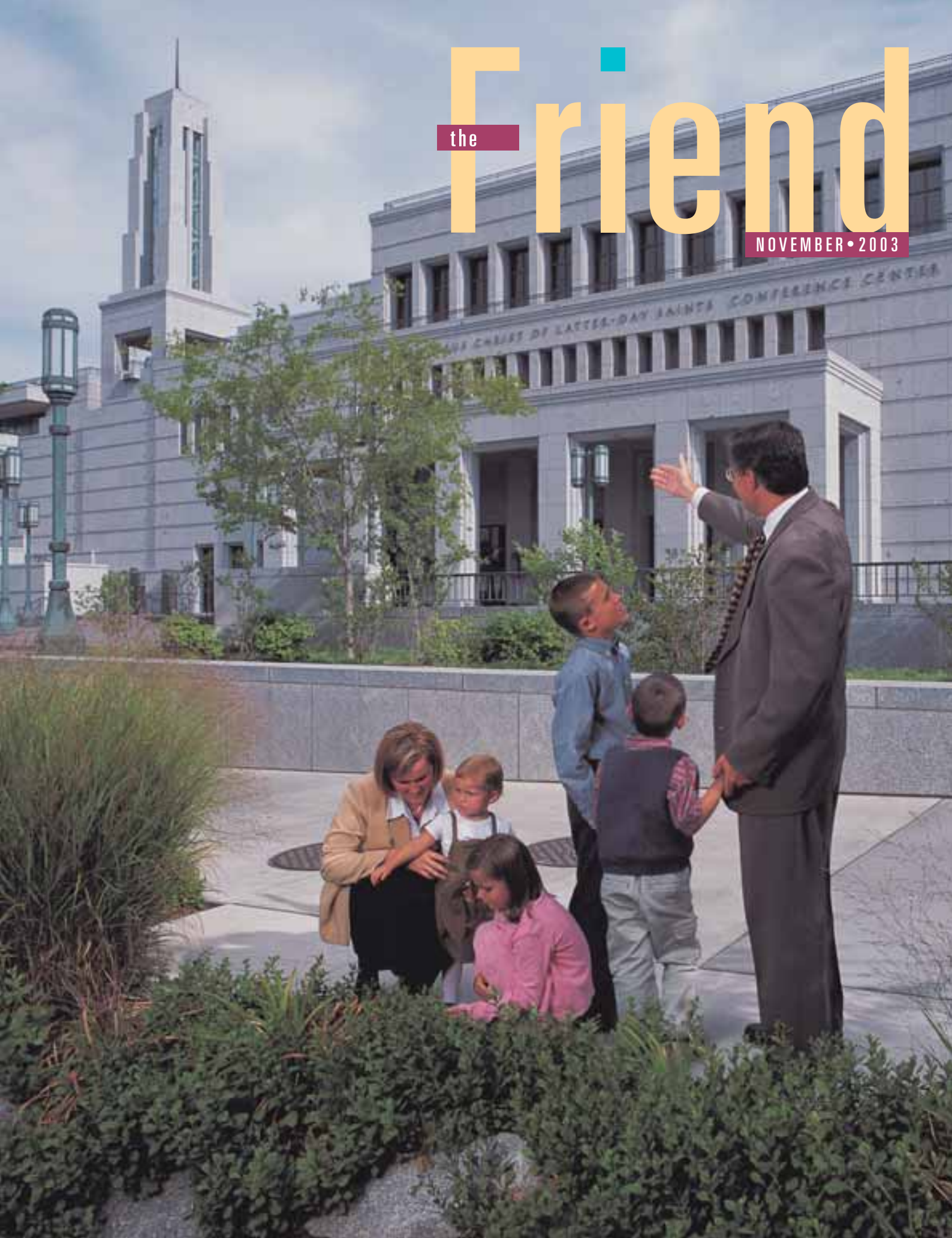


the Friend

NOVEMBER • 2003





PHOTODISC

Twenty Years of *Friends* The Contest



My favorite thing to receive in the mail is the *Friend*. Every month I read the whole thing. Last spring my third-grade teacher said it was important to read your favorite books and magazines again because you notice and learn things you missed the first time. In the garage I found a file cabinet with *Friend* magazines dating back to before 1980, when my oldest sister was born. I pulled out a stack and began to read them every day during my snack time.

I have a bad habit. I like to bite my fingernails. My parents are always trying to get me to stop. One Sunday morning my Primary teacher, Sister Langston, asked if I would stay after class. When we were alone, she asked if she could see my fingernails. She had seen me biting them all during her lesson. I was a little embarrassed to show them to her because I had chewed them so badly. After I showed her my nails, I was surprised when she showed me hers. She had the same problem! She told me that she wanted me to stop so that I wouldn't be biting my nails when I was her age. She told me that if I could overcome the temptation to bite my fingernails, I would become a stronger person. We decided to have a contest to see who could grow her fingernails out first.

I'm glad I have a Primary teacher who cares about me and wants me to overcome bad habits. She has taught me that we are on earth to learn to become better, even when things may be difficult for us. I have also learned that no matter what age Sister Langston and I are, we both have to keep trying to improve so that we can be strong enough to be able to go back to live with our Heavenly Father again.

At first I wanted to win the contest, but I have decided it would be even better if we both win!

Taylor Lynne
Ottley, age 8
Escondido,
California



This summer I was reading issues from 1993, the year I was born, when I recognized a story I had heard before. My dad had borne his testimony in sacrament meeting the month before and had told a story about some ancestors from his family history. I showed the story to him. It was the same story! ("Faithful Elizabeth" by Jenny Hale Pulsipher, August 1993). I felt that the *Friend* was really *my* magazine and that now I had two reasons for 1993 to be my favorite year!

I have read over 20 years' worth of *Friend* magazines, many of them more than once, and I still look forward to each one every month.

Cedar Ben Nye, age 9
Wexford, Pennsylvania



Volume 33 Number 11
November 2003

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All rights reserved. The *Friend* (ISSN
0009-4102) is published monthly by
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints, 50 East North Temple Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, USA.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City,
Utah, and at additional mailing offices.

To subscribe: Send \$8 U.S. check or
money order to Distribution Services,
P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT
84126-0368. Credit card orders (Visa,
MasterCard, American Express) may be
taken by phone. Subscription helpline:
1-800-537-5971.

To change address: Sixty days' notice
is required. Include old address as well
as new.

Submit manuscripts or art to:

Friend, Room 2420, 50 East North
Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-
3220, USA. Unsolicited material is wel-
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stamped envelope. E-mail: cur-editorial-
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The *Friend* can be found on the Internet
at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368,
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368 USA.

Canada Post Information: Publication
Agreement #40017431.

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Cover photo by Welden Andersen

the friend

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



See page 32.

HIDDEN CTR RING

The living prophet of
God speaks at each general
conference of the
Church and asks us to
do good things. As you
look for the picture of a
CTR ring hidden in this
issue of the *Friend*, think
about what he said at the
most recent conference.
How are you doing?



Excellence

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

We are all children of God, and there is something of His divinity within each of us. We are of the family of God, with such a tremendous potential for excellence.

I want to invite us all to walk a higher road of excellence. Recently I read Lytton Strachey's *Life of Florence Nightingale*. I had read it once before, but my rereading brought a new sense of admiration and respect for this great young woman of England.

She was born to the upper class, to party and to dance, to go to the races and look pretty in society. But she would have none of it. Her great desire was to [relieve] pain and suffering, to hasten healing, to make less dreadful the hospitals of the day. She devoted herself to nursing and became expert according to the training then available.

Britain became embroiled in the Crimean War, and she was appointed head of the hospital in Scutari, where thousands of the victims of the war were brought.

The picture that greeted her here was one of absolute despair. An old warehouse served as a hospital. Wounded men were crowded in great rooms that reeked of foul odors and were filled with the cries of the suffering.

This frail young woman, with those she had recruited, set to work. I quote from Mr. Strachey: "Wherever, in those vast wards suffering was at its worst and the need for help was greatest, there,



President Hinckley calls on us to stand a little taller, rise a little higher, and be a little better.

as if by magic, was Miss Nightingale."

The beds that held the suffering men stretched over four miles, with barely space between each bed to walk. But somehow, within a period of six months, "the confusion and the pressure in the wards had come to an end; order reigned in them, and cleanliness. . . . The rate of [death] among the cases treated had fallen from 42 per [hundred] to 22 per thousand (*Life of Florence Nightingale* [1934], 1186).

She had brought to pass an absolute miracle. Lives by the thousands were saved. Suffering was [reduced]. Cheer and warmth and light came into the lives of men who otherwise would have died in that dark and dreadful place.

Perhaps no other woman in the history of the world has done so much to reduce human misery as this lady with the lamp.

You will find your greatest example in the Son of God. I hope that each of you will

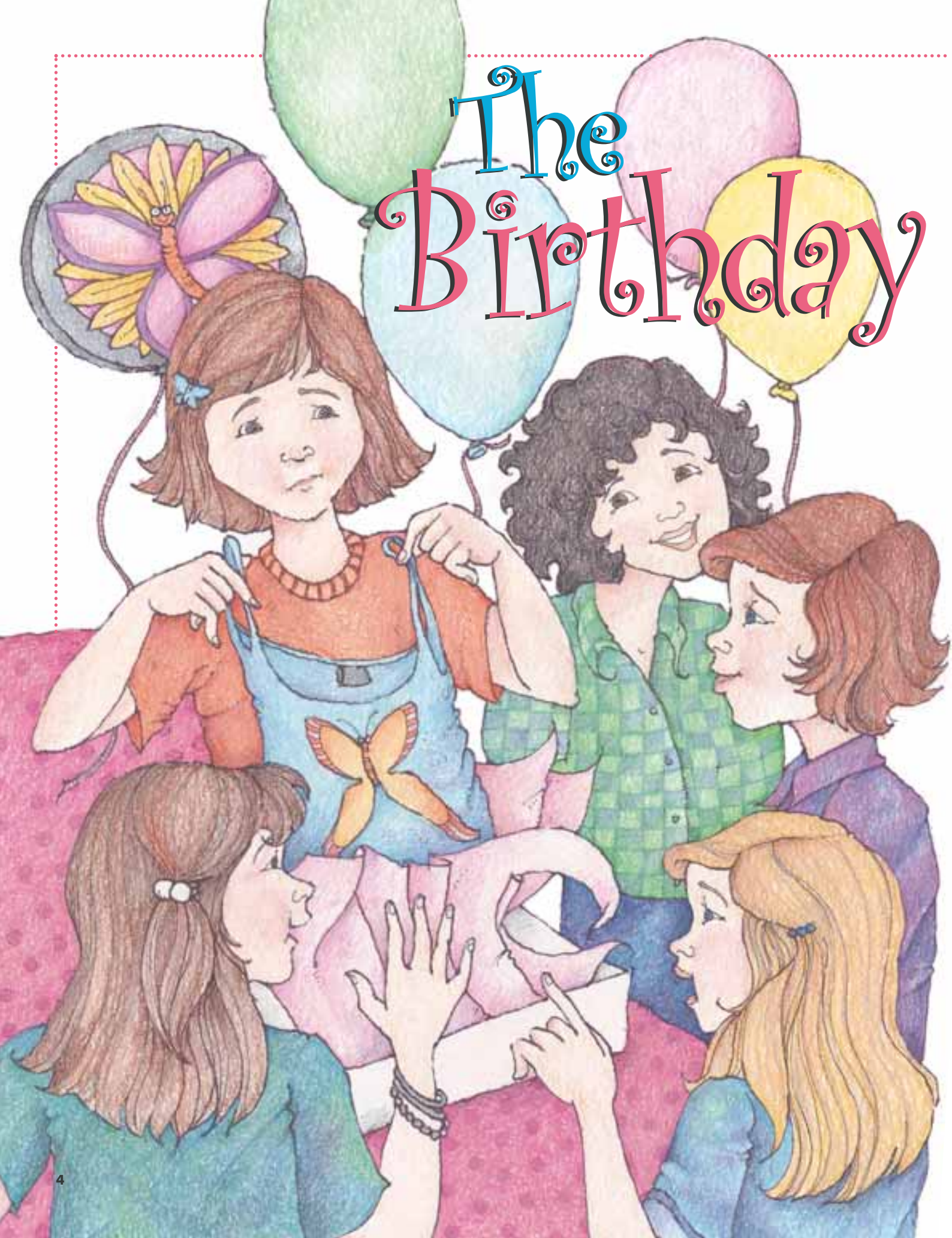
make Him your friend. I hope you will strive to walk in His paths, extending mercy, blessing those who struggle, living with less selfishness, reaching out to others.

The prophet Moroni declared, "In the gift of his Son hath God prepared a more excellent way" (Ether 12:11). You have the witness of that faith. You have the testimony of that faith. You have the example of that faith. Let us all try to stand a little taller, rise a little higher, be a little better. Make the extra effort. You will be happier. ●

("The Quest for Excellence," *Ensign*, Sept. 1999, 2-5.)



The Birthday





Present

BY JANE McBRIDE CHOATE
(Based on a true story)

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost . . . shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance (John 14:26).

Kaylie's fingers shook as she opened the brightly wrapped present. "Hurry up," Erica said. "I picked it out just for you."

Kaylie couldn't remember a better birthday party. Her parents had let her plan the party all by herself. She had invited 10 friends. They'd had cake and ice cream in the kitchen, then went to her bedroom to open presents.

Erica, her best friend, had told Kaylie that she'd brought something "way cool."

Eleven now, Kaylie wanted grown-up clothes. She'd be going to middle school next year and wanted to look like Erica and the rest of the girls in her class. They all wore clothes bought from stores in the shopping mall.

Kaylie's dad had started a new business last year. There wasn't money for new clothes, so her mother made her clothes or bought them from the thrift store.

"Finally!" Erica exclaimed when Kaylie's fumbling fingers undid the tape.

Kaylie ripped the paper from the box and lifted the lid. The girls squealed as she pulled the blue sweater from the box.

"It has a butterfly on it," Erica said.

Kaylie collected butterflies. She had butterfly barrettes, notebooks, and necklaces. But it wasn't the butterfly that she was staring at. The sweater had tiny straps, so thin that they were practically invisible.

"Th—thank you," she stuttered. "It's beautiful."

"Try it on," one of the girls suggested.

Kaylie went into the bathroom. She pulled off her T-shirt and slipped on the sweater. It fit perfectly, but she had never worn anything so revealing.

"Cool," the girls shouted when she went back into the bedroom.

She wore the sweater for the rest of the party, but she didn't feel comfortable in it.

After Kaylie thanked each of the girls for their presents and walked them to the front door, she joined Mom in the kitchen.

Mom raised her eyebrows at the sweater. "One of your presents?"

"Erica gave it to me. She knows I like butterflies." One of the straps slipped from her shoulder. Self-consciously, she pulled it back in place.

Mom put down the carrot she was grating and gestured to the kitchen table. Kaylie knew that look. Her mom was getting ready to tell her something important.

"I know," she said before Mom could say anything. "It's different from what I usually wear."

Mom waited a long time before speaking. "It's not very modest."

"Erica's my best friend." Kaylie knew she sounded defensive. "You're probably going to say I can't wear it."

Mom shook her head. "No, I'm going to let you decide what to do."

Kaylie knew her mom was telling her that she was old enough to make her own decisions. Sometimes she wished she could go back to being a little girl.

