

By President Thomas S. Monson

A Birthday Wish FULFILLED



President Monson reads the note on the jar of "warm fuzzies."

A few years ago, a reporter asked what birthday gift members worldwide could give to me. I replied, "Find someone who is having a hard time or is ill or lonely, and do something for him or her."

I was overwhelmed when I received hundreds of letters from members of the Church telling me how they had fulfilled that birthday wish.

One Primary sent a large jar containing hundreds of "warm fuzzies," each one representing an act of service performed during the year by one of the children.

One small child wrote, "My grandpa had a stroke, and I held his hand." From an 8-year-old girl: "My sister and I served my mom and family by

organizing and cleaning the toy closet."

An 11-year-old girl wrote: "There was a family in my ward that did not have a lot of money. The mom and dad had to go somewhere, so I offered to watch their three little girls. The dad was just about to hand me a \$5 bill. I said, 'I can't take [it]. My service was that I watched the girls for free.'"

A child in Mongolia wrote that he brought in water from the well so his mother would not have to do so. From a 4-year-old boy: "My dad is gone for army training. My special job is to give my mom hugs and kisses." Wrote a 9-year-old girl: "I picked strawberries for my

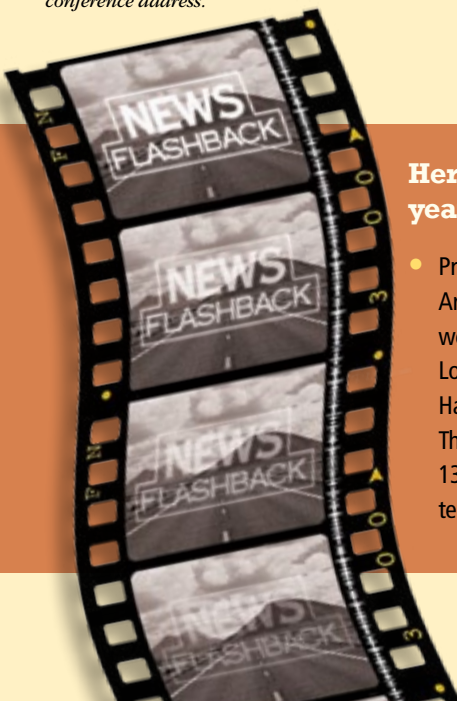
great-grandma.” And another: “I played with a lonely kid.”

From an 11-year-old boy: “I went to a lady’s house and asked her questions and sang her a song. She was happy because she never gets visitors.”

My heart has seldom been as grateful as it was when Sister Monson and I spent hours reading of these gifts.

Recall with me the words of King Benjamin: “When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17). We are surrounded by those in need of our kindness. We are the Lord’s hands here upon the earth, with the mandate to serve His children. ♦

From an October 2009 general conference address.



Make a Warm Fuzzy

With just a little yarn and cardboard, you can make enough fuzzies to warm the hearts of your family, friends, and neighbors. Here’s how:

- ▶ 1. Cut a short piece of yarn, about 6 inches (15 cm) long.



- ▶ 2. Cut out a 2 1/2-inch (6 cm) square of cardboard.



- ▶ 3. Hold one end of a long piece of yarn against the piece of cardboard and begin wrapping it around the cardboard. Wrap it around 50–100 times, not too tightly.



- ▶ 4. Pull the yarn off the cardboard, being careful to keep it together in a circle. Tie the short piece of yarn in a knot around the middle of the yarn circle.



- ▶ 5. Have an adult help you cut the looped ends of yarn. Fluff up your fuzzy. Now when you do a good deed, you can leave a fuzzy behind as a reminder that you care!



What are some of the changes that have happened in President Monson’s lifetime?



Here’s what was happening in 1927, the year President Monson was born.

- President Heber J. Grant dedicated the Mesa Arizona Temple—the seventh temple in the world. (The other six temples were in St. George, Logan, Manti, and Salt Lake City, Utah; Laie, Hawaii; and Cardston, Alberta, Canada.) There now are 134 operating temples.



- Charles Lindbergh flew an airplane from New York to Paris—the first solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean.
- The television was invented by a Latter-day Saint young man named Philo T. Farnsworth.

