

the Friend



Christmas in
COLOMBIA

See pages 10-13

Thank you for adding to the Kindness Garden! Look for a fun game on pages 24–25.

FRIENDS BY MAIL



Christmas Rocks!



We made our own Christmas rock picture after we saw it in the *Friend* (Dec. 2018)!
Tace and Dean L., ages 6 and 3, Utah, USA

Lots of Ways



I played the “Lots of Ways to Say ‘I Love You’” (March 2019) board game for home evening!
Ellie P., age 8, Missouri, USA

More Rock Art

We asked our friends to help us make our own rock art (Dec. 2018).

Rex W., Jet J., Kelsie N., Clara and Isla W., ages 7, 8, 9, 9, and 3, Utah, USA



DEAR FRIENDS,

We always want to make Christmas extra special for you. This month you'll find an ornament to make (page 19), a beautiful new song (page 30), and a story about Matt and Mandy celebrating the birth of our Savior (page 28).

We also want to thank you for helping our Kindness Garden grow (page 24)! Even if you didn't send a flower or a bug or even a worm, we know you've been following the Savior by showing kindness.

Merry Christmas!

The *Friend*

Was there a story or activity this month that helped you? Tell us about it! Turn to page 39 to find out how.

the Friend

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



These stories and activities support this month's *Come, Follow Me* lessons at home and in Primary.
Find more resources at lessonhelps.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

STORIES AND FEATURES

- ◆ 2 **From the First Presidency:** The Light of the World / President Henry B. Eyring
- 4 In the Footsteps of Jesus
- ◆ 6 Family Night Fun
- ◆ 9 The Living Christ
- 10 Martín's Favorite Toys
- 12 Hello from Colombia!
- 14 Show and Tell
- 16 **Apostles around the World:** Elder Ulisses Soares
- 18 The Red Paper Bird
- 21 Brave Like Joseph Smith
- 22 Searching for Baby Jesus
- 26 **Friend to Friend:** Sheep and Their Shepherd / Elder Vern P. Stanfill
- 28 Matt and Mandy
- 39 Stop and Flip

FOR OLDER KIDS

- 31 For Older Kids
- 32 The Bike Monster
- 34 Food & Fun
- 36 Notes for Sister Puckett
- 38 What's on Your Mind?

MUSIC

- ◆ 30 My Christmas Testimony

THINGS TO MAKE AND DO

- ◆ 7 10 Days of Christmas
- 8 Funstuff: Christmas Clues
- 20 Funstuff: Find It!
- 24 Kindness Garden Find It!

FRIEND JUNIOR

- IBC For Parents of Little Ones
- ◆ FJ1 In the Stable
- FJ2 A New Sunbeam
- FJ3 Hugo's Primary Class
- ◆ FJ4 **Scripture Stories:** Jesus Was Born
- ◆ FJ7 Coloring Page
- FJ8 The Christmas Coins

Hidden CTR Rings



Hard: Christmas lanterns

Harder: Fly like a _____

Hardest: Spiral bound

Front cover by **Stephanie Dehennin**

Back cover by **Colleen Madden**

Volume 49 Number 12 December 2019

The First Presidency:

Russell M. Nelson, Dallin H. Oaks,
Henry B. Eyring

The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

M. Russell Ballard, Jeffrey R. Holland, Dieter F.
Uchtdorf, David A. Bednar, Quentin L. Cook,
D. Todd Christofferson, Neil L. Andersen, Ronald A.
Rasband, Gary E. Stevenson, Dale G. Renlund,
Gerrit W. Gong, Ulisses Soares

Editor: Randy D. Funk

Advisers: Becky Craven, Sharon Eubank,
Cristina B. Franco, Walter F. González, Larry S.
Kacher, Adrián Ochoa, Michael T. Ringwood,
Vern P. Stanfill

Managing Director: Richard I. Heaton
Director of Church Magazines: Allan R. Loyborg
Business Manager: Garff Cannon

Managing Editor: Jan Pinborough

Assistant Managing Editor: Marissa Widdison

Copyeditor: Lori Fuller Sosa

Editor: Lucy Stevenson

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Kasten

Writing and Editing: Ryan Carr, David Dickson,
Charlotte Larcabal, Michael R. Morris, Eric
Murdock, Richard M. Romney, Mindy Selu,
Chakell Wardleigh

Editorial Intern: Katie Morrell

Art Director: Mark W. Robison

Design: Jeanette Andrews, Mandie Bentley,
Thomas S. Child, K. Nicole Walkenhurst

Intellectual Property Coordinator:
Collette Nebeker Aune

Production: Marlene Roschick

Prepress: Joshua Dennis

Printing Director: Steven T. Lewis

Distribution Director: Nelson Gonzalez

© 2019 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

All rights reserved. The *Friend* (ISSN 0009-4102)
is published monthly by The Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 E. North Temple St.,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-0024, 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 store.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

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 take effect.

Submit manuscripts or art to:

Friend Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2393,
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, 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. Email:
friend@ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

The *Friend* can be found on the Internet at
friend.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Unless otherwise indicated, individuals may
copy material from the *Friend* for their own
personal, noncommercial use (including such
use in connection with their calling in The Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). This right
can be revoked at any time and for any reason.
Visual material may not be copied if restrictions
are indicated in the credit line with the artwork.
Copyright questions should be addressed to
Intellectual Property Office, 50 E. North Temple
St., FL 13, Salt Lake City, UT 84150, USA; email:
cor-intellectualproperty@ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS (see
DMM 507.1.5.2). **NONPOSTAL AND MILITARY
FACILITIES:** Send address changes to Distribution
Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-
0368, USA.

Canada Post Information: Publication Agreement
#40017431.



The Light of the World



**By President
Henry B. Eyring**
Second Counselor in
the First Presidency

Light is one of the most beautiful symbols of the birth of Jesus Christ. When Jesus was born, He brought light to a darkened world.

Prophets taught that light would be a sign of the Savior's birth. Years before Jesus was born, Samuel the Lamanite prophesied:

"There shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before He cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day.

"And behold, there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld" (Helaman 14:3, 5).

This star guided the Wise Men to Jesus to worship Him. They gave Him precious gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

I testify that Jesus is the Living Christ. We can remember Him and try with all our hearts to love as He loves. That is the spirit of Christmas. It is the spirit of true happiness every day. ●

Adapted from the 2011 First Presidency Christmas devotional.



FOLLOW THE STAR



When Jesus was born, the Wise Men followed the star.
Color the stars below to help the Wise Men find Jesus.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

MY name is Mary. I live in Israel with my family. We've had many special experiences walking where Jesus walked long ago.

From an interview by
Amie Jane Leavitt

BETHLEHEM

One special place we visited was Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph had to travel about 90 miles (144 km) to get there from their home in Nazareth. We visited a church that was built in the place people think the stable was.

We also saw the fields near Bethlehem. Shepherds still watch over flocks there, just like they did on the night Jesus was born. We could hear the *baaing* of the sheep as we sang "Far, Far Away on Judea's Plains" (*Hymns*, no. 212). I'll always remember how I felt singing that song.





A RIVER AND A SEA

I love going to places where Jesus walked, like near the River Jordan, where Jesus was baptized. When I'm at these spots, I walk around quietly near people who are worshipping Jesus by lighting candles and kneeling in prayer. I always feel in my heart that Heavenly Father and Jesus are happy when people show love for Them.

We also saw the Sea of Galilee. It's a beautiful lake where Jesus taught thousands of people and did many miracles. I could really feel the Spirit there. It has a peaceful feeling that tells me sacred things happened there.

JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is a big city. On the Sunday before He was crucified, Jesus rode there on a donkey (see Matthew 21:1–11). People welcomed Him into the city by waving palm leaves and shouting, "Hosanna!"

Every year on the Sunday before Easter, people follow Jesus's path into Jerusalem. They carry palm leaves and sing songs about Jesus. One year my family joined other Christians on this walk. It was wonderful to feel the love people have for their Savior.

You don't have to walk where Jesus walked to follow His footsteps. You can follow His example anywhere! ●

The author lives in Utah, USA.



You can watch videos about places Jesus walked at **[ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)**. See "Shepherds Learn of the Birth of Christ," "Calming the Tempest," and "Jesus Is Resurrected."

Family Night FUN

Here are some ideas you could use for home evening.

GELATINA DE MOSAICO

This Colombian treat goes along with the first idea below.

