

# Liahona



**How to  
Raise Resilient  
Children, p. 10**

**When Is the Right Time  
to Marry? p. 38**

**Good Characters  
Don't Wear Masks, p. 48**

**Easter Activity:  
Remember Jesus Christ, p. 68**



*"We are not obedient because we are blind, we are obedient because we can see."*

President Boyd K. Packer,  
President of the Quorum  
of the Twelve Apostles,  
"Agency and Control,"  
*Ensign*, May 1983, 66.

See also "You Are Free"  
on page 16.



MESSAGES

- 4 **First Presidency Message: Peace, Be Still**  
By President Thomas S. Monson
- 7 **Visiting Teaching Message: Activation**

FEATURE ARTICLES

- 10 **Raising Resilient Children**  
By Lyle J. Burrup  
*Children need resilience to overcome problems. Here are some ways parents can help children develop this important characteristic.*
- 16 **You Are Free**  
By Elder D. Todd Christofferson  
*Our choice in this life is to which authority we will yield our obedience: God's or Satan's.*
- 20 **Living the Principles of Self-Reliance**  
By Larry Hiller and Kathryn H. Olson  
*Self-reliance is crucial not only in times of turmoil but also in times of peace.*

- 22 **The Power of the Word of God**  
By Elder Michael John U. Teh  
*Drinking daily from the scriptures will help us build spiritual strength and unmask the deceptions of the devil.*

- 26 **The Blessings of Tithing**  
*Five members share the testimony they've gained from paying tithing.*

- 30 **Creating Christ-Centered Easter Traditions**  
By Diane L. Mangum  
*The Atonement is at the core of Easter; righteous traditions will help us focus on this gift from the Savior.*

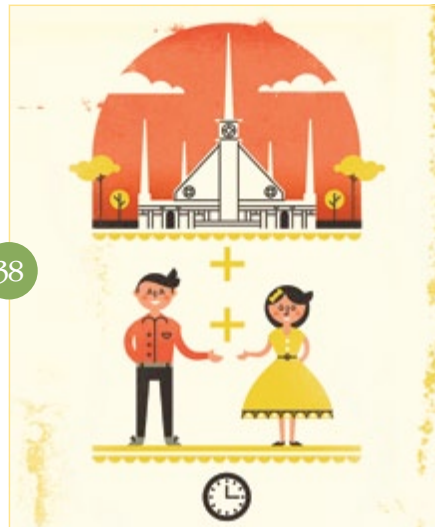
DEPARTMENTS

- 8 **October Conference Notebook**
- 33 **Teaching For the Strength of Youth: The Importance of Family**
- 34 **Latter-day Saint Voices**
- 74 **News of the Church**
- 80 **Until We Meet Again: The Minefield Rescue**  
By Russell Westergard

ON THE COVER

Front: Photo illustration by Cody Bell.  
Back: Photo illustration by Craig Dimond.  
Inside front cover: Photograph of Heceta Head Lighthouse in Oregon, USA, by Royce Bair © Getty Images.

## YOUNG ADULTS



38

### 38 The Right Time to Marry

By Alissa Strong

*When it's the right person and the right place, it's the right time.*



*See if you can find the Liahona hidden in this issue. Hint: Don't rock the boat.*



48

## YOUTH

### 42 To the Point

### 44 What Happens After We Die?

*Do you have questions about the spirit world or resurrection? Here are some answers.*

### 48 Don't Wear Masks

By Elder Quentin L. Cook

*Righteous people need not wear masks to hide their identity.*

### 51 My Brother Believed in Me

By David Dickson

*If Dan had made fun of me, he would have ensured my singing silence, perhaps for a lifetime.*

### 52 For the Strength of Youth: I Have a Testimony of the Family

By Ann M. Dibb

### 54 Hidden Dangers

By Joshua J. Perkey

*The commandments don't restrict our agency—they provide our best chance for happiness and success.*

### 57 From the Mission Field: Touched by a Testimony

By Michael Harken

## CHILDREN



70

### 58 On the Trail: Where the Book of Mormon Was Published

By Jan Pinborough

### 60 Ric's New Book

By Laura Byrd

*What could Ric do to help Sister Bird, whose hands hurt when she tried to hold the scriptures?*

### 62 Megan's Lambs

By Julina K. Mills

*Megan finds a creative way to care for her lambs and develop a friendship.*

### 64 Special Witness: Why is Jesus Christ so important to us?

By Elder Dallin H. Oaks

### 65 Because He Lives

By Marivic Pasigay and Marissa Widdison

*Watoy has a chance to share his testimony of Jesus Christ with his teacher at school.*

### 66 Bringing Primary Home: Jesus Christ Is Our Savior

### 68 Picturing Easter

*Count down to Easter using this puzzle.*

### 70 For Young Children

### 81 Prophet Portrait: John Taylor

**The First Presidency:** Thomas S. Monson,  
Henry B. Eyring, Dieter F. Uchtdorf

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Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry, Russell M. Nelson,  
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# Family Home Evening Ideas

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



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CODY BELL © IRI

**"The Power of the Word of God,"**

page 22: Consider reading with your family "The Sacredness of the Word," a section in the article, and discuss how the scriptures can be our iron rod. Invite family members to share an experience when they felt the power of the scriptures. Or, for younger children, share an inspirational scripture story. Consider sharing Elder Teh's challenge to study the scriptures daily.

**"What Happens after We Die?"** page 44:

Consider discussing the questions listed in the article and the blessings that come from knowing that death is not the end of our

existence. You may wish to ask how this knowledge makes each of our decisions important. Conclude by bearing your testimony of the plan of salvation.

**"Megan's Lambs,"** page 62: Read the

story of Megan and her lambs and discuss why Megan was so happy at the end. You may want to also read Mosiah 2:17–18 and talk about the blessings we receive from service. Consider discussing ways family members can serve each other and others. You could end by singing a song about service, such as "A Happy Helper" (*Children's Songbook*, 197).

## IN YOUR LANGUAGE

The *Liahona* and other Church materials are available in many languages at [languages.lds.org](http://languages.lds.org).

## TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE

*Numbers represent the first page of the article.*

**Activation**, 7, 80

**Agency**, 16

**Atonement**, 16, 30

**Blessings**, 26, 35

**Book of Mormon**, 22, 58

**Death**, 44

**Easter**, 30, 68, 70, 73

**Family**, 9, 10, 33, 34, 38,  
51, 52

**Friendship**, 62

**General conference**, 8

**Inspiration**, 36

**Integrity**, 48

**Jesus Christ**, 16, 64, 65,  
66, 68, 70, 73

**Joy**, 8

**Kindness**, 60

**Marriage**, 38

**Media**, 48

**Missionary work**, 34, 57

**Obedience**, 16, 36, 54

**Parenting**, 10

**Peace**, 4

**Pornography**, 48

**Resilience**, 10

**Resurrection**, 30, 44

**Scripture study**, 22

**Self-reliance**, 20

**Service**, 36, 62

**Spirit world**, 44

**Talents**, 51

**Taylor, John**, 81

**Teaching**, 33

**Testimony**, 65

**Tithing**, 26, 35, 37



By President  
Thomas S. Monson

# Peace, BE STILL

One day a few years ago, after taking care of matters at the office, I felt a strong impression to visit an aged widow who was a patient at a senior care center in Salt Lake City. I drove there directly.

When I went to her room, I found it empty. I asked an attendant concerning her whereabouts and was directed to a lounge area. There I found this sweet widow visiting with her sister and another friend. We had a pleasant conversation together.

As we were talking, a man came to the door of the room to obtain a can of soda from the vending machine. He glanced at me and said, “Why, you are Tom Monson.”

“Yes,” I replied. “And you look like a Hemingway.”

He acknowledged that he was Stephen Hemingway, the son of Alfred Eugene Hemingway, who had served as my counselor when I was a bishop many years ago and whom I called Gene. Stephen told me that his father was there in the same facility and was near death. Gene had been calling my name, and the family had wanted to contact me but had been unable to find a telephone number for me.

I excused myself immediately and went with Stephen up to the room of my former counselor, where others of his children were also gathered, his wife having passed away some years previous. The family members regarded my meeting Stephen in the lounge area as a response by our Heavenly Father to their great desire that I would see their father before he died and answer his call. I also felt that this was the case, for if Stephen had not entered the room in which I was visiting at precisely the time he did, I would not have known that Gene was even in that facility.

We gave a blessing to him. A spirit of peace prevailed. We had a lovely visit, after which I left.

The following morning a phone call revealed that Gene Hemingway had passed away—just 20 minutes after he had received the blessing from his son and me.

I expressed a silent prayer of thanks to Heavenly Father for His guiding influence, which had prompted my visit to the care center and led me to my dear friend Alfred Eugene Hemingway.

I like to think that Gene Hemingway’s thoughts that evening—as we basked in the Spirit’s glow, participated in humble prayer, and pronounced a priesthood blessing—echoed



the words mentioned in the hymn “Master, the Tempest Is Raging”:

*Linger, O blessed Redeemer!  
Leave me alone no more,  
And with joy I shall make the blest harbor  
And rest on the blissful shore.*

I still love that hymn and testify as to the comfort it offers:

*Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea  
Or demons or men or whatever it be,  
No waters can swallow the ship where lies  
The Master of ocean and earth and skies.  
They all shall sweetly obey thy will:  
Peace, be still.<sup>1</sup>*

Through tears and trials, through fears and sorrows, through the heartache and loneliness of losing loved ones, there is assurance that life is everlasting. Our Lord and Savior is the living witness that such is so.<sup>2</sup> His words in holy writ are sufficient: “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). I testify to this truth. ■

#### NOTES

1. “Master, the Tempest Is Raging,” *Hymns*, no. 105.
2. See Richard L. Evans, “So Let Us Live to Live Forever,” *New Era*, July 1971, 18.

#### TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

**T**his message can comfort those who have lost a loved one to death or those who are struggling with a trial. In addition to President Monson’s message, consider sharing one of the following scriptures, based on the needs of those you teach: Job 19:25–26; 1 Corinthians 15:19–22; Mosiah 24:13–15; Doctrine and Covenants 122:7–9. If prompted, you could testify of the peace the Savior has given you in your trials.

## Please Heal My Heart

By Kelsey LeDoux

**O**n the anniversary of my brother's death, I reflected on my time since he died. I remembered not only the extreme pain I felt but also the blessings God gave to me.

I never understood how people could say that the death of a loved one could bring blessings. I couldn't understand how I could possibly have joy and gratitude for something that hurt me so deeply. There was one night, however, that changed my perspective entirely.

I woke up in the middle of the night with the heaviest heart I'd ever had. The pain was suffocating me. I fell to my knees and sobbed a prayer to my Heavenly Father. All my life I had been taught about the Atonement and Jesus Christ's miraculous healing power. Now my faith was being tested. Did I really believe? I asked my

Father in Heaven to please heal my heart. The pain was too much for me to deal with alone. Then a feeling of peace, comfort, and love swept over my entire body. I felt as though God had wrapped His arms around me and was protecting me from the intense pain I had felt. I still missed my brother, but I was able to see with different eyes. There was so much for me to learn from this experience. I know the Lord's love and peace are available. We need only to partake.

*Kelsey LeDoux lives in Minnesota, USA.*



## Choose to Be Still

**P**resident Monson says that when we are still and reverent, we can feel peace and gain a stronger testimony of our Heavenly Father. And the Holy Ghost can better prompt us of ways we can help others.

Which of the children below are being still?



Write down or discuss with your parents one way you can be still. Then take time this week to try it. After you do, you could write in your journal about the feelings and promptings you had.



## VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

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

# Activation

Our prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, has encouraged us to “reach out to rescue those who need our help and lift them to the higher road and the better way. . . . It is the Lord’s work, and when we are on the Lord’s errand, . . . we are entitled to the Lord’s help.”<sup>1</sup>

Many years ago LaVene Call and her visiting teaching companion visited a less-active sister. They knocked on the door and found a young mother in her bathrobe. She looked ill, but they soon realized her problem was alcohol. The visiting teachers sat and talked with the struggling young mother.

After they left, they said, “She is a child of God. We have a responsibility to help her.” So they visited often. Each time, they could see and feel a change for good. They asked the sister to attend Relief Society. Though reluctant, she eventually attended regularly. After encouragement, she and her husband and daughter attended church. The husband felt the Holy Ghost. He said, “I’m going to do what the bishop suggests.” Now they are active in the Church and have been sealed in the temple.<sup>2</sup>



### From the Scriptures

3 Nephi 18:32; Doctrine and Covenants 84:106; 138:56

#### NOTES

1. Thomas S. Monson, “The Sacred Call of Service,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2005, 55, 56.
2. Letter to the Relief Society general presidency from the daughter of LaVene Call.
3. Brigham Young, in *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 107.
4. Eliza R. Snow, in *Daughters in My Kingdom*, 83.

## Faith, Family, Relief



### From Our History

Helping those who have gone astray come back to the gospel of Jesus Christ has always been part of being a Latter-day Saint and a member of Relief Society. President Brigham Young (1801–77) said, “Let us have compassion upon each other, . . . and let those who can see guide the blind until they can see the way for themselves.”<sup>3</sup>

Eliza R. Snow, second Relief Society general president, gratefully acknowledged the efforts of sisters in Ogden, Utah, USA, to strengthen one another. “I am well aware that a great deal is donated [in terms of service] that never reaches the [record] books,” she said. But recognizing that a heavenly record is kept of the sisters’ work as they reach out to those whose hearts have grown cold, she said: “President Joseph Smith said this society was organized to save souls. . . . Another book is kept of your faith, your kindness, your good works, and words. . . . Nothing is lost.”<sup>4</sup>

### What Can I Do?

1. Am I confident asking a less-active sister to attend a Relief Society meeting with me?
2. Do the sisters I watch over feel comfortable asking me questions about the gospel?

# OCTOBER CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

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

*As you review the October 2012 general conference, you can use these pages (and Conference Notebooks in future issues) to help you study and apply the recent teachings of the living prophets and apostles and other Church leaders.*

## STORIES FROM CONFERENCE

### Enjoy the Moment

**M**y wife, Harriet, and I love riding our bicycles. It is wonderful to get out and enjoy the beauties of nature. We have certain routes we like to bike, but we don't pay too much attention to how far we go or how fast we travel in comparison with other riders.

However, occasionally I think we should be a bit more competitive. I even think we could get a better time or ride at a higher speed if only we pushed ourselves a little more. And then sometimes I even make the big mistake of mentioning this idea to my wonderful wife.

Her typical reaction to my suggestions of this nature is always very kind, very clear, and very direct. She smiles and says, “Dieter, it's not a race; it's a journey. Enjoy the moment.”

How right she is!

Sometimes in life we become so focused on the finish line that we fail to find joy in the journey. I don't

go cycling with my wife because I'm excited about finishing. I go because the experience of being with her is sweet and enjoyable.

Doesn't it seem foolish to spoil sweet and joyful experiences because we are constantly anticipating the moment when they will end?

Do we listen to beautiful music waiting for the final note to fade before we allow ourselves to truly enjoy it? No. We listen and connect to the variations of melody, rhythm, and harmony throughout the composition.

Do we say our prayers with only the “amen” or the end in mind? Of course not. We pray to be close to our Heavenly Father, to receive His Spirit and feel His love.

We shouldn't wait to be happy until we reach some future point, only to discover that happiness was already available—all the time! Life is not meant to be appreciated only in retrospect. “This is the day which the Lord

hath made . . .,” the Psalmist wrote. “Rejoice and be glad in it.” [Psalm 118:24.]

*President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Of Regrets and Resolutions,” Liahona and Ensign, Nov. 2012, 23–24.*

#### Questions to Ponder

- How can you find joy in the journey of your life?
- How can you bring joy into the lives of those around you?
- What is the relationship between gratitude and joy?

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

Additional resources on this topic: *True to the Faith* (2004), “Atonement of Jesus Christ,” 14–21; “Gratitude,” “Happiness,” and “Repentance” in Gospel Topics on LDS.org; Richard G. Scott, “Finding Joy in Life,” *Ensign*, May 1996, 24–26.

To read, watch, or listen to general conference addresses, visit [conference.lds.org](http://conference.lds.org).

## Drawing Parallels: Marriage and Family



Some of the most important topics are addressed by more than one general conference speaker. Here is what four speakers said about marriage and family. Try looking for other parallels as you study conference talks.

- “The joining together of a man and a woman to be legally and lawfully wed not only is preparation for future generations to inherit the earth, but it also brings the greatest joy and satisfaction that can be found in this mortal experience.”<sup>1</sup> —Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
- “Children need the emotional and personal strength that come from being raised by two parents who are united in their marriage and their goals.”<sup>2</sup> —Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- “The foundation of kindness and civility begins in our homes. It is not surprising that our public discourse has declined in equal measure with the breakdown of the family.”<sup>3</sup> —Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
- “We have much to do to strengthen marriage in societies that increasingly trivialize its importance and purpose.”<sup>4</sup> —Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

### NOTES

1. L. Tom Perry, “Becoming Goodly Parents,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 27.
2. Dallin H. Oaks, “Protect the Children,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 45.
3. Quentin L. Cook, “Can Ye Feel So Now?” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 7.
4. D. Todd Christofferson, “Brethren, We Have Work to Do,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 49.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

1. “A Christian has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. . . .
2. “A Christian believes that through the grace of God . . . we can repent, forgive others, keep the commandments, and inherit eternal life.
3. “The word *Christian* denotes taking upon us the name of Christ. We do this by being baptized and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.
4. “A Christian knows that . . . God’s prophets have always testified of Jesus Christ.”

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Being a More Christian Christian,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 90.

## Prophetic Promise

“The Savior can wipe away our tears of regret and remove the burden of our sins. His Atonement allows us to leave the past behind and move forward with clean hands, a pure heart, and a determination to do better and especially to become better.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Of Regrets and Resolutions,” *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 24.

# RAISING Resilient Children



*How well children  
respond to setbacks  
depends largely on  
how well their parents  
helped them develop  
the attitudes and the  
skills of resilience.*

**By Lyle J. Burrup**  
LDS Family Services

Life is full of trials. The Lord says that He has chosen us “in the furnace of affliction” (Isaiah 48:10), that we will be “tried, even as Abraham” (D&C 101:4), and that adversity will “give [us] experience, and shall be for [our] good” (D&C 122:7). This sounds quite daunting. We may wonder, can we be happy and at peace in the midst of trials? The scriptures teach us that we can (see 2 Corinthians 12:10; Hebrews 5:7–8; D&C 127:2).

While counseling missionaries at the missionary training center (MTC) in Provo, Utah, I noticed that the most common cause of emotional problems was a lack of resilience. When an intelligent, talented missionary with no history of emotional problems struggled, priesthood leaders and others often wondered why. In many cases, the missionary just hadn’t learned how to deal with challenges well. Parents can help their children avoid such problems by teaching principles that foster greater resilience.

### Attitudes of Resilience

The original definition of the word *resilience* had to do with a material’s ability to resume its shape or position after being bent, stretched, or compressed. Today we commonly use the word to describe our ability to bounce back from adversity.

We know two things about adversity and resilience: First, there is “an opposition in

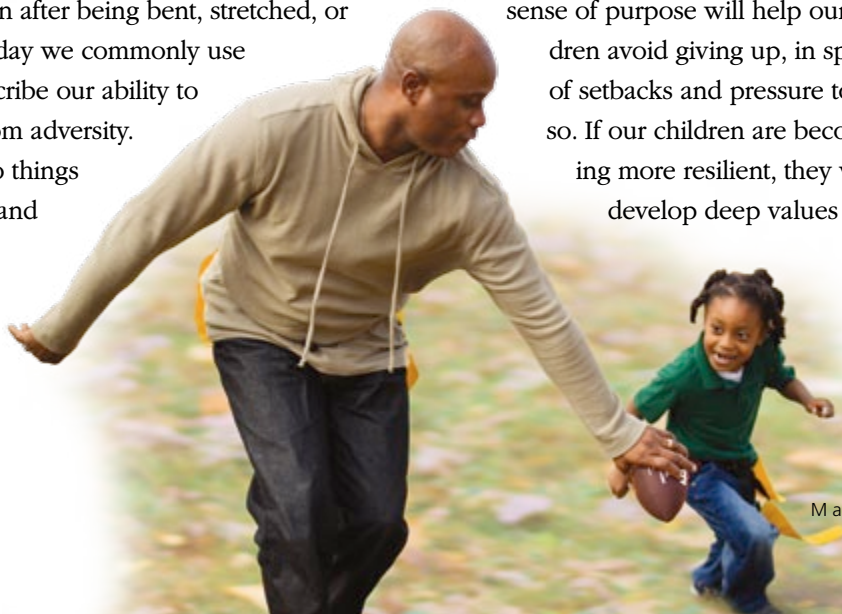


all things” (2 Nephi 2:11). Second, obtaining anything of great worth often requires great sacrifice.

