Mary, the mother of Jesus, learned that she would be overcome by the Holy Ghost and would give birth to the Savior of the world. We are told in Alma 7:9–10: “The Son of God . . . shall be born of Mary, . . . a precious and chosen vessel.” Mary was an example to all women. Mary could hear the voice of God because of her worthiness, and she could respond because of her humble faith and complete trust in her Heavenly Father. This painting depicts some of Mary’s righteous qualities and personal characteristics, such as her purity and virtue, faith and obedience, her willingness to listen and subject her will to the Father’s, and her humility and personal strength. This painting is a reminder to women of all ages of their potential to become chosen vessels of the Lord by following Mary’s righteous example.

The artwork depicts a tender and intimate view of the birth of the Savior and draws our attention to a heavenly, emanating light that is stronger than the lamp portrayed or the light of man. The title and work were inspired by the scriptures: “Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I am the life and the light of the world” (D&C 11:28).
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Swaddling
by Liz Swindle

On that first Christmas night, Joseph searched through the inns of Bethlehem, looking for a place of comfort for Mary. Despite his pleadings we read, “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7). Too often we let the distractions of the world crowd out the Savior. Like those in Bethlehem, we do not make room for Him in our busy lives. Each year as Christmas draws near, I paint a Nativity piece. For me this has become a tradition and my own way of making room for Him. May we each find ways to always make room in our lives for the Savior.

Facing Eternity
by Delwin Oliver Parson

In this painting the Savior sits alone on the shore of the Sea of Galilee at sunset. As fishermen care for their nets in preparation for the next day’s work, He contemplates His Father’s plan. The masts of the three fishing boats represent the crosses that wait for him in the last scene of His earthly life. He faces a crossroad. As the day comes to an end, He anticipates the great sacrifice ahead at Gethsemane and moves forward into the unknown—the darkness of uncertainty. Just as He did, we all face crossroads and decisions in our lives.
Christ’s suffering in Gethsemane is beyond our understanding, but as intense as it was, He persevered through it. As we suffer through our own times of trial, as intense as they may be, we must never give up.
Jesus suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane. I have thought of this night as one of extremes. Surely it was filled with extreme agony—the result of a burden of unimaginable intensity and scope. Somehow, Jesus took upon Himself all the suffering and frailties of the entire human race. In some unfathomable, concentrated way, Jesus descended “below all things” (D&C 88:6). The Atonement was an act of infinite, transcendent love for each one of us. This act stands as the most glorious event of all time! For 25 years I have wanted to visually depict this; however, the difficulty of portraying such “unknowable things” has consistently thwarted me. I have resigned myself to the fact that I am incapable of adequately representing the characteristics of this event, whether terrible or transcendent. I have finally settled on a moment that is in between.
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Revelation unto the Prophet
by Karen Vardanjan

This painting was inspired by the scriptures and by the importance of prophets and revelation, both in olden times and in our day. When remembering the great things of God, how can one not think of all of the instances of revelation to God’s prophets. One of the greatest ways God shows his love to His children is through revelation to His prophets.

King Benjamin’s Adress
by Jeremy Conrad Winborg

King Benjamin’s Address is one in a series of 32 Book of Mormon paintings my father and I are creating. As an artist, I love to imagine and ponder and then paint what I feel it would be like to actually witness the events from the scriptures firsthand. I believe that King Benjamin’s words to his people, found in the first few chapters of Mosiah, are among the most direct, easy to understand, and meaningful words ever spoken. They truly contain the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Captain Moroni and the Title of Liberty
by Larry Conrada Winborg

Captain Moroni was a true hero, willing to make a stand, following the Holy Ghost in fighting for the freedom of his people and for our Father in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ. “Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, if all men had been, and were, and ever would be, like unto Moroni, behold, the very powers of hell would have been shaken forever; yea, the devil would never have power over the hearts of the children of men” (Alma 48:17).

The Resurrected Christ Appears to the Nephite
by Mathew James Warren

As promised, Christ appeared to His followers in the Americas. A large crowd gathered at the temple, “conversing about this Jesus Christ, of whom the sign had been given concerning his death” (3 Nephi 11:2). As they were “marveling and wondering one with another” (3 Nephi 11:1), a man descended out of heaven, dressed in a white robe. Christ stretched forth his hands, showing the prints of the nails. The painting depicts the moment when the crowd realizes that the man is Jesus Christ. Some in the crowd are overcome with emotion. Some are shocked into silence. With simple, faith-filled expectation, a small child looks back to the viewer as if to say, “I knew he would come.”
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Let Him Ask of God
by L. Darwin Dower

One evening, young Joseph Smith took down the family Bible and read, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5). This scripture caused him to think. Later, Joseph made his way to a small grove of trees not far from his home. Selecting a suitable spot in the grove, he knelt and began to call upon God in earnest prayer. While he was praying, he saw an exceedingly bright light coming down out of heaven. Joseph beheld two heavenly beings—God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Pointing to the Son, the Father said, “This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17). Joseph's humble prayer was answered.

