This past July we joined with citizens of the United States throughout the world in celebration of our independence and liberty. Parades, parties, family gatherings, along with civic events remind us that the very fact we can enjoy these celebrations is a gift from our founding fathers.

Despite these celebrations and speeches given, as history recounts itself, this 239-year period of time has been mingled with numerous internal and external challenges. Generations have long wrestled over what freedom is, what freedom represents, and more importantly, what freedom requires.

Looking back, we see wonderful progress and growth, both of which both support and drive what we now so often take for granted. There was a time when the world looked in awe at the first manned space flight. Today, we think very little about the International Space Station, since it has been in orbit for almost two decades.

We enjoy medical advances that cure illnesses, where before those illnesses brought catastrophe to so many. From an age where a 12-year-old was lucky to have a dime for the pay phone, it is now commonplace to have a cell phone. Such cell phones have more computing capability than the computers their grandparents used in college.

The landscape has equally changed as to the acknowledgement and acceptance of cultures in our schools, workplace, and neighborhoods. With all of this wonderful progress, we continue to socially and morally challenge the very foundation of our Constitution and the framework upon which our freedom is built.

We often use the phrase, “There is nothing permanent except change” (Greek philosopher, Heraclitus). A modern version of this may state, if there is no change, there is no progress. Despite the change we experience personally or see, or read, or hear about, what a blessing it is to have latter-day prophets who help us navigate today and what is yet to come.

During World War II, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Albert E. Bowen, wrote a book compiled from a series of radio addresses. He titled this book “Constancy Amid Change.” In October, 1979 President N. Eldon Tanner gave a talk using the same title. In October 1993 Elder Russell M. Nelson gave a talk using this same title as well. 

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Change Is Our Friend

By Andy Gibbons, LDS-BSA Relationships Varsity Task Force

We often become frustrated with the effects of change, especially in Scouting. Leaders move and leave an empty position that has to be filled by a leader who needs to be trained; boys get to the point of being great leaders and then “age out” of the unit; parents lose interest when their boy moves on. So it goes. Change is a constant. Perhaps we should start thinking of “change” as a productive tool.

Think of a world without change. It would be a nightmare worse than the movie *Groundhog Day*. Let’s use *Groundhog Day* as an example of using change as a productive tool. The focus of the movie is on a man caught in an (apparently) endless loop of sameness. Every morning the radio blares the same obnoxious song at exactly 6:00 a.m. For a long time, the hero fights this sameness by resorting to bad behaviors of all kinds. But then he realizes what a sad case he has become, and he forms a goal to attract the love of a woman.

This goal is the key to solving his problem, because it spurs him into action. Instead of focusing on the dreariness of sameness every day, the hero takes positive action to make himself the best man he can be. He uses each new repeated day to build himself into something useful. He resorts to developing talents, giving life-saving service, and becoming a value to the community. He does not realize it, but changing himself is what finally releases him from his daily prison.

How do we use change productively in Scouting? By anticipating it, expecting it, and using the time we have to prepare for it. We should not be surprised when a leader moves on to a new position. Maybe we can anticipate the change and have an understudy in the wings who has been learning the program and can step in to take over the job. Take this idea one step further, and you can see that other stabilizing forces during change can be the expectations of a fully-functioning committee, trained youth, and attentive organization leaders. The committee, the youth, and the leadership will also themselves change at some point, but by prior preparation, constant training, and quality control we can glide through change on the positive trajectory our goals have set for us.

Change is inevitable. For that, we should be grateful. By adopting change as our friend, we can see change as a chance for positive improvement rather than an aggravating speed bump in the road. Change is our friend and our tool because it allows us to progress toward goals, despite the momentary irritations.
Safety Moment – Be Prepared . . . and Plan—A Solid Foundation Is Important in Changing Times

By Alan Rogers, LDS Church Risk Management

In Luke 6:48 we are told of the value of building on a solid foundation . . . so that when the floods come and the stream beats vehemently upon our house, it will not shake it. I can’t think of a better foundation for any Scouting activity than to begin with a solid plan for what we hope to accomplish. Let’s talk briefly about the importance of planning with a purpose and planning carefully.

The Church’s Handbook 2, 13.1.—Purposes of Church Activities identifies the following general purposes for activities:

- Bring together Church members.
- Provide fun and entertainment.
- Build testimonies.
- Strengthen families.
- Foster unity and personal growth.
- Give members a sense of belonging and mutual support.

