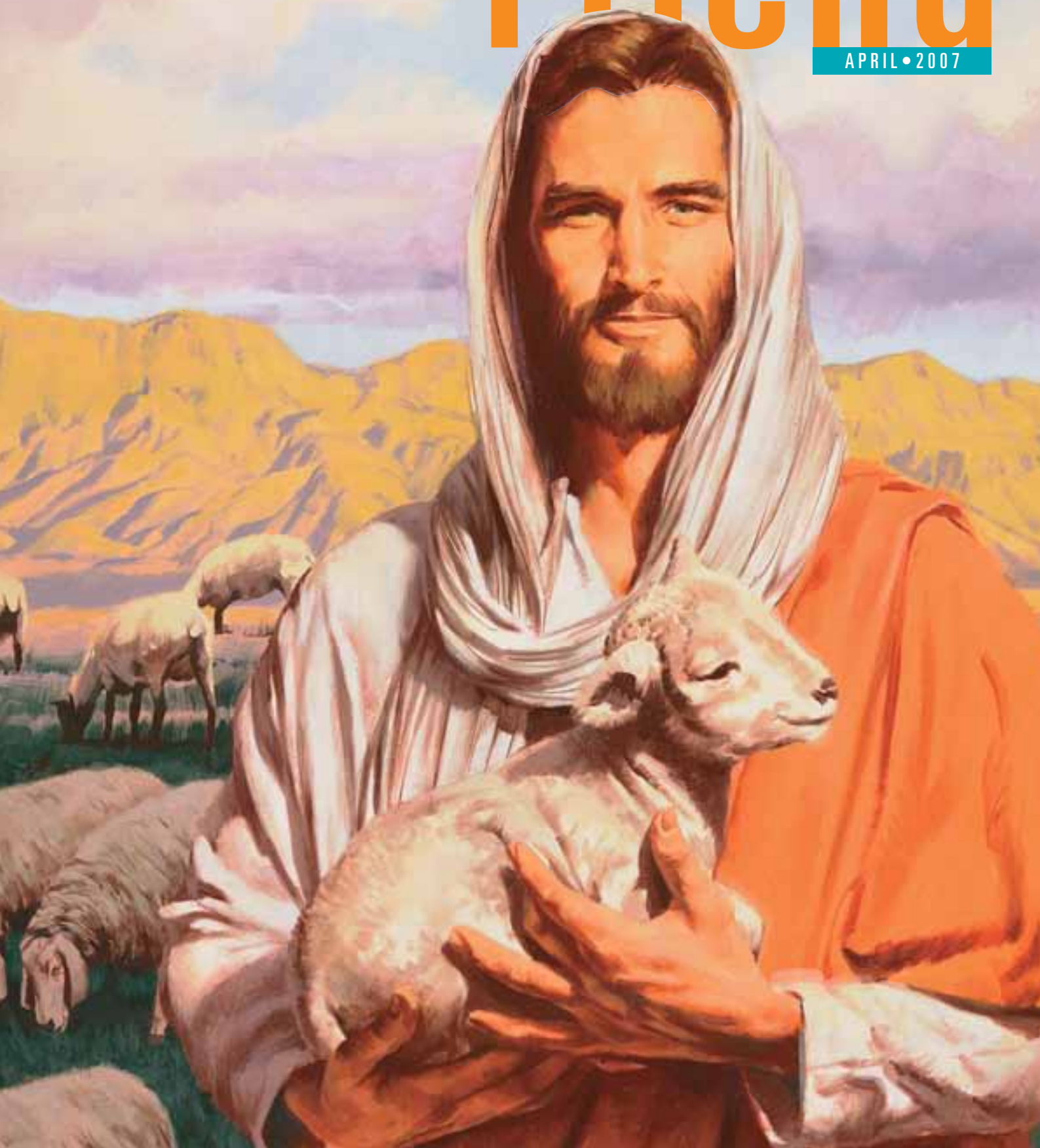


the Friend

APRIL • 2007



Friends by Mail



A Snake and a Prayer



I have lots of pets and I want to be a reptile keeper someday.

Right now I have a bearded dragon, a corn snake, a king snake named Elvis, and lots of mice.

My big brother, Tim, is at the MTC getting ready to go to Portugal. Sometimes snakeskin in it so Elvis is growing.

One day when I was feeding Elvis he got loose because I wasn't watching him carefully. My mom and I closed the door to my room right away and started looking

for him. We couldn't find Elvis no matter how hard we looked. I got the idea to pray. Even though it was my fault for letting him get out, I knew that Heavenly Father could help me find him. I prayed every day, but I also kept looking in my room. I kept my door closed and put a towel in front of it.

After two weeks I still hadn't found Elvis. He had to be getting very hungry. I knew that if I kept praying I would find him. I just wanted to find him while he was still alive. Finally my prayers were answered as I heard all three of my sisters screaming. Elvis wasn't in my room after all. He was in one of my sisters' rooms. My mom helped me catch him and put him back in his cage. I was so happy that I found him. I know that Heavenly Father answers our prayers even if sometimes it takes a long time.

Matthew J., age 9, Virginia



Ladybug Lesson



When I was eight I found a dead ladybug. I put it in a hole in a tree and covered the hole with a rock. A few weeks later the ladybug was gone. I knew that the

ladybug hadn't come back to life, but still it reminded me that Jesus died for us; then three days later He was resurrected. I will never forget Jesus Christ or His Resurrection.

Rachel Y., age 11, Nevada



Our ward had a Primary program, and I worked hard to learn my part. When the program started I tried to remember my part, but I couldn't because I was nervous. I told myself

that Heavenly Father would help me remember. I was still nervous, but Heavenly Father did help me remember what to say, just as I had practiced it. I know that when we try our best, Heavenly Father will always help us.

Kaden W., age 9, Utah



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the friend

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



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

Stories and Features

- IFC Friends by Mail
2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: Joy Cometh in the Morning /
President Thomas S. Monson
4 Sharing Time Butterfly
8 Friend to Friend: A Mother's Influence / Elder Carlos H. Amado
10 Learning God's Law
14 Sharing Time: He Lives!
18 A Lesson in Learning
21 Special Witness: Elder Richard G. Scott
22 Our Creative Friends
28 Making Friends: Clara Christensen of Keewatin, Ontario, Canada
32 Helping Trisha
34 Friends in the News
40 Trying to Be Like Jesus
42 From the Life of President Spencer W. Kimball: Playing the Piano
44 An Old Sock and a New Friend
47 Subscription Form
48 Matt and Mandy
IBC Guide to the *Friend*

For Little Friends

- 36 Sharing Susie
38 Jesus Christ Loves Everyone

Verse

- 7 Listen to the Prophet

Music

- 12 The Prophet Joseph

Things to Make and Do

- 17 Funstuf
24 Look and Listen
26 Funstuf
27 Kitchen Crafts
31 Coloring Page

Cover by Paul Mann



Joy Cometh in the Morning



**President Monson
testifies that Jesus
Christ has conquered
death.**

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

Several years ago, the Salt Lake City newspapers published a notice of a close friend taken by death in the prime of her life. I visited the mortuary and joined a host of persons gathered to express condolence [sympathy] to the husband and motherless children. Suddenly the smallest child, Kelly, recognized me and took my hand in hers. “Come with me,” she said, and she led me to the casket in which rested the body of her beloved mother. “I’m not crying,” she said, “and neither must you. Many times my mommy told me about death and life with Heavenly Father. I belong to my mommy and my daddy. We’ll all be together again.” To my mind came the words of the Psalmist: “Out of the mouth of babes . . . hast thou ordained strength” (Psalm 8:2).

Through tear-moistened eyes, I saw my young friend’s beautiful and faith-filled smile. For her, whose tiny hand yet clasped mine, there would never be a hopeless dawn. Sustained by her unfailing testimony, knowing that life continues beyond the grave, she, her father, her brothers, her

sisters, and indeed all who share this knowledge of divine truth can declare to the world: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

With all the strength of my soul, I testify that God lives, that His Beloved Son is the firstfruits of the Resurrection, that the gospel of Jesus Christ is that penetrating light that makes of every hopeless dawn a joyful morning. ●

From an April 1976 general conference address.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. There’s nothing wrong with crying when a loved one dies. In fact, it can help. But Kelly didn’t feel like crying. Why?
2. Why do you think Kelly’s mommy told Kelly so often about life after death?
3. How is Jesus the firstfruits of the Resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15:23; 2 Nephi 2:8–9)? Discuss this with your parents.





Sharing Time Butterfly

BY AMY KIRBY

(Based on a true story)

Christ . . . should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people (Acts 26:23).

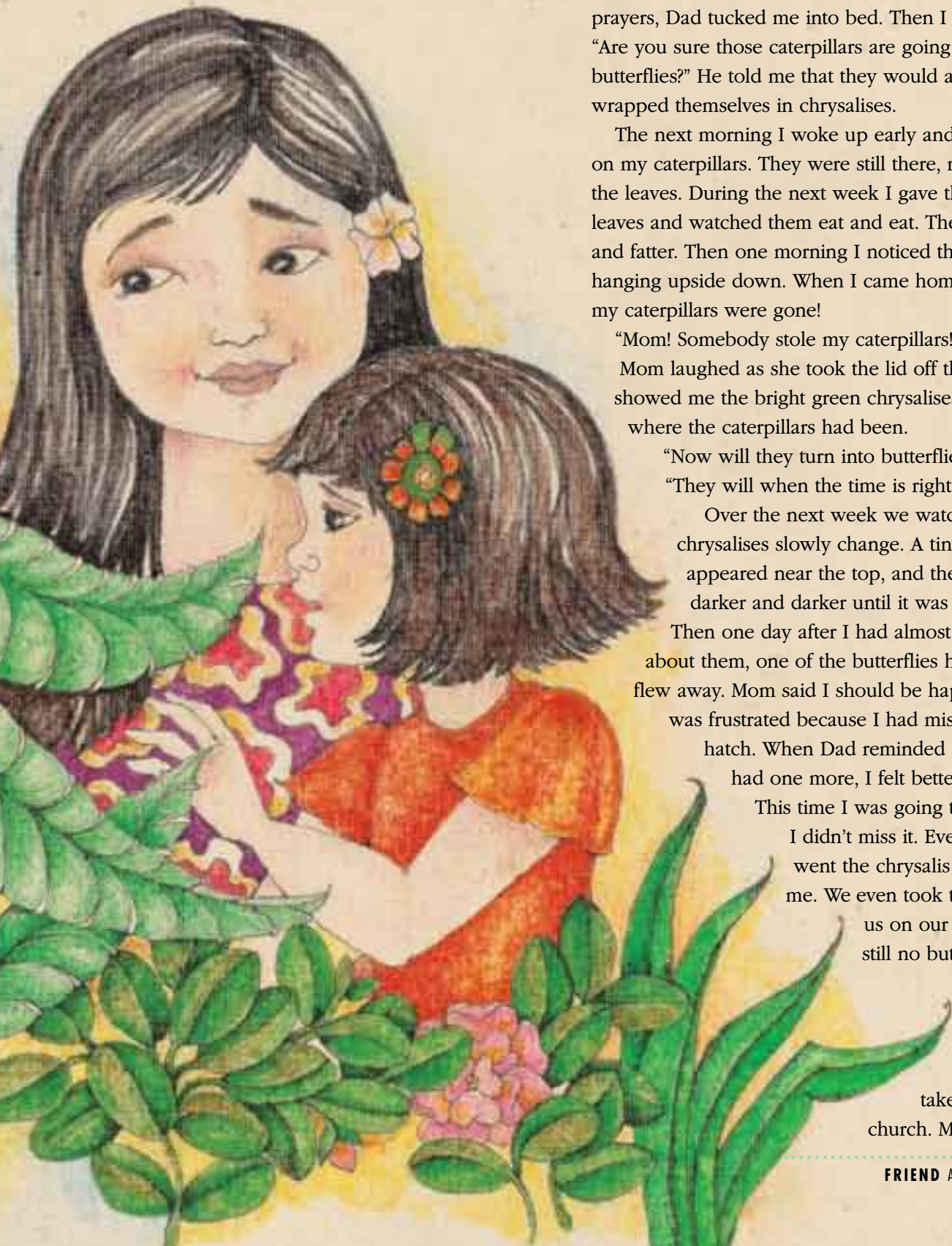
Look!" Mom whispered excitedly as she pointed to the crown flower. At first I could only see the flower and wide leaves. Then I saw them—not just one, but two caterpillars with black, white, and yellow stripes.

I jumped up and down and shouted, "We found some! We found some! Dad, come quick!" Mom and I had been searching for this kind of caterpillar for months. On the mainland they are called monarch caterpillars, but here in Hawaii we call them *pulelehua* caterpillars. I had read all about them in books from the library, but I'd never seen a real one.

Mom carefully broke off the branch, and I picked some extra leaves for food. I helped Dad punch some holes in the lid of a big plastic jar. Then Mom and I gently put the caterpillars in their new home.

I watched the caterpillars until it was bed-time. I wanted to sleep by them, but Mom said





it would be best to leave them outside. After I said my prayers, Dad tucked me into bed. Then I asked him, “Are you sure those caterpillars are going to turn into butterflies?” He told me that they would after they wrapped themselves in chrysalises.

The next morning I woke up early and ran to check on my caterpillars. They were still there, munching on the leaves. During the next week I gave them more leaves and watched them eat and eat. They got fatter and fatter. Then one morning I noticed that they were hanging upside down. When I came home for lunch, my caterpillars were gone!

“Mom! Somebody stole my caterpillars!” I yelled. Mom laughed as she took the lid off the jar and showed me the bright green chrysalises hanging where the caterpillars had been.

“Now will they turn into butterflies?” I asked. “They will when the time is right,” Mom said.

Over the next week we watched the chrysalises slowly change. A tiny gold stripe appeared near the top, and the green got darker and darker until it was almost black. Then one day after I had almost forgotten about them, one of the butterflies hatched and flew away. Mom said I should be happy. But I was frustrated because I had missed seeing it hatch. When Dad reminded me that I still had one more, I felt better.

This time I was going to make sure I didn’t miss it. Everywhere I went the chrysalis came with me. We even took the jar with us on our vacation, but still no butterfly.