- Mix one large box of red gelatin, following directions on the package. Chill the liquid on a cookie sheet for 3 to 4 hours. Do the same for a box of green gelatin.
- Once the colored gelatin is set, make a cream by mixing 0.5 ounces (about 14 g) of unflavored gelatin with 1 1/2 cups hot water. Stir in 1 14-oz. can (about 400 g) of sweetened condensed milk.
- Let the cream cool in the fridge while you cut the colored gelatin into small cubes and put them in a greased Bundt pan. Pour the cream over the gelatin cubes.
- Chill for at least 4–6 hours, carefully turn it over on a plate, and enjoy!



SONG

"He Sent His Son" (*Children's Songbook*, 34–35)

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16

ACTIVITY

- ▶ Read "In the Footsteps of Jesus" (page 4).
- ▶ Look at pictures of Jesus from the *Come, Follow Me* manual. Talk about how we can feel His love no matter where we are in the world. We don't have to travel anywhere to get to know Him!
- ▶ As a family, think of ways to stay focused on Jesus this Christmas. Then do a count-down activity from page 7.



MORE IDEAS

- Learn about Colombia on page 12. You could make the Gelatina de Mosaico recipe ahead of time to enjoy after home evening!
- Read "The Red Paper Bird" (page 18) and make the craft. Have a family member do a secret act of service for someone and leave the bird. Then that person does an act of service and leaves the bird. How many times can you pass the bird?
- Read "The Light of the World" (page 2). Visit ComeUntoChrist.org/Christmas and choose a way to share the Savior's light this Christmas!



10 Days of Christmas

Help your family get ready for Christmas! Starting on December 15, do one of these activities together each day and color a star.

See *Come, Follow Me* family manual pages 194–197.

Be especially kind today, like Jesus would.

Share a favorite scripture about Jesus.

Help someone who is sick or lonely, like Jesus would.

Watch the video “The Nativity.” *

Act out the Nativity (see Luke 2).

Share why you’re thankful for Jesus.

Sing a Christmas song or hymn.

Draw a picture of baby Jesus.

Read something Jesus said in the scriptures.

Review a talk from the First Presidency Christmas devotional.*

*Find these videos at ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Christmas Clues

Can you figure out the names of all these Christmas songs? See answers on page 39.

Now come up with clues for other Christmas songs!

NOEL NOEL NOEL

DRUMMER BOY
DRUMMER BOY

A Christmas

IDEA'S
FAR, FAR AWAY
PLAINS

O-NIGHT

MANGER
away

The **LIVING** Christ



The prophets and apostles wrote “The Living Christ” to tell the world about Jesus. Memorize the last part of it this month to celebrate the Savior’s birth.

“He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.”

Like light shining through a window, the Savior brings light and hope to a world that sometimes seems dark. Color this stained-glass window, then visit **ComeUntoChrist.org/Christmas** to learn how you can share Christ’s light!



LIGHT



Martín's Favorite Toys

By J. Ryan Jensen
Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

"Give, then, as Jesus gives; there is something all can give"
(Children's Songbook, 236).

Martín felt sad when his parents told him the family was moving to a different city in Colombia. He didn't want to leave his friends, his home, and the place where he grew up. Instead of cool mountain air, Martín would now live close to the ocean with hot, humid air all year round. He would trade hot soups for cold drinks, and coats for shorts. Add to that a new school, a new ward, and a new Primary class! It all seemed pretty scary.

One day Mom and Dad asked Martín how he felt about the move.

"I don't like it," Martín said. "I don't want everything to change."

"I know moving can be hard," Dad said. "Lots of things will change, but not *everything*. You'll still have us!"

"That's true," Martín said.

"And we will bring our things with us," Mom said.

Martín thought about that for a minute. He would still have his clothes, his shoes, and his favorite toys. Martín was glad he could take his toys. He packed them away extra carefully when they moved.

After a while, Martín started to get used to his new home and new city. The move wasn't as hard or scary as he thought it would be.

One Sunday, when his family went to church, Martín noticed a lot of people he had never seen before. Primary was full of new kids. He wondered where they came from. He heard people he knew talk about donating food, clothes, and shoes.



After church, Martín asked Mom about all the new people.

“They had to leave their country,” Mom said. “Many of them left everything behind except what they could carry.”

“So that’s why everyone wants to help them?” Martín asked.

“That’s right. Jesus taught us that we should help people who are in need. We can follow His example and share what we have.”

Martín thought about that. He wanted to follow Jesus!

these behind? And my home and country too?

The more he thought about that, the more Martín knew what he wanted to do.

A few minutes later, he came up to Mom with his arms full of toys—not just any old toys—but the ones he always played with.

Mom looked surprised. “You don’t have to give away your favorite toys.”

Martín set the toys on the floor. “The other kids had favorite toys they had to leave behind,” he said. “I want them to have mine so they can be a little happier.”



Then Mom said, “Many of the Primary kids had to leave their toys behind. Do you think you have some toys you could give?”

Martín would be happy to share his shoes or his clothes. But his *toys*?

“No! Those are my toys!” Martín said. He turned and ran to his room.

Martín looked around his room with tears in his eyes. He didn’t want to give away any of his toys. He’d brought them all the way from his old house!

He went to his toy box and looked inside. He saw his toy truck, his yo-yo, his *trompo* (spinning top), and his best bag of marbles.

Then Martín thought, *What if I had to leave all of*

Mom gave Martín a hug. “I’m so proud of you.”

Martín had a warm feeling inside. He knew giving to others is what Jesus would do, and that made him happy. ●



“May we show our love and appreciation for the Savior . . . through our simple, compassionate acts of service.”

President M. Russell Ballard,
Acting President of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles

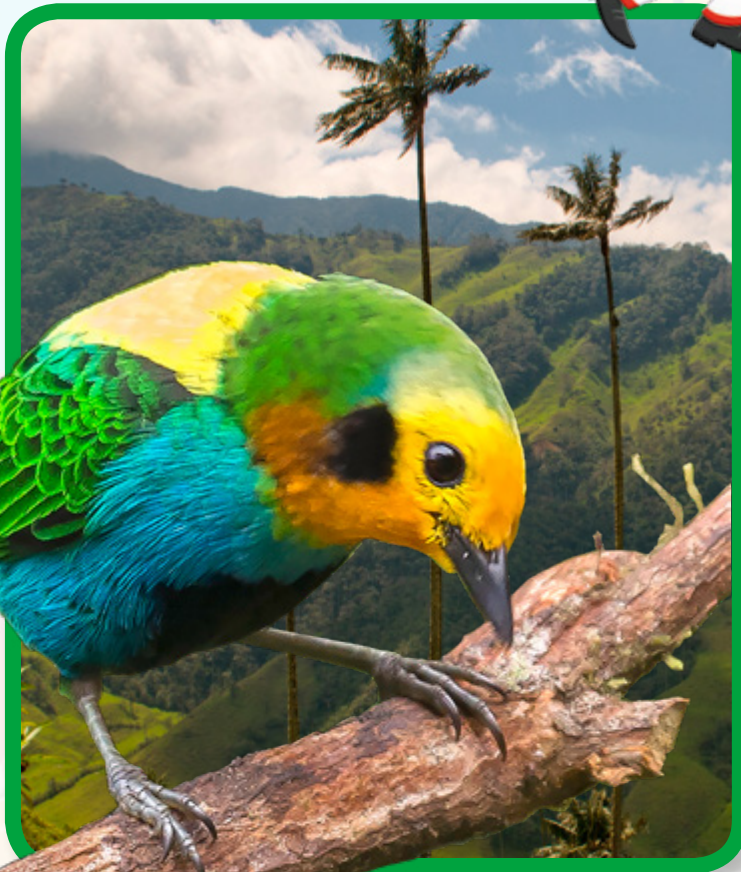
“Finding Joy through Loving Service,” *Ensign*, May 2011, 49.

HELLO from Colombia!



Hi, we're
Margo and
Paolo.

Join us as
we explore
Colombia!



Colombia has a tropical climate, with lots of different plants and animals. In fact, it has more kinds of birds than any other country! Many of them can't be found anywhere else in the world, like this multicolored tanager.

Colombia is in northern South America. This Spanish-speaking country has about 49 million people, with about 200 thousand members of the Church.



This girl is eating an *arepa*, a tasty cornmeal cake. People in Colombia often eat it with cheese and meat.

This month marks one year since the Barranquilla Colombia Temple was dedicated.



Here's a photo of the new temple in Barranquilla. Colombia also has another temple, in the capital city of Bogotá.



Meet some friends from Colombia!



I feel blessed and happy to have the gospel in my life. I know that Jesus Christ lives and loves us and that the Prophet Joseph Smith restored this Church. I appreciate that we have a prophet who guides us.