As you open the pages and read this section, you are encouraged to plan activities to fulfill gospel-centered purposes, which include:

1. Participating in service projects that bless others and build community relationships.
2. Developing talents and appreciation for cultural arts.
3. Improving fitness and learning sportsmanship.
5. Celebrating special occasions and commemorating Church or local historical events.
6. Developing leadership skills.
7. Developing self-reliance.
8. Participating in missionary work, retention, activation, temple work, and family history work.

You can begin this process by identifying in advance what the goal of the activity should be. The second step is to plan the activity thoroughly so you can safely accomplish the identified goal. Within the Church and Scouting, one of our primary purposes is to teach leadership skills. Handbook 2, 13.2.3, counsels: “Strive to have participants be actively involved, since participating is usually more beneficial than just observing.” The extent of youth involvement in the planning process will somewhat depend upon the age of the young men and Primary-age boys with whom you are working.

In addition, the relative risk exposure associated with the planned activity will help determine the expertise required by any specialists who are needed to conduct the activity safely. Be sure to check the Guide to Safe Scouting to see what level of training or expertise may be required for your planned activity.

The First Presidency’s May 15, 2015, Safety in Church Activities letter to bishops and stake presidents gives general guidance about planning activities. Item #2 provides the following counsel: “Plan safe activities. Organize and carry out additional planning, preparation, and specialized training or use certified guides for activities that require specific physical skills or experience . . . For Young Men or Scouting activities, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) long-term summer camps or high adventure bases can help provide these safety resources.”

Within the BSA, there are a wealth of planning tools, including the Tour and Activity Plan. This newer planning resource was first implemented in 2012 and is a planning tool to help leaders be prepared for a safe and fun adventure. It can help you ensure trained leadership is in place, equipment is available, and there is safe and appropriate transportation to and from an event.
• "See that tour and activity plans are completed; signed by the bishop, the COR, or the committee chairperson; and submitted [to the council office]" LDS Scouting Handbook, 4.2.
• The BSA Tour and Activity Plan web page states "If you use the online version, you no longer have to collect signatures or council approval. Complete the plan and certify that any missing requirements will be completed before the trip begins. When you submit the plan online, an email will be sent to your council, chartered organization, committee chair, and your designated emergency contact."
• "Please complete and submit this plan at least 21 days in advance (check with your local council) to ensure your council has enough time to review the plan and assist as necessary" (Tour and Activity Plan FAQs).

For Venturing crews, as a detailed complement to the Tour and Activity Plan, the Venturing Activity Planning Worksheet can help a young man thoroughly plan an activity, making sure that all of the “t’s” are crossed and the “i’s” are dotted. With minimal oversight from an associate Advisor and possibly a consultant, all of the critical planning components are covered including: desired goals, location, dates, equipment, travel, reservations needed, transportation, emergency contacts, required training, and much, much more.

The best activities are those that are well thought out and planned in advance. Many of our most serious incidents occur when a group meets on Wednesday night to plan for next Saturday’s activity. One of Winston Churchill’s most famous quotes focuses on this topic. You may remember his counsel: “Those who fail to plan, plan to fail.”

Whether you are going across the city to a climbing gym or across the state on a six-day, 300-mile bike tour, the basic principles of planning are the same and begin with the tour leader asking some very basic questions:

1. What is our goal?
2. Where are we going?
3. Who is going with us?
4. When are we going?
5. What do we plan to do when we get there (or is getting there the plan)?
6. What do we need to accomplish our goal?
7. How will we accomplish it?
8. How do we manage the risks?
9. How much will it cost?
10. When will we evaluate it?

These ten basic steps can help lead us to success in planning any activity—large or small.

You will have the opportunity to utilize these same questions in many different settings as you work with and guide young men, both in Scouting and in the Church. Be actively involved in helping them learn and grow in their path to leadership development. As Sir Robert Baden Powell once said “The more responsibility the Scoutmaster gives his patrol leaders, the more they will respond.”

“Activities strengthen members by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help members feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help members see how living the gospel brings ‘the joy of the saints’ (Enos 1:3)” (Handbook 2, 13.1).
Change for the Better - Write It Right!