"You know our standards," Mom said. "I know you'll make the right decision."

Kaylie wandered back to her room. She looked at all the presents she had received. Ordinarily, she'd be showing her parents everything. Now she couldn't think about anything but the butterfly sweater. Once again, the strap slipped from her shoulder. She knew she would never feel comfortable wearing the sweater and changed back into the T-shirt she'd been wearing earlier.

She remembered the sharing time lesson in Primary last week. Sister McClure had asked Jason to blindfold Sam. Sam then had to walk across the room. Sister McClure said Sam would have to listen carefully to Jason, who would whisper the right directions to him. At the same time, the other children and teachers called out to him, trying to lure him away from the straight path.

When Sam made it to the other side of the room, Sister McClure thanked him and then asked if he'd had a hard time crossing the room blindfolded.

Sam nodded and said that all the voices had confused him and tempted him to stray from the path. Only Jason's directions had kept him going in a straight line.



“Be true to your own convictions. You know what is right and you know what is wrong. You know when you are doing the proper thing. . . . Be faithful. Be true.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Six Bs,” *Friend*, Feb. 2001, 25.

Sister McClure said that members of the Church had someone who could lead them in the right direction because he talked with Heavenly Father. She asked if the children knew who that was.

Kaylie raised her hand. “The prophet.”

Sister Rojas, the chorister, then led them in singing “Follow the Prophet” for the closing song.

The words of the song echoed through Kaylie’s mind now.

What would the prophet do? Kaylie knew the answer instantly. He would never do something that made him feel uncomfortable. The confusion that had clouded her mind cleared.

An idea flashed through her mind. She pulled the sweater over the T-shirt, then looked at herself in the mirror. They looked good together. She walked back to the kitchen.

Her mom wrapped an arm around Kaylie’s shoulders. “I knew you’d figure out a solution.”

Kaylie hugged her mom back. ●

Jane McBride Choate is a member of the Big Thompson Ward, Loveland Colorado Stake.





New Testament Food

BY MARIANNE FROST BATES

Read each clue below, then match it with one of the New Testament foods listed.
To check your answers, look up the scriptures.

- a. **Locusts and honey**
- b. **Mint, anise, and cummin**
- c. **Broiled fish and honeycomb**
- d. **Unleavened bread**
- e. **Five barley loaves and two fishes**
- f. **Grapes and figs**

- _____ 1. Garden herbs and spices that were paid as tithing by the scribes and Pharisees. (See Matthew 23:23.)
- _____ 2. After the Savior was resurrected, He ate this food with His Apostles. (See Luke 24:42-43.)
- _____ 3. Jesus talks about these fruits at the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount. (See Matthew 7:16-20.)
- _____ 4. Two things John the Baptist ate. (See Mark 1:6.)
- _____ 5. A boy's lunch that was blessed by Jesus, and then it miraculously fed 5,000 people. (See John 6:9-13.)
- _____ 6. Food eaten by the Savior and His Apostles as part of the Passover. (See Luke 22:1, 7-8.)

(See page 26 for answers.)

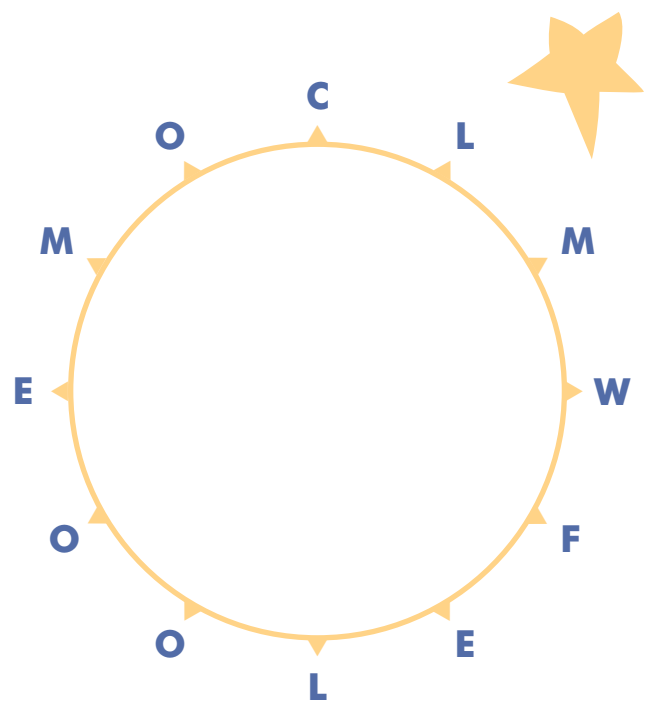


A Star and a Message

BY NEIL S. DICKSON

To make a 12-point star and learn an important message from the Savior, start with the letter C at the top of the circle and go around the circle counterclockwise to the fifth letter and draw a straight line connecting the C and O. Then write the letter C on a blank below. Continue from the letter O in the same manner until the star and message are completed.

(See page 26 for answers.)



Friend to
Friend

Quiet Times

From an interview with Elder R. Conrad Schultz of the Seventy, currently serving in the Africa West Area Presidency; by Hilary M. Hendricks

Be still and know that I am God (D&C 101:16).

My parents did not belong to a church when I was a boy, and they didn't talk much with me about Jesus Christ. But even as a little child, I always said my prayers. I slept in an upstairs loft on a couple of mattresses. I climbed the stairs, knelt beside the mattresses, and talked with Heavenly Father. Then I rolled into bed. I'm sure I didn't use hallowed language, but I learned to feel comfortable praying, so that when I heard the missionaries as a teenager, it was an easy thing for me to pray about Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon, and to ask Heavenly Father if the Church was true.

My family and I lived in Eugene, Oregon. We had tents and fishing poles and sleeping bags, and nearly every weekend during the summer we went on family

camping trips. I don't remember specific lessons my parents taught us, but I learned to be honest and kind by following their examples. My mother, father, sister, and I spent hours fishing—fly fishing, lure fishing, bait fishing. I thought the world

revolved

As a three-year-old fisherman

around a fishing pole. Fishing takes skill and preparation, and it's an exciting challenge. But one of my favorite things about fishing was observing Heavenly Father's creations. I enjoyed the quiet peace of the river and the time fishing gave me to think.

When I was in high school, my friend Skip Stewart invited me to play basketball with the team at his church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I thought, "Oh, brother, that's not going to be good basketball. But I guess I might as well." As it turned out, the team was very good—so good that we traveled to play in a large tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah. While there, I heard President Joseph Fielding Smith speak at a banquet, and I felt very



At age five with his mother and sister Joyce

impressed with “the Mormons” and their teachings. When I went home, I asked to have the missionary discussions. Soon I was baptized.

Before joining the ward team, I didn’t know the other

teammates very well, but as we played basketball together they quickly became my friends. In fact, all of Skip’s friends from church became my friends—the boys who played basketball and also the girls who were their age. I didn’t know how to dance, so after Mutual activities several of my new friends and I would go to someone’s basement and play old records while they taught me how to dance. I’m still not a good dancer, but they taught me enough so that I could impress Carolyn Lake, another Latter-day Saint girl. After my mission to the Gulf States, Carolyn agreed to marry me.



Riding tricycles at age three with his Aunt Barbara

Going on a mission prepared me for other Church responsibilities. You children can be wonderful missionaries. Invite your friends of other faiths and their parents to your baptism. Outside the temple, there is nothing as sacred or as spiritual as a baptism. Your

friends may not understand very much about the ordinance, but they will be able to feel the Holy Ghost.

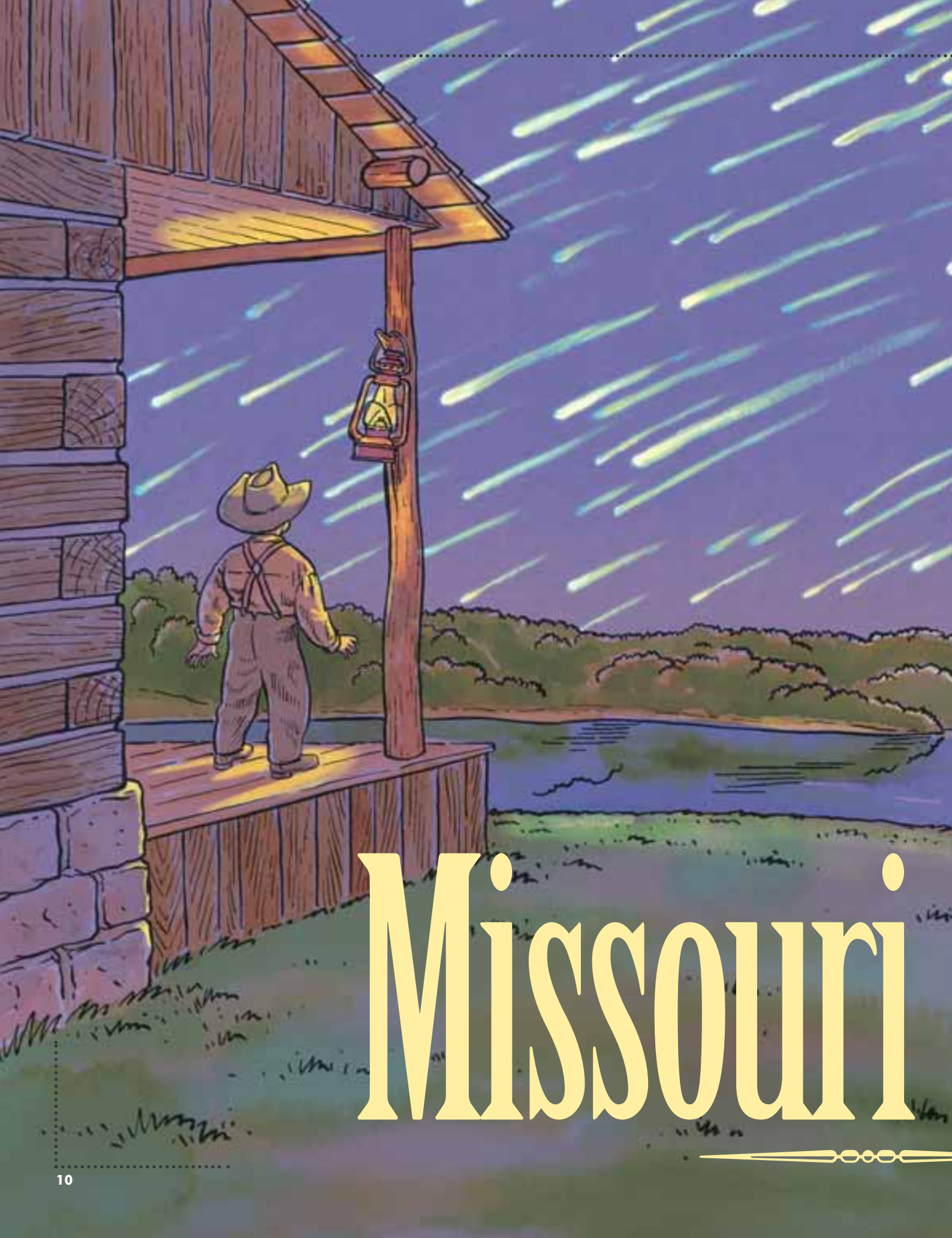


Elder and Sister Schultz

I encourage you children of the Church to find quiet times to think and to talk to Heavenly Father. Quiet time can be reading, painting, fishing, or building a fort outside. You don’t have to be alone; you can have friends or family with you. As you spend time away from television and computer games, you will develop your relationship with Heavenly Father, and you will learn that the Church is true. ●



As a four-year-old with his parents and his sister Joyce



Missouri



Stargazing

BY SUSAN B. MITCHELL

(Based on a true story)

God has not ceased to be a God of miracles
(Mormon 9:15).

Samuel Billings was only seven years old, but tonight he got to stay up late. His family was spending the Independence Day holiday in Independence, Missouri, with his grandparents.

Stretched out on the lawn on Grandma's puffy quilt, Sam and Grandpa waited for the fireworks celebration to begin.

"Sam, do you realize that we are on the very spot our pioneer ancestors stood on the night the stars fell?" Grandpa asked.

"When the stars fell?" Sam was confused. "What do you mean, Grandpa?"

Grandpa smiled and began the story. Sam listened with wonder.



George Pierce Billings was only seven years old, but no one had told him to go to bed. Never before had he been allowed to stay up so late. He was beginning to wish that he *could* go to bed, but the air was thick with suspense and fear. Sleep was impossible.

Father had taken his wagon down to the river time and time again. George had wanted to ride along, but there was no room. Father was helping people move out of Independence, Missouri, before morning. Angry men had threatened to burn anything and anybody still there when the sun rose.

George kept checking the night sky. Father had been gone a long time, and Mother was still busy packing. George was worried. His job was to watch his little sister, but he was watching for sunrise, too.

Four-year-old Eunice was getting very tired. Leaning against the wooden porch, George cradled her small curly-haired head in his lap and thought about their Missouri home. He had been only five when they had come, and they had planned to stay forever. He had watched and tried to help his father clear the land. Together, they had built this home and the barn. Father

had planted crops on most of the 34 acres, not only for his family, but also for the many new Saints who would not have time to raise a crop that season. George liked Missouri. He liked playing in the trees. He liked catching fireflies. “Even the fireflies must be sleeping now,” he thought.

Then he remembered the big fire. Father had cut 24 tons of hay and hauled it six miles to the property rented by Bishop Partridge from Governor Boggs. He had stacked it there in a long, tall pile. Then, last month, someone had set it on fire and burned it to the ground. George felt sorry for his father.

The night was very dark. Where *was* Father? Why didn’t he come to get them?

George thought he heard an explosion. Light flashed, but he couldn’t tell where it had come from. In fear, he jumped to his feet, startling Eunice. Light exploded all around him. No, it was above him, high above him—higher than any cannon or musket could fire. George could not believe his eyes! They were fixed on lights in the heavens bursting and streaming across the sky.

George rushed into the house, Eunice right behind



him. “Mother! Mother! The sky is on fire!” Mother pulled them close. “Have the mobs come for us already?” she cried.

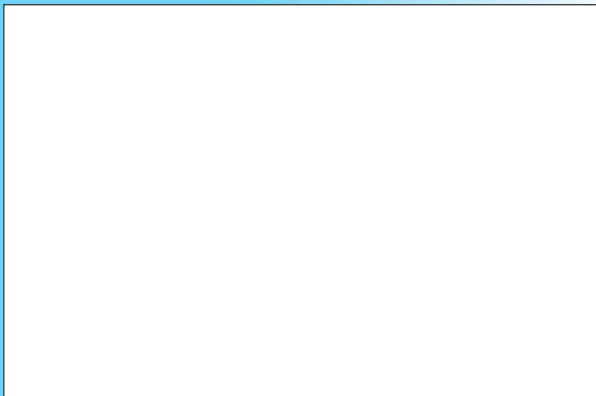
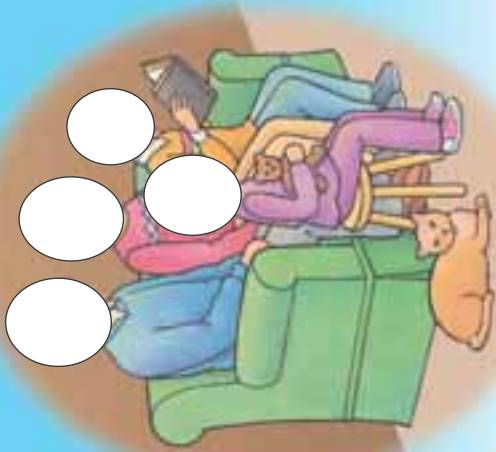
“No, Mother, no!” George pulled her to the doorway. “It’s not the mobs, Mother. It’s a miracle from Heavenly Father!”