Camila R., age 10, Valle del Cauca, Colombia



I know with all my heart that my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ live and love us. They gave Joseph Smith revelation to translate the Book of Mormon to make it available to everyone.

Luis V., age 12, Valle del Cauca, Colombia



In Colombia, December 7 is *el Día de las Velitas* (the Day of the Little Candles). People light the streets with thousands of candles to begin the Christmas season.



Are you from Colombia? Write to us! We would love to hear from you.

Show and tell



When my brother was young, he went to the hospital. He got to choose a gift to keep when

he left. So for the past seven years, my family has hosted a hot-cocoa party to celebrate the Christmas season and collect brand-new toys for the hospital. After we collect the toys, we bring them to the hospital for the kids.

Alexis D., age 11, Oregon, USA



We invited our neighbors and the missionaries to help with our family nativity. We dressed up as shepherds and angels, and our neighbors got to be Mary and Joseph because they have a baby. The sister missionaries were the Wise Men, and the couple missionaries read the story from Luke 2 while we acted it out.

Rose, Jack, Elijah, and Ellen S., ages 9, 11, 8, and 13, Texas, USA



We spent three hours of our snow day making a huge snowman with our family!

Connor, Andrew, and Ryan O., ages 7, 9, and 11, Massachusetts, USA



I pray with my sister and try to be a good example for her. We like going on walks to see Heavenly Father's creations.

Vianca and Avril C., ages 8 and 4, Bogotá, Colombia

Claire B., age 10, Oregon, USA



I participated in a Helping Hands project and helped paint a wall at a school. I like to go to church on Sundays.

Jarede R., age 6, Paranagá, Brazil



**Jacob B., age 8,
 Washington, USA**



Josh J., age 11, Colorado, USA

Every year, I go to my neighbors' house to set up their Christmas tree. Their only child died right after Christmas, so Christmastime is sad for them. When I go to their house, I feel like I am cheering up their day, and it makes me feel good.



Primary children in the **Imbabura Province, Ecuador**, sang Christmas carols at a nursing home and gave out cookies.



Taylor E., age 8, Alaska, USA



I know that my Heavenly Father loves me.
**Stefania R., age 10,
 Lima, Peru**



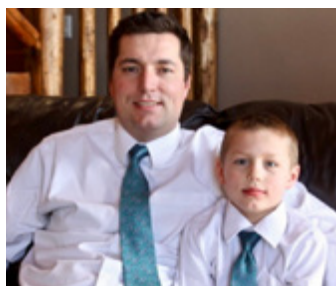
At my ward Christmas party, we wrote letters to the kids in the hospital.

It made me feel good.

Jacob W., age 10, Utah, USA



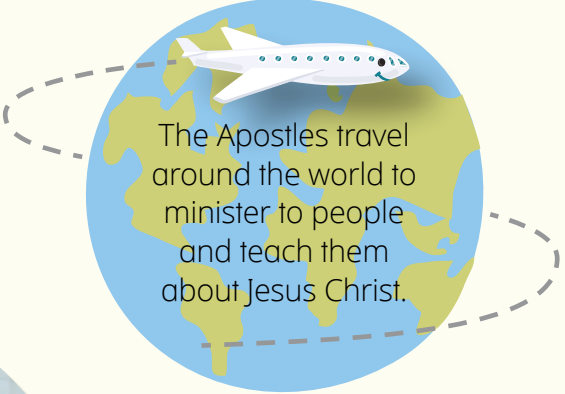
Cade I., age 8, Texas, USA



Me and my dad got baptized on the same day!

Hudson H., age 8, Alberta, Canada

Elder Soares Visits Colombia



The Apostles travel around the world to minister to people and teach them about Jesus Christ.



Elder Ulisses Soares traveled with President Dallin H. Oaks to help dedicate a new temple in Colombia, in the city of Barranquilla [bar-an-KEE-ya].

Many children came with their parents to see the new temple be dedicated.



President Oaks invited a boy and girl to help seal the cornerstone in place. The temple was finished!



Now children will be able to go inside to be sealed to their families and do temple baptisms!

Inside the temple after the cornerstone ceremony, Elder Soares gave a talk. Then President Oaks gave a prayer to dedicate the temple to the Lord. Now the temple is the Lord's house.

Whatever you do, keep your eyes on the temple.



BUILD a Temple



Temples are being built all over the world!

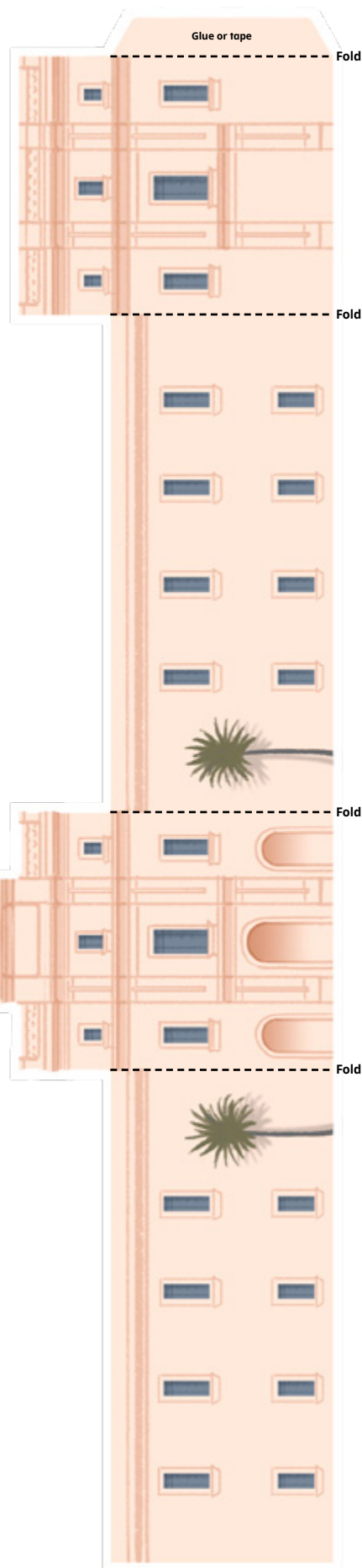
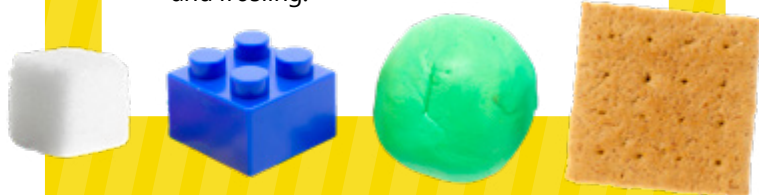
Build this mini temple to remind
you of that holy place.

Glue this page on white
paper. Then cut out the
temple and fold on the
dotted lines. Glue or
tape the tab to the inside
wall to hold it together.
Now you have your own
pop-up version of the
Barranquilla Temple!

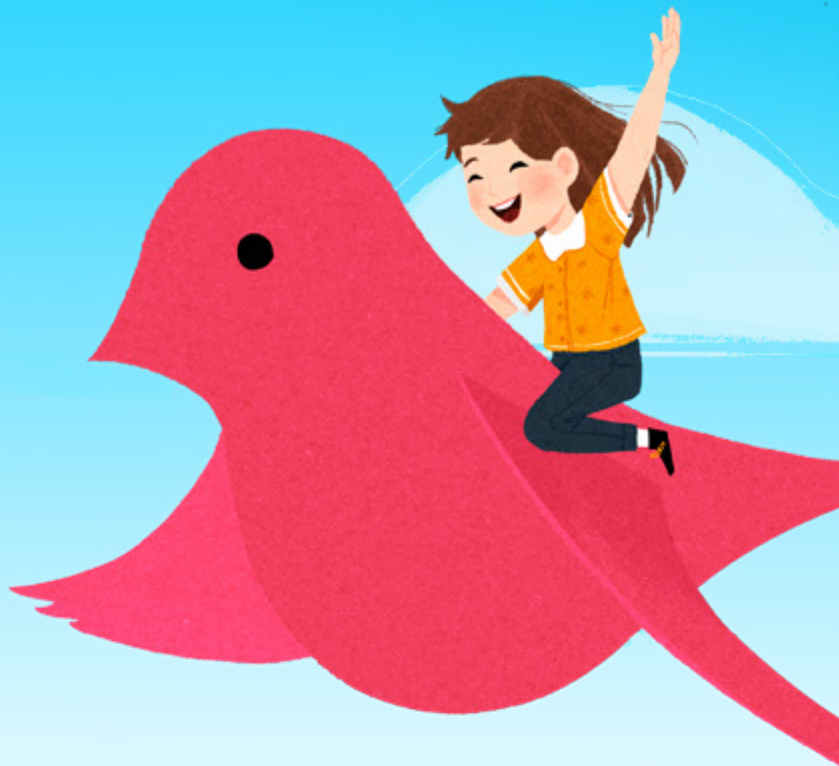


More temple-building ideas you could try:

- Use sugar cubes as bricks and glue them together.
- Make one with plastic blocks.
- Mold a sculpture using clay or play dough.
- Build one out of graham crackers and frosting.



