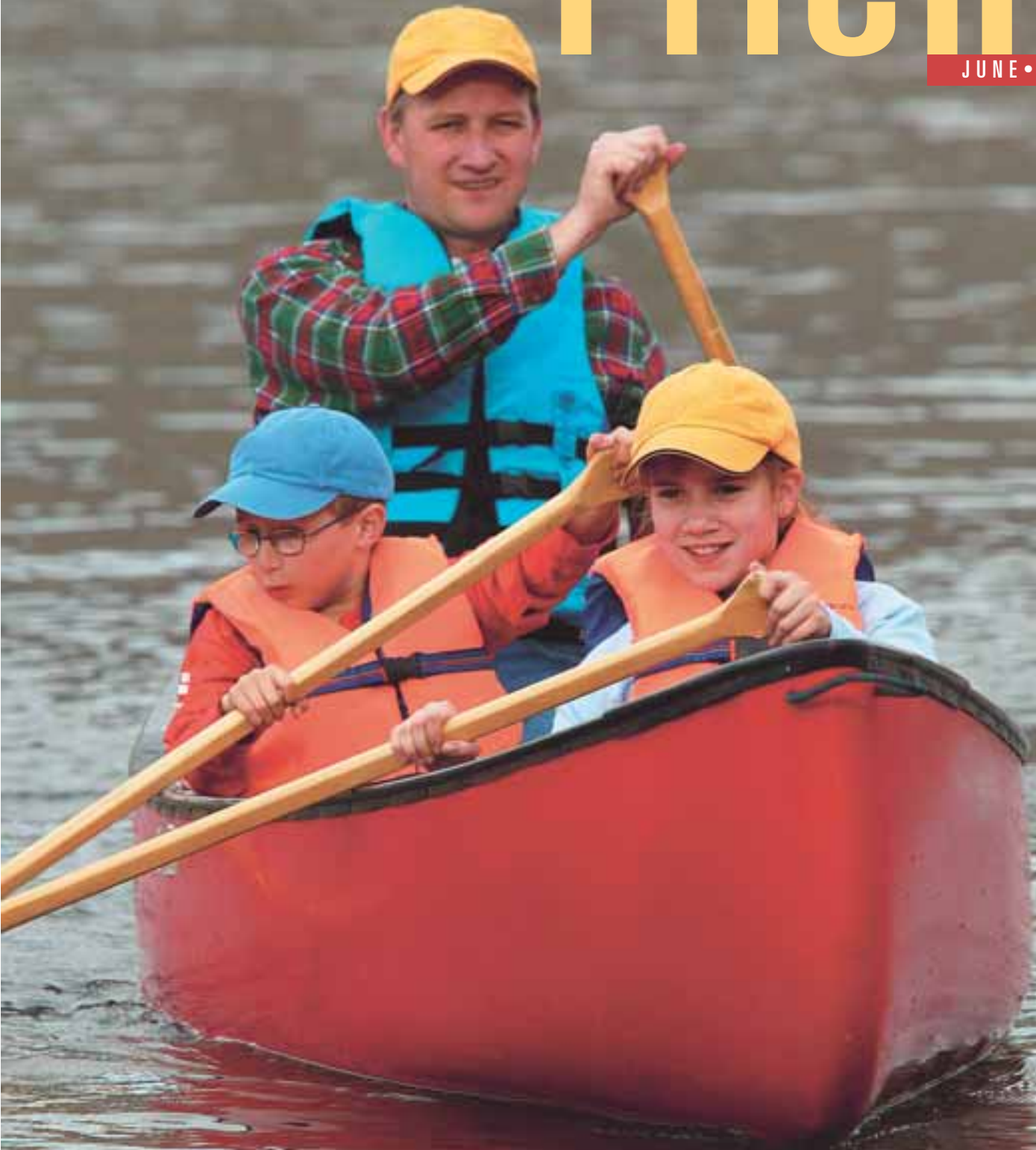


# the Friend

JUNE • 2003



# Broken Shoelace

**Brother Floyd Murphy, the teacher of the Valiant 9 class, Morgan Hill First Ward, Morgan Hill California Stake, sent us this.**

**D**uring class one Sunday, my shoelace broke. It was one of those that are round, not flat. It was made up of four thin white strings surrounded by black wrapping. The four strings were dangling out the end of the shoelace. I asked my class what the strings in the shoelace might represent. Here are their thoughts, given without any prompting or suggestions from me:



**I** think that the four strings are a family, and that the one big string holds them together. When it is not there, they are not held together. So the one big string is the Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ, and when you put it together with the four strings, you have a

family that is hard to break because you have a family that has the gospel.

Joshua Hamm, age 9



**W**hen I saw the shoelace with the four white strings, I thought of the four standard works. They are the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. The black string wrapped around the four white strings

represents that we will always have a better knowledge of the gospel with all four standard works instead of just one.

Chelsie Faulk, age 9



**T**he four white strings represent your family, and the black string represents the gospel. The black string wraps around the four white strings to make them stronger. This is like the gospel wrapping around your family to keep your family strong.

Courtney Whidden, age 9



**I** thought that each of the strings represented one person, and all of the people put together make one family. The family is harder to break with the gospel because it is stronger. If the family is without the gospel, it is easier to break because it is weaker.

Laura Pollard, age 9



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June 2003

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the **friend**

A children's magazine published by  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

## HIDDEN CTR RING

As you search for the  
CTR ring hidden in this  
issue of the *Friend*,  
remember that you should  
always treat the earth and  
all living things with  
respect.





Come Listen to  
a Prophet's Voice

# Love One Another



**In a general conference talk, President Monson told of a tree destroyed by a metal wedge that had become hidden inside it. He then explained how hidden wedges of anger or resentment can destroy our lives unless we learn to forgive.**

**BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON**  
First Counselor in the First Presidency

I am acquainted with a family which came to America from Germany. The English language was difficult for them. They had but little by way of means, but each was blessed with the will to work and with a love of God.

Their third child was born, lived but two months, and then died. Father was a cabinetmaker and fashioned a beautiful casket for the body of his precious child. The day of the funeral was gloomy, thus reflecting the sadness they felt in their loss. As the family walked to the chapel, with Father carrying the tiny casket, a small number of friends had gathered. However, the chapel door was locked. The busy bishop had forgotten the funeral. Attempts to reach him were futile. Not knowing what to do, the father placed the casket under his arm and, with his family beside him, carried it home, walking in a drenching rain.

If the family were of a lesser character, they could have blamed the bishop and harbored ill feelings. When the bishop

discovered the tragedy, he visited the family and apologized. With the hurt still evident in his expression, but with tears in his eyes, the father accepted the apology, and the two embraced in a spirit of understanding. No hidden wedge was left to cause further feelings of anger. Love and acceptance prevailed.

... In many families, there are hurt feelings and a reluctance to forgive. It doesn't really matter what the issue was. It cannot and should not be left to injure. Blame keeps wounds open. Only forgiveness heals. George Herbert, an early 17th-century poet, wrote these lines: "He that cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass if he would ever reach heaven, for everyone has need of forgiveness." ...

May we ... harbor no hidden wedges but rather remember the Savior's counsel: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."<sup>1</sup> ●

*From an April 2002 general conference address.*

1. John 13:35.



# Mary's Baptism in the Cimarron River

**BY SHIRLEY BOCK TESTI**

(As told to the author by Mary Connors; this story took place around 1930.)

*As many as did believe were baptized (Alma 19:35).*

Mary Connors wiped the sweat off her face with her forearm. Summer in the Oklahoma panhandle was hot.

She knew Pa needed everyone's help to chop weeds out of the corn.

Mary looked sideways to check on her brother James. He was eight years old, two years younger than she was. They had two older brothers and an older sister. Her two little sisters stayed back at the house with Ma and their older sister.

Pa came up the row. "Mary," he said, "you and James take the pails and get water from the river." Even at 10 years old, she knew how important it was to keep new corn watered.

She and James walked across the

sloping field to the Cimarron River. It was shallow, and Mary knew that it wouldn't be easy to dig a hole deep enough to fill their pails.

As they waded barefoot into the river, the water curled like bracelets around their ankles. They scooped the pails into the sandy riverbed. As soon as one small hole was made, sand quickly filled it in.

Hearing voices behind her on the bank, Mary turned and saw two young men approaching. They were dressed in white shirts and ties, even though it was only Wednesday. Each carried a small suitcase and a suit jacket.

"Hello!" they called, stopping near the edge of the river to watch Mary and James scooping sand.

"Hi." Mary wasn't sure they should be talking to these strangers.

"What are you doing?" asked the taller young man.

"Digging for water," James said.

"Need some help?" asked the shorter young man.





Mary shrugged, but James stood up and held out his pail with a big smile on his face. “Sure!”

The shorter man pulled off his shoes and socks, rolled up his pant legs, and stepped into the river. He took James’s pail and quickly made a deep hole. His companion had also stepped barefoot into the river and was using Mary’s pail. The children dug with their hands. Finally, when both pails were full, the men asked if they could help further by carrying the water to the children’s home.

Mary nodded. “We’re supposed to water the corn.”

“We’d like to meet your pa and your ma,” the taller man said.

They walked back to the cornfield where Pa and the boys were still chopping weeds. Pa looked up in surprise when he saw that they had company.

The young men set down the pails of water and introduced themselves. “I’m Elder Watson,” the taller one said. “My companion is Elder Masters. We’re missionaries.”

Pa shook their hands. “Do you believe in Jesus Christ?” he asked.

The elders looked at each other and smiled. Elder Masters said, “The name of our church is The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A young prophet, Joseph Smith, talked to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.”

Pa’s eyes met his children’s. He cleared his throat. “I’d like to hear more about this young prophet. How about having supper with us?”

Mary could tell that the elders were pleased with the invitation. James was sent to tell Ma that they had company. Then they all pitched in and finished hoeing and watering the corn. When they went to the house, Ma and Rachel were setting out bowls of mashed potatoes, fried squash, sliced tomatoes, and new peas. A stack of hot biscuits stood beside a dish of fresh-churned butter.

Pa gestured to Elder Watson. “We always say a blessing on the food. You probably ought to say it tonight, Elder.”

After supper, Pa showed the elders the hayloft, and James and Mary carried quilts and pillows out for them. Pa asked what the elders were doing in the Oklahoma panhandle.

Elder Watson explained. “We are walking missionaries. We walk through the area looking for people who want to know more about Jesus Christ and about the Book of Mormon.”



Pa nodded. “That’s me. I want to know more. What’s the Book of Mormon?”

**T**he missionaries stayed until Saturday morning. In between helping Pa with the crops, they taught about the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith, and Jesus Christ.

On Saturday morning, Elder Masters asked, “Do you believe that Jesus said that we must be baptized to enter His kingdom?”

Mary nodded her head. She saw each person in her family nod in agreement.

“Do you want to be baptized?” Elder Masters asked.

A chorus of amens answered his question. Soon they were all headed toward the Cimarron River, carrying shovels, pails, and kettles. It would take a lot of digging to make the river deep enough.

They sang hymns as they dug. Mary could scarcely stand the excitement and joy that she felt inside. She was glad that she was 10 years old and could be baptized.

At last Elder Watson pronounced the hole deep enough.

One by one, starting with Pa, the whole family, except for the two little girls, were baptized in the Cimarron River.

Later, dressed in dry clothes, each sat on a kitchen chair while the elders confirmed them members of The

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and gave them the gift of the Holy Ghost. Mary couldn’t remember seeing her parents cry before, but she knew that these were happy tears.

On Sunday, the family attended their first sacrament service out under the apple trees. The elders talked about all that they had learned and how it was now their turn to teach their neighbors.

On Monday morning, the walking missionaries set out to find others to teach.

Mary remained faithful throughout her life, and when she was an old woman, she told the story of how she had helped dig her own baptismal font with her bare hands in the Cimarron River of Oklahoma. ●



“Latter-day Saints accept baptism as an essential saving ordinance that is required of all people. Through baptism, we covenant to take upon us the Lord’s name and honor it by keeping His commandments. He, in turn, promises us the guiding and enlightening presence of His Spirit.”

**Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin**  
**Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles**  
*From an October 1996 general conference address.*





Special Witness

# Heavenly Father's Plan

BY ELDER RICHARD G. SCOTT  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



**Did you know that Elder Scott was a nuclear engineer and designed fuel for nuclear submarines for the United States Navy? He also likes to paint pictures. He loves the Lord and teaches us about Heavenly Father's plan.**

One of the most [thrilling] moments of your life—when you were filled with anticipation, excitement, and gratitude—you are not able to remember. That experience occurred in the premortal life when you were informed that finally your time had come to leave the spirit world to dwell on earth with a mortal body. . . .

. . . You had been reserved to come when the fulness of the gospel is on earth. You arrived when His Church and the priesthood authority to perform the sacred temple ordinances are in place. You anticipated being born into a home where parents would be expected to love, nurture, strengthen, and teach you truths. You knew that in time you would have the opportunity to form your own eternal family as husband or wife, father or mother. Oh, how you must have rejoiced with that prospect. . . .

