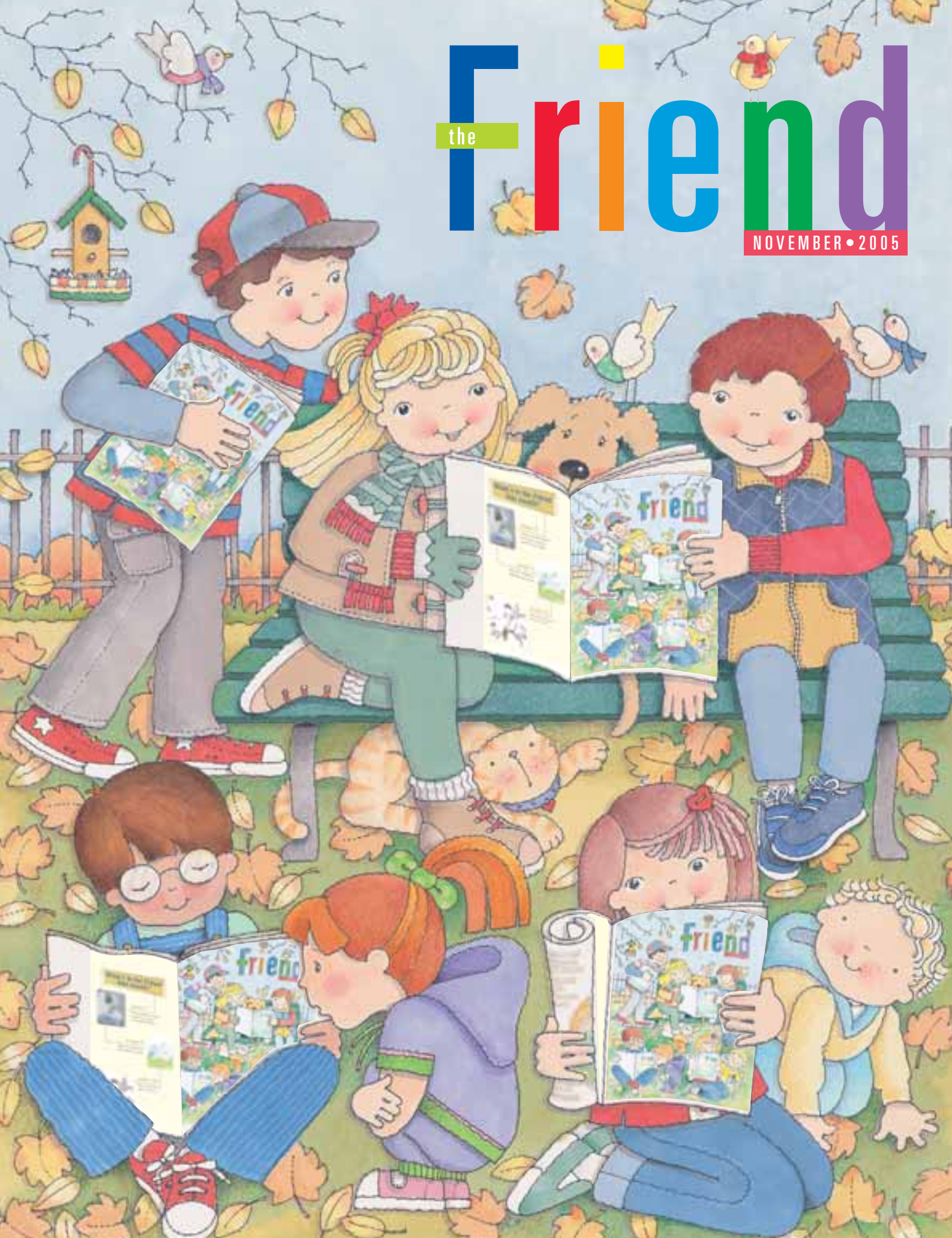


the friend

NOVEMBER • 2005



Friends by Mail



CTR Searcher

I really enjoy reading the *Friend*. I also like searching for the hidden CTR ring each month. It's interesting how different the ring looks in different languages.

Shannon Shepard, age 11
Yerington, Nevada

The Maxi-taxi Hymn

Here in Trinidad, West Indies, I ride a long distance in maxi-taxis to attend school and church. A maxi-taxi is like a minibus that holds twelve people. All kinds of people of all ages ride maxi-taxis, and sometimes they say and do bad things. Recently I got in a maxi-taxi to go home from school. As I sat down, I found that the driver was playing very loud music with bad words in it. The other passengers were using bad language, and the older boys and girls in the back were doing things they shouldn't. I felt very uncomfortable. I remembered my uncle telling me that when something was bothering



me I should say a prayer or sing a hymn. I started to hum "I Am a Child of God." That made me feel a lot better and helped me to think of good things. I know that singing a hymn in a bad situation can help us.

Russell K. Joseph, age 12
Trinidad, West Indies



Chinchilla Escape

My brother Henry and I were taking care of our neighbors' pet chinchilla while they were away on vacation. We liked to feed him raisins and banana chips. One day while we were feeding him, he got out of his cage. We were having a hard time finding him. My brother finally found him under the couch, but every time we tried to grab him he ran away and hid again.

I said a prayer and asked Heavenly Father to help us catch the chinchilla. We worked together and finally caught him. I am grateful that I can ask Heavenly Father for help when I need it.

Emmett Lytle, age 5, with help from his mom
Middlebury, Connecticut

I Love to See the Temple

I love to see the temple. I enjoy drawing pictures of the temple. When I'm older I'm going to be baptized for the dead in the temple. And someday I'm going to get married in the temple. I love the temple!

Andra Twitchell, age 7
Carlsbad, New Mexico



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Cover by Julie F. Young

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

In Fijian,
Digia na dodomu
means "choose the
right."



As you look for the Fijian
CTR ring hidden in this
issue, think of ways you can
share the gospel.



Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice

Courage Counts

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Life's journey is not traveled on a freeway devoid [free] of obstacles, pitfalls, and snares. Rather, it is a pathway marked by forks and turnings. Decisions are constantly before us. To make them wisely, courage is needed.

The prophet Daniel demonstrated courage by standing up for what he knew to be right and by demonstrating the courage to pray, though threatened by death were he to do so (see Daniel 6).

Courage characterized the life of Abinadi, as shown in the Book of Mormon by his willingness to offer his life rather than to deny the truth (see Mosiah 11:20; 17:20).

Who can help but be inspired by the lives of the two thousand stripling sons of Helaman, who taught and demonstrated the need of courage to follow the teachings of parents? (see Alma 56).

All were fortified [strengthened] by the words of Moses: "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid . . . : for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Deuteronomy 31:6). He did not fail them. He will not fail us. He did not forsake them. He will not forsake us.



President Monson explains why we need courage and where we can find it.

It is this sweet assurance that can guide you and me. Of course we will face fear, experience ridicule, and meet opposition. Let us have the courage to stand for principle [what is right]. Courage, not compromise, brings the smile of God's approval. A moral coward is one who is afraid to do what he thinks is right because others will disapprove or laugh. Remember that all men have their fears, but those who face their fears with dignity have courage as well.

Entering the United States Navy in the closing months of World War II was a challenging experience for me. I learned of brave deeds and examples of courage. One best remembered was the quiet courage of an eighteen-year-old seaman—not of our

faith—who was not too proud to pray. Of 250 men in the company, he was the only one who each night knelt down by the side of his bunk, at times amidst the jeers of the curious and the jests of unbelievers, and, with

bowled head, prayed to God. He never wavered. He never faltered. He had courage.

May we muster courage for the conflicts, courage to say no, courage to say yes, for courage counts. ●

From an October 1986 general conference address.







Getting to Know Nicole



BY DOCENA MARIA HOLM

(Based on a true story)

[Remember] without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope

(1 Thessalonians 1:3).

Ashlie played in the backyard sprinklers with her new neighbor, Nicole. They screamed with delight, splashing each other in the cool water.

Ashlie stamped her wet footprint onto the porch. "I'm glad you moved in yesterday," she said.

"Me too." Nicole stamped her footprint next to Ashlie's.

"Look, the same size!" Ashlie said.

Ashlie wanted to give Nicole something great, something for a new friend. She went inside to ask Mom about her idea.

"Can I give Nicole my Book of Mormon?"

"Don't you think you should get to know her first?" Mom asked.

"But Mom, I do know her," Ashlie said.

When it was time for Nicole to go home, Ashlie handed her a blue Book of Mormon. "I want you to have this. It's a book about our church."

"Thanks," Nicole said.

But later that week, Nicole rang Ashlie's doorbell and thrust the Book of Mormon at her. "My mom says I can't have this. She says Mormons go to too much church."

With tears puddling in her eyes, Ashlie showed Mom the Book of Mormon. "Maybe Nicole doesn't want to be my friend anymore."

"I'm sorry, Ashlie." Mom hugged her tight. "Sometimes becoming friends takes time. In the Book of Mormon, a missionary named Ammon wanted to teach the people of Lamoni about Jesus Christ. But he decided to get to know them first by serving them."

Ashlie wiped her eyes. She remembered how Ammon had helped guard the king's sheep and prepare his horses and chariots.

"Because Ammon served King Lamoni and showed him love, he was able to share the gospel with the king and his people," Mom said.

Ashlie smiled. "Maybe I can still be Nicole's friend."

"And we can pray as a family to be missionaries to Nicole's family," Mom added.

Over the next few months, Ashlie prayed for Nicole and got to know her better. They played at school and on the weekends, and they exchanged treats on holidays.

One Saturday after Christmas, Nicole and Ashlie were playing when Mom stuck her head into Ashlie's room. "Nicole, your mom is here. It's time for you to go home." Mom motioned for Ashlie to come into the hall. "You could invite Nicole to church with us tomorrow," she suggested.

"What if she doesn't want to come?" Ashlie asked.

"What if her mom says no?"

Mom squeezed Ashlie's arm. "You don't know until you ask. If she says yes, I'll ask her mom."

Ashlie went back into her room and started cleaning up.

"Maybe you could play at my house tomorrow," Nicole said.

"I don't play with friends on Sunday because we go to church and do family things," Ashlie said.



“But you could come to church with us.”

“OK!”

Ashlie walked Nicole to the door and tugged on Mom’s hand. “Nicole said yes,” she whispered.

Mom smiled and asked Nicole’s mom if Nicole and her older brother Devin could come to church.

“Well, are you sure that’s not a problem?” Nicole’s mom asked.

“We would be happy to take them,” Mom said.

Nicole’s mom smiled. “All right. What time?”

Just before it was time to leave for church the next day, Devin and Nicole came over dressed in Sunday clothes. After Primary, Nicole linked arms with Ashlie and said, “I liked the singing and lesson time the best.”

A few weeks later, Nicole came to church again. A Primary activity was announced.



“All of us have . . . friends who need the gospel but are not now interested. . . . Our efforts with them must be directed by the Lord so that we act in the way and at the time when they will be most receptive.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Sharing the Gospel,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 8.

“Do you want to come?” Ashlie asked.

“Yes,” Nicole said, “but I’ll have to ask my mom.”

All week Ashlie waited, but Nicole didn’t say anything about it. On Saturday morning, Mom handed Ashlie her jacket. “Go get in the van. We’re going to be late.”

“But what about Nicole?” Ashlie said. “Can I go see if she can come?”

“Sure, but hurry,” Mom said.

Nicole answered the door in her pajamas.

“Do you want to come to our Primary activity?” Ashlie asked.

“Yes. Just a minute!” Nicole shut the door, and when it finally opened again she and Devin both came out dressed and smiling.

Soon Devin started attending church with a friend he had met at the Primary activity. Nicole kept coming with Ashlie.

“Do all of you have your scriptures?” Mom asked one Sunday morning before they headed to church. Everyone said yes except for Nicole. “Would you like a Book of Mormon?” Mom asked.

Nicole nodded yes.

Ashlie was worried that Nicole would give it back, like last time.

That evening, there was a knock at the door. Devin and Nicole stood on the porch, Nicole holding her copy of the Book of Mormon.

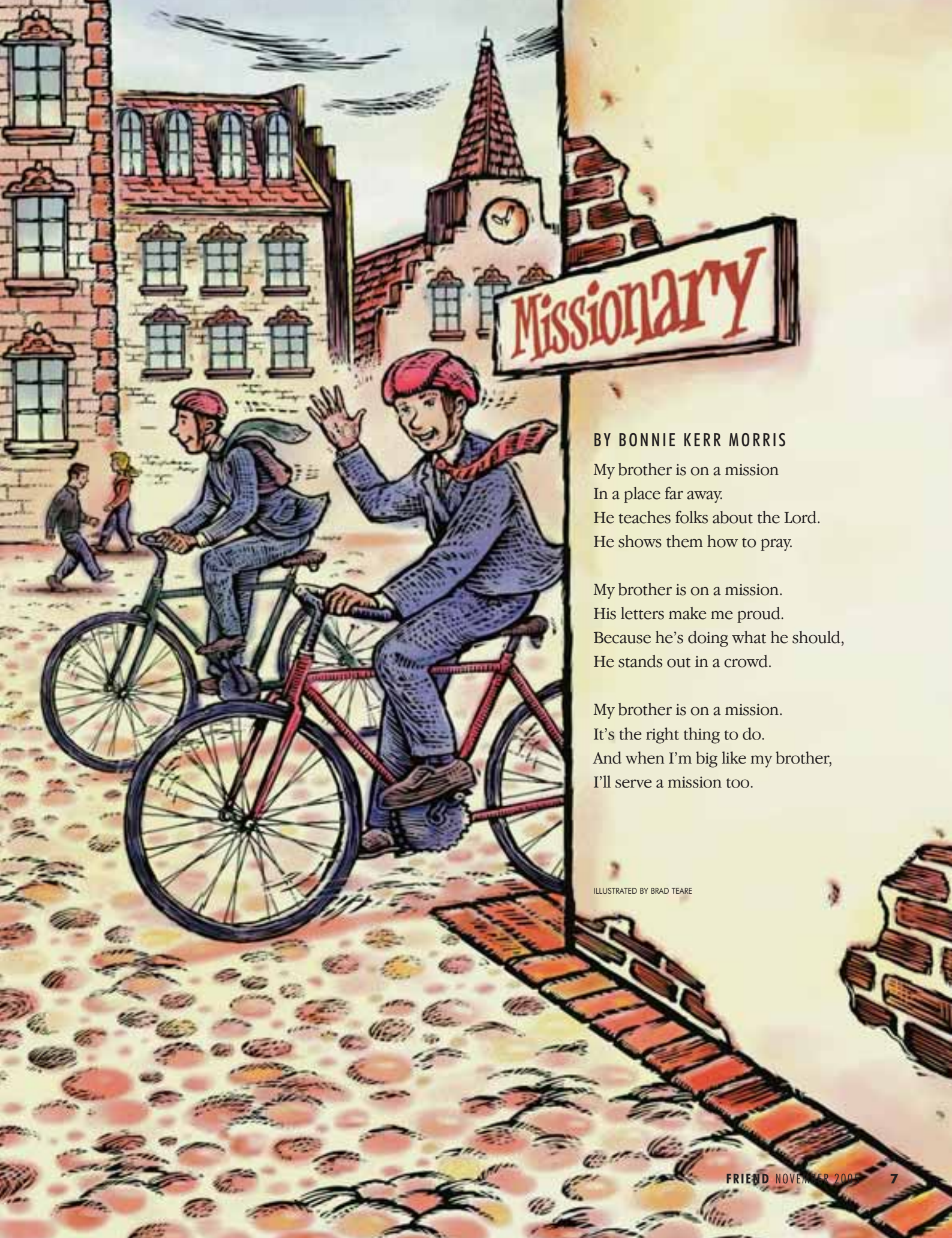
Ashlie’s stomach flopped.

