

# the friend

DECEMBER • 2005



# Friends by Mail



## I Love Jesus

I love Jesus and I know that He loves me. He loves all the children in the world. I know that Jesus died on the cross at Calvary. I know that if I follow His commandments I can live with Him again. When I hear people take the Lord's name in vain, I am sad because they don't know that they are talking about our Savior.

Kyelee J. Stephenson, age 10  
Layton, Utah



## A Prayer for Rudolph

When my dad and I went outside to put up our Christmas deer, Rudolph wasn't working. I asked my dad, "Should we say a prayer?" He said, "Sure." So I said a prayer. Then he shook Rudolph a few times, and it lit up! Heavenly Father really does answer my prayers.

James Stewart Larsen, age 6  
Logan, Utah



## Upside Down

I am one of the readers of the *Friend*, and I look forward to every single issue. In the edition of October 2004, page 40, I noticed something. Being a former student of Shalom School, I have studied the language of Hebrew since kindergarten. The picture of the scroll in the top right-hand corner is upside down. I just wanted you to know that.

Kate M. Wigginton, age 11  
Carmichael, California



The scroll as it should have appeared.

## Going to the Temple

My grandpa got married in the Los Angeles California Temple. This temple is a very beautiful place! I've been wanting to see the temple since I was baptized. When we arrived at the temple, I felt the Spirit inside me. I want to be righteous so I, too, can get married in the temple!

Cera Walker, age 9  
Orange, California



## Paintball Warning



One day after school, my friend wanted me to join a paintball game. But I had a feeling that I shouldn't, so I told him no.

The next day my friend said they got in big trouble for shooting a house with paintballs. I'm grateful that I have the Holy Ghost to tell me what is wrong and what is right.

Jordon Greenburg, age 11  
Duluth, Georgia



Please send us a letter sharing your feelings about the *Friend* magazine, a spiritual experience, your testimony, or whatever else is on your mind. If an adult helps with a child's submission, credit should also be given to him or her. Send it to Friends By Mail, *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. Please include a photo of yourself and your name, age, and address. A written statement by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish the child's photo must be included. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

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Cover drawings by children of the Church

the **friend**

A children's magazine published by  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



See the Guide to  
the *Friend* (inside back  
cover) for family home  
evening ideas.

**HIDDEN CTR RING**

*Pilia ang Matarung*  
means "choose the  
right" in Cebuano, a  
language spoken in the  
Philippines. As you look  
for the Cebuano CTR ring  
hidden in this issue, think  
of the many blessings  
Heavenly Father has given  
you.



**A Christmas Message from the First Presidency  
to the Children of the World**



# A Joyful Season

**C**hristmas is a wonderful time of year. It is a time to celebrate not only the Savior's birth but also His life and example. He showed us how to live and find happiness whatever our circumstances. He is the Son of the Eternal Father.

As we follow Him and reach out as He did—serving family and loved ones, seeking out those who are sick or hungry or cold or friendless—the joyful spirit of Christmas will enter our hearts. Then this Christmas, and every Christmas to follow, will be filled with hope and love. ●

President Gordon B. Hinckley  
Thomas S. Monson  
James E. Faust





# KENNY'S CHRISTMAS

BY STEVE CONNOLLY  
(Based on a true story)



*He that bath two coats, let him impart to him that bath none* (Luke 3:11).

One day as Christmastime approached, my parents announced that we were going to a drive-in movie. For a seven-year-old, this was very good news, but I thought I could make it even better.

“Can Kenny come too?” I asked. Kenny was my age and lived next door.

Dad smiled. “Of course, if it’s OK with his parents.”

I grew up in a small house in a small town. Mom and Dad often talked about struggling to get by on a teacher’s salary, but we must have been wealthy compared to Kenny’s family. When I invited him that afternoon, he was overjoyed.

I could tell that he seldom got to see a movie.

That night we drove up in front of Kenny’s house in our station wagon. When Dad honked the horn, Kenny came running out carrying a brown lunch bag spotted with grease stains.

“What’s in the bag?” I asked.

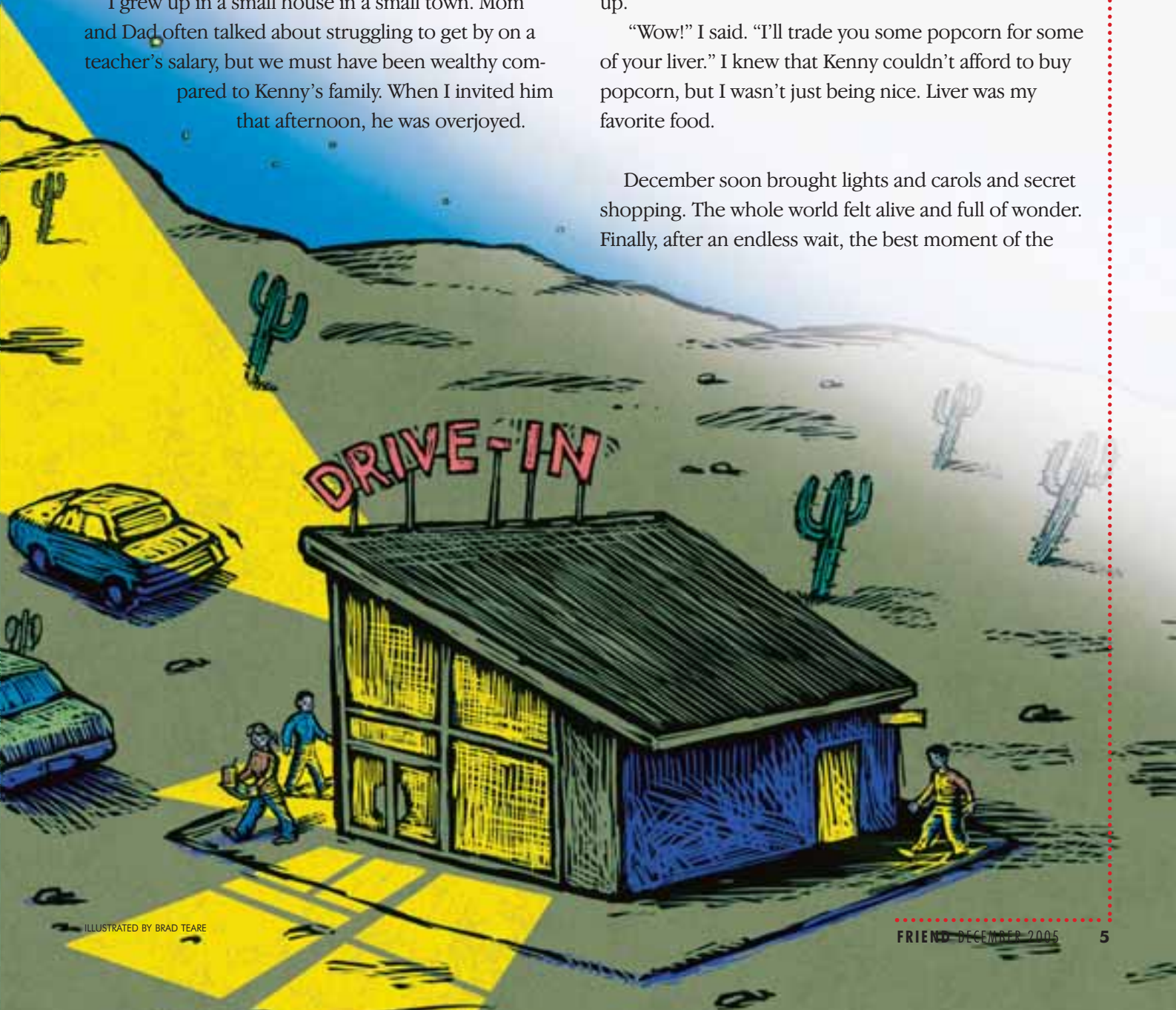
Kenny smiled shyly. “Some snacks for the movie.”

“What kind of snacks?”

“Oh, just some fried calf liver that my mom cooked up.”

“Wow!” I said. “I’ll trade you some popcorn for some of your liver.” I knew that Kenny couldn’t afford to buy popcorn, but I wasn’t just being nice. Liver was my favorite food.

December soon brought lights and carols and secret shopping. The whole world felt alive and full of wonder. Finally, after an endless wait, the best moment of the



year arrived—Christmas morning!

We awoke early, as usual, and had all the presents opened before 6:00 a.m. I got several brand-new racing cars and a new track to go with them. I also got a “supercharger” that would shoot the cars down the track at an astonishing speed. “This is the best Christmas ever!” I exclaimed.

I couldn’t wait to tell Kenny about my presents. I rushed over to his house and pounded on the door. When he opened it, I blurted out, “What did you get from Santa Claus?”

“Santa brought me this new pair of pants and this shirt for school.”

“Neat,” I said. “What cool toys did you get?”

“I didn’t get any toys this year.” He was still smiling.

I stood there speechless for seconds that felt like minutes. I didn’t know what to say. I didn’t know how to feel. I don’t remember what I did or said next, but I know I didn’t mention my gifts.



When I got home, I must have looked sad. “What’s wrong?” Mom asked.

“Kenny didn’t get a single toy for Christmas.” I felt like I was sharing a tragedy.

Mom thought for a few moments, then asked a question that changed my life: “What if you were to take a couple of your new racing cars and wrap them up for Kenny?”

An hour earlier, her idea would have sounded crazy. Now it was a lifeline in a storm, and I grabbed it. I carefully chose two of my best cars and wrapped them. I wrote on a small card, “Merry Christmas, Kenny! From Steve.”

When Kenny unwrapped the gifts, his eyes lit up, and my heart grew bigger than my chest. We played with our racing cars all Christmas afternoon.

“How do you feel?” Mom asked that evening.

“Good,” I replied. “Great” would have been more like it.

I often think back on all the special Christmases I enjoyed growing up. I treasure every one of them and appreciate every gift I received—my first shiny new bike, the magnificent pump-action BB gun, and all the rest. But no Christmas gift could ever come close to the one Mom gave me by suggesting that I give away a couple of toy cars. Every time I think of that experience, all is calm, all is bright. ●

*Steve Connolly is a member of the Avalon Ward, Citrus Heights Arizona Stake.*



“What a glorious season is this time of Christmas. Hearts are softened. . . . Kindness and mercy are reenthroned. . . . There is a . . . reaching out to those in distress.”

**President Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Wondrous and True Story of Christmas,” *Ensign*, Dec. 2000, 2.**





# Truth Restored

With dignity ♩ = 112-126

1. Jo - seph Smith when hum - bly pray - ing saw the Fa - ther and the Son,  
 2. Jo - seph then was called by God to bring to light His ho - ly word;

As They are in all Their glo - ry, bright - er than the noon - day sun.  
 In the Book of Mor - mon we will find God's pre - cious truth re - stored.

Give Them glo - ry, give Them hon - or for the truths re - stored through prayer.  
 Read it dai - ly, seek and pon - der, and lift up your soul in prayer.

God a - bove shall beam His light in - to your heart these truths to share.  
 God a - bove shall beam His light in - to your heart its truth to share.

Words: Alan L. Jones Jr., b. 1931. © 2004 IRI

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

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**From an interview with Elder Gene R. Cook of the First Quorum of the Seventy; by Barbara Jean Jones**

# A Brother's Example

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).*

When I was a boy, my family wasn't very active in the Church. When my older brother, Ron, was turning 12, a man in the ward convinced him to become a deacon.

