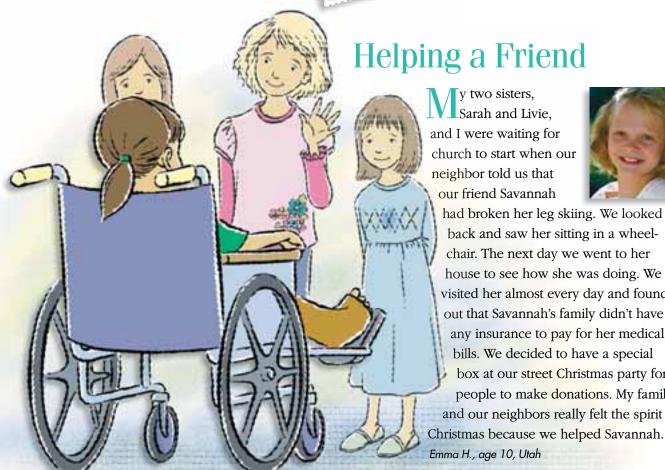


## Friends | by Mail



Helping a Friend

y two sisters, Sarah and Livie. and I were waiting for church to start when our neighbor told us that our friend Savannah



had broken her leg skiing. We looked back and saw her sitting in a wheelchair. The next day we went to her house to see how she was doing. We visited her almost every day and found out that Savannah's family didn't have any insurance to pay for her medical bills. We decided to have a special box at our street Christmas party for people to make donations. My family and our neighbors really felt the spirit of

Emma H., age 10, Utah

## Lost Blanket



Then it was time for bed, I could not find my blanket. My mom helped me look, but we couldn't find it anywhere. I cried myself to sleep. I woke up early in the morning crying. My mom and I knelt by my bed and

asked Heavenly Father to help us find my blanket. We looked again, and my mom found it in the playroom under a box of toys. We thanked Heavenly Father for helping us find my blanket.

I really enjoyed the story "A Perfect Match" in the October 2006 Friend. My sister and I are adopted, and we like hearing about other adopted children. Rachel S., age 4, Washington, with help from her mom

## A Kind Song



Then I was walking home from school with my friend, she said that one of my classmates was mean. The person she was talking about was my friend. I thought, "That is not nice." Then I said to her, "Jesus

says love everyone." In Primary the music leader taught us that we should be kind to everyone, even those we don't like or those we think are different. Because of the songs I am learning in Primary, I knew the right thing to say to my friend.

Wesley H., age 7, Missouri

#### **VOLUME 38 NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2008**

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is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 E. North Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah.

To subscribe: By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express.

Online: Go to www.ldscatalog.com.

By mail: Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368.

To change address: Send old and new address information to Distribution Services at the above address, or change the address by phone at the number listed above. Please allow 60 days for changes to

Submit manuscripts or art to: Friend Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2432, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America. Unsolicited material is welcome, but no responsibility is assumed. For return, include self-addressed, stamped envelope. Children's submissions will not be returned. E-mail: friend@ldschurch.org.

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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





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

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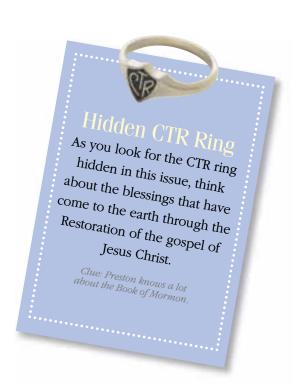
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Cover by Margie Seager-Olsen







# Following the Light

"Tow when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

"Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:1–2).

The Wise Men followed the light of a star to find and worship the Savior. We worship Him by following the light of His example. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is perfectly obedient, merciful, and kind. He spent His time on earth in service, and He gave His life so we could repent and live eternally. Because He came to earth, we know who we are: beloved children of Heavenly Father.

This Christmas, may we sing with joy, pray in gratitude, and carry out kind deeds. As we strive to become more like the Savior, we will have joy and happiness during this wonderful season and peace each day of the year.

President Thomas S. Monson President Henry B. Eyring President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

EVEN THE WISE MEN OF THE EARTH MUST FOLLOW DIVINE DIRECTION, BY J. LEO FAIRBANKS, COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF CHURCH HISTORY AND ART

The Secret Giver

(Based on a true story)

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

love everything about Christmas: the lights, carols, time with family—everything we do to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Oh, and I especially *love* getting presents. I start making my Christmas wish list in September.

One year my list was about as long as my arm. And I kept thinking of things to add to it. I was excited to show it to my dad.

"Well, David, I see what you want to get for Christmas," he said as he looked it over. "But what are you going to give?"

"I'm making gifts for you and Mom at school. On Friday Mom is taking me shopping for Shannon's and Jon's gifts. So I've got it all planned out."

"Hmmm," was all Dad said. For some reason he didn't like my answer. I didn't like the sound of "hmmm."

The next family home evening, my parents discussed the idea of giving and getting and the true meaning of Christmas. I could see my wish list getting shorter by the minute. They asked us if we had any ideas to help us remember to be more giving. Shannon waved her hand excitedly. My older brother, Jon, and I groaned. With Shannon, ideas usually involved doing things for other people, like weeding our neighbors' gardens.

"Let's choose some people who are lonely or in need and anonymously leave presents on their doorsteps," Shannon said with excitement.

"Not a bad idea," Jon said. "It would be top secret." "This might actually be fun," I thought.

We all agreed that it would be a great plan. We chose two families. One was the Swenson family in our ward. Since Brother Swenson had gone back to school, they never seemed to have enough money. They had lots of kids too, who would love getting Christmas surprises. The other family was Mr. and Mrs. Perez, an older





couple who lived down the street. They always seemed a little lonely.

We all went shopping for the gifts. We agreed to buy them using some of the money we would have used for our own presents. That was fine with me. I was having way too much fun choosing toys for the younger Swenson boys. Somehow my stuff wasn't that important anymore.

We decided to give one gift a night to each family starting 12 days before Christmas. When the first night came, I dressed in black from head to toe, and Jon drove me over to the Swensons' house. I quietly put the first gift on the porch, rang the doorbell, and ran away as fast as I could. I jumped behind a fence just as one of the kids opened the door. I could hear their surprised voices as they discovered

the present. I felt like I would explode with excitement and joy. My life as a Secret Giver had begun.

Things only got better—and harder. We had to go at different times every night and sometimes even in the morning because the Swenson kids started looking out the window to try to catch us.

And every time I crept up to the Perez's doorstep, I imagined Mrs. Perez waiting there, ready to fling the door open, give me a hug, and tell me how wonderful I was. I definitely had to avoid that. Keeping a secret was half the fun.

Well, that year was only the beginning. The Christmas after that, we chose a family whose daughter had been in the hospital

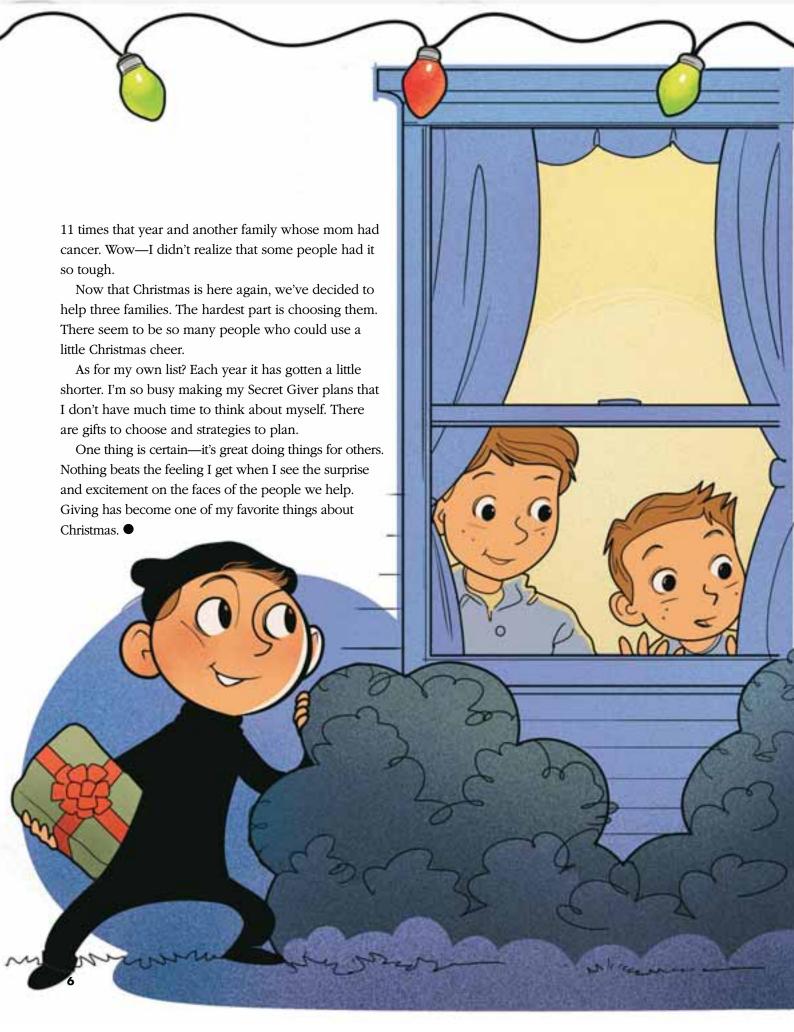


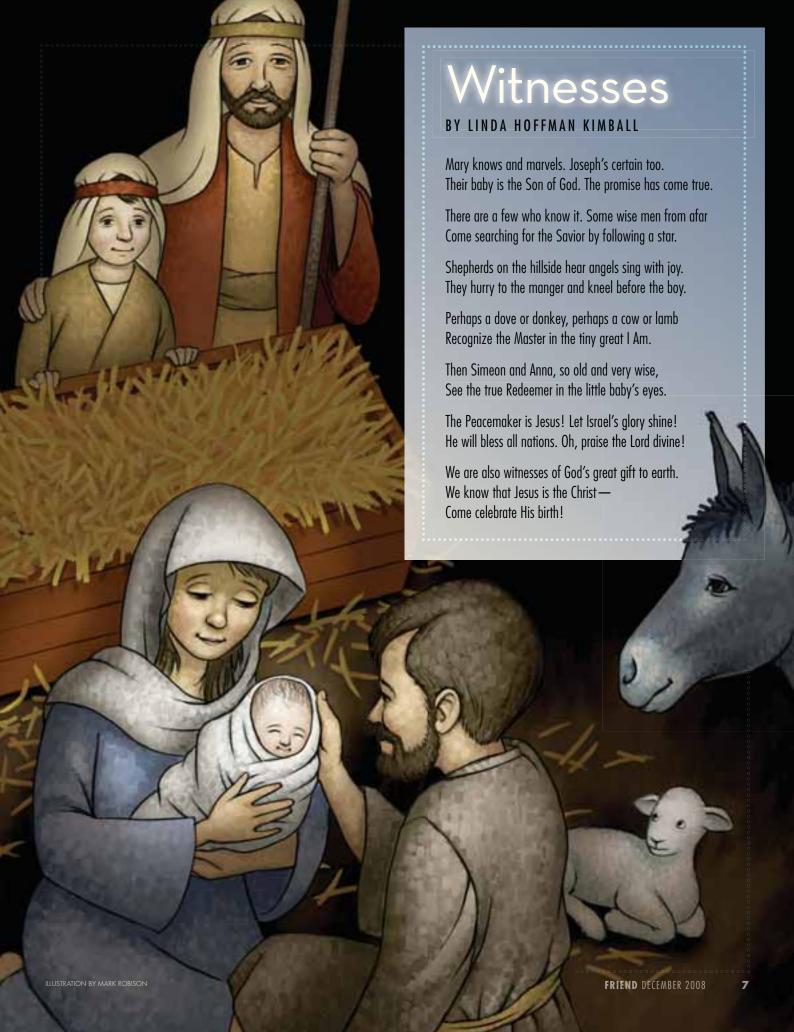
"As we seek Christ, as we find Him, as we follow Him, we shall have the Christmas spirit. . . . We shall learn to forget ourselves. We shall

turn our thoughts to the greater benefit of others."1

**President Thomas S. Monson** 









# Growing a Seatimony



From an interview with Elder Marcus B. Nash of the Seventy; by Kimberly Reid

Ye know that the word hath swelled your souls, and ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that your understanding doth begin to be enlightened (Alma 32:34).

hen I was in third grade, my best friend's name was Dave. He lived next door to me and was a member of the Church.

