

Liabonra



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"Today's modern-day Church pioneers . . . live in every nation and [their] stories of perseverance, faith, and sacrifice add glorious new verses to the great chorus of the latter-day anthem of the kingdom of God."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "Faith of Our Father," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2008, 70.

Left: Tiaray Madera Rasoamampianina was among the first members of the Church in Madagascar.



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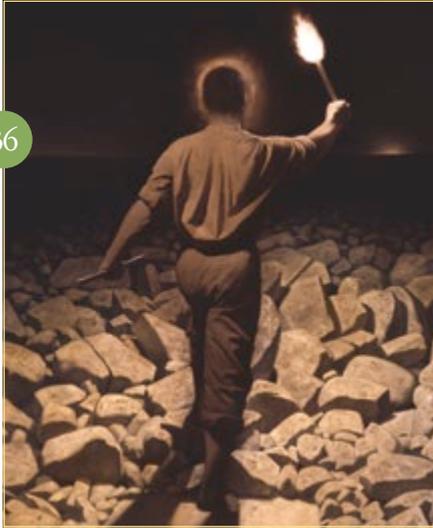
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Family Home Evening Ideas

This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening. The following are two examples.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CRAIG DIMOND © IRI

“Returned with Honor,” page 50: After reading the story, you and your family could watch the video “Honesty: You Better Believe It!” at youth.lds.org (available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish). Family members can share what they learned from the story and video. You could also read in *For the Strength of Youth* about honesty and integrity (page 19). For an activity, family members could brainstorm situations where their honesty might be tested. Write the situations on slips of paper, put the papers in a bowl, and have everyone pull out a paper. Taking turns, have everyone read the situation and say what should be done in that situation to be honest.

“The Story Rug,” page 66: In this story, Katy and Nana do things to nurture their relationship. Consider reading the seventh paragraph of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.” How does it say that successful marriages and families are established? Pick one of these points, such as compassion, and discuss it as a family. You could invite the family to list ways they can be compassionate to family members and others. You could set goals for the week to show more compassion and discuss how well you met your goals during your next family home evening. You might finish your lesson by singing “Families Can Be Together Forever” (*Hymns*, no. 300).

IN YOUR LANGUAGE

The *Liahona* and other Church materials are available in many languages at languages.lds.org.

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By President
Thomas S. Monson

THE WORLD NEEDS Pioneers Today

For many, the pioneer trek of 1847 didn't begin at Nauvoo, Kirtland, Far West, or New York but rather in distant England, Scotland, Scandinavia, or Germany. Tiny children could not fully comprehend the dynamic faith that motivated their parents to leave behind family, friends, comfort, and security.

A little one might ask, "Mommy, why are we leaving home? Where are we going?"

"Come along, precious one; we're going to Zion, the city of our God."

Between the safety of home and the promise of Zion stood the angry and treacherous waters of the mighty Atlantic. Who can recount the fear that gripped the human heart during those perilous crossings? Prompted by the silent whisperings of the Spirit, sustained by a simple yet abiding faith, those pioneer Saints trusted in God and set sail on their journey.

They finally reached Nauvoo only to set out again to face hardships on the trail. Tombstones of sage and rock marked graves the entire route from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City. Such was the price some pioneers paid. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their names live on evermore.

Tired oxen lumbered, wagon wheels squeaked, brave men toiled, war drums sounded, and coyotes howled. But the faith-inspired and storm-driven pioneers pressed on. Often they sang:

*Come, come, ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear;
But with joy wend your way.
Though hard to you this journey may appear,
Grace shall be as your day. . . .
All is well! All is well!*¹

These pioneers remembered the words of the Lord: "My people must be tried in all things, that they may be prepared to receive the glory that I have for them, even the glory of Zion."²

The passage of time dims our memories and diminishes our appreciation for those who walked the path of pain, leaving behind a tear-marked trail of nameless graves. But what of today's challenges? Are there no rocky roads to travel, no rugged mountains to climb, no chasms to cross, no trails to blaze, no rivers to ford? Or is there a very present need for that pioneer spirit to guide us away from the dangers that threaten to engulf us and to lead us to a Zion of safety?

In the decades since the end of World War II, standards of morality have lowered again and again. Crime spirals upward; decency careens downward. Many are on a giant roller coaster of disaster, seeking the thrills of the moment while sacrificing the joys of eternity. Thus we forfeit peace.

We forget how the Greeks and Romans prevailed magnificently in a barbaric world and how that triumph ended—how a slackness and softness finally overcame



them to their ruin. In the end, more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security and a comfortable life; and they lost all—comfort and security and freedom.

Do not yield to Satan's enticements; rather, stand firm for truth. The unsatisfied yearnings of the soul will not be met by a never-ending quest for joy amidst the thrills of sensation and vice. Vice never leads to virtue. Hate never promotes love. Cowardice never gives courage. Doubt never inspires faith.

Some find it difficult to withstand the mockings and unsavory remarks of foolish ones who ridicule chastity, honesty, and obedience to God's commands. But the world has ever belittled adherence to principle. When Noah was instructed to build an ark, the foolish populace looked at the cloudless sky and then scoffed and jeered—until the rain came.

Must we learn such costly lessons over and over again? Times change, but truth persists. When we fail to profit

from the experiences of the past, we are doomed to repeat them with all their heartache, suffering, and anguish. Haven't we the wisdom to obey Him who knows the beginning from the end—our Lord, who designed the plan of salvation—rather than that serpent, who despised its beauty?

A dictionary defines a pioneer as "one who goes before to prepare or open up the way for others to

follow."³ Can we somehow muster the courage and steadfastness of purpose that characterized the pioneers of a former generation? Can you and I, in actual fact, be pioneers?

I know we can be. Oh, how the world needs pioneers today! ■

NOTES

1. "Come, Come, Ye Saints," *Hymns*, no. 30.
2. Doctrine and Covenants 136:31.
3. *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed. (1989), "pioneer."

TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

The scriptures explain that home teachers are to "warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ" (D&C 20:59). Consider pointing out the warnings and invitations contained in President Monson's message to those you visit. You may want to discuss with them ways to recognize and follow righteous examples, avoid deceptions, and learn from others' mistakes. Ask those you teach how they can be pioneers today.

Children may enjoy learning more about pioneers by reading the On the Trail series on page 62 of this issue.

Driven by Faith

By Maggi Earl

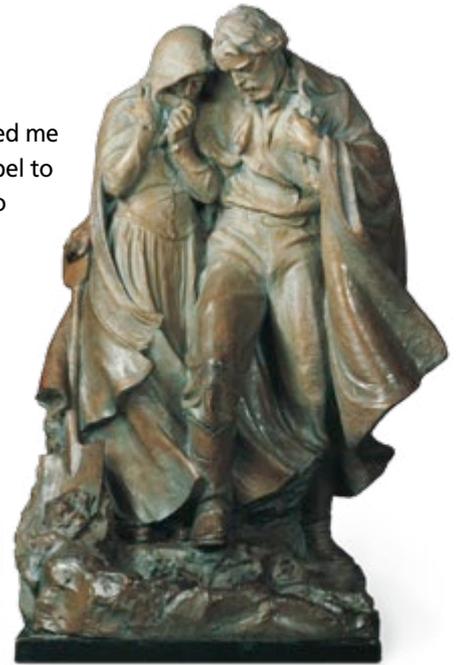
I will never forget walking the grounds at Winter Quarters, Nebraska, USA, where pioneers had lived years before. The ground felt sacred, almost as if I were visiting an outdoor temple.

My eyes filled with tears, blurring my vision. I saw a statue but could not make out the figures. When I wiped away my tears, I saw a man and a woman whose faces were full of grief. As I looked closer, I saw the figure of an infant lying in a grave at their feet.

This sight filled me with so many emotions: sadness, anger, gratitude, and joy. I wanted to take away the pain those Saints felt, but I was grateful at the same time for what they had sacrificed for the gospel.

My experience at Winter Quarters helped me realize that Heavenly Father gives the gospel to His children and allows them the agency to do with it as they will. The parents of that baby could have chosen to take an easier course. Following the prophet and living the gospel required these pioneers to press forward even when it meant burying their child. But they chose to take the gospel into their lives and accepted their challenges. I learned that the Saints' dedication to the gospel and their determination to press forward were driven by faith and hope—hope for a bright future and faith that the Lord knew them and could ease their pain.

The author lives in North Carolina.



CHILDREN

Be a Pioneer

President Monson says that a pioneer is someone who shows the way for others to follow. What can the children in these pictures do to stand up for what is right and be a pioneer for others? Write your answers in the space under the pictures.









VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

Prayerfully study this material and, as appropriate, discuss it with the sisters you visit. Use the questions to help you strengthen your sisters and to make Relief Society an active part of your own life. For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.

Teaching and Learning the Gospel

Jesus Christ was a master teacher. He set the example for us as He “taught women in multitudes and as individuals, on the street and by the seashore, at the well and in their homes. He showed loving-kindness toward them and healed them and their family members.”¹

He taught Martha and Mary and “invited them to become His disciples and partake of salvation, ‘that good part’ [Luke 10:42] that would never be taken from them.”²

In our latter-day scriptures, the Lord commanded us to “teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom” (D&C 88:77). Of teaching and learning doctrine, Cheryl A. Esplin, second counselor in the Primary general presidency, said, “Learning to fully understand the doctrines of the gospel is a process of a lifetime and comes ‘line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little’ (2 Nephi 28:30).”³

As we learn, study, and pray, we will teach with the power of the Holy



Ghost, who will carry our message “unto the hearts of the children of men [and women]” (2 Nephi 33:1).

From the Scriptures

Alma 17:2–3; 31:5; Doctrine and Covenants 42:12–13; 84:85

NOTES

1. *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 3.
2. *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 4.
3. Cheryl A. Esplin, “Teaching Our Children to Understand,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2012, 12.
4. Spencer W. Kimball, in *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 50.

Faith, Family, Relief



From Our History

Our past prophets have reminded us as women that we have an important role as teachers in the home and Church. In September 1979, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) asked us to become “sister scribes.” He said: “Become scholars of the scriptures—not to put others down, but to lift them up! After all, who has any greater need to ‘treasure up’ the truths of the gospel (on which they may call in their moments of need) than do women and mothers who do so much nurturing and teaching?”⁴

We are all teachers and learners. When we teach from the scriptures and the words of our living prophets, we can help others come unto Christ. When we engage in the learning process by asking meaningful questions and then listening, we can find answers that meet our personal needs.

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. How am I preparing to be a better teacher?
2. Do I share my testimony with the sisters I watch over?

APRIL 2013 CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

“What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken; . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).

As you review the April 2013 general conference, you can use these pages (and Conference Notebooks in future issues) to help you study and apply the recent teachings of the living prophets and apostles and other Church leaders.

STORIES FROM CONFERENCE



Learning to Be Obedient

By President Thomas S. Monson

When I was growing up, each summer from early July until early September, my family stayed at our cabin at Vivian Park in Provo Canyon in Utah.

One of my best friends during those carefree days in the canyon was Danny Larsen, whose family also owned a cabin at Vivian Park. Each day he and I roamed this boy's paradise, fishing in the stream and the river, collecting rocks and other treasures, hiking,

climbing, and simply enjoying each minute of each hour of each day.

One morning Danny and I decided we wanted to have a campfire that evening with all our canyon friends. We just needed to clear an area in a nearby field where we could all gather. The June grass which covered the field had become dry and prickly, making the field unsuitable for our purposes. We began to pull at the tall grass, planning to clear a large, circular area. We tugged and yanked with all our might, but all we could get were small handfuls of the stubborn weeds. We knew this task would take the entire day, and already our

energy and enthusiasm were waning.

And then what I thought was the perfect solution came into my eight-year-old mind. I said to Danny, “All we need is to set these weeds on fire. We'll just *burn* a circle in the weeds!” He readily agreed, and I ran to our cabin to get a few matches.

Lest any of you think that at the tender age of eight we were permitted to use matches, I want to make it clear that both Danny and I were forbidden to use them without adult supervision. Both of us had been warned repeatedly of the dangers of fire.

However, I knew where my family kept the matches, and we needed to clear that field. Without so much as a second thought, I ran to our cabin and grabbed a few matchsticks, making certain no one was watching. I hid them quickly in one of my pockets.

Back to Danny I ran, excited that in my pocket I had the solution to our problem. I recall thinking that the fire would burn only as far as we wanted and then would somehow magically extinguish itself.

I struck a match on a rock and set the parched June grass ablaze. It ignited as though it had been drenched in gasoline. At first Danny

and I were thrilled as we watched the weeds disappear, but it soon became apparent that the fire was not about to go out on its own. We panicked as we realized there was nothing we could do to stop it. The menacing flames began to follow the wild grass up the mountainside, endangering the pine trees and everything else in their path.

Finally we had no option but to run for help. Soon all available men and women at Vivian Park were dashing back and forth with wet burlap bags, beating at the flames in an attempt to extinguish them. After several hours the last remaining embers were smothered. The ages-old pine trees had been saved, as were the homes the flames



would eventually have reached.

Danny and I learned several difficult but important lessons that day—not the least of which was the importance of obedience.

There are rules and laws to help ensure our physical safety. Likewise, the Lord has provided guidelines and commandments to help ensure our spiritual safety so that we might successfully navigate this often-treacherous mortal existence and return eventually to our Heavenly Father. ■

From “Obedience Brings Blessings,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2013, 89–90.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- Why do we have rules?
- Why is it important for us to choose to obey God’s commandments?
- In what ways was Jesus Christ an example to us of obedience?

Consider writing your thoughts in your journal or discussing them with others.

Additional resources on this topic: *Gospel Principles* (2009), “Obedience,” 200–206; “Obedience,” in *Gospel Topics on LDS.org*; and D. Todd Christofferson, “The Power of Covenants,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2009, 19–23.

Prophetic Words to Member Missionaries

“I promise you, as you pray to know with whom to speak, names and faces will come into your mind. Words to speak will be given in the very moment you need them. Opportunities will open to you. Faith will overcome doubt, and the Lord will bless you with your very own miracles.”

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “It’s a Miracle,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2013, 78–79.



MISSIONARY STATISTICS AS OF APRIL GENERAL CONFERENCE

Number of missionaries currently serving missions	65,634
Number of young men and young women who have received their mission calls but have not yet entered a missionary training center	Over 20,000
Number of young men and young women currently in the interview process with their bishops and stake presidents	Over 6,000
Number of new missions created	58

From President Thomas S. Monson, “Welcome to Conference,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2013, 5.

WHOM THE LORD CALLS HE QUALIFIES

Most members of the Church will have many opportunities to receive a “calling”—an assignment to serve. “The Lord expects each of us to have a calling in His Church so that others may be blessed by our talents and influence,” said President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994).¹

Church leaders, who themselves have been called to serve, rely on other members to accept and fulfill the callings they are offered. Each new calling is an opportunity to serve and grow and should be approached humbly and prayerfully. Calls to serve in the Church are given by priesthood leaders after they have sought inspiration from the Lord. “You are called of God,” explained President Henry B.

Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency. “The Lord knows you. He knows whom He would have serve in every position in His Church. He chose you.”²

In our callings we represent the Savior, and the work we do—no matter how small it may seem—has eternal consequences. The influence of a dedicated Primary teacher, for example, could inspire a child to serve a mission one day. Or an usher’s friendly greeting could help a struggling member feel welcome at church.

The Lord will help us in our callings, especially when we feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities. When we pray to Heavenly Father for guidance, He will direct us through

inspiration and will bless us to serve well. The Lord helps those who serve Him and will add His power to their efforts (see D&C 84:88). As President Thomas S. Monson promised, “When we are on the Lord’s errand, we are entitled to the Lord’s help. Remember that whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies.”³

As we follow the Lord’s example of service and obediently fulfill our callings and Church responsibilities, our lives will be blessed and we can become more like God (see Moroni 7:48; D&C 106:3). ■

For more information, see chapter 14 in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow* (2012).

NOTES

1. Ezra Taft Benson, in Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Lift Where You Stand,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 54.
2. Henry B. Eyring, “Rise to Your Call,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 76.
3. Thomas S. Monson, “Duty Calls,” *Liahona*, July 1996, 42; *Ensign*, May 1996, 44.

GIVE YOUR BEST EFFORT

“Your power will be multiplied many times by the Lord. All He asks is that you give your best effort and your whole heart. Do it cheerfully and with the prayer of faith. The Father and His Beloved Son will send the Holy Ghost as your companion to guide you. Your efforts will be magnified in the lives of the people you serve.”

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, “Rise to Your Call,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 76.

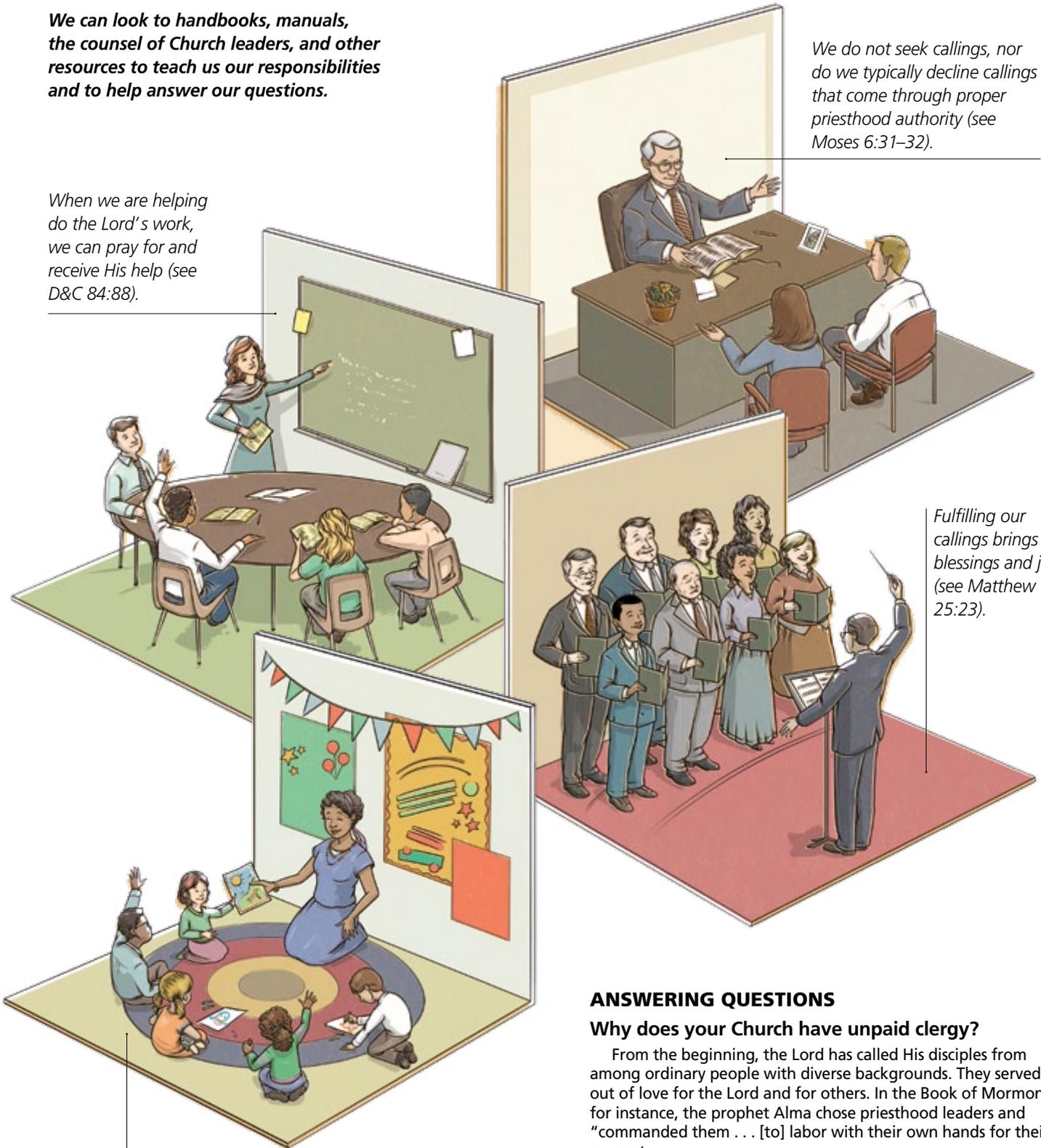
We can look to handbooks, manuals, the counsel of Church leaders, and other resources to teach us our responsibilities and to help answer our questions.

When we are helping do the Lord's work, we can pray for and receive His help (see D&C 84:88).

We do not seek callings, nor do we typically decline callings that come through proper priesthood authority (see Moses 6:31–32).

Fulfilling our callings brings blessings and joy (see Matthew 25:23).

All callings are equally important; the Church needs nursery leaders as much as Relief Society presidents (see 1 Corinthians 12:14–18). How we serve is more important than where we serve.



ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Why does your Church have unpaid clergy?

From the beginning, the Lord has called His disciples from among ordinary people with diverse backgrounds. They served out of love for the Lord and for others. In the Book of Mormon, for instance, the prophet Alma chose priesthood leaders and “commanded them . . . [to] labor with their own hands for their support. . . .

“And the priests were not to depend upon the people for their support; but for their labor they were to receive the grace of God” (Mosiah 18:24, 26; see also 2 Nephi 26:29–31; Articles of Faith 1:5).

Likewise in our day, a call to serve gives us the opportunity to help others and to develop and share our talents and spiritual gifts. We are amply repaid for our service by blessings from the Lord.

A TELEVISION AND A SPIRIT LIFTED

By Kaci Cronin

My husband is profoundly deaf and deeply devoted to the gospel. However, years of struggling to understand weekly Church meetings left him reluctant to attend additional priesthood meetings and broadcasts. While members of our ward were friendly and encouraging, their lack of understanding of the technical assistance he needed in order to participate in meetings often left my husband feeling lonely and frustrated.

We were new to our ward, and it was time for general conference. My husband grudgingly prepared to go to general priesthood meeting, wondering what problems he would encounter as he tried to watch the broadcast. He arrived to find that no one knew how to put closed captions on the large overhead projector, so a television was rolled in and set up in the corner. There was, however, a minor problem. The cord needed to connect the television had inadvertently been used to set up the projector, rendering the television useless. My husband, who is accustomed to these situations, went to the library and started looking for the projector cord. After searching through several boxes and cabinets, he recovered the short cord intended for the projector.

