

the friend

AUGUST • 2009



Friends by Mail



I Love the *Friend*



I would like to say thank you for all the hard work that goes into putting together the *Friend* magazine for all of us. My younger brother and sister and I love to read the *Friend*, especially the Funstuf pages.

Joel C., age 13, Washington

Finding a Friend in the *Friend*



My orthodontist told me I needed to have four teeth pulled. My permanent teeth were ready to come in, but my baby teeth were not yet loose. I was very frightened. That same day, the September 2008 *Friend*

arrived. There was a letter in it from a girl my age who went through a similar experience. She said a prayer to help her get through it, and all she felt was a small tug as her teeth were pulled.

It made me feel better to know that someone else had gone through the same thing. Before I went to the dentist, I said a prayer and asked Heavenly Father to comfort me. Like the girl who wrote the letter, all I felt were a few tugs and the teeth were out. I know Heavenly Father can help us when we have difficulties.

Tyler B., age 11, Utah

Asking for Forgiveness



One day my brother came into my bedroom and started bugging me. Because I was having a bad day, I started to yell at him. After I yelled, I felt really bad. I knelt beside my bed and asked Heavenly Father to

forgive me. After my prayer, I went to my brother and told him I was sorry.

I felt good inside after that. I knew it was the Holy Ghost. I have a testimony that Heavenly Father will forgive us if we just ask Him to.

Haley M., age 10, Alberta, Canada

Would you like to write us a letter? Turn to page 49 to find out how.



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the friend

See the
Guide to the Friend
(inside back cover)
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 photograph by Craig Dimond



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Hidden CTR Ring

Clue: Find out what Noah learned about the temple.

Come Listen to a
Prophet's Voice



President Monson
teaches that we can
be happy when we
reach out to others.

Reach Out to Others

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

To find real happiness, we must focus outside ourselves. Many have come into the Church—or at least have come to know and respect the Church—because someone made the effort to reach outward. I share with you a treasured family experience which had its beginning back in 1959, when I was called to preside over the Canadian Mission in Toronto.

Our daughter, Ann, turned five shortly after we arrived in Canada. She saw the missionaries going about their work, and she too wanted to be a missionary. My wife demonstrated understanding by permitting Ann to take to class a few copies of the *Children's Friend* [now called the *Friend*]. That wasn't sufficient for Ann. She also wanted to take with her a copy of the Book of Mormon so that she might talk to her teacher, Miss Pepper, about the Church.

Just a few years ago, long years after our return from Toronto, we came home from a vacation and found in our mailbox a note from Miss Pepper which read:



Dear Ann:

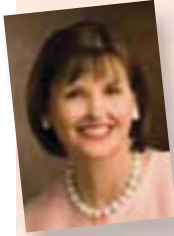
Think back many years ago. I was your schoolteacher in Toronto, Canada. I was impressed by the copies of the Children's Friend which you brought to school. I was impressed by your dedication to a book called the Book of Mormon.

I made a commitment that one day I would come to Salt Lake City and see why you talked as you did and why you believed in the manner you believed. Today I had the privilege of going through your visitors' center on Temple Square. Thanks to a five-year-old girl who had an understanding of that which she believed, I now have a better understanding of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Miss Pepper died not too long after that visit to Salt Lake City. How happy Ann was when she attended the Jordan River Utah Temple and performed the temple work for her beloved teacher to whom she had reached out so many years ago. ●

From a devotional address given at Brigham Young University on November 13, 2007.

A LITTLE GIRL GROWN UP



Ann Monson has grown up and married now, and her name is Ann M. Dibb. She was just four years old when her father became a mission president. She can still remember what the carpet and the furniture in the mission home looked like. She remembers kneeling and praying beside her bed when she was seven and feeling the Spirit tell her that the Lord knew her. When she was nine, her father became a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. She has two brothers, so she is the only daughter in

President and Sister Monson's family.

Sister Dibb has a beautiful, warm smile, and she still loves to reach out to others. She likes to write notes and make cakes and pies for people. In general conference in April 2008, Sister Dibb was sustained as second counselor in the Young Women general presidency. She travels all over the world, meeting young women and inspiring them to follow the Savior's example and reach out to others.



President and Sister Monson in 1961 with Ann and her brothers, Tom (left) and Clark (middle).

PLANTING GOSPEL SEEDS

Reaching out to others is one way you can share the gospel every day. Each time you tell the truth, are helpful and kind to your friends, or live the gospel standards, you are sharing the gospel. When you do these things, you are planting tiny seeds of the gospel in people's hearts. Some of those seeds may someday grow into beautiful, strong testimonies of the gospel.

Look at the scenes below. On each seed, write a word that tells one way the child is sharing the gospel. One is done for you. Then color the beautiful flowers that grow from each seed.

Helping



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BY JULIE HUGHES

(Based on a true story)

Look up the following scriptures:

Leviticus 19:11; John 13:15; D&C 51:9.

Circle the one you think fits the story best.

Liz, I'm selling walnuts so you need to sell something else," Abby said to her older sister. "And hurry. We're meeting Hannah and Zack in five minutes!" Abby continued picking up walnuts that had fallen from the walnut trees in their yard.

Liz loved to play store with her neighbors, but today she couldn't think of anything to sell. She grabbed her bike and headed down the street. She saw Hannah and Zack setting up their stores under some trees in front of their house. Hannah handed Liz some leaves from the trees. "We each get 20 leaves to spend," she said.

"What are you selling?" Liz asked.

"Mom let me have some granola bars to sell, and Zack got some aloe vera leaves from our backyard," Hannah said.

"What are you selling, Liz?" Zack asked.

Liz bit her lip. "It's a surprise."

Liz rode her bike around their neighborhood looking for something to sell. Her neighbors, the Bakers, had a beautiful tangerine tree in their front yard, and the tangerines looked delicious. Liz noticed that their car wasn't in the driveway. She hurried to the tree and filled her pockets with tangerines. As she picked them she smelled their tangy-sweet scent. Liz rode back to her friends and piled the tangerines next to Abby's walnuts.

"Those look yummy!" Abby said. "How much?"

"Five leaves each."

"I'll take two."

Liz handed Abby two tangerines and added the ten leaves Abby handed her to her own. Now she had 30 leaves! She went to Hannah's store to buy a granola bar. They cost 15 leaves each.

"I'll take one." Liz handed Hannah the leaves.



"Where did you get so many leaves?" Hannah asked. "Did you cheat and take them from the trees?"

"No, I sold some tangerines to Abby," Liz said.

"Really? How much for the tangerines?"

"Five leaves each."

"We'll be right over," Hannah said.

Liz sold six more tangerines to Hannah and Zack. She had never earned so many leaves when they played store! She was able to buy five walnuts from Abby, an aloe vera leaf from Zack, and another granola bar from Hannah. Plus she ate a tangerine. It was juicy and sweet.

Liz saw the Bakers drive their car into the driveway, right next to the tangerine tree. Liz tried to hide her pile of tangerines.

"Liz, did you take those tangerines without asking?" Abby asked.

"No. It's not stealing if they don't care, Abby. They have lots of tangerines," Liz said. But she was scared her neighbors would see the tangerines she had picked. Would they be angry with her?

"We should give them back," Abby said.

Liz bit her lip. "How? We already ate them."



"We must be honest in the little things as well as the big."¹

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95)



Abby thought for a moment. "We can give them some of the walnuts from our tree."

"That's not the same thing." Liz put her hands on her hips. "And don't tell me what to do, Abby. You're only five."

Tears came to Abby's eyes, and Liz felt bad. Abby was right, but she was scared to tell her neighbors she had taken their tangerines. "Will you come with me, Abby?"

Abby nodded, and the girls gathered up some walnuts to give to the Bakers. Liz went to the front door and knocked timidly. Mrs. Baker answered the door.

"Hi," Liz said, holding out the walnuts. "We brought these for you."

Mrs. Baker smiled. "Thank you, girls! What nice neighbors you are!"

Liz looked at the ground. "We brought them because I took some tangerines from your tree while you were gone. I didn't have anything to sell for our game, and they looked so good." Liz felt her lips tremble. She didn't want Mrs. Baker to yell at her. "I'm really sorry."

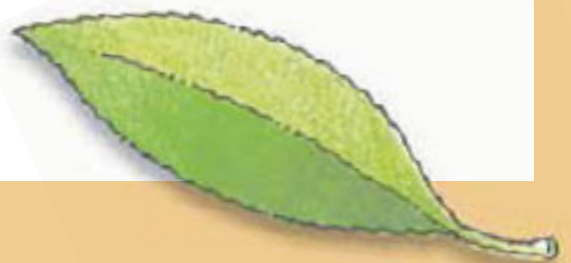
"That's OK," Mrs. Baker said.

Liz looked up in surprise. Mrs. Baker didn't even seem angry.

"We don't eat many tangerines anyway. You can have as many as you want, as long as you ask first." Mrs. Baker smiled at the girls.

"Thanks, Mrs. Baker!" Liz declared.

She put her arm around Abby as they walked home. "You know what, Abby? You're a great little sister." Liz felt good for telling the truth and giving Mrs. Baker walnuts to make up for the tangerines. She looked forward to eating more delicious tangerines from the Bakers' tree. After asking first, of course. ●





AUGUST FRUIT CAKE

Just for fun, make a different kind of cake—one that's made completely of fruit. It's cool, delicious, and healthy too!

- 1 watermelon (a seedless one works best)**
- 1 cantaloupe**
- 2 kiwis**
- 1/2 cup fresh raspberries**
- 1/2 cup fresh blueberries**
- coconut flakes (optional)**

1. Have an adult cut the watermelon into slices, then cut each slice into fourths.
2. Have an adult cut the cantaloupe in half. Use a melon baller or spoon to make melon balls.
3. Have an adult help you peel the kiwis and cut them into slices.
4. Place the watermelon slices on a plate, forming a circle. Add another circle of melon wedges on top. Then add several more layers until your cake is the size you want it to be.
5. Decorate your cake by adding melon balls, kiwi slices, and berries.
6. If you would like, sprinkle coconut on top.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT GREER





Young and Faithful



From an interview with Elder Lynn G. Robbins of the Seventy; by Sarah Cutler

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth
(Ecclesiastes 11:9).

I started kindergarten at age four, which was a little bit early. I wanted to go because my friends were starting. I had one friend who was 11 months older than I was, and I had other friends who had birthdays throughout the year before me. My parents didn't know if I should start that young or not, but I wanted to.

The people at the school didn't know if I should start that early, either. At that time, I couldn't even say my name correctly. I was pronouncing it "Wynn Gwant Wobbins." When my mother took me to school, they said, "Well, he can't even say his name correctly." Then I said, "Lynn Grant Robbins," as clearly as I should have, and they let me in.

When I first learned to write, I wrote everything backwards, in a mirror image. Later I learned to write my letters in the right direction, but my handwriting was very sloppy. My mother was worried, but Mrs. Leroy, my second-grade teacher, said, "He's doing well in math and in other areas, so don't worry about his handwriting. It will improve."

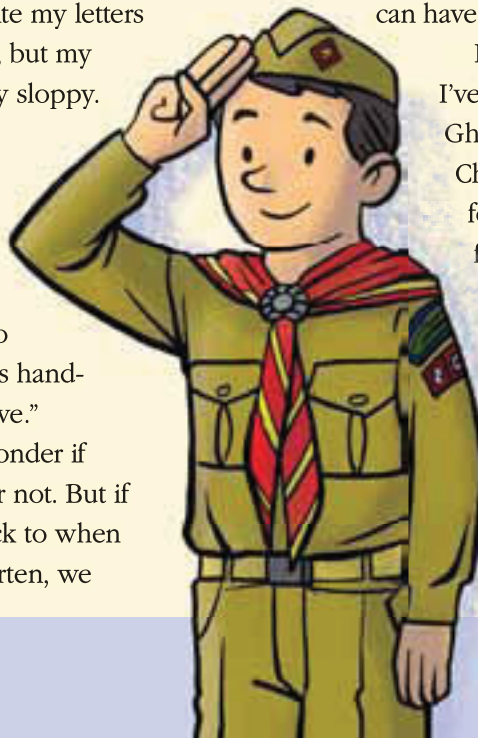
Sometimes you wonder if you're progressing or not. But if any of us looked back to when we were in kindergarten, we