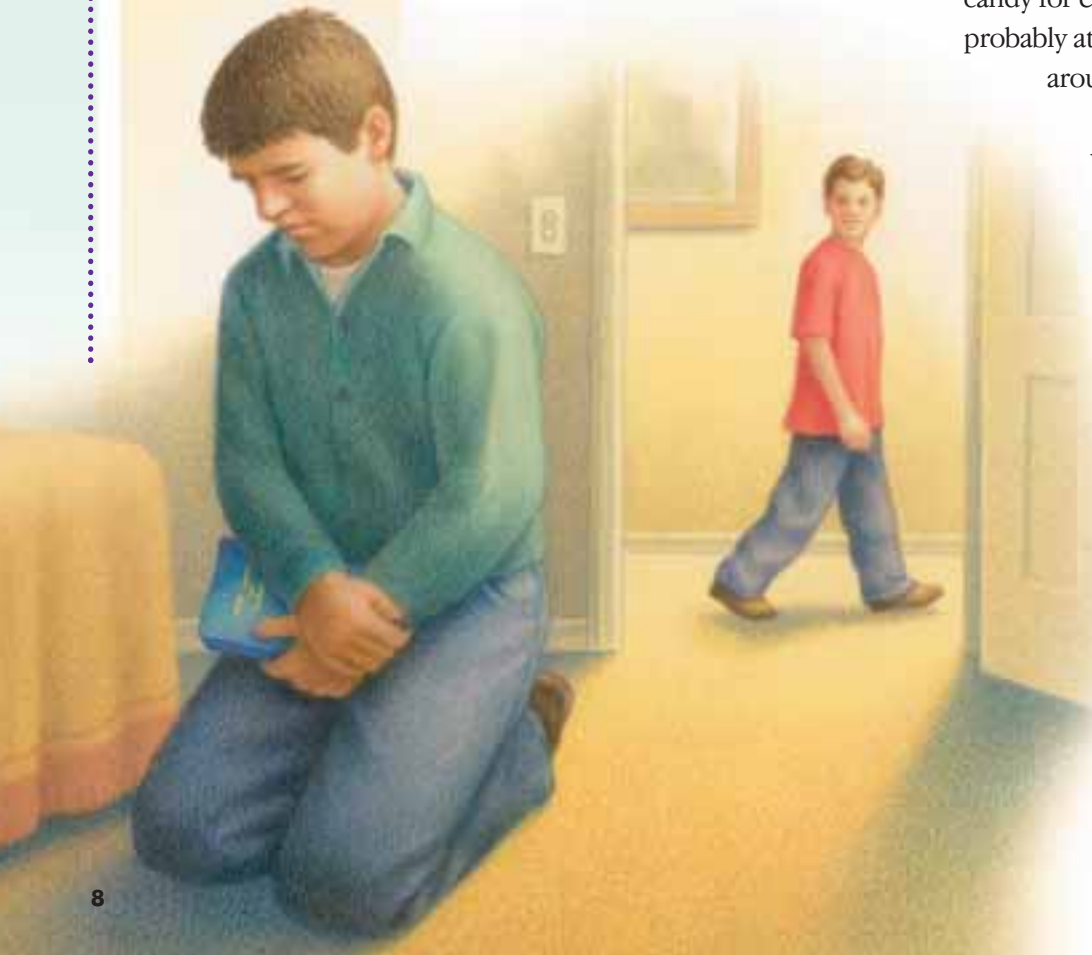
Ron started going to church. He didn't want to go alone, so he convinced me to go with him. I was only about seven, but I'd sit on the bench behind the deacons and watch Ron pass the sacrament.

At first I didn't like church too well. It was hard for me to sit still. But I kept going because Ron promised me a small bag of candy for every time I went with him. So I probably ate more candy than any boy around.

When Ron was about 17 and I was about 12, his teacher told him that he needed to gain a testimony of his own. He said to me, "I intend to find out for myself if the Church is true. I'm going to pay any price to know for myself."

Over the next few weeks, I watched him. I'd find him on his knees praying. I'd see him reading the Book of Mormon. I was amazed at how diligent he was.

One morning a few weeks later, I found Ron lying on his bed with his knees tucked up on his chest. He had



**Elder Cook  
at age 14**



great pain in his lower right abdomen.

My mom called for an ambulance.

As we stood there over my brother, Ron said to my dad through gritted teeth, "Please, I need a priesthood blessing." I didn't know if my dad knew how to give a priesthood blessing. I'd never seen him do it. But he laid his hands on my brother's head and pronounced a blessing of healing. About the time my dad said, "Amen," Ron jumped off the bed and said the pain was totally gone. He was absolutely thrilled that the Lord had answered his prayer through that blessing.

My parents still took my brother to the hospital to be checked. All the doctors could say was that Ron's symptoms sounded like he had had a ruptured appendix, but now they could find no trace of a problem.

Later that day, Ron told me, "Gene, I now know that the gift of healing is real. When Dad put his hands on my head, I felt the Spirit of the Lord go through my whole body. I know the priesthood is real."

Then he said, "I also now know for myself that the Church is true. Not because of the healing, but because of what has been happening to me in reading the Book of Mormon. I've got my testimony by reading and praying over every page. I know all that we've been taught in the Church is correct, and I am going on a mission."

I'd never heard Ron say that before. It was evident to me, even as a young boy, that he had really been impacted by something.

After Ron left me alone, I thought to



**On a family vacation  
with his parents,  
Myrl and Clarence,  
and his older brother,  
Ronald**

myself, "If the Lord would tell my brother, then I'll bet the Lord would tell me." So I did what my brother did,

reading and praying over every page of the Book of Mormon. Because I was still young, I didn't understand a lot of the words, but it wasn't long before I began to feel the Lord speak to me in my heart, telling me it was true. I read the whole book through and ended up with a strong testimony even at age 12. That really helped me through my youth and in preparation for a mission.

I have always been thankful for my good brother, who loved me enough to show me by example how to gain a testimony.

Ron became the first one in our family to serve a mission. And then I went, and my younger brother too. My sister served a number of stake missions. My entire family became active in good measure because of the impact of my brother. Children, I know that you too can have a great influence for good on your family. Praying every morning and night and reading the scriptures will help you develop your own testimony. That testimony will be a wonderful blessing to you and will strengthen others as you share your personal testimony with them. ●

**Elder and Sister Cook with their family**





# Joseph Smith

## Loving Friend of Children



BY PATRICIA R. JONES

(Based on historical sources from the life of Margarette McIntire Burgess)

*Children are an heritage of the Lord* (Psalm 127:3).

Poor little Margarette has a very bad sore throat,” Margarette’s mother told a visitor. Hearing her mother talking about her, Margarette hurried to the bedroom door to see the Prophet Joseph Smith standing there.

He called Margarette to him and examined her throat. Concluding that it was very bad, he took her on his lap and gave her a blessing.

Immediately, Margarette felt healed. She was very grateful that the Prophet would give her such a blessing—after all, she was only a child. Why should he worry about her? She wondered about it for several days.

“Why did the Prophet bother with me?” she finally asked Mother. “I’m just a little girl. I’m nobody special.”

Mother set aside the bread dough she was kneading and wiped her hands on her apron. “My sweet child, the Prophet Joseph is a loving friend of all children. He believes as the Lord said in the gospel of Matthew: ‘Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.’\*”

“What does that mean?” Margarette asked.

“It means that when we serve others, it is the same as serving the Lord,” Mother explained. “I won’t be surprised if you find that the Prophet helps you

again,” she added with a wink.

A few days later, Margarette and her older brother, Wallace, set out for school. It had been raining, and the ground was slippery and muddy, especially along the street by the Prophet Joseph’s Red Brick Store. As the two children hurried along their way, they got stuck in the mud. Although they tried to get out by wrapping their arms beneath their legs to lift their feet, it was no use.

“Oh, what shall we do?” cried Margarette. She remembered seeing wagons stuck in the mud, and sometimes they were left until the ground became drier. Margarette feared that she and her brother would have to stay where they were until the ground dried up and they could walk out on their own.

Wallace let out a loud wail. Seeing her brother’s fear, Margarette joined him with cries of her own. But looking up, she saw the loving friend of children, the Prophet Joseph, walking toward them. He lifted them out of the mud, wiped off their dirty shoes, and used his clean handkerchief to wipe the tears from their faces. He smiled and spoke with such cheery words that they were soon happily on their way to school.

“He is every child’s best friend,” Margarette told Wallace. He smiled in agreement.

But it saddened Margarette that the Prophet and his wife, Emma, had lost so many children of their own. Their young child had died shortly after Margarette’s



“Joseph had a ‘native cheery temperament’ (Joseph Smith—History 1:28). He delighted in the society of his friends. . . . He loved little children and often frolicked with them. . . . These warm, human qualities . . . endeared him to many who knew him.”

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Joseph, the Man and the Prophet,” Ensign, May 1996, 72.**

mother had given birth to twin baby girls not long ago. The Prophet and his wife were so kind to children, Margarette was sure they missed their own sweet baby.

One day, Margarette heard the Prophet talking to her mother in the kitchen. He asked if she would let him borrow one of the twin girls to help comfort Emma.

“You may take one home with you, as long as you bring her back each night,” Margarette’s mother said. She handed him little Mary. Margarette watched as he gently wrapped a quilt around the baby and, cooing to her, opened the door and left.

True to his word, the Prophet returned little Mary every night, except for one. Margarette’s mother was nervous when he didn’t come at his usual time. She decided to go check on the babe, and hurried away to the Prophet’s home, the Mansion House. Soon afterward, Mother and the Prophet returned with little Mary. Margarette heard him explaining again that Mary had been cranky. He had been trying to calm her down before he returned her.

The next morning, the Prophet arrived as usual. Margarette’s mother handed him Sarah instead of Mary, thinking he would not know which baby he was holding. Sarah and Mary were identical—even some family members couldn’t tell them apart. After gently cuddling the child, the Prophet looked down at her face and then slowly shook his head. “This is not my little Mary,” he said.

Margarette’s mother nodded and took Sarah back to the cradle.

After the Prophet left with Mary, Margarette said, “He must really study Mary’s face in order to tell the difference between her and little Sarah.” As Margarette left the kitchen, she noticed her mother blotting her eyes with the hem of her apron.

Soon afterwards, the Prophet stopped taking Mary to his home, but he often came to visit her. Sadly, a short time later, Mary was called to return home to her

Heavenly Father. Just after Mary died, Margarette was

sitting at the kitchen table when the Prophet arrived. Little Mary’s body lay quiet and still in her cradle. The Prophet rushed to pick her cold form up in his arms. He cried as if he had lost one of his own little children. Again and again he whispered, “Mary, oh my dear little Mary!”

Margarette went to where her mother stood sobbing and softly said, “See how much he loved her, Mother—just as he loves all children. It is right that he is often called ‘the loving friend of children.’ ” ●

\* Matthew 25:40.

*Patricia R. Jones is a member of the Rose Canyon Second Ward, Herriman Utah West Stake.*





# Welcome, Jesus

BY LINDA HOFFMAN KIMBALL

“Welcome, Jesus,” Mary whispers.  
“Welcome, baby,” Joseph sighs.  
“We will love you, teach you, feed you.  
We will sing you lullabies.”

“Little Jesus, how we love you,  
In our arms so sweet and small.  
Little Jesus, how we love you,”  
Sings the couple in the stall.

Long beyond that Christmas morning  
In His heavenly home above,  
He will greet them with a new song  
Of His own redeeming love.

Dearest Mary, how He loves you.  
Humble Joseph, honored friend—  
You who in His earthly boyhood  
Loved Him, taught Him, fed Him then.

Jesus welcomes all His children—  
Those who answer to His call.  
He will love us, teach us, feed us.  
He’s the Bread of Life for all.

Welcome, Jesus, how we love you!  
Let our lives sing out for joy!  
Welcome, Savior, how we love you—  
Come to earth a baby boy.

AND IT CAME TO PASS ALSO THAT A NEW STAR DID APPEAR © JUDY LAW  
DO NOT COPY

# They Spoke to Us

*As you make the October 2005 general conference a part of your own and your family's life, you might consider using the following ideas for personal study and family home evening. Or you may wish to create your own questions, activities, and discussion ideas. (Page numbers refer to the beginning of the talks in the November 2005 Ensign.)*

## **Search the Words Activity**

1. Into how many languages was general conference translated? (Clue: Search President Gordon B. Hinckley's talk on p. 103.)
2. William Tyndale played an important part in preparing the world for the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What did he do, and how did that help the young Joseph Smith? (Clue: Read President Boyd K. Packer's talk on p. 70.)
3. When and by whom was "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" given? (Clue: Search Elder M. Russell Ballard's talk on p. 41.)
4. What did President Hinckley ask us to do by the end of the year, and what did he promise us if we do it? (Clue: Mentioned in several talks. Look in Elder Charles Didier's talk on p. 48 for one example.)