By Mike and Judy Kigin, LDS-BSA Proofreaders

We hope you will notice the proper capitalization for Church and Scouting terms as you browse through the LDS-BSA Relationships website (although, admittedly, the proofreaders might miss a mistake now and then). Scouting and priesthood leaders need to know how to correctly write Scouting’s commonly used words. Why? Because leaders frequently send messages to families of Scouts; they write ward newsletter articles and announcements for the ward’s Sunday bulletin; they help the boys prepare flyers for events; they correspond with other Scouters; and so on.

When you write anything about Scouting and/or the Church, we hope you’ll take a few extra minutes to make the effort to “write it right.”

- Ironically, many Scout leaders don’t know how to write the word “Scout”!

RULE NUMBER ONE: **Scouting and any word containing the word Scout relating to the BSA should be capitalized** (Cub Scout, Scouter, Scouting, etc.).

- *Only* the position of the unit leader of a pack, troop, team, or crew is capitalized; all other Scouting positions are lowercased (Cubmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, assistant Varsity Coach, den leader, committee chair, associate Venturing Advisor, chartered organization representative, council president, district executive).
  
  ◊ One exception: the Chief Scout Executive (in Irving, Texas).

- The boys’ ranks are capitalized, but their Scouting positions and units are not (unless specifically named or with a number).
  
  ◊ Example: “The patrol leader of the Dragon Patrol is a First Class Scout.”
  
  ◊ Example: "The assistant denner of the Wolf den of Pack 123 is still a Bobcat. He’ll receive his Wolf badge at next month’s pack meeting."

- Church leadership positions are written lowercase unless they contain the name of the organization or are followed by the person’s name (the Young Men president, the first counselor in the bishopric, stake president, high councilor).
  
  ◊ Example: “Our new bishop is Bishop Brown. His wife is the former stake Primary president.”

- Quorums are lowercased, but capitalize Aaronic Priesthood and Melchizedek Priesthood.
  
  ◊ Example: "The priests quorum adviser serves as the crew’s Venturing Advisor."

When in doubt, you may access the online **Language of Scouting**, which provides proper spelling, capitalization, definition, and use of most Scouting terms.

The online **Style Guide to Publications of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** contains Church terms and grammar rules, starting on page 14. First find the word in the index in the back and then go to the page indicated to read the grammar rule. Note particularly the proper capitalization in the name of the Church (capitalize The and do not capitalize day in “Latter-day”): “He is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

Correct capitalization is crucial! Write it right!

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**CHANGES TO THE SCOUTING HANDBOOK IN MAY 2015**

1.1 Purpose of Scouting - Second sentence: "can” replaced with “should.” The addition of the last sentence.

3.2 Stake High Councilors - Stake high councilors now serve as Assistant District Commissioners (ADCs)

3.5 Unit Commissioner - The addition of the following to point number 3 "and report the condition of Scouting in the stake to the ADC."

6.0 Scouting in the Primary - The addition of one sentence on planning

6.2 Scouting for 11-Year-Olds - 4th paragraph: Wording changed to reflect the new BSA First Class rank requirement of six overnight camps.

6.3 Day Camp - *The Day Camp Guide: Eleven-Year-Old Scouts* is available online at LDS.org.

6.5 Ward Primary Presidency - Addition of "to maintain a gospel focus " was added to point number 2.

7.0 Awards and Recognitions - Faith in God wording

8.3 Rechartering - Deletion of last two sentences in the second paragraph (regarding insurance fees).

8.9 Safety - The third paragraph was added

8.10 Emergencies - New section

8.11 Accidents and Reporting - New section

8.14 Travel - The second and third paragraphs were added

8.19 Specialty, Multiple-Unit, and Long-Term Camps - This section (previously 8.17) was updated to come into compliance with current BSA regulations.

8.20 Official Scouting Activities and Unauthorized Activities - New section

8.21 Liability Insurance - New section

8.22 Church Activity Medical Assistance (CAMA) - New section

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Click here for the updated Handbook

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Philmont Scout Ranch Again Hosts Annual Priesthood Leadership Conference

By Nettie H. Francis, for Church News

CIMARRON, N. M.

“Silver on the sage, starlit skies above, aspen-covered hills, country that I love,” sang families in an outdoor amphitheater in northern New Mexico. Parents and children of all ages snuggled together on benches under a dark, starry sky. The families were attending the opening program at Philmont Scout Ranch as part of the Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting.

