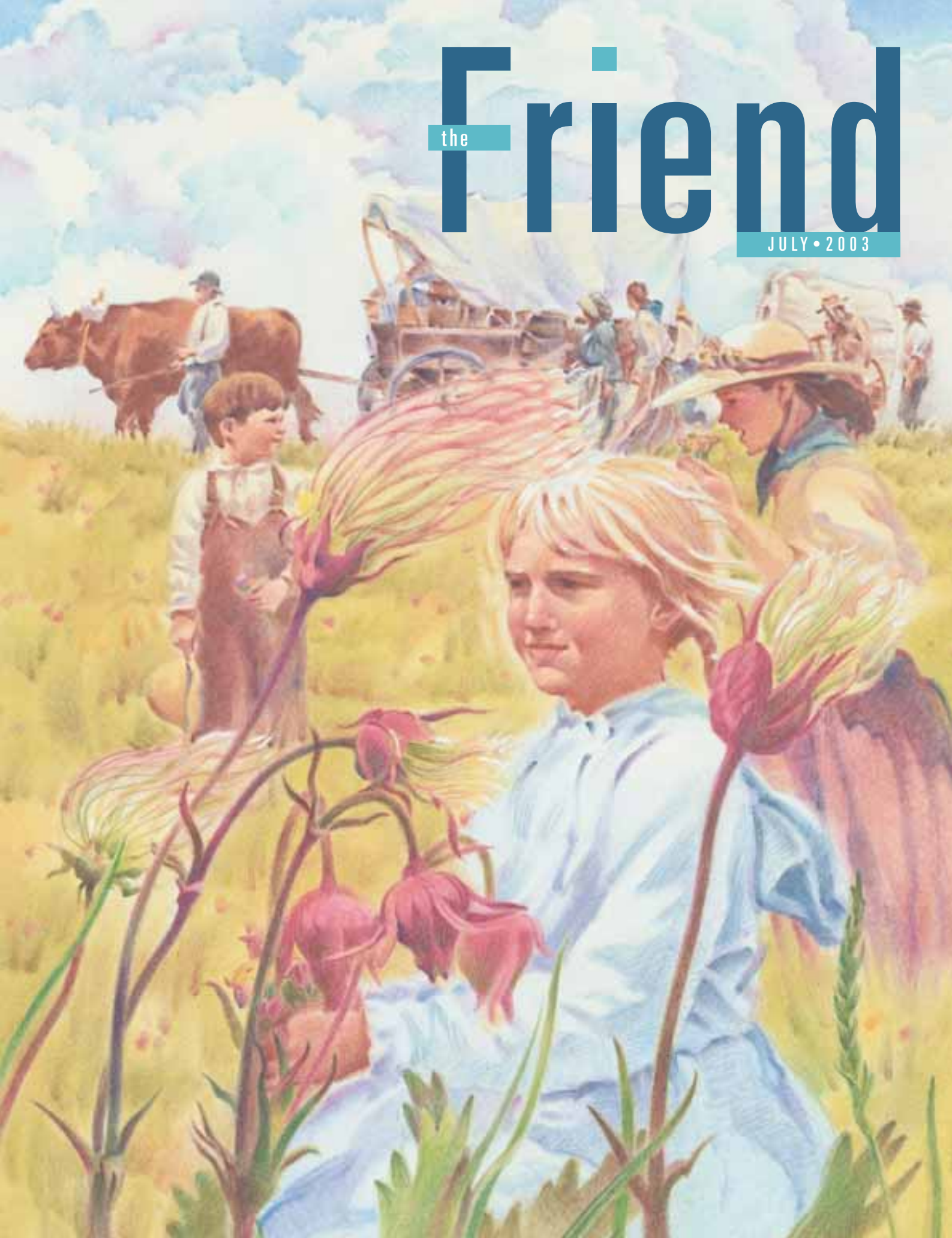


the Friend

JULY • 2003



Honesty



When I was in kindergarten, my parents and I went to the school book fair. They bought me some stickers. When we went home, we found we had accidentally taken two sheets of stickers, instead of just the one we had paid for.

The next day, my teacher gave me permission to return one sheet. The book fair was gone, but the library assistant thanked me for being honest.

Emma M. Wilde, age 8
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Protecting Me



One Sunday before church, I took my dog, Cesar, for a walk. We were approached by two dogs. At



first, I thought they were wanting to play, but then they attacked us. Cesar was getting all the bites because he was protecting me. I screamed at the top of my lungs. When my parents came running outside, Dad rushed to our side and chased the dogs away. Cesar wasn't badly hurt, thank goodness. Later, Mom told me that God protected both Cesar and me. I knew that that was true because I felt it inside. Cesar and Dad and Heavenly Father are my heroes, but I hope it never happens again.

Matthew Salisbury, age 10
Auburn, New York

Knowing about Jesus

One day, my family was driving home from the lake. I went with my Grandma Ninya. Grammy was visiting. My little cousin Tori and I were in the backseat. Tori was tired. I whispered, "You can go to sleep, baby," and she said, "Sing me Jesus." I asked her,

"Sing Church songs?" She said yes. So I sang "I Love to See the Temple." Then I sang "Do As I'm Doing" and "I Am a Child of God." She fell asleep. As I sang, I felt something inside of me. I felt the Holy Ghost. I am glad my cousin knows about Jesus and honors Him.

Hillary Odom, age 10
Ogden, Utah



Volume 33 Number 7
July 2003

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Cover by Dilleen Marsh

the friend

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

HIDDEN CTR RING

Two things we can do
to help us choose the
right every day are pray
and read the scriptures.
As you look for the CTR ring
hidden in this issue of the
Friend, remind yourself to
do these things.





Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice

The Lifeline of Prayer



We sometimes take prayer for granted. President James E. Faust reminds us what a great privilege it is to be able to talk directly to Heavenly Father.

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

I bear witness of the importance of prayer. Access to our Creator through our Savior is surely one of the great privileges and blessings of our lives. There can never be a mechanical or electronic failure when we pray. There is no limit on the number of times or how long we can pray each day. There is no quota of how many needs we wish to pray for in each prayer. He is reachable at any time and any place.

When God placed man on the earth, prayer became the lifeline between mankind and God. . . .

We are privileged to pray daily for the small and great concerns in our lives. Consider the words of Amulek, who admonished us to pray in our fields over our flocks; in our houses over our households, morning, midday, and evening (see Alma 34:20–21). . . .

Amulek's counsel in our day might be the heartfelt prayer of a wife: "Bless Jason and keep him safe as he serves our country in this time of war." The prayer of a mother: "Please bless dear Jane that she will make the right choices." The prayer of a father: "Heavenly Father, bless Johnny in his missionary labors." The prayer of a child, "that I won't be naughty today," or

"that everybody will have plenty to eat," or "that Mommy will get well soon." . . .

The Savior told us, "Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name" (3 Nephi 18:21). In our day, the Church urges us to have family prayer every night and every morning. . . .

Family prayer is a powerful and sustaining influence [a long-lasting power to help us change for good]. During the dark days of World War II, a 500-pound [225-kg] bomb fell outside the little home of Brother Patey, a young father in Liverpool, England, but the bomb did not go off. His wife had died, so he was rearing his five children alone. He gathered them together at this very anxious time for family prayer. They "all prayed . . . earnestly and when they had finished praying, the children said: 'Daddy, we will be all right. We will be all right in our home tonight.'

"And so they went to bed, imagine, with that terrific bomb lying just outside the door half submerged in the ground. If it had gone off it would have destroyed probably forty or fifty houses and killed two or three hundred people. . . .

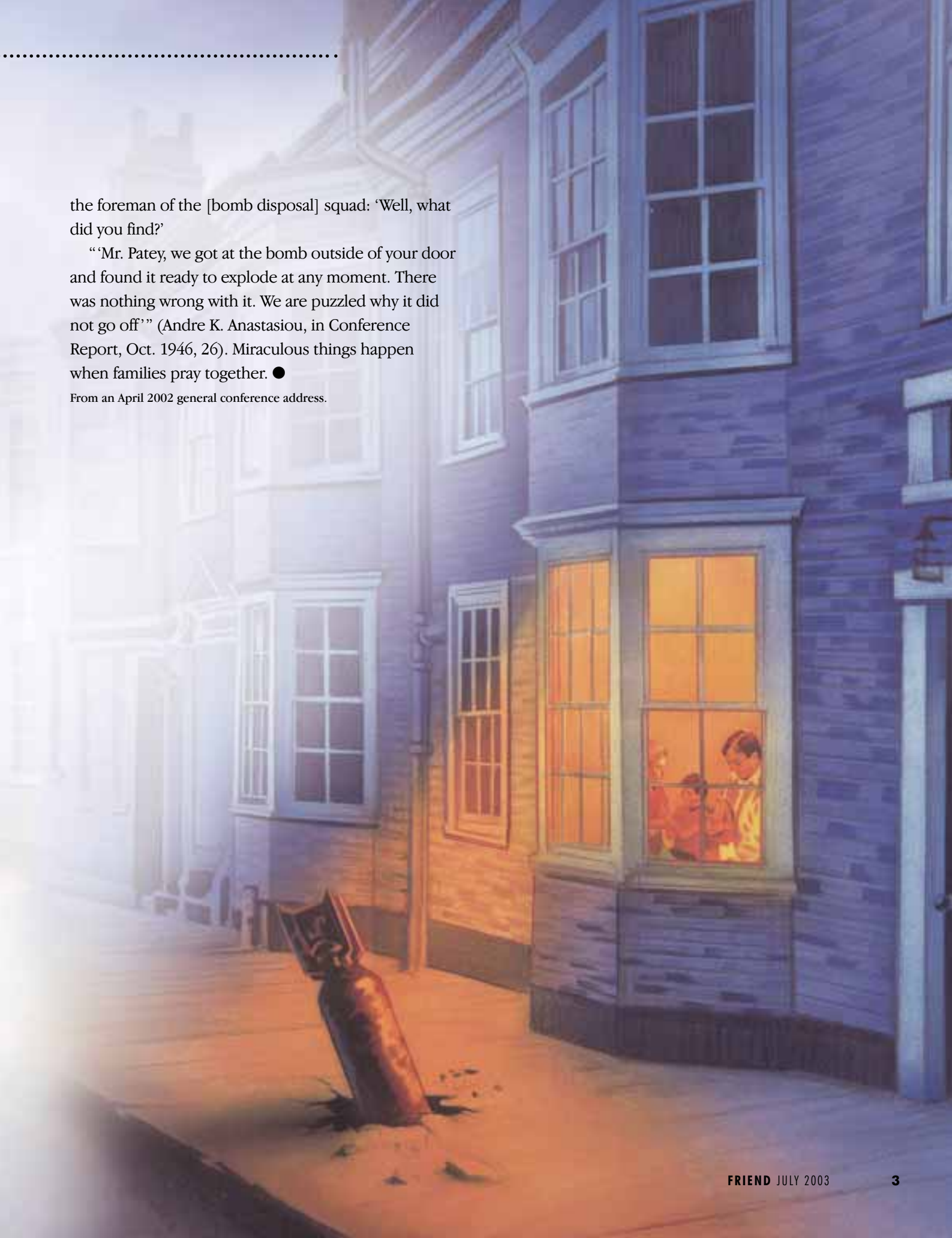
"The next morning the . . . whole neighborhood was removed for forty-eight hours and the bomb was finally taken away. . . .

"On the way back Brother Patey asked

the foreman of the [bomb disposal] squad: ‘Well, what did you find?’

“Mr. Patey, we got at the bomb outside of your door and found it ready to explode at any moment. There was nothing wrong with it. We are puzzled why it did not go off” (Andre K. Anastasiou, in Conference Report, Oct. 1946, 26). Miraculous things happen when families pray together. ●

From an April 2002 general conference address.





BY CINDY LAW

(Based on a true story)

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive (Matthew 21:22).

Rhoda, will you offer the blessing on the food?" Mama asked.

Rhoda looked at the small potato on her plate. "But there is still so much plate showing around my dinner," she wanted to say but didn't. "Yes, Mama," she said.

Bowing her head, she began, "Heavenly Father, thank Thee for the food, and please bless it. Watch over Daddy in England that he will find those who are looking for the truth. And please provide food and safety for us while he is away. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

Rhoda opened her eyes and noticed her sister, Louisa, staring at Mama's empty plate.

"Mama, where's your food?" Louisa asked.

"Willard is out working in the fields," Mama replied. "When he comes in, he's going to want more than just water to drink."

Rhoda could see worry lines around her sister's eyes. "Are there no more potatoes?"

Louisa asked.

Mama shook her head. "Those are the last ones. So eat up before they get cold."

Rhoda stared at Mama. "But Mama, what

will we do for breakfast in the morning?"

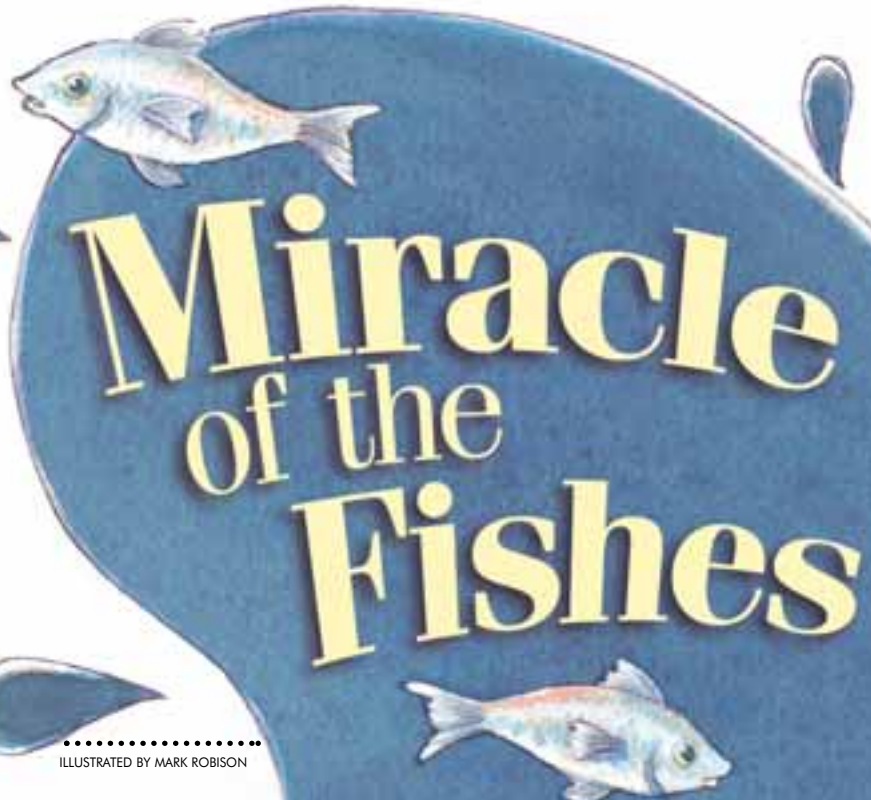
"Well, in your prayer you asked the Lord to provide for us while Daddy is away," Mama replied. "I trust He will answer your prayer."

"Mama!" Willard burst through the door. "Quick! The Judds have turned the canal water into their ditches!"

"Hurry, girls," Mama said. "Buckets are outside!"

Rhoda jumped from the table, following Willard and Louisa outdoors. Each one grabbed a large, wooden bucket and raced down the dusty path to the canal.

Even though Rhoda was only eight years old, she understood about the canal. Like a man-made river, the canal was the source of water for all the homesteads in the area. The canal also provided water for irrigating crops. Farmers would turn some of the water from the canal into ditches lining their crops. Then the water would flow out of the ditches and flood the land. But once in a while, a farmer would turn all the canal water into his ditches, leaving the homesteads downstream without water until he finished irrigating his crops. And Rhoda knew that even one day without water in this scorching heat would be dangerous.



ILLUSTRATED BY MARK ROBISON

When the children arrived at the canal, the water flow had already stopped, leaving a still bed of water resting in the bottom. Rhoda filled her bucket with water, carried it back to the house, and poured it into the large rain barrel beside the front door. Back and forth the children ran, trying to fill the barrel before the water dried up.

“One more bucket each ought to do it,” Mama called.

Even though the sun hung low, almost touching the horizon, the dirt felt hot and gritty on the bottoms of Rhoda’s feet. Reaching the canal, they found that the stream was now dried up, leaving a muddy bed pocked with small, shallow pools. Rhoda jumped down into the damp streambed, mud spurting between her toes. Reaching the

edge of one of the shallow pools, she leaned over to dip her bucket into the water. Suddenly she lost her balance and fell, splashing into the pool.

Willard and Louisa laughed as Rhoda stood up. Her dress clung to her back and belly, and warm water dripped down her arms and legs. When she reached down to grab her bucket, something slippery slithered past her ankles. “Snake!” Rhoda screeched, scrambling out of the pool.

