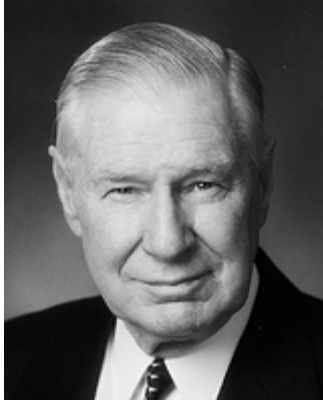


General Young Women Meeting (March 25, 2000)



Excerpt from:

Womanhood: The Highest Place of Honor

by President James E. Faust

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Let me tell you of one young woman who has demonstrated remarkable strength in the face of great tragedy. On April 17, 1999, a big van broadsided a car and severely injured 16-year-old Emily Jensen. Her skull was fractured, and she was in a coma for three months, and six months in the hospital. She has had to learn everything again as if from birth. It would have been easy to give up, but giving up is not in Emily's vocabulary. She works so hard at recovery that she runs the equivalent of a 26-mile marathon every day. Her faith, courage, and perseverance have strengthened and motivated many other hospital patients.

Emily is still working very hard to regain her speech. Even so, she fearlessly asks nurses, technicians, and therapists, "Are you a Mormon?" If they reply no, she tells them in her muddled sentences, "You should be. Read the Book of Mormon." Emily dictated to her mother what she wanted written in five copies of the Book of Mormon that she gave to a doctor, three therapists, and a technician before she left the hospital.

Emily dearly loved one technician who had become totally inactive in the Church. They prayed together in Emily's hospital room. In language that was difficult to understand, but with a spirit that was strong and clear, Emily told her that she needed to go back to church. That technician later wrote Emily: "I want to thank you so much for the Book of Mormon you gave me. I cried when I read what you wrote. I know someday I will love this book as much as you do."

Emily's life was recently brightened at Skyline High School in Salt Lake City. The student body picked her as this year's prom queen in recognition of her extraordinary courage. Her classmates stood and cheered as she struggled to the stage of the packed auditorium, supported on the arm of the student body president. Though she continues to go each day for therapy, Emily's life is still defined by her spiritual identity, her goodness, her kindness to others, and her strong testimony.⁶

Source: Letter from Terri F. Jensen, 14 Feb. 2000.