



Carl Bloch 1873

Going About Doing Good

Students, employees, alumni, and friends emulate the Savior's life

by Brett Sampson '88

As Exemplar, Jesus Christ shows us the path to eternal life and how to conduct ourselves throughout each day of the journey. In Acts 10:38, John makes a seemingly simple statement about the way Jesus lived His life; he says Jesus of Nazareth “went about doing good.”

Joseph Smith declares in the thirteenth Article of Faith that we believe in “doing good to all men.” Isn't this what it is to be a disciple of the Savior, to be Christlike, to be Christian? As Latter-day Saints we regularly covenant to “always remember Him.”¹ We remember and follow Him by living lives of constant love and concern for others.

Each one of us has “opportunities right in our way”² to follow the standard that Jesus established by doing things as simple as smiling at someone kindly or visiting someone in need. And there are organized efforts—such as home and visiting teaching or welfare and other service projects—that allow us to work together in love.

Brigham Young University–Idaho students, employees, alumni, and friends have innumerable opportunities around them to do good. And they do.

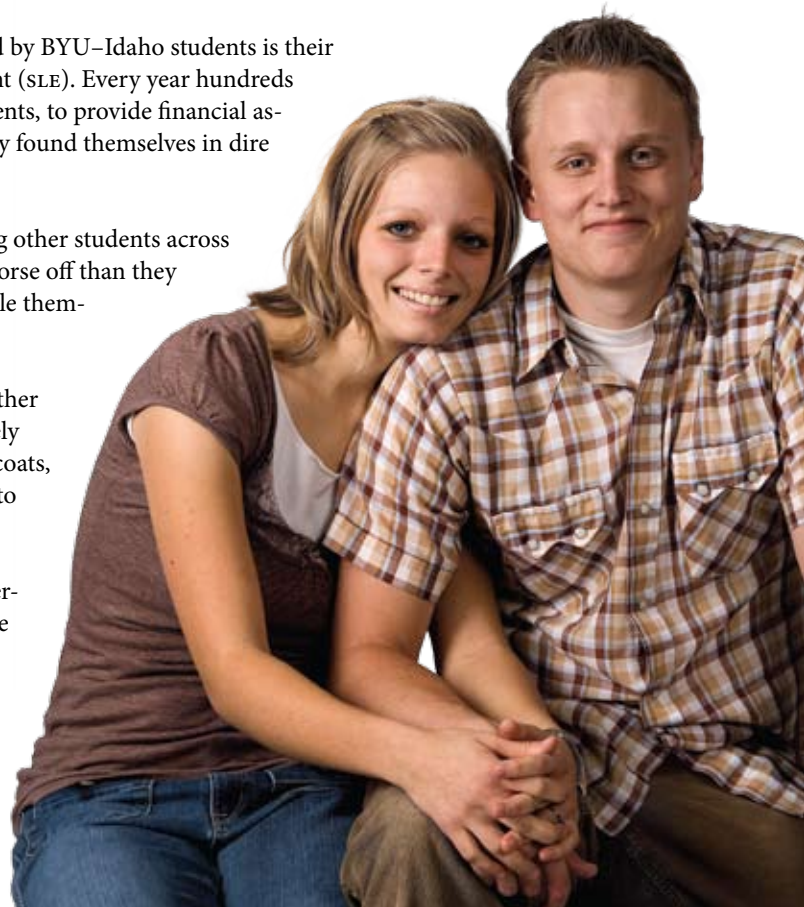
Students

Just one example of the many services provided by BYU–Idaho students is their participation in the Student Legacy Endowment (SLE). Every year hundreds donate to this endowment, established by students, to provide financial assistance to fellow classmates who have suddenly found themselves in dire circumstances.³

Student volunteers spend a few evenings calling other students across campus and encouraging them to help those worse off than they are. These young people (who often have so little themselves) each give an average gift of \$14.⁴

Through SLE, young men and women join together and “bear one another's burdens”⁵ by collectively providing such things as textbooks, groceries, coats, and tuition for those who may otherwise have to drop out of school.