One day I was playing in Dave's yard with our friend Doug when my mother called out from next door that it was time for me to go to Primary. This was in the days when Primary was on a weekday.

Doug was not a member of the Church. He asked, "What's Primary?"

I told him that this was something we did in our church and that it was kind of like a class.

"Well, we do something like that in our church too," Doug said.

I whispered to Dave, "But our church is the true Church."

Doug asked me, "What did you say?" I didn't respond at first. He asked me again, and I said, "I told Dave that our church is the true Church."

Then Doug said something I had never before imagined in my eight-year-old mind. He said, "Well, I think that *my* church is the true church."

I was stunned. I thought, "He thinks his

church is the true church. What makes me right and him wrong? Or, what makes him right and me wrong?"

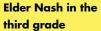
I walked across Dave's yard and down his driveway. I turned left and walked along the street because we didn't have sidewalks in our neighborhood. I watched the gravel between my feet as I walked—my head was down. I crossed the front of our fence and turned left. I remember every detail of that slow walk home. The whole time I was saying to myself, "He thinks his church is true. How do I know that my church is true?" I got to my front porch, sat down, and put my head in my hands. As I sat there thinking about my question, my thoughts turned into a prayer.

A voice came into my mind. It was a kind voice. It said, "Now, Marc, you know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, don't you?"

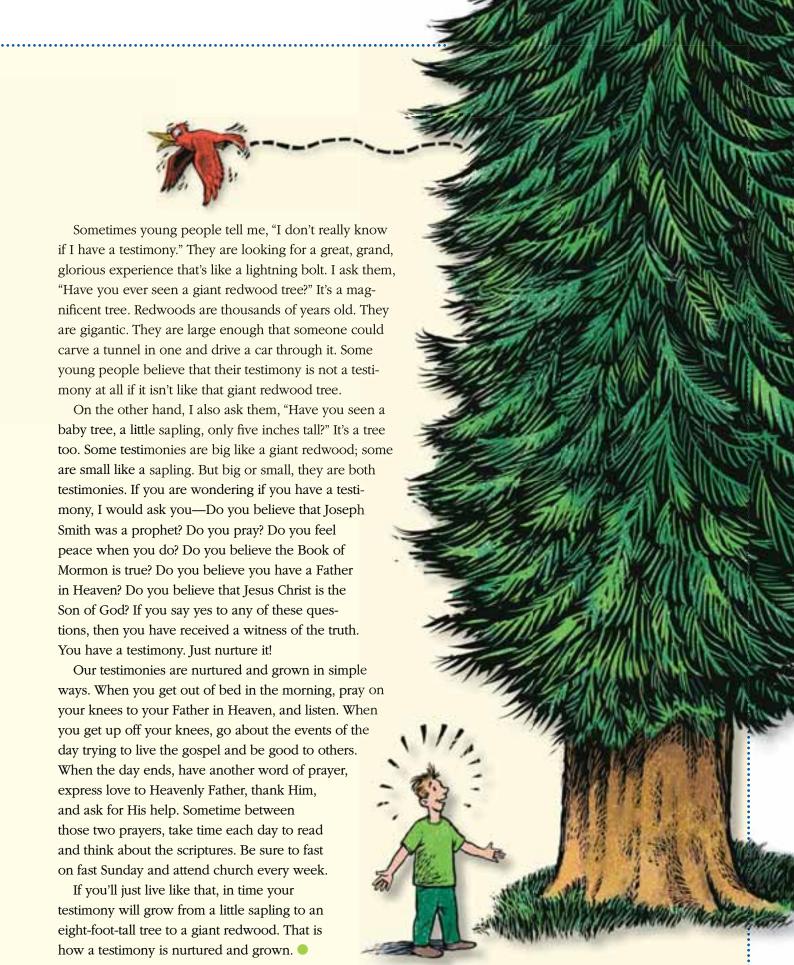
I silently responded, "Yes." I felt that I knew that to be true.

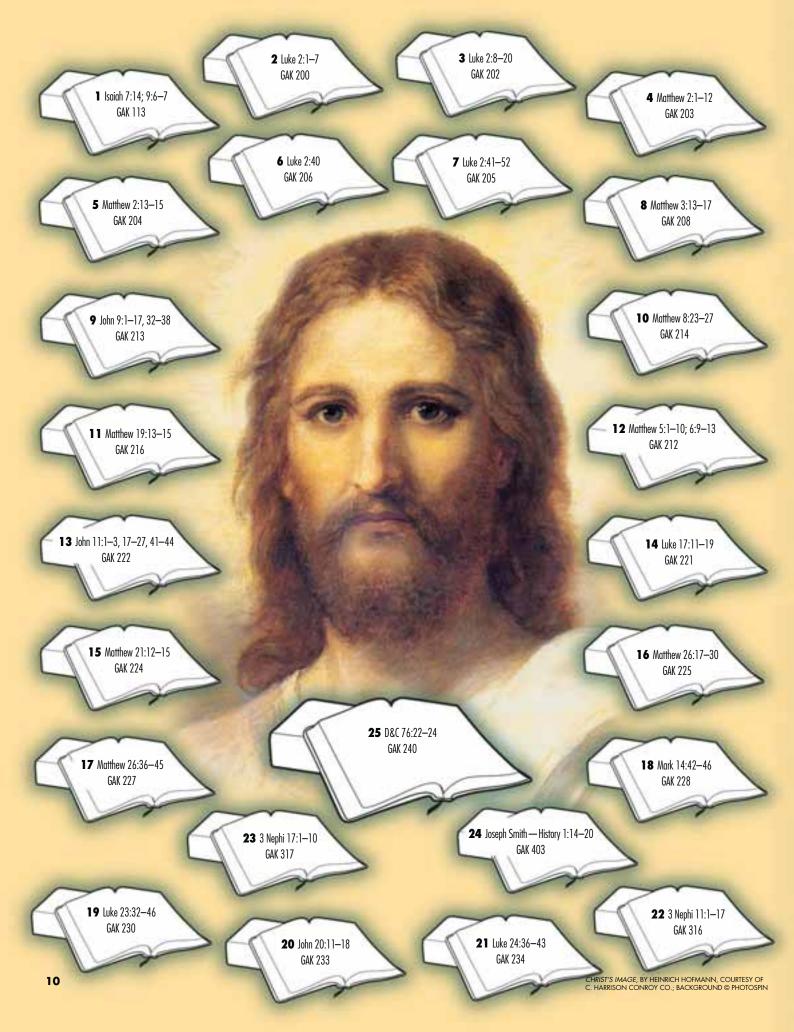
"Well you know the Church is true then, don't you?" the voice whispered to my mind. I had never heard anyone tell me that before. It was like the clouds parted and suddenly I realized that I did know that, yes, the Church is true. I got up and went to Primary, comfortable in the knowledge that I had a testimony.

When we have a genuine question with sincere desire to know—and to act on what we learn—Heavenly Father will answer.









# Stories of Jesus, Tell Them to Me

And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies (2 Nephi 25:26).

#### BY LINDA CHRISTENSEN



Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear, Things I would ask him to tell me if he were here. Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

("Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," *Children's Songbook*, 57)

What are your favorite stories of Jesus? Do you like the story of His birth? Have you read about how He calmed the stormy sea? Did you know He healed a blind man and raised His friend Lazarus from the dead? Have you read about how He loved the children?

Stories of Jesus are found in the scriptures. Nephi, a Book of Mormon prophet, wrote, "And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies" (2 Nephi 25:26). Heavenly Father commanded His prophets to testify of His Son, Jesus Christ, and keep sacred records so we can learn about Jesus.

The prophets have asked you to read the scriptures every day. During the month of December, read about Jesus's birth and the miracles He performed. Talk with your family about the precious gift of the Atonement. As you learn the stories of Jesus, you will be blessed to feel His love for you and your testimony of His gospel will grow.

#### **Activity**

Each day during December look up the scripture reference on that day's set of small scriptures on page 10 and read the stories of Jesus. Then color the set of scriptures for that day. Each day also lists a picture from the Gospel Art Picture Kit (GAK) that can accompany the story. Share your favorite stories of Jesus with your family.

There won't be a Primary poster in the January 2009 issue, but look for a surprise in April!

#### 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. Before sharing time, photocopy and enlarge the picture from *Primary 6*, lesson 46, p. 211. Make enough copies for the children to color and take home to share the activity with their families.

Begin sharing time by holding up a Bible and a Book of Mormon. Ask the children to identify the two books. Play a simple guessing game by stating the name of a prophet and asking the children to identify which set of scriptures includes the story and teachings of that prophet (Noah—Bible, Lehi—Book of Mormon, and so on).

Place the enlarged copy of page 211 on the chalkboard. State the weekly gospel principle: "The prophets foretold Jesus Christ would come to the earth." Read the names of the five prophets on the enlarged copy, and tell when they lived on the earth. Ask the children to identify which book of scripture each prophet is from. Invite individual children or assign classes to find the scriptures listed: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; 1 Nephi 11:18–21; Alma 7:9–10; and Helaman 14:1–6. Read each scripture reference.

Give each child a copy of the handout, and provide crayons for them to color the page. Conclude sharing time by singing the first verse of "The Nativity Song" (pp. 52–53). Bear testimony that the scriptures are the word of God and that they testify of the birth of Jesus Christ.

2. Write the weekly gospel principle on the chalkboard, and read it together: "The prophecies were fulfilled. Jesus Christ was born and the righteous rejoiced." Define the word *prophecy*. Remind the children of the prophecies found in the Bible and Book of Mormon foretelling Jesus's birth (see sharing time idea 1).

Use dramatizations to involve the children in learning about the events that occurred in the Bible and in the Book of Mormon at Jesus's birth (see "Dramatizations," *TNGC*, 165–66). Share scriptures from Luke 2 and 3 Nephi 1:8–21. (Additional resources: *Book of Mormon Stories* video, segments 40–41; and *New Testament Video Presentations*, segment 2.)

Read the weekly gospel principle again. Ask the children to think about the stories of Jesus's birth from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Name some of the righteous people who rejoiced at His birth. Help the children recognize that the righteous rejoice today as we celebrate Jesus's birth. Talk about ways we can rejoice as we celebrate His birth. Teach the chorus of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" (*Hymns*, no. 202). Bear testimony of the scriptural accounts of Jesus's birth.

3. Place pictures of Joseph Smith's life on the chalkboard. (From the *Primary 5* picture packet, use 5-1 [Joseph Smith], 5-3 [Joseph Smith's family], 5-4 [Joseph Smith reading the Bible], 5-5 [the Sacred Grove], 5-6 [the First Vision], and 5-8 [visit of the angel Moroni].) Use the pictures to tell the story of the Restoration of

the gospel. (*For older children:* Find verses in Joseph Smith—History that relate to the pictures. Invite several children or classes to find a reference and read Joseph Smith's own words to learn about the Restoration of the gospel.)

Invite two children to hold GAK 240 (Jesus the Christ) and GAK 400 (Joseph Smith). Repeat the weekly gospel principle together as a Primary: "Jesus Christ restored His gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith." Place the two pictures on the chalkboard. Read 3 Nephi 27:13–16. Help the children understand that the word *gospel* means good news, and the good news is the birth, life, and mission of the Savior Jesus Christ. Write the word *gospel* on the chalkboard.