And so it was. The heavens danced with a glorious meteor shower for the rest of the night. Stars raced back and forth across the November sky, lighting the way for the fleeing Saints. In the miraculous light, George saw his father’s wagon returning. Cheered and strengthened by the heavenly signs, George’s family and many others safely settled themselves along the Missouri River banks before sunrise. The meteor showers continued until dawn.

As Grandpa ended the story, the fireworks began. They were spectacular. But even better, Sam thought, was the memory of a miracle performed in the heavens long ago. Sam and Grandpa watched the sky, remembering. ●

Susan B. Mitchell is a member of the West Bountiful Third Ward, West Bountiful Utah Stake.





FOLLOW THE PROPHET

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI

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



How can following the prophet help us? Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles told a story about his father, who worked and lived in the home of President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918):

One night Elder Perry's father came home very late and tried to open his bedroom door. The door would not open. He pushed and pushed, and it still would not open. He gave up and turned to sleep on a rug that was in the hall. As he turned, he bumped into a nearby, partially opened door—and woke up the prophet!

Although it was midnight, President Smith came over and showed Elder Perry's father how to open the door by pulling instead of pushing, and how to get around in the dark: "Keep your arms in front, but hands together."

Elder Perry teaches us what a prophet does to help us. He said, "Isn't a prophet someone who teaches us to open doors we could not open ourselves—doors to greater light and truth? Isn't a prophet like a pair of hands clasped together in front of the body of the Church, helping members navigate [find their way]

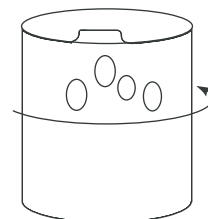
through the dark [hallways] of the world?" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 18–19.)

As we listen to the prophet and follow his advice, we can have the doors of our understanding opened, and we will be able to move through our life, guided by the Savior's light.

"Follow the Prophet" Tube Story

1. Cut out the two long rectangles, and the windows and circles inside the longer one.
2. Form both rectangles into tubes by gluing or taping tabs A to tabs B.
3. Insert the smaller tube in the larger one, then turn it to move the family from going to hear the prophet, to listening to him, to going home, to following his counsel.

Illustration



Sharing Time Ideas

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

1. Help the children understand that the Lord's servants have always taught His gospel. Before sharing time, choose messages from the most recent general conference talks that can be reinforced with scriptures located in the Epistles—e.g., 1 Cor. 3:16 (your body is a temple), 2 Tim. 3:14–17 (study the scriptures), James 1:5–6 (pray). Copy short excerpts from the conference talks and place them on the backs of the pictures of the General Authorities who gave them.

Write the scripture references (spell them out) on one side of the chalkboard. Have the children locate the scriptures, read them aloud, and write on the other side of the chalkboard the principles taught. Have a child read one of the conference-message excerpts aloud and ask the other children which scripture matches that message the best. Place the picture by the scripture, then sing songs that reinforce the message. Repeat the process until the matching is completed. Bear testimony that our prophet and Apostles today teach the word of God and that blessings come when we listen and obey.

2. Help the children understand that a prophet's guidance often comes because he is a seer who can "see" into the future (see Mosiah 8:17). Invite a guest speaker to share a conference message such as President Gordon B. Hinckley's message "The Church Goes Forward," about the growth of the Church and the "fulfillment of . . . prophecy" (*Ensign*, May 2002, 4–7). Sing songs about the Restoration, temples, and missionaries. Discuss how the children can prepare for the future by following the prophet's counsel today. Review principles of "The Six Bs" (*Friend*, Feb. 2001, 24–25). Give the children paper and pencils and have them draw two pictures—one of themselves living one of the Bs today, and a second of themselves continuing to live that principle in the future as a missionary, student, mother, or father. Bear testimony of the blessings that come from choosing the right today.

3. For younger children: Make picture necklaces to remind the children of principles taught during general conference. Cut 4–5 long pieces of string or yarn, and tie the ends of each string together to form necklaces. Using a stapler or tape, attach a small picture of an item representing the content of a talk to each string necklace. Examples: a tithing envelope for a talk on tithing, a CTR shield for a talk on choosing the right, a child praying for a talk about prayer, shoes for a talk about walking in faith and following the Savior. Place the necklaces under selected chairs before Primary.

Ask the children who find necklaces under their chairs to put them on and come to the front of the room. For each picture, review the name of the General Authority who gave the talk and the subject the picture represents. Give the children case studies relating to their pictures and ask them to act out the answer—e.g., act out a job or chore you could do to earn money, then show how you pay tithing on that money; act out watching television when a movie comes on that uses words that make you feel uncomfortable, then show what you would do; name three times you could pray, then show what you look like when you say your prayers; act out seeing your father beginning to rake leaves while you are walking to a friend's house to play, then show what you might do.

As each child demonstrates an action, have the rest of the Primary do the same action. Sing a song to reinforce the principle—e.g., "I'm Glad to Pay a Tithing" (p. 150), "Choose the Right Way" (pp. 160–61), "Children All Over the World" (pp. 16–17), "Love One Another" (p. 136).

Bear testimony that the children will be blessed as they remember the words of the prophet and other General Authorities and follow

their counsel. Sing the chorus of "Follow the Prophet" (pp. 110–11).

4. Use Ephesians 6:13–17 to help the children understand how listening to and following the counsel of our prophet and other General Authorities can serve as an armor of God to protect them. Before Primary, draw a picture of a person wearing armor on a large sheet of paper or on the chalkboard. Label the armor from the scripture description: GIRDLE (of truth), BREASTPLATE (of righteousness), SHOES (preparation of the gospel of peace), SHIELD (of faith), HELMET (of salvation), SWORD (of the Spirit). (Note: For examples of armor, see *Primary 4* manual, 91; GAK 112 [picture of David fighting Goliath].)

On slips of paper, write several copies of counsel given by General Authorities during recent general conferences, such as these from the October 2002 general conference: Elder M. Russell Ballard / "Keep yourselves clean and pure and radiant"; President Gordon B. Hinckley / "Rise to the divinity within you." Place the strips in a container.

Have the children locate and read Ephesians 6:13–17. Help them identify the pieces of armor and how each would protect them. Help them understand that following the words of the prophet and other General Authorities can protect them.

Have the children take turns choosing a slip of paper from the container. Ask each child to read the counsel from the General Authority and then give an example of how he/she could follow that counsel. After the child does this, invite him or her to color in a piece of the armor on the picture. Then sing a Primary song that applies to the principle of the armor piece chosen—e.g., "Stand for the Right" (p. 159), "Choose the Right Way" (pp. 160–61), "A Young Man Prepared" (pp. 166–67), "Faith" (pp. 96–97), "He Sent His Son" (pp. 34–35), "The Holy Ghost" (p. 105).

Give each child a picture of a doll to draw the armor on and color. Review what each piece of armor represents and how the children can develop their own "armor" to protect them from worldly influences. Invite them to take their dolls home and share what they have learned with their families.

5. To help the children practice following the prophet, play "Who's the Leader?" Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be It and leave the room; choose another child to be the leader in the circle. The leader does actions like tapping the knees, patting the head, and raising an arm. The rest of the children follow the leader's actions. Have It return and go to the center of the circle and try to discover who the leader is by watching the children follow him/her. After a correct guess is made, choose two other children to be It and the leader. Play several times.

Discuss who the leader of the Church is. How can we follow him? Review some of the principles the prophet gave in his messages during general conference. Have the children make up actions to help them remember his counsel—e.g., put their hands to their ears (listen to your parents), fold their arms (say your prayers), put their hands to their mouths (say kind things). Sing songs such as "Quickly I'll Obey" (p. 197), "We Bow Our Heads" (p. 25), "Kindness Begins with Me" (p. 145).

Play the game again and have the leader use the actions from the prophet's message. Sing "Stand for the Right" (p. 159). Express gratitude for the prophet and tell how following his counsel has blessed your life.

6. Additional *Friend* resources: Sharing Times—Sep. 2001, 20–22; June 2001, 38–40; May 2001, 34–36; Apr. 2001, 12–14. *Ensign* resources: "Hear the Prophet's Voice and Obey," May 1995, 15–17; "Teaching Children to Follow the Prophet," Mar. 1989, 52–55.



Hannah Medina

of Chula Vista, California

BY ARIANNE B. COPE

Hannah Medina, 9, loves reading. If you went to her house after school, you'd find her sitting on her bunk bed surrounded by stuffed monkeys and reading her favorite books and scripture stories. Hannah has a huge collection of books—the five shelves in her room are packed full. Her favorite time to read is at night with her lamp on. Sometimes the light keeps her older sister Emma up.

“But I don't mind,” Emma says. “When her light is on, it reminds me that I need to read my scriptures, too.”

Hannah's favorite scripture story is about Joseph and his coat of many colors. Her favorite books are about princesses.

Like a princess, Hannah's brown eyes sparkle when she smiles. Her name even comes from one of the noble women in the Bible (see 1 Samuel 1–2).

Although she doesn't live in a castle, Hannah does lots of neat things at her house. She loves to go swimming and play with her sister and brothers, Bradley, 12, Emma, 11, and Samuel, 5.

Hannah (third from top) and her brothers and sister enjoy posing on the slide.

The family also does interesting activities for family home evening, like going to the beach. They have a family home evening chart with everyone's name on it. Every week each person takes a turn being responsible for either the song, the prayer, the treat, or the activity. Even their grandmother who lives with them takes a turn. The Medinas also read the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants as a family.

"I like spending time with my family," Hannah says. "I can tell they love me." Even if you didn't know the Medinas, you would know they love each other. The license plate on their family van reads, "WE♥R4KZ" (we love our four kids).

Hannah tries to be a good friend, even when others aren't nice in return. Once she had an accident on a bicycle because her friend ran into her. She bled a lot and was really scared, but she didn't get mad at her friend for what happened.



Family van license plate

"I think good friends are nice and don't tell people what to do," Hannah says.

Hannah's best friend is her sister Emma. They share a room, and often stay up late talking and giggling.

"We fight sometimes, but not a lot," Hannah says as Emma smiles at her.

Like the princesses in her books, Hannah has many talents. She loves to sing in Primary, especially the song "Children All Over the World" because it has the words "thank you" in lots of different languages (see *Children's Songbook*, 16–17).

Hannah is also a gifted hula dancer. She took lessons with her friend from Tonga. Hannah's beautiful costume has a shiny headpiece and long strands of red and gold beads to go around her neck. Her long grass skirt swishes around her ankles when her hips swing back and forth. High above her head, she spins two long ropes with colorful balls attached to the ends.

The Medina family





The Medina children at the park

She has been able to develop her talents because she sets goals and works on them. When she wants to do something better, she adds it to the goal chart in her room. Then she chooses one goal each month to work on. One of her monthly goals was to do a better job on her homework.

Hannah also loves Primary. "I like the sharing times we do and the spotlights. Everybody at the beginning of the year fills out a spotlight form with name, birthday, family members, and favorite things," Hannah says.

On her birthday, 14 August, Hannah was spotlighted. The whole Primary found out that her favorite color is aqua green, her favorite food is pot roast and potatoes, and her favorite place is the beach.

"I also put on my sheet that I want to be a teacher," Hannah says. "I think it would be such a fun job."

Along with Primary, Hannah also loves activity days. Sister Sorenson is her activity day leader. Hannah loved it when Sister Sorenson made bracelets for the girls to encourage them to pass off their activities. Right now Hannah is learning the Articles of Faith and almost has them all memorized.

It seems that everyone who knows Hannah thinks she is princess material.

"I love Hannah's giggle," her brother Bradley says.

"I love it when Hannah plays games and does puzzles



Hannah in her hula costume

with me," her grandmother says. "She's my baby."

"I love everything about Hannah," her little brother Samuel adds.

It looks like Hannah really is a princess—a beautiful, talented, sweet daughter of our Heavenly Father, which is the best kind of princess of all. ●

Arianne B. Cope is a member of the Garland First Ward, Garland Utah Stake.

Hannah enjoying a good book





When he was President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, many people brought their problems to President John Taylor. He listened to the Holy Ghost and used his talents to help them. Once, two faithful brethren called on him. The two men were angry with each other.

President Taylor, we have had an argument and would like for you to hear our case.

Whatever you decide we will follow.

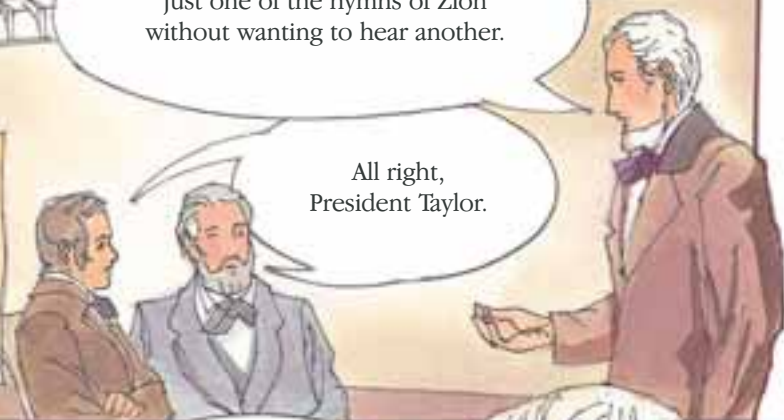
Brethren, before I hear your case, I would like to sing one of the songs of Zion.



Brethren, I have never heard just one of the hymns of Zion without wanting to hear another.

All right, President Taylor.

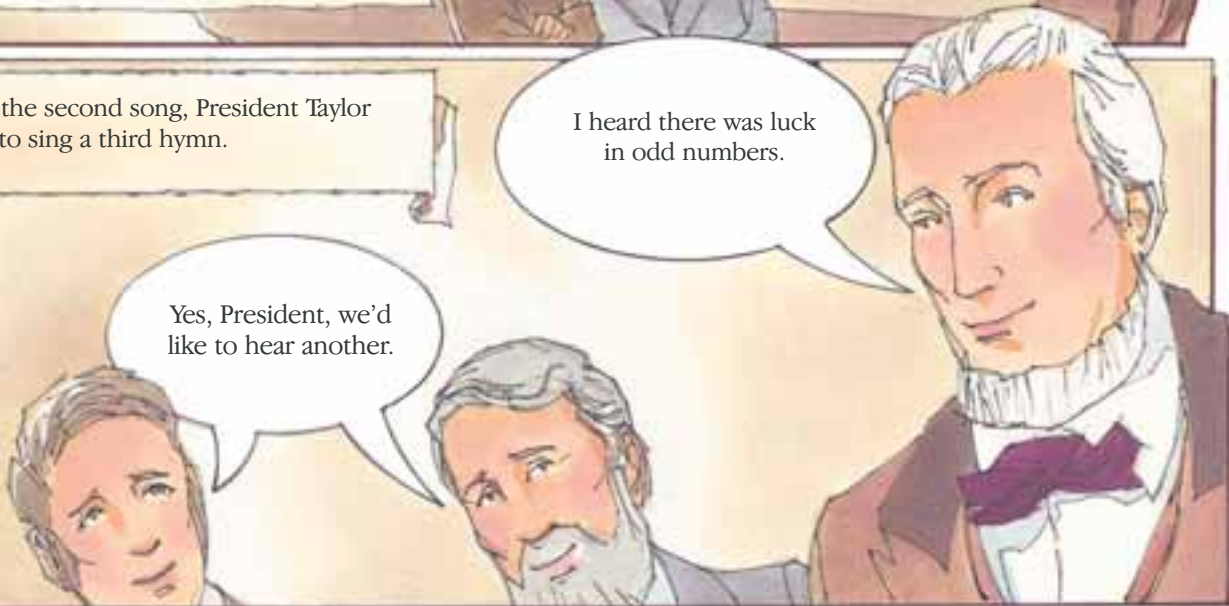
The men agreed. President Taylor was a very talented singer. After singing the first hymn, President Taylor asked permission to sing another.

