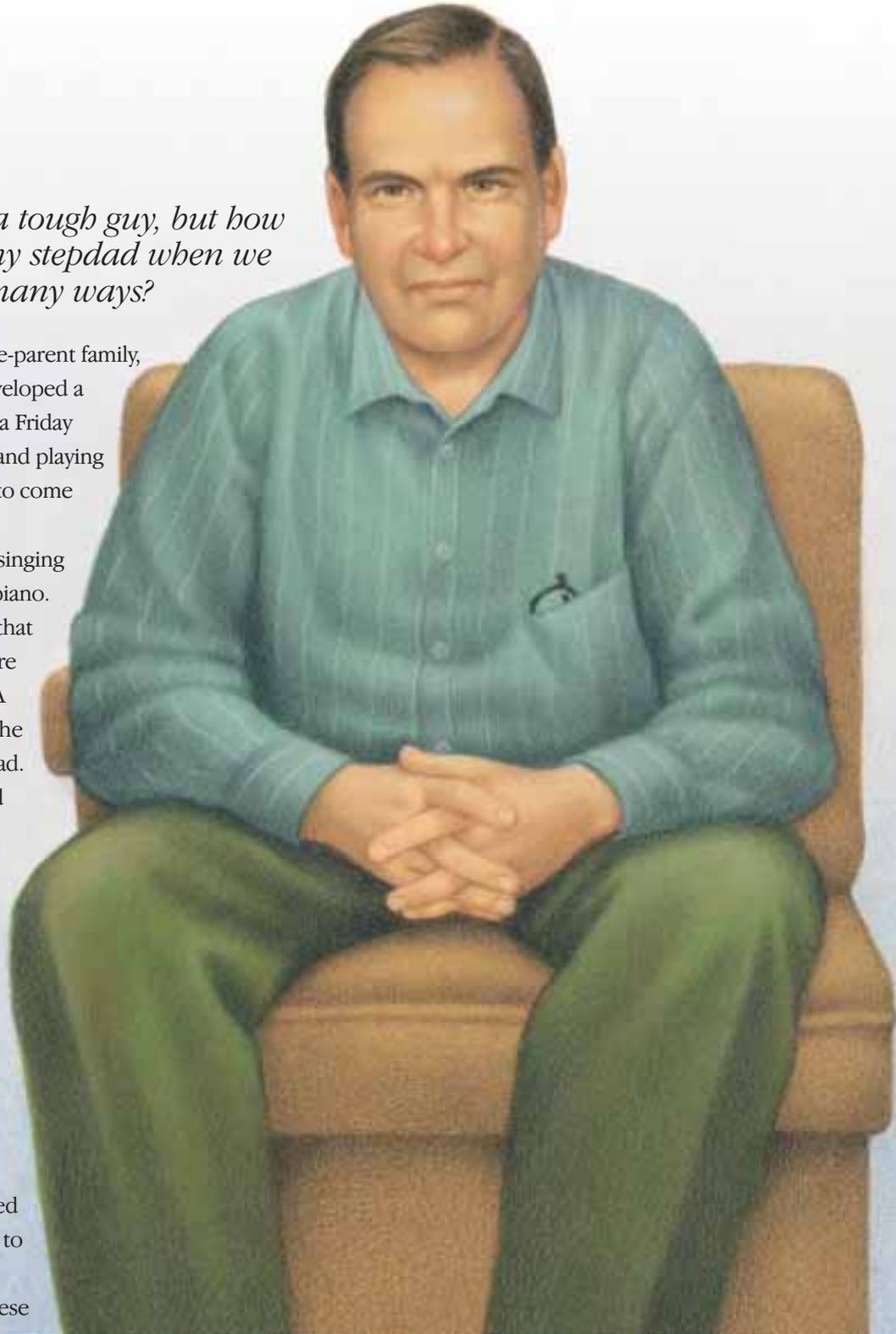
# I CALL HIM

*Maybe I was just being a tough guy, but how could I get along with my stepdad when we were so different in so many ways?*

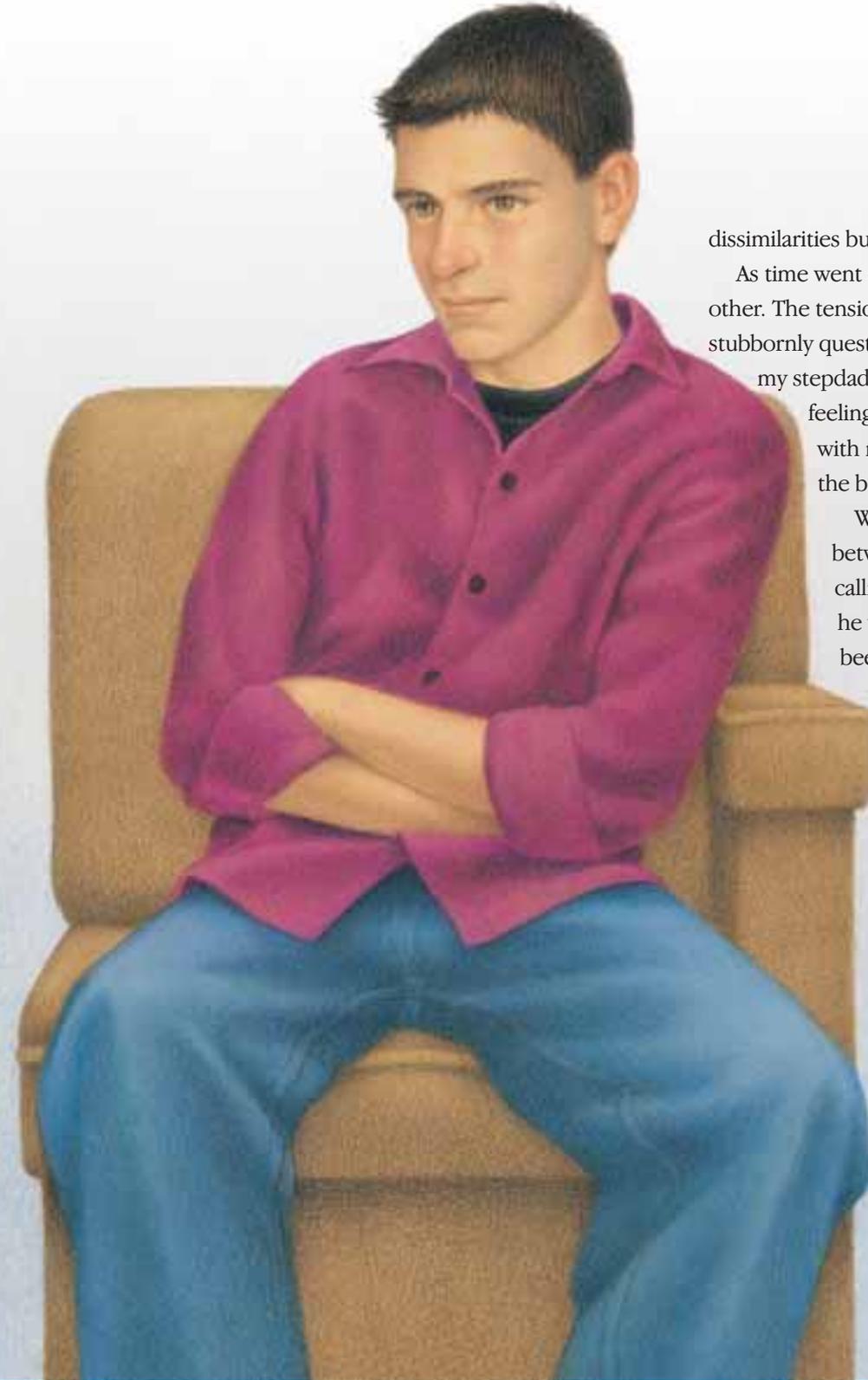
In the years we lived as a single-parent family, my mom and we children developed a unique bond. We established a Friday night tradition of watching movies and playing games while “waiting up on Mom” to come home from her dates. We also had memorable family home evenings, singing favorite Primary songs around the piano.

When the announcement came that Mom was getting remarried, we were happy and excited for the change. A light in her eyes radiated hope for the future and relief to bear a lighter load. Our warm excitement, sadly, cooled off as we confronted some of the problems many stepfamilies face.

My personality, in particular, clashed with our new father’s in every way. He communicated differently than I, showed emotions differently, and even joked differently. When we gathered for family night, I could not understand why he didn’t sing with us. My mom explained that he simply did not like singing. It seemed he didn’t like to do anything I liked to do, and I most certainly was not interested in any of his hobbies. These



# DAD



dissimilarities built a wall between us.

As time went on, we tolerated more than loved each other. The tension between us hurt my mother. I stubbornly questioned almost every authoritative decision my stepdad made. On several occasions I vented my feelings to my mom. Each time, she pleaded with me to try to understand my dad and see the best in him. I tried, but it was just too hard.

While I was in high school, the animosity between us grew. I even considered not calling him Dad anymore. After all, I thought, he wasn't really my father. Should I have been calling him Dad all these years? My negative thoughts escalated until my emotions could be bottled up no longer. One night, I yelled words to my mother that pricked her heart like needles. I stormed out of the house, slamming the door behind me.

Alone in my car, I felt an uncomfortable void of the Holy Ghost. The ugliness of the scene I had caused played over again in my head. In my fury I had suggested that my mom should leave my stepdad. Now, filled with sorrow, I realized that breaking sacred promises she had made with my stepdad, and with God, wouldn't bring her or us any happiness. Why did I ever say such terrible things? That lonely night I decided to change. Skeptical that a relationship of love could be built after years of struggles, I determined to

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

For more on step-families, you can read these articles in the Gospel Library at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org): “Another Mother” (*New Era*, June 2003), by Tracie Hohl; “Staying in Step with a New Parent” (*New Era*, Sept. 1988), by Lisa A. Johnson; and “How to Unite a Step-family” (*Ensign*, Feb. 1987), by Jeffry H. Larson.

at least accept my stepdad’s role as my mom’s eternal companion. I did not want to damage their marriage.

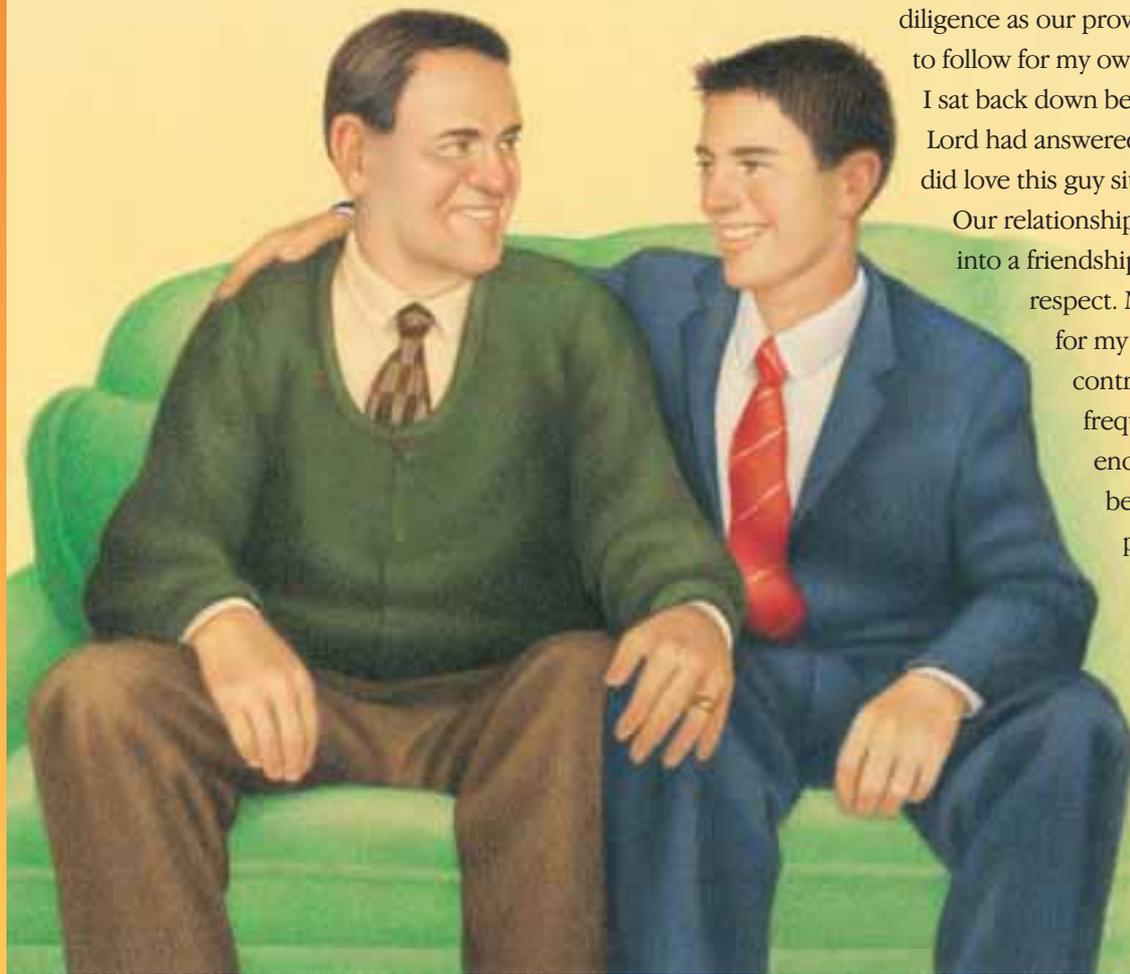
Before, in prayer, my pleas were that the Lord would somehow change my stepdad. Now I prayed that the Lord would help me change. I asked for a softer heart. I asked to better understand someone so different from me. Love still did not come immediately. Yet it surprised me how fast the Spirit melted away the thick, icy layers of disrespect and gave me a fresh attitude. I stopped finding fault and started seeing the good.

