

By Jane McBride Choate

(Based on a true story)

I'm much too young to go abroad to teach and preach the word of God, but I can show I know it's true, quite simply, by the things I do (Children's Songbook, 170–71).

Why does André have to stay in my room?" Chad complained.

"Because he's closest in age to you," Mom said.

Chad's family was hosting a French foreign exchange student. André was fourteen, two years older than Chad.

"He does weird things," Chad said. One morning André had asked if he could have coffee with breakfast. He said everyone in France drank coffee, even the children.

"Maybe he thinks the things we do are weird as well," Mom pointed out.

Chad thought about that.

CHAD

When Chad's alarm rang early Sunday morning, he jumped out of bed. Chad had just turned 12, and this was the day he would receive the Aaronic Priesthood.

André rubbed his eyes. "It is Sunday. No school."

Chad nodded. "True. But I'm going to church. You can come if you want."

André sat up and yawned. "Thank you. I would like that," he said.

At church, André watched as Chad was ordained a deacon by his father, the bishop, and another man in the ward.

"What is this Aaronic Priesthood?" André asked on the way home.

"The priesthood is authority God gives so we can do things for Him here on earth," Dad explained.


André turned to Chad. "What kinds of things can you do? You are only a boy."

"Next week I can pass the sacrament."

"That is where you eat the bread and drink the water?" André asked.

At first, Chad thought André seemed really different.





Chad nodded.

During the next week, André asked more questions about the Church. Chad did his best to answer them.

When Chad and his father planned a shopping trip to buy Chad a suit and white shirt for Sunday, André asked to come along.

“Sure,” Chad said.

At the store, Chad looked at suits with his father and André. “I like this one,” Chad said, pointing to a dark navy suit.

Dad nodded. “It looks nice. Let’s find a white shirt to go with it.”

“Why do you get so dressed up?” asked André.

“I want to look my best when I pass the sacrament to show respect,” Chad said. “The bread and water remind us of Jesus Christ and of the promises we make when we are baptized.”

AND ANDRÉ

André looked thoughtful.

“André sure asks a lot of questions,” Chad said to his father later that evening.

“He’s adjusting to American culture,” Dad said. “Not to mention learning to live with an LDS family.”

As the weeks passed, Chad spent more time helping André learn about the Church.

When it was time for André to go home, Chad had a hard time saying good-bye.

“I’ll email you,” Chad promised.

Several months later, Chad’s family received an email from André saying he had been baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He included pictures of himself dressed in white and standing between two missionaries.

“That’s the best news ever!” Chad said. ♦

THE NAME OF THE CHURCH IN OTHER LANGUAGES

French: Église de Jésus-Christ des Saints des Derniers Jours

Spanish: La Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Últimos Días

Finnish: Myöhempien Aikojen Pyhien Jeesuksen Kristuksen Kirkon

German: Kirche Jesu Christi der Heiligen der Letzten Tage