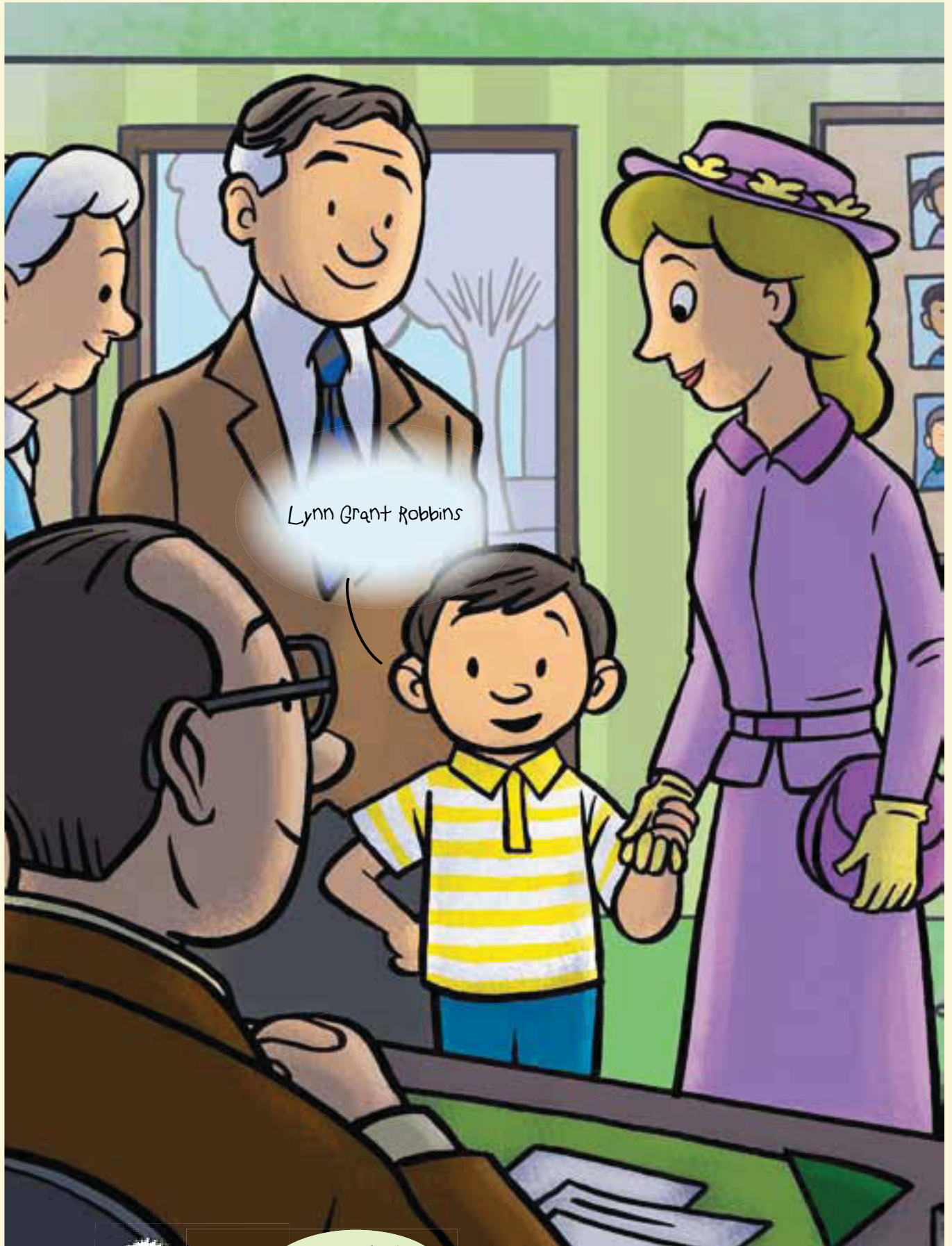
could certainly see we have made progress. You're getting better and better in every way.

Because I went to kindergarten early, I was always the youngest in my classes. And because I was the youngest, I always seemed to be the last one to start things. I was the last of my friends to go into Scouting, and my friends were already deacons when I was still in Primary. I felt like I was always behind. I was always the last to advance. But this became an advantage because I was able to learn from the good examples of friends who started before me.

I had a good friend, Jim, who was a little bit older than I was. He started Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts before me. He earned his awards a little bit before I earned mine. His success motivated me to do the same things. Choose good friends because good friends can have a great influence on you.

I've always had a testimony. I've never doubted. The Holy Ghost can whisper to a child. Children begin to learn, and feel, and know of the truth from the time they are very young. I never doubted the Book of Mormon. I never doubted that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a prophet. I've always known. Primary children can truly have a testimony. ●

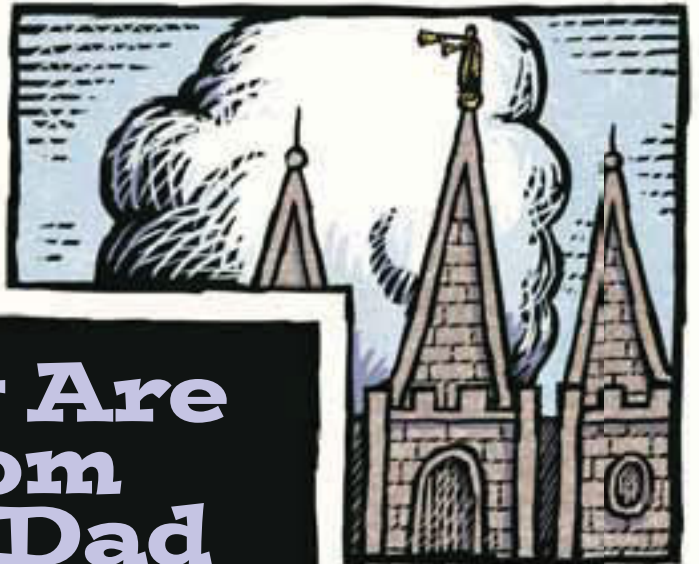
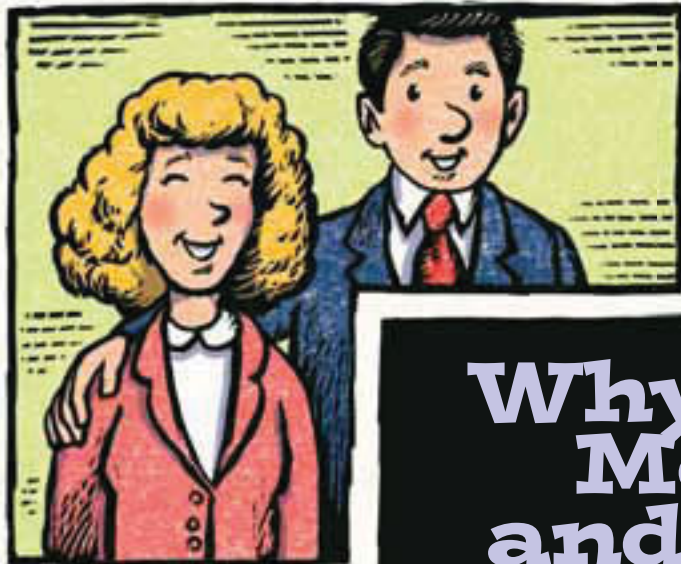




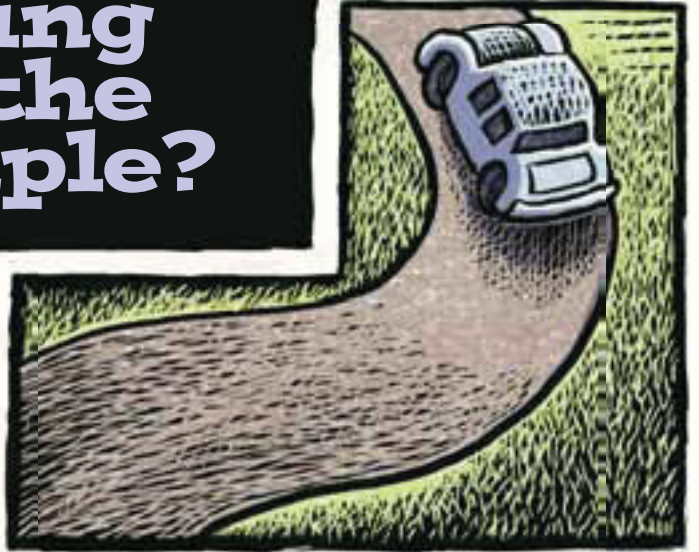
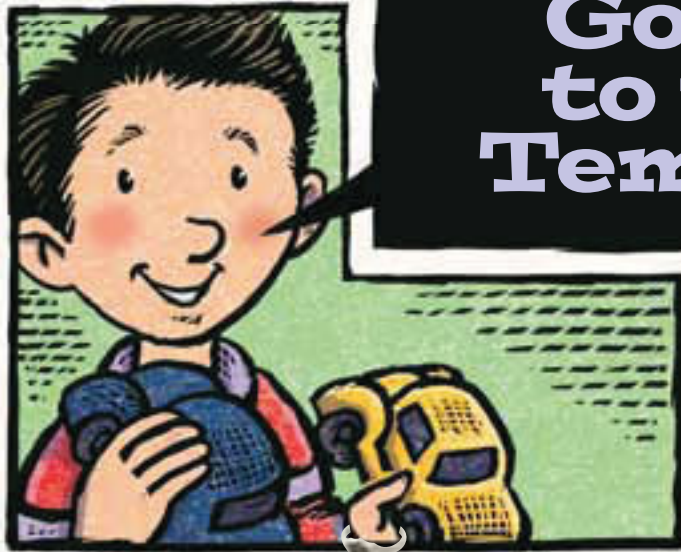
Lynn Grant Robbins



My parents, friends,
and Primary teachers are
good examples for me.
Who are good examples
in your life?



Why Are Mom and Dad Going to the Temple?



BY DAWN NELSON
(Based on a true story)

*The temple is a house of God, a place of love and beauty
(Children's Songbook, 95).*

Let's go to a movie!"

"No, let's go to the park."

Four-year-old Noah was sitting on the floor pretending that his two cars were talking to each other when Mom peeked into his bedroom. "Noah, when Dad gets home, he and I are going to the temple."

Noah smiled up at her. "OK. Maybe my

cars will go to the temple too."

"Good idea!" Mom said. "If you need anything while we're gone, ask one of your big brothers. OK?"

"All right, Mom." Mom smiled and left. Noah sat thinking for a moment. He knew that Mom and Dad had been married in the temple so their family could be together forever. But there was something he didn't understand.



He got up and went to find Mom. He found her lying on her bed, reading a book. “Mom, you and Dad already got married in the temple. So why do you keep going back?”

Mom patted the bed, and Noah climbed up beside her. “In the temple we make special promises to Heavenly Father,” Mom said. “He promises us wonderful blessings He can only give us in the temple. But a lot of people lived and died without a chance to go to the temple. Some of them never even knew about Jesus Christ. We go to the temple to do temple work for those people so they can have the same blessings our family has.”

“You mean so they can be a family forever too?”

“Right,” Mom said.

Noah yawned. “You look tired, Noah. Do you want to rest here for a while?” Mom asked. Noah snuggled close to her and closed his eyes. He thought of a beautiful temple and imagined himself as a grown-up going inside.

When Noah woke up, Mom was gone. He stretched and smiled. “Mom and Dad must have already gone to the temple,” he thought. He slid off the bed and ran to find his brothers.

They were in the living room watching a movie. “Hi, guys!” Noah called, running

in to join them.

While Mom and Dad were gone, Noah had a safe, warm feeling inside. His brothers were even extra nice to him.

When Dad and Mom walked in the front door, Noah ran to meet them. Mom picked him up and hugged him. Dad put his big arms around both of them and gave them a giant squeeze.

Mom smiled at Noah. “Remember how Dad and I got married in the temple, Noah? Well, tonight we got married for some people who couldn’t get married in the temple when they were alive. Now those moms and dads can be with their families forever if they choose the right. While I was at the temple, I felt very happy that if I do what Heavenly Father and Jesus ask me to, I can be your mom forever!”

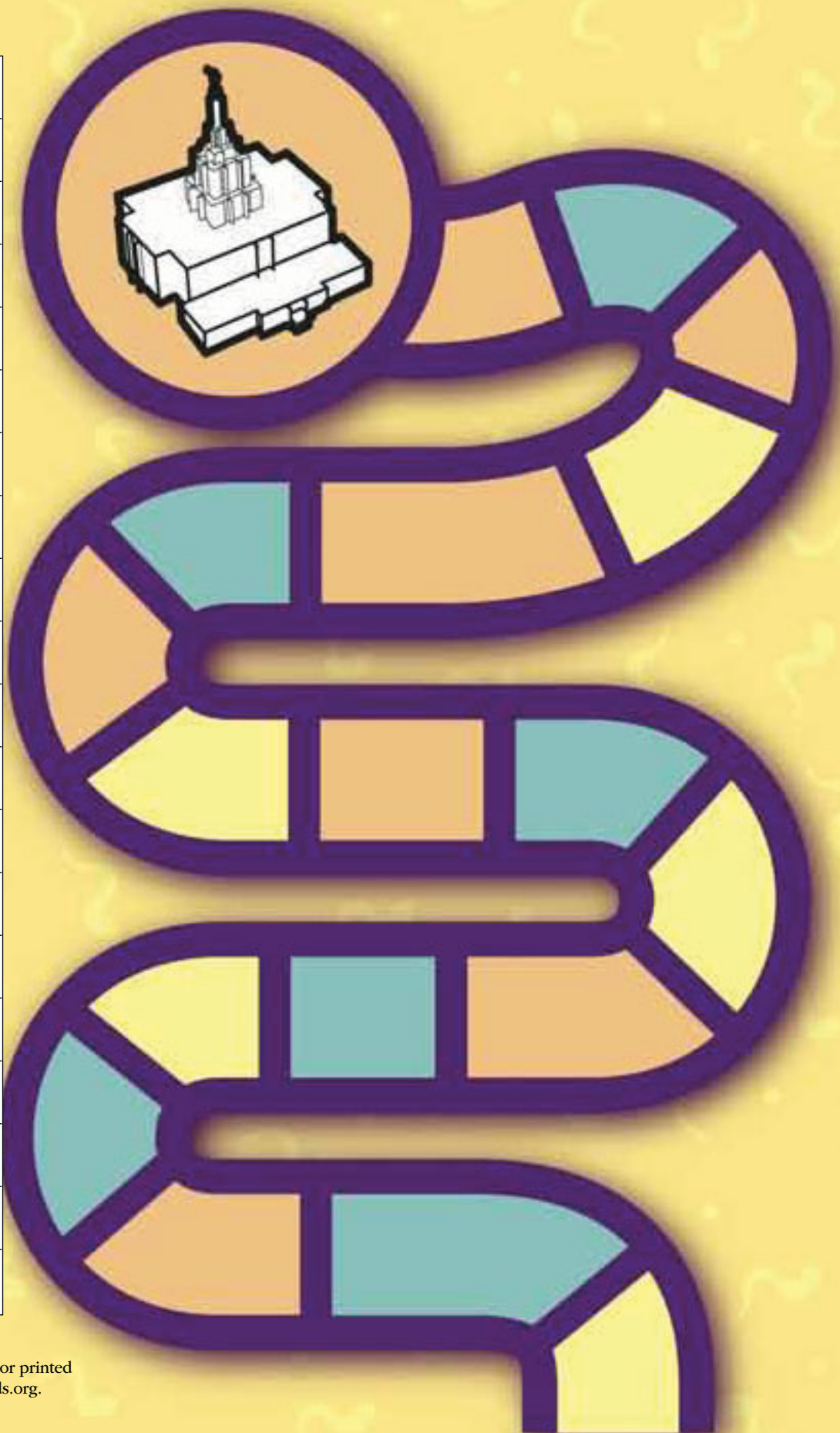
Noah smiled. Going to the temple didn’t just help people who were dead. It made his own family happy too! ●