As children become resilient, they understand and accept these two facts. They see life as challenging and ever changing, but they believe they can cope with those challenges and changes. They view mistakes and weaknesses as opportunities to learn, and they accept that losing may precede winning.

As children develop resilience, they believe they can influence and even control outcomes in their lives through effort, imagination, knowledge, and skill. With this attitude, they focus on what they *can* do rather than on what is outside their control.

Another mark of resilience is to see great purpose and meaning in life and people. A sense of purpose will help our children avoid giving up, in spite of setbacks and pressure to do so. If our children are becoming more resilient, they will develop deep values that



guide them: charity, virtue, integrity, honesty, work ethic, and faith in God. They will involve themselves in what is happening around them and opt for commitment to values rather than feel alienated and avoid struggle.

The gospel teaches and reinforces these values and perceptions.

## Lessons of Resilience from Childhood

When I was a child, many adults in my life—parents, neighbors, teachers, and Church leaders—taught me and my brother and sisters the following lessons. These five principles may be helpful for your children:

### 1. *Paying the price for privileges.*

I knew that freedom to play with my friends in the coming days depended on whether or not I came home on time.

### 2. *The law of the harvest.*

If I wanted money, I had to deliver the newspapers for my route and collect the money each month.

### 3. *Personal accountability and responsibility.*

I had to complete my own homework, science fair projects, and merit badges.

### 4. *The law of restitution.*

I could make up for misbehavior by apologizing and repairing the wrong. My parents sometimes suggested that I complete extra chores, such as pulling weeds.

### 5. *Learning from mistakes.*

If I made my bed poorly, did not wash the dishes properly, or did not pull weeds properly, I had to redo these tasks correctly.

—Lyle J. Burrup

## Perfectionism Undermines Resilience

One thing that hinders the development of resilience is a misunderstanding of the commandment to be perfect (see Matthew 5:48). This misunderstanding is the most common factor I've seen undermining resilience in new missionaries. They want to be perfect in everything because they love Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and do not want to disappoint Them. But they do not understand that the Lord works through weak, simple servants (see D&C 1:19–23) and that striving to be perfect does not mean we never make mistakes but rather that we become fully developed or complete through the Atonement of Christ as we strive to follow Him (see Matthew 5:48, footnote *b*).

This misunderstanding may also stem from what society teaches our youth: that their worth depends on talent and performance. In schools and communities, sometimes even at church or at home, youth see their peers get acceptance, admiration, approval, and praise for being talented at something. So they try to measure up. As they do so, they start to fear failure and mistakes. They choose what to do based on how successful they think they will be. They procrastinate when they do not feel confident. They worry about what others will think if they make mistakes. They fear loss of approval. They view their performance as the measure of their worth. Their perfectionism becomes a mean taskmaster, and it wears down their resilience.

For instance, because missionaries at the MTC cannot choose what they are going to do or not do as part of their training, they make mistakes as they learn how to speak a new language, teach gospel concepts, and perform other missionary tasks. They make these mistakes in front of strangers, and if they haven't gained a sense of resilience, they feel distressed and overwhelmed.

## Helping Children Develop Resilience

So how do we help our children develop resilience? Our Father in Heaven provides the model. He treats us with great love and respect, even when we make mistakes. He reminds us of our potential (see Moses 1:39) and our great worth (see D&C 18:10), which are based on our identity as His sons and daughters. He gives us laws so we know what He expects (see D&C 107:84), allows us to make choices (see 2 Nephi 2:15–16), and honors our choices (see D&C 130:20). He allows for learning and instruction to correct mistakes (see D&C 1:25–26) and for repentance and restitution to correct sin (see D&C 1:27–28).

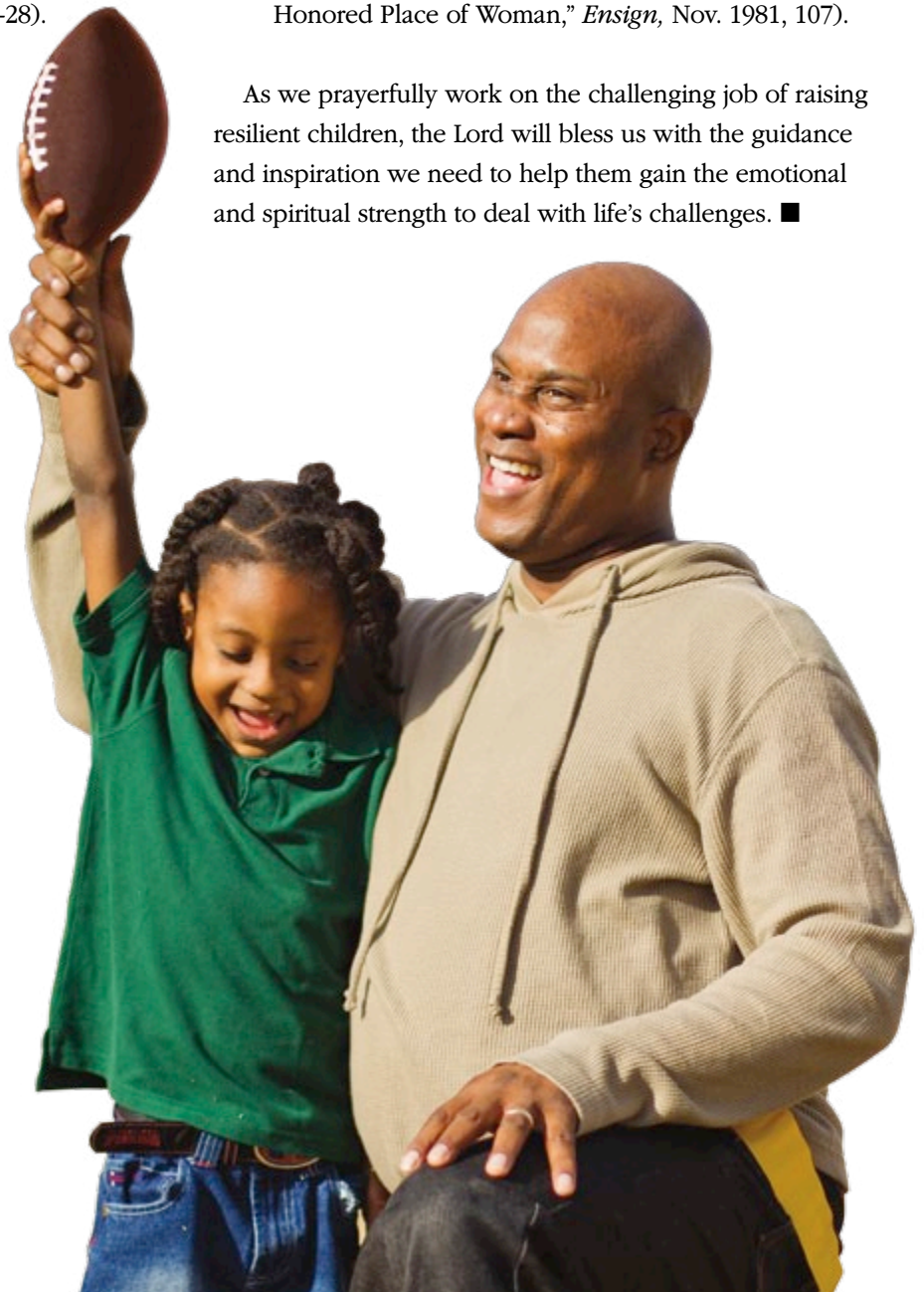
Here are some recommendations for how we might apply these principles in our homes:

- Pray to understand your children's strengths and how to help them with their weaknesses.
- Be patient and realize that children need time to develop resilience.
- Strive to understand that mistakes and failures are opportunities to learn.

*As children develop resilience, they believe they can influence outcomes in their lives through effort, imagination, knowledge, and skill. They focus on what they can do rather than on what is outside their control.*

- Allow natural, logical consequences to serve as the disciplinarian.
- Respect children's decisions, even if their poor choices lead to lost privileges.
- Refrain from berating children for breaking the rules.
- Do not discourage effort by criticizing harshly.
- Rather than praising accomplishment, encourage and praise effort.
- "Praise your children more than you correct them. Praise them for even their smallest achievement" (President Ezra Taft Benson [1899–1994], "The Honored Place of Woman," *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 107).

As we prayerfully work on the challenging job of raising resilient children, the Lord will bless us with the guidance and inspiration we need to help them gain the emotional and spiritual strength to deal with life's challenges. ■



## Recommendations for Raising Capable, Resilient Children

*While parenting requires a personalized approach for each child, some principles seem to be nearly universal. The following principles have proved effective.*



### Instead of Doing This . . .

Set random or arbitrary rules and consequences.

Allow children to avoid the consequences of their choices.

Give mostly correction.

Be arbitrary and inconsistent in requiring obedience.

Praise only outcomes.

Send the message to children that their self-worth depends on outcomes.

Talk about failures or successes as being connected to luck or talent.

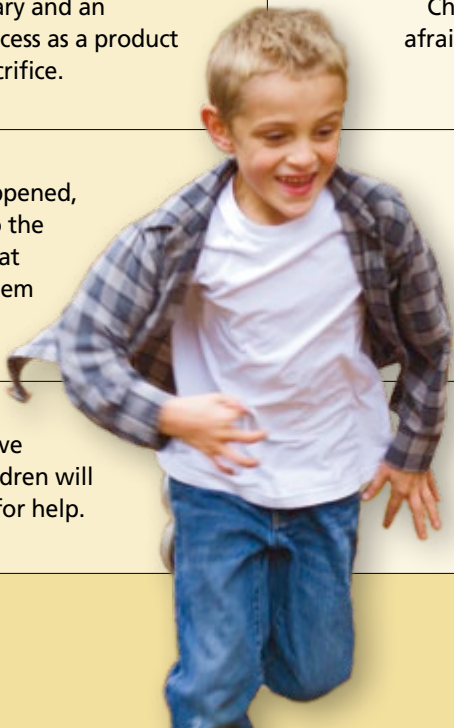
Try to solve children's problems by giving them all the answers.

Make children feel dumb by criticizing them, their effort, and their accomplishments.





Do This . . .	And Get This Result . . .
<p>Discuss rules and set logical consequences that are reasonable, related to the behavior, and respectful of both parent and child.</p>	<p>Children know what to expect and learn that choices have consequences.</p>
 <p>Allow children to experience natural and logical consequences of their choices.</p>	<p>Children learn accountability and responsibility for their choices.</p>
<p>Give mostly praise. Celebrate small steps in the right direction.</p>	<p>Children learn what parents want. They feel encouraged, worthwhile, and appreciated.</p>
<p>Consistently offer desirable rewards for the actions and behaviors you would like to reinforce.</p>	<p>Children learn that they don't have to want to do hard things; they just have to do them.</p>
<p>Praise for effort regardless of outcome.</p>	<p>Children feel encouraged, confident, and more willing to take on challenges.</p>
<p>Tell children they have inherent worth because they are sons or daughters of God and have divine potential.</p>	<p>Self-worth will be attached to the child's eternal potential instead of temporary success or failure.</p>
<p>Define failure as temporary and an opportunity to learn. Define success as a product of hard work and sacrifice.</p>	<p>Children are less discouraged by or afraid of setbacks and are more willing to be persistent.</p>
<p>Help children (1) identify what happened, (2) analyze what contributed to the outcome, and (3) identify what they can do to avoid this problem next time.</p>	<p>Children develop perceptions of being capable, will address and solve their problems, and will see that they have control in their lives and can overcome challenges.</p>
<p>Listen and be supportive and encouraging so your children will want to come to you again for help.</p>	<p>Children feel more comfortable discussing their mistakes and problems with you.</p>





**By Elder D. Todd Christofferson**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

# You Are Free

*What God requires is the devotion portrayed by Jesus.*

**T**he gospel, said President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), “is a plan of freedom that gives discipline to appetite and direction to behavior.”<sup>1</sup> This plan puts us on a path of increasing knowledge and capacity, increasing grace and light. It is the freedom to become what you can and ought to be. But for your freedom to be complete, you must be willing to give away all your sins (see Alma 22:18), your willfulness, your cherished but unsound habits, perhaps even some good things that interfere with what God sees is essential for you.

## **The Master’s Voice**

My Aunt Adena Nell Gourley told of an experience from many years ago with her father—my grandfather, Helge V. Swenson, now deceased—that illustrates what I mean. She related:

“My daughter and I were visiting in my parents’ home. Along about sundown my mother asked if we would like to step out

on the back porch and watch Father call his [five] sheep to come into the shelter for the night. Father . . . is a stake patriarch, and . . . the personification of all that is good and gentle and true in a man of God.

“. . . Father walked to the edge of the field and called, ‘Come on.’ Immediately, without even stopping to bite off the mouthful of food they were reaching for, all five heads turned in his direction, and then [the sheep] broke into a run until they had reached his side and received his pat on each head.

“My little daughter said, ‘Oh, Grandmother, how did Grandfather get them to do that?’

“My mother answered, ‘The sheep know his voice, and they love him.’ Now I must confess that there were five sheep in the field, and five heads went up when he called, but only four ran to Father. Farthest away, clear over on the edge of the field, looking straight toward Father, stood [a] large [ewe]. Father called to her, ‘Come on.’ She made a motion as if to start but didn’t come. Then



Father started across the field, calling to her, ‘Come on. You’re untied.’ The other four sheep trailed behind him at his heels.

“Then Mother explained to us that some few weeks before this, an acquaintance of theirs had brought the [ewe] and had given it to Father with the explanation that he no longer wanted it in his own herd. The man had said it was wild and wayward and was always leading his other sheep through the fences and causing so much trouble that he wanted to get rid of it. Father gladly accepted the sheep, and for the next few days he staked it in the field so it wouldn’t go away. Then he patiently taught it to love him and the other sheep. Then, as it felt more secure in its new home, Father left a short rope around its neck but didn’t stake it down.

“As Mother explained this to us, Father and his sheep had almost reached the [straggler] at the edge of the field, and through the stillness we heard him call again, ‘Come on. You aren’t tied down any more. You are free.’

“I felt the tears sting my eyes as I saw [the sheep] give a lurch and reach Father’s side. Then, with his loving hand on her head, he and all the members of his little flock turned and walked back toward us again.

“I thought how some of us, who are all God’s sheep, are bound and unfree because of our sins in the world. Standing there on the back porch, I silently thanked my Heavenly Father that there are true under-shepherds and teachers who are patient and kind and willingly teach us of love and obedience and offer us security and freedom within the

*It is exciting  
to realize that  
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perfecting our  
obedience.*

flock so that, though we may be far from the shelter, we’ll recognize the Master’s voice when He calls, ‘Come on. Now you’re free.’”<sup>2</sup>

It is exciting to realize that we can expand our freedom by perfecting our obedience. In the words of President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “We are not obedient because we are blind, we are obedient because we can see.”<sup>3</sup>

Our choice in this life is not whether we will or will not be subject to any power. Our choice is to which authority we will yield obedience: God’s or Satan’s. As Lehi stated, it is a choice between liberty and captivity (see 2 Nephi 2:27). If it is not one, it is necessarily the other.

Our yielding to God and His right to rule and reign over us brings other blessings. Among the foremost are the faith and confidence that permit us to live with peace. The Lord said to Joshua:

“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. . . .

“Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:5, 7).

### **“I Have Overcome the World”**

If we likewise “observe to do according to all the law,” we will also have the

confidence that God is with us as He was with Moses. With the Psalmist we will be able to say, “In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me” (Psalm 56:11). Has not the Lord promised, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)?

Years ago I presided in a Church disciplinary council. The man whose sins were the subject of the council sat before us and related something of his history. His sins were indeed serious, but he had also been terribly sinned against. As we considered the matter, my soul was troubled, and I asked to be excused to think and pray about it alone before rejoining the council.

I was standing in front of a chair in my office pleading with the Lord to help me understand how such evil could have been perpetrated. I did not see but rather sensed an immense pit with a covering over it. One corner of the covering was lifted slightly for just an instant, and I perceived within the pit the depth and vastness of the evil that exists in this world. It was greater than I could really comprehend. I was overcome. I collapsed into the chair behind me. The experience seemed to take my breath away. I cried silently, “How can we ever hope to overcome such evil? How can we survive something so dark and overwhelming?”

In that moment there came to my mind this phrase: “Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Seldom have I felt such peace juxtaposed with the reality of evil. I felt a deeper appreciation for the intensity of the Savior’s suffering and had a better, even frightening, appreciation for the depth of what He had to overcome. I felt peace for the man who was before us for judgment, knowing he had a Redeemer, whose grace was sufficient to cleanse him and also repair the injustices he had suffered. I knew better that good will triumph because of Jesus Christ, whereas without Him we would have no chance. I felt peace, and it was very sweet.

The Prophet Joseph Smith understood this when he said, “Let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power;

and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed” (D&C 123:17). The promise to those who submit to God is that His arm, His power, will be revealed in their lives. The Savior said:

“Fear not, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you are of them that my Father hath given me;

“And none of them that my Father hath given me shall be lost” (D&C 50:41–42).

To live with this assurance is a blessing perhaps greater than we can appreciate. All of us—sooner or later, in a moment of looming disaster or wearying confusion, having chosen God as our guide—will be able to sing with conviction, “Sweet is the peace the gospel brings.”<sup>4</sup>

We should not expect peace or freedom or faith or any other such gift from our divine head if our acceptance of His leadership is lukewarm or grudging. If it is ritual rather than real righteousness, we should not expect a reward. A detached, aloof allegiance is for Him no allegiance at all. Our submission must be full, wholehearted, and unstinting. What God requires is the devotion portrayed by Jesus, who was asked to drink a cup so bitter that it amazed even Him, the great Creator (see Mark 14:33–36; D&C 19:17–18). Yet He did it, “the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father” (Mosiah 15:7).

I leave you my witness that through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we may become one with God, just as Jesus prayed that we might be (see John 17:20–23). May your allegiance to Them be the shining guide of your life forever. ■

*From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University on October 19, 1999. For the full text in English, go to [speeches.byu.edu](http://speeches.byu.edu).*

#### NOTES

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, “A Principle with Promise,” *Improvement Era*, June 1965, 521.
2. Adena Nell Swenson Gourley, “I Walked a Flowered Path” (unpublished manuscript, 1995), 199–200.
3. Boyd K. Packer, “Agency and Control,” *Ensign*, May 1983, 66.
4. “Sweet Is the Peace the Gospel Brings,” *Hymns*, no. 14.



LIVING THE PRINCIPLES OF

# Self-Reliance

By **Larry Hiller**, Church Magazines  
and **Kathryn H. Olson**, Welfare Services

**L**uis Quispe, of La Paz, Bolivia, may have sight in only one eye, but he has a clear vision of his goal to be self-reliant and provide for his family. Though he faces economic challenges and health problems, Luis is confident in his future. He does everything he can to help himself while acknowledging his dependence on his Father in Heaven. “I have learned that nothing is impossible when you have our Father’s help,” he says.

## **Self-Reliance: A Spiritual and Temporal Principle**

For the past eight years, this 46-year-old father of six has alternated work and study to gain a degree in agronomy. Luis’s years of study involved traveling about 60 miles (97 km) from his small town of Achacachi to attend the Universidad Mayor de San Andres. Despite this sacrifice, Luis completed his education successfully and is now focused on his next goal of obtaining his own farm.

Luis is a good example of self-reliance in temporal things, such as work, welfare, and food storage. But the principle of self-reliance is as much spiritual as it is temporal. Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of



the Twelve Apostles has defined *self-reliance* as “taking responsibility for our own spiritual and temporal welfare and for those whom Heavenly Father has entrusted to our care.”<sup>1</sup>

The Lord has said that He has never given a law that was solely temporal (see D&C 29:34–35). Perhaps the command to work is meant as much to bless us spiritually as to provide for us physically (see Genesis 3:17–19).

### Spiritual Self-Reliance

The blessings of temporal self-reliance become especially obvious in times of crises such as natural disasters, unemployment, or financial turmoil. But spiritual self-reliance is equally crucial in such times. Those with firm spiritual foundations are blessed with peace, reassurance, and greater faith when calling on Heavenly Father for help.