When Sunday came, I wanted to take the jar to church. Mom said she

“Jesus Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind, is not dead. He lives—the resurrected Son of God.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Atonement and the Value of One Soul,” *Ensign*, May 2004, 86.



could use the chrysalis to help with sharing time.

During sharing time Mom taught us that all things testify of Jesus Christ. Then she held up my jar and showed the children the two chrysalises. We talked about how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly and leaves behind an empty chrysalis. Mom told us that the new life of a butterfly can remind us of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Then she sang, “‘How could the Father tell the world of sacrifice, of death? He sent his Son to die for us and rise with living breath.’” * Mom smiled and said, “Maybe if we all sing this song and think about the words, we can sing the butterfly right out of its chrysalis!”

We all sat up straight in our seats and sang our very best. When the song ended, everyone was very quiet.

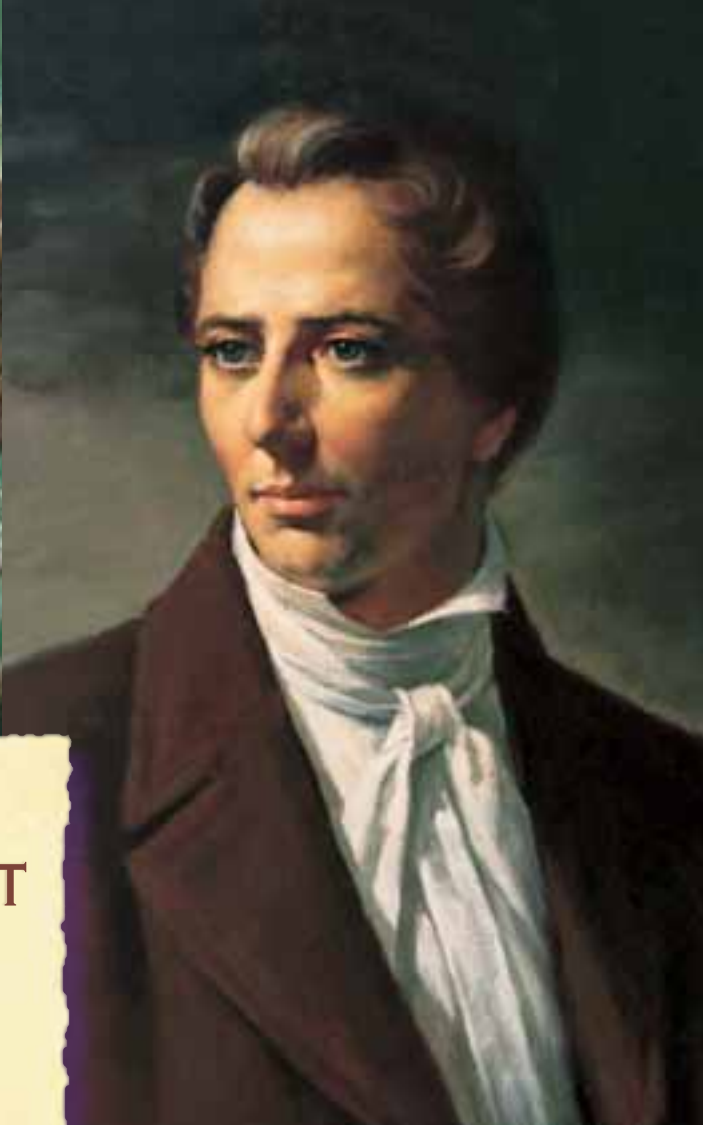
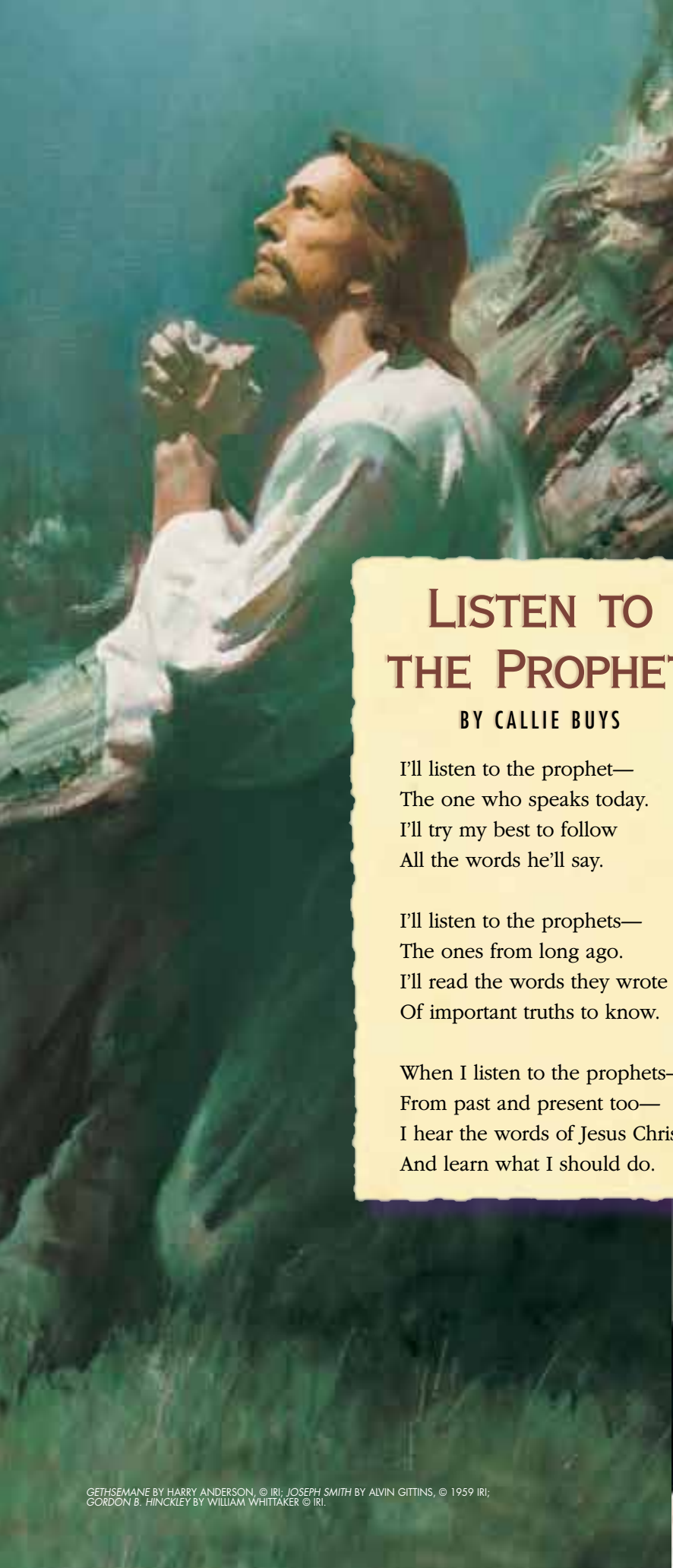
Suddenly one of the children said, “Look!”

We all looked at the jar on the table, and there was a butterfly unfolding its wings. My mom’s mouth opened wide, but she didn’t make a sound. Sister Makuakane whispered, “It’s a miracle!” All the children were excited to see the butterfly opening and closing its big orange and black wings. No one could stop smiling.

After church we set the butterfly free. We watched as it danced away in the wind. I have seen a lot of butterflies since then, but none of them were as beautiful as our sharing time butterfly. ●

*“He Sent His Son,” *Children’s Songbook*, 34–35.





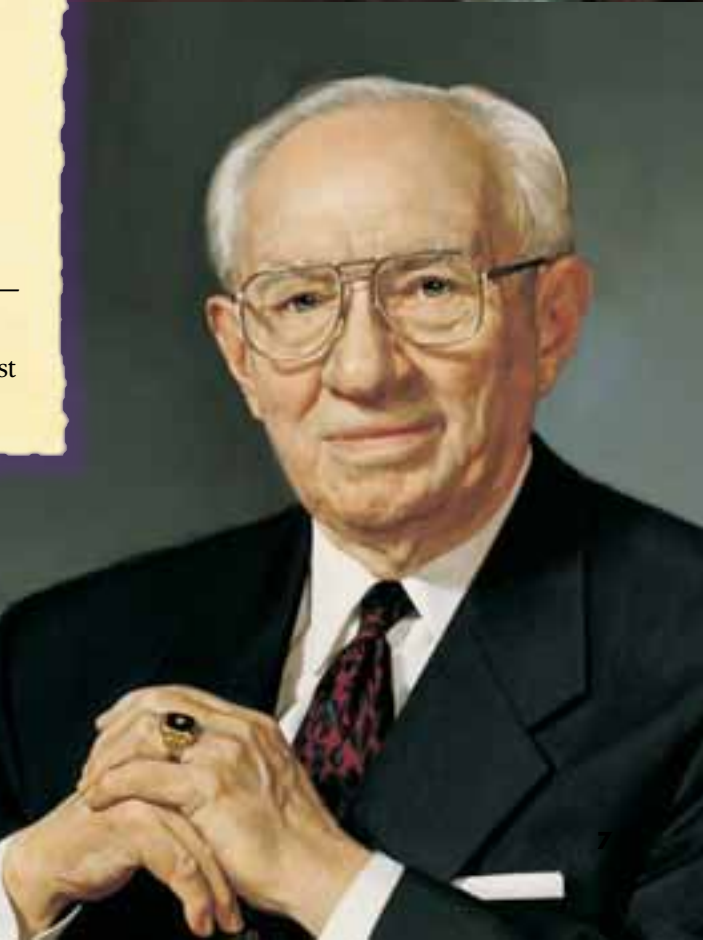
LISTEN TO THE PROPHET

BY CALLIE BUYS

I'll listen to the prophet—
The one who speaks today.
I'll try my best to follow
All the words he'll say.

I'll listen to the prophets—
The ones from long ago.
I'll read the words they wrote
Of important truths to know.

When I listen to the prophets—
From past and present too—
I hear the words of Jesus Christ
And learn what I should do.



A Mother's Influence

Forsake not the law of thy mother (Proverbs 1:8).



From an interview with Elder Carlos H. Amado of the Seventy, currently serving in the Chile Area Presidency; by Callie Buys

My mother is a very special woman. I am the oldest of eight sons, and I also have seven sisters. With such a large family, my mother had great responsibilities. The best thing my mother did for us was to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She gave us the opportunity to learn about the gospel. This opportunity changed our lives.

I remember the day we received the missionaries. I was about 10 or 11 years old. The missionaries shared a message about the First Vision. As soon as my mother listened, she was converted. She believed Joseph Smith saw the Father and the Son.

We began to attend church. I didn't want to accept the gospel at first, but the missionaries persuaded me to see what it was all about. As soon as I did, I loved it. I am so grateful for my mother. She received a testimony during that

first visit of the missionaries. From her baptism until today, she never missed a Church meeting.

My mother was a tremendous support to us. She always cleaned our white shirts on Saturdays so they would be ready to wear on Sundays. We would polish our shoes



and the shoes of our youngest brothers and sisters. We lived in a poor neighborhood in Guatemala, and our neighbors would laugh at us on Sundays as we wore our white shirts and ties to church.

My mother always gave us courage to do the right. Because of her influence, we were very active in the Church. I remember that at one time, my father served as the Sunday School president, my older sister served as the Primary president, my mother served as the Relief Society president, and four of my brothers passed, prepared, and blessed the sacrament.

Because of our financial needs, my father expected me to help earn money for the family. I wanted to serve a mission, but when I turned 19 years old, he asked that I wait one year to serve my mission so I could continue working to help my family. When I turned 20 years old, he asked that I wait another year to serve.

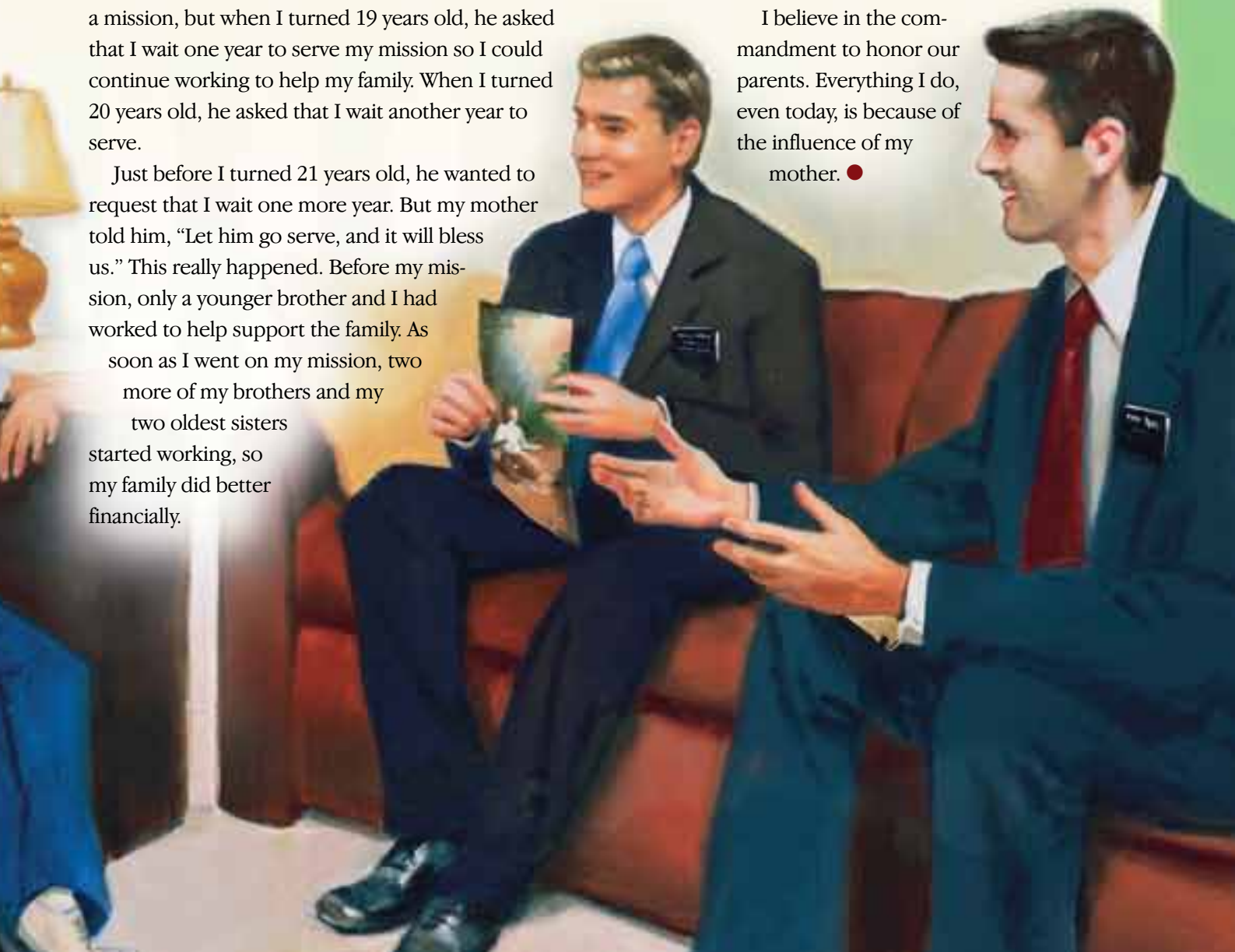
Just before I turned 21 years old, he wanted to request that I wait one more year. But my mother told him, "Let him go serve, and it will bless us." This really happened. Before my mission, only a younger brother and I had worked to help support the family. As

soon as I went on my mission, two more of my brothers and my two oldest sisters started working, so my family did better financially.