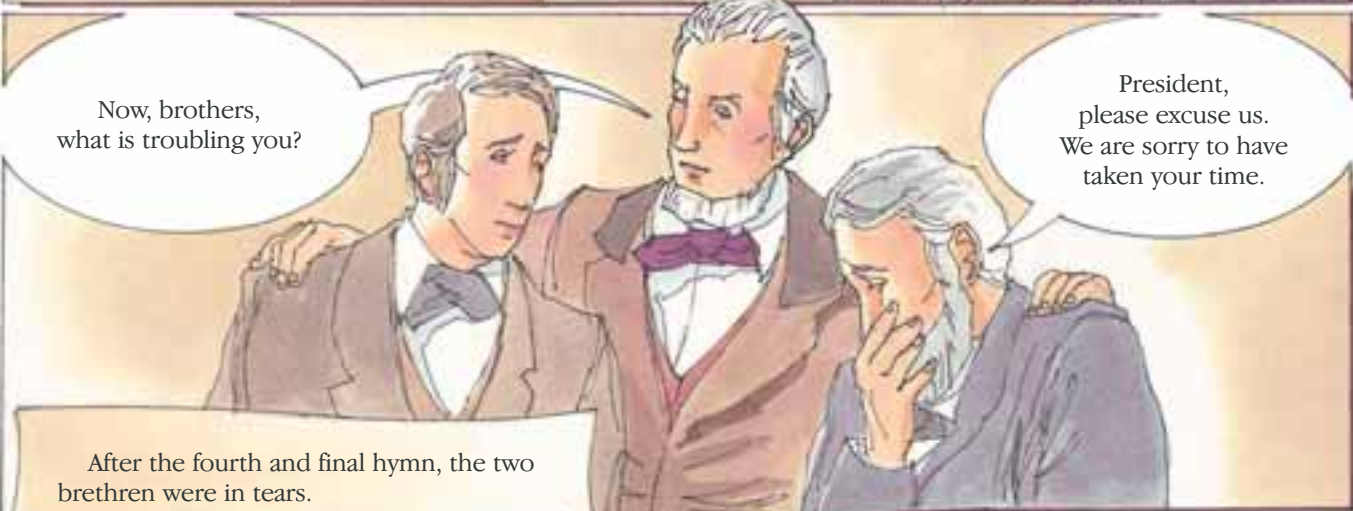


After the second song, President Taylor wanted to sing a third hymn.

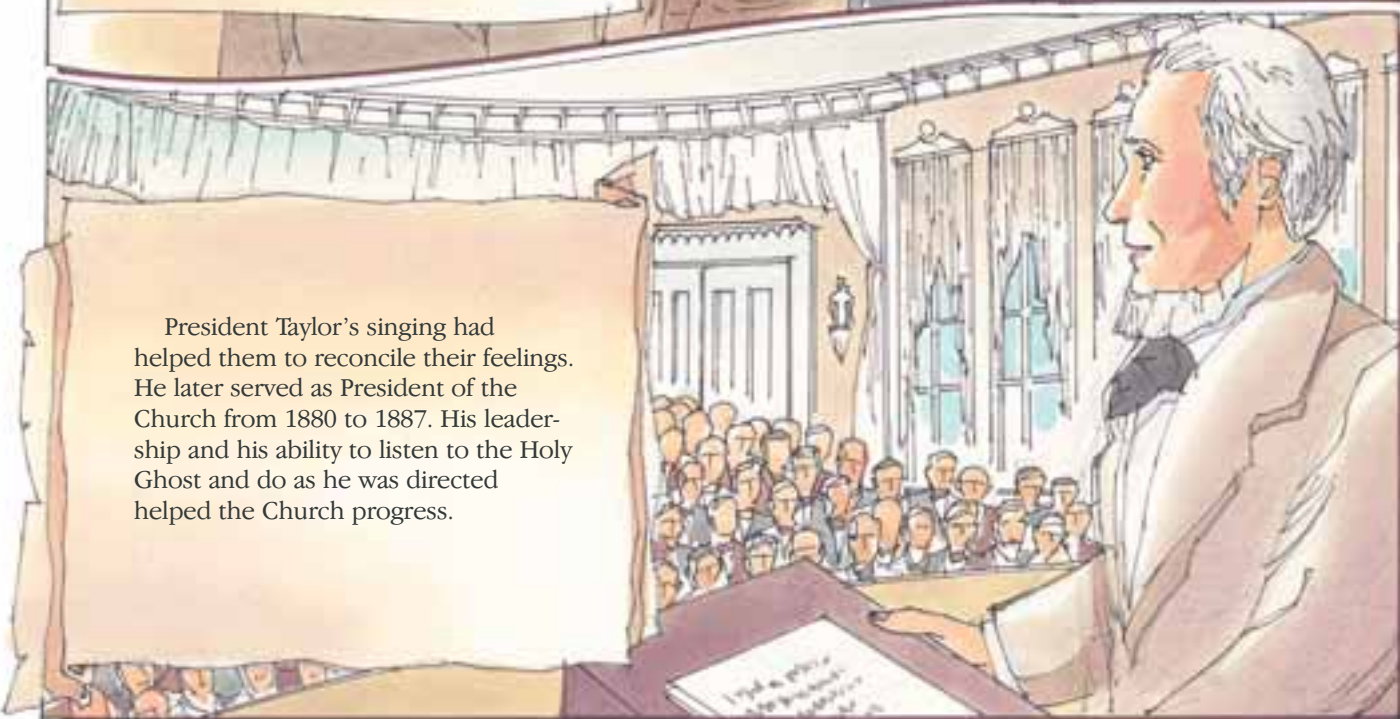
I heard there was luck in odd numbers.

Yes, President, we'd like to hear another.

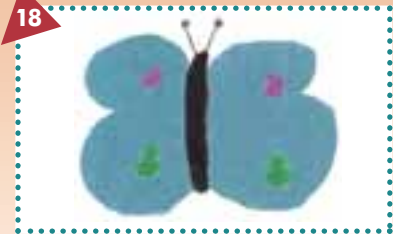
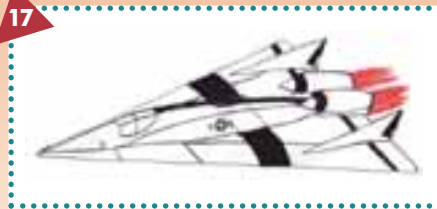
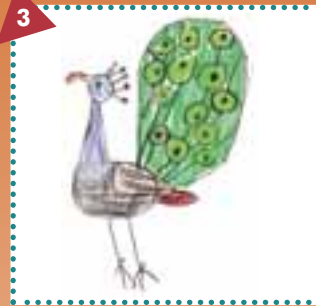




After the fourth and final hymn, the two brethren were in tears.



Our Creative Friends



Fall

It's fall again when wolves go in their den.
Rabbits grow their winter coats,
And farmers cut down their oats.
The leaves change pretty colors,
And it's time for football players.
People munch on food in their mouths,
And birds fly south.

*Austin Taylor, age 8
St. George, Utah*

Temples

Temples are beautiful.
Temples are silent.
Temples are a place of God.
Temples are a place with light.

*Lauren Bray, age 7
Wesley Hills, New York*

I Love You

"I love you," said the house.
"I love you," said the sea.
"I love you," said the world,
and . . .
"I love you," said me.

*Casey A. Memmoli, age 11
Lakeland, Florida*

A Smile

A smile is a language we all speak;
A smile, smile, smile.
A smile is a song that should be sung quite a while;
A smile, smile, smile.
A smile is like laughter,
But laughter
Comes after
A smile.

*Kayley Pyne, age 8
Dallas, Texas*

About Seasons

When the skies are blue,
The rivers are rushing,
And the flowers are blooming,
That's spring.

When the berries are ripe,
And you're planting,
And it's hot outside,
That's summer.

When the leaves are red,
Yellow, orange, and gold,
And the leaves are falling,
That's fall.

When everything is white,
And the trees are bare,
And it's really cold outside,
That's winter.

*Peter Fullmer, age 7
Jackson, Tennessee*



I'm Thankful

Thank Thee for all my hands can hold—
a mug of steaming hot chocolate,
hot, yummy turkey,
warm woollen mittens.

Thank Thee for all my eyes can see—
cuddly, warm kittens,
the pretty blue sky,
the wonderful teacher who teaches me,
people smiling at me while going by in cars.

Thank Thee for all my ears can hear—
birds chirping in the morning,
crickets playing at night,
choirs singing on Sunday,
hot, crackling fires,
my mom and dad saying they love me.

*Elisabeth Lyman, age 8
Mesa, Arizona*

Jesus

The best friend you'll ever find
Is gentle and kind.
His humble and meek attitude
Fills me with gratitude.
We can feel Him in many ways
Like the sun's warm rays.


His sweet Spirit fills me with love.
I feel light and beautiful as a dove.
I want to be just like my Savior Jesus
Who will bless and guide us.
He is my wise, kind, and best friend,
And helps me endure to the end.

*Janae Jessee, age 9
Riverton, Utah*

DRAWINGS

- 1 Brady Stoddard, age 11
Vancouver, Washington
- 2 Aubry Mears, age 9
Valdese, North Carolina
- 3 Joseph Michael Larson, age 5
Miamisburg, Ohio
- 4 Katri Clay, age 3
Spring, Texas
- 5 Michael Blaylock, age 10
Apache Junction, Arizona
- 6 Abagael Dalton, age 7
Port Hueneme, California
- 7 Aaron Bunny, age 4
Fruitland, New Mexico
- 8 Benjamin Ostler, age 8
Enterprise, Alabama
- 9 Melanie Bruce, age 10
Orlando, Florida
- 10 Devin Davis, age 7
South Jordan, Utah
- 11 Isaac Donnelly, age 8
Byers, Colorado
- 12 Annelise Gardiner, age 5
Meridian, Idaho
- 13 Emily Young, age 10
Rugeley, Staffordshire, England
- 14 Dylan Dolisi, age 9
Paola, Kansas
- 15 Megan Knorr, age 6
Orem, Utah
- 16 Wacey R. Hollingworth, age 11
Valleyview, Alberta, Canada
- 17 Ryan Call, age 10
Auburn, Washington
- 18 Stacia Kiestler, age 9
Aiea, Hawaii
- 19 Julia Ward, age 11
Southbury, Connecticut
- 20 Laura Green, age 11
Okinawa, Japan

AN INVITATION



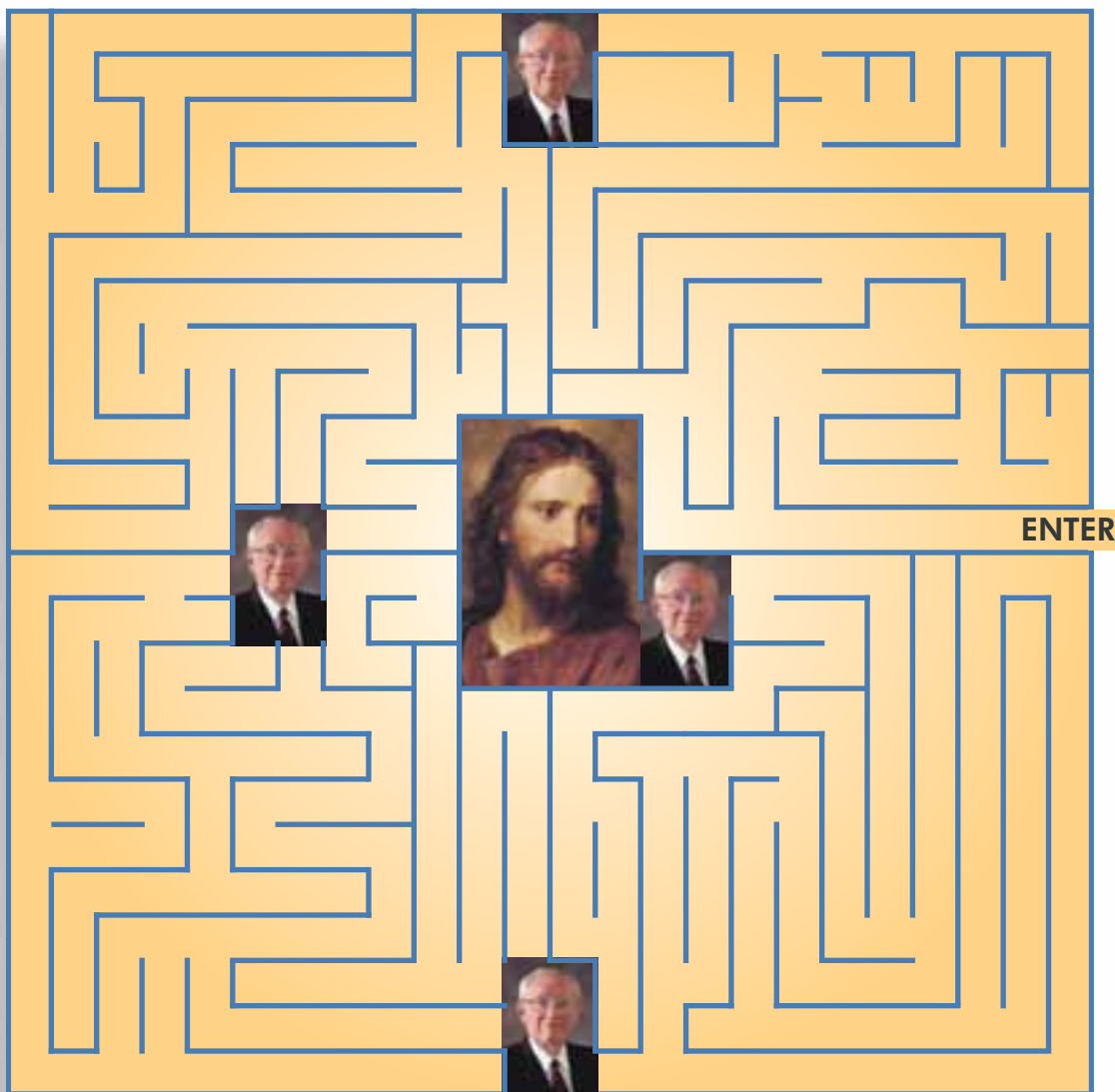
*Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness
of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me
(D&C 19:23).*

Follow the Prophet

BY RONDA GIBB HINRICHSSEN

President Gordon B. Hinckley tells us about Jesus Christ and what He wants us to know and do. If we follow the prophet, he will guide us to the Savior. To

reach Jesus Christ in the center of the maze, start at Enter and pass through each President Hinckley pathway without crossing any lines.

