



THE SCIENCE PROJECT

By Bradley Salmond III
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in the USA.

Bradley dumped another cup of sand into his bucket. He was going to need lots!

His school's science fair was soon. Bradley was making a model that showed how tsunamis worked. He learned that a tsunami is a big wave of water caused by an earthquake in the ocean. He wanted his project to be perfect. Maybe he would win a prize!

When his bucket was full, Bradley gathered some sticks. Then he found a plastic bin and some small toy houses in the basement.

Bradley poured the sand into the bin to make the land. He carefully placed the houses and trees. Next came the exciting part—the water! Once he poured it in, he could push a piece of cardboard through the water to create the wave.

But then he made a big mistake. He poured in too much water! The houses were flooded—and he hadn't even made the wave yet. The wet sand made a goopy, muddy mess.

Bradley called to his mom in the kitchen. "What should I do now? I put too much water in."

"That's OK. You can just start over," said Mom.

"Let's do it together and measure a little at a time."

"OK." Bradley hung his head and went outside to get more sand.

This time they carefully measured the right amount of water and poured it in. Bradley moved the cardboard and watched the waves crash against the sand. It worked!

Next Bradley and Mom worked on his poster. He started writing some fun facts about tsunamis. But the words didn't fit on the page.

"I don't want to write it all over again!" Bradley said. His head began to ache.

"We don't have to rewrite all of it," said Mom. "We can just reword it so it will fit on the page."

Bradley groaned. His poster did not look at all like he wanted it to. "I don't want to do that. It will look bad if the words don't fit perfectly."

"Learning can be hard." Mom gave him a hug.

"Sometimes we make mistakes. But the important

thing is that we don't give up. Heavenly Father wants us to keep trying. So let's take a break and finish in the morning."

The next morning, they finished his poster. It wasn't perfect, but Bradley felt a little better about it.

Finally the day of the science fair came. Mom dropped Bradley off at school. "Remember," she said, "you worked hard on your project and learned a lot. And that's what matters."

Bradley carried his project to the big gym. It was full of projects and posters. All the fourth-graders were sitting down and waiting for their turn to show their project.

Soon it was Bradley's turn. His heart beat fast as he walked to the front. What if everything went wrong? Bradley pushed the cardboard through the water and showed the judges how the waves crashed against the land.

"What causes those big waves in the ocean?" one of the judges asked.

"The big waves are caused by . . ." Bradley's mind went blank. "I can't remember. But I can tell you

"Heavenly Father wants us to keep trying."

some fun facts about tsunamis." He read them the facts on his poster.

After school Bradley climbed into the car with his project.

"How did it go?" Mom asked.

"Not exactly the way I wanted." Bradley smiled.

"But I did my best and kept trying." ●



"Our destiny is not determined by the number of times we stumble but by the number of times we rise up, dust ourselves off, and move forward."

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "You Can Do It Now!" *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 55.