Later that year, my stake organized an Aaronic Priesthood mission preparation camp. The week was rich in uplifting experiences. We were all soaring on a spiritual high

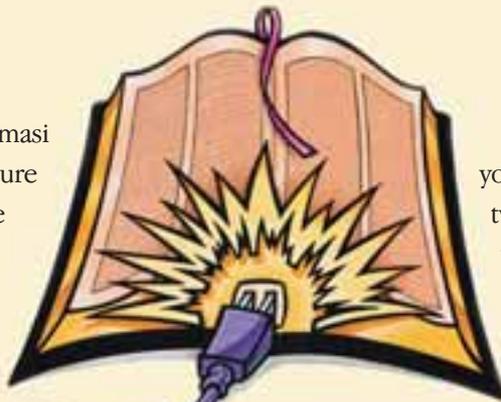
the last night of the camp, when our parents were invited for a final testimony meeting. The spirit throughout the meeting was sweet and encompassing. My turn to stand came. I thanked Heavenly Father for a mom who had worked to keep the light of the gospel in our home. I looked into her eyes to communicate my sincere appreciation.

Just then another set of eyes caught my attention. My stepdad’s eyes looked tired after what must have been a long week. “He sure has come a long way to be here,” I thought. My mind raced through the many other times he had supported me. I thought of the early morning hour he left for work each day and of the many late nights he spent finishing projects from our home computer. I continued with my testimony, thanking God for my dad’s example. His diligence as our provider gave me a model to follow for my own family one day. When I sat back down beside him I realized the Lord had answered my prayer: I really did love this guy sitting next to me.

Our relationship has since blossomed into a friendship built on mutual respect. My stepdad helped pay for my mission. He further contributed by sending frequent letters of love and encouragement. He became one of my best pen pals and, more importantly, one of my best friends. Over time I came to recognize the love my stepdad had always had for me. Today, I feel blessed to call him Dad. **NE**



**T**he seminary students of the Kumasi Ghana Stake like learning scripture mastery verses. They have some great ideas to share on how you can memorize them and use them to bless your life.



**Memory Helps**

⚡ Pray for the Spirit to be with you when you study. The Spirit will “bring all things to your remembrance” (John 14:26).

⚡ Write the scripture on a card, and read it over and over. Make a goal to memorize a scripture every few days.

⚡ Ask your parents for help. They can quiz you on whether you really know the verse.

⚡ Ponder the verse, and be sure you understand it. Reading the whole chapter it is included in can help.

⚡ Write the verse down over and over until you have learned it perfectly.

⚡ Choose a certain time of day to study the verse for a set amount of time, and stick to your plan.

⚡ Teach family, friends, or investigators about the verse.

⚡ Obey what the verse teaches so you can gain a testimony of the principles in it.

⚡ Make up a song with the words of the verse. Sing it to yourself over and over.

⚡ Memorize two lines at a time until you know them well; then keep adding two more until you know the whole verse.

**The Blessings of Scripture Mastery**

⚡ “Learning the scriptures has helped me face spiritual problems, broaden my faith, and overcome many temptations.”

⚡ “They help me have knowledge when I have to give talks or bear my testimony.”

⚡ “Even when my scriptures are not with me, I have some of them in my mind.”

⚡ “I am able to quote verses from the scriptures without any mistakes.”

⚡ “Scripture mastery has helped me to obey the Lord’s commandments and to magnify my duties in the priesthood.”

⚡ “The scripture mastery verses answer questions normally asked by investigators, so I can take care of situations I encounter and teach others the gospel now without being nervous.”

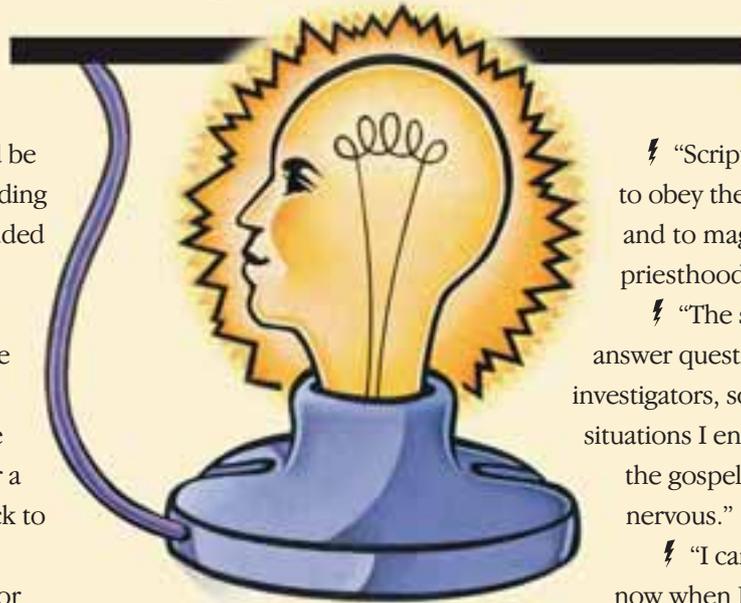
⚡ “I can find them much faster now when I need to look them up.”

⚡ “It has helped me in my

schoolwork to have spent time memorizing. Also I like having scriptures in my head to think about.”

⚡ “I want to get 100 scriptures in my mind so I can prepare myself to go on a mission.” **NE**

# SEMINARY SCRIPTURE POWER



SCRIPTURE LIFELINE

# DRIVEN TO PRAYER

BY LYNITA K. NEWSWANDER

*As it got darker, I became more frightened. My fear of driving at night was out of control. I had to do something and quickly.*

**W**hen I was a senior in high school I was excited to be called to serve as a member of the Amarillo Texas Stake's youth conference committee. Most of the planning for the conference was left up to an enthusiastic group of about a dozen young people. Our committee met a few Sundays a month for almost a year at our stake center, an hour's drive from my home. We also dedicated several hours in between meetings to researching ideas and praying for inspiration. I could see that serving on the committee was bringing me closer to the Lord. Although I had to travel an hour each way to the meetings, I felt good about what I was doing.

Generally, I enjoyed having uninterrupted quiet time to myself in my car on those Sunday afternoons to ponder the items we had discussed at our meeting or just to think. However, as the seasons changed and the hours of daylight shortened, I found that more of my drive home was in the dark. Even though I had had my driver's license for about a year, something about driving on the highway alone at night made me uneasy.

One night was particularly distressing. Although the roads were relatively straight and safe, I was paralyzed by fear. I managed to go only half the speed of the other cars on the highway. My knuckles were white from gripping the steering wheel. I poured every ounce of my consciousness into focusing on the road ahead of me and, after a few miles, was nearly exhausted by the effort. I realized

that by driving so slowly I was only prolonging my terror, but try as I might, I could not make myself go any faster.

Keeping my eyes open and my hands on the wheel, I said a fervent prayer aloud, asking that I might be comforted.

I thanked the Lord for the opportunity that I had to serve

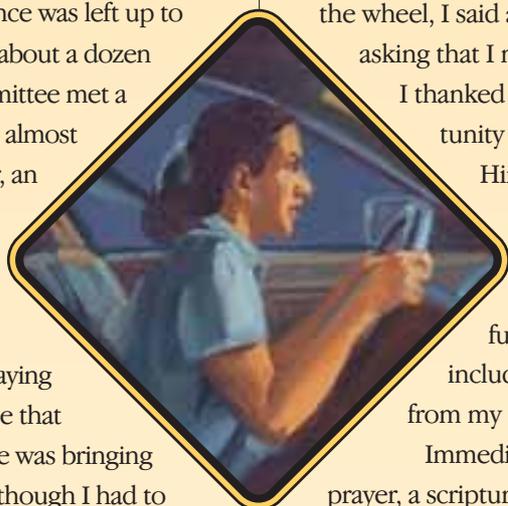
Him while I was on that committee and asked that He would grant me the ability to fulfill my calling—which included traveling to and from my meetings.

Immediately after I finished my prayer, a scripture I had studied in seminary came to my mind. I had heard the words a hundred times: "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise" (D&C 82:10).

Simple as it may seem, those words were an answer to my prayer. Immediately I felt the comfort of the Holy Ghost reassuring me that as long as I did the things the Lord expected of me, I would be taken care of. I also knew that if I was obedient to the laws of the land by wearing my seatbelt and not speeding, I would be doing all I could to allow for Heavenly Father's protection.

Relief swept over me following my appeal to the Lord. I am grateful that my seminary teacher encouraged me to learn the scripture mastery scriptures. That night I learned firsthand what a blessing familiarity with the scriptures can be. **NE**

*Lynita K. Newswander is a member of the Blacksburg Ward, Pembroke Virginia Stake.*



## EXTRA! EXTRA!

These scriptures talk about prayer:

Enos 1:15;

3 Nephi 18:19–20;

D&C 88:63–64.

So do these articles in the Gospel Library at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org):

“Sweet Power of Prayer” (*Ensign*, May 2003), by Elder Russell M. Nelson and “Prayer and Revelation” (*Ensign*, May 1978), by President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988).

# Q & A

*“I’m 14, and I know we aren’t supposed to date until we’re 16. But a lot of friends my age at school have a girlfriend or boyfriend, even though they don’t really date. Is anything wrong with this?”*

## NEW ERA

If you’re not sure whether there’s anything wrong with having a boyfriend or girlfriend at this age, look to the Church’s standards. *For the Strength of Youth* says: “Do not date until you are at least 16 years old. . . . When you begin dating, go in groups or on double dates. Avoid going on frequent dates with the same person. . . . Date only those who have high standards and in whose company you can maintain your standards” (24). These guidelines will help you enjoy dating and protect you.

Some teens pair off but say they’re not dating. Having a boyfriend or girlfriend, however, *is* dating, and it can create several problems:

- It can create jealousies with the couple’s friends.
- It limits the number of people the couple get to know and deprives them of friendships.
- Pairing off can create strong emotions and attractions. Couples might get into tempting situations that seem too powerful to resist.

President Gordon B. Hinckley gave this counsel on dating: “Steady dating at an early age

■ **Having a boyfriend or girlfriend is dating. Even after you turn 16, don’t pair off until you are ready to prepare for marriage.**

■ **Dating at an early age will limit the number of friends you have and may lead to more serious problems like immorality.**

■ **Waiting until you’re 16 to date will strengthen your testimony and your ability to keep other gospel standards.**

■ **Church standards are there for your happiness and protection.**

leads so often to tragedy. Studies have shown that the longer a boy and girl date one another, the more likely they are to get into trouble.

“It is better, my friends, to date a variety of companions until you are ready to marry. Have a wonderful time, but stay away from familiarity” (“A Prophet’s Counsel and Prayer for Youth,” *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 13).

The most important reason not to date or pair off before age 16 is to follow the prophet’s guidance. He teaches that the end goal of dating is to prepare for temple marriage. Dating the right way will make it more likely to reach that important goal.

If you don’t have a boyfriend or girlfriend, it’s tempting to think that you’re missing out on something. Maybe you’re thinking, “It would be cool to be able to say I have a boyfriend (or girlfriend).” But is peer pressure a reason to disobey the prophet’s counsel?

This question is not just about dating. It’s also about obedience. One reader wrote in and said there is something wrong with having a



boyfriend or girlfriend because “one little exception will lead to another exception.”

Good point. It may seem like a small thing to hang out with a boyfriend or girlfriend, but those who go against this Church standard will have a harder time keeping other standards. But if you wait until you’re 16 to date, that choice will strengthen you to keep other commandments, which will lead to more happiness.

At your age, you can have more fun by having lots of friends. You will get to know more people and can avoid the problems that come with pairing off. **NE**

## READERS



**Boyfriend and girlfriend, dating, going out, and seeing each other are ultimately the same thing. It’s not something that youth under age 16 are ready to handle. Whether it seems harmless or not, the leaders of the Church have taught against it, and blessings do come through obedience.**

Krysten Meredith, 15,  
Deer Springs Ward,  
Las Vegas Nevada Tule Springs Stake

**I dated before I was 16, and I wish I hadn’t for the following reasons: (1) It creates emotional baggage. Even if you do not intend to get serious, if you put yourself in an exclusive relationship, you will become emotionally attached, and it will be hard to let go when you realize that you need to break it off or when things fall apart. (2) We are not always as emotionally or spiritually mature as we would like to be. You need time to think about what you want, where your standards are, and, most important, how you will make sure that they are not broken. (3) The Lord**

**knows what is best for us. He tells us to wait until 16 to date. He knows what He's doing.**

Ericka Clayton, 17,

Fort Lewis Ward, Lakewood Washington Stake



**I agree with what the prophets have said, because if you get too serious with someone of the opposite sex when you are young, it's more likely that you will make some mistakes. Why not just**

**be friends with members of the opposite sex instead of tying yourself down with just one person?**

Tyler Vargha, 14,

Copper Basin Ward, Prescott Arizona Stake

**For the Strength of Youth says that you should avoid pairing off when you start dating, so that goes for before you start dating too. Now is a good time to work on developing friendships with both sexes. And you need to ask yourself if you really want to have a boyfriend or if you just want to be able to say that you have one. Part of following Church standards is not always doing what your friends or everyone else is doing, but doing what is right.**

Cierra Cook, 16,

Petersburg Branch, Juneau Alaska Stake

**If you were to date those with high standards at age 14, they wouldn't be dating at all. Set an example by telling your friends your standards. They'll look up to you for having high standards.**

Candice Bachiu, 16,

Moose Jaw Ward, Regina Saskatchewan Stake



**It's all right to have friends of the opposite gender, but remember that one of Satan's tactics is rationalization. There should not be any dating until you're 16, no matter how you look at it.**

Ephraim Sng, 16, Southlake Ward, Colleyville Texas Stake

**I know from personal experience that having a boyfriend or girlfriend before you're 16 is stretching the rules, and it's not worth it. You can't see far enough ahead to see and understand everything—**



**D**ating should not even begin until you are 16. And then, ideal dating is on a group basis.

**Stay in group activities; don't pair off. Avoid steady dating. Steady dating is courtship, and surely the beginning of courtship ought to be delayed until you have emerged from your teens."**

—President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "You're in the Driver's Seat," *New Era*, June 2004, 8.