Church leaders counsel us to prepare for spiritual crises. President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said:

“We have been taught to store . . . food, clothing, and, if possible, fuel—*at home*. . . .

“Can we not see that the same principle applies to inspiration and revelation, the solving of problems, to counsel, and to guidance? . . .

“If we lose our emotional and spiritual independence, our self-reliance, we can be weakened quite as much, perhaps even more, than when we become dependent materially.”<sup>2</sup>

### Giving and Receiving

Self-reliance should not be mistaken for complete independence. After all, we are ultimately dependent on our Heavenly Father for everything (see Mosiah 2:21). We need

His continual guidance, preservation, and protection.

We also depend on one another. Since we are given different spiritual gifts, we are expected to share what we have been given so that all may be blessed (see D&C 46:11–12). The key is to become self-reliant where we have the power to do so, to serve others when we can, and to allow others the blessing of serving us as the need arises.

The more self-reliant we are—both spiritually and temporally—the greater our ability to be an agent for good. Elder Hales explained: “Our ultimate goal is to become like the Savior, and that goal is enhanced by our unselfish service to others. Our ability to serve is increased or diminished by the level of our self-reliance.”<sup>3</sup>

### A Personal Responsibility

Luis Quispe has seen his perseverance and trust in the Lord result in temporal blessings of work, a college degree, and a stronger family. In turn, those temporal gains have strengthened his faith. He follows the admonition of President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985): “No true Latter-day Saint, while physically or emotionally able, will voluntarily shift the burden of his own or his family’s well-being to someone else. So long as he can, under the inspiration of the Lord and with his own labors, he will supply himself and his family with the spiritual and temporal necessities of life.”<sup>4</sup> ■

#### NOTES

1. Robert D. Hales, “A Gospel Vision of Welfare: Faith in Action,” *Basic Principles of Welfare and Self-Reliance* (2009), 1–2.
2. Boyd K. Packer, “Solving Emotional Problems in the Lord’s Own Way,” *Ensign*, May 1978, 91–92.
3. Robert D. Hales, “A Gospel Vision of Welfare,” 2.
4. Spencer W. Kimball, “Welfare Services: The Gospel in Action,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, 77–78.

*The more self-reliant we are—both spiritually and temporally—the greater our ability to be an agent for good.*





By Elder Michael  
John U. Teh  
Of the Seventy

# THE Power OF THE WORD OF GOD

*Few other activities will bring us greater spiritual benefit than the daily, consistent study of the scriptures.*

While I was serving as a bishop many years ago, my counselors and I decided that we would visit all of the members' homes once a year. During one such visit we walked along an abandoned railroad track that was lined on both sides with small cardboard-box homes no larger than six feet by six feet (about 2 m by 2 m). This small space served as a family's living room, dining room, bedroom, and kitchen.

The adults living in that area have set ways and established routines. Men are mostly unemployed or underemployed. They spend much of their time gathered together around makeshift tables smoking and sharing bottles of beer. The women also gather, focusing their conversations on the most controversial news of the day, sprinkled with backbiting and gossiping. Gambling is also a favorite pastime for the young and old.

What disturbed me most was that the people seemed content to live out their entire lives in that manner. I later concluded that perhaps for most of them, hopelessness allowed them to believe they were consigned to this fate. It was indeed a heart-wrenching sight.

Later I learned that my counselor, who was an engineer, used to live in that area. I never would have guessed it because his family was much different from the families I saw there. All his siblings were educated and raising good families.

My counselor's father was a simple man. After I met him, questions came to me. How had he elevated himself? How did he pull his family out of those conditions? What made him catch a vision of what could be? Where did he find hope when everything about him seemed hopeless?







## REDISCOVERING THE SCRIPTURES

“I am convinced that each of us, at some time in our lives, must discover the scriptures for ourselves—and not just discover them once, but rediscover them again and again.”

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball* (2006), 62.

Many years later, in the Manila Philippines Temple, I attended a gathering of all the mission presidents and their wives then serving in the Philippines. A wonderful surprise greeted me as I entered one of the rooms in the temple. Standing before me was the father of my counselor—that quiet, unassuming man—dressed in white.

At that moment there opened before my eyes two scenes. The first scene was of a man drinking beer with his buddies and wasting away his life. The second scene showed the same man dressed in white and officiating in the ordinances of the holy temple. The stark contrast of that second glorious scene will forever remain in my heart and mind.

### The Power of the Word

What allowed this good brother to elevate himself and his family? The answer is found in the power of the word of God.

I believe that few other activities will bring us greater spiritual benefit than the daily, consistent study of the scriptures. In section 26 of the Doctrine and Covenants—a revelation given “to strengthen, encourage, and instruct”<sup>1</sup> the Prophet Joseph Smith and others—the Lord counseled, “Behold, I say unto you that you shall let your time be devoted to the studying of the scriptures” (verse 1).

The Book of Mormon tells us, “The preaching of the word . . . had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them” (Alma 31:5).

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has taught: “True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior. The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior.”<sup>2</sup>

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) said: “The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature.”<sup>3</sup>

Growing up in the Philippines, I learned that as recently there as the early 1900s, access to the Holy Bible was limited to religious leaders. People were not allowed access to or ownership of sacred writ.

In contrast, we live in an age when access to the scriptures is unprecedented. Never in the history of the world have God’s children had the opportunity to enjoy these sacred materials as they do now. Written copies of the scriptures can be readily purchased in bookstores or online. Electronic copies can be accessed instantaneously through the World Wide Web and downloaded to numerous devices. Preparing talks, writing articles, and searching for information has never been easier.

God has given us this new technology for a wise purpose. The adversary, however, has stepped up his offensive and uses technological advancements—intended by God to help us—to further his purpose of making us “miserable like unto himself” (2 Nephi 2:27).

Hence, we have a responsibility to learn to use what our Heavenly Father has given us in an effective, consistent, and proper manner.

### The Sacredness of the Word

We Latter-day Saints accept and value the scriptures, but our actions and regard for them sometimes say otherwise. A lack of

understanding of the value and importance of scripture is aptly described in Lehi's dream:

"And I saw numberless concourses of people, many of whom were pressing forward, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree by which I stood.

"And it came to pass that they did come forth, and commence in the path which led to the tree.

"And it came to pass that there arose a mist of darkness; yea, even an exceedingly great mist of darkness, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost" (1 Nephi 8:21–23).



To think that we need only to commence on the path without clinging to the rod of iron is folly and will surely lead to destruction. Nephi explained what it means to hold fast to the iron rod: "Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, *feasting upon the word of Christ*, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life" (2 Nephi 31:20; emphasis added).

Let us further examine what happened to those who recognized the significance of the rod of iron as they tried to reach the tree:

"And whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither

could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction" (1 Nephi 15:24).

In the book of Alma we read:

"It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; nevertheless they are laid under a strict command that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word which he doth grant unto the children of men, according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him.

"And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full.

"And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; and then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction" (Alma 12:9–11).

I believe that neglecting to study the scriptures on a regular basis is a form of hardening our hearts. I fear that if we persist in that course, we will be given a lesser portion of the word and eventually know nothing of God's mysteries. Drinking daily from the scriptures, on the other hand, will help us build spiritual strength and knowledge, unmask the deceptions of the devil, and discover the snares he has laid to catch us.

As you ask yourselves the following questions, I invite you to allow the Holy Ghost to speak to your mind and heart:

- Do I take time to study the scriptures every day?
- If not, what excuse do I have for not doing so?
- Will my excuse be acceptable to the Lord?

I challenge you to commit to reading the scriptures daily. Do not go to bed tonight until you have read. As you read, there will come to you a greater desire to do the will of the Lord and to make changes in your life. ■

*From a devotional address delivered at Brigham Young University–Hawaii on March 22, 2011. For the full address in English, go to [devotional.byuh.edu/archive](http://devotional.byuh.edu/archive).*

#### NOTES

1. Doctrine and Covenants 24, section introduction.
2. Boyd K. Packer, "Do Not Fear," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2004, 79.
3. Ezra Taft Benson, "Born of God," *Ensign*, Oct. 1985, 6.



# The Blessings of Tithing

**T**he Lord has commanded us to pay tithing. In return, He promises to “open . . . the windows of heaven, and pour . . . out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10). His blessings, however, come in His own way and in His own time and can be spiritual or temporal.

In times of economic or family difficulty, the Lord’s blessings promised to those who faithfully pay tithing may seem distant. But as the following Latter-day Saints observe, paying tithing helps Church members better recognize the hand of the Lord in their lives.

*Paying tithing brings great blessings, especially in helping us better recognize the hand of the Lord in our lives.*

## Tithing Increases Faith

Shortly after we married, my husband and I moved to a faraway town in eastern Bolivia where we were the only members of the Church. My husband was a new convert, and we wanted to comply with all the commandments of the Lord.

Every month we would save our tithing in an envelope until we could deliver it to our bishop. My husband had a strong conviction that if we complied with this law, we would be blessed and protected.

We lived in a hot, expensive, uncomfortable hotel room while we looked for a home to rent. For many days our search proved fruitless. The only house we could find was a small, pretty one whose owner lived in another city. Many outsiders had tried to rent the home, but they could never find the owner.

One morning just as we had finished praying about our situation, a young man knocked on our door. He told us that the owner of the home had returned for a short visit. My husband rushed out to meet with her while I continued praying that we might get the house. When he returned, he reported that the lady had rented the house to us at an incredibly low price. What added to our joy was that the home was already furnished. At the time, all we had was two large boxes and a suitcase full of our things.

The law of tithing does not have to do with money but rather with faith. My husband wasn't earning much, but as we faithfully paid our tithing, the Lord blessed us to find a good home and enabled us to provide for ourselves.

Lourdes Soliz de Duran, Bolivia

## Tithing Brings Peace

I have always trusted in the Lord and His commandments. When the economy took a turn for the worse, however, I lost my overtime hours and my salary dropped. I stopped paying tithing and told myself that the Lord would understand. Nevertheless, my debts grew and my paychecks shrank.

Seeing my struggle, several relatives told me that above all else I should pay my tithes because this would help me overcome my trials. But I always ended up paying my bills instead. I was willing to pay tithing when my financial seas were calm, but I became afraid when my financial situation was stormy (see Matthew 14:28–31).



Heading home from work one afternoon after getting paid, I thought of all my debts. I closed my eyes and prayed, “Father, what am I going to do?” At that moment I opened my eyes and noticed on the ceiling of the bus a poster of Peter sinking into a stormy sea with the Savior reaching out to rescue him. At the bottom of the poster were the words “Unshaken Faith.” I realized I needed to pay my tithing if I ever wanted to pay off my debts.

## FOR PARENTS

In the story “Just One Coin” (*Liahona*, Aug. 2011, 70–71), Daniel learns that paying tithing is a good choice—even if his contribution is a single coin. An accompanying activity explains some of the ways tithing money is used. Reading this article as a family could be a great way to start a conversation about tithing. To help your children remember how the Church uses tithing, consider using some of the pictures in the activity to decorate their tithing jar or box.

Previous editions of the *Liahona* can be found online at [liahona.lds.org](http://liahona.lds.org).

When I arrived home, I found a tithing envelope and put my tithing inside. As I sealed the envelope, I heard the words “All is well” and felt a joy that brought peace to my soul.

I know that God will bring His blessings into my life when He deems it prudent to do so. Until then the sea may remain stormy, but the peace I feel for obedience is more than enough.

Ricardo Reyes Villalta, El Salvador

## Tithing Brings Conversion

The issue of paying tithing came up in our family when our daughter joined the Church. At the time, neither my husband nor I were members. She was earning her own money, but because she lived with my husband and me, we all shared our earnings. I could not imagine how we would manage without the 10 percent of her income that she decided to pay in tithing, but I gradually became accustomed to my daughter’s decision. Whenever she brought her paycheck home, my first question was, “Have you set aside your tithing?”

Eventually I became interested in learning about the gospel, but I decided not to join the Church because I would have to pay tithing. Two tithing payments from one family budget were just too much!

After attending church for more than a year, I began to feel dissatisfied and uneasy. As I pondered and prayed, I realized that I wanted to pay tithing. I was surprised at my desire, given my previous opposition.

The following Sunday, I asked the branch president for a tithing slip. I was disappointed to hear that until I was a member, I could not pay tithing. I could, however, make a donation. And so I donated 10 percent of my income to the Lord’s Church. Immediately I felt comfort, joy, and satisfaction. I could hardly wait for the day of my baptism so I could pay a real tithe.

I know that the temporal blessings we enjoy in our family come from paying tithing. But the greatest blessings are the incomparable feelings we have when we obey our Heavenly Father: satisfaction from being obedient, confidence that our Heavenly Father will not abandon us, and feelings of peace and happiness.

Ol’ga Nikolayevna Khripko, Ukraine

## Tithing Blesses Families

I grew up in the Church but drifted away in my teens. When I returned to the Church, my husband, Dale, supported me but was not interested in meeting with the missionaries.

After becoming active, I met with the bishop for a temple recommend interview. He asked if I was a full-tithe payer, and I was pleased to announce that I was. To my surprise the bishop asked, “Does your husband know that you pay tithing?” I was shocked—why did it matter? The bishop kindly asked me to return after I had told Dale I was paying tithing.

One Sunday morning I finally got up the courage to tell my husband I was paying tithing. Dale stunned me

by simply saying, “I know.” This was the first of many tithing miracles.

A short time later, Dale turned the family finances over to me. When I explained that I would pay a full tithe on all our income, he approved because he saw the blessings tithing could bring.

Now our cupboards are always full, we hold family prayer every day, we have the missionaries over at least once a month, and my husband participates in family home evening. I believe that someday Dale will join the Church and that his conversion will have started with our decision to pay a full tithe together.

Sandie Graham, New York, USA

## Tithing Opens the Windows of Heaven

Several years ago my husband lost his job. We struggled to pay our bills and buy food with the small pension I received, but we managed to survive.



## ANSWERING QUESTIONS

### How Is Tithing Used?

The principle of tithing—voluntarily giving one-tenth of our income to God’s work—has been taught since Old Testament times (see Genesis 14:17–21). This is how the Lord funds His Church. Today tithing funds are used for (1) constructing temples, chapels, and other Church buildings; (2) providing operating funds for the Church; (3) funding the missionary program (this does not include individual missionary expenses); (4) preparing materials used in Church classes and organizations; and (5) carrying out other important work, such as temple and family history work.

Although supportive of my commitment to the Church, my husband was frustrated that I paid tithing when we could hardly pay our bills. I felt, however, that I should continue to obey this commandment.

Though we had little money, we did have a small garden. When spring arrived, we planted carrots, potatoes, peas, tomatoes, red peppers, and herbs, among other vegetables. Our garden flourished throughout the summer, and we had a bounteous harvest. Our plum trees almost broke from the weight of the fruit. I spent a busy summer bottling and freezing fruit and vegetables, making jam, baking pies, and sharing extra produce with neighbors.

One day as I walked through our small garden, I remembered God’s promise to open the windows of heaven and “pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).

Thinking of my freezer bursting with produce, I realized that Heavenly Father had truly blessed us. Our small garden provided enough to sustain us during our time of need—enough and to spare. I am so grateful that God blesses us as we obey His commandments. ■

Jacqueline Kirbyson, England

# CREATING Christ-Centered EASTER TRADITIONS

*At Easter we celebrate the gift of our Savior:  
the Atonement.*

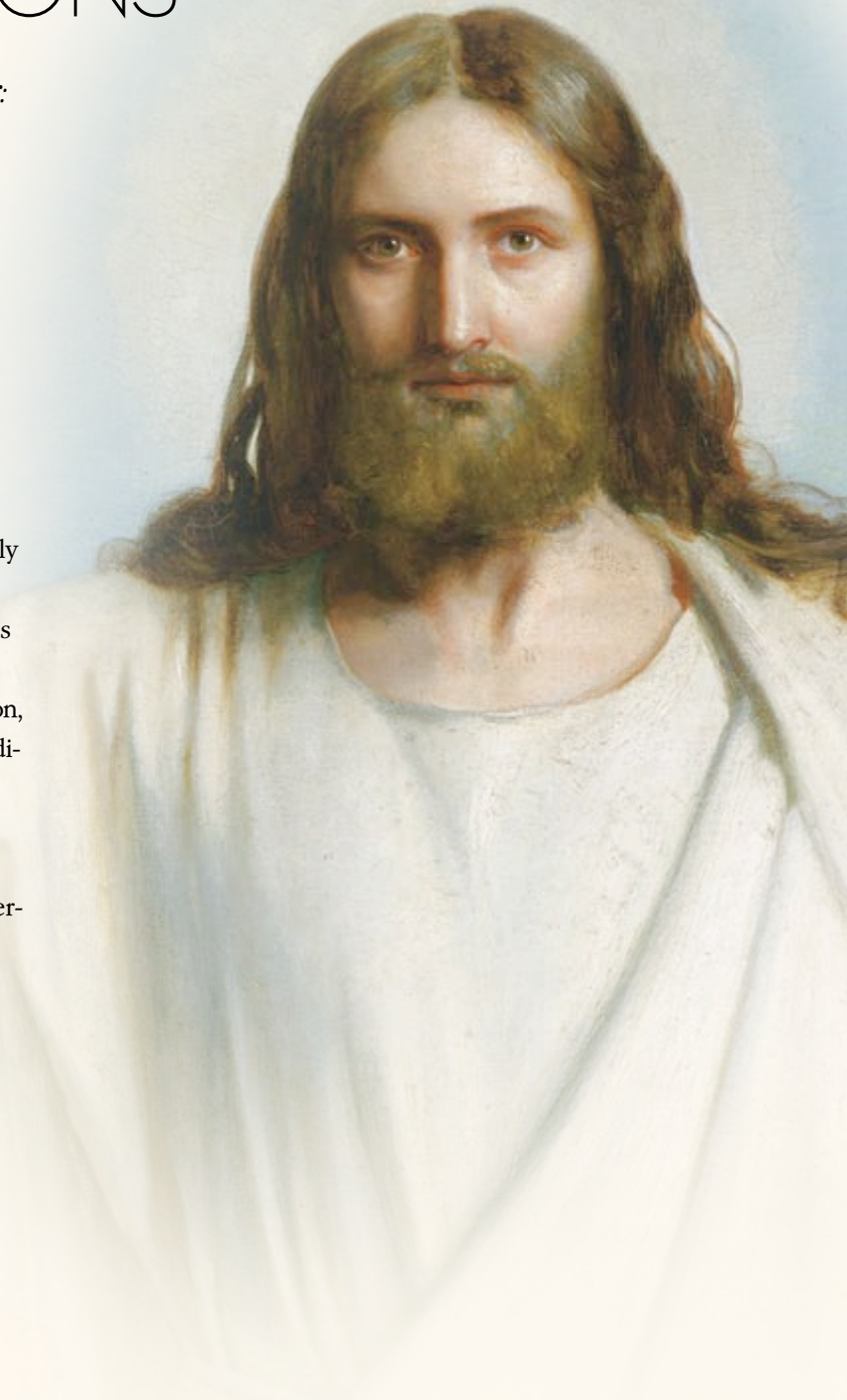
By Diane L. Mangum

**O**n Easter Sunday some years ago, my four-year-old son Ben came down the hallway of our meetinghouse after Primary, happily waving the paper he had colored. He called out with pure excitement, “Mom, Mom, have you heard about the Resurrection?” He wanted to make sure I had heard the good news. Something his Primary teacher had said really touched Ben’s heart so that he joyfully began to understand the Resurrection. How nice it would be for all of us to feel that same joy every Easter!

The Atonement of Jesus Christ, including the Resurrection, is at the very core of Easter. Creating Christ-centered traditions will help us focus on these gifts of our Savior.

## **Sunday Worship and Traditions**

Without extra feasts, parades, or festivities, we Latter-day Saints worship together on Easter as we do every Sunday. Our ward and branch leaders plan speakers and musical numbers that focus on Jesus Christ. Of Easter Sunday, Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: “The Lord has not been so explicit in providing us religious customs along the order of feasts and festivals to remind us of the blessings we receive from Him today. However, the practice of having traditions to keep us close to the





great heritage which is ours to enjoy should be something every family should try to keep alive” (“Family Traditions,” *Ensign*, May 1990, 20).

Following are a variety of traditions from families as they celebrate Easter and draw loved ones close.

