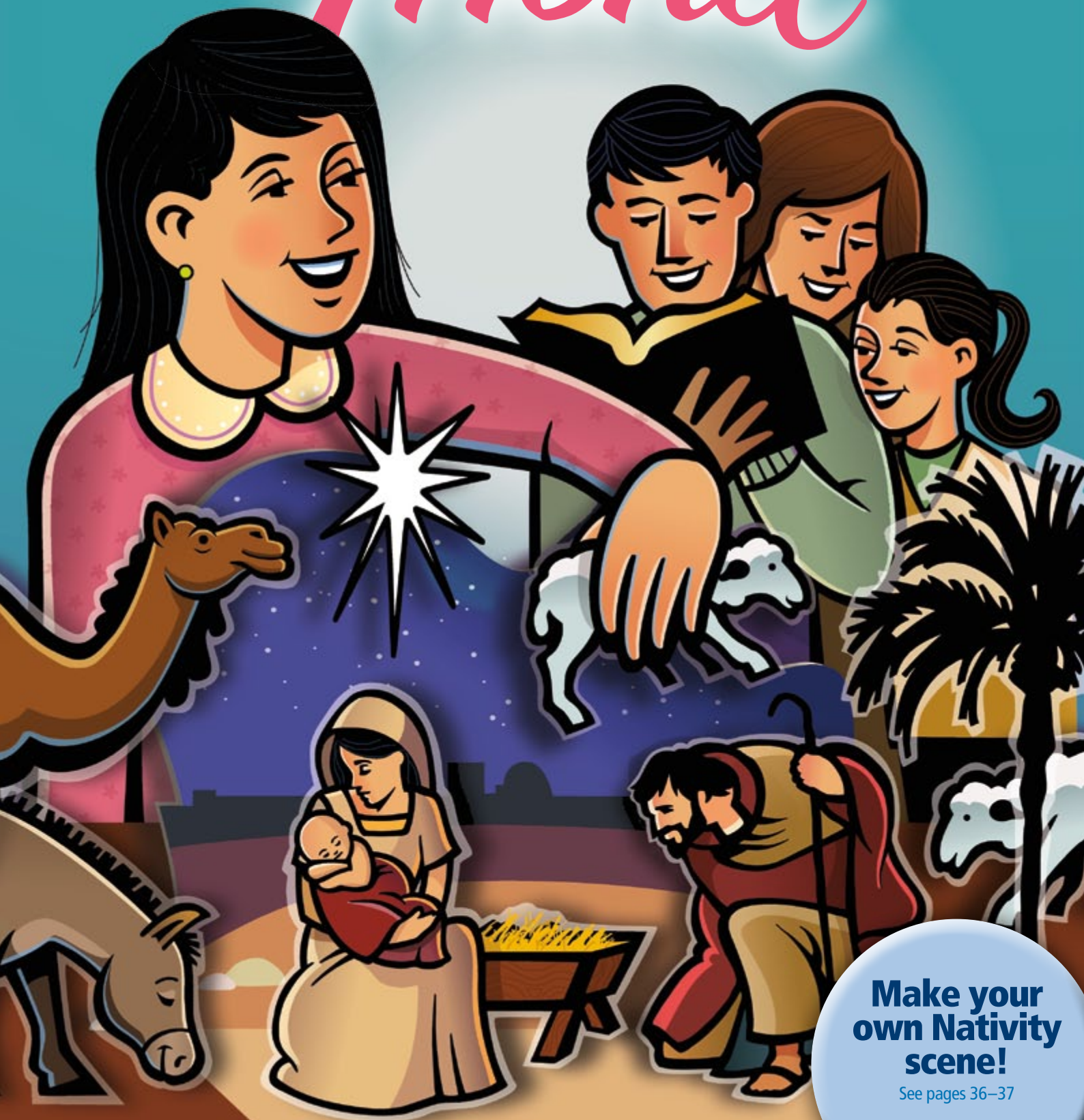


THE *Friend*



**Make your
own Nativity
scene!**

See pages 36–37



Please Print More Temple Cards



I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for the *Friend* magazine. I really enjoy reading it each month. I enjoyed the temple cards in past issues. I've cut out all the temple cards that I could find and pasted them together. Now I've got a

wall covered with temples all over the world. My collection is complete up to the Helsinki Finland Temple. Would you mind printing temple cards for the next nine temples, please?

Jonah B., age 12, Wisconsin

You can find the next nine temple cards on page 11. Find previous temple cards in all 2002 issues and in the April 2005 and September 2007 issues at lds.org/friend.

The *Friend* and Christmas Spirit



The December 2010 *Friend* reminded me about the Christmas spirit. It made me think about how my family lives in a country where we can't share the gospel with anyone. Luckily, we still have a small branch, even though not

many people here believe in the gospel. I know that the gospel is true and that the Christmas spirit is about Jesus's birth and about giving—not about getting presents. I hope some day soon people everywhere will start believing in the gospel.

Elisabeth H., age 9

Relaxing with the *Friend*



I am much shorter than most kids in my class, so sometimes I am called mean names. But after school, I like to kick back, relax, and enjoy the *Friend*. The *Friend* has so many inspiring things that I like to read and do. The "Bright Ideas" are my favorite. I can't wait to get the next *Friend*!

Dallin P., age 10, California

Was there a letter or a story in this month's issue that helped you? Tell us about it. Turn to page 48 to find out how.

Dear *Friend*,

How I Read the *Friend*

Maddison W., age 9, Utah



Volume 41 Number 12
December 2011

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To subscribe: By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express.

Online: Go to store.lds.org.

By mail: Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368.

To change address: Send old and new address information to Distribution Services at the above address, or change the address by phone at the number listed above. Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.

Submit manuscripts or art to:

Friend Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2432, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, United States of America. Unsolicited material is welcome, but no responsibility is assumed. For return, include self-addressed, stamped envelope. Children's submissions will not be returned. E-mail: friend@ldschurch.org.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

Canada Post Information: Publication Agreement #40017431.

THE *Friend*

See the
Guide to the *Friend*
on page 48 for
family home
evening ideas.



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

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Cover by Scott Greer



Visit lds.org/friend to find this issue as well as games, activities, music, and more.



Hidden CTR Ring

Clue: There are different kinds of Christmas trees. Some are even made of paper.



Can We See the **CHRIST?**

By President
Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Second
Counselor
in the First
Presidency



One night a grandfather was reading a story to his four-year-old granddaughter when she looked up and said, "Grandpa, look at the stars!" The older man smiled kindly and said, "We're indoors, honey. There are no stars here." But the child insisted, "You have stars in your room! Look!"

The grandfather looked up and, to his surprise, noticed that the ceiling was peppered with a metallic glitter. It was invisible most of the time, but when the light struck the glitter a certain way, it did indeed look like a field of stars. It took the eyes of a child to see them, but there they were. And from that moment on,

when the grandfather walked into this room and looked up, he could see what he had not been able to see before.

We are entering another wonderful Christmas season filled with music and lights, parties and presents. But the glitter of the season should never dim our sight and prevent us from truly seeing the Prince of Peace in His majesty.

Let us all make this year's Christmas season a time when we acknowledge the miracle that our Almighty God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem the world! ♦



LOOKING TO SEE THE SAVIOR

President Uchtdorf said that at Christmastime we should look for things that remind us of the Savior's life. Look up the scripture references below. Find the picture that matches each scripture, and write the reference below the picture.

Matthew 2:9-10

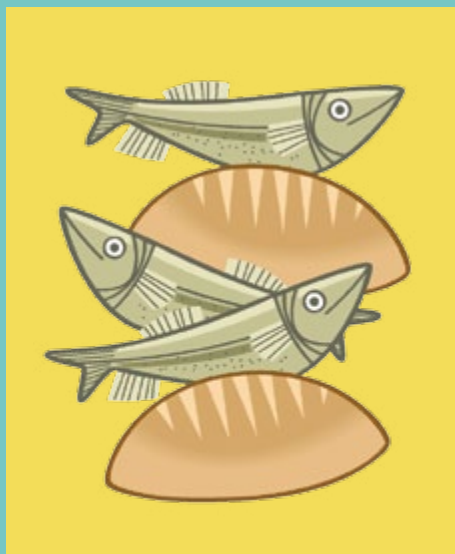
Luke 2:46

Matthew 15:32-38

Luke 2:8-11

Luke 2:7

Mark 4:36-39



The GIFT

By Monica C. Webster

(Based on a true story)

Tell the true story of Jesus' birth, when, as a baby, he came to the earth (Children's Songbook, 52–53).

Snowflakes fell as Sofia stepped outside. Snow usually made her happy. But this year, things were different. She bent down and scooped up some snow in a bowl, then went back inside.

The kitchen was warm, and Mama was at the stove cooking breakfast. Sofia dumped the snow into a pot so it could melt. They would use the melted snow for washing their hands and faces.

“Merry Christmas, Sofia,” Mama said.

Sofia wanted to say Merry Christmas back, but the words stuck in her throat as she walked toward the barn to help feed the animals. The barn was attached to the house by a long hallway, and Sofia was grateful she didn't have to go outside again.

Papa and her older brother Isak were already in the barn when she got there. A knot formed in Sofia's stomach as she looked around. Cows, goats, and sheep were chewing their breakfast. Chickens pecked around her feet. But the barn was a lot emptier these days.

A month ago, some of their animals got sick and died. People in the community were afraid the disease would spread to other farms, so Sofia's family's farm

had been quarantined. That meant no one was allowed to visit or leave their farm until they could be sure the sickness was gone.

Sofia had not seen any of her friends. She could not go to school or church. Her family could not sell their milk or go to the store. They were like prisoners on their own farm.

