

THE

New Era

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2008

**SON OF GOD,
LOVE'S PURE
LIGHT**



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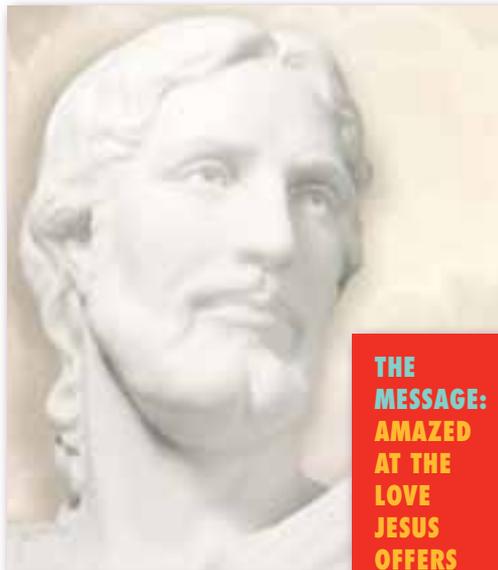
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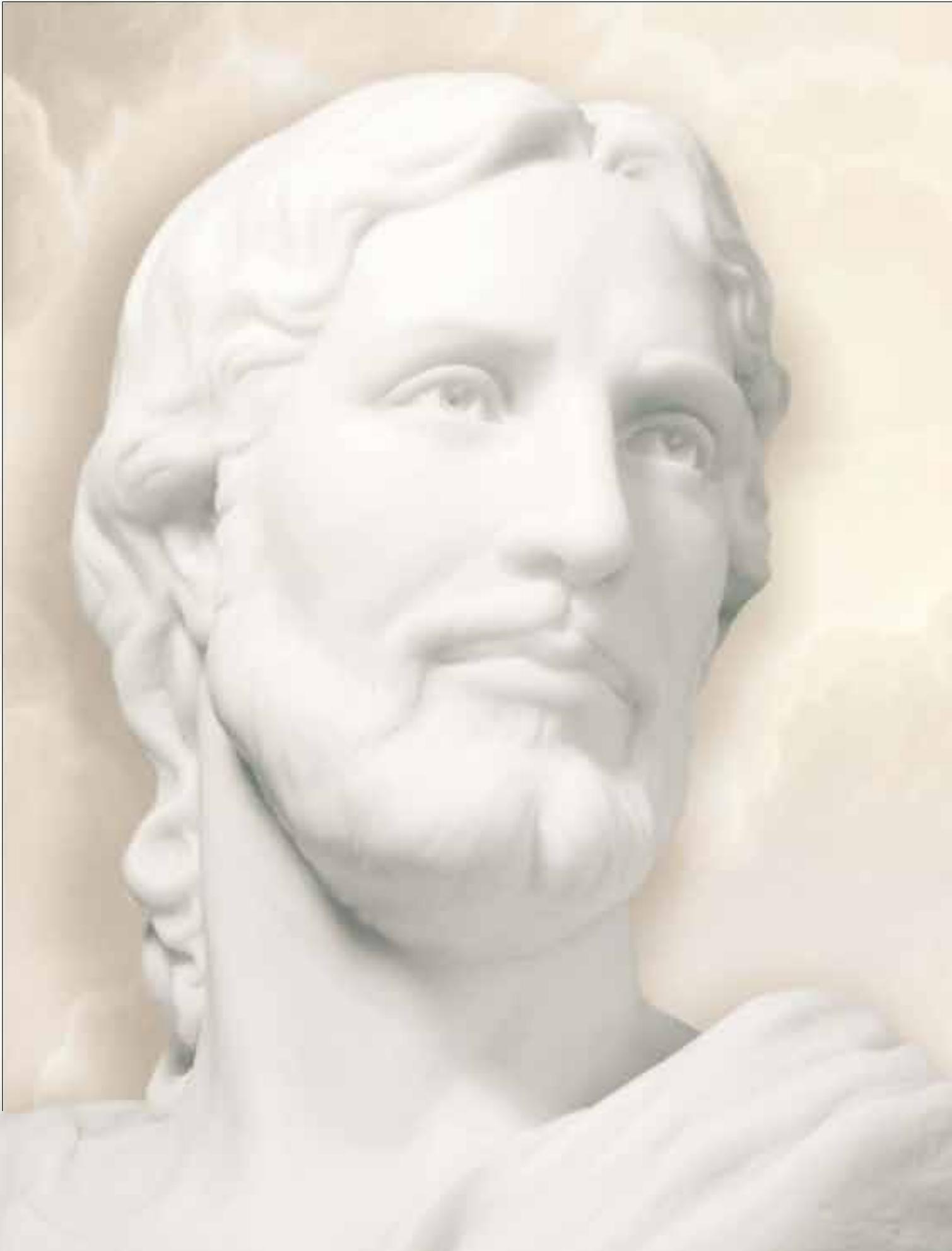
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I AMAZED AT THE LOVE JESUS OFFERS ME

BY ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

One of our favorite hymns begins with the words “I stand all amazed.”¹ As we think about Christ’s life, we are amazed in every way. We are amazed at His premortal role as the great Jehovah, agent of His Father, Creator of the earth, guardian of the entire family of man. We are amazed at His coming to earth and the circumstances surrounding His advent.

We are amazed that at only 12 years of age He was already about His Father’s business. We are amazed at the formal beginning of His ministry, His baptism and spiritual gifts.

We stand all amazed to know Jesus cast out and defeated the forces of evil everywhere He went, even as He made the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the infirm to stand. When I consider the Savior’s ministry, I wonder, “How did He do it?”

He Is Forgiving

I am most amazed at the moment when Jesus, after staggering under His load to the crest of Calvary, said, “Father, forgive

them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

If ever there is a moment when I indeed stand all amazed, it is this one. When I consider Him bearing the weight of all our sins and forgiving those who would nail Him to the cross, I ask not “How did He do it?” but “Why did He do it?” As I examine my life against the mercifulness of His, I find how I fail to do as much as I should in following the Master.

For me, this is a higher order of amazement. I am startled enough by His ability to heal the sick and raise the dead, but I have had some experience with healing in a limited way. We are all lesser vessels, but we have seen the miracles of the Lord repeated in our own lives and in our own homes and with our own portion of the priesthood. But mercy? Forgiveness? Atonement? Reconciliation? Too often, that is a different matter.

How could He forgive His tormenters at that moment? With all that pain, with blood having fallen from every pore, still He was thinking of others. This is yet one more amazing evidence that He really was perfect and intends us to be also. In the Sermon on the Mount, before He stated that perfection is



As we think about Christ’s life, we are amazed in every way. He was the purest and only perfect person who ever lived.

our goal, He gave something of a last requirement. He said all must “love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

This is one of the most difficult things to do.

Jesus Christ was the purest and only perfect person who ever lived. He is the one person in all the world from Adam to this present hour who deserved adoration and respect and admiration and love, and yet He was persecuted, abandoned, and put to death. Through it all, He would not condemn those who persecuted Him.

He Is the Perfect Sacrifice

When our first parents, Adam and Eve, had been cast out of the Garden of Eden, the Lord commanded them to “worship the Lord their God, and . . . offer the firstlings of their flocks, for an offering unto the Lord” (Moses 5:5). The angel told Adam, “This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth” (Moses 5:7).

Sacrifice served as a constant reminder of the humiliation and suffering the Son would pay to ransom us. It was a constant reminder of the meekness and mercy and gentleness—yes, the forgiveness—that was to mark every Christian life. For all these reasons and more, those firstborn lambs, clean and unblemished, perfect in every way, were offered on those stone altars year after year and generation after generation, pointing us toward the great Lamb of God, His Only Begotten Son, His Firstborn, perfect and without blemish.

In our dispensation, we are to partake of the sacrament—a symbolic offering that reflects our broken heart and contrite spirit (see D&C 59:8). As we partake, we promise to “always remember him and keep his commandments . . . ; that [we] may always have his Spirit to be with [us]” (D&C 20:77).

The symbols of the Lord’s sacrifice, in Adam’s day or our own, are to help us remember to live peacefully and

obediently and mercifully. These ordinances are to help us remember to demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ in our long-suffering and human kindness one for another, as He demonstrated it for us on that cross.

But over the centuries, too few have used these ordinances in the proper way. Cain was the first to offer an unacceptable sacrifice. As the Prophet Joseph Smith noted: “Abel offered to God a sacrifice that

was accepted, which was the firstlings of the flock. Cain offered of the fruit of the ground, and was not accepted, because he . . . could not exercise faith contrary to the plan of heaven. It must be shedding the blood of the Only Begotten to atone for man, for this was the plan of redemption, and without the shedding of blood was no remission. And as the sacrifice was instituted for a type by which man was to discern the great Sacrifice which God had prepared, to offer a sacrifice contrary to that, no faith could be exercised, because redemption was not purchased in that way, nor the power of atonement instituted after

that order. . . . Certainly, the shedding of the blood of a beast could be beneficial to no man, except it was done in imitation, or as a type, or explanation of what was to be offered through the gift of God Himself.”²

And so others in our day, a little Cain-like, return home after partaking of the sacrament to argue with a family member or lie or cheat or be angry with a neighbor.

Samuel, a prophet in Israel, commented on how futile it is to offer a sacrifice without honoring the meaning of the sacrifice. When Saul, king in Israel, had defied the Lord’s instructions by bringing back from the Amalekites “the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord [his] God,” Samuel cried: “Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel 15:15, 22).

Those firstborn lambs, clean and unblemished, perfect in every way, were offered on those stone altars year after year, pointing us toward the great Lamb of God, His Only Begotten Son, His Firstborn, perfect and without blemish.

Saul offered sacrifice without comprehending the meaning of his sacrifice. Latter-day Saints who faithfully go to sacrament meeting but are no more merciful or patient or forgiving as a result are much the same. They go through the motions of the ordinances without an understanding of the purposes for which these ordinances were established. Those purposes are to help us be obedient and gentle in our search for forgiveness of our sins.

Remembering His Sacrifice

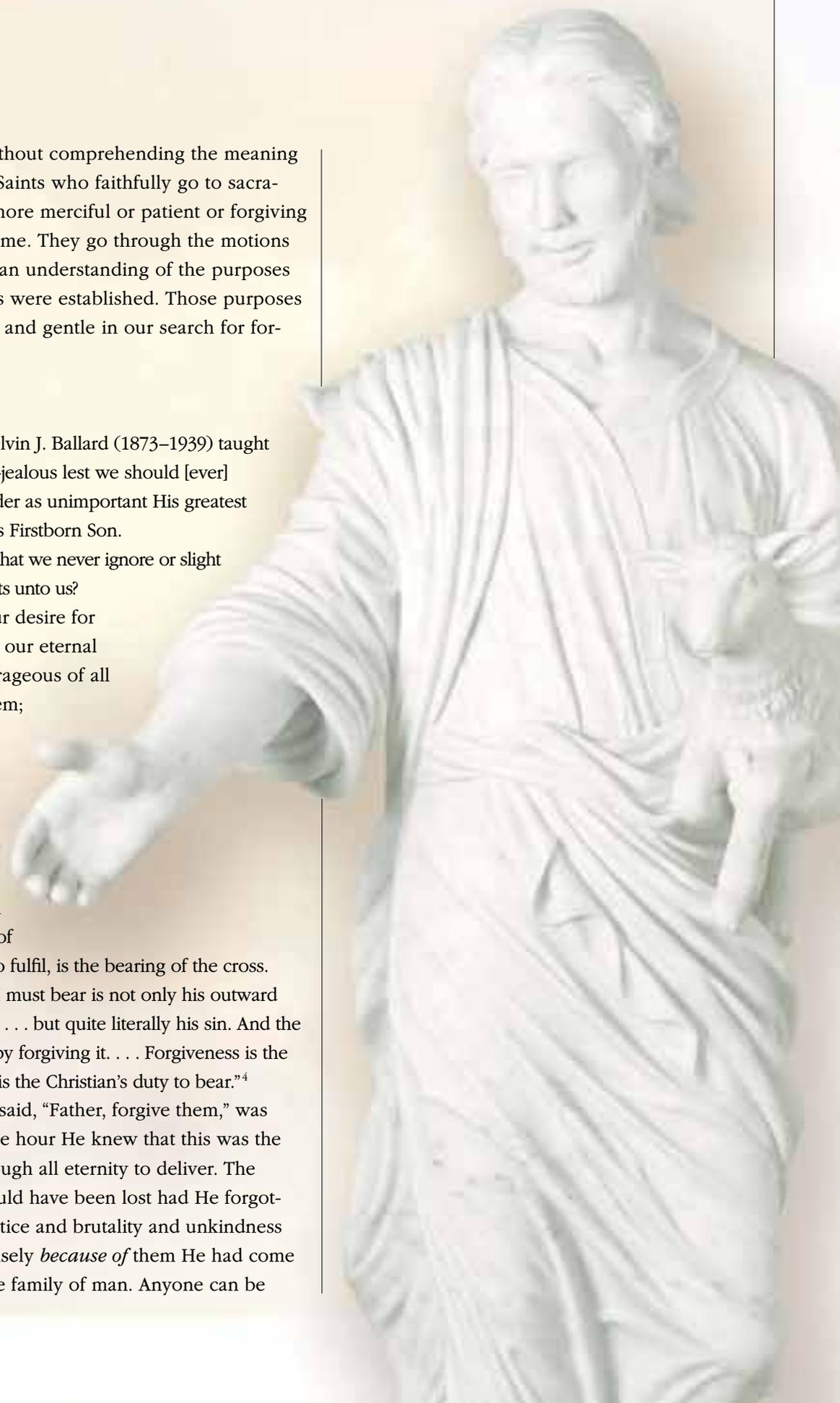
Many years ago, Elder Melvin J. Ballard (1873–1939) taught that God “is a jealous God—jealous lest we should [ever] ignore and forget and consider as unimportant His greatest gift unto us”³—the life of His Firstborn Son.

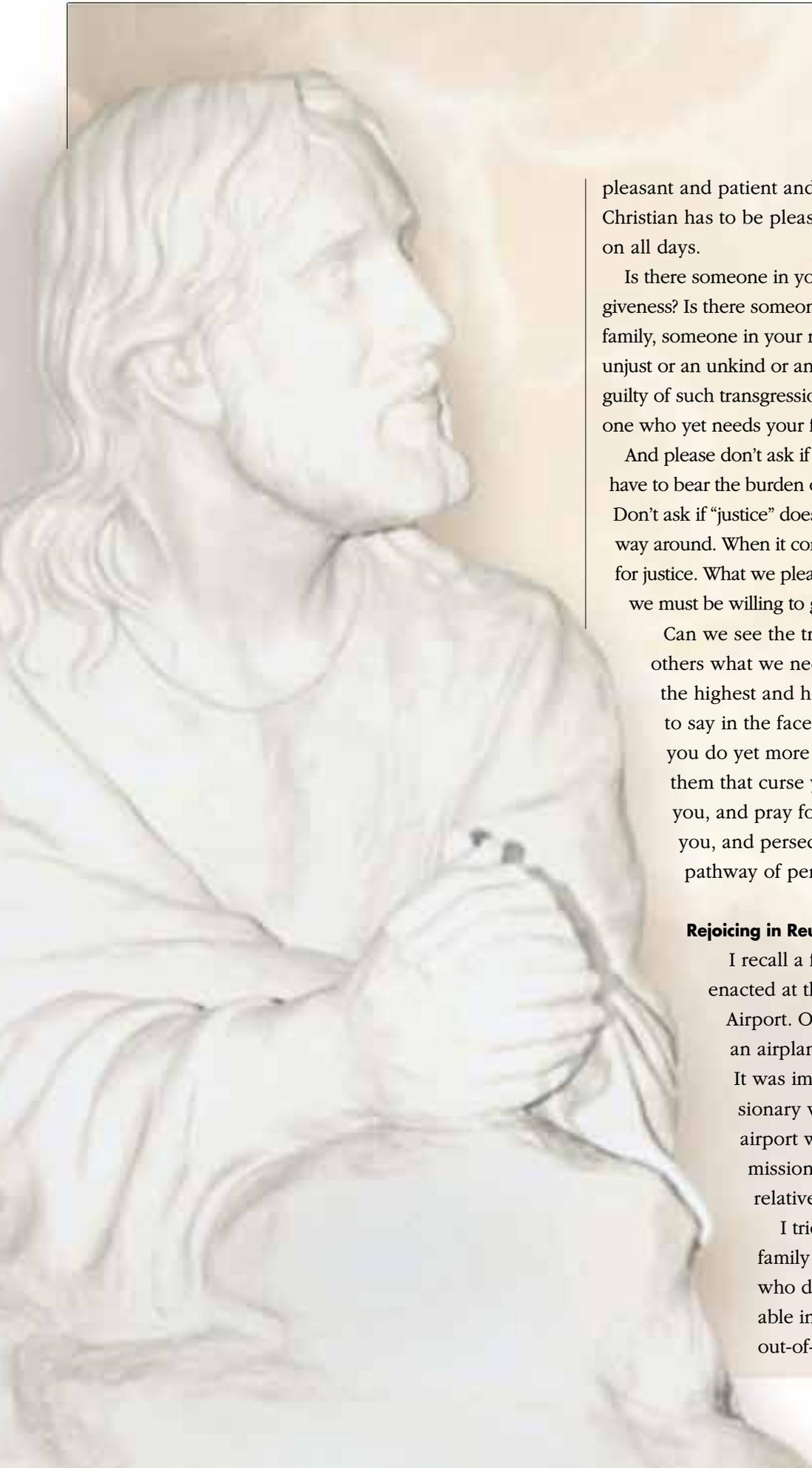
So how do we make sure that we never ignore or slight or forget His greatest of all gifts unto us?