“Temples are places where Heavenly Father and His Spirit may dwell. Each is a house of the Lord.”²

Sister Vicki F. Matsumori, second counselor in the Primary general presidency



<i>Be baptized and confirmed</i>
<i>Attend church</i>
<i>Take the sacrament</i>
<i>Repent</i>
<i>Follow the prophet</i>
<i>Be obedient</i>
<i>Be kind</i>
<i>Have good thoughts</i>
<i>Pay tithing</i>
<i>Study the scriptures</i>
<i>Pray</i>
<i>Obey the Word of Wisdom</i>
<i>Be honest</i>
<i>Forgive others</i>
<i>Honor your parents</i>
<i>Have faith in Jesus Christ</i>
<i>Show love to your family</i>
<i>Love the Lord</i>
<i>Serve others</i>
<i>Keep the Sabbath day holy</i>



Note: This activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.friend.lds.org.

The Temple—I'm Going There Someday



I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19).

BY CHERYL ESPLIN



One Sunday in testimony meeting, nine-year-old Angie told the congregation that her favorite song was “Families Can Be Together Forever.” Angie said how great it is that Heavenly Father has a wonderful plan for us to be together forever.

Angie’s parents had not been sealed in the temple. Soon after that day, Angie’s sister Katie left a letter on their parents’ pillow, urging them to go to the temple.

Angie and Katie wanted so much for their family to be sealed together. Their parents prayed about going

to the temple. Their family worked hard to prepare. When the time was right, their family was able to go to the temple and be sealed together forever.

Even if your family has not been sealed, someday you will be able to go to the temple. After you turn 12, you can perform baptisms for the dead in the temple. You can begin preparing now by keeping the commandments and living My Gospel Standards. ●

Activity

Cut out the wordstrips on page 12, and put them in a bowl, bag, or jar. Use pebbles or buttons for game pieces. Taking turns, choose a wordstrip, and read it out loud. Then count how many words it has, and move your game piece that many spaces. Continue until everyone’s game piece has reached the temple.

SHARING TIME IDEAS

August Theme: *Temple blessings unite families.*

(Note: Weekly gospel principles are listed in bold.

All songs are from *Children's Songbook* unless otherwise noted; GAK = Gospel Art Picture Kit.)

1. ***The temple is the house of God.*** Show a picture of a temple. Ask the children to raise their hands if they have seen or been to a temple. Invite the children to share their feelings about the temple. On one side of the board, write, "What is a temple?" and on the other side, write, "What special experiences take place in the temple?" Divide the children into two groups. While you sing together the first and second verses of "I Love to See the Temple" (p. 95), have one group listen for what the temple is (house of God, place of love and beauty, holy place), while the other group listens for what takes place in the temple (feel the Holy Spirit, listen, pray, covenant with my Father, promise to obey, sealed together). Write their responses on the board after each verse of the song. Explain that the temple is a house of God and that the Lord has given instructions about what kind of house it should be. Ask the children to listen as you read together Doctrine and Covenants 88:119. On the board, write, "A house of ____" seven times. Ask the children to help fill in the blanks with the words from the scripture. To help the children understand that Church members must be worthy to enter the Lord's house, invite the bishop or branch president to briefly talk about temple recommend interviews. You could also invite him to bear testimony of the importance of temples.

2. ***I will prepare now to go to the temple.*** Beforehand, draw on separate pieces of paper simple pictures of a mouth, eye, ear, hand, and foot. Write the following phrases on the board: "House of God," "Place of love and beauty," "Holy place." To begin sharing time, ask a child to read the three phrases. Have the children whisper what the phrases describe (the temple). Teach that on each temple are written the words "Holiness to the Lord." Explain that because the temple is holy and the work done inside the temple is holy, we must prepare ourselves to be worthy to enter after we turn 12. Have the children listen for when they should begin to prepare to go to the temple while you sing, "I'll prepare myself while I am young; this is my sacred duty" ("I Love to See the Temple," p. 95). Ask: "When should I begin preparing to go to the temple?" (while I am young). Have the children sing that line with you. While the pianist plays "I Love to See the Temple," pass around the drawing of the mouth. When the music stops, have the child holding the mouth tell one thing his or her mouth can do now to help him or her prepare to go to the temple: pray, speak kindly, tell the truth, keep the Word of Wisdom, and so on. (If the child is not able to think of a response, invite other children to respond.) After the child responds, ask for other ideas from the children. Do the same with the drawings of the eye, ear, hand, and foot. Encourage the children to practice during the coming week things they can do now to prepare to go to the temple.

3. ***My family can be together forever through the ordinances of the temple.*** Sing "Families Can Be Together Forever" (p. 188). While you read Doctrine and Covenants 138:48, have the children listen for what work is done in temples that would make it possible for families to be together forever ("sealing of

the children to their parents"). Show GAK 417 (Elijah Restores the Power to Seal Families for Eternity). Teach about the prophet Elijah's appearing in the Kirtland Temple to restore the sealing power (see D&C 110:13–15). To help the children understand "sealing power," show a picture of the temple in your area and explain that if couples are married in the temple and keep the promises they make there, they will still be married after they die. Tell the story of Angie and Katie's family's being sealed in the temple (see page 13 in this issue). Have each child draw a large picture of a temple. Then have them turn their papers over and draw a small picture of their family or their future family. When they have finished, have them hold their pictures up to the light so they can see their families in the temple. Share your testimony that families can be together forever.

4. ***Family history and temple work bless all the generations of my family.*** To help the children understand what a family generation is, have seven children come to the front of the room. Tape the label *Me* on the child in the center. Label the children on his left *Parent*, *Grandparent*, *Great-grandparent*. Label the children on his right *Child*, *Grandchild*, *Great-grandchild*. Explain that each person represents a family generation. Tell the children that when Heavenly Father established families, He planned for us to help each other return to live with Him forever. Read Malachi 4:6. Explain that turning "the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers" means to seal all the generations of our family together forever through temple ordinances. That verse also refers to the love we feel for our ancestors when we learn about them through family history. With the bishop's or branch president's permission, invite a grandfather or grandmother of one of the children to come to Primary. Beforehand, write questions on pieces of paper, and let the children take turns choosing and asking a question for the grandparent to answer. Start each question with "When you were my age . . ." (Possible questions: What was your favorite family tradition? What did you do in Primary? What did you and your friends like to do for fun? What was a challenge you faced, and how did you overcome it? What is a favorite memory about your parents?) Encourage the children to ask their parents and grandparents questions to learn more about them.

5. ***Song presentation: "Families Can Be Together Forever"*** (p. 188). Teach the chorus first by randomly posting wordstrips of each phrase, written with just the first letter of each word. (The first phrase would be *FCBTF*.) Tell the children to listen while you sing the chorus so they can help put the phrases in the correct order. You may have to sing it more than once. When the phrases are in order, have the children sing the chorus. Teach the first and second verses by writing a key word from each line on a wordstrip. Invite a child to the front of the room. Hold the wordstrip above his head where he can't see it. Tell the children this is to remind them of the word not to sing. As the Primary sings, ask the child to listen for the key word that is missing. When he guesses correctly, have the Primary sing the phrase including the key word. Follow this pattern for the other lines. Sing the song all the way through with the chorus.

6. ***Friend references:*** "Temple Blessings," Aug. 2001, 2–3; "To Touch an Angel," June 2002, 4–6; "A House for the Lord," June 1993, 48–49; "House of the Lord," Mar. 2002, 40; "My Family History Miracle," Feb. 2008, 42–43; "Family Testimony," Dec. 2002, 7; "Temples Bless Families," July 2004, 18–19.

Matt AND Mandy

Summer's almost over. No more sleeping in every day. No more swimming. No more reading books in the hammock all afternoon. No more picnics in the park on weekdays. I hate it when good things end!

The best things never end.

Says who?

Says me. Can't you see what I'm building here?

A castle?

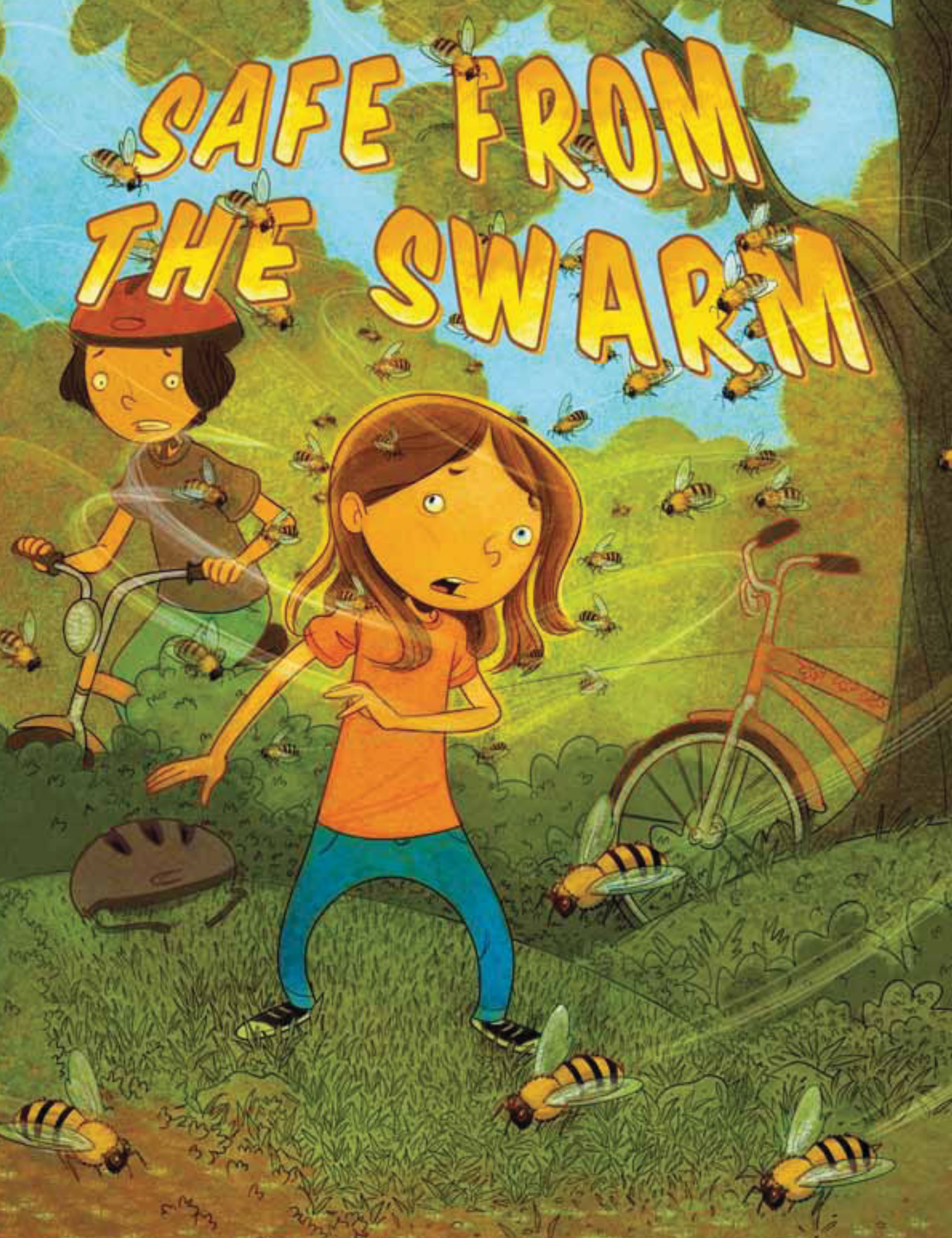
It's a temple! Summers end, but the people we love can be with us forever.

Sure, we'll grow up and have families of our own, and someday we'll even get old and die. But Mom and Dad will always be our parents, and we'll always be their children, and you and I will always be brother and sister.

Now what are you building?

A visitors' center for your temple. Everybody needs to learn about this.

SAFE FROM THE SWARM



BY KELLY J. HUNSAKER

(Based on a true story)

Through a still small voice, the Spirit speaks to me
(*Children's Songbook*, 106–107).

Let's ride our bikes down by the stream," I said to my friend Amy.
"OK. I just need to ask my mom first," Amy answered.