But then Devin smiled and said, “Can I have a book too? My mom says it’s OK.”

After Nicole and Devin left, Mom said, “Ashlie, you’ve been a great missionary!”

Ashlie smiled. “That’s because I got to know them first.” ●

Docena Maria Holm is a member of the Locust Grove Ward, Meridian Utah South Stake.



Missionary

BY BONNIE KERR MORRIS

My brother is on a mission
In a place far away.
He teaches folks about the Lord.
He shows them how to pray.

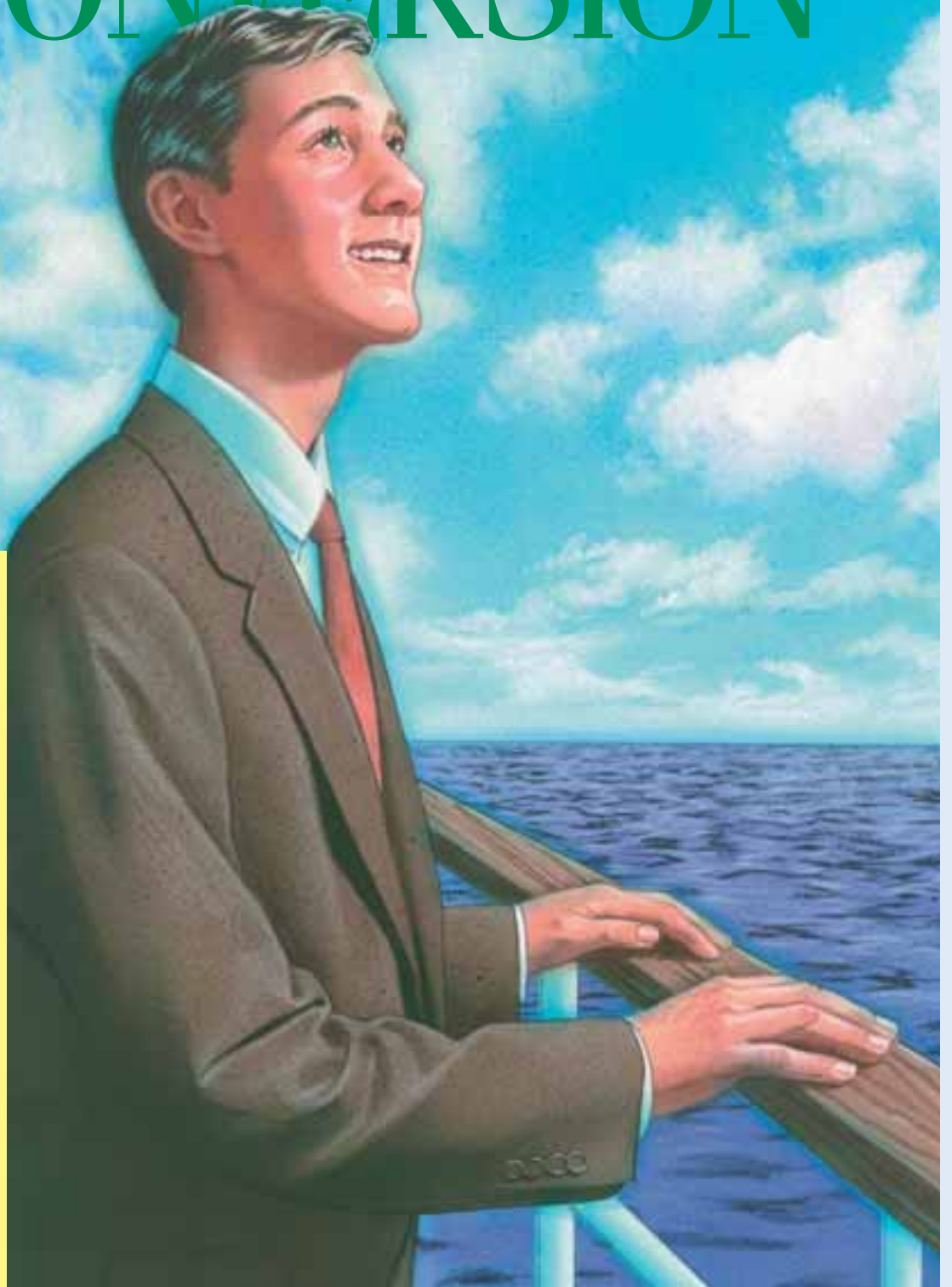
My brother is on a mission.
His letters make me proud.
Because he's doing what he should,
He stands out in a crowd.

My brother is on a mission.
It's the right thing to do.
And when I'm big like my brother,
I'll serve a mission too.

ILLUSTRATED BY BRAD TEARE



The Hour of CONVERSION



From an interview
with Elder Robert K.
Dellenbach of the
Seventy; by Kimberly
Webb



1. Elder Dellenbach with his grandchildren

2. Elder and Sister Dellenbach at home with their three sons

3. In his office visiting with Boy Scouts from Sicily

4. Elder and Sister Dellenbach in Kuckenhof Park, the Netherlands

5. At the Bountiful, Utah, 24th of July Parade

4

When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren
(Luke 22:32).

When I was 10 years old, the Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the pioneers' arrival in the Salt Lake Valley. Our Primary dressed in plaid shirts and overalls, performed a square dance, and pulled an old handcart in a parade.

I had been taught by my parents and Church leaders to believe in the truthfulness of the gospel. I had been active in Church and seminary. But the real hour of my conversion didn't come until I was a young man traveling to serve in the West German Mission. In those days, we traveled by train and by boat. After four days on the train, we arrived in New York City and got on a large steamship called the *America*.

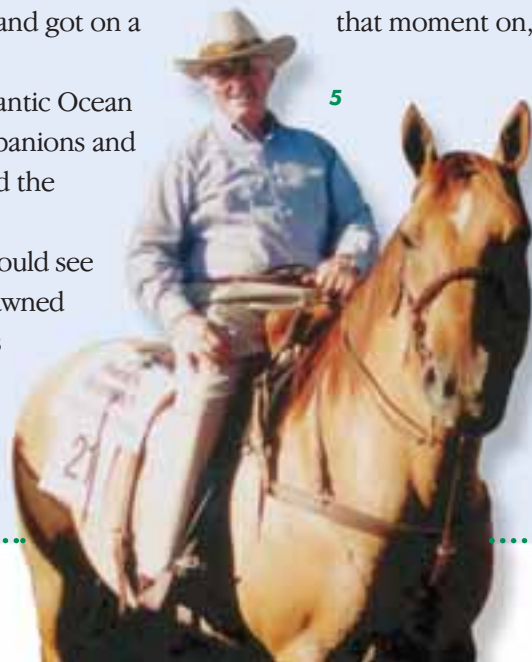
It was very stormy on the North Atlantic Ocean that November, and my traveling companions and I were seasick. We sang hymns, studied the scriptures, and tried to stay cheerful.

As I was out on that ocean where I could see nothing but water in all directions, it dawned on me, "I have always felt the Church is true." But suddenly the question came into my mind, "Can I look into the eyes of strangers and say without any question that I know?"

Alone in our little room aboard that ship, I got down on my knees. The ship trembled because of the big propeller driving it forward through the storms, but in that moment I couldn't tell if it was me or the ship trembling! I poured out my heart to the Lord and said, "I *have* to know, because if I don't know I can't testify."

Over the remaining two or three days on the ship, my prayer was answered. Peace came over me and I knew. Not only did I know that the Church was true, but I also knew that I could stand up to anyone who might challenge the doctrine. I knew that I wouldn't buckle or weaken or be frightened, and I never was. From that moment on, I never felt any hesitation to share my testimony.

You can prepare to be missionaries and fulfill Church callings by listening to your parents. They are your best teachers. As you sincerely pray to your Heavenly Father and offer to help in the home or around the yard, your testimony will grow and you will learn to serve. ●



5

RETOLD BY PATRICIA R. JONES

(From a story recounted by President George Albert Smith)*

Thou shalt pray vocally as well as in thy heart

(D&C 19:28).

Doctor, before you begin to operate, won't you pray for me?"

The chief surgeon looked down in amazement at the boy on the operating table. "Why, I can't pray for you," he replied. He had agreed to this operation only because the boy was an orphan and it was an emergency. He wanted to finish quickly and move on to the next patient.

Undaunted, the eight-year-old turned to each of the other doctors in the room and asked if they would pray for him. They all refused.

Finally the boy asked, "If you won't pray for me, won't you please wait while I pray for myself?" Without waiting for an answer, he knelt on the operating table, folded his arms, and offered a simple prayer: "Heavenly Father, I am only a little orphan boy, but I am awful sick and these doctors are going to operate. Will you please help them that they will do it right? And now, Heavenly Father, if you will make me well, I will be a good boy. Thank you for making me well."

When he finished, he lay back on the table and looked up at the doctors and nurses. None of them could see him clearly because they all had tears in their eyes. "Now I am ready," he told them.

The men and women dried their eyes and proceeded to remove the boy's inflamed appendix. By the end of the operation it was clear that the humble prayer had been answered.

When the chief surgeon was later asked to retell the experience, he first refused. "It is too sacred to talk about," he explained. After finally sharing the story, he added, "That was the most remarkable experience of my whole life. I have operated on hundreds of men, women, and children, and I have known some of them to pray. But never until I stood in the presence of that little boy had I heard anyone talk to Heavenly Father face to face."

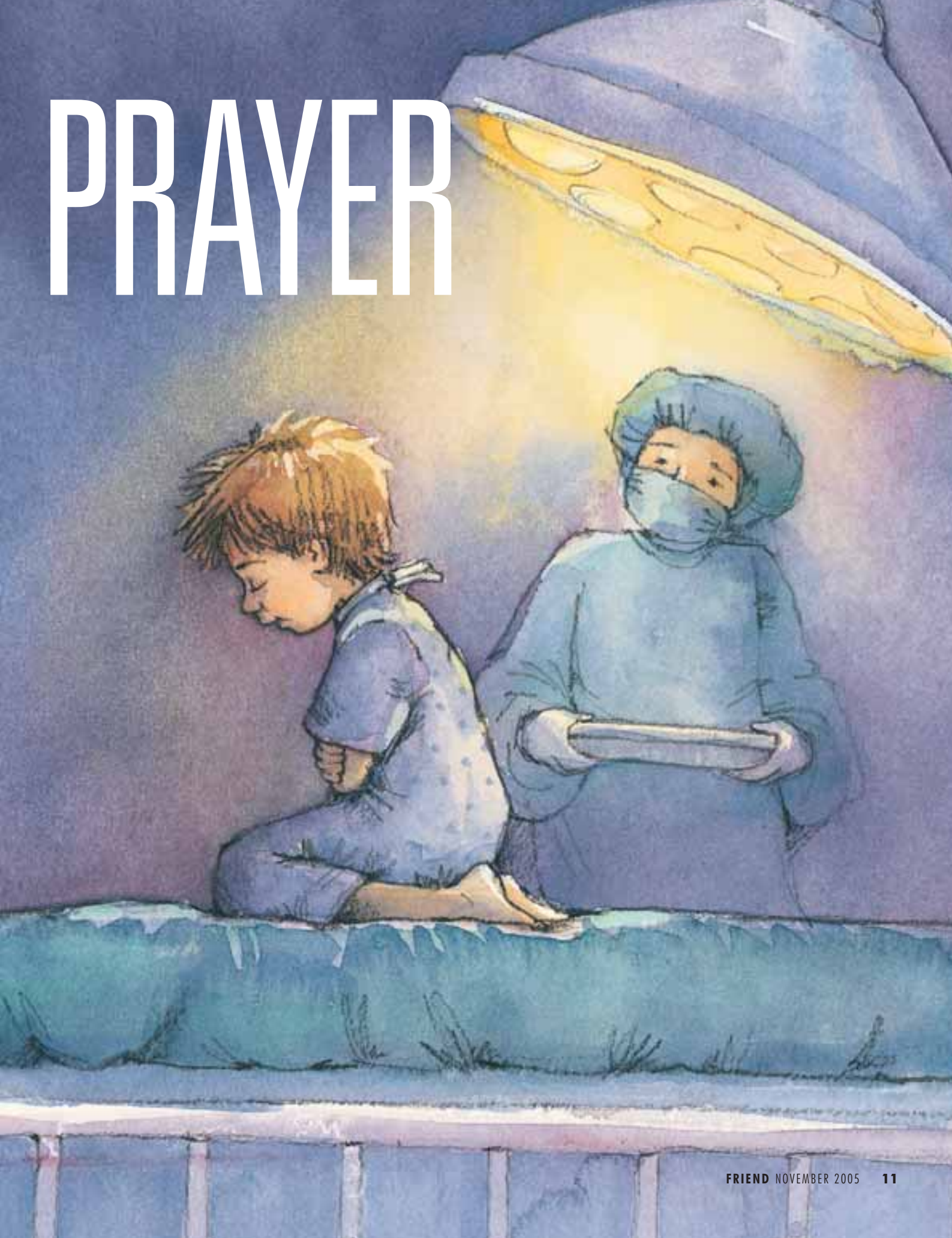
That orphan boy taught the proud surgeon, and all of us, that Heavenly Father loves every child and listens to every prayer. ●

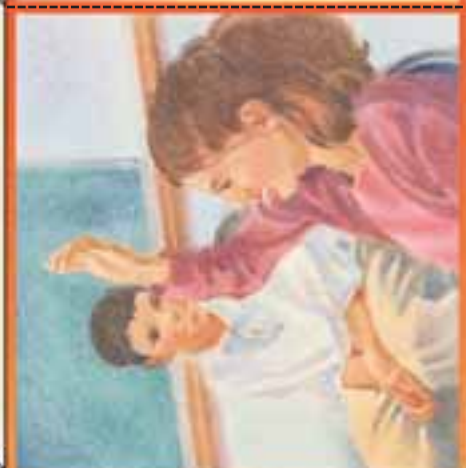
* *Sharing the Gospel with Others*, 144–145.