Play a musical guessing game to discover six of the many blessings we receive because of the gospel of Jesus Christ (priesthood, scriptures, baptism, Holy Ghost, prophets, and temples). Choose Primary songs that are familiar to the children and that describe these blessings. Ask the pianist to play the first few notes of the song. Have the children guess the song, adding more notes as needed. When the children have guessed the song and the blessing, sing the song together.

If time allows, provide paper and pencils or crayons for the children to draw a blessing they receive because of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Conclude by bearing testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and of the Savior.

4. Before sharing time, create several case studies to help children practice making good choices (see "Case Studies," *TNGC*, 161–62).

Begin sharing time by helping the children find 3 Nephi 27:21 and reading it together. Emphasize the phrase "For that which ye have seen me do even that shall ye do," and discuss why it is important to try to be like Jesus. Sing "The Church of Jesus Christ" (p. 77). Share several examples of children who are trying to be like Jesus (see "Trying to Be Like Jesus" articles from the *Friend*, or share examples of children from your Primary making good choices). Sing the last line of "The Church of Jesus Christ" between each example.

Place a picture of a child and a picture of the Savior on the chalkboard, and repeat the weekly gospel principle: "Because I know that I am a child of God and that Jesus Christ is my Savior, I will . . ." Give each class a case study. Invite each class to read the case study and decide how to solve the problem by making good choices. Provide time for each class to share its case study and solutions with the Primary.

Conclude by singing "The Church of Jesus Christ." Bear testimony of how knowing that you are a child of God and that Jesus Christ is your Savior helps you make good choices every day.

5. *Friend* references: "Prophets," May 2003, 32; "Isaiah Prophesies of the Savior," Dec. 2001, 36; "Sing a Song of Joseph," May 2007, 4–6; "Trying to Be Like Jesus," Jan. 2007, 16–17; Mar. 2007, 46–47; Apr. 2007, 40–41; Sept. 2007, 36–37.



### I LOVE MY SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, AND HIS RESTORED GOSPEL.

"And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins" (2 Nephi 25:26).

### BY REBECCA CORNISH TALLEY

(Based on a true story)

Let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God (1 John 4:7).

shlie watched Mrs. Barnewald lean on her cane and walk slowly over to a padded rocking chair.

Mrs. Barnewald sat down. "I'm glad you came to visit me today, Ashlie," she said. "You and your family are good neighbors."

"I like to come to your house." Ashlie looked at a photo that sat on the table next to the rocking chair.

"That's my family in front of our home in Germany. I was born in that house," Mrs. Barnewald said.

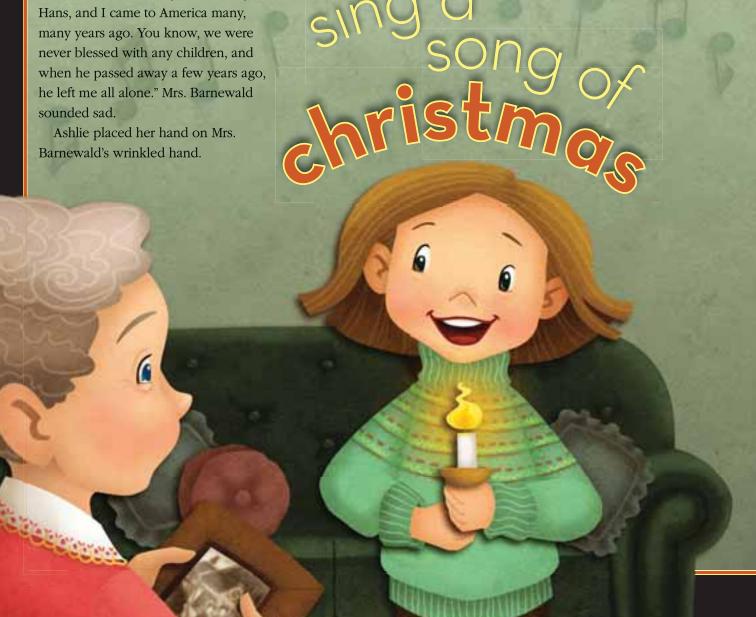
"Is your family still in Germany?"

"Oh, no. I'm the only one left. My husband,

Hans, and I came to America many, many years ago. You know, we were never blessed with any children, and he left me all alone." Mrs. Barnewald "Are you lonely?" she asked.

"Sometimes, especially during the Christmas season." Mrs. Barnewald took the photo in her hand and looked at it for a minute. "We used to have such fun at this time of year. When I was a little girl in Germany, we had many traditions. We sang songs and baked special treats." Mrs. Barnewald smiled. "Hans and I kept some of those traditions, but now I'm too old for them." She turned to Ashlie. "I'm glad to have a friend like you. I feel like you are my family."

Ashlie grinned. She glanced over at the clock that hung on the wall. It was time for dinner. She got up and gave Mrs. Barnewald a hug. "I better go home."



"Thank you so much for visiting me today." "See you soon."

Ashlie kicked at the ground on her walk home. She opened the front door and heard her mom in the kitchen, so she walked in and sat at the table. Resting her head on her hands, she let out a big breath.

"How was your visit?" Mom asked.

Ashlie shrugged her shoulders. "Mrs. Barnewald is so lonely. I want to do something special for her this Christmas."

"That's a wonderful idea," Mom said.

Ashlie went to her room and lay on the bed, trying to think of something wonderful to do. She thought and thought and thought. Christmas was only a few days away. Ashlie thought about what Mrs. Barnewald had said about traditions. She rolled over on her stomach and saw the handout from Primary she'd set on her desk. She had an idea.

Ashlie called her Primary teacher, Sister Jensen, because she often told the class about her mission to Germany. After she talked to Sister Jensen, Ashlie knew just what to do for Mrs. Barnewald.

On Christmas Eve, Ashlie and her family went to Mrs. Barnewald's house for a visit. They took her some turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and freshly baked cookies.

Ashlie turned down the lights in the living room and handed candles to each of her parents and to her sister. Softly, in German, they started singing "Silent Night" while Ashlie lit the candles.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar;
Holder Knabe im lokkigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Ashlie couldn't sing the last few words because of the lump in her throat.

When they were finished, Mrs.

Barnewald had tears on her cheeks and Ashlie's chest felt warm and tingly. She couldn't take Mrs. Barnewald back to Germany, but she could bring a little bit of Germany to Mrs. Barnewald for Christmas.

ILLUSTRATION BY MARYN ROOS

## For Little Friends

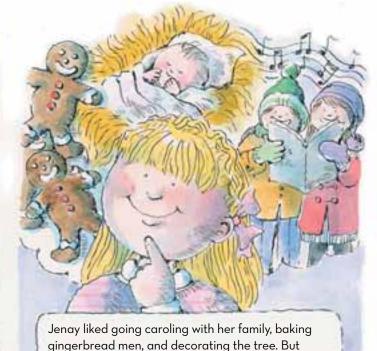
## Showing Our Love for Jesus

BY JANE MCBRIDE CHOATE (Based on a true story)

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).



Jenay watched as Mommy set the freshly baked white cake on the kitchen table. Tonight was Christmas Eve, when her family would celebrate Jesus's birth.

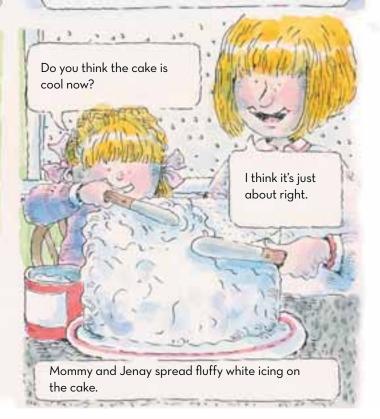


remembering Jesus's birthday was her favorite

thing to do at Christmas.



Jenay helped Mommy clean off the counters and wash the dishes.



After dinner Daddy asked the family to gather in the living room.

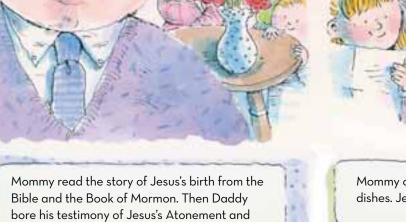
Even though we know that Jesus was born in the spring, we like to celebrate His birthday at this time of year.



Resurrection.

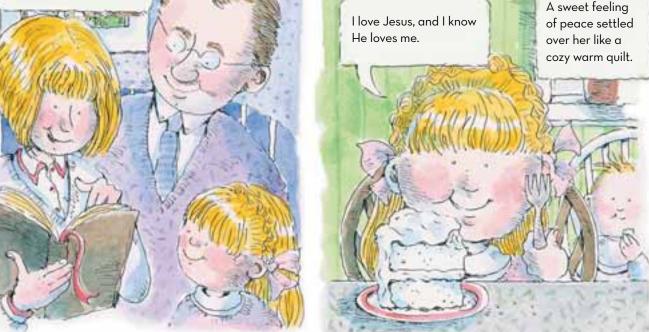
One by one, the family members opened their presents to Jesus and read what they had written on a slip of paper. With Mommy's help, Jenay had written, "Be more reverent at church."

I'm proud of each of you. All of your gifts show your love for Jesus Christ.



Mommy cut the cake and served it on fancy dishes. Jenay took a bite of cake and smiled.

> A sweet feeling over her like a



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELISE BLACK FRIEND DECEMBER 2008

# BY ANNE ALEXANDER

o make a bird ornament, you will need: pencil, tracing paper, scissors, heavy white paper, crayons or colored markers, large-eyed needle, and 3 1/2 yards (3.2 m) yarn.

1. Trace the bird pattern on this page on tracing paper and cut it out. Use that pattern to trace the bird onto the heavy paper. Cut out the bird, then cut out the large circle.

2. Color the body, eye, and beak.

3. Cut off 18 inches (46 cm) of yarn and set aside. Thread the needle with the longer piece of yarn and pull the

yarn so that the ends meet. Holding the ends of the varn at the top of the bird's body, put the needle down through the hole, around the bottom of the body, and up through the hole again. Pull the yarn not quite tight. Now bring the needle up around the top of the body, and repeat the process until all the yarn is gone (see illustration).

4. Cut the yarn at the top and bottom of the bird's body and fluff it. Poke a hole in the bird for hanging. Thread the 18 inches of yarn through the hole and tie the ends together.

## Black Bean and Pineapple Salsa

1 can (15 ounces/425 g) black beans, drained and rinsed 2 cans (8 ounces each/227 g) crushed pineapple, drained

1 can (15.25 ounces/432 g) corn, drained

1 can (14.5 ounces/411 g) diced tomatoes

1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

1/3 cup Italian dressing

corn chips

Mix all ingredients together except corn chips. Serve salsa with corn chips.



H. Washington D.C. Temple



B. Curitiba Brazil Temple



D. Frankfurt Germany Temple



F. Laie Hawaii Temple



C. Logan Utah Temple



G. Salt Lake Temple



A. London England Temple



E. Melbourne Australia Temple

## Prophets Dedicate Temples BY CHAD E. PHARES

In nature no two snowflakes are alike, but on this page they are. Match each snowflake with the picture of a temple with another snowflake that is the same shape. Then you will find out which prophet dedicated each temple.



