

# the Friend

MARCH • 2006



# Friends by Mail



## Love Note

I love your magazine.

Madison H., age 10  
Texas



## A Second Family

Last summer my family became part of a new ward because of boundary changes. Then my grandma died. It was very hard for my family to lose her. The night she died, our new bishop came to our house. Also we got a couple of phone calls from people expressing sympathy. We had to leave the next day and were gone for a week. When we got home we had nine phone messages. It didn't matter what people gave us. Bread, cookies, a phone call, and visits all made the family feel better. I lost someone close to me, but I also found out that a ward can be a second family.

Katelynn W., age 11  
Colorado



## Baptism Decision

One Saturday my family went to a store. We noticed a man there who looked familiar. It was President Thomas S. Monson. When he saw us, he shook my hand and asked me how old I was. When I told him I was eight years old, he asked me if I had been baptized yet. I was so happy that I had made the decision to be baptized and could tell him, "Yes, I have." He told me to make sure I planned for a mission later. I am thankful I got to shake President Monson's hand and talk to him. I am thankful that I got baptized. I am planning to go on a mission when I am 19.

Kyle M., age 8  
Utah



## Feeling the Holy Ghost

My Aunt Shannon needed to get a lung transplant because she has cystic fibrosis. I had been praying for her morning and night. One night right after I said my prayers, I had a strong feeling that she would get the transplant. The next morning my mom told me that Aunt Shannon had been called by the doctors. They said, "We have a pair of lungs for you." I know that my feeling came from the Holy Ghost.

Chase C., age 11  
Arizona



Please send us a letter sharing your feelings about the *Friend* magazine, a spiritual experience, your testimony, or whatever else is on your mind. Please include a photo of yourself and your name, age, and address. **A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish your photo must be included.** If an adult helps with your submission, credit should also be given to him or her. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose writings are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned. Send it to Friends by Mail, *Friend Magazine*, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America.

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Cover photo by Craig Dimond

the **friend**

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



See the Guide to  
the *Friend* (inside back  
cover) for family home  
evening ideas.

**HIDDEN CTR RING**

As you look for the  
CTR ring hidden in  
this issue, think of  
how you can follow  
the prophet.







# Coming Out of Darkness

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency



**President Faust teaches that faith brings us out of darkness.**

**M**y dear young friends, some of you may wonder what the future holds for you. Not only may some of you be unsure about where you are going, you may also be questioning your real worth. Let me assure you, I believe with all my heart that you are a chosen generation.

Micah said, “When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me” (Micah 7:8). We receive light from the Lord. This can happen to us when we study the scriptures, attend sacrament meeting, pay our tithing, sing the hymns, and pray.

Part of our coming into the light depends upon the focus of our faith. Our faith is not a bundle of beliefs and practices that are too heavy to bear. Those who have come out of the darkness find that their faith carries them. Faith is not heavy; faith lifts and gives us wings to carry us over hard places. As Isaiah promised, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they

shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Coming out of the darkness into the light frees us from the dark side of our souls, which comes from fear, discouragement, and sin. When we come out of the darkness, the bright sunshine of the Savior comes bursting through.

The most sure way to come out of darkness and into the light is through communication with our Heavenly Father by the process known as divine revelation. If we do not follow the living prophet, whoever he may be, we are in danger of dying spiritually.

I testify to you young people that the gospel contains the answers to life’s challenges and problems. It is the sure way to happiness and the fulfillment of the Savior’s promise, which is “peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come” (D&C 59:23). ●

*From a Church Educational System fireside address given on September 8, 2002.*





BY SHEILA KINDRED  
(Based on a true story)

*We believe in . . . prophets* (Articles of Faith 1:6).

**W**e are going to sing in church next week,” Sister Hardy, the Primary chorister, announced. There were murmurs of excitement and surprise among the Primary children.

I raised my hand. “Why are we singing next Sunday?” I asked. “It’s not Mother’s Day or Father’s Day. Easter was a long time ago, and it’s not Christmas yet. It’s only November.”

Sister Hardy smiled. “I know it’s not a special occasion, Eliza, but I feel we should do this.” She turned back to the group.

“We’ll be singing one of your favorite songs: ‘Latter-day Prophets.’”\*

That *was* one of our favorite songs. Enthusiastically we practiced the song, holding up pictures of each prophet as we sang his name:

*Joseph Smith; then Brigham Young;  
John Taylor came third, we know,  
Then Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow;  
Joseph F. Smith, remember the F,  
Heber J. Grant and George Albert Smith;  
David O. McKay was followed by  
Joseph Fielding Smith,  
A mighty man was Harold B. Lee,  
And now we’ve named past prophets, you see.  
Our prophet today is loved by all;  
He’s Spencer W. Kimball.*

So many prophets! I counted the pictures. Ten, eleven, twelve in all! I knew that Heber J. Grant called my grandpa on his mission to New Zealand. I knew my

mother met David O. McKay when she was a little girl. I knew that Joseph Fielding Smith called my dad on his mission to Hong Kong, but it was President Kimball that I knew best.

President Kimball had been the prophet my whole life. I loved to hear his gravelly but kind voice when he spoke in conference, and I tried to do what he taught. My family

had a big garden because President Kimball told us we should plant one. I was trying to keep a journal and memorize scriptures because that’s what President Kimball had done since he

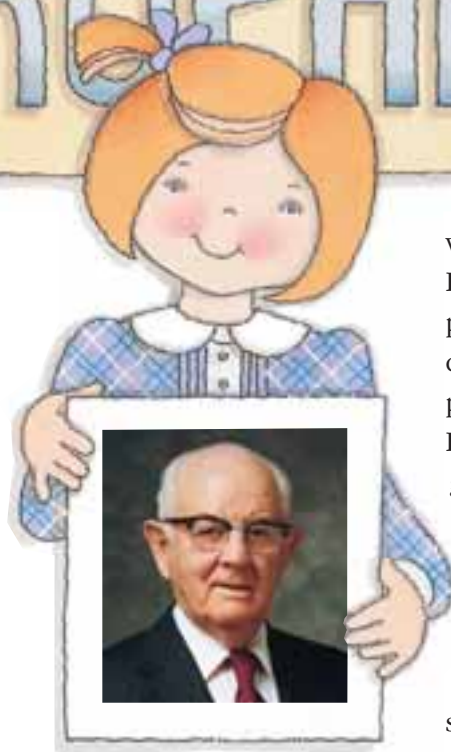
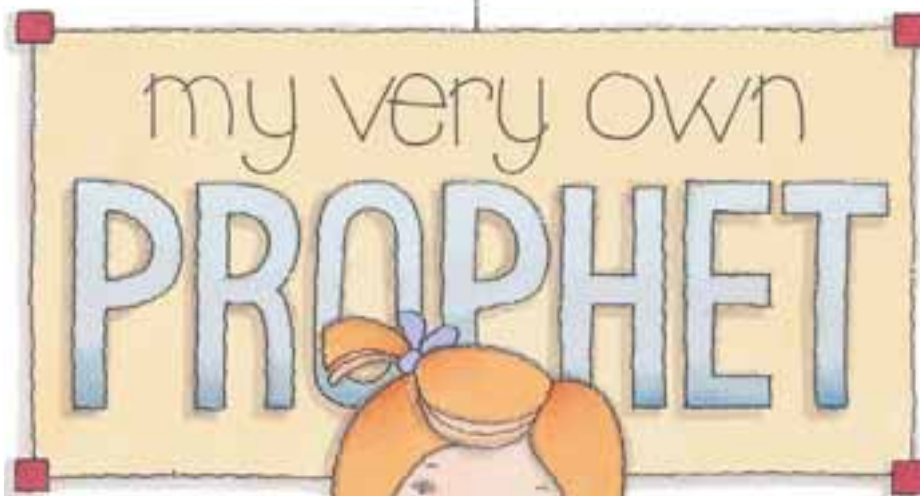
was a little boy. Because President Kimball received the revelation on priesthood, my good friend, Abdul, could be sealed to his family in the temple. I really did love President Kimball. He was my very own prophet, and I was glad my Primary could sing about him in church.

But during that week, something terrible happened. On Wednesday my mom came into my room with tears in her eyes. “I have some sad news, Eliza. President Kimball died last night.”

Suddenly there were tears in my own eyes. I felt lost. My very own prophet gone? Who would lead us now?

Mother knelt by my bed. “Let’s pray and thank Heavenly Father that we were guided by such a wonderful prophet for so long. And let’s ask Him to bless and comfort sweet Sister Kimball.”

We prayed, then we hugged each other and cried







a little. It made me feel better.

“I’ll miss him,” Mom said.

“Me too,” I said. Then I remembered something.

“Mom, we’re singing ‘Latter-day Prophets’ in church this Sunday. Do you think we’ll still do it? Or do you think Sister Hardy will pick another song for us to sing?”

Mother shook her head. “I think Sister Hardy was inspired to pick this song. It will be a special tribute to President Kimball. I’m sure you’ll sing it very well.”

My mother was right. We did sing it on Sunday, just

as it had been written. And even though President Kimball was no longer “our prophet today,” he was still “loved by all.”

As I sang I felt comforted. I knew that Heavenly Father would never leave us without a prophet to guide us and show us the way. Just as eleven prophets had come before President Kimball, many others would follow after him. Each prophet would be called of God, and each prophet would be loved by all—just like my very own prophet, Spencer W. Kimball. ●

*\*Children’s Songbook, 134.*



The word of God is like a seed  
I plant within my heart.  
It will grow and fill my soul  
If I will do my part.

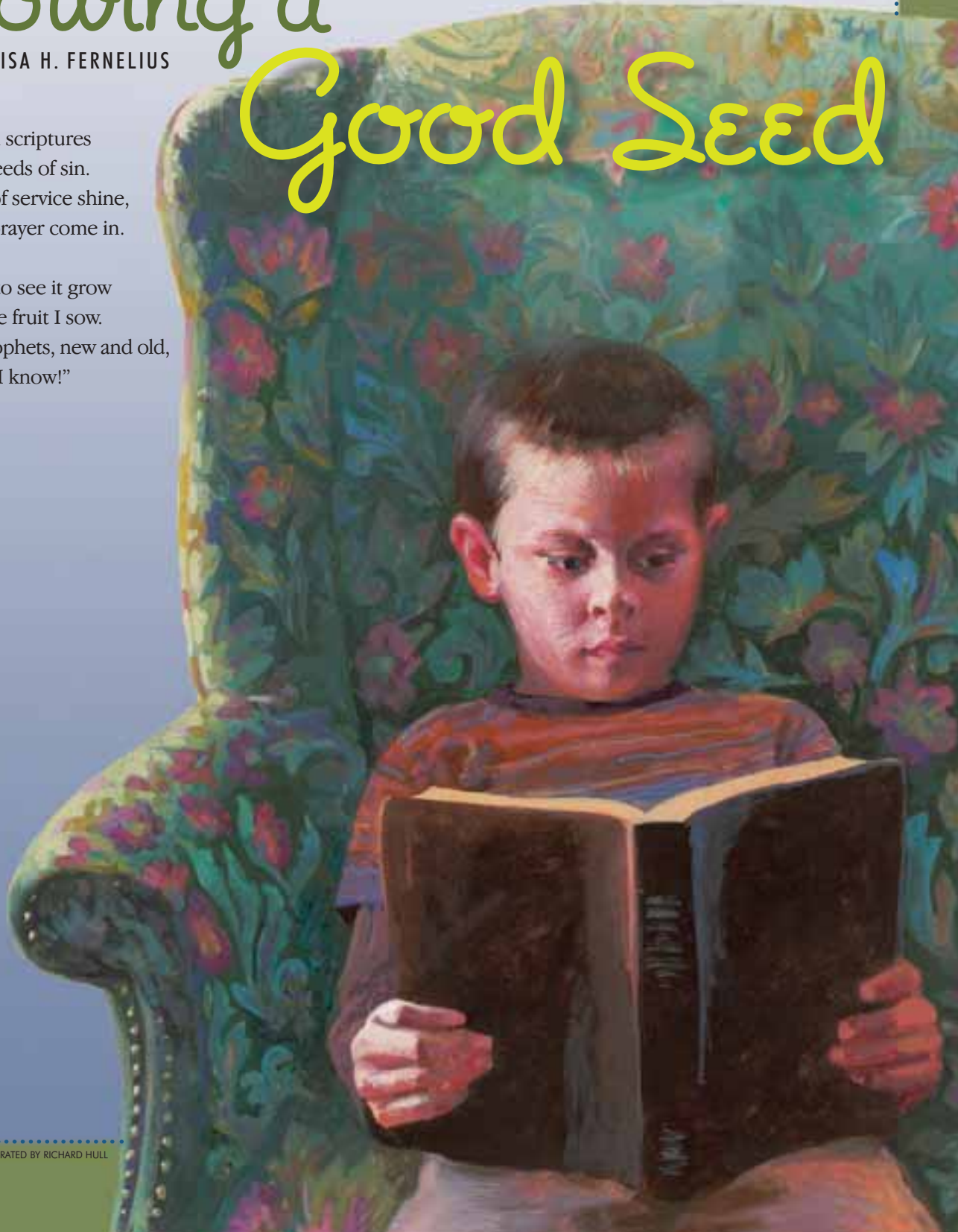
# Growing a

BY LISA H. FERNELIUS

# Good Seed

I'll water it with scriptures  
And pull the weeds of sin.  
I'll let the sun of service shine,  
The breath of prayer come in.

