

*The Plan of Salvation: "One of Heaven's Best Gifts to Mankind"*  
Rosemary W. Wixom, Jean A. Stevens, Cheryl A. Esplin

---

*This address was given Friday, April 29, 2011 at the BYU Women's Conference*

© 2011 by Brigham Young University Women's Conference. All rights reserved

For further information write:

BYU Women's Conference

161 Harman Continuing Education Building

Provo, Utah 84602

801-422-7692

E-mail: [womens\\_conference@byu.edu](mailto:womens_conference@byu.edu)

Home page: <http://womensconference.byu.edu>

---

*Sister Rosemary Wixom:* We are thrilled to be with you today at BYU Women's Conference. You truly are beautiful. I would like to add this thanks for all the effort that you gave to the humanitarian effort last evening, and are still doing today, because many of the projects you are doing pertain to children, and we say thank you.

We love you, and at this time I'd like to invite my counselors up to join me, Sister Stevens and Sister Esplin. You know, while we're on the Lord's errand in this service, we are experiencing blessings we did not know we'd ever feel. We are having our hearts knit together in unity and love. We celebrate Relief Society. We celebrate young women. We celebrate Primary, for that is where it all begins. For with all we have the purpose of strengthening the individual and families.

Our theme today is the plan of salvation. Jacob said, "O how great the plan of our God!" (2 Nephi 9:13). How does it pertain to us individually and what does it mean for our families? We will begin by having Sister Cheryl Esplin teach us about the *purpose* of His plan. And then Sister Jean Stevens will teach us about *trusting* in His plan. I will conclude by teaching us about how to *teach* children about the plan of salvation.

Now this is Primary, so we must have a Primary song. Let's begin by singing "I Will Follow God's Plan." Thanks to Sister Darlene Anderson and Carol Dean, who will lead us. Let's now join together and sing.

(All sing)

*Sister Cheryl Esplin:* Sisters, the words to that song that we've just sung affirm our belief that God has a plan for our life. "My life is a gift; my life has a plan. My life has a purpose; in heav'n it began...."<sup>1</sup> *Not everybody knows that!*

I have a friend who lived in the same neighborhood as we did when we lived in North Carolina. We began walking on the days when we could work it out with our schedules, and often the conversation turned to religion. She isn't a member of our church but is a devout member of

another church. She attended Bible study every week and attended church with her family every Sunday.

One day she asked a question about our beliefs that I responded to by saying, “First, you would have to understand what we believe about premortal life before you would understand the answer I’ll give you to your question.” She looked at me with kind of a quizzical look and said, “Where do you get that idea anyway?” As I explained our belief in the premortal life and Heavenly Father’s plan for us, she listened quietly and then responded, “Why don’t we *all* believe that?”

I came away from that conversation with a much greater appreciation for the knowledge we have of Heavenly Father’s plan for our salvation.

As the Prophet Joseph Smith revised the Bible, he said “it was apparent that many important points touching the salvation of man, had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled.”<sup>2</sup>

Elder Quentin L. Cook reminded us that “at the time Joseph Smith received revelations and organized the Church, the vast majority of churches taught that the Savior’s Atonement would *not* bring about the salvation of most of mankind. The common precept was then that a few would be saved and the overwhelming majority would be doomed.”<sup>3</sup>

Now with that in mind, imagine yourself in the upper room of the John Johnson home when Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon saw the heavens open and received what is now the 76<sup>th</sup> section of the Doctrine and Covenants, which President Wilford Woodruff said “makes plain to our understanding our present condition, where we came from...and where we are going.”<sup>4</sup>

“By the power of the Spirit [their] eyes were opened and [their] understandings were enlightened, so as to see and understand the things of God.”<sup>5</sup>

It was in this room that they beheld the glory of the Son and testified “He lives!” Joseph said, “For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God.”<sup>6</sup>

Through this vision they saw the degrees of glory and gained a true understanding of heaven. They learned that the great blessings of exaltation are available to *all people*.