“Merry Christmas, Sofia!” voices squealed when Sofia returned to the kitchen. Her little brother and sister, Frej and Kaia, were sitting at the table eating bits of bread soaked in milk.

“You won't have any room in your tummies for dinner!” Sofia said, smiling.

“Not that it matters,” she thought. Christmas dinner was going to be the same food they'd been eating for a month. Bread. Potatoes. Dried vegetables. All things they had stored from summer. They couldn't even afford to eat one of their chickens. Who knew how long the quarantine would last?

“Hey, everyone,” Isak said, coming in from the barn. “Get your coats on. I want to show you something.”

Isak led them through the pine forest near the farm.

“Are we going to cut down a Christmas tree?” Kaia asked.





“I don’t think so,” Sofia said. “We can’t go to the store to buy decorations. We don’t even have any presents to put under it.”

Kaia and Frej looked disappointed, but soon they were running through the snow, trying to see who was fastest.

“Wait!” Isak called after a few moments.

Sofia peered into the forest. “What’s that?” she whispered.

There was a little click, and suddenly a light flared in the darkness.

“Oh!” they all gasped.

In front of them was a table built from fallen branches.

A small stable made from moss sat on top, and inside was their

family’s Nativity set. Angels, shepherds, and Wise Men gathered around Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. A small lightbulb in the roof of the stable lit the scene.

Kaia and Frej stared, fascinated. Sofia stared too. It was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen.

“Merry Christmas,” Isak said.

And suddenly Sofia knew that it was. There would be no presents, no tree, and no special dinner. But there would always be the precious gift of the Savior. And that was enough. ♦

“Christmas is more than trees and twinkling lights, more than toys and gifts. . . . It is the love of the Son of God for all mankind.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008)



“Peace, be still.”

—Mark 4:39





Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some thoughts on this subject.



How Can I FOLLOW the SAVIOR?



The sacrament allows us to witness to God that we will remember His Son and keep His commandments as we renew our baptismal covenant.



The Savior declared that we would be known as His disciples if we have love one to another.



Follow our living prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. He is an excellent example of one who follows the Savior.



We must take upon us the name of Jesus Christ and receive His image in our countenance so that when He comes we will be more like Him.

From "We Follow Jesus Christ," Ensign, May 2010, 84, 86; "Live by Faith and Not by Fear," Ensign, Nov. 2007, 73.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVE KROPP; DETAIL FROM CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER, BY HEINRICH HOFMANN, COURTESY OF C. HARRISON CONROY CO.

Soft Answers

By Linda G. Paulsen
(Based on a true story)

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger (Proverbs 15:1).

Jacob slipped in the cold slush on the entry floor. “Hold still, Annie!” he shouted.

He squatted next to the big dog and reached for her front paw. He held a towel in his other hand. Annie whined and jerked her paw away when Jacob touched it. She shook herself and nearly knocked Jacob over. He grabbed at her collar and shouted, “Annie! Hold still!”

Jacob let Annie go and wiped up the puddles with the towel. It was his responsibility to clean Annie’s paws when she came in the house, but it was frustrating. Annie didn’t like having her paws cleaned. Jacob sighed. He loved Annie, but she was a lot of work.

So was school. Mrs. Randall assigned a lot of homework, and Jacob didn’t think she was fair. Yesterday, Jacob went to school with his homework unfinished.

“But I already know how to do it, Mrs. Randall,” Jacob said. “I don’t see why I should have to do 20 problems to prove it!”

Mrs. Randall frowned. “I require 20 problems, Jacob. No arguments.” She marked his check-off sheet “Incomplete.”

It seemed that every week Jacob had a problem with

Mrs. Randall. Jacob couldn’t wait until Christmas break.

Things were getting worse with Annie too. Whenever Jacob tried to wipe Annie’s feet, she nipped at his fingers.

“No!” Jacob would shout.

By Christmas Eve, Jacob’s fingers were seriously sore. There were little nip marks all over them. Annie didn’t bite hard, but her teeth were sharp.

“Ouch!” Jacob shouted as Annie bit him once again. “Stop it, Annie!”

“Why are you shouting at your dog, Jacob?” Grandma asked. She had been watching from the sofa as Jacob wiped Annie’s paws.

“She chews my fingers,” Jacob explained.

“Well, shouting won’t help,” Grandma said.

“People and dogs are alike that way.”

For some reason, a picture of Mrs. Randall came into Jacob’s head. Could he be speaking to her the wrong way too?

“The scriptures say, ‘A soft answer turneth away wrath,’” Grandma said. Then she got up from the sofa and went to the kitchen.

Jacob was thoughtful as he went to the kitchen for dinner. “Grandma, what’s wrath?” he asked.

“Wrath is anger or wanting to punish,” she said.

Jacob thought about that. Maybe he hadn’t tried everything with Annie.

Before bed, Jacob had to mop Annie’s feet for the last time of the night. Instead of shouting and



Muddy Paws

scolding, he tried to speak quietly. He talked to her about Christmas. He called Annie a good dog and told her he loved her. He politely asked her to stop biting his fingers. Annie had been whining and nipping at his hands, but as he got to her last paw, she stopped. Jacob kept talking, kindly and softly. Annie twitched a little as he finished toweling between her toes, but she didn't bite.

Jacob could hardly wait to tell Grandma. He knew the "soft answer" was the right answer. He knew it would help Annie to stop nipping at his fingers. Jacob felt good inside. The Holy Ghost was testifying to him that he had learned a true principle.

As Jacob got ready for bed, he thought about Mrs. Randall. He knew he needed to work hard on his assignments and be responsible for his schoolwork. He also knew that he needed to speak more respectfully. Could a soft answer turn away some of Mrs. Randall's frustration with him?

"There's only one way to find out," Jacob thought.

He was excited to try. ♦





CATCHING CHRISTMAS

By Tina Dean

Mother has always been careful
To keep me from catching a sickness.
But one thing she hopes I come down with
Is a condition called "spirit of Christmas."

Catching the spirit of Christmas
Is nothing like catching a cold.
It makes you feel warm
And new and transformed
And leaves your heart feeling like gold.

Catching the spirit of Christmas
Is the catchiest of all that goes 'round
During this season
When there's no greater reason
To lift those whose heads hang down.

Catching the spirit of Christmas
Won't leave you sick in your bed.
It'll give you the zest
To start living your best
And love others as Jesus has said.

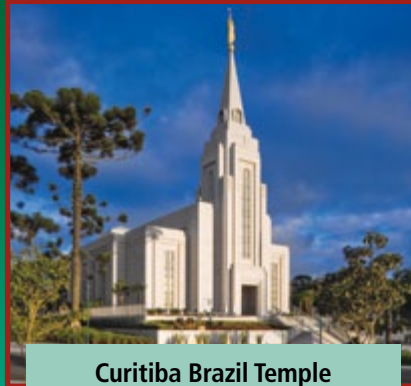
Temple Cards

To make your own temple cards, remove this page from the magazine, glue it to heavy paper, and cut out the cards. You can add these cards to the cards that appeared in each issue of 2002 and in the April 2005 and September 2007 issues. To print more copies of the cards, go to lds.org/friend/2011/12.



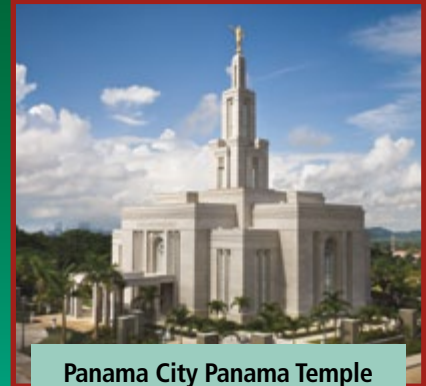
Rexburg Idaho Temple

Dedicated on February 10, 2008,
by President Thomas S. Monson



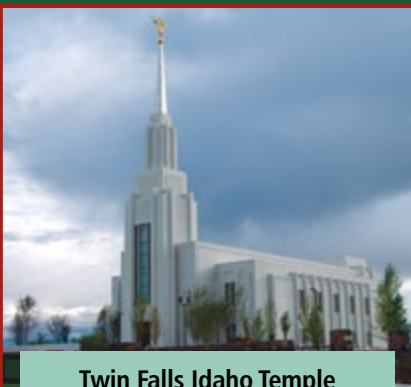
Curitiba Brazil Temple

Dedicated on June 1, 2008,
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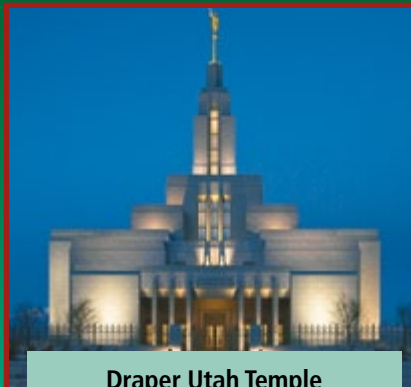
Panama City Panama Temple

Dedicated on August 10, 2008,
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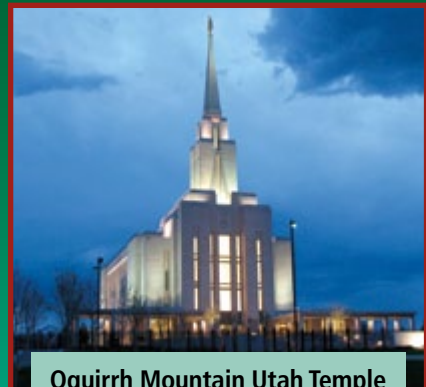
Twin Falls Idaho Temple