I'll soon begin to see it grow  
And I'll taste the fruit I sow.  
And like the prophets, new and old,  
I, too, will say "I know!"







# 15 Prophets

BY JOANY ERICKSON

There have been 15 prophets in the latter days. Can you put them all in order by matching the first names next to the pictures with the correct middle and last names in the middle column? (Answers on page 21.)



1. Joseph



2. Brigham



3. John



4. Wilford



5. Lorenzo



6. Joseph



7. Heber



8. George

a. B. Lee

b. W. Hunter

c. Woodruff

d. Fielding Smith

e. O. McKay

f. J. Grant

g. Taylor

h. Smith, Jr.

i. Snow

j. Taft Benson

k. B. Hinckley

l. Albert Smith

m. F. Smith

n. Young

o. W. Kimball

9. David



10. Joseph



11. Harold



12. Spencer



13. Ezra



14. Howard



15. Gordon



# The Savior's Love

*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:12).*

From an interview with Sister Cheryl C. Lant, Primary General President; by Kimberly Webb, Church Magazines

One of my favorite Primary songs is “I Feel My Savior’s Love” (*Children’s Songbook*, 74–75). The first line says, “I feel my Savior’s love in all the world around me.” As I visit Primary children all around the world, I see that love shining from their beautiful faces.

I especially feel the Savior’s love as I read the scriptures. They teach us the things Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ want us to know and do, and they help us gain a testimony.

I gained my own testimony when I was about 12 or 13. I knew I needed to find out for myself if the Church was true. I started thinking about how Joseph Smith had been close to my age when he prayed in the grove. I had just been reading in the Book of Mormon where Moroni tells us to pray to receive a witness of the truth (see Moroni 10:3–5), so I did. I really prayed. And I felt the witness that Moroni promises each of us. From then on I knew I had my own testimony.

One of my favorite scriptures is John 13:34: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I





have loved you, that ye also love one another.” We show our love by being kind.

When I was young, I always wanted everyone to feel included. If children on the playground were being picked on, I wanted to be their friend. I remember befriending one girl other children were mean to. Years later, after I was married, she was my neighbor. When I saw her, we happily greeted one another. I thought, “Look at her now. She’s a wonderful mother who serves well and works hard to teach her children.” I am so glad that when I was little I was nice to her. Then when I saw her again, I didn’t have any regrets. We were still friends.

We should always think about how others feel. We should be kind to everyone, as Jesus was. He loves all of us. It doesn’t matter how we look—if our clothes are different, if our hair is different, if there is something different about the way we walk or the way we do things. It doesn’t matter if we come from another country or speak a different language. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love every single one of us. They love me and They love you.

When we read the scriptures and try to follow them, we are “anchoring” our lives to the scriptures. When we are “anchored” in the scriptures, we show our love to the Savior, and He will bless us.

*He knows I will follow him,  
Give all my life to him.  
I feel my Savior’s love,  
The love he freely gives me.  
(Children’s Songbook, 74–75)*

I know Jesus Christ lives. He loves me. This is His true Church. The scriptures are true. ●

**Sister Lant with her husband, John**



**At age three**





# His Burden Was

BY SANDRA DAWN BRIMHALL

(Based on a true story)

*The Lord did strengthen them that they could bear up their burdens with ease (Mosiah 24:15).*

When Horst Scharffs was 14 years old, his mother gave him money for a railroad ticket and sent him into the country to try to buy food. The Scharffs lived in Hamburg, Germany, during World War I, and food was scarce and had to be rationed. Townspeople often tried to purchase food from farmers who sometimes had a little extra.

After a two-hour train ride, Horst arrived at a village where he began walking door-to-door. Though he visited more than 40 houses, no one would sell him anything.

Horst was determined not to return home empty-handed, so he decided to walk 2.8 miles (4.5 km) to the next village. After walking about 45 minutes and stopping at all of the houses along the way, he met a farmer who sold him 100 pounds (45 kg) of potatoes. Horst couldn't believe his luck! The most he had hoped for was a pound of butter or a few pounds of bacon.

The farmer lifted the sack of potatoes across Horst's shoulders, and Horst started back the way he had come. It wasn't long before he realized the difficulty of his task. The potatoes, which weighed at least as much as



"Our faith is acquired through prayer with a sincere desire to draw close to God and trust in Him to bear our burdens."

**Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Finding Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," Ensign, Nov. 2004, 73.**



# Made Light

he did, were almost too great a burden for an undernourished boy. If he dropped the load onto the roadside to rest, he might not be able to lift it back onto his shoulders.

As Horst wrestled with this problem, he suddenly thought of his mother, who had taught him from the scriptures about the power of prayer. He remembered a story in the Book of Mormon about the people of Alma in the land of Helam. These Nephites, who were in bondage to the Lamanites, asked the Lord to help them bear their burdens. The Lord answered their prayers by making their burdens seem light. It occurred to Horst that the Lord might also lighten the weight of *his* burden.

Horst began to pray. Instantly, he felt as if the load had been taken off his shoulders. He was able to walk with ease all the way to the train station without resting.

At the station, another miracle occurred. Village police had the authority to take away any food they found on passengers. Many people tried to hide their food, but there was no way Horst could hide 100 pounds of potatoes. To his surprise, nothing was said when he boarded the train, and he was allowed to take the potatoes home to his mother.

Those potatoes not only fed Horst's family during a difficult time, but they also fed his spirit—he developed an unshakable testimony that the Lord hears and answers prayers. ●







FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

# Becoming a Bible Scholar



When Wilford was 17 years old, his father arranged for him to continue going to school.

But Father, I can't afford to attend school in West Hartford!

If you do chores for my friend, he will pay your room and board.

Wilford went to school but became terribly homesick.

I miss my family, and I want to return home!

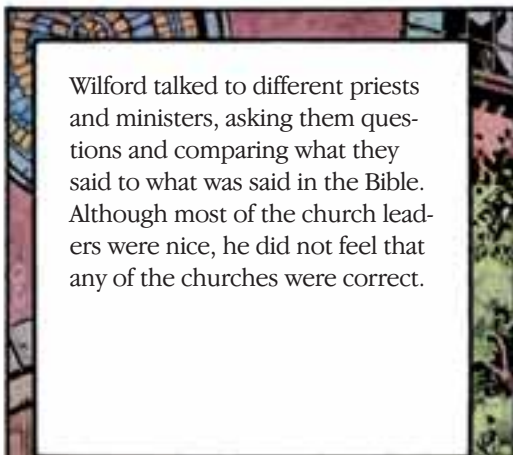
In order to avoid feeling homesick, Wilford decided that he needed to stay busy by focusing more on his studies. He grew to love history and started reading every history book he could get his hands on.





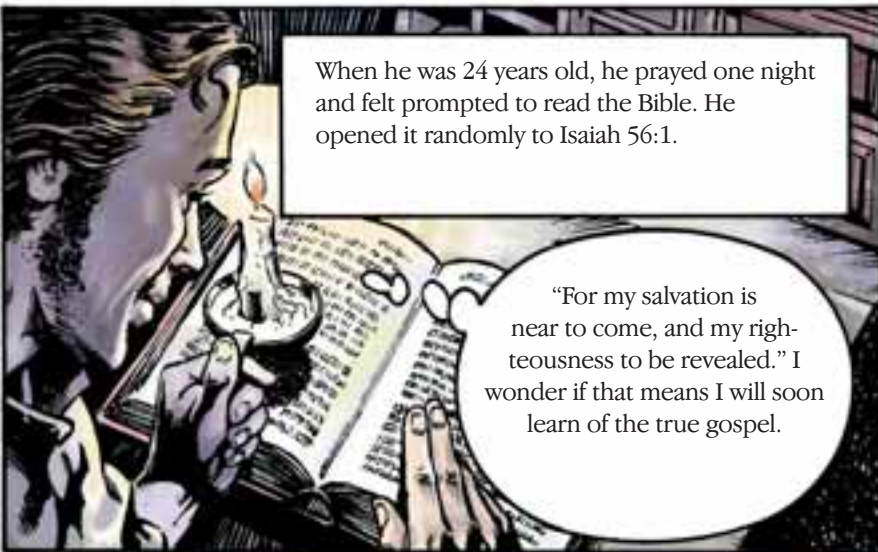
One day Wilford picked up the Bible and started to read it. Although he began reading it to learn about Christian history, he gained a testimony that the Bible was the word of God.

I resolve to diligently seek the Lord, follow the Holy Spirit, and do the will of God as far as I can learn it!



Wilford talked to different priests and ministers, asking them questions and comparing what they said to what was said in the Bible. Although most of the church leaders were nice, he did not feel that any of the churches were correct.

Reverend, why are some people baptized as infants? Jesus and His disciples were baptized after believing in the gospel.



When he was 24 years old, he prayed one night and felt prompted to read the Bible. He opened it randomly to Isaiah 56:1.

“For my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed.” I wonder if that means I will soon learn of the true gospel.

Within two years of this inspiration, Wilford had moved to New York, learned about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and been baptized. The Lord had answered his prayers!



Adapted from Leonard J. Arrington, ed., *The Presidents of the Church* (1986), 118–25.





Making Friends

# Looking Ahead

ISAAC GOMEZ OF PROVO, UTAH

BY MELVIN LEAVITT  
Church Magazines

Isaac Gomez is seven years old, but he plays chess like someone much older. He can do this because he has learned to look ahead. It has been calculated that the 32 chess pieces on the board's 64 squares can create a novemtrigintillion different combinations through moves and exchanges—that's the number 1 with 120 zeros after it! Isaac must continually peer as

far as he can into that maze of possibilities in order to choose the right move. He has become a rather "far-sighted" boy.

When Isaac was five years old, his grandfather, who was visiting from Mexico, gave him a chess set and taught him the rules of the game. Isaac caught on so quickly that he was soon competing in tournaments.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE AUTHOR

At first he wasn't taken seriously. "We went to tournaments, and they thought he was too small," his mother, Astrid, remembers. "No one wanted to play with him." Now tournament organizers from several states know him and welcome him.

Isaac is competitive and doesn't like to lose, but when he prays before each tournament, he does not pray to win. He simply asks for help to do his best. So far, his best has been very good. He has earned a shelf of trophies and defeated much older opponents.

Chess is a demanding game, and Isaac studies it intensely. But it isn't his only interest. He likes soccer and plays on a team. He also enjoys movies, swimming, basketball, ice skating, bike riding, trips to nearby canyons and mountains, motorcycle rides with his dad, and playing with friends.

Sometimes in the summer the family goes to a park near the Provo Utah Temple and slides down a grassy hill on blocks of ice. Isaac has a healthy appetite too, especially for his mother's *picada*, a traditional Mexican food from the Vera Cruz region where she grew up. It is a homemade tortilla with cheese and salsa on top.

Isaac also enjoys school. He is a good student and has earned honors for doing well in his classes. Like many chess players, he likes math, but he likes physical education and

recess just as much. At home, he does his share of chores, including washing dishes, taking out the garbage, and cleaning the room he and his brothers share. And, of course, he's always ready for a game of chess.

Although Isaac plays to win on the chessboard, he is kind and caring elsewhere. "He's a nice guy," his father, Jorge, says. "He's good to his younger brothers, Arath and Brandon. He helps with anything they need. He also teaches chess to anyone in our ward who wants to learn."

As Isaac approaches his eighth birthday, he is preparing for baptism even more seriously than he prepares for tournaments. Brother and Sister Gomez

*Whether winning trophies in chess tournaments, doing chores with his brother Brandon, or savoring his mom's picada, Isaac always feels the support of a close and loving family.*







*Isaac is a well-balanced boy who studies hard, likes playing with his family, and enjoys having the missionaries over for dinner.*



don't want Isaac to be baptized just because his friends are—they want to be sure he understands the commitment he is going to make. Isaac is reading the Book of Mormon and praying to know the truth. He has a good feeling about the gospel.



He has a great desire to live it too, and sets a good example. “We were at a checkout stand in a grocery store,” his mother recalls. “I opened a bag of potato chips for the children, but Isaac said, ‘You shouldn’t open it yet. First you pay, and then you eat.’ He wouldn’t take any. After the clerk passed the bag through the checkout stand, he took a chip. So I learned a lesson that day.”

