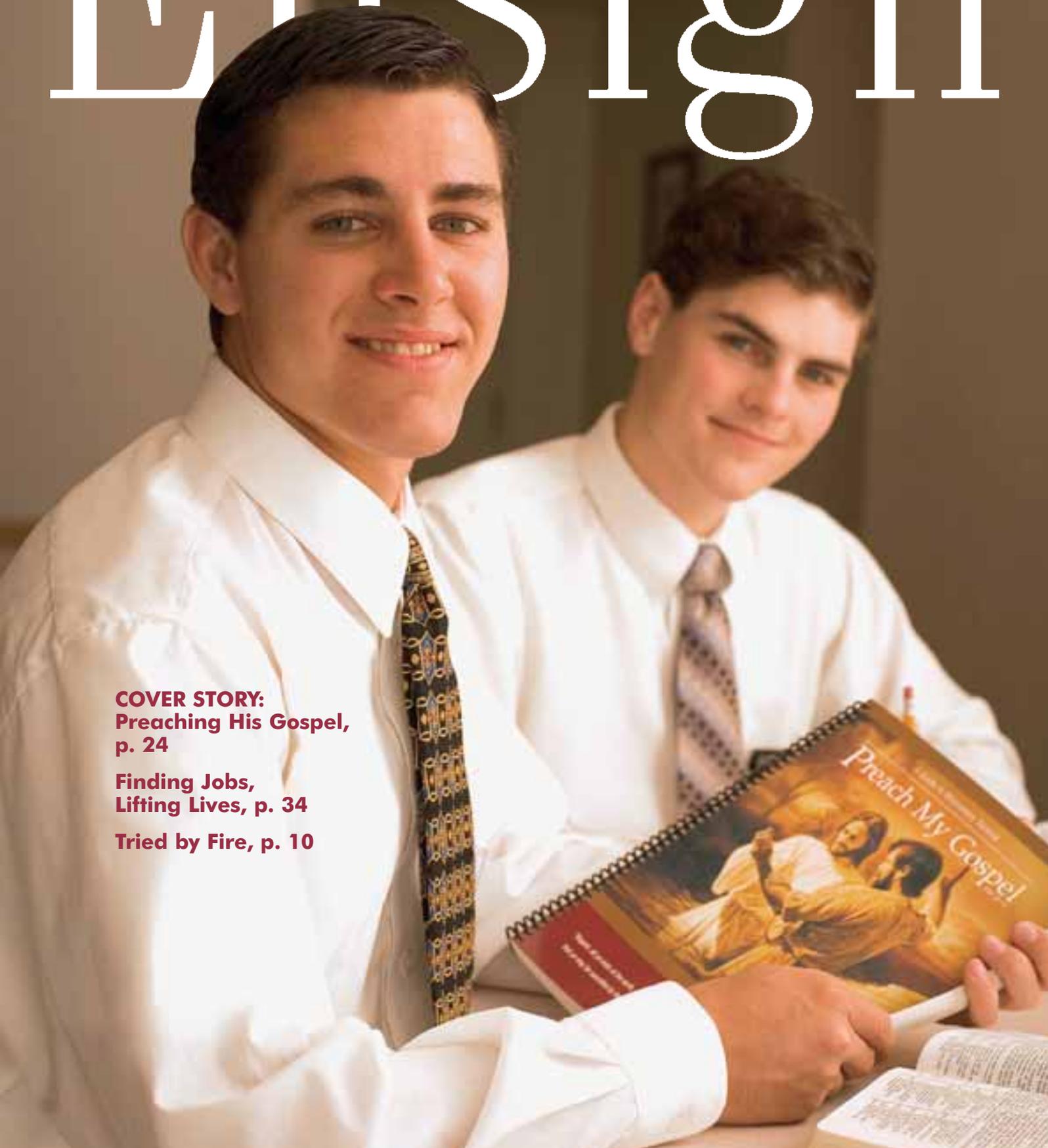


Ensign

COVER STORY:
Preaching His Gospel,
p. 24

Finding Jobs,
Lifting Lives, p. 34

Tried by Fire, p. 10





The Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood, by Minerva K. Teichert

On the banks of the Susquebanna River in the spring of 1829, Peter, James, and John conferred upon Joseph Smith Jr. and Oliver Cowdery the holy Melchizedek Priesthood and the keys of the apostleship (see D&C 27:12; 128:20).

Ensign



21 *He Speaks through His Prophets*



30 *Lessons from a Layoff*



51 *Joy in the Book of Mormon*



54 *How to Encourage Healthy Families*

- 2 **FIRST PRESIDENCY MESSAGE**
The Profound Power of Gratitude
President Thomas S. Monson
- 9 Master Carver
J. Devn Cornish
- 10 After the Fire *Rebecca M. Taylor*
- 16 The Twelve Apostles *President Boyd K. Packer*
- 21 **MESSAGES FROM THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS**
He Speaks through His Prophets
Elder David S. Baxter
- 24 Preaching His Gospel
Shanna Butler, Adam C. Olson, and Roger Terry
- 30 Lessons from a Layoff
Kelly A. Peterson
- 34 Finding Jobs, Lifting Lives
Neil K. Newell
- 39 **MESSAGES FROM THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS**
Thou Wilt Remember the Poor
Elder T. LaMar Sleight
- 42 Personal Consecration
Elder Stephen B. Oveson and Dixie Randall Oveson
- 47 **VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE**
Rejoice in the Book of Mormon
- 48 Doctrine and Covenants Times at a Glance,
Chart 3: Section 138 and Official Declarations 1 and 2
- 51 Joy in the Book of Mormon
- 54 **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**
How can I encourage healthy physical activity in my family?
- 58 **STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY**
Happiness in Family Life
- 60 Teaching the Gospel with Power
Glen M. Roylance
- 66 **LATTER-DAY SAINT VOICES**
- 70 **RANDOM SAMPLER**
- 72 **NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

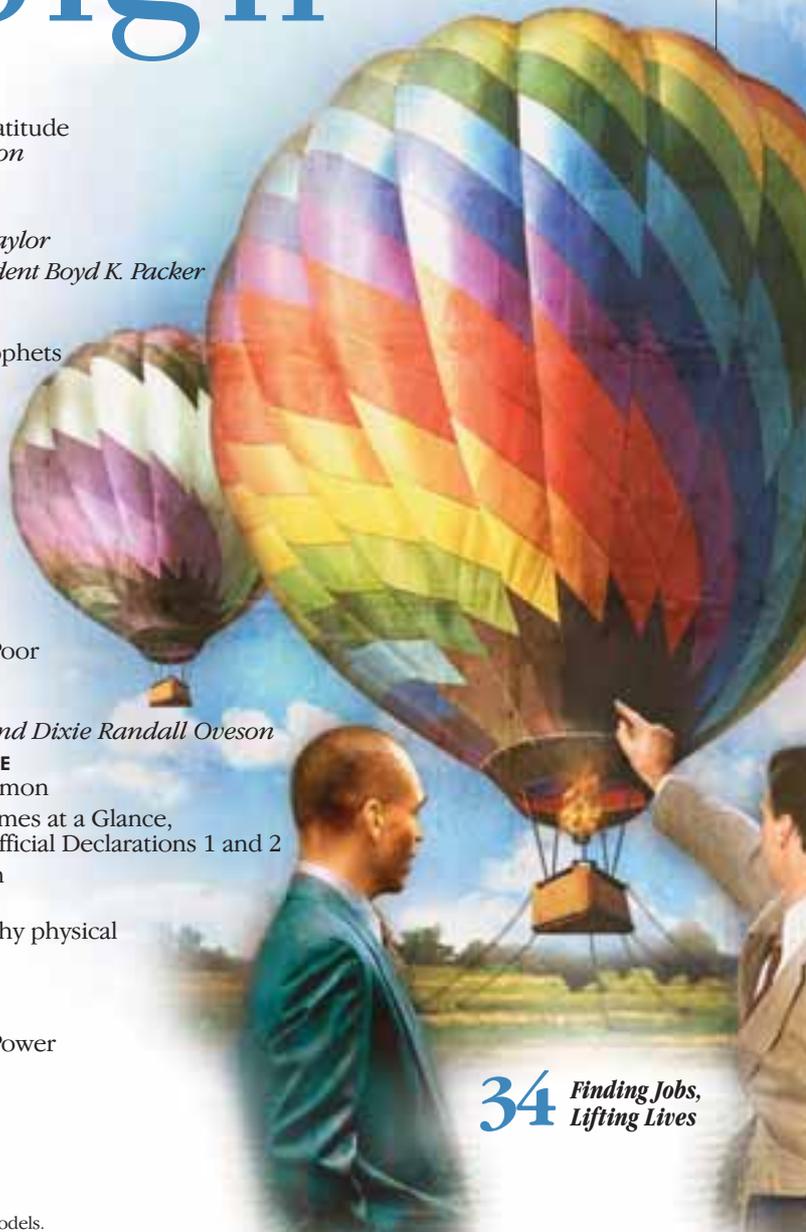
ON THE COVER
Photography by Matthew Reier, posed by models.

AN OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY: Gordon B. Hinckley, Thomas S. Monson, James E. Faust
QUORUM OF THE TWELVE: Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry, Russell M. Nelson, Dallin H. Oaks, M. Russell Ballard, Joseph B. Wirthlin, Richard G. Scott, Robert D. Hales, Jeffrey R. Holland, Henry B. Eyring, Dieter F. Uchtdorf, David A. Bednar
EDITOR: Jay E. Jensen
ADVISERS: Monte J. Brough, Gary J. Coleman
MANAGING DIRECTOR: David L. Frischknecht
PLANNING AND EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Victor D. Cave
GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Allan R. Loyborg
MAGAZINES EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Richard M. Romney
MANAGING EDITOR: Don L. Searle
EDITORIAL STAFF: Collette Nebeker Aune, Susan Barrett, Linda Stahl Cooper, Marvin K. Gardner, LaRene Gaunt, Jenifer L. Greenwood, Carrie Kasten, Sally J. Odekirik, Adam C. Olson, Judith M. Paller,

Sara R. Porter, Rebecca M. Taylor, Roger Terry
MANAGING ART DIRECTOR: M. M. Kawasaki
ART DIRECTOR: J. Scott Knudsen
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION STAFF: C. Kimball Boff, Thomas S. Child, Colleen Hinckley, Tadd R. Peterson, Kari A. Todd
MARKETING MANAGER: Larry Hiller
PRINTING DIRECTOR: Craig K. Sedgwick
DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR: Kris T Christensen
 © 2005 BY INTELLECTUAL RESERVE, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The Ensign (ISSN 0884-1136) is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 E. North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah, and at additional mailing offices.
TO SUBSCRIBE: By phone, call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express. Online, go to lds.catalog.com. By mail, send \$10 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368.

TO CHANGE ADDRESS: Send both old and new address information to Distribution Services at the above address. Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.
SUBMIT MANUSCRIPTS OR ART TO: cur-editorial-ensign@lds.church.org (e-mail) or Ensign Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA. Unsolicited material is welcome, but no responsibility is assumed. For return, include self-addressed, stamped envelope.
 The Ensign can be found on the Internet at www.lds.org. Click on "Gospel Library."
 Text and visual material in the Ensign may be copied for incidental, noncommercial church or home use. Visual material may not be copied if restrictions are indicated in the credit line with the artwork. Copyright questions should be addressed to Intellectual Property Office, 50 E. North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3011; e-mail: cor-intellectualproperty@ldschurch.org.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.
CANADA POST INFORMATION: Publication Agreement #40017431



34 *Finding Jobs, Lifting Lives*



The Profound Power of Gratitude

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

First Counselor in the First Presidency

While journeying to Jerusalem, Jesus “passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

“And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

“And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

“And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

“And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

“And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

“There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

“And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”¹

From the 30th Psalm, David pledges, “O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.”²

The Apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Corinthians, proclaimed, “Thanks be unto

God for his unspeakable gift.”³ And to the Thessalonians, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God.”⁴

Do we give thanks to God “for his unspeakable gift” and His rich blessings so abundantly bestowed upon us?

Do we pause and ponder Ammon’s words? “Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, whatsoever land they may be in; yea, he numbereth his people, . . . over all the earth. Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever.”⁵

Robert W. Woodruff, a prominent business leader of a former time, toured the United States giving a lecture which he entitled “A Capsule Course in Human Relations.” In his message, he said that the two most important words in the English language are these:

“Thank you.”

Gracias, danke, merci—whatever language is spoken, “thank you” frequently expressed will cheer your spirit, broaden your friendships, and lift your lives to a higher pathway as you journey toward perfection. There is a simplicity—even a sincerity—when “thank you” is spoken.

The beauty and eloquence of an expression



Do we give thanks to God for His rich blessings so abundantly bestowed upon us?

of gratitude is reflected in a newspaper story of some years ago:

The District of Columbia police auctioned off about 100 unclaimed bicycles Friday. "One dollar," said an 11-year-old boy as the bidding opened on the first bike. The bidding, however, went much higher. "One dollar," the boy repeated hopefully each time another bike came up.

The auctioneer, who had been auctioning stolen or lost bikes for 43 years, noticed that the boy's hopes seemed to soar higher whenever a racer-type bicycle was put up.

Then there was just one racer left. The bidding went to eight dollars. "Sold to that boy over there for nine dollars!" said the auctioneer. He took eight dollars from his own pocket and asked the boy for his dollar. The youngster turned it over in pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters—took his bike, and started to leave. But he went only a few feet. Carefully parking his new possession, he went back, gratefully threw his arms around the auctioneer's neck, and cried.

When was the last time we felt gratitude as deeply as did this boy? The deeds others perform in our behalf might not be as poignant, but certainly there are kind acts that warrant our expressions of gratitude.

The song frequently sung in the Sunday School of our youth placed the spirit of thanksgiving into the depths of our souls:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings; name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.⁶*

Astronaut Gordon Cooper, while orbiting the earth over 40 years ago, offered this sweet and simple prayer of thanks: "Father, thank You, especially for letting me fly this flight. Thank You for the privilege of being able to be in this position: to be up in this wondrous place, seeing all these



**Orbiting the earth,
astronaut Gordon
Cooper prayed,
"Father, thank You,
especially for letting
me [see] all these
many startling,
wonderful things that
You have created."**

many startling, wonderful things that You have created."⁷

We are thankful for blessings we cannot measure, for gifts we cannot appraise, "for books, music, art, and for the great inventions which make these blessings available[;] . . . for the laughter of little children[;] . . . for the . . . means for relieving human suffering . . . and increasing . . . the enjoyment of life[;] . . . for everything good and uplifting."⁸

The prophet Alma urged, "Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day."⁹

I would like to mention three instances where I believe a sincere "thank you" could lift a heavy heart, inspire a good deed, and bring heaven's blessings closer to the challenges of our day.

First, may I ask that we express thanks to our parents for life, for caring, for sacrificing, for laboring to provide a knowledge of our Heavenly Father's plan for happiness.

From Sinai the words thunder to our conscience, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."¹⁰

I know of no sweeter expression toward a parent than that spoken by our Savior upon the cross: "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

"Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."¹¹

Next, have we thought on occasion of a certain teacher at school or at church who seemed to quicken our desire to learn, who instilled in us a commitment to live with honor?

The story is told of a group of men who were talking about people who had influenced their lives and for whom



they were grateful. One man thought of a high school teacher who had introduced him to Tennyson. He decided to write and thank her. In time, written in a feeble scrawl, came the teacher's reply:

"My Dear Willie:

"I can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my 80s, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and like the last leaf lingering behind. You will be interested to know that I taught school for 50 years, and yours is the first note of appreciation I have ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning, and it cheered me as nothing has for years."

We owe an eternal debt of gratitude to all of those, past and present, who have given so much of themselves that we might have so much ourselves.

Third, I mention an expression of "thank you" to one's peers. The teenage years can be difficult for the teens themselves as well as for

their parents. These are trying times in the life of a boy or a girl. Each boy wants to make the football team; each girl wants to be the beauty queen. "Many are called, but few are chosen"¹² could have an application here.

Let me share with you a modern-day miracle which occurred several years ago at Murray High School near Salt Lake City, where every person was a winner and not a loser was to be found.

A newspaper article highlighted the event. The article was entitled "Tears, Cheers and True Spirit: Students Elect 2 Disabled Girls to Murray Royalty." The article began: "Ted and Ruth Eyre did what any parents would do.

"When their daughter, Shellie, became a finalist for Murray High School homecoming queen, they counseled her to be a good sport in case she didn't win. They explained only one girl among the 10 candidates would be selected queen. . . .

"As student body officers crowned the

After the homecoming queen's father escorted her onto the floor, the school's vice principal said, "Tonight . . . the students voted on inner beauty."



Long lines of automobiles filled with grieving occupants drove ever so slowly past the home that was the scene of the accident. As we drove by, we felt we were on holy ground.

school's homecoming [royalty] in the school gym Thursday night, Shellie Eyre experienced, instead, inclusion. The 17-year-old senior, born with Down syndrome, was selected by fellow students as homecoming queen. . . . As Ted Eyre escorted his daughter onto the gym floor as the candidates were introduced, the gym erupted into deafening cheers and applause. They were greeted with a standing ovation."

Similar standing ovations were extended to Shellie's attendants, one of whom, April Perschon, has physical and mental disabilities resulting from a brain hemorrhage suffered when she was just 10 years old.

When the ovations had ceased, the school's vice principal said, "Tonight . . . the students voted on inner beauty.' . . . Obviously moved, parents, school administrators and students wept openly."

Said one student, "I'm so happy, I cried when they came out. I think Murray High is so awesome to do this."¹³

I extend a heartfelt "thank you" to one and all who made this night one ever to be remembered. The Scottish poet James Barrie's words seem appropriate: "God gave us memories, that we might have June roses in the December of our lives."¹⁴

One hot August day some years ago, there occurred a tragedy in Salt Lake County. It was reported in the local and national press. Five beautiful little girls—so young, so vibrant, so loving—hiding away, as children often do in their games of hide-and-seek, entered the trunk of a parent's car. The trunk lid was pulled shut, they were unable to escape, and all perished from heat exhaustion.¹⁵

The entire community was so kind, so thoughtful, so caring in the passing of those five little girls. Flowers, food, calls, visits, and prayers were shared with their families.

On the Sunday after the devastating event occurred, long lines of automobiles filled with grieving occupants drove ever so slowly

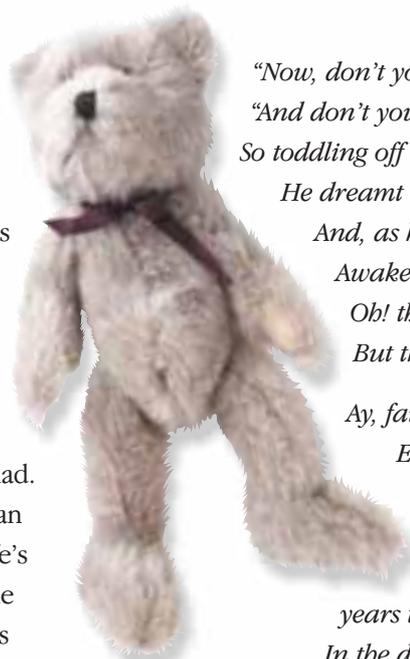
past the home that was the scene of the accident. Sister Monson and I wished to be among those who expressed condolences in this way. As we drove by, we felt we were on holy ground. We literally crept along at a snail's pace along the street. It was as though we could visualize a traffic sign reading, "Please drive slowly; children at play." Tears filled our eyes and compassion flowed from our hearts. In two of the three families involved, the deceased children were all the children they had.

Frequently death comes as an intruder. It is an enemy that suddenly appears in the midst of life's feast, putting out its lights and gaiety. It visits the aged as they walk on faltering feet. Its summons is heard by those who have scarcely reached midway in life's journey, and often it hushes the laughter of little children.

At the funeral services for the five little angels, I counseled: "There is one phrase which should be erased from your thinking and from the words you speak aloud. It is the phrase 'If only.' It is counterproductive and is not conducive to the spirit of healing and of peace. Rather, recall the words of Proverbs: '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.'¹⁶"

Before the closing of the caskets, I noted that each child held a favorite toy, a soft gift to cuddle. I reflected on the words of the poet Eugene Field:

*The little toy dog is covered with dust,
But sturdy and staunch he stands;
And the little toy soldier is red with rust,
And his musket moulds in his hands.
Time was when the little toy dog was new,
And the soldier was passing fair,
And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue
Kissed them and put them there.*



The poet wrote of toys left to wonder about their small master, called away in death. God in His infinite mercy has not left grieving loved ones to wonder. He has provided truth.

*"Now, don't you go till I come," he said,
"And don't you make any noise!"
So toddling off to his trundle-bed
He dreamt of the pretty toys.*

*And, as he was dreaming, an angel song
Awakened our Little Boy Blue,—
Oh! the years are many, the years are long,
But the little toy friends are true!
Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,
Each in the same old place,
Awaiting the touch of a little hand,
The smile of a little face.
And they wonder, as waiting the long
years through,
In the dust of that little chair,
What has become of our Little Boy Blue
Since he kissed them and put them there.¹⁷*

The little toy dog and the soldier fair may wonder, but God in His infinite mercy has not left grieving loved ones to wonder. He has provided truth. He will inspire an upward reach, and His outstretched arms will embrace you. Jesus promises to one and all who grieve, "I will not leave you comfortless:

I will come to you."¹⁸

There is only one source of true peace. I am certain that the Lord, who notes the fall of a sparrow, looks with compassion upon those who have been called upon to part—even temporarily—from their precious children. The gifts of healing and of peace are desperately needed, and Jesus, through His Atonement, has provided them for one and all.

The Prophet Joseph Smith spoke inspired words of revelation and comfort:

"All children who die before they arrive at the years of accountability are saved in the celestial kingdom of heaven."¹⁹

"The mother [and father] who laid down [their] little child[ren], being deprived of the privilege, the joy, and the

satisfaction of bringing [them] up to manhood or womanhood in this world, would, after the resurrection, have all the joy, satisfaction and pleasure, and even more than it would have been possible to have had in mortality, in seeing [their] child[ren] grow to the full measure of the stature of [their] spirit[s].”²⁰ This is as the balm of Gilead to those who grieve, to those who have loved and lost precious children.

The Psalmist provided this assurance: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”²¹

Said the Lord: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. . . . In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am, there ye may be also.”²²

I express my profound thanks to a loving Heavenly Father who gives to you, to me, and to all who sincerely seek, the knowledge that death is not the end, that His Son—even our Savior Jesus Christ—died that we might live. Temples of the Lord dot the lands of many countries. Sacred covenants are made. Celestial glory awaits the obedient. Families can be together forever.

The Master invites one and all:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”²³ ■

NOTES

1. Luke 17:11–19.
2. Psalm 30:12.
3. 2 Corinthians 9:15.
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
5. Alma 26:37.
6. Johnson Oatman Jr. (1856–1922), “Count Your Blessings,” *Hymns*, no. 241.
7. *Congressional Record*, 88th Cong., 1st sess., 1963, 109, pt. 7:9156.
8. “Three Centuries of Thanksgiving,” *Etude Music Magazine*, Nov. 1945, 614.
9. Alma 37:37.
10. Exodus 20:12.
11. John 19:26–27.
12. Matthew 22:14.
13. Marjorie Cortez, *Deseret News*, Sept. 26, 1997, pp. A1, A7.
14. In Laurence J. Peter, *Peter’s Quotations: Ideas for Our Time* (1977), 335.
15. See “5 Little Girls Die in [West Valley] Car Trunk,” *Deseret News*, Aug. 8, 1998, pp. A1, A7; Lucinda Dillon and Spencer Young, “Cars Pass Site of Tragedy in Solemn Stream,” *Deseret News*, Aug. 9, 1998, pp. A1, A5.
16. Proverbs 3:5–6.
17. “Little Boy Blue,” in Jack M. Lyon and others, eds., *Best-Loved Poems of the LDS People* (1996), 50.
18. John 14:18.
19. D&C 137:10.
20. Quoted in Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 453.
21. Psalm 30:5.
22. John 14:27, 2–3.
23. Matthew 11:28–29.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After prayerfully studying this message, share it using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. A few examples follow:

1. Consider following up with family members on President Gordon B. Hinckley’s challenge in last month’s First Presidency Message to read the Book of Mormon (see “A Testimony Vibrant and True,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Aug. 2005, 2). You could ask family members to share something they have learned or tell about ways their study has been a blessing. Bear testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.

2. Discuss one or two accounts and scripture references

(see the notes at the end of this article) from President Monson’s message. Ask family members to tell what they learn about the power of gratitude from these accounts and scriptures. Ask family members to discuss specific blessings they are grateful for. Express your gratitude for the Lord and His blessings.

3. Read or tell in your own words the news article about Murray High School and the account regarding the deaths of five little girls. Ask what these illustrations teach about gratitude. Who was truly grateful in these accounts, and how did they show it? Invite each family member to express gratitude for something that has happened to him or her recently.



MASTER CARVER

BY J. DEVN CORNISH

How slow the forming—
how hard some blows—
But I, the stone, must come to know
In my own person, my own soul,
Thy will, Thy purpose here below.
O Master, now I plead to Thee,
Cut off my roughness, form my face,
Refine my feelings, make of me
A fit reflection of Thy grace.
Yea, haste the day when I may kneel
Before Thee and great Elohim,
Accepted, peaceful in Thy home,
At last like Thee, each grain of stone.

AFTER THE FIRE

BY REBECCA M. TAYLOR
Church Magazines

You might think that life would be bleak for a mother and daughter severely injured in a house fire. You would be wrong.

For more than 40 years Duane and Leona Clatworthy have measured time as “before the fire” and “after the fire.” Before the fire, they busied themselves with remodeling their 19th-century farmhouse and looked ahead to building a new home someday. Before the fire, their lives were filled with the normal, everyday activities of a family of six. After the fire, their perspective on family, on the priesthood, and on the nature and purpose of trials would never be the same.

* * *

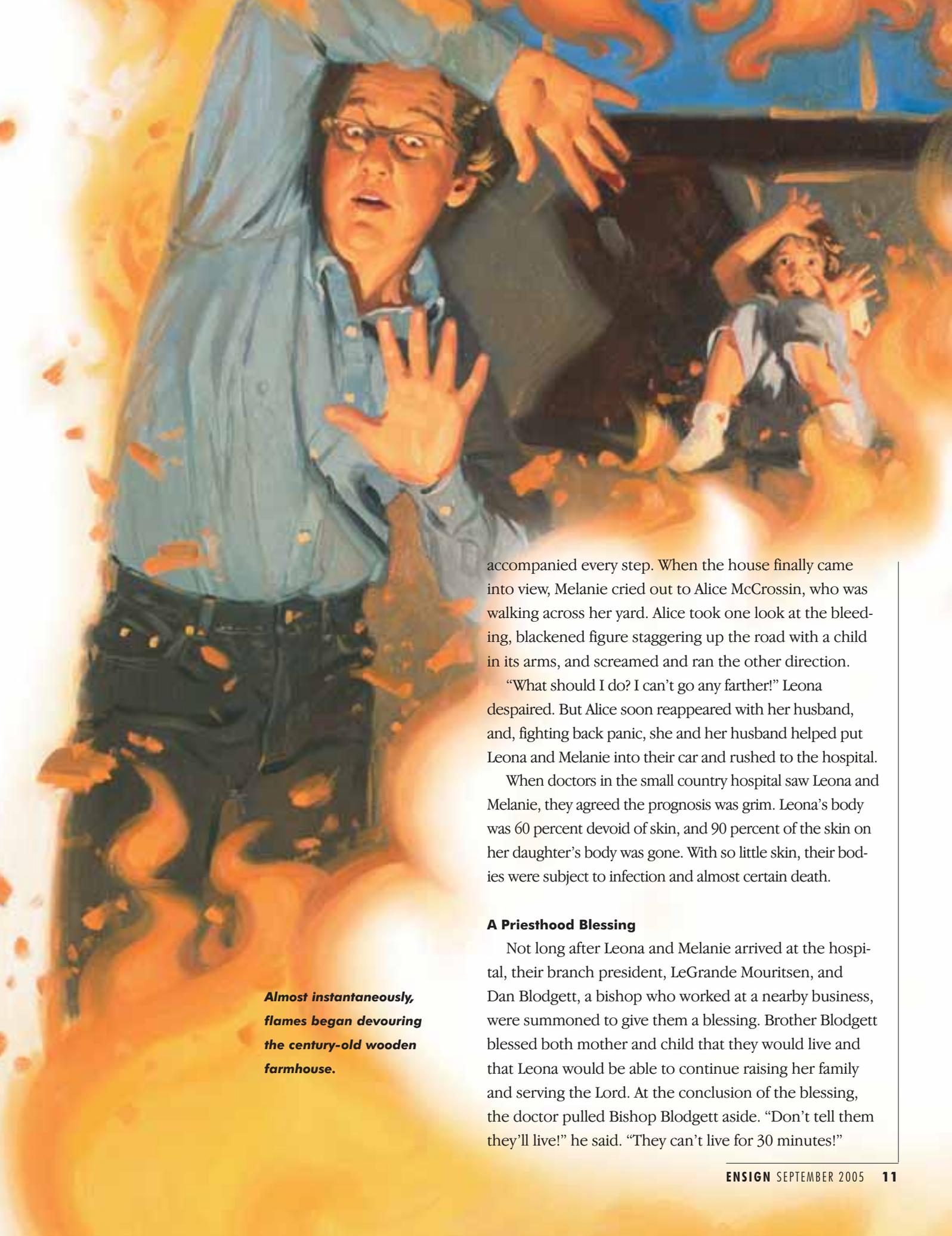
February 7, 1963, was a sunny day in the countryside near Darby, Montana. The sun sparkled on the white snow and shone in through the huge new windows in the Clatworthy home, filling the front room with light. Duane Clatworthy had gone to work, and the three oldest Clatworthy children were at school. Leona was reading a book to five-year-old Melanie, and the family dog was curled up at their feet. Absorbed in the book, Leona put off relighting the wood stove, which had gone out some time earlier.

But the room was starting to get cold. When they finished the book, Leona put kindling and wood into the stove and threw in a match. Suddenly a loud *bang* pierced the air. Creosote had built up on the bricks lining the two-story chimney, and the chimney had exploded. Almost instantaneously, flames began devouring the century-old wooden farmhouse.