4. David O. McKay



8. Gordon B. Hinckley



2. Thomas S. Monson



3. Heber J. Grant



5. John Taylor



7. Ezra Taft Benson



1. Spencer W. Kimball



6. Wilford Woodruff

### BY LANA KRUMWIEDE

(Based on a true story)

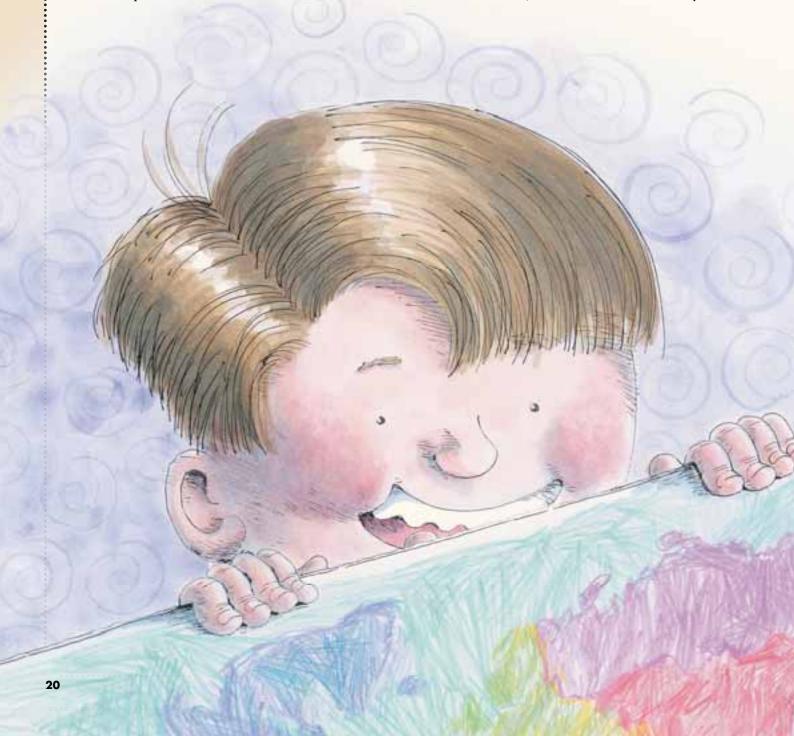
Let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven (3 Nephi 12:16).

reston loved maps. He had a placemat with a world map that he studied every morning at breakfast. He drew pretend maps of islands with pirate

treasure and real maps of his neighborhood. Even the pattern on his bedspread had maps on it.

So when Preston's Primary teacher, Brother Greene, started drawing a map on the board during Primary class, Preston paid close attention.

"Today we're going to talk about where the Book of Mormon came from," Brother Greene said. "Everyone



## I Know Where the Book of Mormon Came From!

open your Bible and find the maps."

"I didn't know the Bible had maps," Michael said.

"I know where the maps are," Preston said.

Brother Greene smiled. "Let's find the map
that has Jerusalem on it." Brother Greene
pointed to a dot on the map he'd drawn
on the board. "Here's Jerusalem.

Everybody put your finger on
Jerusalem on your map."

Preston listened while

explained how a

**Brother Greene** 

prophet named
Lehi had
to leave
Jerusalem
with his
family. As
he told
the story,
Brother
Greene
drew lines
on the
board

that showed how Lehi's family traveled all the way to America.

Preston studied the map Brother Greene had drawn. He was fascinated. He'd heard the story of Lehi's family many times, but no one had ever told him the story with a map before.

On the way home, Preston told his parents all about Brother Greene's Primary lesson. "And did you know that Lehi lived 600 years before Jesus was born?"

"You're absolutely right," Dad said. "You were really listening today."

"When I get home, I'm going to draw a map just like Brother Greene's," Preston said.

Preston worked on his map most of the afternoon. He used his best colored pencils. When it was finished, he showed it to Dad.

"This is a fine map," Dad said.

"Can we use it for family home evening tomorrow?" Preston asked.

"Hmm," Dad said. "I've invited a friend from work over for dinner, and I asked him to stay for family home evening."

"Aw, Dad," Preston said. "I like it when it's just our family. Just you and Mom and me." Preston was often shy around people he didn't know.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELISE BLACK

FRIEND DECEMBER 2008

Dad put his arm around Preston's shoulder. "I know, but this is important. We want to let other people see how we live the gospel. Mom has a special lesson planned, so maybe we'll save the map for another time." Preston agreed.

Dinner on Monday night was not much fun. Dad's friend, Mr. Shay, was nice, but the grown-ups did most of the talking. Finally it was time to go into the family room to have family home evening. Dad spent a couple of minutes explaining to Mr. Shay what family home evening was all about.

"Before we start our lesson," Dad said, "are there any questions you'd like to ask?"

"I have one very big question about your church," Mr. Shay said. "I want to know about the Book of Mormon. Where did it come from? What is it about?"

"I know!" Preston said. "I know where the Book of Mormon came from!" Preston ran to his room and came right back with his map. He showed it to Mr. Shay. Preston put his finger on Jerusalem and told the story of Lehi's family just like Brother Greene had told it in Primary.

Mr. Shay looked at the map. He looked at Preston. Then he looked at Preston's dad. "Is that right?" Mr. Shay asked.

Dad smiled and nodded. "I couldn't have explained it any better myself."

Mr. Shay looked at the map again. "Did you draw this map yourself?" he asked Preston.

Preston could only nod. He could hardly believe he had told that long story to Mr. Shay. Now that it was finished, Preston felt shy again. The funny thing was, when he was telling the story, he hadn't felt a bit shy.

"How old are you?" Mr. Shay asked.

"I'll be seven next month," Preston answered.

Mr. Shay leaned back in his chair and smiled. "I used to wonder how all those young men can be missionaries for your church when they are only 19 years old.

But now I think I understand. If Preston already knows this much about the Book of Mormon, he will be an excellent missionary."

Preston felt happy and warm inside. He wondered if that's how missionaries feel when they teach the gospel.

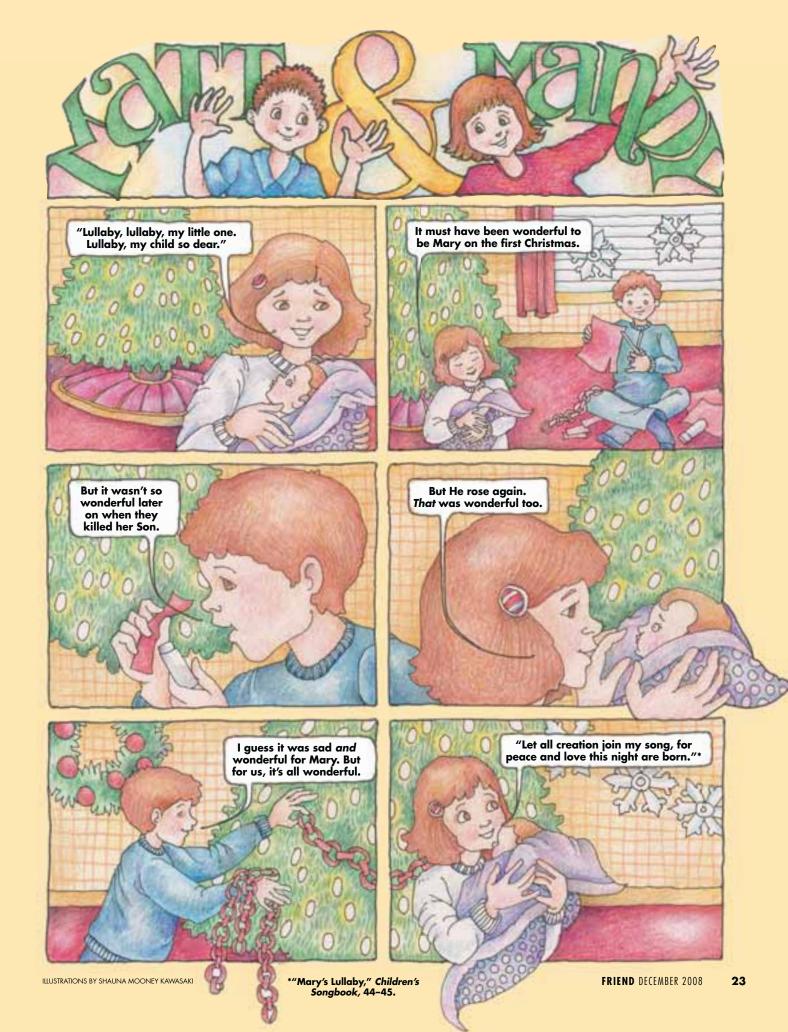
"I think Preston has given us an excellent lesson tonight," Mom said. "All we need now is a song and a prayer."

"Don't forget dessert!" Preston said.

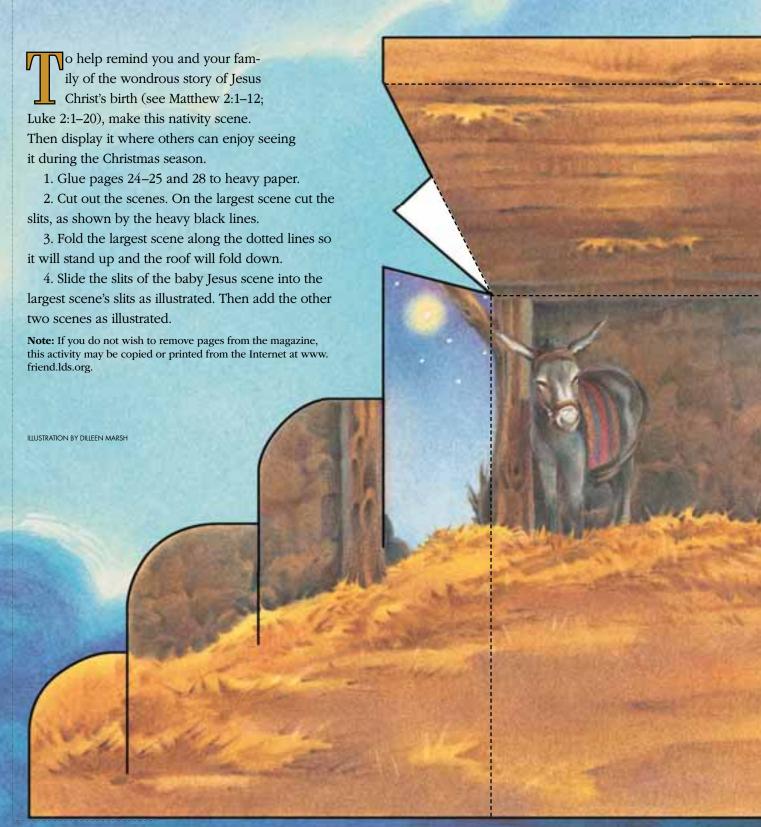
"Creating a gospel-sharing home is the easiest and most effective way that we can share the gospel with others."<sup>2</sup>

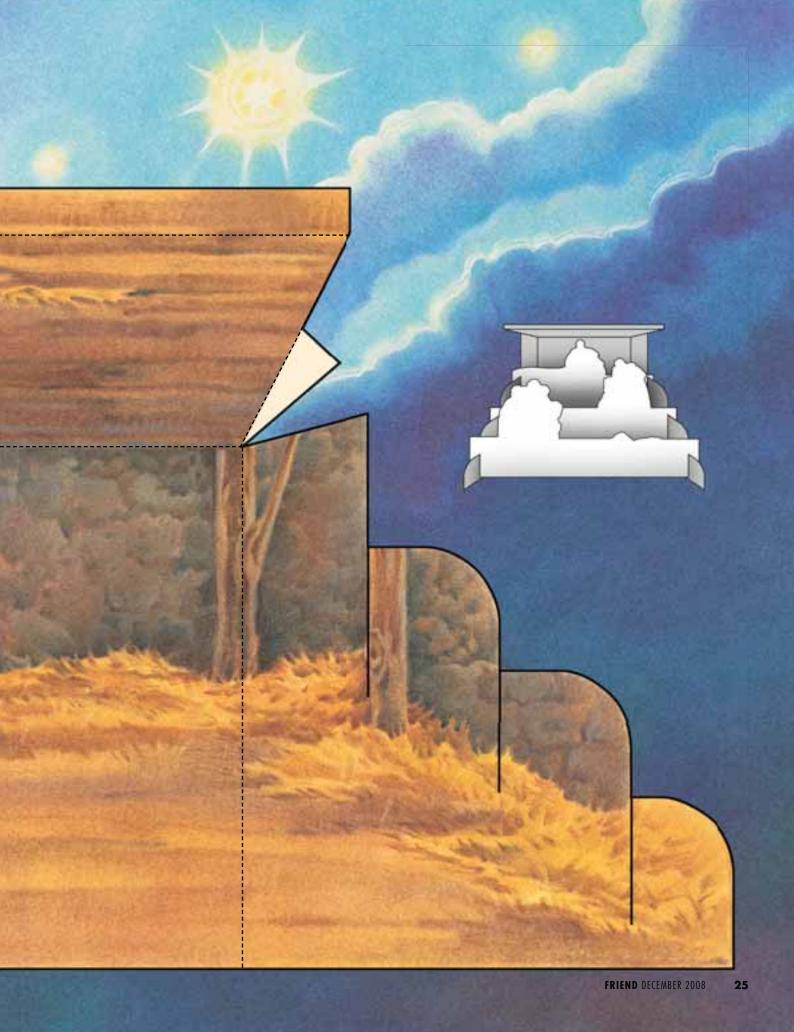
Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





# The Wondrous Nativity





# Pilent night!

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### When Will It Happen?