A little while later we were happily riding down our street. The stream was just a few blocks from my home. A dirt path ran beside it. We rode our bikes to the end of the path, and on our way back we stopped to toss some rocks into the stream.

"Let's race sticks," I said. We both looked for a small twig to toss into the water.

"Ready, set, go!" Amy yelled. We threw our sticks into the water and watched as they floated around a bend in the stream and out of sight.

"I think you won," I said.

We continued riding our bikes back up the path. I stopped to pick up a stick lying across the path and tossed it in the stream. Before I could spot where the stick had landed, a buzzing cloud encircled me. Within seconds, hundreds of yellow jackets covered my body. Chills of fear ran up my spine. I had stepped on their nest somewhere underneath the brush.

"Run!" Amy yelled. "They're all over you!"

Just as I was about to swing my arms to try to swat them away, I had a strong feeling not to move. I remembered what I had been taught whenever a bee or wasp was on me: *The best thing to do is stay still. They won't sting unless they feel threatened.*

Fighting the urge to run, I felt the yellow jackets crawl into my hair. They walked across my ears and up the sleeves of my shirt. My rapid breathing shook my body, even though I tried not to move.

"Hurry, Amy, go get my dad," I stammered under my breath. My friend raced up the dirt path.

Suddenly, one of the yellow jackets stung my cheek. Shocked by the sharp pain, I jumped and screamed.

The persistent thought remained: "Hold still!"

I continued to stay motionless as the yellow jackets crawled on me. I quietly prayed, "Heavenly Father, please help me escape the swarm. Please, please help me."

A minute later, a wasp stung my other cheek. Startled once more, I flinched. My body trembled as I began to cry. Then the entire swarm flew away.

Worn out, I picked up my bike and walked up the dirt path as tears streamed down my cheeks. As I reached the paved road, I could see the relief in Dad's eyes as he ran toward me. Sobbing, I explained everything that had happened.

"You were very blessed," Dad said as he examined my cheeks. "What made you stand there so still?"

"At first I felt like swatting at them and running, especially when I realized they were crawling in my hair and clothes, but then I had a strong feeling to hold still," I explained.

"That was the Holy Ghost, Kelly," Dad said. "The Spirit gives us promptings so we will know in our minds and feel in our hearts what to do. It may not be what we want to do, but if we obey those feelings we will be protected from danger. I'm so grateful you listened and followed His prompting."

Even though my cheeks throbbed with pain, I felt extremely blessed to be safe from the swarm. ●



"If we listen and obey, we will be guided by His Spirit."³

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

A Right Decision

A boy in my class tripped me when my shoes were untied. One day I saw him with his shoes untied. I had to make a choice. I thought about it and made my choice. I did not trip him.

*Brooke-Lynn J.,
age 7, Texas*



Soda Sense

My older sister and I went to the soda-pop machine to buy a soda. The machine would not take our money. I pushed the button of the soda I wanted, and it came out. I knew I had to be honest, so I went into the store and explained to the cashier what happened. I gave her my money. I felt a lot better after that.

Nathan R., age 9, Utah



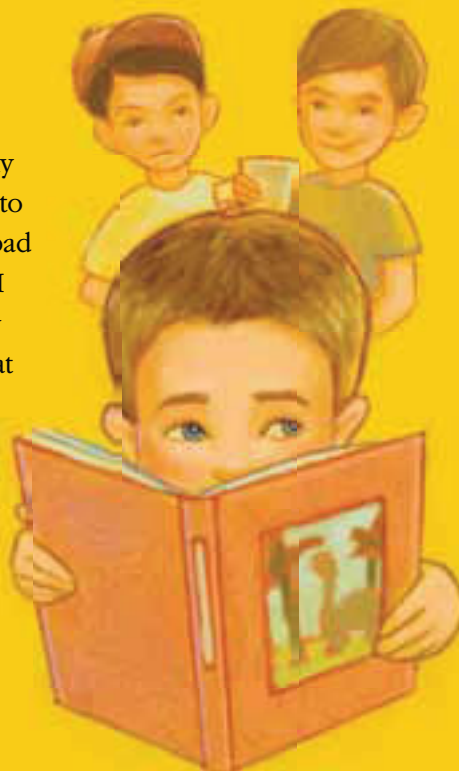
Looking Away



One day at school, my friends tried to show me a bad picture. But I looked away and looked at

a book. Then I told my mom after school, and she talked to the teacher. Because I did not look at the picture, I felt the Spirit tell me that I followed Jesus.

Grant G., age 6, Arizona



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JENNIFER TOLMAN

An Important Invitation



I invited a friend from school to go to church with me. We went to sacrament meeting and to class, and

we learned about the plan of salvation. In Primary we learned a new song. My friend ended up knowing it very well.



A few weeks later, my friends had a party. Someone asked for a 10-minute description of everyone's church. Mine turned into 20 minutes. I talked about the Word of Wisdom and the Book of Mormon, and then I started to talk about the plan of salvation. The friend I took to church was there, and she jumped right in. Her parents do not believe in Jesus Christ, so I thought it was very important that she know about Him.

Whitney H., age 11, Florida

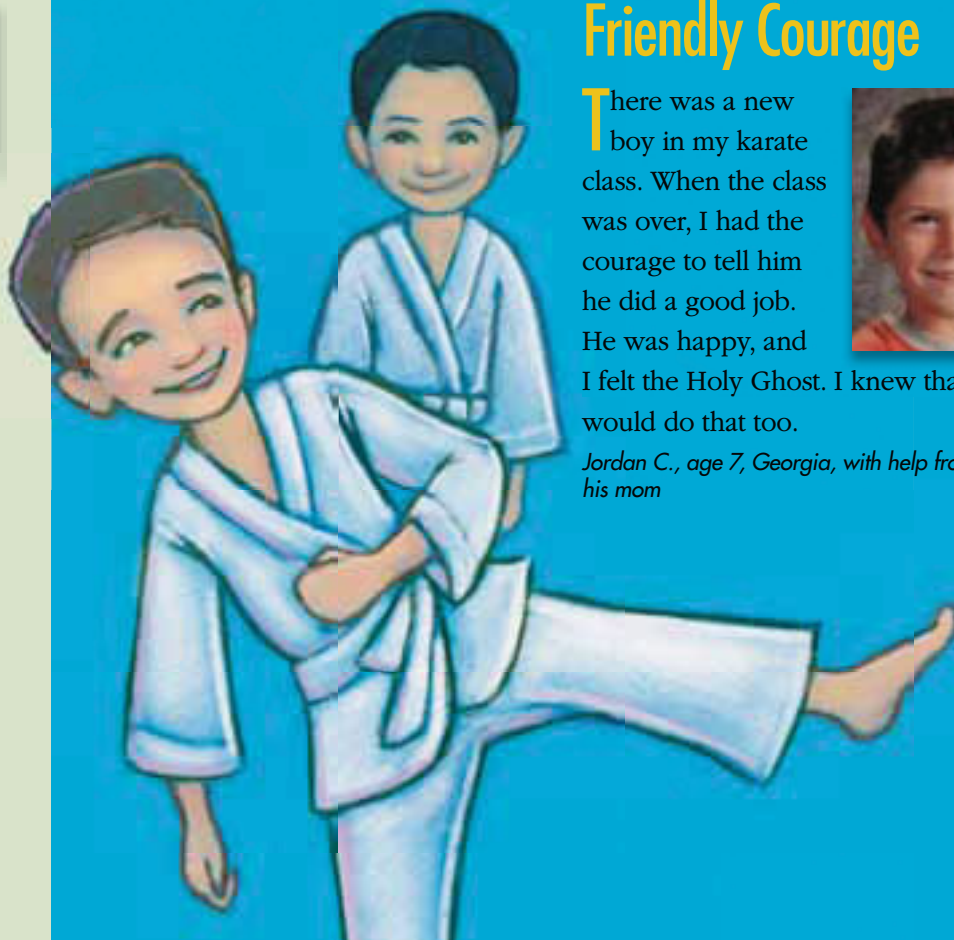
Tell us how you're trying to be like Jesus. Turn to page 49 to find out how to send us a letter.



Friendly Courage

There was a new boy in my karate class. When the class was over, I had the courage to tell him he did a good job. He was happy, and I felt the Holy Ghost. I knew that Jesus would do that too.

Jordan C., age 7, Georgia, with help from his mom





Love Your Country

Children all over the world love their country and obey the law—just like you! This month, let's meet Nicole Ritfield of Paramaribo, Suriname.

BY RICHARD M. ROMNEY

Church Magazines

Eleven-year-old Nicole Ritfield enjoys living in the countryside. Her family lives near fields and forests full of bushes, trees, and flowers. Nicole likes to ride her bicycle, and she pedals quickly over dirt and grass alike, dodging puddles.

But Nicole also enjoys the bustle of nearby Paramaribo, the capital city of Suriname. She likes seeing the houses that are crowded close together and the cars, scooters, and bicycles that jostle each other for space. In the center of town is a park called the *Palmentuin* (Palm Gardens), where the flag of Suriname waves in the sun and statues are often decorated with flowers.

A Winning Essay

Nicole loves Suriname. So when she heard about a national contest to write an essay about her country, it seemed like a good thing to do. The contest rules said to describe what she would do if she were the Minister of Tourism. In her essay she suggested that

historical buildings in Suriname should be cleaned up and beautified and that citizens of Suriname should be friendlier to visitors.

Nicole won the contest for her age group and traveled to Puerto Rico to compete with winners from other countries. Nicole

Left: Nicole won a contest for writing about her country, Suriname. Right: Nicole is the youngest in her family. She likes to keep an illustrated journal.





really enjoyed her trip to Puerto Rico. "It is a beautiful country," she says. "The people there are very kind, and I made lots of friends. But after all, home is home." She was eager to be with her parents and her four older sisters again. And she was anxious to see her pet cat, Rosy!

Nicole attends the Wanica Branch of the Paramaribo Suriname District. At church, people know her as a Primary girl who is kind and nice, always setting an example of reverence.

Favorite Scriptures

One of Nicole's favorite scriptures is 1 Nephi 8:30, which talks about the iron rod. "I know that if we keep holding on to the iron rod, we can have eternal life with our Heavenly Father," she says.

The twelfth article of faith also has special

MORE ABOUT NICOLE

Nicole likes to write songs and write in her journal. She joins in Primary activities and likes to work with others.

She has a strong testimony. "I know Heavenly Father lives," she says. "I know I am a child of God. And I know the Church is true."



meaning to Nicole. She recites, "We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law."

Honor and Obey

Families also have rules that family members should honor and obey. Nicole says her mother, father, and sisters have helped her learn to choose the right. "They correct me when I'm wrong and praise me when I do good," she says.

Being the youngest isn't always easy. It's especially challenging when she sees her sisters go somewhere and she has to stay home. But she knows her family loves her and that they work well together.

One example is when they sing. Nicole loves music. She likes to lead the music, and she has a natural ability to keep everyone on beat and in harmony.



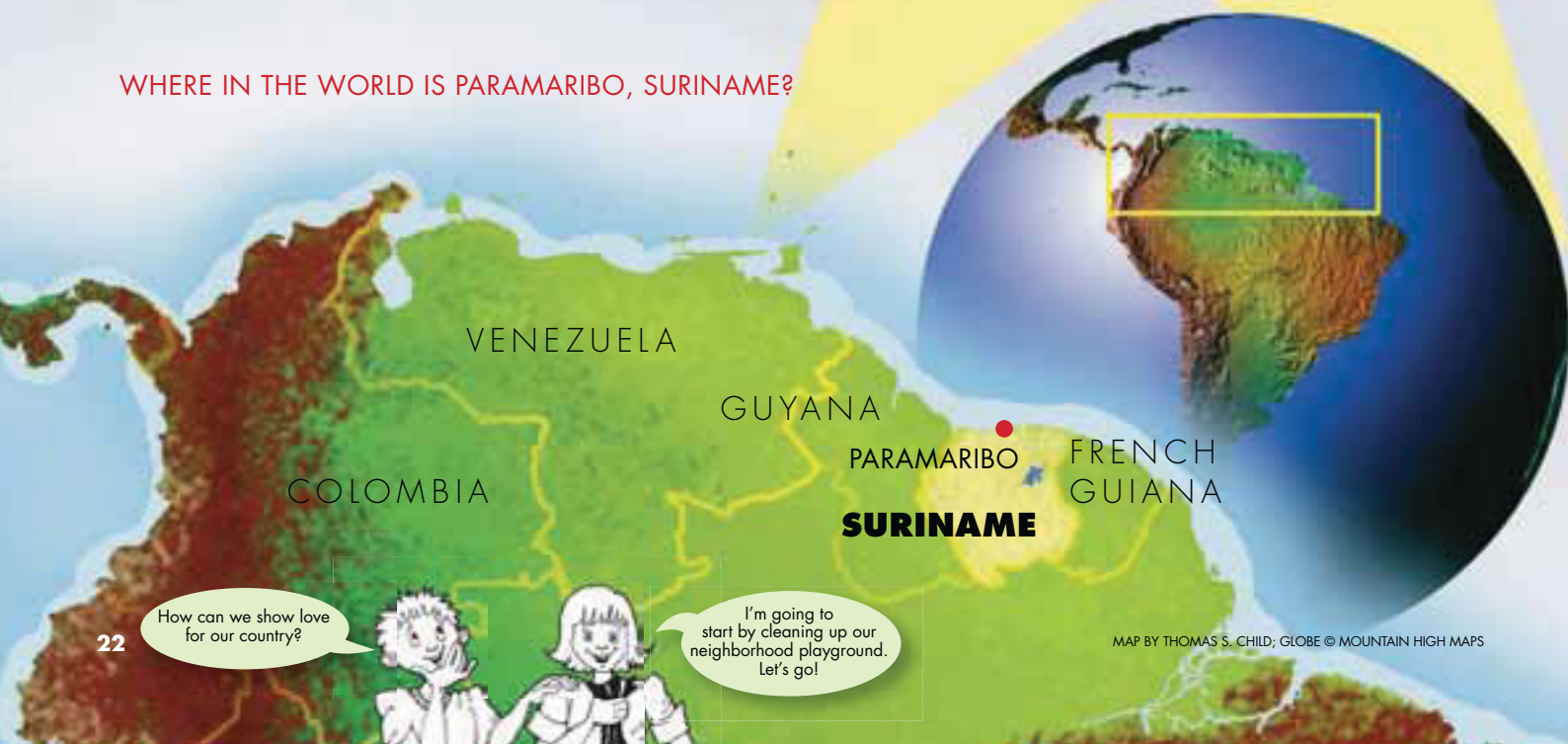
Country and City

At night
Nicole likes to

listen to the chirping crickets and the croaking frogs and the sounds of life in the woods around her house. She also likes to think of the city, with its government buildings and street signs, flower stalls and food markets. She is happy to be where she is.