Ignoring the severe burns that covered her body, Leona’s first thought was of her daughter. Because the raging fire blocked all exits out of the room except for one window, Leona decided in one moment to jump through the window and have Melanie jump to her. She broke through the glass and fell to the ground, then screamed for Melanie to jump. After an agonizing few seconds, Melanie’s face appeared at the window, flames lapping at her hair and skin. She finally leaped into her mother’s arms, and Leona rolled on the ground with her daughter to put out the flames.

Leona scrambled to her feet, scooped Melanie up again in her damaged arms, and started running and stumbling the three-fourths of a mile to the nearest neighbor’s home, scarcely able to see. “Melanie,” she gasped through tortured breaths, “when you see the McCrossins’ house, you must yell! Yell for help!”

The road was icy and treacherous at that time of year, but Leona forged ahead, ignoring the agony that



Almost instantaneously, flames began devouring the century-old wooden farmhouse.

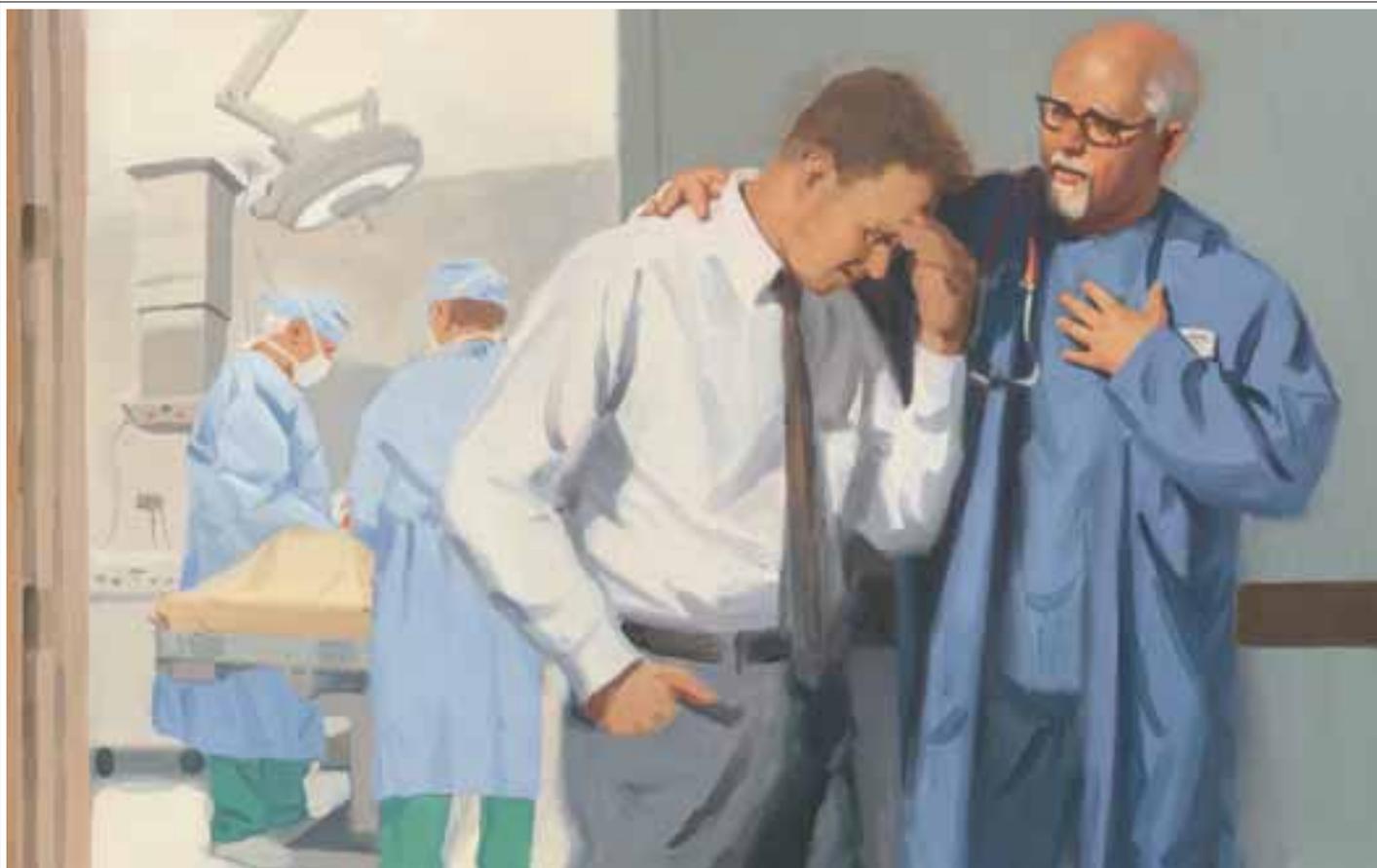
accompanied every step. When the house finally came into view, Melanie cried out to Alice McCrossin, who was walking across her yard. Alice took one look at the bleeding, blackened figure staggering up the road with a child in its arms, and screamed and ran the other direction.

“What should I do? I can’t go any farther!” Leona despaired. But Alice soon reappeared with her husband, and, fighting back panic, she and her husband helped put Leona and Melanie into their car and rushed to the hospital.

When doctors in the small country hospital saw Leona and Melanie, they agreed the prognosis was grim. Leona’s body was 60 percent devoid of skin, and 90 percent of the skin on her daughter’s body was gone. With so little skin, their bodies were subject to infection and almost certain death.

A Priesthood Blessing

Not long after Leona and Melanie arrived at the hospital, their branch president, LeGrande Mouritsen, and Dan Blodgett, a bishop who worked at a nearby business, were summoned to give them a blessing. Brother Blodgett blessed both mother and child that they would live and that Leona would be able to continue raising her family and serving the Lord. At the conclusion of the blessing, the doctor pulled Bishop Blodgett aside. “Don’t tell them they’ll live!” he said. “They can’t live for 30 minutes!”



Although doctors surrounded Melanie’s bed, Duane could see that she was as severely burned as his wife. “I’m sorry,” the doctor told him, “but your daughter will not live until morning.”

Meanwhile, Duane Clatworthy had been notified of the fire. After discovering that his wife and daughter were not at the house, he rushed to the hospital. As he walked down the hall, he was met by the hospital administrator. “Please,” said the administrator gravely, “stop and prepare yourself for what you are about to see.” But there was no way Duane could have prepared himself for the sight that awaited him.

Leona had been a very attractive woman. Now her flesh was black and red and swollen, and her nose and eyelids had been burned off. What was left of her hair was matted and singed. In the adjoining room, doctors surrounded Melanie’s bed, but Duane could see that his little daughter was as severely burned as her mother.

The doctor took Duane by the arm and ushered him out into the hallway. “I’m sorry, but your daughter will live not until morning,” he told Duane. “All we can do is give her some shots of painkiller. And there is only a small chance that your wife will survive. We will wait until morning before we clean the wounds; otherwise her body won’t be able to withstand the shock.”

Duane remained at the hospital that night in his own state of shock. He poured out his heart in silent prayer, pleading for Heavenly Father to bless his wife and little girl.

“During that time, my Heavenly Father and I became very close,” he says. “By the time the sun came up the next morning, I knew that they would live, as I had received that promise. I also knew there was a power so great that I neither could nor would ever deny it.”

Divine Help

Leona and Melanie did survive that night, and the next, and the next. Both were the recipients of divine help during the dark hours and difficult months and years that followed.

Melanie remembers one night when she lay in her hospital bed, alone, frightened, and unable to sleep. She prayed for help and then sensed a warm, comforting presence by her bed. “I thought it was one of the doctors,” she says. When the doctor entered her room the next day, she asked him if he had been there the previous night. He hadn’t.

Leona and Melanie received many priesthood blessings during that time—indeed, the priesthood has been the anchor to Melanie’s testimony ever since. “Because I knew the priesthood was real, there had to be a God, and the Church had to be true,” she says. “My testimony of the priesthood made the rest of my testimony grow.”

When Leona and Melanie were transferred to separate hospitals in Salt Lake City for more extensive treatment, Duane remained behind to care for the other children, making trips to Utah when he could. But he was concerned that his daughter would be alone in a hospital without any family nearby, so he called a couple in Salt Lake he had met once before, Dirk and Truus Allart, and asked if they would look out for Melanie. They agreed without hesitation.

When they visited Melanie for the first time at Primary Children’s Hospital, they saw a little girl swathed in bandages, unable to use her hands or feet. “We weren’t sure what we were going to do,” Truus recalls. “We couldn’t take her any toys because of the sanitary environment. She wouldn’t have been able to handle them anyway. So we said to her, ‘What is it you would like us to do?’ She said, ‘Sing.’ And we said, ‘What is it you would like us to sing?’ She said, ‘We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet.’ Such faith for a little girl!”

Duane and Leona leaned on the Lord for strength in living through the ordeal. Not long after the fire, their former bishop came for a visit. “He was afraid that we would be angry at God,” says Leona. “But the gospel was our strength; it was what we clung to.”

Accepting Aid

Many people offered support and love to the Clatworthys as they struggled to heal and rebuild their

lives. There were the medical professionals who devoted extra hours to their care, the relatives who rallied around the family, and the women of the stake Relief Society, as well as many of their friends, who helped stock the home that Duane rebuilt. There were the women from a nearby town who gave the Clatworthys’ twin daughters a huge birthday party, where they gained new clothes and many new friends. And there were the acquaintances who be-

came members of the family, like the Allarts, as they stepped in to fill needs.

At first, it was difficult for Duane to accept the proffered help. “It was hard for me until a bishop sat me down and said, ‘Now, look. These people want to help; they want to be part of your life, and you can’t deny them that blessing. If *you* don’t want to accept things they want to give you, accept them for your family.’”

“For someone who wants to be the provider, it’s hard,” Duane says. “You have to humble yourself.”



Shown here with a nurse two and a half months after the fire, Melanie has had her right leg removed below the knee. At this point, Leona’s hands are still useless.

Sealed in the Temple

Duane and Leona had always loved their family, but the fire sharpened their focus and made them realize how precious and sacred their family relationships were. Duane had joined the Church four years before the fire, but the family had not been sealed. After the fire, they realized the urgency of completing their temple work. So Duane and Leona decided that as soon as they arrived in Salt Lake City, where Leona was to be admitted to the hospital, they would become sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

Before the trip, however, a staph boil on one of Duane’s fingers developed into a serious case of blood poisoning. Duane received treatment but was in a great deal of pain.

Both Duane and Leona visited the temple with their arms and hands wrapped in bandages. “We had taken pain pills just before we went in,” says Leona. “The medication

As Leona waited in the church foyer, she worried about how the members of the ward would react. Then the children started arriving.



wore off while we were in the temple, but we were sealed as husband and wife for eternity. It was worth the pain.”

Several years later, after Melanie was well enough to return home, the entire family was sealed in the Cardston Alberta Temple.

Healing

Leona’s and Melanie’s healing took place over many months and years. Melanie endured more than 100 surgeries to repair the damage done to her body. One leg was removed below the knee, and her eyelids, nose, and ears were reconstructed. Skin grafts were performed on her face. Today, Melanie uses a prosthetic leg, and she is unable to straighten the fingers on her right hand.

Leona had approximately 15 reconstructive surgeries, including skin grafts to her face. It took nearly a year for one of her lungs to return to full capacity, and it was three years before she could hold a spoon or a fork. Numerous sessions of physical therapy helped strengthen her stiffened hands, which had once played the piano so skillfully.

Since the fire, Leona has served as a Relief Society president several times, has had many teaching callings, and has accepted public speaking assignments. But her lack of self-consciousness over her appearance did not come easily. The first time she appeared in public was on a Sunday. Duane helped her get ready—her hands were still unusable—and aided her as she walked to the car. As they drew near the church building, dread filled Leona’s heart. “I looked like I was wearing a scary Halloween mask,” she says. How would people react? Would they look away? She was Primary president at the time. Would the children be afraid?

“I can’t do this,” Leona told Duane. “Yes, you can,” he responded. He helped her get seated on the couch in the foyer and then left for a meeting. And then the children started arriving with their parents. “They all ran up and wanted to give me hugs and tell me how sorry they were,” Leona says. “They had been coached well by their parents and teachers. None of them acted afraid or shy.”

But going out in public was still difficult. The following week, Duane informed her they were going to town to do

some shopping. Leona said, “Not me.”

That, says Leona, was one of the few times Duane was ever truly upset with her. “He told me I was going with him, and if I did not stop that nonsense, I would be as scarred on the inside as I was on the outside. I let him get me dressed, and we went shopping. No one ran and hid, although some little children would point and ask their mothers what happened.”

For Melanie, because she was a young child, the change in her appearance was easier to accept. “Melanie has never fussed about the scars,” says Leona. “That part has never been a problem.”

Melanie explains, “Because I understood the plan of salvation, it was easy for me to accept that I am a child of God and that my body will be perfect at some point.” Despite using an artificial leg, she has gone cross-country skiing, rock climbing, and hang gliding. “I don’t think I ever thought there was a lot I couldn’t do,” she says.

Today Melanie is married and has four children. “To me, my wife is beautiful,” says her husband, Mike Ploharz, who first met her in high school. “I can’t imagine not being with her.”

Why Not Us?

After the fire, there were times when Duane and Leona wondered, “Why me? Why us?”

“That’s just human nature,” says Duane. “But then you go on about your life. When you have something this traumatizing in your life, you don’t realize what is ahead. The only thing you can do is go from day to day and address the challenge that day. I still live my life that way. We plan ahead and do things we need to do, but if things don’t go right today, we’ll adapt our life and assume it will go better tomorrow.”



The Clatworthys and their grown daughters near the Mount Timpanogos Utah Temple. Back row, left to right: Dawn Olsen, Duane Clatworthy, Diane Good; front: Melanie Ploharz, Leona Clatworthy, Susan Stahl.

Melanie remembers accompanying her mother to visit a sister in the ward who was facing some challenges. The woman took a despairing look at Leona and her daughter and asked, “Why did this have to happen to you?”

“Why not?” Leona responded.

“I think that was the attitude that permeated our experience—why

wouldn’t something like this happen to us?” Melanie says now. “Bad things happen to people all the time. But trials lead to spiritual maturity; absence of trials can result in spiritual immaturity. I’ve learned that God lets us have trials because He loves us and He wants us to learn and grow. And often the scars that are the hardest to deal with are those on the inside, not the outside.”

While Leona, Melanie, and Duane will talk openly about their experiences, they prefer to focus on the present and the future. But they recognize that their experiences have helped shape their perspective on life. They know that while those who turn to the Lord may not always have their trials removed, they can be blessed with the strength to handle their trials—as were the people of Alma whose burdens became light (see Mosiah 24:14–15).

In the 40 years after the fire, the Clatworthys have seen the hand of the Lord in their lives, and they have developed an increased appreciation for family and for the gospel plan. While none of them would ever choose to live through the experience again, they are grateful for the lessons they’ve learned.

“In many ways this experience has been a blessing for our whole family,” says Melanie. “We have more of an eternal perspective. And we know that when things get hard, we can still get through it, and we can be better for having had the experience.” ■

The Twelve Apostles



I certify to you that the 14 men with whom I share the ordination are indeed Apostles. In declaring this, I say no more than the Lord has taught, no more than may be revealed to anyone who seeks with a sincere heart and real intent for an individual witness of the Spirit.

The eighth in a series of articles about priesthood quorums and their purposes.

BY PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER

Acting President of the Quorum
of the Twelve Apostles

In the course of organizing His Church, Jesus “went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

“And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”¹ They were called from the ordinary paths of life.

Peter was the first called, and the Lord said to him, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”² This same sacred authority is inherent in the ordination of every Apostle.

Paul taught that the apostles and prophets were called “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,” and he declared that these offices would endure “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God.”³

The Apostles in time were gone and, with them, the keys. Paul had prophesied of men being “carried about with every wind of doctrine.”⁴

And so it was; instead of unity of faith, there came division and disunity.

It was in this circumstance that young

Joseph Smith prayed to know which of all the churches was true and which he should join.

Joseph’s vision of the Father and the Son opened this dispensation. Then came the Restoration of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the same organization that existed in the primitive Church, built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets.⁵

Some suppose that the organization was handed to the Prophet Joseph Smith like a set of plans and specifications for a building, with all of the details known at the beginning. But it did not come that way. Rather, it came a piece at a time as the Brethren were ready and as they inquired of God.

The Melchizedek Priesthood, the consummate authority given to man from God, was restored under the hands of Peter, James, and John. By them, the Lord said, “I have ordained you and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses of my name, and bear the keys of your ministry and of the same things which I revealed unto them;

“Unto whom I have committed the keys of my kingdom, and a dispensation of the gospel for the last times.”⁶

The First Presidency was in place by 1833; then two years later, in February of 1835, came the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. And that is as it should be. The First Presidency came first in sequence and stands first in authority. And, true to the pattern, it was made of men called from the ordinary pursuits of life.

With the First Presidency and the Quorum



Above: The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—seated are President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President (left); Elder L. Tom Perry; Elder Russell M. Nelson; Elder Dallin H. Oaks; Elder M. Russell Ballard; and Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin. Standing are Elder Richard G. Scott; Elder Robert D. Hales; Elder Jeffrey R. Holland; Elder Henry B. Eyring; Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf; and Elder David A. Bednar. Right: The First Presidency—President Gordon B. Hinckley (center); President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor (left); and President James E. Faust, Second Counselor (right).



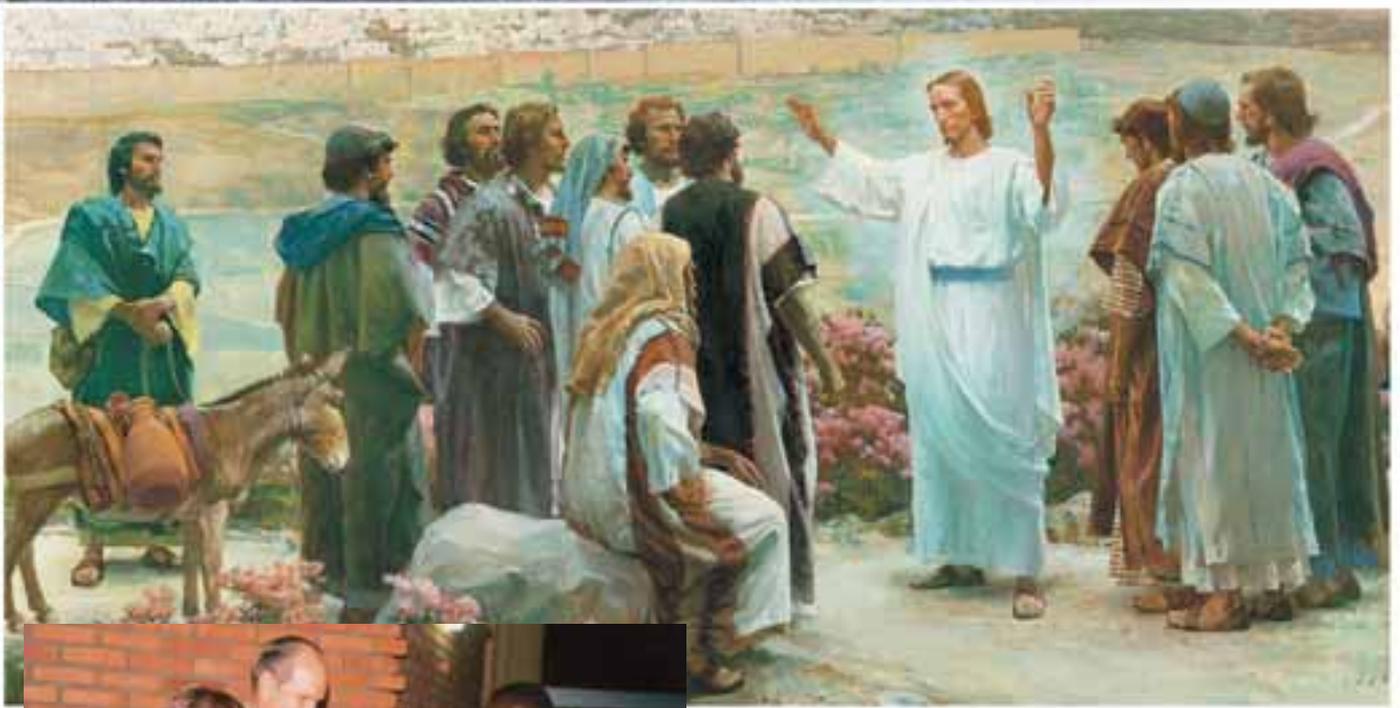
of the Twelve in place, with the offices of the Seventy and the Presiding Bishopric revealed, the proper order of things prevails. But there is a difference.

Perhaps President J. Reuben Clark said it best: “Some of the General Authorities [the Apostles] have had assigned to them a special calling; they possess a special gift; they are sustained as prophets, seers, and revelators, which gives them a special spiritual endowment in connection with their teaching of the people. They have the right, the power, and authority to declare the mind and will of God to his people, subject to the over-all power and authority of the President of the Church. Others of the General Authorities are not given this special spiritual endowment.” The resulting limitation “applies to every other officer and

member of the Church, for none of them is spiritually endowed as a prophet, seer, and revelator.”⁷⁷

Furthermore, President Clark said that among those of the Twelve and the Presidency, “only the President of the Church, the Presiding High Priest, is sustained as Prophet, Seer, and Revelator for the Church, and he alone has the right to receive revelations for the Church, either new or amendatory, or to give authoritative interpretations of scriptures that shall be binding on the Church, or change in any way the existing doctrines of the Church.”⁷⁸

It took a generation of asking and receiving before the order of things as we know it today was firmly in place. Each move to perfect that order has come about in



Above: “[Jesus Christ] called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”



Left: Elder Richard G. Scott and Elder Russell M. Nelson greet Fidel Francis Bogler and his family in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Joseph Fielding Smith taught that “every member of the Church should have the impressions on his soul made by the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Son of God indelibly pictured so that they cannot be forgotten.”¹⁵

From Nephi we know that “angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost.”¹⁶ Mormon told us that “the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfil and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men.” Mormon further explained that angels accomplish their ministry “by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him.

“And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men.”¹⁷

There is a power of discernment granted “unto such as God shall appoint . . . to watch over [His] church.”¹⁸ To discern means “to see.”

President Harold B. Lee told me once of a conversation

response to a need and in answer to prayer. And that process continues in our day.

“The Twelve are a Traveling Presiding High Council, to officiate in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Presidency of the Church, agreeable to the institution of heaven; to build up the church, and regulate all the affairs of the same in all nations.”⁹

Where the First Presidency cannot go, the Twelve are sent “to unlock the door of the kingdom in all places.”¹⁰ They are commissioned to go to all the world, for the word *Apostle* means “one [who is] sent forth.”¹¹

“Wherefore,” the Lord said, “in whatsoever place ye shall proclaim my name an effectual door shall be opened unto you, that they may receive my word.”¹² And He promised, “Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.”¹³

The Twelve Apostles “are called to be . . . special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world.”¹⁴ Each carries that certain witness that Jesus is the Christ. President

he had with Elder Charles A. Callis of the Quorum of the Twelve. Brother Callis had remarked that the gift of discernment was an awesome burden to carry. To see clearly what is ahead and yet find members slow to respond or resistant to counsel or even rejecting the witness of the apostles and prophets brings deep sorrow.

Nevertheless, “the responsibility of leading this church” must rest upon us until “you shall appoint others to succeed you.”¹⁹

He warned us of those few in the Church “who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house.”²⁰

“Thy voice,” the Lord commanded the Twelve, “shall be a rebuke unto the transgressor; and at thy rebuke let the tongue of the slanderer cease its perverseness.”²¹

Some few within the Church, openly or perhaps far worse, in the darkness of anonymity, reproach their leaders in the wards and stakes and in the Church, seeking to make them “an offender for a word,”²² as Isaiah said. To them the Lord said: “Cursed are all those that shall lift up the heel against mine anointed, saith the Lord, and cry they have sinned when they have not sinned . . . but have done that which was meet in mine eyes, and which I commanded them.

“But those who cry transgression do it because they are the servants of sin, and are the children of disobedience themselves. . . .

“ . . . Because they have offended my little ones they shall be severed from the ordinances of mine house.

“Their basket shall not be full, their houses and their barns shall perish, and they themselves shall be despised by those that flattered them.

“They shall not have right to the priesthood, nor their posterity after them from generation to generation.”²³

That terrible penalty will not apply to those who try as best they can to live the gospel and sustain their leaders. Nor need it apply to those who in the past have been guilty of indifference or even opposition if they will repent, confess their transgressions, and forsake them.²⁴

Recently President Hinckley reminded the Brethren that, while we are men called from the ordinary pursuits of life, there rests upon us a sacred ministry. And we take comfort in what the Lord said to the original Twelve: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you.”²⁵

While each feels his own limitation, there is strength in unity. Never in the history of the Church have the Brethren of the Presidency and the Twelve been more united.

Each week we meet together in the temple. We open the meeting by kneeling in prayer, and we close with prayer. Every prayer is offered in the spirit of submission and obedience to Him who called us and whose servants and witnesses we are.

The Lord requires that “every decision made by either of these quorums must be by the unanimous voice of the same” and that “the decisions of these quorums . . . are to be made in all righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart, meekness and long suffering, and in faith, and virtue, and knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity.”²⁶ This we earnestly strive to do.

We know that we hold the power of the priesthood “in connection with all those who have received a dispensation at any time from

The Twelve are a Traveling Presiding High Council, to officiate in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Presidency of the Church, agreeable to the institution of heaven; to build up the church, and regulate all the affairs of the same in all nations.”

Where the First Presidency cannot go, the Twelve are sent “to unlock the door of the kingdom in all places.” They are commissioned to go to all the world, for the word Apostle means “one [who is] sent forth.”



THE APOSTLESHIP

“The keys of the eternal priesthood, which is after the order of the Son of God, is comprehended by being an apostle. All the priesthood, all the keys, all the gifts, all the endowments and everything preparatory to entering back into the presence of the Father and of the Son, is composed of, circumscribed by, or I might say incorporated within the circumference of the apostleship.”

**President Brigham Young (1801–77),
Teachings of Presidents of the Church:
Brigham Young (1997), 138.**

the beginning of the creation.”²⁷ We think of those who have preceded us in these sacred offices, and at times we feel their presence.

We are overcome with what the Lord said of those who hold these sacred callings: “Whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.”²⁸

During a very difficult time, the Lord gave the sternest warning that I know of in all scripture. It had to do with the building of the Nauvoo Temple. The Saints knew from experience that to proceed to build a temple would bring terrible persecution, so they delayed. The Lord extended the time and said, “If you do not these things at the end of the appointment ye shall be rejected as a church, with your dead, saith the Lord your God.”²⁹

Often overlooked in that revelation is a marvelous promise: “If my people will hearken unto my voice, and unto the voice of my servants whom I have appointed to lead my people, behold, verily I say unto you, they shall not be moved out of their place.”³⁰

Remember this promise; hold onto it. It should be a great comfort to those struggling to keep a family together in a society increasingly indifferent to, and even hostile toward, those standards which are essential to a happy family.

The promise is a restatement of what the Lord told the multitude: “Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants.”³¹

I repeat the promise that those who hearken to the voice of these men whom the Lord has raised up “shall not be moved out of their place.”³²

But the promise was followed with this caution: “But if they will not hearken to my voice, nor unto the voice of these men whom I have appointed, they shall not be blest.”³³

The most precious thing we have to give is our witness of the Lord, our testimony of Jesus Christ.

I certify to you that the 14 men with whom I share the ordination are indeed Apostles. In declaring this, I say no more than the Lord has taught, no more than may be revealed to anyone who seeks with a sincere heart and real intent for an individual witness of the Spirit.

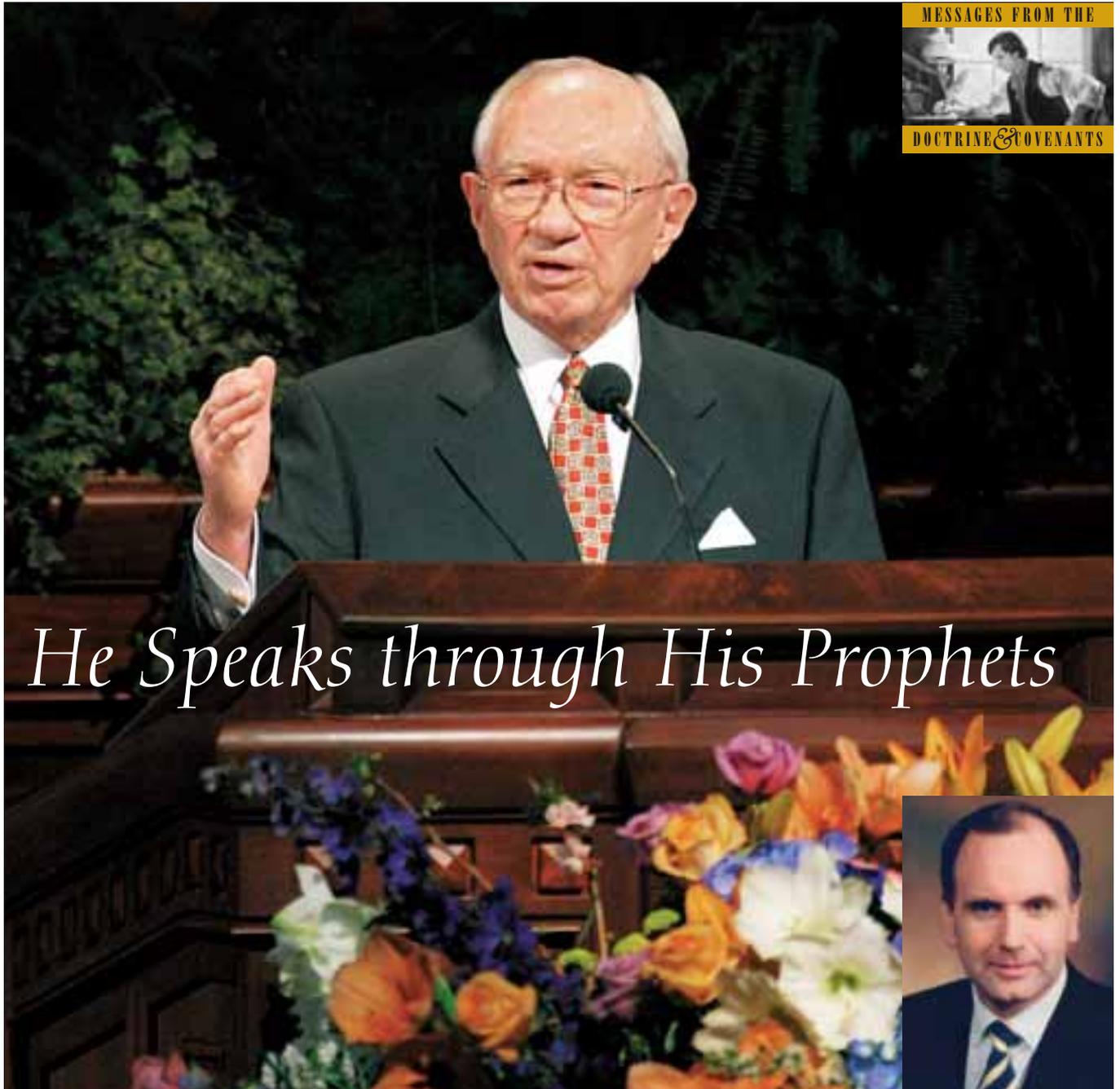
These men are true servants of the Lord; give heed to their counsel.