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"When will it happen?"
I asked my Father,
As I watched from the heavens above.
"When will I see this great thing,
This holy act of love?"
My Father smiled and said, "In time,
For, my beloved child, can't you see?
Because of His birth and life,
You too can become like me."

"When will I see it?"
I asked my Father,
As I looked from the endless skies.
"When shall I know
That because of His love,
The holy Savior dies?"
My Father smiled and said, "Look down
At the things that must come to be.
For, according to this one Atonement,
You too can become like me."

"When is it time?"
I questioned my Father,
As I waited to play my part.
"When will it be my special turn
To serve Thee with all my heart?"
My Father smiled and said, "My dear child,
Can you not already see?
I have opened a way for you and all others
That ye may become like me."
Thomas Hunter M., age 10, Connecticut

#### **Jesus Christ**

**J** esus, the King of the Jews.

**E** qually fair to everyone.

**S** ets an example for each of us.

U sed parables to teach the gospel.

 $\boldsymbol{S}$  uffered and died for us so we can be for given of our sins.

C ame in a vision to Joseph Smith.

H e is everyone's Savior.

 ${\bf R}$  esurrected after three days.

I am trying to be like Him in everything I do.

 ${\bf S}$  pent His time helping others.

 ${f T}$  rue and loyal to all who come unto Him.

Ashley V., age 9, New Zealand

#### Jesus's Birth

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Born to be the King of men. In the manger there He lay, Soft and cozy on the hay. By the cattle He was near, Filled with glory, bringing cheer. Angels sang a pretty song, While the bells rang ding-dong. Jay D., age 8, Arizona

#### **Drawings**

1 Marlee M., age 10, Connecticut

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- 2 Zoe Z., age 7, Arizona
- 3 Cameron S., age 5, Georgia
- 4 Conrad S., age 8, Idaho
- 5 Rhed H., age 6, Oregon
- 6 Dallen M., age 11, Ohio
- 7 Kailey R., age 9, Utah
- - 10 Grant R., age 4, Pennsylvania
  - 11 Philip G., age 10, Washington
  - 12 Kalia N., age 4, Queensland, Australia
  - 13 Annaliese C., age 6, Alberta, Canada
  - 14 Liliana Y., age 7, North Carolina
  - 15 Nathan W., age 5, New York











See more children's drawings at www.friend.lds.org!



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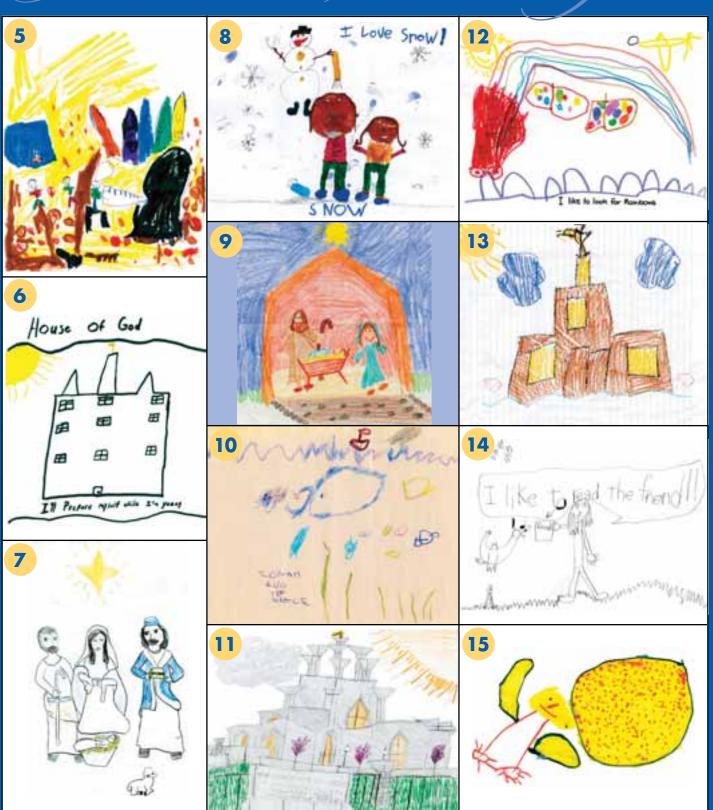
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## They Spoke to Us

Quotes from the October 2008 general conference



"May we be good citizens of the nations in which we live and good neighbors in our communities, reaching out to those of other faiths, as well as to our own." —President Thomas S. Monson

"As we study the scriptures, speak with our Heavenly Father daily, [and] commit to keep the commandments of God, . . . we attain hope." —President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"The children of God have more in common than they have differences. . . . God will help us see a difference in someone else not as a source of irritation but as a contribution. The Lord can help you see and value what another person brings which you lack." —President Henry B. Eyring

In his conference talk, Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: "When our beloved prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, was asked on his birthday this past August what would be the ideal

gift that members worldwide could give him, he said without a moment's hesitation, 'Find someone who is having a hard time, . . . and do something for them.'"\*

Would you like to give President Monson a birthday present? Think of an act of service you could do for someone. Maybe your grandpa needs help around the house. Or perhaps that new boy at school needs a friend. There are many people who need help, and many kind children to help them! Tell us about your act of service, and then read about many others in our August 2009 issue—President Monson's birthday month!

\*Thomas S. Monson, quoted in Gerry Avant, "Prophet's Birthday: Milestone of 81," *Church News*, Aug. 23, 2008, 4.

Please send your letter, photo, and permission to:

Birthday Service Friend Magazine 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2432 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024 Or e-mail: friend@ldschurch.org

The following information and permission must be included:

Full name

Age State/Province, Country

I grant permission to print submission and photo:

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Please respond by February 27, 2009. Children whose letters are submitted should be at least three years old.

HOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINA SMITH FRIEND DECEMBER 2008

## Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

## Christmas Helper



fter read-A ing "Kenny's Christmas" in the December 2005 Friend. I felt sad that some children don't get any

toys for Christmas. I asked my mom if I could use the money I had been saving to buy a toy for a child who wouldn't have any presents to open on Christmas morning.

We went to the store, and I bought some toys to put in the big box the store had to collect presents for children who wouldn't get any. I felt really good that I had helped a child have a good Christmas, and I know that I followed Jesus Christ's example.

Creg W., age 3, Utah, with help from his mom

## Trash-Can Service



n the Sunday before Christmas. we came home from church and one of the dogs in our neighborhood was ripping up our neighbor's trash bags and chewing on the trash. My sister Emily and I scared the dog away, and then we cleaned up the trash without being asked. We were glad we cleaned up the trash because it would have been everywhere in the wind! We both felt good inside afterward because we did the right thing and served our neighbors.

Anne and Emily F., ages 8 and 6, Tennessee

## Comforting My Teacher



esus taught Jus to "mourn with those that mourn." I didn't know what that meant until my Primary teacher's

husband died. I felt so sad inside for her, and I wanted to help her feel better. I wrote her a letter and painted her a picture of a Christmas tree with presents. When I went to the funeral I hugged her and cried. I now know what Jesus meant when He said to comfort others.

Austin L., age 9, Arizona





## Saying No to Tea



My school friend invited me to her birthday party. It was fun. We played games and dressed up like princesses.

When it was time for dessert, we all gathered around the table for beautifully decorated cupcakes. As I was eating my cupcake, I was offered tea to drink. All the other girls were drinking tea in fancy little cups, but I knew it was wrong to drink it. I said, "No, thank you. I do not drink tea." I felt good inside for keeping the commandments.

Madelyn Kathryn C., age 6, Oregon, with help from her mom

## **Sharing Christmas Candy**

By Christie D.

jimmy and his mom were shopping in an outdoor mall during the Christmas season. It was



very cold, and they saw some high school students playing holiday songs. They played a few for Jimmy. As Jimmy and his mom walked away, he said they needed to give the students something. They went to their car and Jimmy got all the candy he had just received at his school Christmas party. He went back to the students and gave them all of his candy.

Jimmy D., age 6, Georgia



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRAD TEARE FRIEND DECEMBER 2008 3



Look up the following scriptures: 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:5; 1 Nephi 8:24. Circle the one you think fits the story best.

ver since Jenna was a tiny girl, her family could see that she spoke a language all her own. When-

ever she described something that happened, she couldn't help moving her body with each sentence, making the words seem bigger and brighter as they took on an energy unique to Jenna. Her movements were graceful and dramatic. No one was surprised when she started dance classes with her best friend Lisa and came home talking as if she had found heaven.

"I love to dance, Mom. I love it more than chocolate ice cream and more than the best birthday surprise!" Jenna declared.

"I knew you were a dancer at heart," Mom said as Jenna spun around and threw her arms around her mother's waist, swaying as they hugged and laughed.

Jenna and Lisa worked hard in dance class. They never missed a session, and they stayed after class as long as possible to work on new moves and perfect their technique, watching themselves in the mirrors that covered the walls of the studio. Their teacher was very impressed.

"I don't do this very often, girls," she said to them after class one day. "But I think you two could perform one of the advanced-class dance numbers we'll be doing for the Christmas Showcase."

Jenna and Lisa thanked their teacher and smiled with delight. When they were outside in the parking lot, they began cheering, hugging, and jumping up and down.

"We did it, Lisa! I can't believe this! We did it, we did it!" Jenna shouted.

> Lisa's mom rolled down the car window. "What's up, you two?"

"Mom, you aren't going to believe this! Our teacher just said we get to perform one of the advanced dances for the Christmas Showcase!" Lisa was beaming as she and Jenna leaped into the car.

"Well, I'm not a bit surprised.

I know you two will be wonderful," Lisa's mom said. "You've been working so hard."

And they kept working hard. Jenna and Lisa found every possible opportunity to practice and perfect each leap and every twist of the head down to the exact timing until even the top dance students in their class were impressed.

"How are you feeling about the dance performance?" Jenna's mom asked one day as they got in the car after class.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE F. YOUNG



## BY RACHELLE P. CASTOR

(Based on a true story)

"Fabulous," Lisa said, grinning.
"Couldn't be better," chimed in Jenna. But after they dropped Lisa off at her house Jenna grew quiet.

"Well, we got the costumes today that we'll be wearing for the advanced dance number, and they're not very modest. Then when we rehearsed the dance in the costumes, I realized that the moves, the music, and now the costumes are not something I would want you and Dad or my little brothers and sister to see. I

sure couldn't perform the dance if someone like the prophet were there watching."

> As the words came out, Jenna's eyes filled with

"What's the matter?" Mom asked.
"I don't know, Mom. I don't want to seem like a goody-goody, but . . ."
"What is it, honey?"
Mom encouraged.

tears. She had always been taught to listen to the feelings in her heart, and this choice would not be an easy one. "What will Lisa think of me? What can I say to our dance teacher?" she wondered.

"I'm so glad you want to do what is right," Mom said. "Heavenly Father will help you know how."