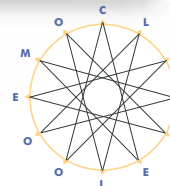


Funstuf Answers

New Testament Food: (1) b, (2) c, (3) f, (4) a, (5) e, (6) d

A Star and a Message: Come follow me. →

Latter-day Prophets Matching Game: (1) l, (2) b, (3) j, (4) f, (5) c, (6) a, (7) k, (8) g, (9) d, (10) o, (11) n, (12) i, (13) e, (14) h, (15) m





Faith of Our Prophets

BY ELDER DAVID B. HAIGHT
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Did you know that all of Elder David B. Haight's grandparents were pioneers who came across the plains and settled in Utah? He teaches us to have faith in the prophets of both pioneer times and now.

What a wonderful and grand opportunity [it] is for all of us to be able to sustain our living prophet upon the earth today. To feel it in your heart and soul that you not only sustain him but you endorse what he has been doing and what he has done for us in representing us to the world. We are thankful for the marvelous and inspired way in which he has spoken to the world.

As we look at Brigham Young and reflect upon the inspiration and direction that came to that most unusual man, we recall how he was able to fill the tragic void caused by the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, how he was able under inspiration and revelation to guide and direct the closing of Nauvoo and the planning of the trip west. We remember the continued work there at that time on the Nauvoo Temple and the way that was organized to move forward, with the wagon trains crossing the West and into the Salt Lake Valley into what would become Zion.

And think of the blessing that has come into our lives to have President Hinckley as our prophet, seer, and revelator and leader and to envision what is happening and what will be happening ahead of us if we just have the faith to continue to do what has been started.

President Hinckley often speaks to us about developing more faith. That faith is a result of our living the principles of the gospel, living the way we should.

Just imagine the [lesson] that the Savior was teaching the people. If you only had as much faith as [a] little tiny mustard seed you would say to the mountain, "Move hence," and it would move, if you had that much faith (see Matthew 17:20).

So what we need is the faith of Brigham Young and the faith of Gordon B. Hinckley and the faith of people who are our prophets and leaders. ●

From an October 2001 general conference address.



You Are Never Alone

BY PHYLLIS PETERSON

(Based on a true story)

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee (Hebrews 13:5).

Heidi loved animals, especially cats. So she was excited when her cat, Thunder, had four kittens. Two kittens were black as night, and the other two were gray with a touch of marble—just like their mother.

Heidi took very good care of Thunder and her new babies. She made sure Thunder had plenty of food and water. She kept the area of the garage where the kittens had been born clean, safe, and warm.

On a sunny afternoon when the kittens were a few weeks old, Thunder seemed to be a little restless. Heidi thought the cat might enjoy a walk while the kittens were sleeping, so she picked her up and headed outside. But they hadn't gone far when Thunder jumped out of Heidi's arms and ran away. Heidi tried to catch her, but the mother cat quickly disappeared.

Heidi was frightened. She searched frantically under bushes, in trees, and through a neighbor's weed patch. She could not find Thunder anywhere.

Heartbroken, Heidi walked slowly home with empty arms. She kept thinking about the tiny kittens. What would happen to them? Would they die without their mother? Tears were rolling down her cheeks as she neared home.



Suddenly she smiled. "My family will help me find Thunder!" she thought. She ran eagerly inside, calling out for help. To her dismay, she couldn't find anybody. Now what should she do? She was all alone and scared. Then the thought came to her that she was never all alone. Heavenly Father was always with her.

Heidi ran up to her room and knelt by her bed. She asked Heavenly Father to please help her find Thunder so the kittens would be taken care of and not die. She got up and headed out to look for Thunder again. The first thing she saw was Thunder—calmly washing herself by the garage door! Heidi was so happy that she cried.

At church the next Sunday, Heidi told her friends that her prayer had been answered. She knew Heavenly Father was always with her. ●

Phyllis Peterson is a member of the Salem Fourth Ward, Salem Utah Stake.

Thanksgiving Feast

BY LIZ BALL

While Mrs. Bear prepares a Thanksgiving feast, try to find all the hidden objects shown below. Then color the picture and think about all the things you are thankful for.



Surprise Thankful Parfait



To enjoy a dessert filled with your favorite blessings, choose from each of the rebus groups below the thing for which you feel most thankful. Each blessing has been assigned a tasty secret ingredient, and your parents will make you a surprise parfait (layered dessert) based on your choices. Parents: If you don't have an ingredient, or if your child doesn't like it, substitute.

Group One: Helpers



= cookies



= graham crackers



= pretzels

Group Two: Basic Needs



= ice cream



= yogurt or pudding



= whipped cream

Group Three: Nature



= cut-up fruit



= nuts

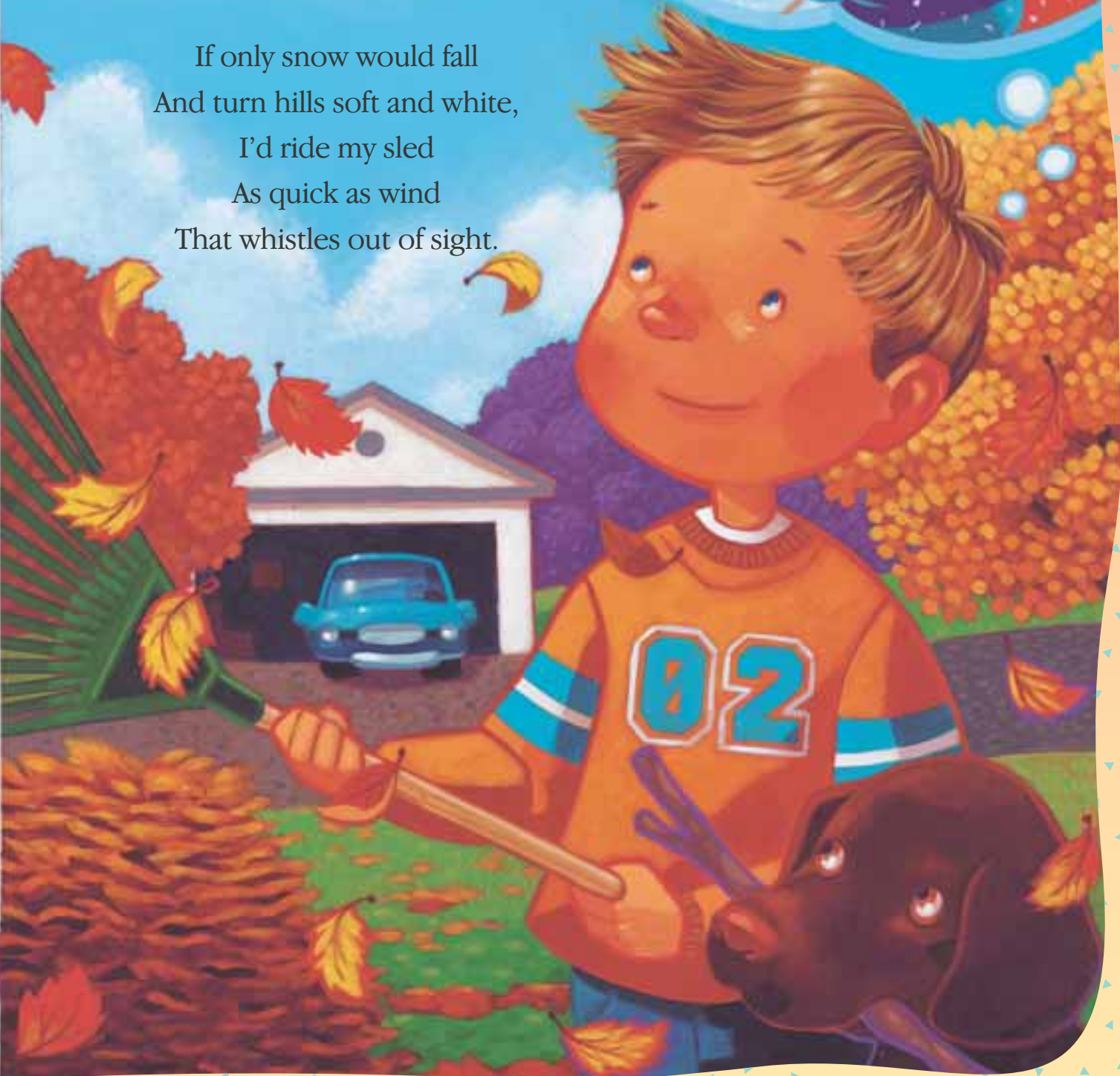


= marshmallows or chocolate chips

In November

BY SANDRA LIATSOS

If only snow would fall
And turn hills soft and white,
I'd ride my sled
As quick as wind
That whistles out of sight.



Guests for General Conference

BY KIMBERLY WEBB

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

*Every man shall bear the fulness
of the gospel in his own tongue*
(D&C 90:11).

Abbie lived near Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. She loved to see the Christmas lights twinkling in the winter and the tulips blooming in the spring, and hear the Tabernacle Choir singing all year round.

One day in sacrament meeting, Bishop Allen made an announcement: “Some Church members from Mexico are thinking about coming to general conference, and they’ll

need places to stay. If any of you can host these guests, please talk to me after the meeting.”

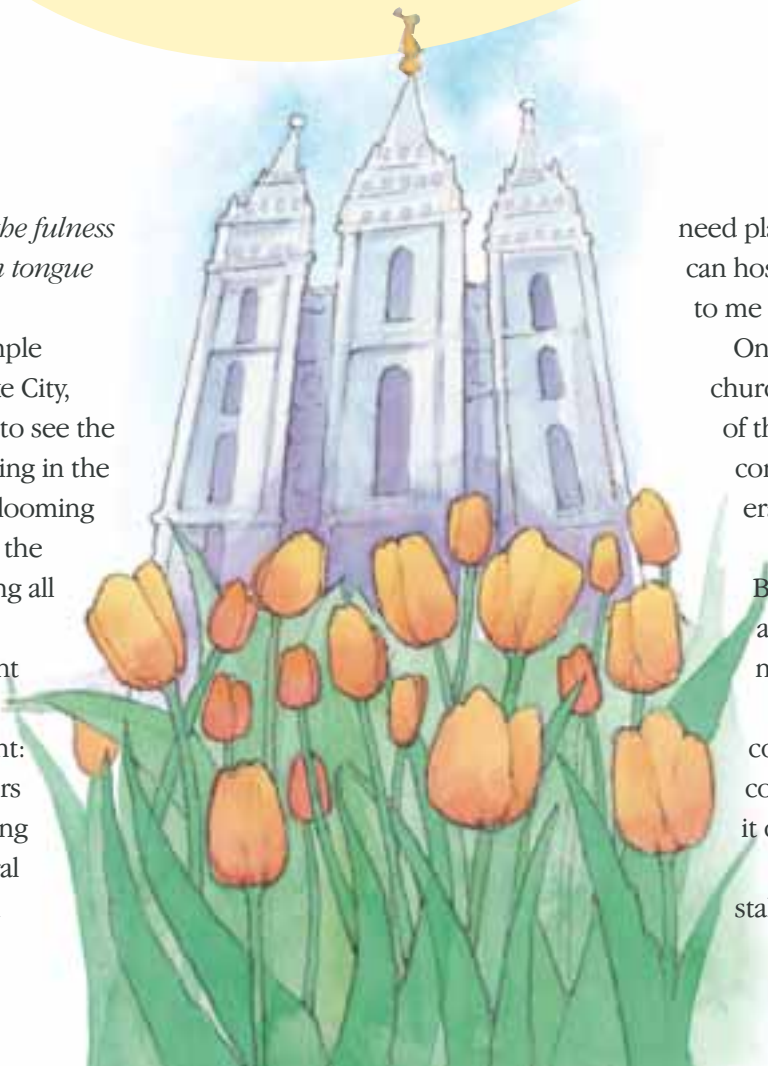
On the way home from church, Abbie asked, “Will any of the visitors from Mexico come to our house for general conference?”

“I’m not sure, sweetie.

But we’ve volunteered to let a family stay with us if they need to,” Dad said.

“Why do they want to come all this way for general conference? Can’t they watch it on TV?”

“They can watch it at their stake center,” Mom explained.



“But until now, they have never had the opportunity to see a prophet in person. Do you remember how you felt when you saw President Hinckley?”

Abbie nodded. “I felt the Spirit really strongly when he walked into the room.” She had never been to general conference, but she had seen the prophet and two Apostles speak in other meetings. She had even gotten to shake an Apostle’s hand. Until now, she had never really thought about how special that was.

“Not every member of the Church gets a chance to see the prophet,” Dad said. “Some watch conference at a stake center and others listen to him on the radio. Some people can only read what he says weeks or months later.”

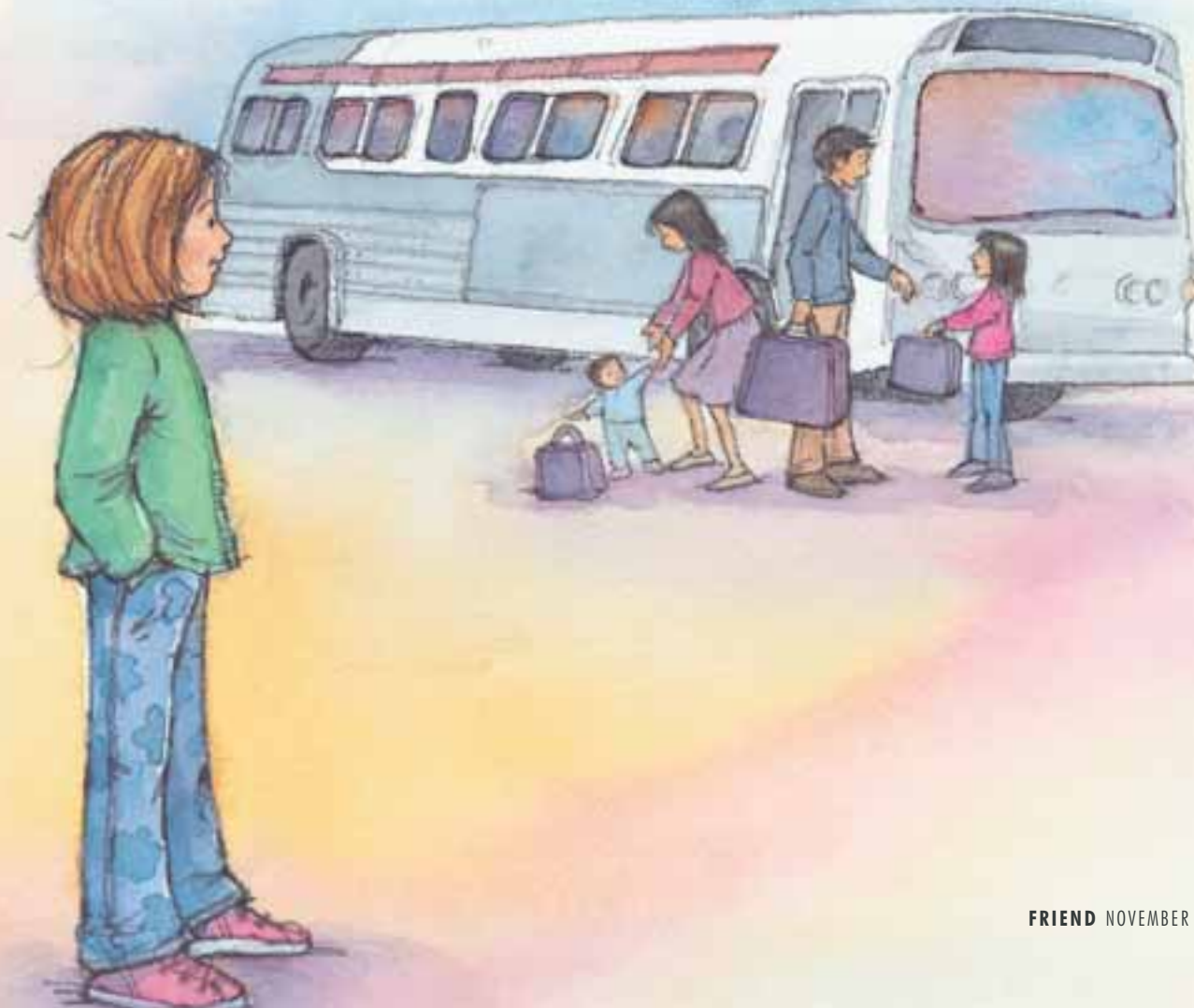
“Listening to him any way you can and obeying his words is what matters most,” Mom added.