So, too, with the Seventy, who as especial witnesses carry an apostolic responsibility, and the Bishopric, worthy men of God. So, too, with the brethren and sisters across the world who are called to lead, who have earned that knowledge precious above all else.

There are limits to what the Spirit permits us to say.³⁴ And so I close with my witness, my special witness, that Jesus is the Christ, that through a prophet-president He presides over this, “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.”³⁵ In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■
An October 1996 general conference address.

NOTES

1. Luke 6:12–13.
2. Matthew 16:19.
3. Ephesians 4:12–13.
4. Ephesians 4:14.
5. See Ephesians 2:20; Articles of Faith 1:6.
6. D&C 27:12–13.
7. “When Are Church Leader’s Words Entitled to Claim of Scripture?” *Church News*, July 31, 1954, 9–10.
8. *Church News*, July 31, 1954, 10.
9. D&C 107:33.
10. D&C 112:17; see also D&C 107:35; 124:128.
11. See Bible Dictionary, “Apostle,” 612.
12. D&C 112:19.
13. D&C 112:10.
14. D&C 107:23.
15. “The Twelve Apostles” (unpublished address to seminary and institute faculty, June 18, 1958), 6.
16. 2 Nephi 32:3.
17. Moroni 7:31–32.
18. D&C 46:27.
19. Draft declaration of the Twelve Apostles, reporting March 1844 meeting of Twelve, Brigham Young Papers, Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
20. D&C 112:26.
21. D&C 112:9.
22. Isaiah 29:21; see also 2 Nephi 27:32.
23. D&C 121:16–17, 19–21.
24. See D&C 58:43.
25. John 15:16.
26. D&C 107:27, 30.
27. D&C 112:31.
28. D&C 68:4.
29. D&C 124:32.
30. D&C 124:45.
31. 3 Nephi 12:1.
32. D&C 124:45.
33. D&C 124:46.
34. See Alma 12:9.
35. D&C 1:30.



He Speaks through His Prophets



BY ELDER DAVID S. BAXTER

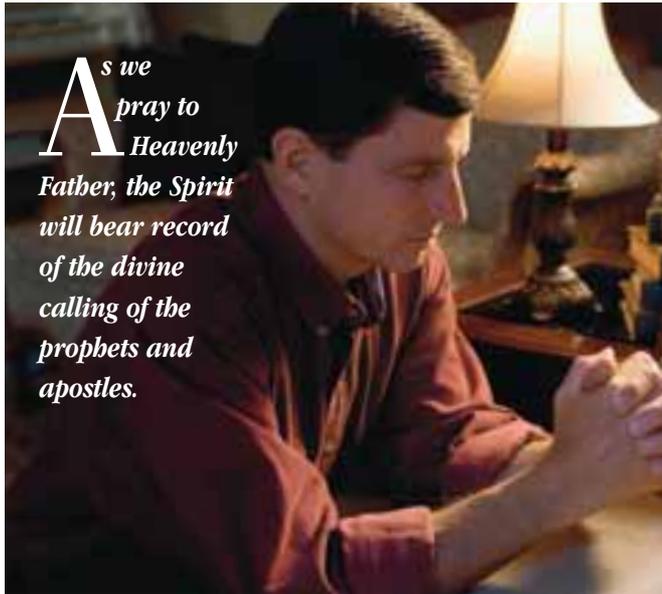
Area Authority Seventy
Europe West Area

In 1849, 19-year-old William Fowler of Sheffield, England, joined the Church. His father had died when William was 11, his mother three years later. William was 18 when he first heard members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints preach; likely they testified of the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith and of his role in restoring the

gospel. William must have felt the Spirit strongly that day, for he was baptized a short time later and soon was laboring as a local missionary. When his membership in the Church became known, he was fired from his job as a cutler (one who sells or works with knives).

Yet his testimony of living prophets remained bright. His diary speaks of mob persecution and of traveling 28 miles, mostly on foot, to attend Church meetings. At some

As we ponder the prophets' words, as we follow their counsel, and as we pray to Heavenly Father, so will the Spirit bear record of their divine calling.



As we pray to Heavenly Father, the Spirit will bear record of the divine calling of the prophets and apostles.

time between 1860 and 1863 he attended one such meeting to which he brought the words of a song he had written. There it was sung for the first time. “We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet” has been a Latter-day Saint anthem ever since.¹

As a young man I felt the spirit of that hymn as I stood in the Wandsworth chapel in south London, listening to President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) speak. I was privileged to be an usher and was assigned to stand by the chapel door nearest the pulpit. There I heard President Kimball say in his distinctive voice: “I am often asked, ‘Should every young man serve a mission?’ The Lord has given the answer; it is ‘Yes!’ ”

At the time it was rare for our young men in Europe to serve missions. As I listened to the prophet’s voice, it became clear to me what I and others of my generation must do, and I resolved to serve a full-time mission. It was a humbling and sweet moment when my call to serve in Scotland arrived, with the letter bearing the signature of President Kimball. The letter contained a phrase that deeply penetrated my heart: “We repose in you our confidence.” I knelt down in prayer and committed myself to be worthy of that confidence.

Later, in the mission field, we heard that President Kimball had remarked that if the missionaries knew what he knew, they would run from door to door. We felt a new sense of urgency in our service.

A fundamental part of the Latter-day Saints’ message to the world is that our Father in Heaven continues to

speak through prophets today. It is our witness that the heavens are open, that revelation continues, that Joseph Smith was called by God to be the Prophet of the Restoration, and that there is a prophet of God on the earth today, even President Gordon B. Hinckley. Our witness is evidenced not only by what we say in testimony meetings but chiefly by what we do in following the prophet.

May I suggest some ways in which we might more faithfully follow the Lord’s prophet?

First, we should obtain our own spiritual witness of the prophetic calling of President Hinckley, his counselors, and the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. As we ponder their words, as we follow their counsel, and as we pray to Heavenly Father, so will the Spirit bear record of their divine calling.

My wife, Dianne, and I had the privilege of attending general conference in April 1995, when the new First Presidency was sustained. Unable to get seats in the Tabernacle, we sat with many others on the grounds of Temple Square, listening to the conference proceedings.



HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

Most *Ensign* articles can be used for family home evening discussions, personal reflection, or teaching the gospel in a variety of settings.

1. Begin your family home evening by singing “We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet” (*Hymns*, no. 19). Relate the story of William Fowler and invite family members to share their feelings about this hymn.

2. Display pictures of latter-day prophets. Relate Elder Baxter’s experience in following a prophet’s counsel to serve a mission. Discuss the four ways to more faithfully follow the Lord’s prophet. Bear testimony of a time when following the prophet blessed your life.

We should hunger and thirst
for the words of the prophets,
studying their articles in the
Church magazines and attentively
watching general conference.

As we stood to sustain President Hinckley, I noticed tears gently falling from Dianne's eyes. She said, "I have just felt the Spirit tell me that we have a prophet." Such a witness is available to all.

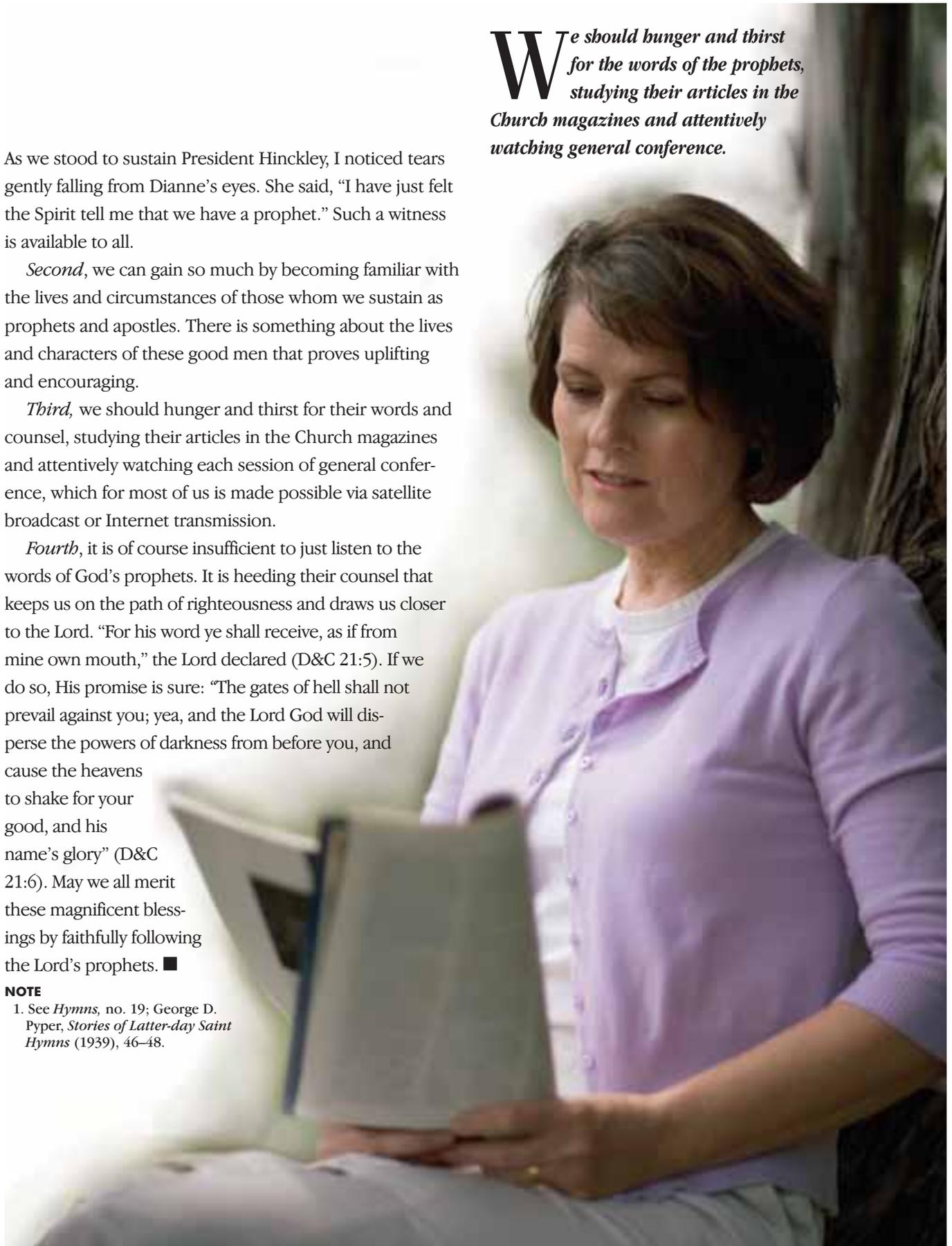
Second, we can gain so much by becoming familiar with the lives and circumstances of those whom we sustain as prophets and apostles. There is something about the lives and characters of these good men that proves uplifting and encouraging.

Third, we should hunger and thirst for their words and counsel, studying their articles in the Church magazines and attentively watching each session of general conference, which for most of us is made possible via satellite broadcast or Internet transmission.

Fourth, it is of course insufficient to just listen to the words of God's prophets. It is heeding their counsel that keeps us on the path of righteousness and draws us closer to the Lord. "For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth," the Lord declared (D&C 21:5). If we do so, His promise is sure: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory" (D&C 21:6). May we all merit these magnificent blessings by faithfully following the Lord's prophets. ■

NOTE

1. See *Hymns*, no. 19; George D. Pyper, *Stories of Latter-day Saint Hymns* (1939), 46–48.



PREACHING

Preach My Gospel

Take a look at the Church's new guide to missionary service.

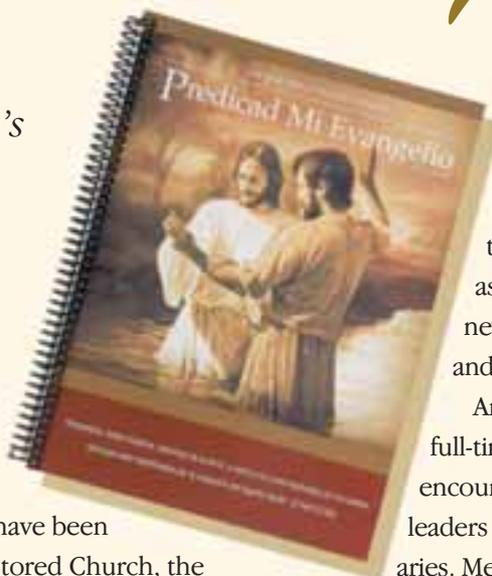
BY SHANNA BUTLER, ADAM C. OLSON, AND ROGER TERRY
Church Magazines

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

In an effort to improve missionaries' reliance on the Spirit, Church leaders have implemented the *Preach My Gospel* manual. The manual replaces the six discussions used since 1985, introduces new teaching methods, and emphasizes more effective planning. The manual also replaces the *Missionary Guide*, the discussions for new members, and the missionary gospel study program.

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

Missionaries no longer memorize discussions for investigators and new members. Instead they study and learn



gospel doctrines and principles in five basic lessons and create individualized lesson plans for each investigator or new convert. Other important aspects of missionary work taught in the new manual are planning, goal setting, and using time wisely.

And *Preach My Gospel* is not only for full-time missionaries. The new manual encourages members and ward and branch leaders to work more closely with the missionaries. Members will find *Preach My Gospel* useful as they assist the missionaries by giving referrals, inviting the missionaries to teach investigators in their homes, and helping in many other ways.

"[*Preach My Gospel*] will require greater effort on the part of the missionaries," President Gordon B. Hinckley told mission presidents in a satellite broadcast. "It will require much of prayer and much of study. . . . If there is better teaching in the conversion process, there will be greater retention of those who are baptized."

How Youth Can Prepare

The *Preach My Gospel* manual begins with these words from the First Presidency:

"Dear Fellow Missionary:

"We compliment you on the great opportunity you have to be a missionary. There is no more compelling

work than this, nor any which brings greater satisfaction.”¹

Becoming that future missionary is going to take some real work in the here and now. It will take study and practice and prayer.

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

Preach My Gospel helps missionaries teach the gospel using their own words. The missionaries have to be worthy of the Spirit so they know what and how to teach.

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

Elder Nicolas Gervic, serving in the New York New York North Mission, agrees: “You teach from the heart.” Elder Gervic is doing well using the new book, but he wishes he had been more prepared to teach.

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

Elder Hollingshead says *Preach My Gospel* has helped him learn the gospel better so he can teach it better. He is also glad he went to seminary and studied the scripture mastery

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



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN LUKE, POSED BY MODELS

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



- Help children develop good study habits.
- Have family prayer, scripture study, and family home evening.
- Allow children to teach family home evening lessons.
- Live principles that missionaries teach.

- Emphasize attending seminary, reading the Book of Mormon, and gaining a testimony.
- Help children learn to set goals and make commitments.
- Limit time spent on TV and video games.
- Invite missionaries to teach in your home.

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

Elder Paul A. Mann says “Amen!” when Elder Hollingshead talks about seminary. He and his companion, Elder Joel D. Rodriguez, are serving in Yonkers, New York. “Seminary gives you a real understanding of the gospel,” he says. He knows you need to gain a testimony before you can share it with others.

Elder Rodriguez agrees: “Get a testimony of what the gospel is and who Joseph Smith was.” It is easier to teach from the heart when you feel the truth of what you are saying and you really know the gospel.

Elder Mauricio Chavez of the Perú Lima East Mission emphasizes the importance of learning to plan well. “It takes a little longer to plan now,” he says, “but it is more effective. This planning is helping our investigators develop stronger testimonies.”

Elder Chavez’s companion, Elder Ben Beeson, explains, “Because of our planning, we always know how our investigators are progressing.”

The mission preparation these missionaries stress most is staying worthy of the companionship of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, they could not teach effectively (see D&C 42:14).

Sister Valeree Price, Sister Memory’s companion, says,



“I wish I had prepared better for my mission by putting more emphasis on things that are important.”

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

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

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

Visible Results

Preach My Gospel has produced significant results. Success is greater, however, among those missionaries who are most prepared. The best-prepared missionaries, says President Wynn R. Dewsnup of the Utah Ogden Mission, are “those who have had personal spiritual experiences, who have felt the power of personal prayer in their lives, who have been able through personal study and prayer to come to know the Savior in a much more personal manner.”

“Those who have been in the habit of being obedient,

who have studied the gospel before their mission, and who have had opportunities in church or seminary to teach it are better prepared to use *Preach My Gospel* when they get here,” says President Brian D. Garner of the California Carlsbad Mission.

Mission presidents agree that *Preach My Gospel* has had a dramatic effect on the way missionaries carry out the Lord’s work. “The most visible change we have seen in our missionaries,” says President Kelend I. Mills of the Japan Fukuoka Mission, “has been their ability to be flexible. In response to specific needs they see in an investigator, missionaries feel more now that it is appropriate, even expected, that they should adjust the message and the approach to meet those needs.”

Glendon Lyons, former president of the Perú Lima East Mission says, “The principles in chapter 8 of *Preach My Gospel* are helping the missionaries learn the discipline of keeping records, establishing goals, and accomplishing those goals. This helps them have greater order in their lives and will continue to bless them after their missions.”

“The most visible evidence of the benefits of *Preach My Gospel* has been that the missionaries all seem to be leaders,” says President Jeffrey R. Morrow of the New York New York South Mission. One elder wrote in a weekly report to President Morrow, “I have had two or three times more success in the past six months than in the previous year.”

President R. Brent Ririe of the Idaho Boise Mission concurs: “*Preach My Gospel* has been a tremendous lift to the work. Everything is up—baptisms, obedience, faith, member missionary activity. It is a great day to be a full-time or member missionary.”

Parents

So what can parents do to help their sons and daughters enter the mission field prepared to teach by the Spirit? President Nelson M. Boren of the New York New York North Mission emphasizes the importance of “daily family prayer, daily family scripture study, and weekly family home evening.”

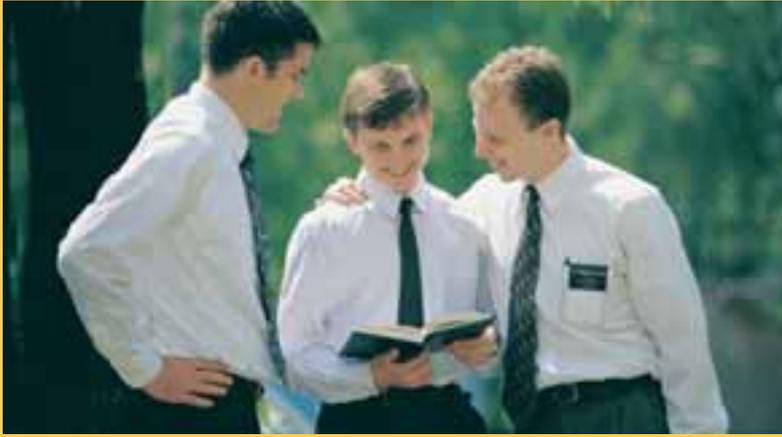
“The best thing parents can do to help their children prepare to use *Preach My Gospel* effectively is to live the doctrines and lifestyle found in it,” says R. Gene Moffitt, former president of the California Anaheim Mission.

“Although specifically inspired and prepared for full-time missionary service,” says President Ririe, “*Preach My Gospel* ought to become a ‘centerpiece’ resource in every Latter-day Saint home. It is a tremendous resource



Left: Sisters Memory and Price teach from Preach My Gospel. President Lyons teaches missionaries to use Preach My Gospel. Below: Elders Warr and Hitchcock practice teaching at the MTC. Elders Hollingshead and Gervic prepare during companion study time.

LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH OF MOTHER AND SON BY JOHN LUKE, POSED BY MODELS; PHOTOGRAPH OF SISTER MISSIONARIES BY SHANNA BUTLER; PHOTOGRAPH OF TEACHING BY MARVIN K. GARDNER; RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANNA BUTLER; INSET: PHOTOGRAPH BY MARVIN K. GARDNER



PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

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

SCRIPTURE BASICS

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

SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS

- Learn how to do simple chores like making your bed, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of your clothing.
- Eat well, stay healthy, and take care of yourself.

- Try to do well in school so you know how to study.
- Take a missionary preparation class.
- Work with the missionaries when possible.
- Obtain the *Preach My Gospel* book (item no. 36617), and start studying it.
- Learn a second or third language.
- Save up and know how to budget your money.

TEACHING AND PLANNING BASICS

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

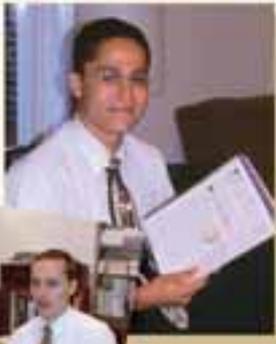
for family home evening lessons, personal gospel study, and gospel reference. Our 13-year-old son recently received a personal copy and has loved reading, studying, and marking the lessons in chapter 3. He has been inspired by the simplicity and beauty of the gospel and the order in which it would be taught to his friends who aren't members of the Church."

President Morrow counsels parents to "emphasize the importance of developing a testimony of the message of the Restoration, of living obediently, and of assimilating the ethic of hard work into their daily lives." Goal setting is also important, he says, and suggests that "goals for academics, sports, and even earning money will help prospective missionaries learn this important skill."

Developing good study habits can be crucial for a prospective missionary. President Christopher B. Munday of the England Birmingham Mission emphasizes the importance of personal and companion study time: "A mission is made or broken between the hours of 6:30 and 9:30 a.m., when the missionary studies the gospel."

Teachers and Leaders

Mission presidents agree that one of the most important things a teacher of young people can do to help them prepare for missionary service is to give them the opportunity to teach. Several mission presidents mentioned that young people learn how to teach by the Spirit largely by watching those who know how to teach in this manner. This places a great responsibility on the teachers of youth. If they understand that the way they teach their classes from week to week can affect thousands of people who will be investigating the Church, they will seek the Spirit



Elders Rodriguez and Mann discuss how to teach a principle found in *Preach My Gospel* to an investigator.



and make every effort to teach with power.

Many teachers and leaders are returned missionaries. President Steven C. Meek of the Mexico Mexico City South Mission says, “They need to

share with their young people the life-changing experiences that happened to them on their missions.”

“Always, always, be an example of what a missionary should be,” says President Ririe. “Maintain dignity in all you do and say. Maintain dress and grooming standards that are consistent with how a missionary should appear. Include the youth in the ward or branch mission plan, and include missionary work on every youth agenda. Be a missionary-minded youth leader.”

President Dewsnup counsels bishops and branch presidents to allow prospective missionaries to speak as often as possible in sacrament meeting or other meetings. “Young men should be encouraged to obtain their Duty to God Award. Encourage them to continue reading the Book of Mormon and to gain a personal testimony of it,” he suggests. “Also give them the opportunity to be involved in baptismal services. There is a great missionary feeling and an outpouring of the Holy Ghost during baptismal services.”

“Get the young people out with the missionaries to teach, to tract, or to visit active members to ask for referrals,” adds President Moffitt. “Probably the best resource for helping young

people serve missions and be well prepared for their missions is the missionaries themselves.”

An Inspired Program

“I am so grateful for *Preach My Gospel*,” says President Boren. “Not only will missionaries be better missionaries, bring more souls unto Christ, and be happier in their service, but the skills and attitudes they learn will help them become better fathers, mothers, husbands, and wives and also better sons and daughters of God. This is more than a manual for doing missionary work. Its teachings are much deeper than that.”

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

Missionaries and mission presidents testify this is true. ■

NOTES

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

WHAT TEACHERS AND LEADERS CAN DO



- Give young people opportunities to teach their peers.
- Teach by the Spirit— young people learn by example.
- Share your life-changing experiences.
- Involve prospective missionaries in baptismal services.
- Give young people a copy of *Preach My Gospel*.
- Encourage reading the Book of Mormon and gaining a testimony.
- Ask prospective missionaries to speak in meetings.
- Help young people learn leadership skills by giving them opportunities to serve.
- Encourage young people to work with the full-time missionaries.



LESSONS FROM A LAYOFF

When financial disaster struck, our obedience to the prophet's counsel kept us from drowning in debt.

BY KELLY A. PETERSON

A few years ago in mid-October, my husband came home early from work and told me that his job of 12 years was gone. The company was downsizing, and he was the first to be let go. James had a degree and years of experience in his field. He was a hard worker and took great pride in a job well done. This was a heavy blow.

He started looking for work right away. He applied for every job he could but was repeatedly told that the position was already filled or that he was overqualified. If he was willing to work, why couldn't he find a job?

We worried whether we'd be able to pay the bills. We felt strongly that I should continue to stay home with our youngest child and babysit a friend's baby for extra money. James received an unemployment allowance, but it certainly wasn't equal to his previous income. We drew from our savings.

We knew we needed to rely on Heavenly Father. Our first priority was to continue paying a full tithe and a generous fast offering. We prayed with faith that we could make ends meet.

Not Room Enough

In the midst of our troubles, we made a trip to the grocery store to buy the month's groceries. The total was \$20.00 less than usual, and we felt we had bought the same things we always did—maybe even a little extra. Gratefully we began to fill our cupboards, only to find that they were overflowing! Weeks later we realized that our shelves were still almost full. We began to understand the promise in Malachi 3:10–11. Blessings were being poured upon us, and there was not room enough to receive them. It was beautiful to experience the reality of the law of tithing.



Soon afterward, a local grocery store was looking for a part-time freight clerk. My husband was thrilled when he was offered the job. It was a 4:00 a.m. shift and it was hard work, but he put his whole heart into it.

A few blisters later, James's first paycheck came. We sat down and made a list of all the bills that were due. Tithing came first—not only for the blessings it would bring but as a demonstration of our faith and of our gratitude for this new job. To our amazement, there was money enough for all the bills and for groceries! We were getting by on much less than we had been used to. We were learning that the Lord's "economics" are different than ours. As we paid tithing and relied on the Lord, somehow the money went much further.

We Were Prepared

Many years ago when my husband and I were newlyweds, we were counseled in a sacrament meeting talk to have at least three months' worth of income saved in case of an emergency. James took the counsel to heart.

Like so many young couples, we were getting into debt with credit cards and student loans. We lived paycheck to paycheck and weren't putting anything away in savings. We just figured there would always be another payday.



Among our solutions were ideas from Elder Marvin J. Ashton's booklet *One for the Money* and a "change jar" from which we paid for Christmas presents.

But after hearing that talk in sacrament meeting, James started putting away \$10.00 from each paycheck he received. It didn't seem like \$20.00 a month would add up, but it did! We kept saving and started paying off the student loans.

We also had credit cards that were becoming too easy to use. One day after looking at our statement, we realized that our minimum payment wasn't making any change in our balance. We would need to pay three times the minimum due in order to pay interest *and* principle. It seemed like it would take forever to pay them off. We put our cards away, only to be used for emergencies.

We implemented the plan in Elder Marvin J. Ashton's pamphlet *One for the Money* (1992). (See the chart on page 32 of this article.) We started by

paying off one bill completely, then putting that payment amount toward the next bill until that one was paid off, and so on. It was hard and required self-discipline, but we made steady progress.

James set up a weekly budget with set amounts for things such as groceries, gas, and medical expenses. We tried not to buy things we didn't really need. Many times we had to tell ourselves, "Later." When we did need to make a major purchase, we shopped around for a good price and then

We know firsthand the blessing of following the prophet's counsel to get out of debt.



gave ourselves at least three days to think it over and make sure we could pay for it.

Bit by bit, we were becoming debt free. At the time of my husband's layoff, all we had in bills were our house and car payments and our basic monthly expenses. Because of the steps we had taken, I was able to continue being a stay-at-home mom. And we were able to get by on a smaller income. How thankful we were for the counsel of prophets to get out of debt!

What about Christmas?

Although we knew the Lord was blessing us through our financial trials, we still struggled. It was hard to stay positive as we watched others spend money. And Christmas was approaching. How would we provide a good Christmas for our family?

Once again, my husband was prepared. For several years, he had set aside a "change jar" to collect the family's spare change. Each year we used the money to do fun things around Christmastime. This year the change jar had accumulated a couple hundred dollars.

We did have money for Christmas after all!

Blessings from Obedience

The new year came but brought no new job offers. James continued working part-time at the store and looking for a job in his field. During this period of time, he was assigned to speak on self-reliance in the Saturday evening session of stake conference. He shared his story, focusing on getting out of debt, preparing for emergencies, and paying tithing.

It was difficult for him to share his experiences, but over the next few months we learned that many people had been blessed by his words.

In March James was

offered a full-time manager position at the store. It was a challenging job with long hours and a lot of physical labor—so different from his former job at a computer. But he rose to the challenge with faith. Although the pay was still less than half of his former salary, he no longer claimed unemployment benefits.