Isaac’s influence for good doesn’t end with his family. His chess skills and study habits have been featured in TV reports and newspaper articles. His mother says, “Parents have come to us to say that their children read an article or saw a TV report about Isaac and were motivated to study harder.” Some have taken up chess themselves.

“Chess helps them to understand mathematics and

read better,” Sister Gomez explains. “It also keeps them busy and helps them stay out of trouble.”

Brother and Sister Gomez expect great things from all their children. “There’s nothing they can’t do or be if they choose,” Brother Gomez insists. “We see them as great people who will do much good and serve their fellow men. We are always thinking of them. We try to attend their activities and we put them first in our lives.”

With such caring parents, Isaac is off to a fine start. He has already learned that a good person, like a good chess player, must always try to look ahead and choose the right. As Isaac keeps the commandments and prepares for baptism, he is learning to see farther and deeper into a bright future. ●



# GUESS WHO



**1** His parents taught him that family should always come first. In the evenings he would play games, read, or sing with his two sisters, brother, and parents.

**2** When he was 22 years old, he graduated from medical school with highest honors. He went on to become an accomplished heart surgeon.

**3** He is third in seniority in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

**4** He performed heart surgery on many civic and Church leaders, including Elder Spencer W. Kimball, who later became President of the Church.

**5** Music is an important part of his life. Growing up, he sang in choirs, performed in musicals, and played the piano. Now he often plays the organ at meetings with the other General Authorities.

**6** He participated in many activities in school, including football. Years later he operated on his former football coach.

**7** With his years of medical training, he has helped thousands of sick people. But he says, "The real power to heal is a gift from God."

**8** He traveled a lot in his medical career and would often take a family member with him on his trips.

**9** He met his wife, Dantzel, while performing in a university play. She was the lead soprano singer, and he thought she was beautiful. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1945.

**Read the clues about this member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Then find the answer on page 21.**

**The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are prophets, seers, and revelators and stand as special witnesses of Jesus Christ. They have the responsibility to testify of Him to the whole world.**

**Words of Wisdom**

*Reach and teach widely without fear. Enjoy opportunities to learn more from others. Share your testimony often, and be a good friend to all you know ("Standards of the Lord's Standard-Bearers," Ensign, Aug. 1991, 10).*





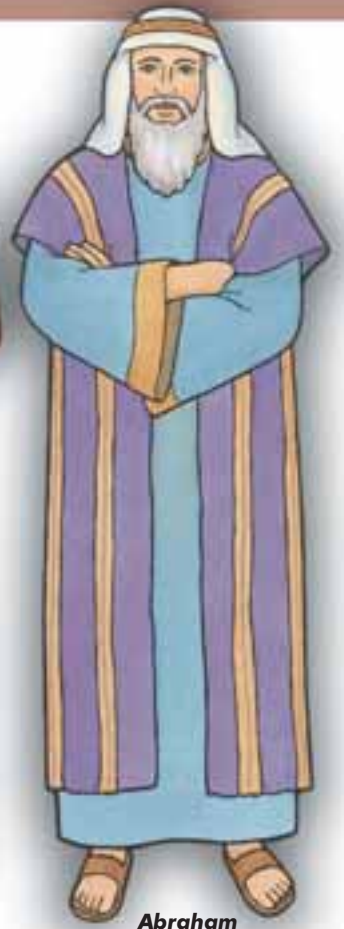
**Adam**



**Enoch**



**Noah**



**Abraham**



**Moses**



**Samuel**



**Jonah**



**Daniel**

# FOLLOW THE PROPHET



*Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets* (Amos 3:7).

BY LINDA MAGLEBY



When George Albert Smith (1870–1951) was the President of the Church, he taught Church members to donate work, food, and clothing to help feed and clothe others. After World War II left many people starving in Europe, President Smith went to the president of the United States and asked for help to send food and clothing to these people. Because members of the Church had produced food and donated clothing under a welfare program, the Church had enough to help those in need. The United States government agreed to send the food and clothing, which helped many people in Europe.

The members of the Church followed the prophet and willingly donated work, food, and clothing. When a time of terrible need came, the Church was prepared to help. Many people in Europe were blessed because members of the Church followed the prophet.

We are blessed to have a living prophet. Our prophet teaches us to dress modestly and to read, watch, and listen only to things that are pleasing to Heavenly Father. When we do these things, we are protected from many of the harmful things of the world. Our prophet teaches us to be friendly and kind to everyone. Jesus tells us that when we are kind and serve others, we are serving Him. The prophet encourages us to read the scriptures. In the scriptures we learn about Heavenly Father and Jesus. We learn that when we keep the commandments, we will be blessed. The prophet teaches us what Heavenly Father wants us to do. When we follow the prophet, Heavenly Father will bless us.

## Prophet Figures

To make prophet figures, paste page 18 onto heavy paper. Cut out the figures, and glue each to a stick. Use the figures to tell stories about each prophet or to sing “Follow the Prophet” (*Children’s Songbook*, 110–11).

**Note:** *If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.*



## Sharing Time Ideas

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

1. Invite three or four ward members to participate in a panel discussion (TNGC, pp. 175–76) about the prophets who have influenced them. Give them samples of the questions you will ask ahead of time, such as: Who is a prophet from the scriptures that inspires you? What does this prophet teach you about what the Lord wants you to do? Who were some of the latter-day prophets during your lifetime? Share an experience of listening to one of these prophets and knowing what Heavenly Father wanted you to do. Share something from this past general conference that the prophet has asked us to do. Allow time at the end of the discussion for the children to ask questions or share any personal feelings or experiences they have had in their families with following the prophet. Testify that you know that the prophet speaks for the Lord. During singing time the music leader can have the children sing verses from “Follow the Prophet” (pp. 110–11); “Book of Mormon Stories” (pp. 118–19); and “Latter-day Prophets” (p. 134).

2. Post the My Gospel Standards poster on the board. From the last general conference issue of the *Ensign* (Nov. 2005), choose four talks given by the prophet or apostles. Tell the name of the speaker, display his picture, and teach principles from those talks. Invite the children to match the principle to one of My Gospel Standards, if possible. Have the children pass a beanbag as they sing “Follow the Prophet” (pp. 110–11). Stop the music occasionally, and invite the child with the beanbag to share one thing he or she can do to live the principles taught in the conference talks. Encourage the children to listen to general conference.

3. Using simple costumes or signs, have five children represent Moses, John the Baptist, Abinadi, Joseph Smith, and President Gordon B. Hinckley. Have them read one of the following statements and ask the children to guess which prophet each is. After they correctly guess, ask, “What did the Lord teach and promise through this prophet?” Moses: “I lived during Old Testament times. The Lord told me to lead my people out of bondage. I went to Mount Sinai where the Lord spoke to me and gave the Ten Commandments. Who am I?” John the Baptist: “I was born just before Jesus Christ. I was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah and help the people prepare to receive Him. I baptized Jesus Christ. I also conferred the Aaronic Priesthood upon Joseph Smith. Who am I?” Abinadi: “I lived about 150 years before Christ was born. I prophesied to King Noah and his people that Jesus would come to earth and redeem His people by taking upon Himself our sins and being crucified. The people did not believe what I said. I suffered death by fire for my testimony. Who am I?” Joseph Smith: “I wanted to know which church I should join. I read in the scriptures that ‘if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him’ (James 1:5). I prayed and was visited by God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. They told me not to join any of the churches. Who am I?” President Gordon B. Hinckley: “With the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, I proclaimed that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and families are central to the Creator’s plan. I was also inspired by the Lord to build temples all over the world. Who am I?” You may have the Primary stand and sing songs to reinforce the teachings from these prophets each time they guess the name of one of the prophets. Testify that prophets teach truth, both long ago and now.

4. Help the children become familiar with the names and faces of our

current First Presidency and Apostles by preparing pictures of them (available in the May or November *Ensign* or at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)). Prepare one or two sentences about each leader to put on the back of his picture. (For example: **President Gordon B. Hinckley** served a mission to Great Britain and has dedicated more temples than any other Church leader. **President Thomas S. Monson** had a career in publishing before he was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles at age 36. **President James E. Faust** served a mission to Brazil. He worked as an attorney. **President Boyd K. Packer** served as president of the New England Mission. He has carved and painted lifelike birds. **Elder L. Tom Perry** served a mission to the Northern States. He worked for companies in Idaho, California, New York, and Massachusetts. **Elder Russell M. Nelson** was an internationally renowned heart surgeon. **Elder Dallin H. Oaks** was a lawyer, law professor, president of Brigham Young University, and justice of the Utah Supreme Court. **Elder M. Russell Ballard** was a businessman and served as president of the Canada Toronto Mission. **Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin** is an Eagle Scout. He played college football. **Elder Richard G. Scott** was a nuclear scientist. He presided over the Argentina North Mission. **Elder Robert D. Hales** was a jet fighter pilot. He served as president of the England London Mission. **Elder Jeffrey R. Holland** served as president of Brigham Young University and as an Area President in Chile. **Elder Henry B. Eyring** was a college professor and president of Ricks College [now BYU–Idaho] in Rexburg, Idaho. **Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf** was born in Czechoslovakia and was raised in Germany, where his family joined the Church. He was a pilot. **Elder David A. Bednar** was a college professor and president of BYU–Idaho.) Have some children hold the pictures, name the leader, and tell something about him. Play a guessing game with the pictures (TNGC, p. 169). Bear testimony that these men have been called of God to be special witnesses of Jesus Christ and hold the keys of authority to direct God’s Church. Read D&C 84:36. Encourage the children to listen to leaders in general conference. Sing the last verse of “Follow the Prophet” (pp. 110–11).

5. *Song Presentation*: “Follow the Prophet” (pp. 110–11). Compare a flashlight lighting up a darkened room to a prophet sharing light from Heavenly Father so that His people (sing the words) “don’t go astray.” Define *astray* as off course or lost. Have the children sing that phrase with you. Ask them to listen for what the prophet knows as you sing the last phrase, “follow the prophet; he knows the way.” Lead them in singing that phrase. Ask them to listen to you sing the chorus and come in on the phrases they’ve just learned; then repeat the chorus again. Sing the chorus a third time, this time passing a flashlight from child to child. When the singing stops, have the child with the flashlight represent Adam. Teach the first verse by singing one phrase at a time and asking the children to echo it back while following “Adam” as he acts out the verse. (For example, he could pantomime planting a garden.) Have the children sing the chorus and pass the flashlight again. Repeat the process with Noah, and in following weeks continue teaching all the verses.

6. *Friend* references: “The Lord Speaks to Us through Prophets,” Nov. 2004, 24–25; “You Are a Child of God,” May 2003, 2–6; “Blessed for Following the Prophet,” May 2003, 24–26; “God’s Power within You,” Jan. 2002, 2–3; “David and Goliath,” July 2002, 32–33; “What the Prophets and Apostles Teach Us,” Oct. 2002, 24–25; “Presidents of the Church Maze,” Mar. 2001, 26; “Following the Crowd,” Aug. 2004, 2–3; “Conference Squares,” Apr. 2004, 24–25; “Conference Messages,” Apr. 2003, 24–25. These references and others can be found at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.

## An Important Place

BY HILARY M. HENDRICKS

These words are hidden in the puzzle written up, down, diagonally, and horizontally. Find and circle each word to discover the outline of an important place.

**covenant**

**dead**

**eternity**

**faith**

**Jesus**

**recommend**

**sealed**

**temple**

**white**

**worthy**

G	A	M	J	C	T	B	O	H	T	E
O	S	R	O	W	T	V	L	S	P	T
I	B	Y	T	Z	E	Q	A	E	F	E
N	J	L	P	O	M	C	X	I	U	M
T	E	M	V	I	P	S	H	K	G	D
R	Y	O	A	N	L	I	Q	H	S	O
E	H	C	P	P	E	U	Q	R	E	W
M	T	R	N	T	P	D	O	Q	A	H
P	R	J	I	T	R	L	E	S	L	C
I	O	H	T	Q	O	P	T	A	E	A
J	W	O	N	V	Z	S	E	J	D	E
I	F	Y	A	B	D	E	R	C	J	S
S	A	M	N	X	F	G	N	K	E	A
C	I	W	E	K	N	O	I	P	S	W
X	T	W	V	S	R	N	T	A	U	D
Q	H	M	O	X	C	P	Y	E	S	V
P	R	E	C	O	M	M	E	N	D	O
F	E	M	K	L	U	N	P	Y	R	N

**15 Prophets:**  
 1) b, 2) n, 3) g, 4) c, 5) i, 6) m, 7) f, 8) l,  
 9) e, 10) d, 11) a, 12) o, 13) j, 14) b, 15) k.  
 Special Witness Answer: Elder Russell M. Nelson



# Our Creative Friends



Sydney S., age 7, Iowa



Madison S., age 6, Oregon



Jacob B., age 9, Colorado



Jason S., age 8, Alberta, Canada



Austin S., age 7, Utah

## Nephi's Work

A boy named Nephi was faithful and true,  
 And he believed in what his father knew.  
 One time he had to build a boat,  
 And the people wondered if it would float.  
 So he went up to a mountain one day,  
 And Jesus Christ showed him the way.  
 He made tools and a boat (he did quite fine).  
 When they saw it could float they set off to find  
 The promised land where they could try to be  
 One big happy family.