A BOY'S



PRAYER





I Can Share the Gospel Now

BY MARGARET LIFFERTH

First Counselor in the Primary
General Presidency



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).

What is a missionary? Some missionaries wear Sunday clothes and name tags every day. They work full-time finding and teaching others the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you have a brother or sister who is a full-time missionary? Are your grandparents missionaries? Do you know the full-time missionaries serving in your ward or branch?

Who can be a missionary? President Hinckley encourages you to be good examples and share your testimonies of Jesus Christ with your friends. Speaking of missionary work, he said, “Let even the Primary children think of ways to assist. Many a parent has come into the Church because of a child who was invited to Primary” (*Ensign*, May 1999, 107).

Sandy was a Primary child who showed that she could be a missionary too. When she was five years old, she invited her best friend, Craig, to go to church with her on Sunday. Craig wanted to go with Sandy and was excited to ask his mother. But Craig’s mother had other plans, and she said no. When Craig asked his mother the next week if he could go to church, she said no again. Because Sandy was a good missionary, she asked Craig a third time to go to church with her family. Craig got up early on Sunday morning and put on his best clothes. Then he woke up his mother and asked if he could go to church with Sandy. When she said no for the third time,



Craig started to cry. Craig’s mother decided that if he wanted to go so badly, maybe she should go too. Craig and his mother went to church that day with Sandy and her family. That

evening they began learning about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the full-time missionaries, and soon they were baptized.

More than 20 years later, when Craig tells this story, he likes to count all the people who are members of the Church because of five-year-old Sandy, who invited a friend to church. He can count more than 100 people. Craig says, “I don’t know how many others Sandy invited to church. . . . I do know that I owe her more than I can say” (*Friend*, Oct. 1998, 36–37).

Like Sandy, we can be missionaries now by being a good example, by inviting our friends to Primary or activity days, and by sharing our testimonies.

I Can Be a Missionary Now Box

Carefully remove page 12, and mount it on heavy paper. Cut around the solid black lines. Fold tabs on the colored lines to make a box. Glue the flaps. You and your family can play this game to help you remember to be a missionary now. Take turns rolling the box, looking at the picture on the top, and telling how to be a missionary in that pictured situation.

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. 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. Recite and discuss the suggested scripture for this month, Matthew 5:14–16. What does it mean to “let your light so shine”? What does it mean to “put [your light] under a bushel”? What could be the “good works” of Primary children? What does this scripture have to do with sharing the gospel through our example? Cut out a paper candle for each child and tape to the bottom of each chair. Post a picture of Jesus Christ on the board. Cut out three large paper candles. Write one of the following scripture references on each candle and post around a picture of Christ: 1 Nephi 18:8–16, 20–22 (Nephi is courageous on the ship); Joseph Smith—History 1:5–15 (Joseph Smith prays for guidance); Daniel 1 (Daniel refuses the king's meat). The scriptures give examples of young prophets who “let their light shine.” Sometimes being an example takes courage. Divide the children into three groups and give each group a scripture reference and materials to make simple puppets to retell the story (see *TNGC*, pp. 176–77). Invite each group to tell the story of each prophet's example. (The Joseph Smith story should end with Joseph kneeling in prayer. Please do not portray Heavenly Father or Jesus Christ with puppets.) Children can also let their lights shine and be an example. Tell two or three stories of children being an example to others using your own experiences or stories from “Trying to Be Like Jesus” from an issue of the *Friend*. Have the children find the paper candles under their chairs. Invite them to bring them out from “under the bushel” and write on them one way they can be an example to others. Sing “Shine On” (p. 144). Pass out the three large paper candles, then have the pianist continue to play the music while the children pass the candles to each other. When the music stops, have the children with the candles stand and tell one way they can share the gospel with their examples. Bear testimony of the importance of sharing the gospel by example.

2. Begin sharing time with a music clue. Hum or play “When We're Helping” (p. 198) and have the children guess the topic of sharing time. Helping and serving others makes us happy. When we serve others, we are sharing the gospel. Tell the story “And a Little Child Shall Lead Them” (*Friend*, Sept. 2002, 4–6). In this story, Kyle wanted to be a missionary. He made friends with Pedro and invited him to Primary. Pedro liked the people in Primary and noticed that he felt happy when he was there. Soon, he and his family were taking lessons from the missionaries. Ask the children to listen for all the ways that Kyle gave service. Who else in the story gave service and how? What happened because of Kyle's willingness to serve? Take responses. Using the cube from the sharing time activity in this month's *Friend*, play a game with the children. While the pianist plays “When We're Helping,” invite a child to roll the cube. It will show a place service could be given—for example, at home, at church, or with friends. Ask the children to think of something they could do at that place to give service and raise their hand when they are ready. Invite a child to pantomime that service as everyone sings “When We're Helping.” (You might want to substitute the word “others” for “mother” in the song.) The child who guesses the service correctly is the next child to roll the cube. Play the game as time permits.

To bring reverence for the next part of sharing time, sing “Called to Serve” (pp. 174–175). Emphasize the missionary focus of this song and that we are chosen to “tell the Father's story” and “his love proclaim.” We tell

Heavenly Father's story and proclaim His love as we live and share the gospel. Choose four or five pictures from the GAK that show the Savior giving service. Possibilities include 213 (Jesus Healing the Blind), 216 (Christ and the Children), 226 (Jesus Washing the Apostles' Feet), 227 (Jesus Praying in Gethsemane), and 233 (Mary and the Resurrected Lord). Briefly and reverently show the pictures and recount the incomparable service given by Jesus Christ. Bear testimony of Him and of our opportunity to share the gospel as we serve others. Sing “I'm Trying to Be like Jesus” (pp. 78–79).

3. Staple six small sheets of paper together for each child's Testimony Journal. (The first page can be decorated by the children as a cover.) Teach about five elements of a testimony from “I Can Pray to Heavenly Father Anytime, Anywhere” (*Friend*, Aug. 2003, 24–26 or *Ensign*, May 2003, 113–14). Teach the children that we share the gospel with our testimonies. We often “sing our testimonies” when we sing the hymns of the Church and the Primary songs. Let the children sing their testimonies with the following songs: “I Know My Father Lives” (p. 5), “I Feel My Savior's Love” (pp. 74–75), “Joseph Smith's First Prayer” (*Hymns*, no. 26), “The Church of Jesus Christ” (p. 77), and “Seek the Lord Early” (p. 108). After each song, let the children write or draw an expression of their testimony in their journals. Invite them to take their journals home and share their testimonies with their families in family home evening.

4. Invite a returned missionary who has been approved by the bishop or branch president to share with the children the joy of missionary work. Have the returned missionary focus on things that children did in his or her mission to help missionary work and things that each of us can do to be a missionary now. Sing “I Want to Be a Missionary Now” (p. 168). Divide the children into three groups and move them from station to station to learn skills that will help them be missionaries now and later. Station 1: Explain that the Articles of Faith are brief statements about the Church's basic beliefs. We can teach others about the doctrine of the Church when we know the Articles of Faith. Help the children memorize one of the Articles of Faith (see *TNGC*, pp. 171–72). Station 2: Missionaries must know and have a testimony of Joseph Smith and the Restoration of the Church. Use GAK pictures 402 (Joseph Smith Seeks Wisdom in the Bible), 403 (The First Vision), 404 (Moroni Appears to Joseph Smith in His Room), 406 (Joseph Receives the Gold Plates), 416 (Translating the Book of Mormon), 407 (John the Baptist Conferring the Aaronic Priesthood), and 408 (Melchizedek Priesthood Restoration). Help the children tell the story of the Restoration. For older children, help them find the Joseph Smith story in the Pearl of Great Price (Joseph Smith—History 1). Station 3: Missionaries must know what is in the scriptures and how to use them. Look up “Missionary Work” in the Topical Guide and pick eight to ten scriptural references. Write the references on strips of paper and place them in a container. Let the children pick a reference and find it in their scriptures. Read the reference and discuss what is taught about missionary work. Help the children apply it today. When all the children have been to each station, gather them to sing “The Things I Do” (pp. 170–71). Bear testimony of the blessings of missionary work.

5. *Friend* references: “Let Your Light Shine,” Oct. 2000, 42–43; “The Field Is White Already to Harvest,” Sept. 2002, 28–30; “Friend to Friend: On the Lord's Side,” Sept. 2002, 8–9; “Missionary Work,” June 2004, 31; “Being a Witness for God,” Dec. 2003, 37; “What Is Christmas?” Dec. 2003, 34–36, “I Can Be a Missionary Now,” Oct. 1998, 14–15. These references and others can be found at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.



Getting to Know Elder David A. Bednar

To learn more about Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, choose from the list of words below to complete the crossword puzzle.

- Arkansas**
- baptism**
- California**
- football**
- Germany**
- quarterback**
- Ricks**
- scriptures**
- sons**
- youngest**

Across

1. When he was called to be a new apostle, Elder Bednar was serving as the president of BYU—Idaho, formerly known as _____ College.

3. As president of BYU—Idaho, he always asked students to bring their _____ to devotionals so they could learn from them.

6. Before moving to Idaho, he taught at universities in both _____ and Texas. In 1994 he won an important award for outstanding teaching.

9. Even though Elder Bednar's father was not a member of the Church, he supported his son's decision to accept a mission call to _____.

10. Elder Bednar met his wife, Susan, when they were both college students at BYU. They were playing flag _____, and she caught one of his passes. He was impressed. It was the only pass she remembers ever catching!

Down

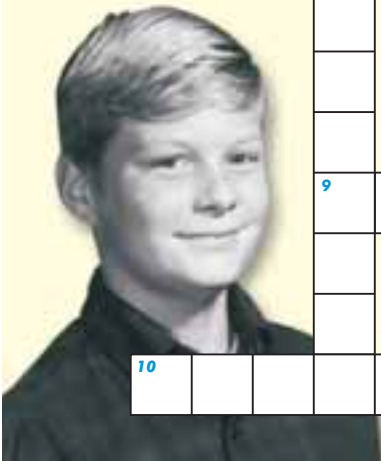
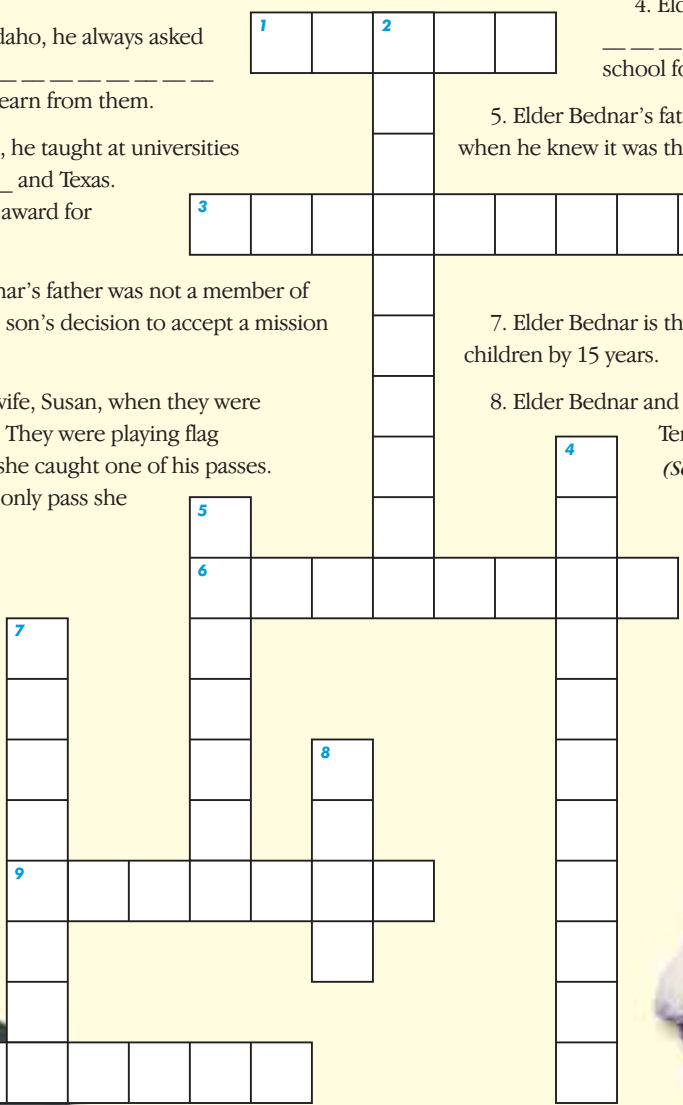
2. Elder Bednar was born on June 15, 1952, in San Leandro, _____.

4. Elder Bednar played _____ on his high school football team.

5. Elder Bednar's father told him he would join the Church when he knew it was the right thing to do. After Elder Bednar was married, his father called and asked him to come home and perform his _____.

7. Elder Bednar is the _____ of three children by 15 years.

8. Elder Bednar and his wife were married in the Salt Lake Temple and raised three _____.
(See Ensign, Nov. 2004, 126.)







Thankful for the Prophet



BY MEGHAN DECKER
(Based on a true story)

Keep the commandments! In this there is safety; in this there is peace (Children’s Songbook, 146–147).

Lindy burst through the front door. “Mom, I’m home! No more school for the rest of the week, and tomorrow is Thanksgiving!”

Mom smiled and gave her a big hug. That’s when Lindy noticed Dad and her older sisters sitting in the family room.

“Hi, Dad,” Lindy said. “Are you home early because of the holiday?”

“No, sweetheart. Come here and give me a hug, and then I’ll tell you all my news.” Dad smiled calmly. “I lost my job today. I know that’s a little scary, but I’ve already started to work on finding a new one. It may take a while, so we have to be patient and trust in the Lord.”

Lindy’s oldest sister Rebekah started to cry. “Will we have to move?” she asked through her tears.

“I’m going to try to find a new job here first,” Dad said.

“But even if we do end up having to move, remember the last time we moved?” Mom said. “We found great friends and activities here that we didn’t have before. The most important thing is that we go where the Lord wants us to go.”

“That’s right,” Dad said. “We’ll pray for the Lord to guide us, and we can talk about our choices as a family. I think right now the best thing we can do is have a family prayer.”

During the prayer Lindy felt a little better, but she was still scared. She thought a lot about her school, friends, neighborhood, and home.

The next day family and friends came over for Thanksgiving dinner. Most of the adults told Dad they would talk to people at work and see if there were jobs available. Lindy felt good to know there were so many people who cared about them and wanted to help, but she was still worried.