And she is grateful that, by writing down her thoughts, she was able to share her love for her country with people throughout the world. ●

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PARAMARIBO, SURINAME?



How can we show love for our country?



I'm going to start by cleaning up our neighborhood playground. Let's go!

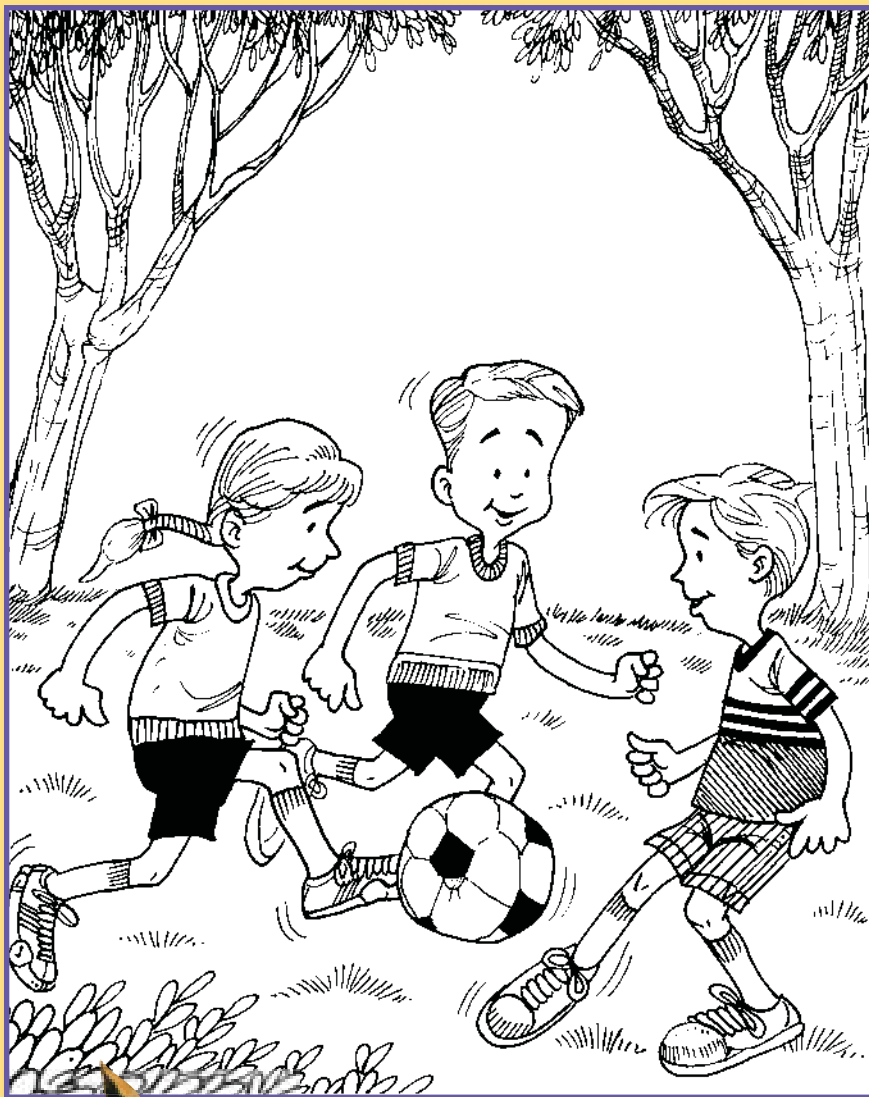
GET OUTDOORS!

Exercise Is Fun

BY ROBERT A. PETERSON

If we follow the Word of Wisdom, we are told we “shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint” (D&C 89:20). The Word of Wisdom helps our bodies be healthy and strong. This is good, because you are going to need your energy for playing this game.

To play “Big Wolf” one player must be the wolf. All other players are eggs. The players who are eggs line up next to one another and each chooses a color. (Whisper to each other to make sure you all choose different colors.) The wolf should stand several feet in front of the eggs, facing them. The game begins when the wolf asks if there is an egg of a certain color. If there isn’t, nobody moves and the wolf guesses another color. When the wolf says a color that is also an egg’s color, that egg runs around a certain area (a house, a tree, a yard, etc.). The wolf chases the egg. If the wolf tags the egg before it is able to make it back to its spot in line, then the wolf becomes an egg and the egg becomes the wolf.



These children are having fun playing outdoors. See if you can find a baseball bat, butterfly, comb, crayon, duck’s head, feather, frog, hairbrush, pencil, shark, woman’s shoe, and wristwatch. Then color the picture.

My Gospel Standards

I will follow Heavenly Father's plan for me.

I will remember my baptismal covenant
and listen to the Holy Ghost.

I will choose the right.

I know I can repent when I make a mistake.

I will be honest with Heavenly Father, others, and myself.

I will use the names of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ reverently.

I will not swear or use crude words.

I will do those things on the Sabbath that will help me feel
close to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

I will honor my parents
and do my part to strengthen my family.

I will keep my mind and body sacred and pure,
and I will not partake of things that are harmful to me.

I will dress modestly to show respect for
Heavenly Father and myself.

I will only read and watch things that are
pleasing to Heavenly Father.

I will only listen to music that is pleasing to Heavenly Father.

I will seek good friends and treat others kindly.

I will live now to be worthy to go to the temple
and do my part to have an eternal family.

I AM A CHILD OF GOD

I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him.

I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere.

I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ.

Jason's Escape

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation (Mark 14:38).

BY CAROLYN LEDUC

(Based on a true story)

ZZZZZ . . ." Eight-year-old Jason faked a snore, then burst into giggles. Lying in his bed, he pulled the blanket over his eyes and pretended to sleep. Across the dark room, his six-year-old brother snuggled into his pillow, then let out a long, dreamy sigh before he started to laugh as well. "Shh!" Jason whispered, pulling the blanket off his head. "We're supposed to be sleeping!"

"I'm sleeping. I'm sleeping!" his brother whispered back. Both boys giggled again, then pulled the sheets up under their chins, squeezed their eyes shut, and lay as stiff as possible while they waited.

In the next room, their sister also waited, pretending to sleep. Down the hall, their brother waited, pretending to sleep. Even their mom, they knew, was lying in her dark bedroom, curled up under her covers, pretending to sleep.

A floorboard creaked in the shadowy hallway. Dad was somewhere nearby. Any moment now they would hear the signal. Jason listened intently, hardly breathing as he tried to guess where Dad might be standing at that moment. He was definitely coming closer. Any second now . . .

"BEEEEEP!" A screech blared throughout the house. Jason dropped to the floor and crawled toward the door on his hands and knees.

"Go, go, go!" his brother yelled, bumping into Jason's side. "We have to get out!"

"Fire!" Jason shouted, crawling into the hallway. "Everyone out!"

"Everyone out!" Mom called. "Stay low!"

Dad joined them on the floor as they crawled down the hallway, into the kitchen, and out the back door. Once outside, they stood up and ran to the maple tree.

"Are we safe?" Dad asked. "Is everyone here?"

"We all made it," Mom said, counting heads.

Dad looked at his stopwatch. "That was our best time yet," he said. "Now everyone back to bed—for real this time."

The next morning, as the family gathered for breakfast, Jason thought about the fire drill. "I'm glad we have an escape plan," he said. "I feel safer with a fire alarm in our house."

"Me too," Mom agreed. "Having an alarm helps keep us safe—as long as we respond quickly when we hear it go off."

Jason finished his breakfast. "Can I go over to Brett's house now?" he asked. Brett was Jason's next-door neighbor and one of his best friends.

"You must have faith to do those things and go to those places which invite the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Ghost."⁴

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

A colorful illustration of a young boy with reddish-brown hair, wearing blue pajamas, sitting up in bed. He has a shocked expression, with his mouth wide open in a scream and his hands raised to his face. A large white speech bubble with the word "FIRE!" in bold red letters is coming from his mouth. In the background, a wooden door is visible with red lines indicating heat or fire. The room has a blue wall and a wooden headboard.

FIRE!

"Yes," Mom said. "Be safe and have a good time."
Next door, the boys played with Brett's dog, ran through the sprinklers, and built stick forts in the mud. Then Brett suggested they go inside. "I'm hot," he said. "Let's play video games."

"OK," Jason agreed. "Maybe I can beat you this time."
"We can try a new game," Brett said as the boys went inside. "Have you ever played this one before?" He held up the case for a game Jason didn't recognize. "I don't think so. What's it like?"



“You’ll see,” Brett said, sliding the disc into the game console.

Brett handed Jason a controller and sat down in front of the TV. Jason sat down beside him. As the game started, a screeching alarm went off in Jason’s conscience. The characters in this game looked like real people, and

the clothes they were wearing—particularly the women’s clothes—didn’t cover very much of their skin. Jason felt uncomfortable. He knew he needed to escape.

“We need to play a different video game, or I need to go home,” Jason said. “I’m not comfortable with how those people are dressed.” Jason knew his friend might think he was weird for saying that, but he also knew he needed to pay attention to his feelings.

“No big deal,” Brett said. “We can play a different game.” Brett got out a car racing game. The alarm in Jason’s mind quieted as he heard the roar of the engines in the game. For Jason, nothing could have sounded better. ●

ARE YOU MEDIA SMART?

Computers, TV, and movies can help you learn and have fun. But there are also bad things about them that can hurt you. Here are 10 ways to stay safe when you use the computer or watch TV:

1. Always ask a parent for permission before you use the Internet or watch TV, and use computers or televisions only in an open area of your home, within the view of your parents.

2. Go only to Web sites that you and your parents know are good for children. Ask your parents to set your TV and Web browser to block bad content.

3. Don’t be afraid to leave the room or ask someone to turn off movies, video games, or music that make you feel uncomfortable.

4. If you have a page on a social-networking Web site, ask your parents to help you make sure that people you don’t know can’t see your page.

5. When you are on the Internet, don’t give someone you don’t know personal information like your name, address, or phone number.

6. Don’t send someone you don’t know a photograph of yourself.

7. Never agree to meet in person someone you “met” on the Internet. If someone asks to meet you, tell your parents.

8. Don’t give anyone your passwords.

9. Don’t open an e-mail from someone you don’t know. If you get an e-mail you’re unsure about, check with your parents.

10. Look for fun activities on the *Friend Web* site at www.friend.lds.org!

How do I **know** that **Heavenly Father** loves me?



Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.

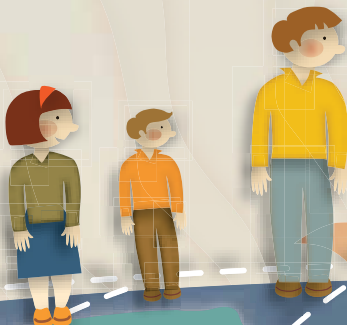
How important it is for every human soul to see and appreciate the glory and grandeur of God in everything about us.

God expresses his love for us by providing the guidance we need to progress and reach our potential.

[Heavenly Father] has given us divine counsel and commandments in his instruction manuals—the holy scriptures. When we understand and follow these instructions, . . . we learn that our Maker loves us and desires our happiness.

All the marvels of nature are glimpses of his divine power and expressions of his love.

He sent his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.





Playing

I like to play
 Almost every day.
 I like the swings—
 At last I have wings!
 High monkey bars
 Take me to Mars.
 The slippery slide—
 Down it I fastly glide.
 On the seesaw I go so high—
 I can finally fly!
 The rock wall—
 I slip and I fall.
 The circle twister—
 Oops, there goes my sister.
 The hanging bar—
 I'm a star!

Waveney B., age 8, Kentucky

My Uncle

His fingers may have been rough,
 But his soul was soft as snow.
 He was like a cuddly pillow,
 Like you would never know.
 He helped us through our struggles;
 He helped us through our strife.
 And through our faith and prayers,
 He'll know we'll love him all our lives.

Bryce J., age 9, Idaho

Animals

Zebras with their many stripes,
 Cheetahs and leopards with spots alike,
 Penguins permanently stuck in tuxes,
 Frogs with their different shades of green—
 Heavenly Father gave these colors.

