

THE
NewFro

NOVEMBER
2009

**SPECIAL
SECTION—
GENERAL
CONFERENCE
AND YOU**



Canada Post
Publication Mail
No. 259687
ISSN 0014-1801

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reserved. Periodicals Postage Paid
at Salt Lake City, Utah. The *New
Era* (ISSN 0164-5285) is published
monthly by The Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 E.
North Temple St., Salt Lake City,
UT 84150-3220, USA.

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to Distribution Services,
Church Magazines, P.O. Box
26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-
0368, USA.

Canada Post Information:
Publication Agreement #40017431.

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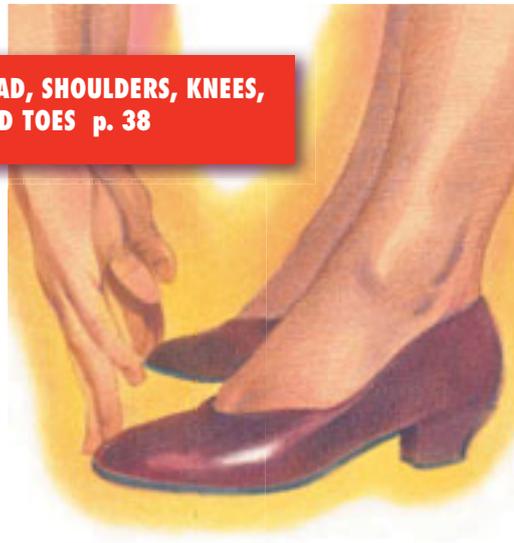
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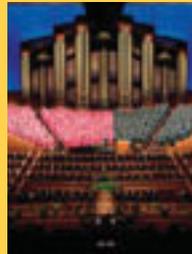
Courtney F. Christensen

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What's Online

Notice something different about this issue? The first 16 pages of this issue of the *New Era* are dedicated to the recent general conference. Inside you'll find messages from prophets and apostles and other Church leaders, answers to gospel questions, memorable quotes and stories, and comments from youth about their feelings during conference. You'll find more of the same at **NewEra.Ids.org**. Please let us know what you think.

Did you miss some of general conference, or do you want to experience it again?



You can view video, download MP3s, or read the text of the October 2009 general conference online at

conference.Ids.org.

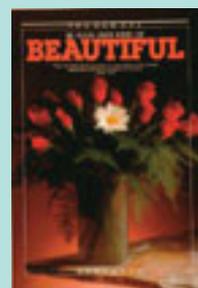
Want to order your own copy of the general conference issue of the Ensign? Just go to **ldscatalog.com** and order the November 2009 issue.



What's on the New Era Web page?

This month at **NewEra.Ids.org** you'll find more general conference experiences by youth.

You'll also find other music, Q&As, access to Mormonads and articles, games, downloads, cartoons and more.



The New Era Magazine
Volume 39, Number 11
November 2009

Official monthly publication for youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Editorial Offices:

New Era
50 E. North Temple St.
Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024,
USA

E-mail Address:

newera@ldschurch.org

To Change Address:

Send old and new address information to:
Distribution Services
P.O. Box 26368
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368,
USA.
Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.

Cover: King Benjamin teaches his people. The first 16 pages of this issue will help you remember and apply what was taught at general conference.

Cover art and photography: Jeremy C. Winborg and Christina Smith (front) and Matt Reier (back)

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Online: Go to www.ldscatalog.com. **By mail:** Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

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Words of the PROPHET

President Monson promised, “As you read and study [the conference messages], you will be additionally taught and inspired.”

This section is intended to help and encourage you to read and learn from general conference.

You can read the general conference messages in this month’s Ensign magazine. And you can view video, download MP3s, or read the text of the October 2009 general conference online at conference.lds.org.

PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

Welcome to Conference

“Those who will address us have sought heaven’s help and direction as they have prepared their messages. They have been impressed concerning that which they will share with us.”

Controlling Anger

“To be angry is to yield to the influence of Satan. No one can make us angry. It is our choice. If we desire to have a proper spirit with us at all times, we must choose to refrain from becoming angry. I testify that such is possible.”

“We’ve all felt anger. It can come when things don’t turn out the way we want. It might be a reaction to something which is said to us. We may experience it when people don’t behave the way we want them to behave. Perhaps it comes when we have to wait for something longer than we expected. We might feel angry when others can’t see things from our perspective. There seem to be countless possible reasons for anger. . . .

“The Apostle Paul asks, in Galatians, chapter four, verse twenty-six of the Joseph Smith Translation, ‘Can ye be angry and not sin? Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.’ I ask, Is it possible to feel the Spirit

of our Heavenly Father when we are angry? I know of no instance where such would be the case.”

Serving Others

“A few years ago I read an article written by Jack McConnell, . . . He recounted that during his childhood, every day as the family sat around the dinner table his father would ask each one in turn, ‘And what did you do for someone today?’ The children were determined to do a good turn every day so they could report to their father that they had helped someone. Dr. McConnell calls this exercise his father’s most valuable legacy, for that expectation and those words inspired him and his siblings to help others throughout their lives. As they grew and matured, their motivation for providing service changed to an inner desire to help others.”

“Just over a year ago I was interviewed by the *Church News* prior to my birthday. At the conclusion of the

The words “prophet” and “President Hinckley” have always been inseparably linked for me. I was struggling with my testimony regarding President Monson, though I really wanted to believe. Then I saw him giving the final words of this conference. I looked right into his face, and I just knew it. He was the one who was supposed to be there.

Camila T., 17, Colombia

This conference was the one of the more spiritual conferences of my life. I cried, I smiled, I learned. Now my testimony is more firm and more true. I am so grateful for this opportunity to listen to the prophet and others called of God.

Brenda S., 16, Brazil

interview, the reporter asked what I would consider the ideal gift that members worldwide could give to me. I replied, 'Find someone who is having a hard time, or is ill, or lonely, and do something for him or her.'

"I was overwhelmed when this year for my birthday I received hundreds of cards and letters from members of the Church around the world telling me how they had fulfilled that birthday wish. The acts of service ranged from assembling humanitarian kits to doing yard work. . . .

"My birthday cards and notes came also from teenagers in Young Men and Young Women classes who made blankets for hospitals, served in food pantries, were baptized for the dead, and performed numerous other acts of service."

Guidance in Today's World

"We remind you that the messages we have heard during this conference will be printed in the November issues of the *Ensign* and *Liahona* magazines. As you read and study them, you will be additionally taught



President Thomas S. Monson (center), President Henry B. Eyring (left), and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf (right) talk before a session of general conference.

and inspired."

"I am reminded of the words of the Lord found in the Book of Ether in the Book of Mormon. Said He: 'Ye cannot cross this great deep save I prepare you against the waves of the sea, and the winds which have gone forth, and the floods which shall come' (Ether 2:25). My brothers and sisters, He has prepared us. If we heed His words and if we live by the commandments, we will survive this time of permissiveness and wickedness which can be compared with the waves and the winds and the floods which can destroy. He is ever

mindful of us. He loves us and will bless us as we do what is right."

"How grateful we are that the heavens are indeed open, that the restored Church of Jesus Christ is upon the earth today, and that the Church is founded upon the rock of revelation. We are a blessed people, with apostles and prophets upon the earth today. We will never be led astray."

NEmore

For complete text of President Monson's conference addresses, go to **conference.lds.org**.

Preparation and LOVE

PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Be Ready

“Wherever I am in the day or night, there is nearby a small container of olive oil. . . .

“The one I hold now has a date on it. It is the day when someone exercised the power of the priesthood to consecrate the pure oil for the healing of the sick. . . .

“. . . The call during the day or the knock at the door at night always comes as a surprise. Someone will say, ‘Please, could you come quickly?’ Once, years ago, it was a father calling from a hospital. His three-year-old daughter had been thrown 50 feet (15m) by a speeding car as she ran across the street to join her mother. When I arrived at the hospital, the father pled that the power of the priesthood would preserve her life. The

doctors and the nurses only reluctantly let us reach through a plastic barrier to place a drop of oil on the one opening in the heavy bandages which covered her head. A doctor said to me, with irritation in his voice, ‘Hurry with whatever you are going to do. She is dying.’

“He was wrong. She lived, and contrary to what the doctor had said, she not only lived, but she learned to walk again.

“When the call came I was ready. The preparation was far more than having consecrated oil close at hand. It must begin long before the crisis which requires priesthood power. Those who are prepared will be ready to answer.

“The preparation begins in families, in Aaronic Priesthood quorums, and mostly in the private lives of young men. The quorums and the families must help, but the preparation that counts will be made by the young men making choices to rise to their great destiny as priesthood servants for God.

“The destiny of the rising generation of priesthood holders is far more than to be ready to bring God’s power down to heal the sick. The preparation is to be ready to go and do whatever the Lord wants done as the world is preparing for His coming. None of us knows exactly what those errands will be. But we know what it will take to be ready, so each of us can prepare.”

There was one message that was very touching to me. It was President Eyring’s message about how children and teens should honor their father and mother. He said that even if your parents aren’t alive or don’t get to see you, you should still think of them with respect and love.

Stacey H., 12, Arizona

Love

“I wish to encourage you. You have had evidences that you are moving along the road to becoming more like Jesus. It will help to remember how you have felt, at times, like a little child, even in the midst of cares and trials. . . . You have felt the peace of a pure little child at times when you have tried to be like Jesus. . . . These moments will come more often as you try to do the things you know Jesus would do. Because of His Atonement for you, your childlike obedience will bring a feeling of love of the Savior for you and your love for Him. That is one of the gifts that is promised to His faithful disciples.”

“I hope you will go out today looking for opportunities to do as He did and to love as He loves. I can promise you the peace that you felt as a child will come to you often and it will linger with you.”

NEmore

For complete text of President Eyring’s conference addresses, go to **conference.lds.org**.



WORK, LEARN, and Love

PRESIDENT DIETER F. UCHTDORF
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Work

“I have seen enough ups and downs throughout my life to know that winter will surely give way to the warmth and hope of a new spring. . . . I am optimistic about the future. For our part, we must remain steadfast in hope, work with all our strength, and trust in God.

“The Lord doesn’t expect us to work harder than we are able. He doesn’t (nor should we) compare our efforts to those of others. Our Heavenly Father asks only that we do the best we can—that we work according to our full capacity, however great or small that may be.”

“Whether you are the youngest deacon or the oldest high priest, there is work to do!”

Learn

“In our learning, let us not neglect the fountain of revelation. The scriptures and the words of modern-day apostles and prophets are the sources

I loved how President Uchtdorf said that God desires for us to draw near unto Him so He can draw near unto us. It made me realize that I need to strive to do better every day to be a better person, to be a disciple of our Savior.

Kaitlin C., 16, California

of wisdom, divine knowledge, and of personal revelation to help us find answers to all the challenges in life.”

Love

“When we truly understand what it means to love as Jesus Christ loves us, the confusion clears and our priorities align. Our walk as disciples of Christ becomes more joyful. Our lives take on new meaning. Our relationship with our Heavenly Father becomes more profound.”

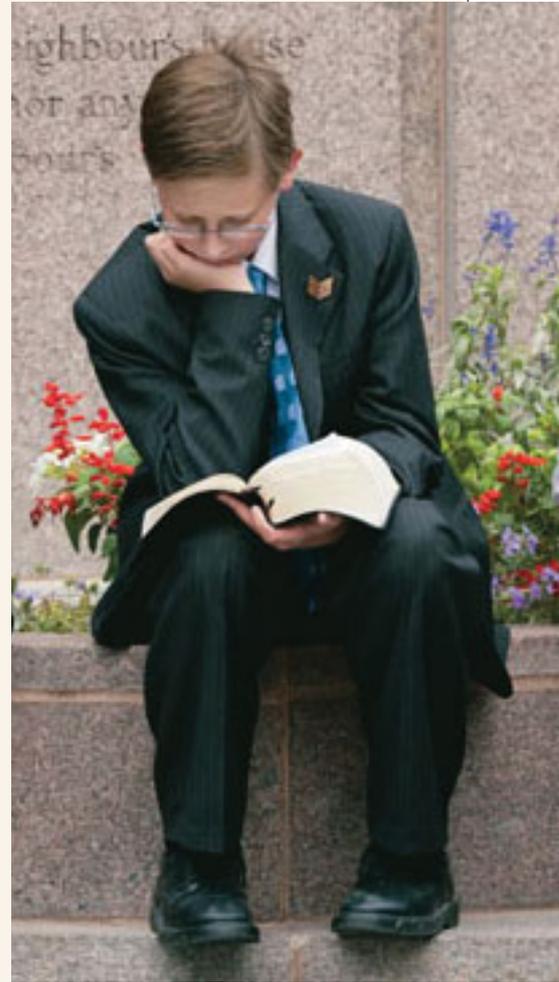
“Love is the defining characteristic of a disciple of Christ.”

“Think of the purest, most all-consuming love you can imagine. Now multiply that love by an infinite amount—that is the measure of God’s love for you.”

“He loves us because He is filled with an infinite measure of holy, pure, and indescribable love. We are important to God not because of our résumé but because we are His children. He loves every one of us, even those who are flawed, rejected, awkward, sorrowful, or broken. . . .

“. . . What this means is that, regardless of our current state, there is hope for us. No matter our distress, no matter our sorrow, no matter our mistakes, our infinitely compassionate Heavenly Father desires that we draw near to Him so that He can draw near to us.”

“We increase our love for our Heavenly Father and demonstrate that



love by aligning our thoughts and actions with God’s word. His pure love ever directs and encourages us to become more pure and holy. It inspires us to walk in righteousness—not out of fear or obligation but out of an earnest desire to become even more like Him because we love Him.”

NEmore

For complete text of President Uchtdorf’s conference addresses, go to conference.lds.org.