**all the emotions, experiences, and challenges—which that kind of relationship involves. It's not fun to learn the hard way; it's so much better to discipline yourself to be obedient.**

Meghan Reneer, 17, Bon Air Ward, Richmond Virginia Stake



**I too had those feelings of wanting to get a girlfriend, but I knew in my heart that it wasn't right. I turned to the Lord to help me get rid of the desire to have a girlfriend. He answered my prayers,**

**and my life has been blessed immensely.**

Matthew Anderson, 17,

Patton Ward, St. David Arizona Stake

**Ask yourself why you want to date now. And ask yourself if your boyfriend or girlfriend has the same standards as you do. While there's nothing wrong with having friends of the opposite gender, we have guidance from our prophet for a reason. While you wait to begin dating, I suggest you observe qualities in others that you would like to have in a spouse, show your qualities to others, and make friends with as many people as you can.**

Liz Bielecki, 18, Firl Ward, Adelaide Australia Firl Stake

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

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**Send your answer to the question below, along with your name, birth date, ward and stake (or branch and district), and a photograph (including your parent's written permission to print the photo) to:**

**Q&A, New Era**

**50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420**

**Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA**

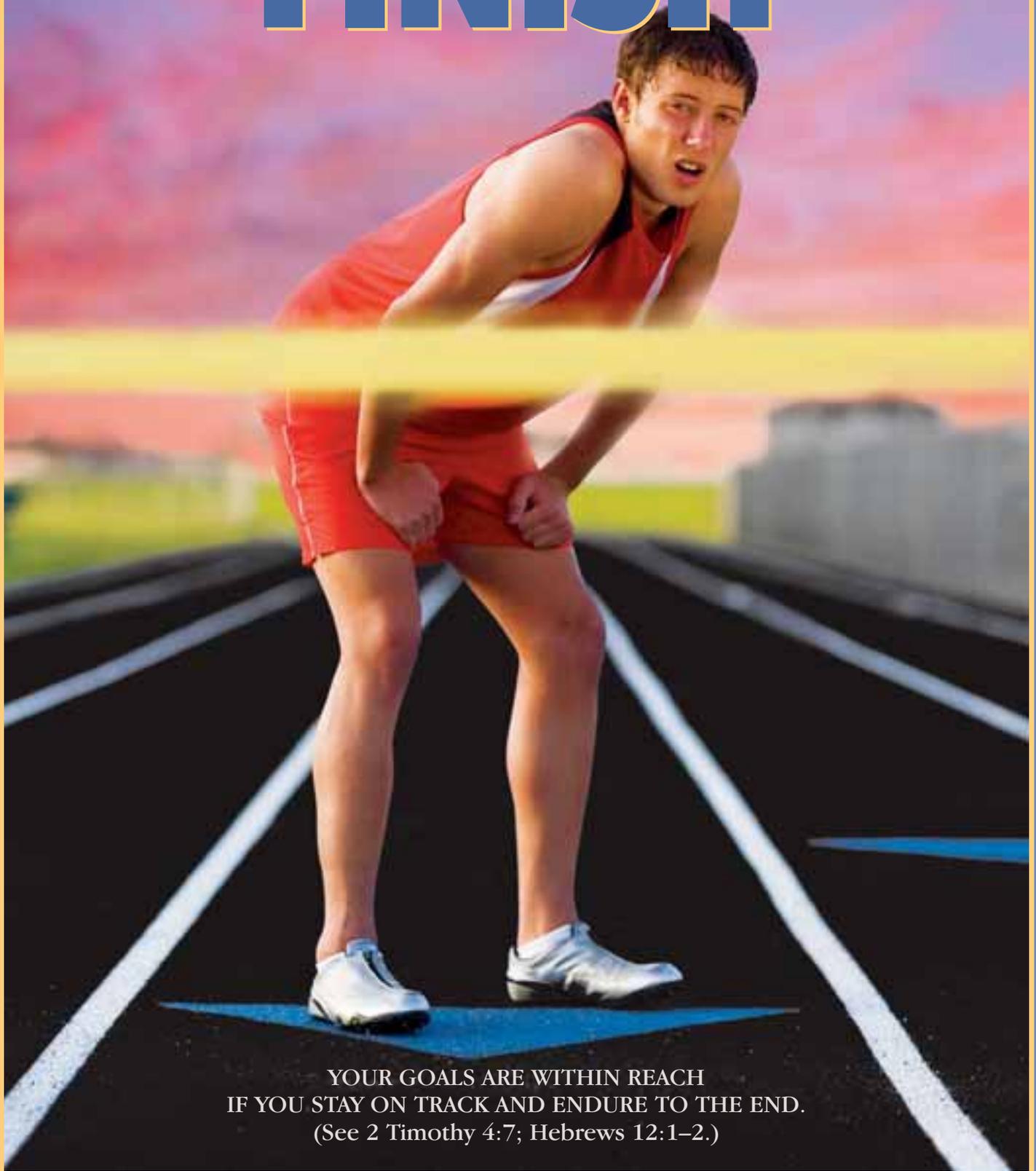
**Or e-mail: [cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org)**

**Please respond by October 15, 2005.**

## QUESTION

**"My brothers and sister tell jokes about me that hurt my feelings. But I don't know how to tell them that they are pushing me further from them. What should I do?"**

# FINISH



YOUR GOALS ARE WITHIN REACH  
IF YOU STAY ON TRACK AND ENDURE TO THE END.  
(See 2 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 12:1-2.)

# PREPARING TO PREACH HIS GOSPEL

BY SHANNA BUTLER  
Church Magazines

*Elders Mann, Rodriguez, Gervic, and Hollingshead are a few of the missionaries around the world who are using the new Preach My Gospel manual. And they have some advice for you as you prepare to preach the gospel on your mission.*



**D**ear Fellow Missionary: “We compliment you on the great opportunity you have to be a missionary. There is no more compelling work than this, nor any which brings greater satisfaction.”<sup>1</sup>

These first words in the new *Preach My Gospel* missionary guide are from the First Presidency. They love you and know you will be blessed as you prepare to be the great missionary they know you can be.

To become that future missionary, however, is going to take some real work in the here and now. It will take study

and practice and prayer. And it will take learning to recognize the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

“You can’t do missionary work without the Spirit,” says Sister Mary C. Memory of the New York New York North Mission.

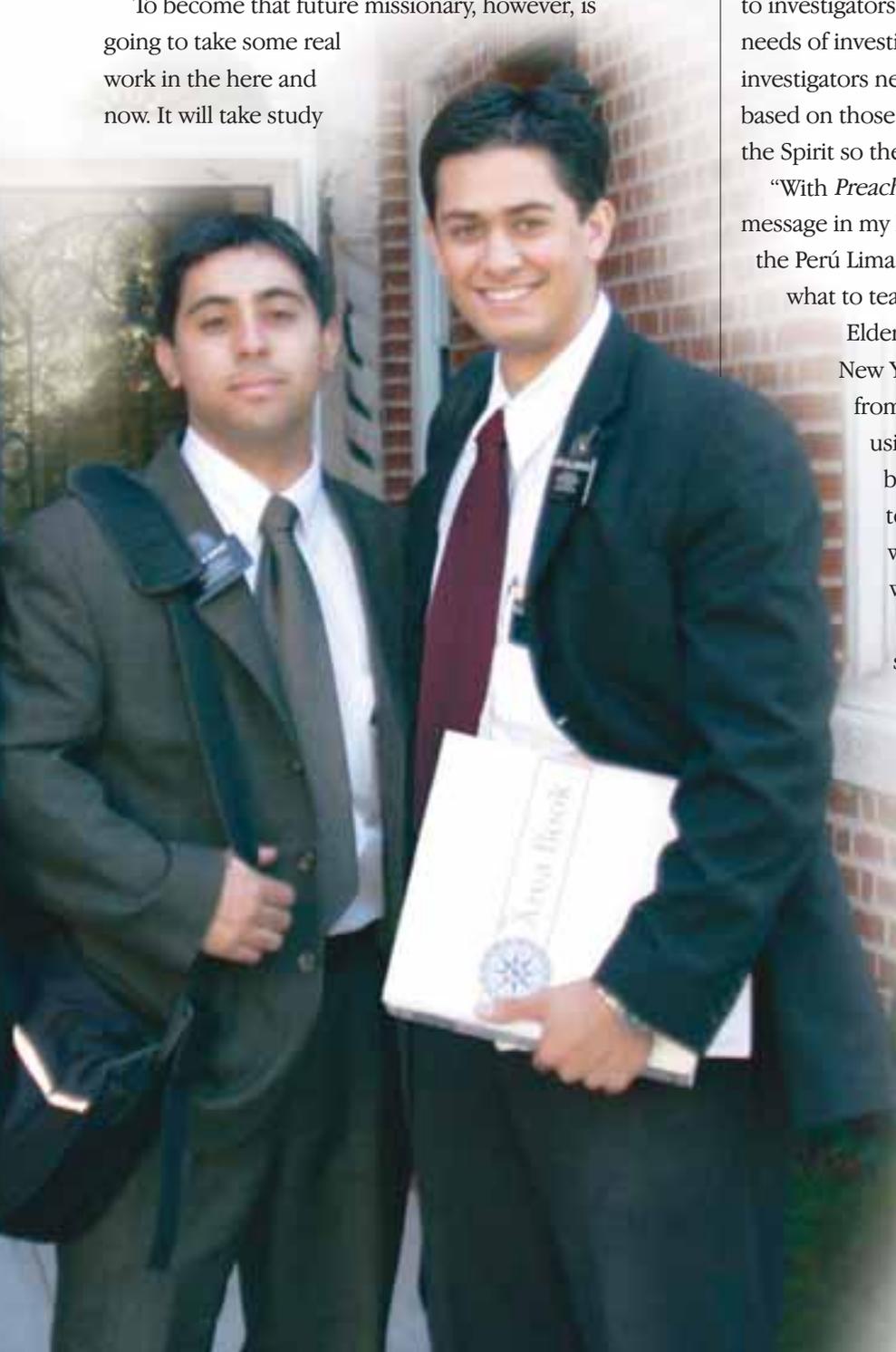
*Preach My Gospel* has missionaries teach the gospel using their own words instead of memorized discussions. The doctrines are the same, but instead of reciting them to investigators in a set order, the missionaries assess the needs of investigators, study the doctrines they feel investigators need to learn, and then make lesson plans based on those needs. Missionaries have to be worthy of the Spirit so they know what and how to teach.

“With *Preach My Gospel*, I’m learning to feel the message in my heart,” says Elder Mason Warr, serving in the Perú Lima East Mission. “I listen to the Spirit to know what to teach.”

Elder Nicolas Gervic, serving in the New York New York North Mission, agrees: “You teach from the heart.” Elder Gervic is doing well using the new approach to missionary work, but he wishes he had been more prepared to teach. When he goes home, he says he will try to be better at sharing the gospel with others than he was before his mission.

Besides sharing the gospel, gaining a solid testimony of the gospel and the Restoration is essential preparation, says Elder Travis C. Hollingshead, Elder Gervic’s companion. “I really didn’t understand the Restoration before my mission. I knew how important it is, but I didn’t realize how important it is in my life.”

Elder Hollingshead was excited to use the teaching methods in *Preach My Gospel*. He said the book has helped him learn the gospel better so he can teach it better. He is also glad he went to seminary and studied the scripture mastery curriculum. “I am able to answer



**P**lanning is a major part of successful

missionary work.

*Right: Elders Hollingshead and Gervic work on plan B, since plan A did not work out.*

*Opposite page: Missionaries record information in an Area Book, an important planning tool.*



questions using the scriptures rather than using my own words.” To prepare for their missions, he encourages youth to “read the Book of Mormon and gain a testimony of it.”

Elder Paul A. Mann says “Amen!” when Elder Hollingshead talks about seminary. He and his companion, Elder Joel D. Rodriguez, live with Elders Gervic and Hollingshead in Yonkers, New York. “Seminary gives you a real understanding of the gospel,” he says. “I wish I had taken more time to internalize the scripture mastery verses so I could use them more now.” One of the scriptures Elder Mann has a testimony of is “When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke

22:32). He knows you need to gain a testimony so you can share it with others.

Elder Rodriguez knows this is true too. “Get a testimony of what the gospel is and who Joseph Smith was,” he emphasizes. It is easier to teach from the heart when you feel the truth of what you are saying and you really know the gospel.

Elder Mauricio Chavez of the Perú Lima East Mission emphasizes the importance of learning to plan well. “It takes a little longer to plan now,” he says, “but it is more effective. This planning is helping our investigators develop stronger testimonies.” He is also looking forward to using his new planning skills to better organize his life when he returns home to Sucre, Bolivia.

The mission preparation these missionaries stress most is staying worthy of the companionship of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, they could not teach effectively (see D&C 42:14). They also emphasize the need to know in-depth the doctrines of the Church and the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon.

Sister Valeree Price, Sister Memory’s companion, says, “I wish I would have prepared better for my mission by putting more emphasis on things that are important.”