Christy D., age 10, Utah

## Heavenly Father's Creations

God created beauty, like sunshine in the trees.  
 Like glistening stars in the midnight sky,  
 I love every one of these.  
 Each of His creations have special talents;  
 A sunflower has seeds we all can eat.  
 I can be thankful for all the creations  
 That Heavenly Father created for you and me.

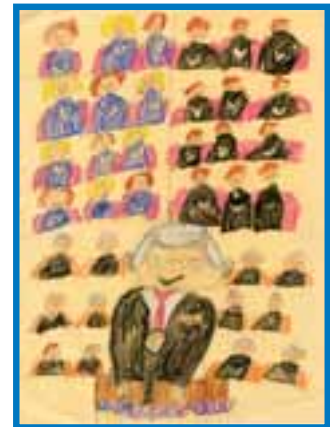
Elisabeth L., age 10, Colorado



Bonnie S., age 5, Nevada



Joseph C., age 5, Missouri



Heather L., age 10, Idaho



Asbley B., age 9, Pennsylvania



Matt L., age 8, Florida



Camryn E., age 5, Maryland



Logan W. H., age 6, Wyoming



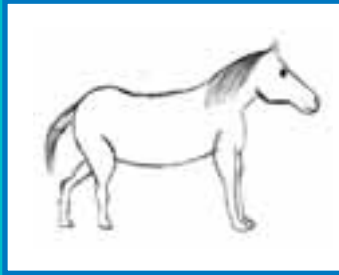
Mckenma A., age 8, Utah



Jack H., age 6, Texas



Georgia Frances P., age 6  
Northern Ireland



Corey Gene T., age 11, North Carolina



Camille B., age 11, Montana



Rebecca R., age 6, Iowa

### Dad

Good old Daddy,  
Tricky homework helper,  
Teaches and hugs me.

Christian A., age 9  
New York

### My Faith in God

My love of God  
Is very strong,  
So I may give my  
Love away.

Hunter M., age 8  
Virginia

### My Saviour

He lived for us;  
He died for us.  
He raised the dead;  
His blood was shed.  
He is our brother,  
Born from a humble mother.  
His name is Jesus,  
And He never will leave us.  
Have faith in Him  
Don't let His light dim.  
We might live with Him  
If we repent of sin.  
I'm glad that He came to earth  
To start like us in humble birth.

David Hyun C., age 11  
Ontario, Canada

Please send submissions to  
Our Creative Friends, *Friend  
Magazine*, Rm. 2430, 50 East  
North Temple Street, Salt Lake  
City, Utah 84150-3220, United  
States of America. A written  
statement signed by a parent  
or legal guardian granting  
permission to publish the child's  
submission must be included.  
If an adult helps with a child's  
submission, credit should also  
be given to him or her. For  
scheduling reasons, submissions  
selected may not appear in the  
magazine for at least a year.  
Ages shown are those at the time  
of submission. Children whose  
writings and drawings are  
submitted should be at least  
three years old. Due to the  
number of submissions received,  
they cannot all be published, nor  
can they be returned.



Tré A., age 3, Arizona



Travis H., age 9, Tennessee



Deedra J., age 11, Kansas



Jon P., age 10, Wisconsin



Lina S., age 9, New Zealand



Dallin L., age 7, California

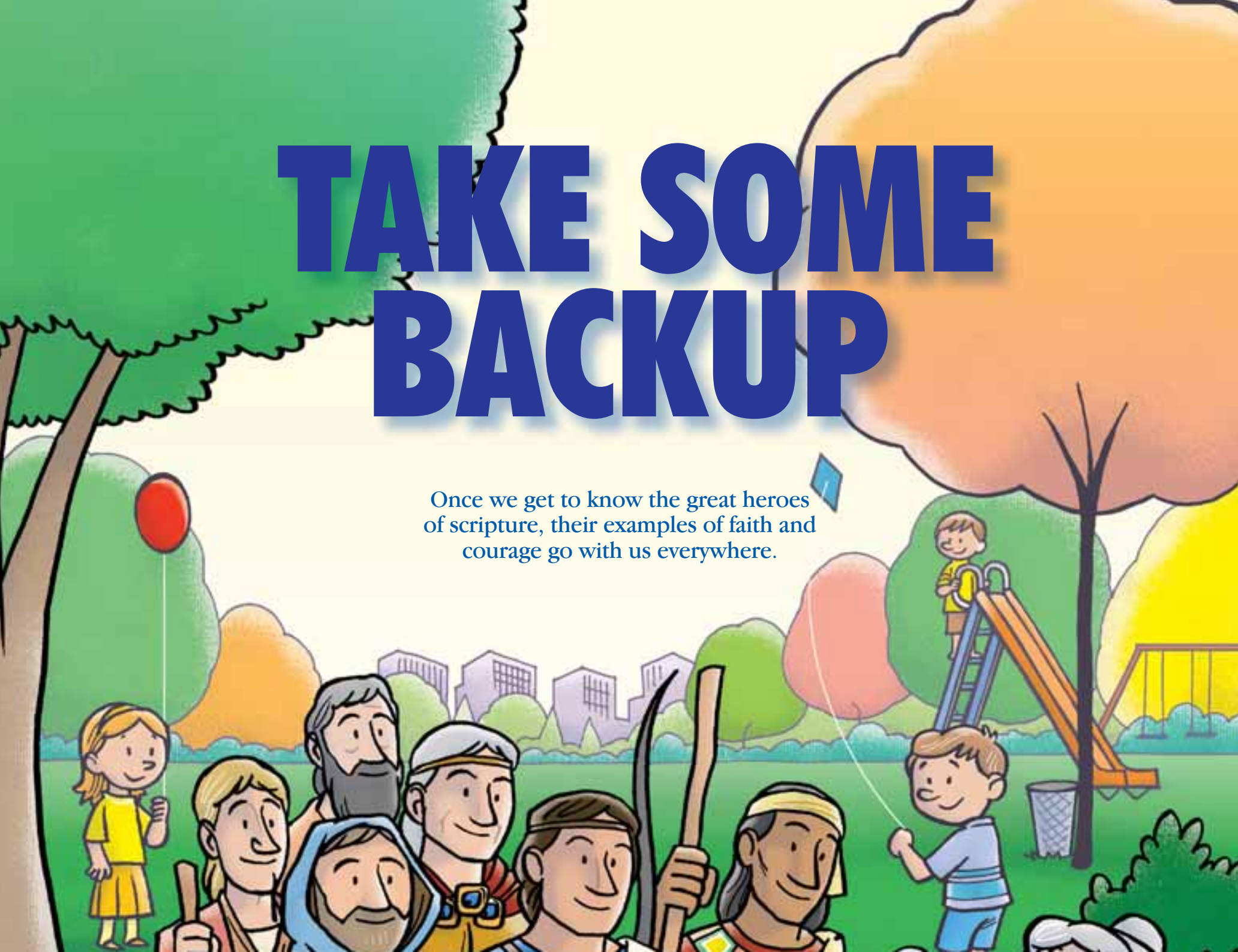


Aiden W., age 8, British  
Columbia, Canada

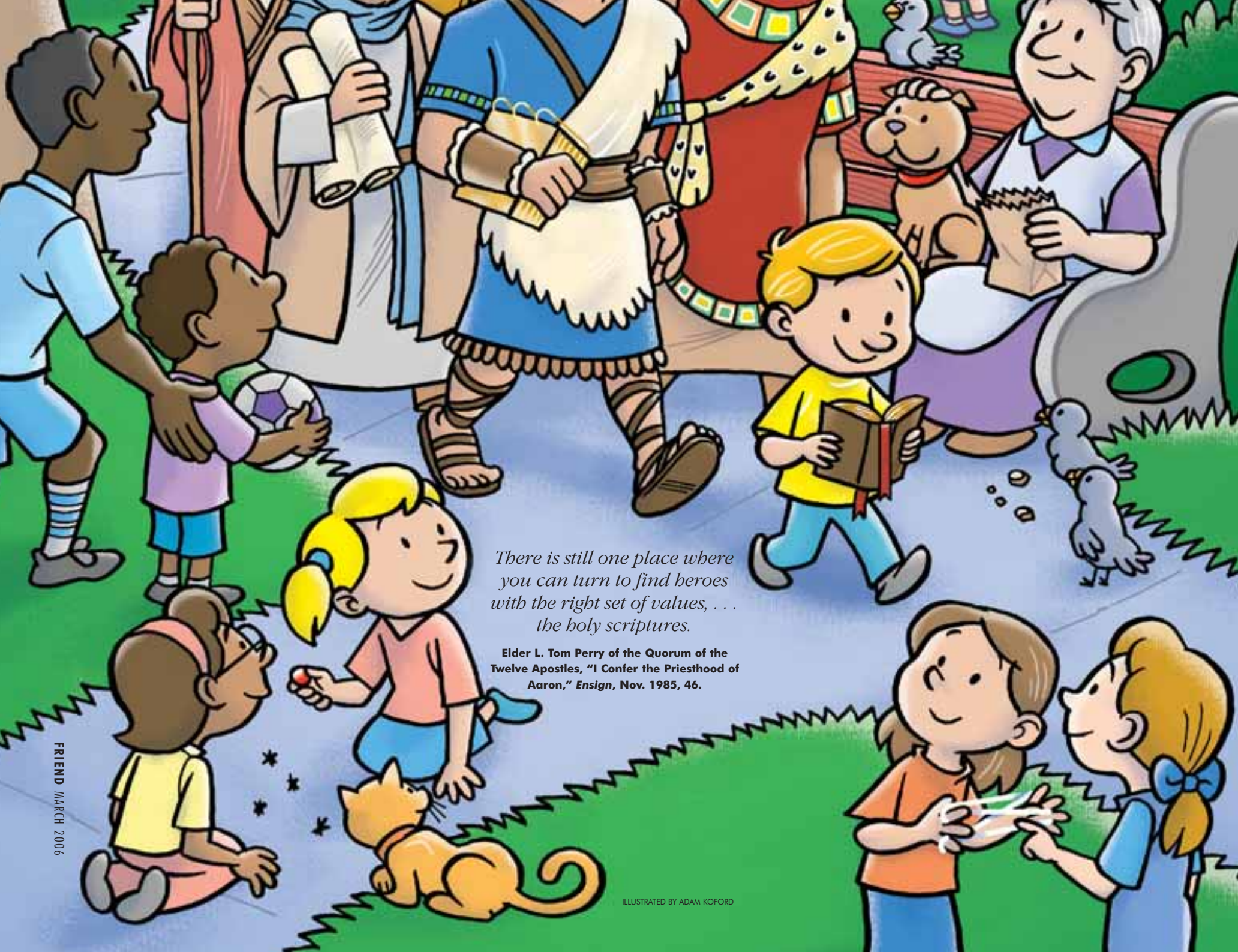


# TAKE SOME BACKUP

Once we get to know the great heroes  
of scripture, their examples of faith and  
courage go with us everywhere.







*There is still one place where  
you can turn to find heroes  
with the right set of values, . . .  
the holy scriptures.*

**Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the  
Twelve Apostles, "I Confer the Priesthood of  
Aaron," Ensign, Nov. 1985, 46.**

ILLUSTRATED BY ADAM KOFORD



# Friends in the News



## ◀ Meridian Third Ward

The senior Primary of the Meridian Third Ward, Meridian Idaho Stake, took the missionary challenge of giving a CTR ring to someone who didn't have one. They explained to their friends what CTR stood for and challenged them to choose the right.



**Matthew M.**, 8, Iowa, enjoys Cub Scouts and is working on his Wolf badge. He likes to read and look at maps—especially world maps. He tries hard to help everyone in his family.