Dedicated on August 24, 2008,
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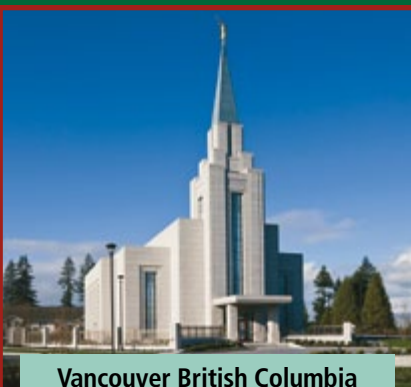
Draper Utah Temple

Dedicated on March 20, 2009,
by President Thomas S. Monson



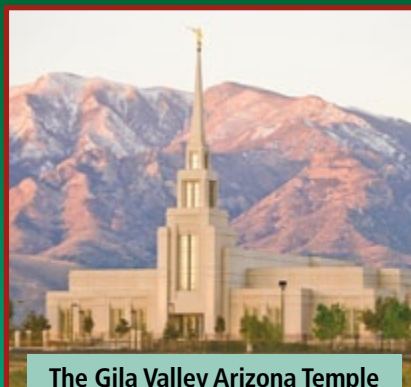
Oquirrh Mountain Utah Temple

Dedicated on August 21, 2009,
by President Thomas S. Monson



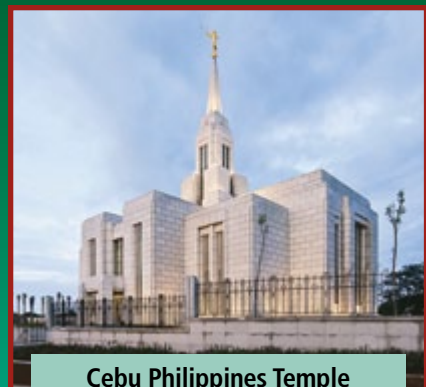
Vancouver British Columbia Temple

Dedicated on May 2, 2010,
by President Thomas S. Monson



The Gila Valley Arizona Temple

Dedicated on May 23, 2010,
by President Thomas S. Monson



Cebu Philippines Temple

Dedicated on June 13, 2010,
by President Thomas S. Monson

Bulletin Board

SEWING

a Modest Style

The activity day girls from the Lake Hills Ward, Billings Montana East Stake, learned about modesty and the importance of showing respect for your body. They even made their own modest skirts! The girls got to choose the fabric; then they sewed the skirts with help from their mothers and other women in their ward. The girls then planned a special dinner with their mothers, and they modeled the skirts in a fashion show. Many of the girls wore their skirts to church, and one even wore hers to a piano recital. "Dressing modestly makes me feel good," said Elizabeth R. Learning about the importance of modesty helped the girls be courageous in maintaining their standards.

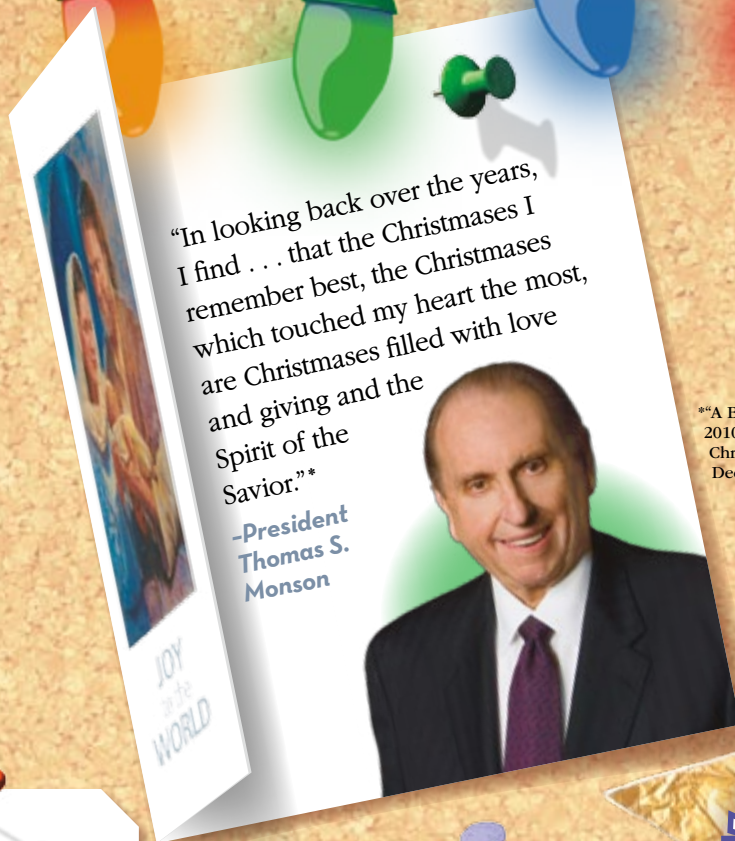


Christmas Bark Paintings

brown paper grocery bag
water
black marker
acrylic or craft paint

1. Cut a large rectangle from the paper bag. Get the paper wet, then crumple it up. Squeeze out the water, then flatten out the paper and let dry. (You can use an iron on low heat to flatten the paper more, but ask for an adult's help.) The paper will look like flattened tree bark.
2. Draw the outline of your picture with the black marker.
3. Fill in the spaces with the paint.





"In looking back over the years, I find . . . that the Christmases I remember best, the Christmases which touched my heart the most, are Christmases filled with love and giving and the Spirit of the Savior."*

-President Thomas S. Monson

*"A Bright Shining Star," 2010 First Presidency Christmas Devotional, Dec. 5, 2010.

Fast

Fact

At Christmastime, Temple Square in Salt Lake City is glowing with lights. Each tree can have as many as 75,000 individual lights! LED lightbulbs are now being used to help save electricity.



Journal Junction

This month, write how you feel about Jesus Christ. You can write your testimony or favorite scriptures about Him. Why is He important to you? Write about things you did this past year to follow our Savior's example.





Jesus Finishes His Mission on Earth

From Luke 2; John 13–20.

By Diane L. Mangum



On a holy night in the quiet village of Bethlehem, a baby boy was born into the world. Mary

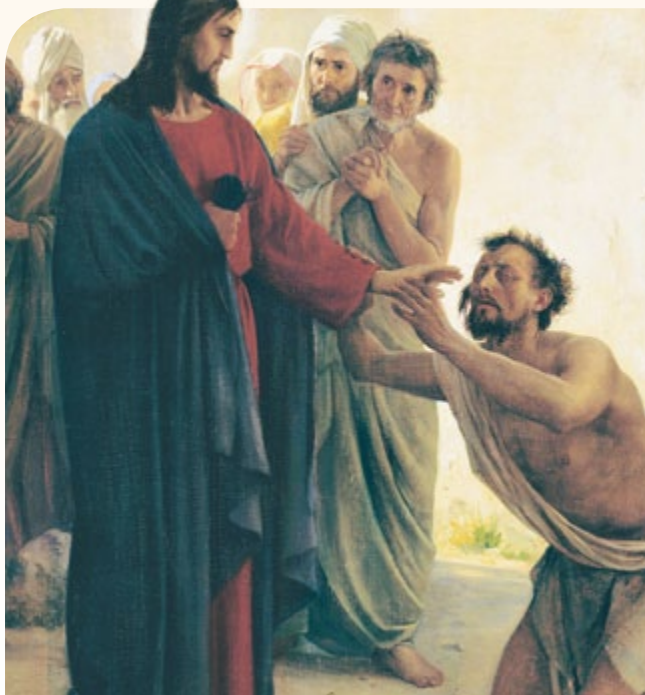
held the baby tightly and hushed Him to sleep.

Nearby, angels told shepherds the good news.

But why was this sweet little baby so important that His birth was announced by a bright new star? Why did Wise Men travel from

far away to bring Him treasures and to worship Him as their King?

It was because this tiny baby was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Heavenly Father had sent Him to earth with a special mission. Jesus Christ would do something for us that no one else could do. And if He did not do it, none of us would be able to return to live with Heavenly Father.



When Jesus grew to be a man, He began to fulfill His mission. He traveled through the villages and cities of Palestine and taught the people, healed the sick, and organized His Church. Some of the Jews were angry. They didn't believe Jesus could be the Messiah. They wanted Him to be arrested for



saying He was the Son of God.

Jesus continued His work until He knew it was time to finish His mission on earth. Then He ate a meal with His disciples and went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He suffered the pain of the sins of all mankind. Then He allowed wicked men to nail Him to a cross. He gave His life so

we all can be resurrected and live again.

When Jesus died, His spirit left His body. His friends wrapped His body in clean white cloth and laid it in a tomb, with a large rock in front of the doorway.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene went early in



the morning to visit Jesus's tomb. She found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, and she wept. Then she saw a man and thought he was the gardener. She asked him where Jesus's body had been taken. The man called her name, and Mary realized the man was Jesus. She ran to tell others the good news.

Jesus was resurrected! His body and spirit were reunited, and He lived again.

Jesus Christ gave His life and rose from the dead to become the Savior of each one of us. When we think of Jesus's birth, we can also remember that He was resurrected for us. Because He was born and died for us, we can return to live with our Heavenly Father and Jesus forever. ♦



The CHRISTMAS Tree

By Sister Harriet R. Uchtdorf

World War II had just ended, and most people in Germany had very little food or money. My birthday was coming up just a few weeks before Christmas. I did not expect to receive any Christmas or birthday presents, knowing quite well—even as a young girl—that our parents were struggling to meet our basic needs. In our big city, hunger was always present. It was a sad and dark time.

On the day of my birthday, to my surprise and delight, a wonderful present—just for me—was placed on the kitchen table. It was the most beautiful present I

could have imagined: a tiny little *Weihnachtsbaum*, a Christmas tree, just one foot (30 cm) tall, covered with delicate handmade ornaments of tinfoil. The tinfoil reflected the light of our living room in an enchanting way. As I inspected the tinfoil ornaments, I realized with amazement that they were filled with small pieces of caramelized sugar. It was like a miracle. Where did my mother get the tiny ever-green tree, the tinfoil, and the rarity of sugar?