The conference takes place each summer under the direction of the Young Men and Primary general presidencies, with assistance from the LDS-BSA Relationships office. Two week-long courses were held, and stake leaders from across the United States and Canada, along with their families, were invited to come and learn about Scouting and the Aaronic Priesthood. This summer marked the 52nd year the Church provided the training course at Philmont. Over 316 Church leaders (with their family members totaling more than 1,100 people) attended.

It was the first summer newly called Young Men General President Stephen W. Owen presided at the conference.

“When I first arrived at Philmont I immediately felt years of foundational preparation for making this not only a learning experience for stake leaders, but a catalyst for revelation,” he said. “Experiences at Philmont bless the priesthood leader and his whole family.”

As families arrived, they were greeted by members of the Young Men and Primary general presidencies, and soon made close friends from around the country. During the week they stayed together in Tent City and ate their meals in the dining hall. Brethren attended classes during the day while spouses and children participated in a variety of age-group activities. Crafts, hiking, tours, archery, horseback riding, and even white-water rafting were a few of the options. During free time, families played and lounged on the lush green lawn of the Villa Philmonte.

This beautiful summer home and surrounding 145,000 acres of Philmont Scout Ranch were a gift to the Boy Scouts of America from philanthropists Waite and Genevieve Phillips in 1941. The Phillips’ generosity carries a special spirit still felt by the hundreds of Scout leaders who attend training in the classroom facilities and the 22,000 Scouts who hike through the backcountry each year.

“I’m convinced that Philmont is a gathering place for some of the best people in the world,” said Mark Francis, LDS-BSA Relationships director. “When families come here they truly feel like they are in ‘God’s country,’ as the Philmont Hymn suggests.”

As good families gathered, miracles were bound to happen. Zoe Sheffield, 19, from Highland, Utah, arrived at Philmont with her family and prepared to leave on the youth backpacking trek. As she visited with another young woman in her crew — Amber Thornton, 19, from Raleigh, North Carolina — the girls discovered that they were both scheduled to report at the Peru MTC just days after their Philmont trek, and were assigned to labor in the same mission in Arequipa, Peru.

“Having our daughters meet was a testimony to me that the Lord’s hand is in all things,” said Amber’s mother, Angela Thornton. “What better way to get to know each other than to spend five days out in nature?”

Faculty members for the week included the Primary and Young Men general presidencies and their boards, the LDS-BSA Relationships director, and Church service missionaries. Even though the conference was for priesthood brethren, there was ample family time.

“The priesthood leaders, the parents, and even the children enjoy the unity of being together,” said Sister Cheryl Esplin, first counselor in the Primary general presidency. Continued on page 7
Highlights of the week included Sunday Church meetings, family home evening, a Primary parade with homemade paper costumes, and closing testimony meetings. By the end of the week, priesthood brethren and families went home with new friends and a renewed desire to strengthen young men.

“The priesthood leaders, the stake presidents, the wives, the families all see the vision of what young men can become—righteous priesthood leaders,” said Sister Mary Durham, second counselor in the Primary general presidency. “We integrate Scouting with the gospel and the Spirit gets into their hearts.”

Oliver Lawal from the Cincinnati Ohio Stake was involved in Scouting as a non-LDS boy. However, after attending the conference as a counselor in his stake presidency, he now understood that “the priesthood magnifies Scouting.”

“The faces of several young men have come into my mind during this training,” said Clyn Richards from the Boise Idaho North Stake. “These young men need their lives touched in a special way.”

Eagle Scout Mike Jaster, second counselor in the Bakersfield California East Stake presidency said, “I loved Scouting as a boy but didn’t know much about how it worked. This conference helped me understand how the pieces all fit together. The training was more than just Scouting. It was led by the Spirit and we all learned by the Spirit.”

His wife, Crystal Jaster, participated in a high COPE course with other sisters. “I was on top of the 24-foot confidence pole, and it gave me a glimpse of what young men might experience during a high adventure activity,” she said. “I also gained an understanding of how Scouting can help our family as a whole develop spiritually.”

After the closing youth testimony meeting, her son, Jacob Jaster, who serves as a deacons quorum president, said, “I think we should have a testimony meeting on every campout.”