Being Guided by the SPIRIT

I am convinced that there is no simple formula or technique that would immediately allow you to master the ability to be guided by the voice of the Spirit. Our Father expects you to learn how to obtain that divine help by exercising faith in Him and His Holy Son, Jesus Christ. Were you to receive inspired guidance just for the asking, you would become weak and ever more dependent on Them. They know that essential personal growth will come as you struggle to learn how to be led by the Spirit.

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

PRAYER AND PROMPTINGS

When I was first called as a General Authority nearly 50 years ago, we lived on a very small plot of ground in Utah Valley that we called our farm. We had a cow and a horse and chickens and lots of children.

One Saturday, I was to drive to the airport for a flight to a stake conference in California. But the cow was expecting a calf and in trouble. The calf was born, but the cow could not get up. We called the veterinarian, who soon came. He said the cow had swallowed a wire and would not live through the day.

I copied the telephone number of

the animal by-products company so my wife could call them to come and get the cow as soon as she died.

Before I left, we had our family prayer. Our little boy said our prayer. After he had asked Heavenly Father to “bless Daddy in his travels and bless us all,” he then started an earnest plea. He said, “Heavenly Father, please bless Bossy cow so that she will get to be all right.”

In California, I told of the incident and said, “He must learn that we do not get everything we pray for just that easily.”

There was a lesson to be learned, but it was I who learned it, not my son. When I returned Sunday night, Bossy had “got to be all right.”

This process is not reserved for the prophets alone. The gift of the Holy Ghost operates equally with men, women, and even little children. It is within this wondrous gift and power that the spiritual remedy to any problem can be found.

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Some of the topics that I noticed were very common in this general conference were love and listening to the Spirit. As I thought about this, I realized it is probably because the world has become so hard-hearted and selfish that we must need to love a little more and listen a little better.

Jannalee R., 17, Utah



HELPING OTHERS RECOGNIZE THE WHISPERINGS OF THE SPIRIT

I was the first member of my family to join the Church. As an eight-year-old, I waited to feel somehow different because of my baptism. To be honest, the only thing I felt when I was brought out of the water was . . . well, dripping wet. I thought something more profound would happen when I was confirmed. However, after receiving the Holy Ghost, again I felt happy but certainly no different than I had just a few minutes before.

It wasn't until the following day at fast and testimony meeting that I experienced what I now recognize as the influence of the Holy Ghost. A brother stood to bear his testimony and tell about the blessings of his membership in the Church. I felt a flood of warmth sweep over me. Even as an eight-year-old, I recognized that this was something different. I felt a peace descend on me, and I had the distinct feeling that Heavenly Father was pleased with me. . . .

Because the Spirit is often described as a still, small voice, it is also important to have a time of quiet in our lives as well. The Lord has counseled us to "be still and know that I am God" (see Psalm 46:10). If

I love listening to conference and to the leaders of the Church. It makes me realize how grateful I am for the gospel in my life and how it always makes me feel so happy.

Kaitlin C., 16, California

we provide a still and quiet time each day when we are not bombarded by television, computer, video games or personal electronic devices, we allow that still, small voice an opportunity to provide personal revelation and to whisper sweet guidance, reassurance, and comfort to us.

Vicki F. Matsumori, second counselor in the Primary general presidency

Learn to pray. Pray often. Pray in your mind, in your heart. Pray on your knees. Prayer is your personal key to heaven. The lock is on your side of the veil. And I have learned to conclude all my prayers with "Thy will be done" (Matthew 6:10; see also Luke 11:2; 3 Nephi 13:10).

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Fulfilling **OUR DUTY**

The effect of God's commandments and laws is not changed to accommodate popular behavior or desires. If anyone thinks that godly or parental love for an individual grants the loved one license to disobey the law, he or she does not understand either love or law.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Spirituality yields two fruits. The first is inspiration to know what to do. The second is power, or the capacity to do. . . . That's why Nephi could say, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded" [1 Nephi 3:7].

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Our testimony of gospel truth should be reflected both in our words and in our deeds. And our testimonies are proclaimed and lived most powerfully in our own homes. Spouses, parents, and children should strive to overcome any hesitancy, reluctance, or embarrassment about bearing testimony. We should both create and look for opportunities to bear testimony of gospel truths—and live them.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

We follow Jesus Christ. We try to emulate what He has asked us to do, both by His teachings and His example.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

MORE DILIGENT AND CONCERNED AT HOME

In my office is a beautiful painting of a wheat field. The painting is a vast collection of individual brushstrokes—none of which in isolation is very interesting or impressive. In fact, if you stand close to the canvas, all you can see is a mass of seemingly unrelated and unattractive streaks of yellow and gold and brown paint. However, as you gradually move away from the canvas, all of the individual brushstrokes combine together and produce a magnificent

landscape of a wheat field. Many ordinary, individual brushstrokes work together to create a captivating and beautiful painting.

Each family prayer, each episode of family scripture study, and each family home evening is a brush

I really enjoyed Elder Bednar's talk about consistency. I have often found this difficult in my life, and he really made me feel motivated. I absolutely loved being able to hear so many Apostles and the prophet speak, and I honestly learned a lot.

Heather B., 13, Tennessee



stroke on the canvas of our souls. No one event may appear to be very impressive or memorable. But just as the yellow and gold and brown strokes of paint complement each other and produce an impressive masterpiece, so our consistency in doing seemingly small things can lead to significant spiritual results. “Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great” (D&C 64:33). Consistency is a key principle as we lay the foundation of a great work in our individual lives and as we become more diligent and concerned in our own homes.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

From Lehi’s vision we learn that we must take hold of this safety railing—this iron rod, found alongside our individual straight and narrow path—and hold tight until we reach our ultimate goal of eternal life with our Heavenly Father. . . .

I invite you to read again the full accounts of this inspired vision. Study them, ponder them, and apply them to your daily life. In modern terms we might say we are invited to “get a grip.” We must hold on tight to the iron rod and never let go.

Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency

One of my favorite talks was Sister Ann M. Dibb’s on how to face challenges in our day. I liked the examples of how prayer and scriptures can be our safety equipment and that the rod of iron is the safety railing we can grab hold of.

Rachel A., 13, Arizona

An incredulous female friend asked a young adult woman, committed to living the law of chastity, how it was possible that she had never “slept with anybody.” “Don’t you *want* to?” the friend asked. The young woman thought: “The question intrigued me, because it was so utterly beside the point. . . . Mere wanting is hardly a proper guide for moral conduct.” . . .

. . . Perhaps our moral discipline, if we will cultivate it, will have an influence for good and inspire others to pursue the same course. We may thereby have an impact on future trends and events. At a minimum, moral discipline will be of immense help to us as we deal with whatever stresses and challenges may come in a disintegrating society.

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Changing Our **LIVES**

If you cannot remember believing in God or if you have ceased to believe or if you believe but without real conviction, I invite you to seek a testimony of God now. Do not be afraid of ridicule. The strength and peace that come from knowing God and having the comforting companionship of His Spirit will make your efforts eternally worthwhile.

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Sometimes in our repentance, in our daily efforts to become more Christlike, we find ourselves repeatedly struggling with the same difficulties. As if we were climbing a tree-covered mountain, at times we don't see our progress until we get closer to the top and look back from the high ridges. Don't be discouraged. If you are striving and working to repent, you are in the process of repenting.

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



PRESERVING THE HEART'S MIGHTY CHANGE

In 1980 we moved as a family across the street from the hospital where I trained and worked. I worked every day, including Sundays. If I finished my Sunday work by 2:00 p.m., I could join my wife and daughter and drive to church for meetings that began at 2:30.

One Sunday late in my first year of training, I knew that I would likely finish by 2:00. I realized, however, that if I stayed in the hospital just a little longer, my wife and daughter would depart without me. I could then walk home and take a needed nap. I regret to say that I did just that. I waited until 2:15, walked home slowly, and lay down on the couch, hoping to nap. But I could not fall asleep. I was disturbed and concerned. I had always loved going to church. I wondered why on this day the fire of testimony and the zeal that I had previously felt were missing.

I did not have to think long. Because of my schedule, I had become casual with my prayers and scripture study. I would get up one morning, say my prayers, and go to work. Often day blended into night and into day again before I would return home late the following evening. I would then be so tired

that I would fall asleep before saying a prayer or reading the scriptures. The next morning the process began again. . . .

I got off the couch, got on my knees, and pleaded with God for forgiveness. I promised my Heavenly Father that I would change. The next day I brought a Book of Mormon to the hospital. On my to-do list that day, and every day since, were two items: praying at least morning and evening and reading in the scriptures. Sometimes midnight would come, and I would have to quickly find a private place to pray. Some days my scripture study was brief. I also promised Heavenly Father that I would always try to get to church, even if I missed part of the meeting. Over the course of a few weeks, the zeal returned and the fire of testimony burned fiercely again. I promised to never again fall into the spiritual death trap of being casual about these seemingly small actions and thereby jeopardizing things of an eternal nature, regardless of circumstances.

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Seventy

Conference really made me think about habits—like prayer and reading the scriptures—that I need to work on more. It was a great reminder of what is important.

Liesl K., California

STEWARDSHIP — A SACRED TRUST

When I was a small boy, I would visit my grandparents at their ranch during the summer. There was no electrical power, running water, or plumbing in the house. There was, however, a spring of water next to their small ranch house. The spring created a little pond of clear, pure water, where several times a day I would help my grandmother carry water to the house for drinking, cooking, bathing, and washing clothes. My grandparents loved this life-giving spring and took special precautions to protect it.

Many years later my grandfather was in his early 90s and did not live on the property; he was unable to maintain or oversee it. I drove him to see the ranch which he loved. His high expectations at seeing the ranch turned to disappointment when he realized the fences that protected the spring had fallen into disrepair and cows had damaged the spring and the precious, pure springwater had

Elder Quentin L. Cook said that we don't do service because we were told to; we do it because it's what we want to do. I think that I should use this motto in my life more often than I actually do.

Kelsey R., 14, Wyoming

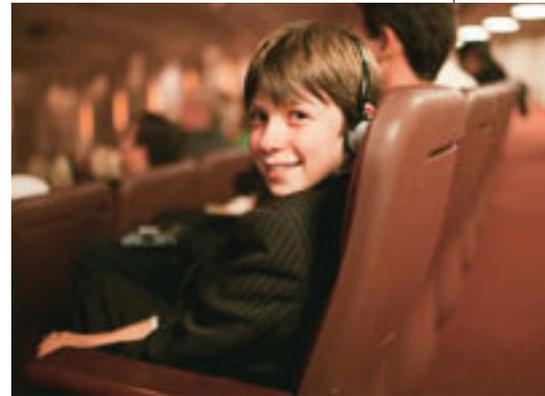
been significantly polluted. . . . He felt somehow he had not protected that life-sustaining spring which had meant so much to him.

Just as the pure spring was polluted when not protected, we live in a time when virtue and chastity are not safeguarded. The eternal significance of personal morality is not respected. A loving Father in Heaven has provided us with the means to bring His spirit children into this world to fulfill the full measure of their creation. He has instructed us that the wellsprings of life are to be kept pure, just as the beautiful spring on the ranch required protection in order to sustain life. This is one of the reasons why virtue and chastity are so important in our Father in Heaven's plan.

Because of my grandfather's reaction to the polluted spring, improvements and protections were undertaken which returned the spring to its original beauty and purity. . . .

. . . We are aware that there are those who have already engaged in conduct inconsistent with this sacred standard of morality. Please understand that through the Savior's Atonement, all can repent and return, like the spring of water, to a clean and pure state.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



One of the adversary's sharpest tools is to convince us that we are no longer worthy to pray. No matter who you are or what you may have done, you can always pray.

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Love. Healing. Help. Hope. The power of Christ to counter all troubles in all times—including the end of times. That is the safe harbor God wants for us in personal or public days of despair. That is the message with which the Book of Mormon begins, and that is the message with which it ends, calling all to “come unto Christ, and be perfected in him” [Moroni 10:32].

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Repentance always means that there is greater happiness ahead.

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

NEmore

For additional inspiring messages and photos from conference, go to newera.lds.org.

Finding ANSWERS

How can I recognize the promptings of the Spirit?

That sweet, quiet voice of inspiration comes more as a feeling than it does as a sound. . . . The Holy Ghost communicates with our spirits through the mind more than through the physical senses. This guidance comes as thoughts, as feelings through promptings and impressions. We may *feel* the words of spiritual communication more than *hear* them, and *see* with spiritual rather than with mortal eyes.

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Impressions of the Spirit can come in response to urgent prayer or unsolicited when needed. Sometimes the Lord reveals truth to you when you are not actively seeking it, such as when you are in danger and do not know it. However, the Lord will not force you to learn. You must exercise your agency to authorize the Spirit to teach you. As you make this a practice in your life, you will be more perceptive to the feelings that come with spiritual guidance. . . .

The inspiring influence of the Holy Spirit can be overcome or masked by strong emotions, such as anger, hate, passion, fear, or pride. When such influences are present, it is like trying to savor the delicate flavor of a grape while eating a jalapeño pepper. Both flavors are present, but one

I loved this conference because I was able to receive personal answers to my questions. There had been a question in mind as I came into conference, and in the talk given by Elder Richard G. Scott, my question was answered. I love how the Lord works through His servants to answer your questions and concerns because He cares about you and how you feel.

Brianna H., 17, Utah

completely overpowers the other. In like manner, strong emotions overcome the delicate promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

How can I help improve the feeling in my home?

We can begin to become more diligent and concerned at home by telling the people we love that we love them. Such expressions do not need to be flowery or lengthy. We simply should sincerely and frequently express love. . . . Parents, when was the last time you sincerely expressed love to your children? Children, when was the last time you told your parents that you love them? . . .

We should remember that saying “I love you” is only a beginning. We need to say it, we need to mean it, and most importantly we need consistently to show it. We need to both

express and demonstrate love.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Why should I serve a full-time mission?