## **Quotes and Activities**

1. President Hinckley said, "Somehow forgiveness, with love and tolerance, accomplishes miracles that can happen in no other way" (see p. 81). Is there someone who has offended you or harmed you or your family in any way? Have you offended anyone or done harm to anyone? If you need to forgive or ask to be forgiven, do it now and follow the prophet's counsel.
2. Many of the Brethren spoke about the important anniversary we are celebrating this year. It is 200 years since the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Plan a special family home evening in tribute to him. Use President Thomas S. Monson's talk (p. 67) and Elder Robert D. Hales's talk (p. 88).
3. Bishop Keith B. McMullin quoted President Hinckley who said: "This is a season to be strong. It is a time to move forward without hesitation, knowing well the meaning, the breadth, and the importance of our mission. It is a time to do what is right regardless of the consequences that might follow. It is a time to be found keeping the commandments" (see p. 10). Discuss with your family the need for both material and spiritual preparation as we face difficulties and trials.
4. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin taught: "In our day a prophet, seer, and revelator, President Gordon B. Hinckley, lives and reveals the word of God to man. His voice sounds in







harmony with those prophetic voices of all ages past.

“‘I invite every one of you,’ he has said, ‘wherever you may

be as members of this church, to stand on your feet and with a song in your heart move forward, living the gospel, loving the Lord, and building the kingdom.’” Choose some of your favorite hymns, and together with your family, spend an evening singing about the Restoration, your willingness to obey the commandments, and your love for Heavenly Father and the Savior.

5. “Where can we hear the words of the Lord?” asked President James E. Faust. “We can hear them from our prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley, the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and the other General Authorities. We can also hear them from our stake presidents and bishops. Missionaries can hear them from their mission presidents. We can read them in the scriptures. We can also hear the still, small voice which comes through the Holy Ghost” (see p. 20). Make a list, with names, of all of these sources of truth that touch your life. Resolve to listen to their words and follow their counsel.

6. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said: “Your Father in Heaven knows your name and knows your circumstance. He hears your prayers. He knows your hopes and dreams, including your fears and frustrations. And He knows what you can become through faith in Him.” Every morning and evening, kneel before your Father in Heaven and ask him to help you live that day so that you will become the best that you can be, so that you will be more confident “standing in the presence of God” (p. 28).

### ***Sampler of Conference Gems***

**President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency:** “The priesthood is not really

so much a gift as it is a commission to serve, a privilege to lift, and an opportunity to bless the lives of others.”

**President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** “There is in the Church a central core of power deeper than programs or meetings or associations. It does not change. It cannot erode. It is constant and certain. It never recedes or fades.

“While the Church is housed in chapels, it lives in the heart and soul of every Latter-day Saint.”

**Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** “We recognize that we are living in a time of turmoil, disaster, and war. We and many others feel strongly the great need for a ‘defense, and for a refuge from the storm, and from wrath when it shall be poured out without mixture upon the whole earth’ (D&C 115:6). How do we find such a place of safety? The prophet of God, even President Hinckley, has taught: ‘Our safety lies in the virtue of our lives. Our strength lies in our righteousness.’”

## **Stories to Read and Share**

Are you preparing a talk or lesson? In the conference talks beginning on the pages listed below, you’ll find stories you can tell and insights you can share.

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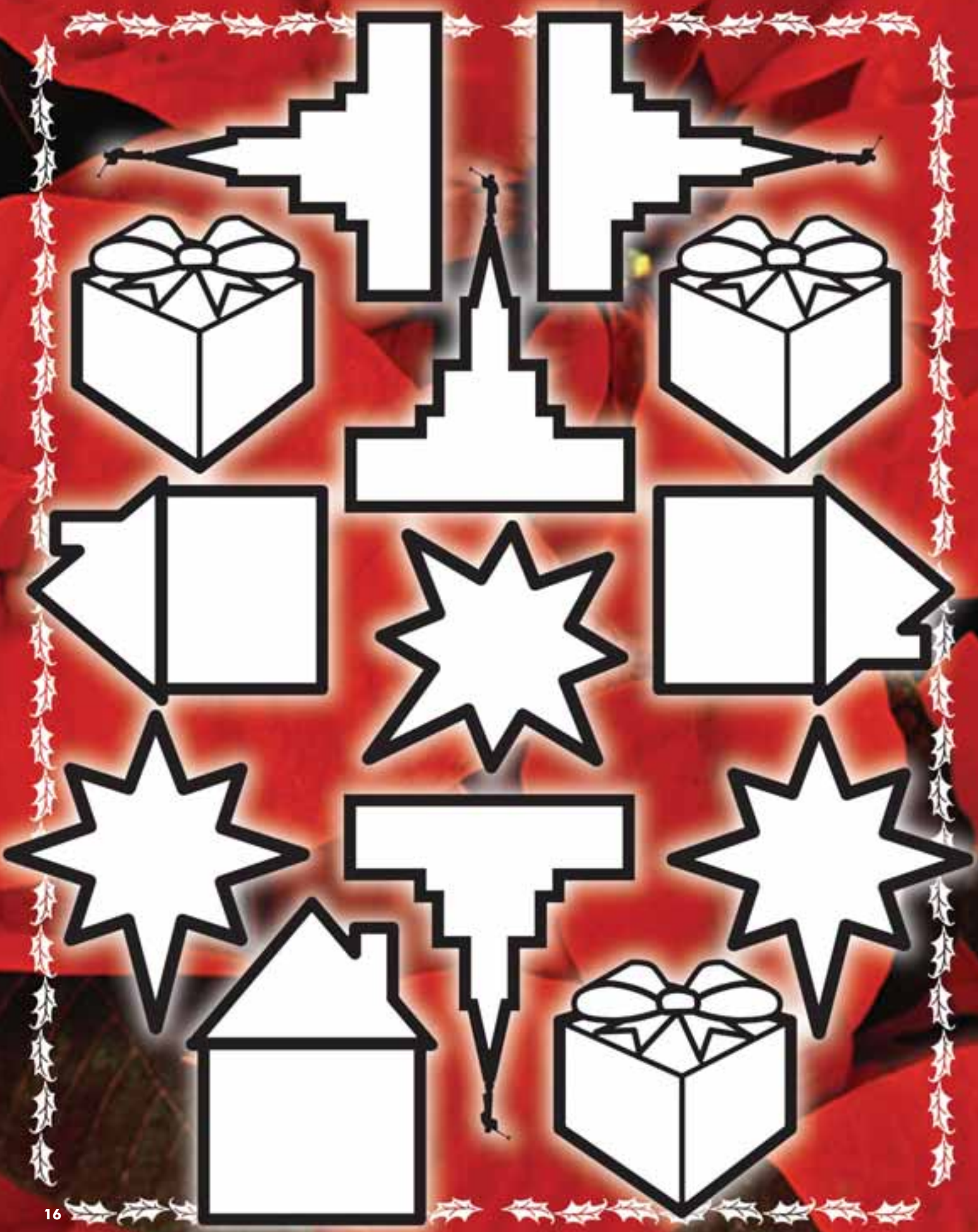
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Two sisters, members of the Willie handcart company, help each other survive, 110

Devoted visiting teacher befriends “unapproachable” sister, 114



# I AM GRATEFUL FOR MANY THINGS

*And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God (D&C 14:7).*

**BY MARGARET LIFFERTH**

First Counselor in the Primary General Presidency



Have you ever received a special gift that made you happy? How did you show gratitude?

This year, we have learned about a wonderful gift that Heavenly Father has given to His children. He gave us His Son and the plan of salvation.

Remember these words from “I Will Follow God’s Plan” (*Children’s Songbook*, 164–65)?

*My life is a gift; my life has a plan.*

*My life has a purpose; in heav’n it began.*

*My choice was to come to this lovely home on earth*

*And seek for God’s light to direct me from birth.*

Heavenly Father’s plan includes many gifts. We received a body and were born to a family. With the gift of agency, we can choose between good and evil. Because of our Savior, we will be resurrected, and if we choose good, we will receive the gift of eternal life. We are blessed with prophets, revelation, prayer, scriptures, priesthood, covenants, and temple blessings.

How do we show Heavenly Father that we are grateful for these gifts? Remember the next part of the song?

*I will follow God’s plan for me,  
Holding fast to his word and his love.*

*I will work, and I will pray;*

*I will always walk in his way.*

We thank Heavenly Father in our prayers and by the way we live. And as we show our gratitude—

*Then I will be happy on earth*

*And in my home above.*

## **Blessings Gift Box**

Color a small box or envelope to represent a wrapped gift. Then cut out the shapes on page 16. On the home shapes, write blessings you receive from your family. On the star shapes, write blessings you receive from the Savior. On the temple shapes, write blessings you receive by being a member of the Church. Think of other blessings to write on the gift shapes. Put all the shapes into the box or envelope. During family home evening, share the shapes and discuss the gifts we receive from Heavenly Father.

**Note:** *If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.*

## Sharing Time Ideas

(Note: All songs are from *Children's Songbook* unless otherwise noted; GAK = Gospel Art Picture Kit, TNGC = Teaching, No Greater Call.)

1. This year we have learned about the plan of salvation and its many blessings. Using GAK pictures, summarize the principles and accompanying blessings that have been taught each month from the Sharing Time Outline. Post the pictures on the board. Remind the children that all over the world, children are learning and living the plan of salvation. If possible, invite a returned missionary from your ward or branch to share an experience of children living the gospel with joy. Sing "Children All Over the World" (pp. 16–17). Divide the children into groups of eight to ten and seat each group in a circle. Play a game of "Remembering Blessings." The first child says, "I am thankful for \_\_\_\_\_." The second child says "I am thankful for (repeats the response of the first child and adds his own)." The third child says, "I am thankful for (repeats response of first and second child and adds his own)," and so on. Invite the children to share the game with their families in family home evening. Pass out paper stars and crayons to the children and have the children draw one blessing for which they are thankful. On one of the points of the star, punch a hole and loop a piece of string or ribbon through it. Invite the children to share their Christmas ornament with their families. Sing "For Thy Bounteous Blessings" (p. 21) in a four-part round. Bear testimony of the gratitude you feel for Heavenly Father's many blessings and the happiness that comes to you because of the plan of salvation.

2. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Smith. Post or draw a large map of the eastern United States on a chalkboard. Identify the following places: Sharon, Vermont; Palmyra, New York; Harmony, Pennsylvania; Fayette, New York; Kirtland, Ohio; Nauvoo, Illinois; and Carthage, Illinois. (This could also be presented using a timeline instead of a map.) Prepare the following pictures and written references to teach the life of Joseph Smith and put them in paper bags: **Bag 1—Birth:** Primary picture 3-7, JS—H 1:3–4; **Bag 2—First Vision:** GAK 403, JS—H 1:15–20, "Joseph Smith's First Prayer" (*Hymns*, no. 26); **Bag 3—Moroni:** GAK 404 and 406, JS—H 1:29–35, 59; **Bag 4—Translating Book of Mormon:** GAK 416, JS—H 1:61–67, "The Golden Plates" (p. 86); **Bag 5—Priesthood:** GAK 407 and 408, JS—H 1:68–72, "The Priesthood Is Restored" (p. 89). (Children who have scriptures published since 1999 will also have photographs and descriptions of many of these historical sites after the Index. You may want to include these references.) Divide the children into five groups and give each group a bag. Have them look up and discuss the scripture reference. Invite each group to come up and post the picture on the map or timeline, role-play or give a brief summary of events, lead the song, and express how this event helps build their testimony that Joseph Smith was the prophet of the Restoration.

*For younger children:* Invite an adult member of the ward or branch to role-play the Prophet Joseph. Using the map, pictures, and songs, share these major events in the life of Joseph Smith. Bear testimony of the Restoration and the role of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

3. Tell the story of the birth of the Savior by dividing the Primary in two groups. Provide simple costumes and the following references for each group (Group 1: Helaman 14:1–7 and 3 Nephi 1:4–21; Group 2: Luke 2:1–17). Invite each group to read the references. Choose a child to be the narrator and read the scripture references as the other children role-play the story. Invite Group 1 to perform the story of Samuel the Lamanite. Sing "Samuel Tells of Baby Jesus" (p. 36). Invite Group 2 to perform the nativity from Luke 2. Sing "Away in a Manger" (pp. 42–43). (*For younger children:* Involve as many children as possible in the role-play and have a leader tell the story in simple words as the children act it out.) Invite the children to share these stories with their families. Bear your testimony of Jesus Christ.