Because the broadcast was about to begin, everyone was apprehensive about disconnecting and adjusting anything. The cord my husband found was too short to reach the television on the rolling cart, so the TV had to be moved to a lower table. He rolled the cart out of the chapel and into a nearby room. He then began to unstrap the television and wondered if anyone would come to help him lift it. At that moment, he felt someone enter the room. It was the bishop. My husband's heart was lightened as the two of them placed the TV on the table. My husband got the TV working while the bishop grabbed a chair and placed it facing the screen.

My husband thanked him for his help and shook his hand, and the bishop turned and headed for the door. Much to my husband's surprise, the bishop passed the door and proceeded to where chairs were leaning against a

wall. He grabbed one and sat down next to my husband. The two of them sat side by side throughout the session.

Today my husband eagerly attends his meetings. The bishop's simple act of kindness lifted my husband's spirits and allowed gratitude to enter his heart. While some problems still arise, he no longer feels alone or unwelcome. My husband's perspective was changed forever through the inspired actions of one of Christ's shepherds. ■

The author lives in Mississippi, USA.

For information on resources available for various disabilities, visit disabilities.lds.org.



HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Honesty and integrity “require a person always to do or say the right thing no matter the circumstances or what others may think,” says Elder Christoffel Golden Jr. of the Seventy in an article on pages 48–49 of this month’s issue.

The article tells about an event in the life of Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (1917–2008) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. When he was a college student, Elder Wirthlin played in a championship game of American football. He was handed the ball, plunged forward, but ended up two inches (5 cm) short of the goal line. At the bottom of a pile of players, rather than pushing the ball ahead, he remembered the words of his mother that he should always do what is right. He left the ball where it was.

The following suggestions, along with your own example, can help you teach your children about these gospel principles.

Suggestions for Teaching Youth

- Read with your teen the section on honesty and integrity in *For the Strength of Youth*. Discuss the blessings of honesty and integrity.
- Consider asking your teen to help prepare a “What Would You Do?”

quiz for family home evening. Use *For the Strength of Youth* as a guide and list situations that would give someone the opportunity to demonstrate honesty and integrity. Take the quiz as a family and discuss the results.

- President Thomas S. Monson has repeatedly spoken about honesty. Find one of his messages and share it with your family. Below are some possibilities:

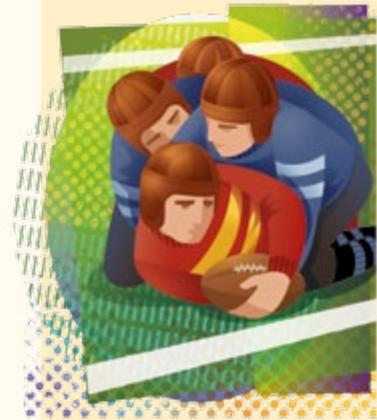
“The Prophet Joseph Smith: Teacher by Example,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 67.

“Happiness—the Universal Quest,” *Liahona*, Mar. 1996, 2; *Ensign*, Oct. 1993, 2.

“In Quest of the Abundant Life,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1988, 2; “In Search of an Abundant Life,” *Tambuli*, Aug. 1988, 2.

Suggestions for Teaching Children

- Integrity includes being honest with yourself. To demonstrate this, consider having a family home evening lesson where a treat is placed before the children. Tell them they cannot partake until you say so. Then close your eyes or blindfold yourself and ask, “Is it all right for you to eat the treat now,



SCRIPTURES ABOUT HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Job 27:4–5

Proverbs 20:7

1 Peter 2:12

Alma 53:20

Doctrine and Covenants 124:15

Articles of Faith 1:13

just because I can’t see?” Talk about righteous things they can do when no one is watching, such as personal prayer. Remind them that Heavenly Father can always see them.

- Consider using the quiz created with your teen (see above) or create a quiz adapted to young children that helps them recognize what is honest or dishonest. Let them discuss their responses. If you have both teens and younger children, consider having the teens help the younger children with the quiz. ■



WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE

By Sang-ick Han

About 12 years ago, I emigrated with my wife and four sons from the Republic of Korea to New Zealand. While working as a vice principal at a Korean school in New Zealand, I met many Koreans who struggled to adjust to the new culture and to the new policies and procedures. I wanted to help them as well as contribute to New Zealand, so I thought that becoming a lawyer would be one way to bridge the two peoples and countries. So, after praying to confirm my decision, I decided at age 53 to attend law school.

I knew it would be challenging. But when I received the course manuals, I realized that it would be much harder than I expected. Each course manual appeared too thick, and the contents seemed beyond my comprehension. Even though I had helped interpret from English to Korean for general conference for almost 10 years and had finished a master's degree in linguistics in New Zealand, legal terms seemed to be a completely different kind of English.



The Lord blessed Brother Sang-ick Han in many ways to help him graduate from law school at age 55.

When I came home from school the first day, I had to consider seriously whether I should continue or quit before I started. During that time of uncertainty, one thought stood out: I could succeed if I relied totally on the Lord.

Because I know God lives and answers our prayers, I asked Him for help. I remembered one scripture in the Bible that gave me great relief: “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37). That scripture gave me strength to move forward.

Whenever I faced difficulties during my study, God always prepared a way or sent angels—helpful people—to guide me through.

One day I was struggling to complete an assignment. I did my best, but I could not figure out what the lecturer wanted us to do. When Sunday came, I put off all study to focus on my Church assignments. As a stake high councilor, I visited an assigned ward to give a sacrament meeting talk. After the meeting a brother approached me and said that he had seen me in the classroom. I didn't know he



was a law student as well. When he asked me how the assignment was going, I told him honestly that I was having difficulty. He then offered to come over to my place to help me. If I had not gone to that ward and met him, I could not have submitted the assignment on time. He was an angel whom God had sent to answer my prayer.

In one of my hardest classes, the lecturer taught for two hours without ceasing each time we had class. It was difficult to understand not only the content of the class but also the accent of the lecturer, so with permission, I recorded his lectures for review. One day I received an email from a woman I did not know. She introduced herself as a classmate and asked if I could share my recordings because her work schedule sometimes kept her from attending class.

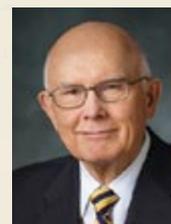
Of course I was happy to give her copies of my recordings. I thought I was helping her, but I soon found that she was another angel whom God had arranged to help me. To pass the class, we had to submit two assignments and take a three-hour exam. She helped me complete the assignments and

prepare for the exam. Without her help, I don't think I would have passed.

Along with the difficulties of being an older student and a nonnative English speaker, I had other responsibilities that made it challenging to complete the program. My work, community obligations, and Church callings took a lot of my time, and I also tried to give my most important responsibilities as a husband, father, and grandfather the care and attention they needed. When one of my colleagues learned all I had to do in addition to my studies, he said it was crazy for me to study law in view of all my other obligations. However, I had the conviction that "the things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

At the age of 55, I was admitted to the bar as a solicitor and barrister at the High Court in New Zealand. I am grateful that I not only became a lawyer in spite of the language barrier but also gained a stronger testimony that God lives and answers our righteous prayers. I know that nothing is impossible with His help. ■

The author lives in New Zealand.



STRUGGLES YIELD GROWTH

"We may have to struggle to achieve our goals, but our struggles may yield as much growth as our learning. The strengths we develop in overcoming challenges will be with us in the eternities to come."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Kristen M. Oaks, "Learning and Latter-day Saints," *Liahona*, Apr. 2009, 31; *Ensign*, Apr. 2009, 27.

ILLUSTRATION BY DILLEEN MARSH; PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SANG-JICK HAN



**By Elder
M. Russell Ballard**
Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

Pioneer Faith and Fortitude Then and Now

We need to walk together as today's pioneers, living Christlike lives, supporting good causes in our communities, and strengthening our families and homes.

The early years in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were years of great testing. Leaders who survived these early days, such as Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, and Joseph F. Smith, were perhaps thereby enabled to survive the almost insurmountable trials

of crossing the plains and establishing the Church in the Rocky Mountains.

I feel that the pioneers of yesteryear would be smiling to see what has been accomplished among the Latter-day Saints. We owe much to the pioneers and must never forget that the success of today is built upon the shoulders and courage



"We owe much to the pioneers and must never forget that the success of today is built upon the shoulders and courage of the humble giants of the past," says Elder Ballard, pictured above with young pioneer reenactors.

of the humble giants of the past.

Speaking of our faithful pioneers, President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) said: "It is good to look to the past to gain appreciation for the present and perspective for the future.

It is good to look upon the virtues of those who have gone before, to gain strength for whatever lies ahead. It is good

to reflect upon the work of those who labored so hard and gained so little in this world, but out of whose dreams and early plans, so well nurtured, has come a great harvest of which we are the beneficiaries. Their tremendous example can become a compelling motivation for us all, for each of us is a pioneer in his [or her] own life."¹



Photograph
Caption text describing the scene, likely related to the wagon train or settlement.



Faith to Follow

It wasn't just those who were leaders who had faith enough to follow Brigham Young to the barren desert. Many ordinary but brave Church members came as well. From Church history we learn of Oliver Huntington's parents, who in 1836 left affluent circumstances in Watertown, New York, including a 230-acre (93-ha) farm with a good stone house and two frame barns, and with their family took their journey to join the Saints in Kirtland, Ohio.

After they had left all behind, Oliver wrote, "It was a torment to each [of my parents], to see the other in want and still more [to] see their children cry for bread and have none to give them nor know where the next was coming from." Oliver certified the faith of this family by saying he never heard his parents murmur or complain against any of the authorities of the Church or express doubt about the truthfulness of the work.²

Emily Partridge, daughter of the first bishop of the Church in this dispensation, remembered leaving their comfortable home in Painesville, Ohio, to move to Jackson County, Missouri, in 1831 when she was just seven years old.³ Not long after, her family was driven from their home by the mob and had to relocate in Clay County. She described how they eventually found an "old log cabin that had been used for a stable. . . . There was one large room, and a leanto, but that was not of much use, as the floor was nearly all torn up, and the rats and rattlesnakes were too thick for comfort. There was a large fireplace in the one habitable room, and blankets were hung up a few feet back from the fire and the two families, fifteen or sixteen in number, were gathered inside of those blankets to keep from freezing for the weather was extremely cold, so cold that the ink would freeze in the pen as father sat writing close to the fire."⁴

The family later moved to Illinois. Emily summarized their experience: "Times were hard and we were very

destitute, having been robbed and driven from our homes and possessions so many times, and having had much sickness."⁵

Phoebe Carter was similarly led 750 miles (1,200 km) from Scarboro, Maine, to Kirtland, Ohio, in 1835. Phoebe was 28 years old when she determined to gather with Church members, even though she had to make her trek alone. As she later reported: "My friends marvelled at my course, as did I, but something within impelled me on. My mother's grief at my leaving home was almost more than I could bear; and had it not been for the spirit within I should have faltered at the last. My mother told me she would rather see me buried than going thus alone into the heartless world. . . . 'Phoebe,' she said, impressively, 'will you come back to me if you find Mormonism false?' I answered thrice, 'Yes, mother, I will.' . . . When the time came for my departure I dared not trust myself to say farewell, so I wrote my good-bye to each, and leaving them on my table, ran down stairs and jumped into the carriage. Thus I left my beloved home of childhood to link my life with the Saints of God."⁶

At that point Phoebe had no idea that her footsteps of faith would lead her on a journey much longer than the 750 miles (1,200 km) to Kirtland. She would marry Wilford Woodruff and join with him in journeying through Missouri to Nauvoo and then on the 1,350-mile (2,170-km) trek through wilderness lands to the Great Salt Lake Valley.

My great-grandfather Henry Ballard joined the Church in February 1849 in Thatcham, England, as a 17-year-old. To pay for his voyage to America, Henry contracted his services for two years to a company owned in part by Lorenzo and Erastus Snow. He was hired to drive a herd of sheep west to the Salt Lake Valley. Henry described his entrance into the valley in the following words:

"In October as I drove the sheep down little mountain



Phoebe Carter had no idea that her footsteps of faith would lead her on a journey much longer than the 750 miles (1,200 km) from her home in Scarboro, Maine, to Kirtland, Ohio.



and through the mouth of Emigration Canyon, I first beheld the Salt Lake Valley. While I rejoiced in viewing the 'Promised Land,' I lived in fear that someone might see me. I hid myself behind bushes all day until after dark for the rags I had on did not cover my body and I was ashamed to be thus exposed. After dark I crossed over the field to a house where a light was shining . . . and timidly knocked on the door. Fortunately, a man answered the door and the candle light did not expose me to the view of the other members of his household. I begged for clothes to cover my naked body so that I might continue my journey and locate my parents. I was given some clothing and the next day continued my journey and arrived in Salt Lake City 16th October, 1852, feeling very thankful to God that I had reached my future home in safety.”⁷

With our abundant blessings today, my heart is filled with love and admiration for

such a noble and courageous forefather.

My great-grandmother was a Scottish lass named Margaret McNeil, who came to Utah with her parents at the age of 13. She walked across the plains and drove a cow, carrying her younger brother James much of the way on her back. She and her family camped on the outskirts of Ogden, and she later recorded this in her autobiography:

“Across the field from where we were was a little house, and out in the yard was a big pile of squash. We were all nearly starved to death. My mother sent me over to this place to beg a squash, for we did not have a cent of money, and some of the children were very weak for the want of food. I knocked at the door, and an old lady came and said, ‘Come in, come in, I knew you were coming and have been told to give you food.’ She gave me a large loaf of fresh bread and said to tell my mother that she would come over soon. It was not long until she came and

Henry Ballard reached the Salt Lake Valley in rags. When it became dark, “I begged for clothes to cover my naked body so that I might continue my journey and locate my parents.”

brought us a nice cooked dinner, something we had not had for a long time.”⁸

Physical and Spiritual Rescue

From the experiences of the pioneers, we learn what real faith and courage it took to cross the plains 165 years ago. Although the handcart pioneers represent fewer than 10 percent of the Latter-day Saint immigrants from 1847 to 1868, they have become an important symbol in LDS culture, representing the faithfulness and sacrifice of the pioneer generation.

As you remember, the Willie and Martin companies ran into early snows in Wyoming, and many of the Saints perished in the cold. While on a trek a few years ago retracing their footsteps, my family and I stood looking down at the Sweetwater area where the Willie company had been stranded, cold and starving. We read from their journals of their severe trials and the joy of their rescue. John Chislett wrote:

“Just as the sun was sinking beautifully behind the distant hills, . . . several covered wagons . . . were seen coming towards us. The news ran through the camp like wildfire. . . . Shouts of joy rent the air; strong men wept till tears ran freely down their furrowed and sun-burnt cheeks. . . .

“ . . . That evening, for the first time in quite a period, the songs of Zion were to be heard in the camp. . . . With the cravings of hunger satisfied, and with hearts filled with gratitude to God and our good brethren, we all united in prayer, and then retired to rest.”⁹

As we stood on the hill now called “the Eminence,” I was impressed to bear my testimony to my family and the others who were with us. I said, “As grateful as these faithful pioneers were to see the rescue party, how much greater is the rescue through the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.” I reminded our group that regardless of religious affiliation, the Lord Jesus Christ—the Savior of the

world—is the center of all Christian belief, and He rescued all mankind. Through His Atonement, He gives to all of us hope for today and assurance in eternity.

Conquering Today’s Wilderness

The suffering of the pioneers forged a strength in their lives that has been passed on to us. Packing a few belongings into wagons or handcarts and walking 1,300 miles (2,090 km) isn’t the way most of us will be asked to demonstrate our faith and courage.

We face different challenges today—different mountains to climb, different rivers to ford, different valleys to make “blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). But even though the wilderness we have been given to conquer is decidedly different from the rough and rocky trail to Utah and the barren landscape that our pioneer forebears encountered, it is no less challenging and trying for us than it was for them.

Our struggle is found in living in a world steeped in sin and spiritual indifference, where self-indulgence, dishonesty, and greed seem to be present everywhere. Today’s wilderness is one of confusion and conflicting messages. The pioneers had to battle the wilderness of rocky ridges and dust- or snow-covered mountain trails, with their faith focused on Zion and the establishment of the Church in the Salt Lake Valley.

We need to commit to serve the Lord and our communities with the same diligence and faith that the pioneers had. We must ever be on our guard that we do not become casual in keeping God’s commandments, in abiding by His laws, and in being honest and trustworthy in all that we do. We must avoid the entrapments of evil found on the Internet, so readily accessible through our computers, tablets, and cell phones. If we become casual in these things, Lucifer will find a way to dull our commitment and destroy our faith and our love for the Lord and for one another, and we will become lost in the wilderness of the world.



“Times were hard and we were very destitute, having been robbed and driven from our homes and possessions so many times, and having had much sickness,” recalled Emily Partridge.



Avoiding the temptations and evils of the world requires the faith and fortitude of a real modern-day pioneer. We need to walk together as today's pioneers, living Christlike lives, supporting good causes in our communities, and strengthening our families and homes.

When we truly believe, we don't ask, "What do I have to do?" but rather, "What more can I do?" When our belief is confirmed upon our souls by the Spirit of God, faith becomes a causative force in our lives, driving every thought, word, and deed heavenward. We pray with trust for strength and guidance—just as our forebears did. That's what it means to walk with faith in every footstep. It was so for our pioneer ancestors, and it must be so for us today. We must instill in our children and grandchildren the same spirit that drove the footsteps of the pioneers.

May we stand together as pioneers of today, always seeking the help of God to guide our families. May we learn from the past the

importance of honoring our parents, grandparents, and forefathers, and may we find the strength and courage to face our future as they faced theirs. May the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ burn brightly in our hearts and minds. And may the fire of our testimonies burn in our bones—just as it did in the lives of the Latter-day Saint pioneers. ■

From an address delivered in Ogden, Utah, on July 15, 2012.

NOTES

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Faith of the Pioneers," *Ensign*, July 1984, 3.
2. See Oliver B. Huntington, *Oliver B. Huntington Diary and Reminiscences, 1843 June–1900 January*, 26–28.
3. See Emily D. P. Young, "Autobiography," *Woman's Exponent*, Dec. 1, 1884, 102.
4. Emily D. P. Young, "Autobiography," *Woman's Exponent*, Feb. 15, 1885, 138.
5. Emily D. P. Young, "Autobiography," *Woman's Exponent*, Aug. 1, 1885, 37.
6. Phoebe Carter Woodruff, in Augusta Joyce Crocheron, *Representative Women of Deseret* (1884), 35–36.
7. Henry Ballard, in Douglas O. Crookston, ed., *Henry Ballard: The Story of a Courageous Pioneer, 1832–1908* (1994), 14–15.
8. Margaret McNeil Ballard, in Susan Arrington Madsen, *I Walked to Zion: True Stories of Young Pioneers on the Mormon Trail* (1994), 127.
9. John Chislett, in LeRoy R. Hafen and Ann W. Hafen, *Handcarts to Zion: The Story of a Unique Western Migration, 1856–1860* (1960), 106, 107.

"We were all nearly starved to death," said Margaret McNeil after her family arrived in Utah. "My mother sent me over to this place to beg a squash, for we did not have a cent of money and some of the children were very weak for the want of food."





By Elder
Erich W. Kopschke
Of the Seventy

A God of Miracles

THE SLOVAK SAINTS IN SHEFFIELD

As priesthood leaders, missionaries, the ward council, and members in Sheffield, England, united their efforts to increase real growth, they were blessed in remarkable ways.

During a powerful sermon to a congregation of believers, the prophet Mormon asked a simple question: “Have miracles ceased?” His answer followed immediately: “Behold I say unto you, Nay” (Moroni 7:29).

Mormon then explained how the great work of salvation in the last days will be brought to pass, dwelling on the relationship and interaction among the Holy Ghost, the work of angels, our prayers, our faith, and the Lord’s miracles (see Moroni 7:33–37, 48).

Left: Elders Nicholas Pass and Joseph McKay (lower inset) enjoyed a marvelous season of teaching Slovakian Saints and investigators—a season that began when missionaries contacted Ludovit Kandrac (upper inset with his wife) near the Fargate pedestrian precinct of Sheffield.

At the mission presidents’ seminar held in June, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles refocused attention on the fact that members of the Church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, have a fundamental responsibility to share the gospel. Full-time missionaries assist members in this responsibility. Stake and ward councils help organize and facilitate the work of the missionaries and members.

As shown in this article about a ward in England, miracles of conversion can result as leaders, members, and ward councils adopt these principles and adapt them to their local circumstances.

Throughout the scriptures the prophets remind us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (see 3 Nephi 24:6; D&C 20:12). As we seek to fulfill the commandment to “go . . . into all the world, . . . baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (D&C 68:8), it is important to study and to remember the following principles:

- God does not change.
- God is a God of miracles.
- God’s greatest miracle is bringing eternal salvation to His children.
- God works miracles according to our faith, which we show in our works.
- The Holy Ghost plays a key role in conversion.

Willing to Sacrifice

While serving in the Europe Area, I was privileged to see these principles in action as a miracle unfolded in Sheffield, England. At the end of 2008, Bishop Mark Dundon of the Sheffield First Ward was pondering what he could do to help his ward grow. In leadership training, his stake president had asked the bishops, “What are you willing to sacrifice to be successful in missionary work?” From the teachings of his leaders, Bishop Dundon knew that a good ward mission leader is key, a functioning ward council is essential, and a willingness to listen to the promptings of the Spirit is crucial.

After much pondering and prayer, Bishop Dundon exercised his priesthood keys and followed the promptings of the Spirit to release his two counselors, Gregory Nettleship and Robert McEwen. Bishop Dundon then

called Brother Nettleship to be the new ward mission leader and Brother McEwen to be the assistant ward mission leader. The members of the bishopric had been close, so this change was not easy for them. But Bishop Dundon knew that in this particular instance the decision was correct, and both counselors humbly accepted their new callings.

The bishop, with his new ward mission leaders and ward council, prayerfully made plans and set goals for growing the ward. As they implemented their plans, they began to see significant success. Convert baptisms increased substantially, and many people returned to activity in the Church. Little did the ward leadership know, however, that their faith and works were to be rewarded in ways they never thought possible.