The doctrines, ordinances, and promises that constitute the plan of salvation were revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith, line upon line, precept by precept in these latter days. *He* clearly understood the importance of the plan for he declared, “The great plan of salvation is a theme which ought to occupy our strict attention, and be regarded as one of heaven’s *best* gifts to mankind.” (emphasis added)<sup>7</sup>

God’s plan is designed for us to come to this earth and have experiences that will test and prove us, and help us learn all that we need to learn to be able to come back into His presence and live there with Him eternally. Elder Henry B. Eyring said, “*That is only possible if we have our*

*natures changed* through faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ, true repentance, and making and keeping the covenants He offers.” (emphasis added) <sup>8</sup>

Let me illustrate with a story. While my husband served—presided over the North Carolina Raleigh Mission, we had a missionary come into our mission who had only been a member of the Church for a little over a year or so. The minute he stepped off the plane, we knew he was going to be a great missionary. He had a bright countenance and he just looked and acted like a leader. He was mature, yet teachable and humble.

He became a natural leader among the missionaries and later served as an assistant to the president. Because of his understanding and knowledge of the gospel, we were amazed to hear his story.

This young man came from a home where they never talked about God or religion. They never prayed, they never read from the scriptures. He said the only time the name of God was mentioned in their home was when it was said in vain. When I asked him if he had ever wondered about God or where he came from or what the purpose of life was, he said no, he just never thought about those things. He never thought about God or religion—he didn’t even know if there was a God. He said, “I was the kind of boy that a mother would not want to date her daughter.”

Well he met a girl in high school that was a member of the Church and they began dating—her mother must not have known him. But he said, you know, after a while he thinks that she kind of got tired of his ways because one day she bore her testimony to him. He couldn’t remember everything she said, but one thing he remembered clearly. She said, “I know God lives because he hears and answers my prayers.” As she said those words, the Spirit moved him in such a way that he wanted to know if what she said was true; so when she invited him to church, he went.

He had never been to church except for a funeral or a wedding, and he was surprised to see so many familiar faces from his high school there. He said they were even more surprised to see him there! But he was welcomed and he was treated warmly, and he continued to go to church. It was there that he came across the idea that he needed to read and pray about the Book of Mormon. He did, but he said he really didn’t feel any different than before he prayed.

One Sunday in Sunday School, they had a substitute teacher who taught a lesson on the “joy of the gospel.” At the end of the lesson the teacher bore a powerful testimony of the joy that the gospel brought into his life and into the life of his family. Our missionary said, “I wanted more than anything to *know what he knew* and I wanted *the same joy* I saw on his face.”

As he walked out the door of the church and stood on the step and looked out over the little city where he had grown up, he said—he had this thought, “Nowhere out here” he thought, “have I had an experience what I just had in that classroom today.” He realized that what the world had to offer was nothing compared to what he just felt. He wanted to have that kind of joy in his life.

He began reading the Book of Mormon and praying more intently. He attended seminary and listened more carefully. One day he decided to pray before, during and after he read the Book

of Mormon. This time as he read he felt something entirely different. Then, as he knelt down by his bed and asked the Lord if all that he had heard and read was true, he said the “blessings of heaven were poured down upon him.”

He said it was hard to describe the overwhelming feelings he felt at that moment through the Holy Ghost, but he felt a peace in his heart and in his mind that he knew came from God. He knew at that moment that the Book of Mormon was true, and he knew that this was—the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the Lord’s church.

Most importantly, he knew that Jesus Christ was his Savior, and that because of His Atonement his sins could be forgiven. He felt what he called “a mighty change of heart.”

Right after he was baptized, he said he felt the greatest joy he had ever felt in his life, and a short time after he decided that he needed to go on a mission and share this joy and this peace.

Just as a side note: Before leaving on his mission his mother wanted to know what the Church was like, that would cause him to leave his education and his family for two years. He told her to come and see. She went with him several times before he left on his mission, and he supposed she would just stop going, but she enjoyed the fellowship and the meetings and she continued to go. Finally she decided to take the discussions, and while he was on his mission she was baptized.