As the expenses of Scout camp, doctor visits, prescriptions, and daily life added up, we had to be thrifty. We

DEBT-ELIMINATION CALENDAR

| | Credit Card | Dept. Store | Dentist | Piano Loan | Auto Loan |
|-------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Mar. | 110 | 70 | 50 | 75 | 235 |
| Apr. | 110 | 70 | 50 | 75 | 235 |
| May | 110 | 70 | 50 | 75 | 235 |
| June | 110 | 70 | 50 | 75 | 235 |
| July | | 180 | 50 | 75 | 235 |
| Aug. | | 180 | 50 | 75 | 235 |
| Sept. | | 180 | 50 | 75 | 235 |
| Oct. | | | 230 | 75 | 235 |
| Nov. | | | 230 | 75 | 235 |
| Dec. | | | | 305 | 235 |
| Jan. | | | | 305 | 235 |
| Feb. | | | | | 540 |
| Mar. | | | | | |

The author's family used a debt elimination calendar similar to this one to get out of debt. The calendar is found in One for the Money, a booklet based on a 1975 general conference talk by Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915-94) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. This booklet is available on www.ldscatalog.com.

eliminated our long-distance calling plan and got a prepaid calling card. We shopped at a bakery thrift store. We worked out a menu and stuck to our weekly grocery budget. Our oldest son got a paper route on his own, and our daughter saved all her money.

Many times we wondered, “Why did this have to happen to us?” When we compared ourselves to others or to how things used to be, it all seemed so unfair. We struggled with discouragement. It was hard not to feel bitter, helpless, and beaten when we made these comparisons.

We knew we needed the Lord to soften our hearts and give us courage to continue on. We needed faith. We needed peace of mind and assurance that even if things weren’t exactly the way we thought they should be, they were still working out.

We had been counseled to attend the temple. We put it off, as James was working almost every Saturday. We made excuses that it was just too hard to get away. But then a sacrament meeting talk by a bishopric member made us think. He said that the Lord *wants* to bless us but that He can’t unless we are obedient, so we made plans and went. It was wonderful,

BEING PREPARED



“We have been instructed for years to follow at least four requirements in preparing for that which is to come.

“First, gain an adequate education. . . .

“Second, live strictly within your income and save something for a rainy day. . . .

“Third, avoid excessive debt. . . .

“Fourth, acquire and store a reserve of food and supplies that will sustain life. . . .

“On a daily basis we witness widely fluctuating inflation; wars; interpersonal conflicts; national disasters; variances in weather conditions; innumerable forces of immorality, crime, and violence; attacks and pressures on the family and individuals; technological advances that make occupations obsolete; and so on. . . . Being prepared gives us freedom from fear, as guaranteed to us by the Lord in the Doctrine and Covenants: ‘If ye are prepared ye shall not fear’ (38:30).”

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “If Ye Are Prepared Ye Shall Not Fear,” Ensign, Nov. 1995, 36, 35.



HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

Most *Ensign* articles can be used for family home evening discussions, personal reflection, or teaching the gospel in a variety of settings.

1. Create an artificial hardship for your family by eliminating some normal conveniences. (For example, turn off the electricity, do not cook with the stove or oven, or turn off the water.) Tell your family that they must survive for the evening as though they were living through a time of trouble. What would they miss? Review Elder Perry’s four requirements and set goals as a family to be better prepared for misfortune.

2. Read aloud the experiences in the article and identify what the family did to make it through hard financial times. Use these ideas to evaluate your own monthly budget and to make your own financial goals.

peaceful, and calming.

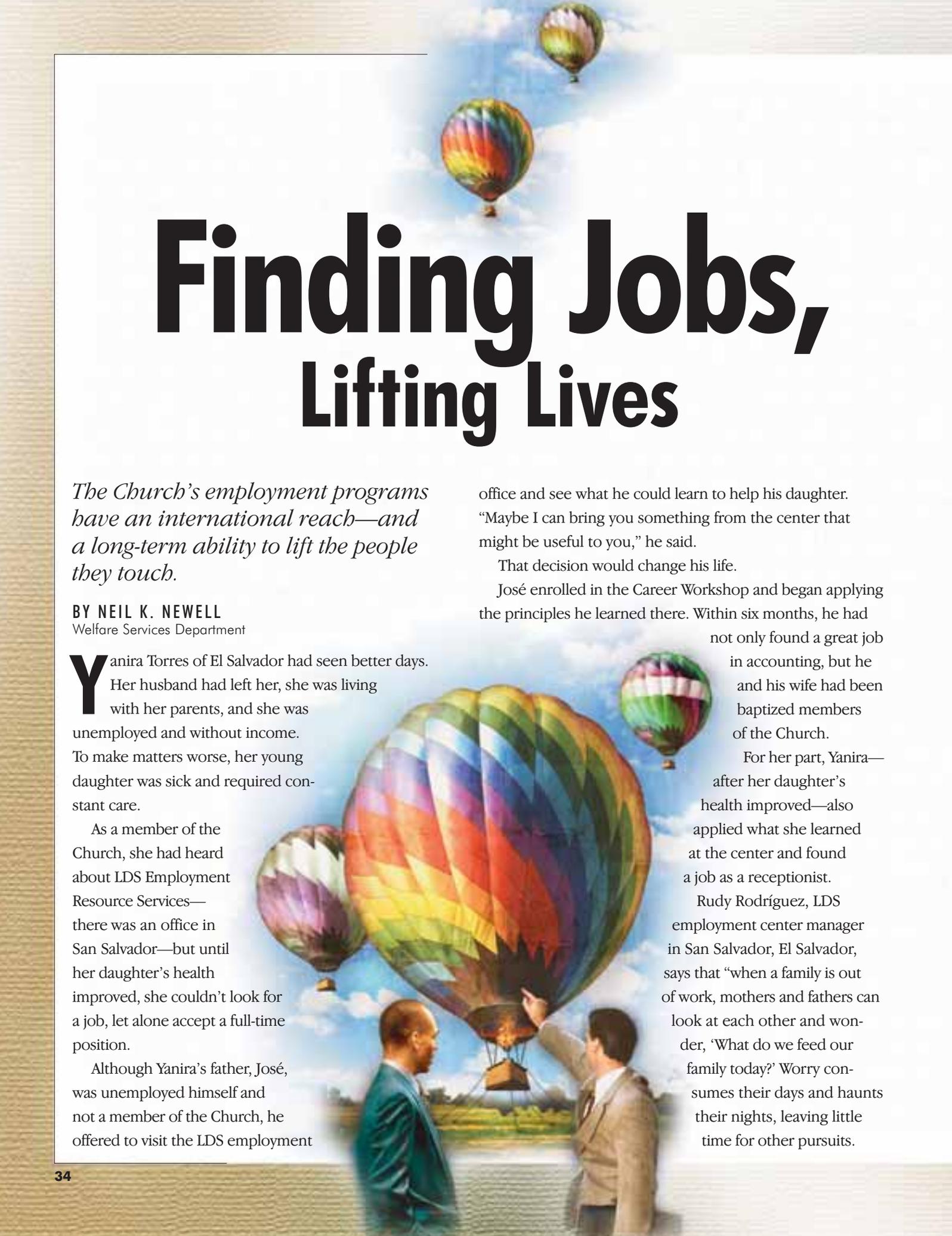
About a week after our temple trip, things started to fall into place. James’s former employer called to offer him his old job with a raise. The blessings poured in! And though I had doubted at times, deep down inside I knew that the Lord had not forgotten us.

Looking Back

Through the experiences we have had since my husband’s layoff, we have learned that Heavenly Father is aware of each of us. We have learned that it takes much faith to trust Him and to be obedient. We now know firsthand the blessings of following the prophet, getting out of debt, and paying tithing. We have gained a strong testimony that the Lord is always there watching out for us. And because life has been hard, we have come to truly appreciate the simple blessings we enjoy.

We still don’t know *why* all of this happened to us, but we know that the things we have learned will surely be for our eternal benefit. ■

Kelly A. Peterson is a member of the Burley 10th Ward, Burley Idaho Stake.



Finding Jobs, Lifting Lives

The Church's employment programs have an international reach—and a long-term ability to lift the people they touch.

BY NEIL K. NEWELL

Welfare Services Department

Yanira Torres of El Salvador had seen better days. Her husband had left her, she was living with her parents, and she was unemployed and without income. To make matters worse, her young daughter was sick and required constant care.

As a member of the Church, she had heard about LDS Employment Resource Services—there was an office in San Salvador—but until her daughter's health improved, she couldn't look for a job, let alone accept a full-time position.

Although Yanira's father, José, was unemployed himself and not a member of the Church, he offered to visit the LDS employment

office and see what he could learn to help his daughter. "Maybe I can bring you something from the center that might be useful to you," he said.

That decision would change his life.

José enrolled in the Career Workshop and began applying the principles he learned there. Within six months, he had

not only found a great job in accounting, but he and his wife had been baptized members of the Church.

For her part, Yanira—after her daughter's health improved—also applied what she learned at the center and found a job as a receptionist.

Rudy Rodríguez, LDS employment center manager in San Salvador, El Salvador, says that "when a family is out of work, mothers and fathers can look at each other and wonder, 'What do we feed our family today?' Worry consumes their days and haunts their nights, leaving little time for other pursuits.

And when they finally get that job—that opportunity to care for themselves and their children—it revolutionizes their lives.”

As revolutions go, this has been a quiet one.

Opening employment centers in various locations is not an activity that attracts the attention of many Church members, says Harold C. Brown, managing director of Church Welfare Services. “But it is making a significant difference in the lives of people.”

In 1999 the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles approved a significant increase in the number of employment centers in international areas of the Church in order to assist people in acquiring marketable skills to get a good job, start a small business, or improve a small business. Six years later, Church employment offices operate in 43 countries throughout the world. In 2004 they helped more than 200,000 people discover new avenues of education, employment, and self-employment.

The international employment efforts are a welcome help to members of the Church who live in countries where unemployment and underemployment rates are at extreme levels. In many countries, there are no comparable services to help members improve their economic condition. As a result, the Church’s efforts have blessed the lives of thousands of families, returned missionaries, and local Church leaders.



International Employment Resource Centers

Timothy Q. Sloan, director of LDS Employment Resource Services, is clear about what employment resource centers should look like anywhere in the world. “Our offices are professionally furnished and centrally located,” he says. “They are equipped with computers and Internet connections so that job seekers can search for job leads and review job search information. Also available are information on local schools and resources for the self-employed. More important, the office and volunteer staffs create an atmosphere where unemployed members who feel discouraged or hopeless can come and feel welcome and get help.”

Church volunteers and missionaries staff most of the offices, but some offices have full-time, paid employees. These employees are expected not only to assist those who come looking for work or to start a business, but also to spend time building links with local business, education, and government leaders.

Above: Employment programs have blessed not only Yanira Torres and her daughter but also Yanira’s parents (inset). Below: Many find hope in the employment resource center in Asunción, Paraguay.



Thousands of jobs, educational grants, and scholarships have been identified as a result of this networking.

Marco Flores, LDS Employment Resource Services manager in Mexico City, talks of one company that finally agreed to interview applicants from LDS employment: “Soon after, they called me back and said, ‘The people you sent don’t smoke or drink. They are honest. They dress like professionals. And what’s more, you don’t charge us for this service! How do you do it?’”

They could scarcely believe this was a service the Church provided at no cost to their company. After hiring several members of the Church, the company now calls LDS employment services more regularly. “We have a job opening,” they say. “We want a Latter-day Saint to fill it.”

Paulo Araujo, an employment manager in Brazil, explains that one of the issues of importance in his country is the number of returned missionaries unable to find work. “Far too many don’t have a high school diploma,” he says.

Brother Sloan remembers traveling to Brazil and visiting several schools that provide training to help adults obtain a high school diploma. “One of them was particularly impressive. Ninety percent of students who attended this six-month course successfully graduated.”

Although the school was doing well financially, it still had many empty desks. “If we could only fill them,” the school’s director said. Brother Sloan told the director about returned missionaries who might be interested in attending the school. “What if we were to suggest to these young men and women that they consider your school so they could get their high school diploma?” he asked.

“Oh, we would be delighted to have students such as this!” the director replied.

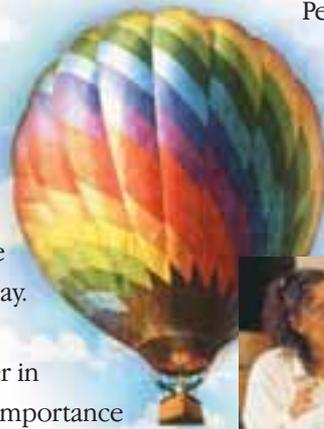
“If we were to send you groups of students, would it be possible to receive a discount of 10, 20, or even 50 percent on their tuition?”

Yes, the director said, such a thing was indeed possible.

At the end of the discussion they agreed on a 45 percent grant that would be applied toward tuition. With that discount in hand, more than half of the returned missionaries who enrolled in the school also applied for help from the Church’s Perpetual Education Fund, which provides loans to members in developing areas. This arrangement made their education possible.

LDS employment centers work hand-in-glove with the Perpetual Education Fund, explains Brother Sloan.

“PEF student applicants are required to enroll in the Career Workshop, where they can explore career and school options. LDS Employment Resource Services helps PEF students find part-time jobs and identify supplemental funding such



as grants, scholarships, or loans. After students graduate, LDS Employment Resource Services helps them find full-time work that will support them and their families.”

As employment center managers look for opportunities in the community, remarkable things happen. In Peru, job placements have nearly doubled over the past three years. Benedicto Pacheco, LDS Employment Resource Services manager, says the secret is developing long-term relationships with companies and with government agencies. In Lima, Peru, for example, the Church employment office has established a strategic alliance

with the government. The LDS employment office has access to the government's job database, which lists more than 250 new job openings every day; the employment office is considered a key player in finding people to fill those positions. And it's not

merely the lower-paying jobs that are filled. Recently the LDS employment center in Lima placed 40 people in executive positions. These people will not only be better able to support their families, they can also serve as tremendous ambassadors for the Church.

Employment resource centers also conduct classes in developing a small business. "The problem many people in my country have," Brother Pacheco says, "is that the only job they can find is one they create themselves. So we offer the Self-Employment Workshop that helps them start their own businesses. This year, more than 150 people in Peru have started their own microenterprise businesses using knowledge and resources provided by LDS employment resources."

Workshops

The Career Workshop is another vital tool that helps people articulate their goals and identify talents and skills. For most, this is an exciting discovery process that creates hope and motivation. The workshop develops specific, usable skills that provide a tremendous advantage when looking for employment or



a school to attend—an edge that can often mean the difference between a rewarding career or frustration and discouragement.

One South American stake president, for example, had spent a painful year looking for a job before finally enrolling in the Career Workshop. As a result of what he learned, he made some changes in the way he dressed, rewrote his résumé, prepared a 30-second introduction, and practiced interviewing. Armed with the skills he learned, he found a position as chief financial officer in a large business.

The Self-Employment Workshop is a new program that is having a positive impact on families in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who want to start or improve small businesses. The workshop teaches basic principles and strategies that help businesses grow. It also introduces members to local resources such as microcredit organizations that help small businesses get started or training institutions that can enhance the chance for success.

The Career Workshop and the Self-Employment Workshop are

Far left: In the employment resource center in Guatemala City, a mentor helps a young man with his job search. Above: In Brazil these students were able to work toward their high school diplomas with financial help from the Perpetual Education Fund and their school. Below: Many employment centers sponsor job fairs such as this one in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.





held regularly at most LDS employment centers throughout the world and are available to members and their friends. Additionally, ward and stake (or branch and district) employment specialists may offer the workshops for members in their areas. All it takes to enroll is to call the employment specialist or the nearest LDS Employment Resource Services Center. The course runs 2 to 3 days and lasts 10 to 12 hours.

Although LDS Employment Resource Services focuses primarily on members of the Church, people of other faiths may come to the centers also. “As people come in and see how we love each person and how we reach out to help people of all faiths, often their hearts are touched,” says Paulo Araujo. “In the past few years, I would say 200 people in Santiago, Chile, alone have been baptized after becoming aware of the Church through LDS employment.”

A Force of Volunteers

The work of LDS Employment Resource Services depends to a large extent on the help of volunteers.

The day after the employment resource center opened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 15 volunteers (10 of them full-time homemakers) arrived unannounced. “We just want to help,” they said. They knew how the office could bless the lives of their brothers and sisters, their children, their neighbors, and they wanted to be part of it.

In employment resource centers throughout the world, volunteers give more than a million hours per year helping those who are at a critical crossroad in their lives. Some volunteers give a few hours a week to teach a workshop or coach a job seeker. Others serve as Church-service or full-time missionaries.

“Every day, mothers, fathers, and children fall to their knees and plead with the Lord for help in finding employment,” says Brother Brown.

“When that job finally comes, when the mother and father can at last feed their children and provide a place to call home—when that happens, nearly everything in their lives changes for the better.”

As families become stabilized and self-reliant, they are in a stronger position to serve and build the kingdom of God. By reaching out to the unemployed and unskilled, says Brother Sloan, “we can help anchor the Church in the first and second generations, and the spirit of self-reliance can take root in the homes of the members of the Church.” ■

For information on LDS Employment Resource Services available in your area, contact your employment specialist or your ward or branch leaders.

Facts on LDS Employment Resource Services

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Countries outside of the United States and Canada with employment operations | 41 |  |
| Employment centers in international areas (paid and volunteer staffs) | 156 | |
| Employment centers in the United States and Canada (paid and volunteer staffs) | 103 | |

PHOTOGRAPH BY NEIL K. NEVELL

EMPLOYMENT CENTER SERVICE HOURS IN 2004

| | International | U.S. and Canada | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Missionary hours | 269,781 | 461,227 | 731,008 |
| Volunteer hours | 296,379 | 54,737 | 351,116 |
| Total | 566,160 | 515,964 | 1,082,124 |

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS IN 2004

| | International | U.S. and Canada | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|
| Job placements | 66,858 | 78,714 | 145,572 |
| Self-employment placements | 6,339 | 3,093 | 9,432 |
| Education enrollments | 31,889 | 13,941 | 45,830 |
| Total | 105,086 | 95,748 | 200,834 |



THOU WILT REMEMBER THE POOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTINA SMITH, POSED BY MODELS



BY ELDER T. LAMAR SLEIGHT

Area Seventy
North America East Area

Some time ago, on a Friday evening, I left my office for home in a hurry to catch the subway. As I passed a homeless woman whom I had seen often but never spoken to, she called out to me, “You’re a Mormon, aren’t you?”

I was startled that she knew my faith. Somewhat impatiently, I replied, “Yes, I am!”

She then said to me, “I would like to learn more about your church. I want to be a member.”

I am ashamed now that I thought to

myself in a judgmental way, “Sure you do!” I told her I was in a hurry but that if she would be there on Monday morning, I would tell her how she could learn more about the Church. I then went on my way.

I had a miserable weekend. I knew I had judged her harshly, and I regretted it. I was anxious for Monday to arrive to see if her interest in the Church was genuine.

After arriving at my office, I wrote down the telephone number of the missionaries and went out to find her. She was at the agreed-upon location. I gave her the card with the telephone number on it and encouraged her to do all the missionaries asked her to do.

Let us reach out with love and compassion to those around us who are in need.



The poor, said Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, “are not strangers and foreigners but children of our Heavenly Father. They are our brothers and sisters.” Therefore, we must “have compassion for them and spring to their aid.”

“I will,” was her reply.

Then I said, “Tell me about your interest in the Church.” I thought she would say that the Church had a wonderful reputation for taking care of its own and then would admit she could use some help herself. I was not prepared for her response.

“My children are Mormon. And so was my mother.”

Still doubting, I asked, “Where do they go to church?”

“In the Mount Pleasant First Branch,” she said.

Her response only intensified my feelings of guilt. I began to see her as a daughter of God, a sister of mine who needed help. I realized that even if she had requested aid, I should have treated her with compassion, as the Savior and

the prophets have taught. I thought of King Benjamin’s instruction to the Saints of his time:

“Ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; . . . and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish.

“Perhaps thou shalt say: The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just—

“But I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this the same hath great cause to repent; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done he perisheth forever, and hath no interest in the kingdom of God” (Mosiah 4:16–18).

I sorely needed to repent!

Like our other books of scripture, the Doctrine and Covenants is replete with exhortations to care for the poor. On February 9, 1831, the Lord declared through the Prophet Joseph Smith:

“And behold, thou wilt remember the poor, and consecrate of thy properties for their support that which thou hast to impart unto them, with a covenant and a deed which cannot be broken.

“And inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me” (D&C 42:30–31).

Later that same month the Lord gave this instruction: “Behold, I say unto you, that ye must visit the poor and the needy and administer to their relief” (D&C 44:6).

President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988), then Second Counselor in the First Presidency, pointed out that caring for the poor is a covenantal obligation for all Church members.¹ We fulfill this obligation in part by

faithfully paying our tithing; paying a generous fast offering; contributing to the Church Humanitarian Services program, the Perpetual Education Fund, and other worthy causes; and donating our time to minister to those in need. We also help fulfill this obligation by recognizing that those in need are beloved children of our Heavenly Father and should be treated accordingly.

In an April 2001 general conference address, Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles made this eloquent statement: “Far too many in the world today—thousands upon thousands of families—experience want each day. They hunger. They ache with cold. They suffer from sickness. They grieve for their children. They mourn for the safety of their families. These people are not strangers and foreigners but children of our Heavenly Father. They are our brothers and sisters. . . . At this very hour on this very day, some members even in our Church are praying for the miracle that would allow them to surmount the suffering that surrounds them. If, while we have the means to do so, we do not have compassion for them and spring to their aid, we are in danger of being among those the prophet Moroni spoke of when he said, ‘Behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel . . . more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted.’ ”²

Charity, the pure love of Christ, is the essence of the gospel. Let us therefore reach out with love and compassion to those around us who are in need. In serving them, we are serving the Savior. ■

NOTES

1. See “Caring for the Poor—a Covenantal Obligation,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1978, 87–89.
2. “The Law of the Fast,” *Ensign*, May 2001, 74.



HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

Most *Ensign* articles can be used for family home evening discussions, personal reflection, or teaching the gospel in a variety of settings.

1. Have two family members role-play Elder Sleight’s opening story. Discuss what this situation teaches about needing help and judging others. Decide how your family can reach out with love and compassion to those in need.

2. Have family members read and discuss the scriptures found in the article and the quotation by Elder Wirthlin. Testify that in serving others we are serving the Savior.

We fulfill our covenantal obligation to care for the poor in part by faithfully paying our tithing, paying a generous fast offering, and contributing to the Church Humanitarian Services program and the Perpetual Education Fund.

Personal Consecration



Our willingness to put everything on the altar is a sign between us and God that we submit to His will in all things.

BY ELDER STEPHEN B. OVESON
Of the Seventy
AND DIXIE RANDALL OVESON

A story has been told about a chicken and a pig who found themselves discussing their contributions to the farmer's breakfast table. The hen bemoaned having to donate her eggs for the breakfast. The pig replied, "Yes, but for you, it's just a small sacrifice. For me, it's a total commitment!"

This anecdote contains obvious lessons for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We might ask ourselves whether we are the kind of people who feel that giving an occasional egg or two toward the building of the kingdom is sufficient or whether we want to be categorized among those who consecrate their all in this endeavor.

We can assume that true conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ will have outward manifestations in the actions of members of the Church. That is to say, those who have received a spiritual witness resulting in a strong testimony normally desire to live gospel principles to the fullest. They will be found doing whatever is necessary to magnify their callings, pay a full tithe and generous fast offering, keep the Sabbath day holy,

hold family home evening, study the scriptures, and so on. All of these worthy acts, along with almost countless others, constitute personal efforts by those who are consecrated members of the Church.

Disciplining our spirits in this way prepares us for celestial living. The Lord tells us in Doctrine and Covenants 88:22, "He who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory." Latter-day Saint scholar Hugh Nibley said, "The main purpose of the Doctrine and Covenants, you will find, is to implement the law of consecration." He further taught, "This law, the consummation of the laws of obedience and sacrifice, is the threshold of the celestial kingdom, the last and hardest requirement made of men [and women] in this life."¹

More Than Tithing

When we discuss the subject of consecration, the first thing that often comes to mind is the consecration of our temporal means. What is currently required in this regard is to pay our tithes and offerings as a preparatory step in learning to return to the Father a portion of what He has given us. But the law of consecration goes beyond the mere payment of tithes and offerings or the consecration of monies and properties to the Lord. "The

law of consecration,” said Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–85) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “is that we consecrate our time, our talents, and our money and property to the cause of the Church; such are to be available to the extent they are needed to further the Lord’s interests on earth.”²

In the 1820s, *consecrate* was defined as “to make or declare to be sacred, by certain ceremonies or rites; to appropriate to sacred uses; to set apart, dedicate, or devote, to the service and worship of God.”³ Members of the Church today, in living the law of consecration, are expected “to appropriate [themselves] to sacred uses.” Doing so requires them to dedicate their time, talents, and possessions to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and

its purposes. Perhaps we may never be asked to give all, but our willingness to put everything on the altar is a sign between us and God that we submit to His will in all things.

When we served in the Church in South America—first as mission president and companion in the Argentina Buenos Aires South Mission and then when Elder Oveson served in the Area Presidency in Chile—we observed many acts that we consider to be examples of consecrated service to our Heavenly Father and His children. We will share a few of these experiences.

“Next Time We’ll Do Better”

Early in our 1996 to 1999 mission experience, we learned of a group of Cambodian

Typical of countless missionary couples, the couples who served with us worked in temples, helped members with home repairs, served as medical advisers, and participated in activation efforts.



ILLUSTRATED BY DANIEL LEWIS

immigrants who lived in Longchamps, near Buenos Aires, Argentina. One family was being taught the discussions. When it came time for the missionaries to introduce the law of the fast, they explained it in words similar to the following: “Fasting is a 24-hour period in which we do not eat or drink anything, putting our bodies in submission to our spirits. We use the time to read the scriptures, pray, and engage in other uplifting activities, culminating in attending fast and testimony meeting, where we then give to the bishop of our ward the monetary equivalent of the food from which we have abstained in order that he may distribute it among the poor and needy.”

After this explanation the missionaries suggested that because the following Sunday was the first Sunday of the month, the family might like to try fasting. The father agreed and the missionaries left the home.

The following Monday evening, the elders returned to give another discussion, at which time they asked for a report on the family’s experience with fasting. The father rather apologetically explained that they had tried and would surely try again. He said, “We began our fast in the afternoon with a prayer, followed by scripture reading and a discussion. We continued in this way until early the following morning. I regret to say that some of the younger children fell asleep during the night. We were very tired but showered in the morning and prepared to go to church, where our spirits were revived and filled with the beautiful testimonies that were given. Perhaps next time we’ll do better, and the children will be able to stay awake with us all night.”

The missionaries were astounded. “You mean you didn’t go to sleep during the whole 24-hour period?”

“No,” replied the father. “You didn’t mention sleeping.”

As you might imagine, the members of this wonderful, humble family were soon baptized members of the

Church. They brought several other families to hear the missionaries, and other conversions resulted. Whenever we think of this incident, it reminds us of how much there is to learn about consecration from people who humbly seek to be obedient.

“I See Much Good in This Elder”

We also learned a beautiful lesson about consecration from one of the assistants to the president in our mission.

A decision had been made that one of our missionaries needed to be sent home early from his mission. He had been disobedient on several occasions despite counseling, contracts, and repeated warnings. The airplane ticket had been purchased, and the appropriate approvals were obtained from the South America South Area Presidency and the Missionary Department to send this missionary home.

When the assistants brought the missionary in for his final interview, he protested loudly and tearfully that he did not want to go home. He promised to improve and said he would sign yet another contract. In desperation, President Oveson called the two assistants and Sister Oveson into his office

and asked the elder to wait outside while the possible courses of action were discussed. Sister Oveson, somewhat out of patience with the situation, believed that sending him home was the only reasonable thing to do. “If he is allowed to stay,” she maintained, “the other missionaries might think that obedience is not important.”

One of the assistants said, “I have to agree with Hermana Oveson. I don’t think we really have a choice.”

When President Oveson asked the other assistant for his opinion, the assistant said, “I see much good in this elder. President, if you will let me go back out into the field, I will take him for my companion for the rest of my mission. I will take responsibility for him and help

**Regarding the law
of consecration,
Hugh Nibley taught,
“This law, the
consummation of the laws
of obedience and sacrifice,
is the threshold of the
celestial kingdom, the last
and hardest requirement
made of men [and women]
in this life.”**



him to become a loving and obedient missionary.”

We all had tears in our eyes by the time this elder finished his remarks. We could not believe that anyone could be so loving and caring, especially a 20-year-old missionary. The decision was made to do as he requested. He found it exceedingly difficult at first, but slowly his junior companion learned a great deal from him and became a trustworthy missionary. When the senior companion went home, his companion stayed to finish his mission, becoming in time a senior companion and a trainer before he was honorably released. The follow-up to this true experience is that this once-wayward elder has since married and been sealed in the temple. He and his wife now have a son. They are active in the Church and are helping to build the kingdom. What a difference a consecrated, Christlike person made in the life of this missionary and his future family!

Other Examples

There are countless examples of consecration in the lives of missionary couples. Many of them serve in temples or as area welfare agents, area medical advisers, executive secretaries to Area Presidencies, or family history missionaries. Couple missionaries, in whatever capacity, are as precious as gold.

We had the great blessing of having several couple missionaries serve with us in the Argentina Buenos Aires South Mission. A typical example is one couple who activated members, taught music, helped repair homes, and gave many hours of devoted service. Their example reflects the potential value of couple missionaries who understand the law of consecration and the need to appropriate our lives to sacred purposes.

We have met many other consecrated Church members who exemplify dedication and faithfulness. Some time ago a group of Saints from Punta Arenas, Chile, went to the

When asked what should be done with the disobedient elder, the assistant responded, “I will take responsibility for him and help him to become a loving and obedient missionary.”



Hermana Álvarez from Punta Arenas, Chile, exemplifies the dedication and faithfulness of Saints who sacrifice to do vicarious work for the dead.

Santiago Chile Temple. This trip requires some 80 hours by bus and often uses up the only vacation time people have during the year. One member of the group was a woman named Hermana Álvarez, who is less than four feet (1.2 m) tall and has difficulty walking. She carried with her some 27 family names for whom she wanted to do the vicarious work. What a thrill it was to be able to help her fulfill her worthy dream and to realize the extent to which so many Saints dedicate themselves to living and defending the principles of the gospel as a reflection of the law of consecration.