“Yes,” says Sister Memory, “we can quote movies, but it’s hard to quote the scriptures. What a waste!”

Elder Jon Hitchcock, serving in the Perú Lima East Mission, says, “The wonderful thing about *Preach My Gospel* is that everything is in a step-by-step progression. It teaches you how to teach people the gospel, how to feel the Spirit, how to convey feelings, and how to get commitments. It allows you to customize the lessons and make sure you really connect to each person one-on-one spiritually and emotionally.”

## PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE

### Spiritual Preparation

- Gain a testimony of the Savior and His gospel, be worthy of the companionship of the Spirit, and learn to heed His promptings.
- Develop a deep love and knowledge of the restored gospel, especially of the Savior, the Prophet Joseph Smith, and the Book of Mormon.
- Practice having a good attitude and being kind to others, especially your siblings.
- Gain a strong desire to serve.

### Scripture Basics

- Study the Book of Mormon daily, and know it well.
- Go to seminary! Learn the scripture mastery verses.
- Learn how to use scripture tools such as the Topical Guide.

### Some Practical Ideas

- Learn how to do simple things like making your bed, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of your clothing.
- Eat well, stay healthy, and take care of yourself.
- Learn how to study. This will help in your schoolwork, too.
- Take a missionary preparation class.
- Go on exchanges with the missionaries when possible.
- Obtain the *Preach My Gospel* book (item no. 36617) and start studying it. (It is available at distribution centers or at [ldscatalog.com](http://ldscatalog.com).)
- Learn a second or third language.
- Save up and know how to budget your money.

### Teaching and Planning Basics

- Learn to use a simple planner and be organized. Plan your homework and your time.
- Fulfill your Church callings. Be a good home teacher.
- Develop teaching skills. Share the gospel whenever you have the opportunity.
- Use your Duty to God and Personal Progress requirements to gain teaching experiences.
- Use opportunities in family home evening or other settings to learn to teach.
- Practice setting and achieving goals.

The sisters and elders know that teaching from their hearts is challenging. They have to have the Spirit with them always, they have to know the gospel, and they have to carefully plan their lessons and days. But they also know that their preparation is the foundation of their success and that it will help to bring more of Heavenly Father's children to a knowledge of His gospel.

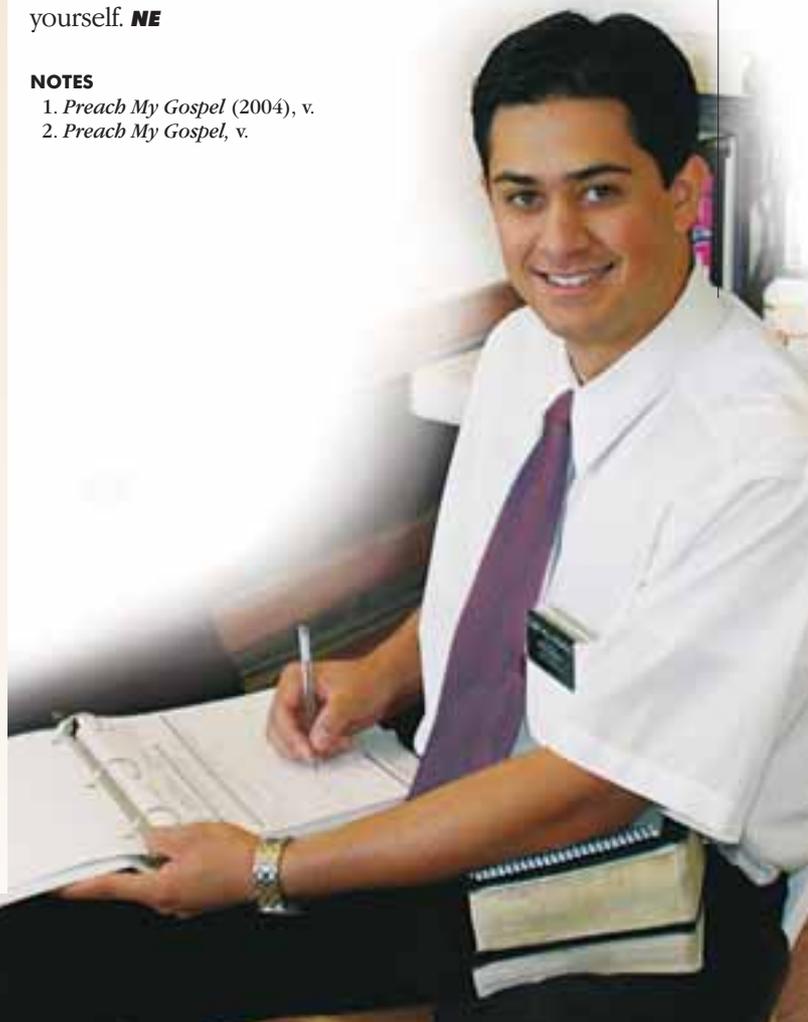
The Lord promises, "Treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted to every man" (D&C 84:85).

In their message in *Preach My Gospel*, the First Presidency gives this challenge: "Rise to a new sense of commitment to assist our Father in Heaven in His glorious work. . . . The Lord will reward and richly bless you as you humbly and prayerfully serve Him. More happiness awaits you than you have ever experienced as you labor among His children."<sup>2</sup>

These missionaries testify this is true and invite you to come on a mission and see for yourself. **NE**

#### NOTES

1. *Preach My Gospel* (2004), v.
2. *Preach My Gospel*, v.



# TEACHING FROM THE HEART

BY ADAM C. OLSON  
Church Magazines

*The Preach My Gospel emphasis requires much work on the part of the missionaries, but that work brings great blessings to them and those they teach.*

*Below: Sisters Price and Sister Memory sing with and teach a family of Church members.*

The guidance of the Holy Ghost has always been critical in missionary work. Although various teaching methods and materials have been used since the organization of the Restored Church, the scriptural direction hasn't changed: "And if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach" (D&C 42:14).

In an effort to improve missionaries' reliance on the Spirit, the Church has prepared, for all 341 missions worldwide, the *Preach My Gospel* manual.

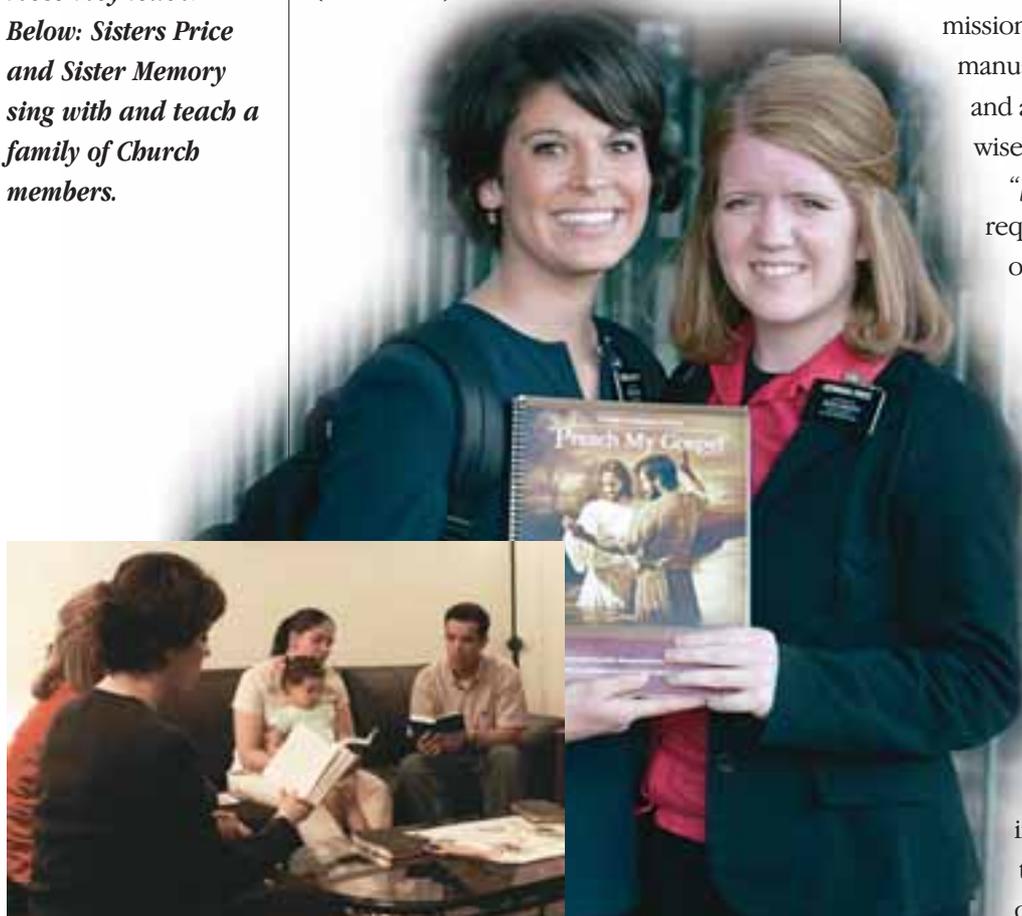
"This manual is a guide to what a missionary needs to know and to become in order to be a teacher empowered to declare the message of the Restoration to the people of the world," says Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

At the heart of *Preach My Gospel* are the new missionary lessons. Aside from the lessons, other important aspects of missionary work taught in the new manual are goal setting, planning, and accountability in using time wisely.

"[*Preach My Gospel*] will require greater effort on the part of the missionaries," says President Gordon B.

Hinckley. "It will require much of prayer and much of study. In presenting the gospel to investigators it is hoped that not only will the mind be touched in understanding gospel principles but, more importantly, the heart will be touched by the power of the Holy Ghost.

... If there is better teaching in the conversion process, there will be greater retention of those who are baptized." **NE**



# MALACHI 3:10-11

*In the Old Testament book of Malachi, the Lord says that those who do not pay tithes and offerings rob Him, but those who do pay them are greatly blessed.*



“The law of tithing is simple: we pay one-tenth of our individual increase annually. Increase has been interpreted by the First Presidency to mean income.”

—President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Opening the Windows of Heaven,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 59.

Ask a parent, grandparent, or one of your youth leaders to bear his or her testimony of how tithing has protected and blessed them. Record his or her story in your journal. In the same entry, write down any blessings you have received from paying your tithing.

Prove=test or try

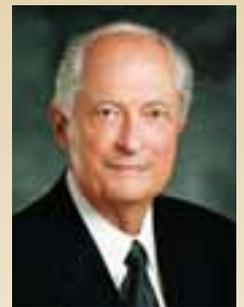
The Bible Dictionary tells us that “the honest payment of tithing sanctifies both the individual and the land on which he lives” (“Tithe,” 785).

When you give your tithing to the bishop, it is recorded and sent to Church headquarters, where Church leaders decide how it should be used. Money from tithes is used to build meetinghouses and temples, to help run the Church’s education programs, and to build up the Lord’s kingdom in other ways.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts; if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

“Would any of us intentionally reject an outpouring of blessings from the Lord? Sadly, this is what we do when we fail to pay our tithing. We say no



to the very blessings we are seeking and praying to receive. If you are one who has doubted the blessings of tithing, I encourage you to accept the Lord’s invitation to “prove [Him] now herewith.” Pay your tithing. Unlock the windows of heaven. You will be abundantly blessed for your obedience and faithfulness to the Lord’s laws and commandments.”

—Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Tithing: A Test of Faith with Eternal Blessings,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 28.

Blessings of paying tithing can be temporal and spiritual. You can read more about the blessings of tithing in the following *New Era* stories. Find them online at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) in the Gospel Library:

- E. Ray Bateman, “Dad’s Tithing Trek,” *New Era*, Jan. 2004, 39.
- Jennifer M. Severino, “10% Tithing=100% Blessings,” *New Era*, Dec. 2002, 7.
- Scot R. Meyers, “Tithing and Pizza,” *New Era*, July 1981, 45.

*Editors’ note: This page is not meant to be a comprehensive explanation of the selected scripture verses, only a starting point for your own study.*

# The Price I COULDN'T PAY

BY SHELLY L. JOHNSON

*It was my fault, my mistake. But who knew that a broken refrigerator would teach me such an important eternal lesson?*

***“We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.” —Articles of Faith 1:3***

**I**t was final exams week at my university. As I walked home, my last test loomed heavily on my mind. I just couldn't wait to finish it, pack my things, say a tearful good-bye to friends, and drive home to be with my family again. Before I knew it, I would be entering the Missionary Training Center and flying across the ocean to serve in the England Manchester Mission—if I could just make it through this last exam.

I was met at the apartment door by my roommate frantically telling me our apartment manager would be coming soon for check-out inspections. My anxiety heightened when I realized that, to avoid fines, my tasks would have to be completed before I went to take my final exam.