Abbie knew that Mom was right, but she was still glad

she had been able to see President Hinckley. She imagined living far away from Salt Lake, not being able to hear the prophet speaking inside the Conference Center or see the tulips blooming around the temple nearby. “I would travel a long way, too,” she decided aloud, “just to see the prophet once.” She hoped that the families from Mexico would come.

When the bishop called to tell Abbie’s dad that they would have guests for general conference, Abbie was excited and worried. Her family’s house was small. Would the visitors like staying here? She was also worried about the language differences. She didn’t know any Spanish! How would she talk to them?

Three weeks later, she stood with her parents in the stake center parking lot, waiting for their guests to arrive. Soon a dusty bus pulled into the lot. It jerked to



a stop, and people piled out the door. They looked tired, and their clothes were wrinkled, but they were smiling.

Dad walked over to the group and started speaking in Spanish. He had learned it while serving a mission in Argentina. Soon he came back with a couple and their two children.

"This is Bishop Martinez, Sister Martinez, and their children, Isabel and Alejandro." Alejandro was barely old enough to walk, but Isabel seemed to be only a bit younger than Abbie. Then Dad introduced Abbie and her mom to the Martinezes in Spanish.

"*Hola*," Isabel said shyly.

"*Hola*," Abbie repeated. Her dad had taught her that it meant "hello." As Isabel smiled at her, Abbie's worries disappeared. They couldn't speak very well to each other, but they could still be friends.

After dinner, Isabel followed Abbie into her room. Abbie pulled out her box of toy dishes and food. Picking up a plastic apple, she told Isabel the English word.

"Apple?" Isabel repeated. "*Manzana*."

"*Manzana*," Abbie said. Isabel pretended to gobble it up, and they both laughed.

Isabel rummaged through the box and pulled out a little milk carton. "*Leche*," she said. Abbie repeated the Spanish word, then told her the English word. One by one, they learned all the toys' names.



"This is fun," Abbie thought. Suddenly, Isabel covered her face with her hands and cried, "Adios!" Abbie knew that meant good-bye. Confused, she wondered if she had somehow hurt Isabel's feelings. But then Isabel opened her hands

like shutters and yelled, "Hola!" She giggled. Her hands flapped shut again. "Adios!"

"It's like peekaboo," Abbie realized. She joined in. "Hello! Good-bye! Hello! Good-bye!"

The next day during conference, Abbie imagined Isabel sitting at the Conference Center, listening to a translator through headphones. She couldn't wait for her new friend to come back and tell her what she thought of everything.

When the Martinezes returned, Isabel chattered excitedly. Abbie had never heard anyone talk so fast!

"What's she saying, Dad?" Abbie asked. "Did she like conference?"

"Yes," Dad answered with a smile. "She saw the prophet." Abbie grinned.

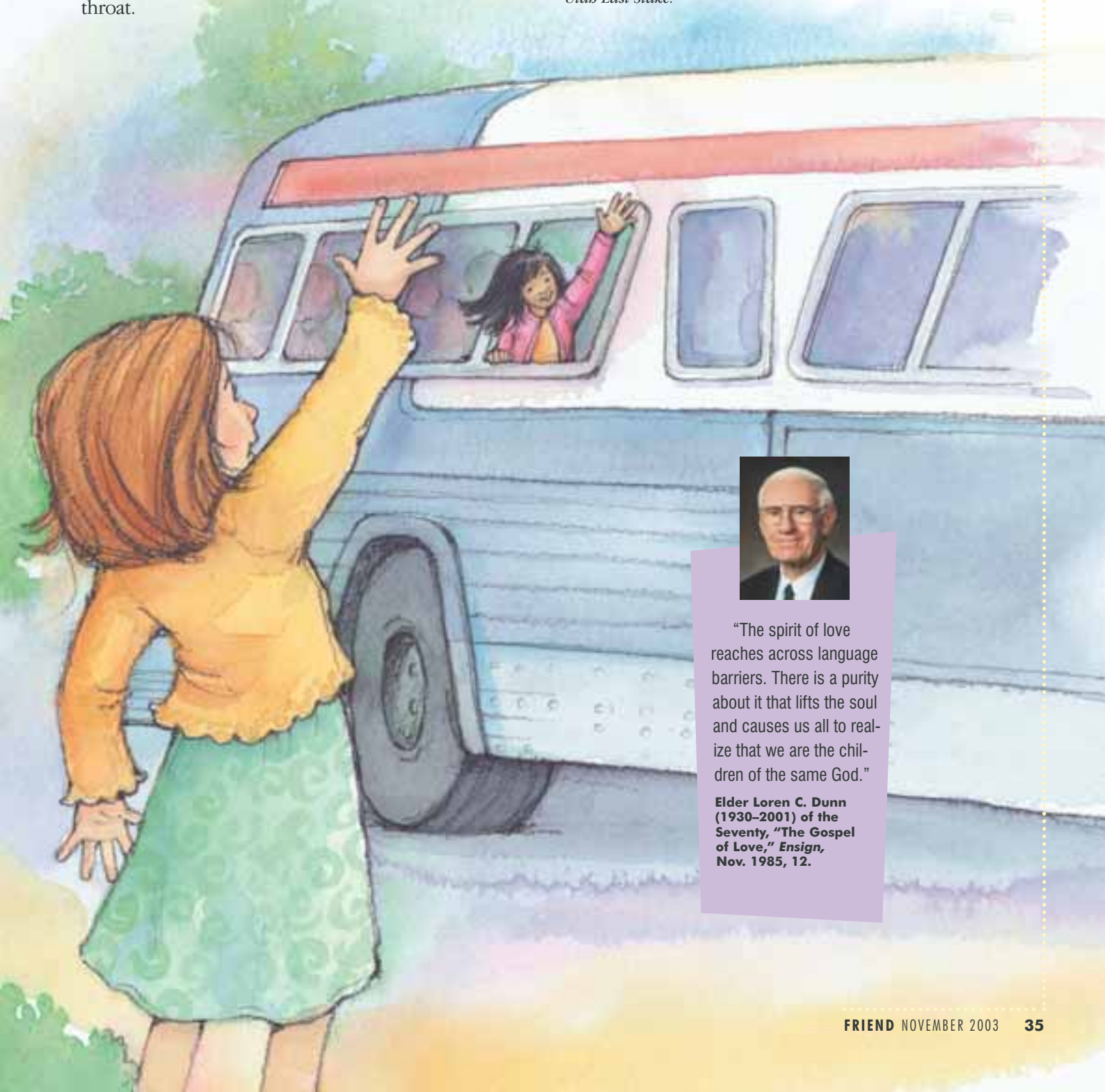
In no time at all, Abbie and her family were taking the Martinezes back to the stake center to board their bus for home. Abbie felt so sad she couldn't even look at Isabel. She didn't want anyone to see her cry. But Isabel wasn't going to leave without a good-bye. She hugged Abbie. Then she brought her hands up to her face.

“Hola! Adios! Hola! Adios!” She laughed as she played their peekaboo game.

“Hello! Good-bye! Hello! Good-bye!” Abbie replied. She giggled, too, even though there was a lump in her throat.

As the bus drove away, Abbie tried to smile. “Can we have guests for general conference every year?” she asked. “I liked making a new friend.” ●

Kimberly Webb is a member of the Heber 10th Ward, Heber City Utah East Stake.



“The spirit of love reaches across language barriers. There is a purity about it that lifts the soul and causes us all to realize that we are the children of the same God.”

Elder Loren C. Dunn (1930–2001) of the Seventy, “The Gospel of Love,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 12.

Cornelius and Peter

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

In a revelation to Joseph Smith, the Lord said that He would reveal to the prophets what He wanted people to do.

We are to obey the counsel of the prophets, He said, because “What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).

Cornelius, a centurion in the Roman army shortly after the death of Jesus Christ, learned this. Although he was not a Jew, he was a good man who believed in God. He and his family “gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway” (Acts 10:2).

An angel came to Cornelius in a vision. He was to send for the Apostle Peter, who was living in Joppa. The angel said that Peter would tell Cornelius what to do. The next day, Cornelius sent two servants and a soldier to bring Peter to him.

When they were almost to Joppa, Peter was praying while he waited to eat dinner. He was very hungry. While he prayed, “he fell into a trance,

“And saw . . . all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

“And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

“But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten



any thing that is common or unclean.

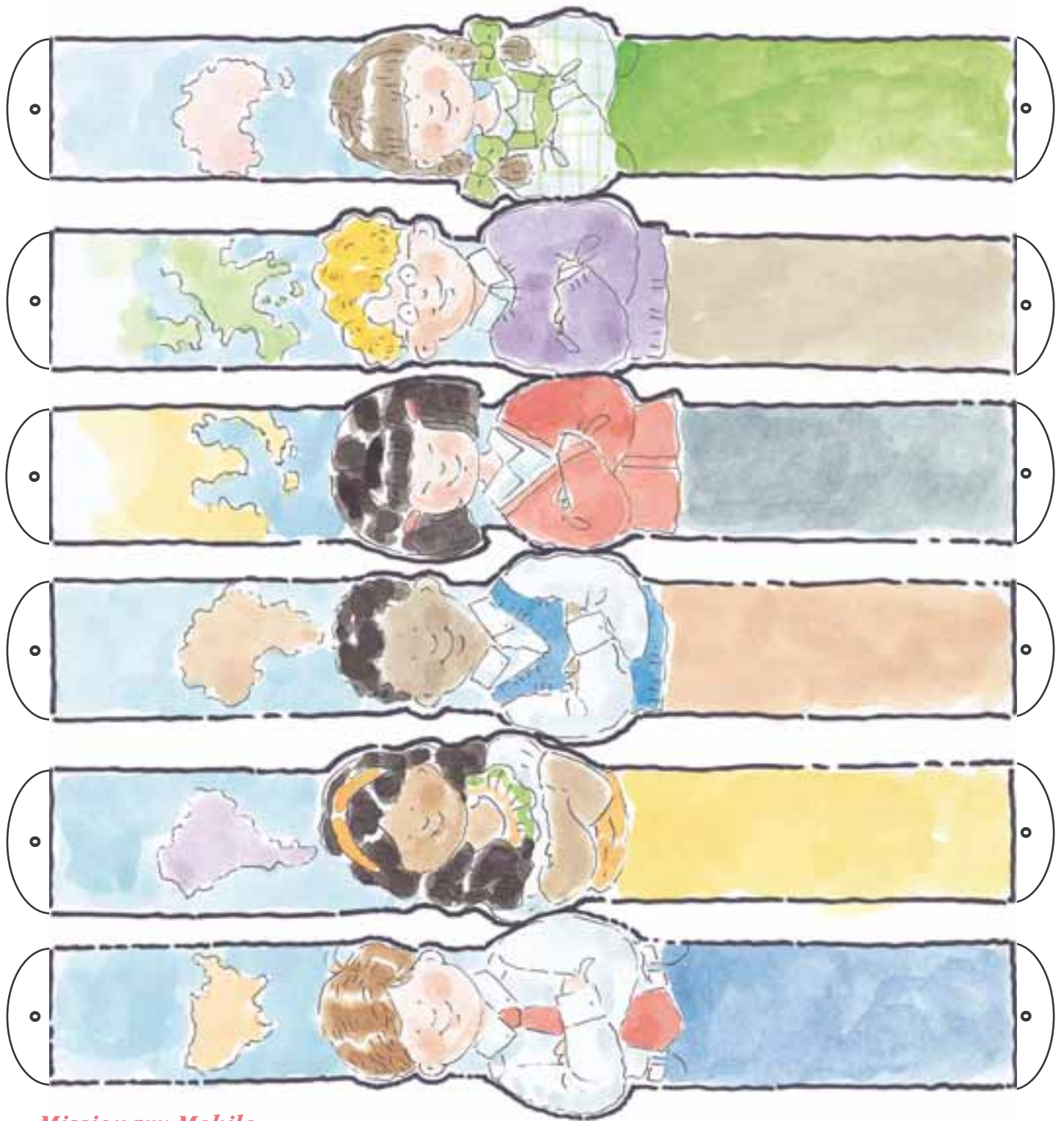
“And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common” (Acts 10:10–15).

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of what he had seen, Cornelius’s men came, and the Spirit told him, “Go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them” (Acts 10:20).

Peter went with them the next day. He found not only Cornelius but also his family and friends. Cornelius told Peter about the angel and said, “Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God” (Acts 10:33).

Peter then understood what he had seen in his vision. The Lord was showing him that the gospel wasn’t only for the Jews but for all people. He taught the gospel to Cornelius and the others. While he taught them, “the Holy Ghost fell on all them.” Peter “commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (see Acts 10:44, 48).