That night before bed, Jenna prayed that Heavenly Father would give her the courage to stand up for what she knew was right. She also prayed that she would know the right words to use.

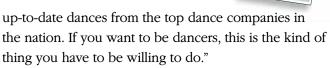
During school lunch the next day she asked Lisa if they could talk. They went to a quiet place and sat on a bench.

"Lisa, I don't know how to say this, but . . ." Jenna's voice was shaky and she was looking down at her fingers. "I don't feel good about performing in the advanced dance number. It's just too, well, too . . ."

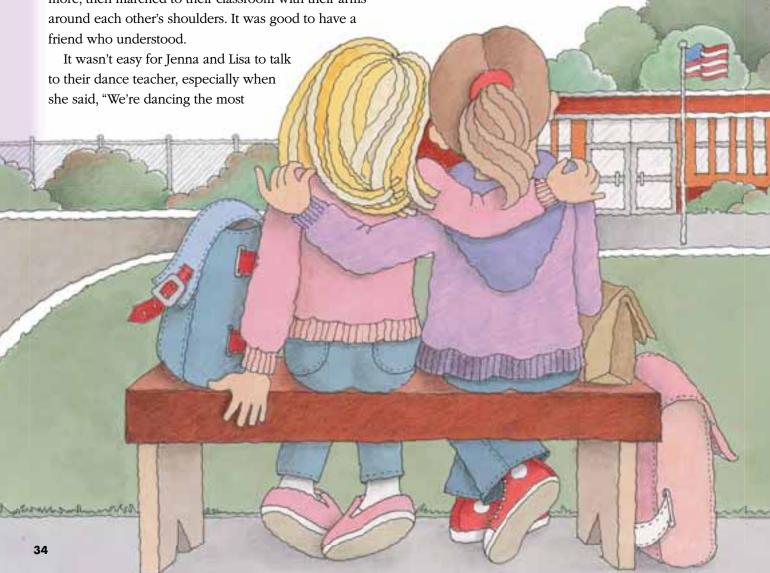
She heard a sniff from Lisa and looked up. Lisa's eyes were red. "I've been thinking about how to tell you the same thing," Lisa said. They hugged and cried a little more, then marched to their classroom with their arms around each other's shoulders. It was good to have a friend who understood

"Never lower your dress standards for any occasion. Doing so sends the message that you are using your body to get attention and approval and that modesty is important only when it is convenient." 3

For the Strength of Youth



It was even harder when their teacher announced to the class that there would be a change in the advanced dance number. There were sneers from some of the other dancers. But Lisa was right by Jenna's side. And more importantly, they both felt Heavenly Father's love and knew they were doing the right thing.



# What should I know about the Restoration of the Church?



elder L. Tom Perry
of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles
shares some of his
thoughts on this
subject.

### The First Vision

This vision revealed unto us that God our Father and Jesus Christ, His Beloved Son, are two separate personages. Each has a body of flesh and bones that is glorified and perfected.

### The Book of Mormon

This ancient volume of holy scriptures is a sacred companion to the Bible, containing the fulness of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. It also provides convincing evidence to the world that Joseph Smith is truly a prophet of God.



### The Priesthood

The keys of the priesthood have been restored to man, with the power to seal on earth and in the heavens.

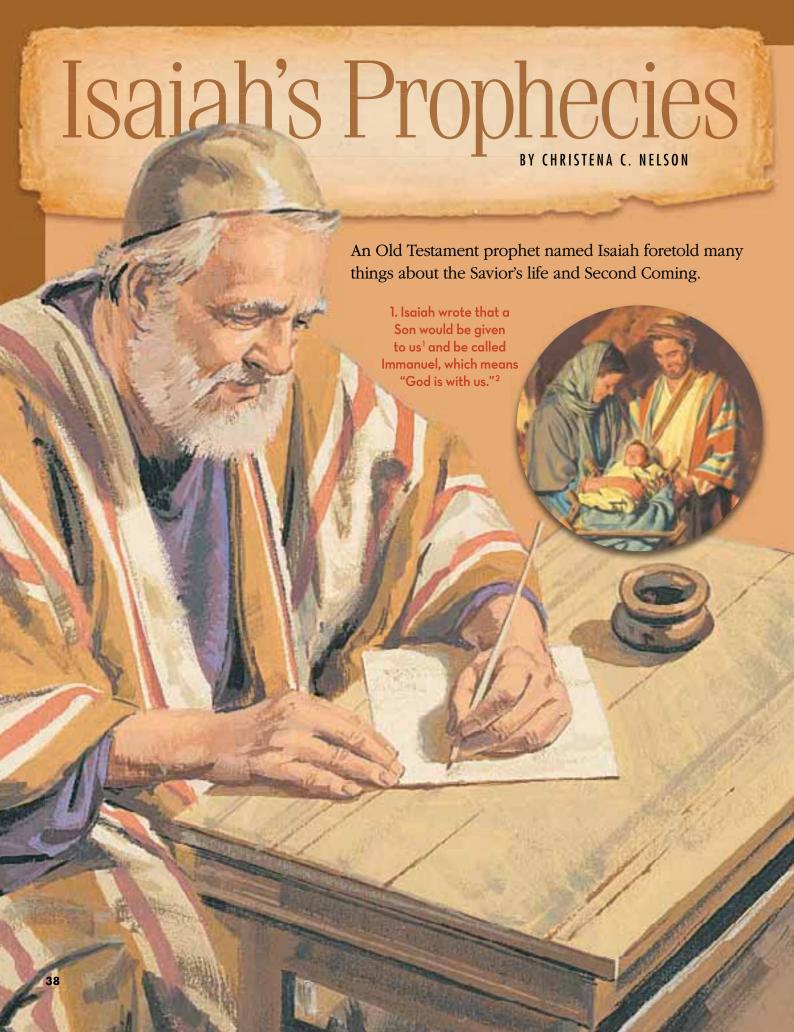


### The Church of Jesus Christ

Joseph [Smith] was commanded to formally organize the Church. . . . Thus the Church of Jesus Christ was again in existence on the earth to bless mankind with the doctrines and teachings of the Savior. This Church was organized according to the plan the Lord had established anciently.

We declare to the world that the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored to the earth. . . . We invite all to listen to the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

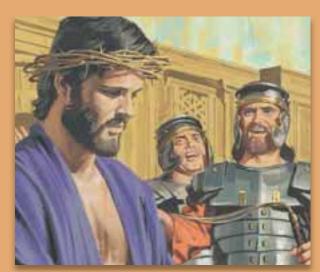
From "The Message of the Restoration," Ensign, May 2007, 85–88.





2. This child would eat curds and honey.<sup>3</sup> Curds and honey were foods of the poor. God's Son would be born as a helpless baby to a poor family.

3. Isaiah said God's Son would be despised, afflicted, and oppressed by many people. Yet He would not speak against those who would hurt and kill Him. He would suffer for our sins and sorrows.<sup>4</sup>



4. At Jesus Christ's Second Coming, all mankind will live in peace. Isaiah taught that even the animals will live in harmony: wolves, leopards, lions, and bears will no longer hunt lambs, goats, and calves.<sup>5</sup>





We can look forward to that great day as a time of learning and peace.

6. Because Isaiah's prophecies about Jesus Christ's life are true, we can know that his prophecies about the Second Coming will be fulfilled as well.

- 1. See Isaiah 9:6. 2. See Isaiah 7:14,
- footnote *e*.

  3. See Isaiah 7:15,

- 5. See Isaiah 53:3–7.
  5. See Isaiah 11:6–9.
  6. See Isaiah 35:5 and 65:20–22.

FRIEND DECEMBER 2008



### Friends in the News





John B., 8, Colorado, enjoys playing football and roller hockey with his friends. He reads Book of Mormon stories every day before he does his schoolwork. His hero is Captain Moroni.





Marriah B., 5, New Hampshire, likes to sing, dance, run, climb, color pictures, and jump on the trampoline. She helps take care of her little brother, and she likes to help her mom and fold her clothes.



**Ashton, Dalton, Sutton,** and **Peyton C.**, 8, 5, 3, and 2, Arizona, enjoy reading and playing on the computer. Ashton was just baptized, and it was a special day. Dalton and Sutton like playing soccer and T-ball. Peyton has fun wrestling with his brothers.



### **Farmington Utah South Stake**

The activity day girls of the Farmington Utah South Stake participated in a day camp where they learned about President Hinckley's nine "B's" and worked on their Faith in God goals. They rotated through classes where they sewed a pillow, made thank-you cards, learned how to play volleyball, learned about keeping their bodies clean inside and out and learned how to be a positive influence in their families. They discussed the importance of being humble and prayerful and sang a song about the nine "B's"



### Sierra Ward

At a Primary activity day, the children of the Sierra Ward, Lancaster California Stake, gathered together to celebrate the early Church pioneers. The theme for the day was "Following in the Footsteps of the Pioneers." They made candles, miniature covered wagons, and whirligigs. They also participated in several pioneer games. The day concluded with a bicycle parade in remembrance of the Saints entering the Salt Lake Valley.



kfistin S., 5, Georgia, likes coloring, reading, and going to school. She also likes to learn at church. Her favorite song is "Families Can Be Together Forever."



### Raymond Sixth Ward

The Raymond Sixth Ward Primary, Raymond Alberta Stake, had a service project where they filled shoe boxes with small gifts for children in developing countries. Some of the gifts included soap, toothbrushes, toy cars, jump ropes, and pencils. Each child stuffed one box for a girl and one box for a boy. They also wrote the children notes and drew them pictures. Everyone enjoyed the activity and gained a stronger testimony of the joy that can be found in giving service to others.



Shayla T., 7, Washington, enjoyed reading the Book of Mormon with her family and was so happy to have finished it. She is very kind and thinks of others. She recently donated her long hair to an organization that makes wigs for children who lose their hair. She likes to play soccer and is a good big sister.



Adam S., 7, Maine, loves his mom and dad. He likes to play board games and basketball and swim in his pool. He has two dogs, Pink and Duncan, and two guinea pigs, Stewey and Earl. His favorite food is pepperoni pizza.



Madelynn T., 8, Utah, was baptized on her birthday by her older brother. She was confirmed by her dad. It was a very special day. After her baptism, she went on a fun trip to a park with her family.



Christina W., 10, Texas, has taken piano lessons since she was five years old and practices faithfully. She courageously volunteered to share her musical talents with her El Paso First Ward by sometimes playing the piano in sacrament meeting.

#### Milo Ward

The Primary children of the Milo Ward, Ucon Idaho Stake, put together 55 picture books to donate to the humanitarian center. They were all very excited to make books for children who didn't have any.



**Williston Ward** 

lunch during the storm. The activity was a success, and the Primary children talked about it for weeks after



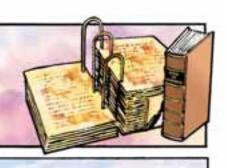
Elise and Joseph 15, 6 and 3, Utah, both like to sing and read their scriptures. Elise enjoys bearing her testimony, playing the piano, and collecting rocks. She can't wait to turn eight and be baptized. Joseph's favorite song is "I Love to See the Temple." He also enjoys playing in the sand and dirt, and he looks forward to going on a mission.





FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

### The Martyrdom of the Prophet



Some wicked people wanted to kill Joseph Smith. He and his brother Hyrum decided to leave their homes in Nauvoo so they would be safe. They sadly said good-bye to their families and started their journey.

Men are seeking to kill my brother Joseph, and the Lord has warned him to flee to the Rocky Mountains to save his life.

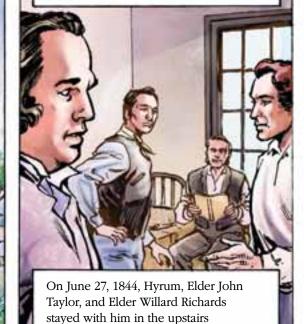
Troops came to Nauvoo to arrest Joseph and Hyrum. People in Nauvoo worried what the troops would do, so Emma sent men to tell Joseph and Hyrum. They decided to go to Carthage. Joseph knew he would die there.

