

A Hug for Jennifer

By Jennifer Ricks

(Based on a true story)

Be of good comfort (Matthew 9:22).

Jennifer shut her bedroom door and threw herself on the bed. She wiped the hot, wet tears from her cheeks and tried to quiet her sobs.

She had just argued with her older brother and sister. Mom and Dad had left to go to the grocery store, and it felt like they would never come home.

Jennifer felt horrible. As much as she tried to stop her lip from trembling, she still felt very unhappy. “If Mom and Dad were home, things would feel a lot better,” she thought.

Then Jennifer remembered something she had learned about prayer in Primary. “You can pray anytime,” her Primary teacher had said. “You can pray when you feel happy and when you feel sad.”

Jennifer knelt beside her bed. She threw the blanket over her head so that she wouldn’t be interrupted if someone opened the door. She dried her tears again, folded her arms, and began to pray.

“Heavenly Father,” she said, “please forgive me for fighting with my brother and sister today. And please help me to feel

“Heavenly Father answers all sincere prayers.”⁵

Bishop Keith B. McMullin, Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric



better. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”

Now Jennifer didn’t feel like crying anymore. Slowly, the hurt feeling inside changed into a warm, peaceful feeling. She felt as good and as loved as if someone were giving her a hug.

When her parents came home later, Jennifer had apologized and was playing with her brother and sister again. As Mom walked through the door, Jennifer ran

and gave her a hello hug. A hug from Mom felt wonderful, but Jennifer had learned that even when Mom wasn’t home, she could feel the comforting love of Heavenly Father. ♦