I will always remember the testimony meeting where this faithful elder stood and bore his final testimony in our mission. I will always remember his words when he said, with a voice filled with emotion, “When I get home, for the first time in my life I will get to pray with my mother: for the first time in my life I will get to read scriptures with my mother. When I get home,” he said, “I will be able to go the temple with my mother.” He expressed the hope that someday he might be able to baptize his father and that they would become an eternal family.<sup>9</sup>

Sisters, this is what the plan is all about—changing people’s natures and bringing to pass the immortality and eternal life of men.<sup>10</sup> Each one of us has a different story, but the end for which we were all created is that we might come back into our Father’s presence and receive a fullness of joy.<sup>11</sup>

Elder L. Aldin Porter said, “The center of the plan is the Lord Jesus Christ. Reject or ignore Him, and the great plan of happiness cannot function in your behalf. His life was dedicated in His premortal existence, through mortality, and even on into the eternal worlds to establishing the Father’s plan to our blessing and benefit. The cost to the Master was monumental. Think of the pain of Gethsemane and of His suffering on Calvary. This should give us some concept of the enormous importance of the plan of redemption.”<sup>12</sup>

This very thing was on my mind two weeks ago, as I visited the Carl Bloch—Museum of Art here at BYU. I was especially drawn to the painting entitled “Gethsemane,” which depicted the Savior being strengthened by an angel during that difficult, painful experience of Gethsemane. I sat contemplating the painting, while listening to the recordings of Professor Jared Ludlow and Neal A. Maxwell as they expressed thoughts and insights of that transcendent event. What

started out to be an educational experience became a tender, spiritual one as feelings of deep gratitude and love for the Savior stirred within me.

I love our Savior. I love our Father and His glorious plan. When we take time to ponder it all, it is just as Elder Maxwell said, “breathtaking and overpowering.”<sup>13</sup>

I add my testimony to that of Jacob, “O how great the plan of our God!”<sup>14</sup>

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

*Sister Jean Stevens:* As I look at all of you today, I see such incredible women before me—and a few brave brothers—beautiful women, women of God, who desire His light and His Spirit in your lives. I express my love for you, for each of you, and my great gratitude in being with you today. I pray for the Lord’s Spirit to bless us and lift us all as we share this hour, that when we leave we will do so with increased faith and testimony in the Lord Jesus Christ and in our Father’s plan—His plan of salvation.

I appreciate the beautiful way in which Sister Esplin explained what a precious gift the plan of salvation is. I would like to add to the thoughts she shared by considering the difference that trusting in our Heavenly Father’s plan can make in our lives.

When I was a little girl, I looked forward to our family’s once-a-summer trip to an amusement park not far away. Filled with exciting rides and roller coasters, it was always a highlight of our summer. Near the entrance was an attraction called the “Fun House.” This was always a must-stop for us! Maybe some of you also remember walking in and seeing yourself in several kind of “interesting” mirrors. As you walked by them, what you saw was a very tall, thin “pencil-looking” you, or kind of a short, squatty, very round you, or even a wacky, wavy you. Clearly these images were not you at all—but a distorted view of the real you.

I have since thought how much the world’s view of who we are is often like those distorted mirrors. With the world’s loud voice, it’s easy to be confused and conflicted about who we are, and what matters in this life. The world often shouts at us: “Beauty can be bought. Children are really an inconvenience. A career in the workplace is much more important and significant than the role of a mother.” These messages can distract us from the Lord’s view of our mission here.

I know there are many in this audience who can teach us from their own example what matters in this life. I have been so deeply touched and inspired by the example of one sister who clearly sees her life with an eternal perspective despite difficult obstacles in her path. Perhaps you are familiar with this sister’s story. Her name is Stephanie Nielson. She’s a beautiful mom who was injured and badly burned in a plane crash. She is one whose faith in our Father’s plan and in His Son, Jesus Christ, gives her strength to meet the real-life challenges she faces. Watch as she briefly shares her remarkable perspective.

(Clip from the Mormon Message “My New Life.”)

This is just a short clip from one of the “Mormon Messages” entitled “My New Life.” Though I have watched this video over and over, it never ceases to profoundly affect me. I can’t see it without seeing who Stephanie is and what her message means, and see her strength in it all.

With Stephanie’s accident, much of what she considered as her identity, her reality, her world, was changed in an instant—at least on the outside. And it forced her to look inward and ask herself—who am I? Why am I here? What things have lasting significance? These questions are best answered by looking through God’s eternal lens. Stephanie saw, in a new way, the purpose of her life and who she really is.

It is likely for all of us that life’s path ahead will have some unexpected twists and turns, bumps and bruises. There could be accidents, injuries, serious health concerns, financial worries, problems in marriage or sadness because marriage has not yet happened, challenges with children, or heartache because children don’t come as we’d hoped or planned. The list of possible disappointments is long. None of us is immune. Trials in this life are a part of the plan. But regardless of life’s circumstances, like Stephanie, we too can triumph amid the trials if we cling to the truths and hope of the plan of salvation.