We do so by showing our desire for a remission of our sins and our eternal gratitude for that most courageous of all prayers: “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” We do so by joining in the work of forgiving sins.

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ’ (Gal. 6:2) [Paul commands us]. . . . The law of Christ, which it is our duty to fulfil, is the bearing of the cross. My brother’s burden which I must bear is not only his outward situation [and circumstance], . . . but quite literally his sin. And the only way to bear that sin is by forgiving it. . . . Forgiveness is the Christlike suffering which it is the Christian’s duty to bear.”⁴

Surely the reason Christ said, “Father, forgive them,” was because even in that terrible hour He knew that this was the message He had come through all eternity to deliver. The entire plan of salvation would have been lost had He forgotten that not *in spite of* injustice and brutality and unkindness and disobedience but precisely *because of* them He had come to extend forgiveness to the family of man. Anyone can be





pleasant and patient and forgiving on a good day. A Christian has to be pleasant and patient and forgiving on all days.

Is there someone in your life who perhaps needs forgiveness? Is there someone in your home, someone in your family, someone in your neighborhood who has done an unjust or an unkind or an unchristian thing? All of us are guilty of such transgressions, so there surely must be someone who yet needs your forgiveness.

And please don't ask if it is fair that the injured should have to bear the burden of forgiveness for the offender. Don't ask if "justice" doesn't demand that it be the other way around. When it comes to our own sins, we don't ask for justice. What we plead for is mercy—and that is what we must be willing to give.

Can we see the tragic irony of not granting to others what we need so badly ourselves? Perhaps the highest and holiest and purest act would be to say in the face of unkindness and injustice that you do yet more truly "love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." That is the demanding pathway of perfection.

Rejoicing in Reunion

I recall a few years ago seeing a drama enacted at the Salt Lake International Airport. On this particular day, I got off an airplane and walked into the terminal. It was immediately obvious that a missionary was coming home because the airport was full of conspicuous-looking missionary friends and missionary relatives.

I tried to pick out the immediate family members. There was a father who did not look particularly comfortable in an awkward-fitting and slightly out-of-fashion suit. He seemed to be

a man of the soil, with a suntan and large, work-scarred hands.

There was a mother who was quite thin, looking as if she had worked very hard in her life. She had in her hand a handkerchief—and I think it must have been a linen handkerchief once, but now it looked like tissue paper. It was nearly shredded from the anticipation only the mother of a returning missionary could know.

Two or three younger brothers and sisters were running around, largely oblivious to the scene that was unfolding.

I found myself wondering as to who would be first to break away from the welcoming group. A look at the mother's handkerchief convinced me that she would probably be the one.

As I sat there, I saw the returning missionary appear. I knew he was the one by the squeals of excitement from the crowd. He looked like Captain Moroni, clean and handsome and straight and tall. Undoubtedly he had known the sacrifice this mission had meant to his father and mother.

As he neared the group, sure enough, someone couldn't wait any longer. It wasn't the mother, and it wasn't any of the children. It was Father. That big, slightly awkward, quiet, and bronzed giant of a man ran out and swept his son into his arms.

The missionary was probably 6'2" (188 cm) or so, but this big father grabbed him, lifted him off the ground, and held him for a long, long time. He just held him and said nothing. The boy put both arms around his dad, and they just held each other very tightly. It seemed like all eternity stood still. It was as if all the world had gone silent out of respect for such a sacred moment.

And then I thought of God the Eternal Father watching His Son go out to serve, to sacrifice when He didn't have to do it, paying His own expenses, so to speak,

costing everything He had saved all His life to give. At that precious moment, it was not too difficult to imagine that Father speaking with some emotion to those who could hear, "This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). And it was also possible to imagine that triumphant returning Son saying, "It is finished" (John 19:30). "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

How do we make sure that we never ignore or slight or forget God's greatest of all gifts unto us—the life of His Firstborn Son? We do so by showing our desire for a remission of our sins and our eternal gratitude for that most courageous of all prayers: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." We do so by joining in the work of forgiving.

Wonderful to Me

Even in my limited imagination, I can see that reunion in the heavens. And I pray for one like it for you and for me. I pray for reconciliation and for forgiveness, for mercy, and for the Christian growth and Christian character we must develop if we are to enjoy such a moment fully.

I stand all amazed that even for a man like me, there is a chance. If I've heard the "good news" correctly, there really is a chance—for me and for you and for everyone who is willing to keep hoping and to keep trying and to allow others the same privilege.

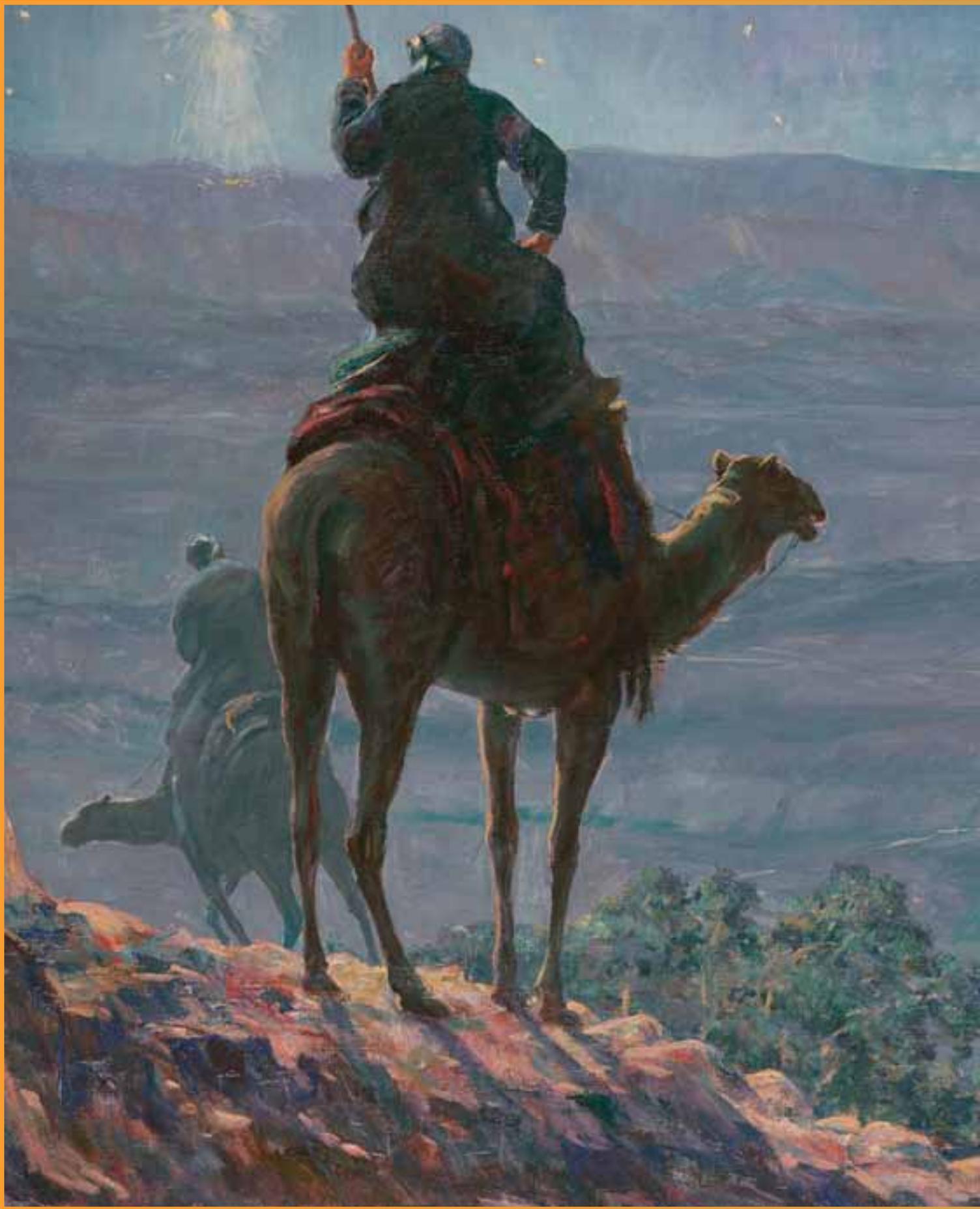
I marvel that he would descend from his throne divine

*To rescue a soul so rebellious and proud as mine. . . .
I think of his hands pierced and bleeding to pay the debt!
Such mercy, such love, and devotion can I forget?
No, no, I will praise and adore at the mercy seat,
Until at the glorified throne I kneel at his feet. . . .
Oh, it is wonderful, wonderful to me!⁵ **NE***

From an address given to Salt Lake Temple workers on November 24, 1985.

NOTES

1. "I Stand All Amazed," *Hymns*, no. 193.
2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study, 2007), 48.
3. *Melvin J. Ballard: Crusader for Righteousness* (1966), 136–37.
4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, 2nd ed. (1959), 100.
5. *Hymns*, no. 193.





The **STAR**, *The* **SAVIOR**, *and* *Your* **HEART**

BY SUE CLARK

Sue Clark is the wife of
BYU-Idaho president Kim B. Clark.

The light of the Savior can glow within us if He is in our hearts.

During this Christmas season I studied and pondered the Christmas story in the scriptures. The Wise Men knew of the birth of the Savior because they saw a star in the East. That star became their guide:

“And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him” (Matthew 2:9–11).

They found Him because Heavenly Father had prepared for them a star, a new light in the heavens to guide them. They watched and searched and followed the star. Let me tell you what I learned about the star, the Savior, and our hearts.

The star that led the Wise Men to the Savior was real. But it also was symbolic of the light that came into the world with the Savior’s birth. As I searched the scriptures to understand the star, I found two wonderful passages. The first is Revelation 22:16:

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things. . . I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”

The Savior is the Light of the World. He is the sure



Believe in Christ so that the day star, the Savior of the world, the bright and morning star, may arise in your hearts and be your guide as you walk the path of life.

guide for each of us. His light is the guide each one of us may have. I learned that in the second passage, found in 2 Peter 1:16, 19. Here is Peter's powerful testimony:

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. . . .

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."

The Savior's life and His teachings are like light that shines in a dark world. "He marked the path and [leads] the way" (*Hymns*, no. 195). Clearly, if you do as Peter said and "take heed" and follow that light, the Light of Christ that is in you from birth will grow and Heavenly Father will bless you with more light (see D&C 131:5). And as Peter teaches us, the light can grow so bright within you that the day star, the "bright and morning star," arises in your heart.

When I first read this scripture, I thought, "What a beautiful idea: the Savior arising in our hearts." And then I remembered a song I sang as a little girl. The song is called *Star Bright*. The chorus from the song goes like this:

*Oh, star bright—the world is pining
For you to turn night into the day;
Oh, star bright—in Heaven shining
Come glow within me
On Christmas day.*

This is an application of what Peter taught. The light of the Savior can glow within us if the Savior is in our hearts.

These are beautiful ideas, and I was grateful to find them. But I was not finished. One night during the holidays I woke up with a thought running through my mind.

I had been thinking about the light of the Christmas star and about the day star arising in our hearts. The thought in my mind when I woke up was this: "The day star, the bright and morning star, can only rise in hearts that are pure." This thought guided me to further reading, and I found another scripture that teaches us that it is only with the Savior's help that our hearts can be purified in order for Him to dwell there.

In Mosiah 4:2–3 King Benjamin has addressed the people, teaching them of Jesus Christ. They recognize this principle:

"And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying: O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified. . . .

"And it came to pass that after they had spoken these words the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins, and having peace of conscience, because of the exceeding faith which they had in Jesus Christ who should come."

The people believed the words of King Benjamin, who prophesied of the coming of Jesus Christ. With faith they asked for mercy and the application of the atoning blood upon them that their "hearts might be purified." And the star arose in their hearts, filling them with joy.

Believe in Christ and in His power to purify your hearts through the application of the Atonement to forgive you of sin so that the day star, the Savior of the world, the bright and morning star, may arise in your hearts and be your guide as you walk the path of life. If you do that, you will begin this year with much, much more than New Year's resolutions. You will walk the true path. **NE**

From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University–Idaho on January 10, 2006.

BY RHETT WILKINSON

A 2,000-year-old message is still true today.

It was the last day of school before the lengthy holiday break, so the students at my high school attended a special seminary session at a chapel right across the street. At the end of the session, a few kids were asked to bear testimonies before we concluded the program.

One senior boy told us about his tradition of reading 3 Nephi 11 early on Christmas morning, before anybody else in his family woke up and tore into presents. His testimony of the understanding it gave him of everything the Savior means in his life inspired me to do the same thing. I decided to read the chapter the night before, on Christmas Eve, before I went to bed.

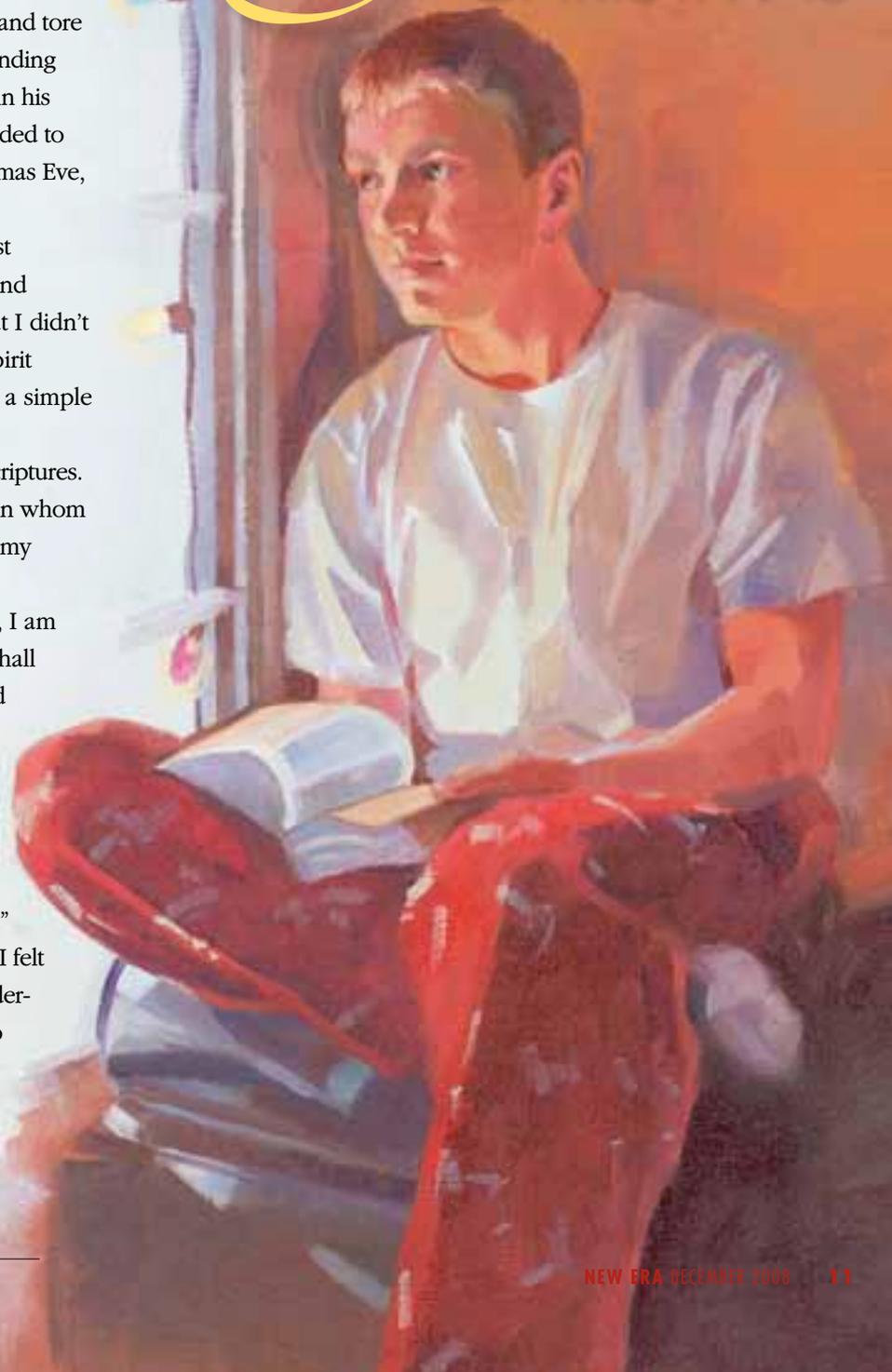
I knew that this chapter was about Christ appearing to the people in the Americas, and Heavenly Father testifying of His Son. What I didn't know or understand was the impact the Spirit would have on my heart that night as I felt a simple but completely powerful feeling of love.