### Sharing Testimonies of Christ’s Resurrection

- Janice and Kirk Nielson started a special “Grandparents Night” that has become an Easter tradition. Sister Nielson said, “I believe that the most effective thing we do as grandparents is to go to our children’s homes and sit down with our grandchildren and let them know we have a testimony of the Savior.”
- When their children were young, Hector and Sherilyn Alba made time each evening during the week before Easter for a short lesson on the things that happened during the last week of the Savior’s life.
- Some families visit the graves of loved ones. They talk with their children about family members who have passed away and express gratitude for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The egg has become an almost universal symbol of Easter to represent the Savior’s breaking the bands of death through His Resurrection. Thus coloring and hiding eggs for an Easter egg hunt and giving Easter baskets are common traditions around the world.

- In Russia people often greet one another on Easter by saying, “Jesus is risen.” The other person replies, “Truly, He is risen.” In Albania the tradition is similar; they click red egg rocks together and say, “Christ is risen.”
- Karen Spencer treasures the memories of her Danish grandmother’s Easter celebrations and still likes to dye eggs with boiled purple onion skins just as her grandmother did. Her family finds it a good time to talk about the egg as a symbol of new life and the Resurrection.

- Some families with young children enjoy Easter egg hunts with a message. They place inside a plastic egg a small item that symbolizes something related to Christ’s death and Resurrection and a scripture to read. Then they number the eggs in sequence of the Easter story. As the children open the eggs in order, they learn of Christ’s Atonement and Resurrection.

### Sharing Easter Music

Music can have a wonderful influence on us at Easter.

- David and Joyce Beer enjoy seeking out Easter-related concerts to help them remember the Savior’s sacrifice.
- Dave and Nancy Harmon enjoy listening to George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah*, which Sister Harmon feels “is really more about Easter than Christmas.”
- One mother encourages her children who are taking music lessons to practice an Easter song that month.
- The Dale and Sara Okerlund family gather at the piano to sing hymns and Primary songs about Easter.

### Sharing an Easter Meal Together

A family meal is another meaningful Easter tradition throughout the world.

- One family eats ham and talks about how Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses. Another family eats fish to remember the things Jesus ate. The Eliza and Michael Pereira family eat a meal that includes lamb, and they talk about the symbolism in the Passover story.
- After my family’s Easter dinner, we take a photograph of all the family members and other dear friends who shared dinner with us. We have a special Easter scrapbook that now chronicles more than 30 years of happy family memories.
- One couple whose children are grown invites other adult friends to a special dinner. Here they share memories and reflect on what Easter means.

- In some countries the Easter holiday includes Friday and Monday. In Tahiti, family members often picnic together on other islands. In Central America, some Latter-day Saints use the extra time to visit with their family, share a meal, and then attend the temple.

### Sharing Non-Religious Traditions on Another Day

Latter-day Saint families often hold non-religious activities that involve Easter on a day other than Sunday.

- In Brazil on Friday or Saturday before Easter, one Latter-day Saint grandmother leaves one or two nibbled carrots in a visible place and hides Easter eggs near the carrots.
- On the Monday after Easter, the Joyce and Scott Hendricks family enjoy a cookout and a special Easter egg hunt.

### Always Keep Christ in Easter

Learning about Jesus Christ in family home evening, listening to Easter music, or enjoying a special meal can bring a spiritual boost at any stage of life. Celebrations don't need to involve a large group. A personal tradition of an Easter celebration within a single home or heart is just as meaningful.

We too can remember and celebrate the joyfulness of Easter just like little Ben, who came down the meetinghouse hall wanting to share the good news about the Resurrection. ■

*Diane L. Mangum lives in Utah, USA.*



DETAIL FROM BEHOLD MY HANDS AND FEET, BY HARRY ANDERSON © IRI

# THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

The family is under attack in today's world. That is why it is more important than ever that children and youth gain a testimony of the importance of the family in Heavenly Father's plan (see *For the Strength of Youth* [2011], 14). On page 52 of this issue, Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency, recommends ways to help youth gain testimonies of families.

For example, she writes, "As you read the [family] proclamation, make note of the doctrines, counsel, warnings, and promised blessings and what they mean to you personally."

## Suggestions for Teaching Youth

- Read "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" and the section on family in *For the Strength of Youth*. Talk about how these guidelines apply to your own family. Consider sharing your testimony about the importance of family.
- Consider holding a family home evening on the importance of family (a good resource is the "Marriage and Family" topic in the new youth curriculum at [lds.org/youth/learn](http://lds.org/youth/learn)).
- Visit [youth.lds.org](http://youth.lds.org). Select "For the Strength of Youth" and then

"Family" to find resources to help you better understand the doctrine of the family: scripture references, videos (see, for example, "Fathers and Sons"), Mormon Channel radio programs, questions and answers, and articles, including talks by General Authorities.

## Suggestions for Teaching Children

Here are some examples of ways you could visually track your family's progress toward spiritual goals:

- Get a small, clear jar. With your children, set a realistic goal that will strengthen your family, such as holding family home evening each Monday or reading the scriptures each day as a family. Ask your children to create a label for the jar with the goal written on it. Every time your family completes the activity, put a small object like a marble or bead in the jar. When the jar is full, consider celebrating by having a special family dinner or activity.
- Ask each child to draw a picture of family members doing a daily activity you would like to encourage, such as family prayer or scripture study.



***Following the counsel in "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" can strengthen and protect our families.***

Display the pictures in a place everyone can see. Begin the day with the pictures face up. When your family completes the activity illustrated on the page, turn it over. The pictures still visible will remind your family of your goals and what they can do to strengthen your family that day. Turn the pictures face up again at the beginning of each day.

Also help your children see the blessings that come to your family for doing these activities. Helping children identify the good feelings that come from having the Spirit in your home will increase their desire to follow the patterns of righteous behavior that strengthen families. ■

## WHAT IS THIS CHURCH?

Several years ago I needed to get my car inspected for safety and emissions standards. I arrived at a garage one afternoon to find the line for inspections eight or nine cars long.

It was a beautiful spring day, so I decided to roll down the windows, turn off the car engine, and pull out a copy of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” which I kept in my car along with other Church materials. My stake president had recently counseled stake members to commit the proclamation to memory. This free time gave me the perfect opportunity to do so. Eventually, my turn came to have my car inspected.

One of the men who did the inspections indicated that he would drive my car into the garage. Then he

asked me to wait in an adjacent room until the inspection was completed. Time passed as I watched other customers come and go. After a while I began to think that something serious must be wrong with my car.

Finally the mechanic came from the garage into the waiting room and indicated that my car had passed inspection. What a relief! I paid the cashier and walked out to where he had parked my car and found him waiting for me.

“Miss,” he said, looking at me intently, “can I please talk to you for a minute?”

“Of course,” I told him.

“I want to apologize for taking so long with your car inspection. You see, when I drove your car into the garage,

I noticed a piece of paper on the passenger seat that talked about families. Instead of immediately returning your car to you, I sat in the garage and read that piece of paper over and over.”


He continued, “What is this church? What is this document on the family? Can I have a copy of it? It says it was written by Apostles. Do you mean to tell me that there are Apostles on the earth today just like in Jesus’s time? Please, I need to know.”

I was almost speechless but gathered my thoughts. I told him that there are indeed apostles *and* prophets on the earth, just as in the time of Jesus Christ. I told him about the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Restoration of the gospel. I then gave him all the Church materials I had in my car. He gave me his name and phone number so the missionaries could contact him. Our conversation ended with his sincere expression of gratitude.

As I drove away, tears filled my eyes. I was grateful I had left a copy of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” on the car seat.

I have never forgotten the look of eagerness in that man’s eyes. This experience was an unforgettable lesson on the power of the proclamation on the family, the reality of modern-day revelation, and the importance of sharing the gospel in everyday—and sometimes unexpected—situations. ■

Angela Fallentine, New Zealand



I noticed a piece of paper on the passenger seat that talked about families,” the mechanic told me. “I sat in the garage and read that piece of paper over and over.”

## OUR TITHING CAME FIRST

In the summer of 2006, my husband was working as a truck driver. Because he was away from home for about two weeks at a time, the responsibility of paying the bills was primarily mine. His career was such that our income would fluctuate from month to month, so budgeting our finances was tricky.

That July his paycheck was smaller than usual and less than I had planned on. After I had deposited his check, I compared the amount in the bank to our list of expenses due. I concluded that if I paid everything, including our tithing,

we would be about \$30 short. We were full-tithe payers, having learned our lesson the hard way a few years before when we got behind in paying tithing. Skipping tithing this time was not an option.

I remembered hearing stories of people who wrote their tithing check first when money was tight and then received money by miraculous means. I usually wrote the checks in order of what needed to be mailed that day, so our tithing check was rarely the first one I wrote. But that day I decided I needed to write our tithing

check first, knowing that the Lord would provide a way for us to pay our bills.

The following Monday I received word that a community class I'd signed my oldest son up for was canceled, and the \$20 check I wrote the month before was being returned. When I balanced my checkbook, figuring back in that \$20, I realized I had made a \$23 mistake in calculations the week before. In addition, two days later we received a refund check of \$36 from our pediatrician's office for overpayment of a bill. Now, rather than being \$30 short, we had almost \$50 extra.

The Lord had fulfilled His promise in Malachi 3:8–12 that if we paid our tithing, He would pour out blessings. I know that it is because of our response to follow the Lord's commandment to pay our tithes first that we were blessed. ■

Carrie Dalby Cox, Alabama, USA

I concluded that if I paid all of our expenses, we would be about \$30 short. But skipping tithing was not an option.



## STAY IN CAPE TOWN

Ever since I had served my mission in the England London Mission, I wanted to return to live and work there. Having recently finished a master's degree, I decided it might be the right time for me to move to London. I secured a job and was feeling positive about the move.

One night, however, I prayed to determine the Lord's will and whether it was right for me to move to London. While I was trying to fall asleep, a thought kept running through my head: "You need to stay in Cape Town." This thought recurred for several hours. Finally I concluded that God wanted me in Cape Town. So, although I wanted to move, I decided to stay. Immediately afterward I fell asleep.

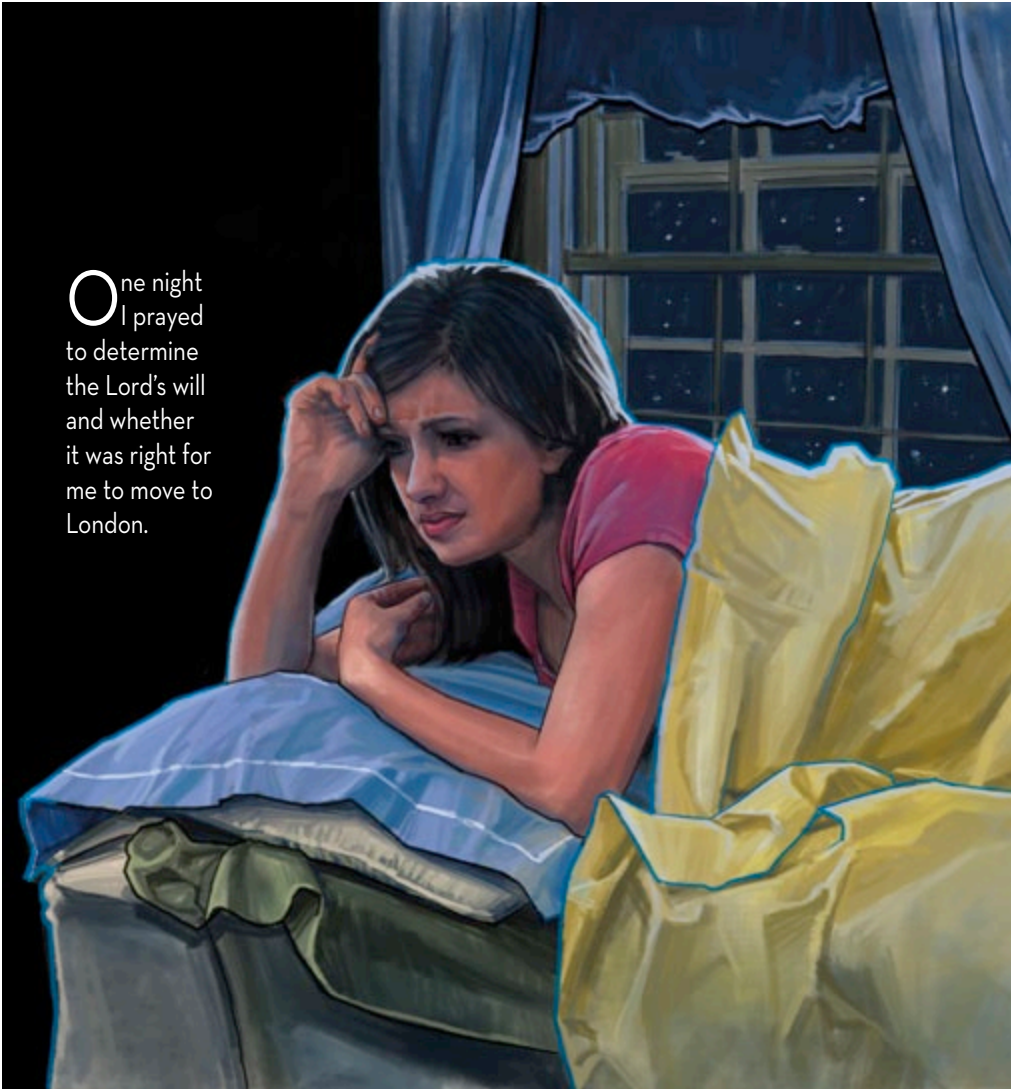
The next day I began to rationalize what had happened the previous night and continued to wonder if I should go to London, after all. But that night the experience from the previous night was repeated. The thought "You need to stay in Cape Town" played over and over in my mind. As I pondered these thoughts, I became convinced that the Lord really did want me to stay in Cape Town, and I wanted to do what the Lord wanted me to do.

The following week my stake president called and asked me to meet with him. Immediately I knew that the Lord had a calling in mind for me. The Spirit testified that the reason I needed to stay in Cape Town was that the Lord had a work for me to do.

I accepted the calling as the stake Young Women president, and while serving over the next few years, I was able to be an instrument in the Lord's hands. As a result, my life and the lives of the people I served were blessed. I grew in leadership abilities, and the Lord taught me many things through my service to others.

Since that time I have come to develop greater trust in the Lord. How grateful I am for the quiet promptings of the Spirit that guide me in knowing and doing His will. By doubting less and being willing to follow the inspiration I receive, I am led to experience great joy and peace, knowing that my Heavenly Father is pleased with my life. ■

Nicky Burgoyne Smith, Utah, USA



One night I prayed to determine the Lord's will and whether it was right for me to move to London.

## WHY DO YOU STILL PAY TITHING?

A few years ago my husband was laid off. His employers, apparently sorry for what they had done, offered him a different job, but it would require a difficult move. Nevertheless, we foresaw many blessings, including continued employment.

After moving, however, we discovered that the job was no longer available. No one had a reasonable explanation. The only thing we knew was that we were in a new place, out of work, and nearly out of money because we had paid our debts before moving and had spent the last of our savings in making the move.

My husband tried every way possible to find a full-time job. In the meantime he did minor jobs, and I did handicraft work, which provided us just enough to support ourselves after paying our tithes to the Lord. We were frugal in everything, but it was not easy paying school expenses, buying food and clothing, and finding money my husband needed to go out and look for work.

We wept much, but we never quit trusting that the Lord would bless us. And we gave thanks for the blessings we already had: daughters who were healthy and faithful, a united marriage, and supportive relatives and ward members.

Many friends who were not members of the Church asked us, “If you



After moving, we discovered that my husband's job was no longer available. We were in a new place, out of work, and nearly out of money.

are in such need, why do you still pay tithing?” The answer was always the same: because the Lord has commanded it, and we do not want to rob God (see Malachi 3:8–9).

We always knew that if we were obedient, the Lord would bless us—perhaps not in the way we had hoped but certainly with what He considered best for our family. We never used our financial problems as an excuse to quit serving the Lord; in fact, our

desire to serve Him increased.

Today my husband has a job that helps us make headway against the debts we acquired while he was out of work. It will still be a long time before we can relax financially, but we know that if we “bring . . . all the tithes into the storehouse,” God will open the windows of heaven “and pour [us] out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10). ■  
Raquel Pedraza de Brosio, Argentina

# THE Right Time TO MARRY

*Ane and Benjamin knew that education was important, and they both wanted to study at a university. How would their potential marriage fit into this plan?*

**By Alissa Strong**  
Church Magazines

**W**hen Ane was in high school, she looked forward to the day that she would attend a university. There were so many subjects she could study and so many careers she could choose from! “I had many, many interests and could do so many different things,” she says.

Although Ane lived in a small town in Norway, she attended a very good high school. Her school encouraged its students to work hard for good grades and to attend a university. Many students at Ane’s school began university studies immediately after graduating. From a young age, Ane had planned to do the same. Going to school, however, was only one of the goals Ane had set for herself.

“I have been well taught in Young Women through lessons and Personal Progress,” Ane says. “My goal has always been to marry in the temple.”

## **When Is the “Right Time”?**

One evening at the local institute, Ane met a recently returned missionary named Benjamin. “From the first

moment I saw him, he impressed me in so many ways,” says Ane. “It was so easy and nice to talk with him. We could easily talk about the gospel.”

Benjamin asked her on a date, and it went well. Over the coming months, Benjamin and Ane dated more. They played soccer and volleyball, went on hikes, and watched movies. Gradually they came to know each other better, and their friendship grew into romance.

As their courtship continued, their thoughts and plans turned to marriage. Ane and Benjamin were happy to have found the person they wanted to be with for eternity. However, this relationship became serious sooner than either of them had expected. What would happen to all the plans they had made when they were young? Would they still be able to seek an education? Would the decision to marry mean that their other goals would be postponed?

Some of their friends and family thought that this would be the case.

“Many people around me—at home, at school, and at work—were very concerned about how this relationship would affect my education,” Ane says. “They would question whether I even knew this relationship was going to last.

“Friends my age thought that getting married would prevent me from attending university,” she said. “To them, it seemed like I would be wasting my talents and opportunities.”

Some of Benjamin’s acquaintances felt the same way. “People wanted me to believe that we were too young, that my soon-to-be wife should complete an education first, and that if we got married, it would mean that we would have children, which we were also too young for,” he says.

Although Ane and Benjamin believed in the gospel’s emphasis on family and marriage, others not of





their faith did not generally share this priority—at least not for young adults. “People in my town are strongly focused on education and work,” Ane explains. “This is good, but it does not leave much room for family—or religion.”

Benjamin says, “I had always thought that the right thing to do was to return from my mission, find someone I liked, then loved, and then, after having made a decision to marry and having received a witness from the Holy Ghost, get married. It seemed so simple to me, but suddenly everything had become confusing, dark, and difficult.”

### **What Does the Lord Say?**

Both Benjamin and Ane were concerned about the advice and opinions given by their friends. For a whole year they struggled to decide on the right time to get married. They knew that ultimately the most important guidance would come from the Lord, so they spent much time searching the scriptures and words of the prophets for talks about family, marriage, and education.

“All these sources talk about how important both marriage and education are,” Ane says. As she continued in her search for direction, clarity finally came in a conversation with an institute leader. “She told me, ‘When you have the right person and the right place (the temple), it’s the right time!’” Ane remembers. “This really eased my mind. I received many

*Benjamin and Ane with their daughter, Olea.*



promptings from the Spirit confirming that this was the path I should take. I came to know that Benjamin and I would get married and that it was the right thing for me to do at this time.”

Ane knew that she would still work toward getting an education, because that was also something that the Lord’s prophets encourage. But for now she knew that marriage would be her first priority.

Ane felt sad because she knew that few people would consider her marriage at that age something to be happy about. But she chose to focus on learning to recognize the promptings of the Spirit and on what the Lord thought instead of what her peers thought. “This was what I would need to stand strong and upright with the choice I had made,” she says.

Benjamin never experienced a particular turning point in which he realized that marriage was the right decision at that time for him. Instead, he says, “I realized that I had to go back to the basics. Why was I here? What was my purpose on earth?”

As he searched the scriptures and the words of prophets and apostles, Benjamin turned to Heavenly Father in prayer. He also received priesthood

blessings. “It became clear to me that I was sent to earth to return to God with my family,” he says. “There was no greater work or other task to supersede that. It’s in ‘The Family: A Proclamation to the World.’ If I knowingly disregarded this and did something else, I would be disobeying God’s commandments.

“Once it was revealed to me that what I had been taught all my life was so true that it had priority over others’ opinions, I felt enlightened. I decided to follow what I had been taught.”

