

# What If Keeping the Good News Alive Depended on Us?

*This excerpt from Robert Browning's (1812–1889) poem "A Death in the Desert" depicts the elderly Apostle John contemplating how the Good News of Jesus will continue on after he, the last living Apostle, has died and his ashes have scattered.*

If I live yet, it is for good, more love  
Through me to men: be nought but ashes here  
That keep awhile my semblance, who was John,—  
Still, when they scatter, there is left on earth  
No one alive who knew (consider this!)  
—Saw with his eyes and handled with his hands  
That which was from the first, the Word of Life.  
How will it be when none more saith "I saw"?

*Group assignment: Imagine that you are the last living eyewitnesses of the historical Jesus. You walked with him as he taught, healed the sick, forgave sins, and raised the dead to life. Now you are getting very old and most eyewitnesses have died or been martyred. How will you make sure that the Good News continues after your death? (Devise a plan.)*

Use the back of this page to take notes. Be prepared to present your plan to the class. You may use your student book to assist you. Consider at least some of the following questions as you devise your plan:

- What did the early followers of Jesus do to keep his memory alive?
- Did Jesus ever ask that his followers remember him in a certain way?
- How do you make the Good News of Jesus available to people who have never heard of him? (You may use modern forms of communication for your response.)
- People are diverse. How do you communicate with a diverse audience?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in keeping the Good News alive?
- Does keeping the Good News alive really depend upon you?