For some, proving themselves truly dedicated to the Lord's work might be demonstrated in their unfailing faithfulness in the face of seemingly insurmountable adversities. As the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, "God hath said that He would have a tried people, that He would purge them as gold."⁴ We have known amazing parents who have remained steadfast as they learned of the death of their

missionary son or daughter. We think of those who draw ever closer to the Lord as they are faced with the loss of a spouse to death or divorce or those who must deal with unemployment or the heartbreak of a wayward child. Others may find that caring for aging parents or less-able children is the path they currently follow to give consecrated service. Certainly, there are times and seasons in our lives that permit us more or less personal time to donate to this lifelong quest. There are multitudes of ways in which we may appropriate ourselves to sacred uses.

A Zion People

Whenever scriptural reference is made to those who, as a society, have learned to live the law of consecration to the fullest, we read about a pure and peaceful people, devoid of strife and contention—a Zion people. The people of Enoch became such a people. We read in Moses 7:18, "And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them."

Our consecration will not happen with one single act. In this endeavor, those who willingly accept calls to be nursery leaders, Cub Scout den mothers, early-morning seminary teachers, Scoutmasters, or other time-consuming but sometimes perceived low-profile callings in the Church surely are examples of what consecration is all about.

In the long run, offering ourselves for sacred uses might simply mean maintaining a consistent attitude of meek willingness to offer all we are capable of giving at any given time while we help those about us do the same. Consecration seems to be a day-to-day process of dedication, humility, refinement, and purification as we follow the example of the most consecrated person of all time—our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ. ■

NOTES

1. "How Firm a Foundation! What Makes It So," in *Approaching Zion*, vol. 9 of *The Collected Works of Hugh Nibley* (1989), 174, 168.
2. "Obedience, Consecration, and Sacrifice," *Ensign*, May 1975, 50.
3. See *Noah Webster's First Edition of an American Dictionary of the English Language* (1967), "Consecrate."
4. *History of the Church*, 3:294.

Rejoice in the Book of Mormon



Prayerfully select and read from this message the scriptures and teachings that meet the needs of the sisters you visit. Share your experiences and testimony. Invite those you teach to do the same.

D&C 17:6: “[Joseph Smith] has translated the book, . . . and as your Lord and your God liveth it is true.”

How Can I Increase in Spiritual Capacity as I Rejoice in the Book of Mormon?

President Gordon B. Hinckley:

“If each of you will observe this simple program [of reading the Book of Mormon by the end of the year], regardless of how many times you previously may have read the Book of Mormon, there will come into your lives and into your homes an added measure of the Spirit of the Lord, a strengthened resolution to walk in obedience to His commandments, and a stronger testimony of the living reality of the Son of God” (“A Testimony Vibrant and True,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Aug. 2005, 6).

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

“Each individual who prayerfully studies the Book of Mormon can also receive a testimony of its divinity. In addition, this book can help with personal problems in a very real way. Do you want to get rid of a bad habit? Do

you want to improve relationships in your family? Do you want to increase your spiritual capacity? Read the Book of Mormon! It will bring you closer to the Lord and His loving power. He who fed a multitude with five loaves and two fishes—He who helped the blind to see and the lame to walk—can also bless you! He has promised that those who live by the precepts of this book ‘shall receive a crown of eternal life’” (“A Testimony of the Book of Mormon,” *Liabona*, Jan. 2000, 85; *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 71).

How Can I Share My Joy in the Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon?

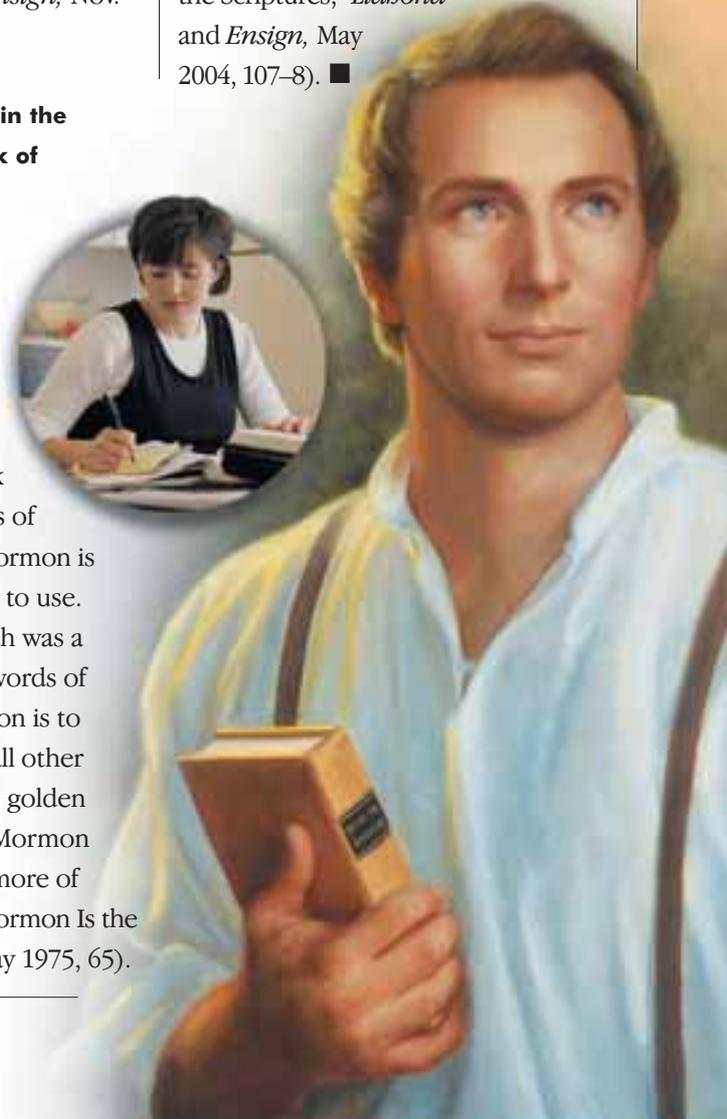
President Ezra Taft

Benson (1899–1994):

“We, the members of the Church, and particularly the missionaries, have to be the . . . tellers and testifiers, of the Book of Mormon unto the ends of the earth. The Book of Mormon is the great standard we are to use. It shows that Joseph Smith was a prophet. It contains the words of Christ, and its great mission is to bring men to Christ and all other things are secondary. The golden question of the Book of Mormon is ‘Do you want to learn more of Christ?’” (“The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God,” *Ensign*, May 1975, 65).

Julie B. Beck, first counselor in the Young Women general presidency:

“The Lord has told us that our time should ‘be devoted to the studying of the scriptures’ (D&C 26:1) and that ‘the Book of Mormon and the holy scriptures are given . . . for [our] instruction’ (D&C 33:16). Every woman can be a gospel doctrine instructor in her home, and every sister in the Church needs gospel knowledge as a leader and teacher. If you have not already developed the habit of daily scripture study, start now and keep studying in order to be prepared for your responsibilities in this life and in the eternities” (“My Soul Delighteth in the Scriptures,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2004, 107–8). ■



| DATE (A.D.) | 1847 | 1848 | 1849 | 1850 | 1860 |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| CHURCH HEADQUARTERS | Winter Quarters, Nebraska: July 1846–May 1848 | | Salt Lake City, Utah: Sept. 1848– | | |
|  | <p>JULY 1846 The Mormon Battalion began its historic march to California on behalf of the United States government.</p> <p>SEPT. 1846 Church leaders established Winter Quarters as a way station for the Saints traveling west.</p> <p>APR. 1847 The first pioneer company, led by Brigham Young, began its trek west from Winter Quarters.</p> <p>1847–57 The Saints established about 100 colonies in the American West.</p> | <p>1849–50 Missionary work was greatly expanded in Europe and began in Hawaii.</p> <p>DEC. 27, 1847 In Kanesville, Iowa, the First Presidency was sustained in a conference of the Church, with Brigham Young as second Church President.</p> | | <p>SEPT. 9, 1850 Utah and some of its surrounding areas became a territory of the United States.</p> | |
| | | <p>JULY 21–24, 1847 The first pioneer company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley.</p> | <p>SEPT. 1849 The Perpetual Emigrating Fund was established to assist Saints traveling to the Salt Lake Valley.</p> | | |
| | |  | | <p>OCT.–NOV. 1856 Severe snowstorms trapped the Willie and Martin handcart companies in Wyoming. Many were saved by courageous rescuers from the Salt Lake Valley.</p> |  |

SOME DATES ARE APPROXIMATE.

Doctrine and Covenants

TIMES AT A GLANCE

CHART 3: SECTION 138 AND OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS 1 AND 2

See *Doctrine and Covenants* section headings for *historical background* and *History of the Church* references.

PEOPLE IN CHURCH HISTORY

- **1866–67** The Relief Society was reestablished, with Eliza R. Snow as president.

MAY 10, 1869 The transcontinental railroad was completed, enabling Saints to gather more quickly and easily in the American West.



- **JUNE 10, 1875** The forerunner to the current Young Men organization was founded.

- **MAY 17, 1884** President Taylor dedicated the Logan Utah Temple.



- **SEPT. 1898** Lorenzo Snow was sustained as fifth President of the Church.

■ **MAY 1899** While seeking wisdom in prayer on how to solve the Church's financial problems, President Snow received a revelation emphasizing the law of tithing.

NOV. 28, 1869 The forerunner to the current Young Women organization was established.



- **OCT. 16, 1875** Brigham Young Academy (now University) was organized, in Provo, Utah.

- **JULY 25, 1887** Wilford Woodruff led the Church as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

- **AUG. 1901** A mission was opened in Japan.

- **OCT. 1901** Joseph F. Smith became sixth President of the Church.



- **APR. 6, 1877** The St. George Utah Temple was dedicated.



- **MAY 17, 1888** President Woodruff dedicated the Manti Utah Temple.

1906 President Joseph F. Smith became the first Church President to visit Europe.

SALT LAKE CITY Utah

- **AUG. 29, 1877** The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with John Taylor as President, led the Church.

- **MAY 17, 1888** President Woodruff dedicated the Manti Utah Temple.

1908–9 Weekly ward priesthood meetings and age requirements for the ordination of worthy young men began.

- **AUG. 25, 1878** The first meeting of the Primary was held.

- **APR. 7, 1889** Wilford Woodruff was sustained as fourth President of the Church.



Section number (see also circled numbers above), date the section was given, and situation that brought forth the revelation:

138. Oct. 3, 1918 President Joseph F. Smith was studying the scriptures in order to understand our postmortal existence.

***Official Declaration 1. Sept. 24, 1890**

President Wilford Woodruff sought for a solution to the problems resulting from persecution of those practicing plural marriage.

****Official Declaration 2. June 1, 1978** President Spencer W. Kimball desired to know the will of the Lord concerning extending the blessings of the priesthood to all worthy male members.



- **APR. 6, 1893** President Woodruff dedicated the Salt Lake Temple.

- **JAN. 4, 1896** Utah became a state in the United States of America.

- **1898** The first full-time sister missionaries were set apart.



JOSEPH F. SMITH
1838–1918



HEBER J. GRANT
1856–1945



GEORGE ALBERT SMITH
1870–1951



DAVID O. MCKAY
1873–1970



JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH
1876–1972

Salt Lake City, Utah: Sept. 1848–

1912 The first seminary classes were established.

APR. 27, 1915 The First Presidency urged members to hold regular family home evenings.

NOV. 1918 Heber J. Grant became seventh President of the Church.

138

1926 The first institute of religion program for college students was opened.



JULY 15, 1929 The Tabernacle Choir held its first radio broadcast.

1930 The Church celebrated its 100th anniversary.

APR. 7, 1936 The welfare program was launched.

1939–40 Because of World War II, missionaries began to be evacuated from Europe, the Pacific, and other areas.

MAY 1945 George Albert Smith became eighth President of the Church.

1947 Church membership passed the one million mark.

APR. 1951 David O. McKay was sustained as ninth President of the Church.

1952–61 Missionary work was expanded in many areas of the world. President McKay taught, "Every member a missionary."

1955–58 Outside North America and Hawaii, the first stakes were organized and the first temples dedicated.

SEPT. 1955 The Church College of Hawaii opened.



HAROLD B. LEE
1899–1973



SPENCER W. KIMBALL
1895–1985



EZRA TAFT BENSON
1899–1994



HOWARD W. HUNTER
1907–95



GORDON B. HINCKLEY
1910–

1961 The priesthood correlation program was instituted.

SEPT. 1967 The first regional representatives were called.

JAN. 1970 Joseph Fielding Smith was sustained as tenth President of the Church.

1971 Church membership exceeded three million.

JULY 1972 Harold B. Lee was sustained as eleventh President of the Church.

DEC. 1973 Spencer W. Kimball became twelfth President of the Church.

1974 President Kimball urged members to "lengthen our stride" and "enlarge our vision" of missionary work worldwide.

1975–76 The First Quorum of the Seventy was reorganized to serve as a General Authority quorum.

2**

1979–81 New editions of the scriptures with improved study helps were published in English.



1980 A three-hour-block Sunday meeting schedule was instituted.

1982 Church membership exceeded five million.

JUNE 24, 1984 Area Presidencies were organized to strengthen Church government on the local level.

AUG. 1985 A new hymnbook in English was published and became the basis for new hymnbooks in many languages.



NOV. 1985 Ezra Taft Benson became thirteenth President of the Church.

1985 The humanitarian relief program began to be greatly expanded to provide food, clothing, and medical supplies to the needy around the world.

1986 Church membership reached six million.

1986–87 President Benson emphasized the importance of studying the Book of Mormon.

MAY 15, 1988 The first stake in western Africa was organized.

1988–91 Missionary work expanded into Eastern Europe.



MAY 16, 1989 The Brigham Young University Jerusalem Center was dedicated.

JUNE 1994 Howard W. Hunter became fourteenth President of the Church.

MAR. 1995 Gordon B. Hinckley became fifteenth President of the Church.

APR. 1, 1995 The first Area Authorities were called.

SEPT. 23, 1995 "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" was issued.

APR. 4, 1997 The first Area Authority Seventies were called.

1997 Church membership exceeded 10 million.

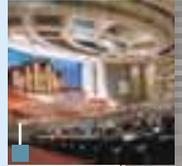
1998 The dedication of the first smaller temples began making the blessings of regular temple attendance available to more members.



MAY 24, 1999 The FamilySearch™ Web site was launched.



JAN. 1, 2000 The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles published their testimony in "The Living Christ."



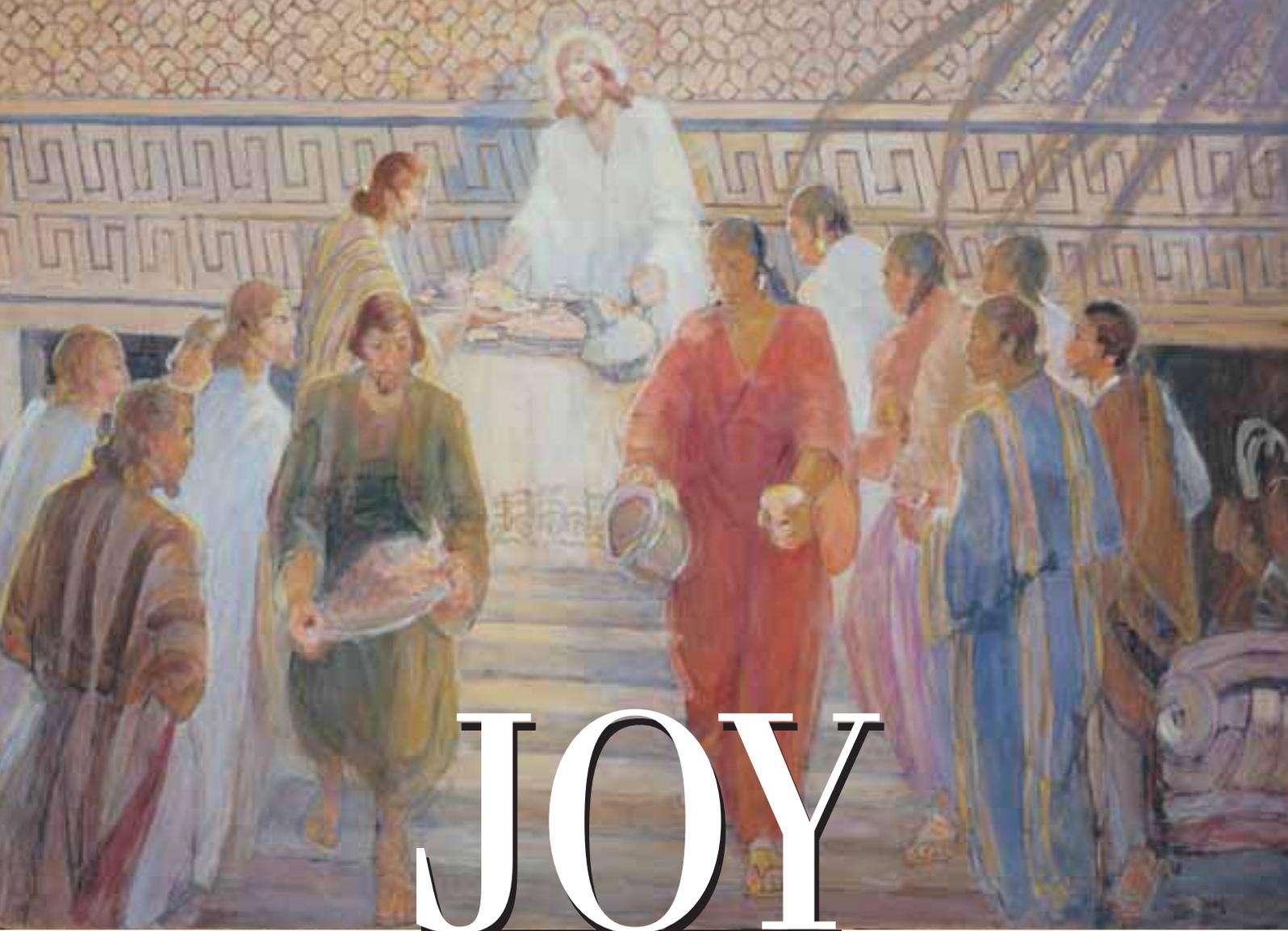
OCT. 2000 President Hinckley dedicated the 21,000-seat Conference Center.

MAR. 31, 2001 President Hinckley announced the creation of the Perpetual Education Fund to help young Latter-day Saints receive education and training.

JUNE 27, 2002 The rebuilt Nauvoo Illinois Temple was dedicated.



SEPT. 2005 One hundred and twenty-two temples are in operation.



JOY

IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

Minerva K. Teichert found joy in the scriptures and felt that her Book of Mormon paintings and murals were her most important works.

Minerva K. Teichert's life was filled with contrasts. Minerva (1888–1976) and her husband, Herman, raised five children on their Wyoming ranch, where she lived the rugged life of one who cared for horses and cattle. At the same time, she was also a sensitive artist and faithful student of the scriptures whose love for the Book of Mormon stories and the pioneers flowed onto large canvases attached to the four walls of her living room.

She studied art in Chicago (1909–12) and in New York (1915–16). Of her training in New York with Robert Henri, one of the most influential American art teachers of the early



The Sacrament

“And when the disciples had come with bread and wine, [Jesus] took of the bread and brake and blessed it; and he gave unto the disciples and commanded that they should eat. And when they had eaten and were filled, he commanded that they should give unto the multitude” (3 Nephi 18:3–4).

20th century, she said, “I’ve driven many a run-away team, and I love the pull of the reins in my hands, but [Henri’s] class was something now!”¹

At one point Henri asked her if anyone had told “the Mormon story.” Minerva replied, “Not to my liking.” As a result the story of the Latter-day Saint pioneers and stories from the scriptures became the subject matter of her art. Her prolific career spanned six decades and resulted in nearly a hundred murals as well as hundreds of paintings.

NOTE

1. Letter, late 1940s, Minerva Teichert Collection, L. Tom Perry Special Collections Library, Brigham Young University.



Alma Baptizing at the Waters of Mormon

Alma said, "Now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light . . . what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord? . . . [And Alma] did baptize every one . . . and they were in number about two hundred and four souls; yea, and they were . . . filled with the grace of God" (Mosiab 18:8, 10, 16).

Mosiah Discovers the People of Zarahemla

"Now, there was great rejoicing among the people of Zarahemla . . . because the Lord had sent the people of Mosiah with the plates of brass which contained the record of the Jews. . . . Mosiah caused that they should be taught in his language . . . [and] the people of Zarahemla, and of Mosiah, did unite together" (Omni 1:14, 18–19).



Lehi's Family Loads the Ship

Of preparations to sail to the promised land, Nephi wrote: "After we had prepared all things, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions according to that which the Lord had commanded us, we did go down into the ship, with all our loading and our seeds, . . . every one according to his age" (1 Nephi 18:6).



The Title of Liberty

Moroni, commander of the Nephite armies, "rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it— In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children—and he fastened it upon the end of a pole. . . . And he did raise the standard of liberty in whatsoever place he did enter, and gained whatsoever force he could in all his march towards the land of Gideon" (Alma 46:12; 62:4).



Helaman's Striplings and Samuel the Lamanite

The upper half of this two-part painting shows the 2,000 Lamanite warriors of Helaman (see Alma 53:16–22); the lower half shows Samuel the Lamanite preaching amid arrows shot at him by the Nephites (see Helaman 16:1–8).



The Angel

As Alma the younger and the four sons of Mosiah went about to destroy the church of God, "the angel of the Lord appeared unto them; and he descended as it were in a cloud; and he spake as it were with a voice of thunder, which caused the earth to shake upon which they stood" (Mosiah 27:11). ■

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How can I encourage my children to spend less time in front of the television and computer and more time engaged in healthy physical activity?

Change your family room or living room furniture so that the focus of the room is on something other than the television. If possible, place the television in a cabinet with opaque doors that can be closed when the TV is not in use. Reduce the number of televisions in the house.

In our family we have tried to focus on toys that encourage physical activity: scooters (not motorized), bikes, a minitrampoline, jump ropes, and balls.

Rachael Bell, Chimacum Ward, Port Angeles Washington Stake

Place the computer in a commonly used part of the house rather than in a quiet room or study. Make this the only computer connected to the Internet. In this way, children are less likely to be “off task” when using the computer. A computer-scheduling sheet helps resolve the problem of everyone wanting to use the computer at once.

It has been our experience that when lying in front of a television set



or playing on a computer screen are not easy options for children or teenagers, they will look for other forms of recreation.

Barry and Judi Brocas, Palmerston North Ward, Palmerston North New Zealand Stake

Since my husband makes video games for a living, this has been a sensitive issue in our family. Not long ago, we realized that our three oldest boys (ages three, five, and seven) were spending too much time watching movies and playing video games. So we introduced the idea that our minds and bodies need to follow a “word of wisdom”

much like the one in Doctrine and Covenants 89. Television and video games represent “dessert items,” not a nourishing meal.

To help our boys with this concept, we gave each boy a small jar containing plastic cookies that represented how much media time he could spend in a week. We then allowed our sons to choose how much time to spend in front of the computer or television by paying for the time with cookies. The first week, all the cookies were gone in two or three days, and our sons began complaining about the new system. We gently reminded them of the “word of wisdom” analogy and suggested that their bodies and brains needed something more nourishing than cookies. Sometimes we stopped what we were doing and helped them get engaged in something new. The second week, each boy was able to make his cookies last until Saturday. By the third week, some of the cookies didn’t get used at all!

We don’t use the cookies anymore. Thankfully, our boys seem to get bored with an excess of computer, TV, and video game time. However, the jars of cookies still sit above the television for the next

time our children have a “media sweet tooth.”

Sarah Cloward, Durham First Ward, Durham North Carolina Stake

Our family had a home evening lesson about the benefits of exercise and caring for our bodies. We motivated ourselves by using the Physical Fitness Award program found in the *Family Home Evening Resource Book* (item no. 31106, U.S. \$6.00) and on the Church Web site providentliving.org. Family members earned points by participating in physical activities to earn a bronze, silver, or gold award certificate.

Each family’s solutions may be different. For our own situation, we limit screen time to a certain number of hours, only on the weekends. I also keep the power cord to the game equipment so that the children have to come to me for permission to use it.

Bonnie Morey, Bangkok (English) Branch, Bangkok Thailand Stake

We have dedicated one family home evening each month to wholesome recreational activities. Here are some activities we have enjoyed that do not cost a lot of money:

- Have snow time. Painting in the snow, building snow forts or snow people to represent your family, and having a snowball shot-put contest are just a few suggestions.

- Turn up the music and dance, or perform as an air band. Getting creative to music is always a hit with young children.

- Set up an obstacle course. Be creative and enjoy the challenge.

- Go for a nature hike. Bring a magnifying glass, pen, and paper to design a nature scrapbook. Record

the plants, animals, and other treasures you find along the way.

- Sign up for a walk or run for charity. Supporting a good cause will help your children feel the satisfaction that comes from being part of something bigger than themselves.

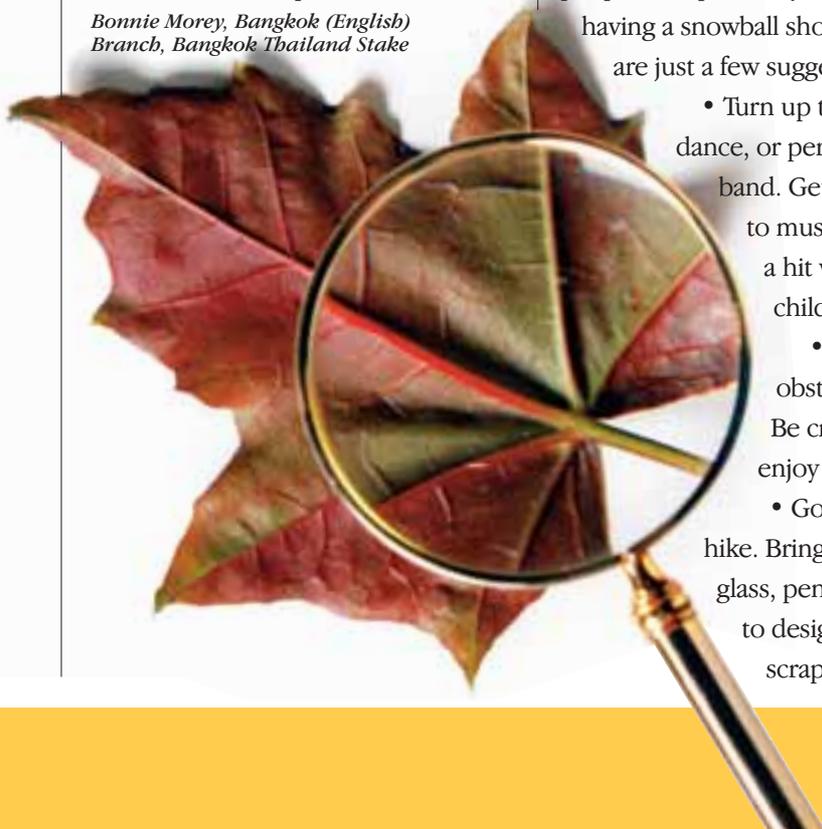
- Go on a treasure hunt or bury a family time capsule.

- Fly a kite.

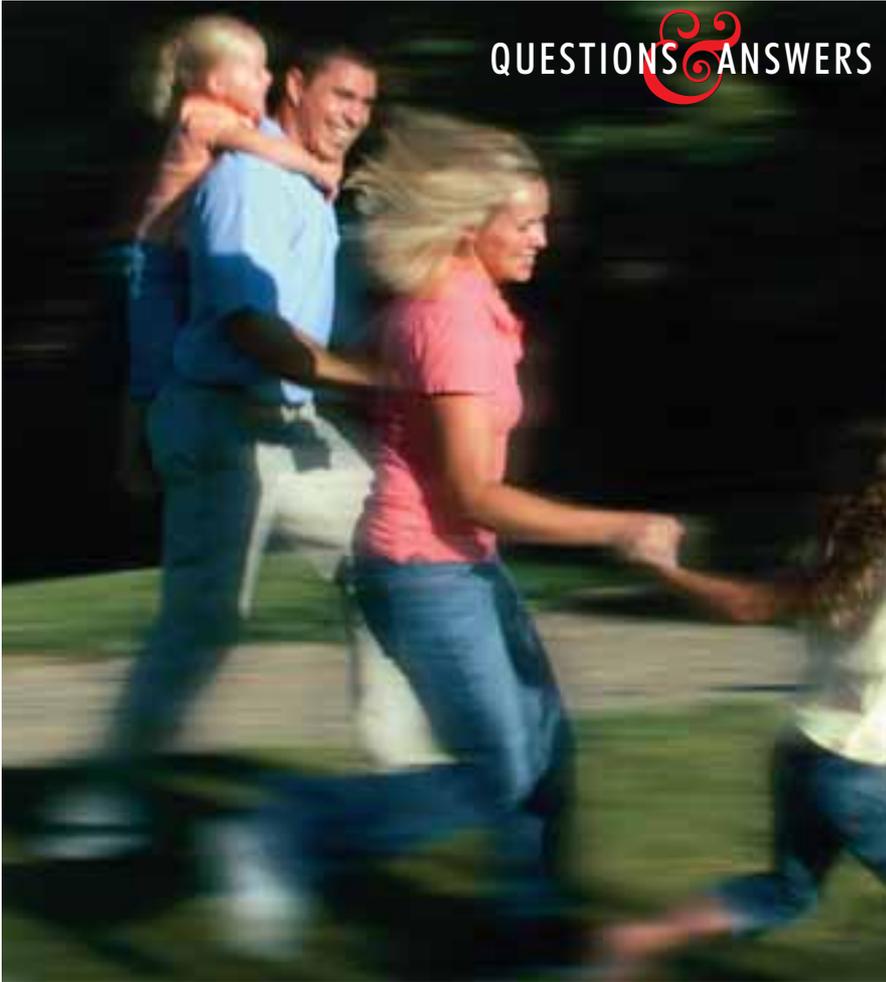
- Have a picnic on top of a mountain or by a waterfall. Enjoy the beautiful world you live in.