Ane and Benjamin were married on July 16, 2009, in the Stockholm Sweden Temple. “When the day of our temple sealing arrived, I felt such peace,” Ane says. “It was all very simple. Beautiful. No worldly trappings. It felt so good to be with my parents and siblings in the temple—and with Benjamin. It was a time filled with true love.”

### **The Blessings That Follow**

Although the months leading up to their marriage were hard, Ane is grateful for the trials she went through. “It forced me to take a stand,” she says. “God helped and strengthened me through scriptures, prayers, and priesthood blessings. Many of the



### OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO MARRIAGE

In a devotional address to young adults, Elder Earl C. Tingey, emeritus member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, addressed six concerns young single adults might have about marriage:

"1. There may seem to be less encouragement for returned missionaries to get married. If that is your understanding, it is false. All returned missionaries should be encouraged when they return home to remain active in the Church, secure an education, acquire employment skills, and move in the direction of finding an eternal companion.

"2. Some young men feel they cannot meet the expectations of some young women. . . . Proper communication can address that uncertainty.

"3. An emphasis on education or career may put marriage in a lesser role. Marriage, education, and career can go together. A career without family, where family is possible, is a tragedy.

"4. Do not let your life be simply an existence that is fun or selfish. Life is more than an amusement park. Do not be hooked on obtaining possessions. Accept responsibility.

"5. A negative perception of marriage . . . may deter one from marriage. Some say, 'Why get married when there are so many divorces?' The existence of divorce does not mean you cannot have a happy and successful marriage. Don't let the actions of others make your decisions. Determine that your marriage will not be a failure.

"6. Some put off marriage for financial reasons. Postponing marriage until money is sufficient to sustain a stylish living is not wise. So much of life together—struggling, adjusting, and learning to cope with life's challenges—is lost when that happens."

From "Three Messages to Young Adults," *Liahona*, Apr. 2007, 30; *Ensign*, Apr. 2007, 38.

people who were originally negative have come to acknowledge that what I chose was good and right. They see that I truly have found happiness. They have thanked me for trusting myself and the Lord."

After their marriage, Ane and Benjamin moved to a new town where they both began their university studies. Soon they welcomed their daughter, Olea, and Ane temporarily put her studies on hold. Ane will continue her education part-time and online, allowing her both to get an education and to stay at home to nurture their daughter. Although she knows that such an arrangement will be hard work, Ane will still be able to get the education she desires.

"Some people may have thought that I had to sacrifice many things to get married and start a family," she says, "and it could have looked that way. But in reality I have gained everything. I know that when I choose to put the Lord first, everything else will be given me. I am very excited and thankful to get my degree. But most of all I am thankful that we have the opportunity to be an eternal family!"

Benjamin agrees. "God has guided my life in such a way that I have been taught to put Him first," he says. "For me, it wasn't a choice between family or education; it was family first and education at the same time. Other decisions are the same. It isn't God or nothing. It is God first; then everything else follows." ■

## How do I deal with **conversations about the gospel** when the other person is just trying to win a **debate**? People like that **don't** want to hear testimony.

**L**ogic and reason can help us understand the truth, of course, and it is possible to make logical arguments in defense of the Church and its teachings. But when one is more interested in winning an argument than understanding another's belief, contention becomes the consistent outcome. Be firm in bearing testimony of what you believe and know is true.

If the person you're talking to presses the issue, let that person know that you respect what he or she believes but that you will have to agree to disagree. Discussions about religious beliefs should not be about "winning." And if you get contentious or angry, you will not be an example of what you believe, nor will you have the Holy Ghost with you.

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught that when we talk to people about the Church, "our aim should be to help them understand the truth, not defend our egos or score points in a theological debate. Our heartfelt testimonies are the most powerful answer we can give our accusers. And such testimonies can only be borne in love and meekness."<sup>1</sup>

Things of the Spirit are learned "not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Corinthians 2:4). Even though it may not change anyone's mind, you should bear your testimony and let people know what you believe. And when you share the gospel, *how* you say things may be as important as *what* you say. Speak patiently and with love. Follow the Spirit and you will be prompted to know what to say (and what not to say) and how to react. ■

#### NOTE

1. Robert D. Hales, "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 73–74.

## What is the point of class and quorum presidencies for youth?

Young Women class presidencies and Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidencies benefit both those who hold the positions and those they serve.

Members of the presidencies are entitled to inspiration about the class or quorum, which can help them know how to pray for and fellowship members of their class or quorum, especially those who are new or less active. Being in a presidency helps youth learn leadership skills such as delegation, service, communication, and participation in councils. Learning to organize and lead meetings and activities helps youth leaders prepare for a mission or other future callings as they learn the importance of doing their duty and how to create a plan and carry it out.

Class and quorum members also get certain blessings through these leaders. They have someone their age to talk to who can help and encourage them in living the gospel and doing many things, especially as they complete Personal Progress or Duty to God. Because the presidents of classes or quorums serve on the bishopric youth committee, they can inform the bishop of problems,



concerns, or good works in their classes and quorums.

Being called to a class or quorum presidency is a great responsibility that helps youth gain greater confidence, learn to be a leader and an example, and develop love and unity within the class or quorum. ■

## For the Strength of Youth says to avoid extreme hairstyles.

### What types of styles would be considered too extreme?

What is considered extreme may vary from culture to culture and time to time, so it would be difficult to say exactly what hairstyles are too extreme for everyone. So how do you know whether a hairstyle is “extreme”? Ask yourself, “Why am I doing this?” If you’ve gone out of your way to give yourself unusual hair color(s), length(s), and styling

solely for the purpose of “making a statement” or getting attention, then you may have gone to the “extreme” referred to in *For the Strength of Youth*.<sup>1</sup>

Do Church leaders ask you to avoid extremes just because they want you to look plain and ordinary, without any style or personality? Of course not. They’ve given this counsel because your appearance says something about you. “Through your dress and appearance, you can show that you know how precious your body is. You can show that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.”<sup>2</sup> Extreme hairstyles might overshadow this message and send a more worldly message about you. ■

#### NOTES

1. See *For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011), 7.
2. *For the Strength of Youth*, 6.



# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE DIE?

*It's a basic question, and through ancient and modern prophets, God has given us answers.*

**O**ur loving Heavenly Father has given us some knowledge of what we can expect once we pass beyond this life. Here are truths that may help you understand where your departed loved ones are now and where all of us eventually will be.

## **What Do We Know about the Spirit World?**

### ***Where is the spirit world?***

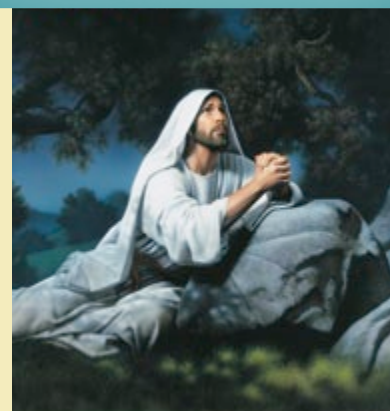
President Brigham Young (1801–77) taught that the spirits of those who once lived on earth remain around us on this earth, though we can't see them.<sup>1</sup>

### ***What is the spirit world like?***

That depends. The righteous will experience paradise—happiness, rest, and peace, without troubles, care, and sorrow (see Alma 40:12). The wicked will experience hell (see Alma 40:13–14). Hell may be defined as “the torment of disappointment in the mind of man.”<sup>2</sup>

SUNDAY LESSONS  
 This Month's Topic:  
 The Atonement of Jesus Christ

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Throughout March you'll be studying the Atonement of Jesus Christ in your priesthood quorums and Young Women and Sunday School classes. One of the many blessings of the Atonement is that through it, we will all be resurrected. Think about how a knowledge of the Atonement and resurrection changes your perspective during difficult times. Try to recall a particular situation and how your testimony of the Atonement and resurrection blessed you, and consider sharing that experience with your family or in an upcoming Church lesson on Sunday.

**What do spirits look like?**

People's spirits had an adult form in premortal life and will have that same form in the spirit world, even if they die as infants or children.<sup>3</sup>

**Can spirits in the spirit world see us?**

Yes, when needed. President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) said that those in the spirit world can see us more clearly than we can see them and that “their solicitude for us and their love for us and their desire for our well being must be greater than that which we feel for ourselves.”<sup>4</sup>

**Can spirits in the spirit world still be tempted?**

If you are faithful during this life, Satan will have no power over you

in the spirit world. The wicked will be subject to Satan there just as they were on earth.<sup>5</sup> As Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has explained, this life is the time to repent, because “it is when we are here in mortality that the body and the spirit can learn together.”<sup>6</sup>

**What are spirits in the spirit world doing?**

For one thing, we know that the spirits of the faithful who have not yet been resurrected are doing missionary work among the spirits in prison.<sup>7</sup> We also know that among those who were faithful, family structure and a Church organization exist.<sup>8</sup>



**MEANING, MOTIVATION, AND HOPE**

“The resurrection is a pillar of our faith. It adds meaning to our doctrine, motivation to our behavior, and hope for our future.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Resurrection,” *Liahona*, July 2000, 16; *Ensign*, May 2000, 14.



## What Do We Know about the Resurrection?

### How many people will be resurrected?

All people who ever lived on earth will be resurrected (see 1 Corinthians 15:21–23).

### What will a resurrected body be like?

A resurrected body will be:

- **Immortal.** “This mortal body is raised to an immortal body, . . . that they can die no more” (Alma 11:45).
- **Perfect.** “The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form” (Alma 11:43). President Joseph F. Smith explained, “Deformity

will be removed; defects will be eliminated, and men and women shall attain to the perfection of their spirits, to the perfection that God designed in the beginning.”<sup>9</sup>

- **Beautiful.** President Lorenzo Snow (1814–1901) said, “There is nothing more beautiful to look upon than a resurrected man or woman.”<sup>10</sup>
- **Glorious.** President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has said: “Your spirit is young and vibrant and beautiful. Even if your body is old and diseased or crippled or disabled in any way, when the spirit and body are put together in the Resurrection, then you will be glorious; then you will be glorified.”<sup>11</sup>
- **Without sorrow or pain.** “There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain” (Revelation 21:4).

### What will happen to people who died as children?

According to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the parents of a child who died in childhood “will have the joy, the pleasure and satisfaction of nurturing [it], after its resurrection, until it reaches the full stature of its spirit.”<sup>12</sup>

### What will happen to people who were cremated or weren’t buried?

Though the Church does not encourage cremation, we believe that no matter what, all people will be resurrected with a perfect body. President Brigham Young taught that in the resurrection “the peculiar fundamental particles that organized our bodies here, if we do honor to them, though they be deposited in the depths of the sea, and though one particle is in the north, another in the south, another in the east, and another in the west, will be brought together again in the twinkling of an eye, and our spirits will take possession of them.”<sup>13</sup>

## Who will be resurrected, and when?

### FIRST RESURRECTION, OR “RESURRECTION OF THE JUST” (D&C 76:17)

#### ▲ At Christ’s Resurrection

Prophets and certain other righteous people who will receive a celestial glory (see Mosiah 15:21–25).

#### ▲ At Christ’s Second Coming

Those who will receive a celestial glory (see D&C 76:50–70; 88:96–98).

#### ▲ At the Beginning of the Millennium

Those who will receive a terrestrial glory (see D&C 88:99).

### SECOND RESURRECTION, OR “RESURRECTION OF THE UNJUST” (D&C 76:17)

#### ▲ At the End of the Millennium

Those who will receive a telestial glory (see D&C 76:85; 88:100–101).	Sons of perdition (see D&C 76:43–48; 88:102).
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## Why a Physical Resurrection?

The physical resurrection is part of God's plan and has been taught by prophets since the days of Adam (see Moses 5:10). But "the devil has no body, and herein is his punishment,"<sup>14</sup> so he distorts this teaching so that people do not believe in a physical resurrection.

Many people believe that a physical body is like a prison for the spirit and that we can be truly happy only when the spirit is liberated from the body, but this is not true. The Lord has revealed that a physical resurrection is necessary because:

- ***It is how we receive a fulness of joy.*** Only "spirit and element [a physical body], inseparably connected, receive a fulness of

joy" (D&C 93:33). We also know that those who had died and were waiting in the spirit world for Christ's Resurrection "had looked upon the long absence of their spirits from their bodies as a bondage" (D&C 138:50).

- ***It is a blessing of our having chosen Heavenly Father's plan.***

Before we were born on earth, all spirits who would ever live on earth chose to follow our Heavenly Father's plan rather than Satan's rebellion (see Abraham 3:23–28). As a result, we received a mortal body and, through the gift of Christ's Resurrection, will be resurrected with an immortal body. Those who followed Satan in the premortal world

will never receive any kind of physical body.

- ***It brings us back into God's presence to be judged.***

The Book of Mormon clearly teaches that it is the power of the resurrection that allows us to enter God's presence to be judged according to our works.<sup>15</sup>

- ***It is required for salvation.***

Joseph Smith taught, "No person can have . . . salvation except through a tabernacle [a physical body]."<sup>16</sup>

- ***It is how we become like Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.***

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones, as tangible as man's; the Son also" (D&C 130:22). ■

### NOTES

1. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* (1997), 279.
2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 224.
3. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* (1998), 131–32.
4. Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 430–31.
5. See *Teachings: Brigham Young*, 282; Alma 34:34–35.
6. M. Russell Ballard, "Is It Worth It?" *New Era*, June 1984, 42.
7. See D&C 138:30; see also *Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 474.
8. See *Gospel Principles* (2009), 243; for more on the spirit world, see Dale C. Mouritsen, "The Spirit World, Our Next Home," *Ensign*, Jan. 1977, 46–51.
9. Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 23.
10. Lorenzo Snow, *The Teachings of Lorenzo Snow*, ed. Clyde J. Williams (1996), 99.
11. Boyd K. Packer, "The 20-Mark Note," *Liahona*, June 2009, 23; *New Era*, June 2009, 5.
12. *Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 177.
13. *Teachings: Brigham Young*, 276.
14. *Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 211.
15. See 2 Nephi 9:22; Jacob 6:9; Mosiah 16:8–10; Alma 11:41; 33:22; 40:21; Helaman 14:17; Mormon 7:6; 9:13.
16. *Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 212.







**By Elder Quentin L. Cook**

Of the Quorum of the  
Twelve Apostles

# DON'T WEAR MASKS

*One of your greatest protections against making bad choices is to not put on any mask of anonymity.*

As I have reflected on who you are, the feeling has come over me that you might not fully appreciate the significance of your generation. I believe you have the background and the foundation to be the best generation ever, particularly in advancing our Father in Heaven's plan.

In view of the enormous potential for good that you possess, what are my concerns for your future? What counsel can I give you? There will be great pressure on each of you to act out of character—even to wear a mask—and become someone who doesn't really reflect who you are or who you want to be.

## **An Example from U.S. History**

In 2011, Elder L. Tom Perry and I met with Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League. Its mission is to stop the defamation of the Jewish people.

In our meeting with Mr. Foxman, I asked him what counsel he would have for us in connection with our responsibilities in public affairs for the Church. He pondered for a moment and then explained the

importance of encouraging people to not wear masks. He described the Ku Klux Klan. It was an organization that was very influential and quite frightening to most Americans in the first part of the 20th century. Wearing identical robes and masks that made it impossible to identify the participants, they burned crosses on the lawns of those they targeted and appointed themselves as so-called moral watchdogs. Among those most targeted were African Americans, but Catholics, Jews, and immigrants were as well. The most militant of the Klan members were involved in whippings, physical abuse, and even murders. Mr. Foxman pointed out that the majority of the Klan, without the masks, were usually normal people, including businessmen and churchgoers. He noted that hiding their identity and wearing a mask enabled them to participate in activities that they would normally have avoided. Their conduct had a terrible impact on American society.

Mr. Foxman's counsel was to stress the importance of people avoiding masks that hide their true identity.<sup>1</sup>

## **Examples from Church History**

In our early Church history, the Prophet Joseph, Emma, and their 11-month-old twins Joseph and Julia were in Hiram, Ohio, at the Johnson farm.

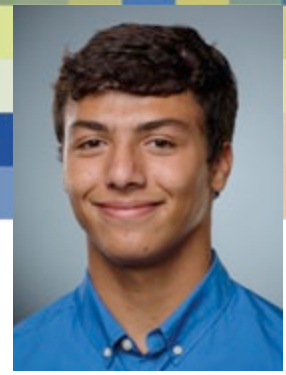
One Saturday night a group of men with black-painted faces burst through the door and dragged the Prophet outside, where they beat him and threw tar on him and Sidney Rigdon.

"Though the Prophet had lost a tooth, received a severe injury in his side, was missing a patch of hair, and had nitric acid burns, he preached a sermon at the usual Sunday worship service. Among the Saints gathered there were at least four members of the mob."<sup>2</sup>

It is also interesting that those who participated in the Martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum painted their faces in an effort to hide their true identities.<sup>3</sup>

## **Avoid Wearing a Mask and Acting Out of Character**

I am not suggesting that any of you would be involved in the kind of terrible events I have just described.



I do believe, in our day, when being anonymous is easier than ever, that there are important principles involved in not wearing a mask and being “true to the faith . . . for which martyrs have perished.”<sup>4</sup>

One of your greatest protections against making bad choices is to not put on any mask of anonymity. If you ever find yourself wanting to do so, please know it is a serious sign of danger and one of the adversary’s tools to get you to do something you should not do.

It is interesting that people who are involved with pornography often assume a false identity that hides their participation. They mask their conduct, which they know is reprehensible and destructive to everyone they care about. Pornography is a plague that is detrimental not only to a person’s moral standing with God, but it can also destroy marriages and families and has an adverse impact on society.

For those who have fallen into this destructive habit, please be assured that you can repent, and you can be healed. Repentance will need to precede healing. Healing may be a long process. Your bishop or branch president can counsel you as to how you can receive the help you need to be healed.

### **Act in Accordance with Your Beliefs**

It is common today to hide one’s identity when writing hateful, vitriolic, bigoted communications anonymously online. Some refer to it as flaming. Certain institutions try to screen comments. For instance, the *New York Times* won’t tolerate comments where there are “personal attacks, obscenity, vulgarity, profanity, . . . impersonations, incoherence and SHOUTING. . . .

“*The Times* also encourages the use of real names because, ‘We have found that people who use their names carry on more engaging, respectful conversations.’”<sup>5</sup>

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God” (1 Corinthians 15:33–34).

It is clear that evil communications are not just a matter of bad manners, but, if practiced by those who are Latter-day Saints, they can adversely affect those who do not have knowledge of God or a testimony of the Savior.

Any use of the Internet to bully, destroy a reputation, or place a person in a bad light is reprehensible. What we are seeing in society is that when people wear the mask of

anonymity, they are more likely to engage in this kind of conduct, which is so destructive of civil discourse. It also violates the basic principles the Savior taught.

The righteous need not wear masks to hide their identity.

### **Act Well Your Part**

We have great confidence in you. The leadership of the Church honestly believes that you can build the kingdom like no previous generation. You have not only our love and confidence but also our prayers and blessings. We know that the success of your generation is essential to the continued establishment of the Church and the growth of the kingdom. We pray that you will act well your part as you avoid wearing a mask. ■

*From a Church Educational System devotional for young adults given on March 4, 2012, at Brigham Young University–Idaho.*

#### **NOTES**

1. Meeting with Abraham Foxman in his office in New York City, New York, on June 14, 2011.
2. Mark L. Staker, “Remembering Hiram, Ohio,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2002, 35, 37.
3. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 24.
4. “True to the Faith,” *Hymns*, no. 254.
5. Mark Brent, in “The Public Forum,” *Salt Lake Tribune*, July 27, 2011, A16.

# MY BROTHER BELIEVED IN ME

Dan helped me develop a talent I was sure I didn't have.

By David Dickson  
Church Magazines

I was 15 when I learned a truth about my talents—or more precisely, my lack thereof—in one particular area: I couldn't sing.

I'd tried out for a community play, and my a cappella solo sounded so bad that halfway through an accompanist came up and started playing along out of pity. After that, I vowed nobody would hear me sing again. It was time to move on and find another hobby because one humiliating experience was plenty.

However, my big brother Dan, who was an incredible singer, had other plans. Months after my audition, he asked why I was so terrified of singing lately.

"I'm horrible," I told him. "I can't sing." Dan didn't believe me. Despite my protests, he convinced me to sing something right there. I was nervous.

I can't recall what I sang, but it was short, barely audible, and seemed proof that I had no discernible singing talent. What Dan said next, I'll remember the rest of my

## STRENGTHEN YOUR SIBLINGS

"Strengthen your relationships with your brothers and sisters. They can become your closest friends. Support them in their interests, and help them with challenges they may be facing."