Gratefully, with our understanding of our Heavenly Father’s plan, we are not left alone to detect the distortions the world would have us believe. Instead, we have a clear picture of all that our Heavenly Father envisions and wants for us. If we listen to the quiet whisperings within, we feel the voice of the Spirit reminding us of truths we once knew—that we are God’s children, that He loves us, and that the way is provided for our return through His Son, Jesus Christ. With a clear focus on the plan, we can see with clarity who we really are—His daughters with a divine nature and destiny. We can feel the sweet confirmation within that trusting in our Heavenly Father’s plan will lead us to a fullness of joy.

What is it that makes Stephanie’s perspective so remarkable? There are so many things. But among her many powerful messages, I want to share with you just three that can make a significant difference in our lives, as they have in hers.

First—*Live with Faith*. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Live with faith in His ability to lift us, to bless us, to enable us to meet any challenge. Live with faith in His atoning power and His essential role in making the plan of salvation possible. Live with faith in His promises and faith in the plan.

Second—*Live with Gratitude*. Stephanie has gratitude for the small and simple things of life, gratitude for the gift of life itself, for the precious opportunity to teach her children the gospel of Jesus Christ. Her grateful heart leads her to feel great joy even amid the challenges. The difficulties she faces do not preclude her happiness; instead they lead her to a greater appreciation for the joys of life and for the privilege of motherhood. With that lens of gratitude, we too can see our present circumstances in a way that enables us to feel “*joy in this mortal journey*”—no matter what our own challenges may be. The term “the plan of happiness” is a fitting description of what the plan is intended to bring.

And lastly—*Live with Love*. Feel deeply the great love our Heavenly Father has for you. His perfect plan is a demonstration of His love. Think of the infinite love the Savior has for you. The Apostle John taught us about this love when he recorded, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). The plan of salvation is woven throughout with *love*. As we come to know the Lord’s plan and the Lord’s love in a personal way, it becomes part of us. And we in turn can more fully reflect it, as *Christlike* love for our families and those around us. Choose as Stephanie did, to live with love in your life. The love that you show your family, the love that you have for the Lord, lives on. It will bless those who follow you.

What is the ultimate goal of our Heavenly Father’s plan? Where does our path lead? It is *not* the earthly reward that so many seek in the world—possessions, power, or prestige. Instead, for us, our destination is home—home with our families, home with our Father and His beloved Son. The goal is not only to live with them, but also to *become* like them. Our Heavenly Father’s plan is perfectly designed to accomplish this eternal purpose. We can achieve that purpose if we have the faith to trust in His plan and be true to the path He has given us to follow. As we do so, we gain a proper perspective of who we are, why we are here, and where we are going. We know what is truly important not just for now, but for the forever that lies ahead. Not the warped view that the world reflects to us. Not the distorted fun-house mirrors that give a misshapen view of who we are. But a vision of us as the *Lord* sees us, with divine worth and a divine destiny.

One of the places where we learn most clearly about the majesty of God’s plan is in the temple. In that sacred place we clearly understand how much God loves us, a love so great that He provided His own Son as our Savior.

When we attend a temple sealing, the sealer often asks the couple to stand and look into the mirrors that hang on opposite walls of the sealing room. He wants us to see the great heritage that has come before—a reminder that we trace our beginnings to those “royal courts on high.” And He wants us to look forward with hope to a righteous posterity and a divine destiny which will lead us safely home. These mirrors help us to see things as “*they really are*.”

I bear my testimony that God is our Father. He loves us. Jesus is the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. This is His church; it bears His name. The plan of salvation is our Father’s gift to us. I close with the words of a simple and sweet Primary song that confirms these truths to our grown up hearts, as well as it does to our children.

*I know my Father lives and loves me too.  
The Spirit whispers this to me and tells me it is true.*

*He sent me here to earth, by faith to live his plan.  
The Spirit whispers this to me and tells me that I can.  
 (“I Know My Father Lives,” *Children’s Songbook*, 5)*

May these words be reflected in our minds and hearts again and again, and strengthen our faith to trust in His divine plan. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

*Sister Rosemary Wixom:* Like Stephanie Nielsen, all of us are living this plan of salvation—the fullness of this gospel. And we want our children to understand this glorious plan. Alma was right. It is by small and simple things that great things are brought to pass (Alma 37:6).