The Savior, through His prophet today, President Thomas S. Monson, has renewed the call as he declared:

“Our keynote was sounded by our Lord and our Savior, who stands at the head of the great army of missionaries worldwide. After His Resurrection, He appeared to His 11 disciples. He could have given them any counsel, any expression, any warning that He chose to give. But what did He say? It’s recorded in Matthew 28:18–20. He said as follows: . . .

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

President Monson continued:

“What a promise! If we respond affirmatively to that sacred call, that binding authority, ‘I will be with

I’ve never really planned on serving a mission, and now I am actually considering the option.

Bessie B., 13, Idaho

If you listen to general conference, you can often find answers to the questions that concern you.

you always, even unto the end of the world.' I can't think of a greater promise" ("The Five M's of Missionary Work," *New Era*, Mar. 2007, 42).

Elder Brent H. Nielsen of the Seventy

How can I keep from being discouraged?

Any believing Latter-day Saint is an optimist about what lies ahead for him or her, however difficult the present may be. We believe that through living the gospel of Jesus Christ we can become like the Savior, who is perfect.

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

How can I believe God loves me? I don't feel worthy of His love.

Some have said such things as: . . . "If God loved me, He would help me find a worthy husband I could be married and sealed to in the holy temple." . . . "I have sinned and so God couldn't possibly love me anymore."

. . . You need to know that there is nothing that can "separate [you] from the love of Christ." The scriptures clearly tell us that no tribulation, distress, persecution, power, nor any other creature can separate us from the love of God [see Romans 8:35–39].

Barbara Thompson, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency



How should I react to the bad economic times we are in?

In most of the world we have been experiencing an extended and devastating economic recession. . . . Reactions have focused on enacting more and stronger regulation. . . .

In the end, it is only an internal moral compass in each individual that can effectively deal with the root causes as well as the symptoms of societal decay. . . .

Moral discipline is learned at home. While we cannot control what others may or may not do, the Latter-day Saints can certainly stand with those who demonstrate virtue in their own lives and inculcate virtue in the rising generation.

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

I got some questions answered that I was worrying about in my life.

Alyssa J., 15, Utah

Where can I get help in coping with peer pressure?

When [we face] challenges in coping with peer pressure, we can read the [Book of Mormon] looking specifically for teachings that will help [us] with this kind of challenge. One of those teachings could be taken from Lemuel's experience. Lemuel made some wrong choices because he yielded to Laman's pressure [see 1 Nephi 3:28]. He did not do the right thing because he "knew not the dealings of that God who had created them" [1 Nephi 2:12]. A principle that we can draw from this incident is that learning doctrine about how God deals with us will help us to cope with peer pressure.

Elder Walter F. Gonzalez of the Seventy

Finding Answers



Why is education so important?

You have a duty to learn as much as you can. . . . If a formal education is not available, do not allow that to prevent you from acquiring all the knowledge you can. Under such circumstances, the best books, in a sense, can become your “university”—a classroom that is always open and admits all who apply. Strive to increase your knowledge of all that is “virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy” [Articles of Faith 1:13]. Seek knowledge “by study and also by faith”

(D&C 109:7). Seek with a humble spirit and contrite heart. As you apply the spiritual dimension of faith to your study—even of temporal things—you can amplify your intellectual capacity.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

How can I get answers to my prayers?

As you reach out to your Heavenly Father and pray to Him in the name of Christ, He will answer you. He speaks to us everywhere. As you read God’s word as recorded in the scriptures, listen for His voice. During this general conference and later as you study the words spoken here, listen for His voice. As you visit the temple and attend Church meetings, listen for His voice. Listen for the voice of the Father in the bounties and beauties of nature, in the gentle whisperings of the Spirit. In your daily interactions with others, in the words of a hymn, in the laughter of a child—listen—for His voice may be there.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

I took my seminary teacher’s challenge to pray that I might get the answers to my questions and problems from general conference. When I was listening, I gained a totally different outlook!

Spencer O., 14, Nevada

How can I receive personal revelation?

To access information from heaven, one must first have a firm faith and a deep desire. One needs to “ask with a sincere heart [and] real intent, having faith in [Jesus] Christ” (Moroni 10:4). “Real intent” means that one *really intends* to follow the divine direction given.

The next requirement is to study the matter diligently. This concept was taught to leaders of this restored Church when they were first learning how to gain personal revelation. The Lord instructed them, “I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right” [D&C 9:8].

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

Sometimes I doubt my testimony. How can I stay strong?

There will always be some seemingly intellectual crisis looming on the horizon as long as faith is required and our minds are finite, but likewise there will always be the sure and solid doctrines of the Restoration to cling to, which will provide the rock foundation upon which our testimonies may be built.

Elder Tad R. Callister of the Seventy

How can I know I'm making the right decisions?

Father in Heaven knew that you would face challenges and be required to make some decisions that would be beyond your own ability to decide correctly. In His plan of happiness, He included a provision for you to receive help with such challenges and decisions during your mortal life. That assistance will come to you through the Holy Ghost as spiritual guidance. It is a power, beyond your own capability, that a loving Heavenly Father wants you to use consistently for your peace and happiness.

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

How can I know the Book of Mormon is true?

For 179 years this book has been examined and attacked, denied and deconstructed, targeted and torn apart like perhaps no other book in modern religious history—perhaps like no other book in *any* religious history. And still it stands. Failed theories about its origins have been born and parroted and have died—from Ethan Smith to Solomon Spaulding to deranged paranoid to cunning genius. None of these frankly pathetic answers for this book has ever withstood examination because *there is no other answer* than the one Joseph gave as its young unlearned translator. In this I stand with my own

I was amazed by Elder Holland's strong declaration of his testimony of the Book of Mormon. His words of the truthfulness of and his feelings for the Book of Mormon are forever etched in my mind.

Claire C., 14, Washington

great-grandfather, who said simply enough, “No wicked man could write such a book as this; and no good man would write it, unless it were true and he were commanded of God to do so.” . . .

. . . Now, I did not sail with the brother of Jared in crossing an ocean, and settling in a new world. I did not hear King Benjamin speak his angelically delivered sermon. I did not proselyte with Alma and Amulek nor witness the fiery death of innocent believers. I was not among the Nephite crowd who touched the wounds of the resurrected Lord, nor did I weep with Mormon and Moroni over the destruction of an entire civilization. But my testimony of this record and the peace it brings to the human heart is as binding and unequivocal as was theirs. Like them, “[I] give [my name] unto the world, to witness unto the world that which [I] have seen.” And like them, “[I] lie not, God bearing witness of it.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Why should I honor my parents?

The Lord gave you a commandment with a promise: “Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” [Mosiah 13:20]. It is the only one of the Ten Commandments with a promise. . . . You may not have parents that are living. In some cases, you may not feel that your parents are worthy of the honor and respect of their children. You may not even have ever known them. But you owe them life. And in every case, even if your life is not lengthened, its quality will be improved simply by remembering your parents with honor.

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

NEmore

For more answers from general conference, go to newera.lds.org.

Rising as a

GENERATION



The Savior's call is to you of the rising generation. He is asking for worthy, prepared, faithful young men and young women who will heed the prophet's voice. . . .

. . . I pray that you of **this rising generation will stand up for truth** and righteousness and understand your sacred call to go and teach all nations.

Elder Brent H. Nielsen of the Seventy

To you **Aaronic Priesthood** holders, I believe that by doing these three simple things you can make your relationship with your father even better than it is right now.

First, trust your father. . . . He is entitled to inspiration on your behalf. His advice to you will be the heartfelt expressions of someone who knows and loves you

Second, take an interest in your father's life. . . . Your love, admiration, and understanding will increase by what you learn. . . .

And *third*, ask your father for advice. Let's be honest: he is probably going to give you his advice whether you ask for it or not, but it just works so much better when you ask!

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

I strongly felt that the most important thing to do is to love our fellowman as much as we can.

Parker R., 14, Arizona

The good women of the world are embracing the gospel of Jesus Christ in large numbers across the nations. You are the real heroines he was talking about. . . . We have seen **the light of the gospel reflected in your faces.**

Your example and influence for good are both extraordinary and remarkable.

Silvia H. Allred, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency

In recent months I have heard deacons, teachers, and priests give talks which are clearly as inspired and powerful as you will hear in this general conference. As I have felt the power being given to young holders of the priesthood, I have thought that **the rising generation is rising around us**, as if on an incoming tide. My prayer is that those of us in the generations which have come before will rise on the tide with them. The preparation of the Aaronic Priesthood is a blessing to us all as well as to those they will serve in their generation and the generations to follow.

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

LEARNING *from Conference*

Here are some things that can enhance your study of general conference.

TEACHING FROM GENERAL CONFERENCE

If you are asked to give a talk or teach a lesson based on a conference talk, follow these guidelines:

1. Read the talk.
2. Decide what should happen in the lives of those you teach as a result of the lesson.
3. Decide on the main principle or principles you will teach, along with any supporting ideas.
4. Consider how you want to teach the main ideas and the supporting ideas you have selected.

(From *Teaching, No Greater Call*, 100–101; available at GospelLibrary.lds.org under Support Materials.)

NEmore

Look up *Teaching, No Greater Call* for more details on teaching from a conference talk, including an example of how to do it.

Conference is one of the most special blessings that we receive. As I talked with my family, I was amazed at how we all had heard and remembered such different things from one another. Conference is a great time and place for personal revelation and guidance.

Alisha R, 17, Utah

SONGS FROM GENERAL CONFERENCE

The following songs were quoted by speakers at general conference:

- “The Spirit of God,” *Hymns*, no. 2.
- “School Thy Feelings,” *Hymns*, no. 336.
- “Have I Done Any Good?” *Hymns*, no. 223.
- “I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus,” *Children’s Songbook*, 78–79.

NEmore

To find hymns and other Church music, including recordings and an interactive player, go to music.lds.org.



I absolutely loved conference. It is so great to get away from the world and learn so many good things from the speakers. I also love the amazing spirit that is felt when you listen to them. So many of my prayers are answered during that time.

Shayli S., 17, Utah

SCRIPTURES FROM GENERAL CONFERENCE

As you study the messages from general conference, you might want to look up the following scriptures, which were referred to three or more times in the conference:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. D&C 8:2 | • 1 Nephi 17:45 | • D&C 1:30 |
| 2. Matthew 24:35–40 | • 2 Nephi 32:3 | • D&C 9:8 |
| 3. D&C 101:78 | • Enos 1:10 | • D&C 14:7 |
| 4. 1 Corinthians 2:14 | • Mosiah 4:27 | • D&C 46:27 |
| 5. Mosiah 3:19 | • Mosiah 18:8–9 | • D&C 58:42 |
| 6. Alma 5:12 | • Mosiah 24:14–15 | • D&C 88:63 |
| | • Alma 7:23 | • D&C 121:41 |
| | • Alma 23:6 | • D&C 121:43 |
| | • Alma 42:8 | • D&C 121:45 |
| | • Alma 53:20–21 | • D&C 121:46 |
| | • Moroni 7:16 | • Articles of Faith 1:13 |

Here are some other scriptures that were referred to more than once:

- Matthew 28:18–20
- Romans 8:39

STANDING

Standing on Ensign Peak, overlooking the Salt Lake Temple, and waving a banner, Sister Elaine S. Dalton (center) and her counselors Mary N. Cook (left) and Ann M. Dibb (right) have encouraged Young Women throughout the world to make a commitment to virtue.

It was a Sunday evening, November 28, 1869, 140 years ago, when President Brigham Young called his daughters together and asked them to “retrench” in the way they dressed and acted. They were asked to turn away from the ways of the world that were leading them away from the gospel. This was the beginning of the organization known today as the Young Women.

On November 28, 2008, President Thomas S. Monson and his counselors approved the addition of Virtue as the eighth value in the Young Women theme.

Sister Elaine Dalton, Young Women general president, said, “The date is not a coincidence. The Lord had His hand in this decision. It has been divinely inspired. I looked up the word *retrench* as we were thinking about a return to virtue. The dictionary says it is an additional interior fortification. That is really what virtue is going to do for the young women. It’s going to give them a fortification, a strengthening, to stand as a witness of God in an ever darkening world. It is going to help them have strength and courage.”

Sister Dalton and her counselors have encouraged Young Women throughout the world to make a commitment to virtue, to follow the examples of virtue set by their leaders, mothers, and grandmothers. As a new presidency, they hiked up Ensign Peak, a foothill in the north part of the Salt Lake Valley overlooking the Salt Lake Temple. “We

unfurled our banner calling for a return to virtue. We believe that if there is anything that keeps people away from the Savior and away from the temple it is not being worthy or pure and morally clean.”

Since then, Young Women groups throughout the world have demonstrated their commitment by waving their own gold-colored banner as a symbol of their commitment to virtue. Several of these groups have sent reports and photos to the Young Women general presidency. Here are a few examples.

Hannibal Missouri Branch, Nauvoo Illinois Stake

“We have no mountains here. But we do have the tallest structure in this area of the Midwest: a cement company’s tower, nearly 36 stories high. The seven young women of the branch ‘hiked’ up the tower to plant their virtue flag. We discussed virtue and how staying virtuous in these times may be difficult, but they can do difficult things, like this trek.”

—Ricki Gibbons



NEmore

See more activities, or send us yours at newera.lds.org.

for VIRTUE



Sao Paulo, Brazil Ipiranga Stake

“Inspired by the virtue value, we planned an activity. We told our young women the story of Brigham Young when he looked out over the temple site and of the Young Women presidency’s experience raising the gold standard, looking toward the temple, and proclaiming a ‘return to virtue.’

“We asked the young women to develop three daily habits: First, to pray to Heavenly Father every morning and every night. Second, to read the Book of Mormon at least five minutes daily. And third, to smile! We created a logo of these goals and painted it on a banner.

“Each young woman stamped her hand on this banner. We are excited to prepare our young women to make covenants with the Lord in the temple and help them come unto Christ.”