Every blessing and call that I have received in the Church have led me to admire my mother more. In every part of my life, I remember her excellent influence and example. My mother had only a basic education, but her knowledge of the truths of the gospel and her practical knowledge and understanding of life were superior.

My childhood was happy because I always had my mother at home taking care of me. She had a great sense of humor, and she would always find ways to have fun. She took hours and hours to share with us stories about her childhood and about my grandma and aunts and uncles and her relationship with them.

I believe in the commandment to honor our parents. Everything I do, even today, is because of the influence of my mother. ●







Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house (Malachi 3:10).

Learning God's Law

BY PATRICIA R. JONES

(Based on a true story)

This will be the 10th load of hay," David's father called to him. "Drive over to the higher ground." Young David O. McKay looked across the field to where his father was pointing. The first nine loads they had gathered were full of lesser-quality hay. David knew his father meant for this 10th load of the best hay to go to the bishops' storehouse as their tithing. But he didn't understand why they couldn't give the Lord the same hay they were collecting.

David called back to his father, "No, let us take the hay as it comes."

David's father didn't answer. David was about to repeat himself when he saw his father turn and begin walking straight toward him. Suddenly, the breeze in the hay field was gone, and the sun became feverishly hot. David wiped the sweat from his forehead and the back of his neck. He knew his father was not crossing the field to give him a pat on the back for his snippy answer. He was coming all this way to be sure that David understood something.

"No, David." His father spoke sternly, yet the calm in his voice made David pay extra close attention. "This is the 10th load, and the best is none too good for God." David's father looked closely at his son's face to make sure he had been listening. Then he turned and walked away.

David swallowed the lump in his throat and then guided his team to the higher ground. As he loaded the cut hay onto the wagon, he began to think of what his father was trying to teach him. While he knew that tithing is a law, just as much as obedience and sacrifice are, David wanted to put their own needs first. But God

had said to take the firstlings of the flocks—the very best—and give them to Him (see Deuteronomy 12:6).

"My father gives the best to God, and we get the next best," David thought. "Perhaps this is how we make the Lord the center of our thoughts and our lives."

There were times when David had watched his mother pay money for tithing. Instead of spending what she needed and then hoping there was some left for tithing, she immediately sent the tithing money to the bishop and then made do with what was left. The first and the best was always given to God.

David turned the hay wagon down the dusty road toward the bishops' storehouse. He drove into the yard and unloaded the hay. It was a sacrifice for his father to give his best hay to the Lord, but David knew his father would have it no other way. He wanted to give his best for the Lord, just as Heavenly Father gave His perfect Son for the world.

As David turned his team back toward home, a good feeling came over him. He was glad his father had taught him the law of tithing. It was a lesson he would remember all his life. ●

Adapted from Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay (2003), xv. President McKay (1873–1970) served as ninth President of the Church, from 1951 to 1970.

"Tithe paying is evidence that we accept the law of sacrifice. It also prepares us for the law of consecration and the other higher laws of the celestial kingdom."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Tithing," *Ensign*, May 1994, 34.





The Prophet Joseph

Thoughtfully ♩ = 112-126

Words and music by Sandra Peck Nelson

1. On a clear spring morn - ing Jo - seph sought the Lord in prayer. With -
 2. Jo - seph Smith the Pro - phet pre - cious knowl - edge did re - store, brought

in the qui - et grove he knelt to ask for wis - dom there.
 forth the Book of Mor - mon, or - gan - ized Christ's Church once more.

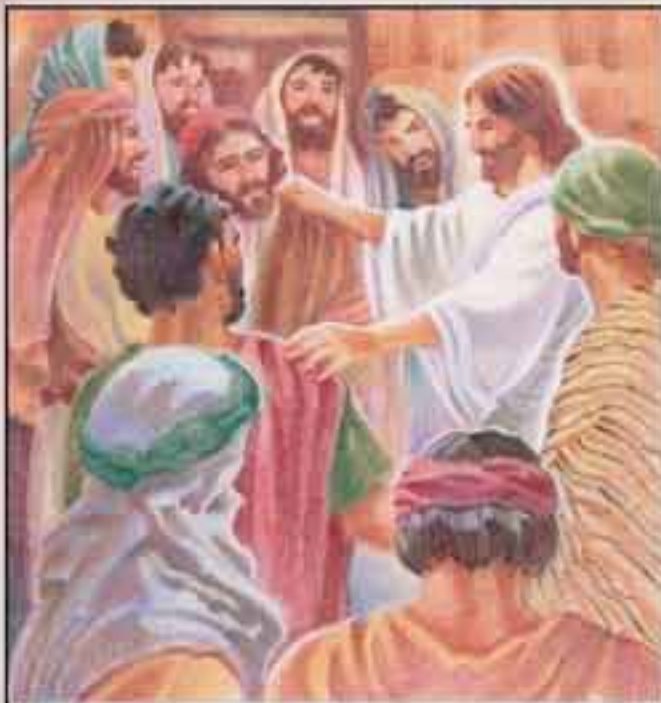
Sud - den dark - ness o - ver - came him and he could not speak, But
 Sa - tan tried to stop the work through acts of sin - ful men, But

his cour - a - geous heart still prayed this e - vil power to break.
 Jo - seph trust - ed in the Lord, stood faith - ful to the end. Al -

Then in glor - ious vi - sion Heav'n - ly Fath - er and His Son calmed
 though his life was tak - en young, the work he left grows great - His

Jo - seph's fears and taught him, and his mis - sion had be - gun.
 tes - ti - mo - ny ev - er bright, his mis - sion now com - plete.

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He Lives!



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

BY ELIZABETH RICKS



Sister Nielson was teaching the Sunbeam class. She held a picture of Jesus showing His wounds after He had been resurrected.

“You mean He lived again after He was dead?” Heather asked.

Jake exclaimed, “Yes, He did! We will live again too!”

How did three-year-old Jake know that Jesus lived again? How did he know that he too would live again?

Each week Jake listened to Sister Nielson’s lessons. She taught about Jesus and bore her testimony. Jake listened to his parents during family home evening and at other times. They taught about Jesus and bore testimony of Him. The feeling in Jake’s heart told him to believe the words of his teacher and parents.

After Jesus was resurrected, He showed Himself to His disciples. Thomas was not with them. The other disciples

told Thomas they had seen Jesus. But Thomas said, “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

Eight days later Jesus did show Himself to Thomas. Jesus let Thomas feel the nail prints in His hands and touch His side. Then Jesus said, “Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

Like Jake, we can believe in Jesus even though we do not see Him. Our faith will grow when we know, without seeing, that Jesus is our Savior. ●

Activity

Mount page 14 on heavy paper, and cut out the pictures of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the Apostles, and Thomas. Fold the tabs along the broken lines so the figures can stand up. Tell your family the story in John 20 of each person seeing the Savior after His Resurrection.

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. Explain that Jesus Christ came into the world to do the will of the Father. Discuss what the Father's will is. Help the children memorize D&C 19:24 by dividing the children into three groups. Have the first group say, "I am Jesus Christ." Have the second group say, "I came by the *will* of the Father." Have the third group say, "and I do his *will*." Repeat, rotating so that each group says each part.

Sing the chorus of "Nephi's Courage" (pp. 120–21). Ask the children to notice the word *will*. Divide the group in half, and invite the first group to chant the chorus's words in rhythm but without singing. Have them clap on each syllable. Have the second group clap and chant, "I will go; I will do" four times. Then have the groups clap and chant together. Explain that Jesus's mission was to do the will of the Father. Our mission is to follow Heavenly Father's commandments. Bear testimony that Jesus fulfilled His mission and that we will be blessed as we keep the commandments.

2. Display three shoe boxes, and ask the children to raise their hands if they like to try on new shoes. Explain that you want them to imagine trying on some other people's shoes, but more important you want them to imagine what it would be like to actually be that person. One by one, take out a pair of shoes from each box. (You can also display pictures or drawings of shoes.) Show a pair of boots to represent the soldiers who guarded Jesus's tomb. Use detail to tell the story in such a way that the children can imagine being there when Jesus Christ was laid in the tomb. Next, use a pair of sandals to tell the story of Mary Magdalene. Ask the children how it might have felt to have been at the garden tomb when the resurrected Savior appeared. Last, show a pair of shoes that children in your area commonly wear. Ask how it feels to be a member of the Church and to have the knowledge that you will be resurrected because of the Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sing "Did Jesus Really Live Again?" (p. 64), and bear testimony that the Easter story is the most glorious story in the world. Testify that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died and was resurrected.

3. Using pushpins, a bulletin board, and brightly colored yarn, write the word *wrong* at the front of the room, using yarn to create each letter. Tell the children that when they repent they turn wrong into right. Ask the children to help you turn the word *wrong* into *right* by figuring out what they could do to repent. Use three case studies (see "Case Studies," TNGC, 161–62) to give situations where children need to repent. After the first case study, have a child remove the *w* and form it into a *t*. Sing "The Fourth Article of Faith" (p. 124), and explain that repentance is the second principle of the gospel. After the second case study, have a child make the *n* into an *b*. Sing "Repentance" (p. 98). After the third case study, have a child shape the *o* into an *i* without the dot. Sing "Help Me, Dear Father" (p. 99), and explain that we need to forgive others who repent. Use a sticker to put a dot above the *i*. Put a dot on each child's right hand, and explain that it is to help them remember to choose the right and to turn wrong into right. Put the letters in order on the board. Recite from My Gospel Standards, "I will choose the right. I know I can repent when I make a mistake." Bear your testimony of repentance and of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

For younger children: Help the children memorize the poem written by President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve

Apostles. Add actions as appropriate. President Packer said: "I give you my testimony that the Atonement of Christ can bless your life. I once tried to express in writing what it means to me":

If we could only understand
All we have heard and seen,
We'd know there is no greater gift
Than those two words—"Washed clean!"

(*Friend*, Apr. 1999, inside front cover; see also "Washed Clean," *Ensign*, May 1997, 11)

4. Tell the children that you are going to ask them a trick question. Ask, "How many prophets do we have on the earth today?" Explain that each member of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles is sustained as a prophet, seer, and revelator. That means that we have 15 prophets on the earth! Explain, however, that the President of the Church is the only one who can receive revelation for the entire Church. A week before general conference, ask several older children to report in two weeks on a message that an Apostle gave at general conference. If possible, display a picture of that Apostle as each child tells about the message. Sing "Latter-day Prophets" (p. 134), but substitute the names of our living prophets. (You can find their names in order of seniority on the masthead of any Church magazine.) Begin with "Today's living prophets are: number one, Gordon B. Hinckley; Thomas S. Monson . . ." Substitute the names of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, fitting the names to the music. End with, "We hear and follow *their* words today." Share with the children an experience you have had with one of the Apostles, either in person or by reading his words. Testify that these men have been called of God and that they are leading our Church today. Promise the children that their faith will grow as they heed the counsel of today's living prophets.

5. *Song presentation*: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (*Hymns*, no. 136). Invite the children to look up D&C 76:22. Preface the scripture by explaining that Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon had a vision. Read the scripture together. Point out the exclamation point at the end. Ask the children to read the scripture again and say the last two words with enthusiasm, "he lives!" Tell them that those two words are in a beautiful hymn. Ask them to count how many times you sing "he lives." Teach the chorus first. Divide the Primary into four groups. Have each group sing one phrase that begins with "He lives." Combine the four groups into two groups and then finally into one group.

To teach the first verse, tell the children that in the first sentence they will find out who the "He" is ("my Redeemer"). Sing the second sentence, and ask them what sentence brings comfort ("I know that my Redeemer lives" or "He lives"). Before singing the third sentence, ask, "Who was dead?" (Jesus Christ). After singing the fourth sentence, ask why Jesus is called "Head" (explain that He is the head of our Church; we belong to The Church of *Jesus Christ* of Latter-day Saints). Sing the whole hymn. Tell the children that this hymn is a testimony of Church members just as D&C 76:22 is the testimony of Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon. Bear your testimony, and then invite the children to bear their testimonies with you by singing "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

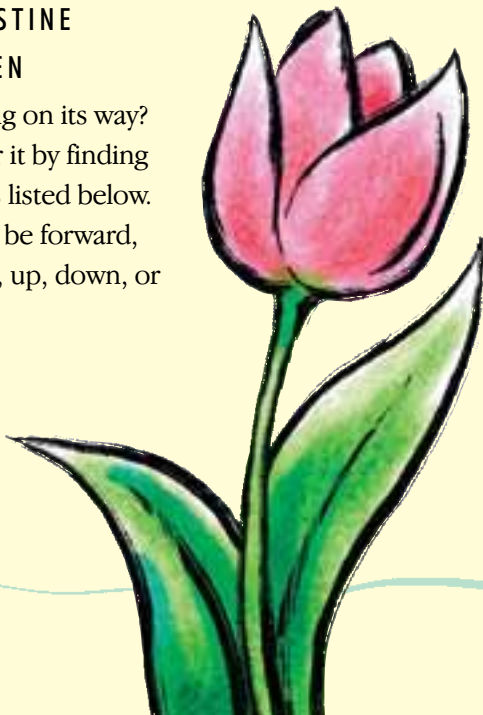
6. *Friend* references: "He Lives," Apr. 2006, 2; "Easter Lilies," Apr. 2004, 7; "Why We Rejoice," Mar. 2005, 10; "Don't Delay," June 2004, 43; "Washed Clean," Apr. 1999, inside front cover; "He Lives!" Apr. 1972, 48; "Jesus Is Crucified," Apr. 2003, 13–15; "Jesus Is Risen," June 2003, 10–15.