A birdy's tweet, a lion's roar;
 Let me name a couple more.
 Dogs bark, cats meow.
 Once in a while they all say, "Ow."
 An owl's hoot, a horse's neigh—
 Heavenly Father gave them these today.

Miriam D., age 10, Pennsylvania

Enos

Enduring prayer through morning to night,
 Never stopping all day long.
 Only after he had prayed for one day and night did he go back to his home.
 Saying he was sorry, he asked for forgiveness in his prayer.

Jacob A., age 10, Utah



Garrett F., age 6, Utah



Melanie G., age 5, Arkansas



Hanna S., age 10, California



Bernice C., age 11, South Africa

Would you like to send us a poem or drawing? Turn to page 49 to find out how.



Meeka B., age 9, Arizona



Alex K., age 8, Oregon



Joshua W., age 4, Utah



Samantha A., age 11, Utah



Nathan S., age 8, Ohio



Caitlin B., age 7, Washington



Berkeley H., age 7, California



Sadie M., age 10, Hawaii



Rigdon W., age 10, Arizona



Hannah M., age 7, Alberta, Canada

*Mine is a home where ev'ry hour is blessed by the strength of priesthood pow'r
(Children's Songbook, 190-91).*

Alexander Gets a Blessing

BY MARIANNE SORENSEN LEMON

(Based on a true story)

1.

Alexander's breathing sounds funny. What's wrong?



I'm not sure. Before Daddy goes to work, we'll ask him to check Alexander.

2. Dad walked into the room wearing his doctor's coat. Because Dad was a doctor, he was often

able to help Kiersty and her baby brother feel better.



3. Dad checked Alexander.

Kiersty, you'll need to come to the hospital with Mommy and Alexander so we can take some X-rays.

OK. But are you going to give him a blessing first?

Of course, Sweetie.



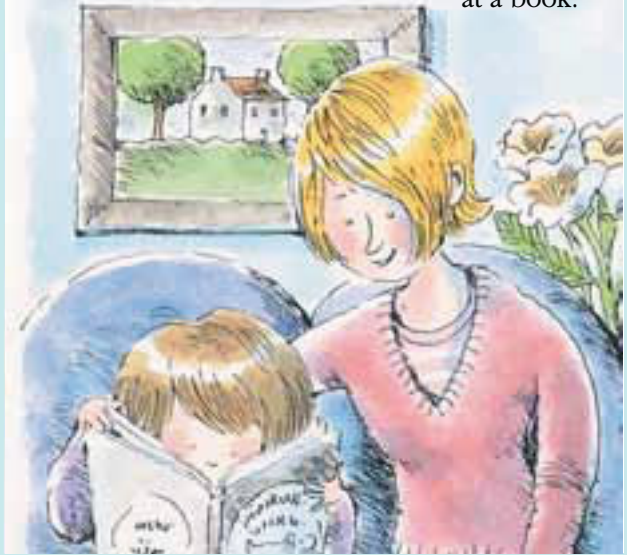
4. Kiersty knew that because Dad held the priesthood, he could give people blessings to help them. She closed her eyes and folded her arms as Dad placed his hands on Alexander's head and gave him a blessing.



5. After the blessing, the family got into the car to go to the hospital. Kiersty sat in the backseat beside Alexander. She hoped he would start to feel better.



6. At the hospital, Dad and another doctor took Alexander to a special room. Mom and Kiersty sat and waited in big blue chairs. Kiersty looked at a book.



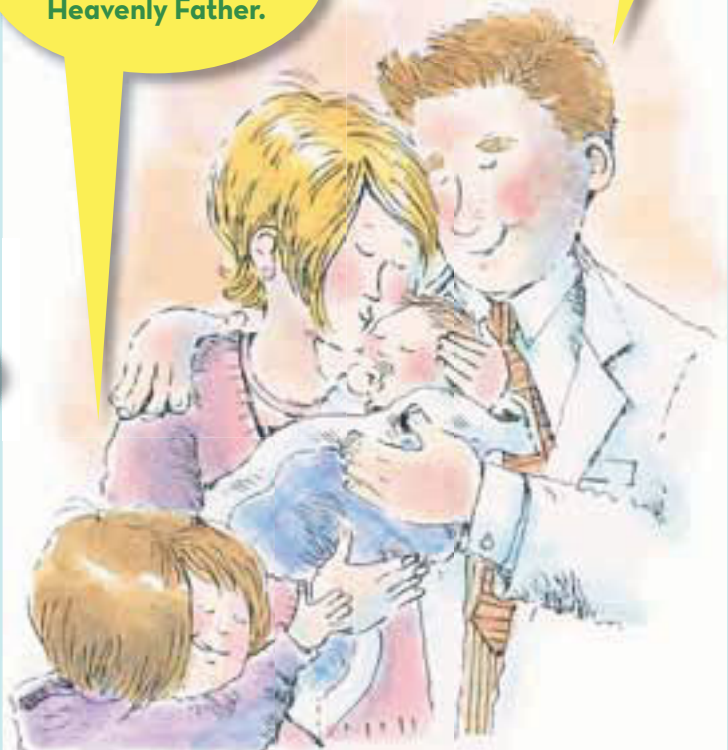
7. A little while later, Kiersty saw a doctor carrying Alexander as he walked down the hallway toward them. Dad walked with him.



8.

The blessing worked.
We need to thank
Heavenly Father.




You are right, Kiersty.









Jesus Christ Chooses His Apostles

1 day Jesus taught people while standing on a  near the shore. The  belonged

to a man named  .  and his  had fished all night, but they didn't catch any

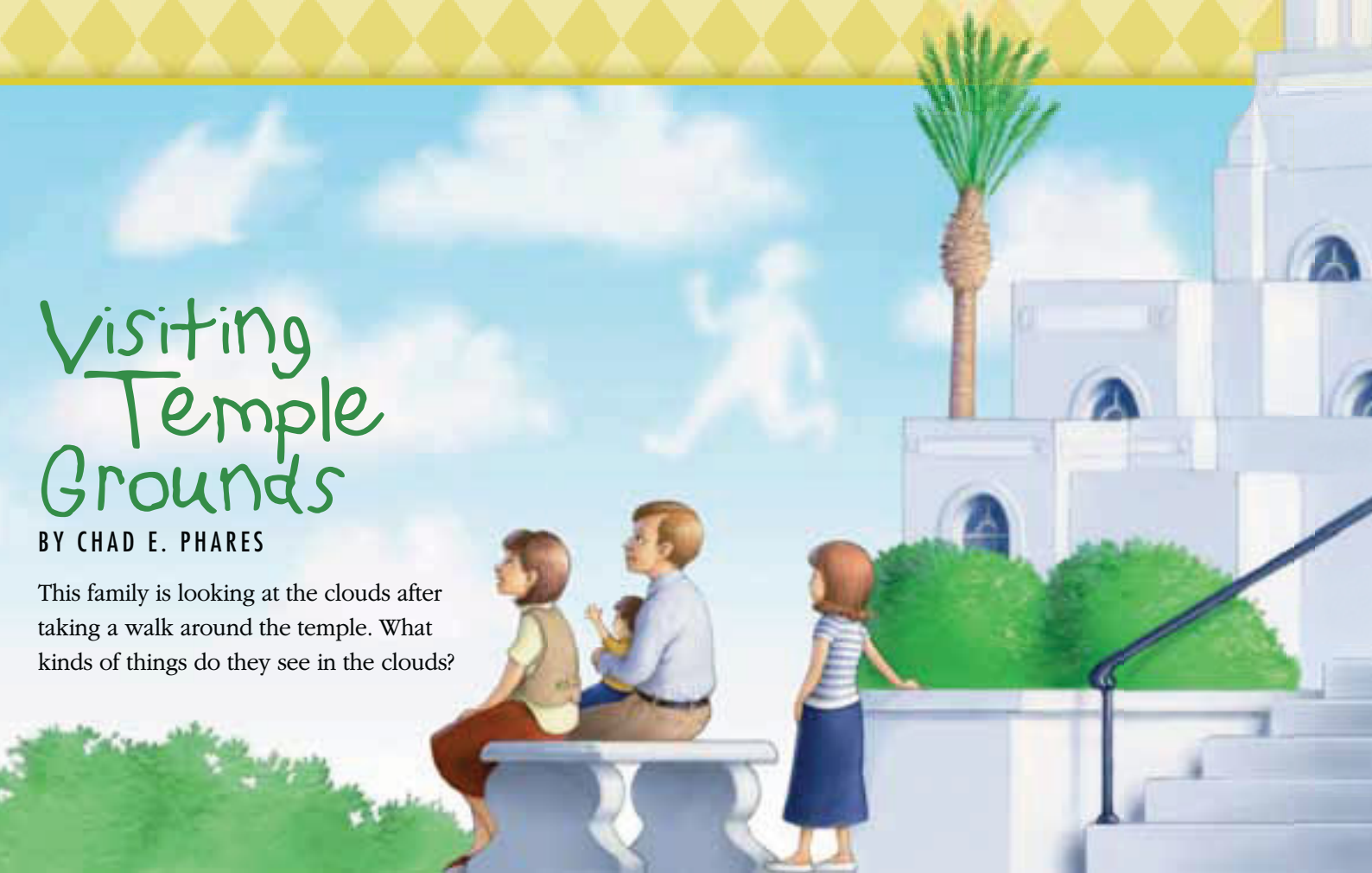
 . After Jesus finished teaching, He told  to take the  into deep  .

Then He told  and his  to put their fishing  in the  . They caught so

Visiting Temple Grounds

BY CHAD E. PHARES

This family is looking at the clouds after taking a walk around the temple. What kinds of things do they see in the clouds?

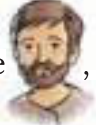
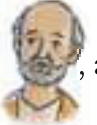



many  that their  began to break.  and his  were amazed. They knew

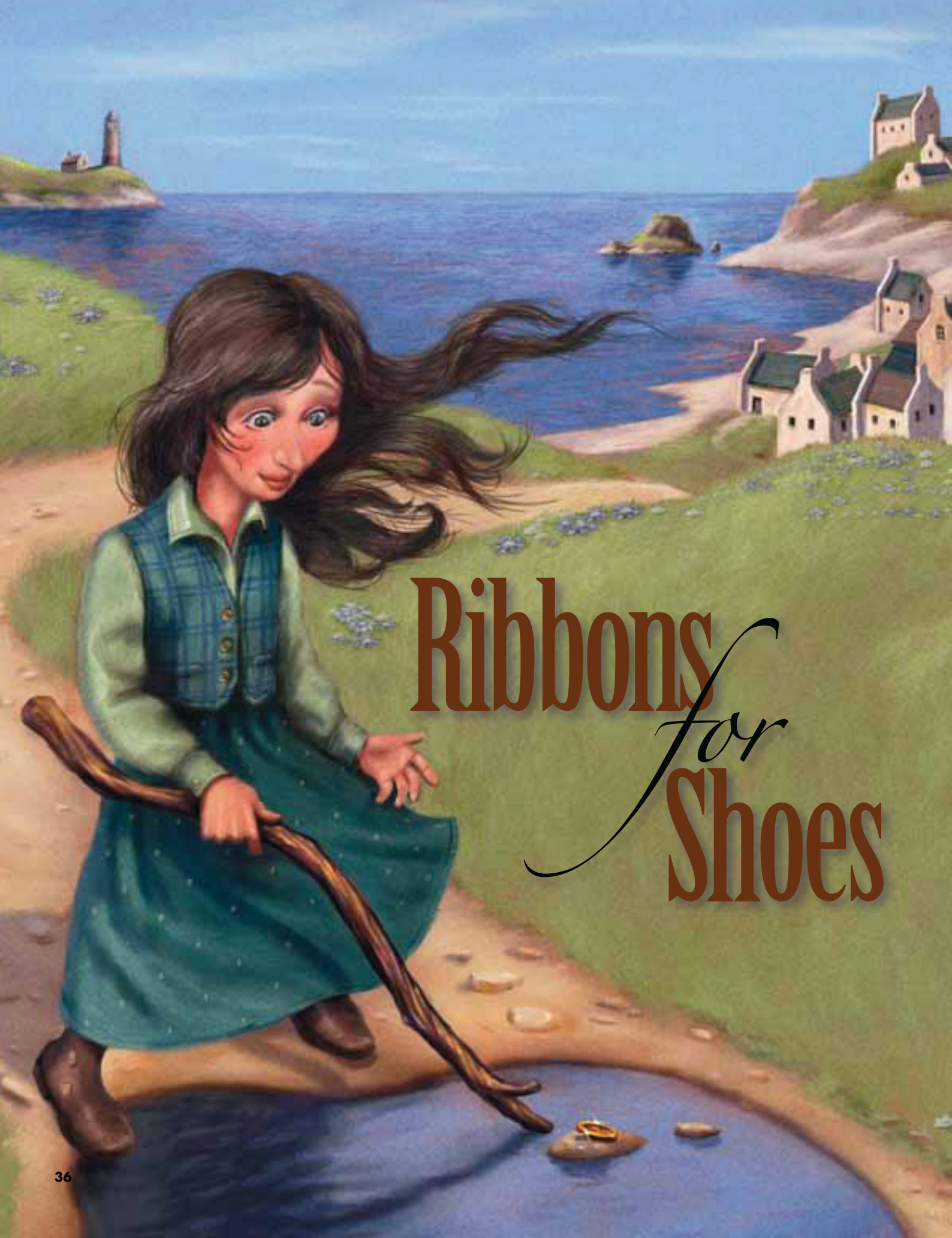
that Jesus made this happen.  knelt by the  of Jesus.  said he was not worthy to be

near Jesus. Jesus told  not to be afraid. **2** friends of  were brothers. Their names were

 and . Jesus told , , and  that He would make them fishers of men. Jesus

chose , , and  and **9** more men to be leaders of His Church. Jesus gave the **12**

men the priesthood, and they became the **12** Apostles.