—Tatiana Christina dos Reis Dintof



Mapleton Utah North Stake

“The Mapleton Utah North Stake decided to focus entirely on virtue at their stake youth fireside. Young men and women, including their parents, were asked to complete the four new value experiences and the value project of reading the Book of Mormon by this November.

“At the end of the young men’s discussion, each young man was given a gold tie to wear. Each young woman was presented with a beautiful gold necklace made especially for them by the stake Young Women presidency. Hopefully, these gifts will remind each young man and young woman of their renewed commitment to virtue.

“A great moment in the fireside came as the young women returned to the chapel after the separate sessions. The young men and parents had already returned from each of their sessions. The chapel was full of young men in new gold ties literally rising to the challenge by standing as a sign of respect as the young women of the stake walked in.”

—Casey Packard Allen



Encinas Ward, Gilbert Arizona Stapley Stake

“I was able to give a devotional one night at camp on the return to virtue. I felt the spirit so strong with these girls. Each girl stood that night and signed our banner saying that we will remain virtuous and take a stand in this world, calling for a return to virtue. Believe me when I tell you these girls will change the world for good! It has been a privilege to serve them and know that my life has been blessed because of it.”

—Sheri Kersey



Fort St. John Ward, Grande Prairie Alberta Canada Stake

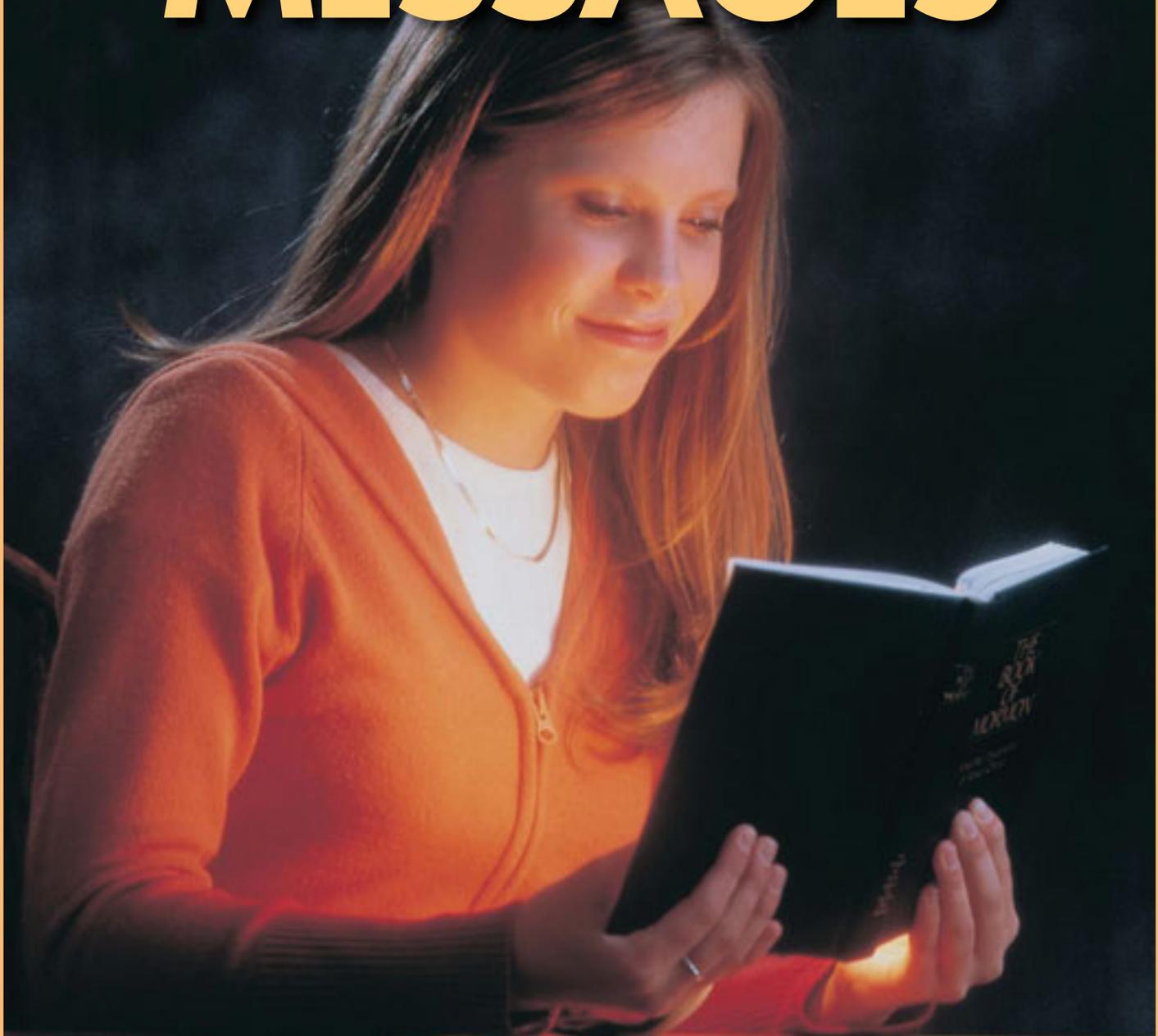
“The young women of the Fort St. John Ward were inspired to undertake a 15K hike through the Peace River Valley. With 14 young women plus leaders, we set off. The weather cooperated, and we felt a growing feeling of camaraderie. We visually drank deeply from God’s creations and appreciated the fact that He created it all. We spoke of gospel principles, expressed our love for the Young Women program, the activities, and each other. We knelt as a group and prayed on behalf of every young woman in attendance and for those who were not with us. We then wrote our declaration of virtue with charcoal on a piece of fabric, fastened it to a stick, and raised our banners high. We shouted as loud as we could the following five declarations so that we would know and those listening would know what we stood for: I will dress modestly and be a symbol of virtue! I will not use vulgar or degrading language! I will not let pornography destroy my family and friends! I will defend the family and the importance of marriage! Calling for a return to virtue!

“We know there will be many occasions where we will be called to stand and fight for good and righteous aspects of life. We are prepared. We are ready.”

—Kara Strate

MORMONAD

UNLIMITED
**TEXT
MESSAGES**



THERE'S NO END TO THE ANSWERS YOU CAN FIND IN THE SCRIPTURES.
SEARCH FOR THE MESSAGES THE LORD IS SENDING TO YOU. (SEE JOHN 5:39.)

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT CASEY

POWERFULLY PREPARED

When both my quorum adviser and my bishop unexpectedly passed away, it made me stop and think.

BY BRENT ALAN FISHER

Although we did many enjoyable things in my Aaronic Priesthood quorums as I grew up, the most important lessons were the ones my leaders taught me about priesthood duties and mission preparation. This was especially true when I turned 16, was ordained a priest, and became a member of the priests quorum. I came to understand more than ever before that callings in the Aaronic Priesthood are not



just positions that need filling. My leaders let me learn my duty and helped me “act in the office in which [I was] appointed” (D&C 107:99).

They taught me how to be a worthy, covenant-keeping, servant of the Lord. Then, when I was still a priest, both my quorum adviser and my bishop unexpectedly passed away within a few months of each other. I was devastated. But as time passed, I realized I had gained confidence in the priesthood because they gave me opportunities to perform the ordinances and duties of the Aaronic Priesthood (see D&C 13:1; 20:46–60; 84:26–27).

I learned because I was given a chance to learn by doing, and I felt the Holy Ghost while doing my duty. For example, I:

- Baptized a young girl whose father did not hold the priesthood.

- Ordained a young man to the office of a teacher because his father was not involved in the Church.
 - Conducted quorum business, led presidency meetings, and followed up on assignments.
 - Served as a companion to a faithful home teacher. Being assigned to less-active members gave me insights into why they chose to not attend church. It taught me that good people sometimes don't attend meetings simply because they have bad habits. Being assigned to a faithful home teacher was probably one of the best experiences to prepare me to serve a mission.
- Collected fast offerings and learned the



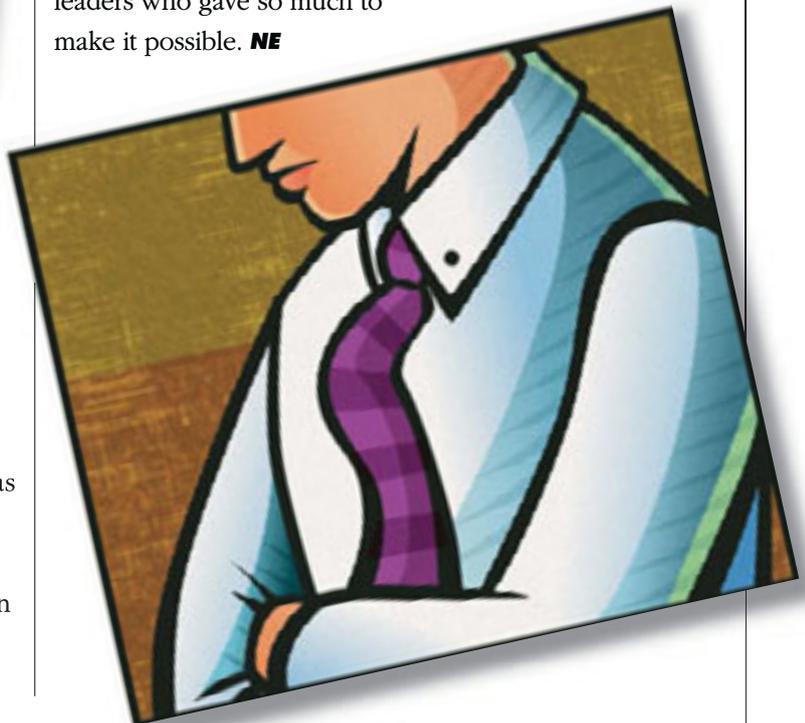
people I least expected would make a donation. Later, I came to appreciate that providing everyone the opportunity to pay fast offerings gives them the opportunity to be blessed by the Lord and remain in contact with the Church.

- Came to understand as a teacher and priest that it was my duty to ensure that the sacrament table was properly prepared before the meeting started. I also learned it was an honor to serve in the roles of a deacon or teacher, even if I was a priest.

By being given opportunities to serve, I learned of the

organization of the Church and the order of the priesthood. I learned how to coordinate with youth leaders in Young Women and listen to their counsel. I came to appreciate planning as an important part of successfully fulfilling the work of the Lord. I found I needed to think about the purpose of each activity and organize it to fulfill some portion of the mission of the Church. I came to know that visiting quorum members, especially less-active ones, is an important duty that can create feelings of brotherhood that break down cliques so common among teenagers.

Most importantly, I learned the Lord answers the prayers of all those who seek to build His kingdom, even young Atonic Priesthood holders. I came to understand that all of these experiences prepared me to become a more effective Melchizedek Priesthood holder, a temple recommend holder, and a full-time missionary. And I learned the Atonic Priesthood is the Lord's inspired method for preparing young men to be valiant, worthy, and able to fulfill the higher duties of the Melchizedek Priesthood "to administer in spiritual things" (D&C 107:8). In priesthood quorums I learned all these things, and I am grateful to the leaders who gave so much to make it possible. **NE**



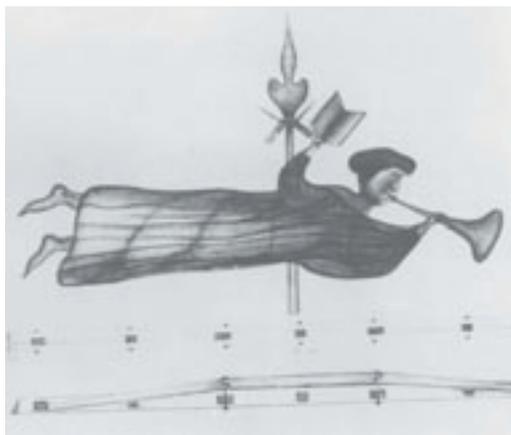
Find out about the figures that stand atop the temple.



Looking Up to

The gold figure of a heavenly messenger in flowing robes atop the Salt Lake Temple has become one of the Church's most recognizable symbols. But the first angel to adorn a temple was a horizontal weathervane on the Nauvoo Temple as shown in this drawing (right).

By applying layers of clay, sculptor Karl Quilter (far right) created muscle tone on his version of the figure of the angel Moroni. Molds of Brother Quilter's figure are now used to create the figures of Moroni used on all temples built today.



The First Heavenly Messenger Decoration

Decorative weathervanes were placed atop many public buildings when the Kirtland and Nauvoo Temples were constructed. So in accordance with that practice, both were adorned with weathervanes. The Nauvoo Temple's weathervane, however, was unique—an angel, in a horizontal position as if in flight, holding an open book with one hand and a horn pressed to its lips with the other. This was the first angel to appear atop an LDS temple. Simple weathervanes still top the St. George Utah, Logan Utah, and Manti Utah Temples.

Why Moroni?

Non-LDS sculptor Cyrus Dallin was asked to create an ornament for the central spire of the Salt Lake Temple. While he was searching LDS scriptures for inspiration, the concept of the figure of the angel Moroni was born. To Dallin, Moroni symbolized the restoration of the gospel, and since his placement atop the Salt Lake Temple, the golden figure of an angel in flowing robes with a long horn pressed to his lips has become one of the Church's most recognized symbols.

Crafting Moroni

When President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) first conceived of building smaller temples, Utah sculptor Karl Quilter was asked to design a smaller version of the angel Moroni that could be adapted for placement on temples of different sizes. The process of creating the new figure began with the construction of a metal armature, or support structure. Foam was then sprayed into this structure and sculpted into a basic human body shape. Clay was then applied

MORONI

TEMPLES WITHOUT THE ANGEL MORONI

Not all temples have a figure of the angel Moroni. Some, such as the Laie Hawaii, Mesa Arizona, and Cardston Alberta Temples, were not designed with towers or spires, so they have no angel Moroni. And even though the St. George, Logan, and Manti temples all have towers, they are topped with simple weathervanes rather than the angel Moroni. Some temples have had to delay the placement of the angel Moroni because of building code restrictions. This happened in Boston, Massachusetts, and Sydney, Australia, where figures were added after construction was completed. The only other temples that do not have figures of the angel Moroni are the Hamilton New Zealand and Oakland California Temples.