I Returned to My Father in the Fields
by Howard Post

After recovering from the daytime appearance of Moroni, Joseph recounted his experiences to his father, who was working in the fields: “I returned to my father in the field, and rehearsed the whole matter to him. He replied to me that it was of God, and told me to go and do as commanded by the messenger. I left the field, and went to the place where the messenger had told me the plates were deposited; and owing to the distinctness of the vision which I had had concerning it, I knew the place the instant that I arrived there” (Joseph Smith—History 1:50).
Ezekiel prophesied that the stick of Joseph would come forth in the latter days to join the stick of Judah as another testament of Christ. The records delivered by Moroni to Joseph Smith were indeed the fulfillment of this prophecy. The prophet Nephi wrote: “Behold, I prophesy unto you concerning the last days; concerning the days when the Lord God shall bring these things forth unto the children of men. . . . For those who shall be destroyed shall speak unto them out of the ground, and their speech shall be low out of the dust, and their voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit; for the Lord God will give unto him power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were out of the ground; and their speech shall whisper out of the dust” (2 Nephi 26:14, 16).

Here, Joseph Smith is seeing the gold plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate for the first time. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon was truly one of the great things of God.
In Kirtland, Ohio, Church leaders learned about their infant Church. President Wilford Woodruff recorded: “The Prophet called on all who held the Priesthood to gather into the little log school house they had there. It was a small house, perhaps 14 feet square. But it held the whole of the Priesthood of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who were then in the town of Kirtland. . . . The Prophet said, 'Brethren, I have been very much edified and instructed in your testimonies here tonight, but I want to say to you before the Lord, that you know no more concerning the destinies of this Church and kingdom than a babe upon its mother’s lap. You don’t comprehend it. . . . This Church will fill North and South America—it will fill the world’ ” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1898, 57).
During the night of March 24, 1832, the Prophet Joseph Smith was violently removed from his home by a mob and tarred and feathered. The members of the mob tore off his clothing and beat him as he struggled against them. They tried to compel him to drink from a vial of poison that broke while being forced into his mouth. When Joseph asked for mercy, he was mocked and told that he should call upon his God for help. Joseph looks upward, remembering his source of strength, pleading for the ability to endure.
This painting was commissioned for the great-grandson of the Mellor family, who were handcart pioneers. Before crossing the sea to come to America, the mother of the Mellor family lost twin babies. This family of nine still sailed to America soon after their loss. They were able to join the Martin handcart company to come with the Latter-day Saints to Utah. The whole family survived the trek. The three-year-old, who became the great-grandfather of Jeff and Jana Whiting, lost his toes on one foot because of the cold. The ages of family members and the locations of their travels were researched in order to paint this true story.
Look to God and Live
by Julie Rogers

Ann Elizabeth and Francis Webster decided to give up all their wealth to help the poor to come to Zion (their pearl of great price). They left England in May 1856 with considerable funds, sufficient to buy a wagon and a fine team of oxen. Instead they chose to donate to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund and come by handcart. Francis and Elizabeth pulled a handcart across the plains. Their daughter Amy was born a few weeks before the Martin handcart company was caught in the terrible snowstorms and freezing temperatures of Wyoming. These people were willing and obedient. In the words of Francis Webster, “The price we paid to become acquainted with God was a privilege to pay.” The Websters settled in Cedar City, Utah, the same year they crossed the plains. Upon arriving in Cedar City, they paid tithing on all that they owned, including their clothing.

In the Tops of the Mountains:
James and Mary Laird
by Robert Adamson

This multipanel painting is a tribute to my wife’s ancestors—James and Mary Laird. They came across the plains in the Willie handcart company; James was Captain Willie’s assistant. The larger painting shows Mount Olympus near where James and Mary settled after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley. A section of their farm, located in Parley’s Canyon east of the Salt Lake Valley, can be seen in a smaller panel. Also represented in the smaller panels are the members of the Laird family pulling their handcart across the plains and portraits of James and Mary.
First Fly
by Dix Baines

On July 8, 1847, Wilford Woodruff, fly fishing on the Blacks Fork of the Green River just outside Fort Bridger. This is the first recorded use of a fly rod and artificial fly west of the Mississippi River.

Blessed Are They Who Are Faithful and Endure
Doctrine and Covenants 50:5
by Walter Clair Rane

The painting depicts the artist’s mother, who exemplifies this scripture.

A Peculiar People
by Glen Edwards

This painting represents some of the sacrifices made by the pioneers. They gave up many of their treasures and comforts and endured hardships and challenges for greater rewards and blessings in Zion. Among the unknowns were the Native Americans they would encounter and live among. Each group was a peculiar people to the other and the world. The early pioneers believed these new friends to be a remnant of the house of Israel, described in the pages of the Book of Mormon they brought with them.
Walking with Faith
by Sherlyn Olsen

This painting is of my daughter at Martin’s Cove. She portrays a child traveling with one of the pioneer hand-cart companies. Some children lost both parents and were left alone to face the many trials and tribulations that lay ahead. They had only their faith and trust in God to help them deal with the uncertainties of life. Many times we too are left alone, and the only way to get through the trials and storms that are ahead of us is by having faith and placing our trust in God.

Whereas I Was Blind, Now I See
by Tyson Snow

The story behind this painting is found in John, chapter 9, where we read of the man who was born blind. After he was healed by the Savior, he was brought before the Pharisees, who questioned how this was possible and who it was that performed the miracle. In reply, the man said, “He is a prophet” (John 9:17). This painting depicts the man, not in the act of being healed or even while being questioned by the Pharisees, but perhaps years after the miracle took place. This formal portrait shows the man sitting and, with increasing emotion, recounting his experience and testimony of the Savior. With this artwork, I wanted to express the lasting effect of being touched by Christ in some way.