Cornelius had obeyed the counsel of the angel and called for Peter, a prophet of God. When Peter taught him and his family and friends, they received the witness of the Holy Ghost. They followed the counsel of the prophet and became members of the Savior’s church. ●



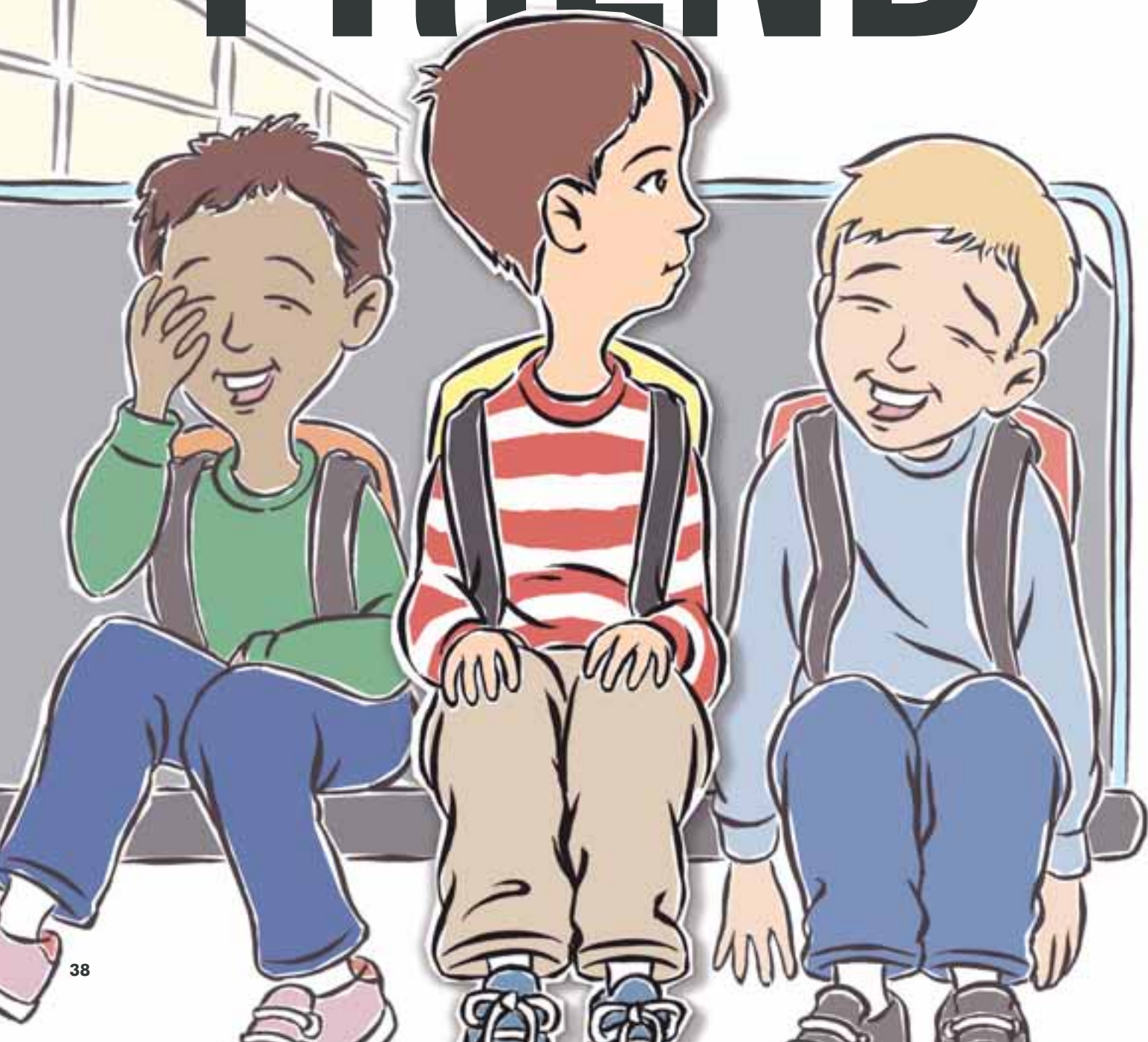
Missionary Mobile

By Arianne B. Cope

To make the mobile, you will need: glue, heavy paper, scissors, a paper punch, two small metal fasteners, and string. Mount this page to heavy paper, then cut out the strips. Punch two small holes on each strip where marked. Fasten the tops of the strips together with the fastener, then fasten the bottom strips together with a fastener and spread the strips apart (see illustration). Attach a string to the top fastener; hang the mobile somewhere in your room to help remind you that the gospel is for everyone in the world.



A New Best **FRIEND**



BY VICKI H. BUDGE

(Based on a true story)

There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother
(Proverbs 18:24).

On Monday morning, Jonathan sat between Rob and Braden as the bus bumped along toward school. His friends were being really funny that morning, and Jonathan was laughing so hard that his sides ached.

Suddenly Rob joked about something that wasn't very nice. Braden broke into hysterics and answered with another joke that was even worse. Then he threw in some bad language.

Jonathan squirmed. The bad language and jokes were happening a lot lately. He glanced at Sara, who was sitting across the aisle. She was the only other member of the Church in sixth grade. She looked back at him, her bright brown eyes wide. Jonathan looked away. Sara probably thought he talked that way, too. He looked up and saw the bus driver staring directly at him in the rearview mirror. She shook her head and mouthed the word *no*.

Jonathan looked down. His stomach churned like it did when he was about to throw up.

The bus pulled into the school yard, and children started to pile out. Jonathan was thankful for the fresh air that rushed in. As they stood in the aisle, Braden pushed from behind and laughed. Usually Jonathan would have pushed back or poked Rob in front of him. But not today. He didn't feel like laughing or pushing. When he and his friends got to the front of the bus, the driver frowned and pointed for them to sit down.

"Busted!" one boy said as he walked past.

After everyone else got off, the bus driver set the air brakes with a loud *spissbb* and turned around. No one said anything funny. No one laughed.

"I didn't care for the way you were talking," the bus driver said. "Would you talk that way in front of your mothers?"

The boys squirmed. None of them answered.

By the time the bus driver let them go, they had missed most of the free time before school.

"I hope she doesn't call my mom," Rob said.

"I don't care if she calls mine," Braden said. "My mom doesn't care."

Jonathan thought about his mom. What if she heard the way his friends talked? She would feel so sad. What if she thought he talked that way, too? He shuddered. It was bad enough that Sara and the bus driver thought so.





Jonathan sighed as he walked into his classroom. What a rotten way to start the day.

After math, Mr. Price said, “Everyone take out a piece of blank paper and fold it four times. We are going to make some new friends.” Jonathan knew what that meant. They were going to learn new vocabulary words. He folded and unfolded his paper and got ready to write a new word on each of the sixteen little squares. Then they would play bingo with the new words. He liked his teacher’s way of introducing new words by playing fun games with them. Mr. Price said that each time you learned a new word, it was like making a new friend.

A new friend! An idea began to grow in Jonathan’s head. As the class practiced their new words, the idea grew stronger. He would make a new best friend who liked good words and didn’t use bad words. But who?

At lunchtime Jonathan looked around. There were a lot of kids in his school. Surely he could find one new friend. He looked at a table where a bunch of kids from

his sixth-grade band class sat. Most of them liked bad jokes, though. That wouldn’t help.

He looked across the cafeteria at some kids from another classroom. They were really nice guys, and he’d never heard any of them use bad language. But every seat at their table was taken. No one there would be looking for a new friend.

Finally he saw Sara sitting with her friends. She did not use bad words, and neither did her friends. But he couldn’t sit with them. They were all girls.

Sara stood up and carried her empty tray toward the kitchen. Jonathan stopped her. “Hey, that wasn’t me swearing on the bus.”

“I didn’t think it was,” Sara said. “But I wondered.”

“Well, I just want you to know I don’t talk like that. Actually, I’m looking for a new best friend who doesn’t talk like that either. Rob and Braden are still my friends, but when I’m with them I get blamed for what they say.”

“Who is your new best friend going to be?”

Jonathan looked around the cafeteria. Kids were everywhere—eating, talking, and laughing. “I don’t know,” he said.



“At no time will we be more Christlike than when we are a friend.”

Elder Marlin K. Jensen of the Seventy, “Friendship: A Gospel Principle,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 65.

That night he sat on the side of his bed and told Mom about his problem. As he talked, another good idea came into his head. “Heavenly Father knows who my new best friend is,” he said. “I’ll ask Him.”

Jonathan knelt by his bed and said his prayers, talking to Heavenly Father about his problem just like he had talked to his mom. Every night that week he asked Heavenly Father if there was a nice boy in sixth grade who could be his new best friend. Each day at school he searched and wondered who it could be. It seemed as if everyone had all the friends they needed.

On Monday after math, Mr. Price said, “Everyone get ready to make some new friends.” He wrote ten words on the board and gave several definitions for each word. “Choose someone in the class to discuss the words with,” he said. “You must each use every word in five different sentences. The first team to use all ten words is the winner.”

Rob picked Braden, and they started talking really fast, intent on winning the prize. Jonathan looked around. He had no idea who to pick. He noticed that a boy named Dale was looking around also. The two had never really spoken, but they both needed a partner, so they smiled and sat down together.

“The first word is *keen*,” Jonathan said. “My hockey skates are very keen.”

“So are mine,” Dale replied, “but I’m not too keen on the gash I got from another player’s skate after I fell on the ice.”

“I didn’t know you played hockey,” Jonathan said. “I’m guessing that someone was keen to get to the puck ahead of you.”

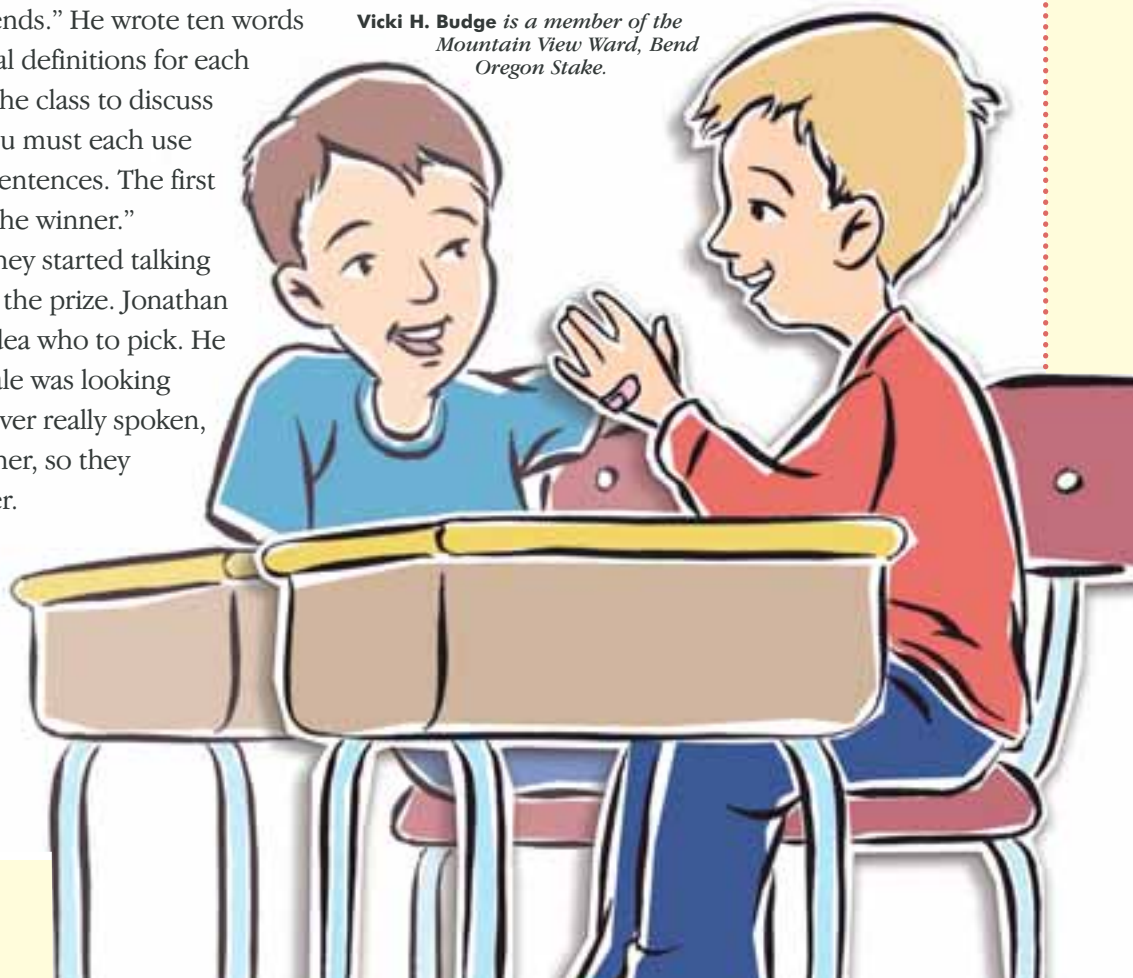
Dale nodded. “You obviously have a keen mind. It was a keen battle, but my team won.” He held up a bandaged left hand. “But the wind was keen that night, and my hand ached all the way home from the rink.”

Jonathan laughed out loud. This was fun. Then he realized that he had never heard Dale use a bad word. “Your story has given me keen pleasure,” he said.

Dale gave him the kind of smile a friend gives a friend. “That’s keen,” he said. “Really keen.”

Rob and Braden finished first and won the contest, but Jonathan knew that he had won something much better. ●

Vicki H. Budge is a member of the Mountain View Ward, Bend Oregon Stake.





Trying to Be Like Jesus

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



Example

By Marissa Mortimer

I have a friend who is not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She had a party where we got our



nails done and watched movies. She wanted to rent R-rated movies. I told her that I don't watch those kinds of movies. One of the girls told me that she once watched a movie that she wasn't supposed to watch, and her mom didn't ever find out. I told her that I still wouldn't see

that movie. We ended up getting two other movies.

The next morning her mom made coffee. She offered me some. I told her that I wasn't allowed to have coffee, and she told me that a little wouldn't hurt. I politely told her that I did not want any. She didn't say anything else after that. I'm glad that I could obey the Word of Wisdom.

Marissa Mortimer, age 11, is a member of the Rocklin Second Ward, Rocklin California Stake.

Twenty-dollar Decision

By Colton James Simons

My Grandpa Johnny gave me a job to help him clean up around his store and yard. One day I was raking up leaves and found a \$20 bill lying on the ground under some leaves. I picked it up and,



instead of keeping it, I took it to my grandpa. When I went back to work I had a good feeling inside. The Holy Ghost was telling me that I had done what Jesus would do.

Colton James Simons, age 10, is a member of the South Valley View Ward, Salem Utah Stake.

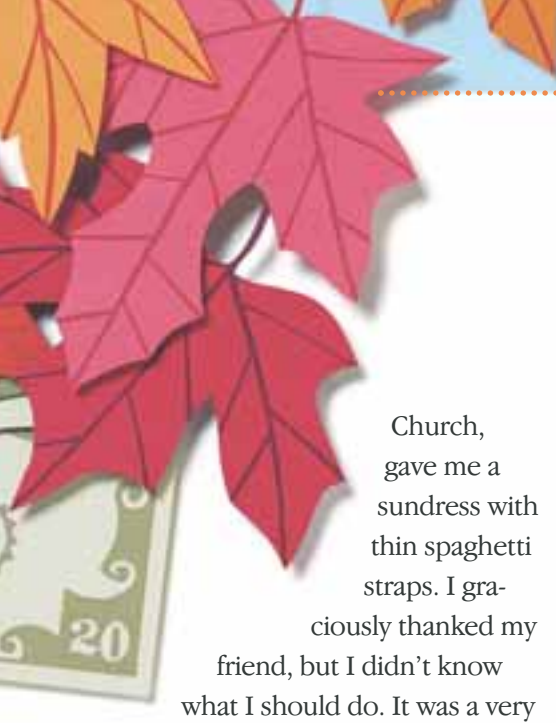


A Modest Solution

By Brenna Priebe

My parents have always taught me to dress modestly. My best friend, who is not a member of the





Church, gave me a sundress with thin spaghetti straps. I graciously thanked my friend, but I didn't know what I should do. It was a very cute dress, and I wanted to be able to wear it. I talked to my mom about what I should do. Then I remembered that my Aunt Emily sometimes wears sundresses, but wears a T-shirt underneath to be modest. I am grateful for the example my aunt sets for me, and for my parents who teach me how to dress modestly so I can be ready to go to the temple someday. I'm glad I came up with a modest solution so that I can wear my cute new dress!

Brenna Priebe, age 9, is a member of the Oakburst Ward, Vancouver Washington Stake.