Brother Quilter's version of Moroni (shown above in the casting workshop before the molds are made) depicts the heavenly messenger with wavy hair and robes draped over his muscular body while holding a trumpet to his lips with his right hand.

to the foam and sculpted into more detail. More clay was applied in order to sculpt the clothing. It took about eight months before Brother Quilter's 7-foot-tall model was ready for the First Presidency's review. Once it was approved, Brother Quilter scaled up his model to produce larger versions, and molds were made from the clay models. From these molds the figures were cast in fiberglass under the direction of craftsman LaVar Wallgren. Brother Quilter's Moroni design is now used exclusively in the Church, and the Church owns the molds. About 10 figures can be cast from each mold. Today it takes less than a week to fabricate a figure.

Moroni's Left Arm

In the first version of the figure, Moroni's left arm is hanging at his side, slightly outstretched with his fist clenched. A few renditions later, the figure was slightly modified to incorporate the gold plates. In his version of Moroni for the Hill Cumorah Monument, Torlief Knaphus placed gold plates in Moroni's left arm. For his version for the Los Angeles Temple, sculptor Millard Malin followed Knaphus' design and kept the plates in Moroni's left arm; so did Avard Fairbanks, who sculpted the version for the Washington D.C. Temple. (Replicas of Fairbanks's plate-holding Moroni stand atop the Seattle Washington, Jordan River Utah, and Mexico City Mexico Temples.) When Karl Quilter designed his version of the figure, he eliminated the plates and then spent a great deal of time making sure the left arm hung in the proper position—not too rigid, not too limp, but showing slight forward movement.

Moroni's Clothing

All figures except one show Moroni wearing long, flowing robes, belted at the waist. The Moroni figure atop the Los Angeles California Temple, however, is dressed in a Mayan-style robe and headband, wearing sandals on his feet and bearing distinctive Native American facial features.

Moroni's Physique

Over the years, figures of the angel Moroni have become more robust as sculptors have added muscle tone and bulk to the figure. While sculpting his version of Moroni, Karl Quilter used human models to help him accurately shape muscles and correctly depict a body standing atop a ball.

Gilding Moroni

All Moroni figures are gilded, or covered with gold. The process involves rubbing thin sheets of gold onto the figure's surface. Today that process usually only takes a couple of days, but once the figure is gilded, it must be handled with gloved hands to avoid marring the delicate surface.

Embedded Lightning Rod

Since gold leaf is a perfect conductor of electricity, and because the figures are often placed high above the ground atop a temple's tallest spire, they are frequently hit by lightning. Today's figures have a copper rod running through them vertically, which extends several inches above the figure's head at the top, and attaches to a grounding cable at the bottom. This serves both as a lightning rod and as the mechanism for mounting the figure on the building's tower.

Modern Material

Early figures of the angel Moroni were made of bronze, copper, or aluminum, and were very heavy. (The bronze figure on the Washington D.C. Temple weighs approximately 2 tons, or 4,000 pounds.) Today's figures are made from lightweight fiberglass, and weigh only about 300 pounds.



FOUR TALLEST MORONI FIGURES

The four tallest figures of the angel Moroni are:

1. Jordan River Temple: 20 feet
2. Washington D.C. Temple: 18 feet
3. Los Angeles Temple: 15 feet, 5 inches
4. Salt Lake Temple: 12 feet, 5 inches

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Adverse environmental conditions such as humidity, pollution, and extreme temperature variations take their toll on the figures, so they have to be periodically re-gilded and repaired. Sometimes, the figure is removed from the temple for maintenance work. At other times, scaffolding and tenting is set up so that the work can be done in place. Temple maintenance crews also must periodically clean bird droppings off the figures.



(Above) The angel Moroni at the top of the Hill Cumorah in Palmyra, New York, was sculpted by Torlief Knaphus and shows Moroni raising his right arm and carrying in his left arm the gold plates.

(Right) A crane prepares to place the Moroni figure atop the Rexburg Idaho Temple. Each of these figures is placed on the high point spire and, where possible, oriented eastward.

Moroni's Horn

In the scriptures, trumpets are used to sound warnings, proclaim news, and herald visitors. Moroni holds a horn to his lips with his right hand, symbolizing both the spreading of the gospel throughout the world and the long-anticipated Second Coming of the Savior, which will be announced by trumpet-blowing angels (see Matthew 24:31). The only version of the angel Moroni figure that doesn't hold a horn is the one sculpted by Torlief Knaphus for the Hill Cumorah Monument. Knaphus's Moroni is raising his right arm in a gesture of priesthood authority.

Shipping the Figure

Completed figures are laid horizontally and boxed in wooden crates for shipping. The trumpet, which is cast separately from the body, is packaged separately and then bolted to the figure's hand after being shipped to the temple.

Placement and Orientation of Figure

According to scripture, at the Second Coming the Savior will come from the east (see Matthew 24:27). The Church's guideline concerning placement of the angel Moroni figures is that where possible, they should face eastward. Sometimes, however, the angel Moroni figure may face another direction in order to align it with the orientation of the temple. Originally, the figure on the Los Angeles Temple was placed facing southwest, the same direction the temple faced, but the figure's orientation was adjusted to face due east upon instructions from President David O. McKay. The angel Moroni figure is placed on the high point spire, not necessarily the central spire. On several temples the figure of Moroni is placed atop a tower that is actually detached from the temple.



THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULNESS OF TIMES

Joseph Smith helped lay the foundation for the latter-day work.

A dispensation of the gospel is a period of time in which the Lord has at least one authorized servant on the earth who bears the holy priesthood and the keys. . . . The fulness of times is the final dispensation, and began with the revelation of the gospel to Joseph Smith. . . . It is a glorious time, the time in which we live today” (Bible Dictionary, “Dispensations”). Here are some of Joseph Smith’s teachings on this gospel dispensation.*

THIS IS THE FINAL DISPENSATION

“It is in the order of heavenly things that God should always send a new dispensation into the world when men have apostatized from the truth and lost the priesthood.”

“The dispensation of the fullness of times will bring to light the things that have been revealed in all former dispensations; also other things that have not been before revealed.”

JOSEPH SMITH LAID THE FOUNDATION

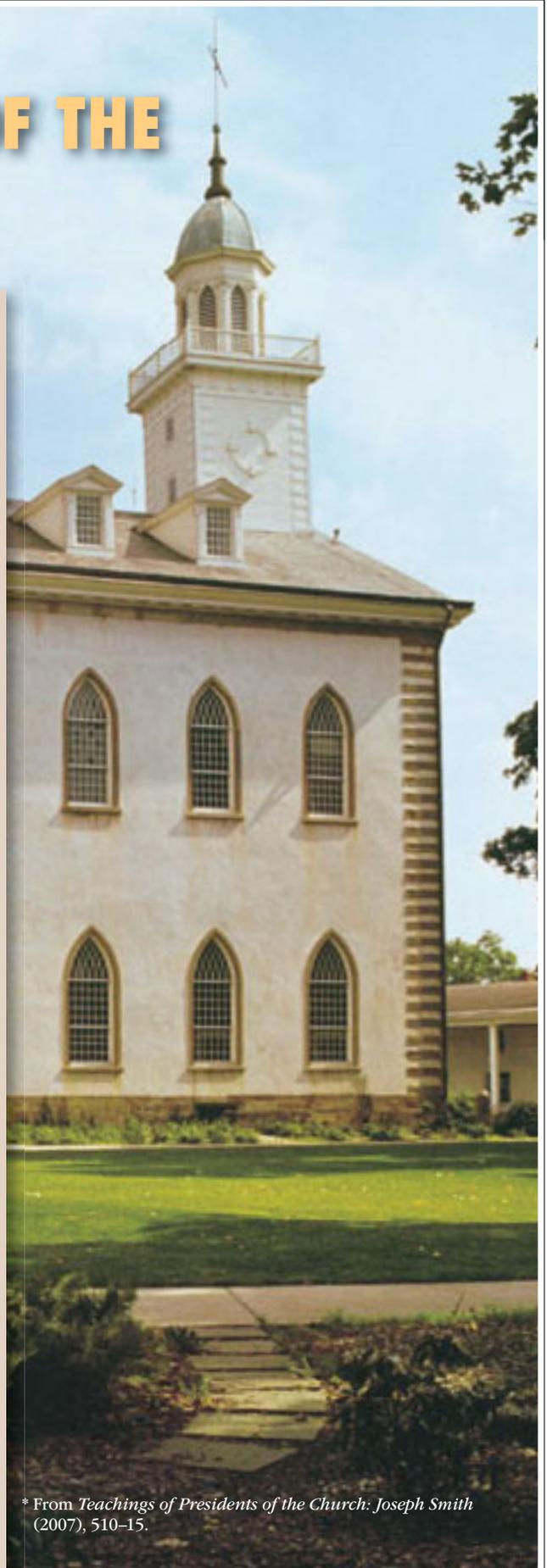
“Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was. I suppose that I was ordained to this very office in that Grand Council.”

“I calculate to be one of the instruments of setting up the kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord [see Daniel 2:44–45], and I intend to lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world.”

WE CAN HELP IN THE LORD’S WORK

“Feeling desirous to carry out the purposes of God . . . ; and to be co-workers with Him in this last dispensation; we feel the necessity of having the hearty cooperation of the Saints. . . . It will be necessary for the Saints to hearken to counsel and turn their attention to the Church, the establishment of the Kingdom, and lay aside every selfish principle.”

“The heavenly Priesthood will unite with the earthly. . . . Generations yet unborn will dwell with peculiar delight upon the scenes that we have passed through . . . in laying the foundation of a work . . . that is destined to bring about the destruction of the powers of darkness, the renovation of the earth, the glory of God, and the salvation of the human family.”



* From *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 510–15.

“My classmate teases me about being LDS. He’s joking, but he has a low opinion of the Church. How can I help him see things differently?”

It’s not fun to be teased. But don’t let your classmate provoke you. Since he has a low opinion of the Church, it’s very important for you to be a good example in the way you respond. He might be teasing you because he’s actually interested in the Church and is trying to get your attention, or he might be misinformed. Either way, respond kindly, and try to help him understand what a blessing the gospel is in your life.

You could ask if he has any questions about the Church. If he doesn’t, he might not be interested in learning more, so you can try to ignore the teasing or change the subject. If he does have questions, you could suggest that he talk to the missionaries or visit mormon.org.

For more ideas on how to handle this, talk to your parents, Church leaders, seminary teacher, or the missionaries. Most importantly, pray for inspiration to know what to say and for strength to handle the teasing. Heavenly Father cares about you and your classmate and can help you know what to do. **NE**

Pray for Guidance



When someone makes negative comments about the Church, I believe it’s normally due to a lack of knowledge or a false understanding of our beliefs. There’s a positive thing about this. It’s a sign that they still find the information interesting in some way. When I run into this situation, I first pray. Heavenly Father can help me know what to say in any situation. Next, ask your classmate about his ideas about the Church. Then, listen and wait. If you are in tune with the Spirit, you will know what to say to teach the person the truth. And then thank Heavenly Father for His guidance and ask Him to open that person’s mind and heart to the truth. In this case, you don’t need a name tag to be a missionary.

Evan F., 18, Illinois

Talk about It



For a long time a good friend of mine has put down my religion. She is a strong Christian and her father is a minister, so she always had “facts” about how the Church was wrong. I tried to ignore her and change the subject because I didn’t want to ruin our friendship. Her comments continued, so I finally told her that even if she didn’t believe it, it was my religion. I believed it, and it hurt me and our friendship when she criticized me. We talked a little about what she said that bugged me, and we haven’t had any problems since.

Kimmie B., 16, Arizona

Be Nice



I deal with teasings about being LDS all the time and have realized that the people doing it don't know what they're saying. The best thing you can do is lead by example. Be nice to them, love them, and if the time is right, you might get the chance to share the gospel with them.

Zach W., 17, Washington

Be a Good Example

There are two things I would suggest: You can try to explain why his joke has false meaning, but do not do so in an angry or rude way; that would make the situation worse. The Holy Ghost will help you know what to say. The other suggestion I have is to be a good example. His jokes will start to lose their meaning. I can't promise that these methods will always work, because there are going to be people who refuse to give up their negative opinions. Endure those things in the way that Jesus would—with love and positive thoughts—and continue to try.

Benjamin A., 15, Florida

Talk about Blessings

I've been involved in situations like this before, and it was really frustrating. Then, one day in seminary, I learned a solution. My teacher's son (recently returned from his mission) came to teach us about missionary work. He said that although the phrase "I know" is very powerful, sometimes it is better to talk about the blessings you have received. For example, "The gospel brings so much peace into my life. Going to church, praying to my Heavenly Father, and reading my

scriptures all give me strength to endure happily the stress and trials of school and life." When they see the blessings that come into your life from living the gospel, they'll be curious and want to learn more, giving you an opportunity to share the gospel without contention.

Emilee P., 17, Washington

Let Your Classmate Know

How You Feel



One of my good friends was reading the Book of Mormon in class in her spare time one day. People began to tease her. She stood up for Heavenly Father and told them that this is her religion and they shouldn't be saying anything about it. The kids stopped teasing her. That was a very good example for me. I recommend that you stick up for the Church. If this guy knows how you really feel, then he will stop teasing you.