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

Search for Spring

BY CHRISTINE SORENSEN

Is spring on its way? Search for it by finding the words listed below. They may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.



A E
 T A
 O N
 K M
 E M
 E G
 N U
 T Y
 O L
 L X
 F Y

Atonement	grass
birds	joy
blossoms	kite
breeze	puddle
bugs	rain
butterfly	Resurrection
Christ	seeds
Easter	spring
eggs	sprouts
flowers	sunshine
fun	tree
garden	umbrella
general conference	



A Lesson in Learning



BY KIMBERLY WEBB

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

Look up the following scriptures: Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 8:11, Alma 38:11. Which one do you think fits the story best? Write that scripture on the blank lines.

Kasey was a good student. She knew this because her kindergarten teacher had moved her from the red reading group to the blue one, the top reading group in the class.

But now Kasey would be starting first grade. What if the work was too hard? What if she wasn't one of the best students in her class anymore? If there were reading groups in the first grade, Kasey wanted to stay in the top group.

On the first day of school, Miss Nelson handed out a spelling worksheet. "When you're finished, put your paper in the basket on the counter," she instructed.

Kasey worked hard. When she stood to hand in her assignment, she beamed. The basket was empty. She was the first student finished! Maybe first grade wouldn't be so hard after all.

Kasey soon discovered that Miss Nelson's class did spelling assignments every morning. And for several weeks, Kasey was the first to finish. "I must be the best speller in class," she told herself.

One day, she noticed her friend Shantelle march over to the counter and plunk her worksheet in the basket. Kasey's jaw dropped. She wasn't even half finished with hers! She filled in the rest of the answers quickly and sauntered over to the basket, sliding her assignment under Shantelle's. Maybe Miss Nelson wouldn't notice who had finished first.

On Monday it rained. Thunder crashed outside as raindrops drummed on the window. "After we do our spelling, we'll have morning recess inside," Miss Nelson announced. "When you finish your assignment, you may go pick out a puzzle or a game from that shelf. Please copy our spelling list for the week." Miss Nelson pointed to the board. "Then write each word four times."

Kasey's wrist ached as she scribbled down the words. Her pencil tip snapped, but she kept writing with the dull end. Her heart thudded. She wrote faster. Finally she blew out a little puff of air as she triumphantly placed her paper in the empty basket. Kasey scurried to the shelf and chose a puzzle of a kitten snoozing in a flowerbed.

Kasey had just found all the corner pieces when she felt someone standing next to her. "Can I help?" Shantelle asked.

Kasey gulped. "Sure."

Shantelle pulled up a chair and started sorting out the pieces with straight edges. She and Shantelle had spent recess together lots of times, but for some reason today Kasey felt nervous. She had been so busy trying to beat Shantelle lately that she hadn't taken the time to be very nice to her.



“Continue your education, wherever you are, whatever your interest and opportunity.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Where Is Wisdom?” *Ensign*, Nov. 1992, 6.



“I saw your spelling assignment,” Shantelle said. “It was kind of messy.” Shantelle seemed surprised—it wasn’t like her friend to be so sloppy.

Kasey’s cheeks burned. She stared down at the puzzle pieces, finishing the puzzle in silence. All day, Kasey worried about what Shantelle had said.

At the end of class, Miss Nelson returned the spelling lists. “Use these to study for the quiz on Friday,” she said. She raised her eyebrows as she handed Kasey her paper. “Please write more neatly next time,” she said. She had circled all the words that were difficult to read. Suddenly Kasey didn’t feel so smart.

Before the bell rang, Kasey pulled out a new sheet of paper and began copying the words from the board again, this time writing as neatly as she could. That way she would know the right way to spell them when she studied the list later. The best student

would try to spell the words correctly, she decided, not just copy them quickly.

The next day Kasey didn’t watch the basket while she worked. She looked straight down at her spelling worksheet and thought hard about the questions. She wrote the answers neatly in the blanks. When she finally turned in the assignment, she decided to be honest. She placed it on top of a small stack of papers already waiting there. Miss Nelson smiled at her. Kasey smiled back. She knew in her heart that now she was becoming the best student she could be. ●



→ Why is it important for me to have a strong testimony?

* A strong testimony is the unshakable foundation of a secure, meaningful life where peace, confidence, happiness, and love can flourish.

* A strong testimony gives peace, comfort, and assurance.

* Your testimony will be fortified as you exercise faith in Jesus Christ, in His teachings, and in His limitless power to accomplish what He has promised.

* As your testimony is fortified, Satan will try harder to tempt you. Resist his efforts. You will become stronger and his influence on you weaker.

* A powerful testimony is grounded in the personal assurance that the Holy Ghost can guide and inspire our daily acts for good.



Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.



From "The Power of a Strong Testimony," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 87–88.

The True Easter Story

In Gethsemane Jesus was found
 Kneeling and praying on the ground
 When wicked men with sticks and swords
 Bound Jesus with strong cords.
 Jesus still died for us
 Because He always loves us.

Morgan O., age 8, Virginia

Sun and Moon

I am the Sun.
 I shine brightly in the blue sky,
 Making it warm while children are playing.
 I lie as a round yellow ball,
 Slowly falling asleep in the pitch-black sky,
 As the gray round moon takes my place
 In the darkness of the night.

I take my place now.
 It's my turn to shine,
 Seeking the beauty in the dark sky.
 I'm awake for the night with a great smile
 on my face.
 I am the Moon.

Asblynn J., age 8, California

Miracles

Eggs are laid
 Ants build homes
 Sheep are born
 Teachings are shared
 Easter eggs are dyed
 Resurrected Lord

Sbayla M., age 9, Idaho

The One True God

I'm strong enough to carry burdens.
 I have a shoulder for a sorrowing person's head.
 I will never give in to darkness.
 I will always look ahead.
 Though there are times in life
 When I may fall,
 I know that God will help me.
 Through prayer I can call.
 I know I will return to Him
 By holding the iron rod.
 I have unshaken faith in Him—
 The One True God.

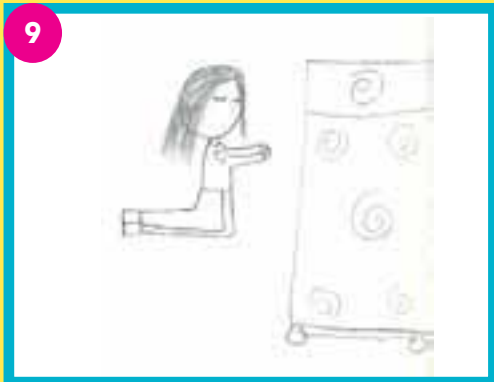
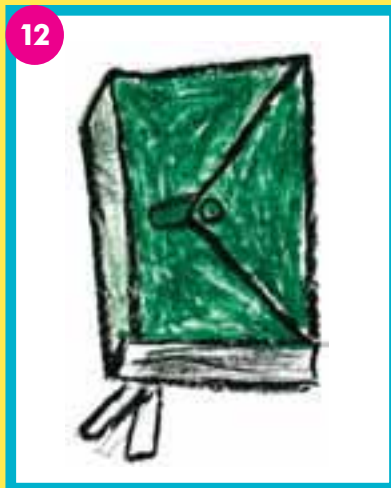
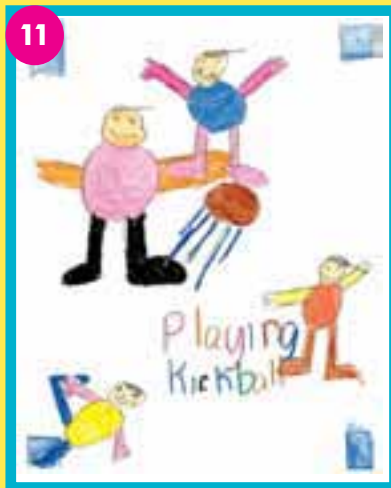
Arielle Janilaine S., age 12, New Hampshire



Drawings

- 1 *Laura S., age 9, Georgia*
- 2 *Grey B., age 6, West Virginia*
- 3 *Carter M., age 7, Utah*
- 4 *Ava Grace A., age 6, Colorado*
- 5 *Thomas G., age 4, California*
- 6 *Elizabeth E., age 11, Virginia*
- 7 *Tate F., age 9, Idaho*
- 8 *Kelsey J. C., age 8, Arizona*
- 9 *Christianna G., age 11, Nova Scotia, Canada*
- 10 *Nathaniel R., age 9, Pennsylvania*
- 11 *Carter S., age 7, Saipan*
- 12 *Soraya F., age 9, Alberta, Canada*
- 13 *Robbie S., age 7, Texas*
- 14 *Jessica A., age 8, Utah*
- 15 *Ava V., age 5, Tennessee*







Look *and* Listen

General Conference Activity

Whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same (D&C 1:38).

Instructions: Remove pages 24–25 from the magazine and mount them on heavier paper or lightweight cardboard. Cut out the picture wheel and pointer. Carefully cut out the window in the pointer along the broken lines, then cut the flap along the broken lines only. With a brass fastener, attach the pointer to the picture wheel through the center dots.

As you listen to general conference, turn the pointer until the General Authority who is speaking appears in the window. Try to remember his name and position. Check to see if you are right by lifting the flap on the pointer.

Ask a family member to help you write on the “Remember” chart an important message you hear from that speaker. After conference, cut out the chart and keep it in your journal. Look at it often to see what our Church leaders have taught us.

Remember

President Gordon B. Hinckley

President Thomas S. Monson

President James E. Faust

President Boyd K. Packer

Elder L. Tom Perry

Elder Russell M. Nelson

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Elder M. Russell Ballard

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin

Elder Richard G. Scott

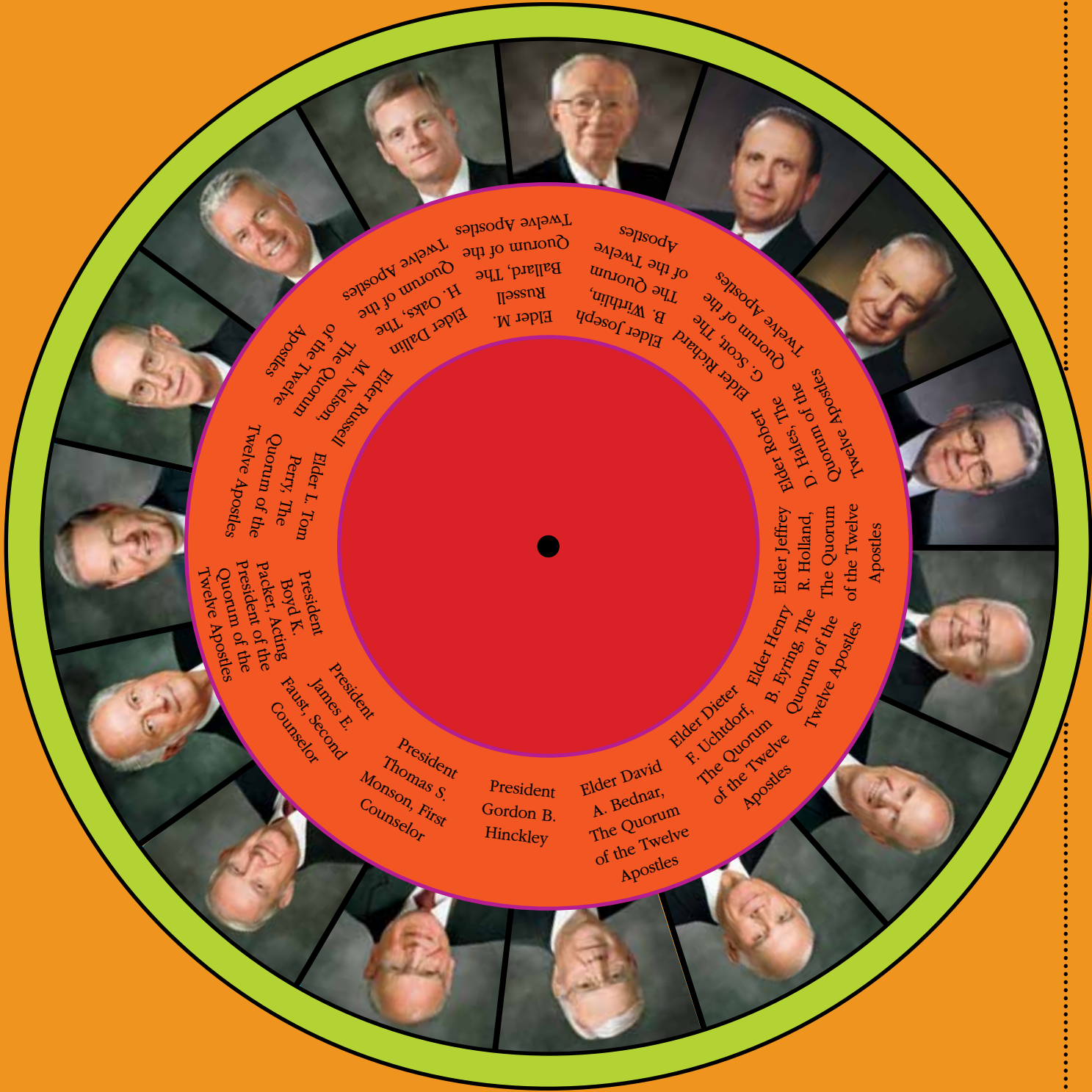
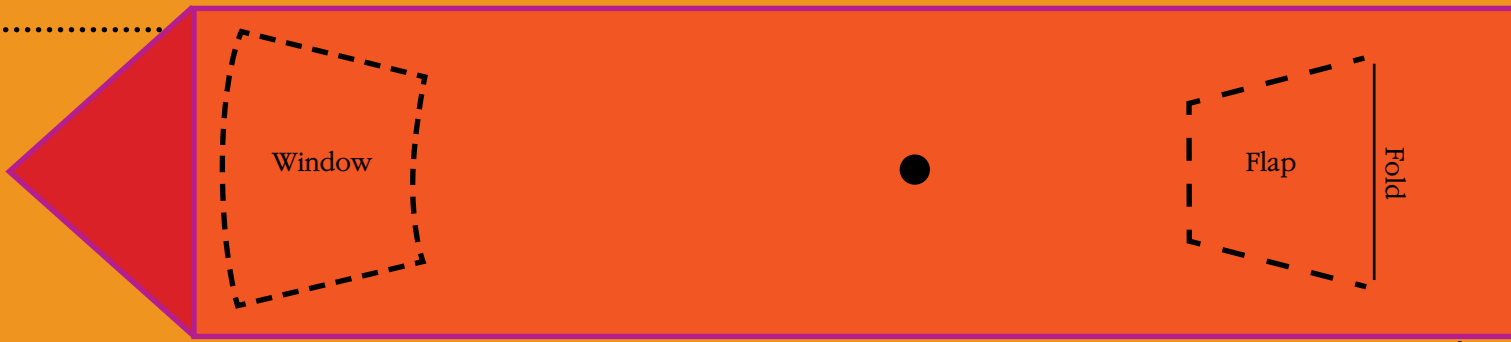
Elder Robert D. Hales

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Elder Henry B. Eyring

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Elder David A. Bednar



Window

Flap

Fold

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Robert G. Scott, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Richard D. Hales, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Henry B. Eyring, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder David A. Bednar, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 President Gordon B. Hinckley
 President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor
 President James E. Faust, Second Counselor
 President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder L. Tom Perry, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Russell M. Nelson, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Dallin H. Oaks, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder M. Russell Ballard, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
 Elder Dallin H. Oaks, The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Letter Scramble BY HEATHER KIRBY

Use the hints and then put the letters on the correct blanks to identify a way that Jesus taught. Find the answer below.