To this day, I do not know how she made this miracle happen at a time when none of those precious things was available. It remains in

my heart as a symbol of my parents' deep love for me, as a symbol of hope, love, and the true meaning of Christmas.

During the Christmas season, we still have in our home a Christmas tree, now decorated with electrical lights and ornaments of every variety. When we are together with our children and grandchildren, the beauty of the tree and the sparkling of the lights warm my heart and bring back sweet memories of a happy family moment that came from a tiny tree with shiny tinfoil ornaments. ♦

Sister Harriet R. Uchtdorf is married to President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency.

From Harriet R. Uchtdorf, "Der Weihnachtsbaum: Memories Linger of Small Tree," Church News, Dec. 12, 2009, 11.



Handmade Ornaments

You can create some handmade ornaments of your own! Here's what you need:

a holiday-shaped cookie cutter or a small drinking glass

stiff paper such as card stock or poster board

pencil

scissors

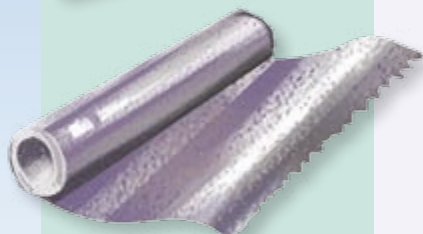
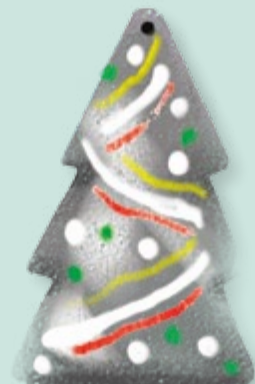
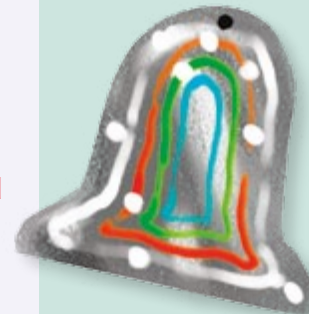
aluminum foil

white liquid glue

markers

yarn, ribbon, or string

1. Trace the cookie cutter or glass on the stiff paper.
2. Have a parent help you cut out the shape.
3. Tear off a piece of foil and use it to cover the paper shape. Glue down the edges of the foil on the back of the ornament.
4. Drizzle lines of glue on the front of the ornament. Let the glue dry completely.
5. Use markers to color in between the lines of glue.
6. Have a parent help you poke a hole in the top of the ornament. Put a small piece of yarn, ribbon, or string through the hole and tie it at the top.
7. Hang your ornament on your family's *Weihnachtsbaum* or give it as a gift.



Christmas



Christmas Lemonade

If you live in the Southern Hemisphere, this cold lemonade might taste good on a warm Christmas Day.

1 container of frozen lemonade (sweetened)
4 cups cranberry juice
4 cups cold water
orange slices (optional)

1. Mix lemonade, cranberry juice, and water together in a pitcher.
2. Cut the rind off the orange slices, and place an orange slice on each glass.

Peppermint Cocoa

If you live in the Northern Hemisphere, a cup of cocoa can warm you up at Christmastime.

5 small candy canes
1 cup powdered milk
1 cup powdered sugar
1/4 cup cocoa

1. Put candy canes in a zip-top plastic bag.
2. Have an adult help you crush the candy with a rolling pin or heavy object.
3. Mix all the ingredients together.
4. To make each serving, add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mix to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup warm water.



Workshop

Dutch Spice Bread

By Kathleen Mulroy

On Christmas, children in the Netherlands like eating this sweet bread. On birthdays, parents hang pieces of it on string over the children's heads. The children are blindfolded, and they try to reach up to get a bite!

- 1 cup dark corn syrup**
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed**
- 1 egg**
- 2 1/2 cups flour**
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda**
 - 1 teaspoon cinnamon**
 - 1 teaspoon ginger**
 - 1/2 teaspoon cloves**
 - 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg**
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt**
 - 1 cup milk**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Preheat the oven to 325°F (163°C). Grease a 9 x 5-inch loaf pan with butter or shortening.
3. Put the corn syrup, brown sugar, and egg into a mixing bowl. Mix well.
4. In another bowl mix the flour, baking soda, spices, and salt.
5. Add the flour mixture and the milk alternately to the egg mixture. Mix well.
6. Pour into the loaf pan and bake for 80–90 minutes or until a toothpick poked in the center comes out clean.
7. Cool the bread in the pan for 10 minutes; then remove it and place on a wire rack to cool completely.
8. Wrap the bread in plastic wrap or aluminum foil and let stand for 24 hours.
9. Slice the bread and serve it with butter or cream cheese.

Twelve Days until Christmas

By D. A. Woodliff

You can make 12 tiny gifts and place them in an egg carton to be opened each day before Christmas, starting on December 14. You will need:

- 1 egg carton**
- gift wrap and ribbon**
- old Christmas cards (optional)**
- glue**
- glitter**
- 12 tiny gifts such as candy, a coin, a hair clip, a bouncy ball, an eraser, or jewelry**

1. Decorate the top of the egg carton with gift wrap or by gluing pictures cut from old Christmas cards. On the inside of the egg carton, spread glue inside the egg cups and sprinkle on glitter. Let dry.
2. Choose 12 tiny gifts, wrap each one in paper, and place one in each cup of the egg carton. Close the lid and wrap the carton with a ribbon.



At dinnertime, Dutch children don't start eating until a parent says, "Eet smakelijk" (ate SMAH-kuh-lick).



That means, "Enjoy the meal!"

All Things Testify of

Jesus

With expression ♩ = 76-84

Words by Marvin K. Gardner
Music by Vanja Y. Watkins

All things tes-ti-fy of Je-sus — Son of God, Lord of heav'n and earth. 1. A

star shin-ing bright thru the night till morn An - noun - ces that the Light of the
shep - herds ap - proach with their hearts a - blaze To wel - come the Good Shep - herd with
moth - er gives life to her ho - ly Son. The Son gives light and life un - to

World is born. A lamb pure and white stops its frisk - y play To
hum - ble praise. The kings trav - el far bring - ing pre - cious things, And
ev - 'ry - one. As an - gels sing peace and good - will a - bove, We

see the Lamb of God sleep - ing in the hay. —
kneel - ing down they wor - ship the King of Kings. — All things
greet the Prince of Peace and the King of Love. —

tes-ti-fy of Je-sus — Son of God, Lord of heav'n and earth. 2. The earth. —
3. The earth. —

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Alma 30:44
Moses 6:63

When We're Helping, WE'RE HAPPY



From an interview
with Elder Marcos A.
Aidukaitis of
the Seventy; by
Lindsay Stevens

Thou shalt devote all thy service in Zion (D&C 24:7).

My mother taught me from a very young age to be hardworking and to serve others. When I was six years old, my family helped in building a new chapel in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Back then, ward members and construction missionaries built the chapels for wards and branches.

I remember going with my family to help build the chapel. I carried bricks from one place to another. I poured water on top of bricks. I carried tools from one workstation to another. I remember working hard and knowing that my hard work would help others.

My mother was a great example of hard work. As I grew up she always involved me in helping at home. She was also always helping others. She served in the Relief Society and other charitable organizations. Even as she got older, she still sewed clothes for disabled children and helped raise money for their needs.

King Benjamin taught, “When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17). If we decide that we are going to serve God in our lives, then we must decide to serve our fellow man.

When I went to Primary, I loved to sing, “When We’re Helping” (*Children’s Songbook*, 198). I try to teach my children that when we help we should do it with a smile. There are many ways you can help in church, even when you are young. You can help by setting up chairs, organizing hymnbooks, being reverent, and cleaning up. There are many ways we can help, and when we’re helping, we’re happy. ♦



THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



WE BELIEVE IN GOD, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

2 We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.

3 We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

4 We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

5 We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

6 We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.

7 We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.

8 We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

9 We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

10 We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

11 We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

12 We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

13 We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

Joseph Smith.

ARTICLE OF FAITH

13

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul— We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.



Play Articles of Faith Memory Quest at lds.org/friend.

Everything that is good in this world is part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We should follow the teachings of Jesus and try to be better and more like Him. When we keep our promises, tell the truth, and help others, we are following the teachings of Jesus.

Fill in the right words from the thirteenth article of faith.

1. Alexander knows that when he tells the truth he is being h_____.
2. Joshua knows The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is t_____.
3. When Akiko thinks pure thoughts and says clean words, she is being c_____.
4. When Jonathan is kind and caring for others, he is being b_____.
5. When Sophia thinks and acts in righteous ways, she is being v_____.
6. When Manuel helps his parents, sister, brother, teachers, or friends, he is d_____ g_____.
7. Rebecca is a child of God. This is a truth she b_____.
8. Adam h_____ to serve a mission, get married, and be a father.
9. When good things are hard to do, Beth keeps trying. She doesn't give up. She e_____.
10. Nathan enjoys watching birds, insects, sunsets, stars, and all of Heavenly Father's l_____ creations.
11. After Primary, Cristina's teacher told her parents that she was reverent. She got a g_____ r_____.
12. When Daniel tries to be good by doing good things, he is worthy of receiving praise, or p_____.

CHRISTMAS ABCs

Find out more about the birth and mission of Jesus Christ by learning your Christmas ABCs! Each day in December, you and your family can read the scriptures that go with one letter. Then think of other words about Christmas that start with each letter.