Moved by Love

In March 2011 a young missionary and his companion were contacting people in the streets of Sheffield. Elder Nicholas Pass saw a man and his wife walk by and had a strong feeling that he should talk to them. Elder Pass and his companion ran to catch up with the couple. Communication was difficult—the couple was from Slovakia and did not speak English—but an accompanying friend helped with interpretation. In the discussion on the street, the missionaries used pictures to introduce the First Vision and the message of the Restoration. The couple then accepted an appointment for the missionaries to begin teaching them.

Ludovit Kandrac, the father of the family, started to read the Book of Mormon. Soon he quit smoking. In the teaching process, the missionaries had to use multiple interpreters and even learn a little Slovak themselves.

On May 14, 2011, Ludovit, one of his daughters, and two other relatives were baptized.

At his baptism, Brother Kandrac bore his testimony. Through an interpreter, he related his experience of meeting the missionaries. When he walked past Elder Pass and his companion in the Sheffield city center, he had a warm feeling in his chest. He disregarded the feeling and continued walking, but as he glanced at the missionaries again, he was moved by the love they exhibited as they spoke with people. Though he wanted to approach them, Brother Kandrac continued walking. He was startled a minute later when the missionaries approached him.

Along with another Slovak family who had joined the Church a year earlier, these baptisms marked the beginning of a modern conversion miracle among the Slovak population in Sheffield, England. These new members came to church every week, bringing other family members and friends. They opened their homes to the missionaries and invited others in their community to listen to the gospel.

Elder Pass and his new companion, Elder Joseph McKay, visited often with these families. They taught them, served them, ministered to them, and blessed them. It was a marvelous time of teaching, learning, and receiving gifts of the Spirit for investigators, converts, missionaries, stake and ward leaders, and members alike.

“Be with and Strengthen Them”

Throughout the summer and fall of 2011, more Slovaks joined the Church. The increasing numbers made it difficult for local members to continue to provide transportation to and from the meetinghouse. For several weeks the faithful Slovak Saints walked five miles (eight km) each way to attend Sunday services in a language they could not understand.

The missionary efforts of Bishop Mark Dundon (inset above), ward mission leaders, and the ward council were rewarded in ways they never thought possible after dozens of Slovaks joined the Church and began walking a five-mile (8-km) route, which included Darnell Road at left, to attend Sunday meetings.



In September 2011 the Sheffield stake presidency was reorganized, with Bishop Dundon called as the new stake president. A month later a fireside was held for both English and Slovak Saints in which interpreters were present.

While sitting on the stand, President Dundon felt impressed that a Slovak group needed to be formed that would be attached to the Sheffield First Ward but would meet at a facility in the Slovak neighborhood. A suitable meeting place was soon found and rooms rented. On December 11, 2011, the first block of meetings was held in the new facility. Sheffield First Ward leaders optimistically hoped that 50 people would attend. Instead, 84 people—including 63 Slovaks—attended.

Following the reorganization of the Sheffield stake, Robert McEwen was called as bishop of the Sheffield First Ward. Brother Nettleship continued to serve as mission leader. Under both bishops, the ward mission leader and the ward council did a remarkable job of leading the ward to “be with and strengthen” the Slovak Saints (D&C 20:53).

The ward council addressed issues such as how to provide for the new members’ needs, how to help them fully participate in ward activities, how to nurture them in the gospel, and how to overcome language barriers. Council members fasted and prayed for divine help and then worked hard. They visited the new members and participated in teaching appointments with the full-time missionaries. They provided transportation. They ordered Church materials in Slovak. They took newly baptized members to the temple to perform baptisms for the dead.

Ward leaders also organized a Christmas service project. Ward members donated funds and collected toys, clothes, and other gifts. Large Christmas gift bags that included food for a Christmas dinner were distributed on Christmas Eve to the Slovak Saints and other families within the ward boundaries.

Longtime members and new members understood little of each other’s spoken language, but they all felt the warmth of the language of genuine love. A remarkable

Right: Faro Dunka, Slovak group leader in Sheffield, welcomes people to sacrament meeting. The group was organized into a branch in March 2013. Top inset: Sheffield First Ward leaders in ward council. Bottom inset: A sister speaks during sacrament meeting.

feeling of joy, happiness, and excitement enveloped members and investigators.

Over the next year this little group developed into a solid Church unit, with whole families being baptized and uniting with the Church. Fathers were ordained to the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods, sons were ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood, a Primary with more than 20 children was established, and Young Men and Young Women programs were organized with more than 25 youth attending weekly. The Lord provided a full-time missionary from the Czech Republic who could speak the language and add support to the group. At the same time, these families sent referrals to their homeland.

A God of Miracles

Why did this happen? Because God has not ceased to be a God of miracles. Because faithful missionaries diligently sought those who were prepared to receive the gospel. Because the stake president and bishops acted in faith and followed the guidance of the Holy Ghost. Because a ward council took responsibility and worked in unity. Because members learned the language of love and acted upon invitations from their leaders, having faith and confidence that God meant what He said: “I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever” (2 Nephi 27:23).

The success in Sheffield does not need to be a singular event. It reminds us of the promises given through the prophets and can ignite our faith and our desire to become instruments in the hands of God by inviting people around us to come unto Christ. If we do so, we will place ourselves in a position where the Lord can bless us with opportunities to teach, activate, and nurture others. And we will see evidences that He continues to be a God of miracles. ■



WORKING FOR THE LORD

My husband, Cyrus, and I were married in the temple on May 23, 2006. Before we were married, his work in a laboratory required Cyrus to work on Sundays. He had a shifting schedule, but he usually worked from midnight to 8:00 a.m. After work he would go home to change from his uniform to Sunday dress and then go straight to church, which started at 9:00 a.m. He continued this schedule after we were married.

Sometimes I went to church alone because my husband was delayed at work. We always wished he didn't have to work on the Sabbath.

Sometimes I went to church alone because he was delayed at work. We always wished he didn't have to work on the Sabbath. On the first Sunday of June 2006, we had our first fast as a married couple. We prayed in faith that Cyrus would be blessed with a job that would not require him to work on Sundays.

A few days later at about 10:00 a.m., I wondered where Cyrus was because he usually came home between 8:00

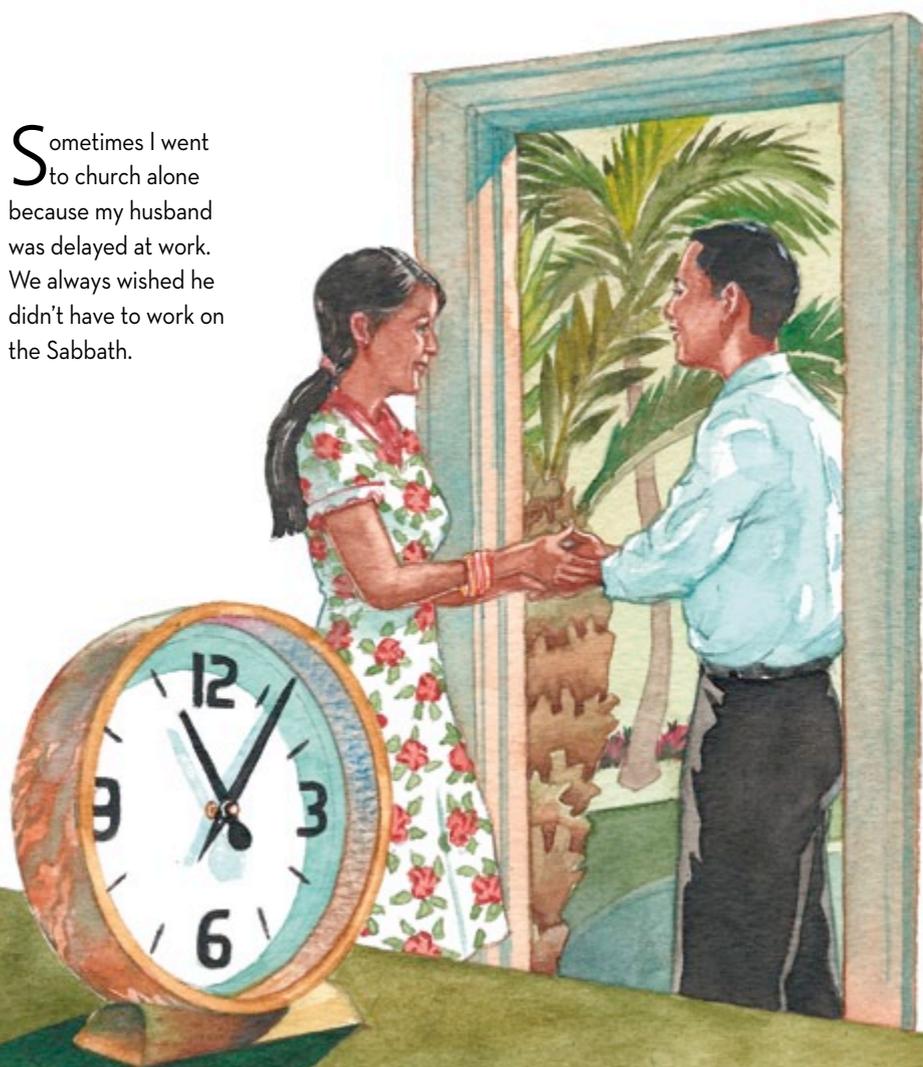
and 9:00 a.m. Suddenly a thought came to me: "He might be promoted." Cyrus finally arrived around 11:00 a.m. As he entered our home, he said he had good news and bad news.

I told him to tell me the bad news first. He said we would soon leave Iligan, Philippines, and move to Panay, Philippines. I did not like the news at first because we loved the people in our stake. They were kind to us and treated us as their own, knowing that Cyrus and I had no family nearby.

When I asked him why we needed to move to Panay, he said it was because of the good news. His boss had interviewed him for another job located in Panay. I immediately asked him not about his salary but whether the job would require him to work on Sundays. When he answered, "No!" I was very happy. I hugged him and told him that his new job was the answer to our prayers and fasting. Two months later, Cyrus started his work in Panay.

Heavenly Father is mindful of us, and He blesses us when we exercise faith and obey His commandments. I am grateful for the principles of prayer and fasting. My husband's job is a blessing to us. Now he has time to magnify his calling in our ward, and the only work he does on Sunday is the Lord's work. ■

Mary Jane Lumibao Suya, Philippines



A FOREVER FAMILY

When I was 19, I made one last visit to my grandparents before leaving on a three-month humanitarian trip to Ecuador. My grandfather had moved to an assisted-living center because his health was declining. He suffered from dementia along with other physical ailments incident to old age.

As my family and I entered the assisted-living facility, I was sullen, knowing that this visit with my grandfather would most likely be my last. I knew he would pass away while I was gone, and I felt guilty leaving.

Just before we entered his room, a staff member had transferred my grandfather to a wheelchair. We wheeled him into the facility's common area. My mother was talking to one of the staff members while my 16-year-old sister and I talked to our grandfather.

He was not himself. The decline in his mental state was evident, and he seemed confused. When we asked him how many grandchildren he had, he answered incorrectly. Then we lovingly teased him as we made a big deal about how many he actually had.

My heart ached for him. But then, amid his confusion and in the middle of answering our questions inaccurately, my grandfather suddenly said, "A forever family."

I was shocked. A nearby staff member didn't understand what he had said, but my sister and I looked

at each other. We had both heard him clearly. He then repeated a second time, "A forever family." This time our mother also heard him.

I don't recall anything else about our visit that day. All I know is that as we walked out of the care center, I sobbed with sorrow and joy—sorrow for the man we were leaving behind and whom I would not see again in this life and joy for the tender mercy of those simple words and the peace they left in my heart.

I know that despite my grandfather's state of mind, he was able to share one last time his strong conviction and knowledge that families are forever.

I soon left on my humanitarian trip. When news came of my grandfather's passing a week before my return, I was at peace. I knew, and I still know, that one day I will see him again. Thanks to temple ordinances, families are forever. ■

Kellee H. Mudrow, Utah, USA



My grandfather was not himself. The decline in his mental state was evident, and he seemed confused.

YOU CAN'T COME UP HERE

My husband, John, was a big man. He stood six feet four inches (1.9 m) tall and weighed more than 200 pounds (90.9 kg). For him, air travel in economy class was uncomfortable at best, painful at worst.

In August 2006 we were called to serve a Church educational service mission at Brigham Young University–Hawaii. When it came time to return home, we were dreading what he would have to endure in the flight back to the mainland. During check-in

we were delighted to find that there was *one* seat available in first class, so we upgraded his ticket. He would be able to sit in a comfortable seat with plenty of room for his long legs.

About midway through the flight, I decided to go see how he was doing. As I approached the first-class area, a flight attendant stood in the doorway to stop me.

“Can I help you?” she asked.

“Yes, I would like to see my husband for a moment,” I replied.

As I approached the first-class area, a flight attendant stood in the doorway to stop me.



“I’m sorry,” she said pleasantly but firmly, “you can’t come up here.”

“But he’s my husband, and I just want to see him for a minute.”

Still barring the door, she again stated, “I’m sorry, but you are not allowed up here. I can give your husband a message, and if he would like to, he can come visit you. But the policy is that only first-class passengers can be in this area.”

I was taken aback for a moment, but seeing her persistence, I quietly returned to my seat in economy class.

I began to think about the three degrees of glory mentioned in the scriptures and by the prophets. We read that Christ will visit those in the terrestrial kingdom (see D&C 76:77), and administering angels will visit those in the telestial kingdom (see D&C 76:88), but those who are in the lesser kingdoms can never go up to the celestial kingdom (see D&C 76:112; see also D&C 88:22–24). Reflecting upon my experience, I felt that I just had a glimpse of what it might be like for those in the lower kingdoms. How would they feel upon hearing the words “I’m sorry, you can’t come up here”?

About five months later my husband passed away from cancer. My experience on the airplane gives me extra incentive to live so that I never have to hear those words again—at least not on the other side of the veil. ■

Bonnie Marshall, Utah, USA

HAPPINESS HAS NO PRICE

Recently I went to the bank to withdraw some money to pay my employees. Before the teller gave me my withdrawal, I asked him to change some 200-sol bills for some 50-sol bills. The teller changed the money for me, but I thought I saw him make a mistake as he counted the bills.

He gave me my 50-sol bills, and I stepped back to wait for my withdrawal. As I waited, I counted the money. I had given the teller 1,200 soles, but he gave me 2,200 soles in return—an extra thousand soles. At that moment I was tempted. I told myself that the bank had plenty of money. But I knew in my heart that

the money wasn't mine; I had to return it.

A few moments later the teller called me to complete my transaction. He counted my withdrawal, and as he handed me the money, he asked, "Anything else?"

"Yes," I told him. "I gave you 1,200 soles to change into smaller bills, but you gave me 2,200 in return."

I then handed him the 2,200 soles. With hands shaking, he counted the money twice. He could hardly believe what he saw. He looked at me and tried to speak, but he could only manage to utter twice, "Thank you so much."

I left the bank happy. That week I was preparing a lesson for the young men in my ward on overcoming temptation. It was wonderful to be able to share with them my experience at the bank.

"You've got to be kidding," some of them joked. "That was a thousand soles you gave back!"

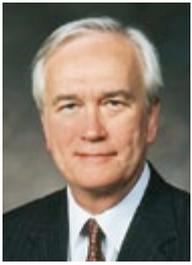
"Happiness has no price," I responded with a smile.

How grateful I am for this experience, which strengthened both my testimony and the testimonies of the young men regarding the importance of withstanding temptation. ■

Abelino Grandez Castro, Peru

The bank teller gave me 2,200 soles—an extra thousand soles. At that moment I was tempted to keep the difference.





**By Elder
Keith K. Hilbig**

Served as a member
of the Seventy from
2001 to 2012

LIVING FOR THE Eternities

I plead with you young adults to visualize frequently your future celestial existence with your family in eternity.

How different and difficult is the world of young adults (married or single) today when compared to the young adult world of two or three generations ago. Many challenges today did not even exist, or were much less intense, than when I was in college.

But you are here now, in this moment. You are pressing forward as your elders are passing into the eternities. You are here at this time not by chance but as part of an eternal plan—designed, agreed upon, and implemented before the earth was ever created.

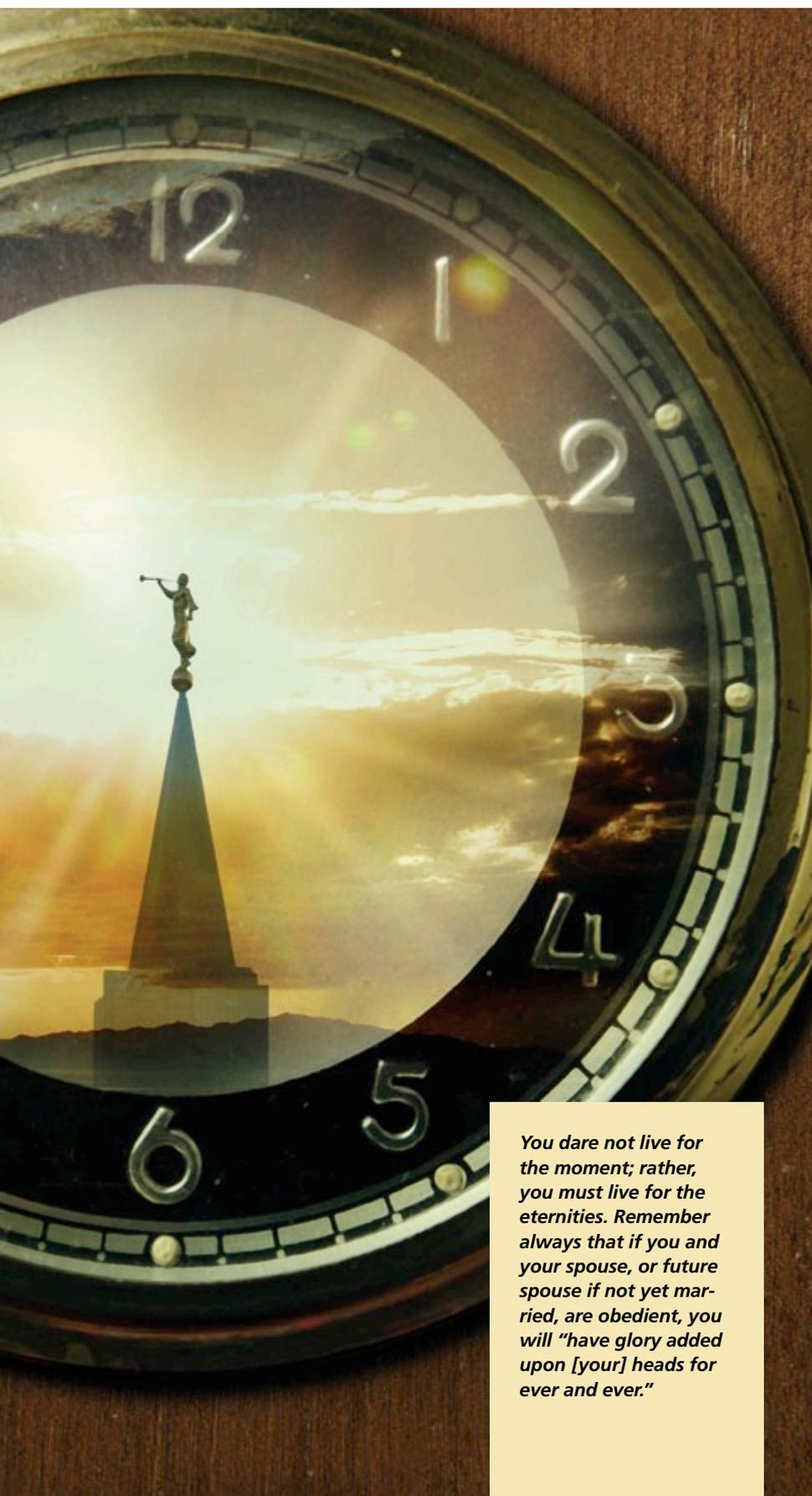
How fortunate you are to be aware of the Restoration of the gospel! You know there was a premortal existence in the presence of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. You were schooled and tested. You learned of the laws that would allow you to progress and advance. You followed those laws, and thus you were entitled to come to earth, placing you on a course leading to exaltation, dominion, and godhood.

You understand the purposes of mortality on earth, and you have been taught concerning postmortal opportunities. In short, you have the perspective of the eternities—you can look back, and you can gaze forward.

The majority of your young adult peers who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the world in general, know little of these realities. They live as if



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID STOKER



You dare not live for the moment; rather, you must live for the eternities. Remember always that if you and your spouse, or future spouse if not yet married, are obedient, you will "have glory added upon [your] heads for ever and ever."

in a box defined by two events: birth and death. They make decisions and engage in behaviors circumscribed by a limited perspective. Essentially they live for the moment—the length of time between their births and their deaths, which is a mere nanosecond in the scheme of eternity. They likely know nothing of their premortal existence and little of eternity.

Your Eternal Potential

You, however, know the promise of your personal potential in the eternities. To those couples sealed in the holy temple, the Lord promises:

“Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection . . . and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths . . . and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

“Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they

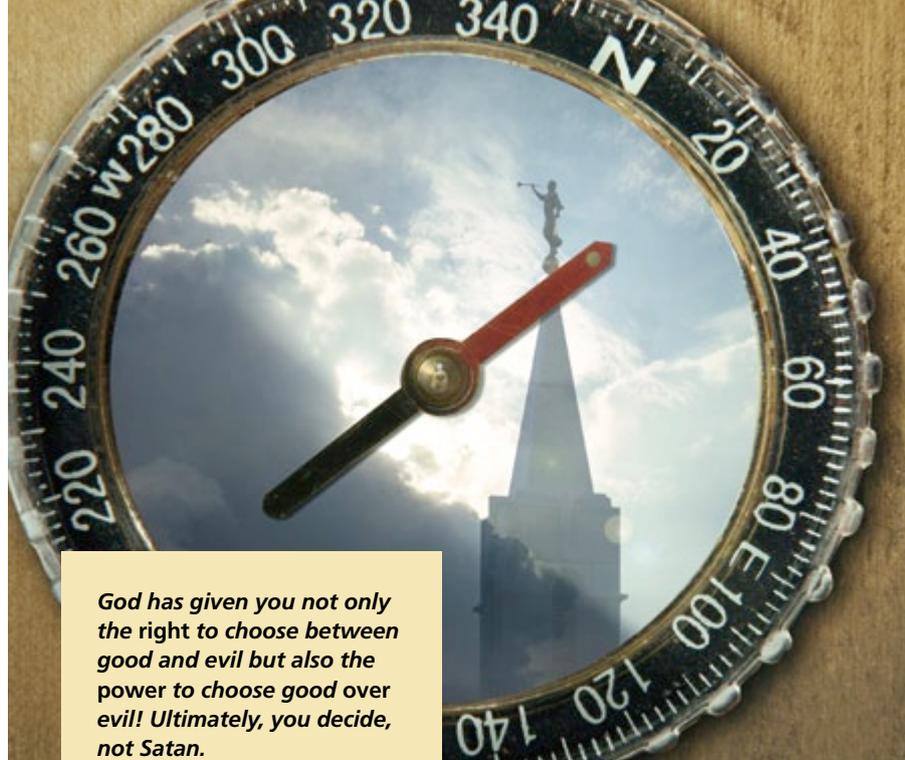
have all power, and the angels are subject unto them” (D&C 132:19–20).