My first letter is in *part*
but not *cart*.

My eighth letter is in *rest*
but not *rent*.

My seventh letter is in *led*
but not *lid*.

My third letter is in *deer*
but not *deed*.

My fourth letter is in *park*
but not *pork*.

My sixth letter is in *late*
but not *gate*.

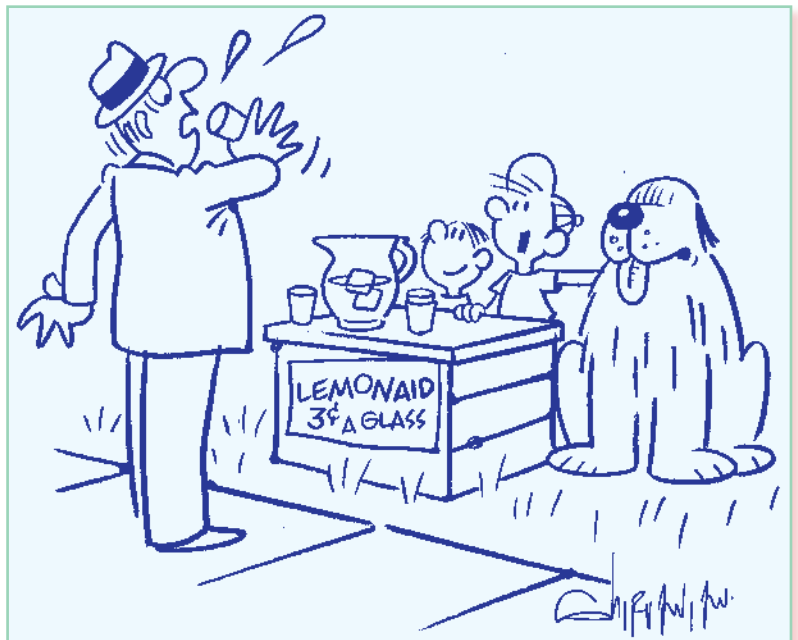
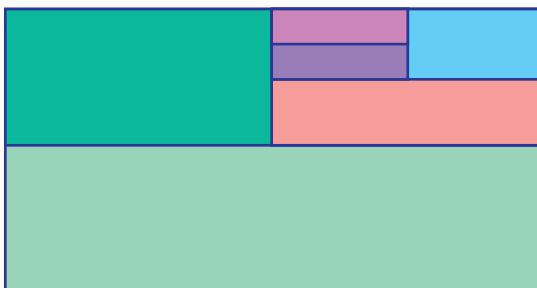
My fifth letter is in *bride*
but not *ride*.

My second letter is in *farm*
but not *form*.

Rectangular Baffler

BY RICH LATTA

Can you count all of the rectangles?
Find the answer below.



He's our dishwasher.

Kitchen Krafts



Get up bright and early before listening to general conference. Welcome the good experiences you'll have today by starting with a delicious breakfast.

Mini Omelettes

- 5 large eggs**
- 1/4 cup milk**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
dash of pepper
shredded cheese to taste
- 2 tablespoons each: diced green pepper; diced tomatoes; cooked, crumbled bacon or cooked, diced ham**

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (176°C). In a medium bowl, mix the eggs, milk, salt, and pepper.
2. Coat 6 cups in a muffin tray with nonstick spray and pour in the egg mixture evenly. Distribute the cheese and toppings on top of the egg mixture. Bake for 25 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.

Brown Sugar Muffins

- 1/2 cup butter**
- 1 cup brown sugar**
- 1 egg**
- 1 cup milk**
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla**
- 2 cups flour**
- 1/4 teaspoon salt**
1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup fresh or thawed blueberries**
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts (optional)**

1. In a medium bowl cream the butter and sugar together. Mix in the egg, milk, and vanilla. Sift in the dry ingredients and stir. Fold in the blueberries and nuts.

2. Pour the mixture into muffin tins coated with nonstick spray. Bake at 375°F (190°C) for 15 minutes. Makes about 18 muffins.

Apple Pancake Wraps

- 3/4 cup ground whole wheat**
- 1 cup milk**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 teaspoons baking powder**
- 1 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1/4 cup oil**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- 1 teaspoon honey**
- 8 teaspoons rolled oats**
- 1 1/2 apples, cored and quartered**
dash of cinnamon
warm syrup

1. Stir the wheat and milk together. Add the eggs, baking powder, baking soda, oil, salt, and honey. Mix well. (Batter should be fairly runny to make thin pancakes. Add water if necessary.)
2. Cook pancakes on a nonstick griddle or in a nonstick frying pan over medium heat. Sprinkle the uncooked side of each pancake with 1 teaspoon of rolled oats before turning the pancake.
3. Remove from heat and place three apple slices on each pancake. Sprinkle cinnamon on top. Roll up the pancake and serve with warm syrup for dipping. Makes about 8 medium-sized pancakes.

Hi! I'm Clara Christensen.

I live in Keewatin,
Ontario, Canada

BY MELVIN LEAVITT
Church Magazines

From her backyard, Clara Christensen, 11, enjoys a view pretty enough for a calendar page. Her home sits on the brink of a hill overlooking Lake of the Woods, a vast sheet of clear water that reaches south into the United States and west into Manitoba. In summertime the sun glitters on the water. In winter the lake shines with snow-covered ice.

The lake and surrounding woods are a dreamland for an active, outdoor-loving person like Clara. She swims, rows, fishes, hikes, and camps in the summer. In the winter she enjoys skating, snowmobiling, cross-country and downhill skiing, and sliding down steep hills on carpet blocks. Winter temperatures dip as low as -40°C at night, and snow lies between four and seven feet (1–2 m) deep. And yet fall and winter are Clara's favorite seasons.

This rugged outdoor girl has many indoor interests as well. She enjoys



reading, knitting, and playing the recorder and piano. She has set a goal of learning to play all the hymns and Primary songs. Clara has a soft heart and delights in nurturing both people and animals. She often babysits her cousins, and when real children aren't available, she mothers her collection of dolls. Cats are another great love. Lilo, Hero, and Hope adore her and often sleep on her bed. Noah's ark is her favorite scripture story because of all the animals. When Clara grows up she wants to work with either babies or cats.

Whatever she does, she will do it well because she sticks to a task until it is done right. This quality has pulled her through some tough challenges. Clara was diagnosed with childhood apraxia of speech. This means that although she knew what she wanted to say, the signals became scrambled somehow between her brain and her mouth so she couldn't speak clearly. Clara has spent countless hours learning how to move her jaw, lips, and tongue to make sounds properly and blend those sounds into words. This has been very hard work, but with her parents' help, she has practiced relentlessly and continues to do so. She now speaks well, though some words still require a great effort.

Last year the children in Clara's

I love my cats, Lilo, Hero, and Hope, and my dog, Puff.

grade-four class were assigned to give four-to-five-minute speeches. Clara chose to give a speech on the Holocaust, which she presented as if she were a girl in a concentration camp. When she first rehearsed her speech, it took eight minutes and 40 seconds to give because many of the words were hard to say. She practiced it over and over. The speech slowly grew shorter as she learned to say the words fluently. She finally presented the speech in four minutes and 40 seconds, and her classmates chose her to represent them in front of the whole school. When she did, the entire student body broke into wild applause. Many of them

This is my Grandma Caroline. She's my Primary teacher.

Please meet my sister Josie and my mom. My sister Carly is away at college.





**I like ice-skating and knitting-
but not at the same time!**



and her progress seemed miraculous. “The principal was crying,” Clara’s mom recalls. “Clara’s grade-two teacher was crying. Her grade-four teacher was cheering. It was such a victory—one of the greatest moments of my life!”

What did Clara learn from the experience? “Keep trying,” she counsels children everywhere. “Never give up.”

Of course, prayer was also a vital part of Clara’s triumph. She has great faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Primary, home evenings, scripture study, and her parents’ teachings have helped. Her older sisters have made a difference too, both through their good examples and their reading materials. As soon as Carly, 18, and Josie, 15, turned 12 in their turn, they began putting *New Era* Posters on their mirrors. Clara has also memorized seminary scripture mastery scriptures and learned President Hinckley’s six B’s with her sisters.

Her father is the branch president, and her mother is the Young Women president, so Clara stays involved in branch activities. The Kenora Branch is small during fall, winter, and spring. In fact, Clara is usually the only member of her Primary class, which is taught by her grandmother, the Primary

**I enjoy music, and I play
the piano, the recorder,
and the glockenspiel.**



had known Clara since grade one,

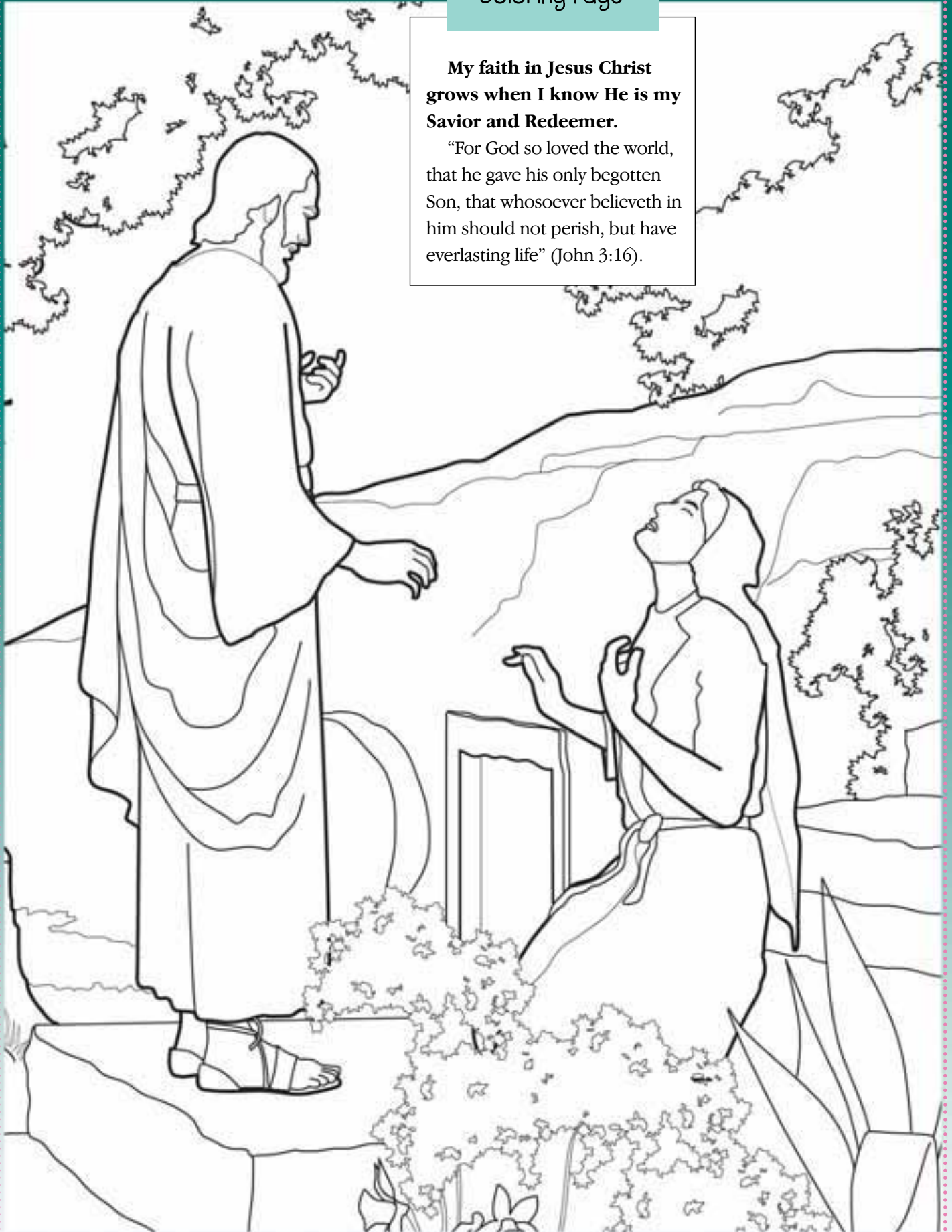
president. But in the summertime, when thousands of tourists pour in to enjoy Lake of the Woods, the branch fills up with visitors each Sunday. Clara basks in all the wonderful new friendships. The family stays close to the Church all year long by attending stake activities in Winnipeg, Manitoba, some two and a half hours to the west. Coming home at night, they often see the northern lights dancing in the sky.