1

A

Angels
(Luke 2:1-9)

2

B

Bethlehem
(Luke 2:10-15)

3

C

Christ
(2 Nephi 25:23, 26)

4

D

Deeds
(1 John 3:18, 23-24)

5

E

Everlasting
(John 3:16-17)

6

F

Family
(Luke 2:16-17)

7

G

Gold
(Matthew 2:1-11)



8

H

Herod
(Matthew 2:12-16)

9

I

Israel
(Matthew 2:19-21)

10



Joseph
(Matthew 1:19-24)

11

T



12

T

13

T

14

T

15

T



King
(D&C 128:23)

16

Peace
(Luke 2:14;
Isaiah 9:6)



17

Quickly
(D&C 49:28)

Q

Lord
(D&C 19:1; Isaiah 26:4)

Mary
(Luke 1:27-38,
46-48)



18

Redeemer
(Job 19:25; Mormon 9:11-13)

R

Nazareth
(Matthew 2:22-23)

Obedient
(John 8:29; Hebrews 5:8-9)

20

Teach
(Matthew 28:18-20)

T

Steadfastness
(2 Nephi 26:8; 31:20)

S

21

Unshaken faith
(2 Nephi 31:19)

U

Voice
(Alma 5:38; Helaman 12:23)

V

23

Willing
(Mosiah 26:17-18)

W

24

Young
(D&C 43:20)

Y

25

Zion
(1 Nephi 13:37)

Z





Through Your Eyes

Do you like taking photos? Coming soon on our back cover we will be featuring photos taken by you! We'd like to see your best shots about how the gospel blesses your life. E-mail them to friend@ldschurch.org and include your name, age, and where you're from. Please also include a sentence explaining how your picture shows the gospel in your life.

Remember, we can't publish your submission without a parent's permission in the e-mail. If there are people in the photo, we also need to know that they gave their permission to be photographed. We're looking forward to seeing the gospel in action through your eyes!
—The Friend

On that Glorious Night

There was wonder on that glorious night.
Today there was to be a wondrous sight.

The mother, how gentle, and the father so kind;
This is how I keep Christmas in my mind.

The stars were aglow in the heavens above,
Like the white on the wing of a heavenly dove.

The star that led the Wise Men there
Stood proudly in the nighttime air.

The Baby Jesus, laid onto the straw
By His loving parents: His ma and His pa.

The animals gathered to see His sweet face.
The smile He made sure brightened the place.

The shepherds arrived soon after His birth—
The Son of God, the King of the Earth.

Brielle F., age 11, Utah



Emily M., age 9, Wyoming



Bethany S., age 7, England



Joseph R., age 7, California



Joshua R., age 9, New Mexico



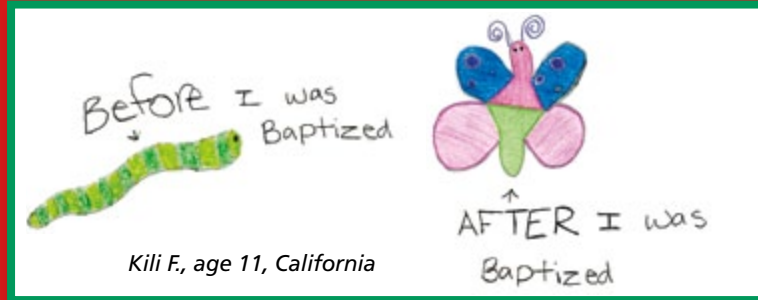
Austin A., age 10, Texas



Maddy J., age 10, Utah



Alana P., age 11, Western Australia, Australia



Kili F., age 11, California



Gelisse S., age 6, Indiana

Snow

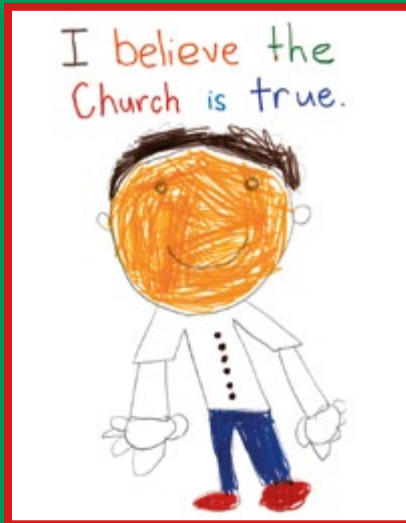
Like feathers floating in the frosty air,
 And I can't wait to meet them there.
 Like crystals falling down,
 They can't make me frown.
 Like little webs all around,
 But no spider can be found.
 Of powdered piles they do make,
 Like icing on a birthday cake.
 Like little stars with far to go—
 That's what I think of snow.

Emily S., age 11, Alberta, Canada

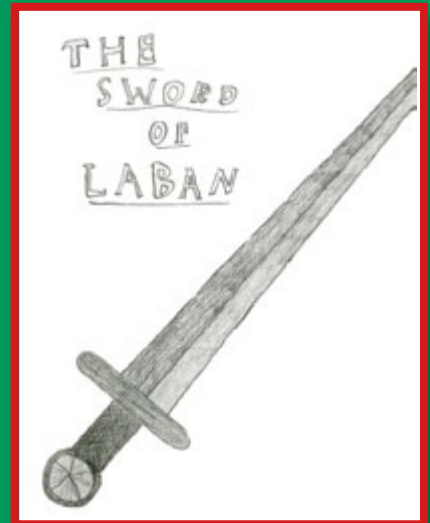
Would you like to send us a poem or drawing? Turn to page 48 to find out how.



Paul E., age 8, Florida



Jordan B., age 5, New Zealand



Oliver D., age 11, Idaho

SHARING CHRISTMAS



"Whether our service is to our fellowmen or to God, it is the same. If we love Him, we should keep His commandments and feed His sheep."²

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



By Annie Beer

(Based on a true story)

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:12).

Sarah sat in her room playing with her dolls. She was changing them into their best clothes for a Christmas party she was hosting. Everyone was invited: Mr. Snuggles, the teddy bear; Chocolate and Caramel, the raccoon twins; Lady Juniper, the ladybug; and many of their friends.

As Sarah began to introduce her guests to each other, Mom walked into the room.

“Sarah, Dad and I were talking about what service we could do this Christmas. We thought we could give gifts to the children’s home down the road.”

“OK,” Sarah said.

“We were wondering if you would like to donate some of your toys,” Mom said. “I know that it would mean a lot to the children. They probably won’t be getting many new toys for Christmas.”

“But I don’t want to get rid of my toys! I love them all!” Sarah said.

“What about this stuffed cow?” Mom asked.

“Not Moo-Moo!”

“I’ve never seen you play with her. Are you sure you want to keep her?”

“What if I decide I want to play with her after I give her away?”

Then I won’t have her anymore!”

Sarah said.

“The purpose of serving is to think about the needs of

others before yourself,” Mom said. “When you make a sacrifice to help someone else, you are becoming more like Jesus Christ.”

“I am?” Sarah asked. “How?”

“What did Jesus do when He was on the earth?”

“He helped people.”

“Right! He spent His life serving others,” Mom said.

“So if I give away something important to me to help others, I am being like Jesus?” Sarah asked.

“Exactly,” Mom said.

Sarah knew Mom was right, but she was still a little nervous about giving up Moo-Moo.

That weekend, Sarah and Mom and Dad went to the children’s home with a big bag of gifts. As the children opened their presents, their smiles grew bigger and bigger.

One little girl picked up a box wrapped in shiny red paper. Sarah watched as the girl carefully unwrapped the present. Inside the box was the stuffed cow.

“Her name is Moo-Moo,” Sarah said to the girl. “And she loves parties.”

A smile spread across the face of the little girl. She hugged Moo-Moo tight and looked up at Sarah. “Thank you,” she said. “I’ve never had my own stuffed animal before.” The girl skipped away with her new toy.

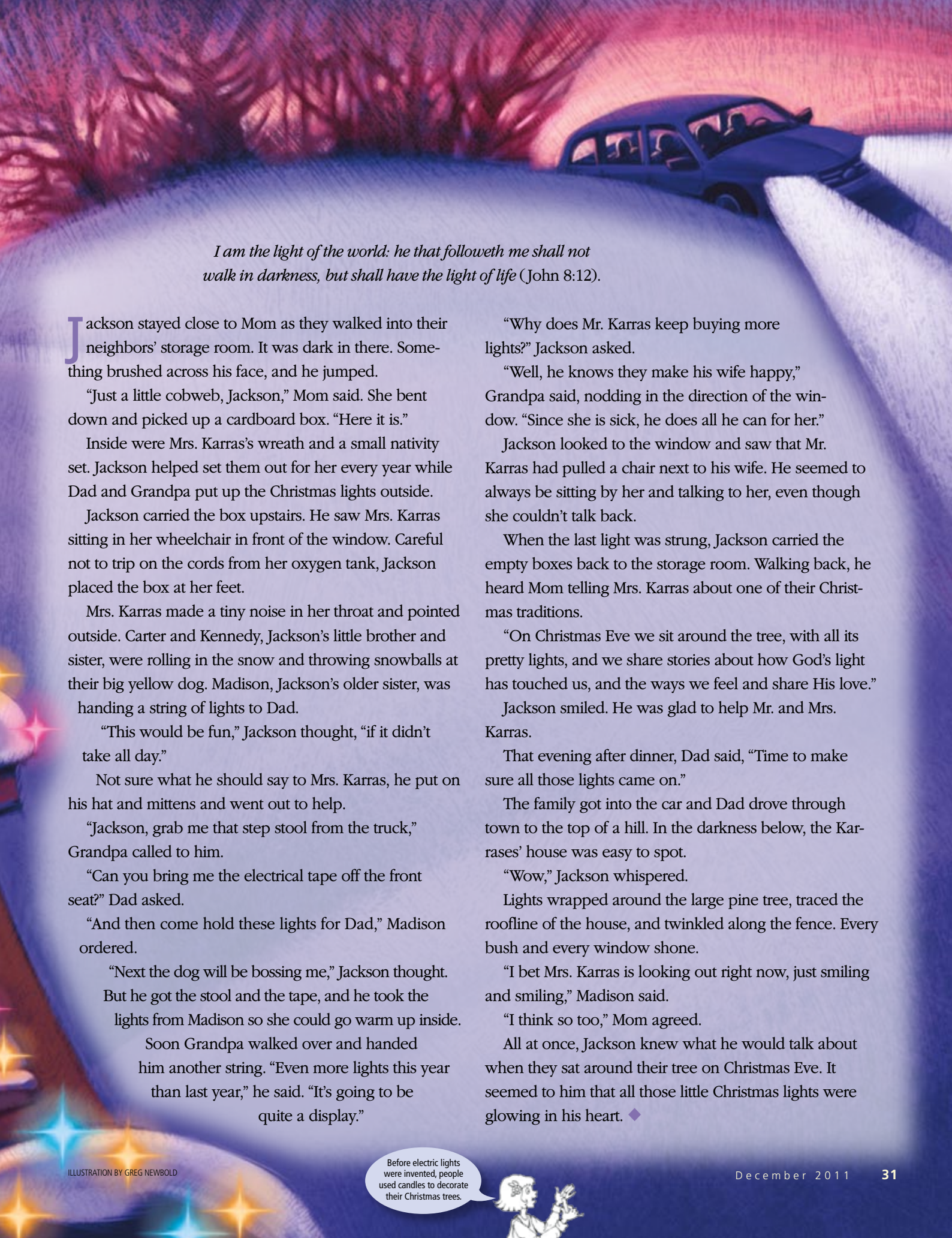
Sarah felt happy. She imagined Jesus must have felt happy too when He helped people.