Chantelle Adams, Westbank Branch, Vernon British Columbia Stake

If we want our children to be more active and spend less time passively sitting in front of electronic devices, we need to first take time to participate in other activities with them. My husband and I noticed that most attempts to tell our kids to “Go do ___” elicited no cooperation, whereas a summons to “Come practice soccer with me!” brought a better response.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Don't get upset about muddy shoes or ripped jeans—it goes with the territory. We try to have plenty of play or work clothes for the children to choose from. Endeavor to make exercise fun, not a stressful event.

When televisions and computers are in bedrooms, they are much harder to monitor, and it is easier to get addicted or at least distracted from more important goals and activities. Thus, we vetoed the request of an adolescent child to have a personal television in her own room.

Leslie-Maria Harris Cramer, Windaroo Ward, Brisbane Australia Logan Stake

We go on family walks of 25 or 30 minutes nearly every night. We make the walks a positive adventure by taking one or more pets, playing games

like hide-and-seek, having races, looking at bugs and plants, talking with neighbors, and so on. Our children will often voluntarily leave the TV to ask, "Can we go on our walk now?"

Ali and Daniel L. Orr II, Las Vegas Eighth Ward, Las Vegas Nevada Stake

When choosing activities to enjoy as a family, remember that you don't have to be good at something to enjoy it. Even my own daughter would tell me that I "throw like a girl." I would answer, "That's OK by me; I am one!" Also, it's never too late to learn. Although my husband is an excellent swimmer, I always just stayed in the shallow water. When my school-age children were taking swimming lessons and leaving me behind, I decided to take adult beginner

swimming lessons. Soon I was able to swim lengths of the pool and tread water in the deep end with the children when we went on family swims. Through family activities, the children came to enjoy physical exercise and needed little prompting to turn off the computer or the TV to go out and do things on their own or with friends.

Elaine Gunnell, Temiskaming Branch, Sudbury Ontario Stake

Some time ago my wife and I felt inspired to make every other day a "No TV Day." We made a sign, using a couple of Velcro strips and a plastic sheet protector. The sign hangs on the front of our television.

One side reads: "Today is an ODD day—TV Day. Some TV and computer games are OK today." Of course, on these days we still monitor the content of the programs our children watch. On even days of the month, the sign is flipped over and placed so that it blocks the screen: "Today is an EVEN day—No-TV Day. TV allowed only on birthdays or odd days."

When we started this practice, I feared that the children would try to spend even more time in front of the TV on the TV days. Actually, the opposite is true. No-TV days allowed our family to discover wholesome, fun, family-oriented games and physical activities that we previously ignored. More productive and creative activities soon started taking up more of our TV

KEEP ALL THINGS IN BALANCE



“One of the ways Satan lessens your effectiveness and weakens your spiritual strength is by encouraging you to spend large blocks of your time doing things that matter very little. I speak of such things as sitting for hours on end watching television or videos, playing video games night in and night out, surfing the Internet, or devoting huge blocks of time to sports, games, or other recreational activities.

“Don’t misunderstand me. These activities are not wrong in and of themselves (unless, of course, you are watching salacious programs or seeking out pornographic images on the Internet). . . .

“But I speak of letting things get out of balance. . . .

“One devastating effect of idling away our time is that it deflects us from focusing on the things that matter most. Too many people are willing to sit back and let life just happen to them. It takes time to develop the attributes that will help you to be a well-balanced person.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Be Strong in the Lord,” *Ensign*, July 2004, 13–14.

days as well. As the children have grown, computer games have joined the TV as every-other-day activities. We don’t always need to enforce this practice strictly, but when we notice our lives becoming timed around the TV schedule, we bring out the sign!

Nathan Hunt, Avon Ward, Indianapolis Indiana North Stake

The reward for good behavior at our house is being able to read the maximum number of storybooks (usually three in addition to the scriptures they read every night) at bedtime with Mommy or Daddy instead of getting to watch a TV program. When the girls make poor choices during the day, they lose the privilege of hearing one story. It is so refreshing to see how much our children value getting to read those books.

When they do watch TV, we limit it to just one short video per day. We choose videos or DVDs rather than television programs so that we can better control the content and limit the number of commercials our girls watch.

Kjersten Johnson, Mission Lake Ward, Santa Margarita California Stake

One facet of our effort to limit the availability of electronic toys is talking to the parents in our neighborhood. Every household has different rules, but parents are better able to support one another when they know each family’s approach.

Susanne Robbins, Rexburg First Ward, Rexburg Idaho North Stake

Some ideas that may help turn your family’s attention away from the television are:

- Help your children get started with hobbies—scrapbooking, building models, gardening, cooking, rock polishing. The possibilities are endless.
- Introduce them to the local

library. Read and discuss books together.

- Instead of spending Saturday mornings in front of the television, explore your surroundings with your kids. Visit the points of interest near or around your town together.

- Work on a home improvement project together. Redecorate your children’s room and let them help. ■

Casie Adams, Hualapai Footbills Ward, Kingman Arizona Stake





STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

HAPPINESS IN FAMILY LIFE

A continuing series giving insights for your study and use of "The Family: A Proclamation to the World."

"Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities."¹

Achieving Happiness

A happy family life is a primary goal not only here in mortality but in the eternities to come, and mothers and fathers have an obligation to do everything possible to make that goal a reality. Recognizing our limitations because of the agency of others, Elder Henry B. Eyring of



the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said: "We cannot control what others choose to do, and so we cannot force our children to heaven, but we can determine what we will do. And we can decide that we will do all we can to bring down the powers of heaven into that family we want so much to have forever."²

Teaching in the Home

"Parents are the master teachers," said Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "They do their most effective teaching by example. The family circle is the ideal place to demonstrate and learn kindness, forgiveness, faith in God, and every

other practicing virtue of the gospel.”³

Helping children mature into spiritually committed adults is no easy matter in today’s world, but parents are not alone. They are partners with Heavenly Father. To missionaries the Lord promised, “I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up” (D&C 84:88). Parents—because the teaching of their own children is perhaps the most important missionary labor—can feel confident of similar promises.

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) once taught: “There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or to be the mirror that reflects it. We parents can be both.”⁴ As parents seek the Lord’s Spirit in their lives, their example will shine brightly for their children and their goodness will be a reflection of a far greater light.

Discipline

Sometimes children need correction and discipline. Thus, parents should study carefully Doctrine and Covenants 121:41–44. President Gordon B. Hinckley has also given wise counsel: “There is need for discipline with families. But discipline with severity, discipline with cruelty, inevitably leads not to correction but rather to resentment and bitterness. It cures nothing and only aggravates the problem.”⁵

“Children cannot be forced into obedience,” explained President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Our best method for correcting children when they have done wrong is by firmness, love, patience, kindness, persuasion, and reason.”⁶

Family Togetherness

Families grow stronger as they spend time together. Elder Oaks explained:

“Families should pray together, kneeling night and morning to offer thanks for blessings and prayers for common concerns.



As parents seek the Lord’s Spirit in their lives, their example will shine brightly for their children.

“Families should worship together, participating in church services and family devotionals.

“Families should study and learn. . . .

“Families should work together. . . .

Families should also play together, so that happy recreational experiences are associated with the activities of the family.

“Families should counsel together, treating all matters of concern to the family and its members.

“Families should eat together. Mealtime

is a natural time for the family to assemble and communicate. It is a shame for such an opportunity to be lost in family bickering or to be fragmented by family members seizing food and scattering to the four corners as if the family kitchen were a fast food outlet.”⁷

Service and Love

Sometimes, in spite of every good effort by parents to teach their children and to build unity in the family, children struggle and even rebel. Those who find feelings are strained in their family, that they are temporarily losing the battle for happiness, can put this promise from Elder Eyring to the test: “I promise you that if you’ll use your gifts to serve someone else, you’ll feel the Lord’s love for that person. You’ll also feel his love for you.”⁸ Sometimes all we can do as parents is to love and serve, expecting no immediate return. But these efforts will bring peace. And eventually, when the storm has passed and feelings have softened, they may also bring the fruit we desire most—happiness in our families now and in the eternities. ■

NOTES

1. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liabona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
2. “The Family,” *Liabona*, Oct. 1998, 22; *Ensign*, Feb. 1998, 18.
3. “Parental Leadership in the Family,” *Ensign*, June 1985, 9.
4. In Conference Report, Stockholm Sweden Area Conference 1974, 49.
5. “Behold Your Little Ones,” *Liabona*, Mar. 2001, 5; *Ensign*, June 2001, 4.
6. “Challenges Facing the Family,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Jan. 2004, 3.
7. *Ensign*, June 1985, 10–11.
8. *To Draw Closer to God* (1997), 88.

TEACHING THE GOSPEL WITH POWER

BY GLEN M. ROYLANCE

Retired Church Educational System Teacher and Administrator

The power of the word, delivered under the influence of the Spirit, nurtures and sustains God's children.

My friend spoke almost wistfully about an experience that had left an indelible impression upon him during his teenage years. “I sensed that my father had called the family together for something important,” he said. “We weren’t sure what Dad had on his mind, but he insisted that all of us keep the evening free. Following one of Mom’s ‘special occasion’ meals, Dad dimmed the lights and set a blaze in the fireplace as we situated ourselves in the living room. He said there were some things he had wanted to say to us for some time and asked that we listen carefully. He then spoke at length and with great sincerity. I think I shall never forget his words. After expressing his love for us and his concern for our spiritual welfare, he told the story of his courtship with my mother, the sealing of their love in the temple, and the hopes they held for the future. He expressed his love of God and the truths of the gospel, then bore a powerful testimony of Christ and the Restoration of His Church to the earth.”

As this father revealed the intimate feelings of his heart, the Spirit of the Lord brought a poignant response within his son, and later, as he lay in bed rehearsing his father’s words, a great spiritual desire awakened within him. That night he made personal commitments he would live by throughout the years to come.

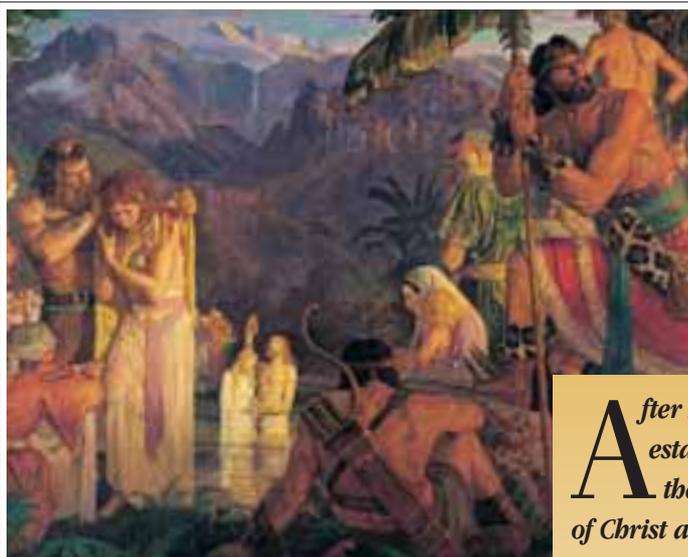
Though the settings and circumstances may vary, such experiences are not unusual in the lives of Church members. Whether in a special family home evening, a memorable sacrament meeting, a classroom experience, or a session of general conference, the power of the word, delivered under the influence of the Spirit, nurtures and sustains God’s children.

The Importance of Teaching

The scriptures attest to the central importance of teaching in the Church. The Lord gave a commandment and promise to the Church in the early days of this dispensation: “Teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you” (D&C 88:77–78). The important place of teaching in the Church was also evident among the Nephites. Moroni referred to their being “nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way” (Moroni 6:4). Accordingly, the obligation of those who serve is always to teach, expound, and exhort as they watch over the Church (see D&C 20:42, 50, 59).

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC MUSEUM AT FREDERIKSBORG IN HILLERÖD, DENMARK, MAY NOT BE COPIED





After Alma established the Church of Christ at the Waters of Mormon, he commanded those appointed to teach the people “that they should preach nothing save it were repentance and faith on the Lord, who had redeemed his people.”

The preaching of gospel truths is something dynamic and vital. We are reminded of Paul’s words in this regard: “It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). Though the effect of preaching the word may not be apparent to the world, the scriptures suggest that it surpasses any other approach to shaping human behavior—that it has a “more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else” (Alma 31:5).

It was through a sermon preached by King Benjamin that the Nephite nation was transformed. By this means they came to an intimate knowledge of God’s glory and goodness, tasting of His love and receiving a remission of their sins (see Mosiah 4:1–4, 11). Similarly, the words of Enoch had such a profound effect upon a rebellious people that the order of Zion came to flourish in their midst (see Moses 6:26–29; 7:12–19).

Guidelines for Effective Teaching

“But how do I do it?” comes the important question. How do ordinary Latter-day Saints emulate those who have set such impressive examples as great teachers? Fortunately, there has been clear prophetic counsel setting forth the principles and prerequisites involved. A sampling of this counsel is summarized under the five general headings that follow.

1. Know and Teach Gospel Doctrine

As a young missionary, I sat in a stirring missionary

conference at which President Henry D. Moyle (1889–1963), First Counselor in the First Presidency, gave some sound counsel. “How many of you know that the gospel is true?”

he asked, calling for a show of hands. There was an unhesitating affirmative response. Then came his second question, “How many of you truly know the gospel?” It was a dramatic moment as each of us did some soul searching. Continuing, he challenged us to rise above a superficial understanding of gospel doctrine. He was not referring to unanswered questions and speculative theories. His counsel pertained to the doctrinal foundation of the Lord’s kingdom. Although these principles are simple enough to be taught to a child, they involve so many layers of meaning and have such vast implications as to justify a lifetime of study. In a revelation to the

early missionaries of our day the Lord enjoins them to “give heed to that which is written” and to pray always that He might “unfold the same to their understanding” (D&C 32:4). Surely this direction applies to all who are invited to teach in the Church.

The study and teaching of revealed doctrine seems to involve a cause-and-effect relationship so far as people’s actions are concerned. To know and believe some things is to feel a powerful desire to act accordingly. Such was the case as Aaron, a Book of Mormon missionary, taught the Lamanite king. Coming to an understanding of the doctrines Aaron had taught, the king felt great spiritual desire. With earnestness he said: “What shall I do that I may have this eternal life of which thou hast spoken? Yea, what shall I do that I may be born of God, having this wicked spirit rooted out of my breast, and receive his Spirit, that I may be filled with joy, that I may not be cast off at the last day?” Then, as Aaron more fully expounded the doctrine of repentance, the king prostrated himself upon the earth and cried mightily to the Lord, “O God, . . . wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that

I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day” (Alma 22:15, 18).

Though our times and circumstances may be different, those who understand the doctrine of personal redemption and can teach it with power will see similar effects in people’s lives. Whether subtle or dramatic, whether in the lives of the old or young, whether the hearers need only encouragement in their upward strivings or the call to forsake forbidden paths, the inspired teaching of doctrine is a potent influence for good.

2. Promote Faith and Repentance

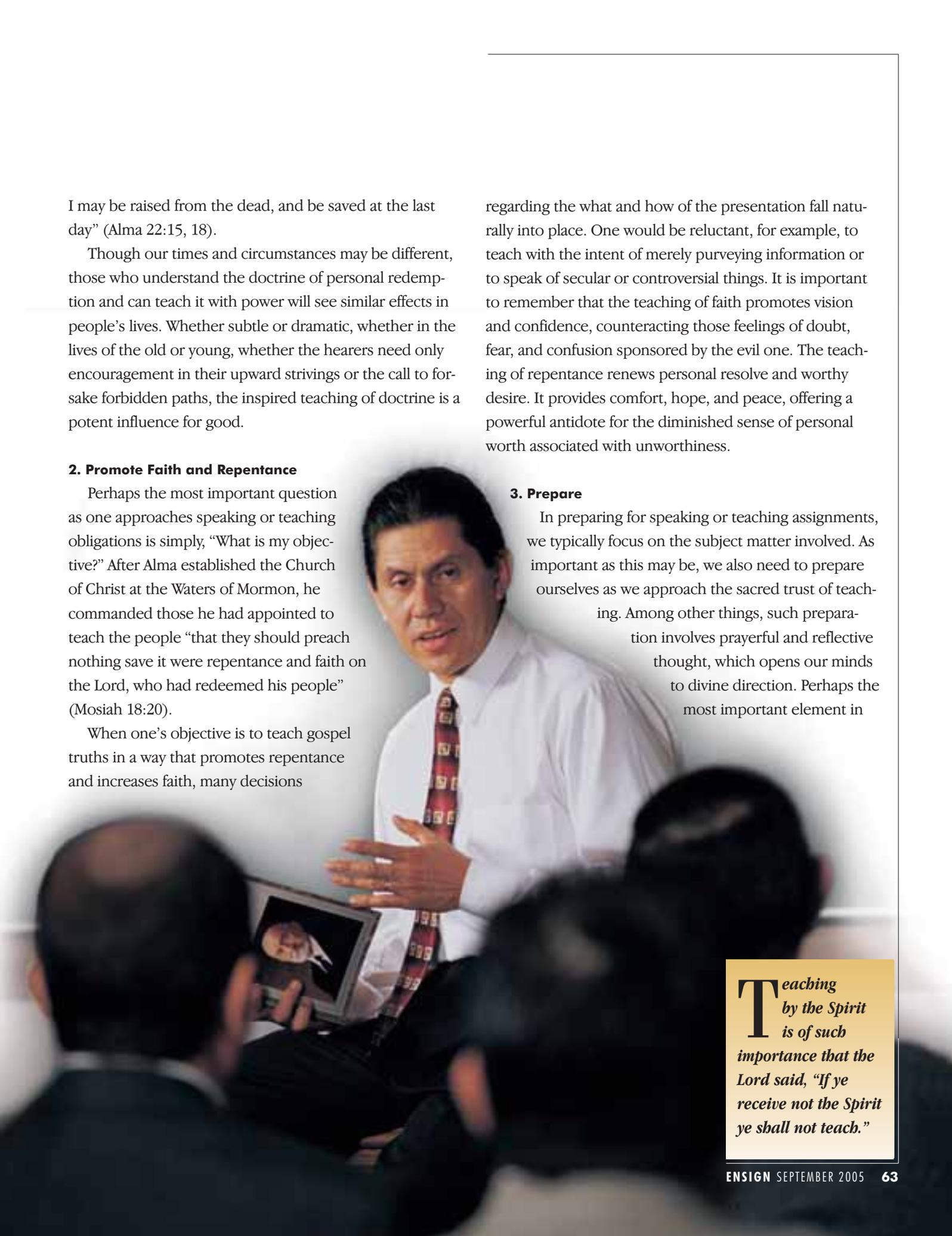
Perhaps the most important question as one approaches speaking or teaching obligations is simply, “What is my objective?” After Alma established the Church of Christ at the Waters of Mormon, he commanded those he had appointed to teach the people “that they should preach nothing save it were repentance and faith on the Lord, who had redeemed his people” (Mosiah 18:20).

When one’s objective is to teach gospel truths in a way that promotes repentance and increases faith, many decisions

regarding the what and how of the presentation fall naturally into place. One would be reluctant, for example, to teach with the intent of merely purveying information or to speak of secular or controversial things. It is important to remember that the teaching of faith promotes vision and confidence, counteracting those feelings of doubt, fear, and confusion sponsored by the evil one. The teaching of repentance renews personal resolve and worthy desire. It provides comfort, hope, and peace, offering a powerful antidote for the diminished sense of personal worth associated with unworthiness.

3. Prepare

In preparing for speaking or teaching assignments, we typically focus on the subject matter involved. As important as this may be, we also need to prepare ourselves as we approach the sacred trust of teaching. Among other things, such preparation involves prayerful and reflective thought, which opens our minds to divine direction. Perhaps the most important element in



Teaching
by the Spirit
is of such
importance that the
Lord said, “If ye
receive not the Spirit
ye shall not teach.”



Preparation is a prerequisite to inspiration,” explained Elder Matthew Cowley. “Inspiration will never elicit thoughts from an empty head. Study assiduously, striving to develop a creative mind.”

words give us reason to regard these “spiritual memories” as a veritable treasure chest: “Treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man” (D&C 84:85).

Elder Matthew Cowley (1897–1953) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, who was noted for his masterful sermons, wrote a few words of good counsel to his younger brother, who was serving as a missionary and striving to cultivate the necessary skills to preach the gospel: “Preparation is a prerequisite to inspiration,” explained Elder Cowley. “Inspiration will never elicit thoughts from an empty head. Study assiduously, striving to develop a creative mind.”¹

“And what do I study?” one might ask. In addition to the standard works, the general conference reports are significant sources of inspiration as we prepare to formally teach the gospel. Here one has access to current guidance from those who set an exemplary teaching standard in both message and approach. The wise teacher will turn again and again to the masterfully prepared discourses of our living prophets, sensing an obligation to help distill their inspired teachings into the mainstream of thought and understanding within the Church.

personal preparation is our continuing effort to remain full of faith, keeping the light of personal testimony alive within.

Peter’s counsel seems to touch upon this principle: “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

That which past experience has put in our hearts is often a vital part of preparation as contemplation brings these acquired insights to the fore. The Lord’s

Other less authoritative sources can also be of value if we are careful not to be distracted from the doctrine central to our teaching. It has been said that every good teacher should be something of a pack rat, collecting poignant ideas and powerfully expressed sentiments from the sources he or she encounters day by day. Daily living, when viewed through the eyes of a teacher, is full of experiences that spring to life as stories, analogies, and illustrations when it is time to teach.

4. Teach by the Spirit

The operation of God’s Spirit has a profound influence upon the dynamics of speaking or teaching. It promotes a quality of communication between speaker and hearer that heightens understanding. Describing this superior level of communication, Nephi states that “when a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men” (2 Nephi 33:1). The Lord further describes this process in a revelation to the Saints in Kirtland, Ohio: “Why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth? Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together” (D&C 50:21–22).

Another reality sometimes prevails when teaching is sustained by the Spirit. What the speaker says may be transmitted to the hearer with meaning and suggested application that is unique to that individual. This great blessing is frequently apparent in comments such as, “What you said was meant for me,” or “That was exactly what I needed to hear.”

Teaching by the Spirit is of such importance in the mind of the Lord as to warrant this caveat: “If ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach” (D&C 42:14). Without the Spirit, one’s teaching is mechanical and lacks the power of edification. The following suggestions are worth remembering as we strive to increase the influence of the Spirit in our teaching:

- Remember the Lord’s promise that “the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith” (D&C 42:14).
- Unless circumstances call for a fully written text and the verbatim reading of one’s remarks, use a brief outline and limited notes, allowing the inspiration of the hour to suggest the final structuring of the presentation.
- Avoid the tendency to aggrandize self through erudite language or stories that draw undue attention to one’s personal achievements. Typically, the Spirit testifies of those things that are more important than self.
- Don’t allow the desire to entertain one’s listeners interfere with the higher objective of inspiring and edifying.
- While analogies and illustrative devices

are of great importance, don’t allow teaching techniques to become so elaborate or extreme as to obscure rather than clarify the principles being taught.

- Focus on the scriptures. Remember that secular interpretations, philosophical constructs, and political ideologies belong to a different sphere of teaching and learning.

5. Bear Personal Testimony

Finally, the place of personal testimony in teaching must be emphasized. Not only do such expressions invite the Spirit of the Lord into one’s presentation, but they bring a divine seal of affirmation to what has been said. Alma’s stirring testimony during his remarks to the people of Zarahemla exemplifies this principle: “Behold, I testify unto you that I do know that these things whereof I have spoken are true. And how do ye suppose that I know of their surety? Behold, I say unto you they are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me” (Alma 5:45–46).

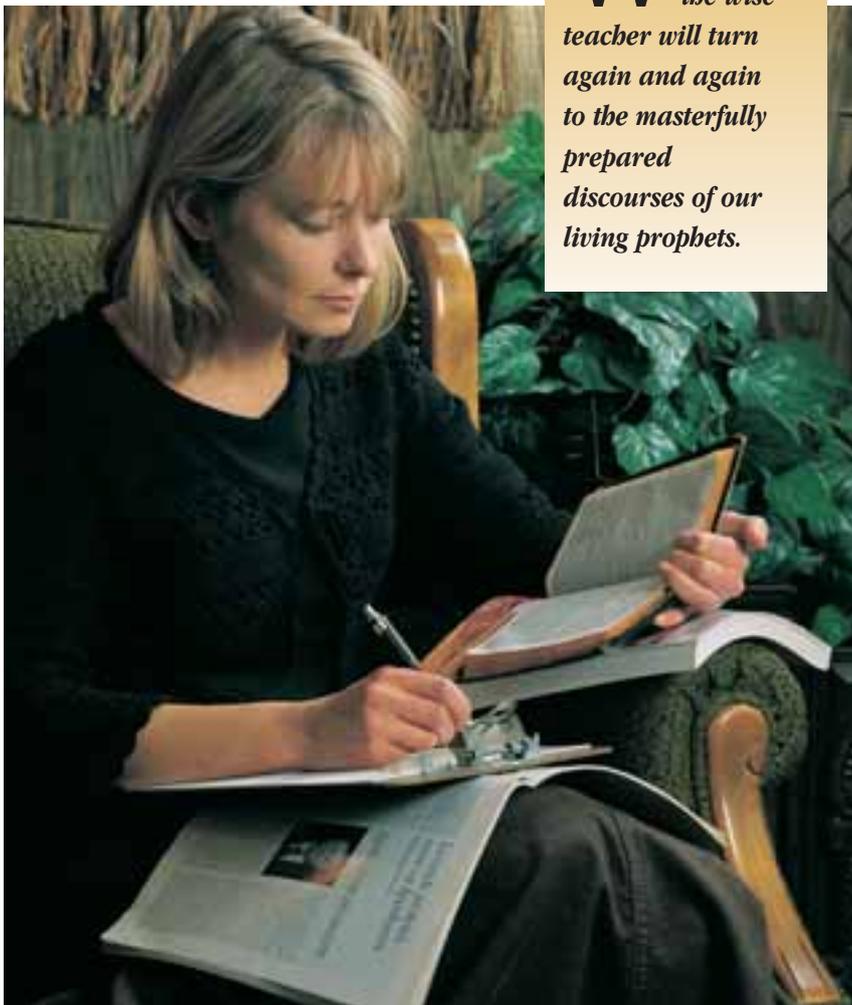
May we ever strive to increase our capacity and effectiveness as we teach the gospel. As is the case with all service, our efforts to faithfully magnify our callings will bring great blessings in return. How typical it is for devoted teachers to experience an increase in understanding and worthy desires equal to or exceeding that which is imparted to those they teach. ■

Glen M. Roylance is a member of the Ben Lomond Fourth Ward, North Ogden Utah Ben Lomond Stake.

NOTE

1. Quoted in Henry A. Smith, *Matthew Cowley: Man of Faith* (1954), 68–69.

When preparing, the wise teacher will turn again and again to the masterfully prepared discourses of our living prophets.



We Rejoiced in Her Healing

By Magdalena Peñate de Guerra

On June 2, 2002, my little granddaughter, Susan Melina, who was only seven months old, became ill, and her parents took her to the hospital. The doctors diagnosed her with a kidney infection. She also developed a serious bacterial infection that spread throughout her system, causing damage to her heart, liver, spleen, kidneys, lungs, and nervous and digestive systems. She was so ill she was admitted to intensive care.

The doctors advised her parents to prepare

themselves because she could die at any time. She remained in intensive care for 26 days, during which time she was given antibiotics and many transfusions. Meanwhile, we, her family, fasted often and asked God for a miracle, for a complete healing—if it was His will. Two priesthood brethren anointed and blessed her.

The doctors advised Susan Melina's parents to prepare themselves because she could die at any time.

When Susan Melina had been in the hospital for two weeks, her mother became ill also and had emergency surgery for appendicitis. This was a difficult trial for the whole family.

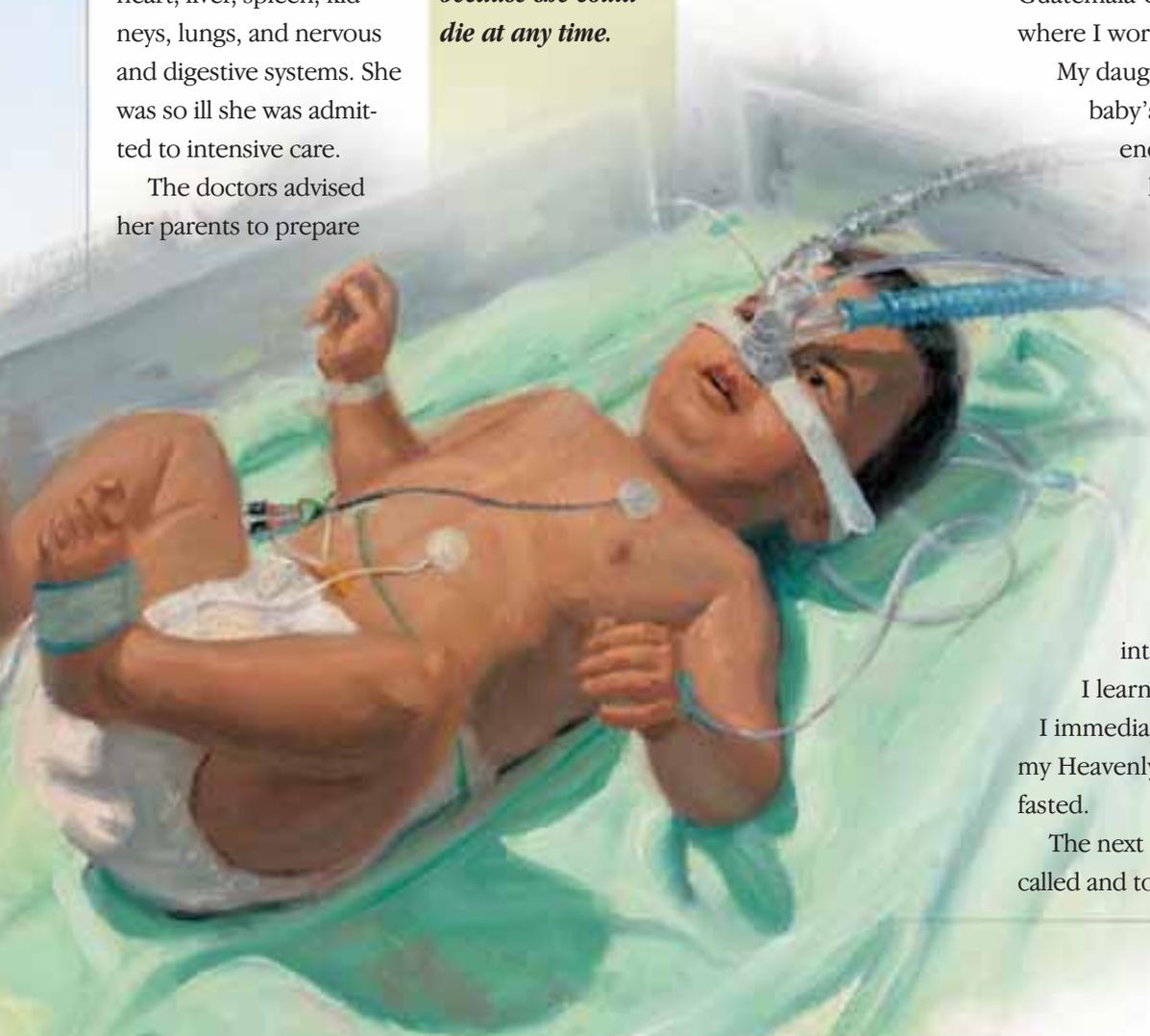
Twenty days after Susan Melina entered the hospital, she was no better. But because of the generosity of a person we didn't even know, her parents were able to move her to a private hospital where she would receive better care.