Tia T., 13, Utah

Stand Up for the Church

I too have had problems with kids at school disagreeing with our religion. Remember that you can't change anyone's mind, but don't be afraid to stand up for yourself. Tell him that even if he and his friends find it amusing, the teasing is hurtful to you, and he is disrespecting God. Also say a sincere, humble prayer and have hope that Heavenly Father will help you. Even if your solution comes differently than you want or expect, don't stop standing up for the Church.

Jonaka H., 13, Washington

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

NEXT QUESTION

"Some of my friends say they don't like their parents. They ask me how I can love my parents. What do I say?"

Send us your answer and photo by December 15, 2009.

Go to newera.lds.org, click Submit Your Material, and then select Questions and Answers.

You can also write to us at:

newera@ldschurch.org

or

New Era, Q&A, Parents

**50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
USA**

NEmore

Got questions? We've got answers. Go to newera.lds.org.

PRAY FOR THEM

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who spitefully use you and persecute you."

3 Nephi 12:44



IS IT
Really
TRUE?

BY ANNALISE KUNZELMAN

During our last stake conference, something momentous happened for me. Our stake president asked us to read a scripture in Mosiah that was near a verse I had highlighted on the previous page. I felt prompted to turn the page back and read what I had marked:

“I pray that ye should awake to a remembrance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression.

“And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it” (Mosiah 2:40–41).

The last sentence struck me. I realized I had never really received a testimony of the Book of Mormon. Since I had grown up in an LDS family, I just took for granted that it was all true and believed what people had told me. But I didn’t have that knowledge for myself. I lacked a surety that this is the true Church, that Joseph Smith saw God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and that President Thomas S. Monson does receive revelation from God. But the sentence, “O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it,” made me realize it couldn’t be this way forever. I needed to find out for myself if this really was the truth. So I began to pray.

“Dear Heavenly Father, I . . .”

But I didn’t get any further. I felt the Spirit so strongly within me it brought tears to my eyes. It was actually burning in my bosom, and I choked on the words. I have never felt anything so compelling and real. I had finally experienced personal revelation that the Book of Mormon was true, and I knew it. Suddenly the

Spirit brought back to my memory Moroni 10:4:

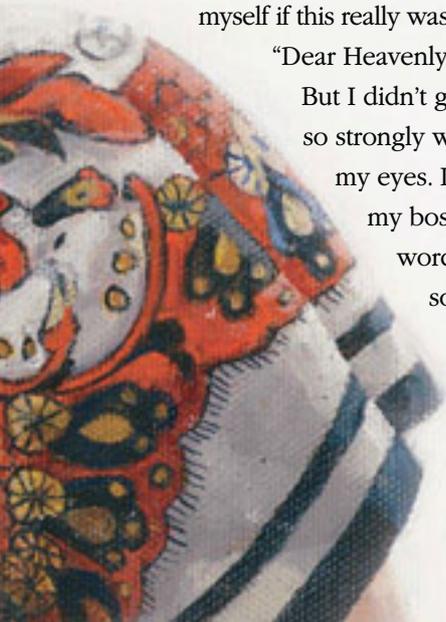
“And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

I began again. “Heavenly Father, I need to gain my own testimony of the truth of this book, and of this Church. I ask you, in the name of Jesus Christ, are these things true?” And once again, the Spirit confirmed truth. It was so powerful. I knew there could only be one answer, and I knew it as surely as I know $2+2=4$.

The Book of Mormon is true. Joseph Smith actually was a prophet, and Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ did appear to him in the Sacred Grove. President Thomas S. Monson is a true prophet, and he does receive divine guidance to lead this Church, a Church I now know for sure is true. I hope all people take the advice Moroni gave us and pray in the name of Christ, with a sincere heart, real intent, and faith, and ask if these things are true. I know the answer will be “Yes. Yes, it is.” I hope we all will “remember, remember that these things are true, for the Lord God hath spoken it.” **NE**

I had never really asked before. Now I knew I needed an answer.

ILLUSTRATION BY SHERI LYNN BOYER DOTY



WINTER GAMES

This Luger Is a Winner

BY JANET THOMAS
Church Magazines

Meet a girl who won't let athletic success cause her faith to slide.

When Kate Hansen was 10 her father drove her to Slider Search, a local clinic being held for kids to try out for luge. "I tell people that luge is like bobsledding," says Kate. "At the clinic, they set up hay bales and cones on the street and then let the kids ride a trainer sled with wheels down the course. I went through the cones without crashing. I remember it being really fun. Plus they wanted to see how well I took direction."

As a result of the clinic, both Kate and her cousin were invited to come to Lake Placid, New York, where the national luge training facility is located. The first time Kate tried out



a real sled on an ice course, she loved it. It was fast and fun. "It's like a roller coaster but pretty relaxing. It's very flowing."

The whole idea that riding something going so fast, just inches from crashing into walls of ice, would hardly seem relaxing to most people. But this ability to relax while moving has been the secret to Kate's success.

Her mother, Kathie, remembers seeing her go down a run for the first time. She says, "It's nerve-racking when you watch your daughter go by, and she's going so fast. I wondered, 'What have we had gotten into?' The coaches don't know how she does it. She can have a bad start, but as soon as she is through the first curve, she's leading everyone because she's settling in and relaxing and just feeling the curves."

Her mother thinks the ability to relax might come from Kate's skateboarding and surfing, two popular activities in La Cañada, California, where the Hansen family lives. "Kate used to lay down on her skateboard, going down the driveway with her ponytail dragging."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT REIER, MARK WEINBERG, AND COURTESY OF THE HANSEN FAMILY



verizon

verizon

USA LUGA

KATE

NORTON

NORTON

XIX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES



LUGE

Luge is a sledding event, like bobsledding, tobogganing, or skeleton. It originated in St. Moritz, Austria. Racers ride face-up and feet-first on a small one- or two-person sled. Steering is done by flexing the sled's runners ("steels") with the calf of each leg or exerting shoulder pressure to the seat.

Kate won the women's singles Junior Luge World Championship last year. She is the youngest ever to take the top spot.



While learning this new sport, Kate says, "I was just the girl from California who had her ukulele. Before races some people warm up by sitting in the corner, staying really focused. Others zone everyone out. Then there are those who listen to music and dance. I was one who danced and sang, trying to keep my mind off of what I was doing. That's when I did well. I was just there for fun."

A Sled Named Ricky

Each year at the USA training facility, Kate is given a sled for the season. Last year she named her sled Ricardo—Ricky for short. "It's your baby," says Kate. "You take care of it."

The sled is built to her size and can be adjusted slightly. "My sled is a lot different. I like it loose because it's easier to steer. I did really well on it." Kate does everything for her sled. She sands the steel runners. After races she puts oil on the steels so they won't rust. She packs it carefully when traveling. "If you drop Ricky, you have to apologize," she jokes.

Going with the Flow

Kate Hansen and her family haven't had a real plan for her participation in luge. They seem to take and evaluate opportunities as they come. Heidi, Kate's older sister, explains, "My brothers and I thought it was

funny because she was lugging, and no one really knows what that is. We thought she would only do it for a while, but then she would do well and get invited to train or to be on teams, so our family would say, 'I guess she'll move up.'"

Eventually Kate started to get noticed. In her first junior international competition at the junior level, she came in third, shocking everyone because she was so young and inexperienced. A few months later, at 15, she came in first at the Junior World Championship. She was only the third American to ever win. She now spends most of the winter months living with the team in Europe and competing on the Junior World Cup Tour. Her name has started rising to the top.

With the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics, Kate will be invited to participate in the Olympic trials. There are only three slots on the team, and most of the competitors are much older. Kate finished sixth overall at the end of last season and looks forward to competing for a spot on the team. Whether she makes it or not, Kate has had fun participating and succeeding in luge, but it will not become the only focus in her life.

Finding the Balance

Kate's mom and dad worry about their daughter's keeping the right balance. "Mom didn't want me to miss out on high school," says Kate.

Kate is involved in school activities when she is home and maintains excellent grades. "Our goal is that she is going to college," says her mother. "And her seminary teacher, Sister





Frandsen, is kind enough to digitally record seminary every morning. We then e-mail the seminary recordings to Kate each week so she can listen to the classes. It is one of her spiritual foundations and a link to home when she is on the road.”

To help focus her goals, Kate has received her patriarchal blessing. In her blessing she was told that she would be watched by many people and would have missionary opportunities come to her.

Even so, Kate faces some hard situations when it comes to the party atmosphere that accompanies sports. It seems that drinking can become a stumbling point, especially when the team goes to Europe to compete. “After races, it’s party time. Everyone I met would drink. At first, I felt like the loner in the hotel. But I got over that feeling. My teammates knew better than to ask me to drink with them. After I won the worlds, my competitors would say, ‘Kate, you have to drink tonight.’ But I’d say no. My teammates would say, ‘No, she doesn’t drink. Don’t even ask.’”

Testimony Is It

Having a strong testimony is the bottom line for Kate. She is always excited to go to young women camp and youth conference with her stake. When asked about her favorite scripture, Kate mentions an experience she had while attending Especially for Youth. She hadn’t planned to bear her testimony, but then she had a feeling that someone there needed to hear what she had to say. She had been reading in her scriptures and had come upon Mosiah 8:18: “Thus God has provided a means that man, through faith, might work mighty miracles; therefore he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings.”

Kate says, “I stood up and talked about my patriarchal blessing where it says I would be an example to others and people would be watching me. Now it’s my favorite scripture because it came as an answer to me.” It seems that people are indeed watching Kate and what she chooses to do. At the end of the season, two of her teammates said they had stopped drinking because of her. “It was the biggest reward I have ever received,” says Kate. **NE**



HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES, AND TOES

BY LAURIE WALKER

One year the young women in my ward participated in an interesting experiment related to dressing modestly. Here's an account of one young woman who learned about this gospel principle and applied it to her life.

Anna Larsen* was excited that her turn to shop for clothes had finally come. Sister Jensen, her Laurel adviser, had taken each girl in the class shopping to learn a modesty lesson. Anna wasn't sure what to expect.

When they arrived at the store, Sister Jensen asked Anna to pick out three outfits. As they walked to the dressing room, Sister Jensen said, "After you've put on an outfit, come out. Be prepared to have your eyes opened."

Intrigued by her leader's directions, Anna put on the sleeveless button-down shirt and hip-hugging skirt. When she walked out, Sister Jensen motioned her to the mirrors. "Now we're going to play a game."

"I doubt the clerks would be happy with me playing in their clothes before I've bought them," Anna said.

Sister Jensen laughed and shook her head. "We're going to play 'Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.'"

Anna looked skeptical.

"I'm serious," Sister Jensen said. "Let's start with your head."

Anna put her hands on her head and saw her shirt pull

up, baring her skin. "Oops," she gasped, tugging it back down.

Sister Jensen put Anna's hands back up. "That's part of the game. You see how much your shirt lifts up? Now try shoulders," Sister Jensen said.

When Anna dropped her hands to her shoulders she noticed even more showing inside the arm-holes. She also saw the shirt straining at the buttons.

"Now bend over and touch your knees and toes," Sister Jensen advised.

Between her shirt and skirt was a two-inch gap. "Wow," Anna said.

"I know," Sister Jensen said. "Now, go try on the next outfit."

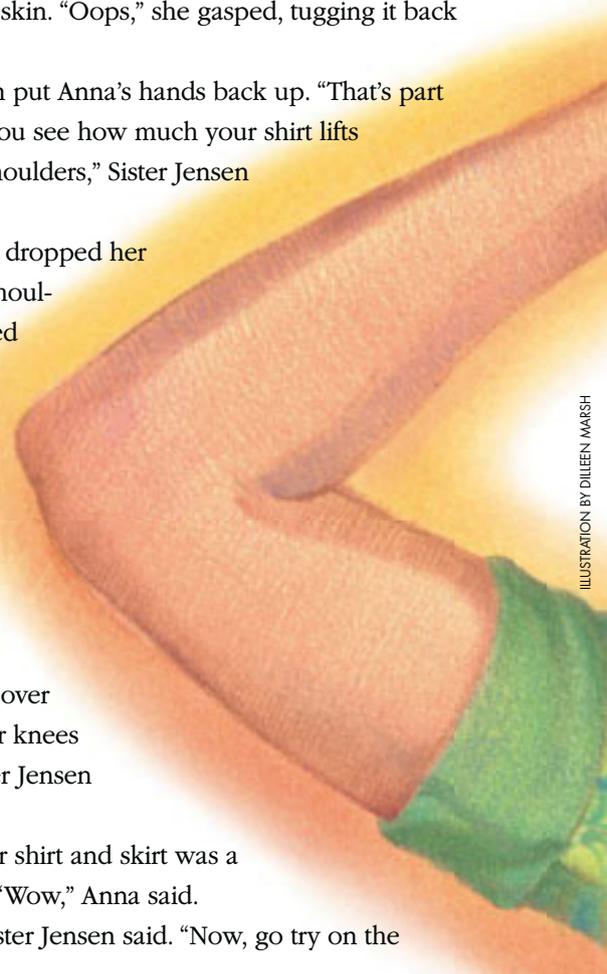


ILLUSTRATION BY DILLEN MARSH

After repeating the game twice more, Anna's mood dimmed. None of her outfits had completely passed the "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" test.

"Don't worry," Sister Jensen said. "There's hope. You just have to know how to put things together." For the next hour Sister Jensen showed Anna how to layer different clothes to make them modest and stylish. She then challenged Anna to look through her closet and see if any changes needed to be made.

Later that night Anna looked at the mess on her bed. It had been overwhelming trying everything on to see what was modest or immodest. With a sigh she picked up one particular pile and carried it to her mom.

"Mom, I was wondering if I could donate these clothes."

"Sure, honey. Why?" her mom replied.

Anna smiled. "Have you ever played 'Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes'?" **NE**

* Names have been changed.