“Philmont is a setting where we can have a revelatory experience away from distraction,” said Brother Owen. “All are edified by all. A pattern we have here at Philmont is to share. We learn and share and study together and then we act. The “act” is going to happen after Philmont. Write in your journals, make a decision, make a plan of what you’ll do in changing things that can benefit others—even in your own family.”
Church Booth Draws Crowds at World Scout Jamboree in Yamaguchi, Japan

By Nettie H. Francis

It’s a hot and humid day in Yamaguchi, Japan, but inside a white tent, people are smiling and laughing. “Forget the heat and humidity,” says Jim Greene, FamilySearch staff member from Salt Lake City, Utah. “We are happy!”

His remark aptly describes the faces of those who tour through the Church’s exhibit in the Faith and Beliefs area of the 23rd World Scout Jamboree. With 35,000 Scouts representing 150 countries, those who enter the tent represent a diverse group of nations and cultures.

Inside the large tent, a huge map greets visitors where they can place a pin to mark their hometown. Within the first day, pins are crowded on every continent, and by the end of the first week, over 3,000 pins have been placed. Marking their home on the map is the first requirement to receive the Thomas S. Monson Award.

Next, participants can click on a nearby iPad, choose from 14 languages, fill in any family history information they choose, and then email a colorful “My Family” booklet to themselves.

“Family history work is a blessing to both the living and the dead,” explains Brother Greene. “When youth understand their legacy and their heritage they can cope with life better.”

In the main room of the tent, huge photo panels depicting the life of Jesus Christ greet visitors. Additional panels portray the temple and explain the importance of family.

“Many of the youth tell us it feels so good in here near the pictures of the Savior,” explains Brother Greene. “This is a first contact with the Church for about half of the visitors. The Spirit opens the door to have great gospel discussions with some of them. Even though formal proselyting is not part of the exhibit [Church literature is not handed out nor is contact information collected], the Spirit is present.”

Paula Call, Church service missionary at the jamboree, explains, “When Scouts see the picture of Christ sitting next to the young man who was lost, they can relate to that. Youth often want to stay in here. They linger because of what they are feeling.”

Benches and electric fans encourage visitors to sit and visit, ponder, or just enjoy a break from the outdoor humidity. If they want to complete their Thomas S. Monson Award, they can take a “Selfie with the Savior” against one of the photo panels, read a talk by President Monson (available there in several languages), and meet three other Scouts at the jamboree who they didn’t know before.

The tent is set up under the direction of the Church Priesthood Department, with support from the Young Men general presidency, Family History Department, Temple Department, and LDS-BSA Relationships office. Staff includes Church service missionaries, LDS Scouting chaplains and service team members, and Church staff from both America and Asia. Similar booths have also been sponsored by the Church at past world and national Scout jamborees.

“We’re grateful for the Church presence at the jamboree,” says Mark Francis, LDS-BSA Relationships director. “The tent is not just part of the Faith and Beliefs area here, it’s also a home base for our LDS chaplains and any LDS Scouts who attend the jamboree.”

During the ten days of the jamboree, stories of inspiring experiences with visitors abound. Continued on page 9
“A young man from Tahiti came the second we opened. He said, ‘I’m here from Tahiti, the only member in my contingent.’ He wanted to know when church and family home evening would be held,” shares Brother Greene.

Four years ago, at the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, one young 14-year-old Danish Scout came to the Church tent often. “He had so many questions about the Church that I finally gave him a Book of Mormon,” remembers Sister Call. “On the first day of the jamboree here in Japan, he walked into the tent. Now he is 19 years old and an international service team member. He came back to find the Church exhibit and said, ‘Remember me?’ Then he opened his backpack and showed me that he had read the entire Book of Mormon.”

The Church tent is not just a benefit to visiting Scouts at the jamboree, but also opens hearts in other ways. “We have about twenty religions represented here in the Faith and Beliefs area,” explains Sister Call.

Six of the religions worship the Abrahamic God, including Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, LDS, Orthodox, and Islam. The other 14 include Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, and several Shinto religious sects. Fellowship opportunities among the religions are another blessing.

“It’s wonderful to be surrounded with so many good religious Scouting brothers and sisters,” says Sister Call. “At our opening devotional our neighbors here in the Faith and Beliefs area, the Won Buddhists, came and joined us. As an LDS staff we also went over to their tent and participated in their opening service. Just like the pictures on our panels all point to the family, we are all one family together—Heavenly Father’s family.”