I plead with you to visualize frequently your future celestial existence with your family in eternity, a status of unfathomable glory and advantage we cannot yet fully comprehend. What we may be absolutely certain of, however, is that each of you kept your “first estate” (Abraham 3:26), each of you passed all of the tests of premortal life, each of you exercised great faith, and thus, each of you received the privilege of obtaining a mortal body and coming to this mortal sphere.

Therefore, you dare not live for the moment; rather, you must live for the eternities. Remember always that if you and your spouse, or future spouse if not yet married, are obedient, you will “have glory added upon [your] heads for ever and ever” (Abraham 3:26)—a magnificent personal promise from God to each of His children.

If you are faithful in keeping the commandments of God, His promises will be fulfilled to the very letter. The trouble is, the adversary of men’s souls strives to blind their minds. If they let him, Satan throws dust, so to speak, in their eyes, and they are blinded with and by the things of the world.

The theologians and scholars of the Christian world do not know what you know about the things of eternity, but Satan knows! He knows of your premortal preparation, your purpose on earth, and moreover your eternal potential.



God has given you not only the right to choose between good and evil but also the power to choose good over evil! Ultimately, you decide, not Satan.

The Hebrew translation of the word *devil* is “spoiler.”¹ The devil seeks to spoil your journey into the eternities. He attempts to interfere with your potential here and hereafter. He seeks to have you exercise your agency unwisely. Some young people, eager to assert their independence, feel that their independence is best demonstrated by choosing to do something wrong. Any fool can do that; any crowd can do that.

In fact, independence, real freedom, is best exhibited and experienced by always choosing the right. God has given you not only the *right* to choose between good and evil but also the *power* to choose good *over* evil! Thereby God has given you greater power than Satan and his hosts. Ultimately, you decide, not Satan.

Heavenly Father designed this mortal experience for an important purpose: that we might be tried and overcome evil. He seldom specifically orchestrates trials and temptations, but

He knows that mortality will provide them in abundance. He desires that while we are here on earth, we learn to overcome our “natural” selves (see Mosiah 3:19), deny ourselves of worldliness, and prove ourselves worthy. Satan has other ideas. He will do anything he can to thwart our progress.

The World’s Temptations

This world, with the clever and sinister assistance and encouragement of Satan, offers you the temptation to be accepted, to go with the crowd, to enjoy the thrill of the moment—perhaps in the form of inappropriate movies or video games, moral indiscretions (including pornography), bad language, immodest apparel, or dishonesty. Satan will seek to confuse your understanding of the divinely designed constellation of the family: that marriage is ordained of God between a man and a woman and that children have the right to be nurtured by a mother and a father.²

If, for the moment, you thoughtlessly accept Lucifer's invitation, he may rob you of the blessings of eternity. Satan has no personal prospect for eternity. Remember, he *lost* the war in heaven, a war fought by testimony (see Revelation 12:11) in which the faithful followers of Christ defeated him and his supporters. The casualties were high: all Satan's followers—one-third of the host of heaven—were cast out. They will never receive a physical body or have the opportunity for eternal life.

Lehi, speaking to his son Jacob, said:

“And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read, must needs suppose that an angel of God, according to that which is written, had fallen from heaven; wherefore, he became a devil, having sought that which was evil before God.

“And because he had fallen from heaven, and had become miserable forever, he sought also the misery of all mankind” (2 Nephi 2:17–18).

Lehi also taught: “Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh. . . . And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself” (2 Nephi 2:27).

In our time, drug dealers, distributors of pornography, promoters of evil entertainment, supporters of lies, advertisers of inappropriate apparel, enticers of immorality, and critics

of the traditional family all promote choices that will diminish the spiritual life, even result in the spiritual death, of God's sons and daughters.

Bear in mind that Satan laughs at the misfortune of those who have been duped by such enticements (see Moses 7:26). His methods vary, but they have a common objective: disobedience and the associated loss of blessings.

Blessings of Obedience

Obedience permits blessings and brings peace. Reflect upon a particular conscious decision you made to do what is right, even though the temptation to do wrong was strong. Perhaps it was a decision to eliminate inappropriate thoughts or to tell the truth when a lie would have been easier. Perhaps it was a decision to get up and walk out of a movie (or any other unholy place) that was advertised as acceptable but, in fact, proved to be inappropriate.

KEY DOCTRINAL POINTS

Through the Restoration, Latter-day Saints know that

- Heavenly Father promises eternal glory to the obedient.
- Satan seeks the misery of all mankind.
- God's children have the power to overcome temptation.

As you look back upon your proper decision, what do you feel? Exhilaration? A sense of self-mastery or empowerment? Increased confidence before the Lord? Expanded capacity to resist evil? That is power; that is freedom!

If you consistently resist temptation, it becomes easier to do so—not that the nature of resisting has changed, but your power to do so has increased.³ You can overcome any temptation confronting you (see 1 Corinthians 10:13).

You have knowledge of your divine origin. You have full awareness of your divine destiny. I invite you “to rise to the divinity within you”⁴ and to live *not* for the moment but rather for the eternities.

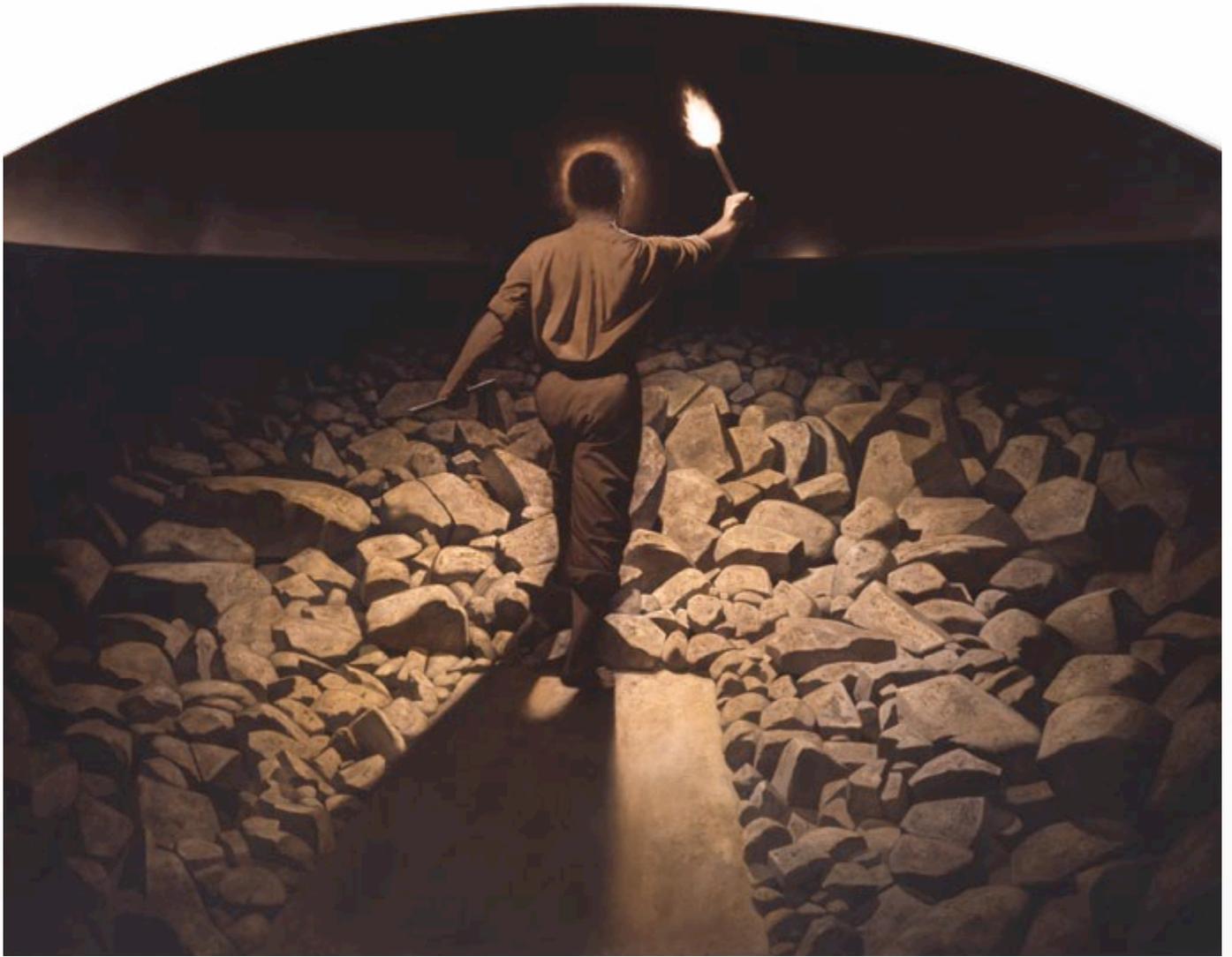
You wonderful young adults, you future leaders in the kingdom of God and in society, must not become a casualty in this ageless battle. You survived the war in heaven; you can win the war on earth. Do not live for the moment but rather for the eternities.

Be assured, it is worth your efforts to heed the commandments, for your reward is to return to the presence of God in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom. ■

From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University—Idaho on March 20, 2007. For the full text in English, visit web.byui.edu/devotionalsand speeches.

NOTES

1. Bible Dictionary, “Devil.”
2. See “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
3. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Heber J. Grant* (2002), 35.
4. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Each a Better Person,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 99.



THE INITIAL ACT, BY DAVID LINN © IRI, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM

Experiences in Profound Trust

By **Melissa Zenteno**
Church Magazines

When Claire (name has been changed) was six years old, her parents divorced. In the years that followed, she witnessed many failed marriages as well as family members struggling with addiction, inactivity in the Church, and depression. Saddened and confused, Claire lost her confidence in family.

“I told myself that marriage was not for me,” she says. “But I was just hiding my fear that my future would be the same as what I had experienced.”

In addition to feeling distressed about her family situation, Claire felt alone. One day as a teenager, she fell to her knees in desperation and prayed, pleading to know if Heavenly Father was there. “When I ceased crying and speaking, I was overwhelmed with a burning feeling that was peaceful, strong, and so direct,” she says. “I knew Heavenly Father was there and would always love me and help me through my trials.”

The answer Claire received sparked a desire to increase her testimony and trust in God and His commandments regarding the family. She not only continued to pray but also read her scriptures, attended seminary, and kept the commandments.

Now Claire is married, and she is learning to face her challenges with faith. “I don’t worry whether it will be impossible to raise a strong family because my husband and I have decided to always nurture our

testimonies, include our Heavenly Father and our Savior in our lives, and remember the undeniable truth of the gospel.”

For Claire, building trust in God began with a simple, sincere prayer. But what else can we do to build trust in Heavenly Father? Young adults from all over the world—each dealing with trials—share their experiences on how they have developed trust in the Lord and have learned to rely on His will, His way, and His timing.

Maintain Gratitude

Reflecting on her blessings helps Stefanie Egly of Hesse, Germany, trust in Heavenly Father’s plan and in His timeline.

Stefanie began writing down her blessings after a relationship with a good friend didn’t work out. “Though we hadn’t been dating, I had always hoped our relationship would develop into something more. My hope was destroyed when he told me he had a girlfriend.”

Heartbroken, Stefanie found comfort after reading an article on gratitude in the *Liahona*. She felt impressed to write down how she had been blessed—specifically how being single had been a blessing.

Her list helped her recognize that just because she hadn’t had the opportunity to get married, it did not mean she had been denied blessings. Stefanie recognizes that the Lord has blessed her with the chance to

become an elementary school teacher and work with children. She has traveled, attended general conference, and participated as a counselor in the Especially for Youth program. Some of her dearest friendships developed through young single adult conferences that she has attended.

But the biggest blessing, she says, was being able to spend time with her grandmother shortly before she passed away, something that her siblings and cousins were not able to do because they lived far away or had families to care for.

Five years have passed since Stefanie started documenting her blessings. She still waits for the time when she will have the opportunity to marry in the temple. She says, “I don’t know when I will meet my eternal companion, but I trust the time will come. Until then, I know I will continue to have experiences that will help me learn and grow.” Heavenly Father has blessed her immensely, and she knows He will continue to do so if she is faithful.

Read the Word of God Daily

Daniel Martuscello from Colorado, USA, had just finalized his divorce and found it hard to feel at peace with his new circumstances. Not only was he no longer married but he was also a new father and unemployed. He didn’t understand why this had happened—especially since he had always sought to be righteous.



REMEMBER THESE, BY DAVID LINN, MAY NOT BE COPIED

Feeling alone and lost, Daniel turned to the scriptures. “I remembered the comfort I had felt in the past from reading the scriptures, so I made it a focus each day,” he says. Making time for daily scripture study meant he limited entertainment such as television and the Internet. But it wasn’t a sacrifice, he says. “As I read, I received comfort and guidance. Other things became secondary in importance. I didn’t just read to read, but I was looking for answers. I read with a purpose.”

Daniel found comfort in the

scriptures as he realized that everyone experiences adversity. “The prophets and others were righteous but still had trials,” he says. “Reading their experiences helped me understand that at some point in life, we all suffer, but in that suffering we can draw closer to Christ.”

Additionally, Daniel says that reading daily lightened his burden because it was a way to include the Savior in his daily life. “As God spoke to me through the verses I read, I trusted that things would get better and that

with His help, something good would come from this experience.”

Put God First

Po Nien of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, experienced fears after he proposed to his girlfriend, Mei Wah. “I had dated other people before, and at least three times prior, I had a serious relationship develop only to see it fall apart. Those experiences had shaken my confidence in having a lasting relationship that would lead to an eternal one,” he confesses.

Although Po Nien felt at peace when he prayed about marrying Mei Wah, he began to doubt his answer. Had he felt a confirmation from the Spirit? Or had his emotions confused him? Would this engagement lead to the temple? Or would this relationship fall apart?

It was during this time that Po Nien remembered a quotation by President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) he had heard in an institute class: “We must put God in the forefront of everything else in our lives. . . . When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives.”¹

This counsel marked a turning point in Po Nien’s life. “I knew that if I put God first in my life and as long as I was faithful and true to Him, wrong things would drop out and good things would fall into place,” he says. If he put God first and his relationship

with Mei Wah was good, Heavenly Father would help it work out. Moving forward with trust, Po Nien married Mei Wah in the Hong Kong China Temple. “I have been richly blessed by placing my trust in the Lord,” he says.

Seek to Do His Will

Another way of building trust in Heavenly Father is to do His will. For Marta Fernández-Rebollos from Tarragona, Spain, learning to trust Heavenly Father came from choosing to maintain her standards.

The young man she was dating was not a member of the Church and was not interested in joining. “My spirit began to struggle between what I had been taught about eternal marriage and the hundreds of excuses that my heart gave me to give it all up and marry that young man for this life only,” she says. “Those were months of confusion, pain, and many tears.”

Torn by indecision, Marta went to her room and sought guidance from her patriarchal blessing. She read what was promised her if she chose the right. Bursting into tears, she knew what she had to do. “The consequences of the breakup didn’t matter to me anymore. I did not know what lay ahead, but I had conviction that as long as I was on the Lord’s side, it would undoubtedly be something good. I have discovered that when we raise our vision and follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost, we discover that the fruits of righteousness are ‘most sweet, above all that [we] ever before tasted’ (1 Nephi 8:11).”

In Proverbs 3:5–6, we read:

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Building trust in God and in His plans is not always easy. We each face our own challenges. Perhaps you haven’t found a compatible person to date in your ward or branch. Perhaps marriage has come, but children have not. Perhaps you are dealing with divorce. Or perhaps past experiences have caused you to fear commitment. The Lord knows your struggles and asks you to trust in Him. As you learn to trust Heavenly Father, peace and direction will come. ■

NOTE

1. Ezra Taft Benson, “The Great Commandment—Love the Lord,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 4.



YOUR TRUST IN GOD MUST BE POWERFUL AND ENDURING

“This life is an experience in profound trust—trust in Jesus Christ, trust in His teachings, trust in our capacity as led by the Holy Spirit to obey those teachings for happiness now and for a purposeful, supremely happy eternal existence. To trust means to obey willingly without knowing the end from the beginning (see Proverbs 3:5–7). To produce fruit, your trust in the Lord must be more powerful and enduring than your confidence in your own personal feelings and experience. . . .

“As you trust Him, exercise faith in Him, He will help you.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Trust in the Lord,” *Liahona*, Jan. 1996, 15; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 17.



“What is the right
thing to do here?
And what is the right
thing to say?”



**By Elder
Jeffrey R. Holland**
Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

CONVICTION WITH COMPASSION

How we respond to people and situations has to reflect the full breadth of our religious beliefs and our gospel commitments.

Some time ago I was invited to speak in a stake single-adult devotional. As I entered the rear door of the stake center, a 30-something young woman entered the building at about the same time. Even in the crush of people moving toward the chapel, it was hard not to notice her. As I recall, she had a couple of tattoos, a variety of ear and nose rings, spiky hair reflecting all the colors now available in snow cones, a skirt that was too high, and a blouse that was too low.

Was this woman a struggling soul, not of our faith, who had been led—or even better, had been brought by someone—under the guidance of the Lord to this devotional in an effort to help her find the peace and the direction of the gospel that she needed in her life? Or was she a member who had strayed a bit from some of the hopes and standards that the Church encourages for its members but who, thank heaven, was still affiliating and had chosen to attend this Church activity that night?

However one would respond to that young woman, the rule forever is that in all our associations and actions, we must reflect the full breadth of our religious beliefs and our gospel commitments. Therefore, how we respond in any situation has to make things better, not worse. We can't act or react in such a way that we are guilty of a greater offense than, in this case, she is. That doesn't mean that we don't have opinions, that we don't have standards, that

we somehow completely disregard divinely mandated “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not” in life. But it does mean we have to live those standards and defend those “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not” in a righteous way to the best of our ability, the way the Savior lived and defended them. And He always did what should have been done to make the situation better—from teaching the truth, to forgiving sinners, to cleansing the temple. It is no small gift to know how to do such things in the right way!

So, regarding our new acquaintance of unusual dress and grooming, we start, above all, by remembering she is a daughter of God and of eternal worth. We start by remembering that she is someone's daughter here on earth as well and could, under other circumstances, be my daughter. We start by being grateful that she is at a Church activity, not avoiding one. In short, we try to be at *our* best in this situation in a desire to help her be at *her* best. We keep praying silently: What is the right thing to do here? And what is the right thing to say? What *ultimately* will make this situation and her better? Asking these questions and really trying to do what the Savior would do is what I think He meant when He said, “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24).

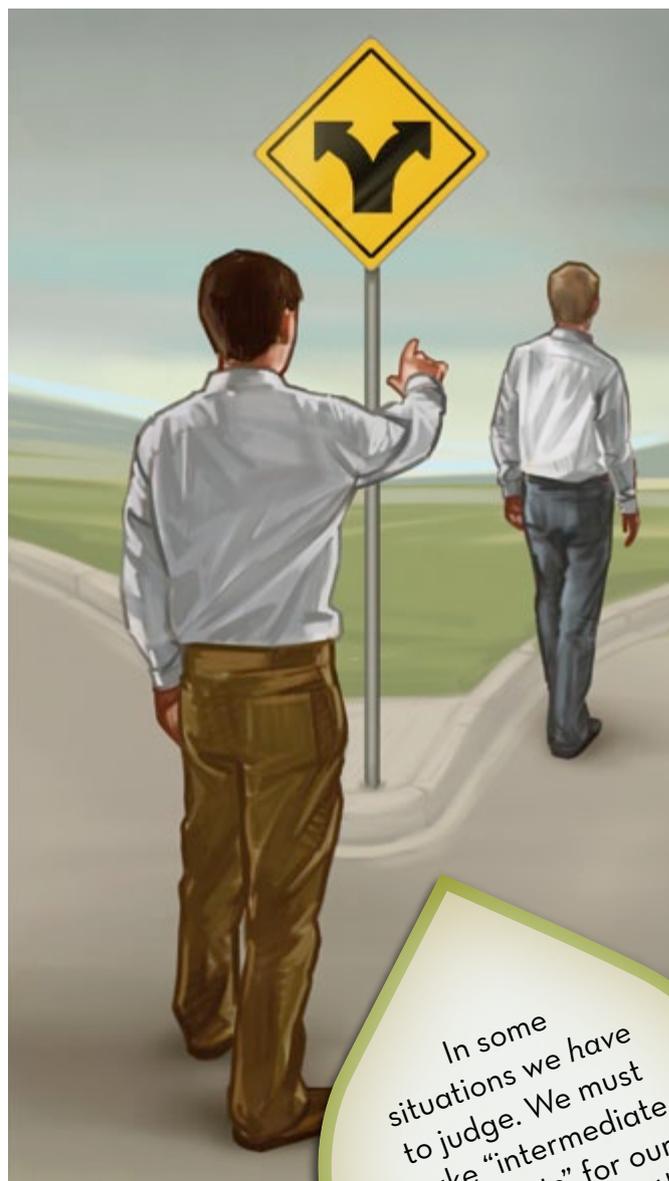
Having said that, I remind us all that while reaching out to and helping bring back a lamb who has strayed, we also have a profound responsibility to the 99 who didn't

stray and to the wishes and will of the Shepherd. There is a sheepfold, and we are all supposed to be in it, to say nothing of the safety and blessings that come to us for being there. My young brothers and sisters, this Church can never “dumb down” its doctrine in response to social goodwill or political expediency or any other reason. It is only the high ground of revealed truth that gives us any footing on which to lift another who may feel troubled or forsaken. Our compassion and our love—fundamental characteristics and requirements of our Christianity—must *never* be interpreted as compromising the commandments. As the marvelous George MacDonald once said, in such situations “we are not bound to say all we [believe], but we are bound not even to look [like] what we do not [believe].”¹

When We Must Judge

In this regard, there is sometimes a chance for a misunderstanding, especially among young people who may think we are not supposed to judge anything, that we are never to make a value assessment of any kind. We have to help each other with that because the Savior makes it clear that in some situations we *have* to judge, we are under obligation to judge—as when He said, “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine” (Matthew 7:6). That sounds like a judgment to me. The unacceptable alternative is to surrender to postmodern moral relativism, which, pushed far enough, declares that ultimately nothing is eternally true or especially sacred and, therefore, no one position on any given issue matters more than any other. And in the gospel of Jesus Christ that simply is not true.