We read in the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet that Sunday is not a holiday or a day for recreation or athletic events. I know it is important to keep the Sabbath day holy. My dad and I went to the coach and told him that I would not play football on Sunday. The coach was frustrated by our decision. He did not



understand because he is not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Throughout the season I tried to be a good example. It was hard for me at times because I love to play football and hated to miss so many games. When I did play with the team at Saturday games, I played my best.

I have been blessed. Many of my teammates and coaches have asked questions about the Church because of my decision. This was a great missionary experience, and I know that I made the right choice.

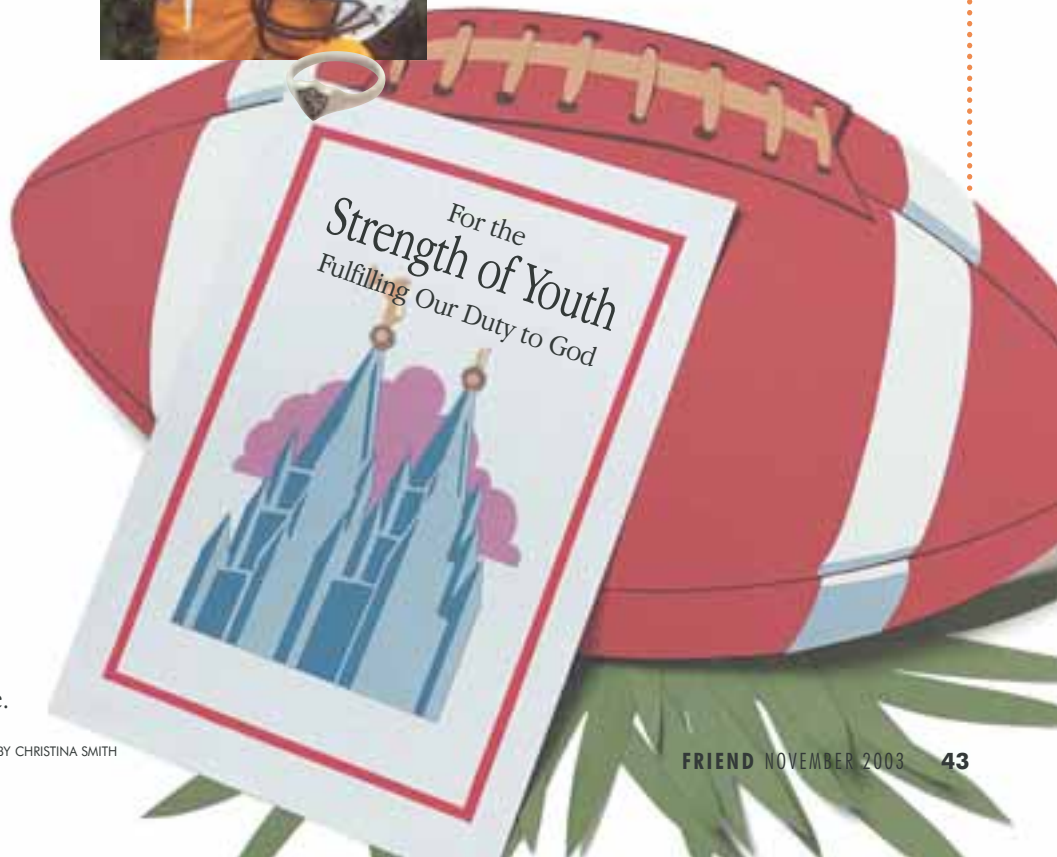
Cason Carrel, age 10, is a member of the Doylestown Ward, Philadelphia Pennsylvania Stake.

I Love Football

By Cason Carrel

Football is my favorite sport. I have been playing Little League football for six years. The position I play is running back. For the past five seasons we have not had many games on Sunday. This year was different. Almost half the games were on Sunday.

At the beginning of the season, my family had a family home evening on Sabbath day observance.





I Can Have Faith

BY SHAWNY ERNST

The scriptures say that faith is not to know things perfectly,
But it is to believe in things of truth I cannot see.

Although I cannot see the sunlight shining in the night,
I do believe when morning comes I'll see it shining bright.

I cannot see my Heavenly Father listening to my prayer,
But I believe He hears me; I believe that He is there.

When Jesus lived upon the earth, His fame went far and near.
He healed the blind that they could see, the deaf that they could hear.

The multitudes would follow Christ; they'd never give Him rest.
They'd push and crowd their way to Him, their sick ones to be blessed.

One day a woman with disease the doctors could not cure
Thought, "If I can but touch His robe, He'll heal me for sure."

She pushed her way, then saw His robe just above the ground.
As she bent down and touched it, Jesus stopped and turned around.

"Who touched my robe?" He asked the crowd. The woman hid in fear.
Then Peter answered, telling Him how many crowded near.

The woman felt Christ knew of her. His spirit warmed her soul.
As she came forth, Christ told her it was faith that made her whole.

Although I am just a child, I believe my faith will grow;
Then someday I'll behold Christ's face, and not believe—I'll know.



Latter-day Prophets Matching Game

BY JANE McBRIDE CHOATE

Heavenly Father has blessed us with prophets to lead us in these latter days. President Gordon B. Hinckley is the fifteenth prophet of the Church. You can play this matching game in family home evening to learn something about each of these prophets.

Instructions: Remove pages 46–47 and mount them on lightweight cardboard. Cut out the pictures of the prophets and the descriptions, then place them faceup. A player picks a prophet, then matches it with a description (others can help, if needed). Repeat until all the prophets have been selected. (See page 26 for answers.)



1. Joseph Smith



2. Brigham Young



3. John Taylor



4. Wilford Woodruff



5. Lorenzo Snow



6. Joseph F. Smith



7. Heber J. Grant



8. George Albert Smith



9. David O. McKay



10. Joseph Fielding Smith



11. Harold B. Lee



12. Spencer W. Kimball



13. Ezra Taft Benson

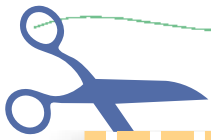


14. Howard W. Hunter



15. Gordon B. Hinckley





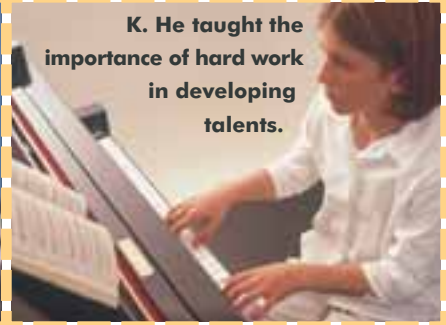
A. He was the first to counsel us to have family home evening.



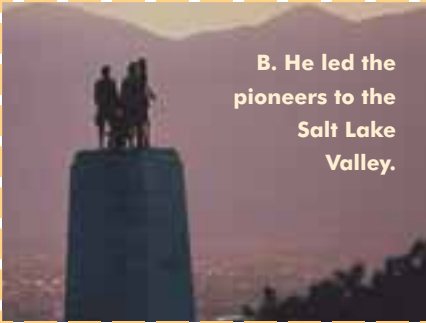
F. He dedicated the Salt Lake Temple in 1893.



K. He taught the importance of hard work in developing talents.



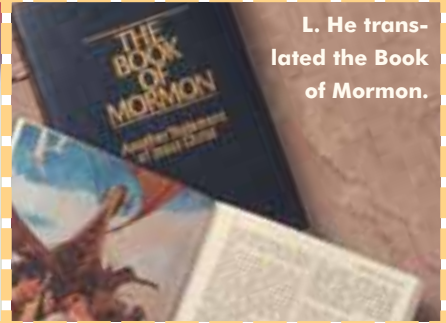
B. He led the pioneers to the Salt Lake Valley.



G. He received the Silver Buffalo Award from the Boy Scouts of America for his service.



L. He translated the Book of Mormon.



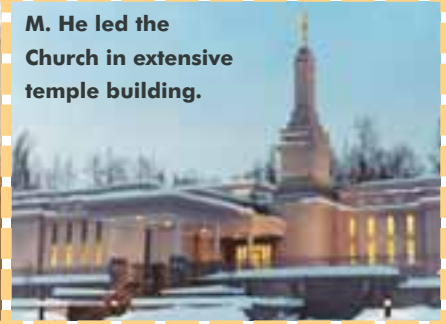
C. He taught the importance of paying tithing.



H. He asked us to live more Christlike lives and to prepare to go to the temple.



M. He led the Church in extensive temple building.



D. He said, "Every member a missionary."



I. He encouraged us to keep a journal.



N. He helped establish the current welfare program.



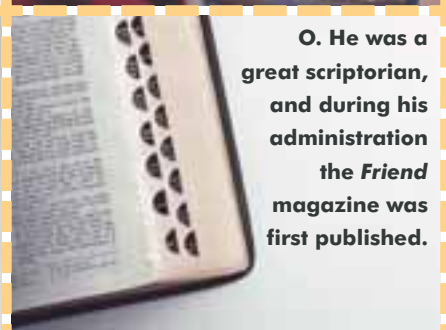
E. He emphasized the importance of studying the Book of Mormon.



J. He saw Joseph Smith martyred in Carthage Jail. His life was saved when a bullet was stopped by his watch.



O. He was a great scriptioner, and during his administration the *Friend* magazine was first published.





Lauren Adams, 9, San Antonio, Texas, enjoys piano, soccer, writing, activity days, and school. She also likes to play with her friends and family.



Kempton Schmitz, 5, Shawnee, Kansas, is a good singer and is always willing to help others. He enjoys doing crossword puzzles and also likes playing and riding bikes with his friend Jacob and his brothers.



LaShane Bates, 8, Newport News, Virginia, is excited to be sealed to her parents when her adoption is finalized. She is loved by everyone because of her sweet, strong spirit.



Greyson Meyer, 6, Durham, North Carolina, likes to learn about the temple. He enjoys drawing trucks and playing with cars. He feeds the family pets and sets a good example for his younger brothers.



Lauren Peterson, 9, Arlington, Texas, enjoys horseback riding, soccer, gymnastics, and wrestling with her brother. She loves her dog, Angel, and is helpful to her family and friends.



Ryker Lee Bingham, 8, Mesa, Arizona, likes to play soccer and baseball and read the *Friend*. He is memorizing the Articles of Faith and learning to play the piano. His favorite song is "I Am a Child of God."



Haleigh Flake, 11, Park City, Utah, has a strong testimony. She sings in the ward choir, plays the piano and violin, and is on the swim team and student council at school. She is a great sister and friend.



Spencer Judd, 6, Chicago, Illinois, likes to play sports and practice tae kwon do. He enjoys playing games with his family every night. He attended the open house for the Nauvoo Illinois Temple.



Hannah Moore, 8, St. Charles, Missouri, enjoys going to Primary and her favorite song there is "A Child's Prayer." She loves to spend time with her family, which includes her four brothers and three sisters.



Raven Jonah Lynn, 3, Apache Junction, Arizona, is good at making his baby brother, River, laugh. Raven likes doing tricks on the trampoline. He always thanks Heavenly Father for President Hinckley in his prayers.



Sydney Cottle, 6, Portland, Oregon, likes to sing and dance, and is an awesome soccer player. She also likes school and Primary. Sydney has great faith in Heavenly Father and in the power of prayer.



The youngest of five boys, **Zane Longman**, 5, Lehi, Utah, likes to attend Primary, swim, draw, and ride his bike. He goes to kindergarten and has learned to read. His favorite song is "I Am a Child of God."



Laurie B. Wilson, 3, Cheyenne, Wyoming, likes to talk. She also likes being a "mom" to her favorite doll, Gabby. She loves her new brother, Preston, and is learning how to be a good sister.



A very affectionate boy, **Mark Edwin Horner**, 9, Manning, Alberta, Canada, has a special love for his little sister, Robin. Mark likes fishing in the Northwest Territory with his dad and brother, Duncan.



Rachel Lynn Dean, 7, Westminster, California, enjoys basketball and other sports. She likes animals and has two pets—a rabbit and a dog. Some of her favorite activities are singing and dancing.



Michael Pizzulo, 5, Belleview, Florida, is sweet, loving, and very funny. He likes trains, puzzles, pizza, typing on the computer, and singing in Primary. He is looking forward to being baptized.



Jerica Denby, 10, Everett, Washington, has five brothers. She enjoys playing softball, dancing, singing, reading, and playing the piano. Her parents love her very much.



Taylor Schwartz, 8, Overton, Nevada, makes friends with everyone, and he enjoys helping his mother. He likes to draw, read, and play basketball and baseball. He is excited to be an uncle soon.



Hannah Lei Duzon Pascua, 7, Barcelona, Spain, enjoys designing gowns for her dolls and writing lyrics she hopes will be sung by famous Spanish singers someday. She helps her mom bake.



Tryan Peterson, 12, Springfield, Missouri, is a great helper to his mom and younger brother and sister. He likes to play football and go on Scout campouts. He is eager to serve a mission.



Mary B. Falck, 5, Fremont, Ohio, likes to swim, ride her bike, and eat doughnuts with orange and black sprinkles. She also likes to listen to scripture tapes. Her grandparents are serving a mission in Brazil.



Teddy Christensen, 7, Aurora, Colorado, likes playing soccer, playing his guitar, and attending Primary. His favorite scripture story is the second chapter of Luke—the birth of Jesus Christ.



Briyana Elizabeth Latham, 9, Twin Falls, Idaho, loves horses, cats, dogs, and baby geese. She enjoys singing in Primary and dancing with her sister, Tahnee.



Aaron Clark, 4, Woodbridge, Virginia, loves his Primary teachers and enjoys singing Primary songs. He also loves his cat, Tango. His favorite food is mashed potatoes, and his favorite sport is football.

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 November is “Teachings of the Prophet.”



Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Present the message “Excellence” by President Gordon B. Hinckley (pages 2–3). Tell about family members or friends who try to do their best. Read the examples in *Trying to Be Like Jesus* (pages 42–43), and discuss how these young friends are trying to become excellent people. Decide on one thing you will try to do better this week.

2. Tell the story “The Birthday Present” (pages 4–6). How did Kaylie figure out what she should do? Discuss ways we might know if we are dressing modestly (ask parents, pray, listen to the Spirit, follow the prophet’s counsel). Together memorize the statement by President Hinckley in the sidebar (page 6). Invite family members to promise to be modest.

See page 30.



3. Read “Faith of Our Prophets” by Elder David B. Haight (page 27). Share stories about the prophets you know about.

Prepare and play the game “Latter-day Prophets Matching Game” (pages 46–47), or follow the maze “Follow the Prophet” (page 26).

4. Make the “Missionary Mobile” (page 37) and talk about the New Testament story “Cornelius and Peter” (pages 36–37) that tells how Peter learned that the gospel is for everyone. Then share the story “Guests for General Conference” (pages 32–35). Look at *Friends in the News* (page 48) and think of your brothers and sisters in the gospel all over the world.

5. Make a “Surprise Thankful Parfait” (page 30) for refreshments. Talk about the blessings you have in your life.



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(FLF) = For Little Friends
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*This is truly a magnificent building.
I know of no other comparable
structure built primarily as a ball of
worship that is so large and that will
seat so many. It is beautiful in its
design, in its appointments, and
in its wonderful utility.*

President Gordon B. Hinckley,
"To All the World in Testimony,"
Ensign, May 2000, 6.