It then comes full circle as recipients of this generosity get back on their feet and are invited to give back what they received, plus a little extra, to assist those who will need help down the road.



Employees

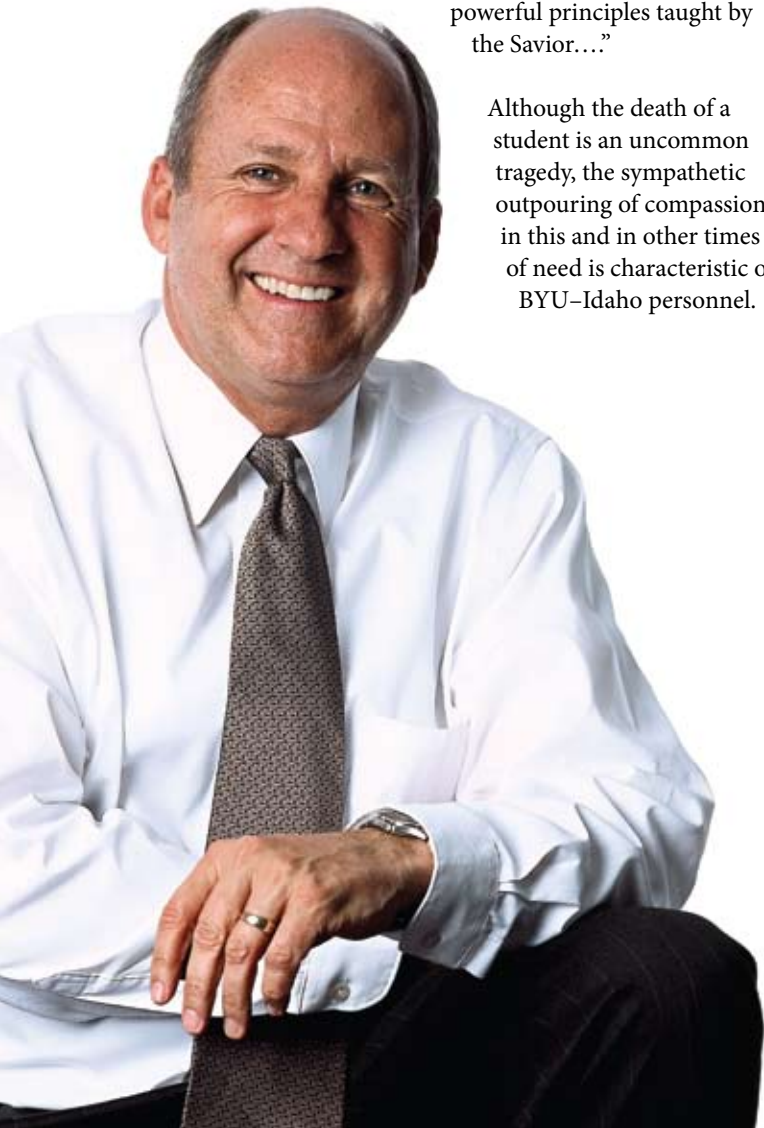
Alongside students, employees are the other major segment of a university population. At BYU–Idaho, employees are known for their concern and caring attitude toward students. One student’s parents recently wrote President Kim B. Clark to let him know of their gratitude for the strength they and their son had received from BYU–Idaho.

While attending the university and preparing for a mission, their son died in a river accident. At this tragic time, the campus community came together to comfort his mother and father. These parents wrote, “You will never know what peace it has brought to our hearts to know just how much our son was loved by those at BYU–Idaho. From his peers to his professors, his bishop, even his landlord, all helped us to feel the spirit of BYU–Idaho.”

After sharing this letter at an all-employee meeting last May, President Clark said, “Brothers and sisters, this is BYU–Idaho. This is what we do. I believe the experience of that young man and his family is a microcosm of what this university is about.

It’s an expression of very deep and powerful principles taught by the Savior....”