In this process of evaluation, we are not called on to condemn others, but we are called upon to make decisions every day that reflect judgment—we hope good judgment. Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles once referred to these kinds of decisions as “intermediate judgments,” which we often have to make for our own safety or for the safety of others, as opposed to what he called “final judgments,” which can only be made by God, who knows all the facts.² (Remember, in the scripture



In some situations we have to judge. We must make “intermediate judgments” for our own safety or for the safety of others.

quoted earlier, that the Savior said these are to be “righteous judgments,” *not* self-righteous judgments, which is a very different thing.)

For example, no one would fault a parent who restricts a child from running into a street roaring with traffic. So why should a parent be faulted who cares what time those children, at a little later age, come home at night or at what age they date or whether or not they experiment with drugs or pornography or engage in sexual transgression? No, we are making decisions and taking stands and reaffirming our values—in short, making “intermediate judgments”—all the time, or at least we should be.

“Don’t Others Have Their Agency?”

Young people may wonder about the universal applicability of this position taken or that policy made by the Church, saying, “Well, we know how we should behave, but why do we have to make other people accept our standards? Don’t they have their agency? Aren’t we being self-righteous and judgmental, forcing our beliefs on others, demanding that they, as well as ourselves, act in a certain way?” In those situations you are going to have to explain sensitively why some principles are defended and some sins opposed *wherever they are found* because the issues and the laws involved are not just social or political but eternal in their consequence. And while not wishing to offend those who believe differently from us, we are even more anxious not to offend God.

It is a little like a teenager saying, “Now that I can drive, I know I am supposed to stop at a red light, but do we really have to be judgmental and try to get everyone else to stop at red lights?” You then have to explain why, yes, we do hope *all* will stop at a red light. And you have to do this without demeaning those who transgress or who believe differently than we believe because, yes, they do have their

moral agency. But never doubt there is danger all around if some choose not to obey.

My young friends, there is a wide variety of beliefs in this world, and there is moral agency for all, but no one is entitled to act as if God is mute on these subjects or as if commandments only matter if there is public agreement over them.

I know of no more important ability and no greater integrity for us to demonstrate than to walk that careful path—taking a moral stand according to what God has declared and the laws He has given but doing it compassionately, with understanding and great charity. Talk about a hard thing to do—distinguishing perfectly between the sin and the sinner! I know of few distinctions that are harder to make and even harder sometimes to explain, but we must lovingly try to do exactly that. ■

Adapted from a CES devotional given on September 9, 2012. For the full address in English, titled “Israel, Israel, God Is Calling,” visit cesdevotionals.lds.org.

NOTES

1. George MacDonald, *The Unspoken Sermons* (2011), 264.
2. See Dallin H. Oaks, “Judge Not and Judging,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1999, 6–13.

“I know I am supposed to stop at a red light, but do we really have to be judgmental and try to get everyone else to stop at red lights?”





By David Dickson
Church Magazines

FORGIVING

THE ONE
IN THE
MIRROR

*If we have repented
and feel that the Lord
has forgiven us, why is
it sometimes so hard
to forgive ourselves?*

Improving One Step at a Time

For many people living in modern times, it's difficult to imagine life without electric light. A dark room can instantly become flooded with light at the flick of a switch. Simple tasks that not so long ago needed to wait until dawn or had to be done by the low flicker of candlelight can now be accomplished easily with the aid of an invention that was anything but easy to perfect.

Thomas Edison worked several years and tried more than 1,000 different materials before he found a suitable filament (the thin wire at the heart of a light bulb) that could provide long-lasting, affordable light. Ever the optimist, Edison viewed each material that didn't work as a mere stepping-stone toward finding one that would. And once he did, the world was never the same.

Looking Inward

There are countless other inspiring stories about athletes, thinkers, artists, and more who knew how to learn from their mistakes and keep trying. Try, try, try, and then succeed—it's a storyline we seem never to tire of hearing. Unless, however, the hero of that particular story happens to be ourselves.

In terms of keeping the commandments, far too many of us demand uninterrupted perfection of ourselves. This is like expecting to create the

next million-dollar invention without ever needing to adjust an original design concept or hoping to win a grand championship victory without losing a single game during the season. When we sin and fall short, too often we fail to forgive ourselves and keep trying.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, taught: "When the Lord requires that we forgive all men, that includes forgiving ourselves. Sometimes, of all the people in the world, the one who is the hardest to forgive—as well as perhaps the one who is most in need of our forgiveness—is the person looking back at us in the mirror."¹

A Soul Transformed

But how can we do that? A study of the life of Ammon, the Book of Mormon prophet, can add perspective.

Ammon's missionary experiences among the Lamanites are as miraculous as they are inspiring. From defending the king's sheep, to

preaching to King Lamoni, to helping bring the gospel to an entire nation, Ammon's life and ministry remain one of the great inspirational stories in all of scripture.

And yet Ammon was not always the righteous, faith-filled man who preached in power to the Lamanites. He made mistakes—serious ones. As one of the sons of Mosiah, Ammon was once numbered among those who went about "seeking to destroy the church, and to lead astray the people of the Lord, contrary to the commandments of God" (Mosiah 27:10).

Ammon, along with his brothers and Alma the Younger, were so disruptive to the work of God that an angel of the Lord appeared unto them, speaking "as it were with a voice of thunder, which caused the earth to shake upon which they stood" (Mosiah 27:11), calling them to repentance.

Clearly, Ammon had serious transgressions for which he needed to repent, and he did. Yet what if he had failed to forgive himself? What if he had never gone on his mission, believing that it was too late for him? If he had not, then he wouldn't have been able to rejoice with his brethren many years later over their success among the Lamanites. "Now behold, we can look forth and see the fruits of our labors; and are they few?" Ammon asked his brothers. "I say unto you, Nay, they are many; yea, and we can

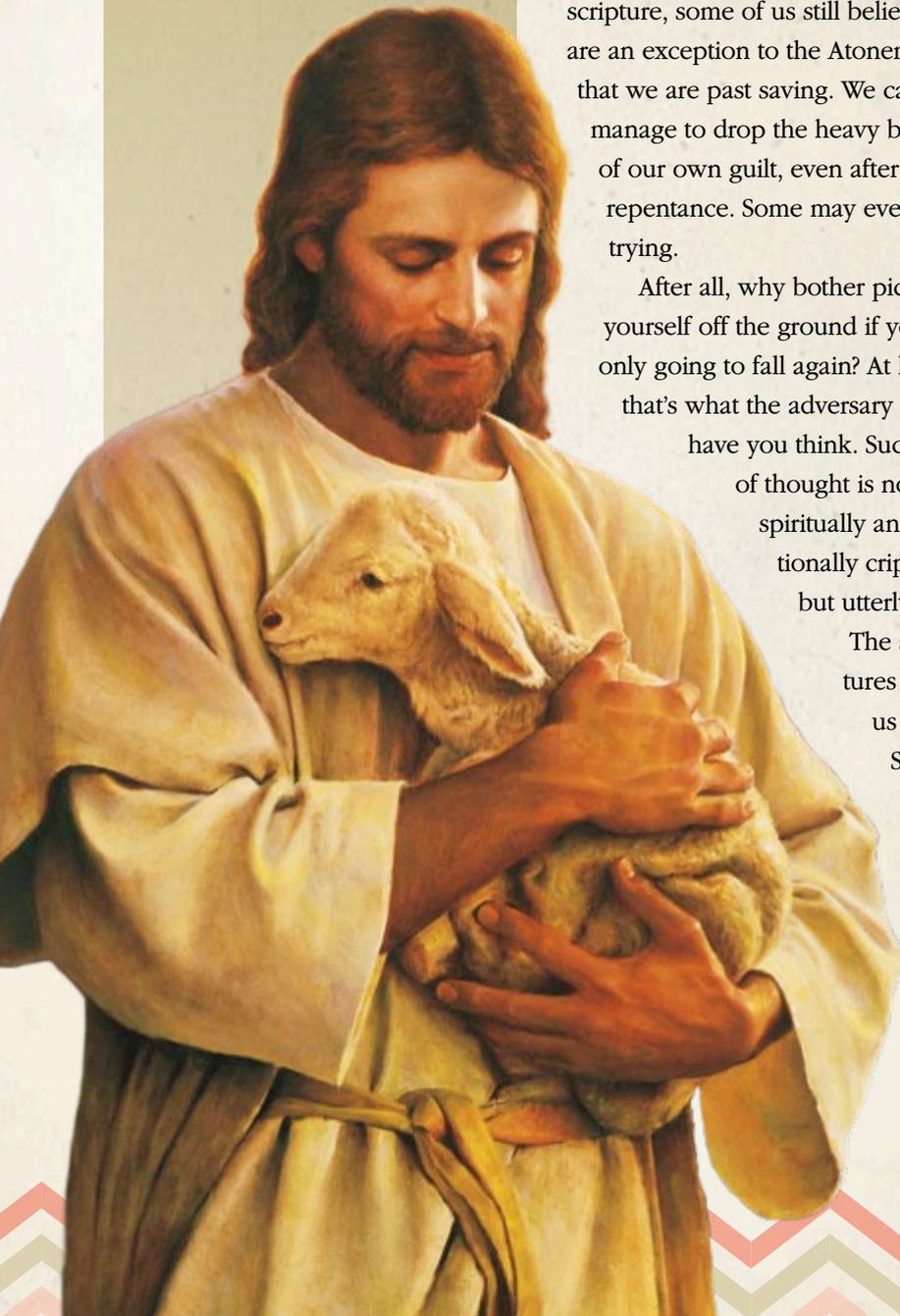




RECLAIMED

Elder Shayne M. Bowen of the Seventy taught how the Atonement can reclaim

and sanctify our lives. Watch the video “Reclaimed” at lds.org/pages/mormon-messages#reclaimed.



witness of their sincerity, because of their love towards their brethren and also towards us” (Alma 26:31). Thousands came to the truth as a result of their missionary efforts.

The Danger of Discouragement

Even with such clear counsel from Church leaders and examples from scripture, some of us still believe we are an exception to the Atonement, that we are past saving. We can’t manage to drop the heavy burden of our own guilt, even after sincere repentance. Some may even stop trying.

After all, why bother picking yourself off the ground if you’re only going to fall again? At least, that’s what the adversary would have you think. Such a line of thought is not only spiritually and emotionally crippling but utterly false.

The scriptures teach us that the Savior’s

Atonement is infinite and available to all. “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18). We *can* succeed. We can try again. And we have the Lord’s help every step of the way.

It’s Never Too Late

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has offered clear counsel against giving up on ourselves. “However many chances you think you have missed, however many mistakes you feel you have made or talents you think you don’t have, or however far from home and family and God you feel you have traveled, I testify that you have not traveled beyond the reach of divine love. It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ’s Atonement shines.”²

Elder Holland teaches us further to keep an eye toward God’s goodness: “The formula of faith is to hold on, work on, see it through, and let

PERMANENT MARKER

By Dani Dunaway Rowan

The marks of our mistakes don't have to be permanent. Having clean hands is worth it, even if it's painful.

the distress of earlier hours—real or imagined—fall away in the abundance of the final reward.”³

Filled with Hope

While sin can never be taken lightly, repentance is real. Forgiveness is real. The Savior's Atonement gives us a chance to start over with a clean slate. Just as Ammon found forgiveness, you can too.

We can indeed hope for brighter days. The Apostle Paul taught, “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:13).

Because of the gift of repentance, we can all believe in ourselves again. ■

NOTES

1. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Merciful Obtain Mercy,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2012, 75.
2. Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Laborers in the Vineyard,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2012, 33.
3. Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Laborers in the Vineyard,” 32.

A week after graduating high school, I moved to the other side of the country to live with my older sister's family for the summer before I started college in the fall.

I made a few friends, most of them older and in college. One Saturday night two of my new friends picked me up to go hear a good band that was playing at a local club.

As we parked, I started feeling a little nervous, but I didn't want to object and ruin the evening. We entered the club, and the man behind the counter looked at my driver's license. Without warning he swiped a black permanent marker across the knuckles on both of my hands.

I looked down in surprise. I realized he had marked my hands to show that I was too young to buy alcohol at the bar.

I was immediately uncomfortable. People were drinking and smoking.

I'm sorry to say that I didn't have the courage to leave right then. After about 30 minutes, one of my friends asked if I was feeling OK. I told him I had a headache from the music and smoke. He offered to take me home, and I gratefully accepted.

I rushed into the bathroom at my sister's house and scrubbed at those black marks until it hurt. I would be taking the sacrament with these

hands the next day, and I desperately wanted them to be clean. However, two faint black lines remained visible on my raw, pink skin.

Before I went to bed, in prayer I asked forgiveness for not having the courage to leave—and more appropriately, for not having the courage to never go inside in the first place. I promised Heavenly Father I would never allow myself to get in that kind of situation again.

The next morning I was able to remove most of the rest of the marker, and my hands were almost completely clean when I took the sacrament. I thought of how sin is like those black marks. It takes effort and can even be painful, but we can repent and have our sins removed through the power of the Atonement and be clean from the black marks in our lives. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.





HONESTY & INTEGRITY

As a disciple of Christ, these personal attributes are expressions of who you actually are.



By Elder Christoffel Golden Jr.
Of the Seventy

At a conference championship game of American football, Joseph B. Wirthlin had what he called “a defining experience” during a crucial play.

“The play called for me to run the ball up the middle to score the go-ahead touchdown,” he said. “I took the handoff and plunged into the line. I knew I was close to the goal line, but I didn’t know how close. Although I was pinned at the bottom of the pile, I reached my fingers forward a couple of inches and I could feel it. The goal line was two inches (5 cm) away.

“At that moment I was tempted to push the ball forward. I could have done it. . . . But then I remembered the words of my mother. ‘Joseph,’ she had often said to me, ‘do what is right, no matter the consequence. Do what is right and things will turn out OK.’

“I wanted so desperately to score that touchdown. But more than being a hero in the eyes of my friends, I wanted to be a hero in the eyes of my mother. And so I left the ball where it was—two inches from the goal line.”¹ Elder Wirthlin (1917–2008) later served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Doing What Is Right

Elder Wirthlin’s decision is an excellent example of someone who would not compromise his integrity. Honesty and integrity test our character. They require a person always to do or say the right thing no matter the circumstances or what others may think.

One of the standards in *For the Strength of Youth* is honesty and integrity. As Latter-day Saints and followers of Christ, you are expected to “be honest with yourself, others, and God at all times. Being honest means choosing not to lie, steal, cheat, or deceive in any way. . . .

“Closely associated with honesty is integrity. Integrity means thinking and doing what is right at all times, no matter what the consequences. When you have integrity, you are willing to live by your standards and beliefs even when no one is watching.”²

Becoming a Disciple

Our purpose during this probationary state of mortal life is to become “a saint through the atonement of Christ” (Mosiah 3:19). To become a saint is nothing more or less than becoming a true disciple of Christ. This is not as difficult as you may suppose; you probably already know how to do it. However, it does take effort, and sometimes this effort requires a great deal from us. But it can be done.

The Book of Mormon teaches, “For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from

evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God” (Moroni 7:16).

As a disciple of Christ you can discover how to speak and act by asking yourself, “What would Jesus do?” Impressions will follow, and as you act on these impressions, you will receive a witness for yourself that you have acted correctly. However, it is also true that sometimes you may need to wait for a while to see the true consequences and blessings of your honest actions.

Being Completely Honest

For the Strength of Youth reminds us: “Dishonesty harms you and harms others as well. If you lie, steal, shoplift, or cheat, you damage your spirit and your relationships with others. Being honest will enhance your future opportunities and your ability to be guided by the Holy Ghost.”³

The true measure of sincere integrity and

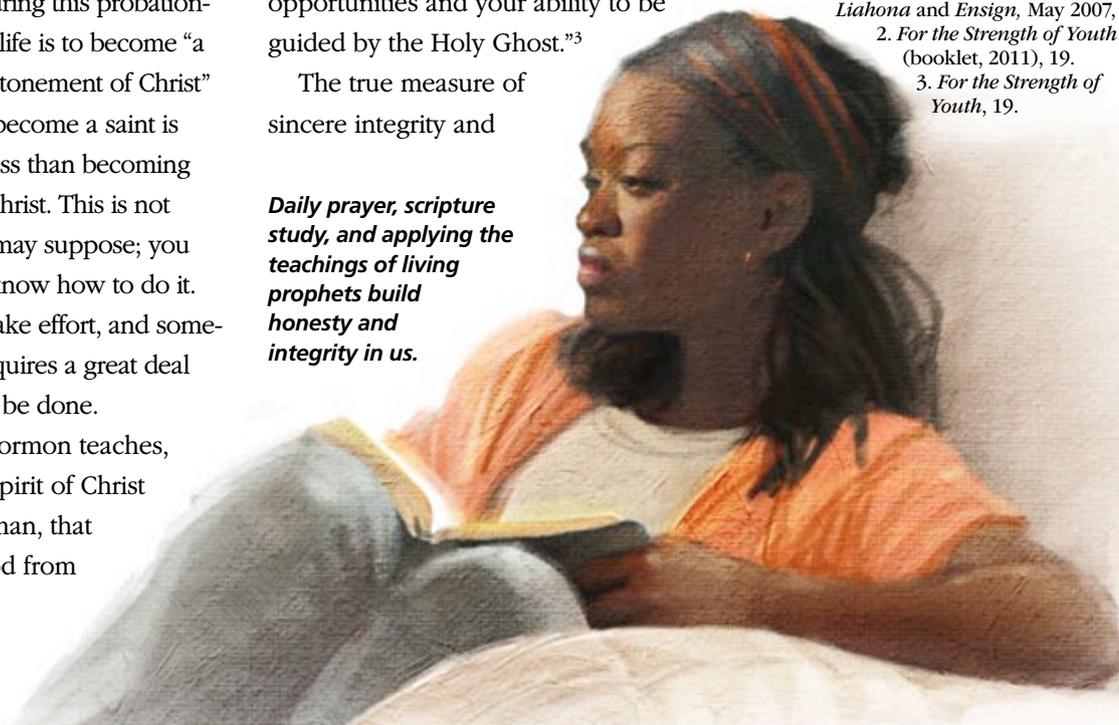
Daily prayer, scripture study, and applying the teachings of living prophets build honesty and integrity in us.

complete honesty is what you do when no one is around to know what you think, say, or do. As true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we cannot be or do less than the Savior has shown us. We have the incomparable gift of the Holy Ghost. The Savior taught, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

Our Savior has also given us great power that comes from daily prayer, scripture study, and reading the words of the living prophets and apostles. These positive daily practices build honesty and integrity in us. Remember, as a disciple of Christ and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, your honesty is an expression of your integrity and who you actually are. ■

NOTES

1. Joseph B. Wirthlin, “Life’s Lessons Learned,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2007, 46.
2. *For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011), 19.
3. *For the Strength of Youth*, 19.





RETURNED WITH HONOR

I didn't want to be a thief, even by accident.

By Valerie Best

After my classes finished in the late afternoon, I stopped by a tiny antique store just before I made my way home—an errand I wanted to finish despite the increased intensity of the rain. I was the only person in the store, and the woman working there helped me with the lamp I'd had my eye on.

As she opened a shopping bag, I noticed a display of brightly colored bracelets on the counter. I reached for one just as she placed the lamp into the bag. She brushed the display, and about half the bracelets clattered to the floor. She looked a little flustered but finished ringing up my purchase. I left the store, umbrella in one hand, bag with a lamp in it in the other.

I walked home, took off my wet boots, and put on some music. As I took the lamp out, I noticed something at the bottom of the bag. It was a red bracelet. It must have fallen from the display into my bag. I smiled, thinking how much this moment was beginning to resemble a story from the old Young Women manual: *"Then Valerie thought of the lesson they'd just had in Laurels class."*

I tossed the bracelet on my bed and plugged in my lamp. It created a warm glow in the gray afternoon. I looked out the window. It was raining even harder, and the snow on the ground was turning to dirty slush.

I looked at the bracelet. It was cherry red. I slipped it on my wrist. The price tag swung—\$20. Of course I would return it. It never entered my mind not to. I pulled it off and put it on top of a pile of books I'd been meaning to put away. I walked into the other room to make a cup of hot chocolate.

Then I walked back in.

How long had I put off dealing with those books anyway? A while. How long would that bracelet be there if I put off taking it back?

My *intention* was to return it. But when would that be? Would I wait so long that I would feel awkward returning it? Would I forget about it?

I hesitated a little more. I looked out the window again. I thought about how my feet had just warmed up. I thought about my delicious hot chocolate.

Then I grabbed the bracelet, pulled my boots back on, and headed back out.



When I arrived at the store, the woman was helping someone else. I stood and waited. When she finished, I pulled the bracelet out of my coat pocket, explaining how it had come to be there. She looked sort of surprised, a little confused, said thank you, and that was it. She didn't offer

me a reward for my honesty. She wasn't excessive in her thanks. And no one else was around to see it.

As I walked home, I thought about how I'd always considered myself an honest person. It is a quality I value and look for in others. But real honesty, like real love and real charity, is

an active attribute. However honorable and true my intentions, I only became an honest person when I put those rain boots back on and acted on my intentions.