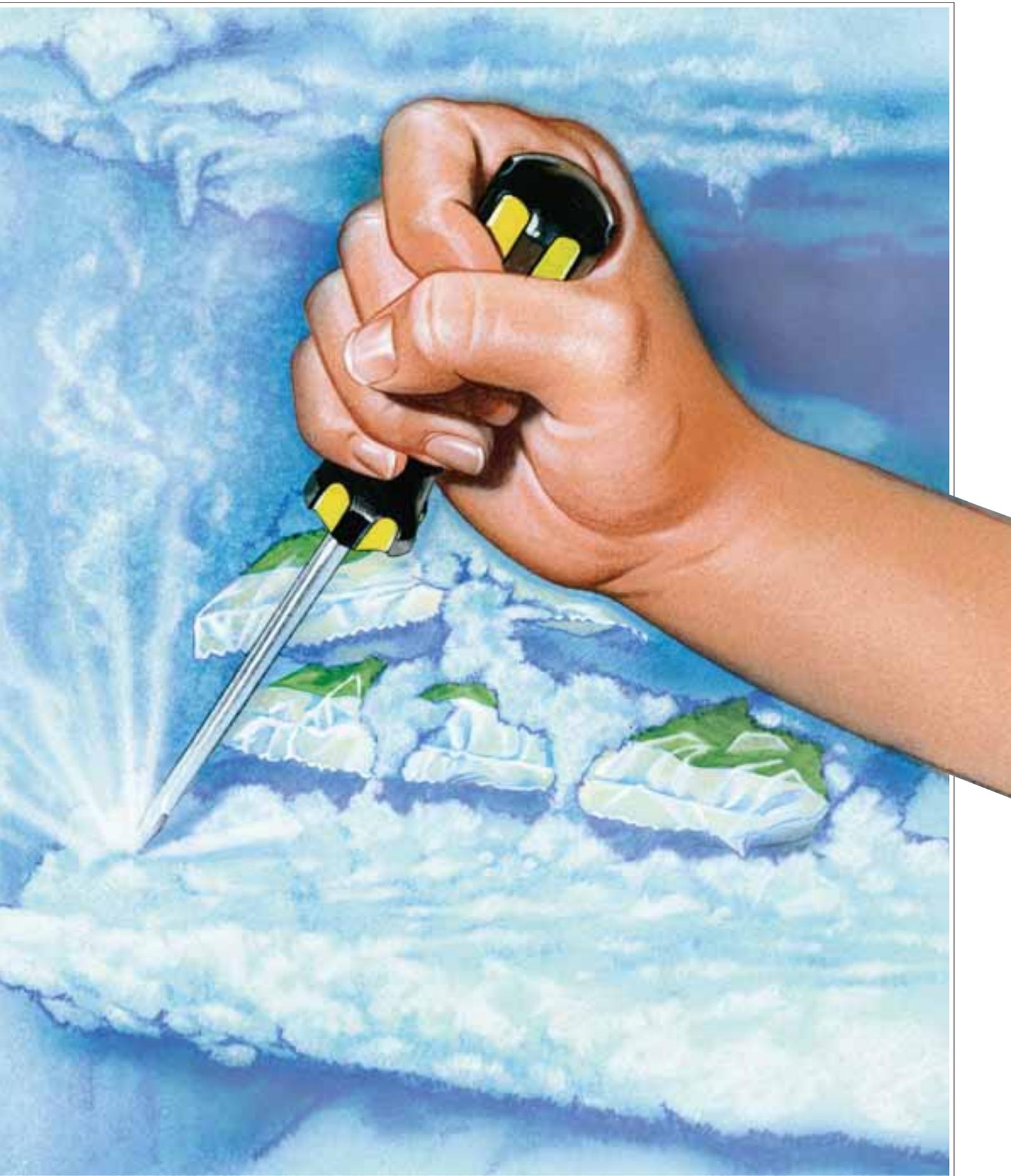
“What are my responsibilities?” I asked. She shoved the signup sheet at me and scurried off, noticeably guilty that I had been left with the last and most dreaded of the cleaning jobs: defrosting the refrigerator.

“Well, how bad can it be?” I thought. With my work, school, and social schedule, I was

practically never home. In fact, I don't think I ever opened the freezer that semester. What I saw shocked me. Three inches of ice entombed a bag of frozen vegetables along with several other unidentifiable items. Inwardly I groaned, knowing I would have very little time to cram for my test.

Without time to let the refrigerator defrost correctly, I turned to more creative ways. I tried picking at it with silverware, but the ice was solid. I borrowed a screwdriver and began chopping at the ice, making some headway. Encouraged by my progress, I became a bit careless, and after chipping away a large piece, I heard a quiet “ssssssss” sound, like air seeping out of a tire. Upon closer examination, I discovered a small puncture to the plastic-covered piping at the back of the freezer. After a few attempts to repair the hole, I called the apartment manager, who soberly congratulated me on “buying” my first refrigerator.

The weight of his words on my mind equaled the weight of the refrigerator. In one





## PEACE AND THE ATONEMENT

“For some reason, we think the Atonement of Christ applies only at the end of mortal life to redemption from the Fall, from spiritual death. It is much more than that. It is an ever-present power to call upon in everyday life. When we are racked or harrowed up or tormented by guilt or burdened with grief, He can heal us. While we do not fully understand how the Atonement of Christ was made, we can experience ‘the peace of God, which passeth all understanding’ (Philippians 4:7).”

—President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Touch of the Master’s Hand,” *Ensign*, May 2001, 23.

Next month in this series, read about the first principles and ordinances of the gospel in a young woman’s conversion story.



careless moment, I had incurred a debt I couldn’t possibly hope to pay. My savings were for my mission, and even then, I had to rely heavily on my parents for financial help.

I called my mom and dad in my time of great need. I felt terrible. After all they had done for me, how could I ask them to buy a useless refrigerator? I will never forget the feelings of love and compassion my dad expressed, assuring me that he would find a way to pay for it on my behalf.

Though I greatly appreciated his help at the time, it wasn’t until I was on my mission, trying to teach someone about the Atonement that my mind turned back to my broken refrigerator experience.

Essentially, we all have a debt, a broken refrigerator so to speak, that we can’t possibly pay for. Because of Jesus Christ, we do not have to suffer and carry the burdens of sin if we choose to repent. He has paid the price for each of us. It is only in and through His love and grace that we are able to go on and progress toward exaltation.

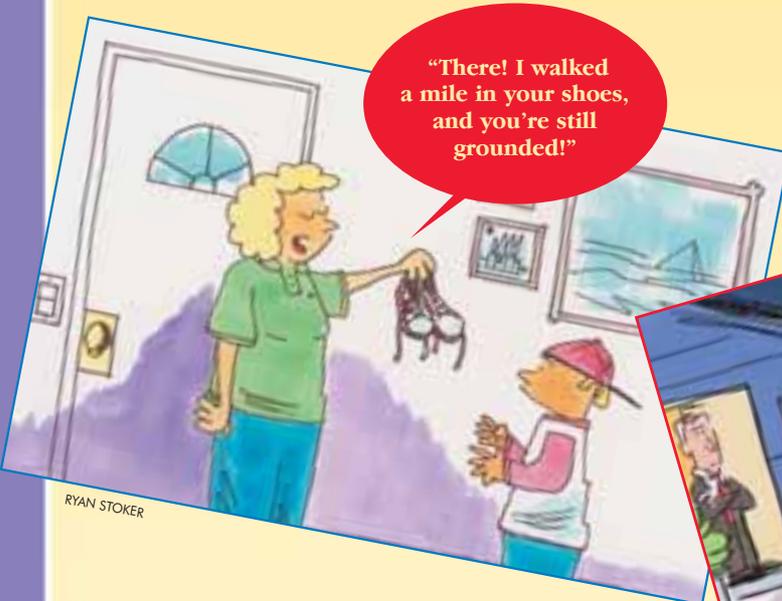
I echo the words of the prophet Jacob: “Oh how great the plan of our God!” (2 Nephi 9:13). Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation is so perfect, so complete. I am and will be eternally thankful for the Atonement of Jesus Christ. I know He loves me. **NE**

*Shelly L. Johnson is a member of the El Paso 13th Ward, El Paso Texas Mount Franklin Stake.*

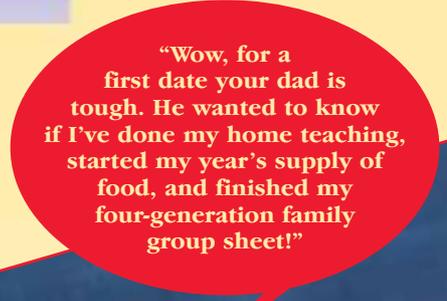
### EXTRA! EXTRA!

These verses are good cross-references for the third article of faith: Mosiah 3:9, 17; D&C 84:20–22; 130:20–21.

These articles in the Gospel Library at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) also talk about the Atonement: “The Light and Life of the World” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1987), by Elder Dallin H. Oaks; and “How Men Are Saved” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1974), by President Marion G. Romney.



RYAN STOKER



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

**M**y daughter and her two friends were all dressed up and pretending to be taking part in a wedding. The wording of the ceremony went something like this: "Do you take this man to be your awful wedded husband as far as he is translated correctly?"

—Linda Wayment, Clinton Sixth Ward, Clinton Utah North Stake



RANDY GLASBERGEN

# HELPING HOME EVENING Succeed

*Teens in the Philippines are learning that they play a big part in having good family home evenings.*

**BY ADAM C. OLSON**  
Church Magazines

Lehi, the Book of Mormon prophet, never saw a PowerPoint presentation during his travels from Jerusalem to the promised land, so Erika Santillan isn't sure what Lehi would think about being in one. But Erika's family thought it was great.

Erika, a Laurel in the Cainta Second Ward, Taytay Philippines Stake, enjoys family home evening, but she admits that sometimes it's easier to be interested in some lessons than others. So when it was her turn to give the lesson, on Lehi's dream in 1 Nephi 8, she wanted to make it fun.

"We watched a Church video and talked about it," she says. "Then I did a PowerPoint presentation on Lehi's dream to help us visualize it better." She grins. "It was really high tech."

Erika's enthusiasm and creativity didn't just help her family understand the scriptures better; it helped them enjoy other blessings of family home evening too.

Youth all over the Philippines are learning that they play a big part in making family home evening successful.





### The Secret to Success

Filipino youth are some of the many around the world who have discovered the secret of a successful family night: the more you're willing to put into it, the more you're likely to get out of it.

It all begins with having a good attitude and being willing to participate, according to Michel Angelene Ramirez, a Laurel in the Taytay First Ward: "It helps make it fun."

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has encouraged youth to play a role in making family home evening successful:

"The full burden of planning and preparing for family home evenings should not be left to parents alone. The most successful ones I

have witnessed are when the youth of the family take an active part.

"I call on you great deacons, teachers, and priests, you Beehive girls, Mia Maids, and Laurels to make

a major contribution in the success of your family home evenings" ("Therefore I Was Taught," *Ensign*, May 1994, 37).

Your participation doesn't have to be a high-tech computer presentation. These Filipino youth are finding simple ways to contribute each week. Just offering a prayer, reading a scripture, leading the music, or being in charge of a treat or activity can bring a spirit of harmony and set a good example for brothers and sisters.

And then there's giving the lesson. It makes some nervous, but giving a lesson can be a good experience. "I still remember the first lesson I gave," says 17-year-old Milliza Anne Ramirez, who goes by Li-anne. "It was on how kindness begins with me."

**T**hese youth in the Philippines don't just enjoy family home evening; they enjoy making it fun. *Opposite page: Kyla Medes. Above: Erika Santillan, Kyla, Milliza Anne Ramirez, and Michel Angelene Ramirez. Inset: Dwayne José.*

“I remember one lesson I taught,” says Li-anne’s sister Michel Angelene. “I gave the lesson using the poster on foul language [see *New Era*, Apr. 1991, 15]. We videotaped the lesson so we could send it to some of our relatives. We still watch it sometimes,” she laughs.

“Participating in family home evening helps our family become closer,” says Kyla Medes, a Mia Maid in the Taytay First Ward.

### The Blessings of Success

These Filipino youth have

discovered that holding family home evening brings some specific blessings to their families, including increasing communication between family members, bringing



### SOMETHING WONDERFUL

*“Out of those simple little [family home evening] meetings, held in*

*the parlor of our old home, came something indescribable and wonderful. Our love for our parents was strengthened. Our love for brothers and sisters was enhanced. Our love for the Lord was increased. An appreciation for simple goodness grew in our hearts. These wonderful things came about because our parents followed the counsel of the President of the Church.”*

—President Gordon B. Hinckley, “Family Home Evening,” *Ensign*, Mar. 2003, 3.

family members closer together, and learning gospel principles.

“In family home evening we talk about Jesus Christ, the Church, and the problems we face,” says Rhea Reyes, a Beehive in the Taytay Second Ward. “We pray together for God’s guidance and blessings. That strengthens us.”

“We can just talk,” Kyla says. “We learn about how the Church works, how much Jesus loves us, how prayer really works.”

“We enjoy being together. We learn, we have fun, we get to

communicate,” says Michel Angelene. “When we communicate, it brings us closer together.”

The youth are especially grateful for the opportunity home evening gives them to speak openly with their parents. “It lets me talk to them about serious things,” Erika says. “Family home evening is a great way to talk with your family.”

These blessings strengthen families and can bring family members closer together. Even though

it’s sometimes hard to pull off a family night when the world is pulling everyone in different directions, the effort is worth it.

“Every time we have family home evening, it helps us through the week,” says Dwayne José, a priest in the Cainta First Ward. “If we don’t have it, my week feels incomplete.” **NE**



## MONDAY NIGHT IN MANILA

BY ADAM C. OLSON

Church Magazines

Monday night in Manila doesn't seem much different at first glance than any other night. Traffic in the city moves like a million ants all trying to use the same narrow tree branch to crawl in two different directions at once. Except these ants honk.

We were trying to get to the Velascos' house so I could see a Filipino family home evening in action, but rush hour wasn't cooperating. Finally our guide announced he was taking a shortcut, and we pulled onto a narrow street packed with people buying and selling items at small roadside stands. The shoppers were enjoying themselves, laughing and calling out to one another. They paid little attention to our compact car inching its way through their open-air shopping center.

When we finally arrived at the Velascos' at the other end of the market, the contrast was astonishing. As we walked into their home, the hustle and bustle outside seemed to simply fade away.