After their guests left, Lindy asked Dad if she could talk to him for a minute. “Are we going to have to leave our house since we don’t have any more money to pay for it?”

“Oh, Lindy,” Dad said, “you don’t have to worry about that. We have money put aside so we can pay for our house until I get a new job.”

A few days later, Lindy went into the room where Mom was ironing clothes. “Mom, you know how we’ve been eating leftovers every night? Well, I was just wondering if that was because . . . well, because Dad’s not working now.”

“You mean you wonder if we can’t go to the store to buy new food?”

Lindy nodded, looking at the ground.

“Oh, sweetheart,” Mom said, “we have money for food. We just have lots of leftovers from Thanksgiving dinner. Don’t worry—we will have money for food until Dad gets a new job.”

That night both Mom and Dad came to



tuck Lindy into bed. “Lindy, how are you feeling now? Are you still worried?” Mom asked.

“I don’t know. My stomach feels sort of sick. It just feels strange.”

“Lindy, we don’t want you to worry about anything,” Dad said. “Do you remember our food storage in the basement?”

Lindy nodded.

“We have that because we obeyed the prophet when he told us to be prepared. And he didn’t just tell us to prepare by storing food—he told us to get a good education, put money into savings, and prepare spiritually to feel the Lord’s direction in our lives. We have tried hard to do all those things, so we’re prepared for a time like this.”

Lindy looked up at her dad. “Did the prophet really say all those things?”

Mom nodded. “When the prophet warned us to put our houses in order, Dad and I decided to follow his counsel. We don’t spend all the money Dad gets paid. We save some of the money every month for an

emergency like this. We haven’t borrowed money to buy things we can’t afford.”

“So here’s our emergency, and we’re ready because we obeyed the prophet,” Dad said. He smiled. “Now we need to listen to the Spirit and trust in the Lord to keep guiding us.”

For the first time, Lindy started to relax. Her stomach didn’t feel strange anymore. She remembered the family home evening they’d had a few weeks before Thanksgiving, when they had talked about things they were grateful for. Even though a sad thing had happened since then, she was even more grateful!

“Dad and Mom, I didn’t really think about how the prophet helps us until now,” she said. “I’m glad you listened to him. I’m not going to worry anymore.”

Dad tucked Lindy’s blankets around her, and Mom sang to her while she snuggled into her bed. She fell asleep hoping it would snow so she and her sisters could build a snowman. ●

Meghan Decker is a member of the Kalamazoo First Ward, Kalamazoo Michigan Stake.



“Many . . . live within their means,

they honor the debts they have incurred, and they strive to reduce the burden they owe to others. We congratulate those who are doing so, for the day will come when they will reap the blessings of their efforts and understand the value of this inspired counsel.”

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Earthly Debts, Heavenly Debts,” Ensign, May 2004, 41.



You may not be old enough to serve a full-time mission, but there are lots of ways you can share the gospel today. As you think and pray about your friends, listen to the Holy Ghost and you may feel prompted to

follow some of the following suggestions.

When you see someone sad or in need, stop to help, like Jesus would.

Always be kind and honest. Your good example will go a long way!

When friends ask what you did over the weekend, tell them about your Sunday activities. Explain why you keep the Sabbath day holy.

Hang uplifting decorations on the walls of your room—pictures of temples, prophets, My Gospel Standards—and let your friends ask questions about them.

Wear your CTR ring. If friends ask what CTR means, tell them.

When friends want to play on Monday nights, tell them about family home evening. With your parents' permission, you may want to invite a friend and/or the missionaries to family home evening sometime—on Monday or any other night of the week.

Instead of listening to popular music, play your favorite Church music when friends come over.

Invite friends to your baptism.

Put together a small photo album to show friends. Include pictures of you on temple grounds, your baptism day, family members who are serving missions, etc. Remember to show

interest in your friends too, by asking if they would like to show you their own photos when you visit them.

Invite friends to Primary or activities.

Be nice to everyone, including children in your ward or branch. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are pleased when we treat others with love. And the more friendly your group is, the more welcome visitors will feel when they come.

When friends visit, suggest doing some of the Funstuff activities or making a Kitchen Krafts recipe from the *Friend*. Offer them their own copy of the mag-

azine if they would like one.

Talk to your friends about people you know who are serving or have served missions. Answer questions about why missionaries serve and what they do.

When possible, include facts about the gospel in your school assignments. For instance, you could include Church history in a history report. You could read a Church book for your book report. If you are doing a project about yourself, such as an autobiography or an art project, find ways to show your beliefs.

Pray—for courage, for friends to be prepared to listen, and for you to have the Holy Ghost as your companion. As you live worthily, the Spirit will help you know what to do and say. ●



A MISSIONARY NOW

If you've had a good missionary experience, we'd like to hear from you. Send letters to Friend editorial, "Missionary Now," 50 E. North Temple St. Rm 2430, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America.



BOOK REVIEWS

Picture Books

Apples To Oregon: Being the (Slightly) True Narrative of How a Brave Pioneer Father Brought Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Grapes, and Cherries (and Children) Across the Plains, by Deborah Hopkinson, illus-



trated by Nancy Carpenter. This is the silly tall tale, based on truth, of how young Delicious and her family faced rivers, storms, drought in the desert, and other obstacles on their way across the plains to the West. The colorful oil painting illustrations give even more life to this exciting tale.

A Christmas Dress for Ellen, retold by Thomas S. Monson, illustrated by Ben Sowards. On Christmas Eve in 1927, a young mother was getting her five children ready for bed. She was very sad because she had nothing to give her children for Christmas in the morning. But their mailman had a surprise in store!



Kumak's Fish: A Tall Tale from the Far North, written and illustrated by Michael Bania. "Good day for fish," agrees everyone in the village. Kumak is excited because he will be using Uncle Aglu's amazing hooking stick. But the fish has a different idea!



The Chicken Salad Club, by Marsha Diane Arnold, illustrated by Julie

Downing. Nathaniel's grandpa is 100 years old and tells wonderful stories about his life. Every day, Nathaniel visits Greatpaw and listens to his stories while munching chicken salad sandwiches. But when no one wants to join the storytelling club, it's up to Nathaniel to think of a way to lift Greatpaw's spirits.



The Blind Hunter, written and illustrated by Kristina Rodanas. Chirobo is a wise and kind man who also happens to be blind. One day Chirobo joins a stranger from another village on a hunting trip. Even though he is blind, Chirobo shows that he can see with his ears, with his nose, and with his skin. He also teaches the stranger that he can forgive from the heart.



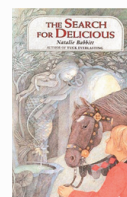
Books for Children Ages 5 to 9

September Roses, by Jeanette Winter. Based on a true story, this book tells about two sisters stranded in New York in the aftermath of September 11. The women, who are flying with thousands of roses for a flower show, land right after the Twin Towers are hit. A stranger

offers them a place to stay. Wanting to repay this kindness, they take their flowers to Union Square and arrange them in the shape of the fallen towers.

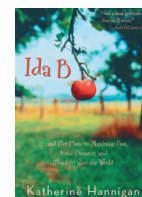


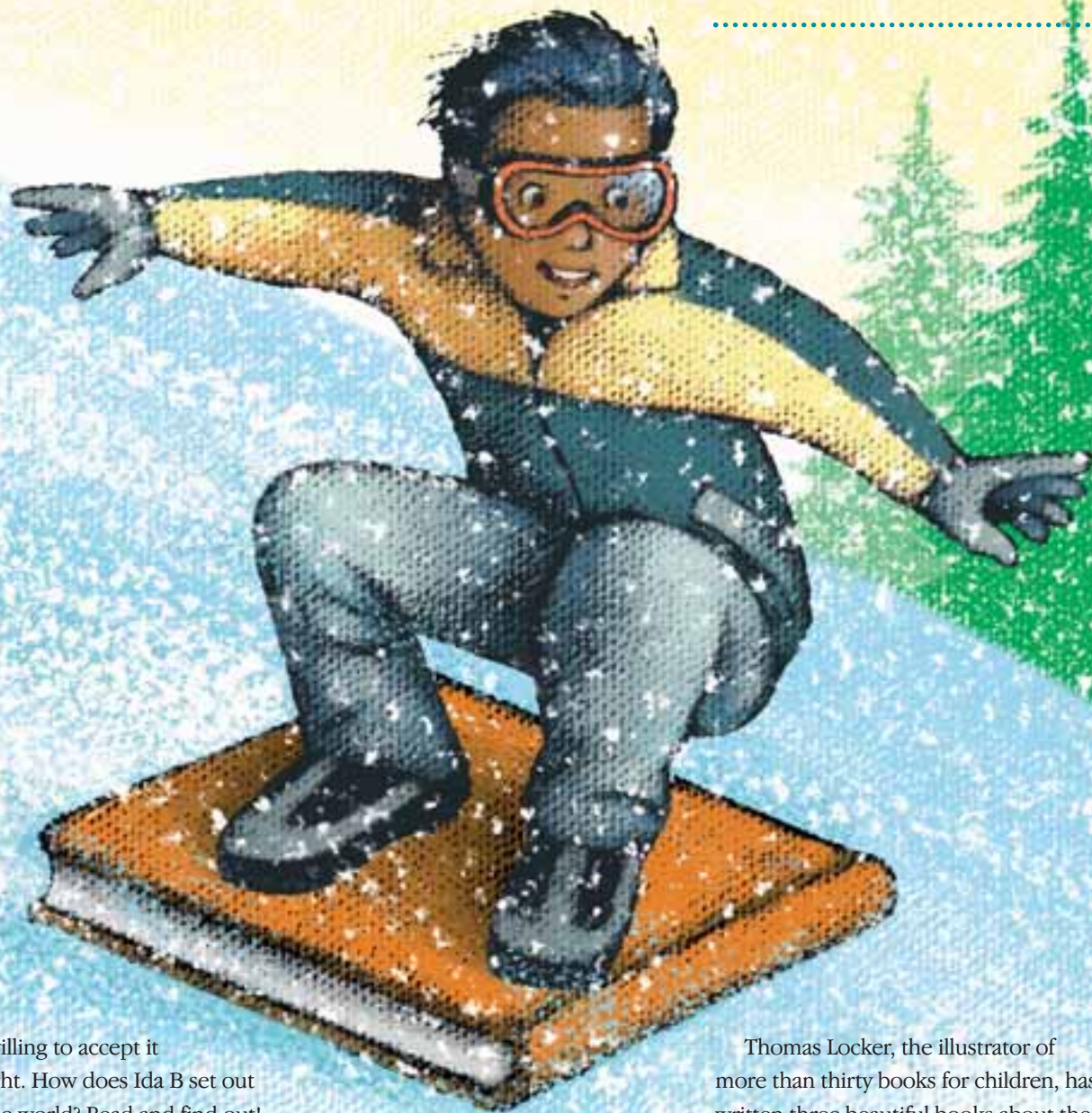
The Search for Delicious, by Natalie Babbitt. This story is about a quest, a young boy, a mermaid, a key, and an ancient land and its residents. When Prince Gaylan searches the kingdom for the definition of the word "delicious," he finds what he's looking for and more.



Stories for Children Ages 10 to 12

Ida B . . . and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World, by Katherine Hannigan. Ida B is a smart, fun-loving, and happy girl who lives on an apple orchard and loves going to school at home. But when change comes, Ida B is neither





happy nor willing to accept it without a fight. How does Ida B set out to change the world? Read and find out!

Ravine, by Janet Hickman. Jeremy enjoys staging battles with his collection of ancient warriors and is proud of his beautiful but willful collie, Duchess. Ulf also loves the dog, but calls her Magic, since it seems that something un-

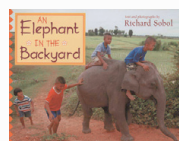


explainable brings her to him. The ravine behind Jeremy's house is where the two boys meet, brought together through a time slip found by

Duchess—a slip through which two boys and two completely different worlds collide.

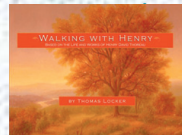
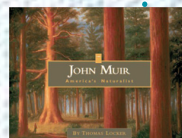
Nonfiction Books

An Elephant in the Backyard, written and photographed by Richard Sobol. Raised by her human family, Wan Pen, a four-year-old domesticated Asian elephant, lives in Tha Klang, Thailand. The book is filled with interesting facts about elephants (“just one day’s worth



of food would fill an entire garage”) and day-to-day life in Tha Klang. This is a fine introduction to a special place where elephants live safely with humans.

Thomas Locker, the illustrator of more than thirty books for children, has written three beautiful books about the lives of notable people who loved and wrote about nature. The books are: *John Muir: America's Naturalist*; *Walking with Henry: Based on the Life and Works of Henry David Thoreau*; and *Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder*. If you enjoy nature and appreciate our beautiful world, you will like reading these books.



These reviews do not constitute official Church endorsement of these books, but the books have been carefully reviewed to ensure that Church standards are observed.

Friends in the News



Brady Webb, 11, Cedar Hills, Utah, enjoys drawing and playing baseball, basketball, and football. He was a responsible Patrol Leader of his Scout group—if he couldn't reach the boys on the phone, he would walk to their homes to make sure they could come to Scouting activities.

Hope Mills Second Ward

Primary children from the Hope Mills Second Ward, Fayetteville North Carolina Stake, learned that even small acts of service are important. They planted purple flowers outside their meetinghouse. Each Sunday, they see the flowers and are reminded that small good deeds can gladden hearts!



Lindsay Sheen, 10, Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada, accepted a challenge from her seminary-attending sister, Tabitha. Lindsay made a goal to read the scriptures every day for 1000 days! She is a good example to everyone.

Thailand Bangkok Mission

These Primary children are members of the first branch of the Church established in Vientiane, Laos, in the Thailand Bangkok Mission. They are learning about the gospel and gaining testimonies. They like to sing, and they have performed for the mission president and their parents many times.



Butte Second Ward

Children in the Butte Second Ward, Butte Montana Stake, learned to give service and be good citizens by handing out flyers in the community and collecting items to donate to needy young mothers.



Alison Whitehead, 4, Pocatello, Idaho, has a strong testimony. She enjoys singing, dancing ballet and tap, playing tennis, and fishing with Dad. She also likes horses.



Sidney Ward

The Primary girls of the Sidney Ward, Dayton Ohio East Stake, made 72-hour emergency packs for themselves out of old pairs of jeans. The project involved purchasing old jeans from yard sales, cutting and sewing the packs, decorating them, and filling them with emergency items. They are happy to follow the prophet's counsel to be prepared.