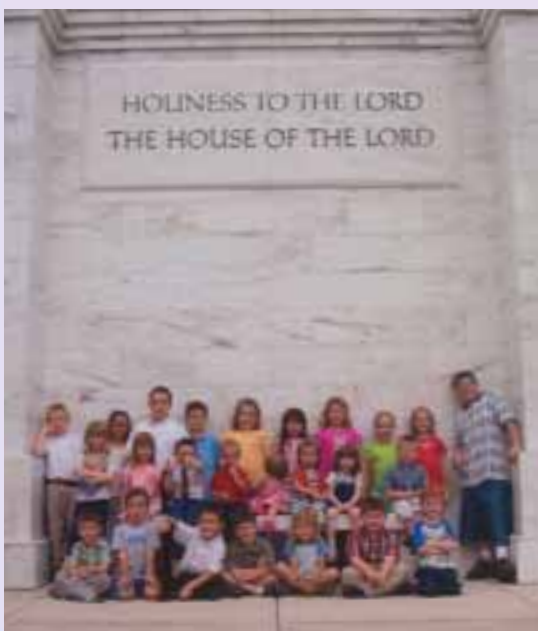
**Morgan H.**, 7, California, looks forward to her Primary class each Sunday and loves her teacher. She enjoys playing her violin, singing, dancing, riding her bike, playing soccer, and baking with her mom and grandma. She also enjoys playing with her two brothers and her dog, Kona.



▲ Cousins **Marissa B.** of Utah, **Madison S.** of Colorado, **Megan S.** of Utah, and **McCall S.** of Texas, were all baptized on the same day. They call themselves the “4-M” cousins because they all have names that start with the letter “M.”



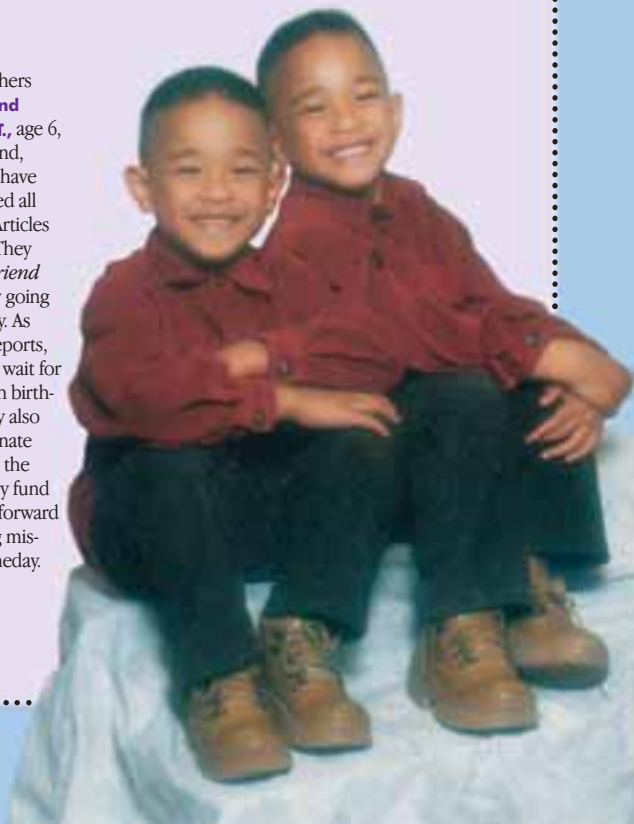
**Danielle Ziyi H.**, 3, China, was very excited when she turned three and started attending Primary. She likes singing new songs, meeting new friends, and learning about Jesus. She's lived in three different countries. Danielle knows that Heavenly Father loves her and answers her prayers.



## ◀ Gulfport Ward

Children of the Gulfport Ward, Gulfport Mississippi Stake, had the opportunity to visit the Baton Rouge Louisiana Temple. It had been very rainy, but the rain stopped long enough for the children to visit the temple grounds, have activities in the local stake center, and visit with a member of the temple presidency. Many of the children later bore testimony of the special feeling they felt while visiting the temple grounds.

Twin brothers **Dwight and Dwayne T.**, age 6, Queensland, Australia, have memorized all thirteen Articles of Faith. They like the *Friend* and enjoy going to Primary. As Dwight reports, “We can't wait for our eighth birthday.” They also like to donate money to the missionary fund and look forward to serving missions someday.







▲ **Calgary Alberta West Stake**

For an activity day the girls of the Calgary Alberta West Stake tied five quilts and donated them to the Church Humanitarian Center. They also put together craft kits for children in crisis, and family home evening kits to share with their own families.

▲ **Spencer, Adam, Jeffrey, and Elise F.**, ages 11, 7, 10, and 6, live in Utah. Spencer reads very well and likes to make people laugh. Adam enjoys reading, playing baseball, and traveling to different states. Jeffrey likes basketball and playing the piano, and is very kind-hearted. Elise is a good friend, a willing helper, and enjoys Primary.



▲ **Cherry Hill Second Ward**

Children from the Cherry Hill Second Ward, Cherry Hill New Jersey Stake, celebrated Mother's Day by making newborn humanitarian kits for mothers who are in need. They felt they could best honor their own mothers by serving others. The children made 20 kits!

Please send submissions to Friends in the News, Friend Magazine, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America. A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish the child's photo must be included. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose photos are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned.



**Ben H.**, 5, Alberta, Canada, likes sharing with his friends, riding his bike, and practicing tae kwon do. He also likes playing with his mom, dad, sister, and baby brother.



▲ **Isaac, Savannah, Noah, and Kaden P.**, ages 2, 8, 6, and 4, Kentucky, enjoy riding their bikes and jumping on the trampoline. They spend hours creating forts and playing together downstairs. They like preparing activities for family home evening.





BY CLAUDIA G. REMINGTON

(Based on a true story)

*Devise not evil against thy neighbour* (Proverbs 3:29).

**T**he March day felt almost like summer as Raybell walked down the quiet country road. Her parents had gone to dinner the night before and had brought her two fortune cookies that she carried in a paper bag. She wanted to give one to her best friend, Linda.

Raybell looked out over the fields that were just beginning to turn green and thought how very quiet and empty her little farming town was. The sun felt warm on her head and shoulders, and a meadowlark broke the lonely silence with its call from the telephone lines.

Raybell hurried up the long walkway to Linda's house and knocked on the door. She waited and then knocked again. The house was silent.



# COOKIES



Maybe Linda's family had gone into town. Raybell sat on the steps and waited for about ten minutes, though it seemed longer. Finally she got up and wandered across the road to the church, a white building with pine trees in front. She sat down on the church steps where she had a view of Linda's house. She could also see Judy's house across the field, and she began to think about what had happened after Primary one day last month.

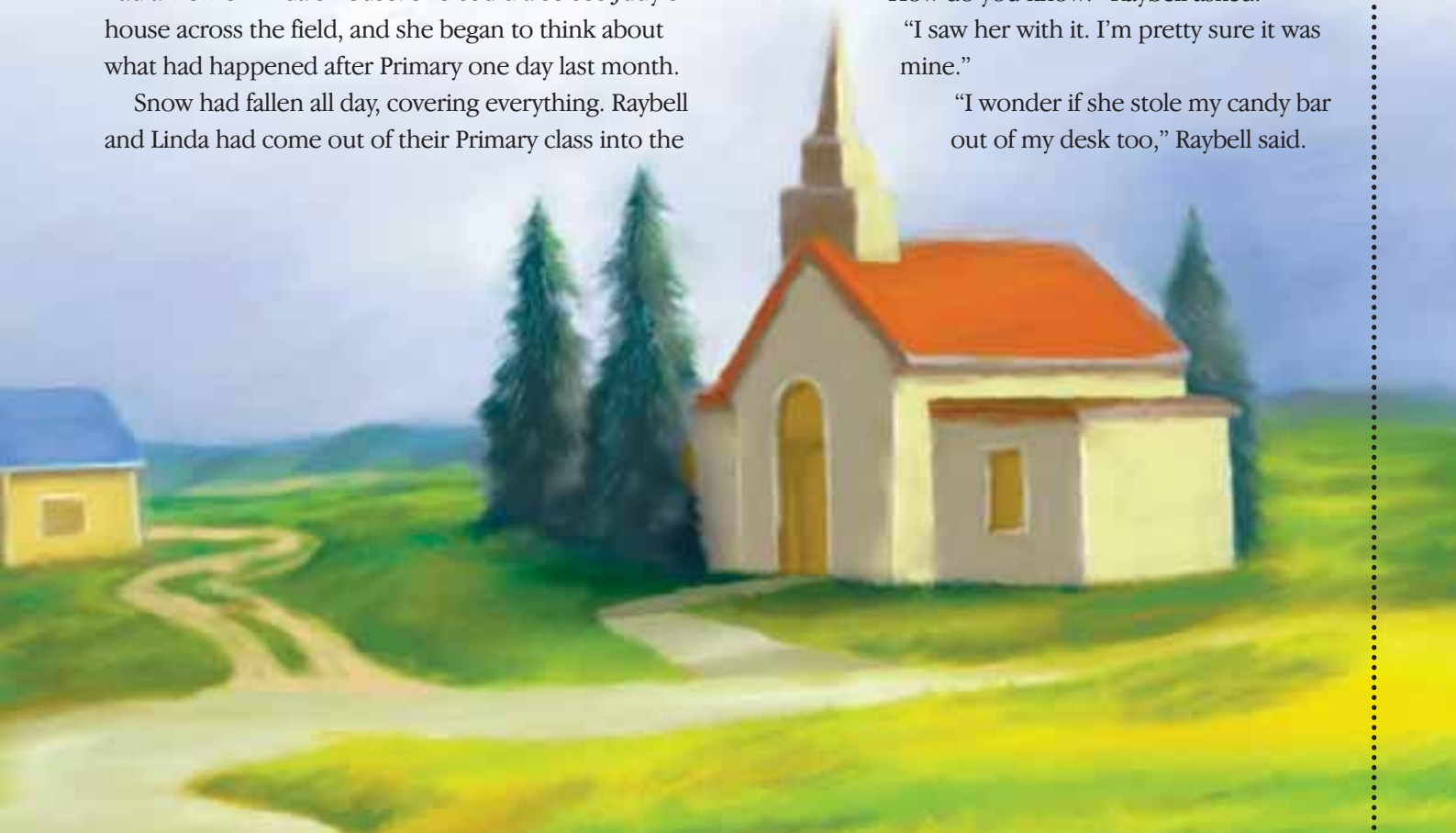
Snow had fallen all day, covering everything. Raybell and Linda had come out of their Primary class into the

front foyer where everybody's coats and boots were. "Look at Judy's raggedy old brown boots," Linda had said. "Judy is so mean. She's always saying something rude, even to the teacher. And I know she stole my new pen that I got for my birthday."

"How do you know?" Raybell asked.

"I saw her with it. I'm pretty sure it was mine."

"I wonder if she stole my candy bar out of my desk too," Raybell said.







“You know what we could do?” Linda whispered. “We could put snow in her boots.”

Before Raybell could say anything, Linda grabbed them and started out the door. Raybell went after her, and together they filled the toes of Judy’s boots with snow and put them back in place before Judy came out of her class.

When Judy came into the foyer, Raybell and Linda stood nearby and watched her. Judy pulled on one boot and quickly pulled her foot out again. Linda giggled a little, but Judy didn’t seem to hear. She looked into her boot and frowned. The look in Judy’s eyes made Raybell feel a little sick inside. Judy picked up her boots and went outside. As she passed Raybell and Linda, she looked defiantly into their faces. She emptied her boots, pulled each one on, and trudged across the snowy field to her house. Raybell and Linda stood on the church steps watching her and then went home without saying much.

Now Raybell sat on the steps in the warm sunshine and remembered the feelings of that day. Judy hadn’t

spoken to her in the last month, but she had never been very friendly. Raybell looked across the field at Judy’s run-down house, surrounded by old, broken-down cars.

Judy always seemed to be angry, but Raybell remembered one day last summer when she wasn’t. Raybell’s yellow kitten had disappeared. She had searched everywhere around their farm and finally had walked down the road calling it. Raybell was afraid a coyote had come down from the hills and eaten it. Tears were falling as she walked along the road. Suddenly she looked up, and through the blur of her tears, she saw Judy running across the field toward her with the yellow kitten in her arms. She held the kitten out to her. “Is this yours?”

Raybell gathered the soft kitten into her arms. It purred and rubbed its nose against her cheek. “Yes. Where did you find it?”

“When I cut through the field I heard a loud meow, and there it was, between the rows of wheat. I thought maybe it was yours.”

“Thanks for bringing her to me.” Raybell smiled, and Judy smiled back.

Raybell looked again at Judy's old house. She looked at the paper sack sitting on the steps with the two fortune cookies in it. She picked it up and climbed through the fence into the damp, plowed field.

As Raybell approached the house, she saw Judy sitting on her rickety front steps wearing an old army shirt and baggy pants. She watched Raybell with a hostile expression, and Raybell wished she hadn't come. She tried to smile.

"My mom and dad went out to eat last night—"

"So?" Judy said.

"Well, they brought these fortune cookies, and I thought we could open them and read our fortunes." Judy's expression was puzzled but not angry. "Judy, I'm really sorry about putting snow in your boots." She stood there not knowing what else to say.

"What do I care if my boots are wet? It doesn't bother me," Judy said.

