

# Examples of Self-Reliance from Church History

**Martin Harris:** In 1827, Joseph Smith was facing persecution and poverty as he tried to translate the Book of Mormon from the gold plates. Martin Harris, a successful farmer, learned of Joseph’s situation. Read Joseph Smith—History 1:61–62, looking for how Martin was able to help Joseph Smith. Read Doctrine and Covenants 19:26, 34–35; 104:26 to see other ways Martin Harris was able to serve the Lord and bless others. Martin had developed the financial self-reliance needed to serve the Lord and others in meaningful ways. What could teenagers do now to develop skills, education, and means to help them serve the Lord and others in the future?

**Emma Hale Smith:** When she met Joseph Smith, Emma Hale was an accomplished reader, writer, teacher, and musician. Read Doctrine and Covenants 25:5–7, 11, looking for responsibilities the Lord entrusted to Emma. Emma had developed the skills and education that helped her serve the Lord and others in meaningful ways. What could teenagers do now to develop skills, education, and means to help them serve the Lord and others in the future?

**William W. Phelps:** The Lord instructed William W. Phelps, a recent convert to the Church, to move to Missouri. Read Doctrine and Covenants 55:4 and 57:11–13, looking for the unique assignments the Lord gave William to serve in His Church. Use the “Authors and Composers” index in the hymnbook to search for hymns that were written by William W. Phelps that continue to bless the Church today. William had developed the skills and education that helped him serve the Lord and others in meaningful ways. What could teenagers do now to develop skills, education, and means to help them serve the Lord and others in the future?

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