WHY WE DRESS MODESTLY

Dressing modestly is important to Heavenly Father. Here's an excerpt from *For the Strength of Youth* regarding modesty:

"Your body is God's sacred creation. Respect it as a gift from God, and do not defile it in any way. Through your dress and appearance, you can show the Lord that you know how precious your body is. You can show that you are a



disciple of Jesus Christ. . . .

. . . Your dress and grooming send messages about you to others and influence the way you and others act. When you are well groomed and modestly dressed, you invite the companionship of the Spirit and can exercise a good influence on those around you" ([2001], 15).

A children's song taught one young woman what it means to dress modestly.

One priesthood quorum learned a lot about service, friendship, and the worth of a soul.

Everyone knew the house—the one on the corner across from the school, the one you avoided, the one you feared. Any careless child straying from the pavement in front of that house would get a rough and sudden rebuke from the old man who lived there: “Get off of my lawn!”

Some of the young men in the Hillcrest First Ward, Logan Utah East Stake, knew that house well. It belonged to Brother Jacobsen, a less-active member of the ward. After they moved on from elementary school, the boys no longer had to pass by his house every day. But they weren’t done with that house yet.

A Challenge Answered

One day the deacons quorum adviser for these boys challenged the quorum president to select a service project—one that would require a long-term commitment from the quorum.



David Shirk

“We had prayed and fasted about it as a presidency,” says David Shirk, 18, who was deacons quorum president at the time. “One afternoon as we drove by that certain house, I just kind of had that thought pop into



Michael Althouse

my head about who we could serve. And I thought, ‘It would be cool if we could mow a lawn or something.’”

As David and his father drove by the same area later, the thought struck David again, and he told his father about it. “My dad said, ‘That was the Spirit working,’” says David. “And he said, ‘Well, how about Brother Jacobsen here?’ And he pointed to the house.”

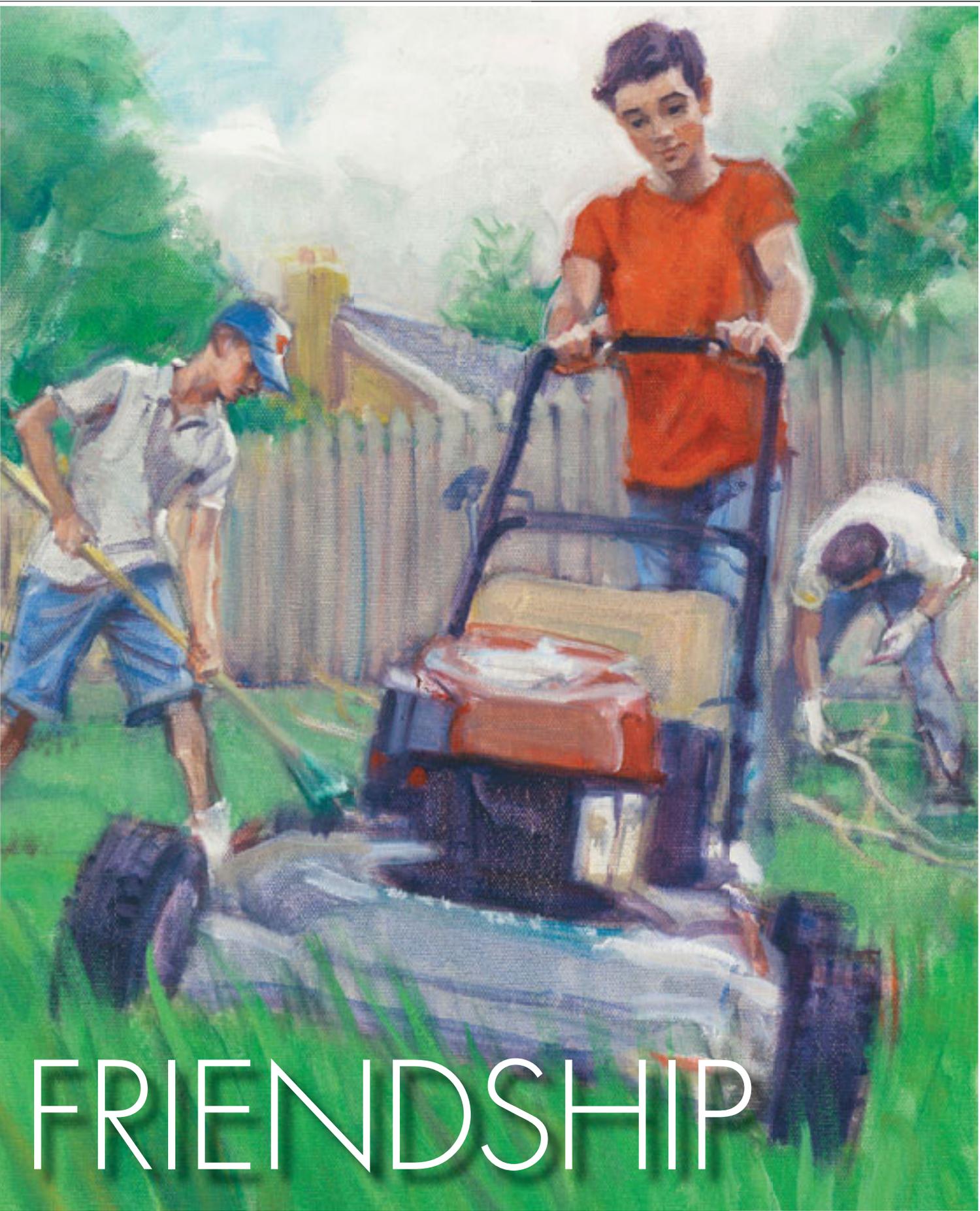
Brother Jacobsen had recently had some health problems, so the boys in the quorum decided to help him by mowing his lawn. But asking him wasn’t easy.

Scared but Serving

“We were pretty scared,” says Michael Althouse, now 18, one of the quorum members. “We had walked past his house every day on the way to school since we were young. The only time we saw him was when he was telling us to stay off his lawn. We never saw him other than in that context, yelling at us. So we were always scared to touch his lawn, and now we were going to be asking to mow it!”

When his wife answered the door, the boys felt some relief, but then they heard a gruff voice call from within, “Who’s at the door?” The fear returned. Though Brother Jacobsen was hesitant, his wife was willing to let them mow the lawn, so they made an appointment.

FROM FEAR TO



FRIENDSHIP

After becoming friends with Brother Jacobsen by serving him, the boys saw wonderful things start to happen in his life. When he died, the boys were asked to be pallbearers at his funeral, saying goodbye to their friend with one final act of service.



Jacob Harrison

During the first few visits that summer, the boys still felt a little tension, but they soon felt more and more comfortable. Of course, going home laden with Sister Jacobsen's homemade brownies or cookies didn't hurt. After a time even Brother Jacobsen began warming to them, coming out to talk to them about his experiences in World War II or about his favorite hobby: remote-controlled model airplanes.

Eventually Brother Jacobsen asked the boys to do various other chores, all the while telling them stories from his life or talking about his interests. After the next summer the appointments became less regular, though they continued to visit and help where needed. They felt that they had made a friend rather than just performing a service project.

Big Changes

Then Sister Jacobsen died. She had been diagnosed with cancer not long before, and Brother Jacobsen had started worrying that he wouldn't see her again, because they had never been sealed in the temple. He had just recently begun to reach out to his home teachers and other members of the ward, and he later began attending church for the first time since he was a boy.

Soon after Sister Jacobsen died, Brother Jacobsen was placed in an assisted living center, but he still attended the same ward, and the young men of the Aaronic

Priesthood still played their part in helping him where they could.

"When he was at church, we always tried to talk to him," says Jacob Harrison, 18. "He would recognize us at church and say hello to us. We were asked by the bishop to go to the center and teach him out of *Preach My Gospel* every Sunday. Two of us would go every week."

On these visits the boys also learned some new things about Brother Jacobsen. "They had an organ down there at the center," says Kody Klaassen, 17, "so he would play the organ for us every time. He had once owned a music shop, so he did that kind of stuff."

"When he was young, he used to write and record a lot of music," says Jared Larsen, 17. "He could play any instrument. It was pretty cool. I didn't know that about him until later on when we'd go down to the center and he'd play for us."

Brother Jacobsen even started serving others by sharing his musical talent at other rest homes for a couple of hours a week. But most importantly, he rekindled his testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ, received the Melchizedek Priesthood, and eventually went to the temple to receive sacred ordinances and be sealed to his wife for eternity.

Lessons of Service and Love

As the young men prepare for missions and a lifetime of priesthood service, they know that small things, such as overcoming fear or performing



Kody Klaassen



Jared Larsen

simple service, can lead to something great. Their experiences have also taught them a number of other important lessons.

David says he now has a better understanding of the priesthood. “It’s God’s power. We have to use it righteously. And when we hold the right priesthood keys, He has entitled us to revelation for our responsibilities.

I also realized the importance of service and sustaining our priesthood leaders. Without the quorum’s support, this would never have succeeded.”

Through Brother Jacobsen, Michael saw the power of the Atonement. “You could tell that he was making an effort to make a change. And then when we started seeing him at church, there really was a big change. He seemed to have a different light or countenance about him. I think that was when I first started to understand the power and effect of the Atonement and the way it can change a life.”

“I gained a greater testimony of service and how much it can affect somebody,” says Kody. “It was really neat to see how he opened up to us through service. I don’t think any of us really knew the effect that it had on him. When I was mowing his lawn, I never thought he would be sealed to his wife. It was cool to see him gradually open up through our just doing service and the power the Spirit had then.”

“We could see that week after week we were having an effect,” says Jacob. “Our leaders kept saying, ‘When you serve your fellowmen, you serve God’ [see Mosiah 2:17]. This showed me what service can do, because Brother Jacobsen started becoming my friend.”

Jared agrees. “Becoming friends with a man you first know as the scary guy that wants you to get off his lawn and yells at you to leave—you know, there’s always a friend in someone. It just takes time to become that friend.”

Less than a year after fulfilling his goal of being sealed to his wife, Brother Jacobsen died. The boys were asked to be pallbearers at his funeral, saying goodbye to their friend with one final act of service. **NE**



I'LL GO WHERE YOU WANT ME TO GO

BY JONATHAN H. WESTOVER

Since I was a little boy, a mission was something I looked forward to. My dad served a full-time mission in Brazil, and as I hit my teenage years, I had the examples of two older brothers who faithfully served the Lord on two-year missions.

Even during those late teenage years, when doubt filled my mind and I felt like I had to question everything

I had always taken for granted, I still looked forward to serving a mission.

I figured I would at least have the opportunity to help some people, possibly learn another language, and develop some important life skills.

Then one Sunday morning in sacrament meeting, I was deeply touched as I sang the following words:

*Perhaps today there are loving words
Which Jesus would have me speak;
There may be now in the paths of sin
Some wand'rer whom I should seek.
("I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go,"
Hymns, no. 270)*

In that instant, the Spirit spoke deep to my heart, and I knew the real reason I was needed in the mission field.

Throughout my mission and after coming home, I have always remembered the words of that hymn:

*So trusting my all to thy tender care,
And knowing thou lovest me,
I'll do thy will with a heart sincere:
I'll be what you want me to be.*

I've learned that it is not enough to just do good things, but we must do them for the right reasons. And what blessings that brings! **NE**

ONE LITTLE WORD

BY JACE CLARK

It was a new school, but it was the middle of the school year. I had to say goodbye to all of my friends at my old school and start making new ones. I was grateful a girl named Chynna decided to be my friend. I felt really comfortable around her even though she isn't LDS. But I didn't feel comfortable when she used the Lord's name in vain. I knew I had to say something, but I didn't want to get embarrassed.

One day my mom asked me about her. I felt that if I had my mom and the Lord's support, I could do something about my situation. I talked to Chynna on the phone and told her about our faith. She respected what I shared and said she wouldn't say the Lord's name any more. I am glad she gave up using that word instead of our friendship. I am glad I asked her to stop saying it. Now she is asking me a lot of questions about our Church and has even come to Mutual with me. **NE**

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

BY JODI ANDERSON

I have been a member of this wonderful Church for all of my life, but I took it for granted for the first 14 years.

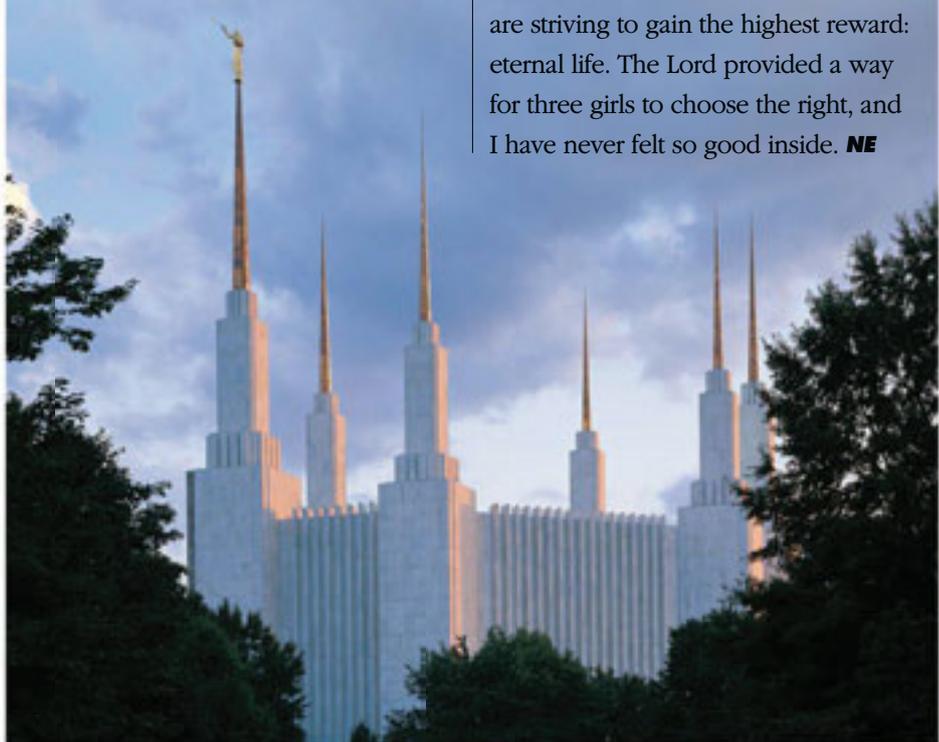
The summer of my freshman year of high school I realized I wasn't very happy. I kept wondering what was wrong with me. There was something missing, and I couldn't pinpoint what it was. Then I went to a youth conference, and it changed my life. The feelings of emptiness were finally gone. I was truly happy for the first time that I could remember. I went home and read the Book of Mormon, started praying intently, and cleaned up my life. I have seen a huge change, inside and out. But even though I had a strong testimony going into high school, I still struggled with the different views and activities of my friends.