"Well, I'm sorry anyway. I'd hate it if my boots were all wet inside. I guess I'm not as tough as you."

Judy shrugged her shoulders. "So are you going to give me one of those fortune cookies or not?"

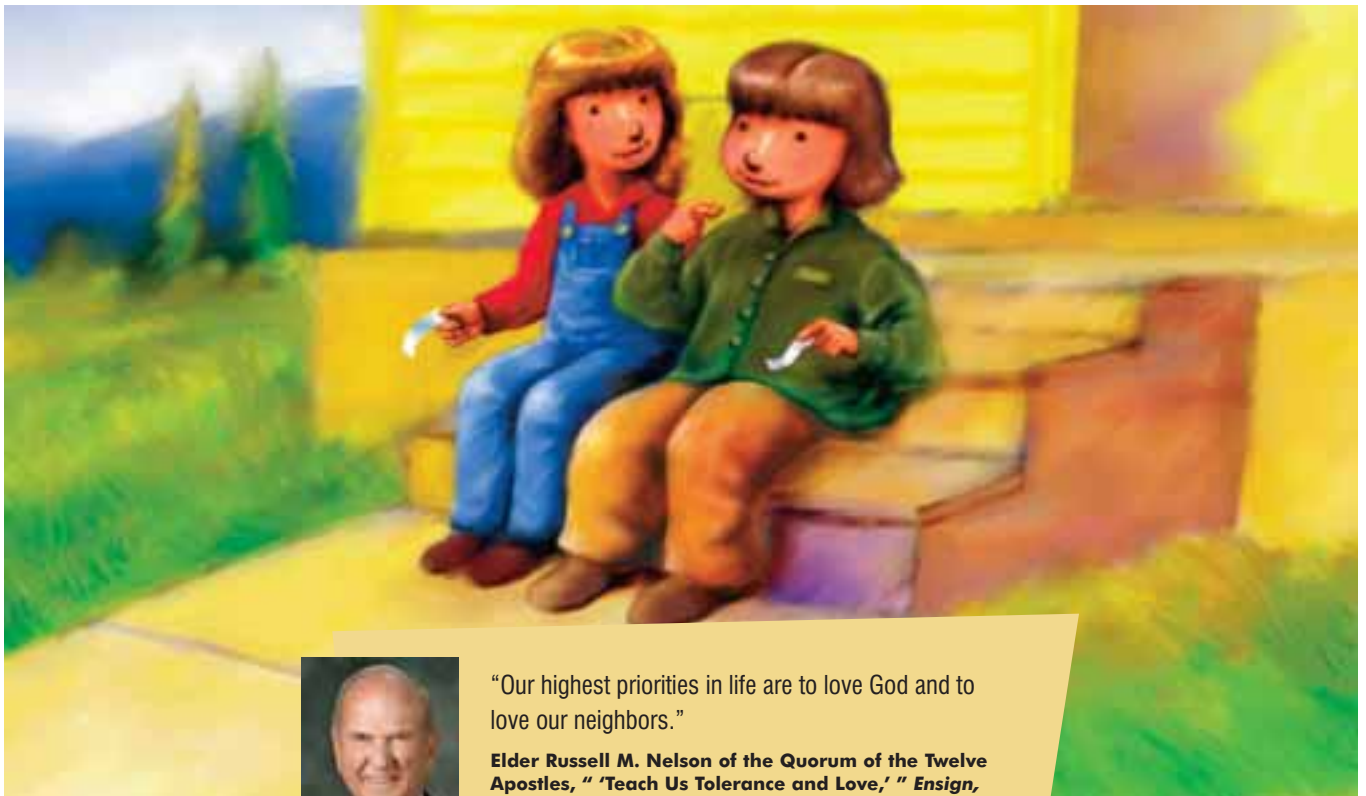
"Oh, sure." Raybell sat down on the steps and handed a cookie to Judy. They broke the cookies in half and read the slips of paper. "What does yours say?" Raybell asked.

Judy sat up very straight. "It says I will be rich and famous one day. How about yours?"

"'You are a good leader and should consider politics or business,'" Raybell read. They both laughed.

Judy took a bite of her cookie. "I prefer chocolate cookies, but they're not bad."

"Me too," Raybell said. They both laughed again. Raybell munched her cookie and thought that the spring sunshine felt even warmer here on Judy's steps. ●



"Our highest priorities in life are to love God and to love our neighbors."

**Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Teach Us Tolerance and Love," *Ensign*, May 1994, 69.**





# Go Back to the

BY BRITNEY SCHETSELAAR

(Based on a true story)

*They that are wise . . . have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide (D&C 45:57).*

**T**hey had left him! Derek stood in the driveway with his shiny black Sunday shoes in his hands. He had been digging the shoes out of the bottom of his closet when he heard the car's engine starting. Bounding down the stairs, Derek only caught a glimpse of the family van as it turned the corner.

Derek was sure that his family hadn't left him on purpose. Mom probably thought he was in the back-seat of the van. A lonely, empty feeling filled Derek's stomach. What was he supposed to do now?

Sitting down in the middle of the driveway, Derek pulled on his socks and shoes. If his family had forgotten him, he would just walk to church by himself. It was a warm day, and he was pretty sure he knew the way.

He started confidently down the street. He walked past the Garretts' house, past the tree house in the willow where he played after kindergarten, and past the Petersons' house. He was about to turn the corner when a sudden thought came to him: he needed to go back to the house.

Derek stopped mid-step. That was silly. Why should he go back? He stood silently on the deserted sidewalk, thinking about what to do next. He took another step down the street.

The thought came again, this time stronger. "Go back to the house!" He turned and ran as fast as his feet would carry him back to the house. He ran past the Petersons', past the tree house, and past the Garretts', his Sunday shoes pounding loudly on the sidewalk. He ran through the front door and slammed it shut behind him. Out of breath and filled with panic, he slumped down in the corner of the family room behind the couch and curled up tightly in a ball. He could hear his heart pounding loudly in his chest. He shut his eyes tightly and murmured a short prayer. "Please help my family to come find me soon!"

As soon as he had finished saying the words, he



# House

heard the front door open. “Derek?” someone called. Derek peeked over the couch. His older sister, Amanda, was standing in the doorway. “Oh, there you are!” she exclaimed when she saw the top of his head. Derek ran to her, threw his arms around her legs and started to cry. Amanda knelt down to give him a hug.

“Oh, Bud,” she said softly. “It’s OK. You know we wouldn’t ever really forget you.”

Derek nodded through his tears. “I started to walk to church, but then I heard something telling me to go back to the house. Then I said a prayer, and you came back.”

“Good job!” Amanda said. “You must have been following the promptings of the Holy Ghost!” Derek was surprised. Was that who the thoughts had come from?

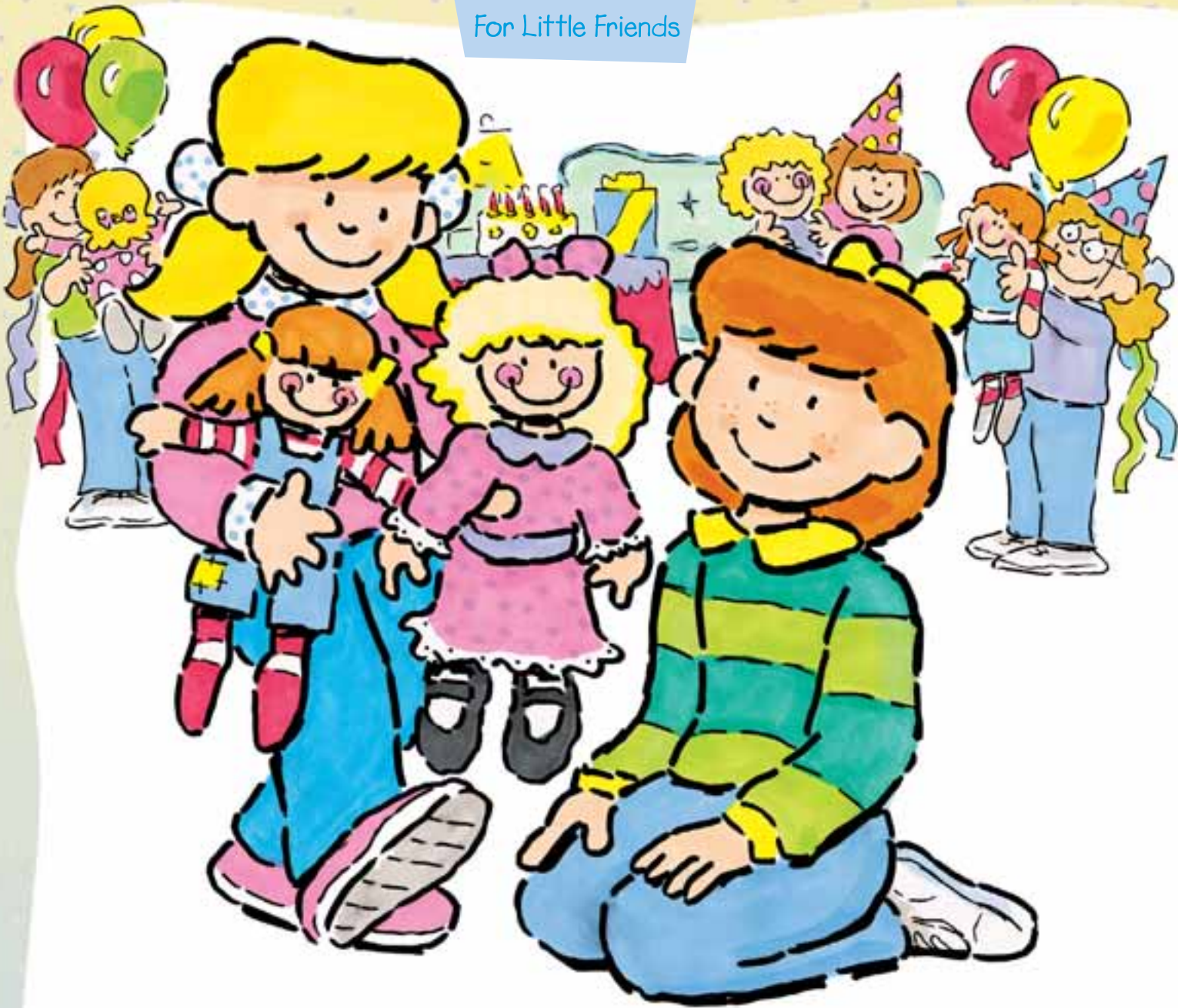
Amanda continued, “I’m glad you came back because it helped me to find you quickly. What if you had walked a different way than I came home, or if you had gotten lost? You made the right choice.”

Derek smiled at his big sister. A warm feeling started in his heart and filled him up inside. “Thank you, Amanda,” he said. “I’m glad that I listened to the Spirit.” ●

ILLUSTRATED BY MARK ROBISON







# Best Friends

BY MARILYN KRATZ

*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (Galatians 5:14).*

Emma could hardly wait for Suzan's birthday party. "The party will be even more fun because Michaela will be there," Emma said to Mother on the way to Suzan's house.

"I know," said Mother. "It's always fun to be with your best friend."

When they got to Suzan's house, Suzan's mother invited all the children into the playroom.

"Let's play dolls," Suzan said.

Everyone ran to get a doll. Emma picked up two dolls and gave the prettiest one to Michaela.

After that they played with teddy bears. Michaela picked out two teddy bears and let Emma choose one to play with.

Next, all the children played house. Suzan got to be the mother because it was her birthday. The other children sat around the table and pretended to eat.

"Would you like some of my cookies?" Emma asked



Michaela, offering her some pretend cookies.

“Oh, thank you,” said Michaela. “May I pour you some more milk?” She poured pretend milk into Emma’s glass.

Then they played musical chairs. One by one, Suzan’s mother removed the chairs until only one chair remained. Emma and Michaela were the last two players.

Emma knew only one of them could win the game by sitting on the chair when the music stopped. Emma didn’t want Michaela to lose the game. But she knew Michaela would want her to try to win too.

When the music stopped, Emma just stood there, looking at Michaela. Then Michaela smiled. Emma smiled back at her and knew just what to do. They both sat down and shared the chair! ●



## Apple Rings



**1 red apple**

**1 tablespoon peanut butter or cream cheese spread**

**1/4 cup toppings (raisins, cinnamon and sugar, granola, cereal, or coconut)**

1. With the help of an adult, core the apple. Cut a thin slice from the top and the bottom.
2. Cut the remaining apple into three equal-sized rings.
3. Spread one side of each ring with peanut butter or cream cheese spread.
4. Sprinkle your favorite toppings on the ring. Gently pat down and enjoy!