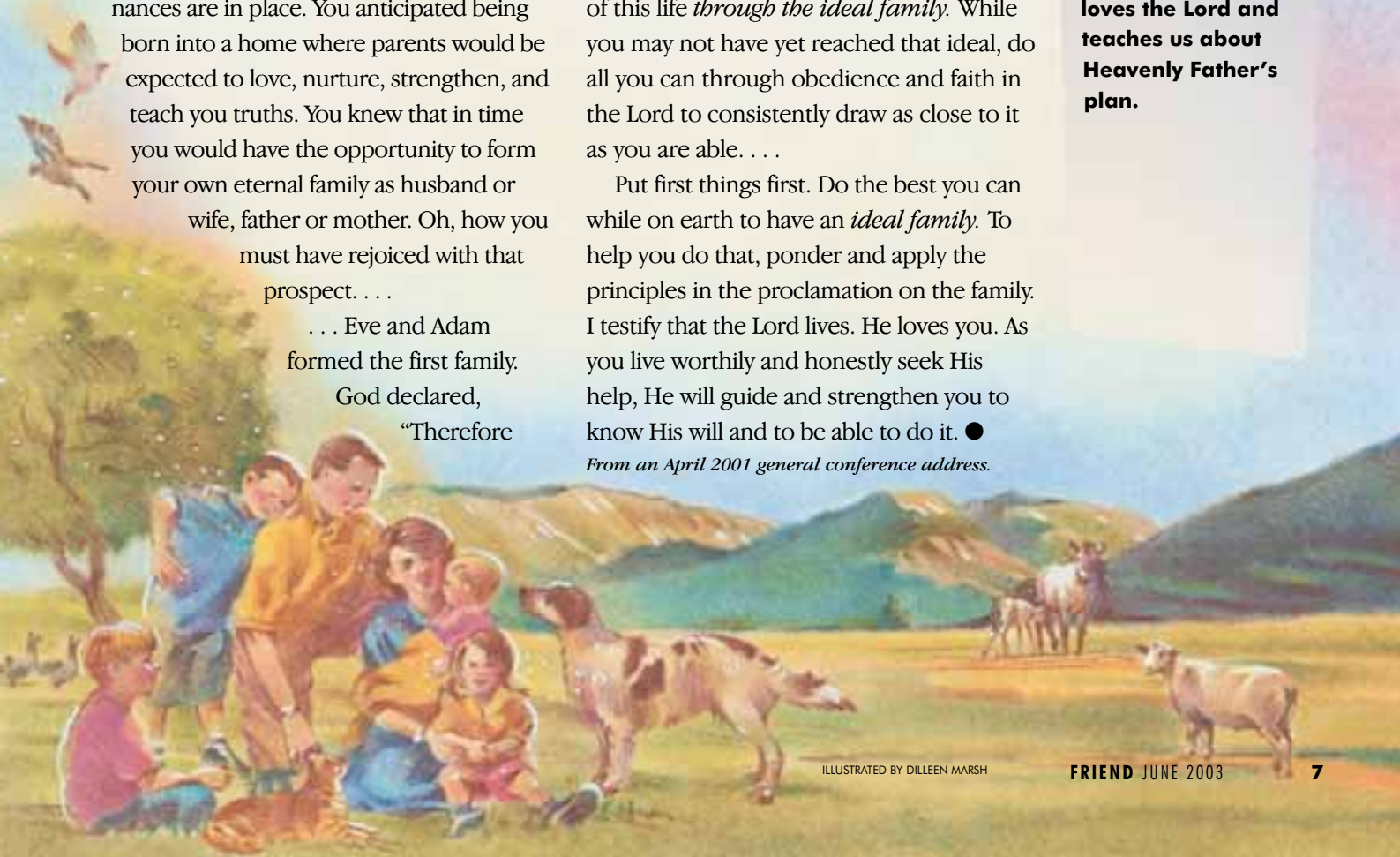
. . . Eve and Adam formed the first family. God declared, “Therefore

shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave [cling] unto his wife” (Moses 3:24). They had children who also formed families. “And Adam and Eve, his wife, ceased not to call upon God” (Moses 5:16). The pattern of families essential to Father’s plan of happiness was established, and our need to continually “call upon God” emphasized. You are in the midst of living that plan. . . .

Throughout your life on earth, seek diligently to fulfill the fundamental purposes of this life *through the ideal family*. While you may not have yet reached that ideal, do all you can through obedience and faith in the Lord to consistently draw as close to it as you are able. . . .

Put first things first. Do the best you can while on earth to have an *ideal family*. To help you do that, ponder and apply the principles in the proclamation on the family. I testify that the Lord lives. He loves you. As you live worthily and honestly seek His help, He will guide and strengthen you to know His will and to be able to do it. ●

*From an April 2001 general conference address.*



**At age 3, with his parents,  
Lionel and Maries Gillespie**



# Honoring Our Parents



**From an interview  
with Elder H.  
Aldridge Gillespie  
of the Seventy,  
currently serving in  
the North America  
Southeast Area  
Presidency; by Jan  
Pinborough**

*Honour thy father and mother (Mark 10:19).*

**N**ot every child has parents who go to church, keep the Word of Wisdom, and hold family home evening.

When I was a child, my parents did not do these things. Because of that, I learned three very important lessons I would like to share with you.

First, I learned to follow the good examples of other people who came into my life. Second, I learned to be strong in what Heavenly Father wanted me to do, no matter what choices other people made. And third, I learned that the best way I could honor my parents was by doing what Heavenly Father wanted me to do.

My father seldom went to church, even though his family had been members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for seven

generations. He and my grandfather worked together to build roads in the Mojave Desert, so my father was away from home much of the time. When I was eight months old, my mother died, and I went to live with my mother's parents, Grandpa and Grandma Baird.

Then my father remarried, and when I was seven, we moved from California to Manti, Utah. There we lived on a big dairy farm. Most important, my Grandma and Grandpa Giles (my new mother's parents) and several aunts and uncles and their families lived there, too. They were active in the Church, and for the first time in my life, I saw people praying and studying the scriptures in their homes.

One of the people who influenced me most was my Uncle Jimmy. He was 13, just six years older than I was, and he became



**At age 2**

like my older brother. Uncle Jimmy was lots of fun. He'd hook up a sled to our big dog, Tony, and take me for a ride over the ice and snow.

At Christmastime, we often went together to hunt for a Christmas tree. After finding the right tree, we cut it down and brought it home. Grandmother popped lots of popcorn for us to string and gave us colored paper to make into ornaments.

One of my jobs was to help Uncle Jimmy on his delivery rounds in the milk truck. One of my older uncles drove, and we would run to the doorstep of each house, pick up the empty milk bottles, and leave full bottles in their place.

Wherever Uncle Jimmy went, I went. And since Uncle Jimmy went to church, so did I. Sundays started awfully early. First I went out to help feed and milk the cows. Then I came home, cleaned up, and dressed for church. I didn't own a suit, but my mom and dad made sure my best clothes were clean. When I turned eight, I was baptized by my Uncle Grant.

After Grandpa Giles died, there was arguing about how to operate the farm. Eventually the family business fell apart, and my family moved to Kaysville, Utah.

When I was 14, our family moved back to Manti. I had a bedroom upstairs, and my only window faced the Manti Temple. I spent a lot of nights looking at the temple, wondering what my future would hold.

When I was in my late teens, I began to think about serving a mission. By then, my father had died and my mother didn't have very much money. I felt a lot of pressure to stay home and help my mother. Then one night I went up into the hayloft to think and pray. There I had a clear and strong impression: I needed to serve a mission.

That was the best decision I had ever made. It changed my life. Doctrine and Covenants 31:5 became a guide: "Therefore, thrust in your sickle with all your soul, and your sins are forgiven you, and . . . your family shall live." I decided to trust that the Lord would take care of

my family while I worked hard on my mission. And the Lord was faithful to His promise. My mother was well taken care of while I was away.

While I was on my mission, I traveled for a few days with Elder Spencer W. Kimball, then of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. I was his temporary driver and companion. It was the first time I had been so close to an Apostle of the Lord. I heard him pray and testify. I saw what he focused on, what he talked about, and what he was like when he was not in public. I saw how he treated other people and how thoughtful he was of their needs. I decided that this was the kind of man I wanted to become.

Boys and girls, if you do good things on your own, your parents will eventually praise you for it. In part because of my mission, my mother became active in the Church. Honoring your parents doesn't always mean doing exactly what they do. It means

doing what Heavenly Father wants you to do. Even if your mom and dad don't go to church, you still can. Even if they don't keep the Word of Wisdom, you still can. If you will stand on your own two feet and be good, you will bring great honor to your parents' name. ●

**With his mission president, President Harold I. Bowman**



# JESUS IS RISEN

Chapter 54



The Savior's body was in the tomb until Sunday morning, when two angels came and rolled the stone away from the tomb.

**Matthew 28:2, including footnote a**



Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' friends, went to the tomb and was surprised to see that the stone was not in front of it and that Jesus' body was not in it.

**John 20:1-2**



She ran to tell Peter and John that someone had taken the Savior's body. She did not know where it was.

**John 20:2**



Peter and John ran to the tomb. They looked into the tomb and saw the cloth Jesus had been buried in, but Jesus' body was not there.

**John 20:3-7**



Not knowing what had happened to Jesus or what else to do, Peter and John went home. Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb, crying. When she looked into the tomb, the two angels were there.

**John 20:9-12**



They asked Mary Magdalene why she was crying. She said that someone had taken Jesus' body away. She did not know where it was.

**John 20:13**



She turned around and saw the Savior but did not recognize Him. She thought that He was the gardener. He asked her why she was crying and whom she was looking for.

**John 20:14-15**



Then Jesus said, “Mary,” and she knew who He was. He asked her to tell the Apostles that He was resurrected.

**John 20:16–17**



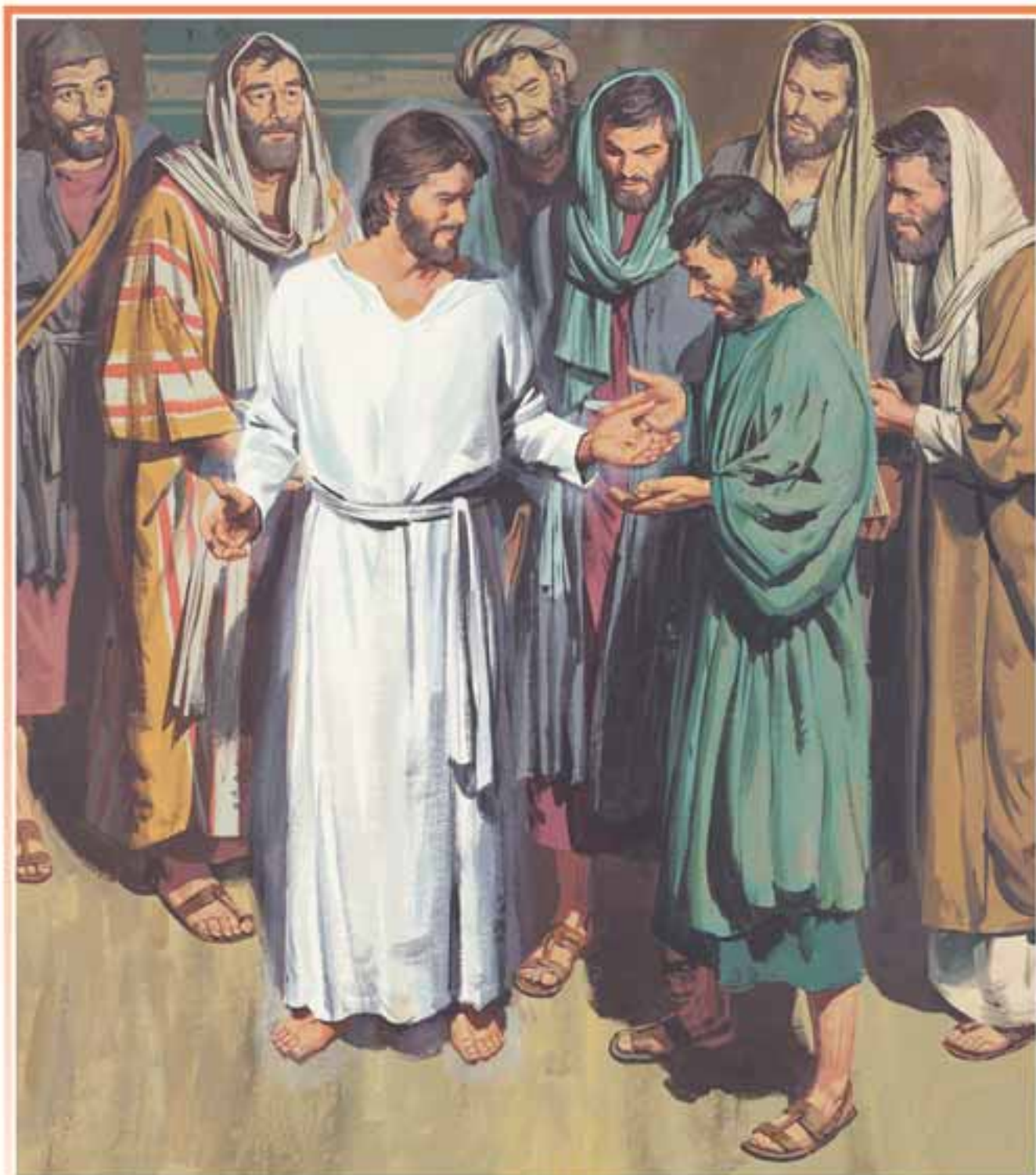
Mary Magdalene and other women went and told the Apostles that Jesus was resurrected. At first, the Apostles did not believe them.

**Luke 24:10-11**



Later, while the Apostles were talking to each other, Jesus came into the room. They were afraid. They still thought that He was dead.

**Luke 24:36-37**



The Savior told them to touch His hands and feet. He was resurrected—His body and spirit had come together again.

**Luke 24:38–40**





The Apostles were happy to see Him. He asked them for food, and they gave Him some fish and some honey. He ate it.

**Luke 24:41-43**



Jesus Christ was the first person to be resurrected. Many other people were resurrected after Jesus. Many people saw them. Jesus had said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Because He overcame death, we will all be resurrected someday.

**Matthew 27:52-53; John 11:25**



**COLEEN K. MENLOVE**  
Primary General President

**Each day we are given opportunities to show we know how to be like Jesus and follow Him in faith.**

**D**ear Primary children, this year we celebrate the 125th year since Primary was organized. It was organized by a prophet of God to help children learn and live the gospel of Jesus Christ with joy. Primary is important, and this will be a wonderful year as we celebrate. Most importantly, we—your parents, leaders, and teachers—honor you, the children. We love you. We rejoice in who you are and who you can become.

You are a child of God. You have a loving Heavenly Father who hears and answers your prayers. He wants you to be worthy to return and live with Him



# Show You Know

someday. Knowing this can help you plan for your earthly and eternal future with a brightness of hope. As you look to the future, look far beyond tomorrow. The scriptures, the teachings of latter-day prophets, and even the Primary songs can help you understand and prepare to reach your eternal potential. Jesus Christ set the example for us of how to live worthy so we may return to the presence of our Heavenly Father. Each of you will have opportunities to learn about Jesus Christ and then follow Him in faith.

We show we know how to follow Him by making and

keeping baptismal covenants and by receiving and listening to the Holy Ghost. We show we know how to follow Him each time we worthily partake of the sacrament and remember Jesus. I want to talk about another way we show we know—by keeping the commandments.

The Lord declared, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do.”<sup>1</sup> I love the Primary song “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus,”<sup>2</sup> and I love the way I feel when I

sing it. Each day we are given opportunities to show we know how to be like Jesus and follow Him in faith.

When 10-year-old John joined the swimming team, he told his coach he could compete in the meets held on Saturday but not those held on Sunday. At the last meet of the season, John's relay race was scheduled for Sunday. He remembered a family home evening lesson about making decisions in advance so it would be easier to do the right thing when the time came. John said: "I had made the decision not to swim on Sunday before I joined my team. That made it easier for me to tell the coach that I couldn't swim the relay. I thought the coach would be mad at me. But at the end-of-the-year banquet, . . . he told the team how proud he was of me for having standards and then sticking to them."<sup>3</sup> John shows he

never smoke. This decision made it easier to say no. Show you know by obeying the Word of Wisdom.

When Caitlin was six years old, she asked her dance teacher if she could wear a more modest costume for the dance recital. When her teacher said no, Caitlin knew what she had to do. She told her teacher she would have to drop out because she had to do what Jesus would want her to do. Caitlin said, "It was a very hard decision to make, but I felt good afterward."<sup>4</sup> We respect our bodies by dressing modestly. We show we know how to keep the commandments and follow the Savior.

