

A Christmas PRAYER Answered



By Peggy Schonken

(Based on a true story)

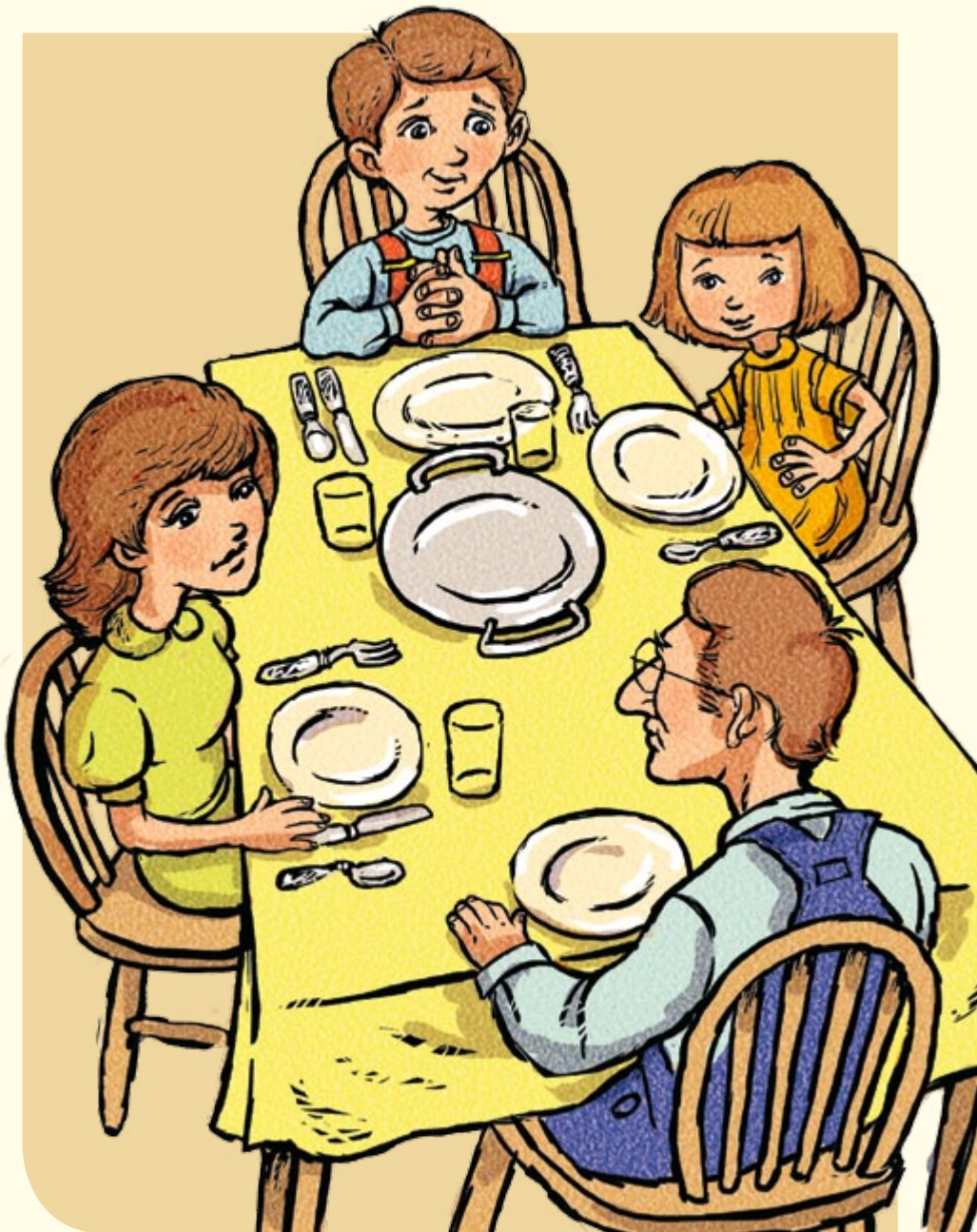
The Lord will remember the prayers of the righteous, which have been put up unto him (Mormon 5:21).

Peggy awoke on Christmas morning. She was excited to receive a fun new toy and eat a Christmas feast. But as she looked around, she knew this year would be different. Even though her father worked hard, money had been scarce for her family.

There were no signs of an upcoming Christmas feast. The vegetable trays were empty, and there was no food in the refrigerator.

Peggy and her brother, Malcolm, walked to the door of their parents' bedroom and saw them kneeling next to their bed. They quietly listened as Mother and Father prayed that Heavenly Father would help the family have food.

"Come on," Peggy said to Malcolm. "Let's go outside."



Peggy and Malcolm went out and collected some of the wild ferns that grew near the garden. Maybe there wouldn't be any toys this year, but they could still make their home feel like Christmas.

They felt better after they decorated the house with green ferns, but there was still no sign of food.

"The Lord will provide," Mother said. "Now let's set the table."

Father placed plates on the table while Mother set out forks and spoons.

The children looked at each other with confusion in their eyes. The table was ready, but there was still no food. Breakfast soon passed and lunchtime neared. Peggy was hungry! She wondered how her family would get food.

The clock ticked to 12:00, then 12:30, then 12:45. Still nothing. Then Peggy heard a knock on the door.

She rushed to open the door and was shocked to see the Kirk family standing there. They were holding ham, bread, chicken, salads, and sweets. Peggy couldn't believe her eyes.

"We were just sitting down to eat our Christmas meal



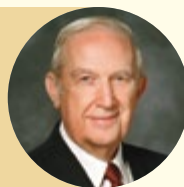
when we thought of you," Brother Kirk said. "We hope you can use this food."

Father shook Brother Kirk's hand, and Mother began to set the food on the kitchen table. Peggy was still shocked. She looked with wide eyes at Mother and Father, but they looked like they expected this to happen.

Peggy knew the feeling she had in the morning was right. This Christmas *was* different. This was the Christmas that she learned that Heavenly Father hears and answers prayers. And that was the best gift she could have received. ♦

"Humble, trusting prayer brings direction and peace."²

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Sometimes the best gift you can give is yourself!