

Conference Report, Apr. 2005, 32; or *Ensign*, May 2005, 31).

Our time may seem limited to do this study, so therefore let me give a few suggestions that may help.

- Youth preparing for a mission should carefully study *Preach My Gospel* along with the scriptures.

- Invite the missionaries into your home. Ask them to teach you and your family a principle or doctrine from *Preach My Gospel*.

- Every once in a while, use *Preach My Gospel* for family home evening. Let your teenage children teach your family as missionaries would do. In our home, we have had some surprisingly great lessons given by our children. We have been astonished at how well they taught simple principles. Sometimes we have invited friends to those lessons.

- Gospel teachers could use the simple but effective principles of gospel teaching as outlined in *Preach My Gospel* as a support to the prescribed courses of study.

- *Preach My Gospel* has been translated and published in almost every language our members speak. In countries where the Church is still young, *Preach My Gospel* may be used along with the scriptures as a resource and foundation for all gospel learning and teaching.

- Elder Scott encouraged local leaders “to use these materials in . . . presidencies, priesthood executive committee meetings, and ward councils” (*Ensign*, May 2005, 31).

- Use *Preach My Gospel* as a resource for training, talks, spiritual thoughts, lessons, firesides, and personal study.

Becoming one in proclaiming the gospel

I bear witness that this missionary guide is inspired of God. We must study it more carefully, that we may understand our missionaries and their work better. Missionaries and members must speak one language. We must become one in our efforts to proclaim the gospel. It will better enable us to become tools in the hand of the Lord, for He said, “And even so will I gather mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, even as many as will believe in me, and hearken unto my voice” (D&C 33:6).

As members of His Church, we are expected to be a part of this glorious gathering process. Of this truth I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

President Monson

The choir and congregation will now sing “Come, Come, Ye Saints.” At the conclusion of the singing, Elders Michael J. Teh and Keith K. Hilbig of the Seventy will address us. Following their remarks, we shall hear from Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

The choir and congregation sang
“Come, Come, Ye Saints.”

Elder Michael J. Teh

Our responsibility to serve others

Mabuhay from the lovely and wonderful people of the Philippines.

One of the oldest and most profound questions uttered in the history of this earth was, most interestingly, asked by

Cain in response to God’s inquiry soon after Cain slew his brother Abel: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”¹ This question deserves serious contemplation by those seeking to do the will of the Lord. One of the answers is in the teachings of Alma:

“And now, . . . ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light;

“Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort.”²

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility to care for and serve our brothers and sisters. In relating the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus Christ not only confounded His enemies but also taught a great lesson to all who sought to follow Him. We need to enlarge the circle of our influence. Our service to others should be independent of race, color, standing, or relationships. After all, the commandment to “succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees”³ did not come with qualifications.

Simple, day-to-day service

Many believe that for service to be meaningful it should consist of having elaborate plans and forming a committee. Although many of these worthwhile projects help, much of the service needed in the world today relates to our day-to-day associations with each other. Often we find these opportunities within the confines of our own home, neighborhood, and ward.

The following advice, given by the deceitful Screwtape to his nephew Wormwood in C. S. Lewis’s *The Screwtape Letters*, describes a common malady afflicting many of us today:

“Do what you will, there is going to be some benevolence, as well as some malice, in your patient’s soul. The great thing is to direct the malice to his immediate neighbours whom he meets every day and to thrust his benevolence out to the remote circumference, to people he does not know. The malice thus becomes wholly real and the benevolence largely imaginary.”⁴

The words from a popular hymn prescribe the perfect remedy:

Has anyone’s burden been lighter today
Because I was willing to share?
Have the sick and the weary been
helped on their way?
When they needed my help was I there?
Then wake up and do something more
Than dream of your mansion above.
Doing good is a pleasure, a joy beyond
measure,
A blessing of duty and love.⁵

Encouragement to serve a mission

The following are events that I have been privileged to witness that have taught me how simple acts of service can help us and those we are permitted to influence. Our Heavenly Father places loving individuals on important crossroads to help us so that we are not left alone to grope in the dark. These men and women help by example and with patience and love. Such has been my experience.

I recall a particularly important crossroad—the decision to go on a full-time mission. I stood on that crossroad for a very, very long time. As I struggled to decide which road to take, my family, friends, and priesthood leaders came forward to take my hand. They encouraged and challenged me and offered countless prayers on my behalf. My full-time missionary sister wrote to me regularly and never gave up.

Even today I am still carried on the shoulders of good men and women. I suspect that we all are. To some degree we all depend on each other to be able to make it back to our heavenly home.

Sharing the gospel with “Uncle Fred”

Sharing the gospel message is one of the most rewarding ways we can render service to those who are not of our faith. I recall a childhood experience with someone I will simply call Uncle Fred.

When I was six years old, Uncle Fred was my worst nightmare. He was our neighbor, and he was always drunk. One of his favorite pastimes was to throw rocks at our home.

Because my mother was a great cook, single adult members from our small branch frequented our home. One day when Uncle Fred was sober, these members befriended him and invited him into our home. This development terrified me. He was no longer just outside but inside our home. This happened a few more times until finally they were able to convince Uncle Fred to listen to the missionaries. He accepted the gospel and was baptized. He served a full-time mission, returned with honor, pursued further education, and was married in the temple. He is now a righteous husband, father, and priesthood leader. Watching Uncle Fred today, one would find it difficult to believe that he once brought nightmares into the life of a six-year-old boy. May we always be perceptive to opportunities to share the gospel.

A mother's unselfish service

My mother was a great example of helping others by giving them a boost. She taught us many important lessons. The one lesson that has had the most lasting effect on my life was her desire to help anyone in need who visited our home. It bothered me to see many of them leave with our food, our clothing,

and even our money. Because I was young and we were poor, I did not like what I saw. How could she give to others when our family did not even have enough? Was it wrong to attend to our needs first? Didn't we deserve a more comfortable life?

For years I struggled with these questions. Much later in life I finally realized what Mother was teaching. Even as she struggled with the effects of a crippling disease, she could not stop giving to those in need.

Out of small things

“Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.”⁶ Serving others need not come from spectacular events. Often it is the simple daily act that gives comfort, uplifts, encourages, sustains, and brings a smile to others.

May we always find opportunities to serve in my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. Genesis 4:9; Moses 5:34.
2. Mosiah 18:8–9.
3. Doctrine and Covenants 81:5.
4. *The Complete C. S. Lewis Signature Classics* (2002), 201.
5. “Have I Done Any Good?” *Hymns*, no. 223.
6. Doctrine and Covenants 64:33.

Elder Keith K. Hilbig

Quench not the Spirit

In 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, Paul admonished the members to act in a manner as becometh Saints. He proceeded to list appropriate attributes and behaviors. In verse 19 Paul counseled with these four simple words: “Quench not the Spirit.”

Interestingly, some 500 years *before* Paul's writings, a Book of Mormon prophet named Jacob sought to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to a resistant people. He boldly inquired of them as follows: “Will ye reject the words of the prophets; and will ye . . . deny the good