We show we know by living the commandment to love one another. Our prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley, said: "There is a mighty strength that comes of the knowledge that you and I are sons and daughters of



knows by keeping the Sabbath day holy and setting an example of someone who follows the teachings of Jesus. Every time you keep the Sabbath day holy, you show you know.

Perhaps you have had an experience like the one I had when I was 11 years old. I had a friend whom I admired because she seemed to know so much. One day she offered me a cigarette. She told me she would help me learn to smoke, and she pressured me with words like "It won't hurt—just this once." I didn't want to offend her, but I had decided when I was very young that I would

God. . . . One who has this knowledge and permits it to influence his [or her] life will not stoop to do a mean or cheap . . . thing."<sup>5</sup> Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He illustrated this great teaching with the example of the good Samaritan, who performed acts of kindness and mercy when no one else would help. Then the Savior said, "Go, and do thou likewise."<sup>6</sup> The Savior taught us to love and do good to one another—even those who have different standards. These differences are no excuse for avoiding others or being unkind.



A friend of eight-year-old Chelsea said that she didn't like a certain boy because he wasn't a member of our church. What do you think Chelsea

did? What would you do? Chelsea told her friend it's OK that he is not a member of our church; he is still a good person.<sup>7</sup> We show we know how to follow the Savior when we treat others with kindness and respect.

What about the kindness we show to our own family members? The most important and sometimes the most difficult place to show kindness is in our own homes, to our parents and to our brothers and sisters. When our son Mitch was 10 years old, he wanted to help our family, especially if he could make it fun. When no one was looking, he put a bell on a string around his neck and pretended to be a bellboy as he helped with family jobs. When family members noticed things were done, he would just say, "It must be the bellboy." Mitch was a great help to us and also brought fun and delight to our family.

The boys and girls of whom I have spoken show they know by keeping the Sabbath day holy, obeying the Word of Wisdom, being modest in their dress, and being kind to friends and family. You, too, can show you know by keeping these and the other commandments.

Being a member of The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints means we have been given opportunities to receive all the blessings of the gospel. Each day you can say with full confidence:

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.

Make a decision today to show you know by following Jesus Christ in faith. The path back to Heavenly Father will not be easy. You will need courage to continue day after day as you follow the Savior. I bear my witness that as you make the decision to show you know by following Jesus Christ in faith, you will experience peace and happiness now and throughout eternity. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ●

#### NOTES

1. 3 Nephi 27:21.
2. *Children's Songbook*, 78.
3. John S. Netherton, "Sticking to Standards," *Friend*, May 2000, 47.
4. Caitlin McGrath, "A Modest Choice," *Friend*, May 2000, inside back cover.
5. "'God Hath Not Given Us the Spirit of Fear,'" *Ensign*, Oct. 1984, 2.
6. Luke 10:37.
7. See Chelsea M. Bryant, "Creating Kindness," *Friend*, Mar. 2000, 35.



## Beef and Bean Burritos

**Note:** Some people think that this recipe tastes even better chilled the next day.

- 1/2 pound (227 g) ground beef**
- 1 can (16 ounces/454 g) refried beans**
- 8 flour tortillas (6"/15 cm in diameter)**
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese, divided**
- 1 can (4 ounces/113 g) chopped green chilies**
- 1 cup sour cream**

1. In a skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef; drain.
  2. Spread 1/4 cup refried beans in the center of each tortilla. Top each with an equal amount of ground beef and 2 tablespoons cheese.
  3. Fold the sides in, then roll up the ends over the filling. Arrange the burritos seam-side-down in a greased 9" x 13" (23 cm x 33 cm) baking pan. Top them with the green chilies and the remaining cheese.
  4. Bake uncovered at 350° F for 20 minutes or until heated through.
- Serve each burrito with sour cream.

## One-Dish Magic Cobbler

By Sandy Harvey

- 1/4 cup butter/margarine, softened**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 1 cup flour**
- 2 teaspoons baking powder**
- 1/4 teaspoon salt**
- 1/2 cup milk**
- 1 can (22 ounces/624 g) sliced peaches with juice**
- butter or margarine**
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar**

1. In a two-quart casserole dish, cream together the first butter/margarine and the first sugar. Mix in the flour, baking

powder, salt, and milk. Spread the batter evenly in the dish.

2. Carefully drain the juice from the peaches into a large glass. Arrange the peaches evenly over the batter. Pour 1 cup of the juice on top of the peaches; drink or discard the remaining juice.

3. Dot the cobbler with a few pieces of butter/margarine; sprinkle on the second sugar.

4. Bake uncovered at 375° F for 45 minutes. The "magic" happens while the cobbler bakes—the fruit goes to the bottom, and the dough rises to the top!

## Salsa Dip and Vegetables

- 1 package (8 ounces/227 g) cream cheese, at room temperature**
- 1 cup salsa**
- fresh raw vegetables of your choice—such as cauliflower, carrots, celery, broccoli—cut into bite-size pieces**

Place the block of cream cheese in a serving dish and pour the salsa over the top. Serve with the vegetables.

**You can show your love and appreciation for your father by cooking him a meal. With an older person's help, you can prepare these recipes for a lunch or dinner. The "Salsa Dip and Vegetables" or the "One-Dish Magic Cobbler" would make a delicious family home evening treat, too.**





# Caliana McMurtrey

## of Loveland, Colorado

BY JANE McBRIDE CHOATE

Photos by the author and the McMurtrey family

**L**oveland, Colorado, nestled at the base of the Rocky Mountains, is known throughout the world for its Valentine re-mailing program. The volunteers who donate their time stamping Loveland's special Valentine verse on each piece of mail illustrate the generous spirit of the town.

Caliana McMurtrey of Big Thompson Ward, Loveland Colorado Stake, shows this spirit in her own way. Caliana knows what it is to give of herself. To celebrate her ninth birthday, she decided to have her first real haircut.



**Caliana is delivering to a local organization the donations she received for her eighth birthday.**

The hairstylist, Jill Harris, also a member of Big Thompson Ward, braided Caliana's hair from the middle of her back to her hips, then cut 15" (38 cm) from the 30" (76 cm) length.

Caliana donated her hair to an organization that makes

wigs of real hair for children who have lost their hair because of cancer treatments, burns, or other medical problems.

Before the big moment, Caliana had

never had a real haircut, just trims and snips. She decided to donate her hair after her mother told her about seeing a television program on charities that make children's wigs.

"I want to do that because I have such long hair," Caliana said.

She has done much more for others besides donating her hair. She has made giving to others a regular part of her life. For her eighth birthday, she asked friends to bring donations to her party instead of gifts. She gave the products to a local organization that provides food and clothing to families in need. She intends to keep doing some kind of special service to celebrate each birthday.

A third-grader, Caliana enjoys art, reading, and language. She reads a lot and especially likes mysteries, adventures, and books about Latter-day Saint girls in history. The latter books, she

says, help her to learn about what it was like to be a

girl in the Church a long time ago.

In large part because of her unselfish attitude, she was elected vice president of the student body at her school, and she serves on the

student council. She tries to be a good friend and to treat everyone fairly.

Caliana writes her own plays and acts them out with her friends.

When she isn't busy writing and performing plays,



**Hairstylist Jill Harris is ready to cut off Caliana's braid.**

she likes to do puzzles, especially the 3-D kind. She enjoys practicing tumbling stunts and playing games. Rainy days find her reading, playing indoor games with her friends, and baking cookies.

Her family spends as much time as they can in the mountains. She builds forts there and explores the forest. Her favorite place is a secret spot in an aspen tree where she reads and makes happy plans.



**The McMurtrey family: (Top) — Todd, Adam, Dad; (Bottom) — Caliana, Mom, and Ryan. Rick is not pictured.**



**With her brother Adam and one of the dogs her family trained for the disabled**

*Caliana and her cat enjoy a good book.*



One of her chores is feeding and caring for her cats, Gumby, Kiwi, and Kulana. Her goal is to work as an animal trainer in a circus or a sea park someday.

Though Caliana doesn't mind doing outdoor chores such as pulling weeds and shoveling snow, she doesn't like cleaning her room—she would rather sit and day-dream—but she does it anyway. She also helps around the house by vacuuming, setting the table, putting away dishes, and sweeping.

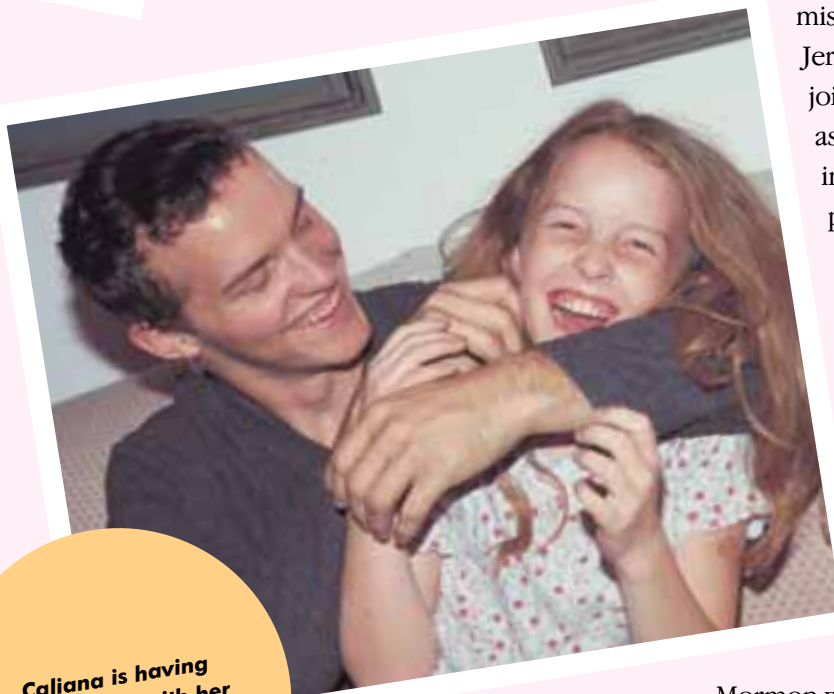
She looks forward to Primary and Activity Days and learning new things about the gospel and the scriptures. She has a clear voice and likes to sing “Beautiful Savior.”

She enjoys family home evening and especially likes the stories her mom tells about people having their prayers answered. She also likes stories in the scriptures about people such as Esther in the Bible, and the brother of Jared in the Book of Mormon.

The only girl and the youngest child in her family, she teases back her four big brothers when they occasionally tease her. When her family took her oldest brother, Rick, to the Missionary Training Center in Provo, Utah, two years ago, she knew that she'd miss him, but she wanted him to go on a mission.

After his mission in New Jersey, Rick joined the family as they visited important places in the early history of the Church. Caliana enjoyed seeing the Grandin Press, where the first Book of

*Caliana is having a good time with her brother Todd.*



Mormon was printed, and the Sacred Grove. “All of those places helped me appreciate Church history and the pioneers. They were so faithful, and it helps me want to be true, too.”

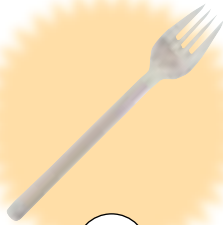
Caliana says the best thing about being a Latter-day Saint is knowing why she's here on earth. “It helps me do the right thing more often, and I don't have to worry about why I'm here. I already know the answer.” ●

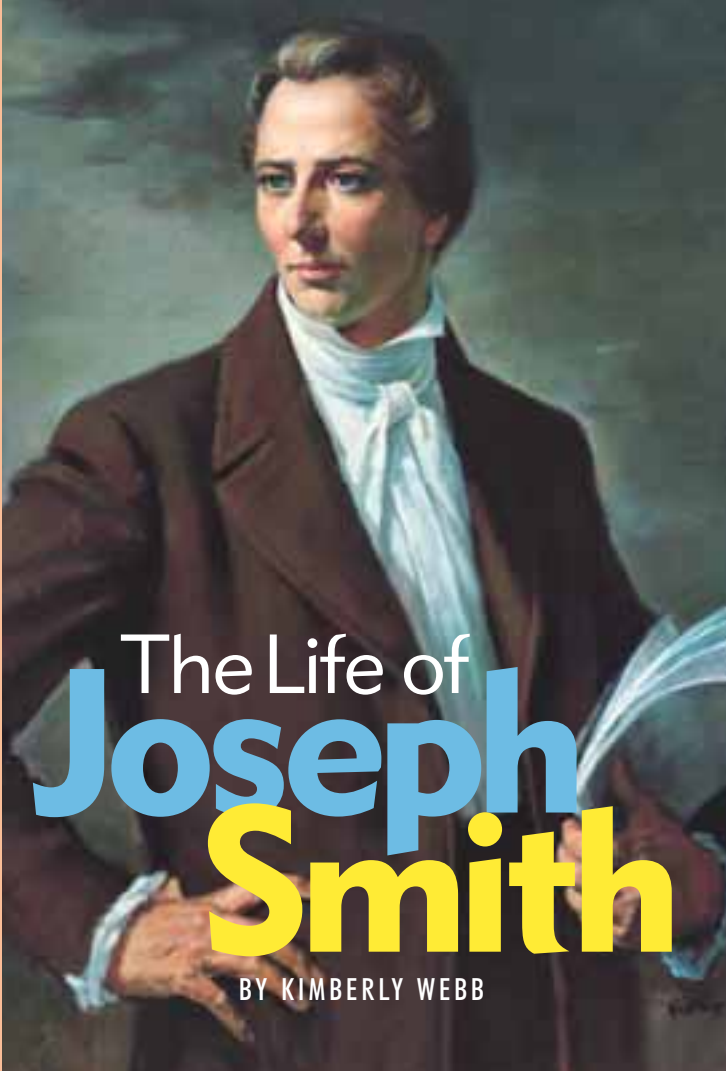


# Picture Words

BY GEORGE ANDERSON

Take the first letter of each item pictured and place it in the small circle beneath the picture. When the puzzle is solved correctly, you will have four words reading across and the same four words reading down. (See answers on page 26.)