Clara also stays close to her extended family. On Christmas Eve cousins and uncles and aunts all sleep over at Grandma’s house. They eat, sing, hang stockings, set up a nativity scene, hear the Christmas story, and kneel together in prayer. Christmas morning brings hot chocolate, hot cross buns, and gifts. On Christmas night the families meet again at Clara’s house for dinner. On Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) there is a progressive dinner with different dishes at the home of each family.

Clara has grown up inspired by the beauty of nature, the warmth of family love, and the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. All these influences are reflected clearly in her face and her spirit. Even on the coldest day of winter she warms the lives of those who know her best. As her mom says, “Thank goodness we have Clara.” ●

My faith in Jesus Christ grows when I know He is my Savior and Redeemer.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).



BY JANE MCBRIDE CHOATE

(Based on a true story)

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

Andy's little sister, Trisha, had been born with many health problems. She needed extra help to do even the smallest thing. Trisha was 18 months old, but she couldn't walk or sit up or even roll over. She couldn't feed herself and had to eat through a tube.

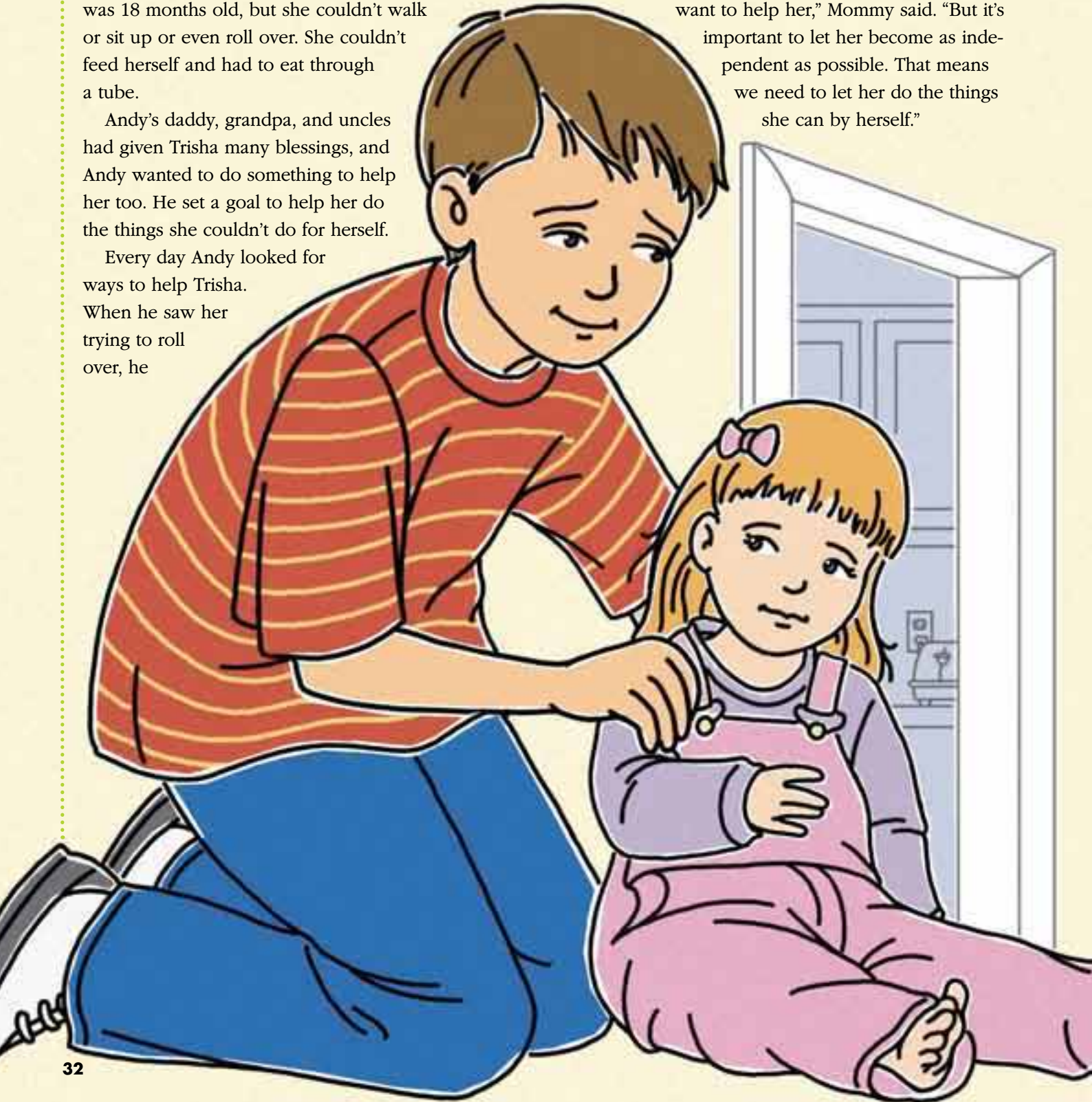
Andy's daddy, grandpa, and uncles had given Trisha many blessings, and Andy wanted to do something to help her too. He set a goal to help her do the things she couldn't do for herself.

Every day Andy looked for ways to help Trisha. When he saw her trying to roll over, he

gently helped her roll from her tummy to her back. When she struggled to sit up, Andy supported her.

One evening after Andy had helped Trisha sit up, Mommy and Daddy sat down to talk with him.

"We know you love Trisha very much and want to help her," Mommy said. "But it's important to let her become as independent as possible. That means we need to let her do the things she can by herself."



“But Trisha can’t sit up by herself,” Andy said.

“She can’t sit all the way up,” Mommy said. “But she can pull herself up partway. We need to let her do that.”

Andy knew how hard Trisha struggled to pull herself up. He didn’t want her to have to work so hard.

“Why can’t I help her?” he asked.

“When she tries to do things by herself, it helps her to grow stronger,” Mommy said. “I know it’s hard to watch her try so hard to do something. I want to help her too, and then I remember that Heavenly Father is always there to help and bless her.”

“Will Trisha be sick forever?” Andy asked.

“She’ll always have some problems,” Daddy said.

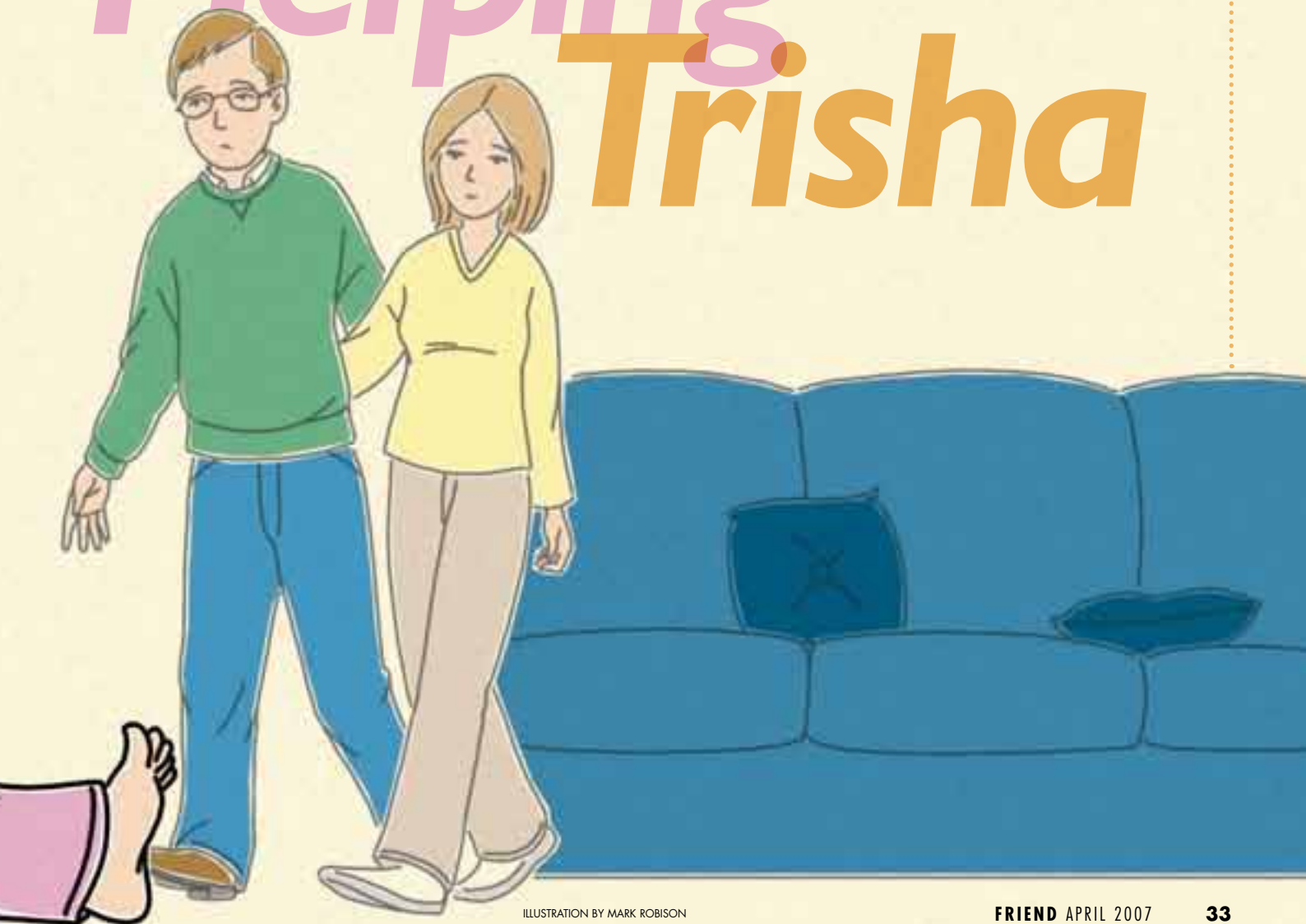
“But we know that one day she’ll be resurrected with a healthy, whole body, and that she’ll be with our family forever.”

Andy knew that his parents had been sealed in the temple, and that he and Trisha were sealed to them.

Andy thought about what he could do for his little sister. He knew that Heavenly Father loved him and Trisha and that He listened to prayers. “I can pray for Trisha,” Andy said.

“That’s the best gift of all,” Mommy said, and gave him a big hug. ●

Helping Trisha



Friends in the News



Matt, Hale, and Barclay K., 11, 10, and 7, Victoria, Australia, enjoy singing songs in Primary. Matt is looking forward to receiving the priesthood. He likes to play rugby and basketball. Hale always loves to see the Melbourne Australia Temple. She enjoys being with her friends. Barclay likes to skateboard and play soccer. His favorite food is lasagna.



Eliza V., 7, Washington, is cheerful, patient, and fun. She enjoys parties, playing in the woods, reading, playing chess, caring for chickens, playing the piano, and kayaking. Her family adores her.



Justin K., 11, Texas, sings in the ward choir. He is a helper and likes to help his bishop at church and his family at home. He is looking forward to receiving the priesthood.



Kelcie T., 9, South Carolina, is the oldest of four and a wonderful example to her siblings. She loves her Heavenly Father and tries to be like Jesus. She enjoys art, bike riding, singing, and visiting local history sites.



Spencer T., 6, Idaho, is a kind, sharing boy. He has memorized the Articles of Faith and knows President Hinckley is a true prophet of God. He enjoys soccer, golf, the *Friend*, and baking with his mom.



Jared C., 6, Maryland, likes to jump on the trampoline with his brother and sisters. He enjoys reading the Book of Mormon, helping his family, and playing board games with his dad.



Soydría R., 7, Wyoming, is named after a sister missionary who helped her dad join the Church. She enjoys duck hunting and ice fishing with her dad. She has one brother and one sister.



Chase B., 3, Germany, likes knights, cowboys, and superheroes. He is excited to be a Sunbeam in Primary. His daddy is a soldier who is away serving his country. Chase misses him very much.



Chiara E., 10, Connecticut, likes to read, play softball and soccer, and take care of her baby sister. She is very good at playing church hymns on the saxophone and the piano.



Kahalu'u Ward

After their first Primary activity of the year, the Primary children of the Kahalu'u Ward, Kaneohe Hawaii Stake, enjoyed root beer floats. The theme focused on spiritual Sabbath day activities.



Daniel L., 11, New Mexico, accepted President Hinckley's challenge and read the Book of Mormon by the end of 2005. He loves to play football, basketball, and soccer. He is a good friend to everyone.



Quail Valley Ward

When President Hinckley asked everyone to read the Book of Mormon by the end of 2005, the Primary children of the Quail Valley Ward, St. George Utah Little Valley Stake, took up the challenge. Every Sunday they put footsteps on the poster to show that they were following the prophet. Their testimonies grew as they obeyed.



Rocklin Fifth Ward

For a long-term activity, the 8- and 9-year-old girls of the Rocklin Fifth Ward, Rocklin California Stake, worked on small rugs based on one of President Hinckley's "B's." Before they finished their own, the girls worked on a rug for one girl who, due to physical disabilities, could not always attend activity day. They presented her with the completed rug to let her know that she is loved and missed when she cannot attend.



Omar and **Amina F.**, 5 and 3, Alberta, Canada, have five sisters. Omar was named after his grandfather in Somalia. He enjoys playing soccer with his friend Liam. Amina loves to dance like a ballerina. She likes to sing "Follow the Prophet."



Alyssa H., 7, Utah, likes to read, dance, and play the piano. She is a kind friend to her four siblings. She has a testimony of Jesus Christ and enjoys reading the Book of Mormon with her family at night.

Luke A., 5, Arizona, likes being outside, playing on the computer, and spending time with his big sister Holly or his favorite uncle Adam. His family loves him very much.

Coppell First Ward

The Primary children of the Coppell First Ward, Lewisville Texas Stake, assembled humanitarian school kits for an activity. Many of the school kits were given to children locally who had moved to Texas because of Hurricane Katrina. The Primary children said it made them feel good inside to help other children.



India A., 8, New Zealand, is Australian but lives in New Zealand while her dad works for the Church. She enjoys ballet, netball, and swimming. Her best friend is her sister, Scarlet.

BY HILARY M. HENDRICKS

(Based on a true story)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above (James 1:17).

No. Mine!" Eli said loudly and pushed his little fist into my shoulder, hard.