One Saturday at noon I received a telephone call from my daughter, Susan Carolina. I was in the Guatemala City Guatemala Temple, where I work in a custodial position.

My daughter told me that her baby's condition had worsened and that the infection had now lodged in one of the ventricles of her heart. According to the doctors, it was hard to do anything to help her because she was completely malnourished. She was so ill that it was dangerous to hold her because it could cause internal bleeding. When

I learned about the situation, I immediately began to pray to my Heavenly Father. Once again I fasted.

The next day, Sunday, my daughter called and told me that the bacteria



had completely disappeared. The doctors were releasing Susan Melina on Monday because she was out of danger.

As we rejoiced in this great miracle, we realized that every prayer of faith is not answered so quickly in the way we desire. But I am infinitely grateful to Heavenly Father. I have no doubt that He lives and hears our prayers. ■

Magdalena Peñate de Guerra is a member of the Villa Canales Ward, Guatemala City Guatemala Villa Hermosa Stake.

I Will Get Rid of Them

By John Jairo Montoya

I was 20 years old and had spent most of my life as a member of my parents' church. But for three years I had not gone to church because I was considering other religious and moral philosophies—although none of them felt right to me.

One day when I arrived at my parents' house, my brother and my best friend were there. They said some young women had come to visit and had left a book with my brother. My brother had asked my best friend to be at the house when they came back. He wanted him to be the one to tell them not to come anymore.

But when the missionaries returned, my friend said, "Come back

in three days because I want to hear the discussions."

My brother was furious. I asked my friend what he had been thinking, and he just said, "Well, they are very beautiful, and they have a nice way of talking about Jesus Christ."

"Well, I will get rid of them," I replied arrogantly.

Two weeks went by without my being able to do so. They were now visiting my brother and my sister and many of my friends. They were surrounding me on all sides, and I didn't even know who was

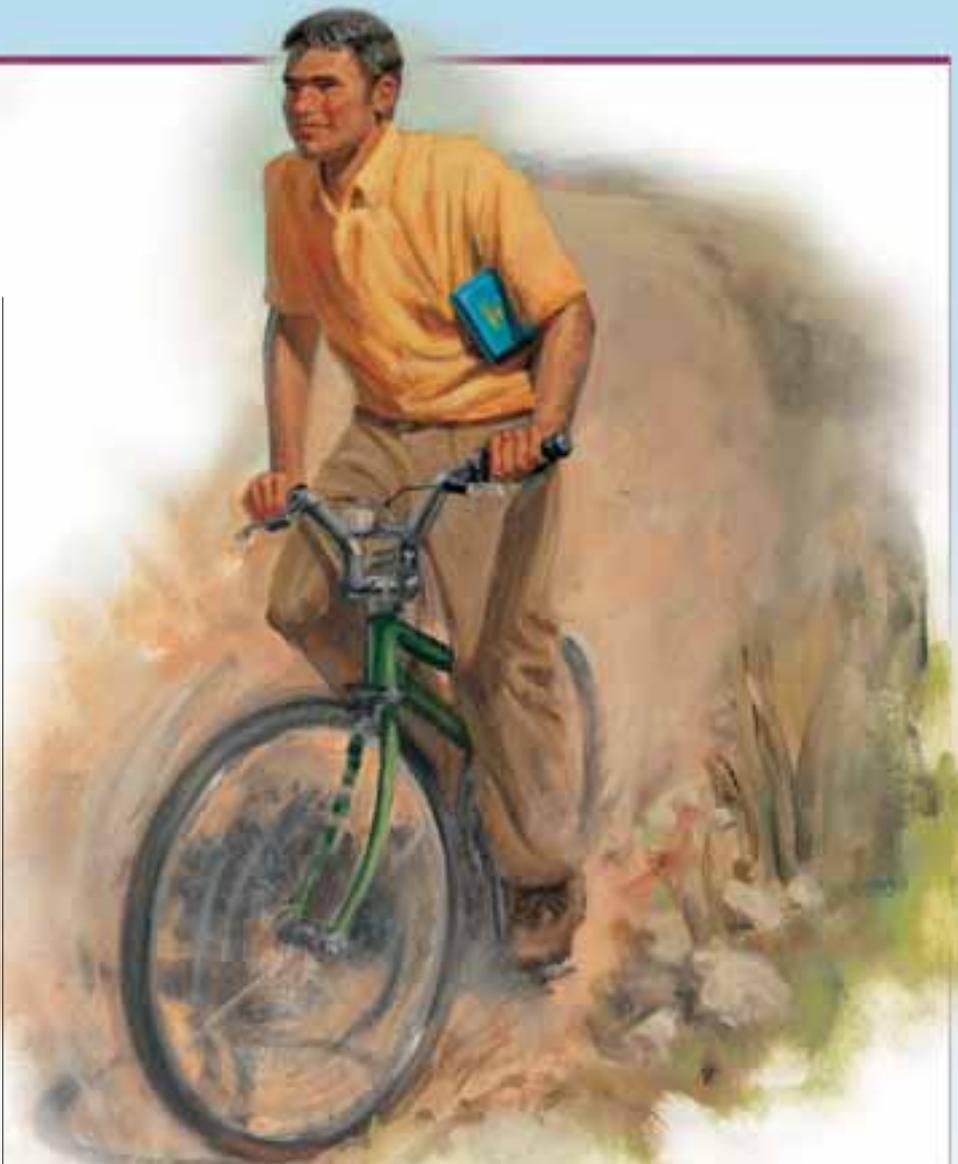
I got on my bicycle, returned to the city, and got to the meetinghouse as quickly as I could.

responsible for what felt like an ambush.

The following week, my brother told me that two of my friends had already been baptized and that another was going to be baptized that Sunday. I agreed

to go to church on Sunday just to see my friend's baptism. "But this is crazy," I said to myself.

That Sunday I finally met the two missionaries who had been giving me so many headaches. At the end of the baptismal service they came up to me, gave me a Book of Mormon, and



invited me to hear the first discussion. On the inside I was resisting and shouting, “No!” But on the outside I was crying, and I said, “Yes,” to all their invitations.

A week later, there I was watching another of my friends be baptized. And on the following Sunday, my best friend and I also entered the waters of baptism.

Almost a month went by. I felt a need not just to believe, but to know for sure that these things were true. One Sunday morning I decided not to go to church but to go somewhere else and pray. I headed toward a hill about six miles (9 km) from the city. When I got there I found a place off the beaten path where I could be at peace. After almost an hour of reading the Book of Mormon, pondering, praying for an answer, and intending to stay there until I received one, something strange started happening. I felt a desire to go to church. My heart was beating rapidly. That was my answer.

Almost in spite of myself, I got on my bicycle, returned to the city, and got to the meetinghouse as quickly as I could. To my great surprise, the meetings were just starting.

Ever since then I have known that this is the true gospel of Jesus Christ and that this is His Church. It’s a message I shared as a full-time missionary, trying to be the same kind of missionary as those sisters I couldn’t get rid of. ■

John Jairo Montoya is a member of the Cartago Ward, Pereira Colombia Stake.

How Could They Forgive Me?

By Angelique Petrick

One evening several years ago as I was driving home from work after having picked up my two children, I momentarily lost consciousness. When I came to, I found myself looking up over the dashboard just in time to see a pickup truck right in front of me. The collision caused me to lose consciousness again. When I awoke, my vehicle was on its side and my children were screaming.

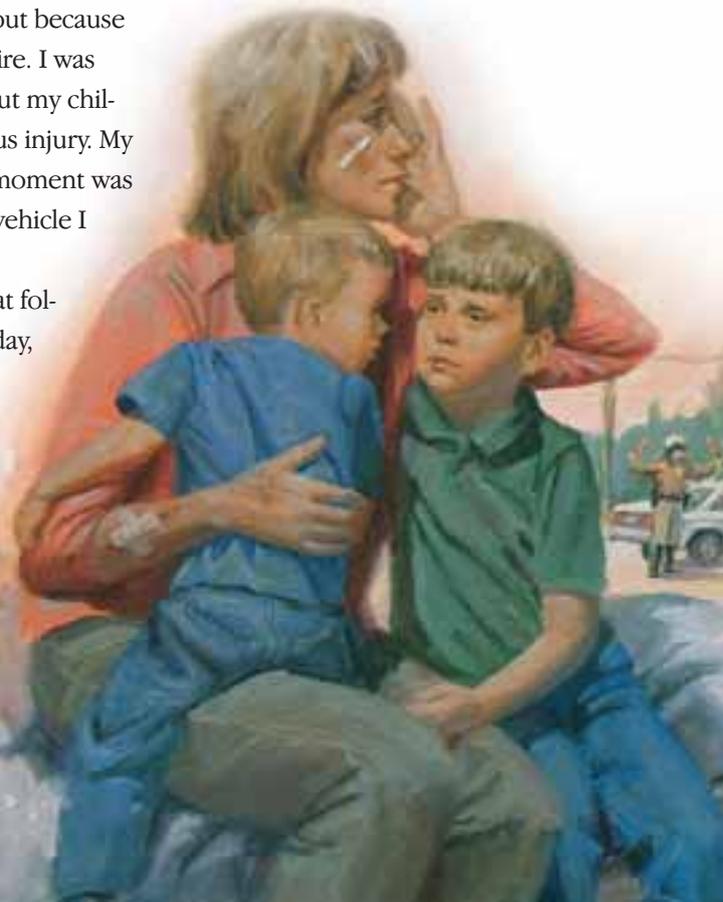
Several people rushed to help me and my children get out because our car’s engine was on fire. I was extremely sore all over, but my children and I escaped serious injury. My greatest concern at that moment was for the occupants of the vehicle I had hit.

Through the hours that followed and into the next day, my attempts to find out about the people in the other vehicle didn’t succeed. Finally, a hospital social worker came to my room and informed me that the driver of the other vehicle had been killed. I was devastated.

In the days following

the accident I took time off work to recover physically, mentally, and emotionally. I also learned what had happened. I had crossed the center line into oncoming traffic and had hit a vehicle head-on. I also learned that the wife of the man who had lost his life had been a passenger in the vehicle and had been seriously injured. They had a large family, and although most of the children were grown and on their own, some were still at home. It was so disturbing for me to think that I had caused another human being to lose his life, a wife to lose her husband, children to lose their father, and grandchildren to lose their grandfather.

My physical wounds were healing, but the mental and emotional wounds were not. I kept asking myself, “Why



did this happen?" I knew it had been an accident, but that did not make me feel any better. I was unable to sleep or cope with life. I couldn't bear the thought of what the other driver's family must be feeling.

I tried to get on with life and return to normal, but nothing seemed to work. All I could do was pray. I remember pleading for Heavenly Father to take this pain and suffering from me because I knew I could not continue on like this and fulfill my most precious callings as a wife and mother.

Then one day my doorbell rang. I opened the door to find a man standing on my porch. He had a very solemn and uneasy look on his face. Without saying a word, he handed me a box and an envelope. Accepting the gifts, I stood there, waiting for him to say something. After a moment I asked the man if I knew him. He shook his head and introduced himself. I instantly felt a lump in

my throat as I recognized his last name. He was the eldest son of the man who had died in the accident.

I invited him in, and we talked for a long time. Our families had several common acquaintances, and he had heard through them what a difficult time I was having. He said his wife had asked him how he would feel if he were in my shoes, and that brought him to my doorstep. He told me his family knew it was an accident, and they knew their father and husband had received a call home from our Heavenly Father. He let me know his mother was going to be fine. We then hugged and cried for a time.

My children
and I
escaped
serious injury,
but I was
concerned about
the occupants
of the vehicle
I had hit.

The envelope he gave me contained a card expressing that their prayers and thoughts were with my family and me. The box contained a small shelf plaque that reads:

"Dear God,

"We work and pray, but at the end of the day, no matter how hard we try, there are still many reasons to cry.

So please send us angels to comfort us in our fears and help us turn the small successes into cheers. Amen."

My prayers had been answered. I was able to sleep that night for the first time in the two weeks since the accident.

Since then I have seen this man and his wife from time to time, and they always ask how we are doing and if there is anything we need. I remain humbled by their thoughtfulness and unselfishness.

One general conference Sunday, between the morning and afternoon sessions, my doorbell rang again. It was not only this man, but also his mother and younger brother. They did not stay long, but I cherish their visit. Once again they came bearing a gift—a beautiful painting of Christ with this scripture inscribed on it: "I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:29). The mother and I hugged and cried.

This family has taught me a kind of forgiveness and love that I never knew. I testify that through others our Heavenly Father and our Savior can convey Their love to us. I know Heavenly Father hears and answers prayers, and I now know that sometimes we have to let the atoning sacrifice of the Savior take away our pain when we have done all we can do. I am thankful that this family was able to feel and follow the promptings of the Spirit to answer my prayers. ■

Angelique Petrick is a member of the White Pine Ward, Tooele Utah East Stake.



Roommates: Getting Off to a Good Start

During the years I attended college, I had more than 20 roommates. As I look back on my best roommate experiences, I realize that a few consistent practices helped us get along well together.

If you have roommates, you might find the following ideas helpful:

Roommate councils. Like family councils, roommate councils can help households run more smoothly. During my first year of college, my roommates and I set aside some time each week to calmly and openly discuss concerns. At first our meetings were lengthy because we all had much to contribute, but as we worked through our concerns, our

meetings grew shorter. Soon we had a set of apartment rules and routines that we all agreed upon.

In the beginning, you might want to discuss the following with your roommates:

Household cleaning tasks. Discuss cleaning assignments and expectations. How will cleaning supplies be purchased?

Sharing spaces. Decide on shower and bathroom times. Also, if your kitchen cupboard or refrigerator space is tight, discuss how all can store their food. For instance, could

a single can of soda be refrigerated instead of a full carton?

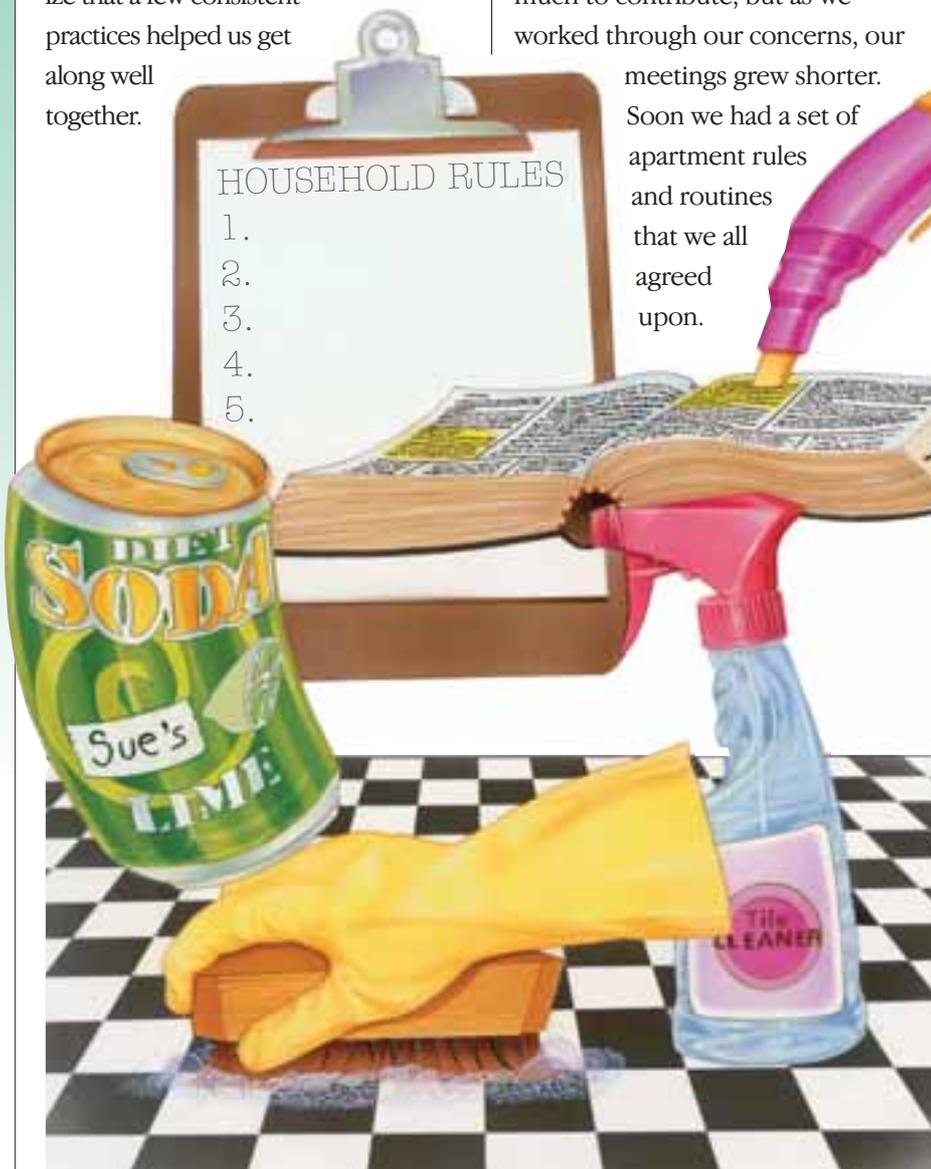
Consider writing your initials on food items to avoid mistakenly eating each other's food. Perhaps you could pool your food to share a meal on Sundays or other occasions.

In time, you may need to discuss rules or routines to deal with other problems as well: visitors, music, lights-out time, and so forth.

Spiritual growth. Other advice given to families can also help strengthen roommate relationships. If your roommate situation allows, consider praying, studying the scriptures, and having family home evening together. If you can't do these things with your roommates, be sure to continue your own personal progress in these areas.

I still keep in touch with several of my roommates. I treasure their friendships. And my husband is grateful for all the things they did to help me prepare for marriage.

*Kerry Griffin Smith, Lochsa Falls Ward,
Meridian Idaho West Stake*



Teaching Children with Learning or Behavioral Challenges

In working with children of varying cognitive and physical abilities, I am often reminded of the Savior's admonition that "all [the] children shall be taught" (3 Nephi 22:13). I know that making a difference to a few who need extra help blesses us all.

Do you have a child with learning or attention difficulties in your Primary class? Then maybe you've wondered how to create a spiritual learning environment that will benefit all the children. During my work with children who need specialized instruction, I have found the following strategies helpful in focusing their attention—along with the rest of the class.

First: Develop order and routine.

All children benefit from well-prepared lessons with clearly explained vocabulary and key points. Those with learning challenges need extra cues to help with any transitions. Visual cues, such as a picture, can indicate where to sit. Auditory cues, such as prelude or postlude music or the chime of a quiet bell, help to signal dismissal time or a change in activity.



Learning about Our Leaders

Before general conference a few years ago, we dedicated several family home evenings to learning more about the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Using the *Special Witnesses of Christ* video and portraits of the Brethren available at Church distribution centers and meetinghouse libraries, we were able to easily plan our lessons. To begin, my husband and I watched the video together, noting the order in which the testimonies were shared. Then each subsequent family night we spotlighted two or three of the Brethren. Prior to viewing

each testimony, we shared the biographical information found on the back of the matching portrait. Our children enjoyed learning about these special witnesses, and we often felt prompted to share our own testimonies as well.

With the calling of two new Apostles at the October 2004 general conference, our family has yet another opportunity to revisit our "special witnesses" family night theme. Using information in the

March 2005 *Ensign* and on the backs of the portraits of the new Brethren, we have two family night lessons ready to share.

Sberyl Tolman, McMillan Ward, Meridian Idaho West Stake

Editor's note: The Special Witnesses of Christ video (item no. 53584000; U.S. \$6.00) is also available in DVD, with eight language options plus ASL (54584090; U.S. \$4.50) and signed video (53584010; U.S. \$6.00). In addition to English, the video format is offered in Spanish (53584002; U.S. \$6.00). Portraits of the Brethren are available in the Gospel Art Picture Kit (34730000; U.S. \$30.00) or individually.



Second: Stop the lesson when disruptions occur. Use simple visuals to explain or remind the children of behavioral expectations before resuming the lesson. For instance, a picture of an eye can remind them to look at the speaker. Children with learning or attention difficulties often don't understand hints or suggestions as well as body or facial expressions.

Third: Sit on the floor. Active children sometimes can't tell where their body space is, so they wiggle to provide the brain with more feedback. Sitting on the floor allows more of

their body to be in contact with a stable foundation. Providing a blanket for them to sit on offers a visual seating cue.

Fourth: Try "crossover" exercises.

Any physical movement causing the arms and legs to cross the midline of the body seems to help focus wiggly children. Try having the children march in place while touching their right elbow to their left knee and vice versa. They can march eight or ten steps in this fashion before sitting back down, cross-legged on the floor.

Artbella Starke, Lakeridge Ward, Lake Oswego Oregon Stake



President Gordon B. Hinckley waves a light stick during the “Day of Celebration” held in Rice-Eccles Stadium in Salt Lake City.

Utah Youth Join a Worldwide Church Celebration

By Shanna Butler, Church Magazines

During July and August, youth in areas throughout Utah joined youth around the world in celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Church’s organization and the 200th anniversary of the Prophet Joseph Smith’s birth. The largest of the Utah celebrations included 45,000 youth during a “Day of Celebration” in Salt Lake City on July 16.

More than 59,000 youth from the Utah Salt Lake City, Utah North, and Utah South Areas prepared music, dances, and pageants to perform at one of six Utah celebrations. More than 125,000 people attended the live

performances held at stadiums throughout the state. Thousands more members and parents viewed the performances via satellite broadcast at local meetinghouses.

Utah Celebrations

The “Day of Celebration” at Rice-Eccles Stadium in Salt Lake City featured a 16,000-member choir, 4,900 dancers, 2,400 flag bearers, and 1,000 young men performing a traditional Maori chant known as the haka. President Gordon B. Hinckley spoke at the celebration. Song, dance, and theatrical presentations were also presented at the other celebration venues.

“We wanted to remind our

youth of the sacrifices made by pioneering Latter-day Saints who settled these mountain valleys. We wanted them to remember the Prophet Joseph Smith and all he did to restore the Church,” said Warren G. Tate, chairman of the “Day of Celebration” committee for the Utah Salt Lake City Area.

The Utah celebrations and others around the world were planned following an invitation by the First Presidency encouraging youth to celebrate the Prophet Joseph Smith’s 200th birthday.

Here is just a sampling of what youth have done around the world to commemorate these great events.

Rochester, New York

“Bike to the Beginning, Endure to the End” was the motto of the youth of the

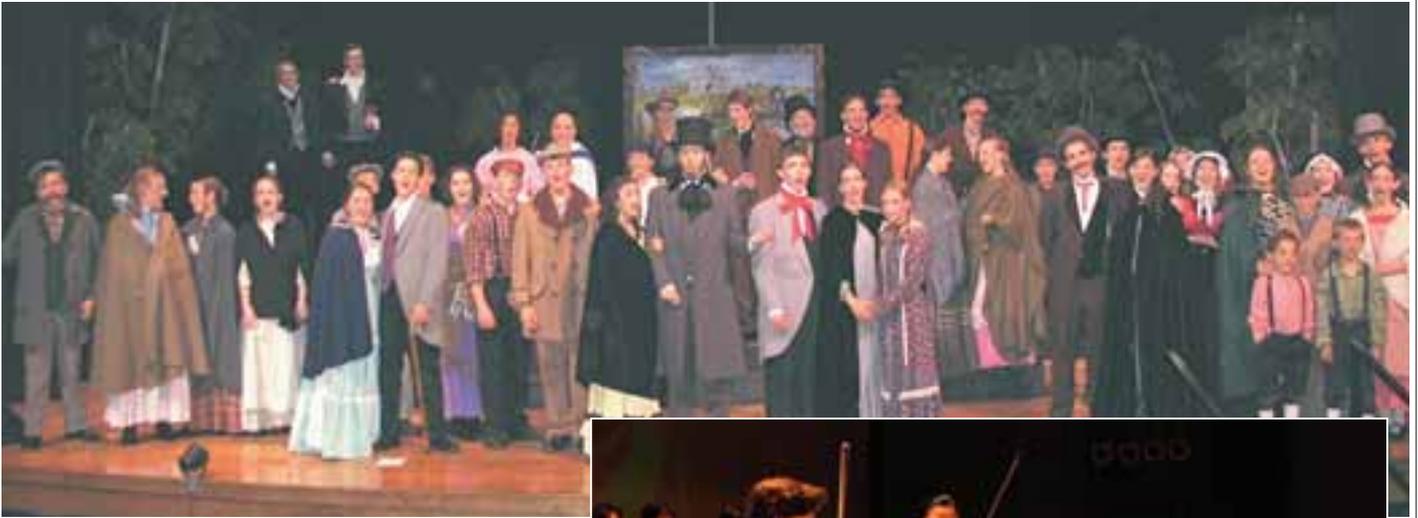
Rochester First Ward, Rochester New York Stake, when they commemorated the bicentennial of the Prophet Joseph Smith’s birth with a 30-mile (48-km) bicycle ride. The riders began at the Rochester stake center and headed east along the Erie Canal. Twenty-four miles and a few rest stops later, the riders arrived in Palmyra and left the canal for a ride south to the Hill Cumorah. At the Hill Cumorah Visitors’ Center, they saw the Church movie *The Restoration*, then rode to the top of the hill to enjoy the view and a hard-earned lunch. Finally, the group rode to the Smith family farm and the Sacred Grove, before being driven home.

Mia Maid Heather Petherbridge said, “It’s comforting to know that Joseph Smith was as young as we are when he had the First Vision. He had to overcome the same kinds of temptations that we do. He had to withstand all kinds of pressure and stand for what he believed in. It gives me the courage to do the same thing.”

Gwangju, Korea

The Gwangju Korea Stake celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Prophet at Gwangju City Hall. About 400 people gathered to watch performances from youth and adults who had been preparing for three months. The program included music, testimonies, and scriptures.

Choi Hye Seon, a young woman, played the violin with her mother. Choi Jeong Hun,



Youth in Idaho, above, perform a musical called *One Life*, celebrating the life of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Choi Hye Seon, right, performs a violin duet during a celebration in Korea.

a young man, played the cello. “I greatly appreciate that I could use my small talent to help the Church,” he says.

The stake president, Cho Yong Hyun, said, “We wanted this special gathering to teach people that Jesus Christ called the Prophet Joseph Smith as a part of preparing the world for His Second Coming.”

Idaho Falls, Idaho

The youth of the Idaho Falls Idaho Eagle Rock Stake shared their talents and their testimonies as they performed a musical called *One Life* to celebrate the Prophet Joseph Smith’s birth and life. The musical was so successful that they performed it multiple times for local audiences in Idaho.

Krista Klingler, 14, who participated in the ensemble, said, “Doing this play was one of the best experiences of my life. It showed me how great a man Joseph Smith truly

was. I am still amazed that at 14 years old he acted upon the principles Heavenly Father revealed to him. From birth to death he lived a remarkable life.”

Guatemala City, Guatemala

The young women of the Guatemala City Guatemala Mariscal Stake celebrated the 175th anniversary of the organization of the Church with an open house teaching about the history of the Church.

As visitors stopped at each station, representing different locations in the Church’s move westward, the young women explained and bore testimony about events during that time period. Stations started with the upstate New York area and included Kirtland, Ohio; Missouri; Nauvoo, Illinois; and Salt Lake City.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ASIA NORTH AREA

Afterward, the young women showed handicrafts and other projects related to the anniversary of the Church’s organization. Each ward performed a pioneer dance and play to show the cheerfulness of the Saints even in the face of adversity.

“I learned a lot about the history of the Church for this activity,” says Bárbara Rivera, of the Jerusalén Ward. “I enjoyed it very much.”

Coventry, England

The Coventry England Stake performed a musical by Kenneth Cope called *My Servant Joseph* for members and investigators.

The part of the Prophet’s

wife Emma was played by Lara Mayfield, 17, of the Solihull Ward. She was impressed as she learned about Emma’s life and how she built the Lord’s kingdom. Lara says, “We have the same responsibilities to use our talents to build His kingdom on the earth. I am grateful for the chance I had to do that in *My Servant Joseph*.”

Ben Gaughran, 17, of the Chelmsley Wood Ward, was the assistant music director and pianist. Through participating in the production he says, “I was able to receive a personal witness of the severity of Joseph’s trials and just how special he was—truly a prophet of God.”

San Francisco/Bay Area, California

Nearly 1,000 youth from 10 stakes covering a stretch of more than 100 miles (160 km) of California coast, gathered for an all-day youth conference at a large inter-stake center on the grounds of the Oakland temple.

Using the Mutual theme in 1 Nephi 14:7 as their guide, the youth participated in various activities, including watching *The Testaments: Of One Fold and One Shepherd* and learning about the history of the Church in their area. Youth could attend a variety of workshops and a tour of the temple grounds. They ended their day with a testimony meeting and a dance.