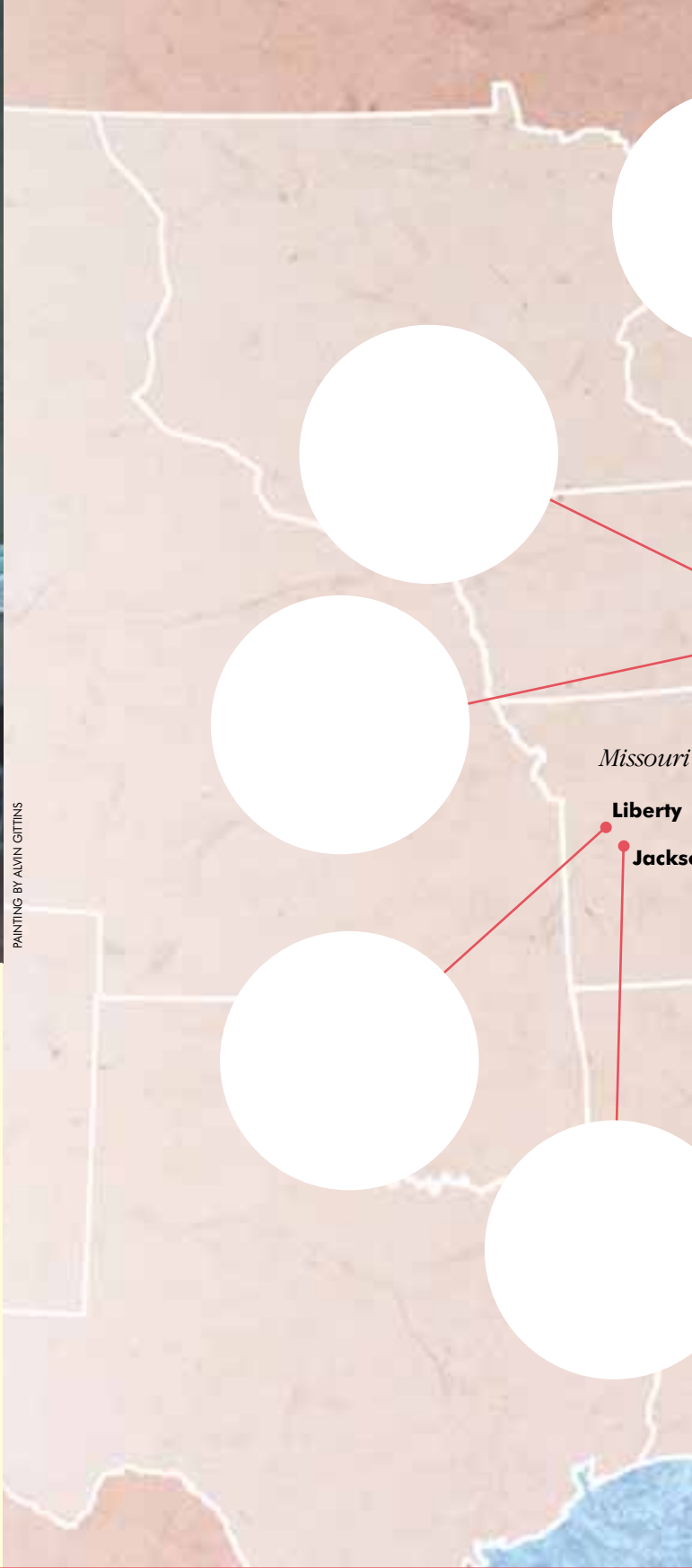




# The Life of Joseph Smith

BY KIMBERLY WEBB

PAINTING BY ALVIN GITTINS



**During the month of June, we remember the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith. More importantly, we celebrate his life and the works he accomplished. President John Taylor (1808–1887) said, “Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it” (D&C 135:3).**

**Instructions:** To remember some of the things the Prophet Joseph did, remove pages 24–25, and glue them to heavy paper. Cut out the pictures on page 27, then read each event on the time line and find the picture that matches it. Glue the picture of the event on the map where it took place. Some places will have more than one event. If you wish, draw arrows on the map to indicate the order in which the events took place.

**23 December 1805** Joseph Smith Jr. is born in a small cabin in Sharon, Vermont, to Lucy Mack and Joseph Smith Sr.

**Spring 1820** In answer to Joseph’s prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appear in a grove of trees near Joseph’s home in Palmyra, New York.

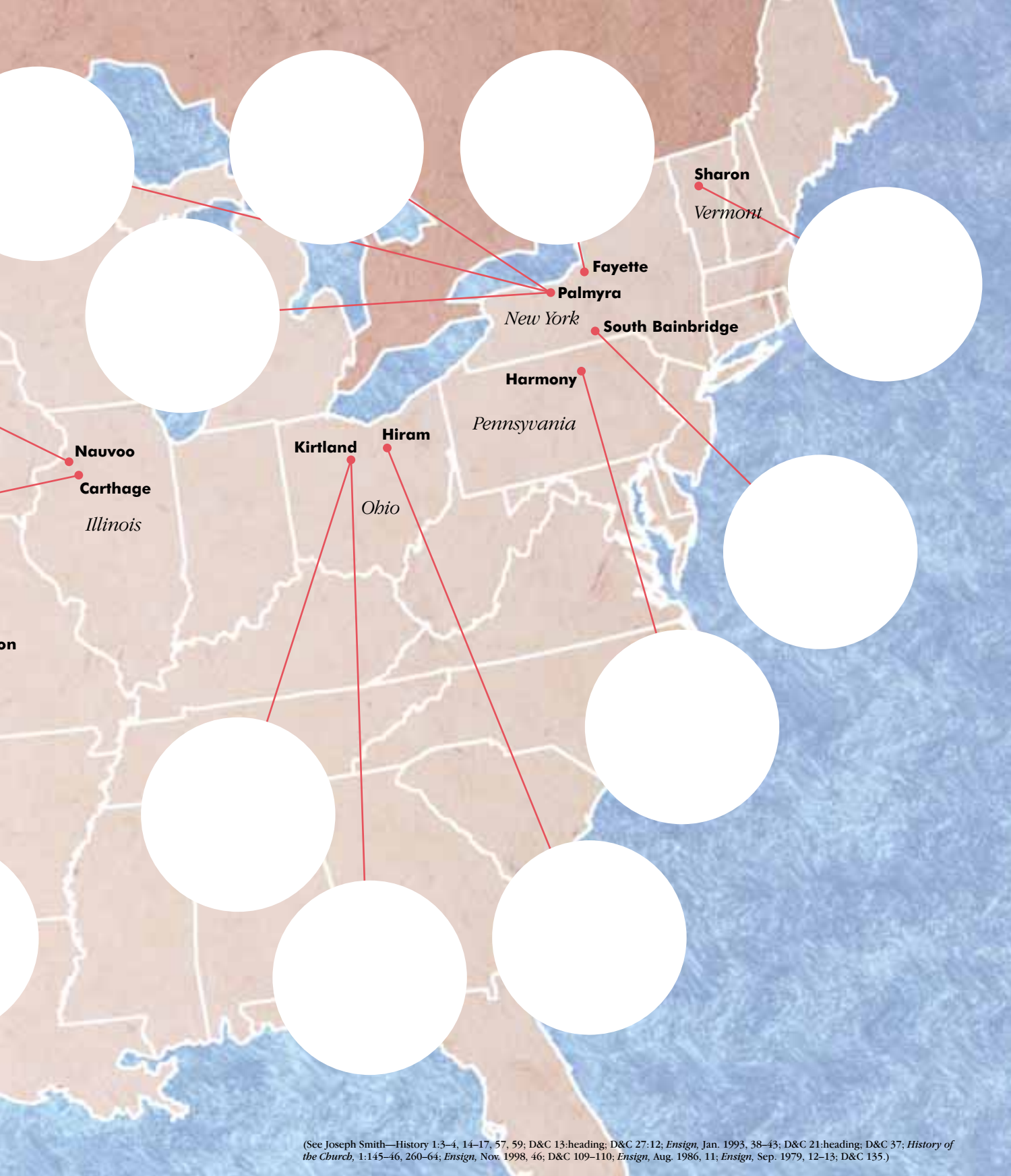
**18 January 1827** Joseph marries Emma Hale in South Bainbridge, New York.

**22 September 1827** After years of preparation, Joseph receives the golden plates from the angel Moroni at the Hill Cumorah, near Palmyra.

**15 May 1829** John the Baptist ordains Joseph and Oliver Cowdery to the Aaronic Priesthood on the banks of the Susquehanna River in Harmony, Pennsylvania.

**26 March 1830** The first edition of the Book of Mormon, published by E. B. Grandin in Palmyra, New York, is completed.

**6 April 1830** Joseph is sustained as prophet of the newly organized Church at the Peter Whitmer farm in Fayette, New York.



(See Joseph Smith—History 1:3–4, 14–17, 57, 59; D&C 13:heading; D&C 27:12; *Ensign*, Jan. 1993, 38–43; D&C 21:heading; D&C 37; *History of the Church*, 1:145–46, 260–64; *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 46; D&C 109–110; *Ensign*, Aug. 1986, 11; *Ensign*, Sep. 1979, 12–13; D&C 135.)

**February 1831** In obedience to revelation, Joseph and the Saints move to Kirtland, Ohio. Joseph and Emma live for a time with Newell K. Whitney in an apartment connected to his store.

**24 March 1832** While staying with the Johnsons in Hiram, Ohio, Joseph is dragged from the house and tarred and feathered. The next day he preaches a sermon.

**May–June 1834** Joseph marches with Zion’s Camp from Ohio to Jackson County, Missouri, to try to reclaim the Saints’ land from which they had been driven.

**27 March 1836** Joseph dedicates the Kirtland Temple. On 3 April, the Savior appears in the temple to accept it as His house.

**December 1838–April 1839** Joseph is imprisoned in Liberty, Missouri. Though his suffering is great, he receives sacred revelations, given us in sections 121–23 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

**April 1839–June 1844** Joseph oversees the building of Nauvoo, Illinois, and also leads the Saints to begin building another temple. He reveals the ordinances of sealing, the endowment, and baptism for the dead.

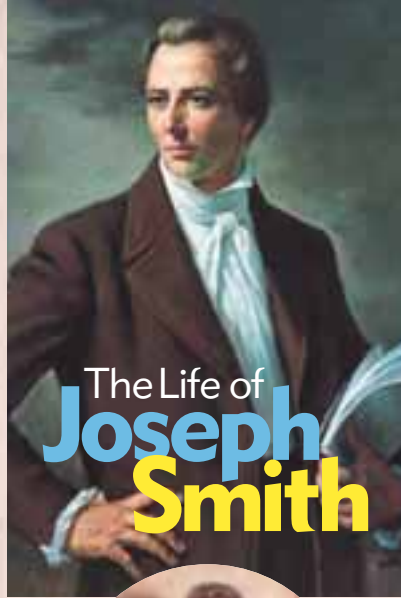
**27 June 1844** After being imprisoned in Carthage, Illinois, the Prophet and his brother Hyrum are martyred by a mob.



(See instructions on page 24.)



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# Isaac's Talk

BY DAWN NELSON

(Based on a true story)

*We speak [what] we do know* (John 3:11).

Isaac could tell that his Primary class was almost over, because he could hear people moving around outside the door. Sure enough, his teacher asked someone to say the prayer.

As soon as he said, "Amen," Isaac stood up and hurried to the door. He liked his Primary class, but he was always eager to see his mom and dad and little brother, Luke. Before he could open the door, however, his teacher said, "Isaac, would you come here for a minute, please?"

"Sure," Isaac answered as Sister Nelson called a few more children over to her chair. Sister Nelson held out some little pieces of paper to him and the others. "Will you please give a talk in opening exercises next week?" she asked him.

"Oh, OK." Isaac was five now, so he could see that his name was written on the paper with a lot of other words. He didn't try to read them—he was sure they just said stuff about his talk. He had said yes because he always tried to do what his teacher wanted him to do, but he was scared to talk to the whole Primary. He knew that even the youngest children took turns giving talks, scriptures, and prayers, but he couldn't remember doing any of those before.

He thought about the talks other children had given. Sometimes children read stories for talks, but Isaac couldn't read that well yet. Some of the other talks were

*He thought about the talks other children had given.*

*Sometimes children read stories for talks, but Isaac couldn't read that well yet. . . .*

*He couldn't imagine what kind of a talk he could give when he was only five!*

so hard to understand that he forgot to even listen. He couldn't imagine what kind of a talk he could give when he was only five!

"Oh well," he said to himself, "maybe she'll forget she asked me." He stood in the doorway and soon saw his mom and Luke coming toward him from the nursery room. "Hi, Mom!" he said, giving her a big hug.

"What's this?" Mom asked, taking the paper out of his hand. "Wow! You get to give a talk next week."

Isaac tried to smile, and he nodded his head a little. Maybe Mom would forget too, he hoped.

On the way home, Mom told Dad about Isaac's talk. "How exciting!" Dad said. "We'll be sure to come hear you, Isaac. Do you want Mom or me to help you give your talk?"

Somebody could help him with his talk? He suddenly felt a lot better about it. "Mom, I guess," he said.

"OK," Mom answered. "We'll start working on it soon."

Sunday, Monday, and





Tuesday went by, and Isaac forgot all about the talk. But on Wednesday, Mom said, “Isaac, let’s get your Primary talk ready!”

“Oh, no!” he said to himself. “She remembered.” He walked slowly over to where Mom sat holding a pen and notebook. His stomach felt funny. “I don’t really want to give a talk, Mom. I don’t know how, and I’m scared.”

“It will be all right. Let’s just talk about it for a minute.” Mom put her arm around his shoulders. “Your talk is supposed to be about faith in Jesus Christ. What do you think faith is?”

Isaac remembered his Primary teacher talking about faith, and Mom and Dad talking about it in family home evening. But he was pretty sure he didn’t know enough about it to give a whole talk. “Is it like praying and keeping the commandments?” he asked, his forehead wrinkled with worry.

Mom wrote something in the notebook. “Sure,” she said. “Why do we pray and keep the commandments?”

“Because Jesus and Heavenly Father want us to.” That was an easy question.

Mom wrote something else down in the notebook. “What happens to your faith when you pray and keep the commandments?”

“It grows.” He remembered his teacher saying that choosing the right helps your faith grow.

“How do you feel when it grows, Isaac? How do you feel when you pray and keep the commandments?”

“Happy!” Isaac wished it was as easy to give a talk about faith as it was to talk with his mom about it.

“Just a few more questions,” Mom said. “Do you believe in Jesus Christ?” When he nodded, Mom asked, “Why?”

“Because the scriptures say He lives.” Isaac had a nice feeling inside when he talked about Jesus. He could feel Jesus loving him. He smiled and leaned against his mom while she wrote.

Suddenly Mom surprised him by saying, “OK! You’ve finished writing your talk! Now let’s practice giving it.”

On Sunday morning, Isaac stepped carefully to the

front of the Primary room. He unfolded the paper his mom had written on when she asked him questions. His answers were his talk! He had practiced giving it to Dad a few times. Now Mom moved to his side and began whispering the questions he had answered before. Isaac gave his talk in his very own words:

“Faith in Jesus Christ means praying and keeping the commandments. We pray and keep the commandments because Heavenly Father and Jesus want us to. When we do, our faith grows. I feel happy when I pray and keep the commandments, and my faith grows. I believe in Jesus Christ because the scriptures say He lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”

He saw Dad smile at him from the back of the room, and everyone was quiet—they had been listening! When he walked past his teacher, he saw that she was happy. He felt really good inside. He had given a talk that was really his, and he was sure that Jesus was happy about it too! ●



“Most people . . . come to church . . . seeking a spiritual experience. . . . Those of us who are called upon to speak . . . have an obligation to help provide that, as best we possibly can. We can only do that if we ourselves are striving to know God, if we ourselves are continually seeking the light of His Only Begotten Son. Then, if our hearts are right, . . . if we have prayed . . . and prepared and worried until we don’t know what more we can do, God can say to us as He did to Alma and the sons of Mosiah: ‘Lift up thy head and rejoice. . . . I will give unto you success’ [Alma 8:15; 26:27].”