4. How do we express our gratitude to the Lord? Invite the children to look up "thanks" or "thanksgiving" in the Topical Guide. Give them time to look up a reference and choose a verse or simple story to share. Take a few responses. Teach them that one of the purposes of prayer is to give thanks. In your own words, tell the story of Nephi as he relied on his father and the Liahona to find food and then gave thanks (see 1 Nephi 16:21–32). Have the children find and read 1 Nephi 16:32. Review the four parts of prayer as you sing "I Pray in Faith" (p. 14). Explain that you can also express gratitude by the way you live or with a song of praise. Choose a number of Primary songs of praise or gratitude and write the names on pieces of paper. Post them on the board print-side down. On strips of paper, write case studies. For example: "You are not prepared for the math test, but you know that the person you sit by always does well on the test. You can show you remember the Savior by . . ." or "Walking out of the grocery store, you see a wallet on the ground. It has money in it. You can express gratitude to the Lord by . . ." (See *TNGC*, p. 161). Put the case studies in a basket and pass it down the row as you sing "I Am Glad for Many Things" (p. 151). Stop the music and invite a child to choose a paper from the basket, read the case study, and answer the question. They can then either pick one of the papers off the board or invite a friend to choose. Sing the song as an expression of gratitude toward Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Repeat as time permits. Express your gratitude to the Lord and encourage the children to remember the Savior and express their thanks in word and deed.

5. *Friend* references: "Gratitude," Nov. 2002, 2–3; "I Am Glad for Many Things," Nov. 2002, 13–14; "Count Your Blessings," Nov. 1999, 12–14; "More Blessed to Give," Jan. 2004, 2–3; "Make a Joyful Noise," Feb. 2004, 12–14; "The Light of the World," Dec. 2003, 2–3; "The Prophet's Counsel: The Six Bs," Feb. 2001, 24–25. These references and others can be found at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.

# Getting to Know Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

To learn more about Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, match the lettered pictures above with the clues below.

- \_\_\_ 1. Elder Uchtdorf was raised in this country.
- \_\_\_ 2. He is the first Apostle to be called in more than 50 years who was not born in the United States, but he says he was not called to represent a certain group of people. Like all Apostles, he represents this perfect man.
- \_\_\_ 3. As a child, he worked hard in the family business, pulling a laundry cart behind one of these.
- \_\_\_ 4. Growing up in a war-torn city where buildings had been bombed, he found hope in reading and learning from these. One of his favorite verses was Romans 8:31: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" He says: "This gave me comfort and courage, because at that time the future looked bleak."
- \_\_\_ 5. The Church building he attended as a small child had a stained-glass window depicting this event. Whenever the light shone through the glass, he thought about his testimony and developed a stronger appreciation for Joseph Smith.

- \_\_\_ 6. One of his first callings as a child was to pump this instrument so the congregation could sing.
- \_\_\_ 7. He married Harriet Reich, and they were sealed here in December 1962. They have two children.
- \_\_\_ 8. For 35 years he operated one of these. He eventually became chief pilot and senior vice president of flight operations for an airline.
- \_\_\_ 9. As he flew, he never grew tired of seeing these out the window. He also says: "I could see the beauty of the different countries with their different cultures. I know from going to those different places and seeing the people and the Church in those different places that the gospel is for everyone, no matter what nation you live in or what your traditions are. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ."

(See *Friend*, June 1998, 6–7; *Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 125–26.)



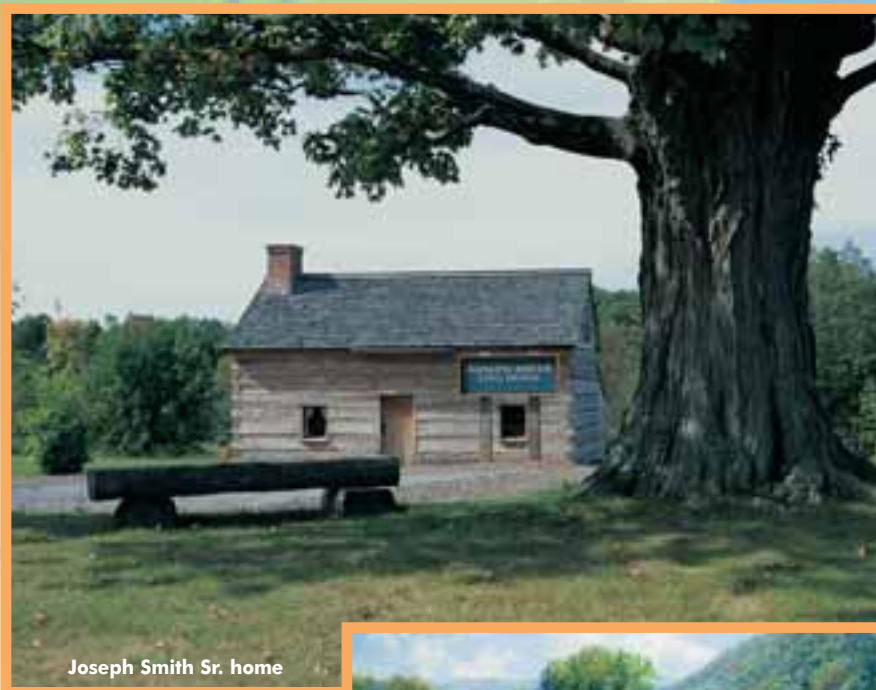


# Important Places in the Life of the Prophet Joseph Smith

BY BRITNEY SCHETSelaar  
Church Magazines



Joseph Smith Memorial



Joseph Smith Sr. home



Susquehanna River

## **1805—Sharon, Vermont**

Joseph Smith was born in Sharon, Vermont, on December 23, 1805—only two days before Christmas! He lived on a farm with his father, Joseph Smith Sr.; his mother, Lucy Mack Smith; and his brothers and sisters.

## **1816—Palmyra, New York**

Joseph's family moved to Palmyra in 1816, when Joseph was 10 years old. As Joseph grew he became very concerned about religion. At

the age of 14 he decided to ask God which church he should join. God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared and told him not to join any of the churches. In 1823, when Joseph was 17, the angel Moroni came to him and said that an ancient record was hidden near his home.

## **1825—Harmony, Pennsylvania**

In 1825 Josiah Stowell hired Joseph to work for him in

Harmony, Pennsylvania. There he met Emma Hale, and they were married on January 18, 1827. After moving back to Palmyra and receiving the gold plates, Joseph and Emma returned to Harmony and Joseph translated the Book of Mormon. On May 15, 1829, on the



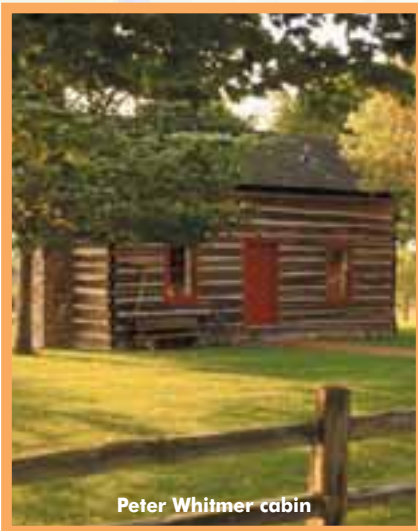
banks of the nearby Susquehanna River, Joseph and Oliver Cowdery were baptized and received the Aaronic Priesthood through John the Baptist. Later, in another location on the Susquehanna River, they were given the Melchizedek Priesthood through Peter, James, and John.

**1830—Fayette, New York**

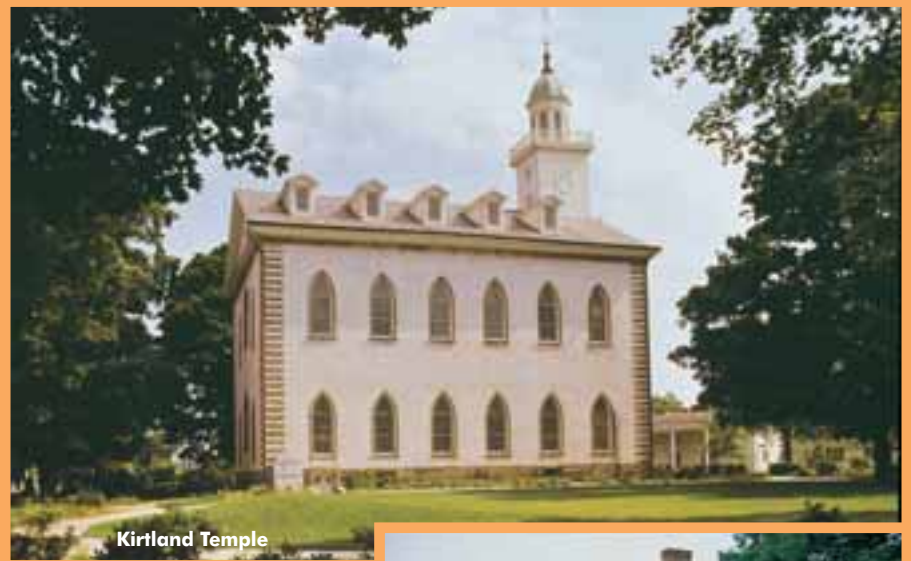
On April 6, 1830, about 50 people met at the home of Peter Whitmer Sr. in Fayette, New York, to organize The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were sustained as elders in the Church.

**1831—Kirtland, Ohio**

In February 1831 Joseph and his family moved with the Saints to Kirtland, Ohio. The Saints built the first temple in the latter days there and dedicated it in March 1836. For a time Joseph and Emma lived with



Peter Whitmer cabin



Kirtland Temple

Newel K. Whitney and his family in the Whitneys' store. In Kirtland, the Saints witnessed many miracles, but they eventually had to leave because of persecution.

**1838—Far West, Missouri**

Joseph moved to Missouri in the spring of 1838. Far West served as Church headquarters. The cornerstones for a temple were laid, but the Saints were driven out by mobs before the temple was built.

**1839—Nauvoo, Illinois**

The Church bought swampland next to the Mississippi River in the spring of 1839. There, they built a city and named it Nauvoo. They also built a temple. Joseph led the Nauvoo militia, and he and Emma ran a store where many important events took place.

**1844—Carthage, Illinois**

Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were arrested on false charges and put in jail in Carthage, Illinois. On



Red Brick Store

June 27, 1844, while Joseph and Hyrum waited for their trial, a mob attacked the jail where they were imprisoned. After Hyrum was killed, Joseph ran to the window. He cried, "O Lord, my God!" as he was martyred and fell. Joseph was 38 years old. He and his brother were buried in Nauvoo. ●



Carthage Jail



# Singing with Great- Grandma



BY KIMBERLY WEBB

Church Magazines  
(Based on a true story)

*Is any merry? Let him sing* (James 5:13).

**C**heery music plays on the radio. Colored lights twinkle on our Christmas tree, and lighted candles gleam in the kitchen. The smell of homemade pizza slowly fills the house.

I feel like jumping and squealing, but Mommy asks, “Will you please set the table?” So I set seven places—one each for me, Mommy, Daddy, Great-Grandma, Uncle Phil, Heather, and Stacie. Tonight they are





coming for dinner. After we eat, I can play with my cousins until bedtime. I can't wait to show them my favorite dolls!

Soon the doorbell rings. Uncle Phil helps Great-Grandma through the door. "What are you doing up so early?" he teases in his loud, jolly voice. I giggle. He always says this, even when it's late. Great-Grandma kisses me on the cheek and says, "Hello, sweetheart." She always says this too.

I sit between my cousins, and Daddy asks a blessing on the food. We eat and laugh, and I am happy that Mommy has saved me five whole olives. I put them on my fingertips, then eat each olive one by one.

After dinner, I tug Stacie's arm. "Do you want to play dolls?" She shakes her head and follows Uncle Phil into the living room. "Will you play dolls with me?" I whisper to Heather. But she follows Stacie.

"Let's sing Christmas carols!" Mommy says, pulling back the piano bench. Laughing and clapping, we sing "Jingle Bells" as loud as we can. We sing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Deck the Halls." I don't know all the words, so I hum and clap until I'm tired.