They hadn't sat down for a lesson yet, but family night had already started. Six-year-old Stephen sat on Sister Velasco's lap while she and Brother Velasco chatted with Grandma and Grandpa. Kevin and Kirby, 14, laughed about something 15-year-old Naomi had said. Katrina, 11, was setting out the scriptures and hymnbook.

After we had met everyone, the family sat down together. Grandpa offered an opening prayer. Brother Velasco talked about talents. During the discussion the family switched easily between Tagalog and English whenever one language suited better than the other. Katrina and Naomi took turns reading the parable of the talents from Matthew 25:14–30. Brother Velasco pulled out his guitar and shared one of his talents in song, then passed the guitar to Kirby, who played a song too. Sister Velasco helped Stephen say the closing prayer, and everyone



stepped into the kitchen for a special treat, homemade pizza.

While everyone was chewing, I had the chance to ask them their feelings about family home evening.

"What's your favorite part?"

I asked Kirby. Unfortunately, he had just taken a bite. "The refreshments," he said around the mouthful. Everyone laughed.

"The laughter," Naomi said as their fit of the giggles passed.

"What has it done for your family?"

"It has helped us bond," Kevin said. "That's what happens when you share your thoughts and feelings."

It was a good answer, but I wanted to make sure he wasn't saying it just because I was there. "Does it really?" I asked.

They all nodded. "Because of family home evening, we have become closer," Naomi answered. "We're more friendly to each other."

That was obvious. The blessings of family home evening were obvious too. And it was with great reluctance that I said good-bye and stepped back out into the endless rush of a busy world. **NE**



**E**very Monday night the Velasco family steps out of the world to enjoy time together. Top: Kirby, Kevin, Brother Charles Velasco, Katrina, Sister Janette Velasco, Stephen, and Naomi read an article from the Liahona. Above: Kirby plays the guitar.



## WEEK OF SERVICE IN FIJI

**T**eens from the Suva Fiji, Nausori Fiji, and Suva Fiji North

Stakes wear special ponchos when they perform acts of service in the community. The logos on these ponchos display the name of the Church so

people will know what brings these youth together to give of themselves.

Students of the Fiji LDS Church College, a secondary school sponsored by the Church, recently took part in a seminary week of service. Along with service

projects at a school, a hospital, a health care clinic, a vocational training center for children with disabilities, and the Suva Fiji Temple, there were scripture-based programs and activities on campus.



“The payment of tithing is a commandment, a commandment with a promise. If we obey this commandment, we are promised that we will ‘prosper in the land.’ This prosperity consists of more than material goods—it may include enjoying good health and vigor of mind.”

—President N. Eldon Tanner (1898–1982), “Constancy Amid Change,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 81.





## A PROPER PROM

**W**hen the youth in the Bellingham Washington Stake expressed concerns about the inappropriate music and dancing they might encounter at their high school prom, bishops and youth leaders responded. A youth committee, parent committee, and youth leaders all added their ideas to help organize the first-ever formal spring dance at the stake center.

The formal was held the same night as the high school prom, and youth from three

neighboring stakes were also invited. With beautiful decorations, prom pictures, great refreshments, and music with clean lyrics, the dance was a smashing success. The youth say they appreciated the opportunity to attend a dance that was in line with their standards.

“There is no comparison between this dance and school dances I’ve been to,” said Sarai Dodge. “Our dance was so much better. I hope this becomes a tradition!”

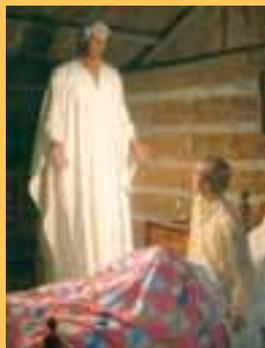
## IT HAPPENED IN SEPTEMBER

**September 21–22, 1823:** The angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith for the first time and told him about the gold plates.

**September 1, 1901:** President Heber J. Grant (1856–1945) dedicated Japan for the preaching of the gospel.

**September 7, 1958:** President David O. McKay (1873–1970) dedicated the London England Temple.

**September 23, 1995:** President Gordon B. Hinckley presented for the first time the proclamation on the family, in a general Relief Society meeting.



THE ANGEL MORONI APPEARS TO JOSEPH SMITH, BY TOM LOVELL

## JOSEPHSMITH.NET

**J**ust in time for the Prophet Joseph Smith’s 200th birthday, the Church has created a new multimedia Web site about the Prophet. If you’d like to know more about the first prophet, seer, and revelator of this dispensation, go to [www.josephsmith.net](http://www.josephsmith.net). There, you’ll find descriptions of the Prophet, a brief history of his life, comments about him by people who knew him, a visual tour of the places important to his mission, and other interesting things to read and see.

If you have questions or comments about this new Web site—or about the *New Era*—you can e-mail us at [cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org](mailto:cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org) or send a letter to the address on the inside front cover of this magazine.



JESUS WASHING THE FEET OF THE APOSTLES, BY DEL PARSON

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

**I**f you want to be a good leader, the Savior taught that first you must become a good servant and follower. In the New Testament, even Christ’s Apostles sometimes had a hard time understanding this principle. In Mark we read that they “disputed among themselves, who should be

the greatest.”

So the Savior called the Twelve Apostles together and told them, “If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all” (Mark 9:34–35).

Follow the example of the Savior and lead out in your quorums, classes, families, and communities by serving others.

# BUILD ON THE BASICS

BY ELDER H. ALDRIDGE GILLESPIE  
Of the Seventy

*Building on the basics will take commitment and sacrifice, but you will feel good about serving the Lord as a missionary, and you will want to do so, if you are prepared.*



*I can remember many nights sitting on the edge of my bed, looking out at the Manti Utah Temple through my second-story window. I realized that the temple was a place I wanted to be able to go someday.*

**M**y family moved near Manti, Utah, in my sophomore year of high school. We lived at a place called Crystal Springs. By then, it was only a skeleton of more prosperous earlier years, when it had been a popular resort and, thereafter, a large dairy farm operated by my grandfather Giles and his family, including my folks.

We moved to Crystal Springs after my father had a heart attack and lost his job. We didn't have much in those days, so it was necessary for my father to work as much as he could and for me to take employment as a plasterer's helper to supplement the family income.

Although my parents were less active in the Church, my mother's family, also living at Crystal Springs, fortunately were very active. They provided the critical support I needed to stay active in the Church at that time.

#### **The Temple through My Window**

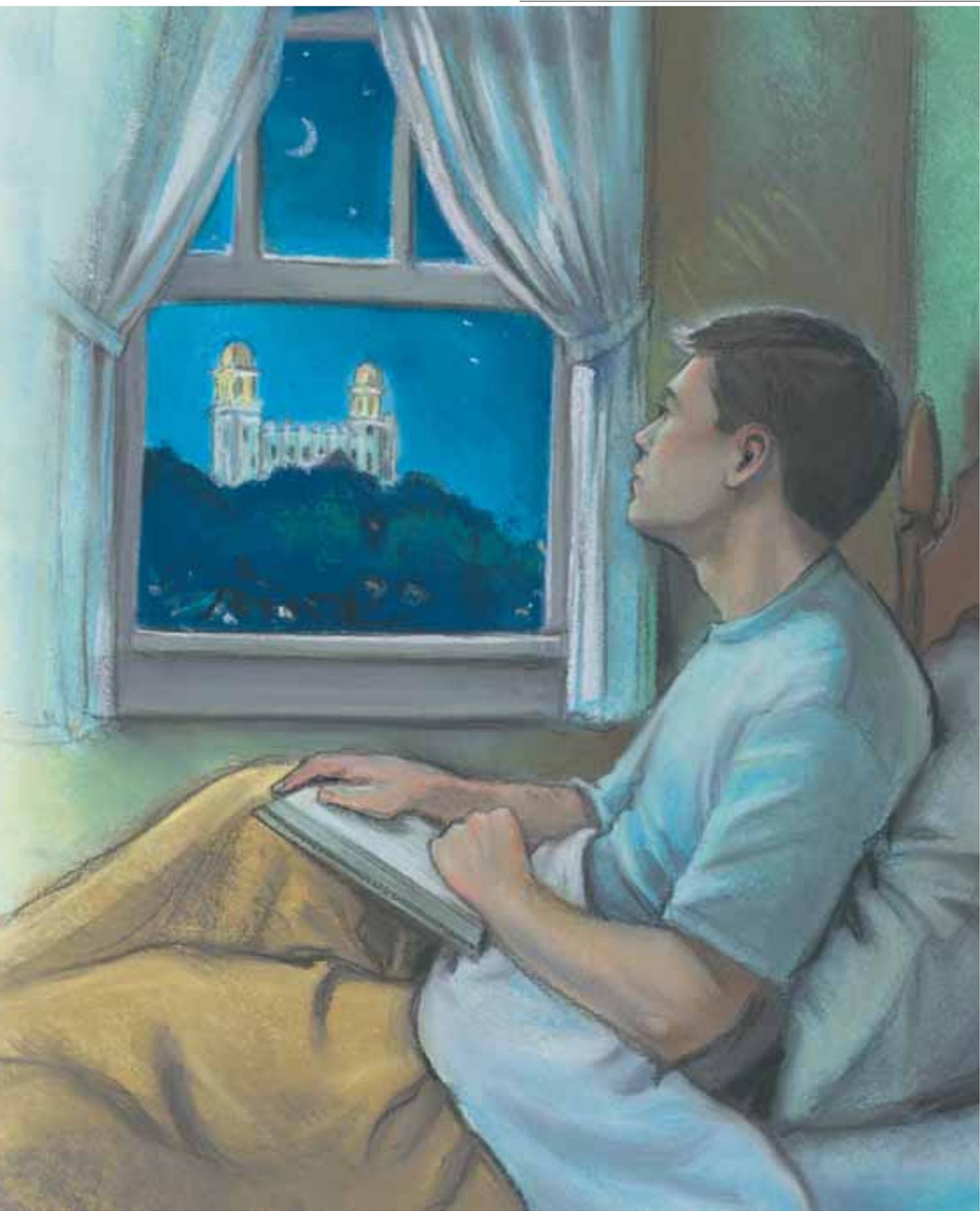
Of those high school days, I can remember many nights sitting on the edge of my bed, looking out at the Manti Utah Temple

through my second-story bedroom window. I realized that, regardless of whether my folks had ever been there, the temple was a place I wanted to be able to go someday. The temple became a standard for me to measure everything else against.

It was during this time in my life that I began to feel the need to serve a mission. The promises made in D&C 31:5 began to play upon me: "Therefore, thrust in your sickle with all your soul, and *your sins are forgiven you*, and you shall be laden with sheaves upon your back. . . . Wherefore, *your family shall live*" (emphasis added). The two key promises in that verse became increasingly meaningful to me.

I made up my mind that I was going to serve a mission. I needed some method of showing the Lord that I truly did love Him in spite of my sometimes foolish youthful actions.

So, with the temple as a standard and a desire to serve a mission, I started to plan for a mission. Not long after that, my father had another heart attack and died. I was still in



my first years at the university. With the death of my father, I suddenly realized that if I were to go on a mission, there would be no one to take care of my mother, grandmother, and two sisters.

I was torn between my sense of obligation toward my family and my obligation to Heavenly Father. I wasn't even sure I could save enough money to get started on a mission, but I was determined that, if it were possible, I would go. I made a decision based totally on my faith in the Lord's promise: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Not long after, I received an offer to work at a very good job as an engineering aide in Oregon, in the western United States, which permitted me to save for a mission and send some money home. Still, it wasn't easy. But as I pondered D&C 31:5 and Matthew 6:33, the Spirit said to me, "If you will seek first my kingdom (a mission), I will take care of your family." I didn't know how that would be possible, but I believed the Lord's promises with all my heart.

When the time neared for me to leave, I still didn't have all the money I would need to support myself, so I went to my bishop and explained my predicament. He said, "All the help you need you've got right at your fingertips."

"What do you mean?" I said.

He told me to talk to my relatives, even to non-members and less-active members, to see if they would help me. "Go bear your testimony to them," he said. "Tell them you want to serve the Lord, and ask for their help."

I didn't know how I was going to do that, but I did, and all those I asked said they would help a little. The high priests group in my ward helped me with the rest.

I was soon on my way to the Spanish-American Mission, based in San Antonio, Texas. After I got into the mission field, the things that took place, both there and at home, clearly confirmed that I had made the right decision. My family was being taken care of as well or better than if I had stayed home, and the joy of missionary service had changed my heart

and the direction of my life.

My mission became the great turning point in my life. I could tell myself and my family at home that I knew I was doing what the Lord wanted me to do and that, although I didn't know how everything was going to work out, I knew it would work out the best for all of us.

During the time I was in the mission field, my mother began to come back to church. And when my sweetheart and I married after my mission, my mother was able to be in the temple with us. Many of those who assisted in financing my mission also drew closer to the Church.

### **Preparing for Your Mission**

Put your trust in the Lord. The world cries in so many voices for your time, attention, and loyalty. The Lord's voice is very quiet. To avoid the distractions of the world and to prepare for your mission, I have some advice for you.