I am going like a lamb to the slaughter; but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offense towards God and towards all men.

I shall die an innocent man, and it shall yet be said of me—he was murdered in cold blood



A constable arrested Joseph and Hyrum and sent them to Carthage Jail. Many people visited the Prophet there.

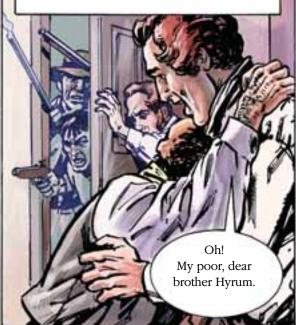


bedroom of the jail.

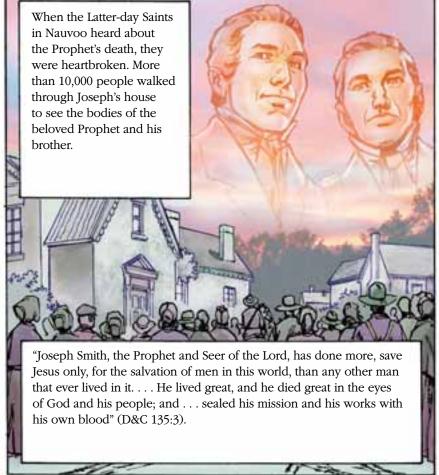
The room got very hot that afternoon. The men opened the windows to try to cool off. Hyrum read a book while Joseph talked to a guard. John Taylor sang "A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief" (*Hymns*, no. 29).



A mob of angry men gathered around the jail. Then they rushed up the stairs, shooting their guns. Hyrum was killed.







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May





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September



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(p) poster

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Pirates! Sept, 4 Candy or Kindness? Annette Alger, Mar, 10 Castor, Rachelle Pace

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Chandler, Kristen Ties that Bind, Jan, 20

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Big Jar, The, Clare Mishica, Mar, 20

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You Are Special, Maryalice Wallis, Nov, 27

Just Like Heavenly Father, Jane McBride Choate, Jan, 28

New Me, The, *Charlotte Goodman McEwan*, Jan, 7 Oh No, Activity Day! *Lori Mortensen*, Aug, 10

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Seeing a Child of God, Hazel Lamoreaux, Nov, 4

Sons and Daughters of God, Paul K. Sybrowsky (FF), Melvin Leavitt, July, 8

Special Witness: Elder Quentin L. Cook, Sept, 17 Who I Really Am, Cindy Maybon, Feb, 7

You Are a Child of God, Paul B. Pieper (FF), Callie Buys,

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Benjamin's Name, Annette Bay Pimentel, July, 14

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Special Witness: Elder Richard G. Scott, Jan, 42 Sons and Daughters of God, Paul K. Sybrowsky, Melvin EYRING, HENRY B. Getting to Know the First Presidency of the Church, Christensen, Linda Leavitt, July, 8 You Are a Child of God, Paul B. Pieper, Callie Buys, Jan, 8 Every Blessing that I Enjoy Here (ST), Nov, 14 May. 2 FRIENDS BY MAIL Heavenly Father, Are You Really There? (ST), Sept, 10 Eyring, Henry B. Heed the Prophets-Follow What They Say (ST), Apr, 12 Gift of the Gospel, The (PV), July, 2 Afraid of Recess, Jan, IFC I Can Be a Missionary Now (ST), July, 10 Helping the Lambs (PV), Mar, 2 Bad Dream, Jan, IFC I Have a Family Here on Earth (ST), May, 14 I Will Be His Servant (ST), Oct, 10 If the Savior Stood Beside Me (ST), Mar, 12 Brotherly Love, Aug, IFC Facing My Fear, Jan, IFC Faith to Swim, May, IFC How to Give (PV), Oct, 2 Special Witness: President Henry B. Eyring, Feb, 39 I'll Prepare Myself While I Am Young (ST), June, 16 Follow the Prophet, Aug, IFC Kingdom Up on High, The (ST), Aug, 14 General Conference Charity, Apr, IFC My Life Is a Gift; My Life Has a Plan (ST), Jan, 16 FAITH Guidance from My Mom and the Holy Ghost, June, IFC Hard Decision for Dad, Nov, IFC Helping a Friend, Dec, IFC Power that I Get Each Time I Read, The (ST), Feb, 14 Stories of Jesus, Tell Them to Me (ST), Dec, 10 Blessing of Strength, A, Kimberly Reid, Mar, 4 City of Joseph, The, Nov, 44 Faithful Learner, A: Selene Zuppardo of Subbiano, Italy, CHRISTMAS. See December issue Helping People, Oct, IFC Christmas Workshop, Dec, 36 Jennifer Maddy, July, 34 How to Have a Happy Family, Mar, IFC CHURCH Helping the Lambs (PV), President Henry B. Eyring, Mar, 2 Hunter's Warning, June, IFC I Knew the Answer, July, IFC Kind Song, A, Dec, IFC Lost and Scared, May, IFC Joseph's Experiences in Jail, Oct, 6 Jun-Jun's Faith, *Julie C. Donaldson*, Mar, 34 Special Witness: Elder Quentin L. Cook, Sept, 17 Ties that Bind, Kristen Chandler, Jan, 20 CHURCH HISTORY. See also FROM THE LIFE OF THE Miracles along Joseph's Journey, Aug, 42 My Brother and the Puppy, Keith R. Edwards (FF), *Callie* Lost Blanket, Dec, IFC PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH, RESTORATION, and SMITH, Buys, Sept, 8 Mission Prayer, Feb, IFC Create Your Own Handcart, July, 24 Necklace for Mama, A, Hazel Lamoreaux, Apr, 18 Missionary Now, Sept, IFC Finishing the Temple, Rachelle Pace Castor, July, 28 Operation on Joseph's Leg, An, Feb, 40 My Baptism, Aug, IFC Trials for Joseph and Emma, Sept, 36
Faith in God, *Primary General Presidency*, June, 8 Pioneer Story, A, Amie Jane Leavitt, July, 37 My Sight Restored, Jan, IFC What's a Pioneer? Kerryn Hugo, June, 38 Nighttime Pondering, Sept, IFC Pioneers in a Storm, July, IFC City of Joseph, The, Nov, 44 FAITH IN GOD PROGRAM Clean-up Claire, Marianne Dahl Johnson, May, 42 Faith in God, Primary General Presidency, June, 8 Power of Prayer, The, Sept, IFC COLORING PAGE. See THINGS TO MAKE AND DO Hidden Picture, June, 7 Powerful Prayers, Aug, IFC Pray and Look Again, Nov, IFC Priesthood Healing, Apr, IFC COME LISTEN TO A PROPHET'S VOICE Faithful Learner, A: Selene Zuppardo of Subbiano, Italy, Do Your Duty, President Thomas S. Monson, Feb, 2 Jennifer Maddy, July, 34 First Vision, The, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, June, 2 FAMILY Recess Bully, Oct, IFC Gift of the Gospel, The, President Henry B. Eyring, July, 2 Scared to Say "I'm Sorry," July, IFC Being Content, Alexander A. Odume (FF), F. Onyebueze Helping the Lambs, President Henry B. Eyring, Mar, 2 Nmeribe, Apr, 8 Sharing My Talent, Mar, IFC Sick, Mar, IFC Singing and Cleaning, May, IFC How to Give, President Henry B. Eyring, Oct, 2 Born of Goodly Parents, Jan, 10 Light of a New Day, The, Gordon B. Hinckley, Jan, 2 Message for Misti, A, President Thomas S. Monson, Sept, 2 Most Powerful Motivating Force, The, President Dieter F. Clean-up Claire, Marianne Dahl Johnson, May, 42 Coloring Page, May, 7 Family Hug, *Diane M. Franson*, May, 13 Family Is of God, The (m), Oct, 28 Stranger Danger, June, IFC Stuck! Oct, IFC Uchtdorf, Aug, 2 Stuck in an Elevator, Jan, IFC Three Bridges, President Thomas S. Monson, Nov, 2 Father's Day Detective, Sheila Kindred, June, 12 Sunbeam Teachers, June, IFC Conference Reverence Tent, Linda Olsen, Oct, 36 Grandpa's Red Pickup Truck, Lana Krumwiede, Aug, 32 Tornado Scare, Apr, IFC True Meaning of Easter, Mar, IFC Unforgotten Experience, Feb, IFC FRIENDS IN THE NEWS CONFIRMATION. See BAPTISM Honoring His Name, Shayne M. Bowen (FF), Kimberly COURAGE Reid, May, 8 Like Nephi, Sheralee B. Hardy, Feb, 4 I Have a Family Here on Earth (ST), Linda Christensen, Jan, 44; Feb, 46; Mar, 46; Apr, 46; May, 46; June, 46; Operation on Joseph's Leg, An, Feb, 40 May, 14 Sammy's Fear, Trixie Williams, July, 38 Just Like Mommy, Jane McBride Choate, June, 34 July, 22; Aug, 36; Sept, 44; Oct, 46; Nov, 28; Dec, 40 Kendra's Letter, *Jane McBride Choate*, Nov, 30 My Eternal Family, *C. G. Lindstrom*, Mar, 23 FRIENDSHIP. See LOVE AND KINDNESS FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH. See CREATION. See also PLAN OF SALVATION God's Wonderful Creation, Elsie Palmer, Nov, 7 Not Just for a Day, *Wendy Ellison*, June, 4
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Mikey's Gift, Dennis A. Barlow, Sept, 34 Isaiah's Prophecies, Christena C. Nelson, Dec, 38 Jesus Knows Your Name, David S. Baxter (FF), Mar, 8 Showing Thanks, Julie Wardell, Nov. 33 Thankfulness, William Schlegl, Nov, 21 Showing Our Love for Jesus, Jane McBride Choate, Dec, 16 We Give Thanks, Ellen Javernick, Nov, 32 Stories of Jesus, Tell Them to Me (ST), Linda Christensen, Growing a Testimony, Marcus B. Nash (FF), Kimberly Reid, Story of Jesus Christ, The, Mar, 30 Dec, 8 Three Bridges (PV), *President Thomas S. Monson*, Nov, 2 Witnesses, *Linda Hoffman Kimball*, Dec, 7 GUIDE TO THE FRIEND Jan, IBC; Feb, IBC; Mar, IBC; Apr, IBC; May, IBC; June, IBC; July, IBC; Aug, IBC; Sept, IBC; Oct, IBC; Nov, IBC; Dec, IBC Wondrous Nativity, The, Dec, 24 Jesus Knows Your Name, David S. Baxter (FF), Mar, 8 Johnson, Marianne Dahl Clean-up Claire, May, 42 Jorgensen, Melissa M. Heavenly Father's Helpers, Oct, 32  $\begin{tabular}{ll} Harding, Rene\'e \\ Do You Want to Go to Primary with Me? July, 4 \end{tabular}$ Joseph Moves to Ohio, July, 40 Hardy, Sheralee B. Like Nephi, Feb, 4 Joseph's Experiences in Jail, Oct, 6 HEAVENLY FATHER. See also FAITH, JESUS CHRIST, Jun-Jun's Faith, Julie C. Donaldson, Mar, 34 PRAYER, and TRYING TO BE LIKE JESUS Just Like Heavenly Father, Jane McBride Choate, Jan, 28 Heavenly Father, Are You Really There? (ST), Linda Just Like Mommy, Jane McBride Choate, June, 34 Christensen, Sept, 10 Just Like Heavenly Father, Jane McBride Choate, Jan, 28 Kendra's Letter, Jane McBride Choate, Nov, 30 You Are Loved, Feb, 24 Kendra's Letter, Jane McBride Choate, Nov, 30 Heavenly Father, Are You Really There? (ST), Linda Kimball, Linda Hoffman Christensen, Sept, 10 Heavenly Father's Helpers, Melissa M. Jorgensen, Oct, 32 Witnesses, Dec, 7 Kind, Like Jesus, *Jill Tew*, Mar, 32 KINDNESS. See LOVE AND KINDNESS Heed the Prophets-Follow What They Say (ST), Linda Kindness, Lana Krumwiede, July, 17 Christensen, Apr, 12 Help and Be Happy, Jeannie Lancaster, Oct, 4 Helping the Lambs (PV), President Henry B. Eyring, Mar, 2 Kindred, Sheila Best Bargain, The, May, 10 Buried Treasure, Feb, 32 Father's Day Detective, June, 12 Hendricks, Hilary M. Maddy, Jennifer Baptism Day, Temple Day, Mar, 42 Her Mother's Song, *Sheila Kindred*, Apr, 10 Her Mother's Song, Apr, 10 HIDDEN PICTURES Mac the Prayer Cat, Jan, 12 Funstuf, June, 7 Winner, The, Sept, 14 Hidden Picture, Jan, 23 Yellow Dress, The, Nov, 34 Hidden Picture, Robert A. Peterson, Aug, 47 Kingdom Up on High, The (ST), Linda Christensen, Aug, 14 Apr, 28 MAKING FRIENDS Hooray for Helpers, *Val Chadwick Bagley*, Oct, 35 King Benjamin on the Tower, *Robert Peterson*, Apr, 39 Kirby, Heather Bullies and Brothers, Apr, 36 HINCKLEY, GORDON B. Girlfriends and Gossip, Sept, 40 President Gordon Bitner Hinckley (1910-2008), Apr, 2 KITCHEN KRAFTS. See also RECIPES Hinckley, Gordon B. Light of a New Day, The (PV), Jan, 2 Cheesy Vegetable Snowman, Jan, 27 Conference Bean Dip, Apr, 27 Combread Cups, *Shanna Butler*, Sept, 21 Easy Cherry Pie, Feb, 13 Hobson, Jean Leedale Getting Pushy on the Pond, Jan, 46 Hofhiens, Kim German Pancake, Oct, 27 Angelo's Decision, Feb, 36
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Gift for Amy, A, Ethna R. Reid, Jan, 34
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Questions and Answers about the Sacrament, Mar, 24 LOVE AND KINDNESS. See also FAMILY, SERVICE, and