Willard raced over, peering at the small pool.

“There!” Rhoda cried, pointing a finger at the water.

Willard’s eyes scanned the murky water. His hand circled the surface, then suddenly he thrust his arm into the water and grabbed at something.





“With . . . faith, we will be able to pray for what we want and appreciate whatever we get. Only with that faith will we pray with the diligence God requires.”

Elder Henry B. Eyring
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
From an October 2001 general conference address.

“It’s a fish!” Willard shouted, holding a small, wriggling fish in his palm. “I caught a fish!”

“Look! There must be more in that pool over there!” Rhoda pointed.

“And over there,” Louisa shouted, pointing at another. All the small pools of water rippled with life.

“Let’s fill our buckets and take them to Mama,” Louisa suggested.

There was little water left in the pools and the fish swarmed in tight bunches, making it easy for the children to snatch them up. Soon their buckets were filled and the children carried them back to the cabin.

“Mama! Look what we found in the canal!” Rhoda called as they reached the cabin door.

“Fish? In the canal?” Mama looked confused. “There aren’t any fish in that canal.”

“There are tonight. The shallow pools are full of them,” Louisa said.

“But there have never been fish in that canal,” Mama said quietly, staring at the full buckets of fish. “Children, this is a miracle. Just as He sent manna to the hungry Israelites, the Lord has sent fish for us to eat.”

Reaching for Rhoda’s bucket, she continued, “And just like the children of Israel, we must gather all we can while there are fish to catch. Go and see if there are any more, and I will begin cleaning these and packing them in salt.”

The sun sank into the prairie grasses and a full moon lit the night as the children returned to search for more fish. As Rhoda knelt down in the mud, she closed her eyes and spoke softly. “Heavenly Father, thank Thee for answering my prayer and for taking care of us. Thank Thee for sending us the miracle of the fishes.” ●



Friend to
Friend

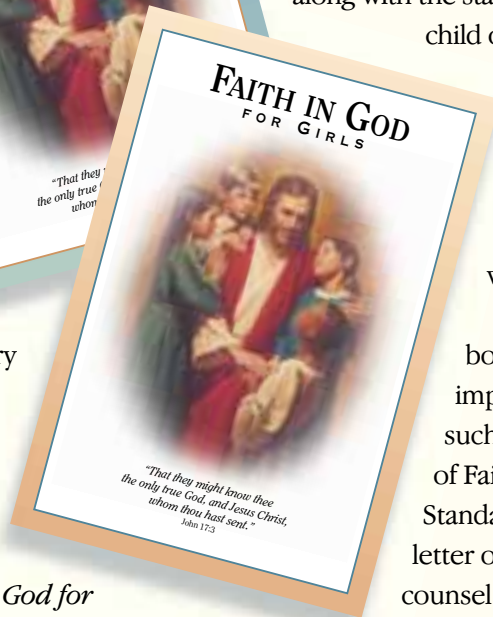
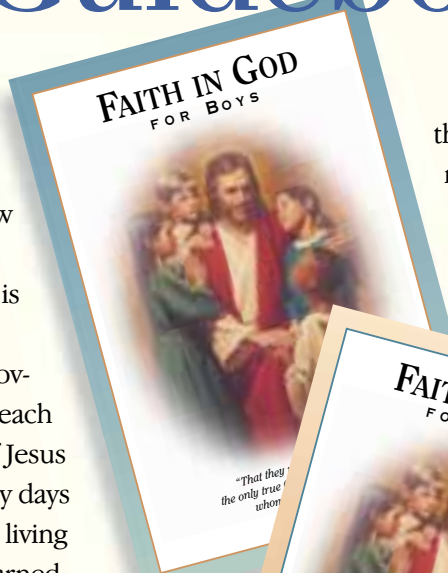
The *Faith in God* Guidebooks

Children, the things you do now are important for your future. That is why Primary is so important. Your loving leaders help teach you the gospel of Jesus Christ, and activity days help you practice living what you have learned.

Something new and wonderful is happening in Primary that can help you prepare for the future—the *Faith in God* guidebooks. Children ages 8 through 11 will receive a beautifully illustrated guidebook, either *Faith in God for Boys* or *Faith in God for Girls*. This guidebook will be used in your home, at Primary, and during activity days. We hope that as you work on activities listed in the guidebook, you will progress and become closer to Heavenly Father. There is such great joy in accomplishing good works!

The Guidebooks

The *Faith in God* guidebook is just the right size to fit in your scriptures. As you see



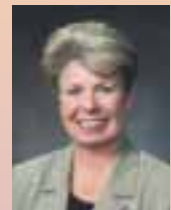
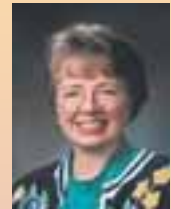
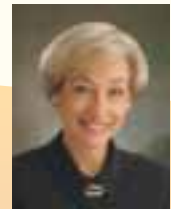
the beautiful cover illustration, remember that the Savior loves you. Inside the front cover you will find a place for your own picture along with the statement, “I am a

child of God.” As you tuck that knowledge deep in your hearts, your testimonies will grow.

The guidebook includes important helps such as the Articles of Faith, My Gospel Standards, and a letter of love and counsel from the First Presidency. These will help you develop faith and prepare for your future roles.

The Award

To earn the Faith in God Award, you will need to fulfill **Basic Requirements**. These are what will help you grow closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ: praying, studying the scriptures, keeping the



A message from the Primary general presidency, Sister Coleen K. Menlove, Sister Sydney S. Reynolds, and Sister Gayle M. Clegg

commandments, honoring your parents, and paying tithing, to name a few. Read these carefully. As you live them, they will bring you great joy and peace.

In addition to fulfilling Basic Requirements, you will complete activities in three categories: **Living and Learning the Gospel, Serving Others,** and **Developing Talents.** You might choose an activity like preparing a pedigree chart or writing a history about one of your grandparents. You might go to a museum or a play. You may plan a physical fitness program or practice learning a new sport.

Activities can be done individually, with the help of your family, or with your activity days group. Activity days give you a wonderful opportunity to gather with your friends and apply gospel principles. We hope you will continue being missionaries by inviting your friends to activity days.

The *Faith in God* guidebooks are for everyone! If you live far from your ward or branch, the activities can be done at home. Activities can be changed to fit your



needs. You might even choose to plan an activity of your own, one that makes the most sense to you and helps you accomplish your goals.

After you turn 11, you will participate in additional activities that will prepare you for entering the Young Women program or receiving the Aaronic Priesthood. Girls will meet with their future Beehive adviser, class presidency, or Young Women presidency to learn about the importance of the Young Women program. Boys will meet with the deacons quorum adviser and learn what being a deacon is all about.

The last page of your guidebook is for keeping track of the activities you complete. When you have finished two activities in each section for each year you participate in activity days, show your tracking page in the guidebook to your Primary president and bishop or branch president. They will sign the certificate in the book stating that you have completed the requirements.



Simple and Focused

The *Faith in God* guidebooks are simple, focused on the gospel, and flexible. Many of you have been working on your Gospel in Action Award. Whatever you have already accomplished can fulfill requirements in the *Faith in God* guidebooks.



If you are participating in the Boy Scouts of America, you may have been working on the Cub Scout Faith in God Award. Several activities in *Faith in God for Boys* are marked with a square knot symbol (☞). By doing those activities, boys can earn the Boy Scouts of America Religious Square Knot patch in addition to the Faith in God Award.

The Purpose

We pray that you will find great joy as you participate in *Faith in God* in groups or with your families. Awards and patches are nice—but these guidebooks will help you better understand the covenants you made at baptism and be able to keep them. It will prepare you to be

worthy to enter the temple someday, and it will help you to progress and become more Christlike.

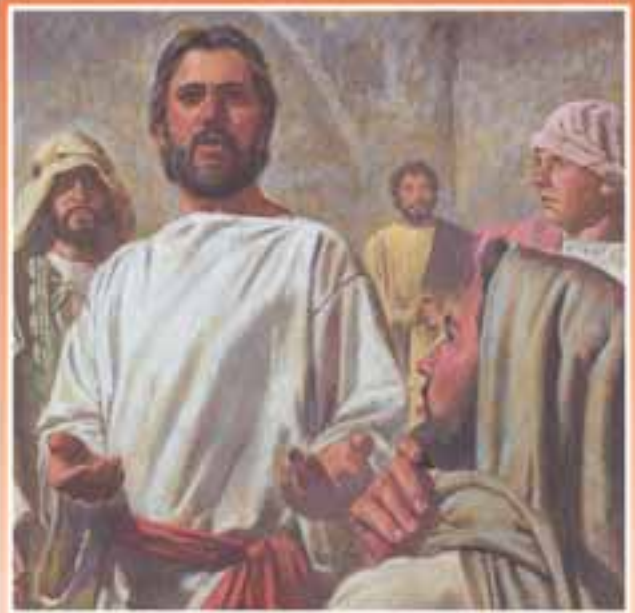
President Gordon B. Hinckley often tells children to hold fast to the gospel, and to cherish and hold fast to their memberships in the Church. The prophet loves you, and he wants you to be prepared for the future. The *Faith in God* guidebooks help you do just that. ●



These guidebooks will prepare you to be worthy to enter the temple someday.

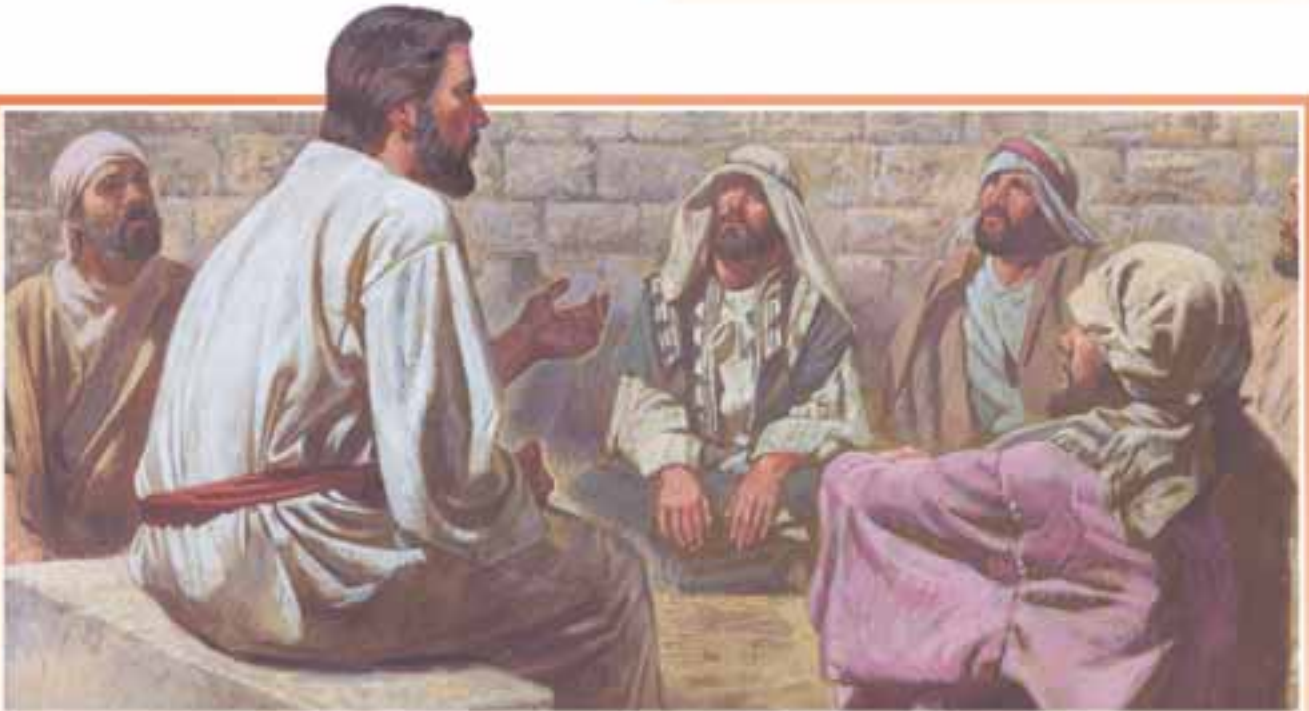
THE APOSTLES LEAD THE CHURCH

Chapter 55



After He was resurrected, Jesus was with His Apostles for forty days. He taught them many things about the gospel and His church.

Acts 1:1-3



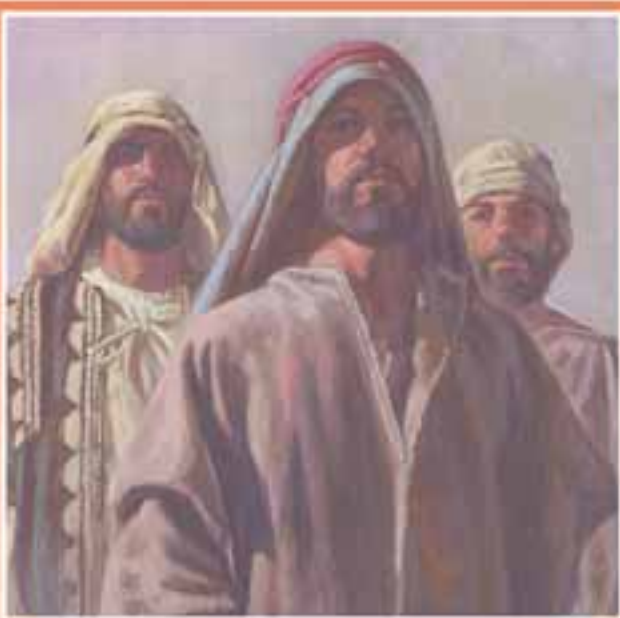
He told them to teach the gospel to all people. He also said that He would leave them soon but that the Holy Ghost would come to help them.

Acts 1:4-8



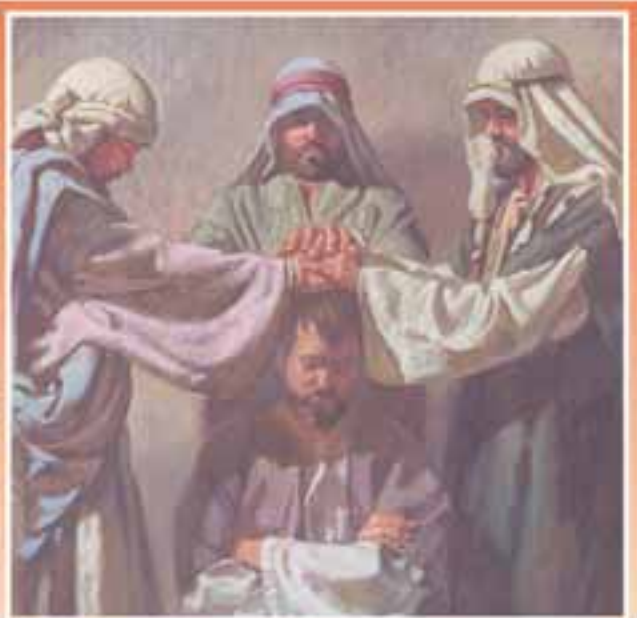
They watched Him go up to His Father in Heaven. Two men in white clothes told the Apostles that Jesus would come back someday from heaven.

Acts 1:9–11



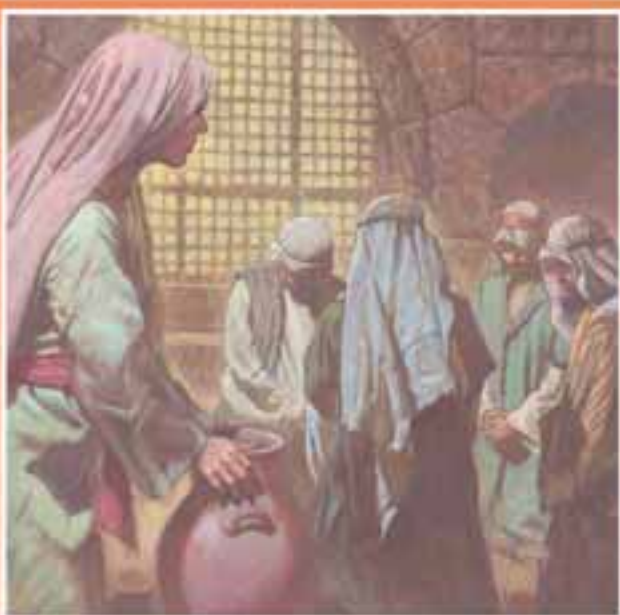
The Apostles were now the leaders of the Church on earth. Peter was appointed President, and James and John were his counselors. At that time there were only eleven Apostles—Judas was dead.

