



A

Missionary
Now

BY MARILYNNE LINFORD

(Based on a true story)

I want to be a missionary now. . . . I want to share the gospel while I'm young (*Children's Songbook*, 168).

Six-year-old John sat intently listening in Primary as two missionaries talked to the children about missionary work. They explained that Jesus Christ wants every member of the Church to tell people about His true Church.

The missionaries told the children that they were not too young to be missionaries. They could give a copy of the Book of Mormon to relatives or friends who didn't belong to the Church. And they could also invite them to church or ask them if they would like to have the missionaries teach them about the gospel.

The missionaries asked the children to think of someone they would like to tell about the true Church. Then they challenged the children to talk to that person about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that week.

John knew exactly whom he wanted to tell about the Church. He loved Grandma Linford very much and wanted her to know about Jesus Christ's true Church. Grandma did go to church, but not to the church that John and his family went to. He thought carefully about how to ask Grandma to come to church with him.

A few days later, John and his family drove to Grandma's house. Grandma greeted John and his two sisters, Rachel and Rebecca, with hugs. Soon everyone was busy talking and helping get dinner ready. John couldn't wait until after dinner to ask his question; it was too important. He whispered to Grandma: "Could I talk to you alone for a minute? I have a very important question to ask you."

Wiping her hands and looking deep into John's eyes, she said: "Of course. Let's go into the living room."

As Grandma sat down, John's heart started pounding. Would Grandma listen to his question? Would she come to church with him? He was trying to do what the missionaries had suggested. He had to be brave enough to tell others about Jesus Christ.

"Grandma, will you come to my church sometime?" John asked.

"Well, Sundays are pretty busy days for Grandpa and me, but we'd be happy to go to your church with you," Grandma said.

"That's great," John said. "We belong to the true Church and I want you and Grandpa to belong to the true Church too. We have a prophet and the Book of Mormon and CTR rings."

Suddenly, John thought he had said too much because Grandma got tears in her eyes. Then she hugged John, kissed him on the cheek, and thanked him for telling her about his Church and inviting her to come. Before Grandma could get another word out, John asked her if she would read the Book of Mormon and listen to the missionaries.

"You are the best missionary ever," Grandma said. "I love you so much!" Then she hugged him again. Grandma asked John what ward he went to. John said the Third Ward. Grandma said that she and Grandpa went to the 11th Ward. Grandma asked John what church he belonged to. He said, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." Grandma said that she and Grandpa belonged to that same church too. John looked confused. Grandma explained that there are thousands of wards all around the world and each one is part of Jesus's true Church. Not all of Jesus's followers could fit in one building, but they could all learn His true teachings in a ward where they live. She told John that after dinner they could drive to see the sign in front of her ward building that said "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." It looked just like the sign at John's ward building.

John hugged Grandma and said, "Oh, Grandma, I'm so thankful that we are both members of Jesus's true Church!" ●

"Regardless of our age, experience, or station in life, we are all missionaries."

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Becoming a Missionary," *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 44.