"Do you want to play dolls now?" I ask Stacie.

"No," she says. "I want to keep singing with



Great-Grandma."

My throat feels tight. Soon big tears roll down my cheeks.

"What's the matter?" Daddy asks, leading me away from the piano.

"I want to play with Heather and Stacie," I cry. "I'm bored!"

"But, sweetie," Daddy says, "Great-Grandma would be bored without *you*."

I frown and wipe my eyes.

"See how happy she is," Daddy says. "She loves you. She likes spending this special time with us, singing her favorite songs."

I watch Great-Grandma sing. She smiles at me, her eyes shining like twinkling Christmas lights. I walk over to the couch and snuggle next to her. "Hello, sweetheart," she whispers, putting her arm around me.

Mommy starts playing "Silent Night," and I sing along.

I don't want to jump and squeal anymore. But I don't want to cry either. Playing dolls doesn't sound as fun as I listen to our reverent voices. I feel calm, happy, and warm—like gleaming candles on a winter night. ●





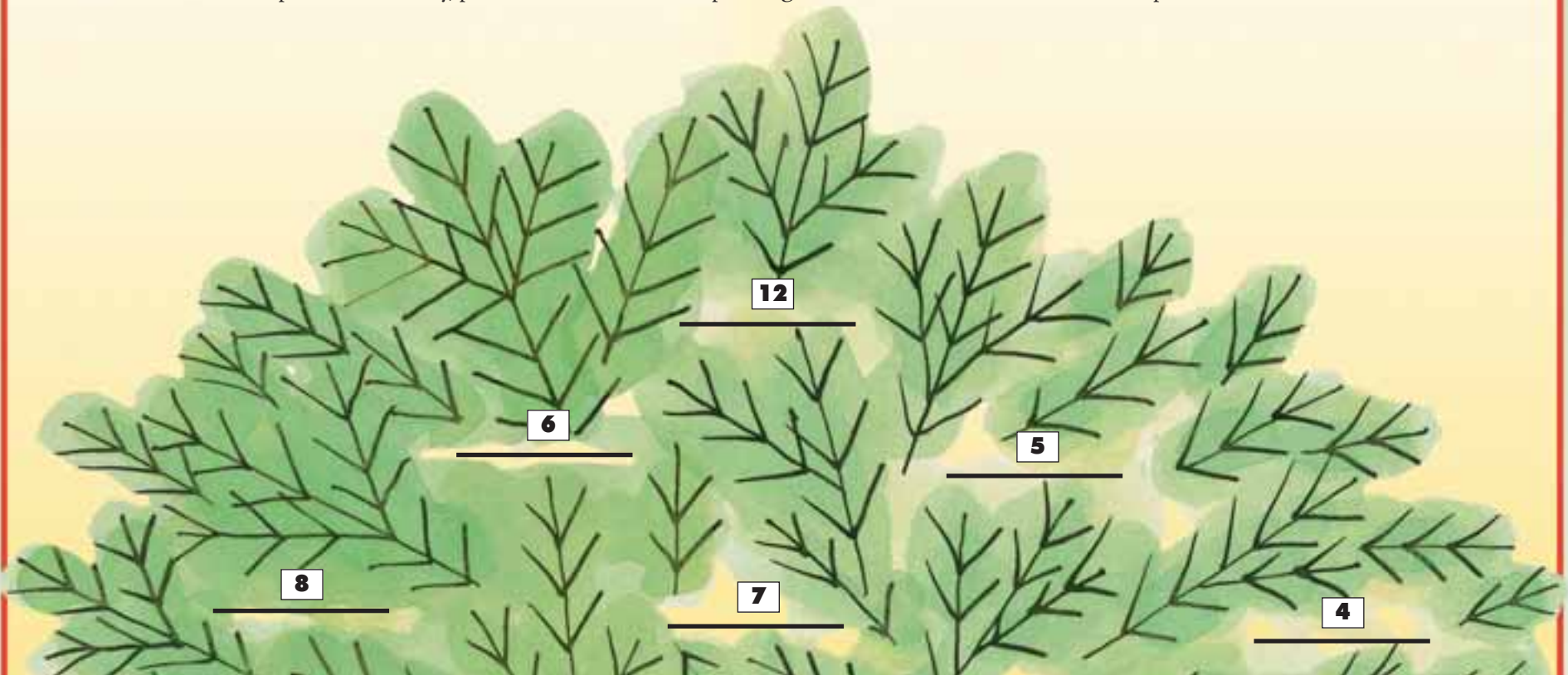
# Christmas Advent Wreath

By Elise Black



## Instructions

Remove pages 24–25 and 35, and mount them on heavy paper. Cut out the numbered pictures, the wreath, and the slits marked with heavy black lines. Punch a hole near the top of the wreath, and attach a piece of string or ribbon as a hanger. Beginning on December 1, find the numbered picture for that day. Read the activity on the tab, and do it that day. After you have completed the activity, place the tab in the corresponding numbered slot on the wreath so the picture can be seen.



*Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.*

Cut out

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## Our Creative Friends

### Snow Leaves

Snow leaves glitter the color of white mist.  
All around they fly till they reach the ground.  
They glitter like diamond-bright jewels  
As though floating in a white world.  
The snow leaves glitter so bright they  
Cannot conceal what they hide.  
A snow leaf sits on a tree  
Waiting to be magic.

*Morgan Hirschi, age 8  
Sandy, Utah*

### Look, It's Christmas

Look, it's Christmas.  
It's a special day.  
Look, it's Christmas.  
Please come out to play.  
Look, it's Christmas.  
Look what I found.  
Look, it's Christmas.  
There's snow on the ground.  
It's not about presents,  
Not a single tree.  
It's about Jesus  
Who came for you and me.

*Jessica Lowe, age 10  
Prospect, Kentucky*

### Blue

I like blue.  
Blue is the sky above.  
Blue is the ocean that surrounds us,  
Forever reshaping the land.  
Blue is the majestic mountains high in the air.  
It is a kite flying in the cool breeze,  
The color of sapphires glinting on a ring.  
Blue is a flower, beautiful and sweet.  
Blue is a dragonfly, fast and agile.  
It is icing on my birthday cake.  
Blue is my favorite color.

*Nick Apgar, age 10  
Olympia, Washington*

### Winter

Winter, winter, all is white.  
Winter, winter, what a sight!  
Snow is falling here and there.  
Snow is falling everywhere!  
On the ground and in my hair,  
Snow is falling everywhere!  
Winter, winter, I had fun.  
Winter, winter, now I'm done.

*Jacob Bateman, age 8  
Clovis, California*

### The Great Gift

On the day of Christmas Eve,  
Mom opened my present—  
Best ever received.  
A year of obedience  
Is sent from me!

*Richard Parrott, age 10  
Chandler, Arizona*

### DRAWINGS

- 1 *Shannon Boles, age 6  
Westminster, Maryland*
- 2 *Spencer Eaton, age 10  
Salt Lake City, Utah*
- 3 *Rachel Riley, age 6  
Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England*
- 4 *Kyle Brockbank, age 7  
Hopkins, Minnesota*
- 5 *Kaden Prince, age 8  
Logan, Utah*
- 6 *Tyson-Jay Saena, age 6  
Mesa, Arizona*
- 7 *Jared Hogenson, age 8  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada*
- 8 *Benjamin Butters, age 7  
Shanghai, China*
- 9 *Alyssa Weatherston, age 9  
Corpus Christi, Texas*
- 10 *Megan Deaver, age 10  
Rocklin, California*
- 11 *Rachel Lisa Holm, age 7  
Meridian, Idaho*
- 12 *Madison Sprenz, age 8  
Las Vegas, Nevada*
- 13 *Naomi Campbell, age 5  
West Point, New York*
- 14 *Barrett Burgin, age 10  
Knoxville, Tennessee*
- 15 *Emalise Luzzo, age 10  
Parker, Colorado*
- 16 *Geoffrey McCleve, age 9  
Bellingham, Washington*
- 17 *Kiley Manning, age 6  
Tooele, Utah*
- 18 *Miriab Loosle, age 10  
Dededo, Guam*
- 19 *Andrew Bonnett, age 6  
St. Louis, Missouri*
- 20 *Trevor Finch, age 9  
Fruitland, Idaho*
- 21 *Edrei Ann Everts, age 11  
Homer, Alaska*
- 22 *Alex Hudson, age 6  
Oviedo, Florida*
- 23 *Alison Lambert, age 7  
Mesa, Arizona*
- 24 *Misato Suzuki, age 10  
Fishers, Indiana*
- 25 *Maya Toth, age 4  
Nashua, New Hampshire*



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# GROWING



# IN FAITH

JENNA HYDE OF GAYSVILLE, VERMONT

BY MONICA WEEKS

**J**enna Hyde, 10, lives in the village of Gaysville, Vermont. Gaysville is part of a town called Stockbridge, which has fewer than 700 residents! The other residents in Jenna's house include her mom, her younger brother, and four pets—Snoopy the dog, Cupcake the hamster, Elmo the hairless rat, and Sammy the cat. Jenna especially likes to play with Cupcake.

In addition to her love for animals, Jenna has many talents. She enjoys school, especially art. She likes to

sew, and her mom, Hilde, says that Jenna can sew better than she can. Jenna's latest project is sewing a pillowcase for her dad.

A budding chef, her favorite things to cook are "mostly cakes and cookies—sweet stuff." But she also helps cook the family meals, including her favorite, mini shepherd's pies. Here's Jenna's recipe: "You take a little bit of meat and put it at the bottom of a cupcake pan and let it cook for a little while. Then you add the

mashed potatoes and corn on top and let it cook a little bit more. And then you have a mini shepherd's pie." Jenna hopes to become a cake decorator or pastry chef when she's older. She observes, "Art and cooking can mix together—you can bake a cake and use your art skills to decorate it."

Jenna enjoys spending time with her family, especially traveling to the coast or going skiing. Her dad lives in a nearby town, so she is able to visit him a lot. She also helps take care of her younger brother, Zack. He has Down syndrome, and she helps him communicate. "Zack has special teachers at school, and sometimes when they have trouble understanding him, they come to me," she says. She is very protective of Zack. "The hardest thing in my life is keeping people from making fun of Zack



*Jenna (opposite page, right) catches a few snowflakes in the front yard with her mom and her younger brother, Zack.*

*Jenna works hard (above) to improve her art skills.*

*The Hyde family lives near Sharon, Vermont, where the Prophet Joseph Smith was born. This monument (below), built to honor the Prophet, is near the site of the original cabin where he was born.*

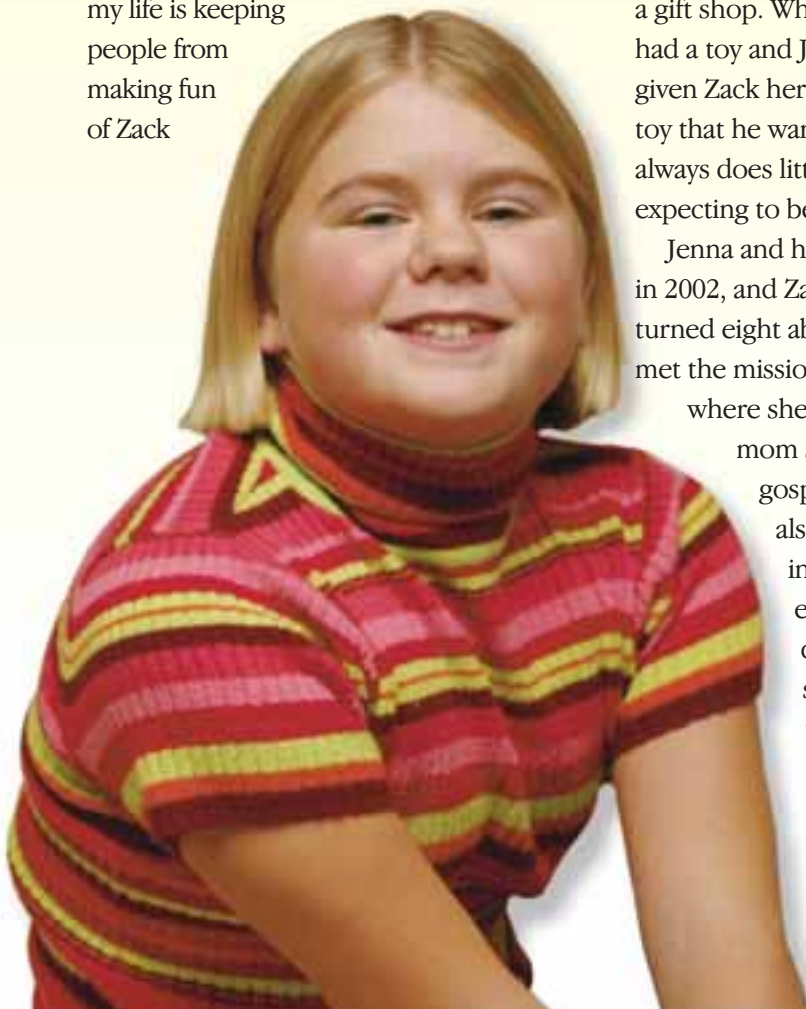
and asking them not to use bad language around him," Jenna explains.