Matthew 16:18–19; Doctrine and Covenants 81:1–2; *Jesus the Christ*, 219; Matthew 27:3–5



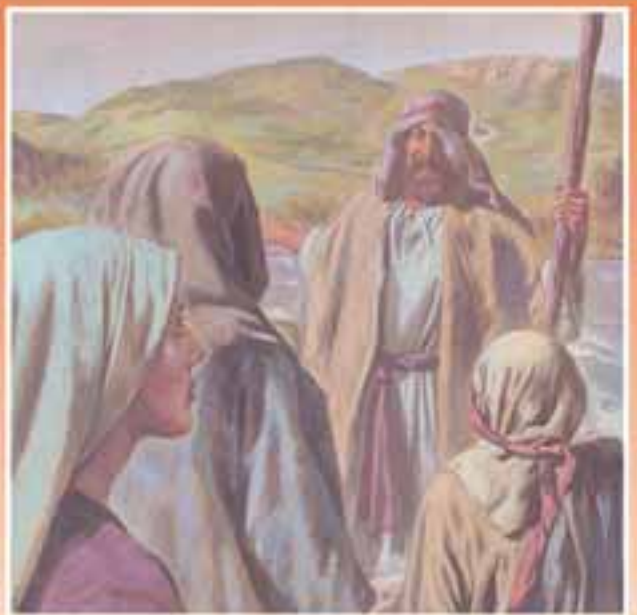
Heavenly Father told them to choose Matthias to be an Apostle so that there would be twelve again. They all had the priesthood.

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26; Doctrine and Covenants 102:8



The Apostles and the other disciples had faith in the Lord. They obeyed His commandments, and they loved one another.

Acts 2:41–47

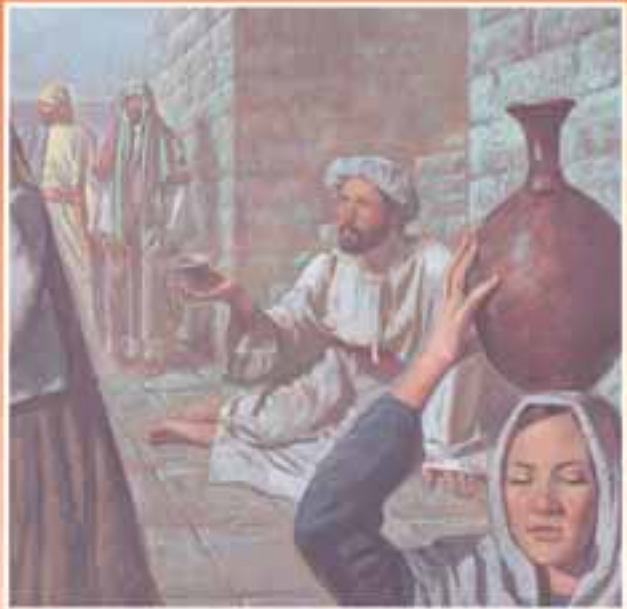


With the priesthood and the power of the Holy Ghost, the Apostles could do many things. They healed sick people. They were missionaries—they taught about Jesus and His gospel. Many people believed the Apostles' words and became members of the Church. Those who joined the Church were called Saints.

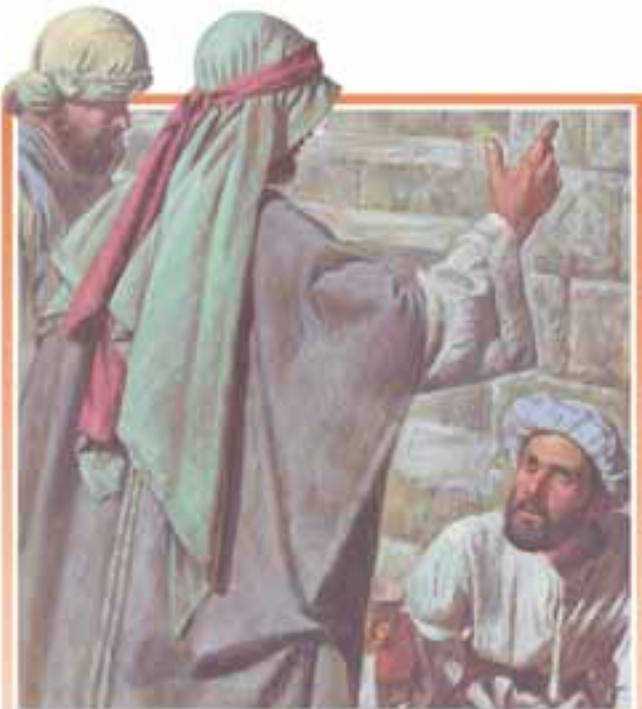
Acts 2:2–4, 32–33, 36–43, 47; 3:1–7; Romans 1:7

PETER HEALS A MAN

Chapter 56

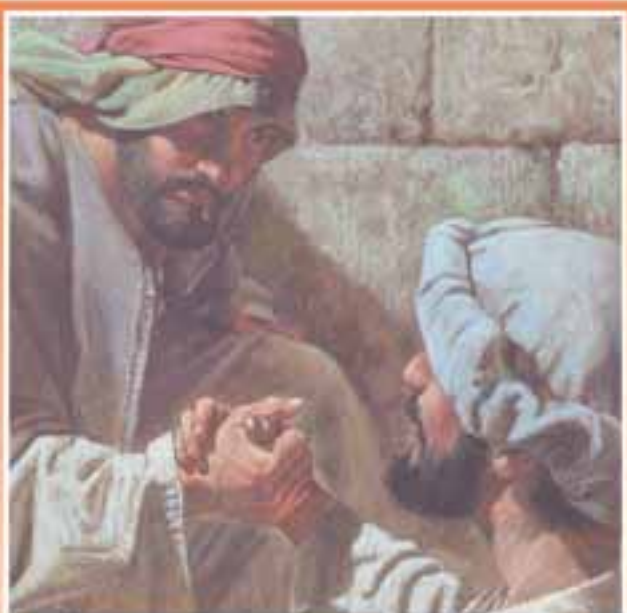


A man who could not walk was carried by his friends to the temple every day. He sat by its doors, asking for money. One day Peter and John saw him.
Acts 3:1-2



When they were near him, he asked them for money. Peter said that he did not have any but that he would give him something else.

Acts 3:3-6



Peter blessed him in the name of Jesus Christ and healed him, then helped the man stand up.

Acts 3:6-7



The man began to walk for the first time in his life! Many people saw the man walking and leaping. They knew that it was a miracle. They knew that Peter had the power of God. Peter told them that Jesus Christ had given him the power to heal the man. A great missionary, Peter helped many people believe in Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:8-13, 16; 4:4



Family History

I Am Doing It

Brightly ♩ = 104-112

G C G

1. Fam-'ly his-to-ry—I am do-ing it, My fam-'ly his-to-ry. And the
2. Fam-'ly liv-ing now and the ones who've died Can all be sealed to me, And some-

A7 D7

love I feel when I'm do-ing it Is ver-y sweet to me. I learn
day I'll meet ev-'ry one of them, I'm sure as I can be. Oh what

G C B7

sto-ries of my pro-gen-i-tors; I write their his-to-ry. I keep
joy we'll have when they say to me, "We're all a fam-i-ly. I am

A7 D7 G

rec-ords of my loved ones On my own fam-'ly tree.
yours and you are mine now, Through all e-ter-ni-ty."

Words and music: Jeanne P. Lawler, b. 1924. © 1982 IRI; revised.
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Moses 6:5-8
Abraham 1:31

John the Baptist Followed Jesus Christ



For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26).

One time when Jesus was teaching in the temple, some chief priests and elders of the people came and asked Him, “By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?” (See Matthew 21:23.)

They were trying to make the Savior look bad in front of the people. They didn’t want people to believe in Him. If people believed in Jesus Christ, they wouldn’t follow them (the chief priests and elders).

But Jesus knew what they were trying to do, so He said, “I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

“The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?” (Matthew 21:24–25.)

Now, John the Baptist believed in the Savior and knew of His mission. Before his death, John had told people that “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me [Jesus Christ] is mightier than I . . . : he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire” (Matthew 3:11).

When the chief priests and the elders heard Jesus’ question, they were worried. They realized that if they said that John baptized people with the proper priesthood authority, Jesus would ask them why they didn’t believe John and follow Him (the Savior). But if they said that John did not have proper priesthood authority, the people wouldn’t believe them, because the people did believe John.

When the chief priests and elders refused to answer

Jesus’ question, he refused to answer theirs. Then he told them a parable, or story:

“But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

“He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

“And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

“Whether of them twain did the will of his father?”

The chief priests said that the first son did what his father asked. Jesus told them that those who believed John the Baptist and repented of their sins would go to heaven but that the chief priests and elders would not, because they didn’t believe John and repent of their sins. (See Matthew 21:25–32.)

When we learn the gospel, have faith in the Savior, repent of our sins, are baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, choose the right, and study the scriptures, we are following Jesus Christ. ●





Gift of the Holy Ghost



Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ



Repentance



Baptism

Fourth Article of Faith PICTURE SCRAMBLE

BY CAROLINE BENZLEY

Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. We can follow Jesus' example by being baptized, too. To find out what two things we must do before we are baptized

and what happens after we are baptized, cut out the pictures and glue them in place in the right order. For help, or to check your answer, read Articles of Faith 1:4.



1



2



3












































4



And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer (Enos 1:4).

Enos Prays

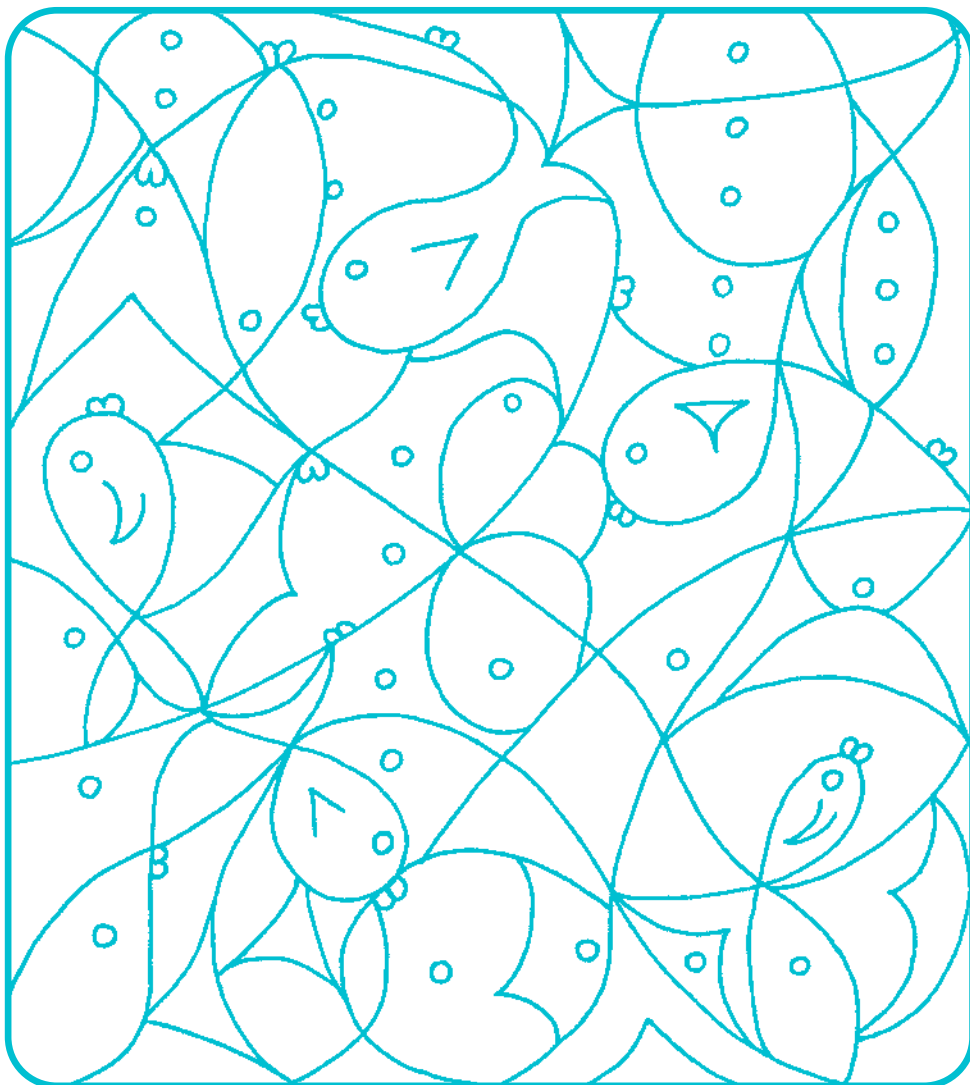
BY JOANY ERICKSON

 was the son of  & the grandson of  .  day  went 
hunt  in the  . While he was hunting,  thought about the things his
father,  , had taught him.  knelt  pray. He prayed all day that  would
 give him  his sins.  had faith that    give him.
  gave  & blessed him. Then  prayed  his people, the
 . Next,  prayed  the  . Each time  prayed, he
had faith that   answer his prayers & bless him. We   like
 when we have faith.  ways in which we  help our faith grow   pray
often   obey  's commandments. (See Enos 1:1-12.)

Go Fishing

BY SHERRY TIMBERMAN

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew to follow Him, He told them that He would make them fishers of men (see Matthew 4:18-19). What did He mean? Find the fish in this picture and color them.



Daybreak

BY SUSAN R. YOUNG

Thank Thee, Lord, for daffodils
With heads of sun-kissed gold.
And thank Thee, Lord, for puppy dogs
Like this one that I hold.

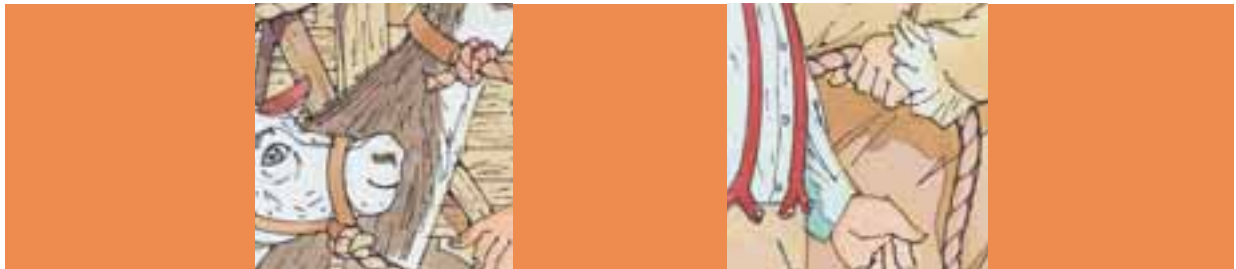
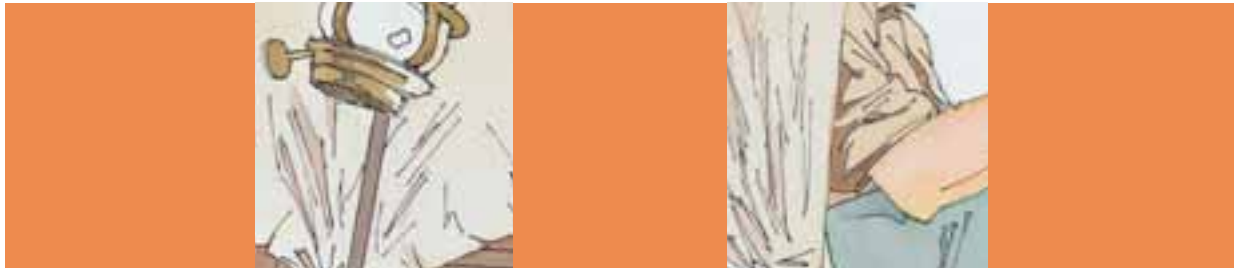
Thank Thee, Father, for the birds
And for the songs they sing.
And thank Thee, Father, for Thy love
That touches everything!