*For the Strength of Youth (booklet, 2011), 15.*

life. "There," he told me, "I knew you had a good voice. You just have to practice."

In Doctrine and Covenants 38:25 we are taught to "let every man esteem his brother as himself." If Dan had made fun of me and my singing, as many older siblings might have done, he certainly would have ensured my singing silence, perhaps for a lifetime. Instead, Dan lifted me up. He encouraged me.

In the end, I followed his advice and practiced. To my surprise, I gradually improved. Singing became a great joy in my life. I sang in many choirs through-

out high school and then in college and beyond. Singing remains one of my deepest joys.

The Savior taught: "Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house" (3 Nephi 12:15). I've been able to let that light shine, enjoying and sharing music for many years now, but I never could have done it without the encouragement of my brother Dan. ■



**By Ann M. Dibb**  
Second Counselor in  
the Young Women  
General Presidency



## I HAVE A TESTIMONY OF THE FAMILY

**Y**ears ago I listened as a sister in my ward bore her testimony. I remember what she shared and how I felt. Sister Reese expressed gratitude for her righteous family and for the joy and comfort the knowledge of eternal families gave her. I felt the Spirit confirm my sincere desire to have that same blessing and testimony about families.

May I offer several suggestions to help you gain a testimony of the importance of family:

**1. Prayerfully seek the Lord's inspiration** and record your impressions as you study. Purify your life by keeping the commandments. This will help you qualify for the Spirit, who will assist you in your quest.

**2. Read "The Family: A Proclamation to the World,"**<sup>1</sup> first delivered by a prophet almost 20 years ago. My testimony of prophets, seers, and revelators is strengthened as I read this document and consider the changes that have taken place in

the world in relation to the family.

As you read the proclamation, make note of the doctrines, counsel, warnings, and promised blessings and what they mean to you personally.

### 3. Study the words of the prophets and General Authorities.

Their words are inspired and will bless those who believe and follow them. For example, President Thomas S. Monson has taught: “The family must hold its preeminent place in our way of life because it is the only possible base upon which a society of responsible human beings has ever found it practicable to build for the future and maintain the values they cherish in the present.”<sup>2</sup>

**4. Study the scriptures.** They contain multiple examples of families established on the foundation of righteousness, obedience, and faith in the testimony of Jesus Christ. Read your scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon, with the question, “What teachings would bless me when applied to my present and future family?”

**5. Study *For the Strength of Youth*, especially the “Family” section.** Learn about the responsibilities and blessings of a family. Make note of the work required for each member to create and maintain a united, gospel-centered family. Recognize how you can strengthen relationships within your family. Look for the assurance and comfort found in the sidebar to the right.

Truly, every section in *For the Strength of Youth* relates directly to and would improve family relationships. As the standards and commandments are followed by each member, they will feel an increase of love for each other, be blessed with the companionship of the Holy Ghost, and qualify for sacred temple ordinances and covenants that will bless families now and eternally.



### GOD’S PLAN FOR FAMILIES

“God desires that all of His children come into the world as part of an eternal family with a mother and father who love and care for each other and for their children. If this is not your experience, be patient and continue to live righteously. Look for worthy role models. Prepare now to fulfill your divine roles as a husband or wife and as a parent. Commit to marry in the temple and establish your own eternal family.”

*For the Strength of Youth* (booklet, 2011), 15.

### 6. Act upon what you have

**learned** in your study and *apply* what you have learned in your family (see D&C 88:119).

I have heard touching testimonials by young women who have worked on the third value experience in the divine nature section of Personal Progress, where young women are asked to make a special effort to strengthen their family relationships for two weeks (young men can find a similar plan in *Fulfilling My Duty to God* [2010], 80–81). One young woman shares, “I’ve experienced a miracle. I love my sister, and it happened in just two weeks! I’ve made it a goal to repeat this experience for each member of my family every single year. Why? Because it has made me so happy!”

**7. Pray and seek confirmation through the Spirit as to the importance of family.** Be patient and watchful. A testimony will come through the Spirit because “the family is ordained of God” and “it is the most important unit in time and in eternity.”<sup>3</sup>

I know that by doing these things the day will come when you, like Sister Reese, will be able to stand and share, “I have a testimony of the family, and this knowledge gives me comfort and joy.” ■

#### NOTES

1. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
2. *Teachings of Thomas S. Monson*, comp. Lynne F. Cannegieter (2011), 112.
3. *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 1.1.1.

*To avoid falling into hidden sinkholes, stay on the path!*

# HIDDEN DANGERS





By Joshua J. Perkey

Church Magazines

Near the summit of Santa Cruz, an island in the Galápagos, lie Los Gemelos, “the Twins.” Each of these two vast sinkholes is large enough to hold several football fields. From the rim, they look much like ancient man-made quarries that supplied stone for bygone temples.

Despite the natural beauty of the area, not all is as it seems. Thick vegetation covers the tropical terrain except where the paths run through. The paths have been well chosen for their firm footing. The ground to either side of the paths, though covered in bushes, plants, and even trees, may not be so firm.

If you were to leave the paths that circle Los Gemelos to explore the rain forest, at any moment you might step on a section of crust that is not strong enough to support your weight. How far would you fall? You wouldn’t know until you hit the bottom. Some of the sinkholes in Santa Cruz are more than 100 feet (30 m) deep. According to local stories, one hole is so deep that the bottom has never been found.

The paths follow a specific route—one you might not think you want to follow. But there is safety in the paths and an assurance of where they lead.

### Beware the Thin Crust

In a gospel sense, those paths around Los Gemelos could be

symbolic of a lot of things, such as the commandments, the teachings of the prophets, counsel in Duty to God and Personal Progress, the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*, and the gospel itself. When we participate in the gospel, when we follow the teachings of prophets, when we live according to the guidance of the commandments, we find safety and peace. When we don’t . . . well, things can get a little risky.

At times we may be tempted to stop following the commandments or ignore the teachings of the Church because we feel they are restrictive. We want to choose our own way in life.

But just as the paths around Los Gemelos help people avoid falling through thin crusts, the commandments don’t restrict our agency—rather, they provide the best chance for happiness and success. We can always choose to do what we want to do. We can decide to go our own way rather than follow the one Heavenly Father laid out for us. We certainly won’t get to our destination any faster than by following the proven path, and finding our own way may be painful and arduous.

The same thing applies to the commandments, such as the Word of Wisdom. Heavenly Father and His Church don’t take away our agency by demanding that we refrain from drinking alcohol. We can choose whether we keep that commandment





## ON THE PATH

“Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do; for . . . then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way ye should receive” (2 Nephi 31:17–18).

or not. But when we make that choice, we’re also choosing the consequences associated with it.

If we choose to break those commandments, then we risk giving up all those blessings. The choice isn’t about whether we are allowed to drink alcohol or do this thing or that thing. It’s about whether or not we want the blessings of the kingdom of heaven and about doing what the Lord asks because we love Him and are converted to Him.

### Safety on the Path

Jessica P. and Nory A., two young women who live on Santa Cruz, know this personally. They are both converts and have both seen the difference keeping the commandments makes. There aren’t very many members in the Galápagos Islands (only 125 members in their branch out of around 25,000 people on their island). It can be difficult to stay on the strait and narrow path (see 1 Nephi 8:20;

2 Nephi 4:33; 31:17–19; Alma 7:19) with temptations such as alcohol and drugs all around.

Nory has seen the challenges in her own family. A year after her family was baptized, they were sealed in the Guayaquil Ecuador Temple. Not long after, however, several members of her family fell away. For a time she and her mom were the only ones who participated in church. How did she stay strong?

“Family home evening,” she says. “For a while, just my mom and I would hold it. Later my older brother and my dad started coming. And every time we study the gospel, my dad says, ‘This is for me.’ Now he is getting stronger and my brother too.”

Jessica has faced a different struggle. “Being the only member of the Church in my family is difficult,” she explains. Some of her family members don’t like the fact that she attends church. In fact, it can lead to arguments.

“Sometimes you wish that your parents, your family, were members of the Church,” she says, “so you could share things with them. That’s hard.

“When you have problems, you can’t go looking in the street or looking to alcohol because they won’t help at all. Instead I come to church, where I have good friends.

“They help me a lot. If I’m feeling down, there’s always Nory or other young women. When I come to church, I feel alive. I feel relief from all the problems in my life.”

### Choosing the Right Path

Jessica and Nory have found joy in living the gospel. Or rather, they have found joy *because* they live the gospel.

The commandments, like the paths around Los Gemelos, don’t restrict us. They provide the guidance necessary to make us perfect through the Atonement of the Savior (see D&C 82:8–9). When we choose to keep the commandments, we are choosing to show love and devotion to God. We are choosing to be worthy of the companionship of the Holy Ghost. We are choosing to be worthy to receive inspiration, to be able to serve, to be able to enter the temple, and to honor the priesthood.

Most important, we are choosing to work toward eternal life in the celestial kingdom with our Father in Heaven. That is the pathway of peace and happiness. ■



## TOUCHED *by* a TESTIMONY

By Michael Harken

**A**t the beginning of my mission, I served in a small city in South Korea. One rainy day we had not had a lot of success but wanted to keep working until it was time to go home. My companion and I decided that we would knock on a few more doors.

At one door a woman answered, and my companion started talking to her. As a new missionary, I had a hard time understanding, but after a few minutes she began speaking to us in English. We found out that she was from Chicago, Illinois, USA, and had moved here with her family. Her husband was a preacher for a church that did not have friendly feelings toward our beliefs.

The woman was nice but eager to disprove the Book of Mormon and convince us that our church was incorrect. I stood there with my companion as he

tried to answer her difficult questions. My companion tried to testify to her that the Book of Mormon is true and that it could help her, but she insisted on believing that he was incorrect.

After about 30 minutes of discussion at the door, she asked my companion, “Where will we go after this life?” I could tell she was eager to refute my companion’s teachings, as she had before. My companion testified of the plan of salvation and that we can live with our families forever in the celestial kingdom. Before he could continue, she stopped him and asked him to repeat what he had just said about families being together. He again replied with the same response. I felt the Spirit so strongly, and I could see in her eyes that something had touched her deeply too. After that

short but powerful testimony, she stopped arguing with us, took a Book of Mormon, and asked us to come back to talk with her and her husband about the Book of Mormon.

I remember walking home with my companion that evening, amazed by the effect of my companion’s testimony. I understood then that a testimony accompanied by the Spirit is the most powerful teaching tool we have. I’ll never forget my companion and his testimony that night. After that experience I decided that, even with my limited ability to speak Korean, I would try to bear my testimony no matter what. As I did, I began to feel the Spirit more and more. I learned that the best communication happens when you teach by the Spirit. ■

*Michael Harken lives in Utah, USA.*

# Where the Book of Mormon Was Published

*Come with me to explore an important place in Church history!*

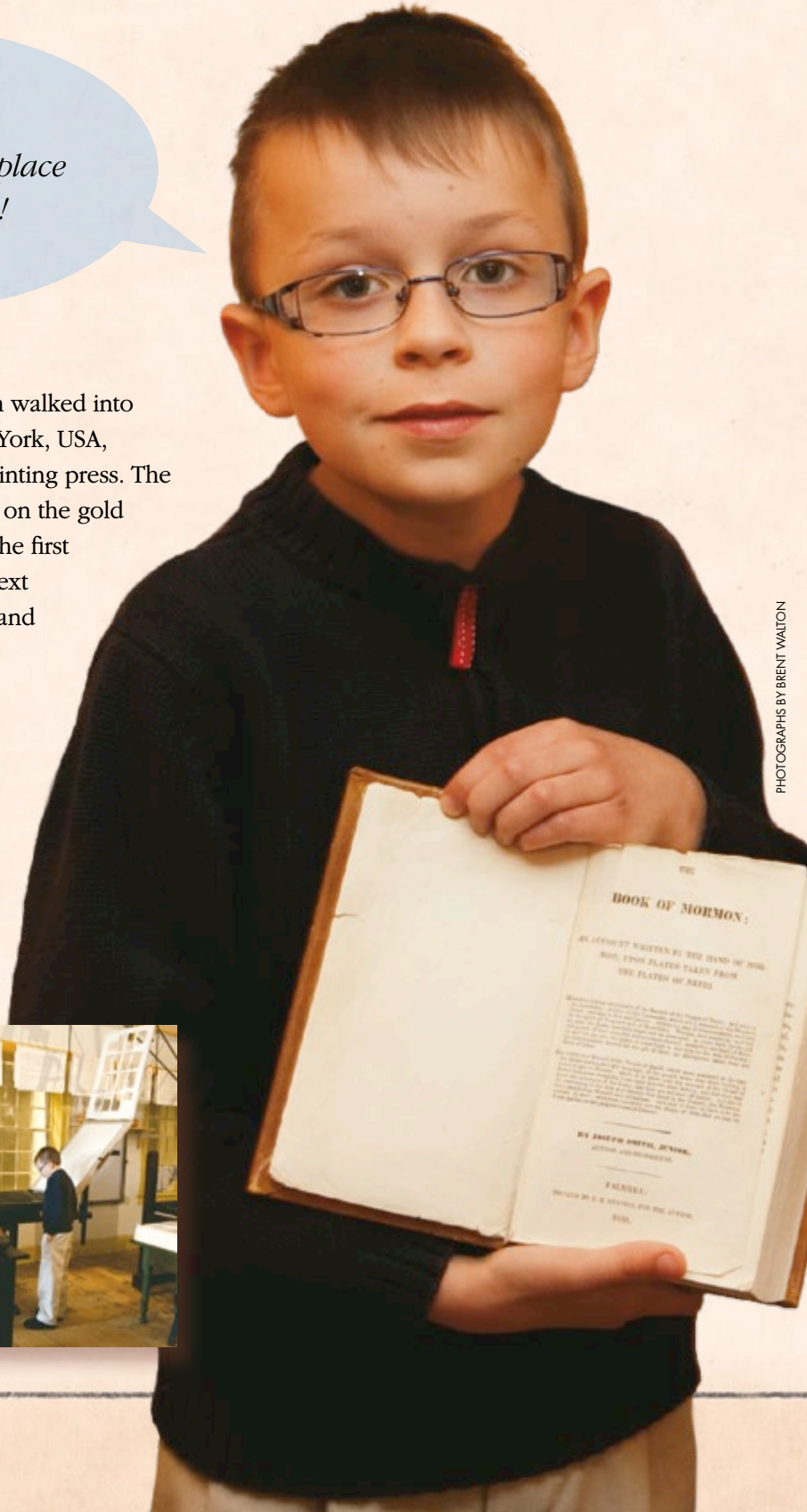
By Jan Pinborough  
Church Magazines

**O**n a summer day in 1829, Joseph Smith walked into a red brick building in Palmyra, New York, USA, where Mr. Egbert B. Grandin had a printing press. The Prophet had just finished translating the words on the gold plates, and he wanted Mr. Grandin to publish the first 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon. By the next spring, the new book of scripture was printed and ready for people to read.

Luke S., age eight, visited the Grandin Building to learn the amazing story of how the Book of Mormon was published 183 years ago this month. ■

*Mr. Grandin's new press could print 16 pages at a time—twice as many as older presses could.*

*This room has replicas of the equipment used to print the Book of Mormon.*



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRENT WALTON



*These cases hold thousands of small metal letters called type. Capital letters are called "upper case" because they were kept in the top cases.*



*The typesetter had to place one letter at a time into an instrument called a composing stick.*



*Ink balls were used to put ink onto the type.*

*The pages were hung up so the ink could dry.*



*The large pages, called signatures, went to the bindery. Here they were folded, cut into small pages, and stitched together.*

*The Book of Mormon first went on sale on March 26, 1830. Each copy cost U.S.\$1.75. (This is equal to about U.S.\$24 today.) Most people had to work about two days to earn that much money.*

*Today thousands of copies of the Book of Mormon are published each year in 85 different languages. Parts of the book are also translated in 23 more languages.*



*Joseph Smith wanted the Book of Mormon to be a fine leather-covered book stamped with gold letters, like the Bible.*

### IT WASN'T EASY!

Luke's favorite story from the Book of Mormon is about Nephi getting the brass plates (see 1 Nephi 3–4). He likes how Nephi worked hard to do what the Lord asked. Luke learned something similar about publishing the Book of Mormon. "I learned it wasn't easy," he said. "They had to put all the letters in upside down and backwards!"



# Ric's New Book

By Laura Byrd

Based on a true story

*"Whenever I am good and kind and help someone I see, I feel so very happy" ("A Happy Helper," Children's Songbook, 197).*

**R**ic ran his hands across the gold letters on the front of his new book. His friends crowded closer.

"That's so cool!" Jake said. "I've never seen a red Book of Mormon before."

"It looks like it would fit in your shirt pocket," Jarom added.

"It does," Ric said, slipping it into his pocket and then taking it back out again. Just then the Primary president welcomed everyone to sharing time, so the boys stopped talking. But Ric couldn't help glancing down at his book from time to time.

When Primary was over, Ric stopped by the nursery to pick up his little sister. Dad was already there.

"Have you seen Mom?" Dad asked.

"No, but I hope she's ready to go," Ric said. "I'm hungry!"

Ric's stomach was growling by the time they found Mom, but he smiled when he saw Brother and Sister Bird standing by her. Well, Brother Bird was standing. Sister Bird was sitting in her wheelchair, as always. Mom said Sister Bird had a disease called multiple sclerosis, or MS, which made it hard for her to use her muscles. Sometimes she was in pain, but she always had a smile for everyone. Brother and Sister Bird were some of Ric's favorite people in the ward.



“Why, hello there, young man,” Brother Bird said, shaking Ric’s hand. “How was Primary today?”

“It was awesome. I got to show everyone this.” Ric held up his small red book.

“What’s that?” asked Sister Bird.

“It’s my new Book of Mormon. My grandparents sent it to me,” Ric said as he handed it to her.

“I’ve never seen one of these,” said Sister Bird, turning the pocket-sized red book over in her hands.

“It’s so small and light. I love to read the Book of Mormon, but my hands get so tired holding my scriptures that I have to stop after a few minutes. But I could hold this a long time.” She handed it back.

Ric looked at his cool book. Then he looked at Sister Bird.

“Here, Sister Bird. I want you to have this.” Ric put the Book of Mormon back in her hands.

“Are you sure?” asked Brother Bird.

“I’m sure,” he said.

“Oh, Ric, thank you.” Sister Bird’s eyes filled with tears. “Reading the scriptures helps me get through days when I’m in pain. Your little book will really help me.” She reached out and gave him a big hug.

As they walked to the car, Mom said, “You’re awfully quiet. Are you sad you gave your book away?”

“Not really. It was cool, but I have another Book of Mormon at home. Besides, I think that what’s inside the book is more important than what’s on the outside.”

Mom lovingly squeezed his shoulder.

“I just hope Grandma and Grandpa won’t be sad that I gave my Book of Mormon away.”

“Trust me, Ric, they won’t.”

Ric had a feeling his mom was right. ■

*Laura Byrd lives in Oregon, USA.*



“If you will extend yourself beyond what is easy to do, you will feel so good inside that kindness will start to become a part of your everyday life.”