This feeling came through well-known scriptures. In verse 7 I read, "Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him."

And in verses 10 and 11 I read: "Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into this world. . . . I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning."

Indeed, these are very simple verses, but I felt an incredible feeling of love that night. I understood that I am important as an individual to Him, just as each one of us is. There may be billions of us on earth, but the Father and Jesus Christ are infinitely concerned about each one of us. We can all realize this because of the Savior's Atonement. **NE**

THE *Light* BEFORE CHRISTMAS



THE GIFT BOX



BY SCOTT LUEBKE

When I was seven, I thought I had the true meaning of Christmas all figured out. Christmas was more than just receiving gifts. You had to be willing to give a gift if you expected to receive one in return.

Each year our gifts to friends and neighbors were Mom's holiday cookies and candies. Her walnut divinity was famous. My sisters and I would pitch in to help deliver plates of treats around the neighborhood. The neighbors would reciprocate by delivering their own favorite treats to our house—completing the exchange program.

That year the last of the neighbors came by with their gift on Christmas Eve. However, instead of a plate of cookies, they gave us a small, beautifully wrapped

present. They instructed us not to open it until we had opened all the other gifts under the tree the next day.

I used my best detective skills to try to determine what was inside. But the only clue I could find was a gift tag that merely added to my curiosity: "To the Luebke Family—the Greatest Gift of All." That was quite a promise for such a small box—especially when all we had given them was homemade cookies and candy.

Christmas morning finally came, and we opened all our presents. Then, as we sat in the carnage of torn wrapping paper and opened boxes, Mom brought out the mysterious gift and read the tag. My sister and I fought

over who would open it. I don't recall who won, but I clearly remember my disappointment when I saw what was inside the box—nothing except a card. I had been skeptical that this gift would really be "the Greatest Gift of All," but I had certainly expected more than a handwritten card. Mom, on the other hand, was visibly touched by the card.

The next year when the Christmas decorations went up, the little present was back under the tree, like an unwanted fruitcake. I lifted the lid, hoping that I had missed something the year before. But it proved again to be an empty box with a simple card in it.

As the years went by, that little gift became a family tradition. Every year it was the first present under the tree and the last one opened on Christmas morning. In my teenage years my attitude began to soften toward the little gift.

The first Christmas after my mission, I headed home for the holidays after a semester at college. As I walked through the door, the memory of many Christmases at home came flooding back. As I looked in the living room, I saw it, that unusual little present, alone under the tree. It showed the wear of having many heavy packages piled on top of it over the years. I picked it up with a reverence I had never shown it before. The tag was still attached: "To the Luebke Family—the Greatest Gift of All." As I lifted the lid and read the card inside, I now had a testimony that it truly did represent the greatest gift our family could ever be given. It read, "From Jesus Christ—The Gift of Eternal Life."

I am grateful for the family who gave us this family tradition that has blessed our Christmases by reminding us of the greatest gift of all. **NE**

Every Christmas a small gift box appears under our tree. It's a fabulous present. How could one little box hold so much?

“What can I do to make my prayers less repetitive and more meaningful?”

The scriptures clarify that *vain* repetition is the problem (see Matthew 6:7). Sometimes you will need to repeat important things in your prayers. But if you repeat words without thinking, you’re not really communicating with Heavenly Father. To avoid vain repetition, learn to pray with “real intent” (see 2 Nephi 31:13; Moroni 7:9; 10:4)—that is, pray with sincerity and with the intent to act in faith.

In 3 Nephi the Savior’s disciples prayed “without ceasing,” yet “they did not multiply many words, for it was given unto them what they should pray” (3 Nephi 19:24). The Holy Ghost can guide your prayers and make them more meaningful (see Romans 8:26). It also helps to make time to pray in a quiet place when you are not hurried.

Finally, think of the many different things you can pray about. You enjoy many blessings each day, and you need heavenly help in many situations. Thank Heavenly Father for your blessings, and pray for things you need. You can pray for forgiveness, help in trials, a stronger testimony, and protection against temptation. **NE**



Unselfish Prayers

Sometimes when we pray, I think we are selfish—just thinking of ourselves and what we want. Think of others and their needs too. Count every blessing, and thank Heavenly Father for them. Prayer is not just for Heavenly Father to listen to our wants and complaints but also for us to listen to Him. How are we to receive revelation if we just quickly say what we want and then hop into bed? Ask Him what He would want you to do. You will become a better person.

Rebecah W., 16, Idaho, USA



Let the Holy Ghost Guide You

Take time to ponder which things you are most grateful for and which things are of greatest need in your life. The Spirit will guide you and will give you answers and suggestions that will come as ideas, thoughts, or promptings. You might also keep a journal in which you can record these thoughts and ideas for future reference.

Elder Sebo, 21, Texas Houston Mission

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



Reflect on Your Day

When I pray at night, I think of what I read in the scriptures. I try to remember what I

was able to do right and what I need to improve on. I can ask Heavenly Father to help me with that day's difficulties. I ask Him to always help me remember His counsel and give me strength to follow it. Since every day is different, even if we have a routine, different things will always happen. That being the case, upon reflecting about our day, we will always have different things to ask for and be thankful for.

Kétia F., 20, Palmas, Brazil



Pray Aloud

Find a time and place where you can be alone and pray out loud.

When you pray vocally, it feels so much more personal and meaningful. It's easier to avoid vain repetitions and to prevent your mind from wandering. It's really like a conversation with Heavenly Father.

Elder Marra, 20, Colorado Colorado Springs Mission

Pray and Then Listen

As you feel the need to trust in the Lord and improve the quality of your relationship with Him, think about what you want and kneel down in prayer. Imagine Heavenly Father, and talk to Him like your Father, which He is. Tell Him everything you feel. Have a sincere conversation, heart to heart. Trust in Him, thank Him, ask Him for forgiveness, enjoy His

companionship, express your love to Him, and then listen closely for answers.

Raúl A., 20, Mexico City, Mexico



Pray for Specifics

Planning ahead, even if just for a few minutes to compose your thoughts and most

sincere desires, ensures that you will focus more on the words you are saying to your Heavenly Father. Think of your family, extended family, and others who may need your prayers. There are so many people who need help, guidance, and protection.

Focusing on specific blessings and praying in detail can change the usual "Please bless me to have a good day" to "Please guide me in my decisions to set a positive example for others." Those are the prayers you will hold dear to your heart because they are more Christlike—the way they are supposed to be.

Hannah T., 14, Maryland, USA

NEXT QUESTION

"My parents aren't members. I'm afraid to talk to them about the Church. How can I share the gospel with them without offending them?"

Send your answer by January 15, 2009, to:

**New Era, Questions & Answers 1/09
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA
Or e-mail: newera@ldschurch.org**

The following information and permission must be included in your e-mail or letter:

FULL NAME

BIRTH DATE

WARD (OR BRANCH)

STAKE (OR DISTRICT)

I grant permission to print response and photo:

SIGNATURE

PARENT'S SIGNATURE (IF YOU ARE UNDER 18)



PRAY WITH SINCERITY

"As we pray, let us really communicate with our Father in Heaven. It is easy to let our prayers become repetitious, expressing words with little or no thought behind them. When we remember that each of us is literally a spirit son or daughter of God, we will not find it difficult to approach Him in prayer. He knows us; He loves us; He wants what is best for us. Let us pray with sincerity and meaning, offering our thanks and asking for those things we feel we need. Let us listen for His answers, that we may recognize them when they come. As we do, we will be strengthened and blessed."

President Thomas S. Monson, "How Firm a Foundation," Ensign, Nov. 2006, 67.



LITTLE BABY

Words and music by Traci Law

Like a lullaby ♩ = 66-80

mp

Musical notation for the first system of the song. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line begins with a rest followed by the lyrics "Lit-tle ba-by in a". The piano accompaniment starts with a *mp* dynamic marking.

Musical notation for the second system. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "man-ger Come to save both friend and strang-er. Lit-tle ba-by in a man-ger, come and". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a melodic line.

Musical notation for the third system. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "save me. Hea-ven's star shines bright with glo-ry." The piano accompaniment features a *p* dynamic marking.

Musical notation for the fourth system. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "See the Kings and shep-herds low-ly. Hea-ven's star is shin-ing o'er the lit-tle ba-". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a melodic line.

Listen to and download this song at NewEra.Ids.org

by. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

mf *majestically and slower*
Come, oh come, and kneel be - fore Him. Come, oh come let us a - dore Him. Come, oh

come, and kneel be - fore the lit - tle ba - by. Al - le - lu -





ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le -

lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu -

slower

ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Come and save

rit. ***ff*** *a tempo* ***p***

rit. *a tempo* ***ff*** ***p***

me.





THE SECOND COMING

Joseph Smith learned much about the Savior's Second Coming and millennial reign.

The Lord called Joseph Smith to restore the gospel and His Church to the earth in preparation for His Second Coming (see D&C 1). He also revealed to Joseph many of the signs that would precede that day, as well as the glories that will attend it (see, for instance, D&C 29; 45; 133). Here are some of Joseph Smith's teachings about the Second Coming and Millennium.*

THERE ARE SIGNS BUT NO TIMETABLE

"We see that perilous times have truly come. . . . I suppose there will soon be perplexity all over the earth. Do not let our hearts faint when these things come upon us, for they must come, or the word cannot be fulfilled."

"Jesus Christ never did reveal to any man the precise time that He would come [see Matthew 24:36; D&C 49:7]. Go and read the Scriptures, and you cannot find anything that specifies the exact hour He would come; and all that say so are false teachers."

WE CAN FIND COMFORT

"Comfort one another, even as ye also do, for perilous times are at hand. . . . Yea, lift up your heads and rejoice, for your redemption draweth nigh. We are the most favored people that ever have been from the foundation of the world, if we remain faithful in keeping the commandments of our God."

CHRIST WILL REIGN OVER THE EARTH

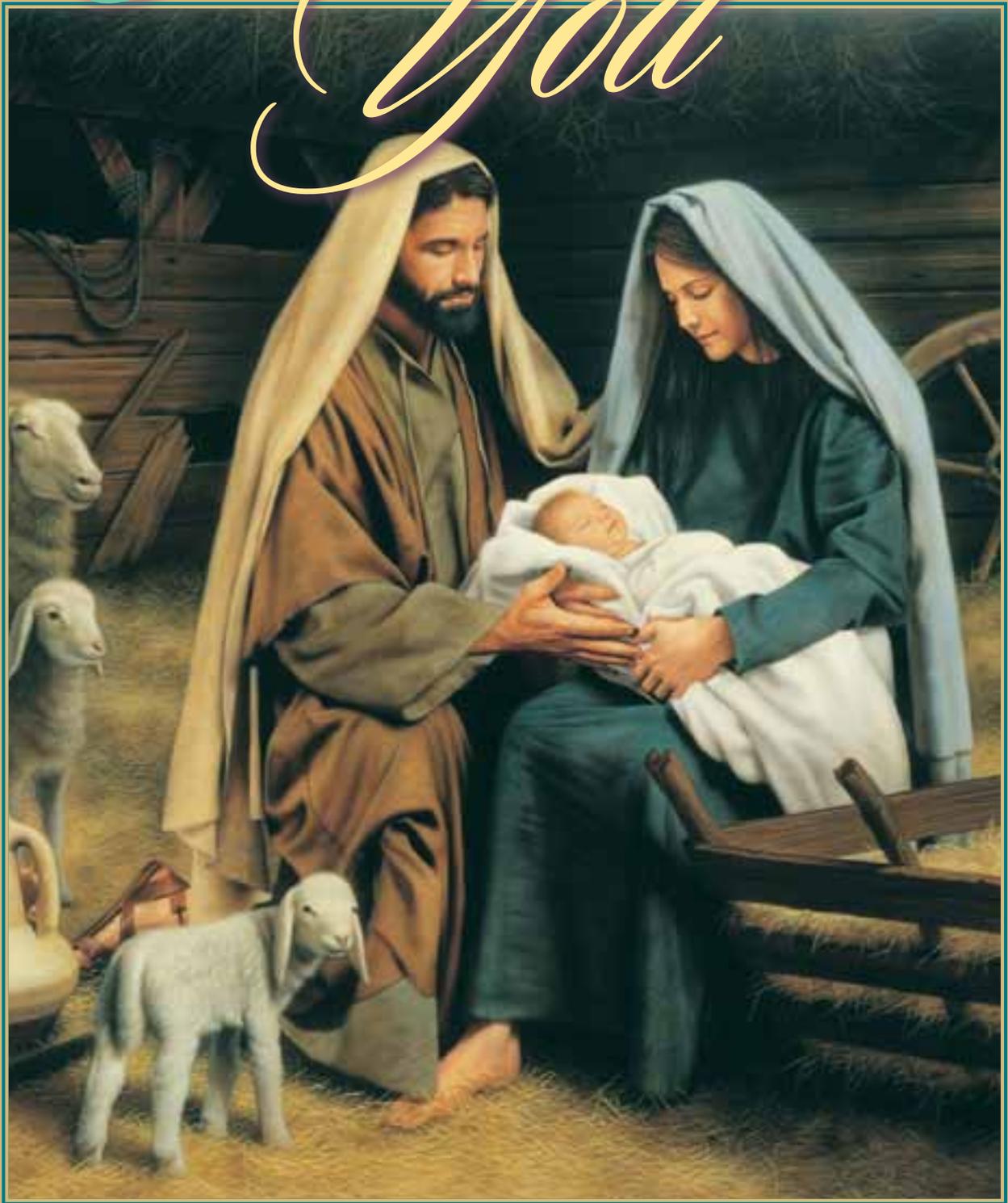
"It has been the design of Jehovah . . . to regulate the affairs of the world in His own time, to stand as a head of the universe, and take the reins of government in His own hand."

"That Jesus will be a resident on the earth a thousand [years] with the Saints is not the case, but will reign over the Saints and come down and instruct, as he did the five hundred brethren [see 1 Corinthians 15:6], and those of the first resurrection will also reign with him over the Saints."

* From *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 252–53, 255, 257–58.

MORMONAD

God Who Loves You



That He Gave His Only Begotten Son. (See John 3:16.)

Prophecies of **CHRIST'S COMING**

You can prepare for Christmas now by remembering how others prepared for Him then.