TRYING TO BE LIKE JESUS

At Home in the Woods: Rachel Wilkinson of Alton, New Hampshire, Melvin Leavitt, Feb, 20 Beautiful Green Glass, The, Diane Marie Franson, May, 34 Beautiful Music, John P. Buentello, May, 4 Big Jar, The, Clare Mishica, Mar, 20 Bullies and Brothers, Heather Kirby, Apr, 36 Candy or Kindness? Annette Alger, Mar, 10 Father's Day Detective, Sheila Kindred, June, 12 Friend in Need, A, Vicki H. Budge, June, 20 Getting Pushy on the Pond, Jean Leedale Hobson, Jan, 46 Girlfriends and Gossip, Heather Kirby, Sept, 40 How to Give (PV), President Henry B. Eyring, Oct, 2 Kind, Like Jesus, *Jill Tew,* Mar, 32 Light of a New Day, The (PV), *Gordon B. Hinckley,* Jan, 2 Love Drawer, The, Marnie Spencer, Feb, 28 Necklace for Mama, A, Hazel Lamoreaux, Apr, 18 Oh No, Activity Day! Lori Mortensen, Aug, 10 Omar's Key to Getting Along: Omar Salgado of Valle de Angeles, Honduras, *Adam C. Olsen*, Sept, 18 Red Marble, The, *Ray Goldrup*, Jan, 4 Same-Size Service, Sally Gillen, Nov, 10 Sing a Song of Christmas, Rebecca Cornish Talley, Dec, 14 Something for Sara, Jane McBride Choate, Feb, 44 Special Witness: Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Oct, 45 Winner, The, *Sheila Kindred*, Sept, 14 Love Drawer, The, Marnie Spencer, Feb, 28 Mac the Prayer Cat, Sheila Kindred, Jan, 12 All Can Give, Stanley G. Ellis (FF), Nov, 8 Faithful Learner, A: Selene Zuppardo of Subbiano, Italy, Preparing for a Mission, Ulisses Soares (FF), Oct, 8 Standing Tall: Judy and Christopher Sereni of Calci, Italy, At Home in the Woods: Rachel Wilkinson of Alton, New Hampshire, Melvin Leavitt, Feb, 20 Be Smart! Michael Green of Apex, North Carolina, Richard M. Romney, Oct, 18 Burning Testimony, A: Nubporn Wisanbannawit of Bangkok, Thailand, Sarah Cutler, Nov, 38 Faithful Learner, A: Selene Zuppardo of Subbiano, Italy, Jennifer Maddy, July, 34 Houses of Light: Bryan Currie of Portland, Maine, Melvin Leavitt, Mar, 16
Missionary in the Making, A: John Kay of Glenrothes,
Fife, Scotland, Kimberly Reid, Jan, 36 Oceans of Love: Vanessa Recinos of Providence, Rhode Island, Melvin Leavitt, June, 28 Omar's Key to Getting Along: Omar Salgado of Valle de Angeles, Honduras, *Adam C. Olsen*, Sept, 18 One Happy Girl: Gabriella Kate Willson of Kellyville, New South Wales, Australia, *Julie Wardell*, May, 20 Pablo's Practice: Pablo Chiroy of Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala, Adam C. Olson, Aug, 18 Standing Tall: Judy and Christopher Sereni of Calci, Italy, Jennifer Maddy, Apr, 28 My Family History Miracle, Feb, 42 Martyrdom of the Prophet, The, Dec, 42 Jan, 19; Feb, 17; Mar, 27; Apr, 15; May, 17; June, 19; July, 48; Aug, 27; Sept, 27; Oct, 48; Nov, 17; Dec, 23 Maybon, Cindy Who I Really Am, Feb, 7 McEwan, Charlotte Goodman Secret Giver, The, Dec, 4 Message for Misti, A (PV), *President Thomas S. Monson*, Sept, 2 Mikey's Gift, *Dennis A. Barlow*, Sept, 34 Miracles along Joseph's Journey, Aug, 42 Missionary in the Making, A: John Kay of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland, Kimberly Reid, Jan, 36 MISSIONARY WORK. See also EXAMPLE, FRIENDS BY MAIL, TESTIMONY, and TRYING TO BE LIKE JESUS Benjamin's Name, Annette Bay Pimentel, July, 14 Do You Want to Go to Primary with Me? Reneé Harding, Gift of the Gospel, The (PV), President Henry B. Eyring, Helping the Lambs (PV), President Henry B. Eyring,

I Can Be a Missionary Now (ST), Linda Christensen, July, 10

I Know Where the Book of Mormon Came From! Lana

Krumwiede, Dec, 20

Kindness, Lana Krumwiede, July, 17

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Honoring His Name, Shayne M. Bowen (FF), Kimberly

If the Savior Stood Beside Me (ST), Linda Christensen,

Patriarchal Blessings, Don R. Clarke (FF), Kimberly Reid, Something Is Outside My Window, Sept, 28 Letters for Uncle Eddie, Vicki H. Budge, July, 18 Light of a New Day, The (PV), Gordon B. Hinckley, Jan, 2 Receiving the Gold Plates, May, 40 Feb. 8 Matching Missionaries, Arie Van De Graaff, July, 26 RECIPES. See also KITCHEN KRAFTS Paulsen, Linda G. Missionary Activity, Elise Black, July, 21 Stay, Annie, Aug, 28 Black Bean and Pineapple Salsa, Dec, 18 Missionary in the Making, A: John Kay of Glenrothes, PEACE Candlestick Salad, Paula Weed, Dec, 36 Fife, Scotland, Kimberly Reid, Jan, 36 Her Mother's Song, Sheila Kindred, Apr, 10 Edible Snowflakes, Sherry Timberman, Dec, 36 Pablo's Practice: Pablo Chiroy of Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala, *Adam C. Olson*, Aug, 18 Holiday Party Drink, Sarah Cutler, Dec, 37 Lightning Strikes, Dora D. Flack, Feb, 10 Red Marble, The, Ray Goldrup, Jan, 4 PERSERVERANCE Preparing for a Mission, Ulisses Soares (FF), Jennifer Most Powerful Motivating Force, The (PV), President Reid, Ethna R. Maddy, Oct, 8 Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Aug, 2 Gift for Amy, A, Jan, 34 Something for Sara, Jane McBride Choate, Feb, 44 Trials for Joseph and Emma, Sept, 36 Reid, Kimberly Blessing of Strength, A, Mar, 4 Teaching Mrs. Greene, Marissa Widdison, Oct, 14 Pimentel, Annette Bay Growing a Testimony, Marcus B. Nash (FF), Dec, 8 Honoring His Name, Shayne M. Bowen (FF), May, 8 What's a Pioneer? Kerryn Hugo, June, 38 MODESTY Benjamin's Name, July, 14 PIONEERS. See CHURCH HISTORY Language of Dance, The, Rachelle P. Castor, Dec, 32 Pirates! Kersten Campbell, Sept, 4 Missionary in the Making, A: John Kay of Glenrothes, Special Witness: Elder David A. Bednar, June, 31 PLAN OF SALVATION Fife, Scotland, Jan, 36 Sunday Best in Brazil, Nathan N. Waite, June, 27 Coloring Page, Jan, 43 Now Is the Time to Obey, David F. Evans (FF), Aug, 8 Patriarchal Blessings, Don R. Clarke (FF), Feb, 8 REPENTANCE. *See also* FRIENDS BY MAIL Beautiful Music, *John P. Buentello*, May, 4 MONSON, THOMAS S. I Shouted for Joy, Elsie Palmer, Mar, 7 Getting to Know the First Presidency of the Church, My Life Has a Plan, *Jane McBride Choate*, Mar, 15 My Life Is a Gift; My Life Has a Plan (ST), *Linda* May, 2 Monson, Thomas S. Clean-up Claire, Marianne Dahl Johnson, May, 42 Christensen, Jan, 16 Do Your Duty (PV), Feb, 2 POSTER Escaping from the Hole, Julia Oldroyd, Aug, 44 Message for Misti, A (PV), Sept, 2 I Am a Child of God (p), Jan, insert Yellow Dress, The, Sheila Kindred, Nov, 34 RESTORATION. See also CHURCH HISTORY, FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH, and SMITH, JOSEPH Three Bridges (PV), Nov, 2 Power that I Get Each Time I Read, The (ST), Linda Moody, Lorena Christensen, Feb. 14 Let's Plant a Garden, May, 36 PRAYER. 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### Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. Show family members the art on page 2, and ask them who they think the people in the drawing are. After they have answered, ask them where the people are going and how they knew which way to go. Then read the First Presidency's message on page 3. Talk about how each of you can follow the light of Christ's example.

2. Read "The Secret Giver" (pp. 4–6), and make a list of ways your family can serve others during the Christmas season. Choose a few things from the list, and make a plan to carry them out.

3. Show family members a seed or a picture of a seed. Next, show them a tree or a picture of a tree. Talk about what happens as a seed becomes a tree. Read "Growing a Testimony" (pp. 8-9), and discuss what Elder Nash did to "grow" his

testimony. Set goals to do things that can help you grow your own testimony.

4. Read the first two pages of "The Language" of Dance" (pp. 32-34). Stop and ask your family members how they think the story will end. Then read page 34. Discuss how choosing the right can be difficult, and testify that the Lord blesses those who make righteous decisions.

#### Sidebar references

- 1. "In Search of the Christmas Spirit," Ensign, Dec. 1987, 5.
- 2. "Creating a Gospel-Sharing Home," Ensign, May 2006, 85.
- 3. For the Strength of Youth (2001), 15.

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



page 2

The First Presidency sends you a Christmas message.

page 24

Make a nativity scene to display this Christmas season.