Sometimes it's difficult for Jenna to have a brother with special needs, but she has learned to be loving and compassionate from helping him. One time their grandparents gave them a few dollars to buy a toy at a gift shop. When they came back, Zack had a toy and Jenna didn't. "Jenna had given Zack her money so he could have the toy that he wanted," her mom says. "She always does little things like that without expecting to be rewarded for it."

Jenna and her mom were both baptized in 2002, and Zack was baptized when he turned eight about a year later. Her mom met the missionaries through the hospital where she works. As her

mom studied the gospel, Jenna also became interested and eventually decided that she wanted


to be baptized too. They attended several other churches before deciding to join The Church of Jesus





**Jenna enjoys playing with Snoopy the dog and Elmo the hairless rat.**

**Jenna helps cook the family meals. Grilled cheese sandwiches are about ready for lunch!**



**Someday Jenna wants to be a cake decorator or pastry chef. "Art and cooking can mix together," she says.**

Christ of Latter-day Saints. When asked how the Church was different from other congregations, Jenna answers, "It feels like the right church. It just feels like I'm close to Heavenly Father."

One of the first things Jenna learned about was a modern-day prophet. She says, "When [the missionaries] started talking about Joseph Smith, I was not very sure about that at first." But she prayed to gain a testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and was blessed to receive one.

Jenna lives about a half-hour's drive from the Prophet's birthplace in Sharon, Vermont.

She and her family are members of the Sharon Ward, which meets in a building next to the monument commemorating the Prophet's birth.

Like Joseph Smith, Jenna has faith that Heavenly Father hears her prayers. She says, "Heavenly Father

always responds in a good way. I know He hears me, even if sometimes He doesn't grant whatever I want." Her mom comments, "Jenna has a relationship with Heavenly Father that seems to keep a sense of calm within her."

Jenna wants to continue growing in the gospel. "I want to become a better person to be around," she says. "I want to be a person that you can always depend on." It's clear that she is already well on her way to accomplishing her goal. ●

*Monica Weeks is a member of the Dimple Dell Park Ward, Sandy Utah Granite View Stake.*





# Friends in the News



**Jeffrey Mullis, 3**, New Milford, Connecticut, has one sister and one brother. He enjoys painting, singing in Primary, and listening to his mom and dad read him stories.



**Jasmine Holmes, 10**, Houston, Texas, was baptized with her mom and dad on June 20, 2004. She likes cheerleading, dancing, reading, and drawing.



**Chandler Michael Donald Mahkorn, 5**, Long Beach, California, is helpful to his sister. He enjoys swimming, reading about spiders, and helping Grandpa Don mow the lawn to earn money for his mission.



**Kalina Hunsperger, 11**, Hartleyville, Alberta, Canada, likes to read, clog, sing, draw, bake, make crafts, ride horses, and play the piano. She loves animals, especially the family dog, Rosie.



**Kainoa Kaluhikaua, 5**, Farmington, Utah, likes singing Primary songs. He enjoys going to the park and riding his bike. He's an only child, but he likes thinking of his friends as spirit brothers and sisters.



**Monica Griesemer, 7**, Indianapolis, Indiana, likes school. She plays the piano and sings in church. One of her favorite activities is playing on a soccer team. She treats others kindly and is very helpful.



An orange belt in martial arts, **Jay Dimig, 5**, Lafayette, Colorado, likes meeting new people. He enjoys learning about the gospel, playing soccer, and riding horses.



**Bethany Larsen, 7**, Mesa, Arizona, likes spending time with her family. She enjoys doing math, playing the piano, playing with friends, swimming, reading, and making arts and crafts.



**Brock Arnold, 9**, Meridian, Idaho, wakes up every morning at 6:00 a.m. to practice the piano. He also works on Cub Scout projects by himself. He's a good example to his sister, Brooklyn, and his friends.



**Hannah Trainer, 9**, Hilo, Hawaii, is a good student and earned an opportunity to travel to Oahu with her class for four days. She is an artist and enjoys writing in her journal.



**Dalen Ward, 6**, Warsaw, Poland, is a kind older brother to his sister, Amelia. He likes to ride his bike and play soccer. He especially enjoys building things and learning how they work.



**Alyssa Katy Burnett, 12**, Centerville, Utah, likes the Primary songs she sings each week. Her favorite is "I Am a Child of God." She loves her brothers and sisters and is grateful for how they help her.



**Daenen Wollesen, 4**, San Jose, California, likes to participate in family home evening. He likes soccer, helping his mom cook, and eating treats.



**Madison Jarvis, 9**, Idaho Falls, Idaho, likes swimming, playing soccer, drawing, reading, and family home evening. She works really hard in school.



**Tanner Johnson, 7**, Las Vegas, Nevada, is a great older brother to Brynley and Ellie. He likes riding horses and working outside. He enjoys watching general conference and listening to the prophet.



**Brittany Bassett, 12**, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, likes making arts and crafts. She gave a Book of Mormon to a friend from school. She plays the piano and the flute, and she likes playing basketball with her brothers.



**Jonathan Estrade, 10**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, is proud to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He loves Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and his sister, Cassandra.



**Kylie Newsom, 6**, Snohomish, Washington, likes gymnastics, school, and riding her bike. She loves her little brother, Brayden, and helps him with many things.



**Kyle Barrett, 8**, Anthem, Arizona, was happy to be baptized. He likes karate and meeting new friends. He has set a goal to attend the temple someday.



**Jennifer Montrose, 11**, Papeete, Tahiti, says, "I like Primary because we learn about Jesus Christ and about prophets like Nephi and Joseph Smith." A favorite treat is sashimi, a food made with raw fish.



The youngest of seven children, **Joseph Brendan Brewer, 7**, West Jordan, Utah, likes playing with his sister Jessica. He plays soccer, likes kittens, and enjoys math. His favorite foods are corn and potatoes.



**Madelyn Summers, 8**, Frederick, Maryland, likes to dance, swim, read, and play with her sisters, Isabel and Georgiana. Madelyn loves babies and likes to take care of her younger cousins Daniel and Elora.

**Please send submissions to Friend Editorial, Friends in the News, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least 10 months. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose pictures are submitted must be at least three years old, and a parent or guardian must give signed permission for the picture to be published. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned.**

# Nigerian Christmas

*From henceforth I shall call you friends (D&C 84:77).*

BY LORI MORTENSEN

(Based on an experience of the author and her friends)



Monday, October 11

Dear Grandma and Grandpa, (Oops! I mean Elder and Sister Wall. I keep forgetting!)

How do you like Nigeria? Mom showed me where it is on the map. It's very far away! But I'm glad you got to go on your mission. You always said you'd serve wherever Heavenly Father wanted you to go. Remember? But I still wish you weren't so far away.

Love,

Vera

**Monday, November 1**

Dear Vera,

Yes, Nigeria is far away from where you live, but we are so glad we're here. The people are so warm and loving, and Heavenly Father has blessed us so much. On Sunday, four children were confirmed. We met in a tiny chapel with a concrete floor, and the Spirit was so strong. It was beautiful!

Love,

Elder and Sister Wall

P.S. We love the Primary children so much that we want to give them a special Christmas present. Do you have any ideas?



Monday, November 22

Dear Elder and Sister Wall, (See? I remembered!)

I've got a great Christmas present idea! And I've even talked to Mom and the Primary president about it. But I'm not going to tell you what it is because I know how much you like surprises. (Remember the surprise birthday party Mom gave you, Grandma? You were so funny!)

I will give you a hint. It starts with the letter P, and we'll be sending it in a couple of weeks.

Love,

Vera

P.S. Can you guess what it is?

Monday, December 13

Dear Vera,

Dalu and Merry Christmas! Dalu means "thank you" in Igbo (a language spoken in Nigeria). P stands for "pictures," doesn't it?

All the children here in our Primary liked the Christmas pictures you and your friends drew for them at the Primary activity.

We wish you could have seen them! All the children were smiling and laughing and saying how wonderful it was to hear from

faraway

Primary

friends who

love Jesus just like they do.

Thanks so much for your



Friday, December 3

Dear Vera,

What could it be? Grandpa and I have been thinking about what you might be sending for the Primary children. We can hardly wait to find out!

There are lots of things that start with P in Africa—like pigs, parrots, and potholes! But I don't think that's the surprise you're talking about.

Love,

Sister Wall

Christmas present. It was perfect! (That starts with P too!)

Love,

Elder and Sister Wall

P.S. The Nigerian Primary children like to send surprises too!





"I love the people of this church, of all ages, of all races, and of many nations. I love the children. They are very much the same the world over. . . . How lovely you are, wherever you are, you precious children."

**President Gordon B. Hinckley, "This Is the Work of the Master," Ensign, May 1995, 70.**

Friday, December 31

Dear Elder and Sister Wall,

Please tell the Primary children in Nigeria dalu for their pictures! All the kids in my Primary liked them! We especially enjoyed the pictures with the palm trees, fans, and baskets.

Love,

Vera

P.S. Even though I still miss you, ever since we sent you the special present for your Primary children, Nigeria doesn't seem far away at all! ●

*Lori Mortensen is a member of the Cameron Park Ward, El Dorado California Stake.*





**20** Draw a picture of an event in the Prophet Joseph Smith's life.



**22** Let someone else be first.



**19** Sing and study about Joseph Smith (pp. 7, 10–12, 20–21) with your family.



**24** Read Luke 2:1–20 with your family.



**23** Think about the Prophet Joseph Smith, born 200 years ago today.



**21** Do the Sharing Time activity (pp. 16–17) with your family.



**14** Volunteer to say the family prayer.



**17** Clean your room.



**6** Give everyone in your family a hug.



**5** Do a chore without being asked.



**15** Name one way you can follow the Savior.



**7** Read "Nigerian Christmas" (pp. 32–34) with your family.



**4** Thank your Primary teacher.



**16** Read the Christmas message from the First Presidency (pp. 2–3).



**8** Draw a Christmas picture and give it to someone.



**3** Visit someone who is lonely or sick.



**18** Remember the Savior during the sacrament.



**11** Thank your bishop or branch president.



**13** Name three things you are thankful for.



**2** Choose the right all day.



**9** E-mail, telephone or visit grandparents or relatives.



**1** Secretly help someone in your family.



**12** Sing a favorite Christmas song.



**10** Take a surprise to a neighbor.

For activity and instructions, see pages 24–25.



# Christmas

# Workshop

## Peeking Package Card

To make this pretty package card, you will need: scissors, construction paper, markers or crayons, a photo of yourself, glue, and ribbon or yarn.

1. Cut a rectangle, 4" x 8" (10 x 20 cm), out of construction paper and



fold it in half (see illustration). Decorate the outside of your card with markers or crayons to make it look like wrapping paper.

2. Open the card and glue a picture of yourself inside (see illustration). Let the glue dry.

3. Close the card and carefully mark on the outside of the card

where the eyes on the photo line up. Then cut a flap in the top of the card so the eyes can look out. You



may need to ask an adult for help.

4. Cut pieces of ribbon or yarn the length and width of the card. Glue the pieces on the front side of the card like ribbon on a package. Be careful not to cover the eyehole.

5. Write a message for a friend or family member inside. (This same idea can also work with snowman cards. Just make sure the eyes on your picture are in the same place as the snowman's eyes.)