The Red Paper Bird



All Eve could think about was all the fun her friends would have without her.

By Eve Dayton

(Based on a true story)

"I was sick, and ye visited me" (Matthew 25:36).

Eve loved Christmastime. Her class at school had spent the morning coloring cards and listening to fun music.

"Now it's reading time," Mrs. Grunig said. "And if you finish all your reading today and tomorrow, you won't have any homework during the holiday break."

All the kids in Eve's class cheered. But Eve didn't feel much like cheering. She shivered a little as she pulled out her book to read. She felt very cold, and her throat hurt. Her eyes felt hot as she stared at the words on the page. By the end of school, Eve's stomach felt sick too.

Finally it was time to walk home with her brother and sister, Tim and Wilma. Usually they had fun on the way home. They would play tag or make a snowman. But today all

Eve wanted to do was get home and lie down.

When Eve got home, Mama felt her forehead.

"You have a fever," she said. "You need to drink plenty of water and get lots of rest."

Eve climbed into bed and fell asleep right away. The next morning, everyone else in her family was busy getting ready for the day. But Mama said Eve was too sick to go to school.

Then Eve remembered something that made her sad. Today was the school Christmas party! They were supposed to finish their art projects and sing songs and have treats. She just *had* to go!

But Mama wouldn't change her mind.

"I'm sorry you'll miss the party, sweetie," she said. "But your health is more important."

Eve started to cry. Mama tried to help her feel better with yummy soup. But all Eve could think about was all of the fun her friends



were having without her.

In the afternoon, Tim and Wilma got home from school. Their cheeks were red from playing in the snow.

"The school party was lots of fun," Wilma said. "We made red paper birds to hang up at home."

Tim pulled something out of his pocket.

"And look—your teacher sent us home with a special present for you. Now you can make a red paper bird too!"

Eve smiled. "Can you show me how?"

Tim and Wilma showed Eve how to cut on the dotted line and fold it just right. They helped her tie

the string in a loop.

"Mama, look what I made!" Eve said, showing off her new favorite Christmas ornament.

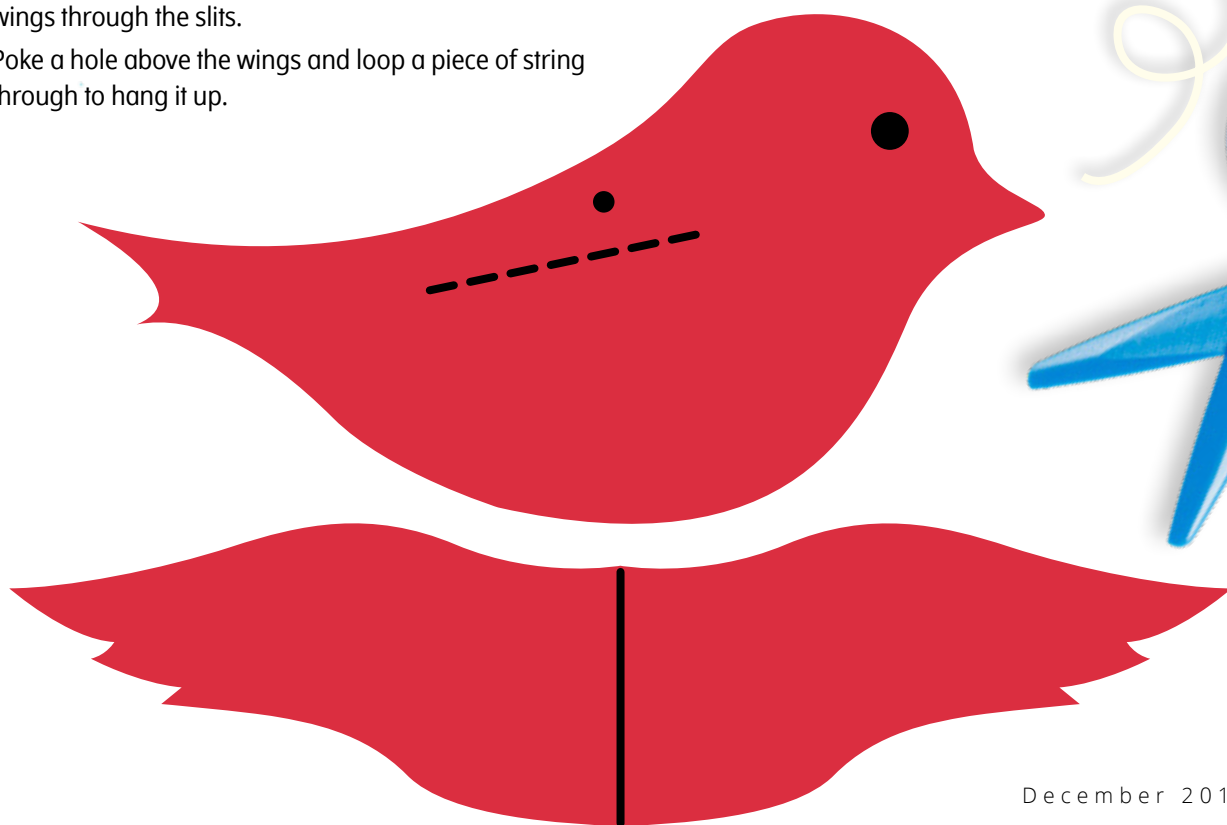
Eve thought of how nice Mrs. Grunig was to remember her when she was sick, and how Tim and Wilma had helped her too. Now whenever Eve looked at her red paper bird, she would feel lots of love. ●

The author lives in Idaho, USA.



Make a Paper Bird!

1. Cut out and glue this page to red paper. Then cut out the bird and wings.
2. Carefully cut a slit on the dotted line on the bird. Slide the wings through the slits.
3. Poke a hole above the wings and loop a piece of string through to hang it up.



Find It!

These friends are collecting toys to give to others so that they can have an even happier Christmas.
Can you find the hidden objects?



BRAVE

Like Joseph Smith

By Isabel T., age 7, California, USA

When I was in first grade, I got bumps on my arm and leg. The bumps were itchy and lasted for months and months. My mom took me to the doctor, and he put medicine on them to heal. The medicine created huge blisters—bigger than quarters! They hurt and burned. I couldn't move my arm or leg. I cried a lot. I spent days on the couch, scared to get up. My mom had to carry me to the bathroom. I had to miss two weeks of swimming lessons and other activities with my friends. It was hard not to go swimming.

One day, my mom needed to take me to urgent care because the blisters had an infection. I was so scared. I didn't want to get in the car. My mom knew I was scared. She told me about when Joseph Smith was my age. When Joseph Smith was seven

years old, he had an illness that required the doctor to do surgery on his leg. He was scared too, but he knew that Heavenly Father was with him and would help him. The doctor took nine pieces of bone out of his leg!

