

## AFRAID TO CHANGE

By Olivia Ghafoerkhan

I grew up as a Christian. Even though my family was never religious, my father always taught me to act upon what I know to be true.

In my early teen years I went through many trials. Back surgery, my parents' divorce, my mother's illness, and caring for a younger sister left me bitter and cynical. Then a few months before I turned 15, I came into contact with missionaries. Elder Johnson and Elder Chadwick taught me about the gospel.

I read the Book of Mormon, but I didn't want to make the changes they asked me to. I told them the changes were too much and almost told them to leave me alone. I looked up as I spoke those words and met Elder Chadwick's eye. A single tear rolled down his cheek, and I have never felt so ashamed. I told them I would call them the next day.

I went home from church and finished reading the Book of Mormon for the first time. Then I knelt down,



which I had never done before, and asked God if it was true. I'd never asked God a question before. I was so afraid of changing. After I said "amen," a feeling of calm and peace came over me. I knew I had a Heavenly Father who loved me, I knew the Book of Mormon was true, and I knew I could change.

Ten days later I was baptized. Both of my parents came to my baptism. Although I'm still the only member in my family, I have faith that one day they too will kneel and ask God. I'm reading the Book of Mormon for the eighth time now, and it's as wonderful as the first time. I know that the Book of Mormon is true. It has the power to change people. ■

## MY TESTIMONY OF PRAYER

Prayers are not always answered in the way you hope or expect. Think about what you are praying for and pay attention to what you are feeling. Always remember that the Lord loves you and will answer your prayers. He may already have answered them, and it is a matter of recognizing the answer.

Mary M., age 17,  
England



**TO** contribute to Our Space, e-mail your story, artistic photo, or feedback to [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org), with "Our Space" in the subject line. Please include your name, birth date, ward or branch, stake or district, and parent's permission (e-mail is acceptable). Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.