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland**  
**Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles**  
**From an April 1998 general conference address.**



## Friends in the News



**Sarah Crandall**, 11, Elk Grove, California, enjoys sharing the gospel. She plays soccer and the piano. She loves her family and says that her adopted sister, Emmalee, was an answer to her prayers.



**Miguel Angel Campos**, 9, Palatine, Illinois, likes to make friends everywhere. He plays baseball, basketball, and soccer. He likes preparing family home evening activities.



**Amy-Jean Ball**, 8, Auckland, New Zealand, likes ballet and the piano. She enjoys going to church and to school. She is helpful and has a beautiful smile.



**O'Neal Dungan**, 6, Port Neches, Texas, is looking forward to his baptism. He likes going to Primary and playing computer games.



**Heidi Mills**, 11, Bountiful, Utah, meets challenges well. She enjoyed hiking the Grand Canyon. She also likes basketball, music, reading, and computers. She takes good care of her sister, Brittany.



**Daniel Beckrich**, 8, Shakopee, Minnesota, takes piano lessons and enjoys playing basketball and golf and jumping on the trampoline. He loves Heavenly Father, Jesus, and his family.



**Lindsy Lou DeMordaunt**, 7, Las Vegas, Nevada, likes to do art projects, read, ride her bike, and play the piano. She has a talent for doing latch hook and teaches good family home evening lessons.



**Nathan Burk**, 8, Springerville, Arizona, likes reading and going to Scouts. He was eager for the Snowflake Arizona Temple to be dedicated.



**Hannah Kennedy Scea**, 4, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, likes going to school and to church. She knows Heavenly Father loves her, and she hopes to serve a mission someday, like her daddy did.



**Skyler Larsen**, 7, Linton, Utah, likes football, swimming, learning, and reading. When he was younger, he liked looking at Friends in the News to see pictures of children with missing teeth!



A good example, **Hanna Marie Picard**, 10, Fredericksburg, Virginia, enjoys playing the piano, singing, dancing, and sports. Her smile brightens everyone's day!



**Thomas Molina**, 5, Beaverton, Oregon, reminds his family to pray each night. He is a helpful, kind, and loving brother. He likes reading the Book of Mormon, especially parts that mention swords.



**Nicole Soifua**, 9, West Point, Utah, likes dancing, piano, soccer, and being with her family. She is happy that she is a baptized member of the Church, and she loves feeling the Holy Ghost.



**Bridon Suitter**, 10, Jerome, Idaho, likes writing letters to his friend Brock. He enjoys sports, reading, and hunting and fishing with his dad.



A talented singer, **Ashley Higgins**, 10, Lake Wales, Florida, has sung many solos and will be in her school talent show. She is an honor student. She likes Activity Days, her testimony, and giving talks.



**Hunter Thomas**, 6, Albuquerque, New Mexico, likes playing in the tire swing and helping with family home evening. He knows the first two articles of faith. His best friend is his brother, Hayden.



**Jordanne McNeill**, 7, Lumberton, North Carolina, loves Jesus Christ and wants to be like Him. She enjoys arts and crafts, soccer, baking, and seeing rainbows. She loves cats and her little sister, Ashlynne.



A good student, **Garrett Horsley**, 8, Pleasant Grove, Utah, enjoys playing paintball with his dad and brothers. He is a kind and loving friend, and he takes good care of his baby sister.



**Katie Rundall**, 7, Boardman, Ohio, enjoys being a big sister to two sisters and one brother. She is memorizing the Articles of Faith. She likes dancing and playing with friends.



**Chase Stolworthy**, 5, Franklin, Tennessee, likes to play cars—he can't wait until he is old enough to drive. He likes playing sports with his brother and sisters. He always has a joke to tell.



**Billie Anne Carroll**, 9, Las Vegas, Nevada, enjoys going to church with her grandparents. She likes playing soccer and computer games. She loves animals, especially her cat, Mr. Whiskers.



**Benjamin Timothy Brooks**, 6, Canton, Michigan, likes running, playing soccer, playing with his friends, and reading the scriptures. He knows that Heavenly Father answers prayers.



**Sarah Bond**, 3, Mesa, Arizona, loves Jesus and her mom and dad. She likes playing with her cousins and friends and going to Primary and to preschool. She has a bright smile and a happy heart.

Please send submissions to Friends in the News, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least 10 months. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose pictures are submitted must be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published. Upon request, material not published will be returned to sender if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

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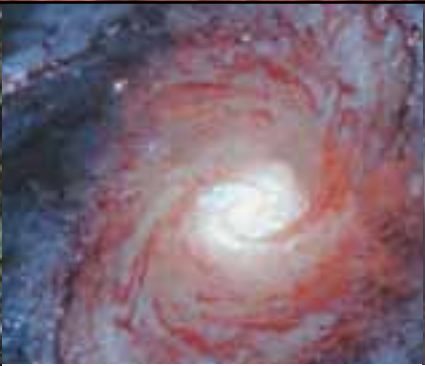
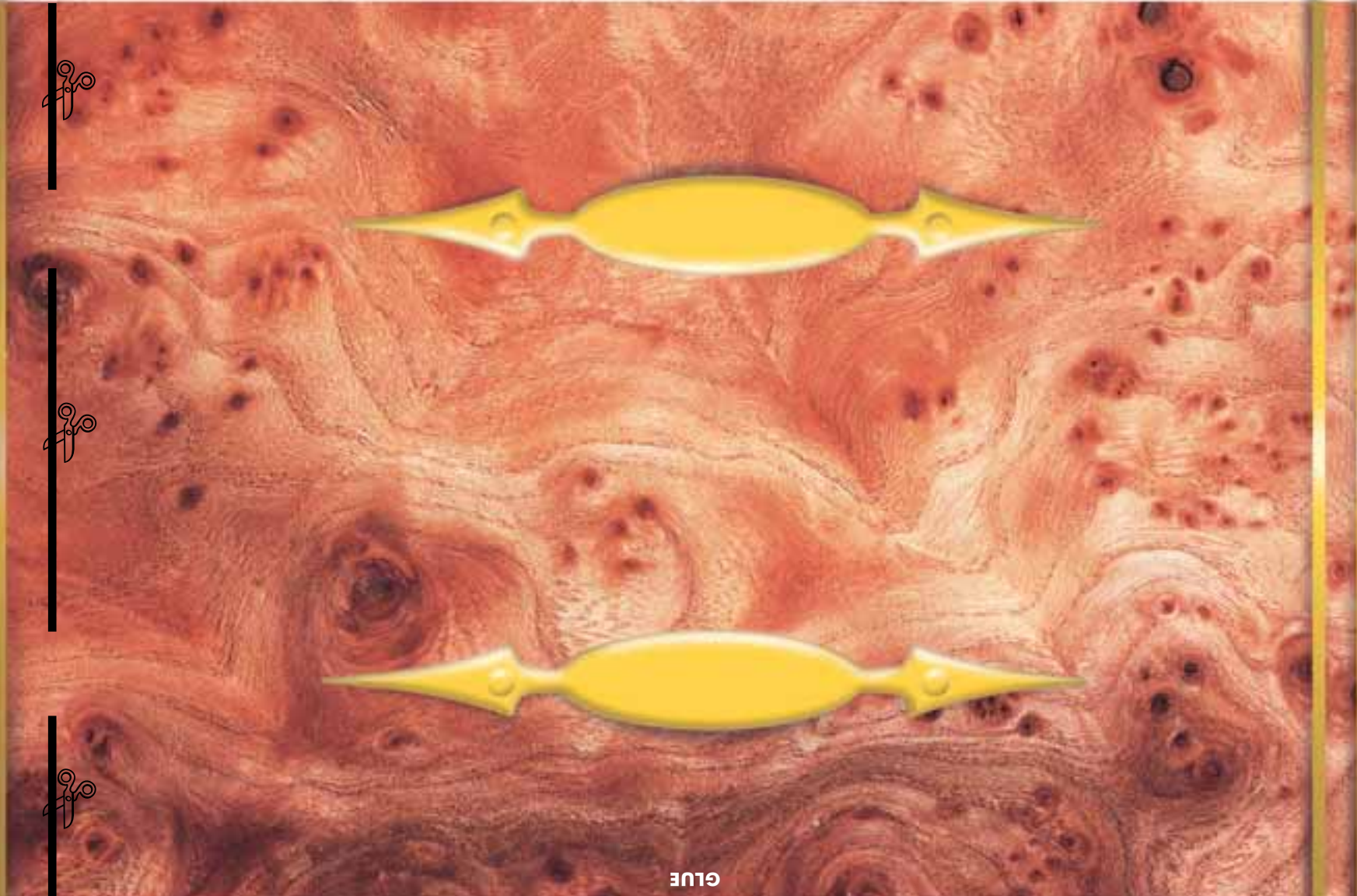
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# I Know God's Plan

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI

*For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man* (Moses 1:39).



Where do you live? In the city? The country? A suburb? Do you live on an island or in the middle of a desert? Can you see mountains or an ocean from your home?

Who lives with you? Are you the only child in your family, or do you have many brothers and sisters? Do your parents, grandparents, or aunts and uncles live with you?

Did you know that before you came to earth to live, you lived in heaven with Heavenly Father? It was there that you, “with many others, received [your] first lessons in the world of spirits and were prepared to come forth [to the earth] in the due time of the Lord” (D&C 138:56).

But there were more than just lessons while we lived in heaven. Elder Gary J. Coleman of the Quorum of the Seventy says, “God’s plan included our premortal existence, the creation of this world, a time in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve, and the fall of man into mortality” (*Ensign*, Feb. 1996, 15).

Heavenly Father told us during the Council in Heaven about a great plan of happiness. He said that an earth would be created; a Savior would be provided; and we would be given agency, or the freedom to choose between good and evil.

Some of the premortal beings did not want to follow this plan, and there was a War in Heaven. However, we chose to support Heavenly Father’s plan, so we were given bodies and sent to many different places on earth to learn about the Savior and to keep the commandments.



Because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, if we choose the right, we will one day be able to return to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ again.

## Plan of Happiness Viewer

1. Mount page 32 on heavy paper; then cut out the large rectangle and the picture strip. Cut slits on the heavy black lines marked on the rectangle.
2. Roll the rectangle into a tube with the slits at one end, and glue the tube together.
3. Slide the picture strip through the slits in the tube. Look through the tube to see pictures illustrating Heavenly Father’s plan of happiness.



## Sharing Time Ideas

(Note: All songs are from *Children's Songbook (CS)* unless otherwise indicated; GAK = Gospel Art Kit; TNGC = Teaching, No Greater Call)

1. Use a puzzle to help children learn about the Savior. Post a picture of Him on the wall. Cover the picture with a large piece of paper that has been cut into puzzle pieces. Label each piece with one of the following: 1) scriptures that testify of Christ, such as Matt. 3:17, JS—H 1:17, John 6:69, Matt. 16:15–16, 3 Ne. 11:9–10, John 4:25–26; 2) songs about the Savior (see CS, pp. 34–83); 3) paragraphs from “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles” (*Ensign*, Apr. 2000, 2–3).

Have the children take turns choosing and removing a puzzle piece, then looking up and reading the scripture; leading the song (optional—you may prefer the music leader to do it); or reading the “Living Christ” paragraph. Once the children have guessed whose picture is under the puzzle (or after all the pieces have been removed), challenge them to think about ways they can be like Him. Share Moro. 7:48, and bear your testimony of Jesus Christ.

2. Help the children understand how knowledge is important to agency. In large letters on pieces of paper, write instructions such as “Repeat the first article of faith”; “Choose an adult to say the fourth article of faith”; “Sing a solo of your favorite Primary song”; “Lead the Primary in singing ‘I Lived in Heaven’ ” (p. 4); etc. Place the papers in a large container so that they can easily be seen and read. Blindfold a child and have him/her take a paper, then complete the activity. Invite other children to choose, blindfolding some and letting others choose by reading which activity they wish to do. Discuss how they had a better opportunity to make a good choice when they knew what they were choosing. Challenge them to listen to their parents and Primary leaders so that they can learn about choices that will lead them back to Heavenly Father.

3. Discuss how Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ created the earth and all forms of life. Assign each class a scripture about something the Lord created: Gen. 1:11 (grass, herb, tree), Gen. 1:16 (sun, moon, stars), Gen. 1:21 (everything that lives in water and in air), Gen. 1:25 (animals on the earth, everything that creeps on the earth), Gen. 1:26–27 (man, male and female), Amos 4:13 (mountains, wind), John 1:3 (all things), Mosiah 2:23 (you). Have the children locate the scriptures, then take turns reading them aloud while you list the creations on the chalkboard.

Weather permitting, and if safety is not an issue, have the children take a walk around the church to look for other creations. Or sing “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (p. 231) or “The World Is So Big” (p. 235).

Give each child paper and a pencil to draw something that the Lord created. Show and discuss the pictures by collecting them from the children and using a pretend fishing pond. Have the children take turns “fishing” out each other’s pictures. As a picture is drawn out, invite the child to tell something that he/she could do to treat that creation with respect. Invite the children to share their drawings with family members and discuss ways they can show respect for all of God’s creations.

4. Help the children understand the importance of families by having three older Primary children read and tell the meaning of Prov. 22:6 (“train up a child”), 1 Cor. 13:11 (“when I was a child”), and Matt. 18:2–3 (“become as little children”).

Divide the children into groups of varying sizes to represent

family units. Within each group, assign some children, one or more parents, a grandparent or aunt and uncle, etc. Each group should have children and adult family members. Discuss how being part of a family can strengthen individuals and provide guidance for children.

On pieces of paper, write the names of songs the children know that teach about Jesus Christ, such as “Beautiful Savior” (pp. 62–63), “He Sent His Son” (pp. 34–35), “I Feel My Savior’s Love” (pp. 74–75), “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus” (pp. 78–79), “Love One Another” (pp. 136–137), “The Church of Jesus Christ” (p. 77), “When Jesus Christ Was Baptized” (p. 102).

Cut the song titles into puzzle pieces. Place each title in a separate envelope and give each “family” an envelope and enough blindfolds for the “children” in the family. Explain how parents or adult members of the family can help children because they often have a better perspective and can see things the children cannot.

Blindfold the children in the family and have them try to put the puzzle together by themselves while the pianist plays one verse of “I Lived in Heaven” (p. 4). Have the children continue to work on the puzzle with the “adults” in the family giving verbal directions. The adults should not take over and do the puzzle themselves. Keep track of the order in which the puzzles are completed and sing the songs in that order.

Invite a parent to visit Primary and express their desire to help their children live the gospel.