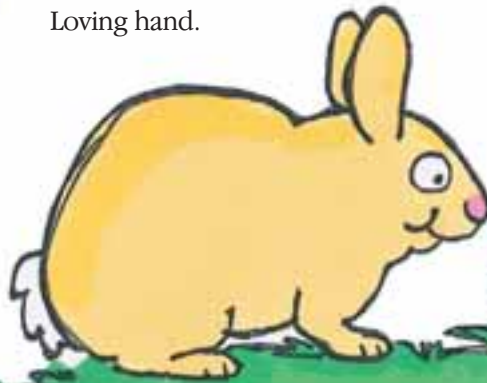




## Look and Listen

BY BEVERLY J. LETCHWORTH

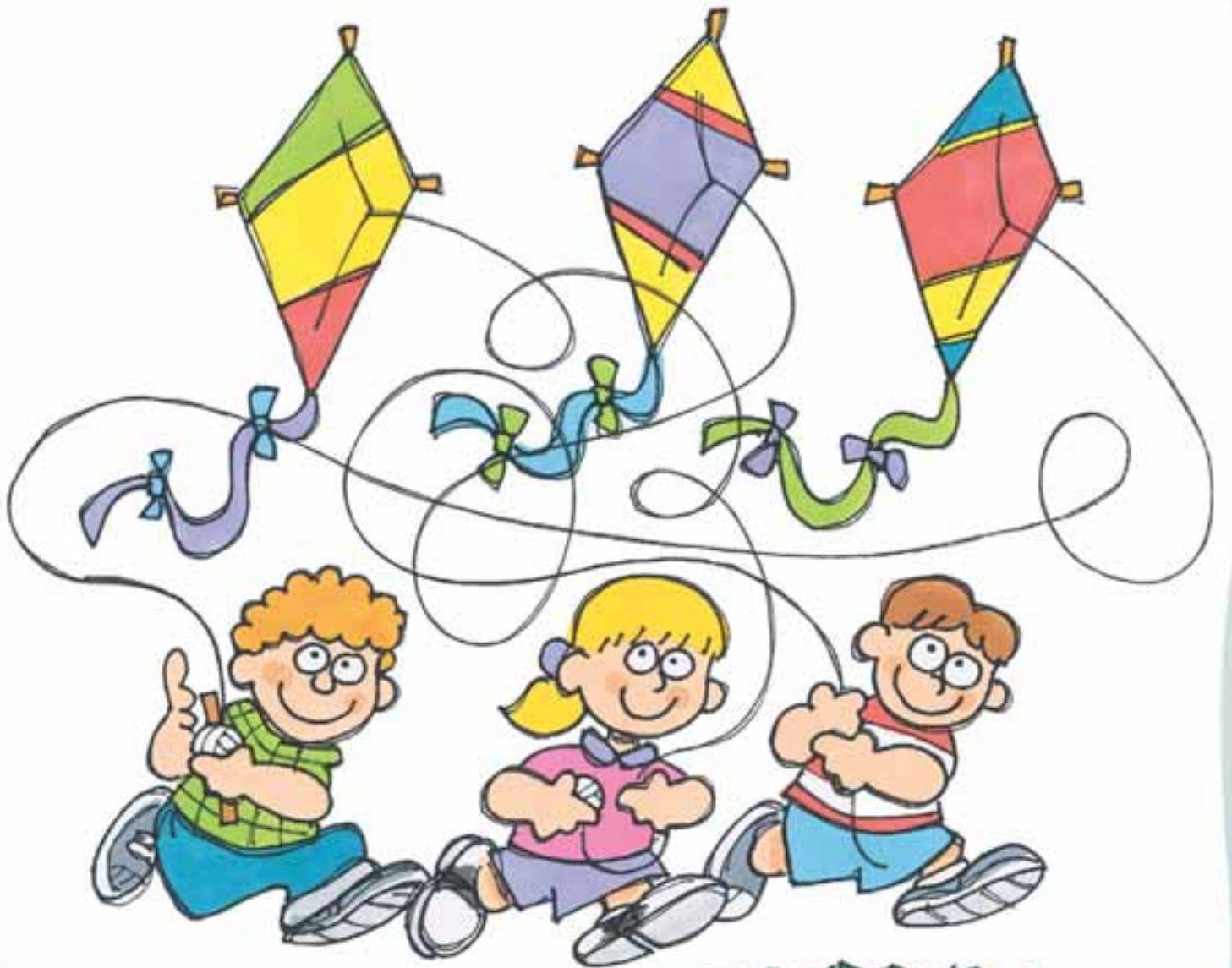
Birds chirp,  
Rabbits munch,  
Butterflies bounce,  
Squirrels lunch.  
Fish glide,  
Turtles crawl,  
Bees buzz,  
Wolves call.  
Flowers bloom,  
Ivy vines,  
Trees green,  
Sun shines.  
Nature lives  
In all the land,  
Shaped by God's  
Loving hand.



# Flying Kites

BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

These friends are enjoying flying their kites. But their kite strings have gotten tangled. Follow the strings to help them remember which kite belongs to each child.







# Abuela's ANSWER

BY JANE MCBRIDE CHOATE

(Based on a true story)

*Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God* (D&C 18:10).

**T**ired but happy after her soccer game, Gracie walked to the bleachers where her family sat. Her whole family, including her *abuela* (grandmother), had come to watch the game.

"You played with honor," Gracie's papá said as he put his arm around her shoulders.

Gracie grinned. "*Gracias*, Papá."

The family piled into the car. When Papá suggested that they stop for lunch to celebrate the team's victory, Gracie and her younger brother and sister cheered.

The restaurant was crowded, with only two empty booths available. Four players from the other team walked in after Gracie's family and took the booth behind theirs. They began talking loudly, insulting the players on Gracie's team.

Gracie looked at her parents and saw dismay on their faces. They were as uncomfortable as she was with the vulgar language they were hearing. She wondered what they would do.

Papá started to stand when Gracie's abuela leaned over the back of the booth and started talking to the young people.

She didn't say anything about their language but asked questions about their hobbies. One of the girls shyly said that she liked to knit.

"Come over to our table," Abuela invited. "I'll show you what I'm working on."

The four players trooped over to join Gracie's family at their booth. Everyone slid closer together

to make room for them.

Abuela opened the knitting bag she always carried and pulled out a stocking hat. "I can make one of these in 30 minutes."

"Could you show me how to do that sometime?" the girl asked.

"It would be my pleasure," Abuela said.

"You're pretty cool," one of the boys said.

Abuela smiled. "For an old lady."

"For anyone." He hesitated, then looked around to Gracie's family with an embarrassed expression. "I guess you'd like it if we didn't talk like we did."

Abuela patted the boy's hand and smiled. "You are right."

"Thanks for talking to us like we're real people," the girl said. "Most people ignore us."

"You *are* real people. Even more important, you are each a child of God," Abuela said. "Always remember that."

Gracie watched a look of wonder come over the girl's face.

The boys and girls returned to their booth and finished their meal. They left shortly after that.

Papá gave Abuela a hug. "Mamá, you are amazing. All I could think of was their bad language. I didn't remember that they were also children of God."

Later that night, Gracie asked Papá, "How did Abuela know what to say to those kids?"

"Your abuela treats everyone the same," Papá said.

"She knows that we're all God's children."

Gracie hasn't forgotten that lesson—nor her abuela's example. ●



# Matt & Mandy





# Scripture Figure



**A**s you retell scripture stories, this figure can represent any boy in the scriptures, such as Isaac, Samuel, David, or a shepherd. The figure can be mounted on heavy paper, colored, cut out, then made into a stick puppet, flannel board figure, or paper sack puppet, as illustrated. Make several and color the hair and clothing differently for each one. ●



**Stick Puppet**

*Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.*



**Flannel Board Figure**



**Paper Sack Puppet**





# Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

## How Could I Lie?

By Erica de R.

**B**efore I left to run some errands one evening, I asked my children to do their homework and told them I would correct it when I returned home. Upon my return, I was surprised to find my seven-year-old son, Mayco, riding his bike with

a friend. I asked him if he had done what he was supposed to do, and he answered with a resounding yes. I then asked if he was telling the truth, and he said, “Mama, I can’t lie to you.”

This caught his friend’s attention, and he asked Mayco why he could not lie. Mayco replied with total certainty, “How could I lie when I’m

a Mormon?”

I went into the house to look over his homework, and not only was it done, but there were no mistakes.

I am grateful for the gospel principles that my son is learning and for his example of becoming more like Jesus.

*Mayco de R., age 7  
Argentina*



## Raffle Tickets

By Nathan Grant B. with help from his family



**M**y school had a fund-raiser in which we could buy raffle tickets for a chance to eat lunch with our teacher. I really wanted to eat lunch with my teacher.

After school I asked my dad if I could take a dollar to school so I could buy four raffle tickets. Dad said that he wondered if raffles couldn't be a little bit like gambling and that Heavenly Father didn't want us to gamble. He said I could do whatever I wanted, but that I should pray about it and see what Heavenly Father wanted me to do. He told me that I would be blessed if I did what Heavenly Father wanted me to do.

That night I asked Heavenly Father to help me make the right decision. I felt that I should not buy the tickets. The next day I didn't take any money with me even though I was sad that I wouldn't get to eat with my teacher. But Heavenly Father blessed me. My teacher decided to also put the names of students who were good during school into a bag and pull out a name to eat lunch with her.



noticed a boy standing in the back of the room. He didn't have many friends,

My name was pulled! I'm happy that I chose the right and obeyed Heavenly Father.

*Nathan Grant B., age 6  
Indiana*

## I Will Seek Good Friends and Treat Others Kindly\*

By Kara A.



**J**esus Christ was kind to everyone He met. He is a great example of kindness to me.

One day when I was in first grade, I was the leader of the day in my class. Part of being a leader of the day was choosing someone to help me carry the lunch basket filled with lunch boxes to the cafeteria. I stood in front of the class and looked out at my classmates, trying to decide who to choose. All of my good friends were raising their hands, and at first I wanted to choose one of them. But then I

and sometimes people were not very nice to him. He never got chosen for anything. Something inside my heart told me to pick him. When I picked him to be my helper, everyone else acted surprised, but he got a big smile on his face. After lunch my teacher pulled me aside and whispered in my ear, "Thank you for picking him. That was a very kind thing to do." All day I felt really good inside.

*Kara A., age 10  
Utah*

**The Friend** would like to hear from you about an experience you have had in trying to be like Jesus. Please include a photo of yourself and your name, age, and address. **A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish your photo must be included.** If an adult helps with your submission, credit should also be given to him or her. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose writings are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned. Send it to: **Trying to Be Like Jesus, Friend Magazine, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America.**



# MORE BLESSED

BY RACHEL C. MURDOCK

(Based on a true story)

*It is more blessed to give than to receive*  
(Acts 20:35).

**M**om! Mom! They're selling ice cream after school this week!" Wade jumped into the car with excitement in his voice. "Could I take a dollar from my bank and buy one tomorrow? Please?"

Mom laughed as Wade bounced on the backseat of the minivan. "You decide how to use the money in your spending bank," she said. "If you want to use it for ice cream, you go right ahead."

"All right!" Wade cried. As soon as they arrived home, he ran to his room, removed a dollar from his spending bank, and carefully zipped it into his backpack pocket.

After school the next day, Wade went to the front hall where the student council helpers sat at a table. Pictures of each kind of ice-cream bar were taped to the table. What to choose? It was hard to decide between the chocolate bar, the orange bar, the nutty cone, the red rocket, and the vanilla ice cream covered with bits of candy bar. He finally chose the nutty cone and opened it up.

On his way out to the car, he went to the music room to pick up his instrument so he could practice at home. His music teacher, Mr. Nolan, was straightening chairs and music stands.

"Wade, how nice of you to get me ice cream!" he joked, reaching toward the cone. "Just what I could use after a long day."

Wade laughed. "I bought this one for me," he said.

Mr. Nolan made a silly sad face. "Oh, too bad," he sighed. Then he laughed. "Enjoy your ice cream!"

Wade waved good-bye to him and skipped out to the car. "I got ice cream, Mom!"

He told her about Mr. Nolan and his silly face. "Maybe he really would like some ice cream," Wade thought.

"Mom," he said, "could I use another dollar to buy Mr. Nolan ice cream tomorrow?"

row?"

"It's your money, Wade," said Mom with a smile.

As soon as he got home, Wade ran to his room again. He pulled another dollar from his bank and again put it into his backpack pocket. "What kind of face will Mr. Nolan make when I hand him the ice cream?" Wade wondered. He could hardly wait to see.

As soon as class ended the next day, Wade quickly gathered his books and walked down the hall to the ice-cream table. Today he didn't stop to think about which flavor to buy. Mr. Nolan had seemed to think the nutty cone looked good. "I'll take one cone," Wade said.

He didn't open it this time but zipped down the hall toward the music room. Sure enough, Mr. Nolan was there straightening chairs again. "Oh, you brought me more ice cream!" he said.