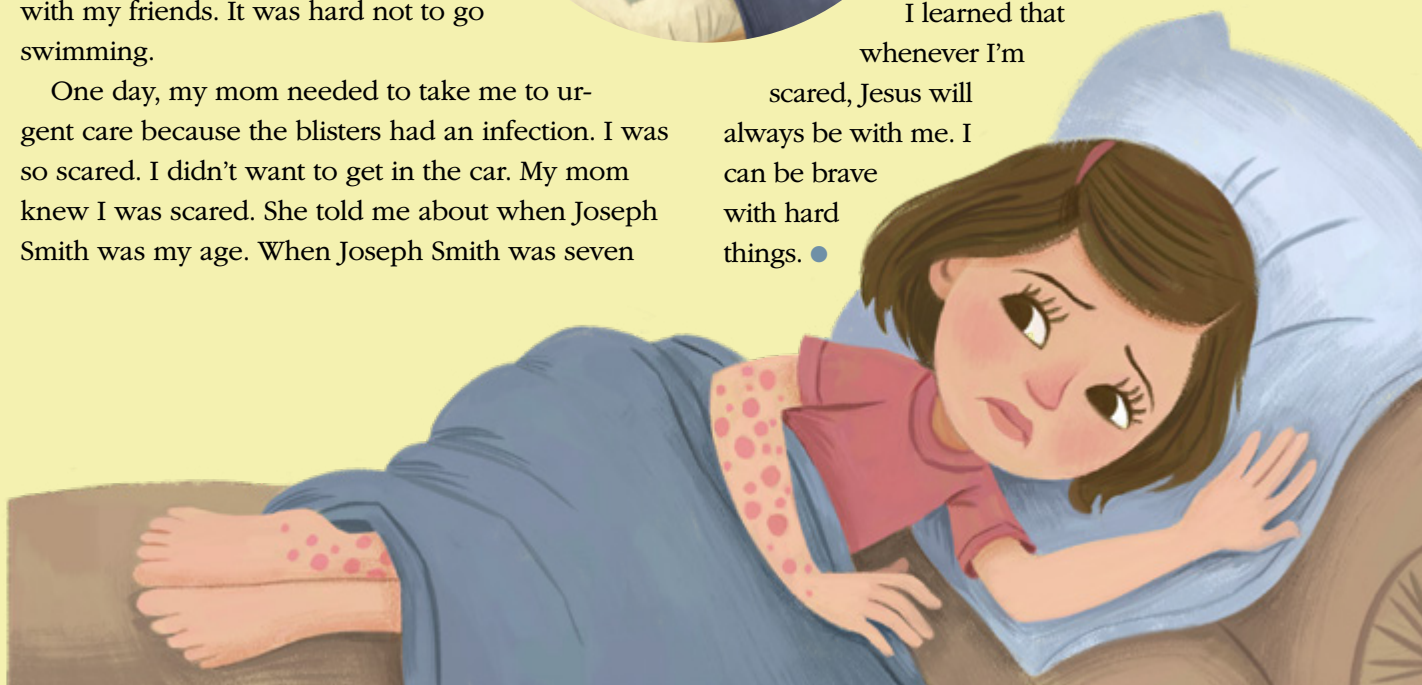
I was so surprised. He was brave. If he could do that, I knew that I could get in the car and go to the doctor. I would be brave, and Heavenly Father would help me with the pain I was feeling.

Little by little, the blisters went away. I was finally healed completely.

I learned that

whenever I'm

scared, Jesus will always be with me. I can be brave with hard things. ●



December 23 is Joseph Smith's birthday!

Let's celebrate by being brave like him!



SEARCHING for BABY JESUS

By Jane McBride
(Based on a true story)





KINDNESS GARDEN

the Friend

Help Us Grow Our

___ 1 spider web	___ 2 ears of corn
___ 1 snail	___ 2 rabbits
___ 1 cat	___ 3 yellow flowers
___ 1 rainbow	___ 3 birds
___ 1 praying mantis	___ 3 bees

24 Friend

Help Us Grow Our

- ## 24 Friend

I unloaded the dishwasher without being asked

FIND IT!

THANK YOU for adding to the Kindness Garden all year! You are making the world a kinder place. Find the hidden objects!



Kindness Garden

- ___ 4 watermelons
- ___ 4 pumpkins
- ___ 4 strawberries
- ___ 4 worms
- ___ 5 bugs

- ___ 5 carrots
- ___ 5 cactuses
- ___ 5 butterflies
- ___ 5 flowerpots





**By Elder
Vern P. Stanfill**
Of the Quorum of
the Seventy

Sheep and Their Shepherd


 A small, fluffy white sheep with a black face and legs, standing on a light blue background.

"The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1).

I grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana, USA. We also had about 300 sheep on the ranch. My mother bought them as a way for us to earn money for our missions.

My job was to take care of the lambs that didn't have a mother taking care of them. When a sheep has more than one baby, sometimes she doesn't take care of all of the lambs. So those were the lambs I took care of. There were 5 to 10 of these lambs each year.

Every day, I would drive to the pasture in our small blue car, called a Volkswagen Beetle, and honk the horn. Then I opened the car doors. Those lambs would come from wherever they were in the field. They knew the sound of that old Volkswagen. They would jump in the back of the car, and I would drive them to the barn and feed them.

We are like those little lambs. We live in different places and have different challenges in our lives. But Jesus is reaching out to each of us. We can learn to hear His voice. We can turn to Him for comfort and security. We can feel loved by Him and Heavenly Father.

As I've looked toward Jesus as the Shepherd in my life, my life has changed. When we place our lives in the hands of the Savior, we will feel His love and learn to trust Him. ●

From an interview with Christina Crosland.



Find the Matching Sheep

Each sheep in this picture has a match that looks just like it. Can you find all the matching pairs?





MATT

Mandy and Jazzmine have a great idea for Christmas. They share it with their families.



... a Nativity pageant ...

... both of our families together.



Everyone loves the idea. The girls start planning.



Grandma and Grandpa Johnson are here for Christmas. Could they have parts too?

Sure.

Let's ask who they'd like to be.

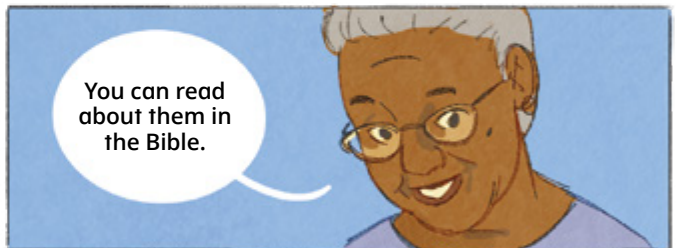
Could we be Simeon and Anna?



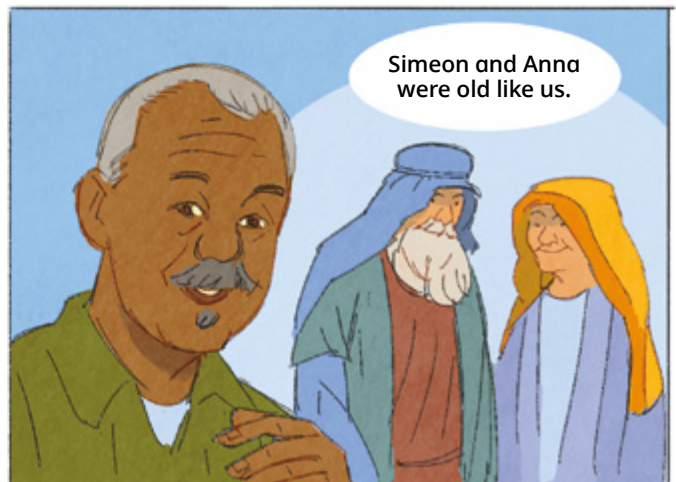
Oh, yes! Could we?

Who?

You can read about them in the Bible.

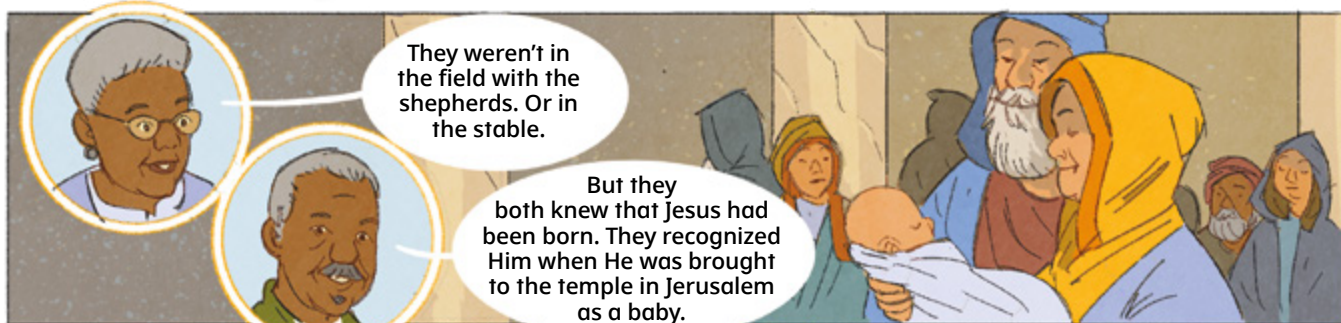


Simeon and Anna were old like us.