Ribbons *for* Shoes

BY CORINE C. PUGH

(Based on a true story)

Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off; unto the islands of the sea (D&C 133:8).

Mary Jane took a deep breath and smiled as she hurried along the muddy path on the way home from school. It was spring-time in the year 1852, and a soft, cool breeze was blowing over the Irish Sea.

Mary Jane was remembering the night she and her family were baptized. They had waited until it was dark to be baptized because some of their neighbors didn't like "Mormons," and the family didn't want there to be any trouble. The ocean was very cold that night. But when she came out of the water and the missionaries laid their hands on her head, Mary Jane had a warm, wonderful feeling.

She was remembering that warm feeling when a gust of wind blew a strand of her long black hair across her face. Mary Jane pushed it back. "I wish I had a pretty blue ribbon to tie my hair back," she thought.

Just then, Mary Jane almost stepped in a puddle on the path. As she started to walk around it, she saw something bright in the water. She stopped and looked closely. It looked like a coin.

Finding a long stick, Mary Jane carefully raked out the coin. And it was a valuable one. "Lucky me!" she thought. "What should I buy with it?" Then the wind reminded her. "A long blue ribbon," she thought. "That is what I will buy." Slipping the coin into her pocket, she hurried home.

When she opened the front door, Mary Jane saw that the missionaries were visiting her family. The younger children were sitting quietly, and a reverent feeling filled the room. Mary Jane's family loved the missionaries, who had come all the way to Ireland to bring them the gospel. Father said the missionaries came without



purse or scrip. That meant they came without money and with only the clothes they were wearing. Today they had brought good news. Some other families in the village were going to join the Church!

Mary Jane's father invited the elders to stay for supper. As they gathered around the table, everyone was smiling. Mary Jane liked to hear the elders ask for a blessing on the food. It gave her a "Sunday feeling."

After dinner, Mama served dessert in the parlor. She had baked a cake and made candy frosting. As one of the elders sat down and stretched out his long legs with his shoes turned upward, Mary Jane and her father looked at each other in surprise. The soles of the elder's shoes were worn through with large holes.

Father went to the kitchen, and Mary Jane followed him. Father reached to the top shelf of the cupboard where they kept money. But as he looked at the coins in his hand, he had a sad face. It was not enough to buy a new pair of shoes for the elder.

Mary Jane reached her hand into her pocket and placed her coin in Father's hand. "Now is there enough?" she asked softly.

Father looked surprised. He was silent for a long moment. Then in a husky voice he answered, "Yes, dear. That is just right." Father put his arm around Mary Jane, and she had the same warm feeling she had felt at her baptism. ●

When Mary Jane McCleve was 15 years old, her family sailed to America so they could travel to the Salt Lake Valley. Her family arrived in the valley in September 1856. They belonged to the second handcart company, under the direction of Captain Daniel D. McArthur.

The Organization of the Primary



Many years ago, Aurelia Spencer Rogers, a mother of 12 children, was worried about the neighborhood boys. They played and ran through town day and night. She thought they needed more strict discipline. Sister Rogers decided to speak with Sister Eliza R. Snow, the Relief Society general president. Together, Sister Rogers and Sister Snow decided to create an organization called Primary. President John Taylor suggested that boys and girls attend.

The first day of Primary was held on Sunday, August 25, 1878, in the Farmington Rock Chapel in Utah. There were 215 children there. Today, 131 years later, more than one million children from all over the world belong to Primary.

The main purpose of Primary is to teach children the gospel of Jesus Christ. Children who attend Primary learn to live the gospel. Girls prepare to be righteous young women, and boys prepare to be worthy to receive the priesthood. ●



Aurelia Spencer Rogers

1. What do you like about Primary?
2. What do you think it would have been like to be in the first Primary?
3. Choose someone in the picture. What do you think he or she was thinking?

I think the girl in the yellow dress wants to sing a song. I'd choose "Come with Me to Primary."



BY JAN PINBOROUGH
Church Magazines



being brennah

When I was seven, I was like any other seven-year-old,” says Brennah Kahaunani Payne. “I went to school, went to church on Sunday, and lost teeth.” But then Brennah was in a terrible car accident. She had to stay in the hospital for six months and have nine surgeries.

Many people helped Brennah in the hospital—doctors, nurses, and even a schoolteacher. Brennah thinks her hospital stay was like a “little mission.” She gave pass-along cards to several people to tell them about the Church. And she tried to comfort other children whenever she could.

But Brennah never got to meet some of the people who are most special to her. They are the people who donated blood that helped save her life. After her accident, Brennah lost a lot of blood. The doctors gave her blood that other people had donated.

Brennah wanted to thank those special people and encourage others to donate blood too. So she went to places where people were donating to say thank you. She passed out candy bars with little cards that said, “It’s SWEET to donate blood!” In California, where she lives, she told her story to community groups, at churches, and on the radio and TV. Brennah has made many friends by just being her cheerful, loving, enthusiastic self.

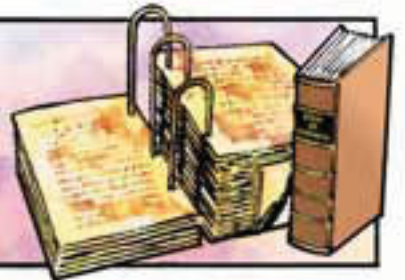
At age 10, Brennah is back to singing, dancing, and swimming. She feels her experience taught her several things. “It softened my heart and helped me see all the blessings I have,” she says. As the youngest of five children in her family, she now knows that “being small doesn’t mean you can’t do great or big things.” She has also learned how much Heavenly Father loves her as He helped her through her trials. And she has a message for all children: “You should always know how much Heavenly Father loves you.” ●





FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

Hard at Work, Hard at Play



Joseph often played ball and other games with the young men in town.

Give the ball a good toss.



On one occasion, they played for a long time until they all began to get tired. When Joseph noticed, he called the boys together.

Let us build a log cabin. There is a widow who is in need of one.



I sure am tired. I don't know how Joseph does it.

He's always like this—serving whenever he can.



Another time, Joseph was again playing ball with some men and young men from town. When the game was finished, Joseph called the men together.

Brethren, hitch up your teams.

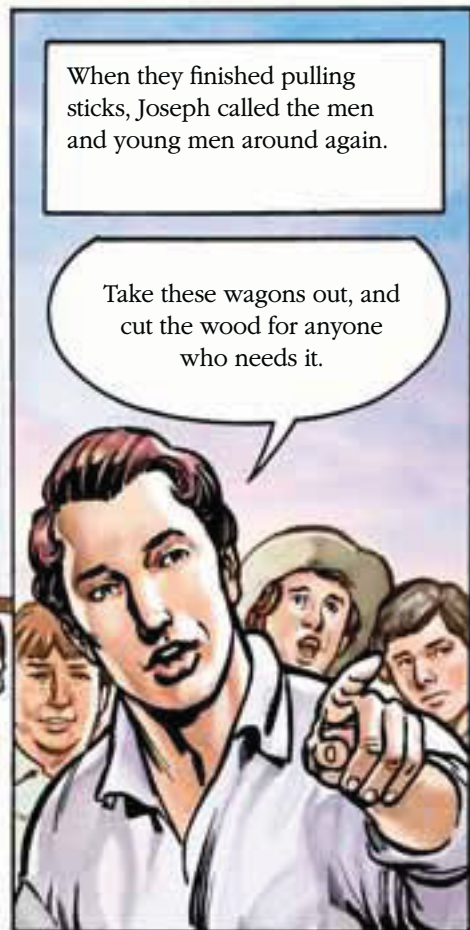


The men did just as Joseph asked and drove into the forest to gather wood.

This is the 39th and last wagon.

We did good work today, brother. Would anyone like to pull sticks?

Joseph was strong and good at a game called pulling sticks. He pulled up each opponent, one after another.



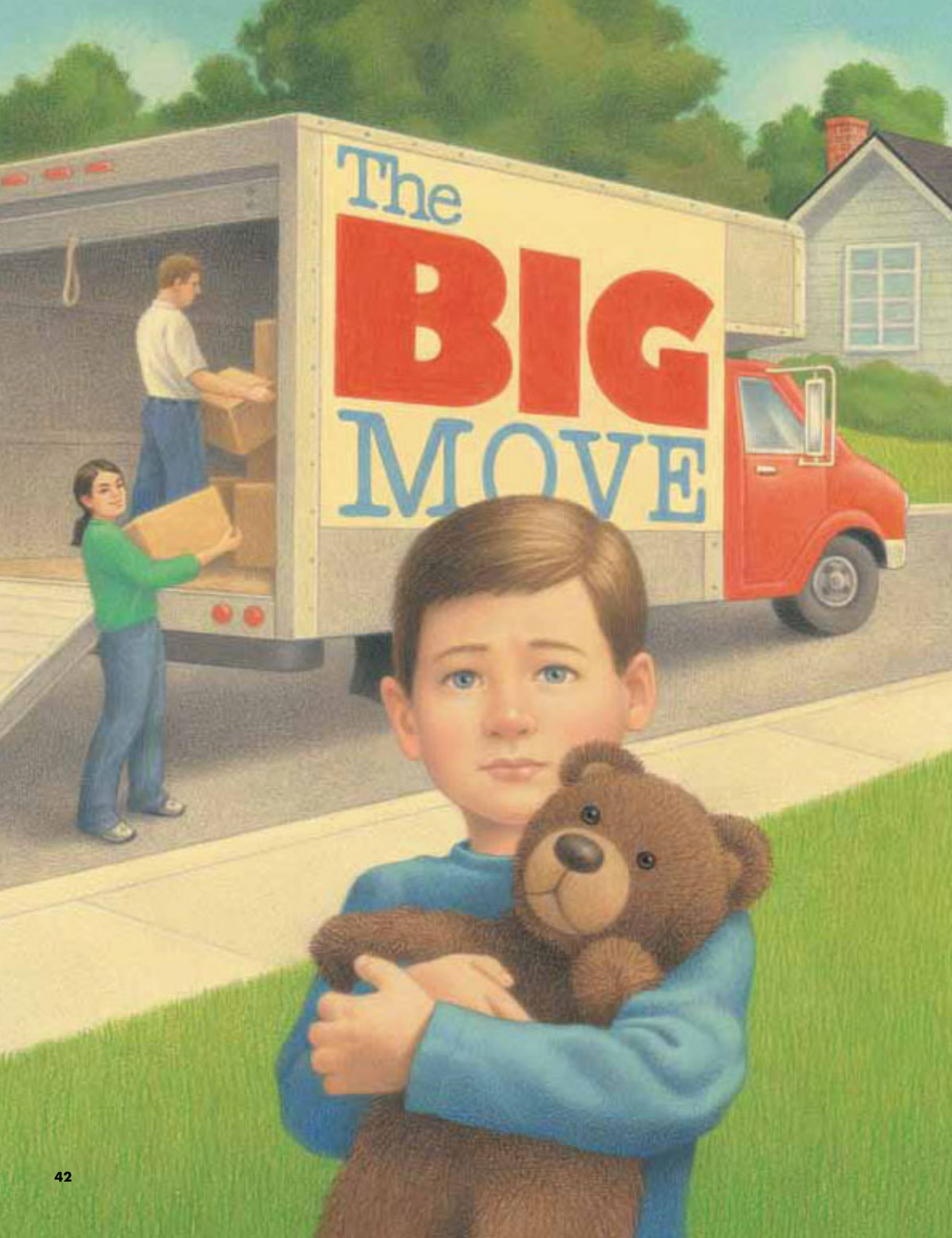
When they finished pulling sticks, Joseph called the men and young men around again.

Take these wagons out, and cut the wood for anyone who needs it.



The Saints loved to do what the Prophet asked, even if they were weary from a long day of hard work and play.

Haul 'em out, boys! Let's do what the Prophet asks.



BY KAREN BEALS

(Based on a true story)

For thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (D&C 115:4).

Seth loved going to church. He enjoyed singing in Primary and learning about Jesus. Seth knew attending church was important. It was one way to show Heavenly Father how thankful he was for the gospel.

One Sunday morning, Seth was getting dressed for church. Mom and Dad appeared in the doorway.

“May we talk to you, Seth?” Dad asked as he and Mom sat down on the bed.

Seth finished buttoning his shirt. “Sure.”

“Do you remember how far Dad has to drive to get to work?” Mom asked.

“Yes, it takes forever,” Seth said.

“Mom and I have been praying about it,” Dad said, “and we’ve decided it’s time for us to move closer to my job.”

“Where is our new house going to be?” Seth asked. “Will I be able to ride my bike to Aunt Spring’s house?” Aunt Spring lived just a few blocks away, and Seth couldn’t wait until he was old enough to ride over to play with his cousins.

“No,” Dad said. “I’m sorry. Our new house will be too far away for that, but our family and friends can come visit us and we can visit them.”

“Oh,” Seth said quietly.

“This will be a big move,” Mom said. “You’ll make new friends, and we’ll live in a new neighborhood. It’s important for our family so that Dad can be home more.”

Seth knew his parents wanted the best for him and his little brothers. “I guess it’s all right if we move.”

Dad gave him a big hug. “We’re glad you agree.”