5. *Song presentation*: Use questions to help teach “I Lived in Heaven” (p. 4). Make a number of cards with one of the following words written on them: *Who*, *What*, *When*, and *Where*. Have the children pass the cards down the rows while the pianist plays the first line of the song. When the pianist stops playing, have the children who are holding the cards keep them. Ask them to listen while you sing, and to think of a question starting with the word they are holding that can be answered by the first line of the song.

Sing the first line, have the children with the cards ask their questions, and have the entire Primary sing the answer. E.g., “Who lived in heaven?” (“I lived in heaven.”) “What did I do?” (“I lived in heaven.”) “When did I live in heaven?” (“I lived in heaven a long time ago.”) “Where did I live?” (“I lived in heaven.”)

Repeat the process for each line, but have the children holding the cards with questions that are being answered stand and sing the answer. If a card question was not asked (line 2 probably would not have a *When* question, for instance), those holding that card would not stand.

For the second and third verses, remove the *When* cards and substitute *Why* cards. The children with them might ask, “Why did Jesus give His life?” (“so we all could return there above”). Or, “Why was Jesus chosen?” (to conquer “evil and death through his glorious name”).

Express your gratitude for your knowledge of living in a pre-mortal world and for the opportunity to return to live with Heavenly Father after this life.

6. Additional *Friend* resources: Sharing Times—Dec. 2001, pp. 20–22; Feb. 2000, pp. 12–14; Apr. 1999, pp. 12–13, 26; Feb. 1999, pp. 46–47, 26. “Creation Presentation,” Feb. 1999, pp. 18–19. See also: “Teaching Our Children the Plan of Salvation,” *Ensign*, Sep. 2001, pp. 32–39; “Special Witnesses of Christ,” Apr. 2001, pp. 2–21.

# They Spoke to Us

Report for Children of the Church from the 173rd Annual General Conference, April 5–6, 2003

**President Gordon B.**

**Hinckley:** The gospel of Jesus Christ is the way of peace. To the extent we follow it and incorporate it in our lives, to this extent will we be blessed and prospered. What a wonderful thing it is to be involved in this glorious work. Let us rejoice in our great opportunity. Let us serve with gladness.

**President Thomas S.**

**Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency:** Wishing will not replace thorough preparation to meet the trials of life. Preparation is hard work but absolutely essential for our progress.

Our journey into the future will not be a smooth highway which stretches from here to eternity. Rather, there will be forks and turnings in the road, to say nothing of the unanticipated bumps. We must pray daily to a loving Heavenly Father, who wants each of us to succeed in life.

**President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency:** There are so many shades of right and wrong that each of you has to decide where the line will be. I strongly urge you that if there is any question in your minds or hearts about whether your personal conduct is right or wrong, don't do it. Each of us has moral agency, and the gift of the Holy Ghost will sharpen our impressions of what is right and wrong, true and false.

**Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** Through prayer, we can show our love for God. And He has made it so easy. We may pray to Him any time. No special equipment is needed. We don't even need to charge batteries or pay a monthly service fee. . . .



Prayers can be offered even in silence. One can think a prayer, especially when words would interfere. . . .

We close our prayer "in the name of Jesus Christ, amen." When we hear another's prayer, we audibly add our "amen," meaning, "That is my prayer, too."

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:**

Like the pioneers, we should thank God for our adversities and pray for guidance in meeting them. Through that attitude and through our faith and

obedience, we will realize the promises God has given us. It is all part of the plan.

**Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** The Holy Ghost is a personage of Spirit, a separate and distinct member of the Godhead. He is a witness or testifier of the power of God, the divinity of Christ, and the truth of the restored gospel. . . .

. . . When we are confirmed, we are given the right to the companionship of the Holy Ghost, but it is a right that we must continue to earn through obedience and worthiness. We cannot take this gift for granted.

**Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander of the Presidency of the Seventy:** Sacrament meetings are really more than just meetings. They are sacred moments in a holy place. During these weekly moments, we reflect on the most merciful act of sacrifice this world has ever known. We ponder the love of God, who gave His Only Begotten Son that we might obtain eternal life. As we partake of the sacrament, we remember Him and express our willingness to take His name upon us and to keep His commandments.

Our Creative Friends



*Frances Helsten, age 8  
Orem, Utah*



*Ammon Smith, age 5  
Morgan Hills, California*



*Rachel Richards, age 11  
Cedar Hills, Utah*



*Taylor Williams, age 9  
Parker, Colorado*



*Laken Flinders, age 5  
Pleasant Grove, Utah*



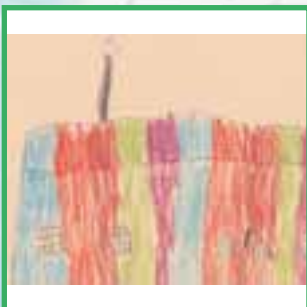
*Ammon Saunders, age 7  
Kaysville, Utah*



*Cassie Delaboyde, age 12  
Patrick Draw, Wyoming*



*Hyrum Miller, age 8  
Spanish Fork, Utah*



*Michelle Finch, age 5  
Jackson, Michigan*



*Evan Fairbourn, age 11  
Logan, Utah*



*Tai Olson, age 10  
Lolo, Montana*



*Brittani Alvey, age 8  
Hanksville, Utah*



*Karlee Loss, age 9  
Salem, Utah*



*Henry Guajardo, age 7  
Houston, Texas*



*Eliza Wells, age 5  
Sandy, Utah*



*Tyler Burton, age 10  
Hesperia, California*

This month marks the one-year anniversary of the reconstructed Nauvoo Temple dedication. Children sent us letters, poetry, and drawings capturing their memories of that sacred event.

Dan  
Rittinger,  
age 10,  
Jackson,  
Michigan



### Nauvoo Temple

The beautiful sight that gives me the height of really great rooms, wonderful paintings, beautiful art, and the carved stones of star, moon, and sun.

Cooper Ballstaedt, age 7  
Midway, Utah



Natalie M. M. Awai, age 11  
Puyallup, Washington

### Once Upon a Day So Clear

Once upon a day so clear,  
I saw the prophet, revelator, and seer,  
Gordon B. Hinckley. Oh how I wish I  
Could have such a twinkle in my eye.

We went to the Nauvoo Temple dedication,  
As lots of other people in our nation.  
We followed him in the Hosanna Shout,  
And my mom snuck a tear or two out.

Before I left on that day so clear,  
I looked at our prophet again, so dear.  
The Tabernacle Choir, all dressed in white,  
Who sang so pretty with all their might!

Melinda B., age 9  
Grantsville, Utah



Logan Murri, age 8  
Idaho Falls, Idaho

### Our Temple Trip



Victoria Trevino, age 11  
Lake Mary, Florida

Two summers ago we moved to Florida from Utah. Last summer we were able to go back to visit Utah. Since we were learning about temples in Primary, we decided to make our trip a temple trip. We saw 25 temples between Florida and Utah.

When we got to Nauvoo, Illinois, we were able to attend the Nauvoo Temple open house. My favorite room is the celestial room because it is so big and the stained-glass window is very pretty.

We also walked down Parley Street and read the stories along the path that leads to the Mississippi River. I thought about the pioneers crossing the river to go to Utah. I remembered how I felt the year before when I had to leave my home, some of my family, and friends. It made me appreciate the people who had to leave beautiful Nauvoo even more. When we were in Utah, we bought a puppy and named her "Nauvoo" because it means "beautiful" and because we got her the same day the new Nauvoo Temple was dedicated.

I am grateful for temples. I could feel the Spirit as we visited each one, and I have made a goal to go there someday.

### Visiting the Temple

I like baseball and soccer, but I'd miss it all to go back and visit the Nauvoo Temple again. It was great!

Clayton Guymon, age 8  
Taylorsville, Utah



### When I Felt the Spirit



Mikaela Jo Wagner,  
age 8,  
Cedar Hills, Utah

I looked forward to going to the Nauvoo Temple dedication at the stake center. When it started, I really felt the Spirit. I saw pictures of the baptismal font with the 12 oxen, symbolizing the tribes of Israel. I saw pictures of the pretty celestial room and the sunstones with faces and trumpets.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sang beautiful music. I heard many talks and testimonies. At the end, President Hinckley gave a talk and a special prayer to dedicate the temple. I felt the Spirit again.

Then I waved my brand-new handkerchief. It has a picture of the Nauvoo Temple stitched on it.

Someday I want to get married in the Nauvoo Temple. But if I don't, I will get married in one of the other temples. The Nauvoo Temple is special to me because it stands where the original temple stood, which was built by Joseph Smith and the early Saints.

I am very grateful for this temple and that I am eight years old so I could go to the dedication.

### Longmont Fourth Ward

The Primary children of the Longmont Fourth Ward, Longmont Colorado Stake, composed these words (with the title, "Go to the Temple"), to be sung to the tune of "Follow the Prophet" (*Children's Songbook*, 110-11):

Chorus:

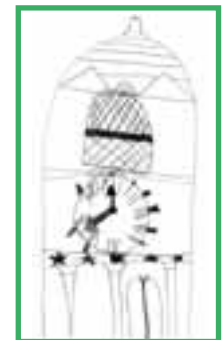
Go to the temple, go to the temple,  
Go to the temple, prepare the way.  
Go to the temple, go to the temple,  
Go to the temple, I'll go someday.

Verses:

Kirtland's the first temple built in latter days.  
People living there longed for a place of praise.  
Members sacrificed and built it with great care.  
Messengers from heaven appeared to many there.

Nauvoo is a temple, second that we know.  
Those in Illinois had told them they must go.  
Persecution rose, mobs burned their temple dear.  
But it was built again and opened up last year.

Denver is our temple, in our mountain state.  
1986 was the dedication date.  
Sealings and endowments, baptisms, too.  
If we prepare now, these are things we'll do.



Joseph Scott, age 7  
Winston-Salem,  
North Carolina

[Give] thanks always for all things unto . . .  
the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ  
(Ephesians 5:20).

For Little  
Friends



(Hunter)

# 's New

BY LANA KRUMWIEDE  
(Based on a true story)



had a new . It came in a from . "Let's go **2** the ,"  
 said. " wear my new ?" asked. "Yes, **U** may," said. At the  
 , & walked on the . & stopped **2** look at  
the . 's new fell in **2** the . " **U** reach it?" asked  
 . "No," said. "It is **2** far ." had an idea. "We say a prayer." &  
 closed their s . said a prayer. When opened his s , he a man  
coming in a . " **U** reach my , please?" asked. The man in the   
took the out of the & threw it **2** the . caught the  
 . "Thank **U** ," said . " we say another prayer?" asked . " want  
**2** say thank **U2** Heavenly Father, **2** ." "Yes, we ," said. & they did.

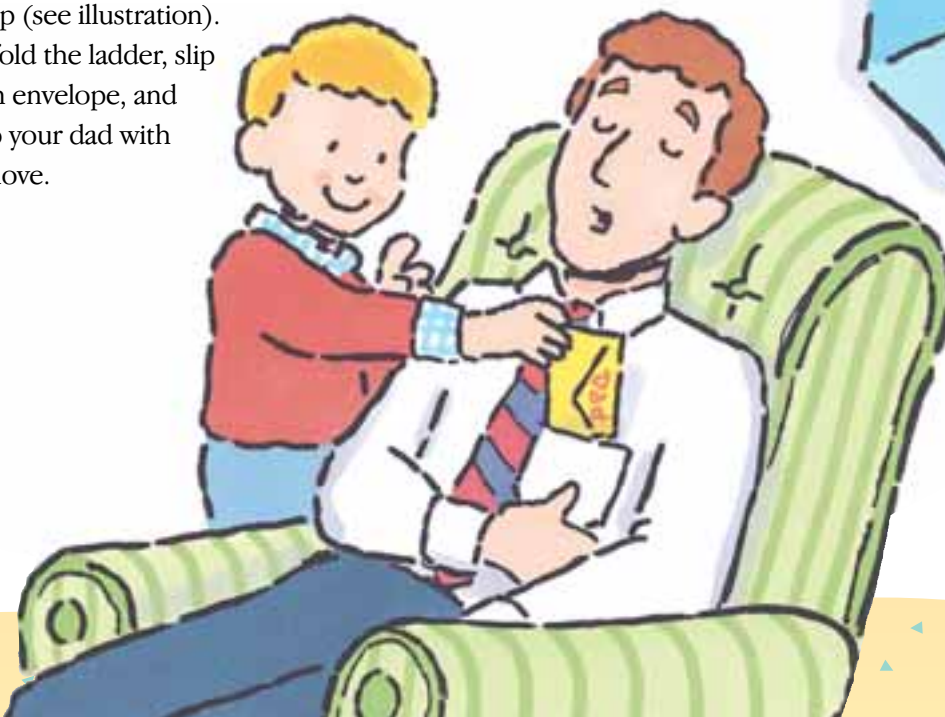
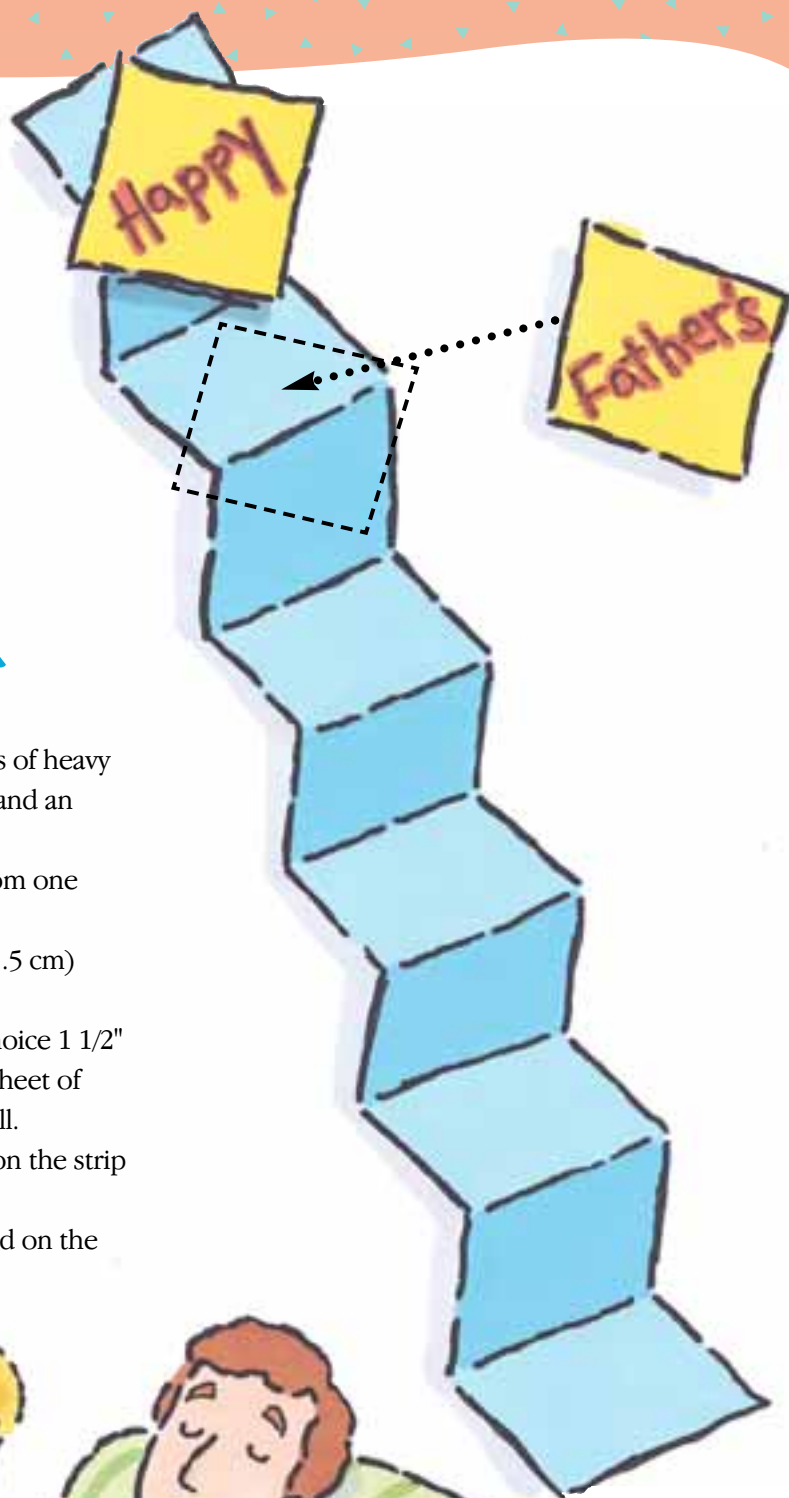


# Ladder Card for Dad

BY SHERRY TIMBERMAN

You will need: scissors, a ruler, two sheets of heavy paper of contrasting colors, glue, a marker, and an envelope.