I felt my bare wrist inside my coat and smiled a little. ■

The author lives in New York, USA.

POWER IN COVENANTS



When you hear the word *covenant*, what comes to mind? If you said, “A two-way promise with God,” you’d be right.

But a covenant with our Heavenly Father is also much more. In that sacred promise, there is power, strength, safety, and peace. When you take time to think about the covenants you have made and will make in your life and when you keep your part, you begin to feel and live differently. Covenants influence the way you act and inspire you in your choices.

Here’s how covenants have made a difference in the lives of some youth.



“A covenant keeps you on the strait and narrow path, helps you live life better, and gives you a better understanding.”

Marcus A., age 17, Utah, USA

“The fact that I have made covenants with Heavenly Father has given me opportunities to grow spiritually and to be a more faithful member. Every time I’m going to do something, I think of the covenants I’ve made with our Heavenly Father and ask myself if I am keeping the promises made with Him when I was baptized and when I received the priesthood. The covenants I’ve made with

our Heavenly Father help me stay strong in the gospel and one day return to Him.”

Efrain V., age 14, New Zealand



“I remember when I was baptized—that was the happiest I had ever felt because that was my first covenant. Next was when

I received the priesthood. It was the same happiness. I had a huge smile on my face when I realized I had made a covenant with God. When I hear kids making fun of the Church, I remember the happiness and I remember it’s a covenant with God and not with people.”

Bradford A., age 16, Arizona, USA

“Making covenants brings us and our families so many blessings. For example, being baptized brings us the ability to change, to be better. The covenants that we make with our Heavenly Father build the faith we need to remain true to the gospel.”

Naomi A., age 15, Guadalajara, Mexico



“This past summer I went to the temple often to do baptisms for the dead. By keeping my covenants by going to the temple and doing what’s right, I was blessed. I was really stressed with final exams. I went to the temple, and it just made everything better. Keeping my covenants makes life so much easier and a lot happier.”

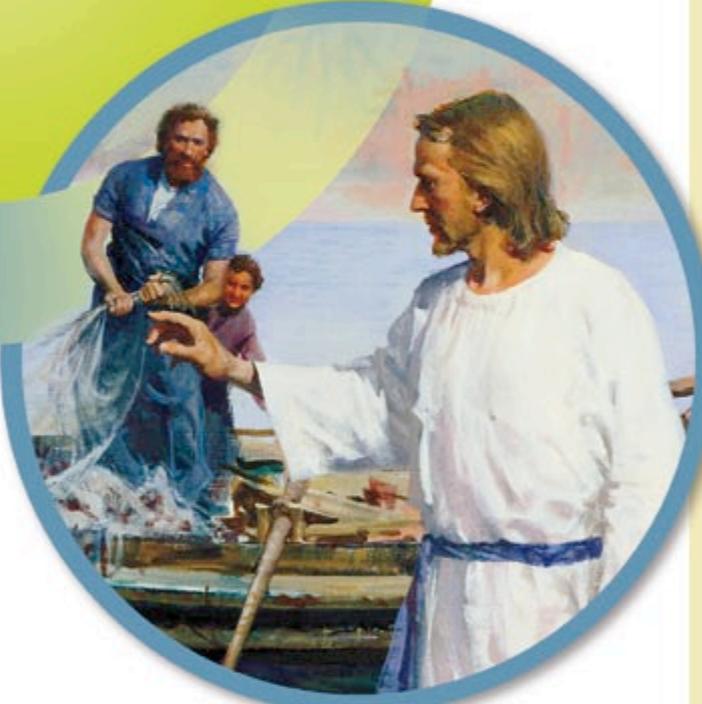
McKenna M., age 18, California, USA

“My first day as a deacon passing the sacrament, I was very nervous. Then I remembered the day I was baptized, and I felt the Holy Ghost. I automatically felt calmer and was able to do it well.”

Seth A., age 12, Mexico City, Mexico



**A covenant is
a promise, and it's also
a whole lot more.**



**JOIN THE
CONVERSATION**

Throughout July you'll be studying about ordinances and covenants in your priesthood quorums and Young Women and Sunday School classes. Make a list of the covenants you have made and hope to make. What does that list tell you about how you want to live? Consider sharing your thoughts with others by testifying at home, at church, or through social media.



**DIVINE
COVENANTS
MAKE STRONG
CHRISTIANS**

"I urge each one to qualify for and receive all the priesthood ordinances you can and then faithfully keep the promises you have made by covenant. In times of distress, let your covenants be paramount and let your obedience be exact. Then you can ask in faith, nothing wavering, according to your need, and God will answer. He will sustain you."

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Power of Covenants," *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2009, 22.



"I've received a lot of blessings from keeping my covenants. Because of my baptismal covenants, the Holy Ghost has helped me make decisions. The covenant when you receive the priesthood is a commitment to use the priesthood to help others and serve. It helps your testimony grow when you serve."

Erik N., age 15, Alberta, Canada

"You can't just do anything you want and expect God to uphold His side of the promise. He expects so much out of you because He knows the potential you have. It really holds me to a higher level."

Jolee H., age 15, Colorado, USA

FROM LEFT: PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTINA SMITH AND CRAIG DIMONDO © IRI; DETAIL FROM CHRIST CALLING PETER AND ANDREW, BY HARRY ANDERSON © IRI



FAVORITE
FAMILY HOME
EVENINGS

M

CAUTION

SPIRITUAL SUPERHEROES

This year amazing superheroes came to visit our house on Monday nights! Each superhero resembled a member of the family, had a special superpower, and taught an important testimony-strengthening lesson that encouraged us to improve our relationships with one another.

For example, one week Media Man taught us how to shield our eyes from inappropriate movies, TV shows, and magazines. Another week Fit Miss explained how we could develop superhuman strength by exercising regularly. Bee Still, a superhero dressed as a bumblebee, taught us how to stop buzzing around and *bee* reverent at church and at home. Word Girl explained when and how we could give more compliments to each other. Thankful Girl, Do It Yourself Dude, Scripture Scholar, No Sass Lass, Missionary Man, and other superheroes also attended our family home evening lessons.

I am grateful that my family members thought deeply and carefully about what problem in the family they wanted to address as a superhero. We all looked forward to family home evening, and we had a wonderful time during each superhero visit. I am grateful that each time we pondered

a problem in our family, Heavenly Father inspired us with an idea to teach one another more effectively. These are superhero memories we will cherish forever. ■
Victor W., USA

MY BROTHER'S TESTIMONY

My mother works every evening from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Even though she couldn't be home on Monday nights, my older brother and I decided to hold family home evening by ourselves—just the two of us. My brother was inactive for eight years, but he had been attending institute recently and decided to give the message one Monday night. He shared a spiritual thought from the Book of Mormon that I had never considered, even though I had taken four years of seminary and had worked on my Personal Progress. The spirit I felt was just as I had hoped it would be when the time came that I would have a worthy priesthood holder in my home.

I'm grateful Heavenly Father gives me the opportunity to strengthen my family every week through family home evening. I love the gospel of Jesus Christ, and I'm glad that I had this humbling family home evening experience with my brother. ■
Isadora A., Brazil

ENLIGHTENED IN THE DARK

I will never forget the family home evening lesson we had during a power outage. Without power we could not read anything, and I thought that family home evening was going to be a disaster.

"How will we have family home evening without being able to read a message from the *Liahona*, or how will we be able to sing from the hymnbooks without light?" I thought to myself.

Fortunately my sister came to the rescue. She had the great idea for us to sing the hymns we knew by heart and then share what we had learned the Sunday before. We all shared a principle and learned from one another. In my opinion, learning together is the purpose of family home evening. I am certain that the Lord was very pleased that we kept the commandment to have family home evening, even without lights.

I know that the Lord doesn't want us to return to His presence alone. He wants us to return with our families, and He wants us to do everything possible so that this happens, including holding weekly family home evening. ■
Hérica S., Brazil

These experiences show how family home evening can be uplifting—
and a lot of fun!





MY SUMMERS BY THE TEMPLE

Great blessings came as my family used our vacation time to attend the temple each summer.

By David Isaksen

I grew up in Norway. The nearest temple was in Stockholm, Sweden, an 8- to 10-hour drive away. Needless to say, any trip to the temple took careful planning and deliberation. Our stake planned two visits to the temple for the youth each year; several wards would rent a bus and go to the temple for a weekend. It was fun to go with other youth, but my family and I wanted to go to the temple together sometime.

So one year we decided to go to Stockholm during our summer vacation. It was a great experience, and it soon became a pattern for our summers. We would camp at a campground close to the temple. Each morning we would get up early for a baptismal session with other families from Norway who had come to the temple. Afterward we would play football and go swimming at the campground.

These summers are sacred memories for me now. Although we didn't live close enough to the temple to go there each month, it was always a

special occasion when we could go. And even though the car ride was long and tedious, the Lord blessed us for our sacrifice. The spiritual experiences I had at the temple helped me develop my love for the temple and its ordinances. They also brought us closer together as a family.

One special experience I remember was when I was going through a little rebellious period. It felt like I could see so many of my parents' flaws, and I felt that they had no right to counsel me how to live my life. Although I lived worthy to go to the temple, I was questioning my father's role as the head of our family. But when we went to the temple together to do baptisms and confirmations, I felt the presence of a sweet spirit. As my father laid his hands on my head to confirm me on behalf of people who had passed away, I felt the Spirit confirm to me that he was acting by the true authority of the priesthood. This made me realize that although my father was not perfect, he was still a good father and I was blessed to be

his son. I felt I needed to repent of my rebelliousness and try to see the wisdom and love of his admonitions.

These many years later those summers by the temple still shine in my memory. The temple has become one of the truly beautiful places of the world, like the Waters of Mormon were for the people of Alma: "How beautiful are they to the eyes of them who there came to the knowledge of their Redeemer" (Mosiah 18:30). ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

BLESSINGS OF THE TEMPLE

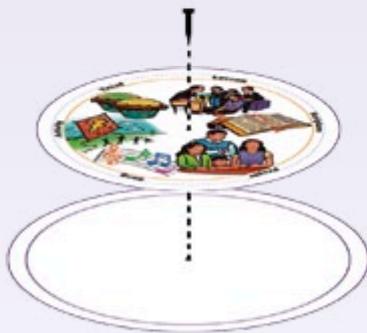
What blessings have you experienced as you've gone to the temple?

Consider sharing your feelings with a family member or writing about them in your journal.

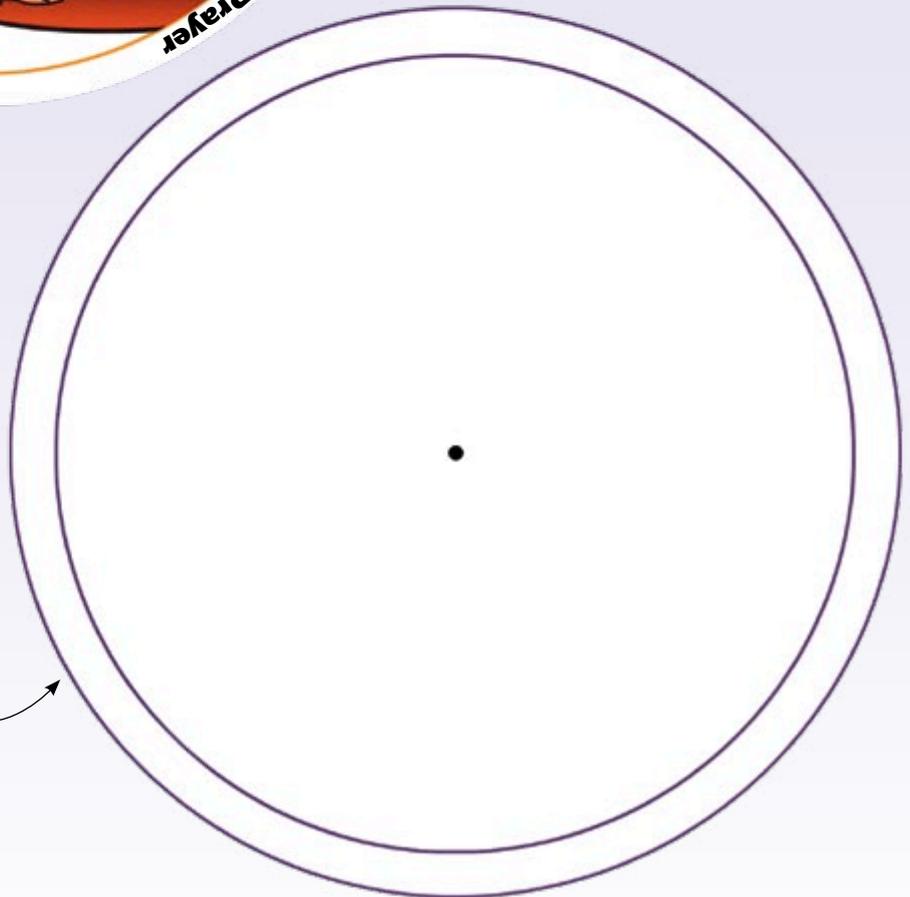
Family Home Evening Wheel



You can make an assignment wheel to help with family home evening planning. Mount these circles on heavy paper and attach them in the middle with a metal fastener. Write each family member's name around the outside of the circle. Turn the wheel to change assignments each week.



Write the names of your family members around the outside edge.



SAVE HER!

By Heidi S. Swinton

Every summer the Monson family spent two months at the family cabin on the Provo River. Tommy Monson learned to swim in the river's swift currents. One warm afternoon when Tommy was about 13, he grabbed a big, inflated inner tube and floated down the river.

That day a large group of people had gathered at a picnic area by the river to eat and play games. Tommy was about to float through the fastest part of the river when he heard the frantic cries, "Save her! Save her!" A young girl had fallen into the treacherous whirlpools. None of the people on shore could swim to save her.

That's when Tommy appeared on the scene and saw the girl's head disappear under the water. Tommy stretched out his hand, grasped the girl by her hair,

and then lifted her over the side of the inner tube. Then Tommy paddled to the riverbank. First, the family threw their arms around the girl, kissing her and crying. Then they began hugging and kissing Tommy. He felt embarrassed by all the attention, and he quickly returned to his inner tube.

As Tommy continued his float down the river, he was filled with a warm feeling. He realized that he had helped save a life. Heavenly Father had heard the cries, "Save her! Save her!" He made it possible for Tommy to float by at exactly the time he was needed. That day Tommy learned that the sweetest feeling is to realize that God, our Heavenly Father, knows each one of us and allows us to help Him save others. ■



Do Your Duty

When Tommy was 11 years old, he had a special duty to help his classmates cross the street. Look at the picture below. Can you find two things Tommy used to help him with his duty?



Safety Circle

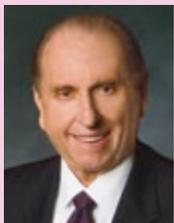
As Tommy learned how to swim in the Provo River, his family surrounded him so if he needed help, someone would always be close by. You can be like Tommy and play the Safety Circle game.

You Will Need:

Four or more players
An open area

How to Play:

Make a circle and hold hands. One player stands in the middle of the circle. The player in the middle wears a blindfold and slowly walks around in different directions—wherever he or she wants to go. The players in the circle need to keep holding hands but try not to get touched by the player in the middle. Take turns standing in the middle.



WORDS FROM PRESIDENT MONSON

"Our opportunities to give of ourselves are indeed limitless. . . . There are hearts to gladden. There are kind words to say. There are gifts to be given. There are deeds to be done. There are souls to be saved."

From "First Presidency Christmas Devotional," *Ensign*, Feb. 2001, 73.

Families Are Part of Heavenly Father's Plan

You can use this lesson and activity to learn more about this month's Primary theme.

The Book of Mormon tells about a wicked man named Amalickiah. He wanted to destroy the Church and rule over the Nephites as their king.

Captain Moroni was a strong and righteous leader of the Nephite armies. Captain Moroni wanted to remind the people how important it was to defend their families and their faith. He tore his coat and made it into a flag, or banner. On it he wrote these words:

"In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children."

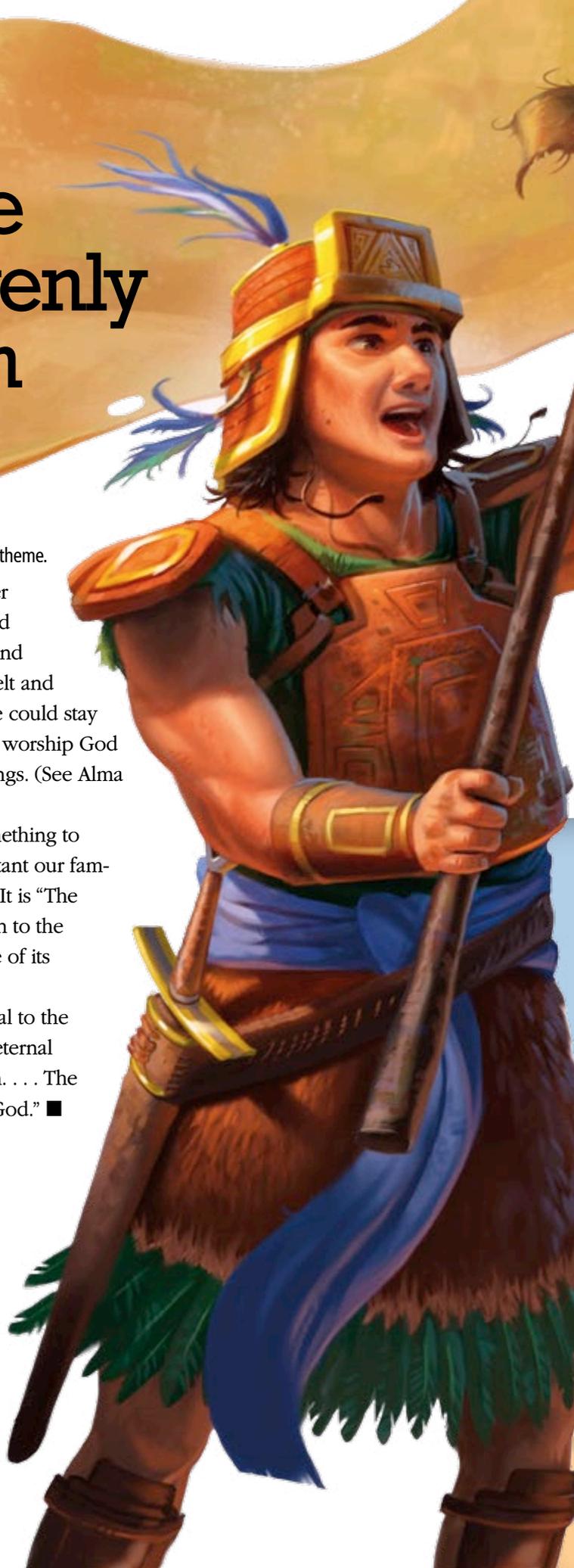
Ideas for Family Talk

Together with your family, you could read "The Family: A Proclamation to the World." You could also talk about some ways you can all work together to make your family strong. Then you could choose one of those ways and make a plan for working on it.

He called his banner "the title of liberty," and he fastened it on the end of a pole. Then he knelt and prayed that the people could stay free so they could still worship God and receive His blessings. (See Alma 46:3–18.)

Today we have something to remind us how important our families and our faith are. It is "The Family: A Proclamation to the World." Here are some of its words:

"The family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children. . . . The family is ordained of God." ■





LEFT: ILLUSTRATION BY BRANDON DORMAN;
RIGHT: ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL
HOFFMAN-BAYLES

Song and Scripture

- "Families Can Be Together Forever,"
Children's Songbook, 188
- Alma 46:3–18

Family Banner Activity

Use a piece of paper or fabric to make a banner that represents your family. Use markers or crayons to draw things that are important to your family. Add a quote or a saying that expresses how your family members feel about their faith in Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father or about the blessings of being a family.

Challenges in Missouri

By Jennifer Maddy

Come along to explore an important place in Church history!

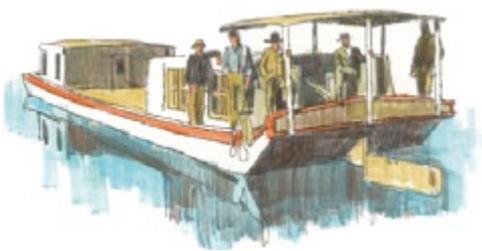
For Joseph Smith it was a long, hard trip from Kirtland, Ohio, to Independence, Missouri. He traveled by wagon, by canal boat, and by stagecoach. For the last 250 miles (402 km), he had to walk! But the Lord had told him to go to Missouri to establish the city of Zion, so Joseph Smith obeyed.

Other Church members began arriving in Missouri in 1831. They plowed the land, built houses, and harvested crops.

As more and more Church members moved to Independence, Missouri, some of the people who already lived there became suspicious and angry. Mobs attacked the Saints' homes and ordered them to leave. ■



This display at the Independence visitors' center shows Saints busily working at their log-cabin home.





William W. Phelps set up a printing shop in Independence, where he published a newspaper. He also printed pages for the Book of Commandments, which contained some of the Lord's revelations to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Today these revelations are in the Doctrine and Covenants.

LIBERTY JAIL

In the winter of 1838 Joseph Smith and five other Church leaders were arrested on false charges and taken to Liberty Jail. The jail was dark, dirty, and bitterly cold, and the prisoners didn't have warm enough blankets or good food. Liberty Jail had thick stone walls. The upper room was for the jailer and his family, and the lower room—the "dungeon"—was for prisoners. A trapdoor was the only way in and out of the lower floor.

While the Prophet was in jail, the Lord told him, "Fear not what man can do, for God shall be with you forever and ever" (D&C 122:9).

The Church rebuilt some of the jail out of some original and some remade stones and then built a visitors' center around it. Today many visitors come to see the place where a prophet of God received comforting revelations while he was in jail.



OUR PAGE



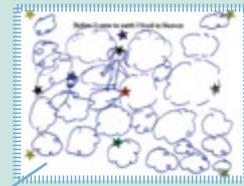
Ricardo O., age 3, from Mexico, likes to serve. Each Saturday, along with his little sister, Olea, he helps his parents sweep the building where his branch meets for sacrament meeting. He serves with a smile—not only at church but also at home.