Several months later, Seth’s family began packing boxes. Seth was excited. His new house had a big backyard, and there was a playground down the street. Seth was also looking forward to going to kindergarten.

Just one thing worried Seth. How would he learn about Jesus? They would live too far away for him to go to church.

“What’s wrong, Seth?” Mom asked, noticing the gloomy look on his face.

“I don’t want to move anymore,” Seth said as his eyes filled with tears.

Mom put her arms around Seth. “I know it’s hard to move away from your friends and cousins.”

“It’s not just that. How will we get to church?” Seth asked.

“Our new church will be right down the street,” Mom said.

“But I don’t want a new church, Mom. I like our church.” Seth knew there were a lot of good churches, but he knew The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the only true church.

Mom smiled. “After we move, we’ll go to a new building on Sundays. We’ll have new teachers and meet new people, but it will still be The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And we’ll learn the very same lessons.”

Seth smiled. He was happy he could still go to the same church and learn about Jesus.

Soon Seth and his family were busy unpacking boxes in their new house. Seth picked out the clothes he wanted to wear for church the next morning.

“Are you sure church is going to be the same?” Seth asked Mom.

“Absolutely,” Mom said. “Don’t worry, Seth. When we get to church tomorrow, listen for the Spirit to tell you if we’re at the right church.”

Seth awoke early the next morning, excited to go to Primary. He asked Heavenly Father to help him know if he was at the right church. Then, Seth got ready to go.

At church, Seth heard someone playing a familiar song on a piano. Seth felt a warm, happy feeling. He was glad to still be able to attend the true church, even after moving far away. ●

“In my growing-up years in Germany, I attended church in many different locations . . . All of these buildings had one important factor in common: the Spirit of God was present—the love of the Savior could be felt as we assembled as a branch or ward family.”⁷⁵

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency





My Climbing Tree

BY ANNE ALEXANDER

In our backyard there's a climbing tree
With branches stretched out like arms for me
To scramble and climb and clutch and cling to
Until there is sky and a cloud to sing to.

A blue jay settles way out on a limb
And watches me as I watch him.
"My tree," he chirps. "Mine too," I say.
Then I straddle a branch and ride away.

I gallop to China, I speed to Spain,
And then I'm galloping home again—
For the back door slams; a voice hollers to me,
"Hey, you up there! Hey, boy in a tree,
How about sharing some cookies with me?"

So I do.
Wouldn't you?

Missionary Postcards

BY CHAD E. PHARES
Church Magazines

There are more than 50,000 missionaries serving throughout the world. Read the words written by the missionaries on the backs of the postcards below and draw a line to match their words to the pictures described.



Bonjour,
Things are going pretty well here. The food is good—especially the pastries. A few years ago, President Gordon B. Hinckley told the Saints he was confident that someday a temple would be built here. Yesterday my companion and I talked to people near one of the most recognizable structures in the world. Maybe one day we will go to the top, but I think we'll take the elevator.

G'day,
Boy, I sure am tired! But I also am so happy. The people here are great. The members are being great missionaries and are helping us find people to teach. I think having a temple here for the past 25 years has helped members a lot. My companion, Sister Larsen, and I can see an awesome building from our apartment. I think they sing opera there. Maybe someday they'll sing hymns there too.



Hey, everyone,
Well, I only have three weeks left on my mission. Time goes so fast. I love being here and teaching all the different people about Jesus Christ. This city has people from so many different nations. It's wonderful to think that we are all Heavenly Father's children. Many people have come here to see the big symbol of freedom across the river, but people who have accepted the gospel get an even better appreciation for the freedom our Heavenly Father gives us.

Hello,
This has been a rainy week. We have had our ups and downs, but every night we go to bed grateful that we have this opportunity to teach people about Jesus. There are so many people here that need the gospel. It doesn't matter if a person lives in a little apartment or in a big palace like the one we see every day. I know the gospel can help everybody.



Happy Birthday, President Monson!

Last year we asked you to serve someone in need for President Monson's birthday. We received hundreds of letters! We couldn't print them all here, but you can read more online at www.friend.lds.org. Each week in August we will put more letters on the Web site.

We wish President Monson a very happy birthday on August 21!



I wrote thank-you letters to our bishop and a couple of people who work in our Primary. In church, many people work very hard, and I think they should get some sort of thanks. President Thomas S. Monson inspires us all with all the good things he does to help the world.
Drew B., age 9, Nevada



A member of our ward had to be on bed rest for the rest of her pregnancy. I had an idea that our family could take care of her son a couple of days a week. My brothers and sister and I helped watch him and make sure he was having fun when he wasn't with his mom. It was so fun to have him come over and to know that we were helping his family.
Mason, Cooper, Weston, and Ellie T., ages 10, 8, 5, and 3, Georgia



We made a "giving tree."

Every time we did service we wrote it on a heart and put it on the tree. Soon our tree was overflowing with hearts!
Bow Island Ward Primary, Medicine Hat Alberta Stake



I drew some pictures to give away. I visited some elderly people with my mom and gave my drawings to them. I thought my pictures would be a nice gift and cheer the people up. I was a little bit scared and shy when they opened the door, but after they smiled at me and I saw that they were happy, I felt good inside.
Alyssa S., age 5, Utah



We gave a piano recital for the residents in a convalescent hospital. Some of the songs we played were Primary songs. Afterward, we shook each audience member's hand. We enjoyed performing and meeting the residents. Several people were smiling during the recital. We are already planning what songs to play next time!
Cannon and Alec W., ages 11 and 8, California



My grandpa came in really sore one day from working in the garden. He could hardly walk, and his feet were really dirty. I told him I would wash his feet for him. My aunt helped me get a bucket of warm soapy water. I scrubbed my grandpa's feet with soap and a little brush. It made me feel happy that I could help him.
Elias T., age 4, Tasmania, Australia



At night, I read the scriptures to my little sister. While I read the Doctrine and Covenants to her, she is able to go to sleep. I am thankful for my family. They help me, and I help them.
Yousuf R., age 4, Illinois



Our grandparents only have a wood-burning stove to keep them warm in the winter. It is hard for Grandpa because he can't split and stack wood. So our daddy split a lot of wood and we stacked it so it would be ready for winter.
Alexis and Zachary C., ages 6 and 4, Utah



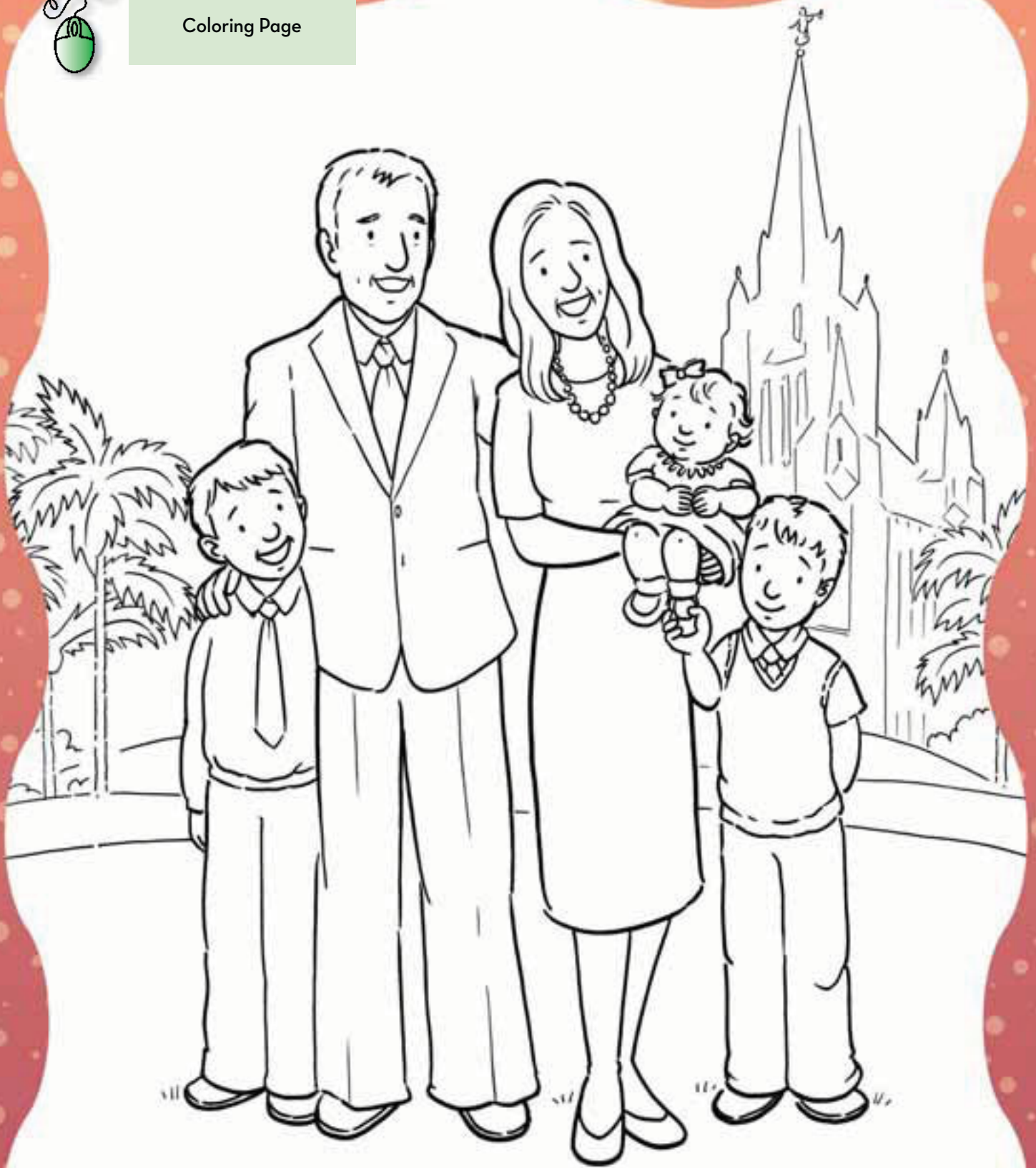
We wanted to thank our home teachers for coming to our house each month, so we made cookies for them. Then we made thank-you cards, telling them how glad we are that they come to our house and teach us the gospel. It made us feel really good to do something nice for them.
Luke and Katelyn S., ages 7 and 5, California



We decided to cook some-one dinner. We made a dinner of baked pasta that we cooked ourselves and helped our mom make the spaghetti sauce. We buttered and heated the bread. After our mom finished the rest of the dinner, we took it to our neighbors. They were moving and their kitchen was all packed up. They were so happy to have the yummy meal. It made us happy to help them.
Tyler, Ashley, and Nicole G., ages 7, 7, and 3, Arizona



One morning during a windy snowstorm, we were riding in the car. Two sister missionaries were walking in the storm, and we offered them a ride. One was from Samoa. We asked them if they needed anything. The other missionary said her companion's gloves weren't warm enough. We had an extra pair of gloves in the car, and they fit the sister from Samoa. It warmed our hearts that we were able to do something for the missionaries who are serving the Lord.
Garrison and Kempton M., ages 10 and 8, Idaho



TEMPLE BLESSINGS UNITE FAMILIES.

“I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).



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(FLF) = For Little Friends
(f) = Funstuff
(IFC) = inside front cover
(v) = verse

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Sidebar References

1. "Be Honest with Yourself," *New Era*, July 2003, 39.
2. "A Place of Love and Beauty," *Friend*, Jan. 2002, 30.
3. "The Covenant of Baptism: To Be in the Kingdom and of the Kingdom," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 6.
4. "Walk in the Light," *Ensign*, May 2008, 125.
5. "The First Vision," *Friend*, June 2008, 2.



Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Read President Monson's story about how his daughter, Ann M. Dibb, reaches out to others (pp. 2–3). Put an envelope in a certain place in your home. For the next month, ask family members to leave a small note or drawing in the envelope when they see another family member reaching out to others with kindness, by being an example, or by sharing the gospel. At the end of the month, read the notes out loud and talk about how it feels to reach out to others.

2. Read "Why Are Mom and Dad Going to the Temple?" (pp. 10–11). Explain that the temples can link us to our families forever, and to prepare for the temple we need to keep the commandments. Ask one family member to hold a picture or other reminder of the temple. Sing one or two songs about the temple from the *Children's Songbook*.

3. Read about Nicole's love for her country (pp. 20–22). Ask family members to gather items from around your yard or house that match the colors of your country's flag. Arrange the items to

make a model of the flag. Think of ways you can show love for your country, and consider doing one of them during the week.

4. Read the Word of Wisdom in Doctrine and Covenants 89. Ask each family member to draw pictures of what we are told to do, and the blessings that are promised if we obey the Word of Wisdom. Play "Big Wolf" (p. 23) or another game together. If the weather is not ideal for outdoor play, you could exercise together while singing "Do As I'm Doing" (*Children's Songbook*, 276). Have family members take turns leading the exercise.

5. Read "Jason's Escape" (pp. 26–28). Check the smoke detectors in your home and make or review your family's fire emergency plan. Read "Are You Media Smart?" (p. 28). Review your family's rules for TV, Internet, and video game use. Talk about how just as we prepare ourselves for physical dangers, we prepare ourselves spiritually by living the commandments and following the guidance of the Holy Ghost.

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Key 040204

What's in the *Friend* this month?



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President Monson tells about a special letter his daughter got from her teacher.

page 28

Find out some ways you can use media safely.



Happy Birthday,
President Monson!

page 46

What birthday gifts did children give to President Monson?