1. Cut a 1" x 11" (2.5 cm x 28 cm) strip from one sheet of paper.
2. Fold the strip accordion-style into 1" (2.5 cm) squares (see illustration).
3. Cut out five identical shapes of your choice 1 1/2" to 2" (4 cm to 5 cm) in size from the other sheet of paper. Squares, circles, or triangles work well.
4. Glue a shape to the front of each fold on the strip (see illustration); let the glue dry.
5. Write a continuous message to your dad on the shapes (one word per shape) starting at the top (see illustration).
6. Refold the ladder, slip it into an envelope, and give it to your dad with all your love.

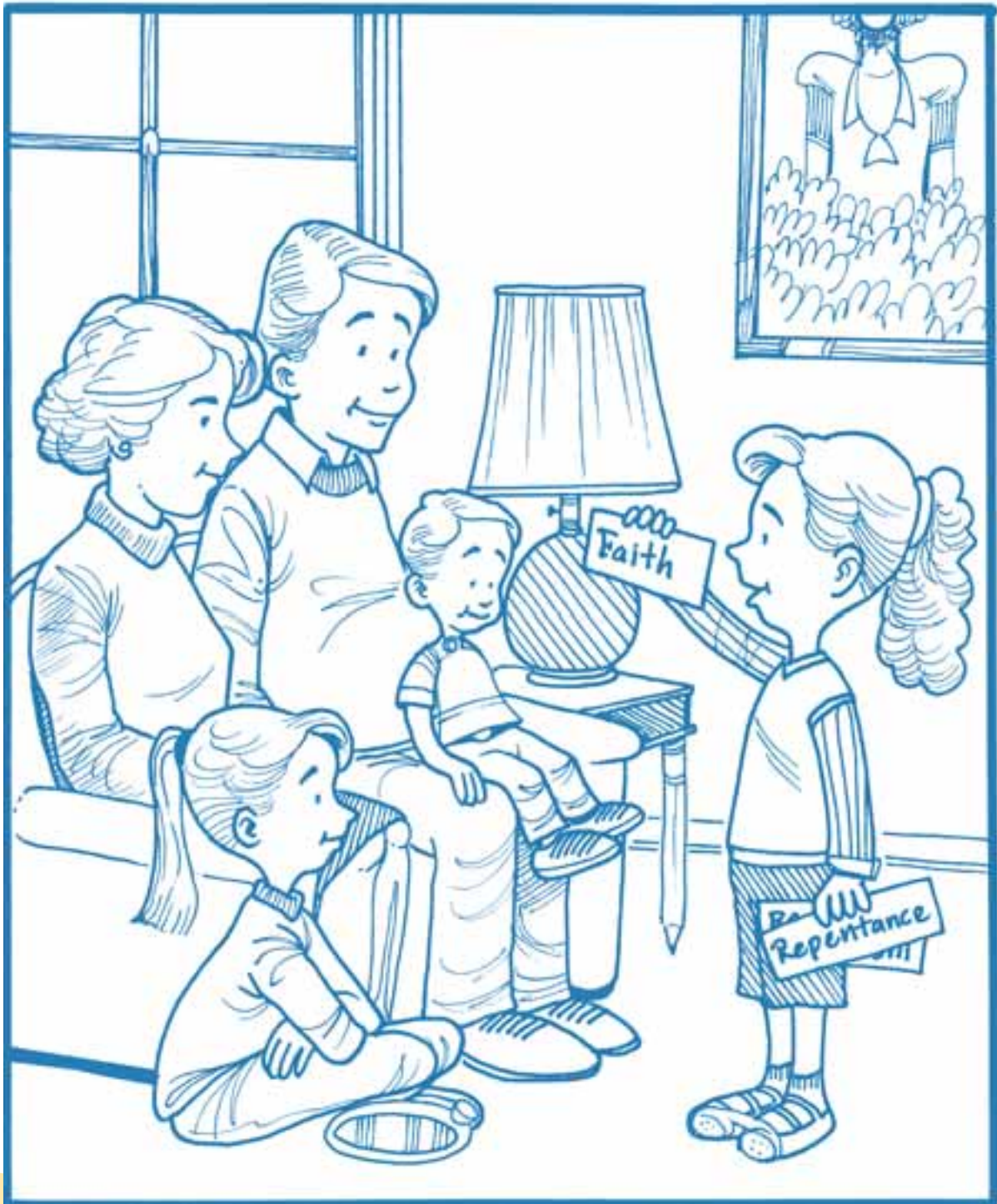


For Little  
Friends

# Family Home Evening

BY ROBERT PETERSON

I like to teach family home evening lessons. After I finish my lesson on the first principles and ordinances of the gospel, please help me find an artist's paintbrush, a bell, a bird, a clothespin, a fish, a fork, a hammer, a pencil, a phone, a pocketknife, a ring, and a shovel. Then color the picture.





# Gifts

BY RUTH R. HARMON

A robin's nest in a budding tree,  
A chirping cricket, a droning bee—

A flower pushing through rain-soaked ground,  
Ducks on a pond, ants in a mound—

Gulls circling in a cloudy sky,  
Fish in a stream, waves breaking high—

A squirrel's home in a hollow log,  
A bright butterfly, a leaping frog—

The sounds I hear and sights I see  
Are gifts that God has given me.

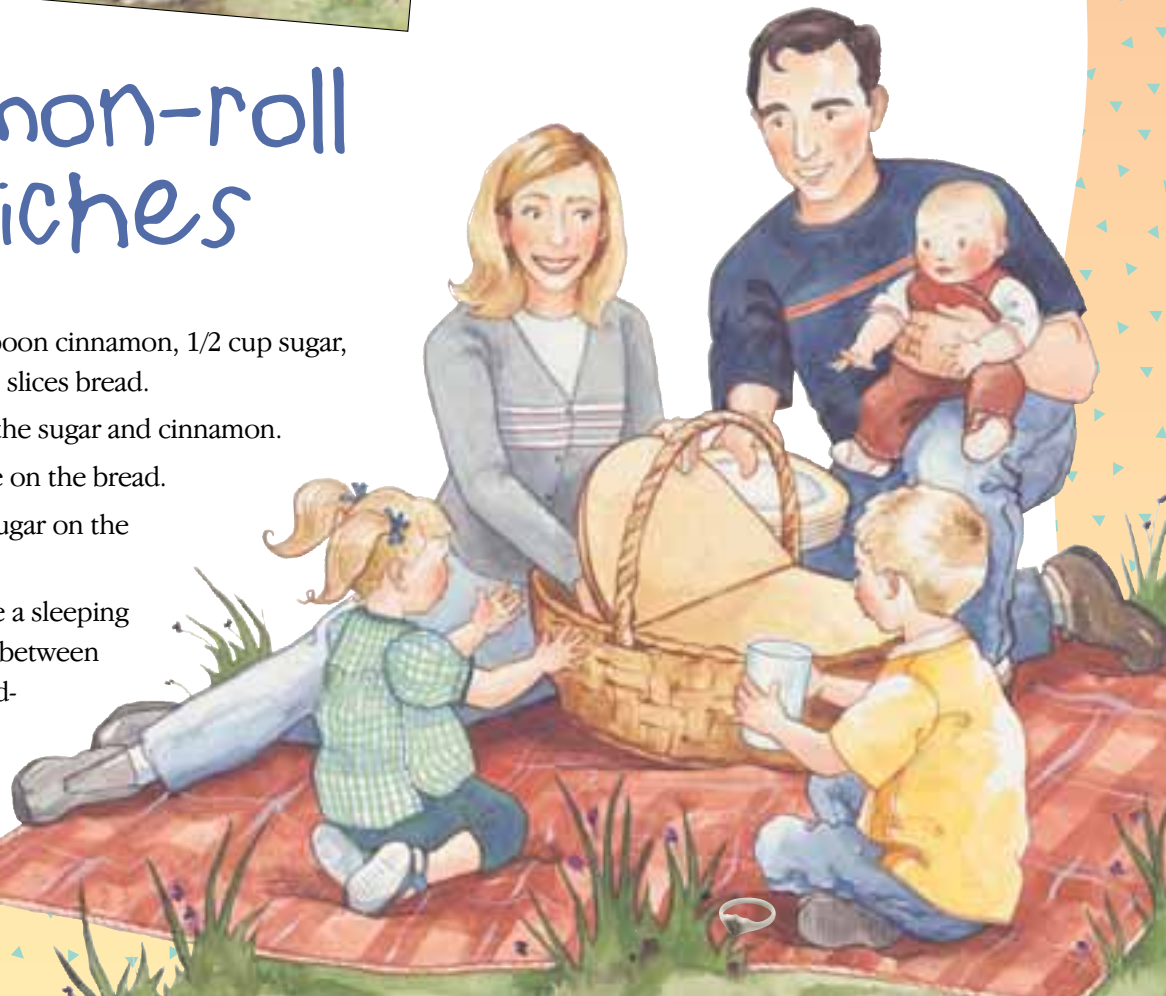


# Cinnamon-roll Sandwiches

BY JULIE CHRISTENSEN

You will need: 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tub cream cheese, and 4 slices bread.

1. In a small bowl, mix the sugar and cinnamon.
2. Spread cream cheese on the bread.
3. Sprinkle cinnamon sugar on the cream cheese.
4. Roll the bread up like a sleeping bag, and you have a cross between a cinnamon roll and a sandwich. It makes a delicious snack for family picnics.





# From the Life of President John Taylor

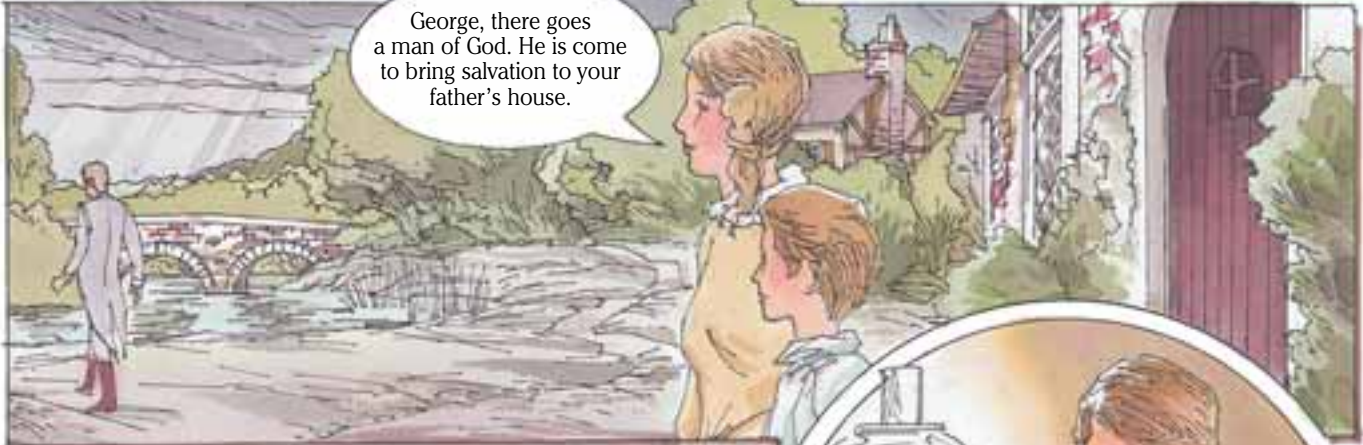


# Missionary to His Family

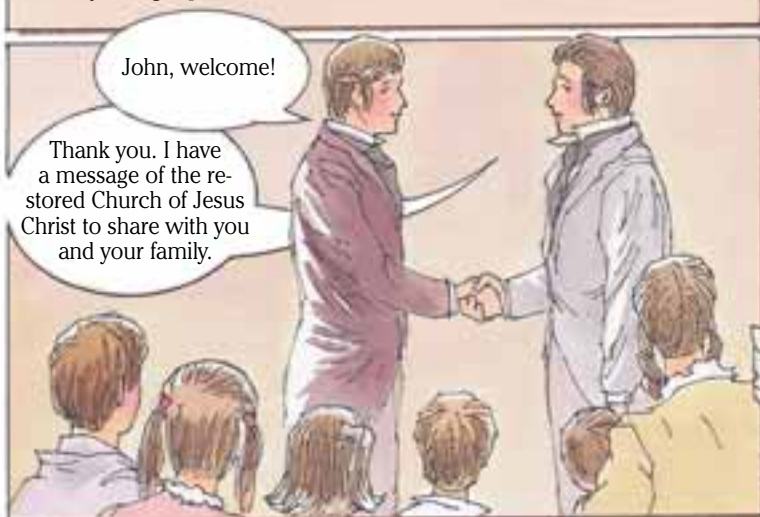
Elder John Taylor was called as a missionary to England. He left his family in Iowa and traveled with Elder Wilford Woodruff.