Loi P., age 7, Cambodia



I like to go to church and to my Primary class. I am learning to read, and I love the stories of the Book of Mormon. My younger sister and I like to help our mother. We love to read the children's section of the *Liahona*. We both pray for President Monson and Sister Monson.
Alison A., age 6, and Juana A., age 3, Argentina



The children of the Junction Branch Primary, Mandeville District, Jamaica, West Indies, are learning about the Savior and trying to follow His example by being baptized and preparing to attend the temple.



Nguyen L., age 7, Cambodia



Maria C., age 4, from Brazil, gave a talk in sacrament meeting in which she amazed everyone by reciting the 13 Articles of Faith without missing a single word. Maria's

Primary president says that Maria prays fervently and testifies of Jesus Christ.



Renato and his family at his baptism

One day our Primary visited the São Paulo Brazil Temple. The gardens were more beautiful than any I had ever seen. We learned that through the covenants we make in the temple, we can live with our families for all eternity.

The president of the temple spoke to us in the waiting room, where we saw beautiful paintings. I had a very warm and happy feeling, and my mother told me it was the Holy Ghost testifying to me that what I was learning was true. I gained a testimony that the temple is the house of the Lord.
Renato B., age 8, Brazil



The temple is very beautiful on the outside—it has many flowers. But when I was sealed to my family, I saw that it is even more beautiful inside.
Nicolas M., age 5, Colombia



By Elder
David A. Bednar

Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that our “greatest responsibility in this world . . . is to seek after our dead.”¹

Family history is a vital part of the work of salvation and exaltation.

We have the covenant responsibility to search out our ancestors and provide for them the saving ordinances of the gospel.

I invite the youth of the Church to learn about and experience the Spirit of Elijah.²

I encourage you to study, to search out your ancestors, and to prepare yourselves to perform proxy baptisms in the temple for your kindred dead.

As you respond in faith to this invitation, your hearts shall turn to the fathers.

Your love and gratitude for your ancestors will increase.

You will be safeguarded in your youth and throughout your lives.

Your testimony of and conversion to the Savior will become deep and abiding. ■

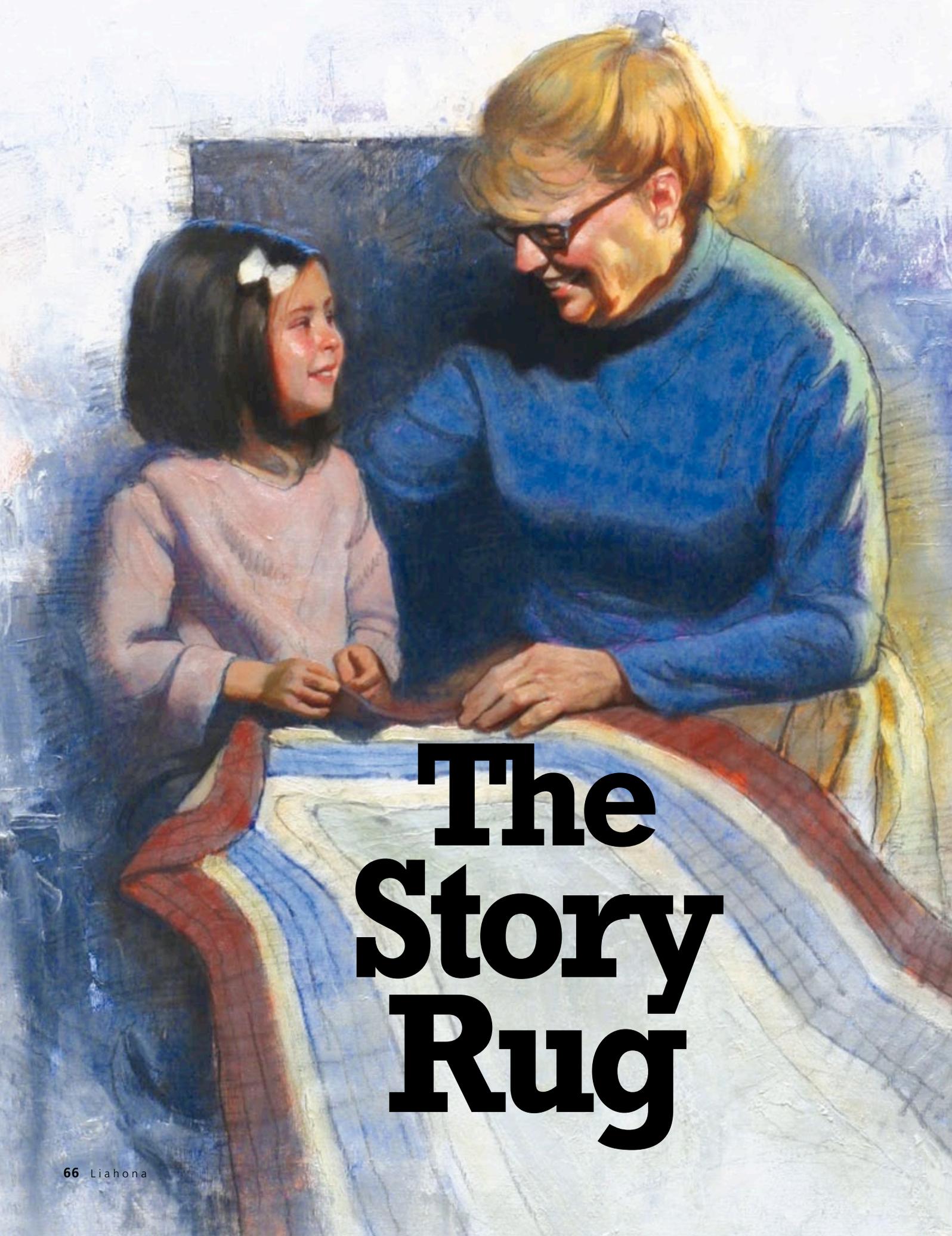
Adapted from “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” Liahona and Ensign, Nov. 2011, 24–27.

NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 475.
2. See Doctrine and Covenants 2:1–2.

Why is family history work so important?





The Story Rug

*Who knew so many stories could
be wrapped up in one rug?*

By Kay Timpson

Based on a true story

"We as the children can seek out our loved ones, preserving their names and their memory" ("Truth from Elijah," Children's Songbook, 90–91).

Katy skipped along the sidewalk toward the big oak tree at the corner of her street. The old tree made Nana's house easy to find.

As usual, Nana was sitting in her living room, quietly braiding and sewing strips of bright cloth. The polished wooden floors of Nana's house were decorated with beautiful rugs that Nana made herself.

"Hello, honey," Nana said as Katy came in. Soon they were talking about what Nana called the "old days." They looked at black-and-white photos together. Katy especially liked seeing the clothes and hairstyles her relatives wore when they were younger.

"Things were very different then," Nana said with a sigh. "You know, we didn't have cars or TV or cell phones."

Katy couldn't even imagine having to walk everywhere. "What did you do for fun, Nana?" Katy asked.

"We loved to sing together. We would gather around the piano in the evening and sing our favorite songs.

Sometimes we'd sing ourselves hoarse! It was such a fun time."

Nana looked off into the yard like she could rewind the years and watch them over again.

Katy sat next to the coiled rug that spilled off of Nana's lap. She traced the careful stitches with her fingers.

"I've been thinking," Nana said slowly, "how would you like to make your very own braided rug?"

Katy jumped up and clapped her hands.

"I would love to, Nana! Can we start today?"

Nana chuckled. "Well, there's something you need to do first. Go home and gather up old clothes that we can cut into strips."

Her eyes twinkled as she leaned toward Katy, her voice quiet as if she were sharing a secret.

"That's what makes the rug special. Because it's made of clothes, the rug can tell the story of your life. Each braid is like a chapter in a book about you. Looking at the fabric of an old dress can help you remember the places you wore it and what you did when you had it on."

Katy's eyes widened. She pointed to the rug Nana was braiding.

"Do you remember all about the cloth in this rug?"

Nana smiled. "You bet I do! This red piece is from the dress I wore when you were born. I remember pressing my nose to the glass window in the nursery to get a closer look at you. You were still all pink and wrinkly."

Katy and Nana laughed together as Nana continued to tell Katy stories from the rug. As soon as Katy got home that night, she and Mama set aside old clothes that Katy could use.

The next day, Katy took the cloth to Nana's house. Nana showed Katy how to cut the fabric into long strips, braid them, and sew the braids together.

Every day after school, Katy went to work on the rug at Nana's house.

Little by little, the rug grew. As the days went by, Katy learned many of Nana's stories by heart. Some days she was the one who told lots of stories to Nana.

One day, after adding a blue section to the rug that used to be a favorite pair of jeans, Katy rubbed the palm of her hand against the colorful braids.

"Don't you think that rug is about done?" Nana asked, looking up from her work.

"Not yet," Katy said with a smile. She never wanted this time with Nana to end. ■

FAMILY STORY SWAP

Nana's colorful rug helped her share stories with Katy (see pages 66–67). Here's a game that can help your family members share stories with each other!

You will need:

- Several small, solid-colored items. Try to find at least six different colors. You could use buttons, painted pebbles, or colored candies.
- A bag to hold the items.

What to do:

1. Fill out the chart at the bottom of this page by writing the color of an item by each prompt.
2. Have family members sit in a circle. Put the small items into the bag.
3. Pass the bag around the circle. Have everyone take turns pulling out an item and answering the prompt that matches the color of the item they chose. Keep going until there are no more items to choose.

FAMILY STORY SWAP CHART

Can you remember the different stories people shared for each color?

Color:	Prompt:
	Tell us about your best friend.
	When was a time you had to be brave?
	Tell us about something silly or embarrassing you once did.
	What is your favorite scripture story? Why?
	Tell us about a school project that was fun to work on.
	If you could change into any animal, what animal and why?

Hi, I'm Erika from El Salvador



The Relief Society sisters in my branch asked if I could learn to index names using the FamilySearch program. I wanted to help. My mother also wanted me to help, so we began learning how to index together.

When I first started, it took me a whole day to index nine names. But now after working hard and practicing, I can index 300 names in a day.

After finishing my homework, I spend time indexing names. For me, indexing is as fun as playing or watching TV. But I know that it has a greater purpose.



My name is Erika Z., and I live in the city of San Salvador in El Salvador, and I love to prepare names for temple ordinances.



I know that Heavenly Father blessed me with the opportunity to help prepare names for temple ordinances for more than 2,000 Salvadorian ancestors in the spirit world.

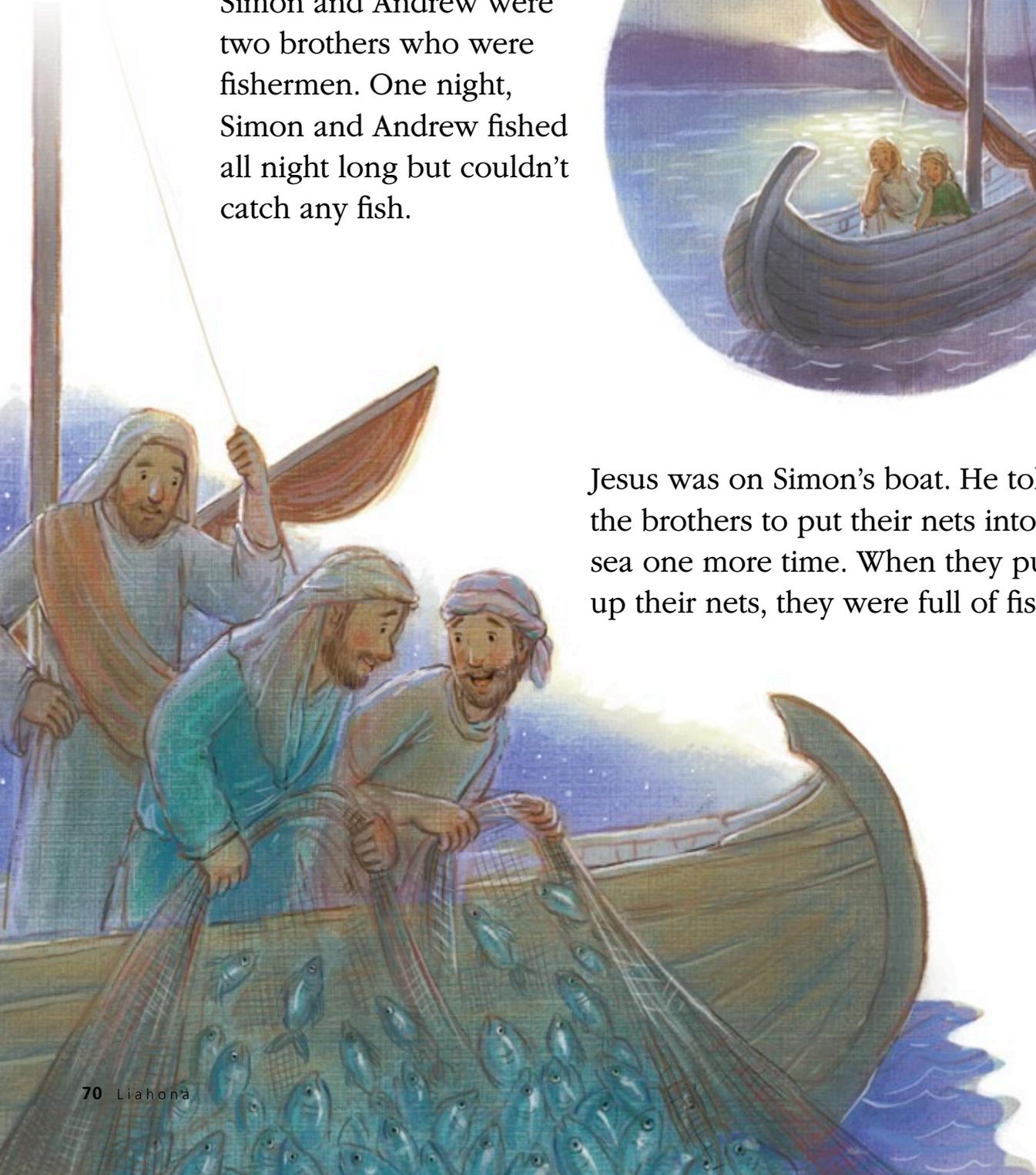
Jesus Calls His Disciples

By Margo Mae
From Luke 5:1–11.

Simon and Andrew were two brothers who were fishermen. One night, Simon and Andrew fished all night long but couldn't catch any fish.



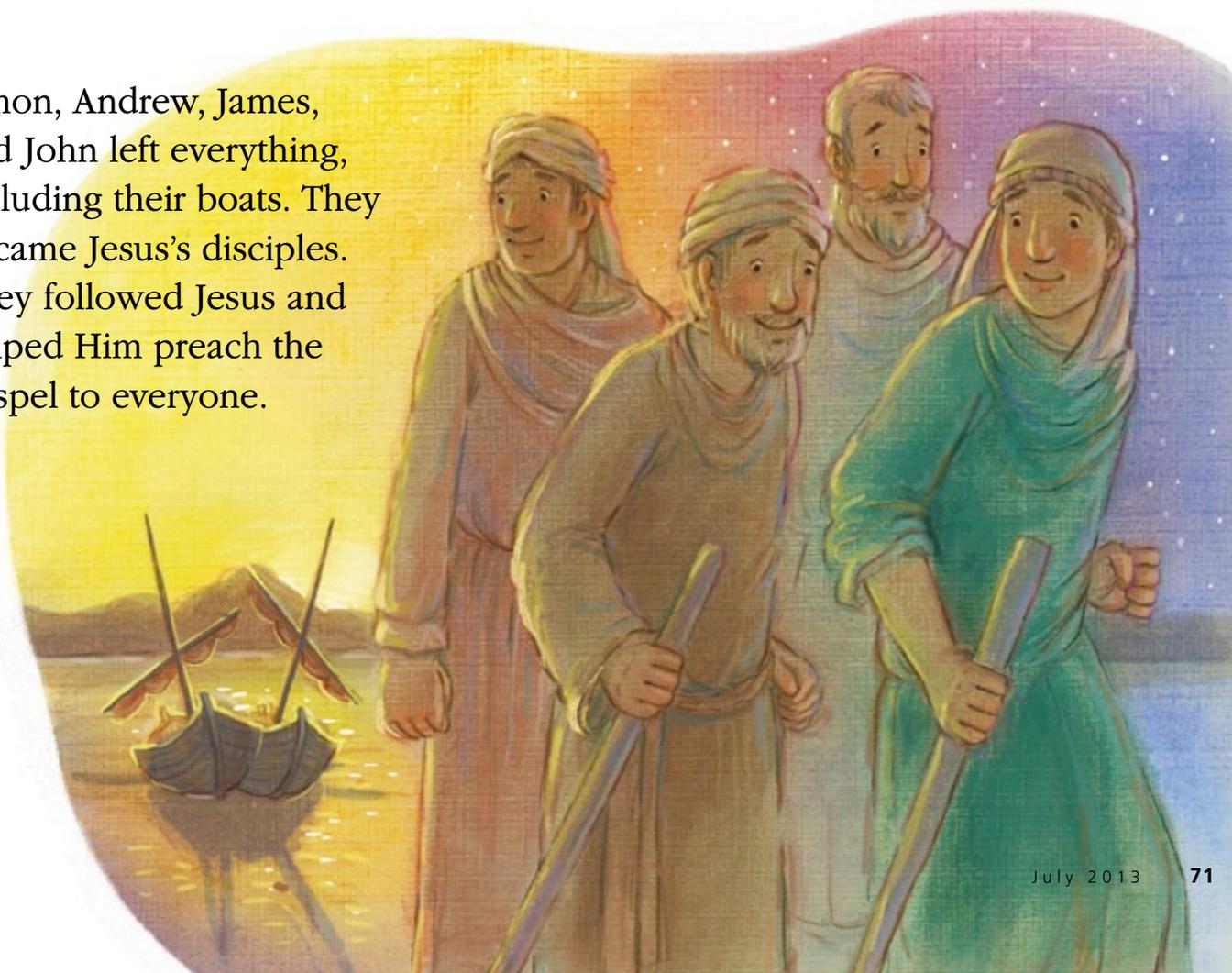
Jesus was on Simon's boat. He told the brothers to put their nets into the sea one more time. When they pulled up their nets, they were full of fish!



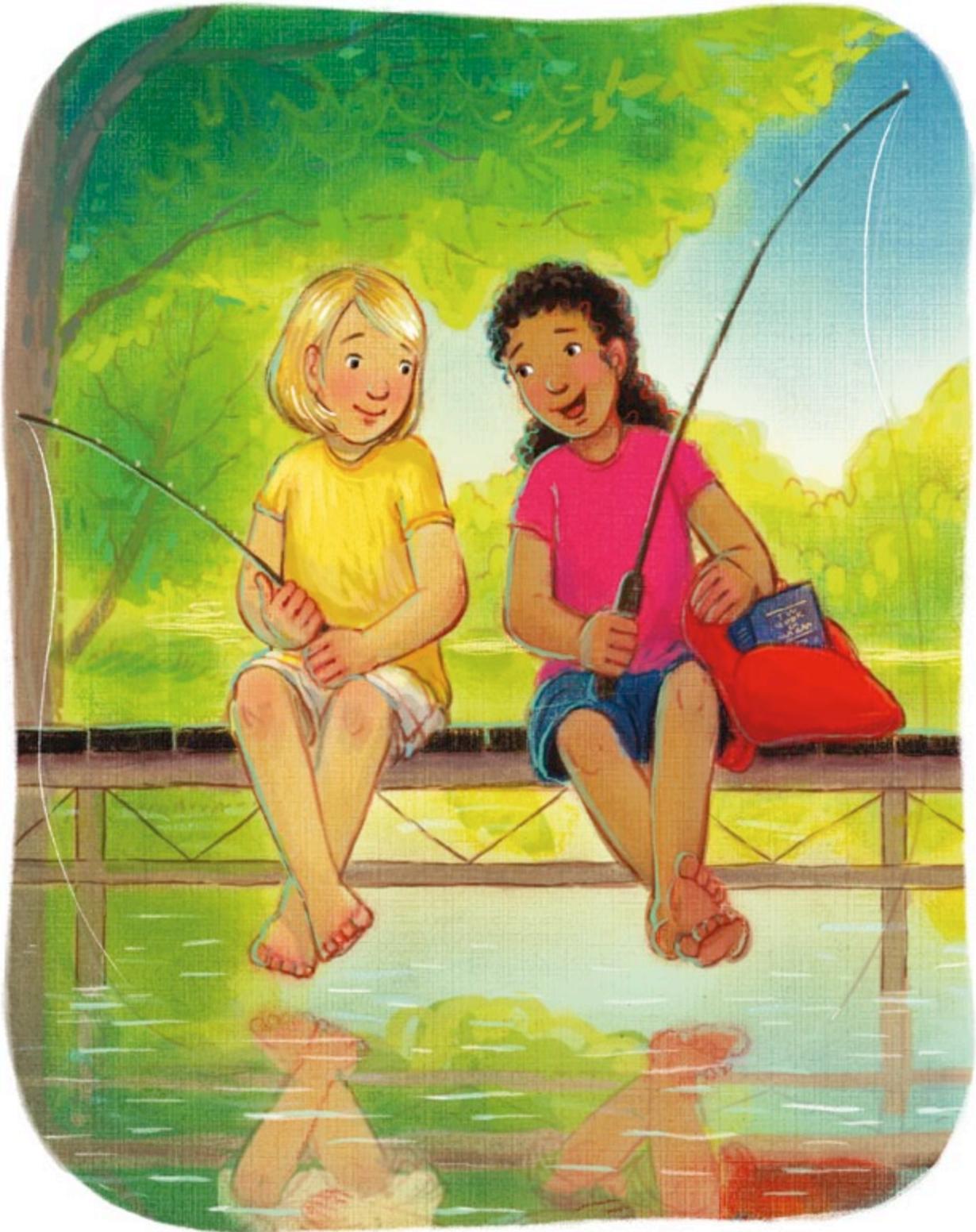


Simon and Andrew called their friends James and John to help empty their nets into their boat. There were so many fish that they filled up two boats! Jesus told the men that if they followed Him, they would fish for something even better than fish. They would be fishers of men.

Simon, Andrew, James, and John left everything, including their boats. They became Jesus's disciples. They followed Jesus and helped Him preach the gospel to everyone.