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**Growing Scouting in your LDS Units - Atlanta, GA**

*Contributed by Angela Meyer*

I wasn't planning on coming inside.

My son had a math competition, being held at the local high school. Parents were welcome to come inside, but were told there was “nothing to see.” However, I chose to come inside anyway. In the hall, I saw Pablo Beltran, the father of my son’s best friend. We exchanged a bit of banter as I decided whether or not to wait around. He said his church had Boy Scout meetings, and invited my son to attend. I told him that I would mention it to Charlie, to see if he was interested.

Later that evening, my son and I talked about it. He was willing to visit, so we made plans to attend the next Tuesday.

When we drove to the meeting, we passed other churches, generally larger, with Scouting in evidence, including dedicated buildings and vehicles. My son had known about other troops, through school and elsewhere. I, too, was familiar with Scouting: my brother is an Eagle Scout and my father was a leader.

When we arrived, we discovered the Scouts were all Hispanic, as was the congregation itself. The troop was new, only a few months old, and had about ten young men. The parents and leaders spoke to each other in Spanish. I admit I felt overwhelmed and intimidated—until we were personally greeted and welcomed by Brother Beltran and the two leaders. They spoke to Charlie and me in English, and answered our many questions, including if it would matter that we were not members of their church or that we did not speak Spanish. Continued on page 10
After we left, I spoke frankly to my son. The visit kindled an interest in Scouting, but was this a place he would want to attend? Was the troop too small? Was it too connected to a church? But, he was hooked; we started attending Scout meetings regularly the very next week.

A few months later, my son attended Scout camp. The Sunday following camp in sacrament meeting, they were asked to give a testimony about their experiences. Despite never having attended an LDS service before, and not knowing what to expect, my son was willing to share as well. Charlie spoke about the good times—and the happiness at returning to technology. After the service, his fellow Scouts invited him to stay for the morning’s lessons. Despite my expectation to the contrary, he stayed. And, again, he was hooked, and we started attending regularly the next week.

Shortly after our first sacrament meeting, we were asked if we wanted to receive lessons to learn about the Church. Charlie immediately jumped at the chance. I hesitated but agreed, with the condition that I learn along with him. My son took the lessons to heart, and quickly decided to be baptized.

Even though I was willing, and my son was eager, my reluctant husband had to give his permission. I was raised Catholic and my husband was raised Jewish. He grudgingly completed his bar mitzvah, and resisted religion ever since. On the other hand, I have explored many religions, denominations, and philosophies along the way. When we married, we originally planned to expose our children to various traditions, and to eventually let them choose for themselves. Later, we tried to raise them Jewish, in order to increase the odds of my husband’s participation, and to coincide with his local family. My children attended Mass with my Catholic mother when we occasionally visited her. Eventually, however, all choices fell by the wayside.

Shortly before he completed his lessons, my son approached his father. He explained to him what the Church meant to him, and why he wanted to be baptized. Listening, my husband agreed to allow him.

In September of last year, my son joined the Church. He rejoiced in his membership, and happily began passing the sacrament the next week.

My daughter attended her brother’s baptism, as well as the celebration event afterwards. She had a great time and took the opportunity to get to know many people. In the days after, many people asked about her, and I relayed their interest. She began to realize how much the members cared about her, her brother, and her family. She decided she wanted to learn more about the Church, as well, and began to take lessons from the missionaries shortly thereafter. I attended the lessons again.

This time, however, I decided I would get baptized, too.

She and I were baptized and confirmed together, in December 2014. My son said the opening prayer at the baptismal service. My husband attended, as did many members from inside and outside of our branch. Pablo Beltran, the voice of that first invitation, baptized me. My son’s Scoutmaster, Guilherme Strougo, who also teaches one of my daughter’s high school classes, said our confirmation prayers. I have enjoyed many hours of discussion and learning with these men of faith, our branch president, and the missionaries.

Today, the three of us are active, involved members. My son is a counselor in the branch Young Men organization, as well as an assistant senior patrol leader. My daughter is the secretary of the branch Young Women organization. She attended girls camp and EFY this past summer. I have answered the call to teach Primary, with 3- and 4-year-old children, as well as serving as the Boy Scout troop committee chair.

Our faith and love continue to grow. My children are happier, with themselves and with each other. The Church gives me tools and encouragement to be a better wife and mother, which allows me to give a living testimony. We are loved, and love where we are.

I am glad I came inside.