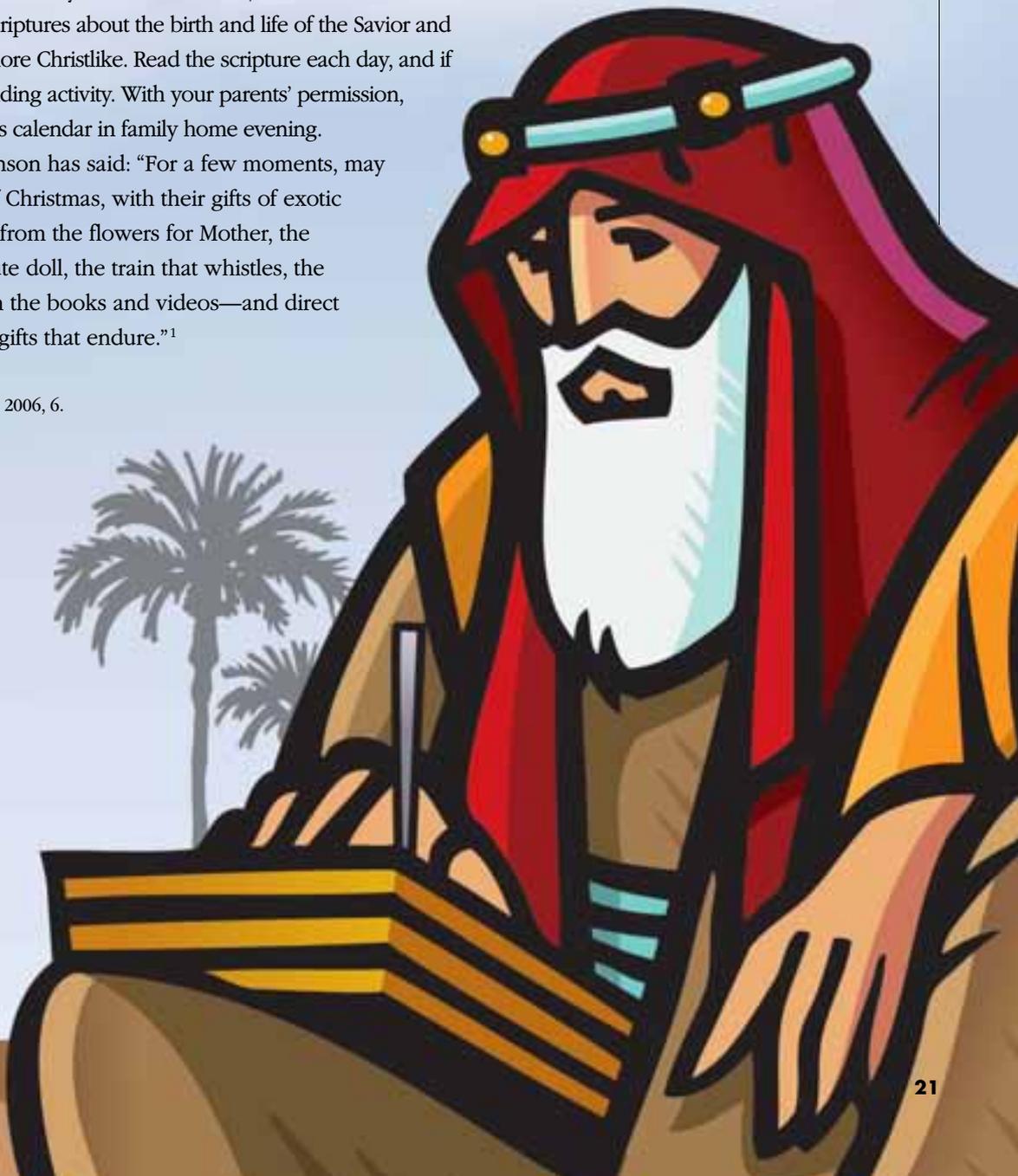
Many prophets in the Bible and Book of Mormon foretold Jesus Christ's birth and ministry hundreds of years before the actual event. For the 12 days before Christmas, this advent calendar will serve as a reference to scriptures about the birth and life of the Savior and activities you can do to be more Christlike. Read the scripture each day, and if you desire, try the corresponding activity. With your parents' permission, you could use ideas from this calendar in family home evening.

President Thomas S. Monson has said: "For a few moments, may we set aside the catalogs of Christmas, with their gifts of exotic description. Let's even turn from the flowers for Mother, the special tie for Father, the cute doll, the train that whistles, the long-awaited bicycle—even the books and videos—and direct our thoughts to God given gifts that endure."¹

NOTE

1. "Treasured Gifts," *Ensign*, Dec. 2006, 6.

When the Christmas season comes to a close, keep what you've learned in your mind and heart, and celebrate Christmas all year round by serving others.



December 13

Isaiah, a prophet in the Old Testament, prophesied that a pure woman would give birth to Heavenly Father's Son. These scriptural accounts were written more than 700 years before His birth.

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14; see also 2 Nephi 17:14).

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6; see also 2 Nephi 19:6).

Prayerfully pick a friend, family member, or ward or branch member. Secretly leave him or her a small gift, like a treat, thought from the scriptures, or a Christmas card.

December 14

Nephi saw in a vision the virgin Mary and baby Jesus:

"And he said unto me: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.

"And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; and after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time the angel spake unto me, saying: Look!

"And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

"And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!" (1 Nephi 11:18–21).

Make a Christmas list of things you'd like to give instead of things you'd like to get.

December 15

Prophets testified of Christ's mission on the earth. The following is an account by the prophet Abinadi, who lived around 150 B.C.:

"And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged, and cast out, and disowned by his people.

"And after all this, after working many mighty miracles among the children of men, . . .

". . . he shall be led, crucified, and slain, the flesh becoming subject even unto death, the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father" (Mosiah 15:5–7).

Make a Christmas treat, and give it to a family in your ward or branch. Giving will help increase ward unity and friendship.



December 16

Alma prophesied the following to the people of Gideon around 83 B.C.:

“The Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth. . . .

“And behold, he shall be born of Mary, . . . she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.

“And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of the people.

“And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy” (Alma 7:9–12).

Give the gift of service to someone in need. Invite your family to help you in identifying the service you could give.

December 17

Jesus Christ loves each of God’s children and would never forget a single one. Ezekiel prophesied that the Lord would be a shepherd and gather His lost sheep.

“For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

“As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places. . . .

“And I will bring them out from the people . . . and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel” (Ezekiel 34:11–13).

Spend time with a younger sibling, relative, or friend. Read to him or her the Christmas story in Luke 2.

December 18

Although Jesus Christ was perfect, He still needed to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. The following is an account of Lehi’s prophecy, recorded by Nephi:

“And my father said he [John the Baptist] should baptize in Bethabara, beyond Jordan; and he also said he should baptize with water; even that he should baptize the Messiah with water.

“And after he had baptized the Messiah with water, he should behold and bear record that he had baptized the Lamb of God, who should take away the sins of the world” (1 Nephi 10:9–10).

Give the gift of time by spending time with a sick, elderly, or widowed person in your ward or neighborhood. Ask him or her to tell you about a favorite Christmas.



December 19

Samuel the Lamanite prophesied of the signs surrounding the birth of the Savior:

“Behold, I give unto you a sign; for five years more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe on his name.

“. . . There shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day. . . .

“And behold, there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you” (Helaman 14:2–3, 5).

Write in your journal what Christmas means to you and what your family’s holiday traditions are.

December 20

Before Christ’s birth, the angel Gabriel visited Mary.

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

“To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.

“And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. . . .

“. . . For thou hast found favour with God.

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus” (Luke 1:26–28, 30–31).

Gather family members and friends to go caroling around the neighborhood, or sing Christmas carols in your own home.

December 21

Nephi, the grandson of Helaman, faithfully waited for the Lord’s coming. But the unbelievers said to him, “The time is past, and the words of Samuel are not fulfilled; therefore, your joy and your faith concerning this thing hath been vain” (3 Nephi 1:6).

Then Nephi “went out and bowed himself down upon the earth, and cried mightily to God in behalf of his people” (v. 11).

The Lord told Nephi, “Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world to show unto the world that I will fulfil all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets” (v. 13).

In your prayers, express thanks to Heavenly Father for the gift of His Son.



December 22

Finally, the prophecies of Christ's birth were fulfilled.

"And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi were fulfilled, according as they had been spoken. . . .

"And there were many, who had not believed the words of the prophets, who fell to the earth and became as if they were dead, . . . for the sign which had been given was already at hand. . . .

"And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. . . .

"And it came to pass also that a new star did appear, according to the word" (3 Nephi 1:15–16, 19, 21).

Jesus Christ gave us the greatest gift of all, His life. Show your appreciation to your parents by writing a letter thanking them for the good things they have done for you.

December 23

On the night of Christ's birth, an angel appeared to righteous shepherds in Bethlehem to proclaim the news of Christ's birth.

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:7–11).

Make a resolution to be a happier and kinder person.

December 24

We, as Christians, stand as witnesses of Jesus Christ every day of the year through faith and good works. The Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon give this witness:

"And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

"For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

"That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God" (D&C 76:22–24).

Share your testimony of the Savior at the next appropriate occasion, such as fast and testimony meeting. *NE*



BY JILL B. ADAIR

What started as a Personal Progress project has turned into a community Christmas tradition.

Let There Be Praise

During the summer of 2001, 17-year-old Tricia Hale had an idea, or a dream as she calls it, to put on a spiritual Christmas dance program that would portray the life of Christ.

She enlisted the help of three friends and fellow dancers (Anna Woolf, 17; Jill Hendrickson, 16; and Donelle Crandell, 16) at her high school in Mesa, Arizona, to turn the dream into reality.

The dancers were on the school's dance team but had taken issue in the past with music and costumes they felt were inappropriate or not in keeping with Church standards. They wanted to use their talents to present their testimonies of Christ by dancing to sacred music and wearing modest outfits.

The program that resulted would be an experience that strengthened their testimonies and was well-received by family, friends, and the community. Other young women took over after these girls graduated, making the spiritual experience an annual program.

Other dancers are invited to join them in planning, practicing, and performing. Although some of the dancers are not members of the Church, prayer, devotionals, and sharing testimonies are part of rehearsal time.

The free program, entitled "Let There Be Praise," portrays the life of Christ from birth to resurrection through scriptures, narration, slides, and lyrical dance to hymns and other spiritual music. It drew more than 500 people the first year, and the audience has since grown.

Clint W. Smith, president of the Mesa Kimball Stake, enjoys the performance.

"Dressed in white, these girls are so modest and pure and are able to share their talents and gifts in a way that is very powerful and appropriate," he says. "It is a wonderful experience for those who are in it and for those who see it."

McKenzi Fackrell, one of the group's past presidents, admits it was a lot of work to organize and head up the program. "But it was so worth it," she says. "It is such a testimony builder."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT F. ADAIR





By participating in this special dance program, many girls in the Mesa, Arizona, area have been able to share their talents and their testimonies of Christ—and even complete a Personal Progress project.



After McKenzie graduated, Kelly Allen took over as co-president and chose a younger co-president, Brianna Barba, to work with her.

“I just love it,” says Kelly, who has danced since she was nine years old.

Even though Kelly keeps busy with the school’s dance group and making straight A’s, she’s able to keep her life organized.

“Being involved in this is a big blessing,” she says. “Somehow there is time for everything.”

Brianna has danced in the program since she was in eighth grade. “It has strengthened my testimony so much,” says the honor student, who is also involved in the school’s dance group and competition cheer squad.

In a devotional she told the dancers, “Christ can turn our shabby gifts into a beautiful miracle and a shining star.”

Brianna has been able to use the program for missionary experiences, inviting a friend to dance as Mary and another to perform a vocal solo for one of the dances.

“I knew they would be able to feel the Spirit and also bring their families so they would be able to share in this, too,” she says.

Brianna’s younger sister, Brittney, who performed for the first time as a sophomore, is one of many dancers who uses the experience as a Personal Progress project.

“I chose Individual Worth, because being in this has helped me learn so much about myself,” she says. “When you learn about Christ, you learn more about being a daughter of Heavenly Father and how much He loves you. My testimony has grown so much.”

The program ends with the song “How Great Thou Art,” and the dancers raise their arms in praise.

“The group has never done a curtain call because we want that to be the last thing the audience sees,” says Tricia Hale Campbell, who is now a dance teacher at her own studio and has continued to help the high school

students with the program. “This isn’t about the dancers. We feel grateful to use our talents in a spiritual way to focus on the Savior and we give that glory to the Lord.”

Sisters Kelsey, Kali, and Karissa Jarvis say that there are a lot of opportunities to sing or speak your testimony, but not a lot of places to dance your testimony.

“It lets others know that I do have a testimony,” says Kelsey.

Older sister Kali agrees. “You know how you feel bearing your testimony or having a great spiritual experience with someone? It’s the same great feeling, but you get to share it with all these people in dance.”

Kim Hathcock has returned to perform after graduating. “It’s one thing that makes Christmas meaningful for me,” she says.

During high school she performed as Mary. “It really made my testimony grow,” she says. “I also feel like we’re doing service, because so many people who see it comment that this is what gets them into the real Christmas spirit.”

Christy Quintero is a member of a local Christian church. “I thought it would be a good experience to dance to Christian music,” she says. “I really like being with everybody; they are good examples to be around.”

Don Johnson, whose daughter, Aimee, has performed for several years, says he enjoys the “spirit-filled” program. “These girls are so busy themselves, but they sacrifice to put this on so we can feel the Spirit,” he says. “That’s very Christlike.”

Drama teacher Sandy Stones of the Mesa Kimball Stake is the faculty sponsor for the club and is on hand when the girls practice.

“It’s an honor and privilege for me to sponsor the group,” she says. “They are a light to the school and community.” **NE**



BY RUSSELL WILCOX

ENERGY DRINKS

They're hot, they're hip, they're everywhere. Energy drinks promise a quick pick-me-up, but that quick boost of energy comes with some hefty drawbacks, both physically and spiritually.

A stake president was scheduled to meet with a young man to interview him and help him complete his mission application. The young man was a bright student and had saved money for his mission. He attended church regularly and was worthy of a temple recommend. Still, the stake president had one concern: The young man was drinking 12 energy drinks a day! In their meeting, the stake president suggested that he break the energy-drink habit before they submitted the application to the Missionary Department.

"No problem, President," said the young man. "It's not a habit. I can quit anytime." They scheduled another interview a week later and the young man left. The following day he found out just how much of a habit his non-habit had become. His body was craving the drinks, and it was difficult to say no to himself. By midweek he called the stake president for a blessing. "I guess I really was more addicted than I thought," he said. "This is really hard."

The blessing was given, and the stake president continued to meet with the young man and monitor his progress. The process actually took months, but finally this young man felt ready to submit his application. His advice to others: "Don't be fooled.

Just because something isn't specifically mentioned in the Word of Wisdom doesn't mean there aren't negative consequences."