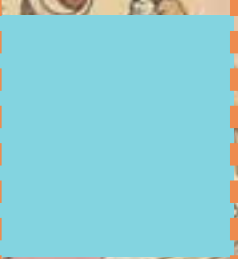
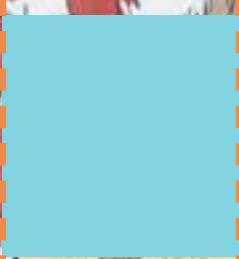
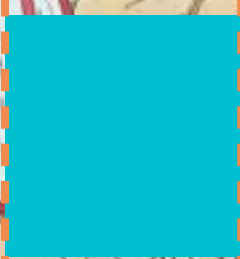
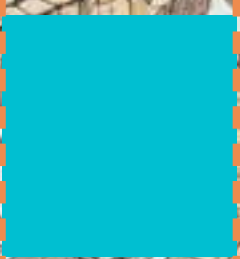
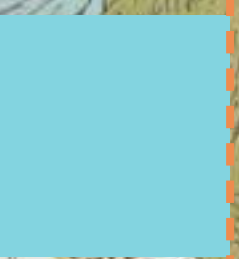
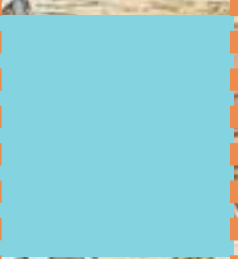
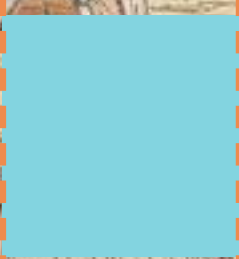
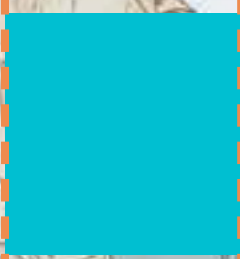
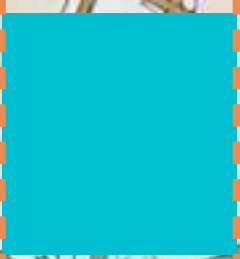
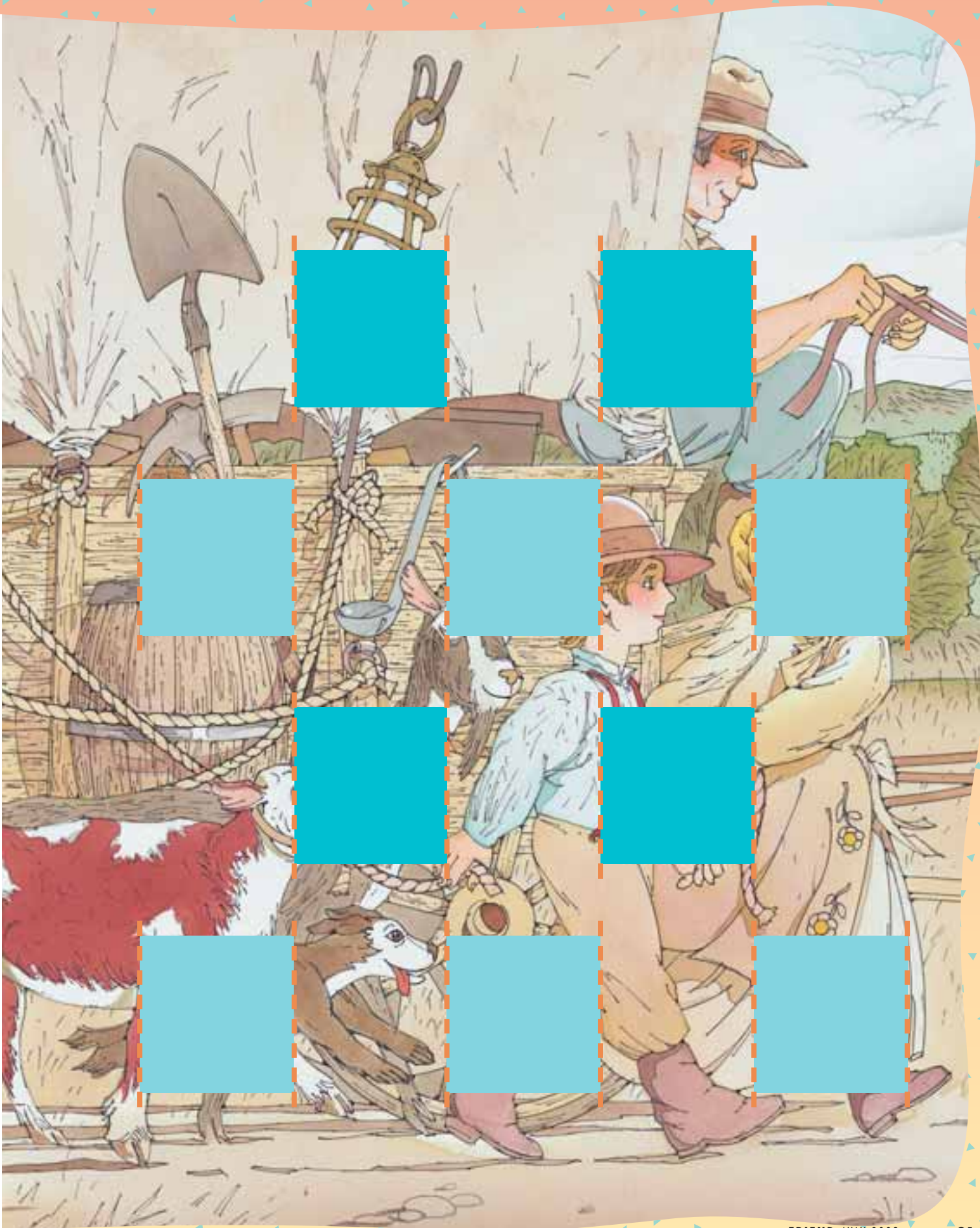




Pioneer Children Woven Picture

Pioneer children faced hardship and danger on their westward trek, but they also had fun. To weave a picture of their experience, mount these two pages on heavy paper. Then cut out the picture strips on this page. Next, cut along the broken lines on the next page. Finally, weave the loose strips over and under the anchored strips. If you wish, you can tape the ends of each loose strip to the picture.





Friends in the News



Michael Passey, 11, Vermilion, Alberta, Canada, likes to read. He plays football and is learning to play the piano. He and his sister, Kimberly, are the only two children in their branch.



Curious about many things, **Paige Hacker, 7**, Kingwood, Texas, likes dance, basketball, and soccer. She wants to learn Spanish, like her cousin, who is serving a mission in Mexico.



Jace Clayton Porter, 4, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, wants to be like Nephi. He likes reading the scriptures, and his favorite is 1 Nephi 3:7. His little brother, Chance, is his best buddy.



Catriena Alisha Jane Wilkinson, 9, Nelson, New Zealand, loves animals. She likes sports, music, dance, and being creative. She often cooks breakfast. She reads the scriptures and the *Friend* at bedtime.



A great swimmer, **Elliot Michael Hodson, 8**, Salt Lake City, Utah, is a Cub Scout. Art and building with plastic blocks are his favorite activities.



Allyson (Ally) Dawn Searle, 5, Burley, Idaho, loves animals. She likes going to Primary and being with others. She has a ready smile for those who need it.



Seth E. Joncas, 8, Elk River, Minnesota, was baptized by his dad. He loves his family and likes going to church. He wants to go to the St. Paul Minnesota Temple someday.



Gabby Hanekamp, 5, McDonough, Georgia, likes snow, playing with dolls, swimming, and playing with her two sisters and with her friend Chase. She enjoys collecting rocks and flowers for her mom.



Curtis Murphy, 6, Las Vegas, Nevada, likes church. His favorite Book of Mormon story is about Samuel the Lamanite. He likes to be with his family, and he wants to go on a mission.



Courtni Christine Wilkins, 7, Misawa Air Force Base, Japan, loves her four sisters and three brothers. She likes to ride her bike, make cookies, and learn sign language.



Nicholas Jon Anderson, 10, Springville, Utah, likes playing football, baseball, and basketball. His favorite song is "Book of Mormon Stories." He is outgoing and a friend to everyone.



Alyssa Christensen, 6, Readington, New Jersey, likes to read, play with friends, give talks in Primary, and go to school. She enjoys sharing treats with family and friends. She loves her dog, Mandy.



A good student, **Jacob Matthew Boldt, 11**, Jefferson City, Missouri, is also a talented soccer and football player. He enjoys reading the Book of Mormon with his family. He sets a good example.



Lisa Waldron, 9, Port Neches, Texas, is looking forward to being an aunt. She likes to play soccer, tennis, and basketball; she is memorizing songs to play on the piano.



Kind and happy, **Patrick Robinson, 8**, Richland, Washington, often volunteers to offer prayers and to help others. He enjoys soccer, baseball, swimming, and reading the *Friend* with his brother.



Caitlin Low, 11, Brentwood, California, has played the violin since she was five. A helpful and loving girl, she likes reading to her little sister, Mikayla. She helped her dad plant a garden and is willing to weed it.



Eric Higgins, 11, Lake Wales, Florida, is a Boy Scout. He bears his testimony and invites his friends to church. He is learning to read music and plays drums in the school band.



Courtney Beardall, 7, Salem, Utah, is eager to be baptized and is memorizing the Articles of Faith. She enjoys playing the violin. She is a wonderful big sister and a cheerful, obedient daughter.



Spencer Stolworthy, 9, Franklin, Tennessee, has a lot of energy. After school he plays in the creek near his home or plays sports. He enjoys being with his brother and sister and learning about the universe.



Peitra Pearl Moses, 10, Preston, Idaho, loves her family and animals. She enjoys singing, sports, cooking, running on the farm, and playing in the barn. She reads her scriptures daily.



Jacob Bumm, 4, Chandler, Arizona, loves his sisters and his Primary class. He is doing well at learning the Articles of Faith, and he is a good helper to his mom and dad.



Kaylee Crockett, 5, Arvada, Colorado, is a good example to her friends. She likes Primary and school. She also enjoys singing, dancing, camping with her family, and playing with her younger brother, Koy.



Rory Lowe, 7, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, is eager to be baptized next year. He already is saving for a mission. He likes to eat pasta.



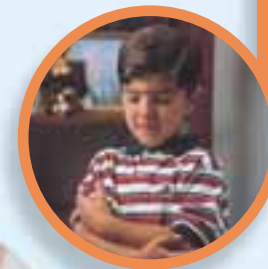
A good helper, **Stefani Riley, 11**, Camarillo, California, likes riding her scooter, and attending church and Activity Days. (Her mom is an Activity Day leader.) She loves babies.

Singing Time

BY CYNTHIA RAKES BOWDEN

We sing about the pioneers,
Popcorn popping, falling snow,
Autumn days, and happy feet,
Heads and shoulders, knees and toes,
Stories in the Book of Mormon,
Grandmas, grandpas, family trees,
Temples, tithing, chapel doors,
Faith, and friends, and family.

We sing about the Savior
And His mission here on earth—
The songs help me remember Him
At home and school and church.
I know that I'm a child of God
And think He must be pleased
When I try with all my heart
To sing in Primary!



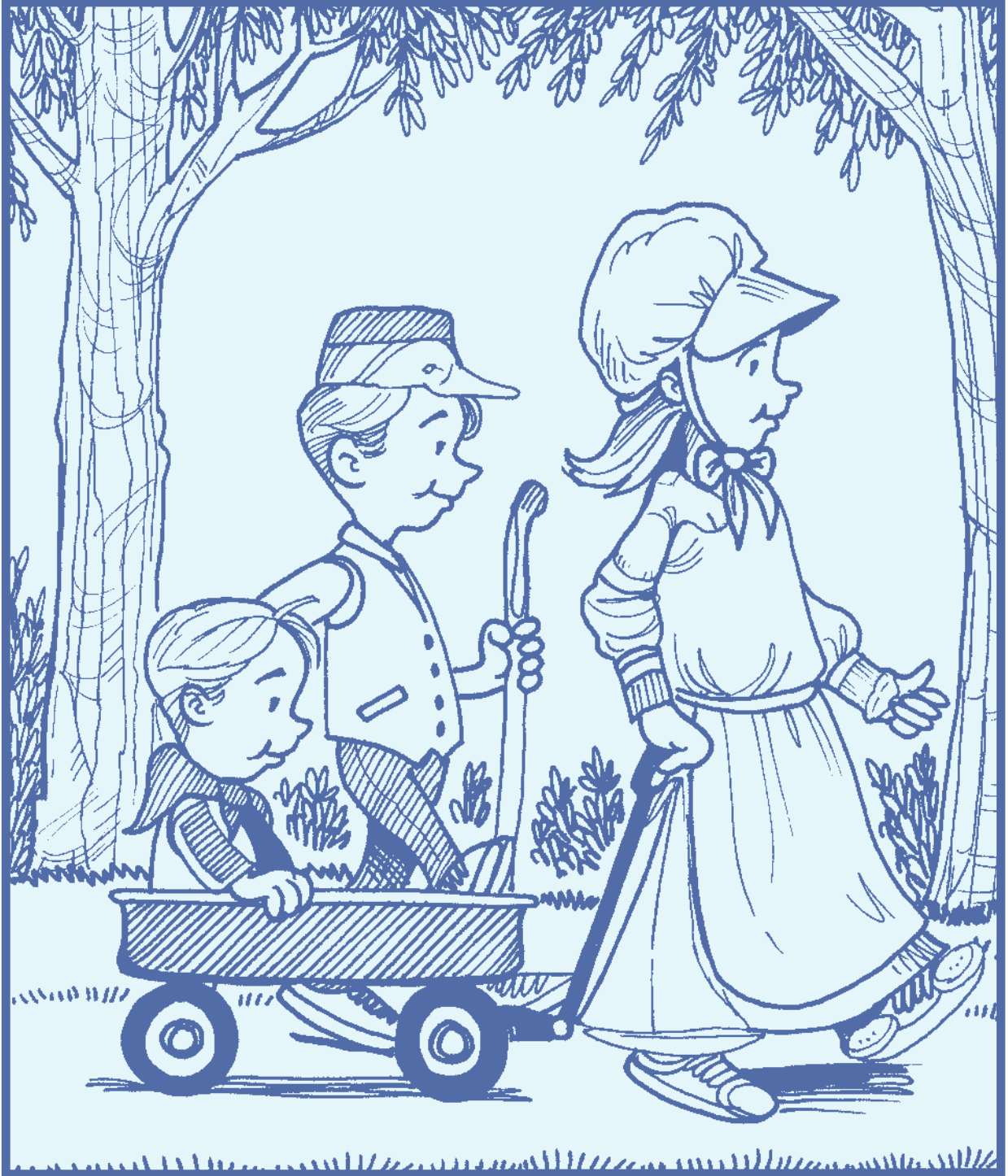
funstuf

Pioneer Parade

BY ROBERT PETERSON

Find the following items in this picture of children taking part in a pioneer parade: a comb, cowboy boot,

cupcake, duck's head, fork, leaf, man's shoe, pen, sailboat, shark, sock, and telephone. Then color the picture.



WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED
BY CHRISTINE RAPPLEYE

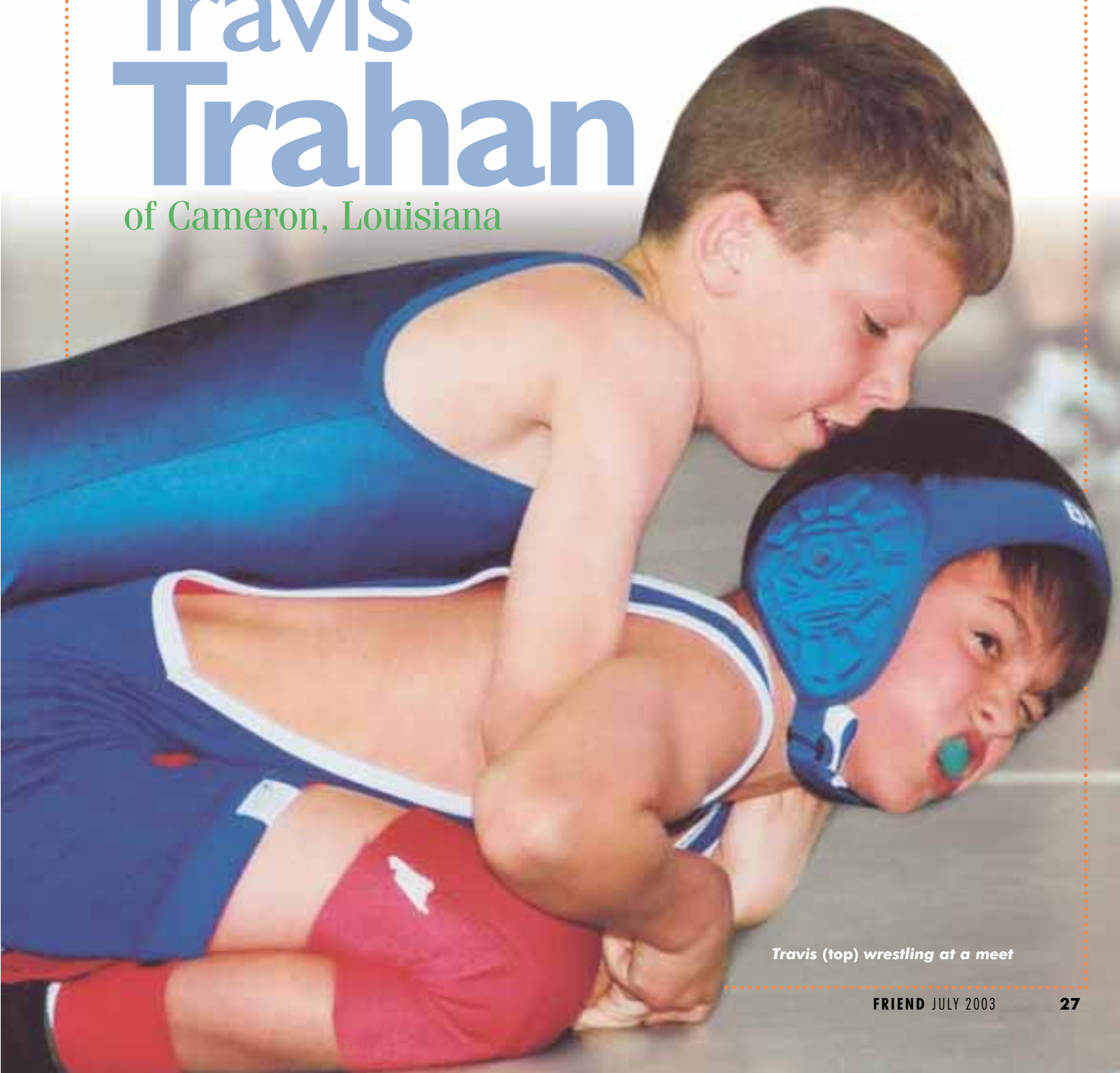
Near the Gulf of Mexico, you can find seashells, alligators, seagulls, turtles, miles of beaches, and ten-year-old Travis Trahan. The young athlete wrestled his way to take second place in the Louisiana State Wrestling Tournament. He didn't start out so

successfully, though—the first year he wrestled, he didn't win a single match! But he always wore a smile.