Keith Craddock, Mikayla Norwood, Coleman Craddock, and Michael Norwood, ages 8, 8, 7 months, and 9, Garland, Texas, enjoy being siblings. Keith likes baseball and enchiladas. Mikayla likes gymnastics, Primary, and taco salad. Michael enjoys skating, drawing, and eating barbeque chicken.



Jonathan, Joshua, and Mathieu Rangassamy, ages 3, 5, and 7, Pouébo, New Caledonia, like living on a tropical island. They speak both English and French, like to play at the beach, and help Mom in the garden where they grow mangoes, oranges, grapefruits, and avocados. Mathieu does well in school and likes to write storybooks. Joshua enjoys listening to music, singing, and dancing. Jonathan likes to do whatever his brothers are doing and eat coconuts straight from the tree!

Hinerani Terootea, 11, and Alexandra Guilain, 10, Raiatea, French Polynesia, are cousins who enjoy playing together. Alexandra also likes playing with her cat, Bijoux. Hinerani has a dog named Apache. Both like the scriptures and try to stay close to the Savior by studying them. Alexandra says she likes the story of David and Goliath "because David had courage."



Bonita Ward

Members of the Bonita Ward, San Diego California Sweetwater Stake, along with members from six other San Diego stakes, shared the gospel with their neighbors by participating in a parade. Primary children, Young Women and Young Men, Scouts, and missionaries all participated. Children helped by dressing as pioneers and riding on the various floats, including the Primary float. They sang "I Am a Child of God" for the crowd.

W O N



(A picture to color)

BY RENEE RIEDE

Blue whales,
Blue skies,
Brown cows,
Brown eyes.

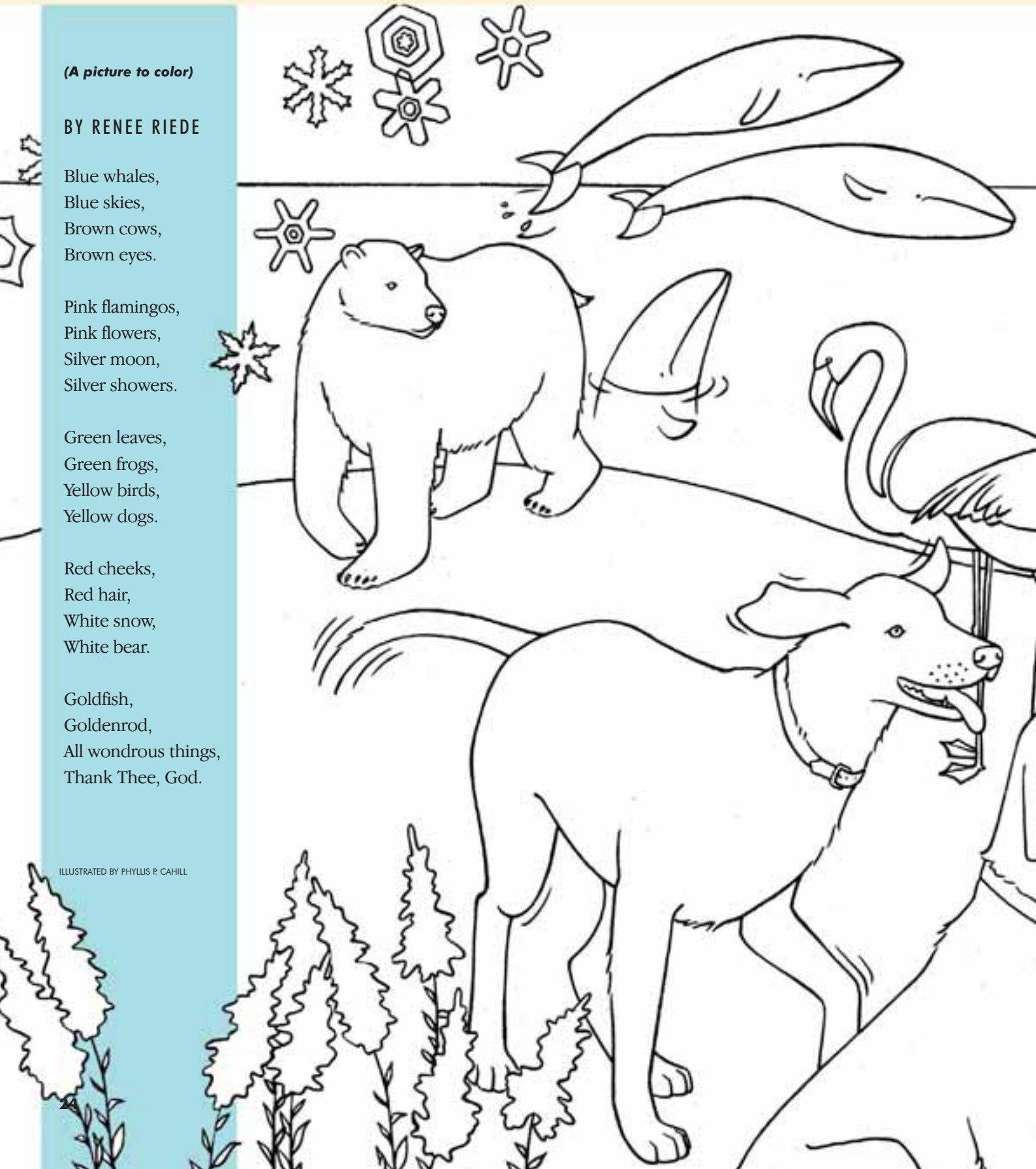
Pink flamingos,
Pink flowers,
Silver moon,
Silver showers.

Green leaves,
Green frogs,
Yellow birds,
Yellow dogs.

Red cheeks,
Red hair,
White snow,
White bear.

Goldfish,
Goldenrod,
All wondrous things,
Thank Thee, God.

ILLUSTRATED BY PHYLLIS P. CAHILL



D E R S



I Can Be a Missionary Now

BY MONICA WEEKS

There are many ways to share the gospel with those around you. Read the ideas below and find the words that appear in bold in the puzzle.

Bear your **testimony** often. Be a **good example**. Be **kind** and **honest** at all times. **Invite** friends to your **baptism**, to **Primary**, or to **activity** days. **Share** the **gospel** with those you meet. **Pray** for inspiration in knowing what to say.



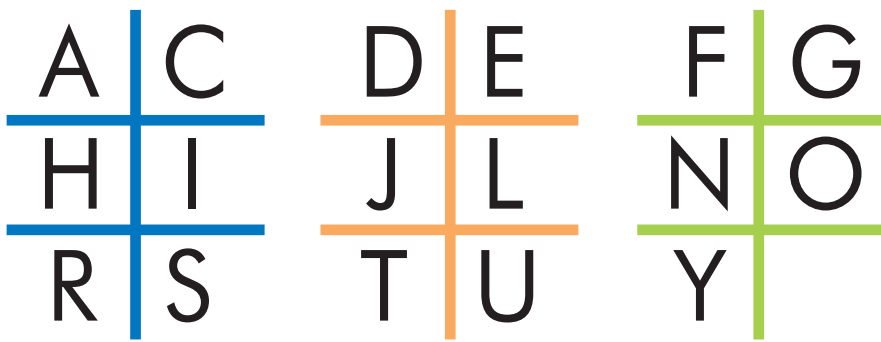
Y	B	P	P	K	H	T	M	Y	P	U	Q	Q	I
G	N	P	R	O	G	S	G	T	U	D	F	U	N
E	B	O	N	A	I	P	R	I	M	A	R	Y	V
Y	X	E	M	T	Y	J	Y	V	K	I	N	D	I
P	S	A	P	I	A	O	S	I	C	S	A	D	T
T	I	A	M	V	T	A	D	T	Z	M	O	Y	E
S	B	Z	S	P	C	S	S	C	B	O	I	W	U
G	X	M	Q	M	L	H	E	A	G	N	J	Z	C
T	I	U	K	G	O	E	E	T	A	A	J	I	Y
M	E	D	U	G	S	M	R	F	O	E	N	B	V
W	L	S	H	F	D	N	L	A	B	D	R	I	Y
F	U	L	C	J	F	B	G	H	H	L	A	U	A
J	L	E	P	S	O	G	V	L	T	S	E	M	S
Y	N	W	J	F	U	I	R	N	G	T	B	W	U













First Article of Faith Coded Message






BY C. G. LINDSTROM






Using the code grid below, find the words listed by matching the shape with the letter in it. Write the letters above each clue shape to complete the first article of faith. (See page 43 for the answer.)




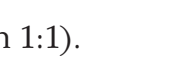


“We believe in ,    

 ,   

,    ,

   ” (Articles of Faith 1:1).



Clarissa and the Pass-along Card

BY MARIANNE DAHL JOHNSON

(Based on a true story)

I want to be a missionary now. . . . I want to share the gospel while I'm young (Children's Songbook, 168).

Clarissa hurried from the Primary room when she was dismissed. She could hardly wait to show her mom what her Primary teacher had given her. She held the special card carefully as her eyes scanned the hallway for her mother.

"Maybe she is already in the chapel," Clarissa thought. She walked in that direction and peeked into the chapel, which was filling with people for sacrament meeting. No, she wasn't there yet. "Where could she be?" Clarissa wondered.

Then she remembered her sister Deseret in nursery. Maybe Mom was getting her. Clarissa went to the nursery room and smiled when she saw her mom. "How was Primary?" Mom asked.



"Great," Clarissa said. "Mom, look what my teacher gave me!"

"That looks like a pass-along card," Mom said. "What are you going to do with it?"

"My teacher said I should give it to someone who isn't a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," Clarissa replied.

"That's great, honey!" Mom said as they walked down the hall with Deseret to the chapel. "Who are you going to give it to? Do you know someone who isn't a member of the Church?"

"Of course I do, Mom!" Clarissa said. "I want to give it to Margaret!"

Margaret was two years older than Clarissa. Clarissa saw her almost every

week when her mom gave piano lessons to Margaret's older brother and sister. Margaret would come with her mom to pick them up after the lesson. Clarissa liked Margaret a lot. She wanted her to know about the true Church of Jesus Christ.

"OK," Mom said. "Why don't we go to Margaret's house after church and give her the card."

During sacrament meeting, Clarissa carefully held the pass-along card in her hands. She looked at the pretty picture on the front. She knew the back gave instructions about how to order a free video that would tell more about Jesus Christ. She hoped Margaret's family would order the video.

After church, Mom took Clarissa and Deseret to the car. They drove to Margaret's house. Clarissa was so excited!

When they stopped at the house, they all walked to

the front door. Mom rang the doorbell. Margaret's mom answered. "Is Margaret here?" Clarissa asked.

"No, Clarissa," Margaret's mom said. "She is at a friend's house. I'm sorry you missed her."

Clarissa looked sadly at her mother. Margaret wasn't there. She didn't know what to say next. Luckily, Mom said, "Clarissa has a card that she wants to give to Margaret. It has a number that you can call to order a free video that tells about Jesus Christ. Is it OK if she gives it to Margaret?" Mom asked.

Margaret's mother smiled warmly at Clarissa. "How nice of you, Clarissa. Do you want me to take the card and give it to Margaret for you?"

Clarissa nodded and handed the card to Margaret's mom. As they walked back to the car, she had a warm and happy feeling inside. It felt good to be a missionary. ●

Marianne Dahl Johnson is a member of the Wells Ward, Elko Nevada East Stake.



Caramel Apple Drizzle

BY PAMELA WHITAKER KOSOROK



1 apple, thinly sliced

3 tablespoons caramel ice-cream topping

2 tablespoons dried cranberries



1. Arrange the apple slices in a single layer on a plate.
 2. Drizzle the caramel on the slices.
 3. Sprinkle the cranberries on top.
- Serves 1-2.



Family Memory Book

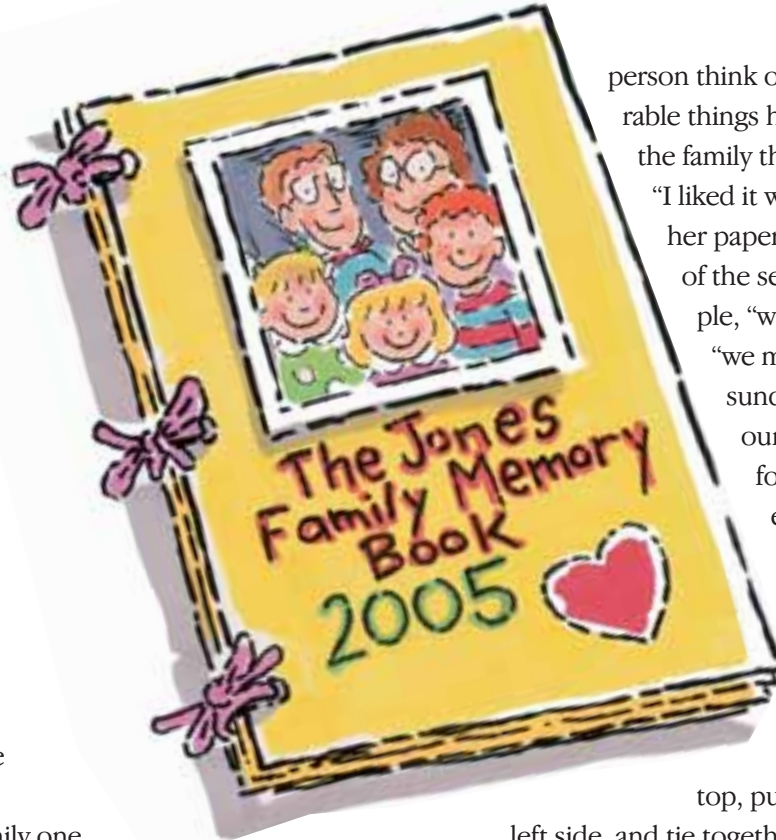
For a family home evening activity, make a Family Memory Book for 2005. You will need: a pen, markers or crayons, a piece of heavy paper for the cover, a photo of your family (optional), glue, paper, a paper punch, and ribbon.

1. For the cover have an older person write on the heavy paper, The _____ Family Memory Book 2005 (see illustration). Then glue a photo or draw a picture of the family on the cover.

2. Give everyone in the family one or more pieces of paper. Have each

person think of some fun, memorable things he or she did with the family this year. Then write "I liked it when . . ." on his or her paper, filling in the rest of the sentence. For example, "we went camping," "we made ice-cream sundaes," or "we rode our bikes together for family home evening." Draw pictures to illustrate the events.

3. Stack the pages together with the cover on top, punch holes on the left side, and tie together with ribbon (see illustration).



ILLUSTRATED BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



Family Home Evening

BY ROBERT PETERSON

These children are learning about Moses and the Ten Commandments by acting out the scripture story in family home evening. See if you can find a comb, an eagle's head, a feather, a fish, a fork, an ice-cream cone, a ladle, a pencil, a sailboat, a snail, a toothbrush, and a whale. Then color the picture.