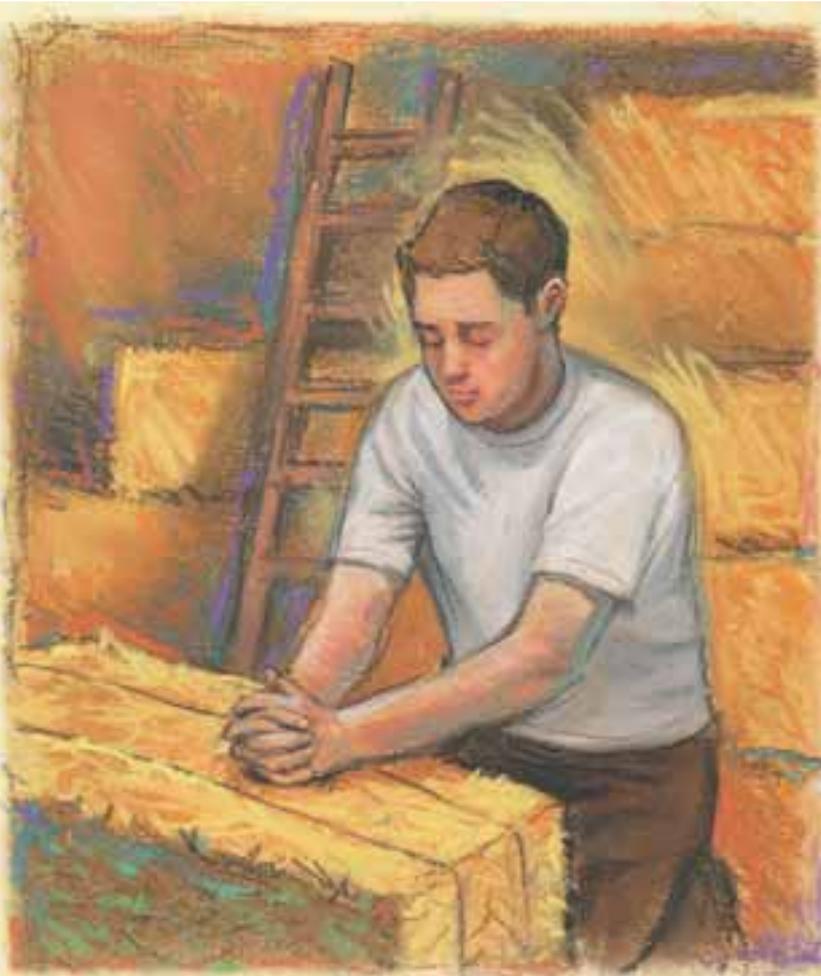
First, be sure that prayer is a daily part of your life. When I was in Manti, I milked one or two cows each day in our old barn, which had a big hayloft. In addition to my bedside, that barn was a good place to go for secret prayer. Before I decided to go on a mission, and before I found the scriptures that helped me to do right, I had some very sincere sessions of prayer in that hayloft. I came away from those sessions with a sure knowledge that I needed to put my life in order so I could serve the Lord.

Be on your knees every day, reflecting on your life, on your future, on who you are, and on how you're going to fulfill your mission on earth so that you can return to your Heavenly Father and be worthy to enter into His presence again.

There are so many things going on in life that prayer often gets pushed aside. Don't leave your room in the morning and don't lie down at night until you've prayed. Ask Heavenly Father to help you prepare for a mission. He will answer your prayers.

Second, stay active in seminary





and institute. That will keep you focused on and reading the scriptures. I shall always be grateful to Brother Ward Magelby for being the kind of seminary teacher who taught with the Spirit and cared enough to counsel me and for Brother J. Elliott Rich of the Logan Utah Institute, who opened my spiritual eyes even wider during my two years of college prior to entering the mission field.

Third, listen to good music. The music you listen to has a profound influence on whether you can receive spiritual promptings. Listen to the beautiful hymns and music of the Restoration. Learn the hymns and songs, and sing them often, alone, with the family, and always in church. I am a witness of the marvelous power of the Church hymns to uplift, edify, and inspire.

Fourth, take time to be with your family. Although my parents were less active, they loved me, and I loved them. They taught me

well and prepared me to receive the testimony of Jesus Christ and of the Restoration.

If your family has family home evening, be sure that you're there. Keep Monday nights free. It will take sacrifice, but Heavenly Father will not let that sacrifice go unrewarded—you just count the miracles and blessings that result.

Make sure that you tell your parents and your siblings that you love them. Tell your Heavenly Father in your prayers that you love Him.

Finally, ask for priesthood blessings, including your patriarchal blessing, to help you “hold fast” to “the rod of iron” and to be able to with-

stand “the fiery darts of the adversary” (see 1 Nephi 15:23–24). These blessings will bring the Spirit into your life and keep you on target.

There are lots of other things you can do, but these are the basics. They take commitment and sacrifice of other pursuits, but if you will do these things, as I did, to prepare for your mission, you will feel good about serving the Lord, and you will want to do so. You will feel good about saying no to the enticing things of the world and the great deception that you can sin without penalty. You will also be prepared against those with much learning of men, who “think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves” (2 Nephi 9:28).

I testify that God lives and that true happiness is found in obedience to His commandments. **NE**

**Our barn was a good place to go for secret prayer. There are so many things going on in life that prayer often gets pushed aside. Don't leave your room in the morning and don't lie down at night until you've prayed.**

# STORMING



# INTO SERVICE

**I**t's 5:00 a.m. at the Old St. Augustine Road chapel on a Saturday morning in October. All three boys who have gathered in the parking lot in Jacksonville, Florida, are used to getting up early. But 4:30 in the morning?

"I'm usually here at the chapel for seminary. But that's at 6:00 on school days," says Jake Livsey, a teacher in the Mandarin First Ward of the Jacksonville Florida East Stake. He's yawning when he sees Austin Pearce and his father pull into the lot. Austin, also a teacher, is a member of the St. Johns Ward. Before long, Travis Stevenson of the Mandarin Second Ward arrives with his father. Jake, Austin, and Travis are in the same stake but different wards, and they go to three different high schools. Yet this day they have one purpose.

About four hours after arriving at the ward building, the three boys are in Melbourne, a central Florida city that Hurricane Jeanne hit hard. They're part of a huge group of Latter-day Saints who arrived in the city to provide hurricane relief. As they're getting their assignments from a local bishop who is steering the volunteer effort, they look around at the destruction. Trees are down, roof shingles are scattered, and

debris is everywhere. The job looks overwhelming, especially after hearing that the young men's assignment is to work on houses at a trailer park.

"It's interesting to see what the hurricane has done," says Jake. "We didn't have much damage in Jacksonville. But to see these houses that had been blown apart, I realize that, wow, this was where somebody lived."

As they begin to haul siding and insulation to the curb, they notice an older man standing amid the rubble that had been a portion of his house before it collapsed. "Just get rid of everything," the man says. "None of it is worth saving." The boys introduce themselves, and the man, named Leo, looks around. "You're saying this isn't going to cost me anything? Now who are you again?"

Well, since he asked, they're Aaronic Priesthood holders, giving up a weekend to help people in need.



**Austin Pearce (opposite page) stands ready to help with the cleanup amid the destruction left by the hurricanes that hit his home state of Florida. Above: Austin and Jake Livsey are just two of the LDS teens who helped.**



**T**ravis Stevenson, Jake, and Austin

*(above) proudly wear their Mormon Helping Hands shirts as they serve. Opposite page: The three take a well-deserved break after hours of hard work.*

*Girls from the Pompano Beach Florida Stake (bottom) discover that blessings come with service.*

“The biggest thing I’ve learned is that there is always somebody worse off than you are,” says Travis. “It is sad to see what the hurricane did. I’m glad I can help.”

About a half-hour after they had arrived at Leo’s house, everything is cleared from what used to be the south side of his home. All the wet carpeting has been torn up, and the ruined furniture is piled on the curb. “I can’t believe it,” Leo says. “I didn’t know what to do. I could have never done all this, and you guys did in 30 minutes what would have taken me weeks.”

“That was a highlight,” says Austin as he walks away after shaking Leo’s hand. “He was so appreciative of what we did.”

“We didn’t need to get credit. But it was fun to meet Leo and see the look on his face and see how what we were doing was affecting him,” says Jake. “Maybe we left him with good feelings about the Church.”

After a couple of small jobs at other people’s homes, the boys find themselves amid the rubble of a house that was hit by a tornado that followed the hurricane. Many houses in the neighborhood are damaged. “It looks like a bomb went off,” says Austin, as he looks at a roof that was blown off a trailer.

He looks at Jake, grabs a claw hammer, and the two go to work. Austin figures that, even with help from adults, they could have

the roof torn apart in about an hour. Four hours later the group is still hacking away trying to break the thing into pieces they can move. The sun is high in a cloudless sky. Temperatures are reaching the mid-90s, and the humidity is relentless. “This is probably the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” says Austin of his work on the roof. “But it’s been a lot of fun.”

By the time the three had cut up the last piece of aluminum and hauled it to the huge pile near the street, Jake, Austin, and Travis look more than a little tired. They take a break to eat sandwiches and wash them down with their 8th or 11th or 18th (who can keep track?) bottle of water. Rejuvenated, it’s on to another job. Once they’re done there, it’s time to think about getting ready for a two-hour meeting the three want to attend.

It’s October 2, and the priesthood session of general conference begins in about two hours. There will be very few white shirts and ties this night. It is a come-as-you-are affair for priesthood holders.

“I’m totally beat,” says Jake. “We’re all dirty, most of us haven’t showered, and some of us are still in our work clothes. But it’s cool to look around and see all these boys and men in the chapel for priesthood meeting who have been working all day.”

It’s then that the three young men stop and think about their experience with Leo. Jake, Austin, and Travis are grateful to be seated in the air-conditioned chapel ready for the priesthood session. But they know the priesthood was really in action a few hours earlier when they were sweating, working, serving, and smiling the entire time. **NE**



## HURRICANE HELP BY SHENLEY SEARING

I have always been impressed by the organization of the Church, but I did not fully realize how important it was in efforts to serve others. The Pompano Beach Florida Stake, with many other stakes in the area, organized several relief efforts during four hurricanes that hit Florida last year. My ward was one of the many wards involved, and I was able to experience serving others.

A group of youth and leaders met one Saturday at 6:00 a.m. and drove two hours to Vero Beach. There, each ward was assigned an area to work in. Our ward was asked to help the senior citizens at a trailer park that had suffered a lot of damage. We were outside in the hot sun all day cleaning up debris and reconstructing homes, working alongside some of the residents.

This turned out to be a wonderful experience that I will never forget. I felt the Lord's love as we served those people. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the people we were helping was such a blessing. I gained a testimony of the meaning and power of service and what it feels like to act in the name of Jesus Christ as a representative of His Church. I know that serving others is what He wants us to do.

The hurricanes caused a disaster, but there were blessings that came out of it. Testimonies grew, people were introduced to the Church, and the pure love of Christ was felt. Service brings us closer to Heavenly Father because we show and feel the Light of Christ as we act in His name. Taking upon us the name of Christ includes doing what He would do, like taking time to help those who need it most. **NE**

*Shenley Searing is a member of the Boca Raton Ward, Pompano Beach Florida Stake.*

# ESPECIALLY FOR HER

BY BRITTANY MOORE

**W**hile packing to attend Especially for Youth at a local college campus, I felt as though I should bring an extra copy of the Book of Mormon to pass out. Thinking only members of the Church

would be there, I didn't understand why I would have such a prompting, but I followed it anyway and packed the book.

During several mealtimes, I happened to sit by some girls attending a jazz band camp that was on campus that week. They had a lot of questions about the Church, and I felt the Holy Spirit guide me on what to say. Much of my time was spent teaching instead of

eating. I offered the girls the Book of Mormon that I had felt prompted to bring. One accepted it. Then I knew why the Lord had prompted me to bring it.

Be sure to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and "trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). **NE**

*Brittany Moore is a member of the Osceola Ward, Des Moines Iowa Stake.*



# BACK ON TRACK

BY KADIE SHARP

In 1998 my family moved to the Netherlands. My siblings and I attended the American School of The Hague. My mom couldn't drive us in the mornings, so we rode the bus and train to get to school. My older sisters attended early-morning seminary and left an hour earlier than my younger brother, Shaun, and I. We made it to school easily for the first half of the year, but then the bus routes changed because of construction.

One day we were waiting for our bus when I saw one with a different number but the same destination. I thought the number didn't matter much, so we got on the bus. After about 20 minutes, I had a sick feeling in my stomach. Shaun and I noticed we were nowhere near our school, and we both felt very lost and afraid.

We got off the bus, and I said a prayer in my heart, asking Heavenly Father for comfort and help. I had been learning Dutch in school and realized I could ask someone for help. I asked around until I found a lady who spoke a little English. She gave us directions to catch the right bus to school. Soon we were headed in the right direction and feeling much better.

I will never forget the lost feeling I felt when I realized I was on the wrong bus. I know that the Lord helped me get back on track as He



# FAMILY TIME

BY SARAH HART

My family has helped me stay close to the gospel because we read the scriptures each morning and have family prayer every morning and night. We also have a calendar so we know what each other is doing for the week, and we try to plan activities that the family can do together. Our family has overcome challenges by praying together and sometimes having a family fast. **NE**

*Sarah Hart is a member of the Hobble Creek 10th Ward, Springville Utah Hobble Creek Stake.*

does constantly in our lives—not only physically, but spiritually. We all will feel lost in life's decisions if we are not on the right track, but the Lord will always give direction and a way for us to get back on the path toward the right destination. **NE**

*Kadie Sharp is a member of the BYU—Idaho 14th Ward, Brigham Young University—Idaho Third Stake.*

# MODEST REWARDS

BY CAMILLE BITTON

It was prom night for my high school in Idaho. I was excited to go with a group of seven of my Latter-day Saint friends. For this special occasion, we went to dinner at a Thai restaurant. We ate our delicious meals and were getting ready to pay when our server told us our meals had already been paid for. We told him there must have been some mistake because we hadn't paid yet. But the server pointed out the window and said a woman in the group of people outside had paid for our meals.