Lindon, Utah

The youth of the Lindon Utah West Stake were called by their stake president to be missionaries for a day at an outdoor activity where they gave “Church history tours.” They took visitors to various booths where other youth acted out and told about parts of Joseph Smith’s life and Church history. KC McMillan, a priest from the Lindon Fifth Ward, played Joseph Smith in the Smith family home booth. He says his testimony of Joseph Smith has “increased quite a bit. The Spirit can be so strong when you’re talking about Joseph Smith.”

Following the tour, visitors eventually arrived in an area that represented Nauvoo, where they could play pioneer games and participate in other activities. Youth and other stake members also

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER KRAUSE



Young flag bearers stream into the stadium during the “Day of Celebration” in Salt Lake City.

helped construct a large replica of the Nauvoo Temple.

Braden Sweeten, 18, from the Lindon 18th Ward, helped youth and other stake members build the replica of the temple. He said while he was building, “It really sunk into my heart how much the Prophet and the Saints really sacrificed to build the temple.”

Sydney, Australia

Youth in the Manly Ward, Sydney Australia Greenwich Stake, celebrated by researching the Prophet’s life and teachings and then compiling a book about their findings. They used their Mutual time to complete the project.

The book has 13 chapters,

each based on an article of faith, and is titled *Praise to the Man* (see *Hymns*, no. 27). The youth and their families plan on using their copies of the completed work to share the gospel with friends. They will also send copies of the book to missionaries serving from the Manly Ward.

The youth learned much more than facts from writing their book. “I have learned that when we have trials we need to trust in God like Joseph Smith did,” says Losi Motuliki, a teacher.

“Joseph Smith was a really great man,” says Antoinette Hilario, a Mia Maid. “He was able to translate the Book of Mormon, which is another testament of Jesus Christ. We are so blessed to have this scripture in our lives today.” ■

Two New Missions Created in Africa

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles have announced the creation of two new missions in Africa. The Ghana Cape Coast Mission and the Uganda Kampala Mission were organized in July. The two new missions bring the total missions worldwide to 341.

Ghana Cape Coast Mission

The Ghana Cape Coast Mission was created from countries previously covered by the Ivory Coast Abidjan Mission. The new mission includes Togo, Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the western half of Ghana. The

Ghana Cape Coast Mission includes 13,590 members of the Cape Coast Ghana, Kumasi Ghana, and Takoradi Ghana Stakes and the districts of Assin Foso Ghana and Swedru Ghana. Lindsay Thomas Dil, originally called earlier this year to begin serving as the mission president of the Ivory Coast Abidjan Mission on July 1, 2005, has been reassigned as the mission’s new president.

The Ivory Coast Abidjan Mission’s new president is Norbert Kalogo Ounleu. This mission now includes only the Ivory Coast and the Church’s 9,149 members in the Abidjan and Abobo stakes.

The creation of the new mission also affects the boundaries for the Ghana Accra Mission. The Ghana Accra Mission now covers the countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the eastern half of Ghana. The realigned boundaries include 19,151 members in the Accra Ghana Christiansborg, Accra Ghana Lartebikorshie, Monrovia Liberia Stakes, and the Abomосу Ghana, Koforidua Ghana, Bo Sierra Leone, and Freetown Sierra Leone Districts.

Uganda Kampala Mission

The Uganda Kampala Mission covers Uganda and Ethiopia. Ralph L. Duke has

been called to serve as the mission's president. Church membership within the mission includes 3,959 members of the Jinja Uganda and the Kampala Uganda Districts.

The Kenya Nairobi Mission, which formerly

included the countries of Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, will now cover Kenya and Tanzania. The mission includes 6,099 members in the Nairobi Kenya Stake and the Chyulu Kenya District. ■

Clean-Water Initiative Blesses Lives around Globe

In an effort to combat the sickness, discomfort, and danger facing the more than one billion people worldwide who don't have access to clean water, the Church has established a clean-water initiative that has already helped people in 31 countries across the globe.

The initiative, created in 2003, is designed to improve health by providing sustainable clean-water sources in places where clean water isn't available.

The initiative allows the Church to provide potable water and improve public health in a number of ways. Among the methods the Church uses to supply clean water are building and refurbishing wells, setting up rain-water captures, purifying river water, and capturing clean water from natural springs.

Church Humanitarian Services has also delivered tanks of clean water to places in need. A recent project in the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu saw tens of thousands of liters of clean water delivered in tanks to provinces in the country.

While the program's main goal is to provide clean water

for those who need it, the Church has also strengthened and established relationships with government leaders and citizens of the countries in which the initiative has been carried out.

When making plans for a clean-water project, the Church meets with local leaders and citizens of the area to map out a project that the community will be able to maintain.

Church humanitarian missionaries who serve in places that need the clean-water program often alert the Church of the opportunity. After approval is given by the Area Presidency that presides over the area, Church service missionaries in the United States serve as short-term specialists and work with the area's humanitarian missionaries to make sure the project runs smoothly.

There are currently seven couples who serve as short-term specialists in the clean-water initiative. Their duties range from giving direction over the phone or by e-mail to traveling to a country to make sure the project gets off the ground.

In addition to working with local governments and

including citizens in the planning process, the Church also holds a ceremony upon the completion of every project. Government and Church leaders typically attend the ceremony, during which local members often perform cultural songs or dances to celebrate the occasion.

Many projects have taken place in Africa, but countries in Asia, Europe, the Pacific, and South America have also been blessed by the initiative.

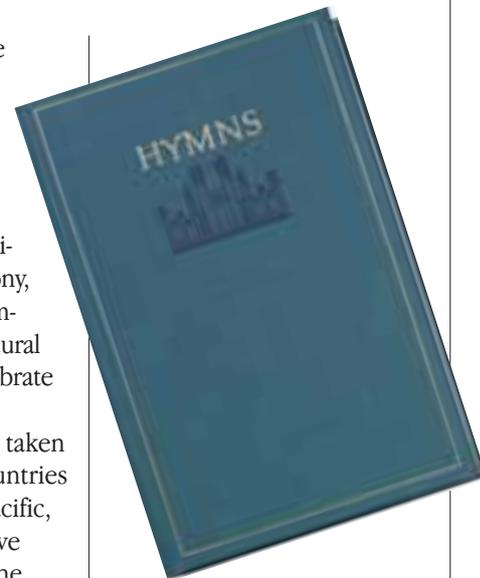
Some of the donations that are made to Church humanitarian services are used to help fund the clean-water initiative. ■

English Hymnbook Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Chad Phares, Church Magazines

Full 170 years after Emma Smith's original collection of hymns was published as *A Collection of Sacred Hymns for the Church of the Latter Day Saints*, members of the Church worldwide are now celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1985 English edition of *Hymns of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

The 1985 edition, which includes 341 hymns, was created with the knowledge



Since it was published 20 years ago, Hymns has served as the foundation for hymnbooks in 21 languages.

that it would serve as a prototype for new hymnbooks to be printed in other languages.

The First Presidency Preface to the 1985 hymnbook says, "All [hymns] have been selected to meet the varied needs of today's worldwide Church membership" (*Hymns*, ix).

Many of the hymns in the 1985 edition have been translated into 21 languages, and additional translations continue.

When Latter-day Saint hymns are first translated into a new language, the collection includes 35 hymns and 10 children's songs. After membership within a language group grows sufficiently, a new hymnbook is translated that includes 107 songs that are standard in every language, a choice of 50 additional hymns that are recommended, and 50 more hymns that are chosen by a

committee for each language.

While finding translators with experience in music is difficult at times, Michael Moody, chairman of the General Music Committee, said the consistency of the hymns included in each language is faith promoting.

“One of the beauties of the Church is that we are united,” Brother Moody said. “It’s marvelous to know that the same messages and music are used worldwide.”

The Hymnbook Executive Committee, the group that chose the hymns for the hymnbook, was called in the early 1980s. The committee was made up of musicians, historians, music editors, and text specialists, and there were also several subcommittees

and research groups that contributed to the creation of the hymnbook.

Among those who participated in the research groups were youth and other members who sang, played, and listened to selected hymns and gave feedback.

The selection committee listened earnestly to feedback and sought to make proper choices, and the Lord’s direct guidance was clearly evident.

Twenty years ago, Brother Moody was invited to attend a meeting in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square for mission presidents. During the meeting, missionaries from the Missionary Training Center marched in singing “Called to Serve” (*Hymns*, no. 249).

The mood in the building

was electric, and although it was late in the selection process, the committee “knew [that hymn] had to go in,” Brother Moody said. The hymn became the last one included in the 1985 edition.

While the 1985 edition of the hymnbook includes 26 hymns that were also in Emma Smith’s original, 92 of the hymns in the 1985 edition were new. Of that total, 44 were new Latter-day Saint compositions.

In addition to the hymns, the 1985 edition also includes a section titled “Using the Hymnbook” that gives guidance to beginning music directors, instructs how to use hymns for choirs, and offers advice in selecting the right hymn for Church meetings.

Brother Moody said that while the committee was selecting hymns that were memorable, it also strived to choose hymns that would be useful to all members—regardless of musical talent.

The First Presidency Preface in the 1985 edition concludes by saying, “Brothers and sisters, let us use the hymns to invite the Spirit of the Lord into our congregations, our homes, and our personal lives. Let us memorize and ponder them, recite and sing them, and partake of their spiritual nourishment. Know that the song of the righteous is a prayer unto our Father in Heaven, ‘and it shall be answered with a blessing upon [your] heads’” (*Hymns*, x). ■

Keeping Time through the Years: A Sampling of English LDS Hymnbooks

1835 *A Collection of Sacred Hymns for the Church of the Latter Day Saints*
Emma Smith included 90 hymn texts in this, the Church’s first, hymnbook.

1840 *A Collection of Sacred Hymns for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Europe*

The first of this hymnal’s 25 editions was published in Manchester, England, by Brigham Young, Parley P. Pratt, and John Taylor.

1889 *Latter-day Saints’ Psalmody*

This was the first large collection of LDS hymns to include musical settings with the text.

1908 *Songs of Zion*

In contrast to the choir-oriented hymns of the *Psalmody*, *Songs of Zion*

included about 100 gospel hymns.

1909 *Deseret Sunday School Songs*

Although this book was intended for use in Sunday School, *Deseret Sunday School Songs* became the most popular hymnbook in the Church at the time.

1927 *Latter-day Saint Hymns*

This hymnal combined the best of *Latter-day Saints’ Psalmody*, *Songs of Zion*, and other selections and was used alongside *Deseret Sunday School Songs*.

1948 *Hymns, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

This book grouped hymns in four general classifications:

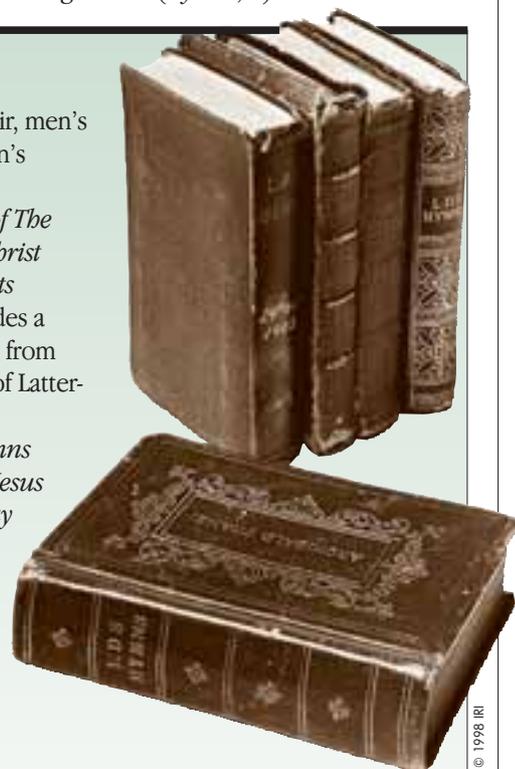
congregation, choir, men’s voices, and women’s voices.

1985 *Hymns of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

This edition includes a diversity of hymns from every generation of Latter-day Saints.

1985–2005 *Hymns of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Since 1985, the current English hymnbook has served as the foundation for hymnbooks in 21 languages. ■



Hymnbooks have been a part of the Church since Emma Smith was commanded to compile one in 1835.

Rembrandt: The Biblical Etchings Exhibit Goes Online

By Walter Cooley, Church Magazines

One of the Museum of Church History and Art's current exhibits, Rembrandt: The Biblical Etchings, can now be viewed online. Included in the online exhibit are digital images of the Church's recently acquired collection of 20 Rembrandt etchings and more than 30 etchings loaned to the exhibit by private Latter-day Saint collectors, Shawn and Andrea Merriman.

Rembrandt: The Biblical Etchings opened in Salt Lake City in May. Senior museum curator, Robert Davis, said that, like the Salt Lake City exhibit, the online exhibit is one of the largest collections of Rembrandt's biblical artwork shown together in one place.

"Visitors can view online high-resolution images of more than 50 of Rembrandt's 70 documented biblical etchings," Brother Davis said.

During the 17th century, Rembrandt created more than 1,500 authenticated pieces of artwork. A third of the Dutch artist's works involved biblical subjects. In his religious art, Rembrandt frequently depicted common people from his Dutch background as he visualized and expressed the scriptures.

The online exhibit includes pictures showing the gallery setting of the current Rembrandt display in the

Museum of Church History and Art.

Online exhibit visitors watch an animated presentation detailing the multi-step process used to create an etching. Brother Davis said the site also allows online visitors to carefully examine the details of Rembrandt's etchings. Each digital image can be magnified several times to show the artist's "exquisite technique and unique detail."

The online collection includes depictions of Old and New Testament stories, including Abraham sacrificing Isaac, the battle between David and Goliath, and Joseph telling of his dreams to his brothers and parents. The collection includes 36 etchings of the life, ministry, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Brother Davis said that Rembrandt approached his biblical artwork by pondering a biblical passage and then expressing it in an etching.

"Rembrandt through his art was able to give visual equivalents to the words and meaning of the scriptures," Brother Davis said.

The Rembrandt exhibit is one of several exhibits to have been posted online by the museum in the last five years. Previous online exhibits have included the museum's international art competitions, a display of Walter Rane's Book



Christ and the Woman of Samaria, one of Rembrandt's 70 documented biblical etchings, is part of an online exhibit.

of Mormon paintings, and a collection of President Boyd K. Packer's paintings and sculptures.

Brother Davis said posting the Rembrandt exhibit and other exhibits online increases access to the museum's art throughout the world.

"The farther you get away from Utah, the harder it is

to come to the museum," Brother Davis said. "But you can see what the Church museum is through these Web sites."

Rembrandt: The Biblical Etchings will be on exhibit in Salt Lake City until December 11, 2005, and will remain indefinitely on the museum's Web site (www.lds.org/churchhistory/museum). ■

Museum Accepting Entries for Seventh International Art Competition

The Museum of Church History and Art is accepting artwork from professional and amateur Latter-day Saint artists for its Seventh International Art Competition. The theme for this competition is "Our Heritage of Faith."

Artists can begin submitting entry forms and photographs of their original

artwork to the competition immediately. To be eligible for competition, entries must have been created after January 1, 2003. All entry forms must be received on or before October 21, 2005. Online entry forms are found at www.lds.org/churchhistory/museum.

Artwork will be judged in two rounds. In the first



Alma Arise was part of the Sixth International Art Competition.

round, artists will submit photographs or digital images of their original artwork to be judged. First-round winners will be notified by mail on or before December 31, 2005. First-round winners will be asked to submit their original artwork to the Museum of Church History and Art for further judging.

The criteria for artwork submissions are the following:

“A concept, idea, or story related to (1) Latter-day Saint doctrines, beliefs, and teachings, including messages or stories from the scriptures and teachings of the prophets; (2) events, places, and people in the history of the Church; (3) the application of gospel teachings and values in Latter-day Saint life.”

Competition organizers said this year’s theme was crafted to be all-encompassing.

“We wanted the topic to be broad and general to include what it means to be a Latter-day Saint,” said Robert Davis, senior museum curator. “We want to make the competition as open as possible to artists around the world.”

Brother Davis said the

competition has proven to be an excellent way to identify up-and-coming artists.

Previous competition entries have included paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, textiles, pottery, ceramics, jewelry, wood carvings, photography, and metal work.

Second-round winners’ artwork will be displayed at the Museum of Church

History and Art from March 24 to September 4, 2006.

The museum will offer Purchase Awards and up to 20 Merit Awards of U.S. \$500 each to top second-round winners. Three Visitors’ Choice Awards of \$500 each will also be given at the conclusion of the exhibit in September.

The museum sponsors

the International Art Competition every three years. During the competition in 2003, the museum displayed more than 171 pieces of artwork. A gallery of this artwork can be viewed on the museum’s Web site. Since the competition began in 1988, members have submitted more than 4,500 pieces of art to be judged. ■

PAF in Color, Spanish Hymns Now Available

A new version of Personal Ancestral File® (PAF)

Companion and a recently released set of CDs containing the hymns from the Church’s Spanish hymnbook are now in distribution centers.

Personal Ancestral File Upgrade Prints in Color

Members and genealogists using Personal Ancestral File (PAF) Companion can now print and view family tree charts in color using the program’s newest upgrade.

PAF Companion 5.2, created by Progeny Software, Inc., uses individual and family data from PAF files to create charts in five formats and millions of colors. The software can render up to 16 million colors and gradients to the charts, helping users organize family lines by gender, generation, or lineage. The program displays and prints ancestor, descendant, bow tie, hourglass, and fan charts. Traditional charts in black and white are still available with the upgrade.

Examples of color-charting formats are available at www.progenysoftware.com/

paf-companion-charts.html.

Paul Nauta, manager of public affairs for the Church’s Web site www.familysearch.org, said the color feature eliminates confusion and helps members track their family lines. “PAF Companion software gives you fun ways to display, visualize, and view your family history as you develop it,” he said.

Adjustable line widths make printing large charts more printer-friendly. Brother Nauta suggested that members could use the new upgrade to print visually appealing charts to hang in their homes, share as gifts, or display at family reunions. PAF Companion 5.2 also creates color charts in PDF format for posting family histories online.

However, the charts are not just for printing a finished product. Pierre Cloutier, chief technology officer for Progeny Software, said the charts act as a roadmap to help users navigate their genealogy research.

Since PAF Companion was introduced in 2001, over 150,000 copies of the software have been sold with the

Church’s Personal Ancestral File package. The newest upgrade costs U.S. \$8.25 at www.ldscatalog.com (item no. 77065) as part of the PAF 5.2 software.

A trial version of the software can be downloaded at the “Software Downloads—Free” link listed under the Family History section at www.ldscatalog.com. The trial version limits the number of generations that can be viewed or printed. Users can purchase full access to the trial version of PAF Companion 5.2 for \$6.75 by calling 1-800-537-5971 to obtain a key code from Distribution Services.

New Spanish Hymn Recordings Now Available

Two new sets of compact discs presenting the hymns found in the Church’s official Spanish hymnbook are now available. These sets are designed for use by branches, wards, districts, stakes, families, and individuals.

The recordings include musical introductions and all the verses of each hymn, performed by piano, strings, and other instruments. A

second set of recordings with vocal renditions is also available. Those interested in these new products can order them from a Church distribution center or by contacting their local leaders. ■

Comment

The Power of Hymns

Thank you for the article in the April 2005 *Ensign* about the power of the hymns to communicate our Savior's love and bring peace to the soul. This article, "And in Thy Presence Rest," was written by my brother, Scott Swain. He had no idea at the time he submitted it when he might see it in print. But I'm sure it is no coincidence that the April *Ensign* arrived five days prior to my father's death. Scott was able to read the article to Dad before he passed away.

After hearing the article, Dad asked us to sing one of his favorite hymns, "Our Savior's Love" (*Hymns*, no. 113). As the four of us who were present sang for Dad, the love of our Savior filled the room. The next evening Dad asked us to sing to him again. Over 20 family members crowded into the room and stood around his bed and sang. We sang hymn after hymn, and the Spirit in the room grew stronger and stronger as we sang. After the singing, Mom suggested we have a family prayer and asked Dad whom he would like to have pray. To our surprise, Dad offered the prayer himself. Though in the last stages of brain cancer and so

weak he had barely enough strength to speak, Dad offered a long, beautiful prayer, thanking Heavenly Father for his family and praying that we would all accept the Atonement of our Savior and live lives faithful to His gospel. Again the Spirit was incredibly strong.

We count it as one of the tender mercies of the Lord that the article appeared in the *Ensign* when it did. Thank you for allowing the Spirit to direct you.
Don Swain, Spring Creek Fourth Ward, Springville Utah Spring Creek South Stake

Midshipmen Can Serve Missions

The photo of U.S. Navy midshipmen caught my attention, and I read with great interest the article by Elder Dunn, "Growth through Setbacks" (July 2005). I applaud and second his comments about how what we see as a stumbling block often turns out to be the open door to another high-way in life.

However, the article leaves what I believe to be a bit of misinformation in the mind of the reader. While it is true that 30 years ago the Naval Academy did not have a mechanism for LDS midshipmen to go on missions, since about 1986, dozens of LDS midshipmen have successfully completed missions and returned to the academy to serve in leadership roles in the brigade. A former superintendent once commented to our stake president that because of the personal

growth of the young men, he wished that he could send all midshipmen on missions.

Unfortunately, every year, many otherwise-qualified LDS candidates do not apply, withdraw their application, or refuse their appointment based on the erroneous supposition that one cannot complete a mission while attending the Naval Academy. While it is difficult, it is indeed possible to go on a mission from Annapolis, and many do every year. We have at least 10 out in the field at this moment.

Royal Connell, Annapolis Ward, Annapolis Maryland Stake

Treasured Advice

Thank you for Sister Tanner's article, "Strengthening Future Mothers" (June 2005). I read it twice, first by myself, then with my teenage daughter. We had a great discussion. I told my daughter that each day I am inspired by her conscious, determined choice to be a worthy young woman. I told her about my own memories of being a teenage girl and some of the things I learned from my own dear mother.

I shared with my daughter the most treasured and profound advice I have ever received. On my wedding day my mother told me: "Today you became Linda Becker, but before that you were Linda Oakes. Do not forget that woman."

I have not forgotten. Those simple words have strengthened my faith and increased my determination during times of frustration

and happiness. I pray that I can do as well as my own mother did as I prepare my daughter for her future roles as woman, wife, mother, and homemaker.

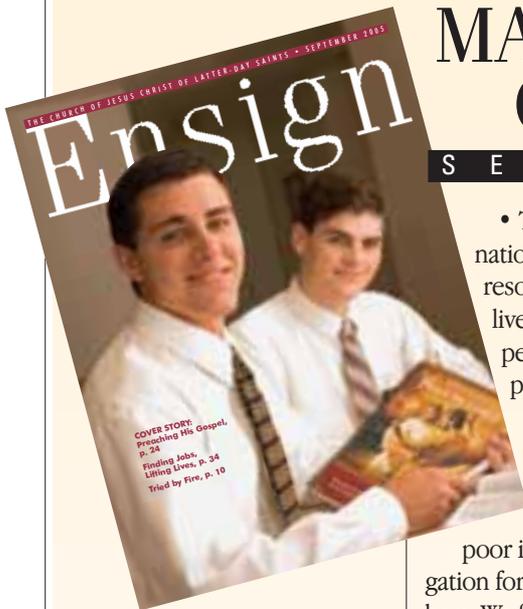
Linda Becker, Weston Second Ward, Boston Massachusetts Stake

Call for Articles

If you have had experience with the following situation, we invite you to share your suggestions: *In Church classes I am too nervous to raise my hand and make comments. For the same reason, I rarely bear my testimony in fast and testimony meeting. How can I learn to overcome my fear?*

Send responses by October 17, 2005, to cur-editorial-ensign@ldschurch.org or to *Ensign* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA. Clearly mark your submission "Questions and Answers," and at the top of your submission, write your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and ward and stake (or branch and district).

While we cannot acknowledge receipt of individual responses, authors whose submissions are selected for publication will be notified. If you would like your manuscript returned, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and allow up to a year. ■



MAKING THE MOST OF THIS ISSUE

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 5

- The Church's international employment resource centers bless lives by finding jobs for people in need. See page 34.

- Elder T. LaMar Sleight of the Seventy reminds us that "caring for the

poor is a covenantal obligation for all Church members. We fulfill this obligation in part by faithfully paying our

tithing; paying a generous fast offering; contributing to the Church Humanitarian Services program, the Perpetual Education Fund, and other worthy causes; and donating our time to minister to those in need." See page 39.

The Twelve Apostles

"The Twelve Apostles 'are called to be . . . special witnesses of the name of Christ

in all the world.' Each carries that certain witness that Jesus is the Christ," writes President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. To learn more about this quorum of special witnesses, see page 16.



Refined by Fire

Leona Clatworthy and her five-year-old daughter, Melanie, were severely burned when their house caught fire. But what happened after the fire is the lesson in their story. "I've learned that God lets us have trials because He loves us and He wants us to learn and grow," Melanie says. See page 10.

Home Teachers,

Visiting Teachers

Find the monthly messages on pages 2 and 47.

Preparing Missionaries to Preach His Gospel

The new *Preach My Gospel* manual is having a significant impact on how missionaries teach. To learn how parents, leaders, and teachers can help prepare young men and women to teach by the Spirit, see page 24.

Teaching with Power

Missionaries aren't the only ones called to teach the gospel with power. Every member who teaches the gospel is to teach by the power of the Holy Ghost. See page 60 for ideas on bringing the Spirit into your lessons and sacrament meeting talks.

Helping the Poor

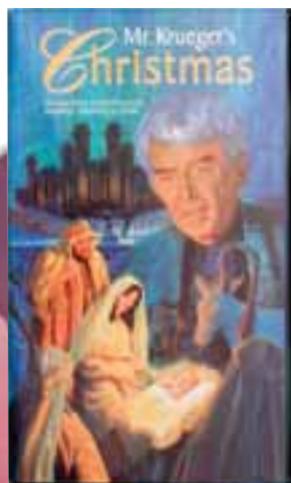
The Church helps the poor and disadvantaged in many ways. For example:

- When Brother Peterson was laid off, the Lord's "economics" made the seemingly impossible possible—because the family was willing to follow gospel principles. See page 30.

A Christmas Gift for You . . . to Share

Your December *Ensign* will be accompanied by a free DVD of *Mr. Krueger's Christmas*, the program that warmed millions of hearts when it premiered in 1980. Digitally remastered for the program's 25th anniversary, the DVD has improved picture and sound to enhance the Christmas carols and hymns sung by the Tabernacle Choir.

Willie Krueger, played by beloved actor Jimmy Stewart, came to know how the Babe born in Bethlehem touches lives. Now with bonus features added, the story is even more inspirational for viewing with those with whom you want to share the gospel message.



Ensign Gift Subscriptions

Order the *Ensign* before October 26 so someone you love can receive a personal copy of the DVD with the December issue. Help others see who we really are and what we believe.

In the United States and Canada you can order gift subscriptions at www.lds.org under "Order Church Materials" or by calling 1-800-537-5971. Elsewhere, please order through your nearest Church distribution center or your ward magazine representative.

GOSPEL TOPICS

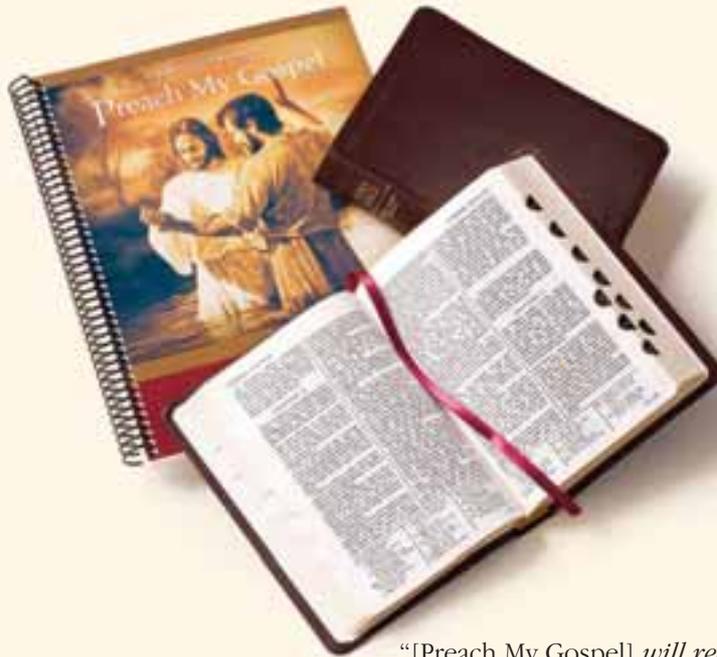
| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Activity, 54 | Gratitude, 2 |
| Adversity, 10, 68 | Healing, 66 |
| Apostles, 16 | Leadership, 71 |
| Book of Mormon, 47, 51 | Missionary Work, 24, 67 |
| Charity, 39 | Obedience, 21, 30 |
| Children, 71 | Peace, 2 |
| Church History, 48 | Perpetual Education Fund, 34 |
| Compassion, 2, 39, 42, 68 | Physical Health, 54 |
| Consecration, 39, 42 | Poor, 39 |
| Conversion, 67 | Prayer, 10, 60, 66 |
| Cooperation, 70 | Priesthood Quorums, 16 |
| Councils, 70 | Prophets, 21, 71 |
| Debt, 30 | Scripture Study, 24, 47, 48, 60 |
| Doctrine and Covenants, 48 | Service, 42, 58 |
| Employment, 34 | Spirituality, 60 |
| Faith, 66 | Teaching, 58, 60, 71 |
| Family, 54, 58 | Testimony, 60 |
| Family Home Evening, 71 | Tithing, 30, 42 |
| Forgiveness, 68 | Trials, 10, 30 |
| Grace, 9 | |



AWAY NOT BE COPIED

A Word of Wisdom Revealed, by Ken Corbett

The Prophet Joseph Smith received Doctrine and Covenants 89 during a meeting of the School of the Prophets on February 27, 1833, in Kirtland, Ohio. Known as the Word of Wisdom, this revelation came in response to the Prophet's inquiry relating to the smoking and chewing of tobacco by the elders and in consideration of Emma Smith, who cleaned up the filthy floor.



“[Preach My Gospel] will require greater effort on the part of the missionaries,” said President Gordon B. Hinckley. “It will require much of prayer and much of study. . . . If there is better teaching in the conversion process, there will be greater retention of those who are baptized.” See “Preaching His Gospel,” p. 24.