AND

MANDY



My Christmas Testimony

With conviction ♩ = 76-84

Words by Larry Hiller
Music by Michael F. Moody

1. It's true. I know what
(2. It's) true. I know be -
(3. It's) true. I know. The

hap - pened in that vil - lage long a - go — How one bright
cause the ho - ly scrip - tures tell me so — Of an - gels'
Ho - ly Ghost has whis - pered that it's so, That Je - sus,

star did light the way — To where the new - born Christ child
mu - sic in the air, Of babe and mo - ther sweet and
born that ho - ly night, Has filled the world with truth and

lay — So hum - bly in His bed of hay.
fair, And shep - herds sent them there.
light. He showed us how to live what's right.

1. 2. G D 3. G D G D7, G
1. 2. It's — I know. Oh, yes! I know!
3. It's —
molto rit.

© 2019 by Michael F. Moody and Larry Hiller. All rights reserved.
This song may be copied for incidental, noncommercial church or home use.
This notice must appear on each copy made.

for older KIDS

What song do monkeys sing at Christmas?
See page 39.



GOD'S AMAZING WORLD

Did you know?

- It takes about 8 minutes for the sun's light to reach us.
- Lightning comes before thunder because light travels faster than sound.
- Sound travels faster in water than in air.



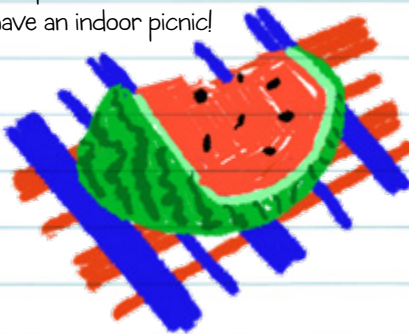
FAMILY HISTORY FUN

Start a cookbook of family recipes and make one of the recipes together.



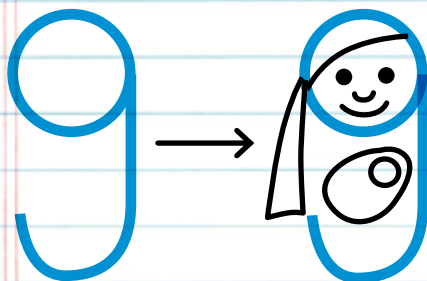
BRAIN BREAK

Grab a snack, put a blanket on the floor, and have an indoor picnic!



ART CHALLENGE

Draw Mary and baby Jesus from the letter g.



PRAYER POWER



I have some special needs that make it hard for me to control my feelings. I go to therapy. I have been praying for help. The last time I went to a therapy appointment, my dad and I could tell my prayers had worked.

Skye H., age 11, Arizona, USA

The Bike MONSTER

By Marissa Widdison

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

"These many blessings make me feel so thankful to be me" (Children's Songbook, 11).

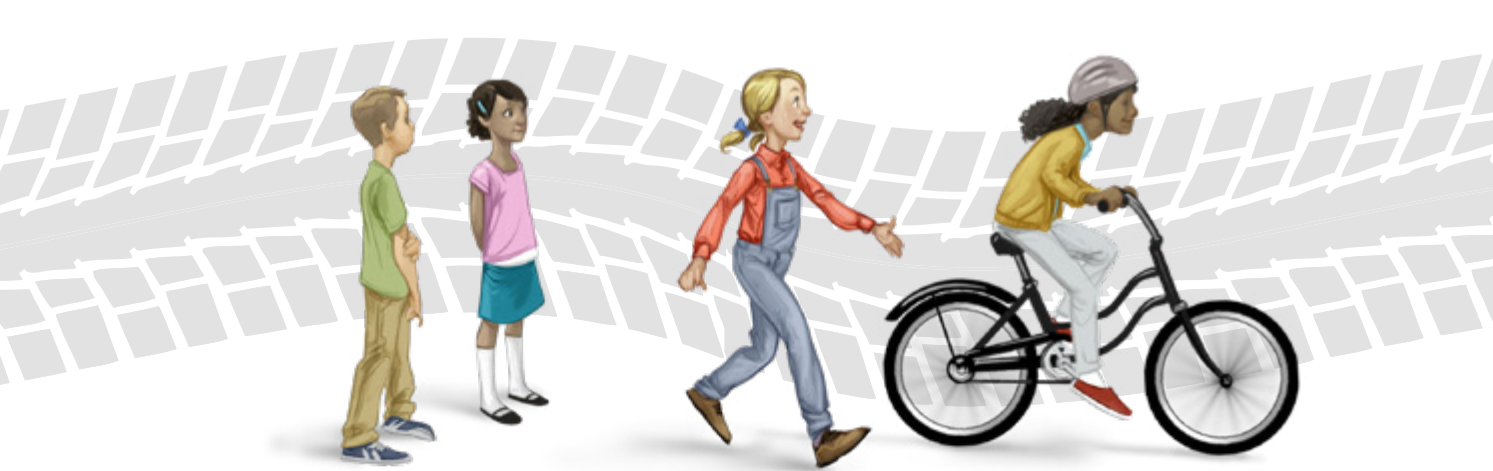
When April's family moved to a farm, there was lots to love about their new home. There were ponds to swim in and meadows to explore. And there was always something that needed to be done! The whole family—Mom, Dad, and eight kids—learned to milk cows, pick corn, and fill jars with homemade applesauce.

For April, the hardest part of the move was making new friends. None of her siblings went to her school, and most of her classmates had grown up together. It was tough to fit in, especially when some classmates made fun of her hand-me-down clothes and worn-out backpack.

And worst of all, April didn't have a bike.

Almost everyone had a bike. After school, they'd hold races and play bike tag. Meanwhile, April was stuck walking home—usually alone.





One day while April was on her way home, David and Maria from school pulled up next to her, their bike wheels glinting in the sunshine.

"You should ask for a bike for Christmas," David said. Before April could say anything, Maria started teasing.

"Her family can't afford bikes, not even one."

"That's not true!" April said. "My parents could buy us *all* bikes if they wanted!"

Maria and David just laughed and rode away.

From then on, April wanted a bike more than anything. Christmas was a few weeks away. Was there any chance she might get one under the tree? She started asking for a bike every chance she got.

The big day finally arrived—Christmas morning! April was the first to run to the tree. She saw games, clothes, and a few school supplies . . . and zero bikes.

But then Dad said something that made her heart pound.

"Hey, I think I saw something on the porch."

"I did too!" Mom said. "Kids, why don't you see what's out there?"

April and her siblings ran outside to look. And there, right on the porch, was a row of bikes! April could tell they weren't new, but that didn't matter. They were bikes!

Pam squealed in delight as she grabbed the red one with her name on the tag. Billy rolled the orange one down the steps. Then April got a good look at hers.

It was big. It was black. And it had the widest tires she'd ever seen. April felt her stomach drop. She tried to smile but felt a little sick.

It looks like a monster, she thought. What will the other kids say?

On the first school day after Christmas break, April pedaled slowly. She hoped the bell would ring before she got to school so she could hide the Bike Monster while no one was watching.

But everyone was still outside, talking about the holidays. And it wasn't long before someone spotted the Bike Monster.

"Is that made of old tractor parts?"

"It's from the junkyard!"

"Maybe if your folks didn't have so many kids, they could get you something nice for once."

April tried to ignore the mean comments, but those last words stuck in her mind. *Would I be happier with a new bike instead of all my brothers and sisters?*

That evening April was watching her older brothers playing in the living room. She picked up her littlest sister and squeezed her with a giant hug. *Would I trade her for a shiny new bike?* April thought. *No way!*

Suddenly the Bike Monster didn't seem like such a big deal after all. And it didn't even really seem like such a monster. It was a gift from parents who loved her, and that made it the best bike in the world.

As the school year went on, April discovered that her bike *was* the very best—at least for racing and riding in the snow. Everyone wanted to try the big, wide tires. And April would let them. But the Bike Monster was hers, after all, and she loved it! ●



I am adopted, and sometimes I wonder what would've happened if I hadn't been adopted. I think about what would be different, like if I had a different life or family. It wouldn't be the same. I love my family, and I am so grateful for them. I don't know what I would do without them. I love them so, so much.

Keira W., age 11, Virginia, USA

CHRISTMAS around

Make these snacks and crafts from around the world to celebrate.

By Lucy Stevenson

Luminarias



In **Mexico**, people decorate paper lanterns at Christmastime to light the way to their doorstep.

- 1 Draw a simple picture, like a Christmas tree or star. Then trace it on the front of a **brown paper sack**.
- 2 Use a **pin** to poke small holes along the lines you drew. (Tip: Put the sack flat on a rug and poke all the way through.)
- 3 Put a **flashlight** or glow stick inside your paper bag to see the pattern glow!