Imagine our shock at the news that a stranger had paid for our dinner. Eager to give our thanks, we rushed out to talk to this kind woman. The people outside wouldn't tell us who paid for our dinners, but they did say that a woman in their group had done it because the four girls in our group were dressed modestly.

The young men were very appreciative to this unknown lady, so they sang a song to the group in return for her kindness. Her generosity made our evening especially memorable.

It is not easy to find a modest dress in today's stores, but with some altering all of us we were able to meet proper dress standards. That night I learned that people really do notice what you wear and that you never know who may be watching. **NE**

*Camille Bitton is a member of the Fremont Heights Ward, Pocatello Idaho Central Stake.*



# THE PERFECT PATTERN

BY LACEY MCMURRY  
Church Magazines

*A young woman in New Zealand finds happiness in patterning her career plans after gospel standards of modesty.*

**D**esirée Kurtz has known for years what she wants to be when she grows up. When she was 11, she began sketching clothes and recording her design ideas in notebooks. When she was 14, she decided to design and sew a skirt for her first stake dance because she didn't have enough money to buy a new one. After that, she was hooked and began planning for a career in fashion.

Now 17, Desireé, from Tāwa, New Zealand, is studying clothing design and fashion at Massey University. In preparing for a career, she has made an important decision to always follow a pattern of obedience to gospel standards.

#### **Putting the Lord First**

In high school, Desireé decided she would always make the gospel her top priority. She once had to choose between going to the temple with the young men and



**D**esiree Kurtz has wanted to be a fashion designer for a long time, but as she goes after her dream career, she has made the commitment to always put the Lord first.

young women in her ward or competing in a regional design competition.

“It was really hard because I wanted to enter the competition,” she says. “But since the temple is almost nine hours away, I don’t get to go often. I didn’t want to miss out on that opportunity.”

After a lot of praying, Desiree came up with a solution. She rode with the young men and young women to the temple on Friday, performed baptisms for the dead, and was on a plane headed for home by 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

She returned home just in time to enter the competition, where she won the “Young Designer of the Year” award for northern New Zealand. Doing well in this competition qualified her for a national design competition, where she placed in the top three.

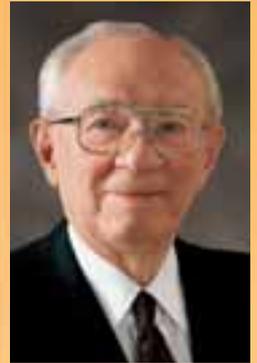
Desiree says she will continue to put the Lord first when she begins a career by not working on Sunday and by making her family and the Church her top priorities.

### Sticking to Standards

Desiree made a second important decision in high school—a decision to always dress modestly. Before a high school formal dance, she spent countless hours looking for a modest dress without success. So she decided to make her own formal dress from scratch. She designed the dress, made a pattern, picked out material, and started sewing. The result was a beautiful formal gown.

“I knew I couldn’t wear something that was immodest,” she says.

Now, as a design student, Desiree knows that in order to keep her commitment to modesty, she will not



*“Get all the schooling you can to qualify yourselves in your chosen vocations. . . . These are the great days of your preparation for your future work. Do not waste them. Take advantage of them. Cram your heads full of knowledge.”*

— President Gordon B. Hinckley, “Life’s Obligations,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1999, 2.





## FASHION FIXES

Desireé Kurtz knows it's hard to find modest clothing sometimes, but she has some ideas for easy fixes that will help you dress more modestly.

—Get a plain, long singlet (camisole or tank top) with a modest neckline, and wear it under shirts that are too short or that have necklines cut too low.

—Learn to sew. If a top you want to buy is too short, buy it a few sizes bigger so it will be longer, and then take in the sides.

—Learn the art of layering. Layering your clothes means you will get not only more outfits from your wardrobe but more modest outfits.

**M**odesty is a must when Desireé designs. "I always design clothes that I would be comfortable wearing," she says.



design revealing clothes. "I always design clothes that I would be comfortable wearing," she says. "I know this is where the Lord wants me to be because there is a need for modest clothes. That's my main reason for doing all of this."

Desireé's commitment to design only modest clothing has not always been easy to keep. Once, her design-school teachers gave her a class assignment to create a sleeveless dress. "I didn't know what I was going to do," she says. In the end, Desireé explained to her teachers her reasons for not wanting to design immodest clothing. Her teachers listened and agreed to let her modify the dress by adding sleeves.

"Most people I work with are actually pretty good about respecting my beliefs," she says. "I just had to let them know the things that were important to me."

### Blessing Others

Through her example, Desireé has been able to bless the lives of others. Teachers and peers from the design school have noticed her commitment to doing what is right. "They ask me why I'm different, and this leads to a lot of opportunities for gospel discussions," she says.

One day, Desireé's designs may also bless the lives of Latter-day Saint youth by giving them choices for modest clothes.

So how has Desireé managed to ignore the popular trends in the fashion industry and obey gospel standards instead? "I made the decision that I was going to stick to my values long before I began design school," she says. "I know I have to remember where I want to go and not let anyone change the things I believe in." **NE**

**Teaching Tip**

• Try a simple game to introduce your topic. For example, you could whisper a sentence about your lesson subject to one class member. That class member whispers the sentence to the next person, and so on to the next until everyone has participated. Have the last person recite the sentence aloud. It will most likely be garbled. Tell them what the sentence started out as, and you will have the attention of the class as you begin.

**Mutual Activity Ideas**

• Follow the suggestion given by Elder H. Aldridge Gillespie in his article, "Build on the Basics," on page 36 and listen to good music. Plan a music night. Have each person bring a recording of a favorite song and tell why it means so much to him or her. Play as many songs as time allows. Of course, make sure the music is appropriate for a Mutual activity.

• Hold a panel discussion using the question on page 16 as the basis for the discussion. Have an older teen conclude by explaining the blessings that come from following the prophet's guidance on this subject. Use *For the Strength of Youth* for additional information on dating.

**Family Home Evening Ideas**

• Get your family involved in helping you memorize scripture mastery verses. Write a scripture on a card and post it on the refrigerator or another prominent place. See which member of the family can learn and recite perfectly the scripture first. Help each other until all family members have learned it. Report at family home evening.

• Obtain a copy of the missionary guide, *Preach My Gospel*. Have members of the family choose a section to present as a lesson.



## SUNDAY LESSON HELPS

In addition to the Resource Guides (printed in May and November in the *Ensign* and *Liabona*), Young Women and Aaronic Priesthood teachers may find these additional resources helpful in enhancing lessons 36–40.

**Young Women Manual 3****Lesson 36: Marriage Standards**

Thomas S. Monson, "Whom Shall I Marry?" *New Era*, Oct. 2004, 4.

Tamara Leatham Bailey, "The Temple-Going Type," *New Era*, Apr. 1998, 34.

**Lesson 37: The Word of God as a Standard**

Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *New Era*, Jan. 2001, 4.

Robert Marcum, "The Guide," *New Era*, Mar. 1990, 11.

**Lesson 38: Good Health Habits**

Caroline Benzley, "Be Clean," *New Era*, July 2002, 12.

James E. Faust, "The Enemy Within," *New Era*, Mar. 2003, 4.

**Lesson 39: Recognizing Our Individual Worth**

Q&A: "... Since I'm not as smart or good-looking or talented as everybody else, what can I do to gain confidence and feel better?" *New Era*, Apr. 2005, 16.

Jamie Glenn, "Walk Tall, You're a Daughter of God" (song), *New Era*, Jan. 1996, 10.

**Lesson 40: Loving Ourselves and Others**

Fay Waldemar McCracken, "The Deacon with the Big Smile," *New Era*, July 2005, 14.

D. Brent Collette, "Slow-Motion Miracle," *New Era*, May 2000, 35.

**Aaronic Priesthood Manual 3****Lesson 36: Patriarchal Blessings**

"About Patriarchal Blessings," *New Era*, Mar. 2004, 32.

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

**Lesson 37: Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit**

Matthew Holland, "Wrong Roads and Revelation," *New Era*, July 2005, 26.

Lindsay T. Dil, "If You Listen," *New Era*, July 2005, 8.

**Lesson 38: The Pure Love of Christ**

Shelly L. Johnson, "The Price I Couldn't Pay," this issue, 26.

Boyd K. Packer, "Washed Clean," *New Era*, Apr. 1998, 4.

**Lesson 39: Feasting on the Words of Christ**

Idea List: "Seminary Scripture Power," this issue, 13.

Jay E. Jensen, "Why We Ask People to Read the Book of Mormon," *New Era*, Aug. 2005, 40.

**Lesson 40: Doing Missionary Work**

Shanna Butler and Adam C. Olson, "Preparing to Preach His Gospel," this issue, 20.

Gordon B. Hinckley, "Forget Yourself and Go," *New Era*, Oct. 2002, 4.

**HELPS ME FEEL PEACE**

Being a teenager is tough, and I don't know what I would do if I didn't have the gospel in my life. There are so many things in the Church that make my life easier. One of those is the *New Era*. This magazine helps me so much when I read it. There are so many stories in this magazine that inspire me and help me feel peace in my life. I want to go through the rest of my teenage years reading the best magazine in the world.

Katie Sue Love, Chatfield Ward,  
Columbine Colorado Stake

**HUMOR FOR DAD**

Thank you for the great stories and posters, which I have put all over my bedroom door. I enjoy The Extra Smile also. I share it with my dad and like to hear him laugh.

Emily Huffaker, Capitol Ward,  
Lansing Michigan Stake

**WE BELIEVE**

I liked the article "Know What We Believe" (June 2005). I guess it really is important to memorize the Articles of Faith so we can know what to say when people ask us what we believe. I had memorized a few but didn't really think about how good these were to have memorized. Now I'm going to try and memorize all 13!

Lauren Riddle, Savage Mill Ward,  
Columbia Maryland Stake

**LOVING THE CHURCH**

I am 14 years old, and I am a convert to the Church. I enjoy going to church. I get the *New Era* every month, and it just adds to my love of the Church!

Farryn Nichols, Hidden Springs Ward,  
Moreno Valley California Stake

**LEARNING PARENTESE**

"How to Talk to Your Parents" (June 2005) made a big difference in my life. I really needed to read it. My parents and I don't often have communication problems, but there are times when we disagree about curfew and such, and things get a little sticky. I liked learning new ways to cope with things and thinking about listening to what they have to say more often.

Thank you for this article. I think it is great to put articles like this in the *New Era* so that teenagers can change how they are acting to become more Christlike.

Carmen Purnell, Cloverdale Ward,  
Meridian Idaho Stake

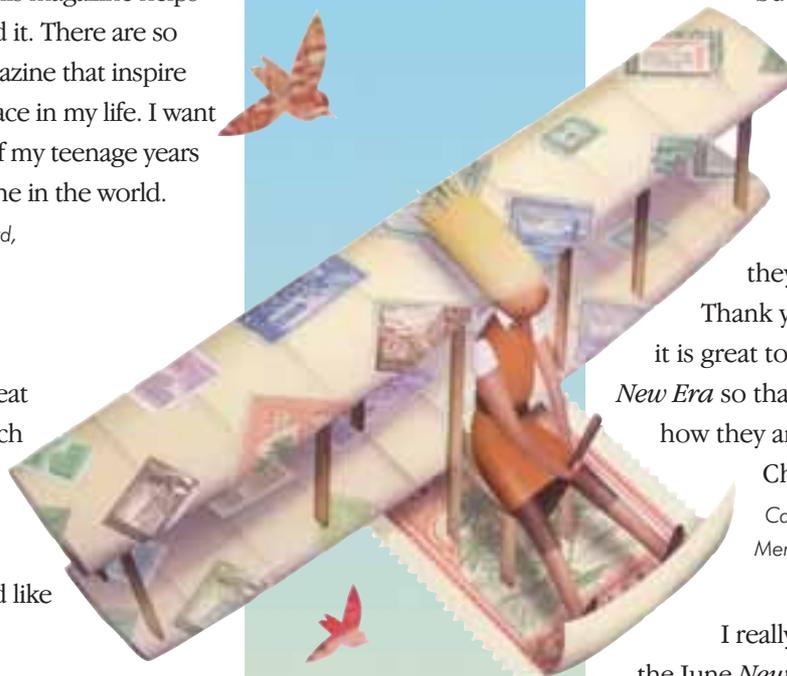
I really enjoyed the article in the June *New Era* about talking to your parents. It has helped me to be more patient with my mom when she says something to me that hurts my feelings. It has helped me realize when she is grateful for my help. She always was, but now I can see it, and I have a greater desire to help out around the house. This article was definitely an eye-opener for me. Thank you so much for putting it in. It came at a point in my life when I needed it most. I hope it has helped other teens as much as it did me.

Anne Hurst, Blanding First Ward,  
Blanding Utah Stake

*We love hearing from you. Write us at the following address. Please include the names of your ward and stake (or branch and district).*

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, USA

*Or e-mail us at  
cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org  
Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.*



*"It really is important to memorize the Articles of Faith so we can know what to say when people ask us what we believe."*



**ETERNITY**  
BY JAANA OLSEN

Dressed in white,  
my family stands  
beside me.

We have belonged  
to each other  
for a lifetime,  
and now  
stand before the gates  
to eternity.

We reflect on the past,  
our lives, loves, and sorrows,  
so trivial now, so important then.  
Our arms are linked, our hearts  
joined together forever.



*“The wonderful thing about Preach My Gospel is that everything is in a step-by-step progression. It teaches you how to teach people the gospel, how to feel the Spirit, how to convey feelings, and how to get commitments. It allows you to customize the lessons and make sure you really connect to each person one-on-one spiritually and emotionally.”*  
See “Preparing to Preach His Gospel,” p. 20.