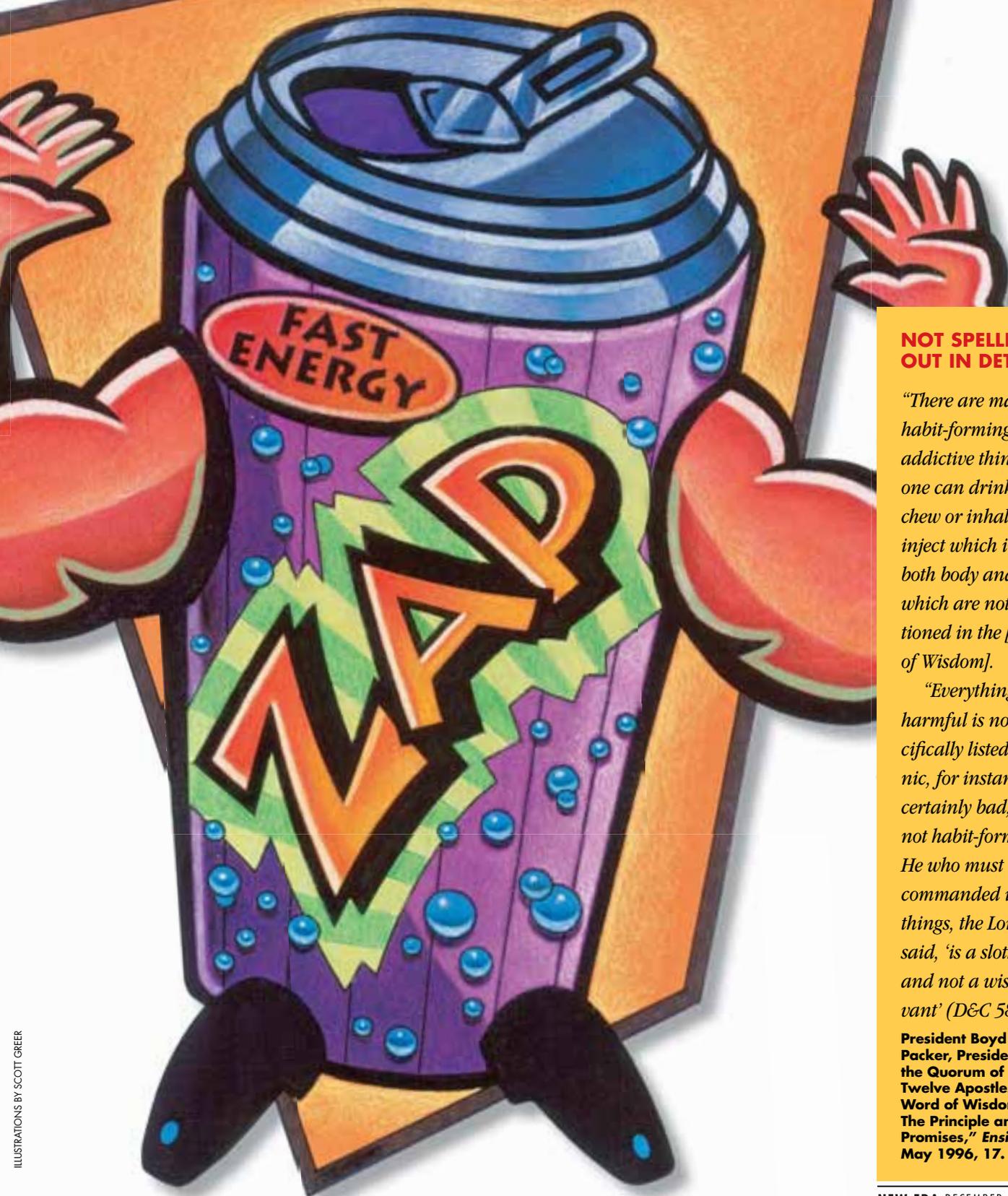
Energy drinks are powerful, easily available, and well marketed. Companies boast record sales that increase dramatically every year. There is no doubt the drinks pack a punch, but is it a punch that picks you up or knocks you down? In the long run, the drinks can have a negative effect both physically and spiritually.

Physical Consequences

While some people claim energy drinks improve their performance and concentration, such statements can be misleading. The drinks increase your heart rate and blood pressure, dehydrate your body, and prevent sleep—all of which can have devastating long-term effects.

Some high schools have banned the drinks from sporting events because student athletes, who were drinking them to stay alert and focused, were actually fainting. The combination of the fluid lost from sweating and the diuretic quality of the drinks (which

The Lift . . .



NOT SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL

“There are many habit-forming, addictive things that one can drink or chew or inhale or inject which injure both body and spirit which are not mentioned in the [Word of Wisdom].

“Everything harmful is not specifically listed; arsenic, for instance—certainly bad, but not habit-forming! He who must be commanded in all things, the Lord said, ‘is a slothful and not a wise servant’ (D&C 58:26).”

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Word of Wisdom: The Principle and the Promises,” *Ensign*, May 1996, 17.

That Lets You

makes it hard for the body to absorb water) was leaving these athletes severely depleted.

Perhaps the greatest physical concern is that the body builds up a tolerance to these drinks, and people have to drink more and more to feel the same effect. In some cases this escalating cycle has opened the door to experimentation with pills and alcohol.

Spiritual Consequences

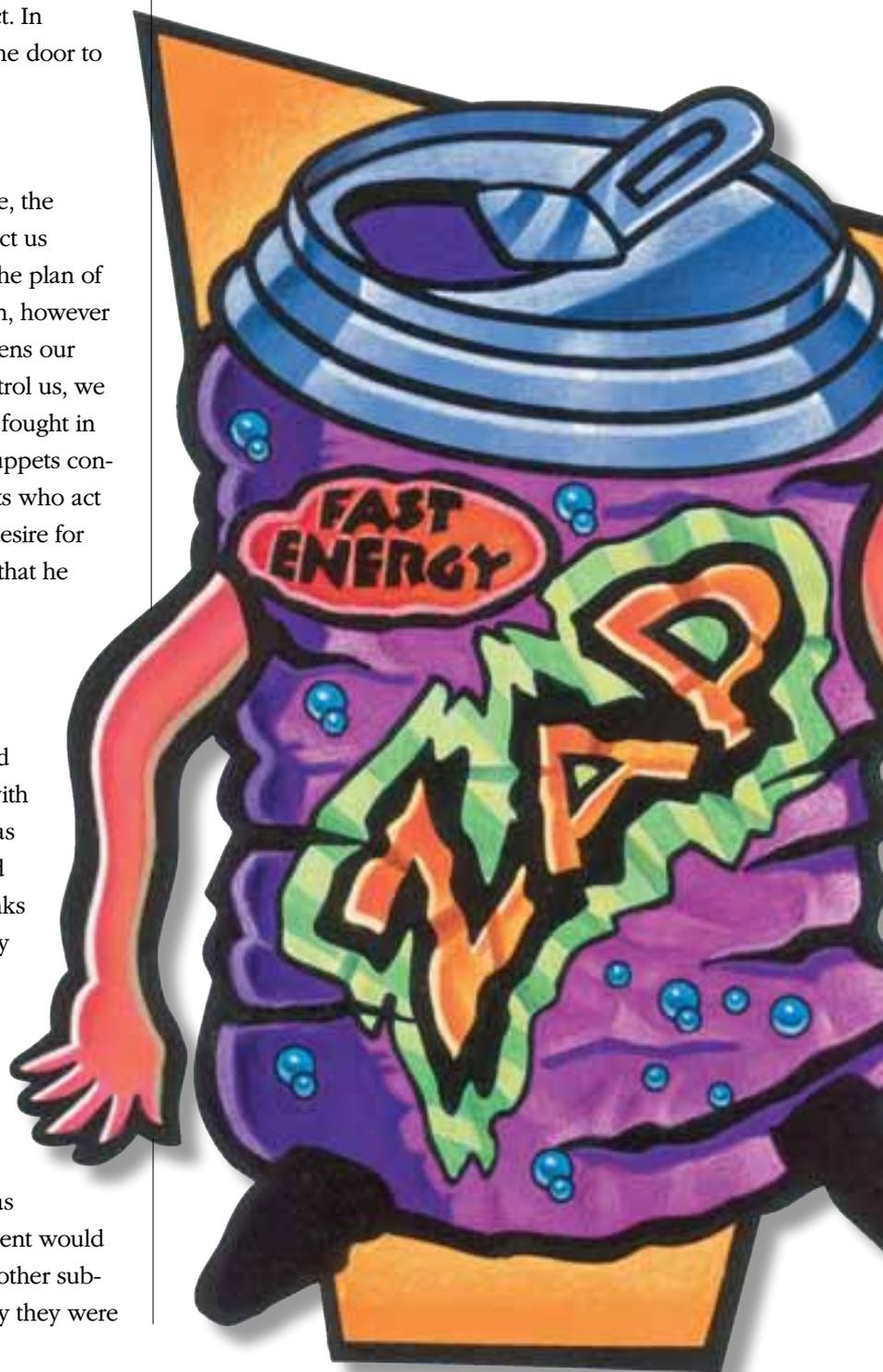
As serious as the physical consequences are, the greater concern is how energy drinks can affect us spiritually. Agency is absolutely necessary in the plan of salvation (see Moses 3:17; 7:32). Any addiction, however minor or innocent, is serious because it threatens our agency. When we allow any substance to control us, we surrender a part of the freedom for which we fought in the pre-earth life. We allow ourselves to be puppets controlled by outside influences rather than agents who act for themselves. This is contrary to the Lord's desire for us. "Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself" (2 Nephi 2:16).

Along with giving us freedom, God has given us the light of Christ and the gift of the Holy Ghost to guide us in using that freedom. This heavenly direction is often communicated through feelings, so any substance that toys with our emotions has the potential to confuse us as we attempt to receive, recognize, and respond to the Spirit. Advertisements claim energy drinks heighten our senses, but in fact, over time they can dull them and leave us questioning what we feel.

Use Your Brain

One college professor who was not a member of the Church would delight in asking an LDS student if this or that substance was "against the Word of Wisdom." When the student would respond yes, the professor would quickly list other substances that are "just as bad" and question why they were

While the stimulants that give energy drinks their jolt may offer a short energy burst, it is quickly gone, leaving you severely depleted.



Down

not also “on the list.”

Finally, one day the student said, “I make some choices in my life because God has given me commandments. I make other choices because He has given me a brain.” The student was correct. Everything we should or should not eat and drink is not listed in the revelations and every possible wise or unwise choice is not spelled out in the pages of *For the Strength of Youth*. The Lord has said, “It is not meet that I should command in all things” (D&C 58:26).

Break the Habit

For those desiring to end their dependence on energy drinks, take it one step at a time. It takes a while to develop such a habit, so it won't be overcome immediately. Set reasonable and realistic goals that will leave you feeling successful rather than overwhelmed by an impossible task.

Seek help. Parents, along with youth leaders, can offer support. And though drinking energy drinks is certainly not something that has to be confessed, most bishops stand more than ready to help you reach any positive goal.

Turn to natural sources of energy. The best way to avoid a negative behavior is to replace it with a positive one. If energy is what you seek, find it through more exercise, a good night's sleep, and a nutritious diet. Draw near to your Heavenly Father. Determine to make service, scripture study, and prayer more regular patterns in your life.

When the stake president asked the young man to break his dependence on energy drinks before beginning his mission, the young man found it difficult. After several months of hard work, that missionary entered the MTC and wrote the following in a letter to his stake president: “I want to thank you for all your help preparing me to serve. This place is incredible. The Spirit is so strong in all the classes and devotionals. You can even feel it when you are walking down the halls. This feeling is better than any energy drink!” **NE**

THE ENERGY DRINK ADDICTION

BY THOMAS J. BOUD, MD

You've seen these drinks all over television and in the stores. Over the past several years, high-dose caffeine energy drinks have been aggressively marketed to teens and young adults. In 2006 alone, about 500 new brands of energy drinks were introduced. In fact, 7.6 million young people say they have used energy drinks, with consumption more than doubling in the past three years. The energy drink industry in the United States alone has ballooned into a \$3 billion-a-year enterprise.¹

But not all caffeinated drinks are created equal; the amount of caffeine varies greatly from one drink to another. Most cola soft drinks have from 22 to 55 milligrams (mg) of caffeine. By comparison, energy drinks can have from 80 to 500 mg of caffeine in one can!² Beverage companies compete to market the drink that gives the biggest jolt. To do this, they combine caffeine with other substances such as sugars, alcohol, or other stimulants in order to intensify its effects. These drinks often come in larger and larger containers.

What are the consequences of high caffeine consumption? First and foremost, caffeine is a central nervous system stimulant that can lead to addiction. Both as a doctor and as a member of the Church, I recognize the physical, mental, and spiritual dangers of any addictive substance. Any addictive behavior, whatever the source, can lead to a loss of spiritual health and freedom. I have treated a number of caffeine-related medical conditions in young people and in adults. These conditions include jitteriness, agitation, insomnia, difficulty concentrating, dehydration, weight gain, depression, high blood pressure, and rapid heart rate. There have even been reports of deaths as a direct result of caffeine overdose.³

To read more about the potential dangers of energy drinks, see Dr. Boud's article in this month's *Ensign* magazine.

NOTES

1. See Sharon Worcester, “Energy Drink Trends Alarm Some; No Data Back Safety,” *Family Practice News*, Feb. 1, 2007, 1.
2. See www.energyfiend.com/the-caffeine-database.
3. See Sarah Kerrigan and Tania Lindsey, “Fatal Caffeine Overdose: Two Case Reports,” *Forensic Science International*, Oct. 4, 2005, 67–69.

ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

BY HILLARY HOLBROOK

These Alaskan teens, though far apart, use the telephone and Church activities to stay close.

Can you imagine living in an area so remote that seminary, Mutual, and Church meetings are held on the phone rather than in a building? A group of young men and young women in Alaska don't have to imagine it. The telephone is the only way they connect regularly. And to them, it's not a problem.

Three of the youth—Harrison Child, and Jaenell and Zach Manchester—live in Gustavus, Alaska. The other two teens, Matthew and Jennifer Parkin, live on Admiralty Island in a town called Angoon. Both are in the Gustavus Branch in the Juneau Alaska Stake. There are also a few Church members on other islands that make up the branch.

Although a new LDS meetinghouse is being built in Gustavus, for years the branch members there have met

in a member's home. The sacrament is prepared on a kitchen table. After it is passed, the Parkin family calls in from Angoon, and a few members on other islands call in, too. The rest of the meeting is held, like any sacrament meeting, from the pulpit. There is a pulpit, and talks are given, but a telephone sits on the pulpit so everyone can hear.

And how do the young men and women feel about it? "It works out pretty well," says 14-year-old Zach of Gustavus. His sister, Jaenell, 15, agrees. "I think it's just like regular."

The two towns that these five youth live in are more than 100 watery miles apart, which is the equivalent of running around a high school





HARRISON CHILD, 14

Harrison loves flying remote-control planes, playing sports, four-wheeling, paint balling, and hiking. When asked what it's like to communicate with other ward members on the phone, he says, "I feel really glad to join with them to learn the gospel." Harrison gains a testimony by listening to others' testimonies and following the examples set by branch leaders.

Harrison's favorite scripture is Mosiah 5:15, the Mutual theme for 2008, because "it reminds me that if I am steadfast and immovable when faced with temptation, then I am telling Heavenly Father my faith in Him is strong."

track 400 times—a little too far to travel each Sunday. But endless miles can't keep the youth from sticking together. They recently had the chance to meet each other for the first time face-to-face. The youth, along with their parents, flew to Anchorage to perform baptisms for the dead in the Anchorage Alaska Temple. They had never been to the temple before, so it was a great experience for them. "It

MATTHEW PARKIN, 14

Matthew says that it's "never hard to say no or walk away" from a bad situation because his friends at school know about his high gospel standards, which help him make right choices. When he's not in seminary or school, he loves to fish, hunt, wrestle, and snowboard. Matthew says he gains a testimony by reading his scriptures, going to church, and paying attention to the talks that are given.

His favorite scripture is Moroni 10:5. "I like that scripture because by the power of the Holy Ghost you really can know all things," Matthew says.

was fun to introduce ourselves and see who it was we've been talking to over the phone," says 14-year-old Harrison.

As they drove into the parking lot of the temple, each felt the Spirit strongly and knew that the temple was the Lord's house. "I can't believe I'm actually here," says Jaenell as she recalls her experience. "I felt a subtle, peaceful feeling of absolute contentment and happiness."

The best part of the weekend trip was performing baptisms and confirmations for the dead in the temple. "We

JENNIFER PARKIN, 16

Jennifer, a student at Angoon High School, is good at finding balance between church and school. She wakes up early in the morning for a teleconference with the youth in Gustavus for seminary. Then she's off to school for a day full of classes and sports. She excels in track-and-field and weightlifting, activities she's been participating in for three years.

Jennifer's favorite scripture is Joseph Smith—History 1:17–19 because, Jennifer says, "The story of the First Vision is very powerful. For a young man to pray to the Lord and get an answer that would change the world is totally awesome."



helped those people who couldn't help themselves," Zach says. He enjoyed looking at the names and dates of each person for whom he was baptized.

"I could feel the Spirit, and it felt very peaceful," Jennifer says.