It happened in our home just a few months ago. It was Monday evening, and we were planning on having a family home evening with our son and his wife and their three sons. The oldest was Isaac, age 8. We wanted to teach our grandchildren about the plan of salvation, so we decided to have us all move from room to room in our house as if we were living the plan. Everything went well as we began in the study for our premortal existence. We talked about how we lived in the presence of our Heavenly Father as His spirit children and attended a council where Heavenly Father presented this great plan of happiness. We taught the children that Jesus Christ, the Firstborn Son of the Father, covenanted to be the Savior. And because of Him we can return and live with Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father someday. We decided as a family we would follow Heavenly Father’s plan, and yes, we did stand and shout for joy with the chance to come to this earth to progress. We sang the Primary song with the words, “I lived in heaven a long time ago...so did you” (“I Lived in Heaven,” *Children’s Songbook*, 4). Then the children watched intently as we re-enacted leaving that premortal existence and said good-bye to each other as we left one by one to come to this earth (the Earth was the family room). Grandpa was the first to leave premortal existence, because he is the oldest in our family. We cheered as he left because we were happy for him, and then each one of us left in succession.

Soon we were all in the family room—earth life, that is. And we talked about how here on earth there are choices to make, commandments to follow, and this life is a test. We have no memory of our premortal existence, so we must act by faith. We decided that yes, we are most grateful for a prophet, for baptism, for the Holy Ghost, and the sacrament, and temple covenants. We are walking the path. What Primary song should we sing? How about “Keep the Commandments” or “I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus.” It was a happy time—until we talked of leaving this earth, and it was explained that when we die, our spirits enter the spirit world and we await the resurrection. It was decided that since grandpa was the oldest, he would most likely leave first. So as grandpa got up to leave to go to the living room (which was the spirit world), Jonas, age four, got tears in his eyes and he started to cry. The plan of salvation suddenly became a reality to him. This was not his idea of a plan of happiness! That event began a teaching moment. Grandpa consoled him and taught him that he looked forward to returning to Heavenly Father. He taught him that this life is not the end, it is just a part of our existence. Jonas was consoled, but I could see his little brain was thinking as one by one we left the earth to go to the spirit world where we sang “Families Can Be Together Forever.” It was a simple family home evening, yet great things were brought to pass.

Elder Robert D. Hales asked, “If we could leave one lesson of greatest importance for *our* children and our grandchildren, what would it be?” And then he gave us the answer, “Of all the glorious principles of the gospel, Lehi chose to teach his son about the plan of salvation—and the gift of agency.”<sup>15</sup>



Teaching our children the plan of salvation can serve as an anchor. It is like a taproot in the wind, and the world is the wind around us. When a child knows where they came from, why they are here and where they are going, they have a sense of eternal purpose.

Now as a Primary presidency, we love to visit Primaries. And when we do, we talk to the children about the plan of salvation. Teaching with questions makes it personal to them. Let me tell you how it goes.

We first ask: *Where did we live before we lived on this earth?* You've taught them well; they know the answer. They say, "With Heavenly Father." They understand the premortal existence. We talk about how we were all together there and yes, we did shout for joy to come.

Then we say, now we are living on this earth and we are *re-learning* about our Heavenly Father and we are walking a path back to Him. Now we are here to obey the commandments to keep us on the path.

So we ask: *What do we do to stay on the path?* Again, they know the answers. They tell us: family prayer, family scripture study, family home evening.

Then we teach them how to say "I will stay on the path back to my Heavenly Father" in American Sign Language, and you are going to learn today. Will you watch as I do it? I will stay on the path back to my Heavenly Father. This symbol of "stay on the path" or meaning to "continue on" or "press forward" is your thumb stuck together with your fingers clasped. When I ask the children, "What does this look like?" they tell me, "You're holding onto a rod." Could it be the iron rod? The iron rod is the word of God. The word of God will keep us on the path back to our Heavenly Father.

Then I say, "Is it a wide path?"

"No, it's narrow."

"Is it a crooked path?"

"No, it's straight."