“Whether he was on the top or the bottom, he'd smile. He'd look over at the audience to see who was smiling back at him,” Sister Trahan says. “It hasn't been

Travis Trahan

of Cameron, Louisiana



Travis (top) wrestling at a meet

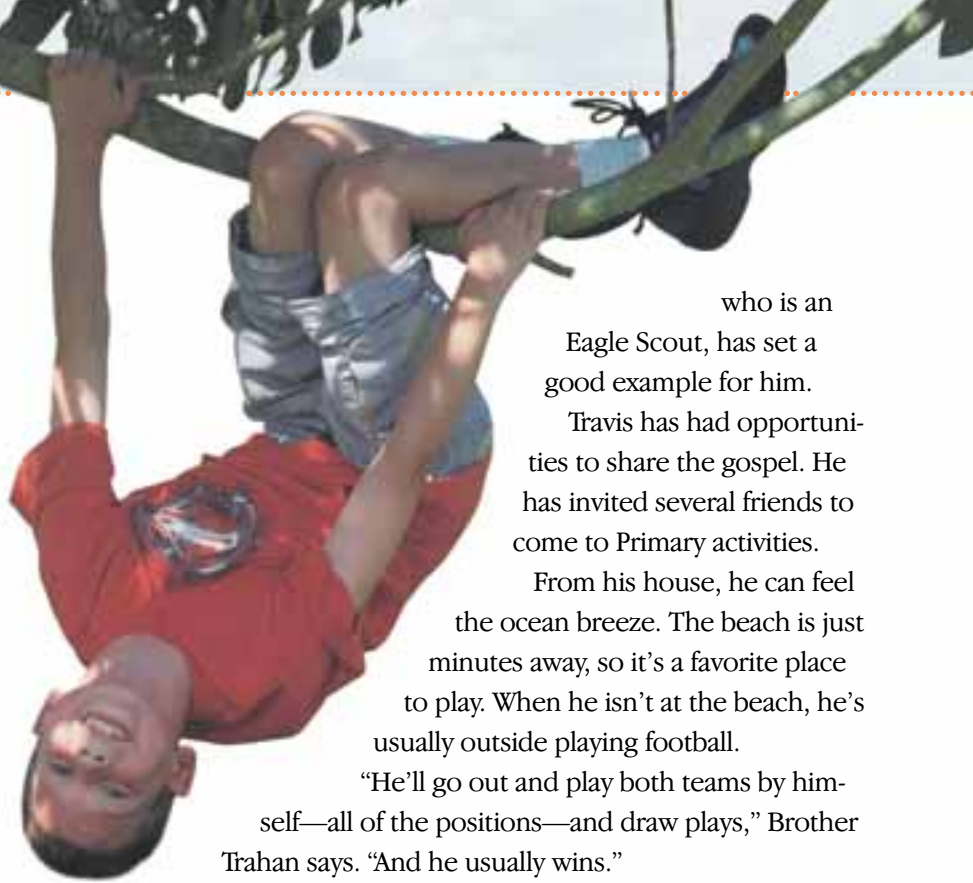
until this year that he has gotten into the competitive nature of wrestling.” In the five years since he started wrestling, he has won 18 medals.

One year before Travis started wrestling, his family was sealed in the Dallas Texas Temple. Brother Trahan had been baptized about a year after Travis’s older sister, Samantha (17), was born. Travis knows that he, his mom and dad, Samantha, Glenn (14), and Alayna (6) can be together forever.

When the Houston Texas Temple was dedicated, Travis and his family attended it with his grandmother, Claire “Peggy” LaLande.

Going to the temple has helped the Trahan family stay strong in the gospel. There are few members in the area, and the Trahans drive about 45 miles (72 k) each way to church in Lake Charles.

Travis goes to Cub Scouts every week at a local church, where he is the only Church member in his den. He especially likes archery and canoeing. Glenn,



who is an Eagle Scout, has set a good example for him.

Travis has had opportunities to share the gospel. He has invited several friends to come to Primary activities.

From his house, he can feel the ocean breeze. The beach is just minutes away, so it’s a favorite place to play. When he isn’t at the beach, he’s usually outside playing football.

“He’ll go out and play both teams by himself—all of the positions—and draw plays,” Brother Trahan says. “And he usually wins.”

“And he’ll come in with the score,” Sister Trahan adds. At school, Travis’s favorite times are physical education and recess. He wants to be a professional football player, a hockey player, or an astronomer when he grows up.

He helps out around the house by cleaning his own room and picking up the pinecones that fall from the pine trees in their yard. He also likes to climb these trees.

The Trahan family (from left): Glenn, Travis, Brother Trahan, Sister Trahan, Alayna, and Samantha



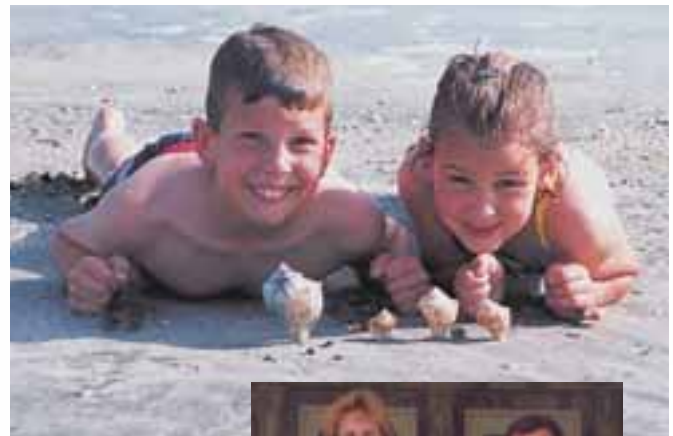
Alayna likes to play sports, too. She plays baseball and is in gymnastics. She also likes to play with Travis—whether it's climbing in the trees or playing on the beach.

Because they live so close to the ocean and the marshes, they see many different animals. They see several kinds of birds, and sometimes they see alligators in their neighborhood or in the nearby wildlife refuge.

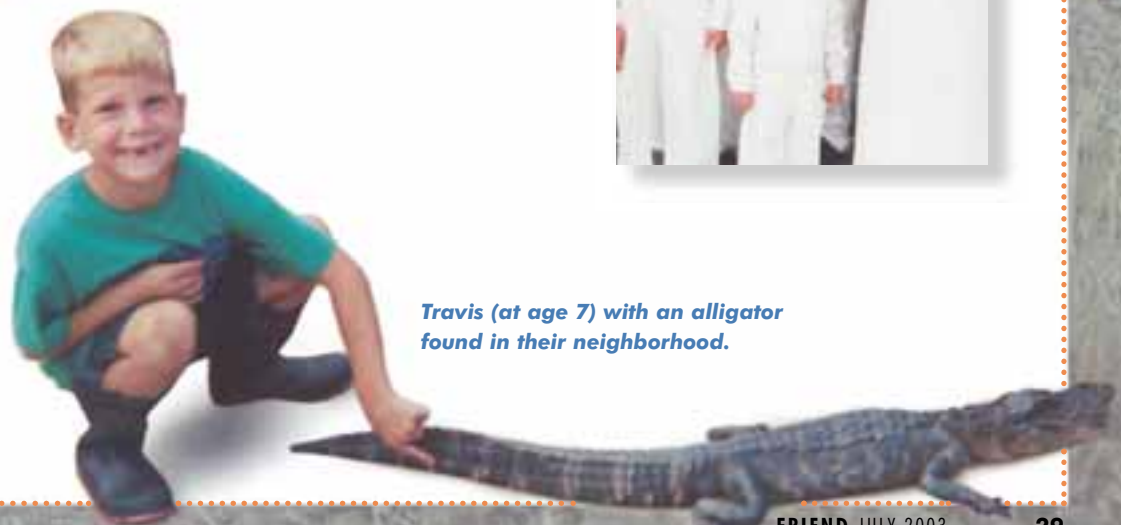
So when the warm gulf breeze blows, watch out for the alligators—and look out for Travis Trahan and his family, living as examples of faithful Latter-day Saints. ●



Travis and Alayna aren't the only ones who have walked on the trail to the beach. They are standing next to hoof prints in the mud.

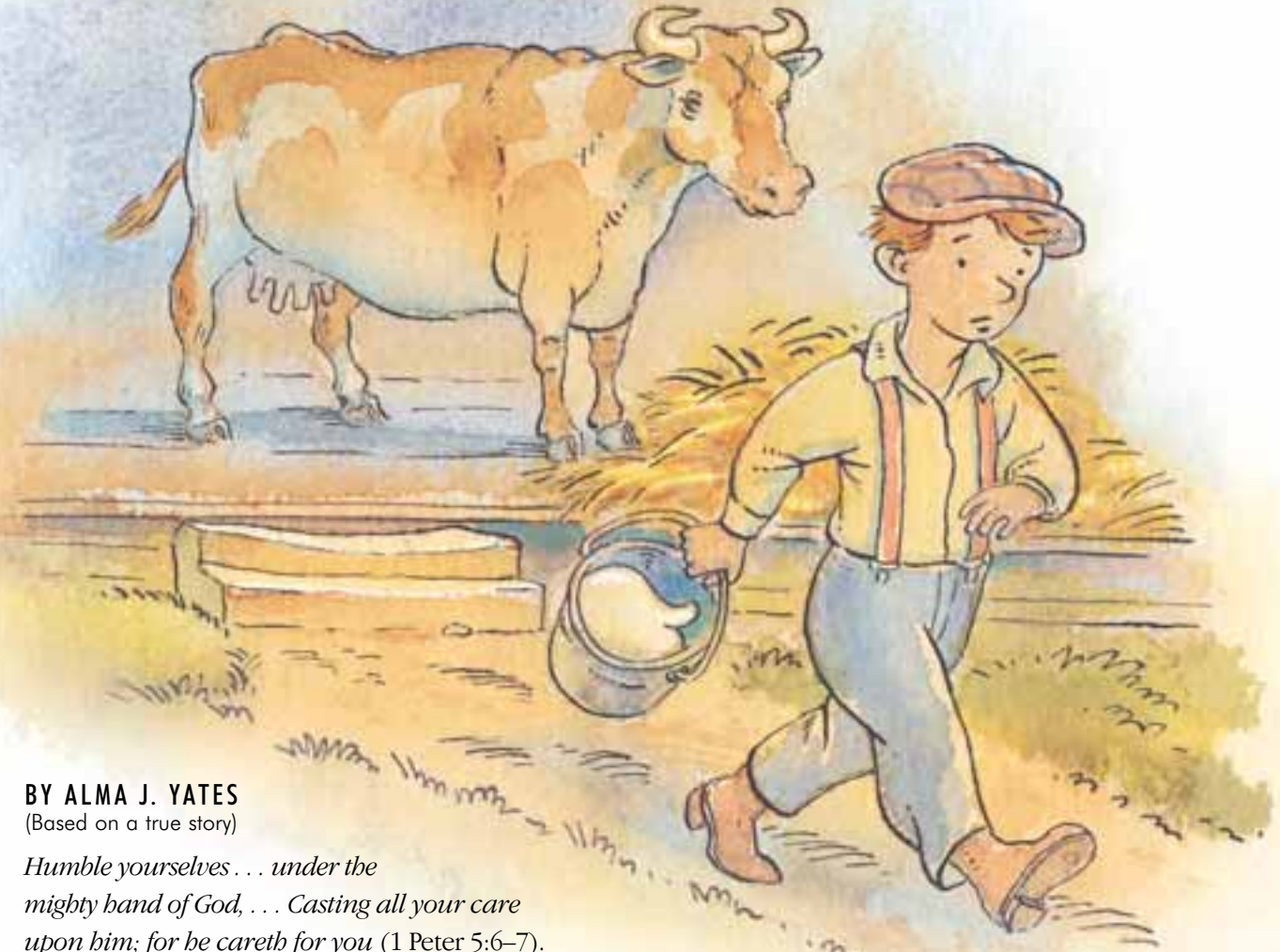


The family in front of the Dallas Texas Temple when they were sealed in 1996.



Travis (at age 7) with an alligator found in their neighborhood.

Summer Serenade



BY ALMA J. YATES
(Based on a true story)

Humble yourselves . . . under the mighty hand of God, . . . Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (1 Peter 5:6–7).

Usually I didn't like milking our mean cow Georgina, but the afternoon that Dr. Steed checked Father's leg was one time when I wanted to be anyplace but in the house. Ever since his accident, Father had been in terrible pain. I prayed that Dr. Steed would do something to help Father, because I couldn't bear to hear his moaning any longer.

Georgina seemed to know that I was upset—she didn't cause me one lick of trouble. Grabbing the one-legged stool and the tin pail, I sat down to milk.

Even though I was only eleven, I had been milking cows since I was five. Today, I was milking fast and furiously, my mind a jumble of worries and fears.

Up until Father's accident two days earlier, everything had gone well for us. Our crops were growing better this year than any time that I could remember. Not a single calf or cow had died during the winter or spring, which was probably a first. Father had even started building a new barn. We figured to have it finished before we brought in the third crop of alfalfa hay in August.

Father had been on a scaffold working on our barn when he slipped and fell 30 feet (over 9 m), landing horribly hard on his right leg.

The first time Dr. Steed looked at Father's bulging, bloody ankle, he shook his head. "It looks mighty bad. The bone's shattered. There's nothing to set—it's just a bunch of bone fragments."

"What do we do?" Mother's face was a mask of wrinkled worries as she clutched Father's hand.

Father gritted his teeth and managed a faint smile that looked strange and out of place on his gray, tense face. "The good Lord will look after us, Dr. Steed," he said weakly but confidently. "A busted leg doesn't mean that the Lord doesn't have His eye on us."

I had always believed my father, especially when he talked about the Lord, but I began to wonder how He was watching over us when disaster hung over our home like a thick, heavy black cloud. Was He going to grow Father another leg?

The pain didn't go away in Father's leg. It got worse, lots worse! His leg from the knee to his toes swelled up something fierce. It looked as though it was going to burst. The skin turned almost black in places. Father wanted to wait longer to see if his leg would get better on its own, but Mother finally insisted that Dr. Steed take another look.

I closed my eyes and leaned my head against Georgina's warm flank as the pail started filling up with the white foamy milk. I didn't know what we were going to do with Father laid up. I knew that I was still too young to run the farm by myself. Maybe I could do it a day or so, but when it came time to cut the hay, harvest the grain, and bring in the corn, I'd need more help than my two little brothers could give me.

The shed door squeaked open. Mother stood there, her eyes wide and her face white as her apron. She wet her lips. "Your father's leg . . ." The words died in her throat. She swallowed and tried again. "Charlie," she got out, "Dr. Steed says your father's leg has to come off from the knee down."

"Cut off his leg?" I jumped up.

"Charlie, it's his leg or his life," Mother said softly, looking away. "Dr. Steed can't save it. If he doesn't take it off soon, your father will die. There's no other way. Run and get Bishop Hunt. Your father wants a blessing before Dr. Steed starts cutting."

I raced over to Bishop Hunt and gave him the bad news, but I didn't go back to the house with him. Instead, I went down to the creek and hid in the bushes, wanting to be as far from Father's moans and groans as I could get.

It was dark when I finally returned to the house. I crept into the house and stole silently down the hall to Mother and Father's half-open bedroom door.

Father lay on his back, his eyes closed, his face ashen. Mother sat in the rocker next to the bed, holding his hand. Tears trickled down her cheeks. I studied the blanket covering Father and stared at the horrible empty place where his foot and lower leg should have been.