Although the death of a student is an uncommon tragedy, the sympathetic outpouring of compassion in this and in other times of need is characteristic of BYU–Idaho personnel.



Alumni

After students experience the Savior’s teachings in action at BYU–Idaho, they continue to apply those principles as they serve in their families, in the Church, and in their work. They bless others wherever they go. Elder Henry B. Eyring even prophesied that graduates “will become legendary for their capacity to build the people around them and to add value wherever they serve.”⁶

Examples of eager and energetic alumni assisting others are found among Alumni Ambassadors. There are currently 693 Ambassadors serving in 331 stakes across the United States.⁷ Among other things, they work with prospective and current students from their geographic areas to mentor them through significant transitions.

Through this empathetic and encouraging service, young men and women begin to recognize the Spirit of Ricks, which Elder David A. Bednar identified as the “workings of the Holy Ghost,”⁸ as manifested at the sacred and set apart campus of BYU–Idaho.

Friends of BYU–Idaho

Thousands of alumni are also numbered among individuals who generously respond to requests for support of students preparing to be “disciple-leaders.”⁹ Donors recognize the unique opportunity BYU–Idaho students have to build testimonies of the restored gospel while pursuing a college degree.¹⁰ These friends of the university act on a desire to encourage this experiential process by regularly contributing philanthropically to the efforts of the institution.

It is not only those who give of their abundance, however, that bless others. At BYU–Idaho, lives are changed through various sizes of contributions from over 10,000 individuals each year.¹¹ The young and old of all economic levels give of that with which the Lord has blessed them.

Remembering and following Him is living lives of constant love and concern for others.

Emulating the Savior

Students, employees, alumni, and friends are extraordinary examples of individuals losing themselves by putting the concerns of others above their own.¹² They give of their time, talents, and treasure. They follow the invitation of Jesus to “...follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do.”¹³

Goodness becomes inherent the more they and we emulate the Savior's love.

Goodness becomes inherent the more we emulate the Savior's love. Through a great change of heart, our good actions are no longer conscious determinations between doing or not doing a good thing; doing good continually comes from who we are.¹⁴

As you contemplate these things, you may recognize personal experiences associated with BYU–Idaho. At this university there are examples all around of those who follow the example of Jesus who eternally goes about doing good.

For your goodness, the students thank you; and we thank you.

LDS Philanthropies
800-227-4257
www.byui.edu/giving

Please send comments about this article to sampsonb@byui.edu.

NOTES:

- 1 3 Nephi 18:7, 11; D&C 20:77, 79; Moroni 4:3; and 5:2
- 2 "Have I Done Any Good?" Hymn 223
- 3 D. Alton Hansen, August 2007 BYU–Idaho Annual Giving Report
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Mosiah 18:8
- 6 Henry B. Eyring, BYU–Idaho devotional message, "A Steady, Upward Course," September 18, 2001
- 7 Visit www.byui.edu/alumni for more information about Alumni Ambassadors.
- 8 David A. Bednar, "Ricks Building & Gardens Dedication Remarks," February 18, 2005
- 9 The term "disciple-leaders" was used by President Clark in his Inaugural Response on October 11, 2005, and has since become a key message of the university. See www.byui.edu/president/inauguration.
- 10 BYU–Idaho's mission is to: (1) Build testimonies of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and encourage living its principles. (2) Provide a quality education for students of diverse interests and abilities. (3) Prepare students for lifelong learning, for employment, and for their roles as citizens and parents. (4) Maintain a wholesome academic, cultural, social and spiritual environment.
- 11 D. Alton Hansen, August 2007 BYU–Idaho Annual Giving Report
- 12 Jesus said "whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16: 25 & 10:39), "save it" (Mark 8: 35 & Luke 9: 24), "pre-serve it" (Luke 17: 33), and "keep it unto life eternal" (John 12: 25).
- 13 2 Nephi 31:12
- 14 Mosiah 5:2 and Alma 19:33