Now you must do that with me. Watch me do it once and then we'll do it together. I will stay on the path back to my Heavenly Father. Look up when you say "Heavenly Father." Let's do it together; here we go. (Practices sign language with audience). Oh you're beautiful when you do it. You know the message. Teach it to your children and your grandchildren.

Then we ask them, "*Do you want to go on the path alone?*" The answer is always, "NO!" "*Who do you want to go on the path with you?*" The answer is always "My family!" So we say, "Take my hand, and hold on tight, as we walk the path back to our Heavenly Father together."

Ah, but *what happens if we step off the path? What if we make some wrong choices?* The children know. They say, “We repent.” And with the Savior’s help, we tell them, you can always, no matter what, come back onto the path.

By small and simple means we teach the plan of salvation. And when the fullness of the gospel is embedded in our hearts, it surfaces in our conversation. Moses knew that; he taught us in Deuteronomy 6. He taught us how and when to teach the words of God. He said, “We teach them diligently unto thy children, and (we) talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up...And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates” (Deuteronomy 6:7, 9).

Now how do we apply that to our lives?

In other words, we take opportunity to speak of the plan of salvation. For example, speak of eternal family, make it a dinnertime conversation. Talk about what it was like in the premortal existence and how it is in this life, how it is a test. When we walk with our children, talk about their dreams for the future. And when they lie down at night and we tuck them in, ask them what they loved about their day, and help them know that with the Lord’s help they can do hard things when they rise up. When we have family prayer we pray for them individually, by name—for future missions and temple marriages. We have conversations about their interests, what’s important to them. We value their concerns, and we ask “What do you think about it?” and then we listen—oh we listen. We talk about mistakes—how we also make mistakes, and how the Lord loves us still. You see, it’s not about being perfect—it’s about simply doing our best. President Hinckley added, “*Our very best.*” We post a picture of the temple in our homes or in our children’s bedrooms. We reverence the temple covenants. The Spirit lets us see how our everyday events—those little decisions that we make—give us an eternal perspective. *We simply live the plan and look for ways to teach our children.*

President Eyring said, “...let them feel our confidence that they are on the path home to God *and* they can make it. And we do that best by going with them.” (emphasis added)<sup>16</sup>

He is with us as we live this plan of salvation, and He wants us to return to Him and renew that intimate acquaintance we once had.

President Benson told us, “Nothing is going to startle us more when we pass through the veil to the other side than to realize how well we know our Father and how familiar His face is to us.”<sup>17</sup>

So now to Jonas I say, yes, Jonas, it’s more than just knowing the plan. It’s the reality that our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are real, they know you, they love you. You are his child, and you have a work to do as you do walk the path.

“O, how great the plan of our God!” How will children know unless we teach them so? Will you watch this little video, and as you do, watch how the plan unfolds as we teach our children the plan of salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

- 
- <sup>1</sup> “I Will Follow God’s Plan, *Children’s Songbook*, 164
- <sup>2</sup> *History of the Church*, 1:245
- <sup>3</sup> Quentin L. Cook “Our Father’s Plan—Big Enough for All His Children,” *Ensign*, May 2009
- <sup>4</sup> *The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, sel. G. Homer Durham [1946], 47-48.
- <sup>5</sup> D&C 76:12
- <sup>6</sup> D&C 76: 22-24
- <sup>7</sup> *Teachings of Presidents of the Church, Joseph Smith*, 207
- <sup>8</sup> “Education for Real Life,” *Ensign*, October 2002,16
- <sup>9</sup> Personal Experience of missionary from notes in my possession
- <sup>10</sup> Moses 1:39
- <sup>11</sup> 2 Nephi 2:25
- <sup>12</sup> L. Aldin Porter, “Our Destiny,” *Ensign*, November 1999, 65
- <sup>13</sup> Neal A. Maxwell, “Thanks Be to God,” *Ensign*, July 1982
- <sup>14</sup> 2 Nephi 9:13
- <sup>15</sup> Robert D. Hales, “To Act for Ourselves: The Gift and Blessings of Agency,” *Ensign*, May 2006
- <sup>16</sup> Henry B. Eyring, “Help Them on Their Way Home,” *Ensign*, May 2010
- <sup>17</sup> “Jesus Christ-Gifts and Expectations,” in *Speeches of the Year*, 1974, Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1975, 313