Out of the Best Books

BENJAMIN RUBEN OF SUVA, FIJI

BY ADAM C. OLSON
Church Magazines

Getting a book out of Benjamin Ruben's hands for long is like taking the wet out of water. It can't be done.

"I like to read," Benjamin says, sitting in a pile of books from his bookshelf. "A lot."

It's hard to disagree with this eight-year-old missionary-in-the-making from Suva, Fiji. He reads everything he can get his eyes on—usually more than once.

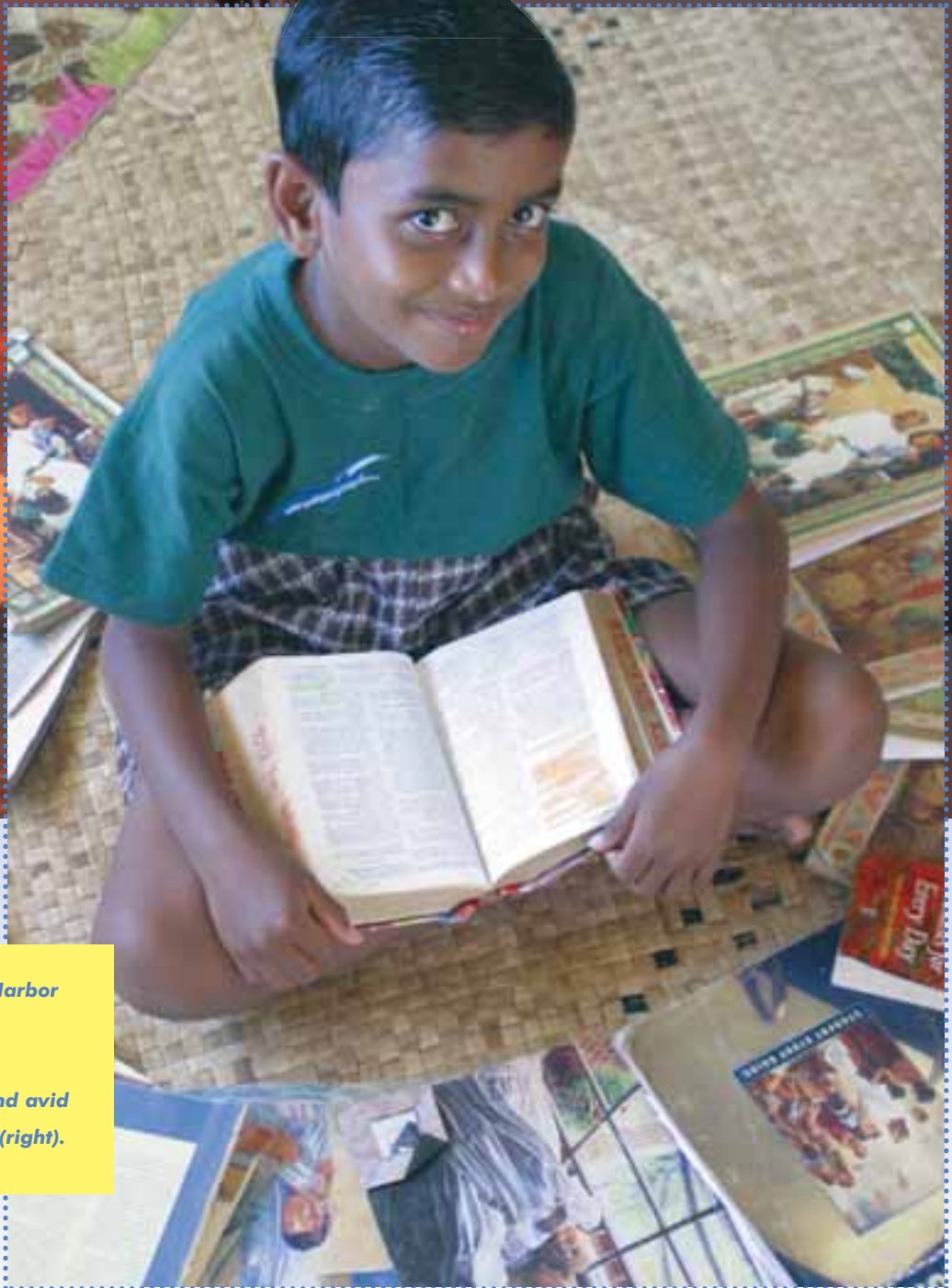
"When he can't get something new to read," his mom says, "he starts reading everything over again."

Benjamin enjoys soccer and playing hide-and-seek with his friends, but nothing is better than reading.

"Sometimes he'll watch cartoons," his mom says. "But otherwise he's reading."

Benjamin reads everything from picture books to children's novels to the *Friend* and the scriptures. In fact, the scriptures are some of his favorite books.

He likes the Doctrine and Covenants a lot. He reads the Bible with his family. And his mom says that sometimes she'll just sit and listen to him tell about stories



The sun sets over Suva Harbor in Fiji (left).

Well-worn books surround avid reader Benjamin Ruben (right).

he's read in the Book of Mormon.

"Sometimes they're stories I didn't even know," she says. "And when we read the Bible as a family, he's always way ahead."

Much of Benjamin's love of reading comes from his thirst for learning. If he had a spelling test every day in school, he'd probably be happy. Benjamin likes learning new words so much that every Sunday he tracks down his bishop like a bloodhound so he can spell what he learned during the week.

His mom worries about pestering the bishop too much, but the bishop, a schoolteacher, doesn't mind.

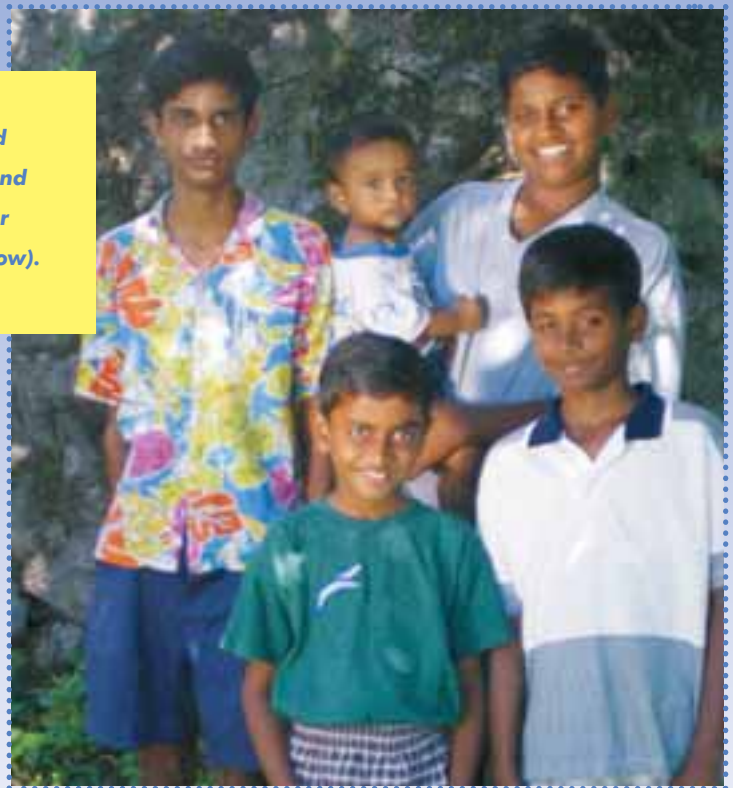
Math and science are also fun for Benjamin. But his favorite subject of all is the Savior.

"I like Primary," he says, "because I like learning about Jesus Christ. That's my favorite thing."

Benjamin is already looking forward to serving a mission. "I want to learn more about Jesus Christ so I can teach about Him," Benjamin says. "I want to be a missionary and preach about the gospel."

He's also looking forward to the day he can hold the Aaronic Priesthood. He's preparing by obeying his parents and trying to do what's right. Just the other day he chose the right when his mother asked who had turned the volume on the TV up so high.

Benjamin and his brothers and sisters, Vimal, Rimal, Joseph and Adrian (right) don't live too far from the Suva Fiji Temple (below).



"I told her that it was me," he says.

Getting along with his brothers and sisters—Vimal, 16; Rimal, 12; Joseph, 11; and Adrian, 2—is one way Benjamin helps his parents.

Another way is by doing his share of the chores around the house. "He always helps me when I ask him to do work," his mom says. There's always something to do. Cleaning up the yard, sweeping inside the house, doing dishes, and dusting are all common chores.

Another great thing about Benjamin is that whenever his mom needs help, she knows where to find him—curled up with a good book. ●





FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

Visiting with the Queen



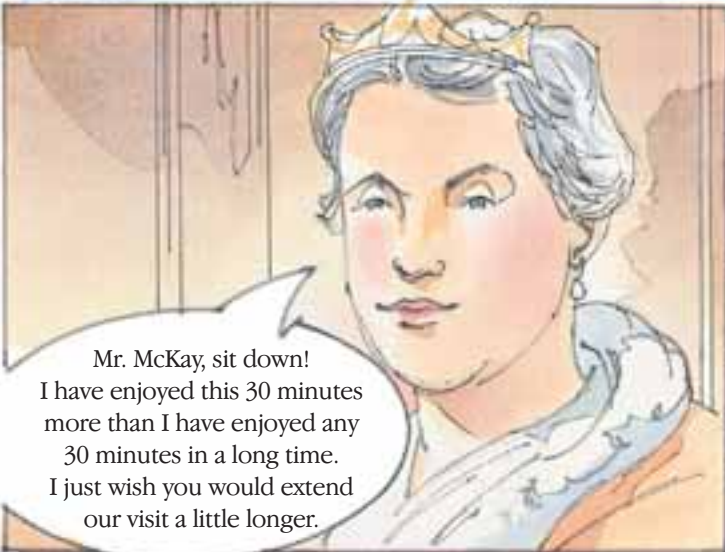
As prophet, President David O. McKay traveled the world. He encouraged the Saints to be faithful and made friends with many government leaders.

During a visit to the Netherlands, the queen agreed to meet with President McKay for half an hour. He watched the clock carefully and stood to leave when the 30 minutes were up.



Your Highness, thank you for visiting with my wife and me. It has been a pleasure.

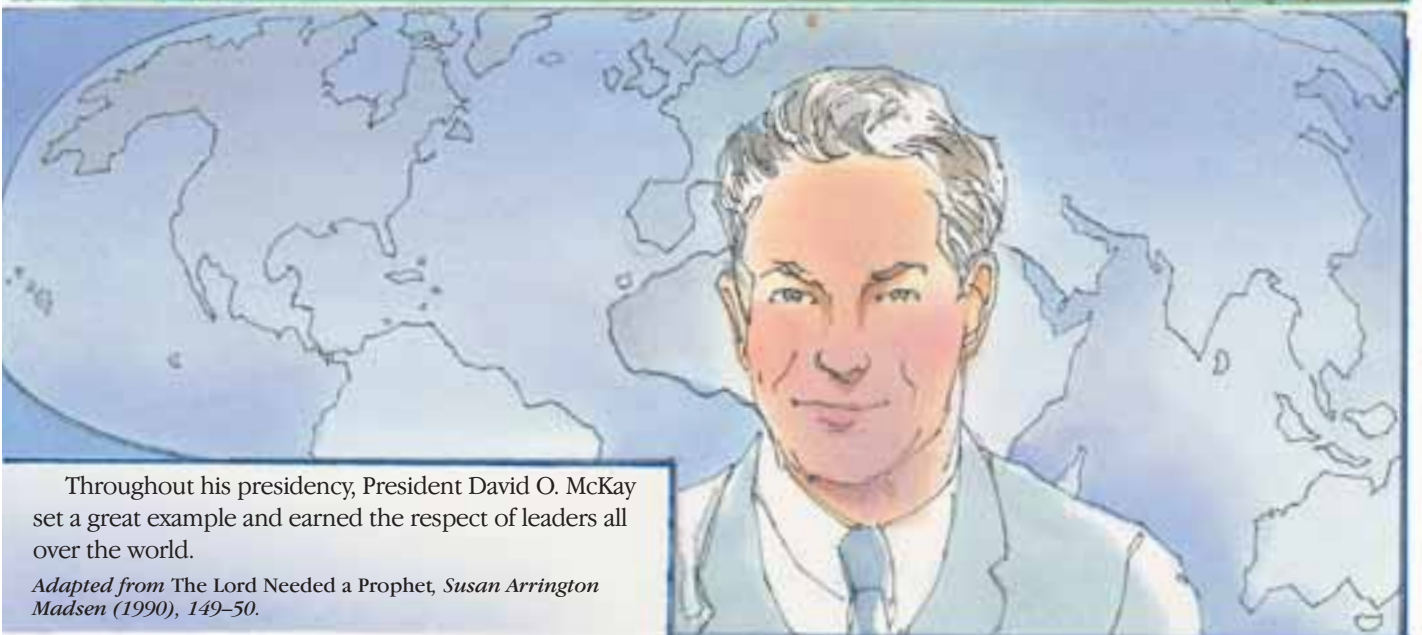
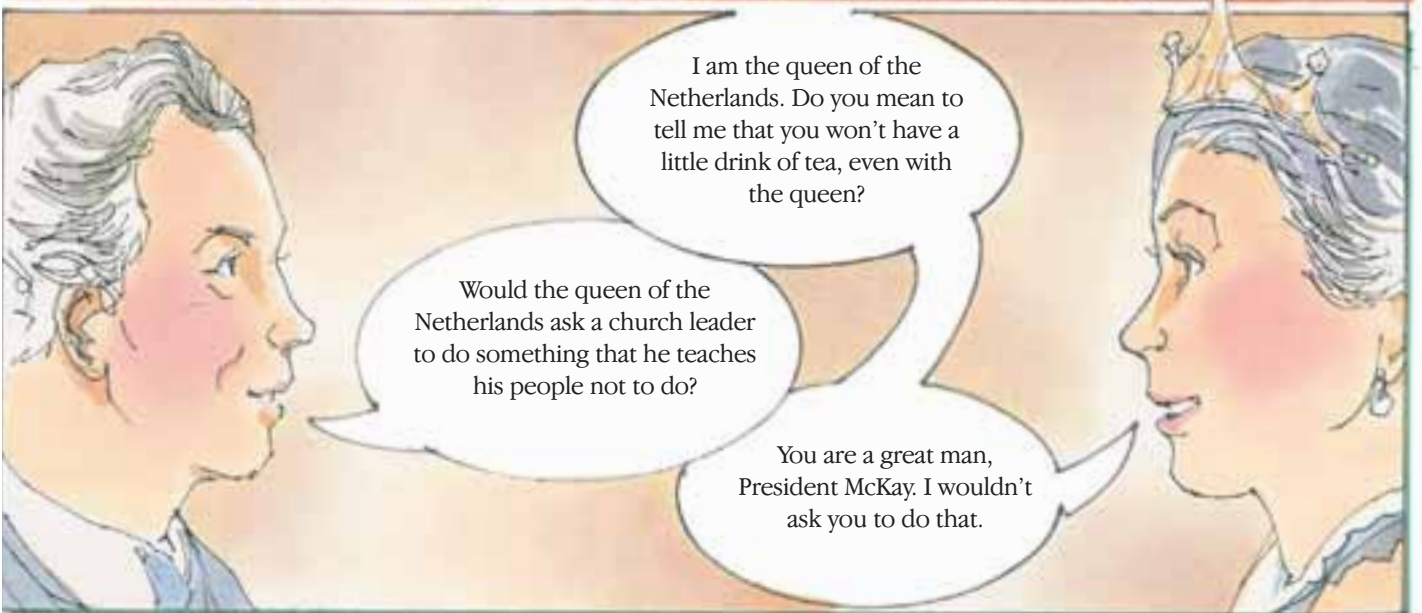
President McKay agreed. Soon a servant wheeled in a table, and the queen poured three cups of tea.