## Red Beans and Rice Soup

- 4 slices of bacon
- 2 celery stalks
- 1 leek
- 1 green bell pepper
- 4 cans red kidney beans (drained) (6 cups)
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 6 cups water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups cooked rice

1. Chop the bacon, celery, leek, and bell pepper into small pieces.



2. Combine the chopped ingredients, beans, thyme, and water in a large pot.

Cook over medium heat until boiling. Cover the soup, adjust the heat to low, and let it simmer for 40 minutes or until vegetables are soft.

3. Add salt and pepper to the mixture. Stir in rice and serve.

Serves 8.





## Chinese Noodle Cookies

- 3 cups chocolate chips**
- 3 cups butterscotch chips**
- 1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla**
- 1 cup peanuts**
- 2 1/2 cups crisp chow mein noodles**

1. Place the chocolate and butterscotch chips in a medium saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly until melted.
  2. Take the mixture off the stove. Mix in the peanut butter and vanilla.
  3. Gently stir in the peanuts and noodles.
  4. Using a tablespoon, scoop heaping-tablespoon-sized chunks of the mixture onto sheets of foil. Freeze until solid.
- Makes about 2 dozen.

## Cloved Oranges

To make this scrumptious-smelling decoration, you will need: an orange, a large nail, whole cloves, and ribbon or yarn (optional).

1. Use the nail to carefully poke a design into the skin

of the orange.

Be as creative as you want! Your design could also be someone's name, an ornament, or a bell.

2. Carefully push a whole clove into each hole, leaving the head of

the clove sticking out. Place several cloved oranges on a table for a colorful decoration that makes the whole room smell good! If desired, tie a piece of ribbon or yarn around the orange like a package. Add a loop to the top for hanging. ●



## White Hot Chocolate

- 1 cup milk**
- 2 tablespoons white-chocolate instant pudding mix**
- Optional: whipped cream, marshmallow cream, or crushed peppermint candy**

1. Place milk in a saucepan and heat over medium heat until hot.
  2. With a wire whisk, stir in the pudding mix.
  3. Add whipped cream, marshmallow cream, or crushed peppermint candy, if desired.
- Makes one serving.



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

# A Gift of Music

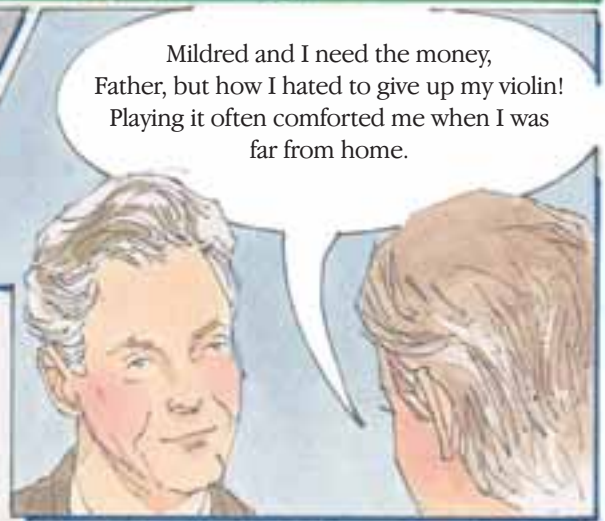
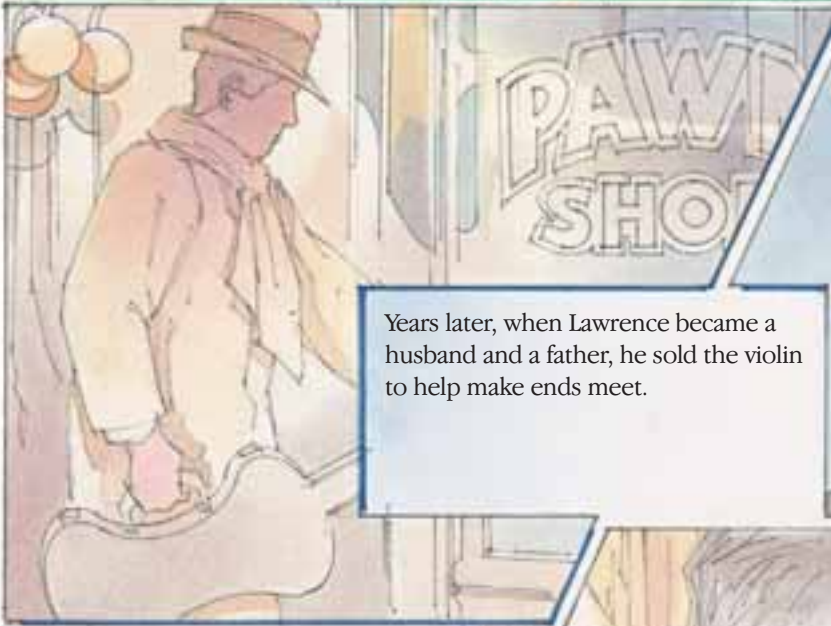
The McKay family loved music and learned to play instruments. President McKay's son Lawrence played the violin beautifully.

What a beautiful song.



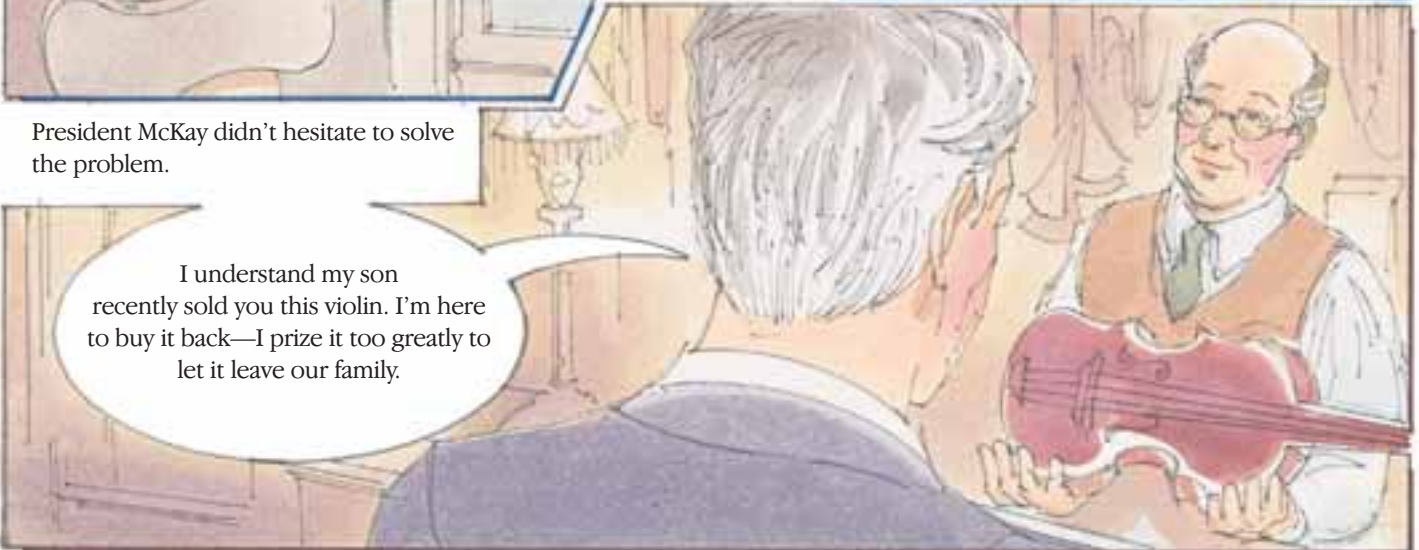
Mildred and I need the money, Father, but how I hated to give up my violin! Playing it often comforted me when I was far from home.

Years later, when Lawrence became a husband and a father, he sold the violin to help make ends meet.



President McKay didn't hesitate to solve the problem.

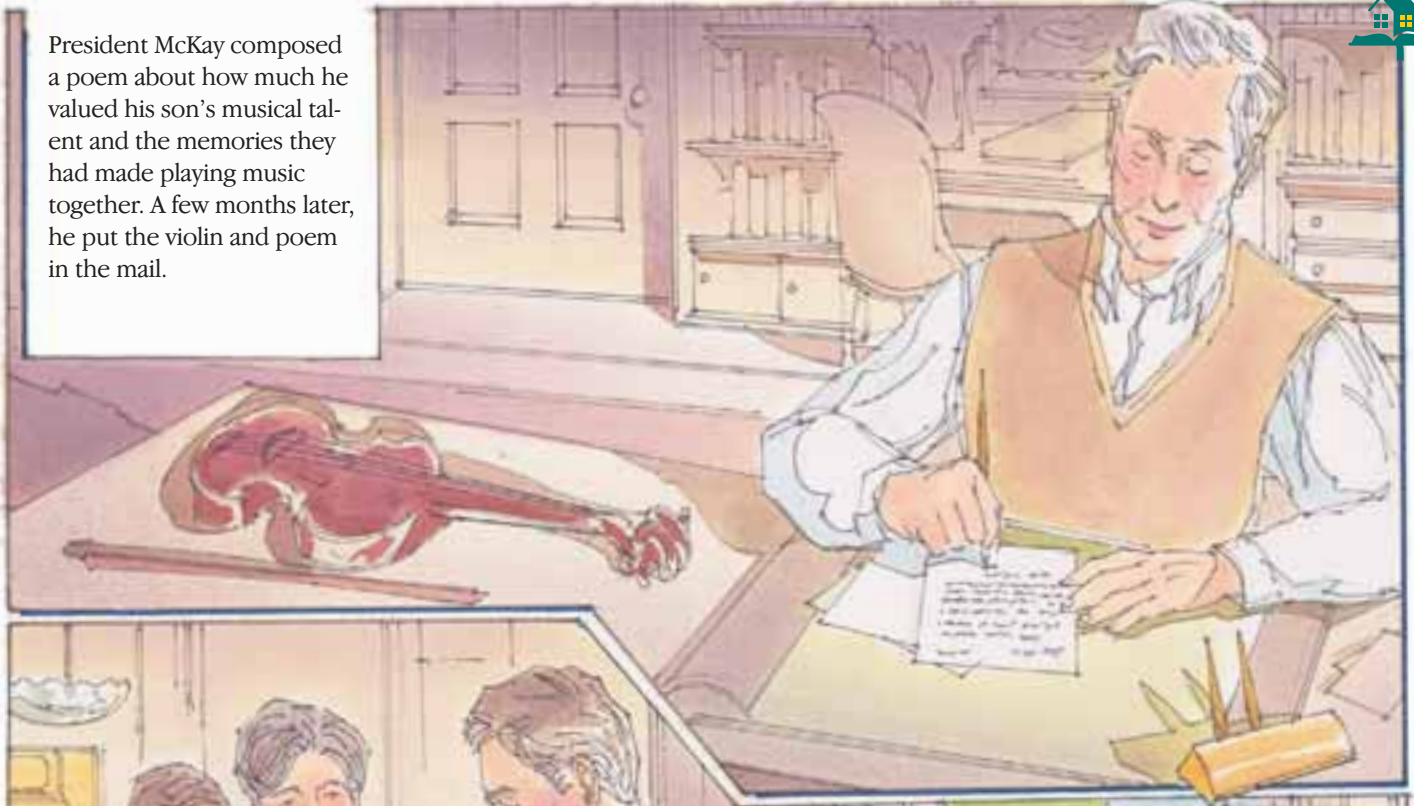
I understand my son recently sold you this violin. I'm here to buy it back—I prize it too greatly to let it leave our family.