“I want to come back next Christmas,” Sarah said as she and her parents left the children’s home. “I think I have more toys I can give away next year.” ♦

The Lights of Christmas

By Hilary M. Hendricks
(Based on a true story)





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

Jackson stayed close to Mom as they walked into their neighbors' storage room. It was dark in there. Something brushed across his face, and he jumped.

"Just a little cobweb, Jackson," Mom said. She bent down and picked up a cardboard box. "Here it is."

Inside were Mrs. Karras's wreath and a small nativity set. Jackson helped set them out for her every year while Dad and Grandpa put up the Christmas lights outside.

Jackson carried the box upstairs. He saw Mrs. Karras sitting in her wheelchair in front of the window. Careful not to trip on the cords from her oxygen tank, Jackson placed the box at her feet.

Mrs. Karras made a tiny noise in her throat and pointed outside. Carter and Kennedy, Jackson's little brother and sister, were rolling in the snow and throwing snowballs at their big yellow dog. Madison, Jackson's older sister, was handing a string of lights to Dad.

"This would be fun," Jackson thought, "if it didn't take all day."

Not sure what he should say to Mrs. Karras, he put on his hat and mittens and went out to help.

"Jackson, grab me that step stool from the truck," Grandpa called to him.

"Can you bring me the electrical tape off the front seat?" Dad asked.

"And then come hold these lights for Dad," Madison ordered.

"Next the dog will be bossing me," Jackson thought. But he got the stool and the tape, and he took the lights from Madison so she could go warm up inside.

Soon Grandpa walked over and handed him another string. "Even more lights this year than last year," he said. "It's going to be quite a display."

"Why does Mr. Karras keep buying more lights?" Jackson asked.

"Well, he knows they make his wife happy," Grandpa said, nodding in the direction of the window. "Since she is sick, he does all he can for her."

Jackson looked to the window and saw that Mr. Karras had pulled a chair next to his wife. He seemed to always be sitting by her and talking to her, even though she couldn't talk back.

When the last light was strung, Jackson carried the empty boxes back to the storage room. Walking back, he heard Mom telling Mrs. Karras about one of their Christmas traditions.

"On Christmas Eve we sit around the tree, with all its pretty lights, and we share stories about how God's light has touched us, and the ways we feel and share His love."

Jackson smiled. He was glad to help Mr. and Mrs. Karras.

That evening after dinner, Dad said, "Time to make sure all those lights came on."

The family got into the car and Dad drove through town to the top of a hill. In the darkness below, the Karrases' house was easy to spot.

"Wow," Jackson whispered.

Lights wrapped around the large pine tree, traced the roofline of the house, and twinkled along the fence. Every bush and every window shone.

"I bet Mrs. Karras is looking out right now, just smiling and smiling," Madison said.

"I think so too," Mom agreed.

All at once, Jackson knew what he would talk about when they sat around their tree on Christmas Eve. It seemed to him that all those little Christmas lights were glowing in his heart. ♦



A Different Kind of Christmas Tree

By Eliana Osborn

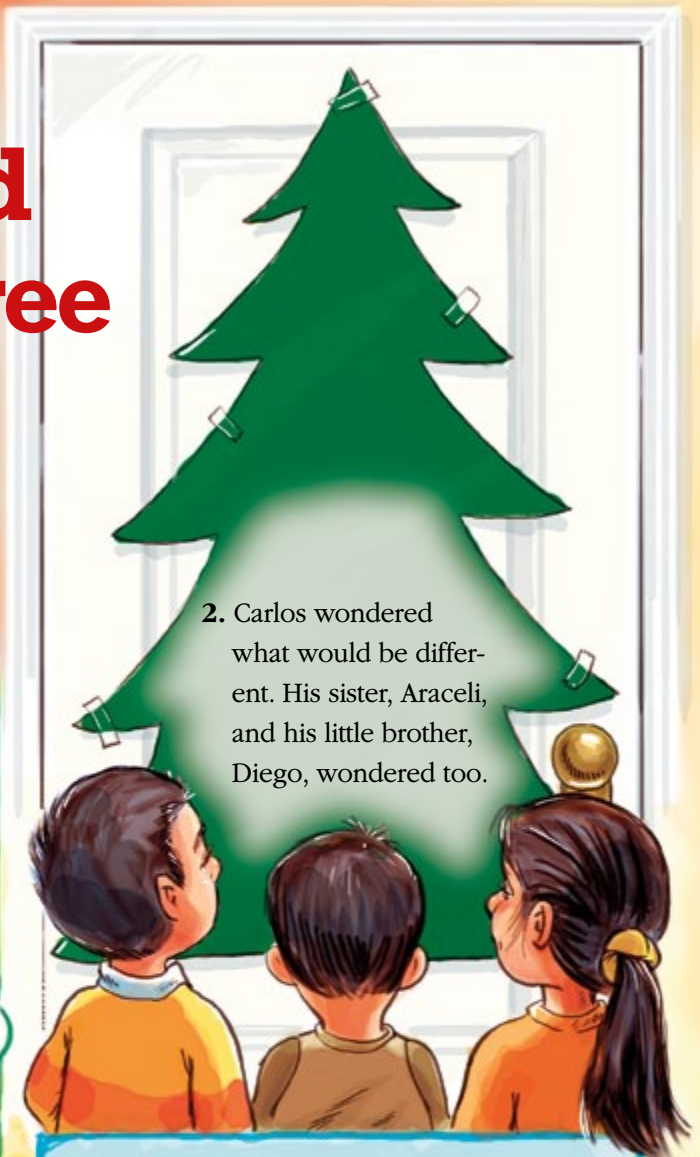
(Based on a true story)

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me
(Matthew 11:29).

1. Carlos was excited for Christmas. This year there was something different in his home. A large tree made of shiny green paper was attached to the door.



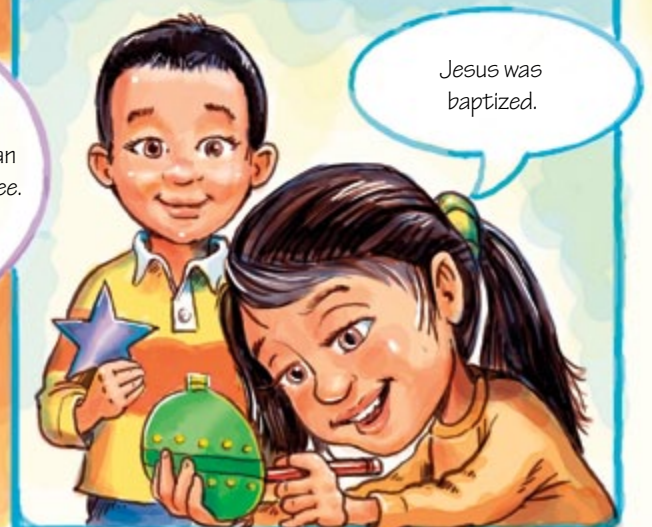
2. Carlos wondered what would be different. His sister, Araceli, and his little brother, Diego, wondered too.



3.



4. Carlos liked that idea. Araceli ran to the ornaments and grabbed a red pencil.



That's a good one. Can I write that Jesus did many miracles?

That would be perfect. You both have great ideas!

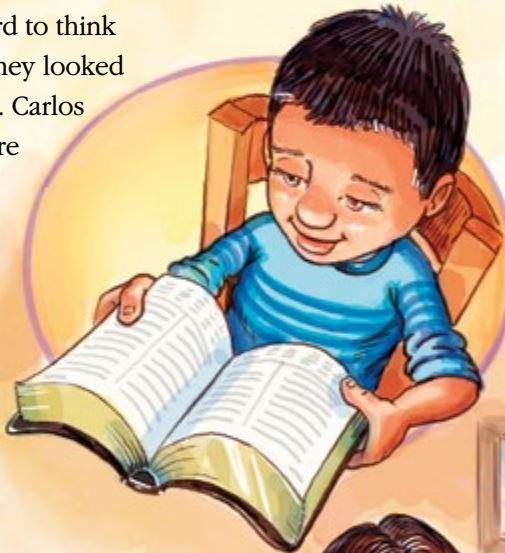
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6. Every night after dinner, Araceli and Carlos made another ornament and put it on the tree. Diego helped by saying, "I love Jesus!"