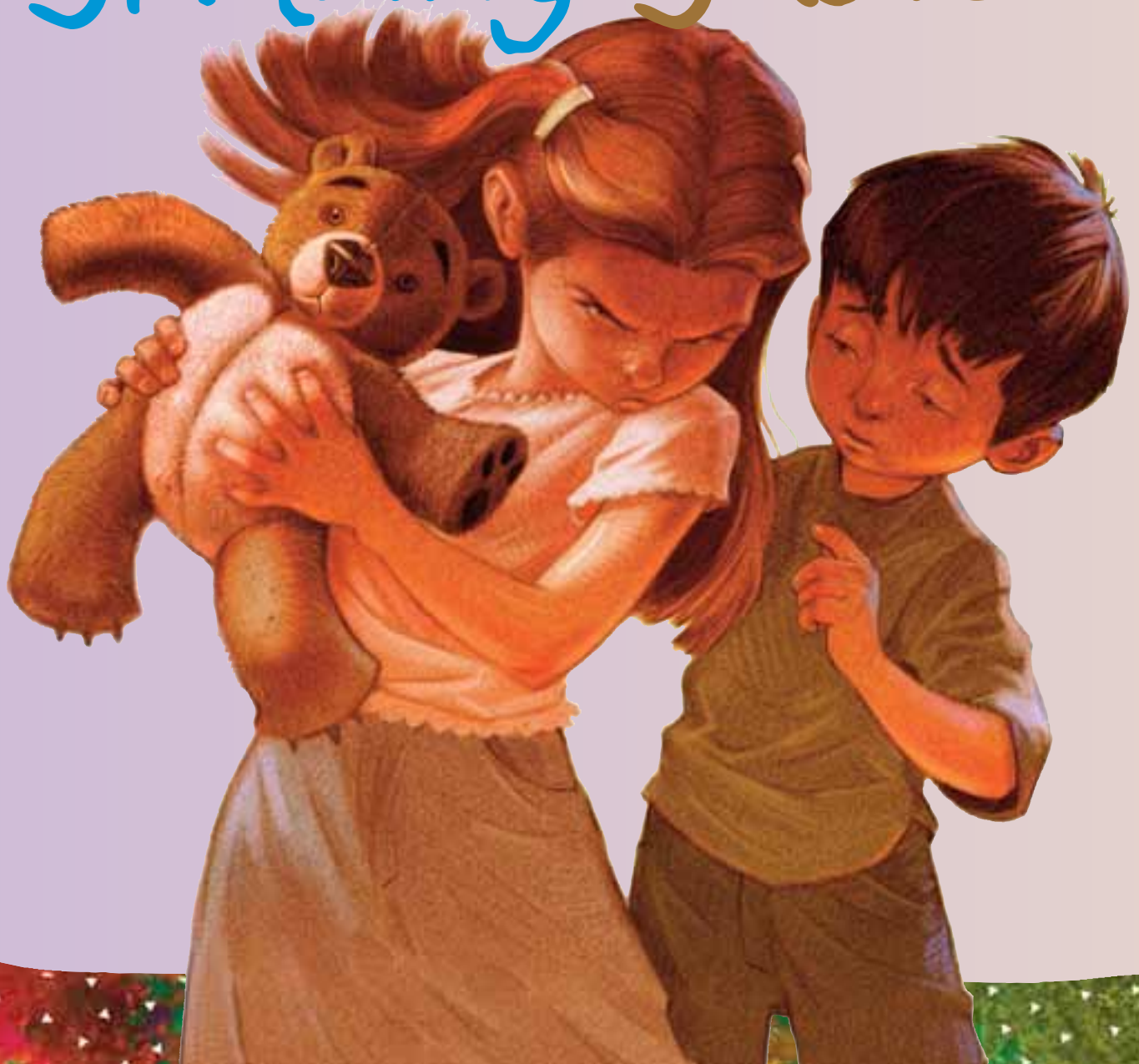
"Susie is my bear," I shouted back. "Grandma gave her to me for my birthday!" I turned away from Eli so he could not grab the bear from me. Then I yelled for Mom.

"Susie, mine! No Hannah!" Eli told Mom with a frown.

"Hannah, I know Susie is your bear," Mom said. "But Eli doesn't understand. Could you at least let him hold her today, since it's his birthday?"

That didn't sound fair to me. When Susie was new, Eli was just a baby. I let him carry her around and sleep with her in his bed. Pretty

Sharing Susie



soon Eli thought that Susie was his own special bear. He wouldn't share her with me anymore—not ever.

"Mom, Eli is two years old now," I said. "He should know how to take turns."

"We're going to have to think about this," Mom said. Then she put Susie up high in the closet so we wouldn't keep fighting.

That afternoon, when Eli was taking his nap, Mom and I had a good idea. "This means that when you want to play with Susie, you will have to ask Eli," Mom reminded me.

"I know," I said. Mom gave me a hug. Then we went down to the basement and found some tissue paper and a bag. Mom let me decorate the bag with markers. "This is going to be so fun for Eli," I said.

When Eli woke up, we brought him into the living room. "Hannah has a special surprise for you, Eli," Mom said.

I handed him the bag and he pulled out the tissue paper. At the bottom of the bag he found Susie.

"Susie. Hannah. Me!" Eli said. He smiled and laughed and did his happy

dance. He hugged Susie again and again.

"Susie is your bear now," I told him. "Happy birthday."

That night Mom and I watched Eli fall asleep with Susie in his arms. Mom squeezed my hand and I felt warm inside. But I wondered how long it would be until Eli would let me play with Susie again.

A few days later we were reading scriptures in Mom and Dad's bedroom. Mom and I sat on the bed, and Eli stood next to us, holding Susie. We read about being witnesses for Jesus Christ. "To be a witness means that we tell people about Jesus," Mom explained. "How do we help Eli know about Jesus?"

"We love him," I said.

"That's a very good way," Mom said.

Suddenly, something warm and fuzzy landed in my lap. It was Susie Bear.

"Hannah. Susie," Eli said, pointing at me.

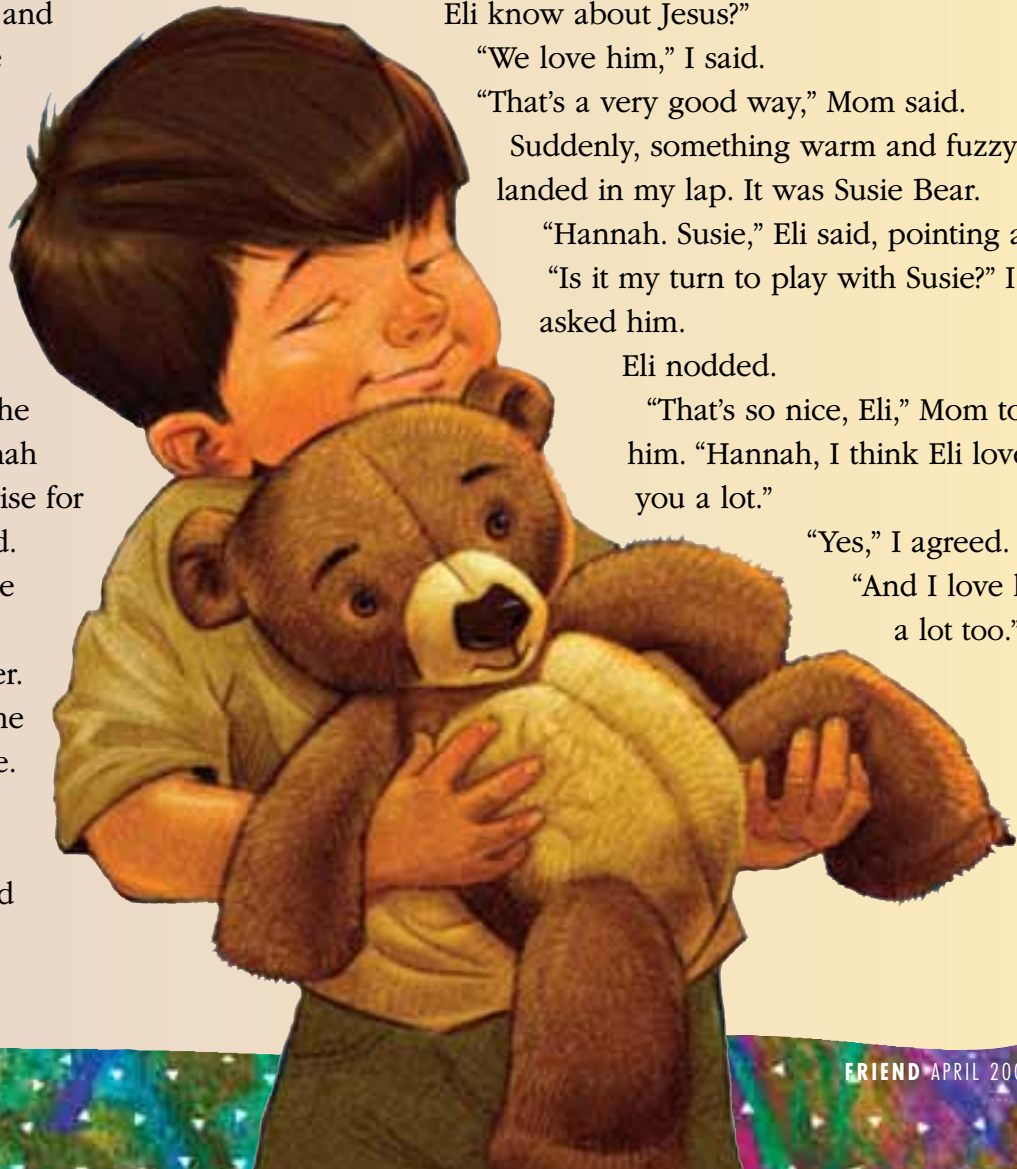
"Is it my turn to play with Susie?" I asked him.

Eli nodded.

"That's so nice, Eli," Mom told him. "Hannah, I think Eli loves you a lot."

"Yes," I agreed.

"And I love him a lot too." ●



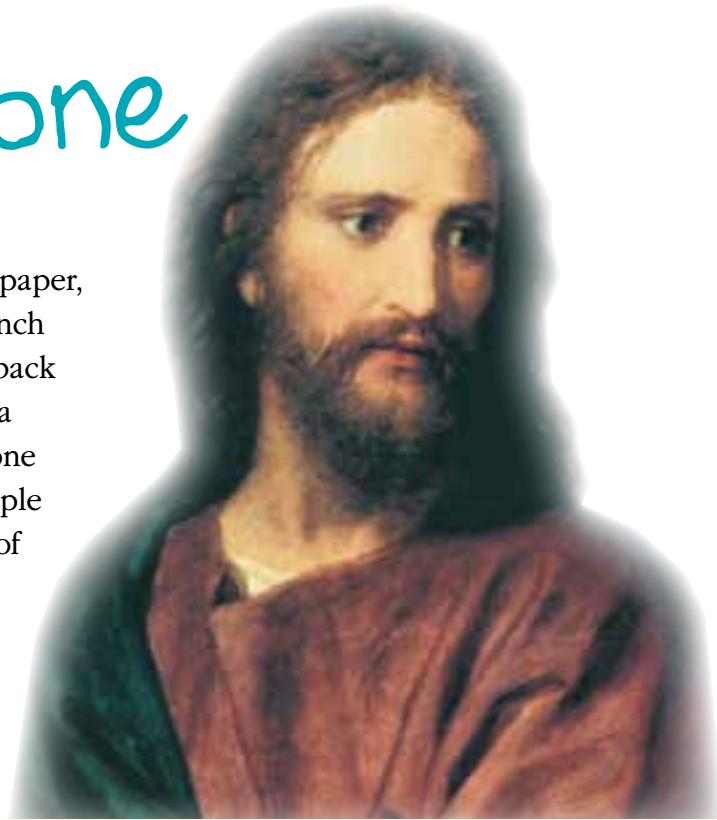
Jesus Christ Loves Everyone

BY PAT GRAHAM

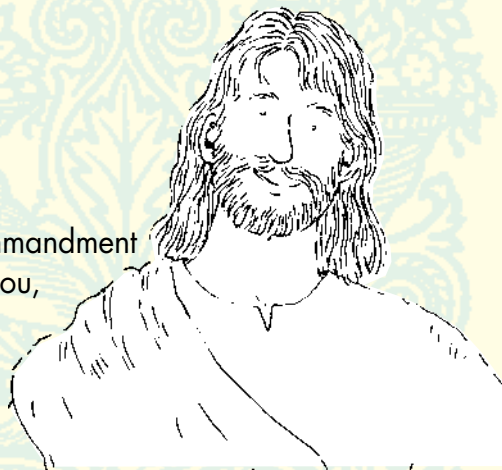
Instructions: Mount these two pages on heavy white paper, then cut out the picture pages on the broken lines. Punch holes along the sides of the pages as marked. On the back of each mounted picture (except the title page), draw a picture of yourself doing an act of love similar to the one Jesus is doing. As you draw a picture, think of the people you can show love to. Place the picture pages on top of each other with the title page on the top. Line up the holes, and tie your book together with ribbon or yarn.

Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.