Mr. McKay, sit down! I have enjoyed this 30 minutes more than I have enjoyed any 30 minutes in a long time. I just wish you would extend our visit a little longer.



Won't you have a little tea with the queen?



Throughout his presidency, President David O. McKay set a great example and earned the respect of leaders all over the world.

Adapted from The Lord Needed a Prophet, Susan Arrington Madsen (1990), 149–50.

ILLUSTRATED BY MIKE EAGLE



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 Am Trying to Remember and Follow Jesus Christ*

By Jennifer Manley

While at church one Sunday, my daughter Baylor studied the cover of the sacrament meeting program. She really liked the picture of Jesus Christ wearing a red robe. She said that He looked so kind. After church she cut out the picture and put it in a frame in her room so that she could always look at it

and remember to try to be like Jesus. When her friends come over to play, she shows them the picture. In this photo she is holding a drawing of her room, including the picture of Jesus on top of her chest of drawers.

Baylor Manley, age 7, is a member of the Lexington Second Ward, Lexington South Carolina Stake.



The Championship Playoffs

By Cameron Miller



I enjoy playing football and have always dreamed of playing on a team. This past season

I worked hard and earned a first-string spot on both offense and defense on my fourth-grade team. We had a great team and an undefeated season. We were going to the championship playoffs! After a week of getting ready for the playoffs, my coach announced after the last practice that the first game would be on Sunday. I knew immediately that I would not play. I told my coach, and he asked my mom if I couldn't play since it was an important game. My mom explained our beliefs about the Sabbath day but said she would leave the choice up to me. I told my coach again that I would not play. My team won the game without me, so I was able to play in the championship game on Saturday, which we won! It felt great to win the championship, but it felt even better to keep the Sabbath day holy.

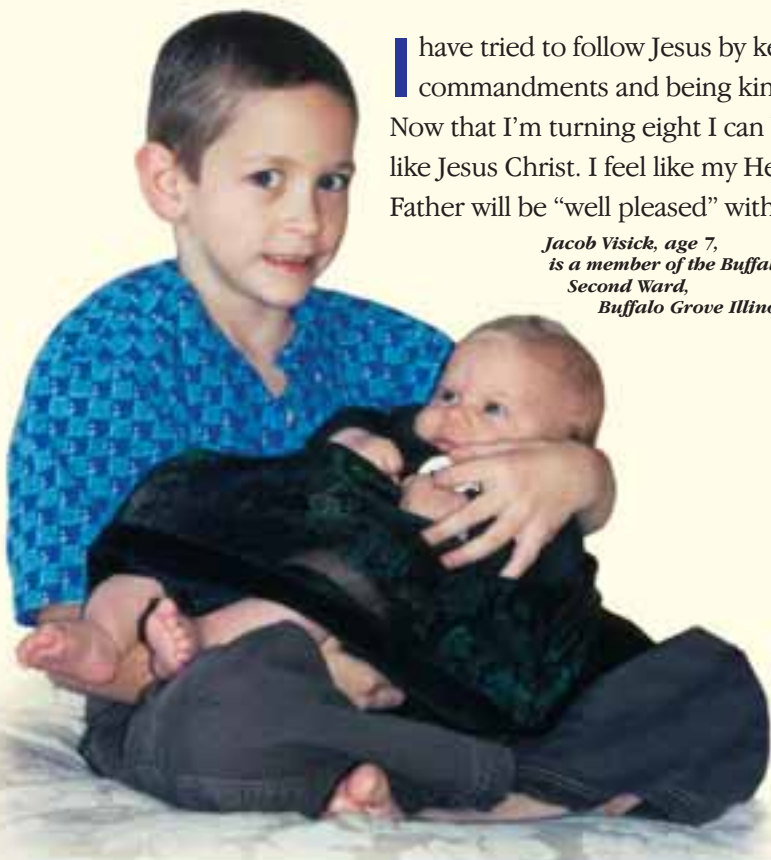
Cameron Miller, age 10, is a member of the Ranch Creek Ward, Tulsa Oklahoma East Stake.

Trying to Follow Jesus

By Jacob Visick

I have tried to follow Jesus by keeping the commandments and being kind to others. Now that I'm turning eight I can be baptized like Jesus Christ. I feel like my Heavenly Father will be "well pleased" with me too.

Jacob Visick, age 7, is a member of the Buffalo Grove Second Ward, Buffalo Grove Illinois Stake.

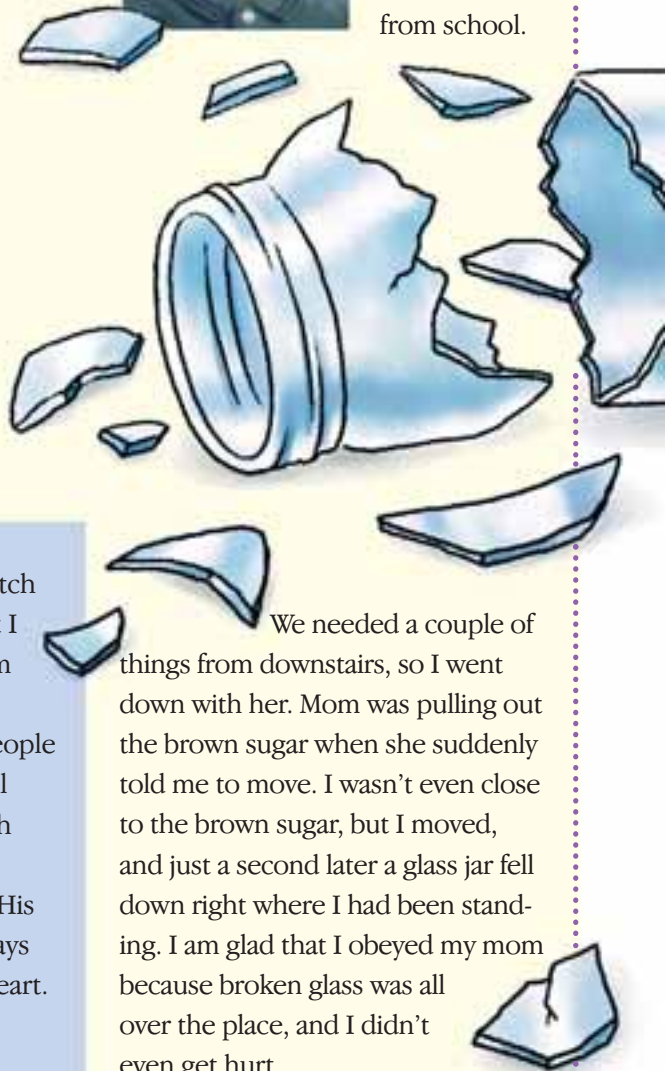


I'm Glad I Obeyed

By David Murdock with help from his mom



One day my mom decided to make a treat for my sisters before they came home from school.



I Get over It

By Rylee Bradley

When my sixth-grade class talks about movies, they usually talk about PG-13 or R-rated movies. They ask me, "Have you seen them?" I answer, "No, I can't watch PG-13 movies. I'm not allowed to watch R-rated movies either." They laugh at

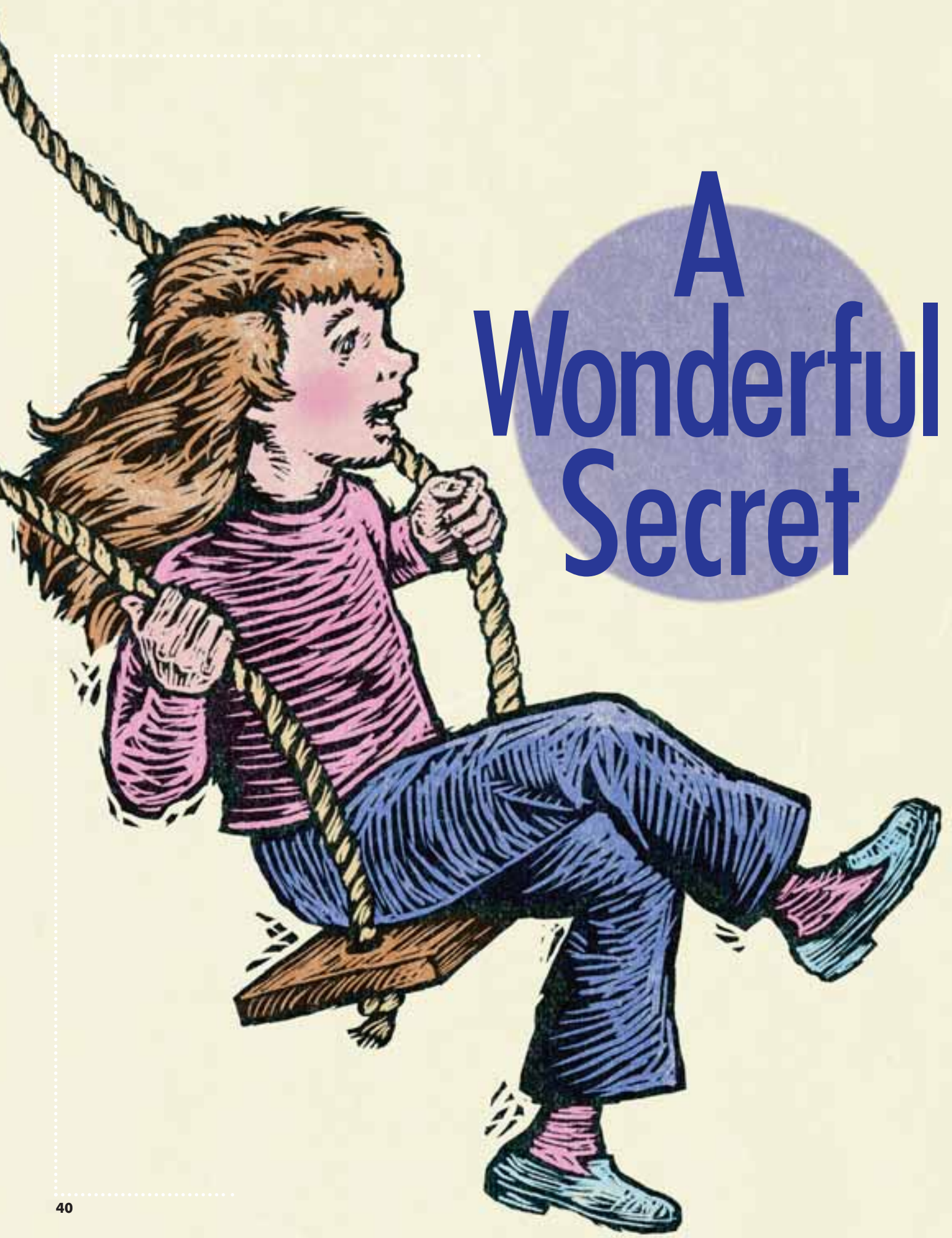


me and say, "You can only watch baby shows." It hurts me, but I get over it because I know I'm doing what Heavenly Father wants me to do. So even if people tease me, I will still keep my spirit high because I love the Lord. I will follow His teachings and always keep Him in my heart.

Rylee Bradley, age 11, is a member of the Sanger Ward, Sanger California East Stake.

We needed a couple of things from downstairs, so I went down with her. Mom was pulling out the brown sugar when she suddenly told me to move. I wasn't even close to the brown sugar, but I moved, and just a second later a glass jar fell down right where I had been standing. I am glad that I obeyed my mom because broken glass was all over the place, and I didn't even get hurt.

David Murdock, age 6, is a member of the Parkway Fourth Ward, South Jordan Utah Parkway Stake.



A Wonderful Secret

BY LINDA G. PAULSEN

(Based on a true story)

The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me
(D&C 25:12).

On Linda's fifth birthday, her daddy brought home a swing set and put it up in the backyard. She could hardly wait for him to bolt all the parts together and hang the seats from the top pole. Swinging was Linda's favorite playground activity, and now she could swing as often as she wanted. That was important because Linda's mom was really sick and could not take her to the park or schoolyard much anymore. Linda had no brothers or sisters yet, and there were no neighbor children her age, so she often had to play by herself.

Mom had always been Linda's best friend. They took walks, read stories, and visited the library together. They drew pictures and sewed clothes for Linda's dolls. Linda helped Mom do the household chores and weed the garden. She went with her to quilting parties and the grocery store. But not lately. Now Mom spent almost all day in bed.

Sometimes Linda sat quietly on her stool beside Mom's bed while Mom told her stories. Mostly though, Linda found things to do on her own. She felt lonely and a little scared.

Dad usually fixed dinner after he got home from work. One day as Linda helped set the table, he said, "You know that your mom is really sick, Linda."

"Yes," she said, wondering what was coming next. Dad looked so tired and worried.

"Well," he said, taking a deep breath, "your mom has to have an operation."

Dad went on to explain that while Mom was in the hospital, Linda would stay with Sister Beckstram during the day, and Dad would bring her home at night. Mom would be in the hospital for several days.

"Will she be all better then?" Linda asked.

Dad took another big breath. "I don't know," he said. "We all hope so. I will give Mom a priesthood blessing before she goes to the hospital. We can both pray for her too. I don't know yet what Heavenly Father plans for your mom. We have to trust Him to know what's best."

Linda felt scared. She realized that



Mom might die. It was a hard thing to think about.

That evening Linda went out to her swing set. Maybe swinging would help her feel better. Back and forth she went, pumping her legs until she was swinging as high as she could go. It didn't help. She was still scared.