Mother saw me and smiled weakly. "Dr. Steed thinks he'll be all right if he can rest through the night. Pray for him, Charlie. The Lord's blessed us plenty. We need to ask for another blessing from His hand."

I turned away. "How has the Lord blessed us?" I wondered. "Father is lying there without his leg. We still have the farm and the cows to take care of. The barn isn't finished. And how can Father do any of those



things with only one whole leg?" I fought back bitter tears of frustration and fear, wishing desperately that I were older so that I could carry the load.

I was busy from early morning till late at night, doing my very best to run the farm. Two days after Dr. Steed took off Father's lower leg, I dragged into the house late, tired clear to the bone. I was shocked to see Father sitting in the rocker by the kitchen table with his stub leg propped up on a pillow in a chair. He looked better than he had since his accident. "Well, Charlie," he said with a faint smile, "your mother says you've been doing a mighty fine job keeping things up around here. You're a real man."

I heaved a sigh and felt a hard lump in my throat, thankful for Father's praise and mighty glad that he was doing better. Even so, I was overwhelmed by the huge job before me. I dropped down on a kitchen chair. Mother set a plate of hot food in front of me. I was

almost too tired to lift my fork to feed myself. "I don't know if I can do it alone," I gulped.

"We won't be doing it alone, Charlie," Father said gently. "The Lord'll be there. He always has been."

"How can you say that?" I burst out, my mouth full of Mother's homemade bread. I couldn't bring myself to look at Father's stump wrapped in white bandages.

The younger children were in bed and Mother and Father didn't say anything while I quietly ate. As I wiped my plate clean with a chunk of bread, I heard the faint strum of a lone guitar. At first I wasn't even sure I'd heard it until the guitar was joined by the low moan of a harmonica and then a fiddle. There was no mistake about it—there was music playing! Voices began to sing.

Mother and Father looked at each other and then at me. "Who do you suppose that could be?" Mother dried her hands on her apron.

I pushed back from the table and charged for the door. Flinging it open, I peered out into the night.



Four people were holding lanterns, three men strummed guitars, two played harmonicas, and one had a fiddle up to his chin. Crowded around them were other neighbors. All were playing or singing, “Master, the Tempest Is Raging.”¹

Then I saw our front porch—loaded with flour and sugar and potatoes—and my mouth dropped open. There was a basket of apricots, fresh summer squash, green beans, and a few ears of early corn, too. There were also a couple pies, a sack of shelled walnuts, and a plate of fudge.

I felt Mother come up behind me. Touching me on the shoulder, she whispered, “I think your father would like to see this.”

It wasn’t easy getting Father to the front porch. With Mother on one side and me on the other, we helped Father out onto the porch and eased him down into a rocker.

“Well, George,” someone called from the crowd

when they finished the hymn, “a few of us got together and figured you could use a little serenading. We might not make the best music in the world, but we sing with a whole lot of feeling.”

“We figured you could use a little something in the kitchen, too,” a woman called out. “If that isn’t enough, we’ll bring more.”

“And don’t fret about your barn being half done,” another voice called from the crowd. “There are enough hands around here to make short work of that little project. And when it comes time to mow your alfalfa, there’ll be a crew here.”

I glanced at Father. Big tears coursed down his face. “You folks are . . .” His voice quavered and the words died in his throat. “You folks are mighty kind,” he started again. “You treat me so fine that I’ll be tempted to go out and break my other leg.”

Everyone laughed, and then they began to play and sing again. They stayed for 30 minutes and serenaded us, singing our favorite songs and hymns. When they left, they all filed past Father, shook his hand and assured him that he didn’t have to worry about things.

When Mother, Father, and I were alone again on the porch, Father turned to me and said quietly, “That was the best music I’ve heard in a long, long time. It sounded like it came straight from heaven.” He took a deep breath and added, “Charlie, like I told you earlier, the good Lord is watching after us. We might stub our toes along the way, but he’s always there to lift us up and help us through.”

Swallowing back the big lump in my throat, I grabbed the sack of flour and nodded. As always, Father was right. ●

¹Hymns, no. 105.



“The gospel of Jesus Christ does not promise that we will be free from tribulation [great troubles]. But it does strengthen our spirit so that we can accept . . . and face it when it comes.”

Elder Adhemar Damiani of the Seventy
From an October 1999 general conference address.

Our Creative Friends

Fireworks

Swirling, twirling, blasting off—
Fireworks pop, then spin off!

A burst of color floods the air;
Children are laughing everywhere.

Clouds of dust and sparks collide.
Booming reds and blues combine.

It ends, the sparkling in the sky.
This is how I spend my Fourth of July.

*Julia Glausi, age 10
West Linn, Oregon*

My Baptism

I can't wait to be baptized.
That's very important to do.

I will be baptized
As Jesus was, too.

My dad has the priesthood.
He will baptize me.

I will feel so clean,
And my family will see.
I'll receive the Holy Ghost.
He will tell me what's right.

I will be obedient
And follow the Lord's light.

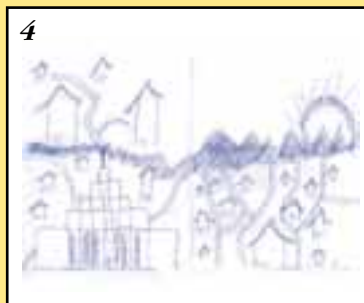
*Brandon Jones, age 8
Fallbrook, California*

The Temple

The temple is a house of God,
Of sacred love and beauty,
A place I want to marry in someday.

A temple is to get sealed in,
To do baptisms in, and to see.
I love the temple.

*Amber Finch, age 9
Jackson, Michigan*



*1 Dallin Miller, age 6
Spanish Fork, Utah*

*2 Samantha Shayne Childers, age 7
Camas, Washington*

*3 Austin Kunzler, age 8
Easley, South Carolina*

*4 David Johnson, age 8
Barnwell, Alberta, Canada*

*5 Macadi Eccles, age 5
Dallas, Oregon*

*6 Rebecca Holland, age 9
State College, Pennsylvania*

*7 Joseph Tuck, age 4
Acworth, Georgia*

*8 Katharine Burlett, age 7
Orcutt, California*

*9 Sierra Chittenden, age 6
La Porte, Texas*

*10 Emily Cluff, age 5
Gilbert, Arizona*

*11 Noah Gardner Jewkes, age 7
Belchertown, Massachusetts*

*12 Bryan Combs, age 10
Centennial, Colorado*

*13 Sarah Burkinshaw, age 9
Bartlesville, Oklahoma*

*14 Andrew Morales, age 10
Anchorage, Alaska*

*15 Jackie Martin, age 9
St. Charles, Missouri*

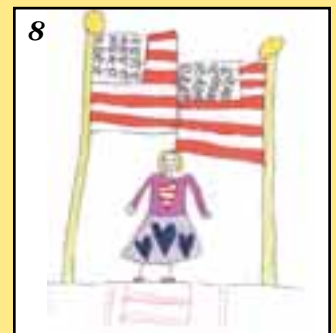
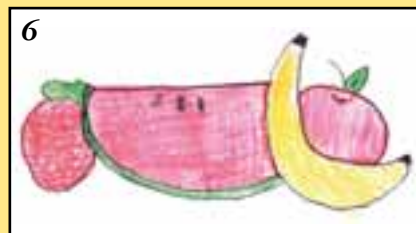
*16 Andy Chapman, age 11
Provo, Utah*

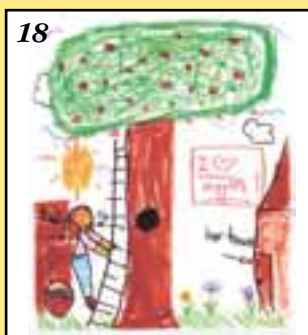
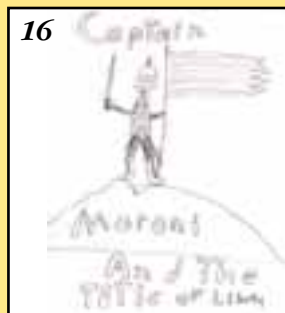
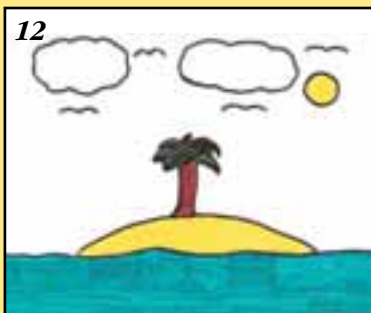
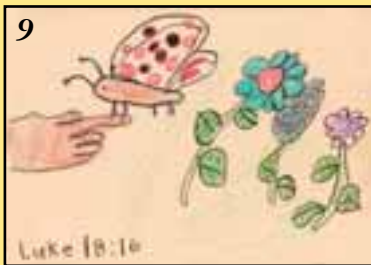
*17 Jeff Buxton, age 11
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*18 Laurie Luke, age 6
Madrid, Spain*

*19 Jacob Shumway, age 7
Afton, Wyoming*

*20 Shelby Ransbottom, age 10
Whitney, Idaho*





The Frog

Once there was a frog
On a log, croaking a beautiful song.
Croak! Croak! Croaking away,
Until the moon would fade away.

*Donovan Anderson, age 9
Vernal, Utah*

Pioneers

Pioneers! What this word brings to my mind:
Loving, faithful, trusting, and kind.
These people fought through the hardships.
All of them had strenuous trips.
The handcart were pushed through inches of snow,
But from the Lord their hearts would never go.
So many mothers buried children on the way!
They had to wipe flowing tears away.
So many prayers to heaven were sent!
But the Lord would not all hardships prevent.
After all was done, they reached Salt Lake
And knew that their God would never them forsake.
That's what *pioneers* means to me.

*Samantha Hunsicker, age 11
Valrico, Florida*

The Flag

The flag, so brilliant, so bright,
It would light up even the darkest of night.
It can be seen from far away,
Even on the hazy days.
It stood through a perilous fight,
Even on the worst nights.
So when you see that flag stand true,
Just know it's waving for me and for you.

*Michael Brimberry, age 12
Dawson, Texas*

**Alma and Helam
are baptized.**

**The 2,000 warriors
do not doubt.**

**Paul testifies of
Jesus Christ.**

**Nephi tells his
father that he will
obey the Lord.**



**Enos prays and
is blessed.**

**Peter and Andrew put
down their nets and
follow the Savior.**

**The sons of Mosiah
search the scriptures.**

**Jacob goes to the
temple.**

**Jesus' disciples partake
of the sacrament.**

**Ten lepers obey and
are healed.**

**Naaman obeys the
prophet Elisha.**

**The children of
Israel keep the
Sabbath day holy.**

**Alma 53:22;
56:46-48, 54-56**

Exodus 31:12-17

Enos 1:4-5

Luke 17:11-19

Acts 18:5

Matthew 4:18-20

1 Nephi 3:7

Jacob 2:2

Mosiah 18:12-14

Matthew 26:26-28

Alma 17:2

2 Kings 5:1-17



“FOLLOW ME”

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI

Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26).



Peter and Andrew earned their living by catching fish. One day as they cast their nets into the Sea of Galilee, they saw Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said to them, “Follow me.” Even though Peter and Andrew were in the middle of their work, “they straightway [immediately] left their nets, and followed him.”

Jesus then invited two other fishermen, James and John, to follow Him, and they too “immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.” (See Matthew 4:18–22.)

Have you ever wondered what you would do if you saw the Savior and He called to you, “Follow me”? Would you leave what you were doing to follow Him?

Today we are also invited to follow the Savior. How can we follow Him? We follow Jesus Christ when we have faith in Him, repent of our wrongdoings, and are baptized. We follow Him when we listen to the promptings of the Holy Ghost, the words of the living prophet, and the wise counsel of our parents. We follow Him when we choose the right.

Just like His disciples of old, we will be blessed when we answer the Savior’s call to “follow me.” Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “I . . . give you my witness that those who, in faith, . . .



follow the Savior will experience happiness beyond their ability to comprehend [understand]” (*Ensign*, May 2002, 17).

Scripture Maze

1. Mount page 36 on heavy paper; then cut out the large rectangle and the individual maze pieces.
2. Locate the scripture referred to on each maze piece, read it, find the person or persons mentioned in that scripture on the large rectangle, and glue that piece of the maze on that part of the large rectangle.
3. Find the path that leads to the Savior.
4. Display the maze as a reminder of your choice to follow Jesus Christ.

Sharing Time Ideas

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

1. Review Jesus' teachings on prayer by reading and discussing Matt. 6:7–13. Explain that Jesus also taught us by example that we can pray anytime, anywhere. On pieces of paper, write these scripture references: Matthew 14:23; Matthew 26:36 and Bible Dictionary—Gethsemane; Mark 1:35; Mark 6:46; Luke 3:21; Luke 5:16; Luke 6:12; Luke 18:1. Have each class choose a reference, locate the scripture, and, by reading it, discover where or when a person could pray. Have a child from each class draw on the chalkboard or on a piece of paper a picture that illustrates that class's scripture, such as a mountain, a sunrise, or a wilderness. Have the rest of the Primary guess what was illustrated, then locate the scripture and read it aloud. Sing a song about prayer or about the Savior. Repeat the process with the other classes' scriptures. Discuss additional places and times they can pray (see Alma 34:17–27). Share an experience of a time when your prayers were answered and bear testimony that Heavenly Father will answer the children's prayers for their good.

2. Help the children become more familiar with the scriptures by inviting people from the ward/branch or the teachers to share their favorite scriptures. Have the adults read or recite from memory their favorite scripture and tell how it helps them follow the Savior. Emphasize that learning about Jesus and His commandments through the scriptures and then being obedient to these teachings help us follow the Savior in faith. Sing a song about following the Savior, such as "I'm Trying to Be like Jesus" (pp. 78–79). Help the children share a scripture that has meaning to them. For those who need help choosing a scripture, list on the board familiar scriptures, or help children locate specific scriptures they enjoy by using the Topical Guide. Have each child write a scripture on a piece of paper (or copy a scripture for younger children). Invite them to display it at home where they can review it as they memorize it during the week. Challenge the children to be prepared to recite their scripture the following week, and follow up on this challenge the next Sunday.

3. Help the children understand what they can do to follow the Savior in faith by using Hebrews 11 and Ether 12 to review examples of faith by others. On the back of the following pictures, write the scripture reference indicated, then arrange the pictures on the front wall in random order in the shape of a clock: • Enoch / GAK 120 / Hebrews 11:5 • Noah / GAK 102 / Hebrews 11:7 • Abraham / GAK 104 / Hebrews 11:8–10 • Abraham and Isaac / GAK 105 / Hebrews 11:17 • Jacob blessing his sons / GAK 122 / Hebrews 11:21 • Joseph / GAK 109 / Hebrews 11:22 • Baby Moses / GAK 106 / Hebrews 11:23 • Moses parting the Red Sea / Primary picture kit 6–12 / Hebrews 11:24–29 • Christ appearing to the Nephites / GAK 315 / Ether 12:7 • Alma and Amulek in the fallen prison / Primary picture kit 4–29 / Ether 12:13 • Nephi and Lehi encircled by fire / Primary picture kit 4–41 / Ether 12:14 • Ammon teaching King Lamoni / Primary picture kit 2–18 / Ether 12:15.

Have the children locate Ether 12:6, and invite an older child to read it aloud. Discuss how Moroni defined faith.

Choose a child to be the timekeeper. Have another child choose a picture and read the reference aloud. Have all the children quickly locate the scripture while the timekeeper tracks how long it takes. The first child to locate the scripture reads it aloud. Help the children retell the story about that person by asking questions such as "Why did this happen?" "How were they able to do this?" "Who obeyed, or did not obey, and what happened to them?" "What can you do to

show faith like this person?"

Based on the amount of time it took to find the first picture, have a child read aloud the scripture reference from the back of a picture positioned at that time on a clock. For example, if it took 45 seconds to find it, the picture at nine o'clock would be chosen. If a picture has been chosen previously, have the child take the next unchosen picture in order. Repeat the process until all the pictures have been chosen.

Have the children locate Ether 12:18 and read it aloud together. Emphasize that all of the things happened because the people first believed in Jesus Christ. Sing songs about faith, such as "I'll Follow Him in Faith" (*Friend*, Jan. 2003, 24), "Lord, I Would Follow Thee" (*Hymns*, no. 220), and "Faith" (*CS*, 96–97).