**Mary N. Cook, first counselor in the Young Women general presidency, “Remember This: Kindness Begins with Me,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2011, 120.**

# Megan's Lambs

By Julina K. Mills

Based on a true story

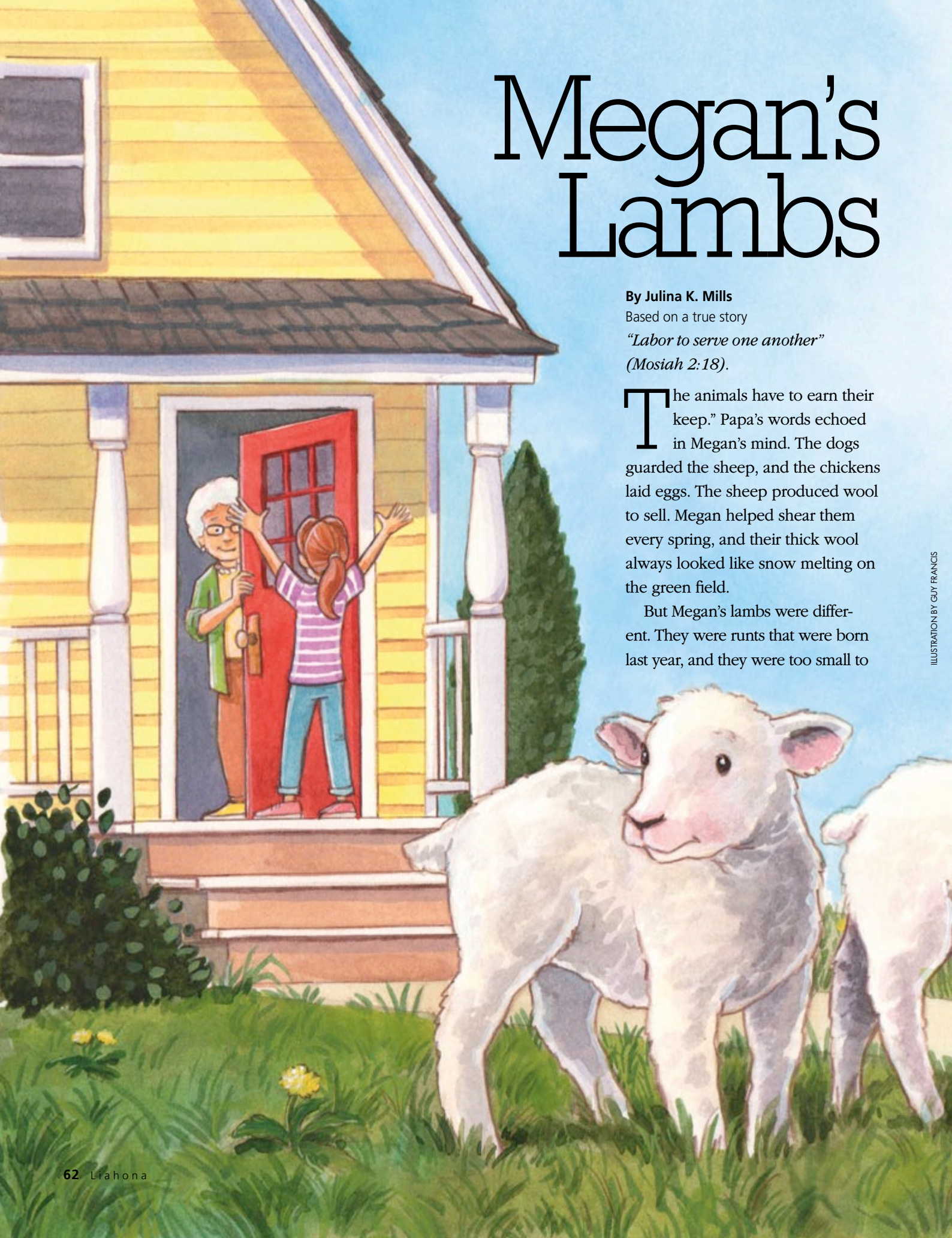
*"Labor to serve one another"*

*(Mosiah 2:18).*

The animals have to earn their keep." Papa's words echoed in Megan's mind. The dogs guarded the sheep, and the chickens laid eggs. The sheep produced wool to sell. Megan helped shear them every spring, and their thick wool always looked like snow melting on the green field.

But Megan's lambs were different. They were runts that were born last year, and they were too small to

ILLUSTRATION BY GUY FRANCIS





produce enough wool to pay for their upkeep. Papa had wanted to take them to the butcher, but the two tiny, frail babies had captured Megan's heart. She'd pleaded to keep them, and Papa had finally agreed. "But," he had warned her, "you will have to take care of them all by yourself."

At first, everything had been OK. Megan had used her birthday money to buy hay when the lambs began to eat. But now her birthday money was gone, and Papa said it was too expensive to let the lambs graze in the field he rented outside town. Besides, Megan knew she would rarely see them if they went to the field. She sighed as she watched her lambs nibble the last bit of hay. It would be gone

tomorrow, and she needed to find a way to feed her lambs.

Megan patted the white wool on the lambs' heads as she leaned against the pen. Down her street she could see Mr. Flowers tending his roses. A couple houses down, Mrs. Wilmot hobbled slowly out to get the mail. Mrs. Wilmot was a widow who lived all alone. Sometimes Megan's brother raked leaves for Mrs. Wilmot, but he always complained because Mrs. Wilmot couldn't afford to pay him.

Megan noticed how long Mrs. Wilmot's grass was. "I'll offer to trim her lawn for her," Megan decided. "But not now. I need to find a way to feed my lambs."

Suddenly Megan had an idea. Mrs. Wilmot had grass, and Megan had sheep that needed to graze—the perfect combination! Megan patted her lambs quickly on the head and ran to Mrs. Wilmot's house. When Mrs. Wilmot answered the door, she

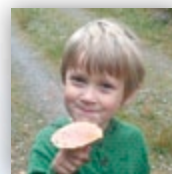
beamed at Megan, happy to have a visitor. The words tumbled out of Megan's mouth as she explained her idea.

"Mrs. Wilmot, I think this could be great for both of us!" Megan finished. She held her breath, waiting for a response.

"I think so too!" Mrs. Wilmot said. "I could use the company, and my lawn could use the help. Bring the lambs over first thing tomorrow morning." Megan and Mrs. Wilmot smiled at each other, and Megan grinned all the way home.

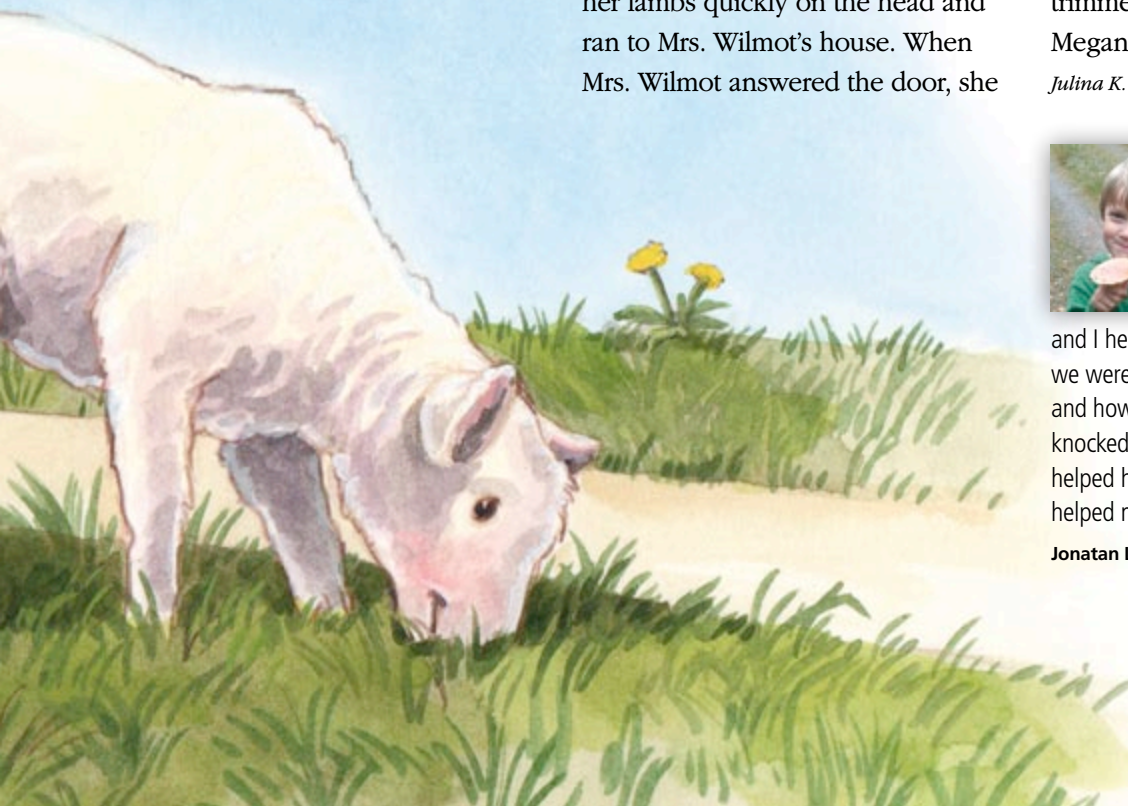
The next day was the beginning of a long and wonderful friendship. Megan took her sheep over to Mrs. Wilmot's house every morning before school, and in the afternoons she stayed to visit for a while before she took her lambs home for the night. Mrs. Wilmot's lawn stayed trimmed at the perfect height, and Megan's lambs earned their keep. ■

*Julina K. Mills lives in Arizona, USA.*



My neighbor came back from a trip in the forest, where she picked mushrooms to eat. Our family got some from her, and I helped my mother clean them. When we were done, I thought about my neighbor and how many she had to clean by herself. I knocked on her door, and she let me in, and I helped her. If Jesus lived here, He would have helped my neighbor also.

**Jonatan L., age 5, Sweden**





# Why is Jesus Christ so important to us?

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

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

He is our Creator.

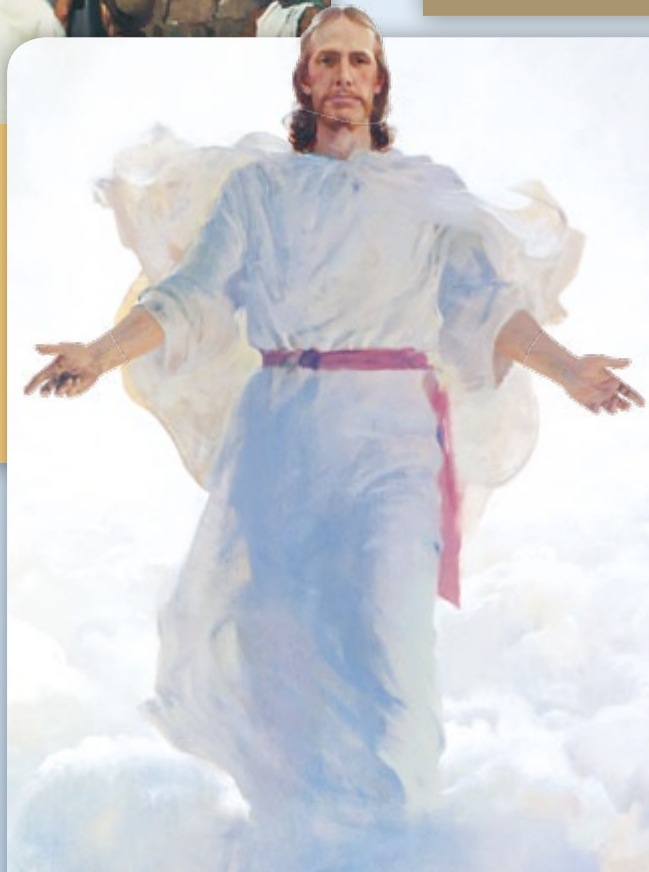


He gave priesthood power to His Apostles and to others.



His teachings light our path and show us the way back to Heavenly Father.

The Atonement of



Jesus Christ gives us the opportunity to have the blessings of eternal life.

Through His Resurrection, we will live again.

This is the most important knowledge on earth. The Holy Ghost has revealed it to me, and He will reveal it to you.

*From "Teachings of Jesus,"  
Liahona and Ensign,  
Nov. 2011, 90–91, 93.*

# Because HE Lives

By **Marivic Pasigay**, Negros Occidental, Philippines  
and **Marissa Widdison**, Church Magazines

Based on a true story

*“The Lord is risen indeed”  
(Luke 24:34).*

**W**atoy paused under the colorful Filipino flag outside his school before heading inside.

“Good morning, class,” his teacher said. “It’s time for our morning prayer.”

All around him, Watoy’s friends each touched their foreheads, chests, and shoulders to form the shape of a cross. Then they recited the prayer they always said at the beginning of class. As usual, Watoy didn’t join them. Instead, he closed his eyes, bowed his head, and said his own silent prayer. He prayed about different things each time, the way he was taught to pray at home and in Primary.

When he finished and looked up, he saw that his teacher was watching him with a confused expression on her face.

“May I talk to you after school?” she said.

Watoy swallowed and nodded. Was he in trouble?

When classes had ended for the day, Watoy’s teacher walked over to him.

“I see that you never cross yourself or recite our morning prayer,” she said. “Will you please tell me why?”

Watoy breathed a sigh of relief. His teacher wasn’t upset, just curious! He thought about how to answer.

“Well,” he began, “in my church, when we pray, we talk to Heavenly Father about many different things. And the cross reminds us of when Jesus died. But Jesus is not dead. He lives!”

His teacher thought about this for a moment and then nodded slowly.

“Thank you for sharing this with me,” she said.

As Watoy walked to football practice, he felt warm and good inside. He liked teaching others about Jesus Christ. ■



During Easter, we celebrate the life of Jesus Christ. An Easter countdown activity on pages 68–69 can help you get ready for this special day.

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

# Jesus Christ Is Our Savior

Once when Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr. of the Seventy was a child, he and his sister were playing in a small boat on a river. At first their adventure was fun, but as the boat drifted farther from the shore, they realized they were floating toward dangerous waters downstream.

The children began calling for help. Their father heard them and raced to the boat to rescue them. He saved them, which was something they could not do for themselves. He did this because he loved them.

Sometimes we make wrong choices and do things that spiritually take us away from Heavenly Father. Our Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. Jesus Christ suffered for our sins so that we can repent and return home safely to live with Heavenly Father. The Savior did something we could not do for ourselves. He was willing to do this because He loves us. ■

## SONG AND SCRIPTURE

- "He Sent His Son"  
(*Children's Songbook*, 34)
- John 3:16



## PROPHETS TESTIFY OF THE SAVIOR

Match each testimony below with the picture of the prophet who said it. Write the prophet's number in the box.

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14).

"Wherefore, all mankind were in a lost and in a fallen state, and ever would be save they should rely on this Redeemer" (1 Nephi 10:6).

"I know that Jesus Christ shall come, yea, the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace, and mercy, and truth. And behold, it is he that cometh to take away the sins of the world, yea, the sins of every man who steadfastly believeth on his name" (Alma 5:48).

"And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall believe on the Son of God, the same shall have everlasting life" (Helaman 14:8).

"I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other— *This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*" (Joseph Smith—History 1:17).

"Jesus is . . . the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh. He is our Redeemer; He is our Mediator with the Father. He it was who died on the cross to atone for our sins" ("I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2007, 25).



1. Alma



2. Joseph Smith



3. Samuel the Lamanite



4. John



5. President Thomas S. Monson

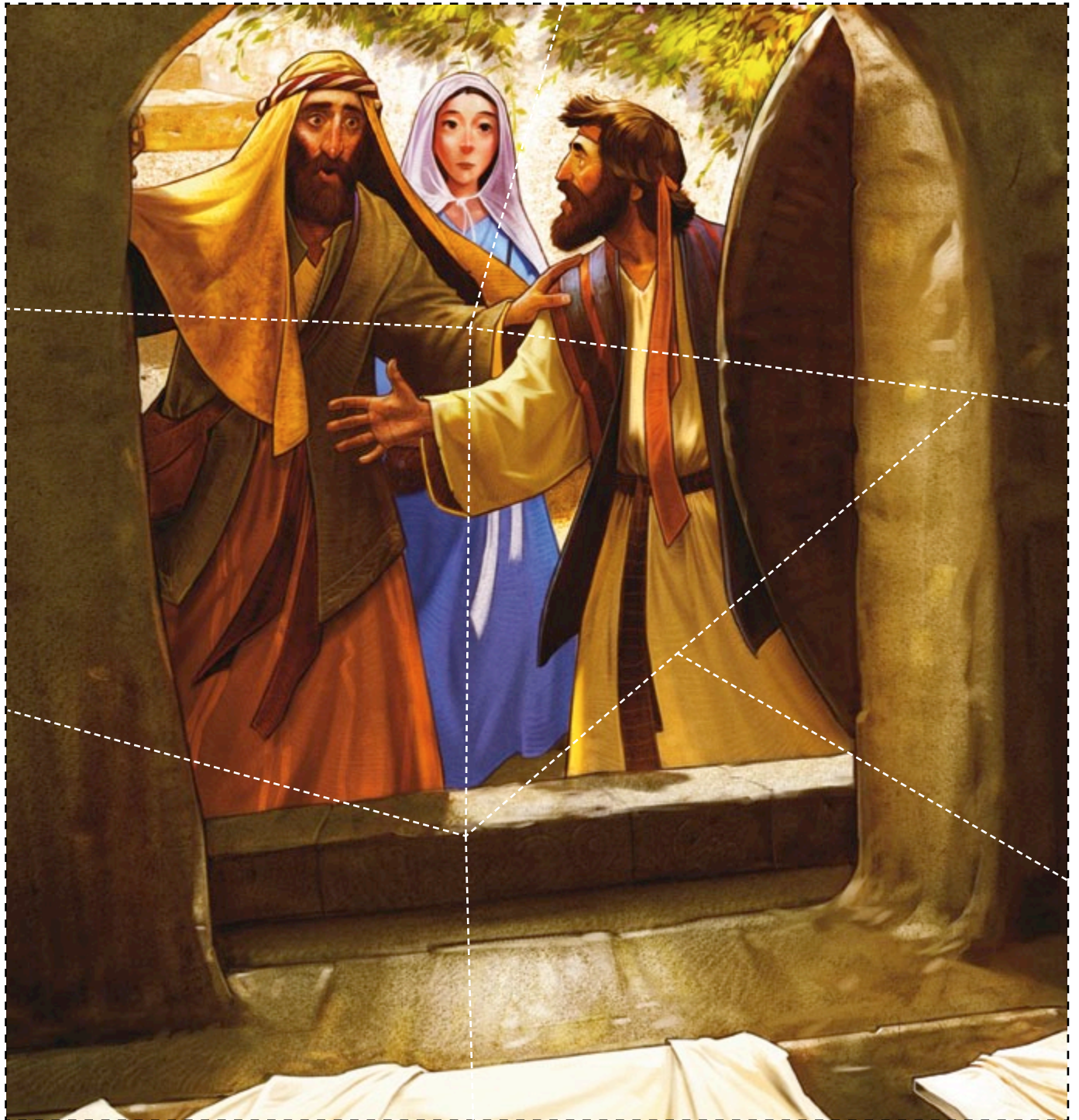


6. Lehi

### LET'S TALK

Sing "He Sent His Son" and discuss the questions in the song. Consider what you can do as a family to live like Jesus Christ.

# Picturing Easter



**Y**ou can use this countdown activity to get ready for Easter, which is a time to remember and celebrate the life of Jesus Christ and His Atonement. Cut the picture to the left into puzzle pieces as marked. Starting a week before Easter, choose one puzzle piece each day. Find where it belongs below and do what is written on that space before gluing or taping the piece in place. When your picture is complete, Easter will have arrived! ■

*Sing a Primary song that talks about Jesus Christ. How can you follow His example today?*

*Read what living Apostles wrote about Jesus Christ: "He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come" ("The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles," Liahona and Ensign, Apr. 2000, 2–3).*

*We take the sacrament each week to remember Jesus Christ. What can you do to be especially reverent during sacrament meeting this Sunday?*

*Sing your favorite Christmas song. What do you remember learning about Jesus Christ's birth?*

*Read John 3:16–17 with a parent and talk about what it means. How do you know Heavenly Father loves you?*

*Read the story "Because He Lives" on page 65. How can you share a meaningful Easter message with your friends?*

*Draw a picture of your favorite scripture story about Jesus. You could ask your parents to help you watch The Life of Jesus Christ Bible Videos at [biblevideos.lds.org](http://biblevideos.lds.org) to get some ideas.*

# A Gift from Heavenly Father

By Chad E. Phares

Church Magazines

Based on a true story



Isabelle was happy that it was spring. She liked to listen to the birds. She liked to play in the green grass.

Isabelle was happy it was time for Easter. She knew Easter was a special day. On Easter we celebrate when Jesus came back to life.



In Primary, Sister Martin gave crayons to all the children in class. She asked them to draw the greatest gift Heavenly Father gave them.



Michael drew a picture of his family.

Eliza drew a picture of her friend.

Anthony drew a picture of his house.



Isabelle looked at the drawings. They were very good.

Isabelle thought about what she should draw. She was happy to have a family. She was happy to have friends. She was happy to have a house.



Isabelle thought about another gift that Heavenly Father gave all people. He gave everyone the gift of a Savior. Isabelle picked up her crayons. She drew a picture of Jesus Christ.