"When we were in the waiting room, I read an article by President Monson in the *Ensign* about the bridges Christ has built," says Jaenell. "It really made me appreciate the things that the Savior has done, because we can't build

JAENELL MANCHESTER, 15

Jaenell is self-motivated. Not only is she homeschooled, but she loves participating in service projects and sharing the gospel. In one online class, she's had the opportunity to be a missionary by answering questions about the Church's beliefs in the Word of Wisdom and the Restoration. "No matter where you are, the gospel is the same," she says.

Jaenell's favorite scripture is Alma 56:46–48 because she "loves the influence the mothers had" on their sons, the 2,000 stripling warriors.

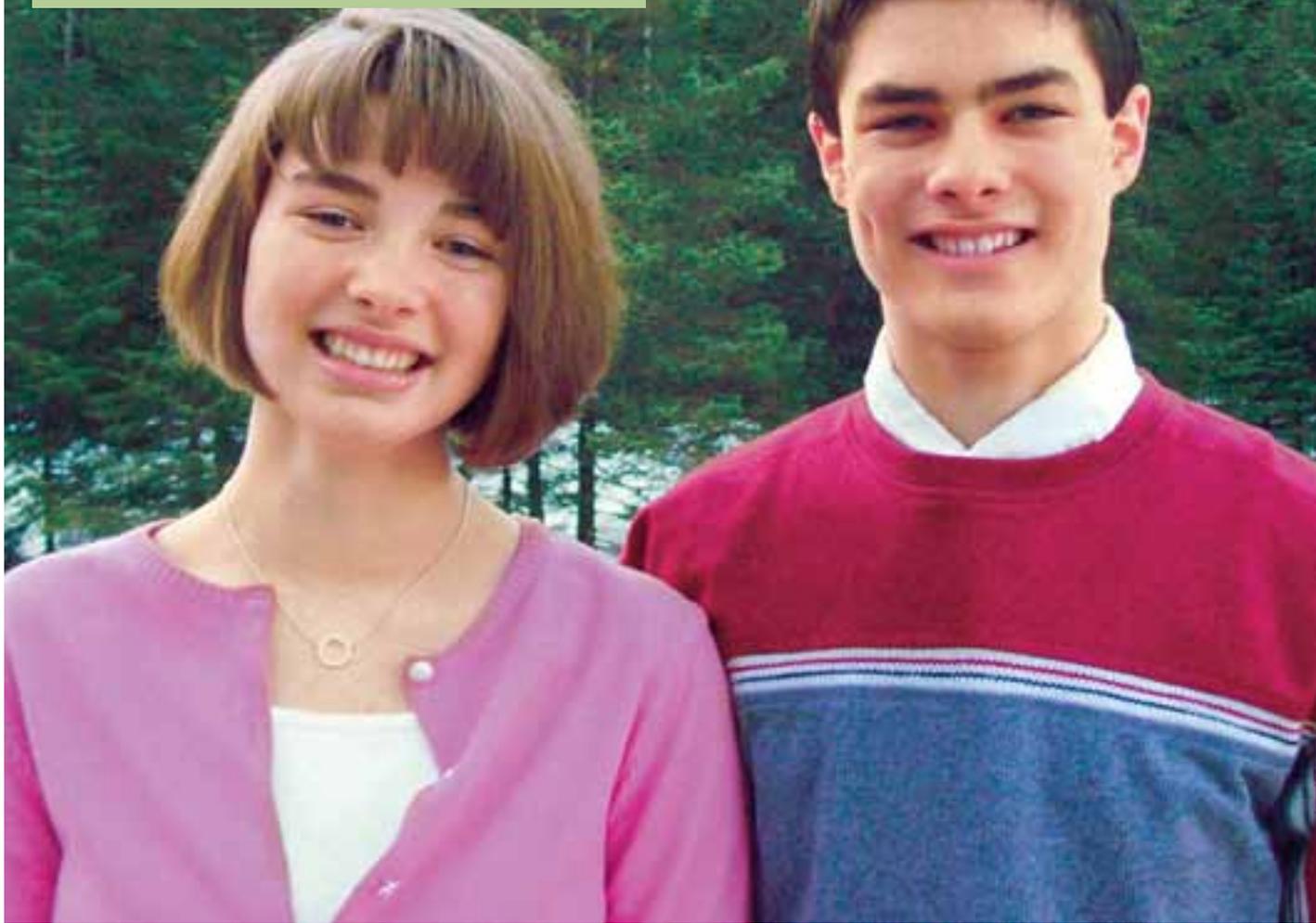
the bridges by ourselves."

The trip strengthened each person's testimony of Jesus Christ, a testimony that helps them in their everyday lives. Although they're miles apart from each other, they're only a phone call away. **NE**

ZACHERY MANCHESTER, 14

Zach says he reads an average of 20 books a month. Aside from that, he enjoys having a small seminary class because "it's more focused and not spread out between many people. I think you gain more from it." Zach, though not yet old enough to be a full-time missionary, is already having missionary experiences. When friends are curious and ask questions, Zach and Harrison explain the Book of Mormon and its history.

Zach's favorite scripture is D&C 58:27 because it tells us how to choose the right.



Family Pistachios



BY CELESTE GREEN

“Come in for prayer,” called Angela, summoning everyone in for our family’s nightly routine.

“This won’t take very long,” I thought as I rolled out from under the snug blanket where I had been reading.

I walked down the hall to my parents’ room, where everyone was gathering. While we were waiting for everyone to settle down, my mother reached behind her and grabbed a handful of pistachios from a bag sitting on the cedar chest.

“Wait a second!” cried Corinne. “Where’s some for the rest of us?”

“Don’t worry,” my mom assured her, “sharing is exactly what I plan to do.” And without hesitation, she proceeded to divvy out the handful of nuts. With a smile she exclaimed, “Call it a blessing for participating in family prayer!”

We liked the idea. We liked it even better when mom reached behind her a second time, returning now with more than just a handful of nuts. She plopped the whole bag down in the middle of the bed we were gathered around.

We spent several happy minutes breaking open salty pistachios and talking. Our conversation

became boisterous and enthusiastic as we chatted and snacked away.

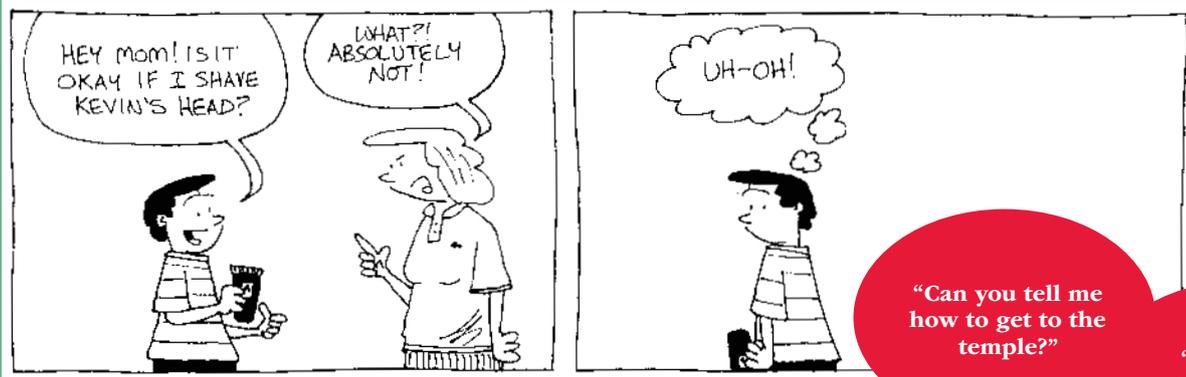
The nuts were soon gone but our conversation continued. We probably talked for half an hour. During this time, no one complained about family prayer taking

so long. No one complained about being tired or wanting to go to bed. We were so happy to be together and content to continue talking.

At that moment, I realized that Heavenly Father had blessed us for participating in family prayer. The blessing wasn’t like the physical strength a bunch of pistachios could offer—it was more nourishing. The blessing was the opportunity to grow closer together as a family, and really, though I love pistachios, it was far more satisfying.

After we prayed together, I wandered back to my room to read a little more before calling it a night. I’d just opened my book when the sound of laughter wafted in from my parents’ room where two of my sisters continued to joke and tease my parents. I smiled and returned to my book. Who could have predicted the powerful impact of a simple mix of family prayer and pistachios? **NE**

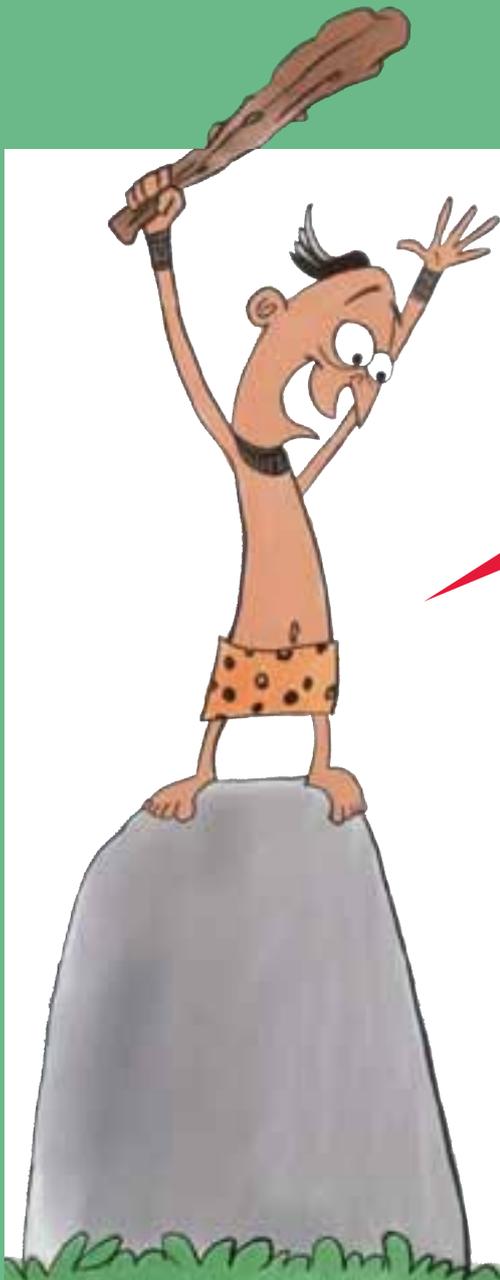
THE EXTRA SMILE



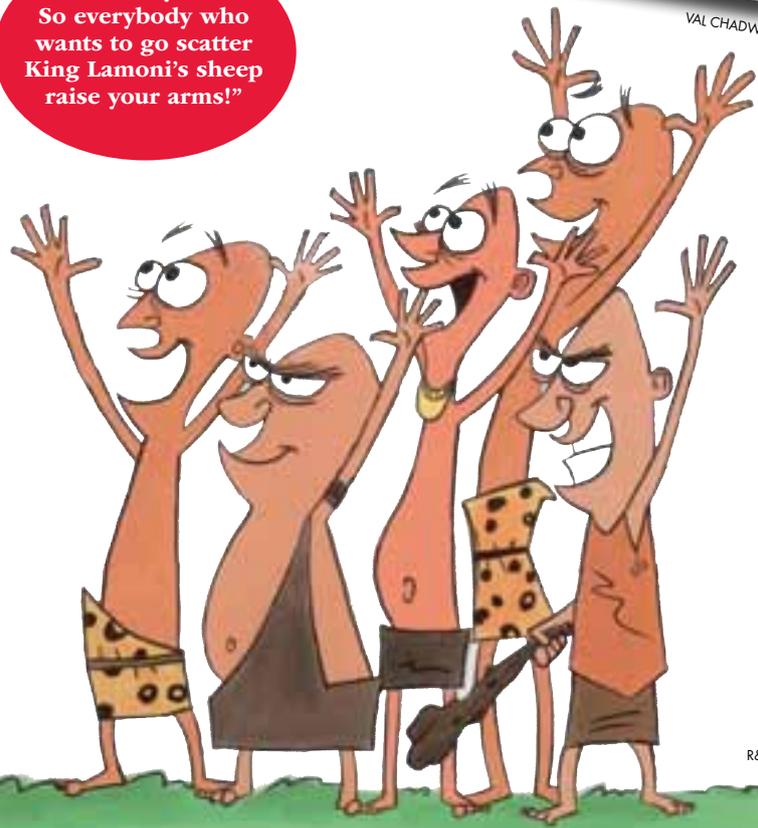
RYAN STOKER



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



"Okay! So everybody who wants to go scatter King Lamoni's sheep raise your arms!"



R&R GOLDSBERRY



A Christmas MIRACLE

BY RYAN CAMPBELL

Winter is a cold time of year in the Russia Moscow Mission. To a missionary this sometimes seems true of not only the weather but also the people. They become introverted. Everybody seems to be rushing home after work. People are ill, the roads are terribly slick, and the cold ruthlessly bites every exposed piece of skin. Smiles are rare.

My companion and I found ourselves in these conditions during the winter of 2005. We wanted to cheer people up by sharing our message of faith, hope, and love, but nobody wanted to listen. And to be honest, my mood wasn't all that great. I couldn't help but feel discouraged. Day after day we walked the cold streets in search of people to teach, freezing our feet to the bone. In spite of the discouraging circumstances, we didn't want to give up. Christmas was getting close, and we wanted to help people feel the Christmas spirit. But how?

One evening as we were on the train returning home, a small group of musicians walked into the railcar. They played wonderfully, but to my surprise, their performance didn't have an effect on anybody. Maybe a person or two gave them some pocket change, but the rest just stared out the frosty windows. I felt bad for the performers and gave them a few coins.

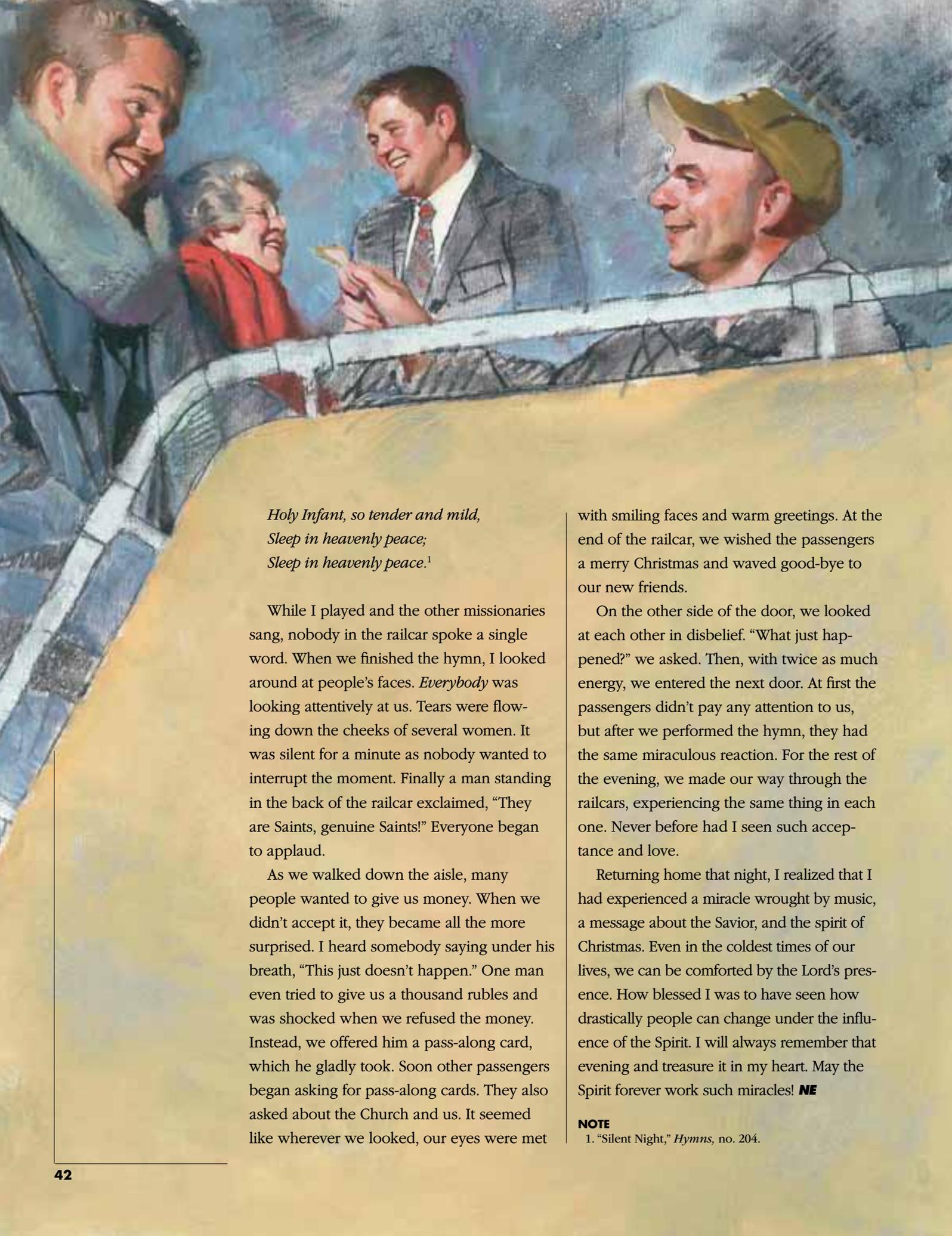
Soon we arrived at the station near our apartment and ran home. As soon as I closed the apartment door, the phone rang. I picked it up and recognized the voice of our district leader. That day we were supposed to have thought

of ideas for celebrating the Christmas season as missionaries. I had totally forgotten, but I didn't want him to know that. Straining for an idea, I remembered the group of musicians and suggested that our district could sing Christmas hymns on the trains. I could accompany them on the violin. To my surprise and perhaps dismay, our district leader loved the idea. We decided on a day. "What was I thinking!" I said to myself, remembering that three of the missionaries in our district were tone-deaf.