4. For younger children: Place figures from the Primary Visual Aids Cutouts (see cutout numbers below), or actual objects, in paper sacks numbered from 1 to 10. Fold down the tops so that the children cannot see what is in each sack. Distribute the sacks throughout the Primary room. Ask an adult to write a number from 1 to 10 on the chalkboard and cover it with her/his hand. While the pianist plays music, have the children pass the sacks up and down the rows. When the music stops, the adult shows the number on the chalkboard. The child holding the sack with that number opens it to show something the children can express gratitude for in their prayers. Sing a song that the children know and that goes with the object, such as: • 1–22 / mother holding child / "Families Can Be Together Forever" (p. 188) • 2–10 / boy reading scriptures / "Book of Mormon Stories" (pp. 118–19) • 2–13 / child's hands / "I Have Two Little Hands" (p. 272) • 3–14 / rain / "Rain Is Falling All Around" (p. 241) • 3–23 / snowflakes / "Once There Was a Snowman" (p. 249) • 3–25 / spring / "Popcorn Popping" (pp. 242–43) • 7–5 / Joseph Smith / "Latter-day Prophets" (p. 134) • 8–11 / resurrected Christ / "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (pp. 60–61) • 9–1 / birthday cake / "I Like My Birthdays" (p. 104) • 10–1 / Salt Lake Temple / "I Love to See the Temple" (p. 95).

Repeat the process, writing a new number on the board until all the songs have been sung. Have the children discuss other things they can thank Heavenly Father for in their prayers. Express gratitude for the blessings you have been given.

5. *Song presentation*: Help the children learn "Lord, I Would Follow Thee" (*Hymns*, no. 220) by teaching the phrases in reverse order. Discuss how the last phrase expresses our commitment to follow the Savior. It is so important that it is used to end each verse. Have the children listen as you sing it, and raise their hands when they think of something they can do to follow Him. Ask one of them to share a way to follow Jesus Christ, and invite that child to hold a picture of Him while everyone sings the last phrase.

Tell the children that the phrases leading up to the final phrase indicate ways they can follow the Lord. Sing the next to the last phrase, "Savior, may I learn to love thee," then have the children sing it with you. Have them sing these two phrases and raise their hands if they have thought of a way they can follow the Savior. Have another child share his answer and hold up the picture while everyone again sings the two last phrases. Repeat this procedure until you have all sung the entire hymn. Bear testimony of your love for the Savior and your desire to follow Him.

6. Additional *Friend* resources: "Eugene's Quiet Place," July 2002, 10–12; "Pray Always," July 2001, 2; Sharing Times—Sep. 2000, 10–12; Jan. 1999, 14–15, 5; Sep. 1998, 12–13, 26. Additional *Ensign* resources: "We Walk by Faith," May 2002, 72–74; "They Pray and They Go," May 2002, 49–51; "The Lifeline of Prayer," May 2002, 59–62.

The Shield of Faith

BY PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER

Acting President of the Quorum
of the Twelve Apostles

The Lord revealed why “he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets.” It is “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God” (Ephesians 4:11–13).

The ministry of the Apostles—the Presidency and the Twelve—therefore is to bring us to a unity of the faith.

As it has been since the beginning, the adversary [Satan] would divide us, break us up, and if he can, destroy us. But the Lord said, “Lift up your hearts and rejoice, and . . . take upon you my whole armor, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, . . . taking the *shield of faith* wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (D&C 27:15, 17; emphasis added). . . .

. . . That shield of faith is not produced in a factory but at home. . . .

The ultimate purpose of all we teach is to unite parents and children in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they are happy at home, sealed in an eternal marriage, linked

to their generations, and assured of exaltation in the presence of our Heavenly Father. . . .

The plan designed by the Father [is] that man and woman, husband and wife, working together, fit each child individually with a shield of faith made to buckle on so firmly that it can neither be pulled off nor penetrated by those fiery darts. . . .

In the Church we can teach about the materials from which a shield of faith is made: reverence, courage, chastity, repentance, forgiveness, compassion. In church we can learn how to assemble and fit them together. But the actual making of and fitting on of the shield of faith belongs in the family circle. ●

From an April 1995 general conference address.



Did you know that President Boyd K. Packer likes to paint and to make wood carvings? He teaches us about having faith in Jesus Christ.



From the Life of President John Taylor



Printing the Voice of the Church

Because of his public speaking and writing ability, John Taylor published and edited several newspapers and pamphlets for the Church. He was nicknamed “Champion of Liberty” for his boldness and logic in defending his faith.



Brother Taylor, I have a special assignment for you—to be editor of the *Times and Seasons*.



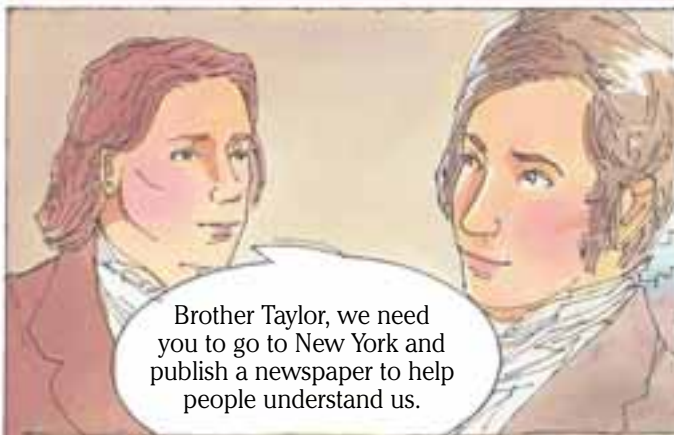
Now people can know the truth about the Church.



He was called by President Joseph Smith to edit and publish Nauvoo’s newspaper *Times and Seasons* and later the *Nauvoo Neighbor*. He went right to work.

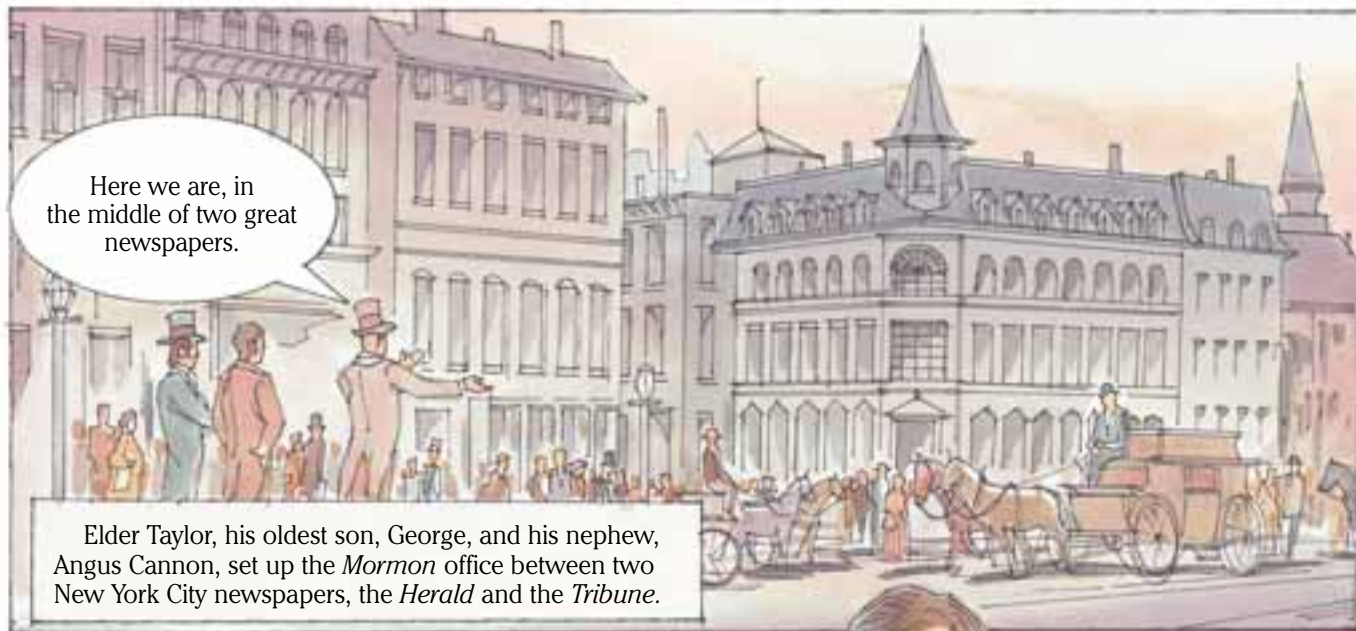
While he was a missionary in England, many preachers spoke against the Church and had their talks printed in newspapers and pamphlets. Elder Taylor wrote several tracts (religious pamphlets) to help people understand the truth of the Church.

Brother Taylor, we need you to go to New York and publish a newspaper to help people understand us.



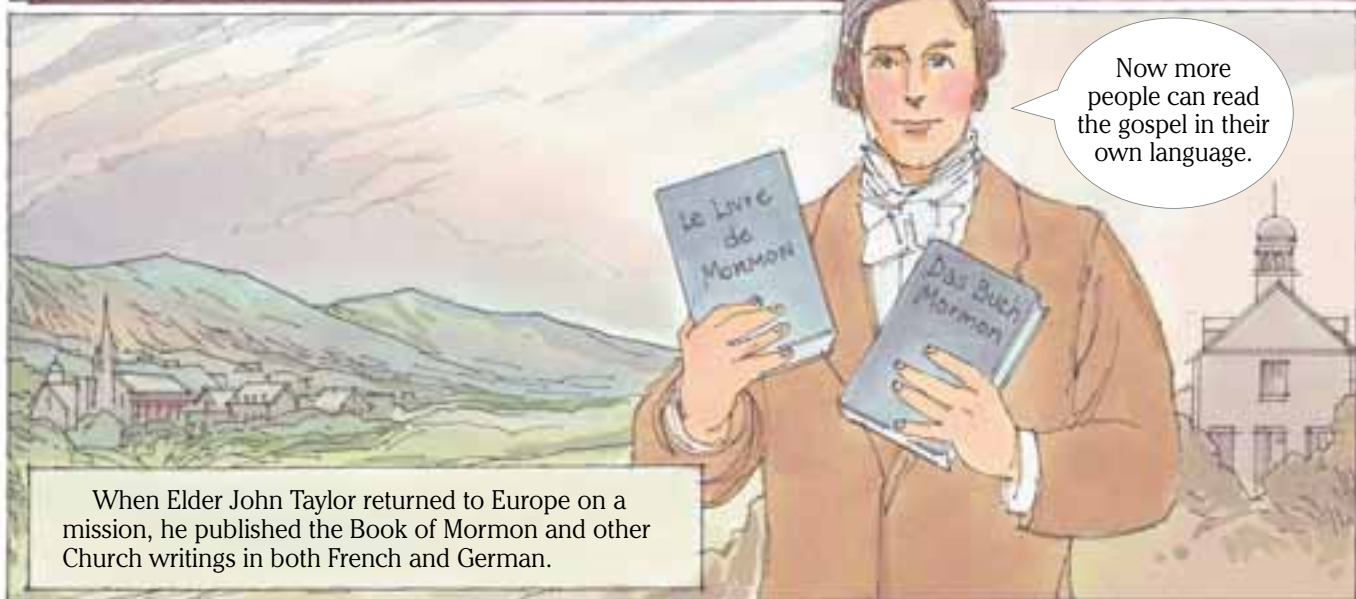
After Brigham Young had been called as President of the Church, John Taylor received a call to go to New York to organize and publish a newspaper. This newspaper, the *Mormon*, was to inform people about the Church.





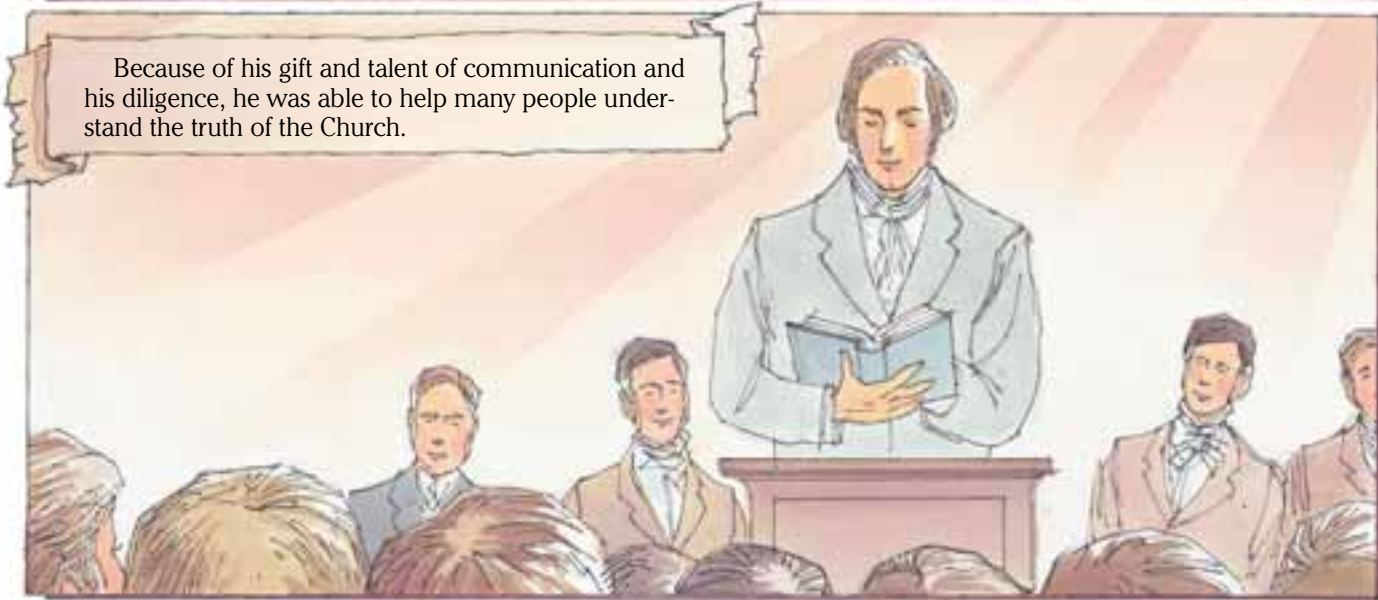
Here we are, in the middle of two great newspapers.

Elder Taylor, his oldest son, George, and his nephew, Angus Cannon, set up the *Mormon* office between two New York City newspapers, the *Herald* and the *Tribune*.



Now more people can read the gospel in their own language.

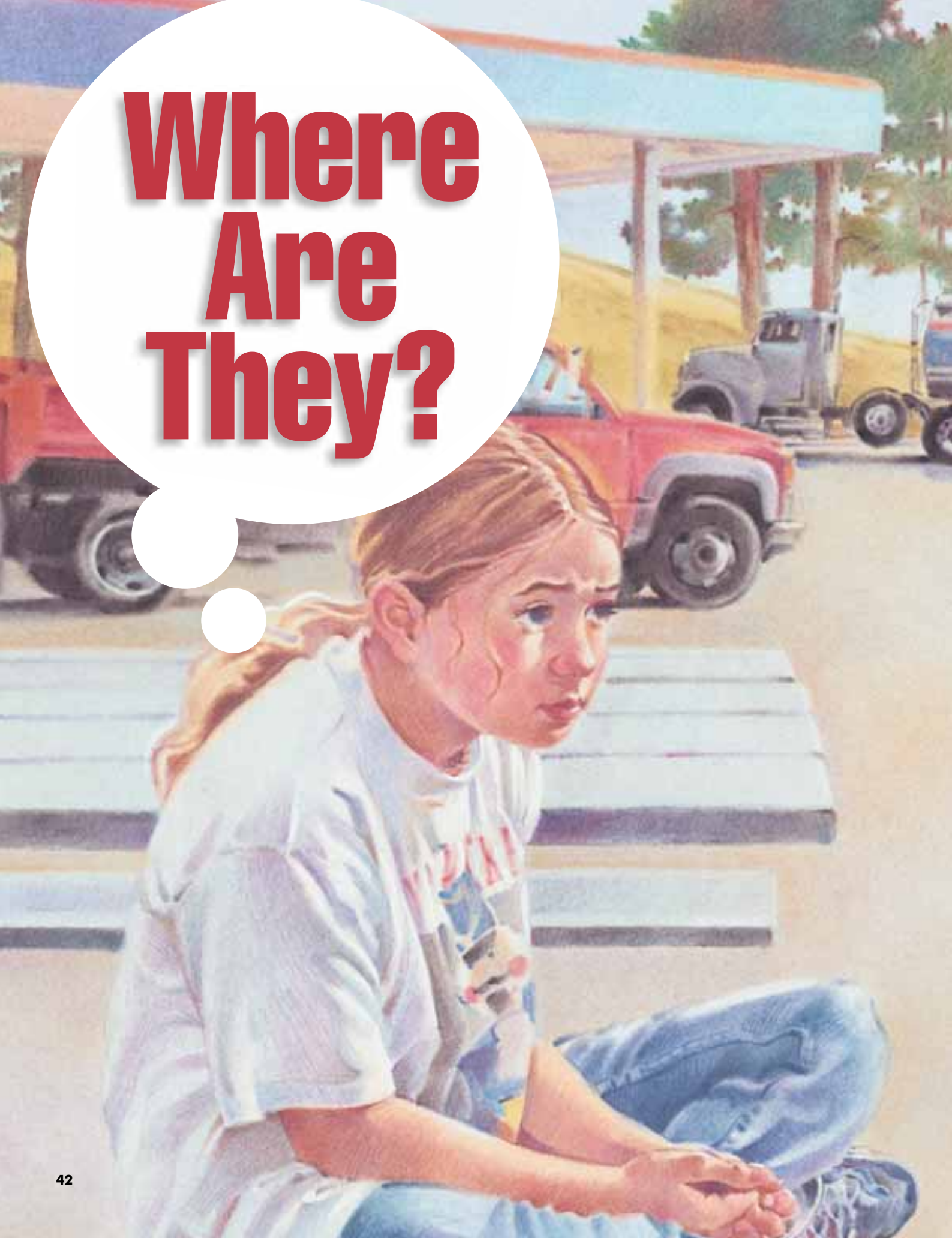
When Elder John Taylor returned to Europe on a mission, he published the Book of Mormon and other Church writings in both French and German.