Just like a fisherman who brings fish into a net, we can help bring people to the gospel by being good examples and teaching them about Jesus. We can be fishers of men too! ■





JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

"And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

"And . . . they forsook all, and followed him" (Luke 5:10-11).

ILLUSTRATION BY JARED BECKSTRAND

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Visit news.lds.org for more Church news and events.

New Mission Presidents Called to Serve

The Church has called the following new mission presidents, who will begin serving in their assigned areas this month.

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Alabama Birmingham	Richard D. Hanks
Angola Luanda	Danny L. Merrill
Argentina Buenos Aires North	David S. Ayre
Argentina Buenos Aires South	Larry L. Thurgood
Argentina Comodoro Rivadavia	Mark F. Rogers
Argentina Córdoba	Rubén V. Alliaud
Argentina Posadas	Lee R. LaPierre
Arizona Gilbert	K. Brett Nattress
Arizona Mesa	Kirk L. Jenkins
Arizona Scottsdale	Karl R. Sweeney
Arizona Tempe	James L. Toone
Armenia Yerevan	J. Steven Carlson
Australia Brisbane	Lon E. Henderson
Australia Melbourne	Cory H. Maxwell
Australia Sydney North	Philip F. Howes
Australia Sydney South	Larry J. Lew
Bolivia La Paz	Julián A. Palacio
Bolivia Santa Cruz	Jason A. Willard
Bolivia Santa Cruz North	Richard C. Zambrano
Botswana Gaborone	Merrill A. Wilson
Brazil Curitiba	Anderson M. Monteiro
Brazil Curitiba South	Leonel R. Fernandes
Brazil Fortaleza East	Carlos Fusco
Brazil Goiânia	David Kuceki
Brazil João Pessoa	Izaías P. Nogueira
Brazil Juiz de Fora	Luciano Cascardi
Brazil Londrina	C. Alberto de Genaro
Brazil Natal	Saulo Soares
Brazil Piracicaba	Kennedy F. Canuto

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Brazil Ribeirão Preto	Mauro T. Brum
Brazil Santa Maria	Adalton P. Parrela
Brazil Santos	Celso B. Cabral
Brazil São Paulo West	José Luiz Del Guerso
California Bakersfield	James M. Wilson
California Carlsbad	Hal C. Kendrick
California Irvine	Von D. Orgill
California Long Beach	Ryan M. Tew
California Los Angeles	David N. Weidman
California Rancho Cucamonga	Bruce E. Hobbs
California Redlands	Daniel J. Van Cott
Canada Edmonton	Larry G. Manion
Canada Montreal	Victor P. Patrick
Chile Antofagasta	Craig L. Dalton
Chile Concepción	Kent J. Arrington
Chile Rancagua	Thomas R. Warne
Chile Santiago South	David L. Cook
Chile Santiago West	José A. Barreiros
Colombia Barranquilla	Kent R. Searle
Colorado Denver South	J. Blake Murdock
Colorado Fort Collins	Kelly W. Brown
Czech/Slovak	James W. McConkie III
Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa	W. Bryce Cook
Ecuador Guayaquil South	Maximo C. Torres
Ecuador Guayaquil West	Jorge Dennis
Ecuador Quito North	Brian A. Richardson
El Salvador San Salvador East	David L. Glazier
El Salvador San Salvador West/Belize	Kai D. Hintze
England Leeds	Graham Pilkington
Florida Jacksonville	Paul W. Craig
Florida Orlando	Michael J. Berry
Florida Tallahassee	Bradley J. Smith
Florida Tampa	Mark D. Cusick
Georgia Macon	Brent T. Cottle
Ghana Accra West	Norman C. Hill

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Guatemala Cobán	John F. Curtiss
Guatemala Retalhuleu	Johnny F. Ruiz
Hawaii Honolulu	Stephen R. Warner
Honduras San Pedro Sula East	Norman S. Klein
Honduras San Pedro Sula West	James M. Dester
Idaho Boise	John Winder
Idaho Nampa	Stuart B. Cannon
Idaho Twin Falls	Glen R. Curtis
Illinois Chicago	Paul S. Woodbury
Illinois Chicago West	Jerry D. Fenn
India Bangalore	David M. Berrett
Indiana Indianapolis	Steven C. Cleveland
Indonesia Jakarta	Christopher L. Donald
Iowa Des Moines	John R. Jensen
Italy Milan	Bruce L. Dibb
Italy Rome	Michael Waddoups
Jamaica Kingston	Kevin G. Brown
Japan Nagoya	Kazuhiko Yamashita
Japan Tokyo South	Takashi Wada
Kansas Wichita	Michael L. Bell
Kenya Nairobi	Gary C. Hicken
Korea Daejeon	Yong-In S. Shin
Korea Seoul South	Marshall R. Morrise
Liberia Monrovia	Roger L. Kirkham
Marshall Islands Majuro	Thomas L. Weir
Mexico Aguascalientes	Juan Villarreal
Mexico Cancún	Dale B. Kirkham Jr.
Mexico Chihuahua	Ulises Chávez
Mexico Ciudad Juarez	Rodolfo Derbez
Mexico Ciudad Obregón	Mauricio Munive
Mexico Culiacán	Jesús Velez
Mexico Mérida	Sergio A. Garcia
Mexico Mexico City Chalco	Jerald D. Crickmore
Mexico Mexico City East	Sergio M. Anaya
Mexico Mexico City Northwest	Brad H Hall
Mexico Mexico City West	George F. Whitehead

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Mexico Monterrey East	Larry C. Bird
Mexico Pachuca	Andrew E. Egbert
Mexico Querétaro	Javier L. Mejorada
Mexico Reynosa	Abelardo Morales
Mexico Saltillo	L. Fernando Rodriguez
Mexico Villahermosa	Israel G. Morales
Michigan Detroit	Nolan D. Gerber
Missouri St. Louis	Thomas W. Morgan
Mongolia Ulaanbaatar	Joseph P. Benson
Nevada Las Vegas West	Michael B. Ahlander
New Hampshire Manchester	Philip M. Stoker
New Mexico Albuquerque	Steven J. Miller
New York Rochester	Arthur R. Francis
New Zealand Hamilton	Charles A. Rudd
Nicaragua Managua North	Monsop Collado
Nicaragua Managua South	Bryan G. Russell
Nigeria Benin City	Akingbade A. Ojo
Nigeria Enugu	Freebody A. Mensah
Nigeria Lagos	Richard K. Ahadjie
Ohio Cincinnati	John P. Porter
Oklahoma Oklahoma City	Stewart R. Walkenhorst
Oregon Salem	Michael R. Samuelian
Panama Panama City	Curtis Carmack
Papua New Guinea Lae	Mark P. Peteru
Paraguay Asunción North	Garn H. McMullin
Pennsylvania Philadelphia	T. Gary Anderson
Peru Arequipa	Richard Zobrist
Peru Cusco	Robert C. Harbertson
Peru Huancayo	David Y. Henderson
Peru Iquitos	Alejandro Gómez
Peru Lima North	John R. Erickson
Peru Lima West	Blake D. Archibald
Peru Trujillo	D. Kurt Marler
Philippines Baguio	Anthony John Baledos
Philippines Butuan	Pastor B. Torres
Philippines Cagayan de Oro	Alberto C. Bulseco
Philippines Cauayan	George R. Rahlf

MISSION	NEW PRESIDENT
Philippines Cavite	Douglas C. Tye
Philippines Cebu East	Richard L. Tanner
Philippines Iloilo	Jaime R. Aquino
Philippines Legaspi	Jovencio A. Guanzon
Philippines Naga	L. Barry Reeder
Philippines Quezon City	Carlos Revillo
Philippines Urdaneta	William J. Monahan
Poland Warsaw	Steven C. Edgren
Puerto Rico San Juan	P. Knox Smartt III
Russia Moscow	Garry E. Borders
Russia Samara	Michael L. Schwab
Russia Yekaterinburg	Val J. Christensen
Sierra Leone Freetown	David B. Ostler
South Africa Durban	John A. Zackrisson
Taiwan Taichung	Kurt L. Blickestaff
Texas Fort Worth	Rodney A. Ames
Texas McAllen	Fernando Maluenda
Texas San Antonio	James E. Slaughter
Tonga Nuku'alofa	Leitoni M. Tupou
Uganda Kampala	Robert F. Chatfield
Ukraine L'viv	Daniel E. Lattin
Uruguay Montevideo West	Thomas A. Smith
Utah Salt Lake City	Stephen W. Hansen
Utah Salt Lake City East	John C. Eberhardt
Utah Salt Lake City South	Robert E. Chambers
Utah St. George	John R. Center
Venezuela Valencia	Guillermo I. Guardia
Virginia Chesapeake	Alan J. Baker
Virginia Richmond	E. Bradley Wilson
Washington DC North	Peter S. Cooke
Washington Everett	Mark Bonham
Washington Federal Way	Robert I. Eaton
Washington Kennewick	Boyd S. Ware
Washington Seattle	Yoon Hwan Choi
Washington Vancouver	Derlin C. Taylor
Wisconsin Milwaukee	Raymond A. Cutler
Zambia Lusaka	Leif J. Erickson

Elder Cook Addresses Members and Investigators in Ivory Coast

By R. Scott Lloyd

Church News

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles traveled to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), in February 2013. During the visit he presided at a priesthood leadership conference, held a special meeting with members and investigators, and visited key government officials.

Elder Cook was accompanied on the trip by Elder L. Whitney Clayton of the Presidency of the Seventy; Elder John B. Dickson of the Seventy, President of the Africa West Area; and Elder Joseph W. Sitati of the Seventy, First Counselor in the Africa West Area Presidency.

Total attendance at the priesthood leadership conference and the member and investigator meeting was 9,693, which included 619 investigators. Many members sacrificed greatly to attend. Virginie Oulai Tongo of the Meagui Branch, Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan Mission, said her family saved their money to come and see an Apostle. "We traveled for 12 hours, but I am happy," she said.

Many who attended the conference reported on the remarkable richness of the Spirit they enjoyed. Bishop Leon Kouadio of the Dokui Ward, Cocody Stake, said, "I know that we had the presence of a distinguished servant of our Savior among us."

Church membership in Cote d'Ivoire has grown from one family in 1984 to five stakes and one district today.

In recent years the Ivorian Saints' faithfulness has been particularly manifest in their family history and temple work. Three of the five Cote d'Ivoire stakes are among the top 25 in the Church in the percentage of



Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles speaks to thousands gathered in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in February.

adults who submitted family names for temple ordinances during 2012. Of all the stakes in the Church, the Cocody Stake has the highest percentage of adults who have, at one time or another, submitted names for temple work.

The youth are doing their part too. The percentage of Ivorian young people doing indexing work is more than twice as high as the Church average, in spite of the fact that virtually none of them has personal access to a computer and the Internet but must go to a stake family history center to do the work.

Members have been taught that family history work is an essential part of living the gospel. They work hard to have family names ready before they board the bus for the long ride to the Accra Ghana Temple—and typically take not just a few names, but many.

Elder Cook and Elder Clayton encouraged the Saints to move forward in four main areas: increasing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, strengthening their families, actively sharing the gospel with others, and continuing their incredible family history and temple work efforts. ■

Recent Passing of Frances J. Monson

The first day I saw Frances, I knew I'd found the right one," said President Thomas S. Monson in describing their courtship.¹ That knowledge was confirmed over and over during Frances Beverly Johnson Monson's lifetime of service with and support for her husband.

Her mortal life ended on May 17, 2013, when Sister Monson, 85, passed away peacefully of causes incident to age.

Although she never called attention to herself, Sister Monson often accompanied President Monson on visits to the elderly and to those with poor health. She was a source of strength to him when he was called as a bishop at a young age, and she served alongside him when he presided over the Canadian Mission from 1959 to 1962. Her sustaining service continued as her beloved "Tommy" was called as a General Authority and as he served in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, in the First Presidency, and as President of the Church.

"She dearly loved my father and recognized his talents and the gifts that he'd been given and took pleasure in supporting him and helping him magnify the talents that were his," said Ann Monson Dibb, their daughter.²

Born on October 27, 1927, Frances was the daughter of Franz E. Johnson and Hildur Booth Johnson. She married Thomas S. Monson in the Salt Lake Temple on October 7, 1948. She served in Relief Society and Primary callings, was a gifted musician, had a great sense of humor, and most of all loved being a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Sister Dibb described her mother as "always one to listen and to maybe just offer a few words of what she would do if she were in that same situation. . . . Her constant example . . . became the greatest influence in my life. There was never a question as to what she believed,



President and Sister Monson following a session of the April 2010 general conference.

what she would do, what she expected others to do. She exemplified what you should be as a Latter-day Saint, as a Christian."³

"I have never known Frances to complain once of my Church responsibilities," President Monson said. He described her as "a woman of quiet and profoundly powerful faith."⁴ ■

NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, "Abundantly Blessed," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2008, 111.
2. Ann M. Dibb, in "Frances J. Monson, Wife of President Thomas S. Monson, Passes Away" (May 17, 2013), mormonnewsroom.org.
3. Ann M. Dibb, in "Frances Monson: Through the Eyes of Daughter, Ann Monson Dibb" (Mormon Times video, May 12, 2013), ksl.com.
4. Thomas S. Monson, quoted in Jeffrey R. Holland, "President Thomas S. Monson: In the Footsteps of the Master," supplement to the *Liahona*, June 2008, 8.



Elder Neil L. Andersen (center) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles presides over the unveiling of a plaque that commemorates 30 years of the Church in Haiti.

Haiti Celebrates 30 Years of the Church

Three decades ago President Thomas S. Monson—then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—visited Haiti and dedicated the land for the preaching of the restored gospel.

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles recently visited Haiti to commemorate the anniversary. Elder Andersen presided over the unveiling of a commemorative plaque that will serve as a permanent reminder of the beginnings of the Church in Haiti. The members who gathered for the unveiling ceremony viewed a televised message from President Monson that was recorded prior to the event.

Church Responds to Over 100 Disasters in 2012

Every year, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides emergency assistance to people all over the world affected by natural disasters, war, and famine. During 2012 the Church provided victims of 104 disasters in 52 countries with hundreds of thousands of pounds of food, water, clothing, medical supplies,

hygiene kits, and other relief items. In addition, thousands of member volunteers donated over 1.3 million hours of service.

The Church's largest disaster relief effort in 2012 was to victims of Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast of the United States. In addition to Sandy, the Church's largest disaster responses in 2012 occurred in Japan, the Philippines, other areas of the United States, and Syria.

FamilyTree Available to General Public

FamilyTree, a long-awaited enhancement to the Church's FamilySearch.org Internet site, went live to the general public in March 2013. It is accessible free of charge at FamilySearch.org.

FamilyTree is the successor to New FamilySearch, which up to now has been accessible only with a Church membership login and password.

Now other visitors to FamilySearch.org "will be able to start building their family tree entirely online, starting with themselves and then expanding to past generations," said Paul M. Nauta, FamilySearch marketing manager.

It Helps Me Try Harder

I love the *Liahona*! I feel so good when I read it. I like to take it to college with me and give it to my friends. The articles help me be a better person, do missionary work, and choose the right. When I study the magazine, I find that I try to be better each day and try harder to follow Jesus Christ.

Anastacia Naprasnikova, Ukraine

Spiritual and Temporal Compass

The *Liahona* strengthens my testimony. It is a compass—spiritual as well as temporal. Reading the words of the General Authorities helps me come closer to Jesus Christ. And as a missionary, reading the testimonies of many converted Saints comforts me and helps me be an effective worker in the Master's vineyard.

Elder Gomun, Benin Cotonou Mission

Correction

Page 27 of the February *Liahona* indicates that Dima Ivanov lives in Vladivostok, Russia, but he actually lives in Ulan-Ude, Russia.

WALKING THE TRAIL OF HOPE—TOGETHER

By LaRene Porter Gaunt
Church Magazines

It was early spring in Nauvoo when I first walked the Trail of Hope. The light was golden and the shadows warm as I walked the tree-lined path. As a photographer, I was focused only on shutter speed, aperture, and the amazing light that filled my lens.

Then gradually the thoughts of my ancestors who had walked this trail began to fill my heart. First it was Jared and Cornelia with their two-year-old son. I felt the chill in the air, but that chill was nothing compared to the freezing conditions Jared and his little family had experienced during their exodus. Cornelia died somewhere between Nauvoo and Salt Lake. I imagined Jared weeping as he picked up his son and continued on.

Afraid the feeling of their presence would leave, I didn't stop photographing as tears blurred my view. Then I remembered young Sarah, who had left with her loving stepmother in the last group of Saints to leave Nauvoo. At one point, a loving Heavenly Father filled their camp with quail to feed them. Then they struggled forward with grateful hearts.

My heart began to swell with emotion; it felt as though Sarah had joined me. Jared and Cornelia with their little son were with me

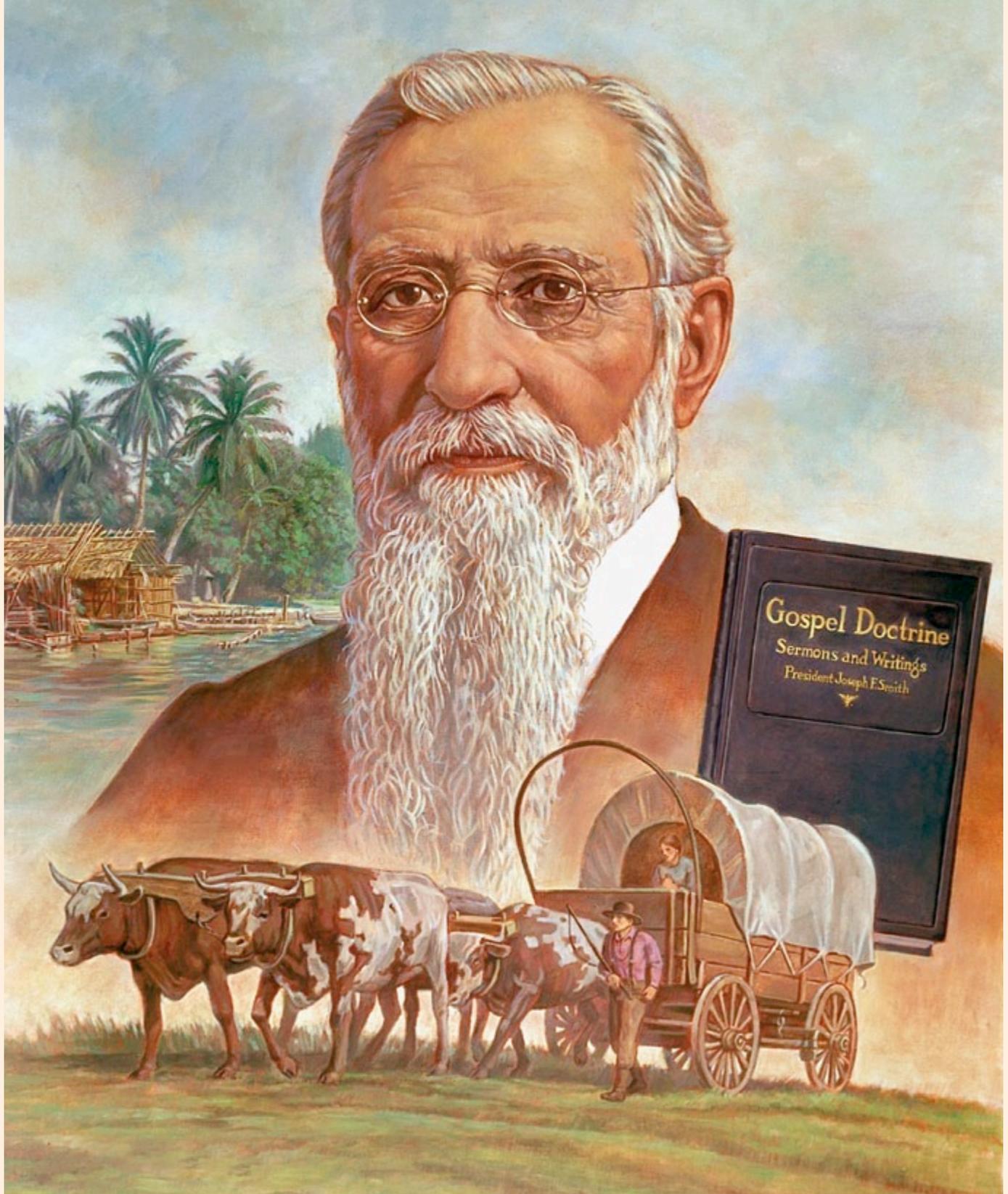


In February 1846 Latter-day Saint pioneers were driven from Nauvoo. Filled with hope that they would find peace in Zion, they walked down Parley Street—now called the Trail of Hope—and crossed the Mississippi River.

also. We walked together amid the light and shadow, past and present merging on this trail—this trail of hope, this trail of tears. In a way I can't explain, they were with me and awakened in me our shared love of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I realized that my testimony burns in me because it had burned in them—passed from generation to generation—each laying the foundation for the next. I wept with gratitude.

Soon my husband, who had been photographing elsewhere, caught up with me. I stood close to him as I told him of my experience. He, like those Nauvoo Saints, was the first in his family to believe the gospel. And he, like those who had walked this trail more than 150 years before, would not be the last to believe. His testimony and mine nurtured the testimonies that now burn in the hearts of our children, just as the testimonies of Jared and Cornelia and Sarah nurtured the testimonies of thousands of their descendants.

Forgetting about our photography, my husband and I slowly walked the rest of the Trail of Hope together, quietly remembering those who had gone before. ■



JOSEPH F. SMITH

Joseph F. Smith was seven years old when he drove his family's **team of oxen** from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City, Utah. When he was 15, he served a mission in **Hawaii**. Later, as President of the Church, he dedicated the place where the Laie Hawaii Temple was built. Joseph believed people would persecute the Church less if they understood the Latter-day Saint faith. Some of his teachings that explained the Church's beliefs were compiled in a book called ***Gospel Doctrine***.



When our belief is confirmed upon our souls by the Spirit of God,” writes Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “faith becomes a causative force in our lives, driving every thought, word, and deed heavenward. We pray with trust for strength and guidance—just as [the pioneers] did. That’s what it means to walk with faith in every footstep. It was so for our pioneer ancestors, and it must be so for us today.” See “Pioneer Faith and Fortitude—Then and Now,” page 16.