The day came, and the missionaries met on the platform. The sun had set long ago, and it was terribly cold. My feet were already numb. We rehearsed for about five minutes until the train crept slowly up to the platform. We gladly entered its open doors, getting out of the cold wind and snow. I took my violin out of its case and silently prayed that God would touch the hearts of the listeners.

As we boarded the train, most of the people didn't pay any attention to us. My fingers hadn't warmed up yet, so when I started to play, the tone of the violin sounded very simple but very piercing. Suddenly the mood in the railcar changed. It was almost as if something could be felt in the air. The passengers seemed to hold their breath. The other missionaries joined with me, singing the words to "Silent Night":

*Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.*



*Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace;
Sleep in heavenly peace.*¹

While I played and the other missionaries sang, nobody in the railcar spoke a single word. When we finished the hymn, I looked around at people's faces. *Everybody* was looking attentively at us. Tears were flowing down the cheeks of several women. It was silent for a minute as nobody wanted to interrupt the moment. Finally a man standing in the back of the railcar exclaimed, "They are Saints, genuine Saints!" Everyone began to applaud.

As we walked down the aisle, many people wanted to give us money. When we didn't accept it, they became all the more surprised. I heard somebody saying under his breath, "This just doesn't happen." One man even tried to give us a thousand rubles and was shocked when we refused the money. Instead, we offered him a pass-along card, which he gladly took. Soon other passengers began asking for pass-along cards. They also asked about the Church and us. It seemed like wherever we looked, our eyes were met

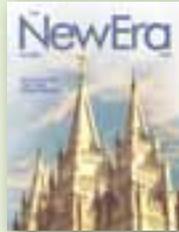
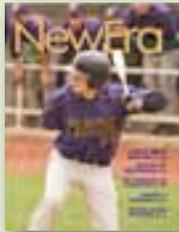
with smiling faces and warm greetings. At the end of the railcar, we wished the passengers a merry Christmas and waved good-bye to our new friends.

On the other side of the door, we looked at each other in disbelief. "What just happened?" we asked. Then, with twice as much energy, we entered the next door. At first the passengers didn't pay any attention to us, but after we performed the hymn, they had the same miraculous reaction. For the rest of the evening, we made our way through the railcars, experiencing the same thing in each one. Never before had I seen such acceptance and love.

Returning home that night, I realized that I had experienced a miracle wrought by music, a message about the Savior, and the spirit of Christmas. Even in the coldest times of our lives, we can be comforted by the Lord's presence. How blessed I was to have seen how drastically people can change under the influence of the Spirit. I will always remember that evening and treasure it in my heart. May the Spirit forever work such miracles! **NE**

NOTE

1. "Silent Night," *Hymns*, no. 204.



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Forgiveness and Football, *Eric Hoyt*, Mar, 6

Friday Night Tomatoes, *Jayni Dowse*, Aug, 24

FRIENDS

Changing Friends, Apr, 44

Friendship or Honesty? *Emily Hopkins*, Oct, 46

It Could Have Been Me, Oct, 20
New Best Friends, *Megan Gebhard*, Aug, 45

On Your Mark . . . Get Set . . . Pray! *Christa Skousen*, May, 24

Prompted to Leave, *Chase McPhie*, Aug, 45

To the Point (my friend is pregnant), Apr, 40

FRIENDSHIP

Anna's Afghans, *Lisa Hardman*, Nov, 28

Befriending Our Church Leaders, *Ashley Bliss*, Nov, 45

It Starts with Sharing, *Ryan E. Withrow*, Jun, 15

Sitting with Chris, *Amanda Tingen Jones*, Apr, 42

Visits from Nathan, *Melanie Kenny*, Feb, 44

Friendship or Honesty? *Emily Hopkins*, Oct, 46

From Bondi to Baguio, Nov, 46

From Generation to Generation,

Adam C. Olson, Sep, 10
From Weak to Strong, *Scott Shepherd*, Jul, 8

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Gaining a Testimony, *Paul K. Sybrowsky*, Feb, 40
GAMBLING
Don't Chance It, *Ryan Jenkins*, Jan, 34
Gebhard, Megan
New Best Friends, Aug, 45
Getting through Hard Times, *Kendall Spackman*, Jul, 45
Gift Box, The, *Scott Luebke*, Dec, 12
Go-to Guy, The, *Melvin Leavitt*, Jan, 28
God So Loves You (Mormonad), Dec, 20
God's Guiding Hand, *Wolfgang H. Paul*, Jul, 40
Good Shepherds, *Sally Johnson Odekirk*, Apr, 18
Good Sports, Aug, 26
GOSSIP
Q&A (gossiping habit), Oct, 14
Gracias, *James D. Hibbard*, Nov, 40
Grateful for the Savior, *Janessa Cloward*, Aug, 44
GRATITUDE
Gratitude at Twilight, *Russell Taylor*, Oct, 47
Gratitude at Twilight, *Russell Taylor*, Oct, 47
Green, Brad
No Basketball on Sundays, Nov, 42
Green, Celeste
Family Pistachios, Dec, 38
Grow, C. Scott
My MTC: Missionary Training Commitment, Mar, 40
GUIDANCE
Close Call, A, *Anna Wagner*, Nov, 43
Gracias, *James D. Hibbard*, Nov, 40
Prompted to Leave, *Chase McPhie*, Aug, 45
Right Turn, *Hillary Holbrook*, Sep, 32
Small Things, Great Results, *Joshua J. Acker*, Nov, 34
Too Fast! *Heidi Holfeltz Parker*, Feb, 24
H
Hanging Out with Mom and Dad, *Jennifer Mayer*, Jul, 46
Hardman, Lisa
Anna's Afghans, Nov, 28
Harsh, Don
Standing as a Witness, May, 44
He Lives, *Camille Shosted*, Feb, 45
HEALTH
Energy Drinks: The Lift That Lets You Down, *Russell Wilcox*, Dec, 30
Health and Strength, Jan, 27
You Are a Child of God, *Russell*

M. Nelson, Jul, 2
Health and Strength, Jan, 27
HEAVENLY FATHER
I Am Important, *Sarah Cutler*, Apr, 24
Heiner, Mary Ellen
Sink or Swim, Jul, 30
Help by the Handful, *Christa Skousen*, Jul, 24
Hey, Sis! *Lisa Nissen*, Apr, 45
Hezseline, Paul
Pipers of Nauvoo, The, Jun, 24
Hiatt, Duane E.
Book in Many Languages, The, Jan, 23
Hibbard, James D.
Gracias, Nov, 40
Hickman, Natalie
Like the Nauvoo Saints, Jul, 44
HINCKLEY, GORDON B.
Steadfast and Sure, Apr, 2
Hintze, Avery
Start the Day Off Right, Jun, 45
Holbrook, Hillary
Only a Phone Call Away, Dec, 34
Right Turn, Sep, 32
Service on Wheels, Sep, 38
Sunday Best, Oct, 16
Holland, Jeffrey R.
Amazed at the Love Jesus Offers Me, Dec, 2
HONESTY (SEE INTEGRITY)
Hopkins, Emily
Friendship or Honesty?, Oct, 46
How Can I Come to Know Christ? Mar, 43
How Could I Relate? *Rhett Wilkinson*, Jan, 44
How Long Are You Going to Keep Me? *Ryan Marie Lusvardi*, Aug, 7
Hoyt, Eric
Forgiveness and Football, Mar, 6
I
I Almost Lost My Sister, Aug, 38
I Am Important, *Sarah Cutler*, Apr, 24
I Believe in Christ, Mar, 18
I Couldn't Say No, *Andy Cargal*, Nov, 8
I'd Rather Be Blessed! *Richard M. Romney*, Oct, 27
I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go (Mormonad), Jun, 12
IDEA LIST
Health and Strength, Jan, 27
How Can I Come to Know Christ? Mar, 43
Sunday Best, *Hillary Holbrook*, Oct, 16
IN MEMORIAM
Steadfast and Sure, Apr, 2
IN TUNE
Little Baby, *Traci Law*, Dec, 16
Steadfast and Immobile, *Jan Pinborough and Jim Kasen*, Oct, 8
INTEGRITY
An Honest Grade, Feb, 46
Friendship or Honesty? *Emily Hopkins*, Oct, 46

It's Just a Copy, Right? *Janessa Cloward*, Feb, 34
Q&A (sister lies to parents), Sep, 14
It Could Have Been Me, Oct, 20
It Starts with Sharing, *Ryan E. Withrow*, Jun, 15
It's Just a Copy, Right? *Janessa Cloward*, Feb, 34
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Jefferies, Anna
Walking Out, Mar, 45
Jenkins, Ryan
Don't Chance It, Jan, 34
Jeppson, Katy L.
Faith of A Child, Mar, 46
Jessee, Marcie
Outside Looking In, May, 46
JESUS CHRIST
Amazed at the Love Jesus Offers Me, *Jeffrey R. Holland*, Dec, 2
Dark Friday, Bright Sunday, *Joseph B. Wirthlin*, Mar, 2
Gift Box, The, *Scott Luebke*, Dec, 12
Good Shepherds, *Sally Johnson Odekirk*, Apr, 18
Grateful for the Savior, *Janessa Cloward*, Aug, 44
He Lives, *Camille Shosted*, Feb, 45
How Can I Come to Know Christ? Mar, 43
I Believe in Christ, Mar, 18
Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, Jan, 22
Living Christ, Paragraphs 3–4, The, Jul, 7
Prophecies of Christ's Coming: An Advent Calendar, Dec, 21
Q&A (when friends say Jesus was not the Savior), Apr, 14
Second Coming, The, Dec, 19
Star, the Savior, and Your Heart, The, *Sue Clark*, Dec, 8
What Simeon Said, *Marie D. Adkins*, Mar, 33
Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, Jan, 22
Johnson, Kenneth
Be Wary of Wooden Horses, Oct, 30
Jones, Amanda Tingen
Sitting with Chris, Apr, 42
Jordan, Loraine
"You Have to Be *Something*", Jul, 20
JOSEPH SMITH
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Comfort at the Time of Death, Aug, 13
Everlasting Priesthood, The, May, 13
Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, Jan, 22
Life in the Eternities, Nov, 17
Obedience, Jul, 29
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Revelation and the Living Prophet,

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True and Living Church, The, Jun, 39
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My Change of Heart, Sep, 46
Just David, *Janet Thomas*, Aug, 46
Just One Sip, *Dan Barker*, Nov, 45
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Steadfast and Immobile (s), Oct, 8
Kenny, Melanie
Visits from Nathan, Feb, 44
Keys to the Future, *Kimberly Reid*, Jun, 18
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Be Big, Don't Belittle (Mormonad), May, 17
Hey, Sis! *Lisa Nissen*, Apr, 45
Letters to Misaki, *Cynthia Allen Smith*, May, 45
Sitting with Chris, *Amanda Tingen Jones*, Apr, 42
Ko, Won Yong
Setting Priorities, Jan, 40
Kohn, Laura
Skating with Jennifer, May, 10
L
Law, Traci
Little Baby, Dec, 16
LEADERSHIP
Leading and Learning, *Janet Thomas*, May, 18
Now Is the Time, *Janessa Cloward*, Jul, 10
Leading and Learning, *Janet Thomas*, May, 18
LEARNING
Book in Many Languages, The, *Duane E. Hiatt*, Jan, 23
Least of the Leaders? The, *Carlos Wilmer Mendoza Vásquez*, Jan, 32
Leavitt, Melvin
Go-to Guy, The, Jan, 28
Let There Be Praise, *Jill B. Adair*, Dec, 26
Letters to Misaki, *Cynthia Allen Smith*, May, 45
Lewis, Heidi
Pipers of Nauvoo, The, Jun, 24
Life in the Eternities, Nov, 17
Light before Christmas, The, *Rhett Wilkinson*, Dec, 11
Like the Nauvoo Saints, *Natalie Hickman*, Jul, 44
LINE UPON LINE
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Living Christ, Paragraphs 3–4, The, Jul, 7
Malachi 4:5–6, May, 43
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Little Baby (s), *Traci Law*, Dec, 16
Living Christ, The, Paragraphs 3–4, Jul, 7
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Prayer in Samoan, A, Apr, 45

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Small Miracle, Feb, 6

Luebke, Scott
Gift Box, Dec, The, 12

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How Long Are You Going to
Keep Me?, Aug, 7

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Maddy, Jennifer
When in Rome . . . Do as *These*
Romans, Sep, 20

Make Your Move (Mormonad), Sep,
19

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Man of Faith, Man of Compassion,
May, 2

Man with Answers, The, *Don L.*
Searle, Oct, 10

Marrelli, Peter James
Still Called to Serve, Feb, 31

Matthew 5:14–16, Sep, 43

Mayer, Jennifer
Hanging Out with Mom and Dad,
Jul, 46

McDowell, Jade
What He Says, Goes, Jun, 45

McPhie, Chase
Prompted to Leave, Aug, 45

Measure Up (Mormonad), Oct, 13

Meeting Your Goliath, *Thomas S.*
Monson, Jun, 2

Michel, Megan
Right Place, Right Time, Sep, 45

MIRACLES

God's Guiding Hand, *Wolfgang*
H. Paul, Jul, 40

Small Miracle, *Catherine*
Loveland, Feb, 6

Mission or Admission? *Debbie*
Twigger, Apr, 34

MISSIONARY SERVICE

From Bondi to Baguio, Nov, 46

Mission or Admission? *Debbie*
Twigger, Apr, 34

My MTC: Missionary Training
Commitment, *C. Scott Grow*,
Mar, 40

Split-Second Decision, A, *Hugo*
da Cunha Silvantos Rodrigues,
Feb, 28

MISSIONARY WORK

Aaron, Ammon, and Me, *Leslie A.*
Rees, Aug, 8

Do-Over Companions, *Devon*
Black, Jun, 22

Gracias, *James D. Hibbard*, Nov,
40

I Couldn't Say No, *Andy Cargal*,
Nov, 8

I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go
(Mormonad), Jun, 12

It Starts with Sharing, *Ryan E.*
Withrow, Jun, 15

Small Things, Great Results,
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To the Point (friends aren't inter-
ested in the Church), Apr, 40

Why the Book of Mormon? *Henry*
B. Eyring, May, 6

MODESTY

Shopping Trip, The, *Rebecca*
Richter, Oct, 21

True Beauty, *Lynn G. Robbins*,
Nov, 30

Monson, Thomas S.
Meeting Your Goliath, Jun, 2
Standards of Strength, Oct, 2
Three Gates Only You Can Open,
Aug, 2