Finger-Puppet Nativity



The first Nativity scene was made in **Italy**. With some **colored felt** and a bit of **hot glue** or sewing, you can make a Nativity scene of your own. (Be sure to get an adult's help.)

- 1 Cut a rectangle out of brown felt for the manger and thin strips of yellow felt for hay. Sew or glue the yellow pieces to the brown rectangle.
- 2 Cut a piece of white felt as the outline for the baby Jesus, like in the example below. Sew or glue along the edges to attach this piece to the manger. Leave an opening at the bottom for your finger to slip through.
- 3 Cut and put other felt pieces on for the face and heart, or draw them on with marker.
- 4 What other felt people can you make? Remember to sew or glue the edges and leave the bottom open for your finger!



and the WORLD

celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. Be sure to get an adult's help.

Pineapple Nog



Try this tropical Christmas drink from **Haiti**!



1 20-oz can crushed pineapple
(about 560 g)

1/2 cup coconut milk

1/8 teaspoon nutmeg

1 cup milk

Blend the ingredients until smooth. Serve cold with a sprinkle of nutmeg on top.



Risalamande



In **Denmark**, this cold rice pudding is a popular Christmas treat.

- 1 Combine 1 1/2 cups **cooked rice**, 1 1/2 cups **milk**, 1/3 cup **sugar**, and 1/4 teaspoon **salt** in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat for 15–20 minutes.
- 2 Add 1 beaten **egg** mixed with 1/2 cup **milk**. Cook for 2 more minutes, stirring constantly.
- 3 Remove from heat. Stir in 1 tablespoon melted **butter**, 1/2 teaspoon **vanilla extract**, and a handful of **chopped almonds**.
- 4 Serve pudding chilled with warm **cherry-pie filling** on top.

Optional: Put one **whole almond** in the pudding. The person who finds it in their dish wins a prize!



Notes for Sister Puckett

By David Dickson

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17).

Tyler peeked over at Dad during sacrament meeting. There he was again, scribbling down notes as fast as he could. Weird. Was Dad trying to write down the whole talk or something? He never used to do this before. But for the past few weeks, Tyler had noticed Dad copying down as many notes as possible during church.

Why?

"Hey, Dad," Tyler said after the meeting. "I keep forgetting to ask. What's with all the notes?"

Dad gave a small smile. He looked a little sad at the same time.

"These are for Sister Puckett," Dad said. "I thought she'd like to know what was said in church. She misses being able to come every week."



"Oh! That makes sense," Tyler said. He knew that Sister Puckett was very sick. "That's pretty cool, actually." "Thanks," Dad said. "Now isn't it time for you to head to Primary?"

Tyler gave his dad a fist bump then hurried down the hall. The note-taking mystery was solved! He knew that Dad and his ministering companion visited Sister Puckett and talked with her a lot on Sundays.

Tyler had been surprised to learn that just talking with someone could be a way to serve them. He'd always thought service meant stuff like raking leaves or helping move a couch. But now it looked like service could be as simple as taking notes!

A few weeks later, it was time to meet with Bishop VanWagoner to talk about becoming a deacon. Dad went to the interview with him.

"How do you feel about being ordained?" the bishop asked.

"I'm really excited!"

Bishop VanWagoner smiled. "What are you looking forward to the most?"

Tyler thought about that for a minute. "Well, for starters, passing the sacrament. I've been watching the other guys. I think I know what to do."

"Good for you," Dad said. "Plus, if you forget, the other deacons will help."

"True," the bishop said. "Everyone in your quorum should care for and help each other."

That's good to know! Tyler thought. He really was excited to help pass the sacrament, but he *had* been a bit worried about remembering which rows to pass to.

He leaned forward in his chair. "Actually, there's something I'm even more excited about," he said.

"What's that?" the bishop asked.



"Ministering."

Bishop VanWagoner nodded. "I think that's a great thing to look forward to."

"Me too," Tyler answered. "I want to minister the way my dad does! He helps people in all sorts of ways. Like with Sister Puckett and the notes."

Bishop VanWagoner tilted his head a little. "The notes?"

Tyler nodded. "Yeah. Dad thought Sister Puckett would like to know what was said in church on the weeks she can't come. So he writes down a bunch of notes and brings them

to her. I like the idea of doing things like that for people."

Bishop VanWagoner smiled. "You know, Tyler, I think you're going to make a great ministering companion one day."

Several days later, Tyler smelled something delicious in the kitchen. "Is that taco soup?" he asked.

"Yup," Mom said.

"Did you add in the corn?" As far as Tyler was concerned, that was the secret ingredient that made this soup *extra* tasty.

"Of course," Mom said. "Would you like to help Dad take some to Sister Puckett?"

"I'd love to!" Tyler answered. As he carefully carried the soup, Tyler thought about other ways he could help brighten Sister Puckett's day. He always wanted to serve like Mom and Dad. He would try to be kind every day. ●



My siblings and I take out the garbage bins for my elderly neighbors each week.

Samuel A., age 9, California, USA

Next month I'm graduating from Primary, and I'm a little nervous. What should I expect?

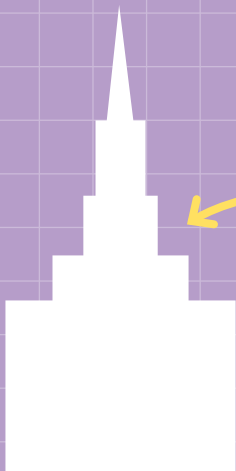
—Hesitant in Hamilton

Dear Hesitant,

Some things will be different, but some things will stay the same. You'll still see your friends from your Primary class. You'll still learn about Jesus Christ and the gospel. And you'll still have lots of fun!

Check out the page below to see what changes to expect. If you have more questions, talk to your parents or Church leaders.

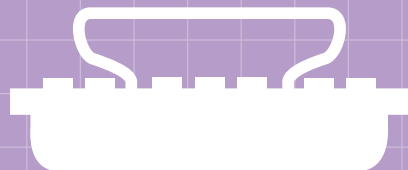
The Friend



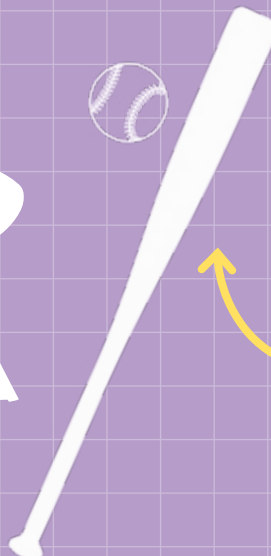
Every Sunday, you'll go to one class. You'll switch off between Sunday School and Young Women or deacons quorum each week.



Starting in January, you can receive a recommend to do temple baptisms.



Girls can get a calling to serve in class presidencies.



Boys can receive the Aaronic Priesthood and pass the sacrament.

You'll get to do lots of activities that will help you learn, grow, and have fun! Use your *Children's Guidebook* to learn more.

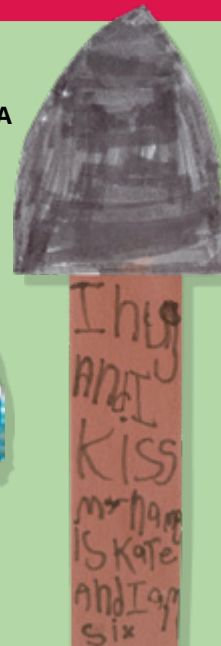
Look what you made for the Kindness Garden!



Elyn L., age 8, Michigan, USA



Nathan H., age 10, Pennsylvania, USA



Kate S., age 6, Louisiana, USA

FUNSTUFF ANSWERS

Page 8: "The First Noel," "The Little Drummer Boy," "Picture a Christmas," "Far, Far Away on Judea's Plains," "O Holy Night," "Away in a Manger"

Page 31: "Jungle Bells"



HIDDEN CTR RINGS

Did you find the rings?
Look on pages FJ6, 18, and 36.

How to Write to the *Friend*

To send us a letter, drawing, poem, or story . . .

1. Fill out the form below and send it in with your story or artwork, and include a school picture or other high-resolution photo.
2. We might edit your submission, and we can't return it to you.

Please send your submission to:

Friend Magazine
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2393
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
Or email: friend@ChurchofJesusChrist.org

May the *Friend* contact you with a survey?

☐ Yes ☐ No

The following information and permission must be included:

First and last name

Age Boy/Girl State/Province, Country

I give my permission to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to use my child's submission and photo on the Church websites and social media platforms as well as for Church reports, print products, video, publications, and training materials.