A few days later, Mom went to the hospital. She hugged Linda before she got into the car. "It will be all right," Mom said, kissing Linda's cheek. "We need to have faith."

It was a very long day. By the time Dad picked Linda up that night, it seemed as if a week had passed. While Dad fixed dinner, Linda went out to her swing set. She sat, rocking a little, but didn't really feel like swinging. As she sat there, a clear, strong thought came into her mind—"Sing Primary songs while you swing."

Linda pushed off and started to swing. As she pumped, she sang "I Am a Child of God." The big, heavy feeling she had carried around all day seemed to melt away. She sang "I Have a Garden" and "Teach Me to Walk in the Light." Then she sang "I Am a Child of God" again—all the verses. It was amazing! Linda felt GOOD! The scared feeling was gone. It was as if she could feel Heavenly Father singing with her. There was comfort and peace. Linda knew that her mom would be all right. She knew it. She sang and sang and sang.

Mom had to have many more operations, and Linda often felt scared. With each operation she was afraid that this time Mom would die. But whenever she was worried, Linda remembered the secret she had learned on her swing set. She tried it again and again, and it worked every time. She soon discovered that she really didn't have to swing; just singing the songs of the gospel gave her peace. As she got older, she learned more songs. She could sing for a long time without repeating herself. She just kept singing until the scared feeling went away.

Years later, Linda discovered a wonderful scripture in the Doctrine and Covenants: "For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads" (D&C 25:12).

"That's exactly what happened to me," Linda thought. "My songs were prayers, and Heavenly Father always answered them while I was still singing." Still later, she realized that it had been the Holy Ghost who first whispered the idea of singing to her as she sat on her swing so sad and scared. What a wonderful secret He shared with her—a secret Linda has never forgotten. ●

Linda G. Paulsen is a member of the Kolob Sixth Ward, Springville Utah Kolob Stake.

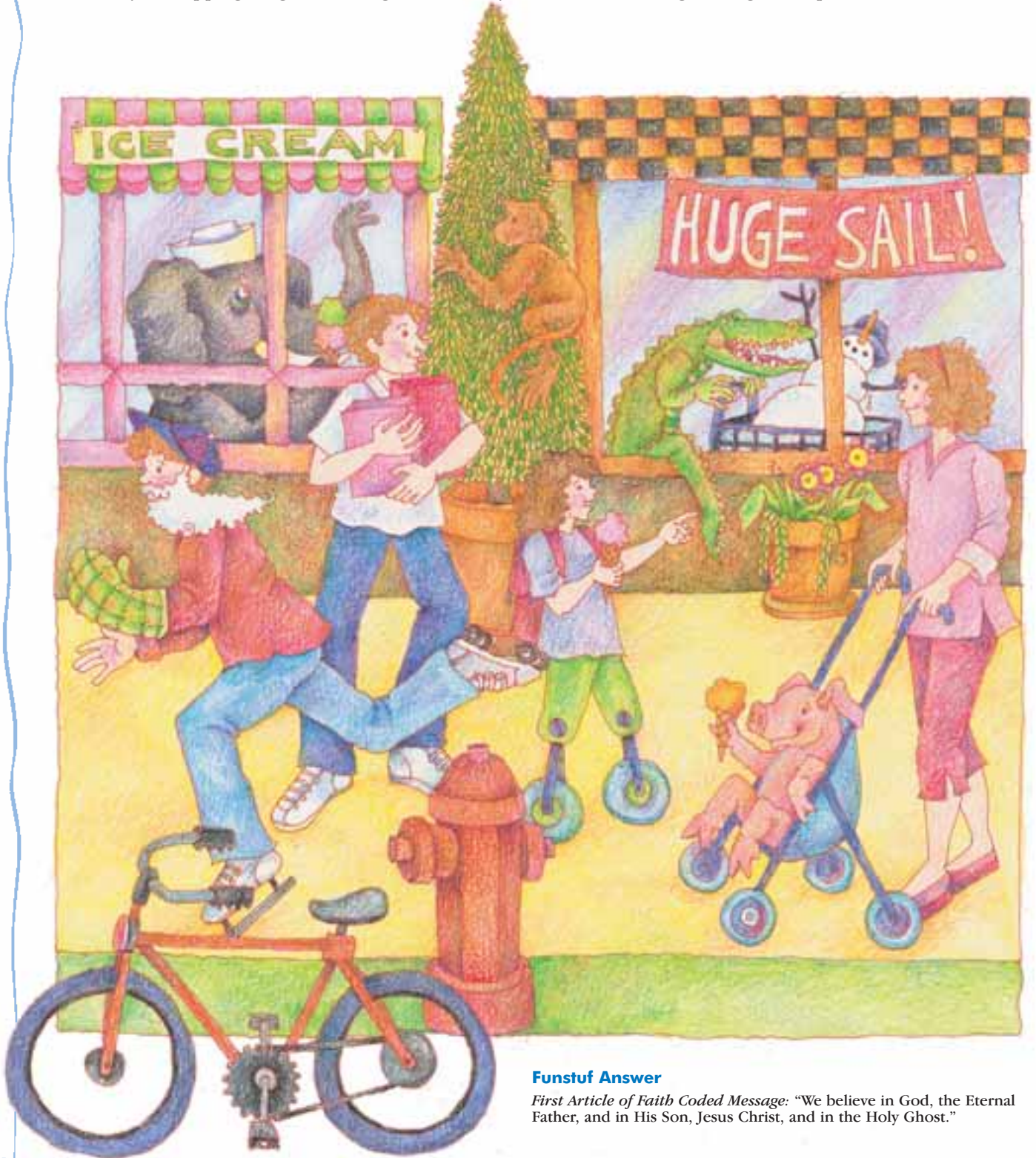


"Hymns can lift our spirits, give us courage, and . . . bring us a spirit of peace."

Hymns, First Presidency Preface, x.

Family Errands

This family is shopping for groceries together. See if you can find the things wrong in the picture and circle them.



Funstuf Answer

First Article of Faith Coded Message: "We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost."

Our Creative Friends

Bedtime Prayer

Thank Thee for the earth below.
 Thank Thee for the big willow.
 Thank Thee for the little creatures.
 Thank Thee for my Sunday teachers.
 Thank Thee for Thy Son, Jesus Christ.
 Thank Thee for His sacrifice.
 Thank Thee for the sun delight.
 Now I must say good night.

Maricia Hancock, age 9
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Family

Family is a pink heart
 And as warm as when mom tucks you in at night.
 It sounds like loving laughter drifting through the house,
 Tastes like a cookie fresh from the oven,
 Smells like lilacs on a warm spring afternoon,
 Looks like a cozy family room filled with the family,
 And makes me feel wonderful to know
 I'm loved by my family and my Father in Heaven.

Elise Lichtenberg, age 11
Lincoln, Maine

Prayer

Prayer is simple.
 Prayer is strong.
 Prayer is something we should do all life long.
 Prayer can make you happy.
 Prayer can take away your doubts.
 Prayer can even lead you to the right route.
 Prayer will be your guide.
 Prayer will lead your way.
 Prayer will be your friend if you use it every day.

Bryce Corning, age 9
Tucson, Arizona

How Thankful I Need to Be

How thankful I need to be
 For everything God has given me.
 This is my eye.
 This is my knee.
 This is my house.
 This is my tree.
 How thankful I need to be
 For everything God has given me.

Brooke Richey, age 7
Boise, Idaho



Konner Laubaugh, age 8
Liberty, Missouri



Katya Fyodovova, age 11
Daugavpils, Latvia



Keegan Stussy, age 4
Tumwater, Washington



Austin Black, age 8
Spring, Texas



Brooke Rogers, age 5
Newburgh, Indiana



Joshua Kneeland, age 7
Whitehall, Montana



Jordan McGuigan, age 9
North Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada



Kelland Hansen, age 11
Loveland, Colorado



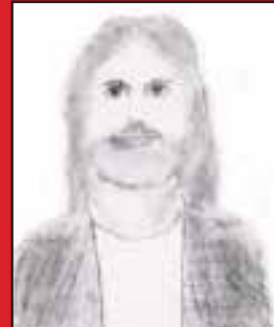
Abigail Crowley, age 9
Sbeffield, England



Sara Camille May, age 6
Kenosba, Wisconsin



Cathy Gardner, age 11
Reno, Nevada



Natban Clark, age 10
Flagstaff, Arizona



Heidi Noelle Jacobson, age 6
Kitty Hawk, North Carolina



Lindsay Denning, age 10
Chubuck, Idaho



Michaela Williams, age 6
Tarzana, California



Shelby Ross, age 7
Springville, Utah



Megan Curtis, age 7
Powell, Wyoming



Andrew Jensen, age 11
Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Taylor Allen, age 8
Westland, Michigan



Sage Petersen, age 7
Corvallis, Oregon



Jacob Smith, age 5
Beekman, New York



Payton Edington, age 4
Mountain Home, Arkansas



Annie Voyles, age 10
Ooltewab, Tennessee



Andrea Dameworth, age 8
Pago Pago, American Samoa



Steven Affleck, age 8
Sandy, Utah



BY ROBIN HAYNES BLOOMFIELD

(Based on a true story)

Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off (D&C 133:8).

Ben smiled down at the newborn baby in the hospital bassinet. Although he had sisters, he had been waiting nearly 12 years for a brother, and it was worth the wait. He picked Andrew up and cuddled him. “He’s so cute,” Ben whispered.

As Andrew grew, Ben always made time for his younger brother. After school they’d wrestle or play ball. Ben played on the school basketball team, and Andrew was his biggest fan. Ben coached Andrew’s basketball team. They called each other “Bro.” “Bro, come watch me ride my bike,” Andrew would call from the garage door.

“Be there in a second, Bro,” Ben would answer.

One of their favorite games started when Andrew was two years old. Ben would say, “I love you,” and Andrew would reply, “I love you more!” Back and forth they went, each trying to outdo the other. “I love you to the sky.” “I love you a zillion.” “I love you infinity.” Finally it was settled that “I love you the most over forever” was the absolute most you could love anyone. Whoever said that first was the winner.

Years passed, and one day a big white envelope

Andrew’s Missionary



arrived. It was Ben's mission call! In three months he

would be leaving. The family studied maps, went shopping for clothes, and bought luggage. Ben got shots and filled out papers. He had his picture taken for his passport and for the plaque on the bishop's wall. Andrew became sadder and sadder. A couple of times he cried.

One Wednesday night Andrew went with Mom to drop his sisters off at the church for Mutual. His sister Katie said, "I can't believe Ben will be on his mission in just three weeks!"

Andrew and Mom returned home with tears rolling down their faces. Mom sat down on the couch and put Andrew on her lap. They both cried and cried.

"I'm going to miss him so much," Andrew sobbed. "He's my best friend and my only brother. Besides, no one else knows how to pitch to me just right."

Mom and Andrew talked about what a wonderful son and brother Ben was and how much they would miss him. They decided to kneel and pray for comfort. During the prayer Heavenly Father's Spirit gave them peace. They realized that Ben would be an even better son and brother from serving the Lord. Andrew thought about how much he loved Heavenly Father. Although it was a hard thing, he wanted his brother to be a missionary and help families in Argentina.

For the next three weeks Andrew tried to be happy. Ben went to the temple and spoke in church. Suitcases

were packed. The night before Ben was to leave, the stake president came over and set him apart as a full-time missionary. The stake president asked Andrew to bear his testimony. Andrew told everyone that he knew the Church was true and he wanted his brother to serve a mission. Then they ate hot cinnamon twists. Andrew called that last day "the day he wanted to never end."

Early the next morning they all drove to the airport and flew to Salt Lake City, Utah. Then they rented a car and drove to the Missionary Training Center in Provo, Utah. Just a few miles from the center, Andrew's tears started to drip, but he wiped them away and kept smiling. They unloaded Ben's luggage in front of the training center and went into a big meeting room where there were hymns and prayers and brief talks. Andrew tried to be brave, but he could

not keep the tears away. He sat on Ben's lap until the mission president said it was time for the new missionaries to walk out one door and the families to walk out another. The "bros" hugged and cried and hugged some more. With tears and big smiles, they each walked out the right door.

Andrew wanted to be





“On that special day when a mission call is received, parents, brothers and sisters, and grandparents gather around the prospective missionary. . . . Feelings are very near to the surface. Tears come easily, and the family rejoices in the bond of love and the goodness of God.”

President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency, “Today Determines Tomorrow,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 50.

brave, but he cried all the way to the car. He called it a happy/sad day. He was happy because it was a good thing

for Ben to do and sad because he would miss him so much. Mom and Dad reminded Andrew that because he had faith in Jesus Christ, his heart would soon feel better. Daddy quoted the words Jesus used to comfort His Twelve Apostles before leaving them. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth,

give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

As they drove away, Andrew called out from

the backseat, “Bye, Bro, love you!” There was silence for a minute. Then, in a deeper, faraway voice, Andrew answered himself with a playful grin. “Bye, Andrew, love you the most over forever!” ●

Robin Haynes Bloomfield is a member of the Constellation Ward, Gilbert Arizona Higbland Stake.



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. The Primary theme for November is "I can share the gospel so that others can follow Heavenly Father's plan."



Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. What does President Thomas S. Monson say it means to have courage? Read his message "Courage Counts" (pp. 2–3). Have each family member share other examples of courage from the scriptures and his or her own life.

2. Read "Getting to Know Nicole" (pp. 4–6) and "A Missionary Now" (p. 19). What does Ashlie learn about missionary work? How can you be prepared to share the gospel and help others feel comfortable asking about your beliefs? Decide to pray regularly as a family for missionary opportunities and the ability to recognize them.

3. How did Elder Robert K. Dellenbach of the Seventy gain a testimony? Read his message "The Hour of Conversion" (pp. 8–9). Complete the activity on page 35 to find out how you can gain a testimony.

4. Read "Thankful for the Prophet" (pp. 16–18). Can you think of ways that obeying a prophet has blessed your life? Choose one or two favorite talks from general conference to review (found at www.lds.org in Gospel Library or the November 2005 *Ensign*). Write down one thing you can do to follow the prophet's most recent counsel.

5. Cooperate to make a Family Memory Book (p. 30). If any family members are away serving missions or live far away, you may want to make another copy to mail them for Christmas next month. Serve Caramel Apple Drizzle (p. 29) for dessert.



The *Friend* can be found on the Internet at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.

To subscribe online, go to www.ldscatalog.com.



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(f) = Funstuff
(IFC) = inside front cover
(v) = verse

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Key 040204

What's in the *Friend* this month?



page 2

President Monson tells us to have the courage to stand for what is right.

page 4

What does Ashlie learn about missionary work?



page 35

Find out how you can gain a testimony.