MONSON, THOMAS S.
Man of Faith, Man of Compassion,
May, 2

More Than Bread and Water, *Ryan*
Carr, Aug, 34

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Be Big, Don't Belittle, May, 17
Best Friends Forever, Mar, 17
Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice,
Nov, 11
Cool It, Apr, 17
Feast, Aug, 37
God So Loves You, Dec, 20
I'll Go Where You Want Me to
Go, Jun, 12
Make Your Move, Sep, 19
Measure Up, Oct, 13
Pray Aloud, Feb, 17
Stand Firm, Jan, 17
Wish You Were Here, Jul, 33

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He Lives, *Camille Shosted*, Feb,
45

Pipers of Nauvoo, The, *Heidi*
Lewis and Paul Hezselstine, Jun,
24

Pray Aloud (Mormonad), Feb, 17

Reflections on a Hymn, *Elizabeth*
Zippi, Nov, 44

Worthy Music, Worthy Thoughts,
Boyd K. Packer, Apr, 6

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Mutual Benefits, *Christa Skousen*,
Aug, 18

Mutual Benefits, *Christa Skousen*,
Aug, 18

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Steadfast and Immovable, Always
Abounding in Good Works,
David A. Bednar, Jan, 2

Steadfast and Immovable (s), *Jan*
Pinborough and Jim Kasen,
Oct, 8

Steadfast and Immovable, Jan, 8

My Attitude Transplant, *Michael*
Brodeur, Sep, 16

My Change of Heart, *Allison Judd*,
Sep, 46

My Day of Rest, *Tammy*
McPherson Champo, Jan, 46

My Family Treasure Hunt, *Rosalie*
Westenskow, May, 40

My First Battle, *Colin Slingsby*, Apr,
12

My MTC: Missionary Training

Commitment, *C. Scott Grow*, Mar,
40

My Personal Tryout, *Tyler Clark*,
Oct, 6

My Ward Family, *Dallas Sadler*,
Jun, 44

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Nelson, Russell M.
You Are a Child of God, Jul, 2

New Best Friends, *Megan*
Gebhard, Aug, 45

Nissen, Lisa
Hey, Sis!, Apr, 45

No Basketball on Sundays, *Brad*
Green, Nov, 42

No Need for Tattoos, *James Decker*,
Jan, 45

No Regrets, Oct, 42

Not a Drop, *Tamsyn Opie*, Oct, 47

Not So Fast! *Danielle Nye Poulter*,
Sep, 24

Note to the Good Guys, A Note to
the Good Girls, A, *Kjerstin*
Wittwer and Rhett Wilkinson,
May, 22

Now Is the Time, *Janessa Cloward*,
Jul, 10

Nuckols, Cameron
Better Use of Time, A, Sep, 46

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Obedience, Jul, 29

What I Learned as a Cowboy,
David Wall, Mar, 30

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Odekirk, Sally Johnson
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Olson, Adam C.
Biggest Test of Her Life . . . So Far,
The, Aug, 10

From Generation to Generation,
Sep, 10

On Your Mark . . . Get Set . . . Pray!
Christa Skousen, May, 24

Only a Phone Call Away, *Hillary*
Holbrook, Dec, 34

Opie, Tamsyn
Not a Drop, Oct, 47

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May, 46

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Packer, Boyd K.
Worthy Music, Worthy Thoughts,
Apr, 6

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20 Things I Like about *Who?* Jun,
36

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Parker, Heidi Holfeltz
Too Fast!, Feb, 24

Parry, Kathy
Choosing Sides, Sep, 45

Paul, Wolfgang H.
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Pearls and Plastic Beads, *Liora*
Johns Phillips, Mar, 22

Perfect for the Job, *Jo Bingham*,
Sep, 8

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Steadfast and Immovable, Always
Abounding in Good Works,
David A. Bednar, Jan, 2

Steadfast and Immovable, Jan, 8

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Let There Be Praise, *Jill B. Adair*,
Dec, 26

Point, The, *Richard M. Romney*,
Mar, 24

Skating with Jennifer, *Laura*
Kohn and Susan Winters, May,
10

Phillips, Liora Johns
Pearls and Plastic Beads, Mar, 22

Pinborough, Jan
Steadfast and Immovable (s), Oct,
8

Pipers of Nauvoo, The, *Heidi Lewis*
and Paul Hezselstine, Jun, 24

Plans for the Future, *Mônica*
Santos de Oliveira, Oct, 19

Point, The, *Richard M. Romney*,
Mar, 24

Poulter, Danielle Nye
Not So Fast!, Sep, 24

Stand-Up Students, May, 36

Pray Aloud (Mormonad), Feb, 17

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Mar, 46

On Your Mark . . . Get Set . . .
Pray! *Christa Skousen*, May, 24

Q&A (making prayers more
meaningful), Dec, 14

Prayer in Samoan, A, *Jacob Loosle*,
Apr, 45

PREPARATION

Best Coach, The, *Hahna Danz*,
Nov, 43

My MTC: Missionary Training
Commitment, *C. Scott Grow*,
Mar, 40

Preparing to Receive the
Ordinances of the Temple,
Charles W. Dahlquist II, Apr, 30

Three Gates Only You Can Open,
Thomas S. Monson, Aug, 2

Preparing to Receive the
Ordinances of the Temple,
Charles W. Dahlquist II, Apr, 30

PRIESTHOOD

Everlasting Priesthood, The, May,
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Keys to the Future, *Kimberly*
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We Are! *Richard M. Romney*,
May, 26

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Jan, 40

Prompted to Leave, *Chase McPhie*,
Aug, 45

Prophecies of Christ's Coming: An
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What He Says, Goes, *Jade*

McDowell, Jun, 45
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Jan, 14
Finding balance, Mar, 14
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tures, May, 14
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Aug, 14
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Feb, 14
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Dec, 14
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once, Jun, 16
Turning down a date before 16,
Nov, 12
When friends say Jesus was not
the Savior, Apr, 14

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Recipe for a Happy Home, *Paul
VanDenBerghe*, Jul, 16
Rees, Leslie A.
Aaron, Ammon, and Me, Aug, 8
Reflections on a Hymn, *Elizabeth
Zippi*, Nov, 44
Reid, Kimberly
Keys to the Future, Jun, 18
RELIABILITY
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Jan, 28
REPENTANCE
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Repentance, Feb, 13
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Blessings of the Restoration,
Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Feb, 2
True and Living Church, The, Jun,
39
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Dark Friday, Bright Sunday,
Joseph B. Wirthlin, Mar, 2
Life in the Eternities, Nov, 17
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Revelation and the Living Prophet,
Sep, 7
Revelation and the Living Prophet,
Sep, 7
Richter, Rebecca
Shopping Trip, The, Oct, 21
Right Place, Right Time, *Megan
Michel*, Sep, 45
Right Turn, *Hillary Holbrook*, Sep,
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Robbins, Lynn G.

True Beauty, Nov, 30
Rodrigues, Hugo da Cunha
Silvantos
Split-Second Decision, A, Feb, 28
Romney, Richard M.
Believe It to the Bone, Nov, 18
I'd Rather Be Blessed!, Oct, 27
Point, The, Mar, 24
Still Serving, Aug, 16
We Are!, May, 26
Run, Swim, Run, *David A.
Edwards*, Nov, 24

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SABBATH
My Day of Rest, *Tammy
McPherson Champo*, Jan, 46
My Personal Tryout, *Tyler Clark*,
Oct, 6
No Basketball on Sundays, *Brad
Green*, Nov, 42
Sunday Best, *Hillary Holbrook*,
Oct, 16
There Are No Strangers, *Jessica
Best*, Jan, 45
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Withers*, Oct, 26
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Feast (Mormonad), Aug, 37
More Than Bread and Water,
Ryan Carr, Aug, 34
To the Point (water instead of
wine for sacrament), Nov, 22
Sadler, Dallas
My Ward Family, Jun, 44
SAFETY
Skaters' Rule, *Vince Vaughn*, Jan,
24
What I Learned as a Cowboy,
David Wall, Mar, 30
Sanctity of Womanhood, The,
Richard G. Scott, Nov, 2
Scott, Richard G.
Sanctity of Womanhood, The,
Nov, 2
Scripture Reading Adds Up! *Chad
Morris*, Sep, 42
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Aaron, Ammon, and Me, *Leslie A.
Rees*, Aug, 8
Defeating Your Goliaths, Jun, 8
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Five Scriptures That Will Help
You Get through Almost
Anything, *John Bytheway*, Sep,
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From Weak to Strong, *Scott
Shepherd*, Jul, 8
Light before Christmas, The, *Rhett
Wilkinson*, Dec, 11
Living Christ, Paragraphs 3–4,
The, Jul, 7
Malachi 4:5–6, May, 43
Matthew 5:14–16, Sep, 43
Mosiah 5:15, Jan, 7
Outside Looking In, *Marcie
Jessee*, May, 46
Q&A (finding time to study the
scriptures), May, 14
Scripture Reading Adds Up! *Chad*

Morris, Sep, 42
Was Lehi Here? *David A.
Edwards*, Jan, 10
What He Says, Goes, *Jade
McDowell*, Jun, 45
Searle, Don L.
Man with Answers, The, Oct, 10
Second Coming, The, Dec, 19
SELF-DISCIPLINE
Putting Off the Natural Young
Woman, *Kersten Campbell*,
Nov, 6
Worthy Music, Worthy Thoughts,
Boyd K. Packer, Apr, 6
SELF-RELIANCE
Standing on My Own, *Lindsay
Cano*, Jul, 36
SEMINARY
Getting through Hard Times,
Kendall Spackman, Jul, 45
Seminary Makes You a Morning
Person, *Janet Thomas*, Jan, 18
Start the Day Off Right, *Avery
Hintze*, Jun, 45
Seminary Makes You a Morning
Person, *Janet Thomas*, Jan, 18
SERVICE
Anna's Afghans, *Lisa Hardman*,
Nov, 28
Building Ryan's Place, *Janessa
Cloward*, Jun, 40
Choosing Her Words, *Christa
Skousen*, Nov, 14
Good Shepherds, *Sally Johnson
Odekerk*, Apr, 18
Help by the Handful, *Christa
Skousen*, Jul, 24
Least of the Leaders? The, *Carlos
Wilmer Mendoza Vásquez*, Jan,
32
My Attitude Transplant, *Michael
Brodeur*, Sep, 16
Perfect for the Job, *Jo Bingham*,
Sep, 8
Right Place, Right Time, *Megan
Michel*, Sep, 45
Service Comes from the Heart,
Lacy Douglass, Mar, 44
Service on Wheels, *Hillary
Holbrook*, Sep, 38
Skating with Jennifer, *Laura
Kohn and Susan Winters*, May,
10
Still Called to Serve, *Peter James
Marrelli*, Feb, 31
Still Serving, *Richard M. Romney*,
Aug, 16
Three Gates Only You Can Open,
Thomas S. Monson, Aug, 2
Visits from Nathan, *Melanie
Kenny*, Feb, 44
We Are! *Richard M. Romney*,
May, 26
Service Comes from the Heart, *Lacy
Douglass*, Mar, 44
Service on Wheels, *Hillary
Holbrook*, Sep, 38
Setting Priorities, *Won Yong Ko*,
Jan, 40
Shepherd, Scott
From Weak to Strong, Jul, 8

Shopping Trip, The, *Rebecca
Richter*, Oct, 21
Shosted, Camille
He Lives, Feb, 45
Sink or Swim, *Mary Ellen Heiner*,
Jul, 30
Sitting with Chris, *Amanda Tingen
Jones*, Apr, 42
Skaters' Rule, *Vince Vaughn*, Jan,
24
Skating with Jennifer, *Laura Kohn
and Susan Winters*, May, 10
Skousen, Christa
Choosing Her Words, Nov, 14
Help by the Handful, Jul, 24
Mutual Benefits, Aug, 18
On Your Mark . . . Get Set . . .
Pray!, May, 24
Slingsby, Colin
My First Battle, Apr, 12
Small Miracle, *Catherine Loveland*,
Feb, 6
Small Things, Great Results, *Joshua
J. Acker*, Nov, 34
Smith, Cynthia Allen
Letters to Misaki, May, 45
Smith, Jessica
Fear Not, Jul, 45
Soares, Ulisses
Call to Grow, A, Jun, 30
Spackman, Kendall
Getting through Hard Times, Jul,
45
SPIRITUALITY
Putting Off the Natural Young
Woman, *Kersten Campbell*,
Nov, 6
Q&A (feeling closer to God all
week), Jan, 14
To the Point (is it my thoughts or
the Spirit), Feb, 27
Split-Second Decision, A, *Hugo da
Cunha Silvantos Rodrigues*, Feb,
28
Stand Firm (Mormonad), Jan, 17
Stand-Up Students, *Danielle Nye
Poulter*, May, 36
STANDARDS
18 Ways to Stand Strong, Oct, 17
Be Wary of Wooden Horses,
Kenneth Johnson, Oct, 30
Better Use of Time, A, *Cameron
Nuckols*, Sep, 46
Measure Up (Mormonad), Oct, 13
Movie Night, *Sarah Swick*, Feb,
45
My First Battle, *Colin Slingsby*,
Apr, 12
No Need for Tattoos, *James
Decker*, Jan, 45
Note to the Good Guys, A Note to
the Good Girls, A, May, 22
Reflections on a Hymn, *Elizabeth
Zippi*, Nov, 44
Skaters' Rule, *Vince Vaughn*, Jan,
24
Standards of Strength, *Thomas S.
Monson*, Oct, 2
Standing as a Witness, *Don
Harsh*, May, 44
Talking about Standards, *Janet*

Thomas, Oct, 34
 Walking Out, *Anna Jefferies*, Mar, 45
 Standards of Strength, *Thomas S. Monson*, Oct, 2
 Standing as a Witness, *Don Harsh*, May, 44
 Standing on My Own, *Lindsay Cano*, Jul, 36
 Star, the Savior, and Your Heart, The, *Sue Clark*, Dec, 8
 Start the Day Off Right, *Avery Hintze*, Jun, 45
 Steadfast and Immovable, Jan, 8
 Steadfast and Immovable (s), *Jan Pinborough and Jim Kasen*, Oct, 8
 Steadfast and Immovable, Always Abounding in Good Works, *David A. Bednar*, Jan, 2
 Steadfast and Sure, Apr, 2
 Still Called to Serve, *Peter James Marrelli*, Feb, 31
 Still Serving, *Richard M. Romney*, Aug, 16
 Stone, Gretchen Fitzsimons
 They Brought Me Back, Mar, 34
 Strengthen Faith as You Seek Knowledge, *Quentin L. Cook*, Sep, 2
 Sunday Best, *Hillary Holbrook*, Oct, 16
 Swick, Sarah
 Movie Night, Feb, 45
 Sybrowsky, Paul K.
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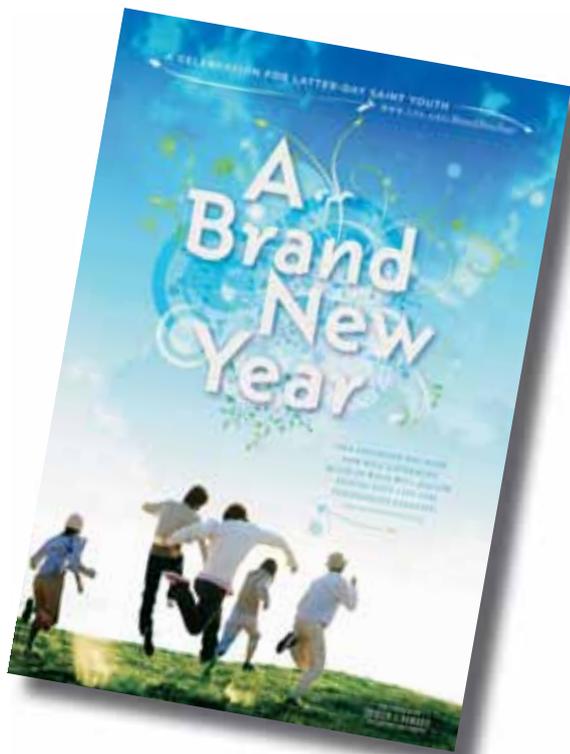
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SNOW

BY STACEY MARIE PENMAN

The snow, the snow,
the pure white glow
with Christmas drawing nigh.
The cold it brings
so often stings
as it falls from the sky.
It stings the skin
but warms within
and brings bright holiday cheer.
It warms the heart
to see the start
of this special time of year.





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