7. When it was hard to think of more ideas, they looked in the scriptures. Carlos didn't know there were so many verses about Jesus!



8. On Christmas Eve the whole family sang songs and read the ornaments they had put on the tree. Carlos was happy to know so much about Jesus. He was all ready for Christmas.



FIND THE DIFFERENCES

These children are acting out things that happened when Jesus was born. See if you can find the nine differences between the two drawings.



THE CHRISTMAS STORY



Helps for Parents

Read the story of the first Christmas in Luke 2. As you read, help your child listen for events that are shown in the two pictures. Let your children color the pictures.

NATIVITY CUTOUTS

On the cover of this issue you will see a family putting together a Nativity set. You can make your own set by gluing these pages to heavy paper and cutting out the figures. As you set up the scene, read the story of the Savior's birth in Luke 2.







Trying to Be Like Jesus

The Best Gift



Everyone in my school class was supposed to bring a gift to exchange at our Christmas party. We put our gifts under the tree, and then we could pick any gift except for the one we brought. When the last boy was called to pick a gift, he said the one gift that was left was the one he had brought. It was only a folded-up piece of paper. No one wanted to trade their gift for the piece of paper. After a few seconds of silence, I said I would trade. A wonderful feeling came over me as I handed him my unwrapped gift and took the piece of paper from him. Even though I didn't get a gift like the rest of my class, I felt happy because I knew I did the right thing. That is the best gift of all.

Dakota L., age 9, Idaho

Cards and Kindness



On Christmas Eve I made cards for the widows and widowers in my ward. When my dad and I delivered the cards, the people seemed very happy and grateful. On our way home I told my dad that I felt really good. He said the feeling was the Holy Ghost telling me I had done something nice. I look forward to making cards again next year.

Ellee C., age 7, Utah

Helping Others



One day in December there was a knock at our door. When my parents opened the door, no one was there. There was an envelope on the ground, so they brought it inside. My dad opened the envelope, and there was a lot of money inside. We decided not to keep the money. Instead, we gave it to people who needed it more than we did.

Zen D., age 10, Utah



Warm Blankets, Warm Feelings



My family made some blankets and delivered them to a children's

hospital. When we were driving home, my mom came up with the idea to make blankets every year at Christmastime. We decided to do it because when my brother was sick in the hospital he was given a homemade blanket. That cold night I felt warm inside because I knew we were serving others and serving Heavenly Father.

Lauren S., age 8, Colorado

A Special Tree



The week before Christmas, my mom's friend found out that she was very sick and had

to stay in the hospital for a long time. She would be in the hospital at Christmas and away from her family. My mom asked me how I felt about letting her friend borrow my little pink Christmas tree that I keep in my room. Even though I knew I would miss my tree, I wanted to give a special gift to our friend so she wouldn't feel lonely on Christmas. I wanted to be like Jesus.

Ellie C., age 4, Oklahoma



Tell us how you're trying to be like Jesus. Turn to page 48 to find out how to send us a letter.

You can use this lesson and activity to learn more about this month's Primary theme.

The Scriptures Teach Me about the Savior's Birth and Second Coming

By Jennifer Maddy

Church Magazines

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works (Matthew 16:27).

For thousands of years, prophets testified that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would be born on earth. In the scriptures, we can read what these prophets said. In the Old Testament, Isaiah said that Jesus would be the Prince of Peace and that He would be the head of the true Church. In the Book of Mormon, Nephi saw Jesus's mother, Mary, in a vision, and he saw Jesus teaching people on the earth. King Benjamin taught his people about the miracles that Christ would perform when He came to earth.

A few years before the Savior was born, the prophet Samuel stood on



a wall to tell the Nephites about the signs that would appear. He said that when the Savior was born, a new star would appear in the sky. In the New Testament we can read about that same star—the Wise Men followed it to find the Christ child.

In the scriptures, prophets also teach of Jesus Christ's Second Coming to the earth. In the Book of Mormon, Moroni testifies of

the Savior's return. In the Old Testament, Malachi speaks of what will happen in the last days before the Second Coming.

The scriptures contain prophets' testimonies of Jesus Christ from many different times in history. In the scriptures, we can also read about Jesus's example. We need to follow His example as we prepare for when He comes to live on the earth again. ♦

ACTIVITY

You can make your own picture book of the life of Jesus Christ. Cut out the pictures on page 41. Punch holes on each page where indicated and stack the pages in order. Use string to tie the pages together through the holes. You could look at this book with your family during family home evening and talk about the life of the Savior.

1



2



3



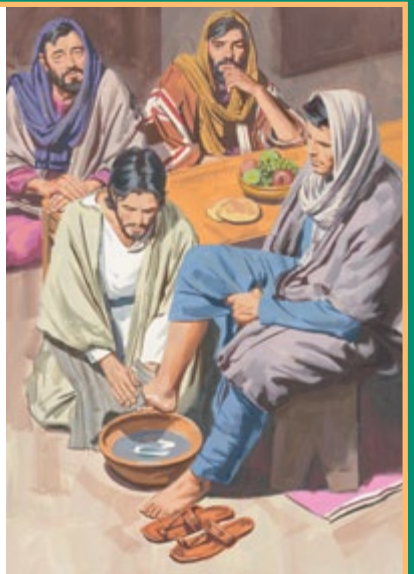
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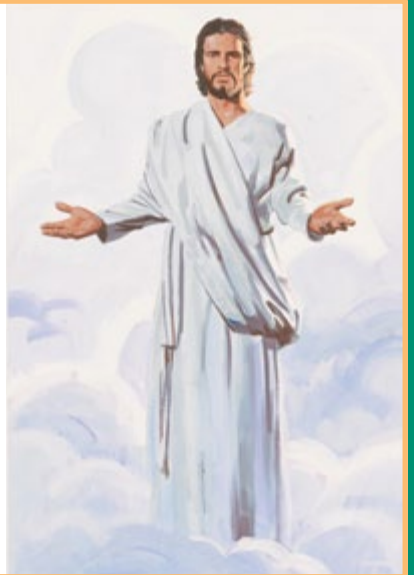
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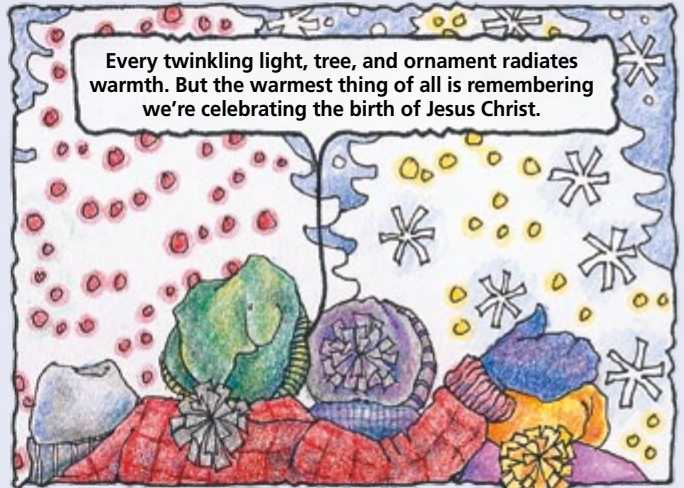
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9



MATT AND MANDY





Saving for My Mission

By Spencer S.
age 9, Philippines

I know this might sound strange, but I have been saving money to pay for my mission since before I was born. When my mother learned she was going to have a baby, she took an empty milk can, put a hole in it, and labeled it, "Mission Fund." Since that day, my family and I have been saving for my mission.

Saving for my mission has been a family effort. After I was born, my uncles and aunts who came to visit would drop Philippine pesos into the mission fund can. And when holidays like Christmas or New Year's came around, family members gave me money to add to my mission fund.

Sometimes my grandparents give me money for doing well in school and competitions. These gifts go to my mission fund too. Once, when I received several medals, my aunt

counted all the medals I earned and gave me money for each one. After I paid tithing, this money also went into my mission fund.

When I was baptized, my desire to serve a mission grew even more. My family set a goal to save enough money to pay for my mission in full. Because I now have siblings, money we save is added to their mission funds too.

I am now nine years old and almost halfway to the age I will be when I serve my mission. My desire to serve a mission has increased because I know there have been so many people who have contributed to my mission fund.

I will continue to save for my mission. I know that Heavenly Father will bless me so that I can serve Him as a missionary one day. ♦



Those Words

By Angie Bergstrom Miller

(Based on a true story)

*Ye shall not swear by my name falsely,
neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God*
(Leviticus 19:12).

Shelby didn't like hearing bad words, especially when her friends at school took the Lord's name in vain.

"Please don't say those words around me," she'd say to her friends.

But sometimes they forgot, and she had to remind them.

One day Shelby's friend Beth rolled her eyes and said, "Oh, yeah, I forgot. Nobody says *those* words in front of Shelby. She's trying to make us *good* like she is."

The other girls laughed.

Shelby was embarrassed. She felt bad for always asking her friends not to say those words around her—especially when they didn't think the words were bad.

When Shelby got home from school, she flopped down on her bed. Her mother came in a few minutes later, and Shelby told her what had happened.

"Try not to worry about it," Mom said. "You just keep doing the right thing, and eventually your friends won't want to say those words anymore."

"Why does it matter if my friends say those words?" Shelby asked. "It's not like *I'm* swearing."

"The prophets have taught us that we should keep ourselves worthy to feel the Spirit at all times. Bad words offend the Spirit," Mom said.