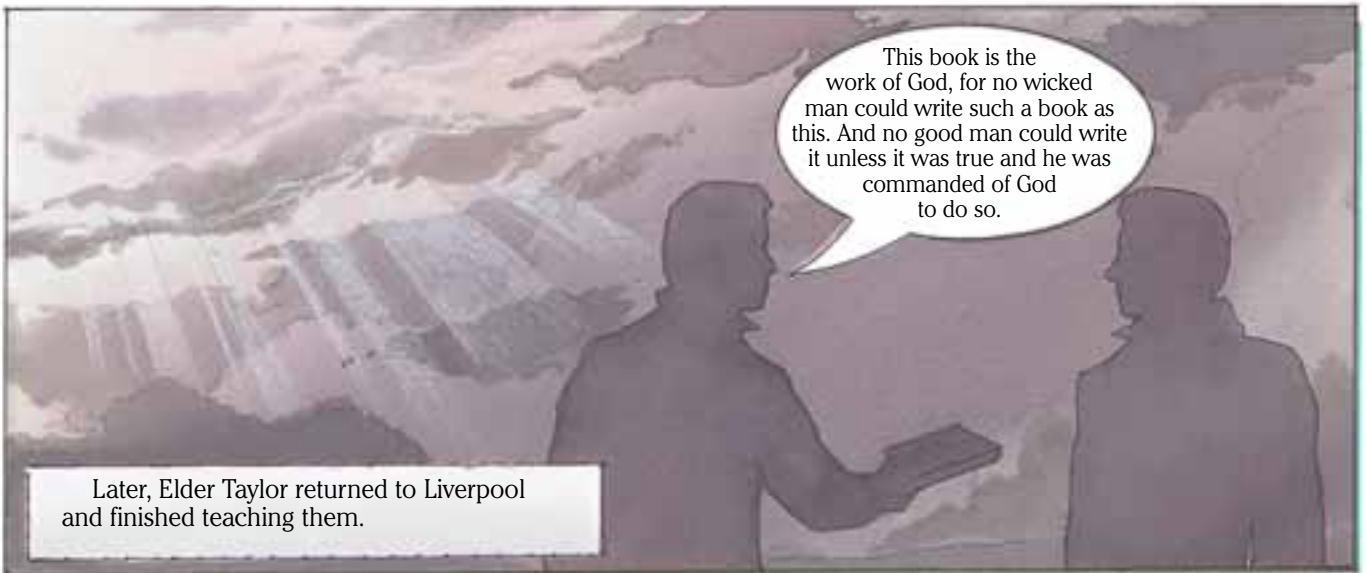
When he and the other missionaries arrived in England, Elder Taylor went to the home of his wife's brother, George Cannon, in Liverpool. George's wife, Ann, answered the door.



Elder Taylor returned to their home and taught the entire family the gospel.

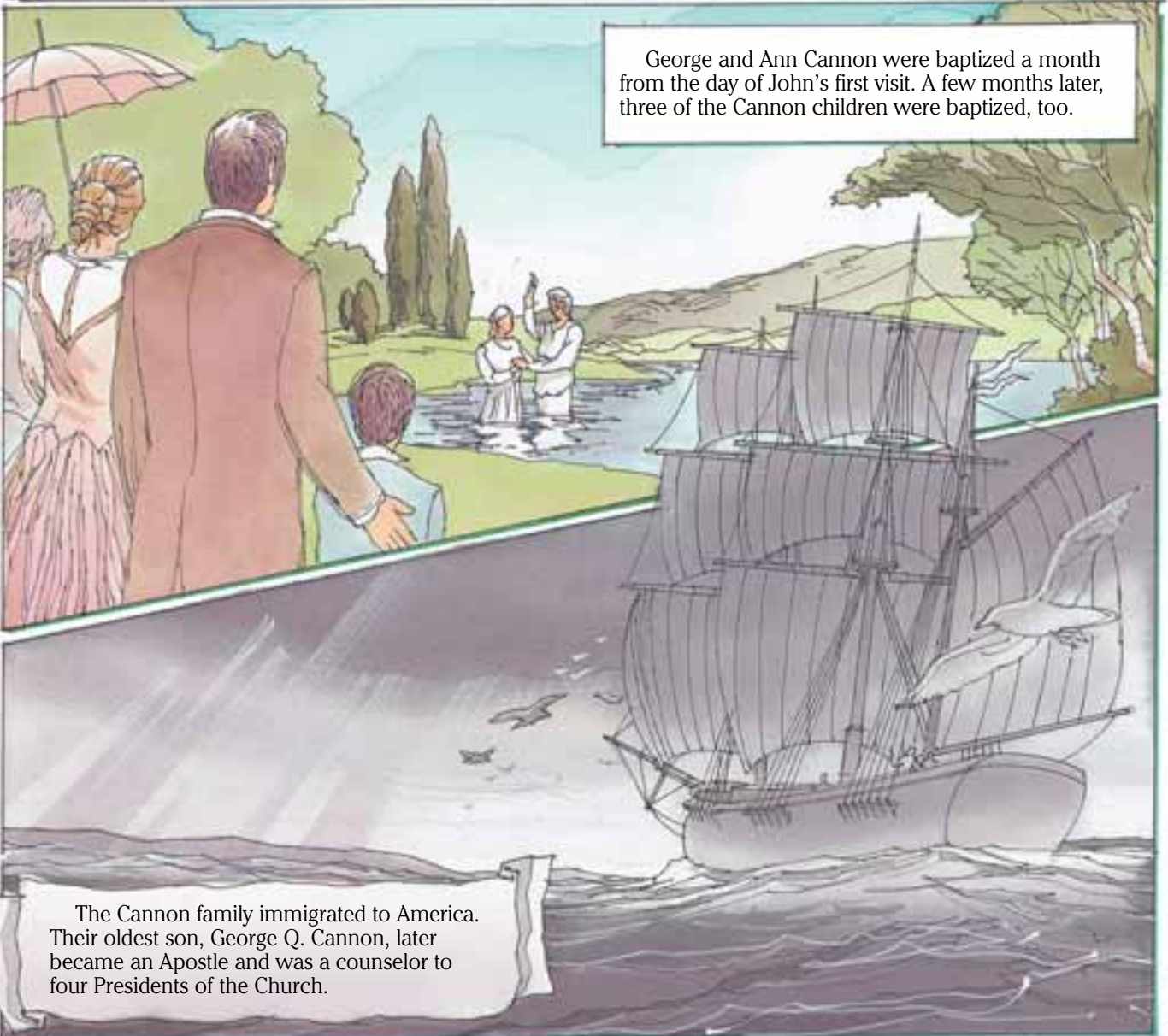


Elder Taylor soon had to leave for a different city, but the Cannon family continued to study the gospel. George could not put the Book of Mormon down.



This book is the work of God, for no wicked man could write such a book as this. And no good man could write it unless it was true and he was commanded of God to do so.

Later, Elder Taylor returned to Liverpool and finished teaching them.



George and Ann Cannon were baptized a month from the day of John's first visit. A few months later, three of the Cannon children were baptized, too.

The Cannon family immigrated to America. Their oldest son, George Q. Cannon, later became an Apostle and was a counselor to four Presidents of the Church.



## Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

### Helping Mom

BY VINNY KEN MURAMATSU DE OLIVEIRA

**W**hen I was five, my mother had a problem with her back and she could not stand up for very long. One afternoon after lunch she and my two-year-old sister, Dafne, fell asleep.

I was playing a video game—my favorite thing to do. When I was playing the best part of the game, I thought about my mom. She always has to keep the house clean. Now her back was hurting her a lot. I thought I should help her and surprise her when she woke up.

I stopped playing my game. I went into the kitchen, stood on a chair, and started to wash the dishes. There were lots of dishes, but I thought Mom could sleep some more if I did this for her.

I was still washing dishes when I felt a hand on my shoulder. It was Mom, asking what I was doing. I told her I was helping her back get better, and she started to cry. Then she said she was very happy because I wanted to help her. She hugged me and said that Jesus was happy about what I was doing.

I learned in Primary that we should be like Jesus. I never understood very well what I should do to be like Him. But because I helped Mom, I learned that the Holy Ghost helped me get the idea to help my mother when she needed it. The Holy Ghost helped me be like Jesus. ●

*Vinny Ken Muramatsu de Oliveira, age 9, is a member of the Kariya Ward, Okazaki Japan Stake.*



## Touching Hearts

BY CAROLYN CAMPBELL

**F**our-year-old Jayde Cluff's sixty-cent donation to help victims of the 11 September 2002 terrorist attack touched hearts across the nation and inspired others to donate, too.

When Jayde, who was living in Utah, saw a news broadcast of the attack, she was very sad. Three days later, while walking to preschool, she gave her mother a handful of dimes and said, "Mommy, this can help the people who were hurt in those towers." Her mother knew that Jayde had been saving her ten-cents-a-week allowance for a long time. "That's the money you've been saving for your doll," she reminded Jayde. "Send that money to New York," Jayde said.

So the next day, Jayde and Mommy taped the six dimes to a letter to the New York City mayor, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Mommy wrote, "I know this contribution is only pennies, but we are a family of little means, and this is my daughter's greatest treasure. Please send it where it can help someone."

Word of Jayde's sacrifice reached the manufacturer of the doll she wanted, and they sent her 17 dolls and clothing and other things for them in a box taller than she was. Moments after opening the box, Jayde drew out a particular doll and told her mother, "This is the doll, Mommy. This is the one I want to give to the little girl who lost her daddy," referring to a firefighter's little girl whom Jayde had seen on television. Jayde's parents were able to locate the girl and send her the doll so that it arrived on her birthday.

A hotel worker heard about what Jayde was doing, and his heart was touched. He sent her another doll. A New York police officer sent her some police badges and another doll. More dolls came from other people



*Jayde Cluff, age 4, is now living in the Koiwa Ward, Tokyo Japan East Stake.*

whose hearts were touched. Altogether, she received 46 dolls and other toys and gifts!

Jayde gave all of the things to grieving families and to other needy children. Mommy talked to the families to learn which doll would be best for each child. If there was a boy in the family, a different toy was sent for him. Children who lived as far away as Washington and Arizona received dolls from Jayde. Some went to the local Toys for Tots organization.

And Jayde's effort to be like Jesus Christ inspired her sisters, too. They have raised money by doing chores. Jayde's sixty-cent donation came from her heart—and touched the hearts of many people all across the nation. ●

# Heavenly Father's Plan

*For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man*  
(Moses 1:39).

Long before we were born, we attended a council in heaven and learned of Heavenly Father's plan. An important part of His plan was for the earth to be created, to which we could come and have physical bodies. We could not become like Him if we didn't.

Heavenly Father also placed a veil (something that hides or covers) across our minds so that we couldn't remember our pre-earth life. That way, we could learn to have faith in Him and Jesus Christ, to control our minds and our bodies, and to obey the commandments and choose the right.

Knowing that we would sin and make mistakes, Heavenly Father asked for a savior—someone to atone for us. Jesus Christ said that He would be our Savior, and He was chosen. He followed Heavenly Father's plan: He created the earth for us. He organized His church. He taught us through the prophets, apostles, other Church leaders and teachers, and through His own words and example. He suffered in Gethsemane and on the cross for our sins. Then He overcame death so that we can overcome death, too.

After we die, He will judge us according to our faith in Him and how we lived on earth. He taught about this in a story called the parable of the sheep and the goats:

"When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

"And before him shall be gathered all nations [people]: and he shall separate them one from another. . . :

"And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

"Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

"When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

"Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Then the King told those on His left hand—those who did not try to be like the Savior and choose the right—that they would not be able to live again with Him and Heavenly Father. (See Matthew 25:31–46.)

Jesus Christ will finish Heavenly Father's wonderful plan. The Savior said to the righteous:

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2–3.)

















# Sheep and Goats Matching Game

BY KIMBERLY WEBB

**Instructions:** Remove this page from the magazine, mount it on heavy paper, and cut out the cards. On a table or the floor, spread out the cards facedown. A player takes a turn by turning two cards over. If the cards don't match, the cards are turned back over and it's the next player's turn. Pictures of sheep match with things that a person would do to follow the Savior. Pictures of goats match with things that would take one away from Him. If the two cards match, the player keeps them. His/her turn continues until he/she does not get another match. When all the cards are gone, the player with the greatest number of pairs wins.



	Visit someone who is sick or lonely.		Read the scriptures.
Disobey the Word of Wisdom.		Steal.	
	Make fun of people.		Quarrel.
Obey parents.		Cheat.	
	Watch bad movies.		Keep the Sabbath Day holy.
Pray.		Pay tithing.	



# My Greatest Hero

BY PENNIE TERRY

I'd like to be a warrior like the Nephites brave and true,  
Putting all my trust in God, knowing what to do.

I'd like to be a king someday, a leader among men—  
One who loves to preach of God like King Benjamin.

I'd like to be a captain of an army. You ask why?  
There weren't many as valiant as Captain Moroni.


A prophet, too, I'd like to be, defending truth and right,  
Obeying God's commandments like Samuel the Lamanite.

A hero like my father I'd someday like to be.  
I'd also like to share the gospel as a missionary.

I'd like to be a lot of things—I know that sounds quite odd.  
But as for now, I think I'll stay a valiant child of God.

For Jesus is my greatest hero, and I can hear Him say,  
"My child, you can be all these things by loving Me each day."





## Guide to the Friend

*The Guide to the Friend can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned in the Family Home Evening Ideas. The Primary theme for June is "I know God's plan."*



# Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Read together President Thomas S. Monson's message "Love One Another" (pages 2–3).

Have family members role-play some situations in which it is necessary to forgive someone else. Discuss how a reluctance to forgive others can hurt us.

2. In Elder Richard G. Scott's article "Heavenly Father's Plan" (page 7), he teaches us that we can fulfill the purposes of our lives by working towards having an "ideal family." What can we do to help create an ideal family? Read together the proclamation on the family for ideas. Then set a goal as a family to work on one thing that will help you reach this ideal.

3. Sister Coleen K. Menlove, Primary general president, talks about how we can "show we know" how to follow the Savior (pages 16–18).

Keeping the commandments is an important way of showing that we love and follow the Savior. What are some things we can do every day to "show we know"? Set a goal to practice one of these things every day this week, and have family members report on their progress during the next family home evening.

4. Read one or both of the personal experiences in Trying to Be Like Jesus (pages 44–45). Following the example of the children in the stories, think of someone who needs your help and consider how you can best help them. As a family, plan an act of service that you can do together, and challenge family members to help others throughout the week.

5. Share the story "Mary's Baptism in the Cimarron River" (pages 4–6) with your family. Ask family members who have been baptized what they remember about the experience. Who baptized and confirmed them? How did they feel at the time? For family members who have not yet been baptized, ask them to imagine how they will feel when it happens. Do the puzzle "God's Plan" on page 23 to learn an important message about baptism.

See page 7.



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(f) = Funstuff  
(v) = verse

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## Manuscript Submissions

The *Friend* welcomes unsolicited manuscripts but is not responsible for them. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Send manuscripts to *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. Send e-mail to [cur-editorial-friend@ldschurch.org](mailto:cur-editorial-friend@ldschurch.org).

Send children's submissions to *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, in care of the appropriate department—Our Creative Friends, Friends in the News, Childviews, Trying to Be Like Jesus.



.....

*We love daddy, yes sirree;  
He loves us, and so you see,  
We are a happy family  
(Children's Songbook, 198).*