This time Wade walked right up to Mr. Nolan. "Yep,



I did!" he announced and handed Mr. Nolan the cone.

Mr. Nolan didn't make a silly face at all. Instead, he looked very surprised.

"Is this really for me?" he asked.

"Yep," Wade said.

"How much do I owe you?" Mr. Nolan asked.

"Oh, nothing," Wade said. "I got it for you."

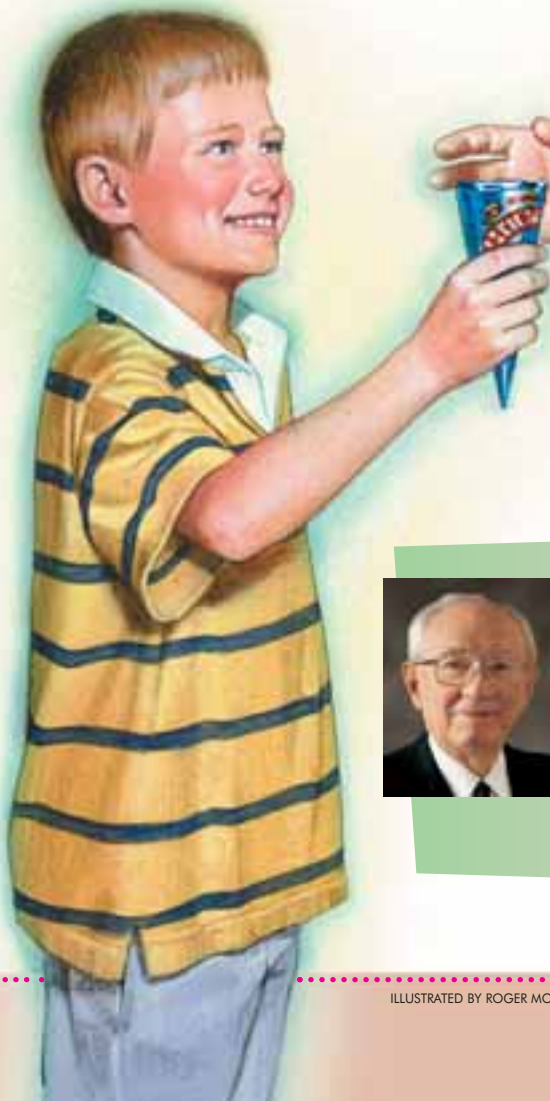
"Why, thank you very much," Mr. Nolan said with a smile.

Wade felt wonderful from the tips of his sneakers to the top of his head. He couldn't contain the grin on his face.

"You're welcome," he called as he grabbed his instrument and trotted out to the car where his mother was waiting. He was still smiling as he opened the door.

"How did it go?" Mom asked.

"Great!" Wade said. Then he thought for a second. "You know what, Mom? I think getting ice cream for Mr. Nolan was even better than getting it for myself!" ●



"How great a thing is charity, whether it be expressed through the giving of one's substance . . . or as an expression of kindness and appreciation."

**President Gordon B. Hinckley, "Mormon Should Mean 'More Good,'" *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 54.**





*God loveth a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

**E**rin, would you mind tucking the blanket down around my socks? My toes are cold.”

Erin tucked the colorful afghan around Grandma’s feet. Just then, Dylan and Jason came racing

through the living room and almost knocked over a lamp. Mom went after them, calling, “No running in the house! You two head outside if you want to play tag.”

Grandma chuckled and winked at Erin. “Your brothers are getting restless, aren’t they? I guess my

# TEN-DOLLAR HUG

BY HOLLY K. SIMMONS (Based on a true story)



house is a little boring.”

Erin sat on the edge of the couch next to Grandma. “We love visiting you, even if you don’t have toys. The boys like finding pill bugs in the garden, and I love reading your old books.”

“But you can only do those things for so long. Hmmm. I have an idea.” Grandma called Mom from the kitchen. “Lucy, will you go into my bedroom and get my purse?”

Mom came back with Grandma’s purse and asked, “Do you need us to go to the store for you?”



“We encourage families to give their elderly parents and grandparents the love, care, and attention they deserve.”

**President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994),**  
“To the Elderly in the Church,” *Ensign*,  
Nov. 1989, 6.

“Actually, Lucy, I need you to get three ten-dollar bills from my purse and take the kids shopping. Let them each pick out something fun. How does that sound, Erin?”

Erin grinned. “Sounds great,” she said.

“That’s awfully generous of you, Mother,” Mom said, patting Grandma’s hand.

At the store, Dylan and Jason pulled Mom toward the toy aisle.

“I want a dinosaur,” Jason said.

“I want a robot,” Dylan said.

Erin wasn’t sure what she wanted. Maybe a new book?

Dylan and Jason hugged their toys and marched toward the checkout stands.

“Erin,” Mom said, “you’d better choose something. The boys are ready to go.”

Erin looked around. She thought about getting a box of stationery and writing letters to all of her friends back home. But then she saw another stack of boxes, and she knew exactly what she wanted to buy with her ten dollars.

Back at Grandma’s, Erin carried the bag into the house.

“Let’s see what you all got,” Grandma said.

Jason showed Grandma his stegosaurus. Dylan held up a robot that could turn into a car.

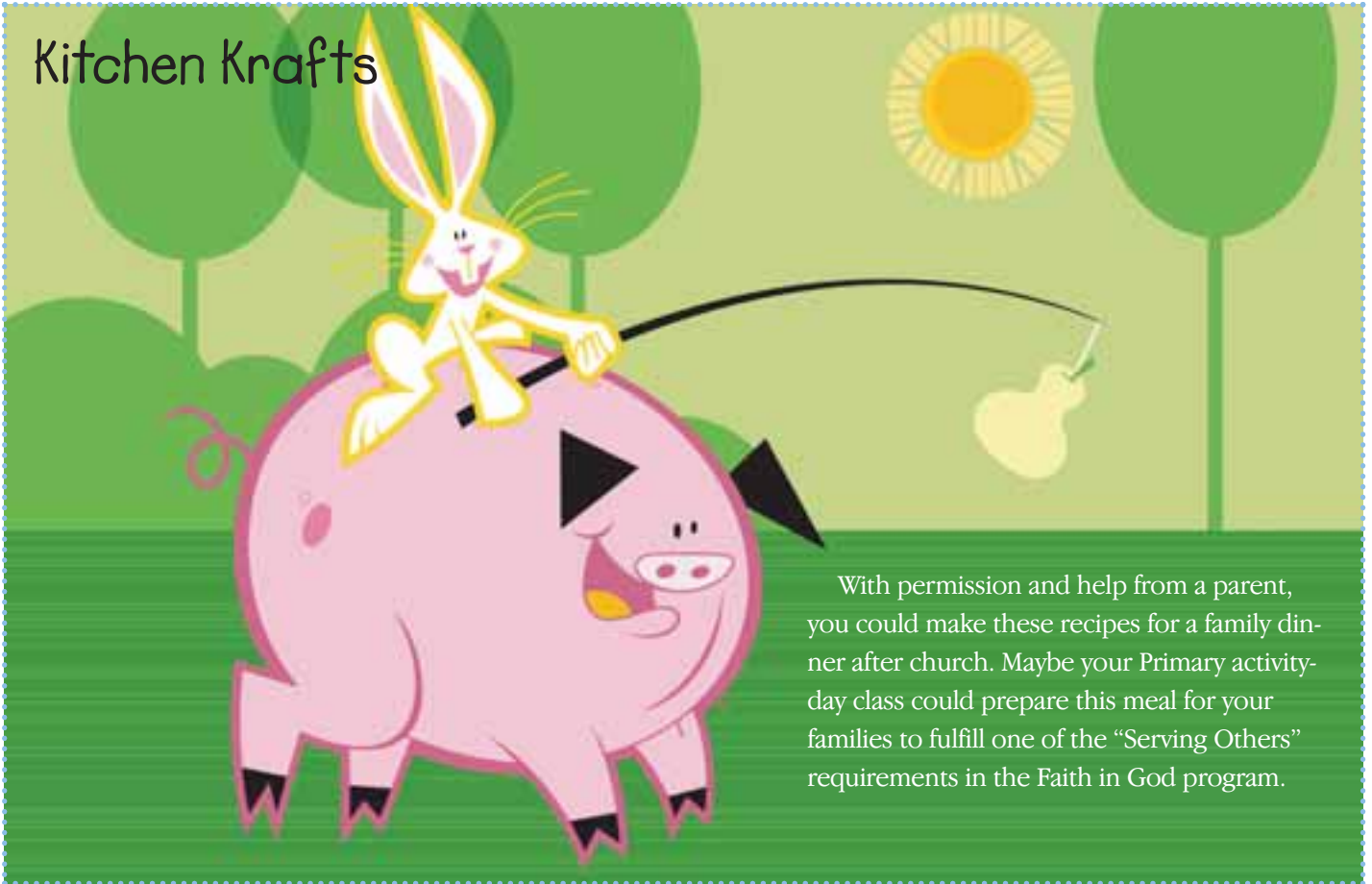
“And what did you get, Erin?” Grandma asked.

Erin reached into the bag and pulled out a box. She removed the lid and held up a pair of cozy slippers. “I got these for you,” Erin said. “To keep your toes warm.”

As soon as Grandma’s arms wrapped around her, Erin felt warm inside and out. She knew she had made a good choice. Grandma’s hugs and happy tears were worth every penny. ●



# Kitchen Krafts



With permission and help from a parent, you could make these recipes for a family dinner after church. Maybe your Primary activity-day class could prepare this meal for your families to fulfill one of the “Serving Others” requirements in the Faith in God program.

## Ham Fettuccine

BY JULIE WARDELL

- 1 pound (.45 kg) fettuccine**
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine**
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion**
- 8 ounces (227 g) fresh mushrooms, sliced**
- 1 1/2 cups half-and-half**
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed**
- 1 cup cubed cooked ham**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese**

1. Cook the fettuccine according to the package directions.
  2. In a large skillet, melt the butter or margarine on medium-high heat. Add the onion and mushrooms and cook until the onion is tender.
  3. Stir in the half-and-half, peas, ham, and salt. Bring to a gentle boil and cook for 3 minutes.
  4. Remove from the heat and mix in the cheese.
- Serve over the fettuccine.  
Makes 6–8 servings.

## Spring Bunnies

BY MARGARET WOODS

- 1 package (6 ounces/170 g) lime gelatin**
- 6 canned pear halves, drained**
- 12 whole shelled almonds**
- 1 cup prepared whipped topping**
- fresh parsley**

1. Prepare the gelatin according to the package directions. Place the gelatin in a wide round bowl or dish and let it set completely.
  2. Arrange the pear halves on top of the gelatin in a circle 1" (2.5 cm) from the outside edge of the bowl, with the narrow end pointing towards the middle.
  3. Carefully push two almonds into the top narrow end of each pear for ears.
  4. Place a generous spoonful of whipped topping on each bunny for a tail.
  5. Add the parsley to the middle of the bowl so the bunnies can nibble on it.
- Makes 6 servings.

## 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. The Primary theme for March is "Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ make promises to me through the prophets."*



## Family Home Evening Ideas

*Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.*

1. Turn off the lights and compare being in a dark room to being afraid or discouraged. How does President James E. Faust tell us to receive light in our lives? Use a flashlight to read "Coming Out of Darkness" (pp. 2–3). With each suggestion on how to receive light from the Lord, turn on another flashlight or light a candle. Explain that we can have light, or the influence of the Holy Ghost, to brighten our days, encourage us, and give us guidance as we live the gospel.

2. Make copies of "15 Prophets" (p. 7) for each family member or cooperate to complete the activity together. What do you know about some of these prophets? Read "My Very Own Prophet" (pp. 4–5). Take turns telling what you remember and love about the prophets who have led the Church in your lifetime.

3. Show the poster "Take Some Backup" (pp. 24–25). Share your favorite scripture stories and explain how you can take strength from them wherever you go. Commit to read the scriptures daily all week and choose one good example to follow each day from what you have read.

4. Read "Go Back to the House" (pp. 32–33). Have you ever followed a prompting from the Holy Ghost before you knew the reasons? What were the consequences? Decide, like Derek, to quickly obey whenever such promptings come.

5. In "Ten-Dollar Hug" (pp. 46–47), Erin sacrifices a gift to show love for someone else. Are there small things you can sacrifice to show love for friends or family members? Has anyone done the same for you? Write each family member's name on pieces of paper and have everyone draw a name. Then watch for ways to anonymously brighten that person's week.



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## The Friend

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# What's in the *Friend* this month?



## page 2

How can we receive light from the Lord? Read President James E. Faust's message to find out.

## page 10

Could you carry 100 pounds of potatoes like Horst did?



## page 38

Read "Abuela's Answer" to see what Gracie's grandmother teaches her.