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Date

Email of parent or legal guardian

The Last Laugh

This year, "The Little Drummer Boy" is going to sound better than ever!



the Friend junior



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

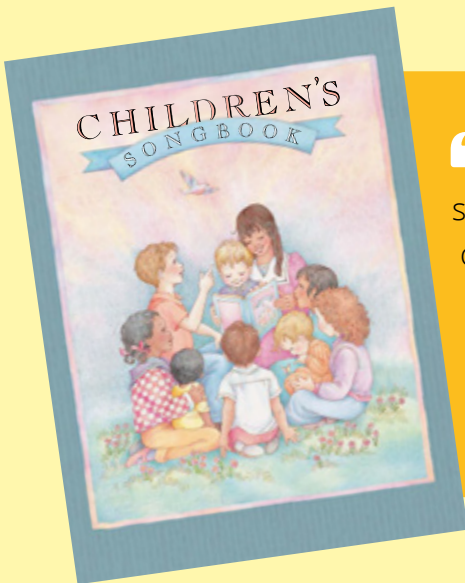
For Parents of Little Ones

A new year is just around the corner, and that means Primary will soon welcome a fresh batch of Sunbeams! What can we do to help these newcomers from nursery transition smoothly? Here are some ideas from Primary leaders:

“We invite future Sunbeams to be VIP guests in junior Primary for a few weeks, and we sing songs like ‘Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam’ to help them feel comfortable.”
—Michelle C.

“We have two teachers from nursery move up with them and be their Sunbeam teachers.”
—Pennie L.

“We put together simple booklets for our rising Sunbeams of photos and labels of what to expect at Primary. It’s a strategy often used for children with disabilities, but we felt like all our kids could benefit from it.”
—Laura P.



“While in nursery, have them learn actual Primary songs so the music in Primary is familiar. Teach them to sit on chairs or in a circle for a short lesson so they can get used to being attentive. A consistent, positive nursery experience is the foundation for Primary success!”
—Kristi K.

ACTION RHYME

In the Stable

By Jordan Monson Wright



This is Mary, and
Joseph, her spouse.



This is the stable,
an animal house.



This is the manger,
a box full of hay.



This is the star
that shone night
and day.



But who is the baby,
so precious and small?

This baby is Jesus,
the Savior of all.



See family manual, pages 194–197;
Primary manual, pages 193–196.

A New Sunbeam



Hugo is going to Primary for the first time.



Hugo meets his teachers. They're nice.



They hold up a picture. "That's Jesus!"
Hugo says.



Hugo goes to singing time.
The songs make him feel happy.



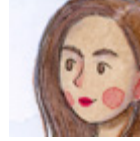
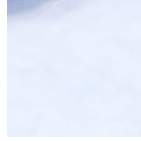
"Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam," Hugo sings.



Hugo is happy to be in Primary.

Hugo's Primary Class

Primary is a happy place!
Circle these things that Hugo sees.



Bonus: How many chairs can you count in this picture?

SCRIPTURE STORIES

Jesus Was Born



At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. His mother was named Mary, and Joseph was her husband.

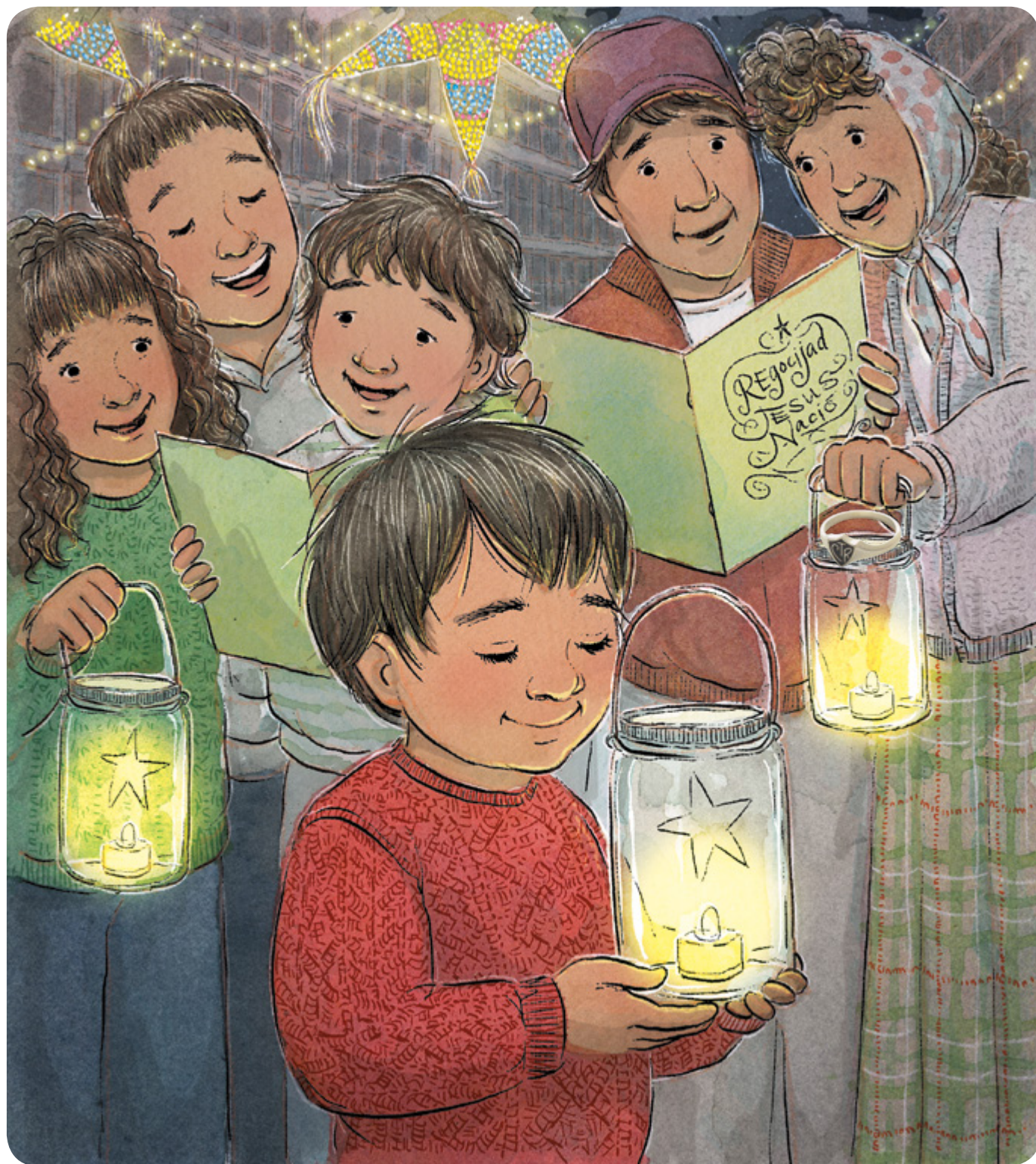


Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. There, a man named Simeon held baby Jesus. He felt the Holy Ghost tell him that Jesus was the Son of God.

A woman named Anna also saw baby Jesus and knew He was the Savior. She went to tell other people about Him.



See family manual, pages 194–197;
Primary manual, pages 193–196.



I think about Jesus at Christmastime. He really lives. He loves me! ●

COLORING PAGE

Christmas Is about Jesus



ILLUSTRATION BY APRYL STOTT



The CHRISTMAS

By Lori LaFrance

(Based on a true story)

One winter night Janelle heard a knock on the door. She and Mom went to see who it was. Three people from the neighborhood stood on the porch. They played the guitar and sang Christmas carols. They were also collecting money to help sick children in the hospital.

Mom wanted to give them money. But she had nothing to give them! Janelle had an idea.

She ran to her room and found her jar of coins. She had been saving them for a long time. The coins clinked as she ran back to the door.

“Here!” she said. “You can have my money!”

She dumped the coins into their box. The people said thank you and left. They were very happy. Janelle was happy too.

AS COINS

Then she looked at her empty jar. She sat down and started to cry. She had given them all her money. There was nothing left!

Mom sat down. She put her arm around Janelle.

"I'm proud of you," Mom said. "That money will help sick children get better."

"But, Mom!" Janelle said. "I was saving that money to buy you a Christmas present. Now I don't have anything to give you!"

Mom smiled. "You gave me the best present of all."

"I did?" Janelle asked.

Mom nodded. "Not all gifts come in a box. You did what Jesus would do. You helped someone who really needed it. That's what Christmas is all about!"

Mom gave Janelle a big hug. Janelle was glad she could help people at Christmastime. ●

The author lives in Ontario, Canada.