Because of his gift and talent of communication and his diligence, he was able to help many people understand the truth of the Church.

(Ensign, August 1998, 54; March 1987, 41; February 1980, 54-55.)

Where Are They?



BY SARAH L. SORENSEN

(Based on a true story)

Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not
(D&C 6:36).

Eleven-year-old Christine hurried out of the gas station. She knew she needed to be fast—her family was waiting. She threaded her way through the aisles and out the doors. She stopped.

They were gone!

At the gas pump where her family's beige van had been was a small red sports car. Her stomach flipped. "Where are they?" she asked herself, trying not to panic.

She scanned all of the parking spaces. No van and no family. She walked around to the other side of the gas station to check the gasoline pumps there. Several 18-wheeler trucks were filling up with diesel fuel. "The van would be hard to miss," she thought. "A beige 15-passenger van pulling a trailer isn't going to just disappear."

She looked toward the highway. A green car followed by a blue minivan zoomed past. Other cars hurried on to their destinations. Still no sign of her family's van.

Only ten minutes before, Christine had jumped out of the van at the gas station. Dad had been filling it up with gas, her younger brothers had been trying to clean its almost-too-tall windows, and Mom had been coming back from taking three-year-old Mark to the rest room. Mom had told everyone that if they needed to use the rest room, they'd better do it now.

Her family was driving to Utah for a family reunion, and they had only started their two-day drive that morning. Christine knew that the next time they'd stop would be for lunch, so she had run inside to use the rest room.

She walked around the gas station once more, hoping to see them. Vehicles of all sizes were coming and going, but none of them looked like her family's van.

Feeling very alone, she walked to the back of the gas station and saw a covered deck and several picnic tables. She slowly climbed the steps to the deck and sat down. From here she could see all the highway traffic.

Fear crept into her heart as she watched people

coming and going. "I hope nothing is wrong with them," she thought. "I hope that they miss me soon."

A small rainstorm passed by. She moved to a different corner of the picnic area so that she wouldn't get wet.

She bowed her head and whispered, "Dear Heavenly Father, please bless my family to come back and get me. Please bless that they are OK. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

When Christine looked up, the rainstorm had cleared and the sun was out. Her fear and loneliness left, and she felt that her family would be back for her soon.

After walking around the gas station again to see if she had missed seeing them return, she went back to the deck, sat down, and waited. Remembering the feeling that she had felt after praying, she stopped fretting.

Soon, a beige 15-passenger van pulling a trailer came down the highway. God had answered her prayer.

She ran to the front of the gas station to meet her family. They pulled up, and she jumped into the van to the welcoming chorus of her brothers and sisters.

Mom turned sideways in the front seat to give her a hug. "I'm so glad you're OK. When we realized you had been left behind, we were so worried!"

"Well, I'm OK. I said a prayer that you would come back," Christine replied.

"I'm glad you remembered to pray," Mom said. "From now on we'll be more careful to not leave anyone behind."

Christine looked out the window as the gas station gradually disappeared. Silently she thanked Heavenly Father for bringing her family back to get her. ●



"There is no place for fear among men and women who place their trust in the Almighty. . . . In prayer we can find reassurance, for God will speak peace to the soul."

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994)
(*Ensign*, Feb. 1990, 5.)



Trying to Be Like Jesus

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



Better than an Amusement Park

By Christopher, Jessica, Brianne, and Amberly Jackson

Our family arrived in Orlando, Florida, late one Friday night. We were going to go to the big amusement park there. It has so many places to visit and rides to ride and things to do and see! But even though our passes included Sunday, we decided to keep the Sabbath Day holy and not use the passes that day. We didn't visit any of the other nearby theme parks, either. Instead, we decided to visit the temple. Our dad and mom looked it up on a map, and we searched until we found it. We were excited as we spotted it in the distance. The closer we got, the more beautiful it was. We felt good inside to be near a house of the Lord, and we felt an even greater warmth because we had followed the teachings of our Savior and His prophets by keeping the Sabbath Day holy. The blessings we receive by choosing the right are much better than any fun at an amusement park.

Brianne, Christopher, Amberly, and Jessica Jackson, ages 5, 9, 3, and 7, are members of Crystal Lake First Ward, Buffalo Grove Illinois Stake. They are pictured in front of the Orlando Florida Temple.

Fasting for Mom

By Jeremy Madsen



My mom was sick. If she was sick, she couldn't lead the choir. I fasted for her to help her feel better. Fasting means not eating food during the day. This was the first day I ever fasted in my life. I didn't know what it would feel like. I was hungry. It was really hard to

fast, but I didn't ask for food. I prayed for my mom, too. I wanted her to get better because I love her. After I fasted, my mom felt better. She was able to lead the choir. I think Heavenly Father hears my prayers, even when I whisper.

Jeremy Madsen, age 4, is a member of West Jordan Heritage 10th Ward, West Jordan Heritage Stake.

Caring for One Another

By Liz Linville



One day, Mom and I were looking for shoes that I could wear to church. We had looked in several stores, but I hadn't found any that I really wanted. As we turned to leave a store, I noticed an elderly woman with a cane. Pain showed on her face when

she bent over to try to get a pair of shoes from the bottom shelf.

I rushed over to her and smiled at her and asked if I could help. She stood up gratefully and smiled back at me. I got several pairs of shoes for her and waited patiently while she looked over each pair. When she was

finished, she thanked me sincerely for helping her.

I hadn't seen Mom come over to us, but the lady did. She asked Mom, "Is this your daughter?" She told Mom what I had done and expressed her gratitude. I felt warm and happy inside. Later, Mom told me that she could picture Jesus' eyes filling with compassion when He saw the elderly woman. She said that I was trying to be like Jesus.

Even though neither the elderly woman nor I found shoes in that store, I found out that caring for one another is much more important.

Liz Linville, age 10, is a member of Duncan Ward, Victoria British Columbia Stake.

Example for My Little Brother

By Tristan Nault



I really enjoy school and the time I get to spend with my friends. Sometimes I think it would be nice to have even more friends to play with.

I got an invitation to a friend's birthday party. The only bad thing about that was that it was on a Sunday. I told my friend that I go to church on that day. I decided to take him his birthday present on Monday.

I know that Heavenly Father wants me to spend the Sabbath Day with my family, doing activities that are going to help me know more about the gospel and that will teach me how to be a better example to my little brother.

I am trying to be like Jesus Christ.

Tristan Nault, age 7, is a member of the Devon-Leduc Branch, Edmonton Alberta Millwoods Stake.

Ben's Gift

BY HOWARD R. DRIGGS

(Based on a true story that took place in the 1840s in Nauvoo, Illinois)

Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:33).

Ben loved his father's wagon shop. It was a busy place, with the music of saws, planes, hammers, and chisels filling the air all day long.

"Don't get too close to the workers," his father often warned the curious boy. "And leave the sharp tools alone."

"But I want to make a wagon of my own, Daddy. Why can't I?"

This plea usually earned him some boards, a few tools, and a spot out of the way where he could hammer to his heart's content.

Then came a joyous day when his father promised to make him a wagon for his birthday. It would be exactly like the big ones—only smaller.

"Just think," he told his mother, "a real wagon—all my own! I can take baby brother for rides, and I can bring things for you from the store. Won't that be fine?"

Mother agreed that it would be. She was almost as happy as her little son.

On the morning of Ben's seventh birthday, he awoke to find his dream had come true. There in the living room was his beautiful new wagon, gleaming with a fresh coat of paint. Tears filled Mother's and Father's eyes as their happy son gave them a loving squeeze. Then out he went to run up

and down the street and show his friends the rare gift.

True to his promise, Ben took his baby brother for many rides. He also ran errands for his mother most willingly. Ben and his dog, Bones, became a familiar sight around the streets of Nauvoo. With his father's help, Ben rigged a harness and trained the clever animal to pull the wagon and his young master around the streets near home.

One of Ben's favorite errands was to start down Mulholland Street, turn past the lot where the great temple was being built, and go on to Parley P. Pratt's

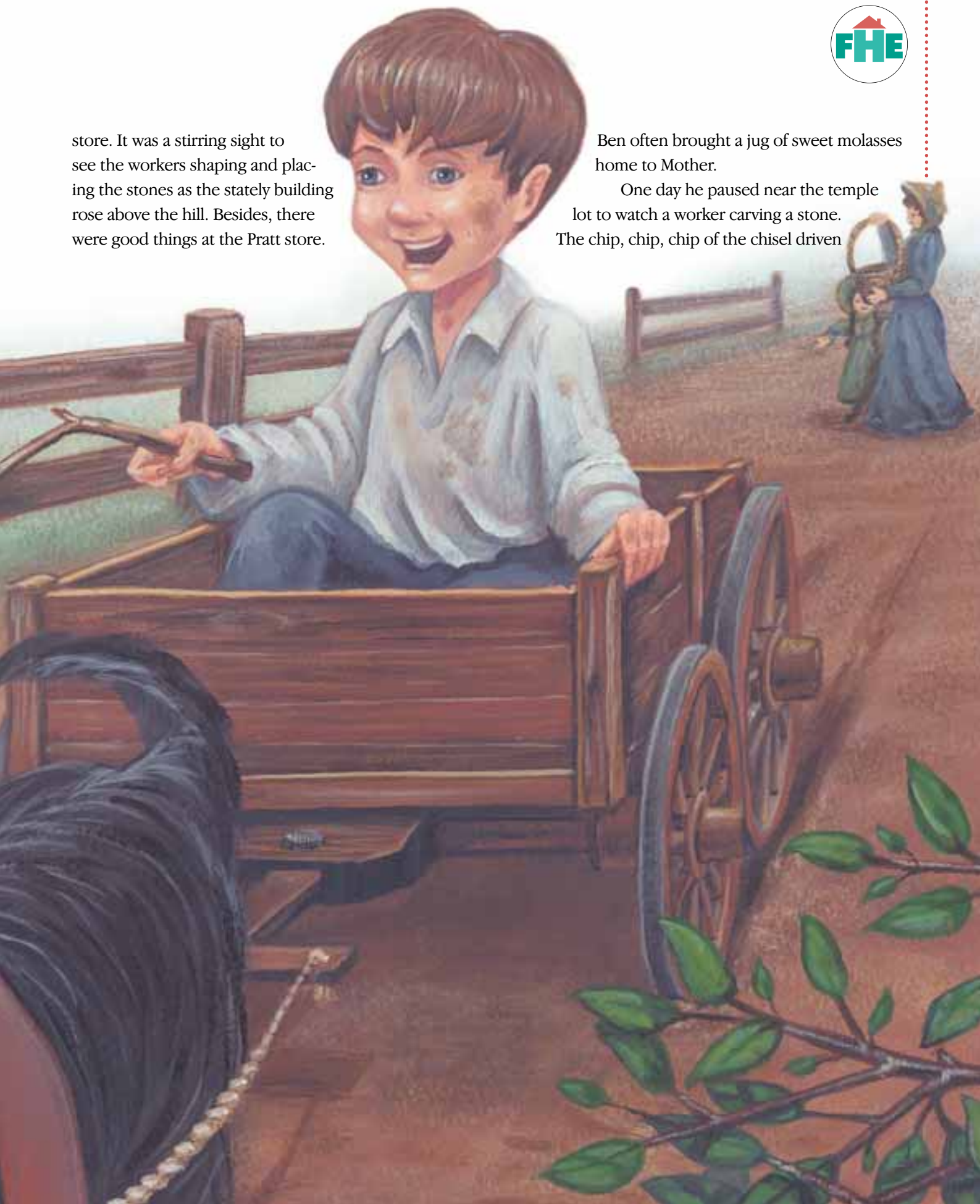




store. It was a stirring sight to see the workers shaping and placing the stones as the stately building rose above the hill. Besides, there were good things at the Pratt store.

Ben often brought a jug of sweet molasses home to Mother.

One day he paused near the temple lot to watch a worker carving a stone. The chip, chip, chip of the chisel driven



deftly into the stone was so captivating that Ben lost track of time. He did not notice that two workers had also paused to look intently at his little wagon.

“That wagon would be a mighty handy thing to haul our tools about in,” one of the men said. “Sonny, how would you like to let us have your wagon to help build the temple?”

“Oh, no, I couldn’t do that,” Ben replied.

The man looked at him closely. “Isn’t your father the boss of the big wagon shop?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Well, we’ll talk to him about it.”

Frightened at the thought of losing his precious wagon, Ben ran home with Bones at his heels. Arriving, he burst into tears. “Mother, you won’t let them take it away, will you?”

Mother looked up in alarm. “What are you talking about, Ben?”

“Some men at the temple asked me for my wagon to



his father finally came home, the same two men appeared at the door.

That night Ben and his parents had a heart-to-heart talk. “You see, Ben, everybody is giving something to help build the temple,” Father said. “I know how you feel about your wagon, and I’m not going to make you give it away. But just think about it. Ask Heavenly Father to help you decide what to do. It is the house of the Lord we are building.”

“I know you will do what is right,” Ben’s mother said. At bedtime she kissed his tearstained face, patted his ruffled hair, and left him to say his prayers alone.

The next morning, Ben pulled his wagon down Mulholland Street and over to the temple lot, followed by his faithful dog. Walking up to the man who seemed to be in charge, he said, “I’ve brought you my wagon to help the men building the temple.”

Looking into Ben’s face, the kind man replied with feeling, “God bless you, my boy. I know what this means to you. No one has made a greater sacrifice to help build the Nauvoo Temple.” He gripped Ben’s shoulder gently.

Ben walked slowly home with Bones by his side. He had done his part. ●

This story is adapted from *Ben the Wagon Boy*. Its author, Howard R. Driggs, is the son of Benjamin Woodbury Driggs, Ben in the story.



“Two companion qualities evident in the lives of our pioneers, early and modern, are unselfishness and sacrifice.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
From an October 1997 general conference address.

haul their tools in. When I said I couldn’t give it to them, they said, ‘We’ll see your father.’ ”

“Perhaps they were just joking. Come now, you are late for dinner. You’ll feel better after you eat something.”

But he was too worried to eat much. And just after

Guide to the Friend



The *Guide to the Friend* can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned in the *Family Home Evening Ideas*. The Primary theme for July is "I'll follow Him in faith."



Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Have each family member think of examples from the scriptures of prophets praying (for example, Enos praying for forgiveness, the brother of Jared praying for light in the barges). How did the Lord answer their prayers? Then read President James E. Faust's "The Lifeline of Prayer" (pages 2–3). Discuss great and small ways the Lord answers each of our prayers.

2. Read President Boyd K. Packer's "The Shield of Faith" (page 39). He says that making a shield of faith happens "in the family circle." Have one member of the family draw the shape of a shield on a piece of paper, then cut it into pieces for each family member. On the pieces of paper, have each person write his or her testimony or draw a picture of an experience, such as prayer, that strengthened his or her testimony. Tape the pieces back together to form a shield again. Discuss how each family member's faith can strengthen the faith of the other family members. Finish by completing the crossword puzzle



See page 39.

"Bible People with Great Faith" (page 23).

3. After reading "Summer Serenade" (pages 30–33), discuss times others helped you when you were in need. Choose a member or a family in your ward you would like to visit, and go "serenading" —bake a treat and deliver it with a song.

4. Read about the experiences of the children in "Trying to Be Like Jesus" (pages 44–45). Discuss how remembering the examples of these children can help you make good choices. Then create your family's own "Trying to Be Like Jesus" section by writing about or drawing a picture of something Christlike you saw a family member do during the past week.

5. List some of your favorite possessions. Then imagine how you would feel if you were prompted to give them away. Read "Ben's Gift" (pages 46–48) and discuss Elder Dallin H. Oaks's statement. To help you remember the unselfishness of the pioneers, complete the "Pioneer Children Woven Picture" (pages 20–21) and display it.



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The Friend

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*See the pioneer children;
there's still time for play.
Often singing and dancing,
merry and happy were they,
Walking along, moving
along, on their way.
(Children's Songbook,
216-17.)*