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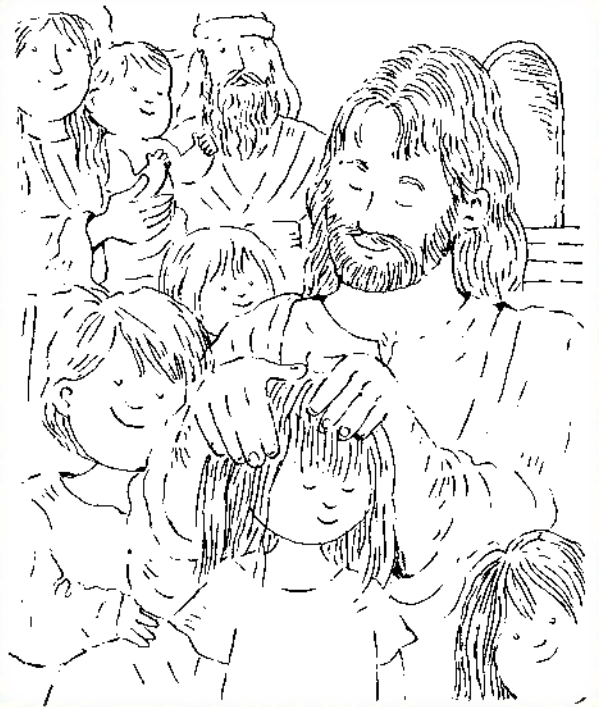


“A new commandment
I give unto you,
That ye

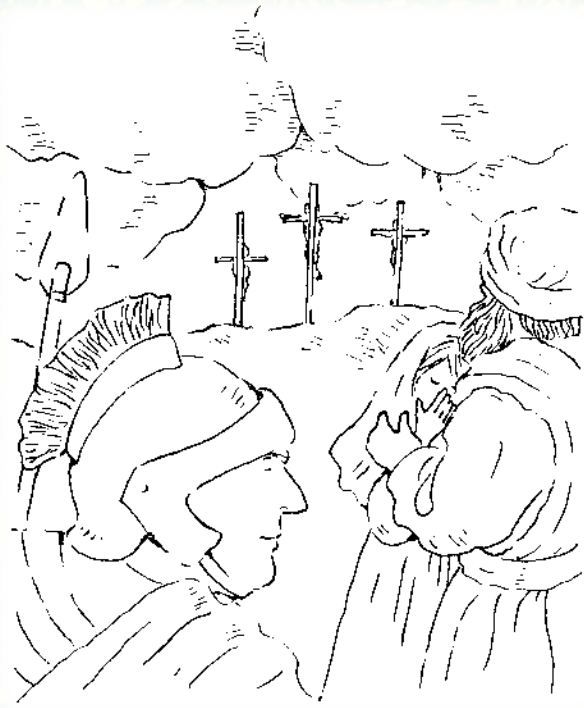


love
one
another;

as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”
(John 13:34).



Jesus loves everyone
(3 Nephi 17:21–23)



Jesus forgives those who make mistakes

(Luke 23:32-34)



Jesus teaches the gospel

(Matthew 5)



Jesus serves others

(John 13:4-15)



Jesus heals the sick

(John 9:1-11)



Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

Ring of Kindness

By Toby D.



Our Primary leaders gave each child in Primary a CTR ring and told us to try not to lose them. When we got home from Primary my little sister, Julia, dropped her ring down the bathroom vent and started to cry.



I remembered that I had an extra CTR ring from last year, so I ran upstairs to get it. I hurried back down and gave it to my sister. When she stopped crying I felt good inside.

Toby D., age 7, Washington

Sitting by Bintu

By Carly C.

One day I walked into the science lab at school and saw my friend Inari sitting at the front of the room. As I was making my way to her, I saw a new student, Bintu, from Africa. She did not speak English. She was sitting all alone with a frown on her face. Thinking

of what Jesus Christ would do, I quickly turned around and sat by Bintu. She began to smile happily. Everyone else was shocked, but I knew that I had done the right thing.

Carly C., age 11, Virginia



A Good Example

By Ross S.



My friend Joshua and his family are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints. One night Joshua came over to my house. While we played, he used the names of Heavenly Father and Jesus in vain. I told him that he was not supposed to say that because it was breaking a commandment. Joshua didn't know that. We talked about something different he could say instead. He appreciated my help.

Ross S., age 9, North Dakota

The Pink Wallet

By McKenna P.

My cousin Brooke and I found a cute pink wallet at a garage sale. We bought it. When we got home we found some money in one of the



Finding Courage

By Kaden T.



During a spelling test I looked at someone's paper and saw that

I had spelled the word *tease* wrong. I changed my answer. During lunch that day my mom took me to my violin lesson. I felt bad about cheating, and even though I was scared to tell my mom about it, I did. She said I needed to tell the teacher what had happened. When we got



back to school my mother asked if I needed her to come with me to tell my teacher. I told her no. I was scared for the rest of the school day. I kept walking up to my teacher to tell her and then going back to my desk because I was too scared. Finally at the end of the day I told my teacher what happened. She marked the answer wrong but then gave me a hug and told me, "Thank you for being honest." I'm glad I told my teacher even though it was very hard. I felt much better afterward. I will never cheat on a test again. I will always try to be honest in everything I do.

Kaden T., age 7, Idaho

compartments. We knew that the money did not belong to us.

We went back to the garage sale

and returned the money.

We knew that we had made the right choice because we felt good inside.

McKenna P. and Brooke C., ages 10 and 10, Utah



Game Ended

By Jarom P.



I played a computer game at a friend's house. When I got home I asked my dad if I

could buy the game. We went to the store and I bought it. Later we began to notice that the game had bad words and characters that were not modest. We returned the game to the store and were able to get a

game with no bad words or immodest people. Now I'm much more careful about the games I pick.

Jarom P., age 8, California





FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT SPENCER W. KIMBALL

Playing the Piano

When Spencer was young, his father saved money to buy a piano.

Children, learning a musical skill is very valuable.



Spencer thought his fingers were too short and chubby for piano playing, and they were often chapped from playing marbles.



After a few piano lessons, Spencer wanted to quit.

Spencer, if you'll practice the piano today, I'll let you do that instead of digging ditches with your brothers.



Yes, sir!



When Spencer was 14, he joined a band and earned money playing at dances.



He also played for his friends at parties.

Let's sing!

Who will play?

I haven't practiced.

Oh, I can't play without my sheet music.

You can play a hundred times better than I can, but I'll try.



His musical skill helped him years later as a missionary.

Is that a Kimball piano? That's my name too.

Would you like to hear a hymn played on a Kimball by a Kimball?

All right. Come in.



As an Apostle, he often played for families he stayed with during his Church travels. He wrote, "They'll forget my sermons, but they'll never forget the singing."

AN **OLD SOCK** **NEW FRIEND**
AND A



BY LANA KRUMWIEDE

(Based on a true story)

Become acquainted with . . . languages, tongues, and people (D&C 90:15).

Lexi ran outside with the rest of Mrs. Crandall's third-grade class for recess. What should she play today? Sometimes she jumped rope with Tara and Isabella. Sometimes she played foursquare with David and Kristina and Callie. But Lexi wanted to do something different today. Maybe she should join the soccer game.

Then Lexi noticed something very different.

A new girl sat near the edge of the playground. She had brown skin and long, shiny hair that reminded Lexi of her piano teacher's glossy black piano. Lexi thought the new girl looked like a princess from another country.

Why wasn't anyone playing with the new girl? Lexi decided to ask a teacher.

"Her name is Nasimah," the teacher said. "She's from Pakistan. She doesn't speak English, but I'm sure she'd like to play with you."

"I don't know," Lexi said. She wondered how she could play with the new girl if they couldn't talk to each other. How would she say, "What do you want to play?" or, "It's your turn," or even, "Hello?"

Lexi decided to jump rope with Isabella after all. But she watched Nasimah whenever she could.

At home, Lexi couldn't stop thinking of Nasimah and how lonely she must be. There had to be a way to talk to her. Maybe Mom could think of something.

Lexi found her mother in

the laundry room. She was sewing patches on Lexi's brother's Scout shirt. "Do you know any words from Pakistan?" Lexi asked.

"No," Mom said. "Why?"

Lexi explained about Nasimah.

"If you want to play with her, I think you should," Mom said, "even if you can't understand her words."

"I don't know," Lexi said. She hung her head and played with the spools of thread in Mom's sewing box. A ball of black yarn reminded Lexi of Nasimah's shiny hair.

An idea was coming together in Lexi's brain. "Mom," she said, "do you have an old sock I can use?"

"An old sock? I suppose so."

"And can I use some of this yarn?" Lexi dug through the box and found the button jar.

"And a couple of buttons?"

"Sure," Mom said.

With a little help from Mom, Lexi made the perfect sock puppet. Its



“In the great diversity of peoples, cultures, and circumstances, we remember that all are equal before the Lord.”

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Heirs to the Kingdom of God,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 62.



hair was black, just like Nasimah’s hair. Its button eyes were blue, just like Lexi’s eyes. Mom helped Lexi make a red dress for the puppet.

The next day, Lexi thought recess would never come. Concentrating on her spelling test was hard. She kept thinking of the sock puppet in her backpack. Finally recess came and Lexi raced outside with the puppet.

Where was Nasimah? Lexi looked all over the playground. At last, Nasimah came out with her class and stood by the wall.

Lexi took a deep breath. Would the puppet work? It had seemed like such a wonderful idea yesterday.

“I have to try,” Lexi thought.

She walked slowly over to Nasimah. Lexi held up the puppet and slipped it over her hand. Moving her hand, she made the puppet talk.

“Hi!” the puppet said in Lexi’s voice. “Do you want to play with me?”

Lexi took the puppet off her hand. She gave it to Nasimah and helped her put it on her hand.

Nasimah moved the sock puppet. It began to speak strange words that danced in Lexi’s ears. They took turns with the puppet for the rest of recess. When Lexi held the puppet, it spoke English. When Nasimah held the puppet, it spoke her language. Lexi thought she was starting to understand a couple of words.

When the bell rang, Lexi handed the puppet to her new friend. “You keep it,” Lexi said. “It’s a present.”

Nasimah seemed to understand. She kept the puppet and smiled.

“Smiles are the same in all languages,” Lexi thought. And she smiled back. ●



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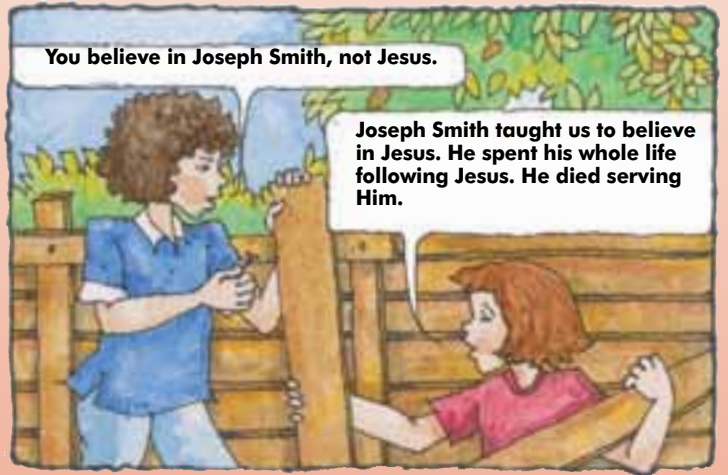
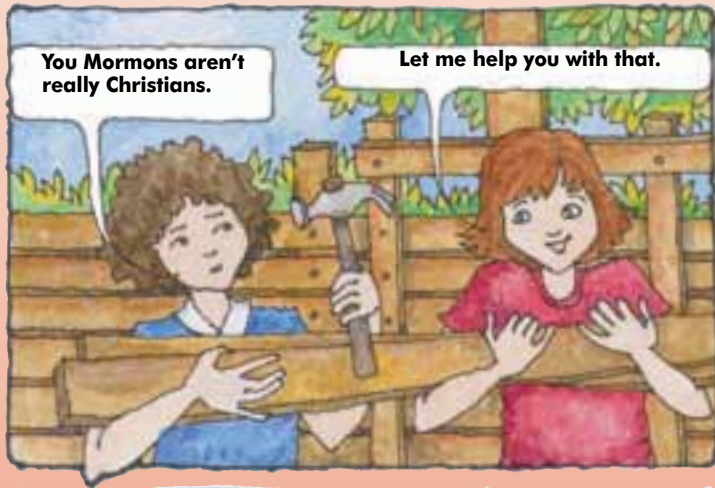
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Guide to the Friend



The Guide to the Friend can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. The Primary theme for April is "My faith in Jesus Christ grows when I know He is my Savior and Redeemer."



Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. Read "Ladybug Lesson" (IFC) and "Sharing Time Butterfly" (pp. 4-6). Why did a ladybug and a butterfly remind some children of the Resurrection? What other things in nature can remind you that we will live again after death? (The coming of spring, the rising of the sun each day.) Draw pictures of butterflies. On each wing, write a blessing you will enjoy because of the Savior's Resurrection. (A perfect body, the opportunity to be with family again if we live faithfully, etc.)

2. Read "Learning God's Law" (pp. 10-11). Today we do not pay tithing with goods or items. How can we still, as David O. McKay learned, give the best to God and put Him at the center of our lives? Draw a circle. In the middle of the circle draw things that represent obedience to Heavenly Father, such as the scriptures, a temple, and a CTR symbol. Then draw other things that are important to you, such as hobbies, around the outside of the circle. Each day, try to give your best time and effort to the things in the middle of the circle.

3. Have each family member look up the scriptures listed on page 19. Have older children write down the scriptures, word for word, on a piece of paper. Parents can read

and explain the scriptures to younger children. Ask, "Who finished writing [or listening to] the scriptures first?" Then ask, "What did you learn from these scriptures?" Point out that reading the scriptures quickly is not important but trying to understand them is. Read "A Lesson in Learning" (pp. 18-20). Discuss ways you can be better learners at school, home, and church.

4. Use the activity on page 25 to learn the names of the First Presidency and Twelve Apostles. Spin the wheel until a picture shows through the window. Take turns trying to remember each General Authority's name and what he spoke about during general conference. If you need a reminder, review the talks at www.lds.org.



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Topical Index to this Issue of the *Friend*

(FLF) = For Little Friends
(f) = Funstuff
(IFC) = inside front cover
(m) = music
(v) = verse

- Choose the Right 8, 18, 40
- Church History 12 (m)
- Death 2
- Faith 2, 31
- Family 8, 27, 28, 32, 36 (FLF)
- Friends 18, 40, 44, 48
- General Conference 24
- Heavenly Father IFC, 2, 10, 32
- Jesus Christ IFC, 2, 4, 7 (v), 10, 14, 26 (f), 31, 36 (FLF), 38 (FLF), 40, 48
- Joseph Smith 12 (m), 48
- Learning 10, 18, 32, 42
- Love and Kindness 32, 36 (FLF), 38 (FLF), 40, 44
- Missionary Work 8, 42, 48
- Music 12
- My Gospel Standards IFC, 2, 4, 8, 14, 18, 28, 36 (FLF), 38 (FLF), 40, 48
- Prayer IFC, 32
- Profanity 40
- Prophets 2, 7 (v), 10, 12 (m), 24, 42, 46, 48
- Quorum of the Seventy 8
- Quorum of the Twelve Apostles 6, 11, 20, 21, 24
- Scriptures 14
- Sharing 36 (FLF)
- Temples 32
- Testimony 2, 4, 14, 21
- Tithing 10

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What's in the *Friend* this month?



page 2

Read how a young child shared her testimony of life after death with President Monson.

page 18

Find out what important lesson Kasey learns at school.



page 24

Do this activity as you listen to general conference.