Shelby remembered times she had felt the Spirit: at family home evening, when she bore her testimony, when she got a blessing from her father. Shelby liked feeling the Spirit, and she didn't want



Even if it's hard
sometimes, we should
stand up for our
beliefs.



Way to go, Shelby!

to do anything that would offend that warm, peaceful comfort.

She made up her mind to keep being an example to her friends and help them to understand that she didn't like to hear those words.

The next day at school, she heard those words again.

"Please don't say those words around me," Shelby asked Becca.

Becca glared at Shelby and then ignored her. Shelby was glad she had said something but felt sad that her friend was upset.

At recess Shelby heard someone say those words again. This time it was Beth.

"Please don't say that around me," Shelby said.

"Sorry," Beth said, rolling her eyes.

Shelby felt silly once again.

At softball practice after school, Shelby hit a ball. It bounced to first base and got there before Shelby did. Shelby heard Bonnie, the new girl on the team, take the Lord's name in vain.

Shelby hesitated. She was tired of asking people not to say those kinds of words around her. She didn't want the other girls to make fun of her.

"Please don't say those words around her."

Shelby turned around to see who had spoken.

Beth was telling Bonnie that Shelby was a Latter-day Saint and that she didn't say those kinds of words and didn't feel comfortable hearing them either.

Bonnie turned and looked at Shelby. "Sorry, Shelby. I didn't know."

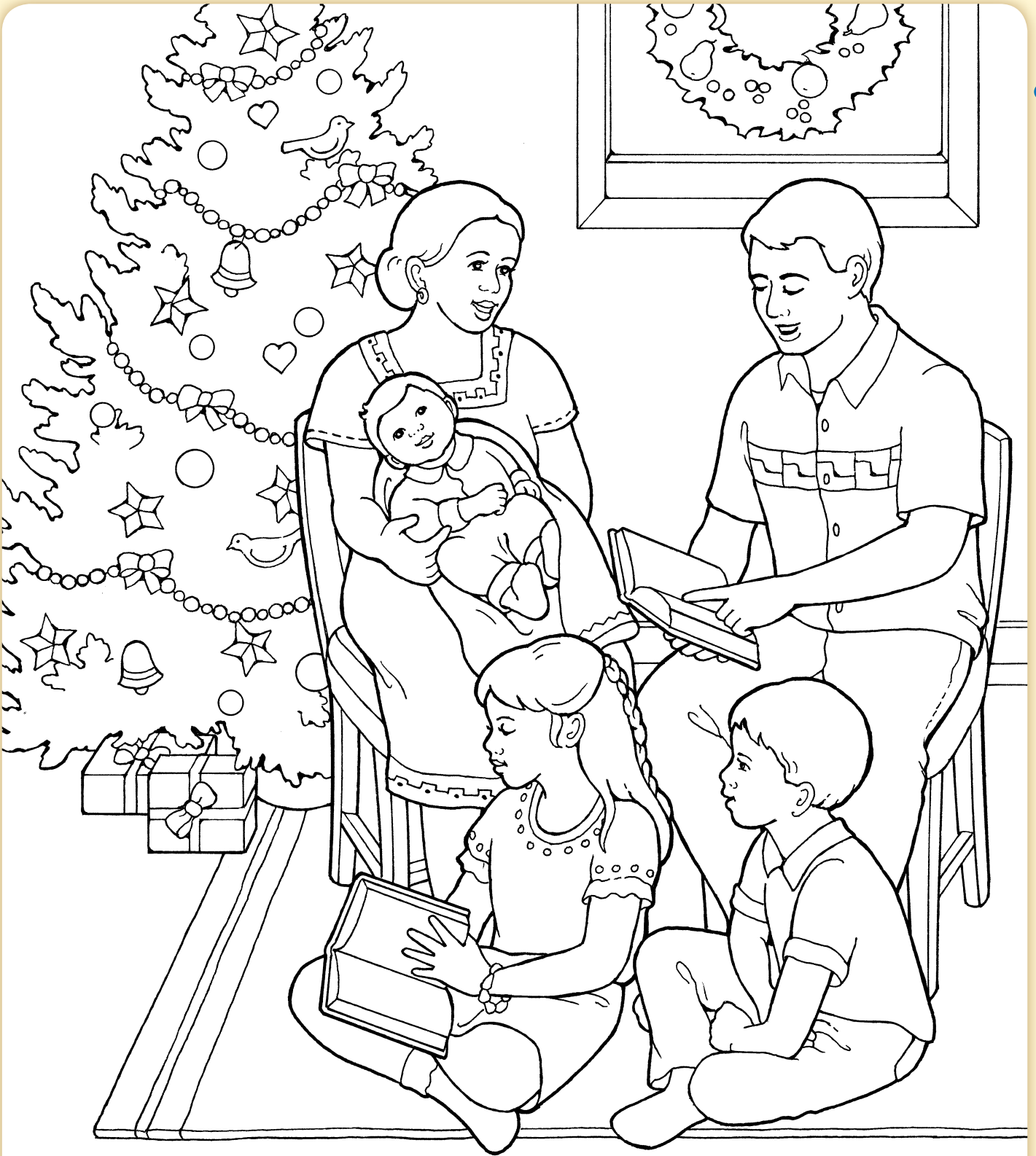
Beth grinned at Shelby. "I guess we're all becoming more like you," Beth said.

Shelby smiled. She was happy she had made the decision to be a good example to her friends and to follow the prophet's counsel to keep the Spirit with her. ♦

"I will use the names of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ reverently. I will not swear or use crude words."

My Gospel Standards

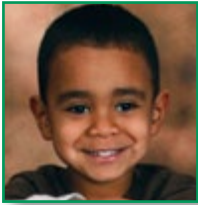




To prepare for the Second Coming, I will follow Jesus Christ.
For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works (Matthew 16:27).

ILLUSTRATION BY BETH M. WHITTAKER

Friends in the News



Isaiah B., 5, Utah, enjoys riding his bike, playing with his toys, and spending time with his family and friends. He likes participating in family home evening, especially when he gets to choose the activity. He has a kind heart and likes to be helpful. He looks forward to turning eight and being baptized.



Mikalyn H., 10, Maryland, likes to sing, draw, and dance. She is good at sharing and showing respect to other people. She has a testimony that God watches over us. Her favorite parts of the *Friend* are Friends in the News and searching for the hidden CTR ring.



Orengo Ward

Inspired by a talk by President Thomas S. Monson, the Primary of the Orengo Ward, Hillsboro Oregon Stake, sang Christmas carols at a local nursing home. They all shared their testimony of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Maeve and Ruby B., 6 and 3, South Africa, are sisters. Maeve wants to be an entomologist when she grows up. She is an excellent artist, and enjoys swimming, going on safari, and finding interesting bugs. Ruby wants to be a horse rider when she grows up. She likes to dance and play computer games. She likes having "school" at home with her mom.



Sebastián R., 7, Nevada, likes to read the scriptures. His favorite person in the Book of Mormon is Nephi. Sebastián likes to play baseball and soccer. He likes to learn. His favorite food is chicken with rice. He loves his family.



Aria M., 8, Florida, likes temples. She has visited temples in Hawaii, Washington D.C., Ukraine, and Texas. She loves her brother and four sisters and she enjoys finding the hidden CTR ring in the *Friend*.



Choteau Ward

The Primary children of the Choteau Ward, Great Falls Montana Stake, drew pictures and made Christmas placemats for local nursing home residents. They sang songs at the nursing homes and gave the placemats to the residents.

Would you like to be a friend in the news? Turn to page 48 to find out how.



Possible Ideas for Family Home Evening

1. In “Sharing Christmas” (pages 28–29), Sarah learns one way to be more Christlike. What things can your family do to grow closer to the Savior this Christmas? Set goals as a family and work on them during each family home evening this month.

2. Spencer has been saving money for his mission since before he was born. Read “Saving for My Mission” (page 43) and find out how he has saved. Talk with your family about other ways members of your family can prepare to serve full-time missions.

3. Use the Bringing Primary Home lesson and

activity to learn more about this month’s Primary theme (pages 40–41).

4. Read “When We’re Helping, We’re Happy” (page 21) with your family. There are many ways to help others at Christmastime. Try making some of the recipes in the Christmas Workshop (page 18–19) and share them with friends.

5. December can be a busy month. Look at the Bright Idea (page 6) and think about ways to find peace in your life. Write in your journal about times this month when you feel peaceful.

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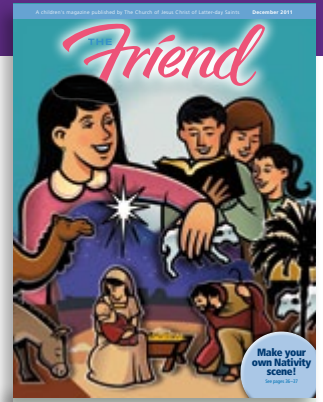
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(IFC) = inside front cover
(m) = music
(v) = verse

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Sidebar References

1. “A Glorious Season,” *New Era*, Dec. 2007, 4.
2. “Why Do We Serve?” *Ensign*, Nov. 1984, 12.

Joseph Smith



Where to Find Out More

Joseph Smith—History 1:7
Joseph prays; has the First Vision.

Joseph Smith—History 1:30–35, 51–54, 59–60
Joseph learns about and receives the gold plates.

Joseph Smith was confused about which church to join. He had faith and prayed to ask God which church was true. In answer to his prayer, Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared and told Joseph that none of the churches were true. The Lord called Joseph to restore His true Church to the earth. When you have questions or problems, you can also pray to Heavenly Father. He blesses His children when they ask in faith.



For Children



LISTEN TO STORIES

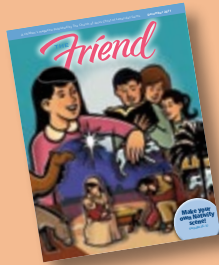
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