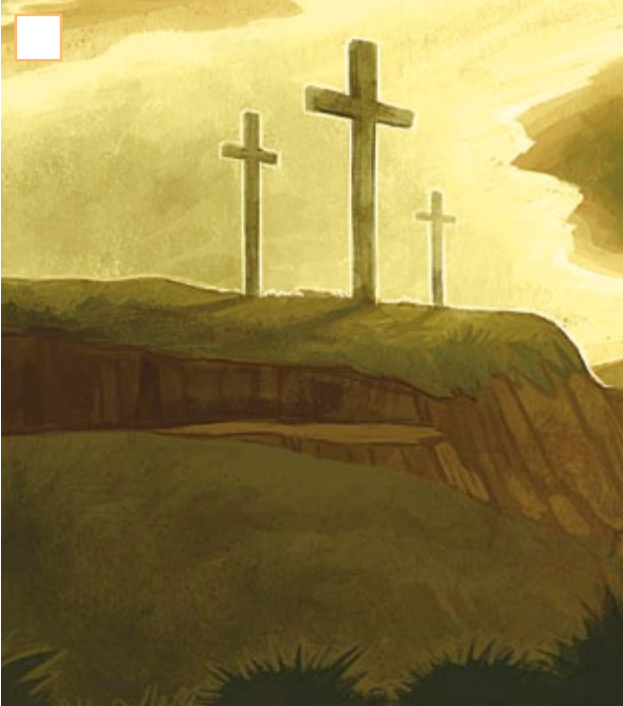
Sister Martin asked Isabelle what she drew.

“I drew a picture of Jesus,” Isabelle said. “He is the greatest gift.” ■



# Jesus Christ Lives

By Chad E. Phares  
Church Magazines



After Jesus Christ was crucified, He was resurrected. This means that His body came back to life and that He will live forever. Because of His Resurrection, we too will live forever.

Look at the pictures that show some of the events from Jesus's life. Write a 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the boxes to show the order in which the events happened.



# NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Visit [news.lds.org](http://news.lds.org) for more Church news and events.

## Leaders Encourage Members to Tie Family History to the Temple

By Heather Whittle Wrigley

Church News and Events

In October 2012 the First Presidency issued a letter calling for members to use their own family names for temple work and outlining five main points to help members find greater fulfillment in doing family history and attending the temple.

Members can respond to the call to find, prepare, and share names for the temple by using the tools and resources offered on LDS.org and FamilySearch.org. The points outlined in the First Presidency letter are:

1. “When members of the Church find the names of their ancestors and take those names to the temple for ordinance work, the temple experience can be greatly enriched.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “Any work you do in the temple is time well spent, but receiving ordinances vicariously for one of your own ancestors will make the time in the temple more sacred, and even greater blessings will be received. The First Presidency has declared, ‘Our preeminent obligation is to seek out and identify *our own* ancestors’”

(“The Joy of Redeeming the Dead,” *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 93–94).

On LDS.org, learn more about why we are asked to prepare names from our own family to take to the temple by clicking on **Resources, Family History**, and **Why should we do temple work for our own ancestors?** (video located under **Why Do We Do Family History Work?**).

2. “Members with limited ability to do their own family history research are encouraged to perform vicarious ordinances with names provided by other members or by the temple.”

Many members of the Church have limited access to temples. Church leaders encourage these members to do what they can. Members without a temple nearby can pursue family history research and have the temple ordinance work done by others.

Other members may struggle with feeling that all of the family history research and work that can be done for their ancestors has already been done. These members are encouraged to continue to attend the temple, preferably taking with them family names of other members.

At [lds.org/temples](http://lds.org/temples), **Find a Temple** can help you prepare for your next temple visit.

3. Youth and young single adults are especially encouraged “to use for temple work their own family names or the names of ancestors of their ward and stake members.”

“Do you young people want a sure way to eliminate the influence of the adversary in your life?” Elder Scott asked. “Immerse yourself in searching for your ancestors, prepare their names for the sacred vicarious ordinances available in the temple, and then go to the temple to stand as proxy for them to receive the ordinances of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. As you grow older, you will be able to participate in receiving the other ordinances as well. I can think of no greater protection from the influence of the adversary in your life” (“Redeeming the Dead,” 94).

Also in the Family History section of LDS.org, under **Getting Started**, find five steps to prepare family names for the temple.

4. Priesthood leaders should ensure that all members “learn the doctrine of turning their hearts to their fathers and the blessings of temple attendance.”

*To Turn the Hearts* is a leader resource guide provided as a supplement to *Handbook 2: Administering*



*The Church has many resources available in print and online to help members understand the reasons for preparing family names for the temple and how to do it.*

*the Church* to help ward and stake priesthood leaders support members in their responsibilities to seek after their dead and provide them the saving ordinances in the temple. It includes videos that document how some stakes have used temple and family history work to strengthen individuals and families.

Explore leader resources on LDS.org by clicking on **Resources, All Callings, Family History, and Leader Resources.**

5. Those with “large numbers of family names reserved [are encouraged] to release these names in a

timely manner so the necessary ordinances can be performed.”

There are currently 12 million names on FamilySearch.org that have been reserved by family members who intend to perform their ancestors’ ordinances themselves. Many names, however, have been reserved for years.

“[Ancestors] may not be very happy when they have to continue to wait for their ordinances to be performed,” Elder Scott said. “We encourage those of you who have a large reservation of names to share them so that members of

your extended family or ward and stake can help you in completing that work. You can do this by distributing temple cards to ward and stake members willing to help or by using the FamilySearch computer system to submit the names directly to the temple” (“Redeeming the Dead,” 94).

In the **Getting Started** section mentioned above, under **I Want to Share Names with Others**, click on **Watch Video**, then watch the video **Releasing Names for Temple Work** for information about sharing reserved names. ■

# Media Professionals Needed to Work on Church Projects

By Ryan Morgenegg

Church News

In an effort to better capture the story of the Church around the world, the Publishing Services Department has created the Media Professional Database ([mediapro.lds.org](http://mediapro.lds.org)), a directory for media professionals interested in creating and producing film, video, broadcast, live events, and digital media for the Church.

The primary purpose of the database is to identify talented media professionals around the world, and the Church wants to include as many “vetted”—or approved—professionals, individuals, and companies as possible. Scott Olson, project manager for the database, said, “The Church is looking for experienced professionals with several

***With the Media Professionals Database, the Church will be able to use international teams of media professionals to shoot video around the world more quickly and economically.***

years of experience. This is not a database for hobbyists.”

In the past when a media project needed to be done, local contractors in Utah would be hired and flown to a location to shoot a video or accomplish a project and then return and finish the project at Church headquarters. The Church does have audiovisual professionals who work on projects, but there are so many media projects that need to be done that it is not feasible for internal teams to complete all of them. A database of talented professionals around the world is important to the future of the Church’s media efforts.

Brother Olson said, “For the Church to fully utilize the MediaPro database effectively, more professionals from all over the world will need to populate it. Our goal for the site is to get experienced media professionals associated with the Church’s database so when a project arises in any part of the world, we can reach out to them and hit the ground running.”

A media professional who would like to be considered for projects should send his or her name, email address, and a brief biography to [mediapro@ldschurch.org](mailto:mediapro@ldschurch.org). Part of the information that media professionals fill out will be a detailed history of their work, along with examples of prior work, skill sets, and availability. Brother Olson said, “It’s important to be specific about your skills because some skill sets are common across video, film, and the web.”

Just registering with MediaPro doesn’t guarantee an opportunity to work for the Church, but if professionals don’t register, they might never get the chance. Registering their information and skills allows the Church to identify them and see what they can do. ■



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MATTHEW REIER

# Church Presence Growing in South America, Elders Oaks and Bednar Report

By Jason Swensen  
*Church News*

The opening section of the Doctrine and Covenants includes the prophecy that the Church will emerge “out of obscurity and out of darkness” (1:30). That day may have arrived in much of South America.

“We are out of obscurity and darkness,” said Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles following his return from South America in October. “This truth is reflected in the way [South American] government officials know and recognize the Church and how Church representatives are received whenever we come.”

Elder Bednar accompanied Elder Dallin H. Oaks, also of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, on an October 19–28 visit to the South America South Area that included a review of the area, missionary and priesthood leadership meetings, and youth and young single adult devotionals that were broadcast across Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

The visiting authorities met with more than 1,800 missionaries serving in the area’s four nations. “We shook hands with all of the missionaries that we met, and they looked good,” said Elder Oaks. “It was an impressive force of missionaries from North and South America.”

Some 15,000 people also viewed two devotionals for area youth and young single adults. Elder Oaks presided over the young single adult devotional, which was broadcast to 326 locations



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SOUTH AMERICA SOUTH MISSION AND CHURCH NEWS

throughout the area. Elder Bednar was the presiding authority at the youth devotional, which was seen by young people ages 12 to 18 and their parents gathered in 439 locations.

At each training meeting and devotional, the visiting Brethren spoke of the importance of achieving a higher level of “real growth” through increases in sacrament meeting attendance, temple endowments and marriages, and young people serving full-time missions.

In the youth devotional, the young men and young women were invited to ask questions. The General Authorities answered a wide range of questions about missionary preparation and remaining righteous in an increasingly wicked world.

The Brethren also counseled local priesthood leaders that real growth can be realized in the area only with increases in missionary service and retention. A prolific core of returned missionaries is needed to ensure future generations of seasoned leaders, said Elder Oaks.

Elder Mervyn B. Arnold of the Seventy, Area President at the time, described the visit of the General Authorities and their wives as “inspiring, uplifting, and very informative.”

“Their love, kindness, and teaching will be forever remembered,” he said. ■

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles meets with the archbishop of Santiago, Chile, Monsignor Ricardo Ezzati Andrello.**

# President Monson Rededicates Boise Temple

By Sarah Jane Weaver  
*Church News*

In November 2012 President Thomas S. Monson rededicated the Boise Idaho Temple—a structure that was originally dedicated in 1984 and eventually closed for 15 months for extensive renovations.

The evening before the rededication, a group of 9,200 young people gathered for the youth cultural celebration. So many youth participated that they filled the Taco Bell Arena on the campus of Boise State University,

***President Thomas S. Monson expresses his love and appreciation to members of the Church during a cultural celebration the night before he rededicated the Boise Idaho Temple.***

and their families and others had to gather in remote locations to watch the program, which was broadcast to stake centers throughout the temple district.

The production was less about dancing and more about preparing for the temple, said Gary Walker, youth cultural celebration subcommittee chairman.

At the celebration, President Monson told youth the temple “shines as a beacon of righteousness to all who will follow its light. . . . We treasure that light, and we thank our Heavenly Father for the blessings this temple and all temples bring into our lives.”

Elder Bednar also attended the dedication sessions on Sunday, during which he taught, “There is a warmth, light, brightness, and radiance that comes from a temple anywhere in the world.”

The Boise Idaho Temple serves approximately 100,000 Latter-day Saints from 31 stakes in the area. ■

## Church Preparing Online Resources for Youth Activities

In an effort to strengthen Latter-day Saint young men and young women worldwide, the Church is preparing an online resource for youth activities. The new youth activities section of LDS.org is being developed to help youth leaders and their adult advisers plan meaningful activities for Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Young Women classes in stakes and wards throughout the Church.

The site is intended to support the Church’s ongoing emphasis on strengthening youth, which was highlighted by the recent changes to age requirements for full-time missionary service, the new youth learning resource *Come, Follow Me*, and invitations for youth to participate in family history.

For young men, the site complements the spiritually focused Duty to God program with resources for physical, social, and educational development. ■



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PHOTOGRAPH BY EVELYN SCOTT



**Dozens of LDS volunteers from the Czech and Slovak Republics cheerfully worked for hours in warm weather along the steep banks of the Zilina reservoir to collect bottles, paper, plastic, cardboard, Styrofoam, and other trash during a day of service in September 2012.**

### **Slovak Republic Day of Service**

More than 130 members from the Czech and Slovak Republics along with former Czech and Slovak missionaries gathered in Zilina, Slovak Republic, on September 8, 2012, to provide service to the city—clearing 1.5 tons (1.3 tonnes) of waste from the banks of the Zilina reservoir, improving the city’s kindergarten and nursery building, and weeding city planters.

“It is wonderful to see the volunteers working hard and see the smiles on their faces and joy in their eyes!” commented volunteer Hana Snajdarova, whose family was among the early converts to the Church in Slovakia. “I think that that is why we enjoy these projects so much. We want to help—to serve—and we love it.”

### **Stand-Alone Spanish New Testament Now Available**

The Church recently released a stand-alone version of the New Testament from the Spanish *Santa*

*Biblia: Reina Valera 2009*, making the scriptures more accessible and convenient for Church members and nonmembers alike.

This new version is the standard size and contains the scriptural text of the New Testament, footnotes, and selections from the Joseph Smith Translation.

The stand-alone Spanish New Testament is available in softcover through Church distribution centers or [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org) (item no. 09215002).

### **Changes to South America South Area Presidency**

On January 6, 2013, Elder Walter F. González was released from serving as a member of the Presidency of the Seventy and replaced Elder Mervyn B. Arnold as President of the South America South Area in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Elder Arnold received a new assignment at Church headquarters.

Elders Jorge F. Zeballos and Francisco J. Viñas continue to serve as counselors in the Area Presidency.

“We express gratitude for the dedicated service of these brethren and wish them well in their assignments,” a letter from the First Presidency reads.

### **Saints in Botswana Rejoice at Creation of First Stake**

In November 2012 nearly 900 Church members gathered in Botswana, Africa, to witness the organization of the new Gaborone Botswana Stake—the first stake in the country.

Africa Southeast Area President Elder Dale G. Renlund and Elder Colin H. Bricknell, Area Seventy, presided over the meeting. Clement M. Matswagothata was called as stake president, Geoffrey Tembo was called as first counselor, and Oduetse S. Mokweni was called as second counselor.

“The stake will be a place of refuge, a place of learning, a place of goodness and safety, a place of order, a place of kindness and love, and a place of God,” Roodepoort South Africa Stake president Daniel Hall commented.

# THE MINEFIELD RESCUE

By Russell Westergard

During the Gulf War, I led a team of soldiers into Kuwait. Once the defenses were breached, we searched the enemy's fighting positions to make sure we would be safe and looked for anything of intelligence value.

I had just entered a captured command post when I heard a British sergeant shout frantically, "Stop! Don't take another step!" Sticking my head out of the bunker, I saw one of my soldiers in immediate peril. She had walked into an open area to pick up a document and was now standing in the middle of a large minefield. When she heard the sergeant's shout, she stopped and realized her danger.

Gathering on the edge of the minefield, our team could see that the young soldier was so panicked that she was physically shaking. We needed to act quickly but couldn't send soldiers to get her without risking their lives as well as hers. Without discussion or hesitation we began talking to the soldier, calling out words of comfort, encouragement, and instruction. We could see tears streaming down her face and hear fear in her responses, but she began to calm slightly at our reassurance.

After a moment she had enough courage to look back the way she had come, and she told us she could see her own footsteps



*We couldn't go get the trapped soldier, but we could encourage her, cheer on her efforts, and rejoice in her success.*

faintly in the sand. With our encouragement, she hesitantly began retracing her path. By placing her feet gently on each of her previous footprints, she walked out of that minefield, flying into our waiting arms as she took the final step. The considerable crowd of soldiers on the sideline shouted with joy as we welcomed her back. Tears of fear were replaced with smiles and hugs.

Few of us have stood on the edge of an actual minefield. But many of us know those who have left spiritually safe ground to be trapped in the minefields of life. Like that young soldier, they too may feel alone, scared, and unsure. But that soldier was never alone. She had a team on the sidelines cheering her on, friends who needed her back and didn't give up. She had leaders offering guidance and encouragement. She was the one who had to walk out of the minefield, but we collectively helped her find the strength to do so. In the end we celebrated her rescue with genuine love and joy.

Spiritual rescues can be just as dramatic. Whether we reach out as a family, as friends, or as a ward or branch, our efforts can make all the difference. Timely words of encouragement and guidance probably saved the life of the soldier. Likewise, we can help rescue others from the perils of spiritual darkness by offering the encouragement and guidance that may ultimately bring them back. As we do, great shall be our joy—not only for a moment in this life but for eternity as well (see D&C 18:15). ■

*Russell Westergard lives in Virginia, USA.*

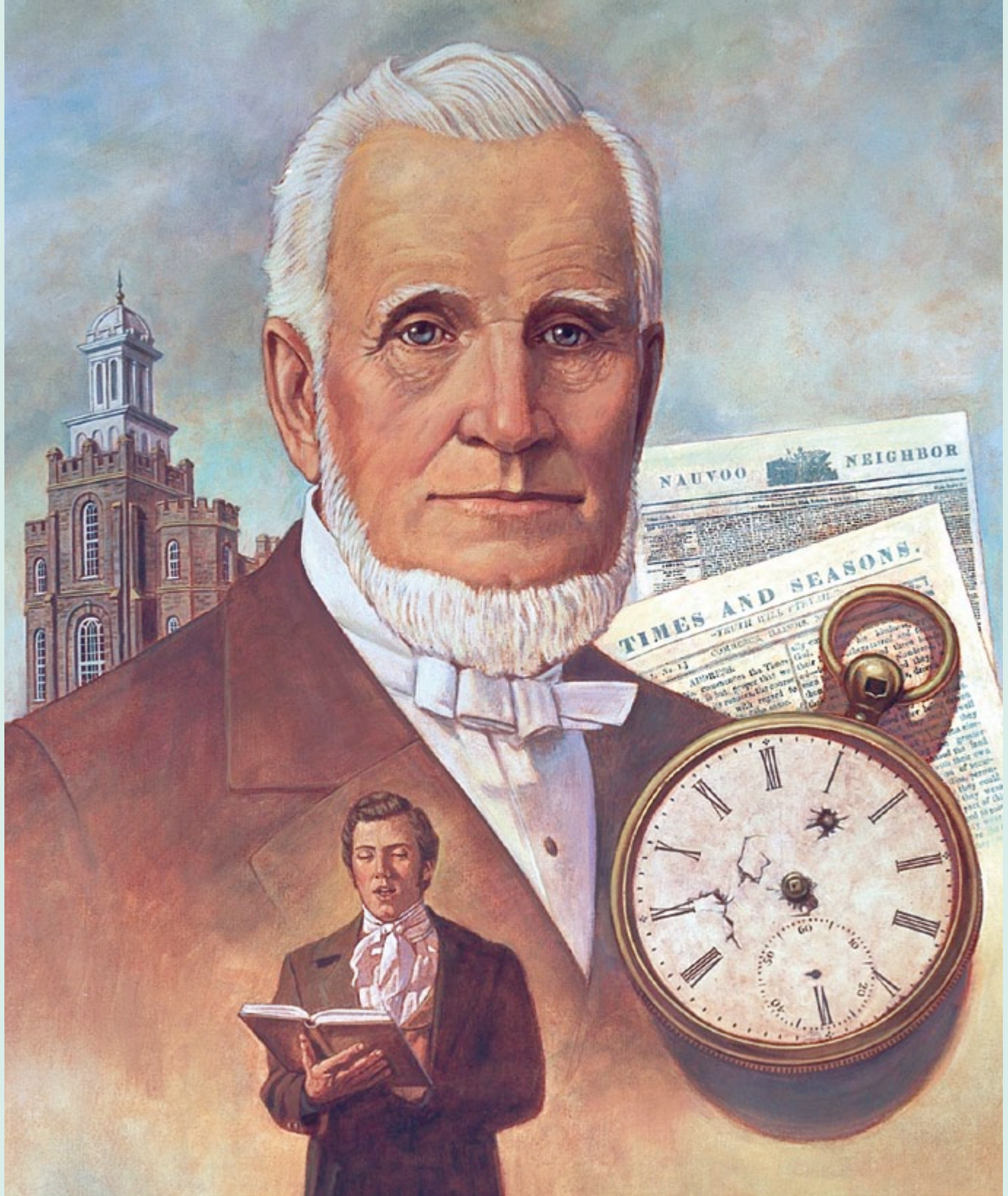


ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

## JOHN TAYLOR

**John Taylor** loved to **sing**. While in Carthage Jail, Joseph Smith asked Elder Taylor to sing “A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief” (*Hymns*, no. 29). The song comforted the Prophet before his death. John Taylor was present at the Martyrdom, and even though he was shot four times, his life was spared. He carried a **pocket watch** that broke during the Martyrdom. While serving in the Church, President Taylor edited many **Church publications** and dedicated the **Logan Utah Temple**.



*W*ise parents who want their children to succeed will teach principles of resilience and self-reliance. “Raising Resilient Children,” on page 10 of this issue, points out that resilient children cope well with challenges and changes, and they accept that losing may precede winning. The article on page 20, “Living the Principles of Self-Reliance,” teaches that our self-reliance enhances our ability to be agents for good.