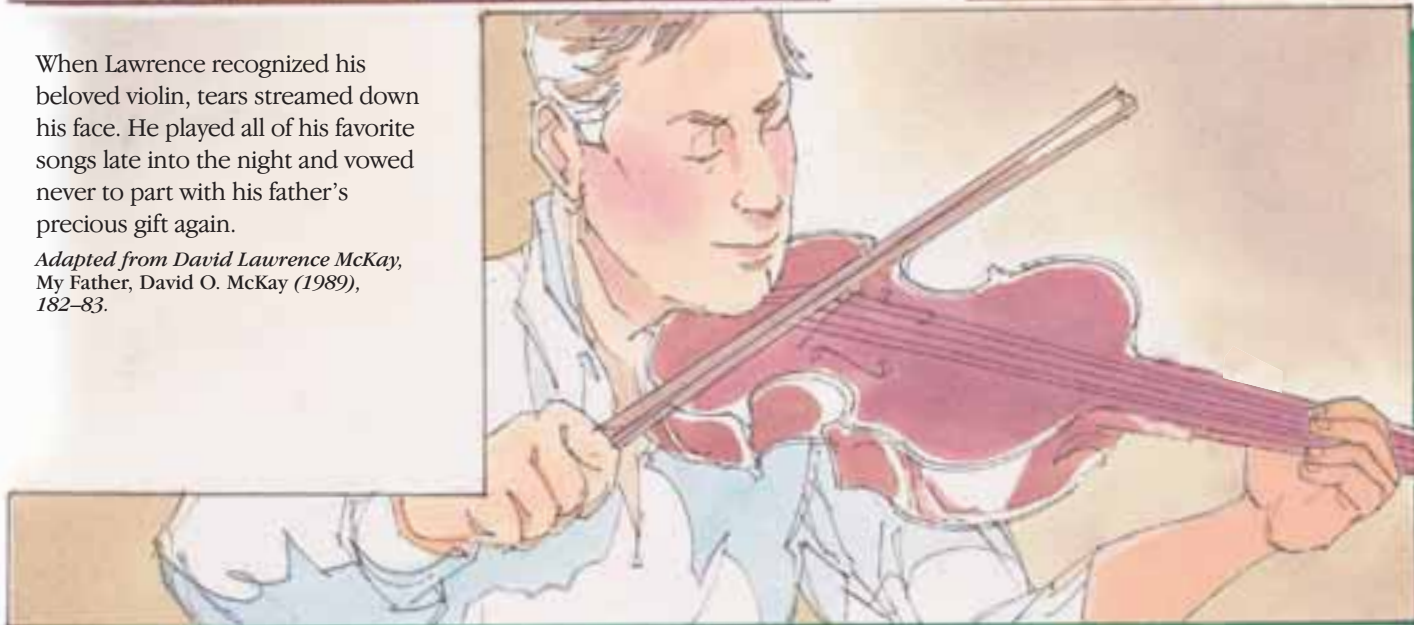
President McKay composed a poem about how much he valued his son's musical talent and the memories they had made playing music together. A few months later, he put the violin and poem in the mail.



Look, Mildred, a package from my father. What do you think it is?

When Lawrence recognized his beloved violin, tears streamed down his face. He played all of his favorite songs late into the night and vowed never to part with his father's precious gift again.

*Adapted from David Lawrence McKay, My Father, David O. McKay (1989), 182-83.*





# Trying to Be Like Jesus

*He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (John 8:12).*

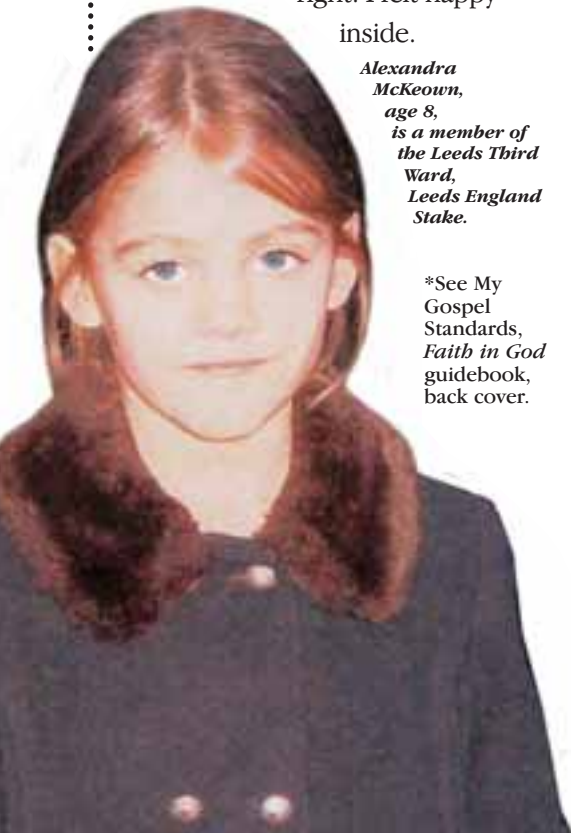
## I Will Keep the Sabbath Day Holy\*

By Alexandra McKeown

I was sad when I found out that my ballet exam was to be on a Sunday. My friends in the class couldn't understand why we chose not to do things like that on a Sunday. They even offered to take me to the exam after our church meetings. I knew that the right choice was not to go, and Mum and Dad said Heavenly Father would bless me for keeping the Sabbath Day holy. At my next lesson after the exam day, my teacher gave me a medal. She felt I deserved it even though I didn't do the exam. It is good to choose the right. I felt happy inside.

*Alexandra McKeown, age 8, is a member of the Leeds Third Ward, Leeds England Stake.*

*\*See My Gospel Standards, Faith in God guidebook, back cover.*



## The Best Present

By Miriam Blaser

The first Christmas after my baptism, I felt that I would like to do something nice for someone in need. Since I had made most of my gifts, I thought I might be able to share some of the money I had saved. I hoped I had enough to buy someone a nice Christmas dinner.

Three days before Christmas I counted my money. I had \$20. I asked my mom to ask the bishop what would be the best way to donate the money. He said there were families right in our area that needed help. The next day my dad and I walked to the bishop's house. I had a special feeling inside as I handed him

the money. I knew it was the Holy Ghost telling me that I was doing what Jesus wanted me to do.

On Christmas Eve my family enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner. I had a big smile on my face, and my mom asked me what I was thinking about. I told her I was thinking about the family who got my donation. I was hoping that they were having a merry Christmas. The happy feeling I got from giving to a family I didn't even know was better than any present I received. I will keep trying to follow the Savior.

*Miriam Blaser, age 8, is a member of the Centerville 10th Ward, Centerville Utah Canyonview Stake.*



## A Witness for Jesus Christ

By Sister Marjorie Conder,  
Primary president

**D**avid Evans, a Valiant 10 in our Primary, bravely stood as a witness for Jesus Christ and the Church as the prophet Alma said we should. David had been invited to a birthday party for a friend from school. When he got there, he was asked by his friend's older and bigger cousins if he was a Mormon. It turned out that David was the only Latter-day Saint at the party. The cousins started to harass him. At first it was just verbal, but then they started shoving him around and kicking him. The adults at the party did nothing to stop them. David said a silent prayer. He felt he should confront his tormenters. So he told them they could try to beat him up if they wanted, but they couldn't trash the Church of Jesus Christ. With that, the bullies quit and left him alone for the rest of the party.

*David Evans, age 10, is a member of the Midvale Utah East Fourth Ward, Midvale Utah East Stake.*



## A Bad and Perfect Day

By Camila Biddulph

**I** had a really bad day at school. As I was leaving, I saw some fifth graders running. They crashed into a poor girl carrying loads of schoolwork, including a school project. The project fell and broke, scattering pieces all over the ground. I ran over to the girl and asked, "Are you OK?" She was almost in tears as she got down on her knees and started scooping pieces of her project into a bag. I noticed that she was carrying glue and asked her if I could help put her masterpiece back together. She nodded in a shy way. I glued it back together and handed it to her. Then I helped her carry her things to her car. Her mom thanked me and gave me a big smile. I ran to my car and hopped in. My mom asked, "How was your day?"

"Perfect!" I said.

*Camila Biddulph, age 9, is a member of the Flagler Ward, Homestead Florida Stake.*



The *Friend* would like to hear from you about an experience you, or another child you know, have had in "Trying to Be Like Jesus." The article should be about two to three paragraphs typed and double spaced; a parent or other adult may help you write it (be sure to give them credit). Please include at least one photograph or slide of whomever the article is about, if possible, and his/her and your own (if different) name, age, ward/branch and stake/district, and telephone number. A written statement by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish the child's photo must be included. Send your article to: Trying to Be Like Jesus, *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. Submissions will not be returned.

# The Overall Girl

BY LANIEL BACKUS

(Based on a true story)

*Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart* (1 Samuel 16:7).

She wore overalls to school. This was unheard of in 1936 when I was eight years old. And that wasn't her only crime.

"Look at what 'Overalls' brought for lunch," one of my friends whispered. I watched the girl pull out two slices of bread—no meat, no cheese, no peanut butter, no sandwich spread. Strange.

No one sat by her or talked to her, so I didn't either.

That changed one cold, blustery, winter day when the snow was four feet deep with twelve-foot drifts. Because I lived in a small mining town 10 miles away from school, I usually left class early to catch the bus that the high school students also rode. But on this day my teacher made an announcement: "None of you will leave this room until you have handed in your projects and cleaned up after yourselves." I watched the clock, hurrying as fast as I could. As soon as I finished, I grabbed my coat and raced after the bus. But it was no use. Groaning, I watched it drive off without me. My family had no telephone, and I could think of nothing to do but start walking.

I wrapped my hand-me-down brown coat tightly around me, lowered my head, and set off up the icy road. I had no hat, no gloves, and no boots. Then, as now, a few drivers thought it great sport to splash people, so I was soon soaked.

ILLUSTRATED BY MARK ROBISON



At the time there was an epidemic of scarlet fever, and nearly every house along the road had a quarantine sign on it, meaning that no one could enter or leave. Families without the disease did not welcome strangers for fear of catching it, so I had no chance of going inside to get warm. One very nice lady came out and gave me a warm hat, though, and said she was sorry that I couldn't come in.

Five miles into my trek, I was so stiff and cold that I was beginning to doubt I could make it. Just then, two young ladies came running out from a farmhouse. "Would you like to come in?"

I nodded, and they helped me through the door. Inside, they hung my wet clothes by the fire to dry and wrapped me in a warm blanket. They asked me where I lived and then disappeared. Their mother spoke to me gently to calm my fears as she prepared supper. Before long, who should come through the door but the last person on earth I expected—the overall girl!

"I was in the barn doing chores and I saw you walking," she said. "I told my sisters that you go to my school and that you don't have scarlet fever."

"Thanks." I couldn't believe how relieved I felt to see someone I knew. We talked until suppertime, and then her mother invited us into the kitchen. I especially liked the large slices of fresh homemade bread and homemade butter. Mmmmmmmm, good!

I learned later that her sisters had gone out and stood in the cold, waiting and watching for someone to come looking for me. When my parents drove slowly past, they were waved down and brought inside. Was I ever glad to see them!

I learned a lot about the overall girl that day and decided that she was better than all the snobs at school put together (including me). From then on I made it a point to sit with my new friend at lunch. Sometimes she would even trade her delicious bread-and-butter sandwiches with me. ●

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## Guide to the Friend



*The Guide to the Friend can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned in the Family Home Evening Ideas. The Primary theme for December is "Heavenly Father's plan brings us many blessings."*



## Family Home Evening Ideas

1. The First Presidency encourages us to celebrate the holidays through service.

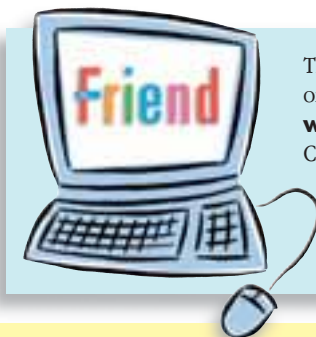
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3. Find out how Vera makes new friends in "Nigerian Christmas" (pp. 32–34). Is there anyone you can reach out to this Christmas? Use the "Christmas Workshop" ideas (pp. 36–37) to make a gift for a new friend. You may want to invite him or her to come help you make other crafts this week.

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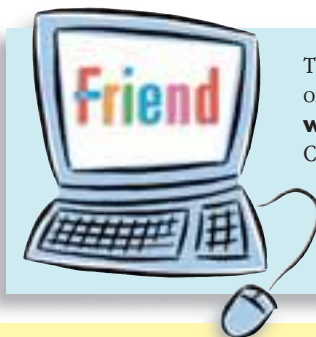
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## page 2

Read the First Presidency's Christmas Message "A Joyful Season."

## page 4

Find out what Kenny does when he discovers that his friend received no toys for Christmas.



## page 24

Enjoy the spirit of Christmas beginning December 1 by doing the advent calendar.