In the summer before my junior year I got news of an LDS 11th-grader



moving into our area. I was ecstatic. She was an answer to prayer. It's amazing how much we have in common and how well we get along. Together with another senior, we made up the three LDS girls at my high school. With three boys, that made six Latter-day Saints among 950 students. While the school year was stressful for all of us, we were always there to support each other. We stuck together through bad times and great times.

We went together one night to the Washington D.C. Temple Visitors' Center. That night Katie, Paige, and I took a long walk around the temple. There was such a feeling of peace and love. There, the three of us made a pact with one another to work towards temple marriages and to settle for nothing less. We see the eternal perspective on choosing the right day-by-day. We are striving to gain the highest reward: eternal life. The Lord provided a way for three girls to choose the right, and I have never felt so good inside. **NE**



It All Adds Up

To Sam Dittmer, math is more than homework or a series of puzzles, it is a rewarding and exciting part of his life. With great enthusiasm and no small amount of dedication, this young man has distinguished himself as a talented mathematician who sees his mathematical pursuits as way of taking on chaos and finding within it sense and order.

How did you first get interested in math? It was mostly just that I really liked it. I had an older brother who would give me fun problems to work on and advice on my high school math contests. Eventually I realized that there was a wealth of problems that I wanted to solve, not to win contests, but because they were interesting on their own merits.

What does it mean to be good at math? Often people assume it means that you multiply numbers really fast. They think you're some kind of super computer. Even though it is fun to play with that stuff, math, in its most abstract sense, is about pursuing truth. It involves a lot more creativity than I think people would realize.

Do you feel that practicing math has helped strengthen your testimony? Yes, specifically in regard to how I look at problems or questions.

To be able to work with one problem for hours or days, often making no visible progress for some time before a breakthrough, requires a sort of patient optimism which parallels how we seek spiritual growth. Rather than seeking for signs and wonders before we are willing to believe, we must first exercise faith, and know that signs follow those that believe. Instead of expecting all our prayers to be answered without us taking more thought than to ask, we must show patience and diligence as we strive to learn the will of the Lord. I do feel that math has given me a deeper understanding of that process.

Math can be pretty rigorous, especially when answers are slow in coming. How have you developed the discipline to keep at it? With math I never had too much of a problem being self-disciplined. But in my first semester of college I discovered a lot about being lazy in other areas. Being on my own was definitely an adjustment. In the end, self-discipline was something that just had to be done, a part of growing up. I just had to have clear in my mind what I wanted to do



Name: Sam Dittmer

Age: 19

Location: Zionsville, Indiana

Major accomplishments: First place in the individual round of the American Regions Math League competition. Sam also became Indiana's first Mr. Math in 2008. More recently, Sam's college math team participated in the six-hour-long William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, coming in 23rd out of 405 teams.

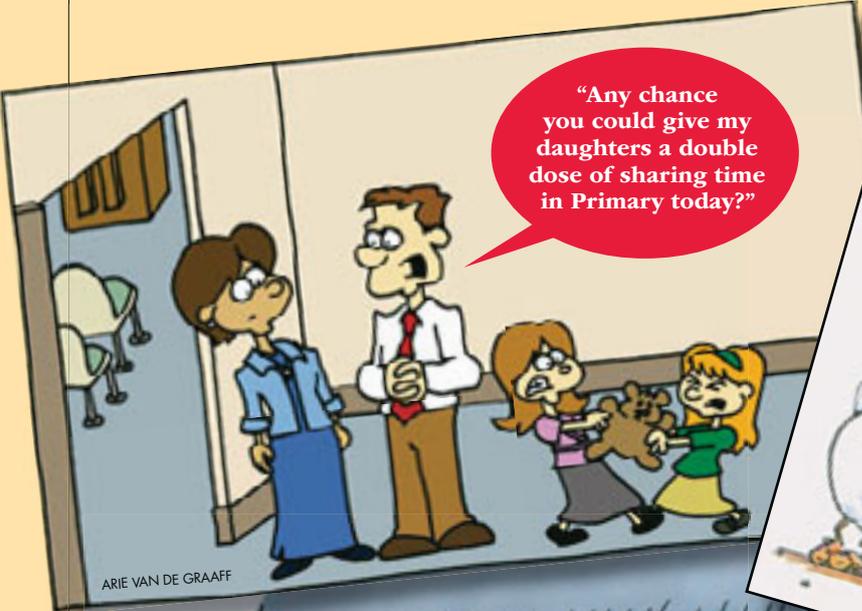
and what kind of schedule I wanted to be on.

What is a valuable principle that you have learned from math? Hard work. One of the nice things about having a talent that you really enjoy is it helps you understand what it means to work hard. And there is the added fun of actually liking to do it.

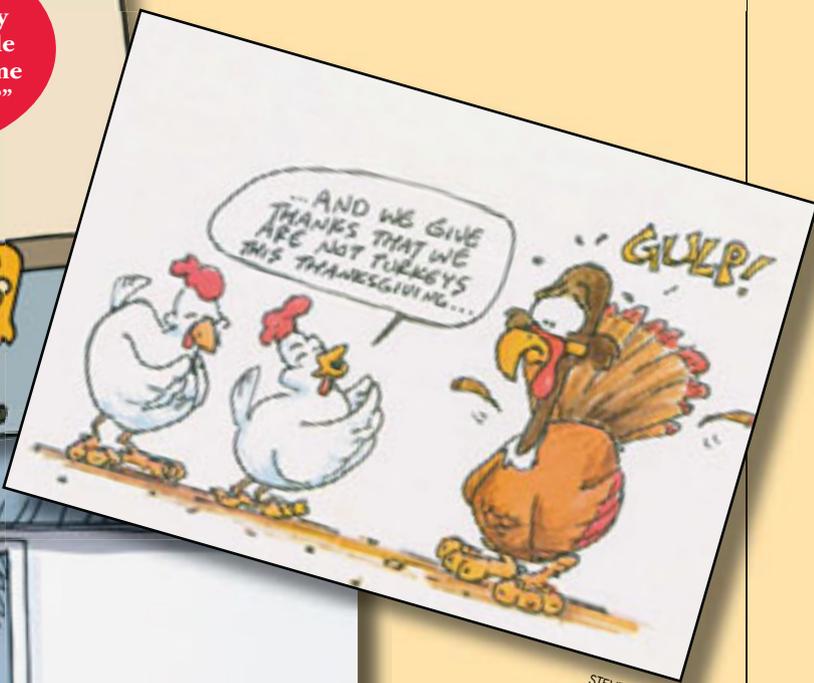
Sam will soon be taking a break from math classes and will be learning even more about hard work as he serves in the Albania Tirana Mission.

—As told to Julia Woodbury

THE EXTRA SMILE



ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF



STEVE WELLER



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



RANDY GLASBERGEN



NEmore

See a different Extra Smile online every week at newera.lds.org.

EDUCATION ISSUE

I just wanted to say what a fantastic job on the April 2009 edition of the *New Era*. I read the whole magazine back to front. The stories and helpful articles have helped me as I have started applying them to my life as I attend high school here in New Zealand. I especially liked the "5 Easy Ways to Make School Hard and 5 Hard Ways to Make School Easy" by Brad Wilcox. The whole issue made a great impact on my education and applying many things said in this edition has strengthened my testimony.

I study French at school, and I asked my father if he could find a French Book of Mormon for me. I really believe that it helps me learn French. I have to ask a lot of questions in my classes, but by asking, I learn what I need to now, and it definitely helps me pass the exams. Also asking for help from Heavenly Father is a good idea. I always separated secular learning from spiritual learning, and as I have worked to put the two together I realize it works so much better. The Lord truly does know everything, and with faith, diligence, obedience, and putting the Lord first, everything else will fall into place.

Suli F., New Zealand

HELP WITH PROBLEMS

I have come across a lot of problems, but reading the *New Era* stories and thinking about what they mean helps me overcome them. It helps me realize my worth and helps me come closer to understanding the scriptures which are useful to us.

Richeward H., Samoa

The Lord truly does know everything, and with faith, diligence, obedience, and putting the Lord first, everything else will fall into place.

MICHAELA AND THE MARSHMALLOWS

I really enjoyed the article "Michaela and the Marshmallows" (May 2009). I had a big argument with one of my closest friends, and I felt alone for weeks. When I sat down and read the article and this sentence: "Remember that no matter what you are going through, there will always be someone there for you," my whole mind cleared up. Maybe nothing would change, but I knew things would get better.

Katherine S., Utah

READING THE BOOK OF MORMON

When I was eleven I set a goal to read the Book of Mormon all the way through. I set out the date of when I finished and how many pages I would read a day. Although some days I didn't focus on what I was reading as much as when I was going to finish, I completed my goal and read the entire Book of Mormon. I loved the feeling I felt when I read it. I read the Book of Mormon again and again without missing a single day. Now I am about to enter the Mia Maids and have read the Book of Mormon five times and am reading it again. I know because I read each day that my testimony has grown so much from that. I know that from reading each day we will be blessed so much for taking a few minutes each day and reading. I know that the Book of Mormon is true and that Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father live and love each one of us.

Rachel R.

EDIFIED IN A CRISIS

I always look forward to reading the *New Era*. We even keep several copies of the *New Era* in our family's food storage so we can be edified even in a crisis.

Aaron H., New Jersey

We love hearing from you. Write to us by going online to newera.lds.org and clicking Submit Your Material.

Or you can e-mail us at newera@ldschurch.org or write to New Era, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024.

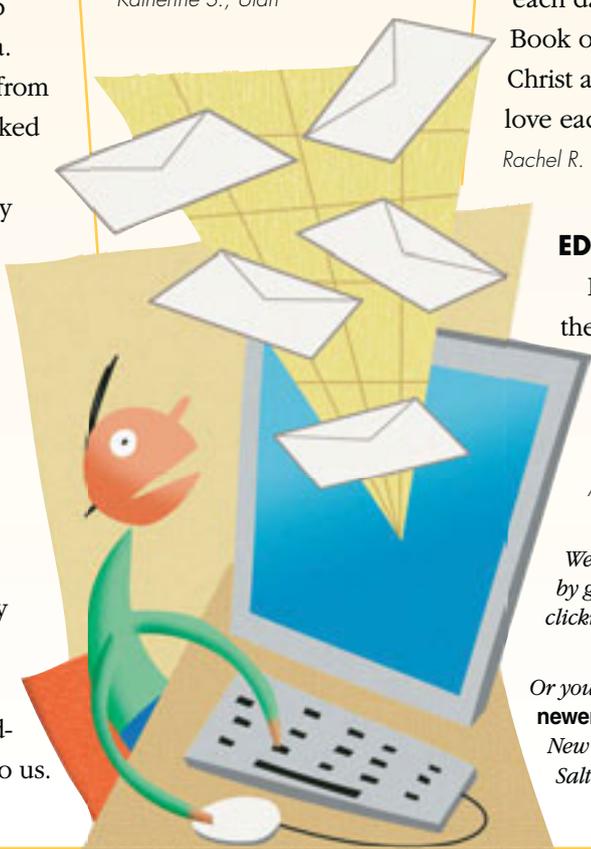


ILLUSTRATION BY MARK SHAWER



THE JOY OF MUSIC

BY BARRETT BURGIN

The lyrical power of flowing tunes,
Pure brilliance in sound and time,
Contains harmony, melody, texture and art,
Dynamics and rhythm and rhyme.

The black ink spotted on the page, dotted notes
Can amount to so much more;
When you organize, plan, produce, and create
A magnificent, well-written score.

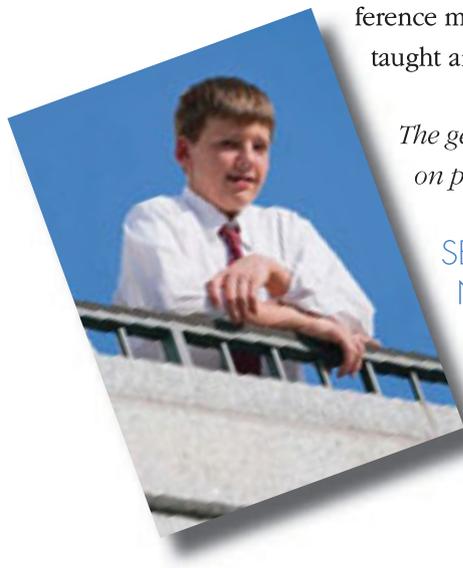
The evoking of feelings depends on the form;
Be it romance or anger or fun.
There are all different genres of music on earth,
There is something for everyone.

But definitely the best music by far
Would most certainly have to be
The music of heaven, the singing of saints,
The songs of God's love for you and me.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Because general conference offers such great spiritual guidance, we are happy to provide a special section to encourage youth of the Church to study and apply the teachings from conference more completely in their lives. As President Thomas S. Monson said in his closing remarks: “We have been richly taught and spiritually edified as we have listened to the messages which have been presented and the testimonies which have been borne. . . . As you read and study [the conference messages], you will be additionally taught and inspired.”



The general conference section is found on pages 2–17.

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