Friend

By Wendy Ellison
(Based on a true story)

Fathers are so special with a very special love (Children’s Songbook, 209).

Tanner usually watched the weather forecast on TV to find out if it would be warm enough to wear shorts the next day. One night he was surprised when the weatherman mentioned something besides the weather.

“A meteor shower will light up the sky tomorrow night,” the weatherman said. “The forecast calls for clear skies, but the best view for stargazers will be away from the lights of the city.”

“Awesome!” Tanner exclaimed. He liked looking at the stars, but he had never seen a meteor shower before. “Dad, will we be able to see it from our house?”

“I think we might be able to spot a meteor or two, if you can stay awake that late,” Dad said with a smile.

“I can,” Tanner insisted.
All the next day
Tanner looked forward to
watching the meteor shower. He felt like it would never
get dark enough. It was pretty late when he and Dad fi-
nally stepped outside into the warm night. Even though
it was past his bedtime, Tanner was too excited to be
tired. Dad found the perfect spot in the backyard. They
lay down on their backs and stared up at the millions of
flickering lights.

"Look at all the stars," Tanner said. "Does the universe
ever end?"

Dad shook his head. "We see just a tiny part. No one
really knows how many stars and planets there are," he
said. "Did you know that some of the stars you see are
suns for distant planets?"

"That's cool!" Tanner said.

While they waited, they talked about space and stars.
Dad pointed out a satellite as it moved across the sky.

After a while, Dad and Tanner started seeing mete-
ors. Some were bright points of light with long tails.
Others blazed by in exploding flashes that quickly dis-
appeared. One followed another, a little like fireworks
in the night sky.

"Did you see that?" Tanner asked, pointing to a
fading streak of light.

"That was a good one," Dad said.

"There's another one," Tanner said as a brilliant light
burst into view.

They watched the sky for a long time and saw many
meteors before Dad said it was time to go inside and
get some sleep.

Tanner was having so much fun he wished he could
stay up until morning. "Let's do this again sometime," he
said as he stood and reluctantly walked to the back
steps of their home.

"We will," Dad said.

"Thanks." Tanner said with a smile. Even though he
didn't want to go inside, things had turned out even
better than he'd expected. He got to stay up late, gaze
at the stars, and see so many meteors that he lost count.
But the best part of the whole night wasn't any of those
things—it was the memories he had made with Dad.◆

"Trust your father. . . Talk to him. Share your
thoughts and feelings, your dreams and your
fears."

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles

Spotting meteors
was pretty cool,
but having Dad
there made it
even better.