

the Friend

JUNE • 2006



Friends by Mail

The Best Letter



The *Friend* is the best “letter” ever! I look forward to getting it every month. I like to read the stories and do the activities. Since my sister Kelly is married, my sister Krissy and my brother Jacob are at BYU, my sister

Kaari is either busy at work or at school, and my sister Courtney passed away in 2001, I enjoy reading the *Friend* quietly to myself. I am so glad that I get the *Friend*!

Caitlin B., age 10
California

A Peacemaker’s Prayer



My big sister and I were playing outside and we weren’t getting along. We argued, and I felt bad inside. I went into my house and prayed that I would feel better and not be mad at my sister. After my prayer I felt much

better. Soon my sister came into the house and asked me what was wrong. I told her that I was OK, and we started to play again. This time we didn’t argue.

Emma V., age 7, with help from her parents
Texas

Singing in a Snowstorm

One night my dad and I were driving home from a basketball game when it started to snow really hard. My dad was scared, and I started to sing “I Am a Child of God” and other Primary songs. My dad started to sing



along with me, and he wasn’t scared anymore.

I love to sing songs and I am thankful for the Spirit they bring into our home.

Kyle J., age 5,
with help from his parents
Utah

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

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Cover photo by Ruth Schönwald

the **friend**

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HIDDEN CTR RING

As you look for the CTR ring hidden in this issue, think of blessings you receive for keeping the commandments.





Thankful for Missionary Work

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

The boat on which I traveled to England docked at Plymouth the night of July 1, 1933. The three of us missionaries aboard took the boat train to London, arriving late at night. The next day I was assigned to go to Preston, Lancashire. After what seemed like a long, lonely train ride, I met my companion at the station, and he took me to our “digs,” a short distance from Vauxhall Chapel where the first LDS missionary sermon had been preached in 1837.

My companion then announced that we would go into town and hold a street meeting. I was terrified. We sang a hymn and offered prayer. Then he called on me to speak. A crowd gathered. They looked menacing to me. The world was then in the bottom of the Depression, and Lancashire had been particularly hard-hit. The people were poor. They wore wooden clogs on their feet. Their dress reflected the hard times in which they lived. They were difficult to understand; I was a westerner from the United States, and they spoke with a Lancashire dialect.

Those first few weeks I was discouraged. I wrote a letter home to my good father and said that I felt I was wasting my time and his money. He wrote a very short



When President Hinckley was a young man, he served a full-time mission to the British Isles. He tells us some of his experiences.

letter to me which said: “Dear Gordon, I have your recent letter. I have only one suggestion: forget yourself and go to work.” Earlier that morning my companion and I had read these words of the Lord: “Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it” (Mark 8:35).

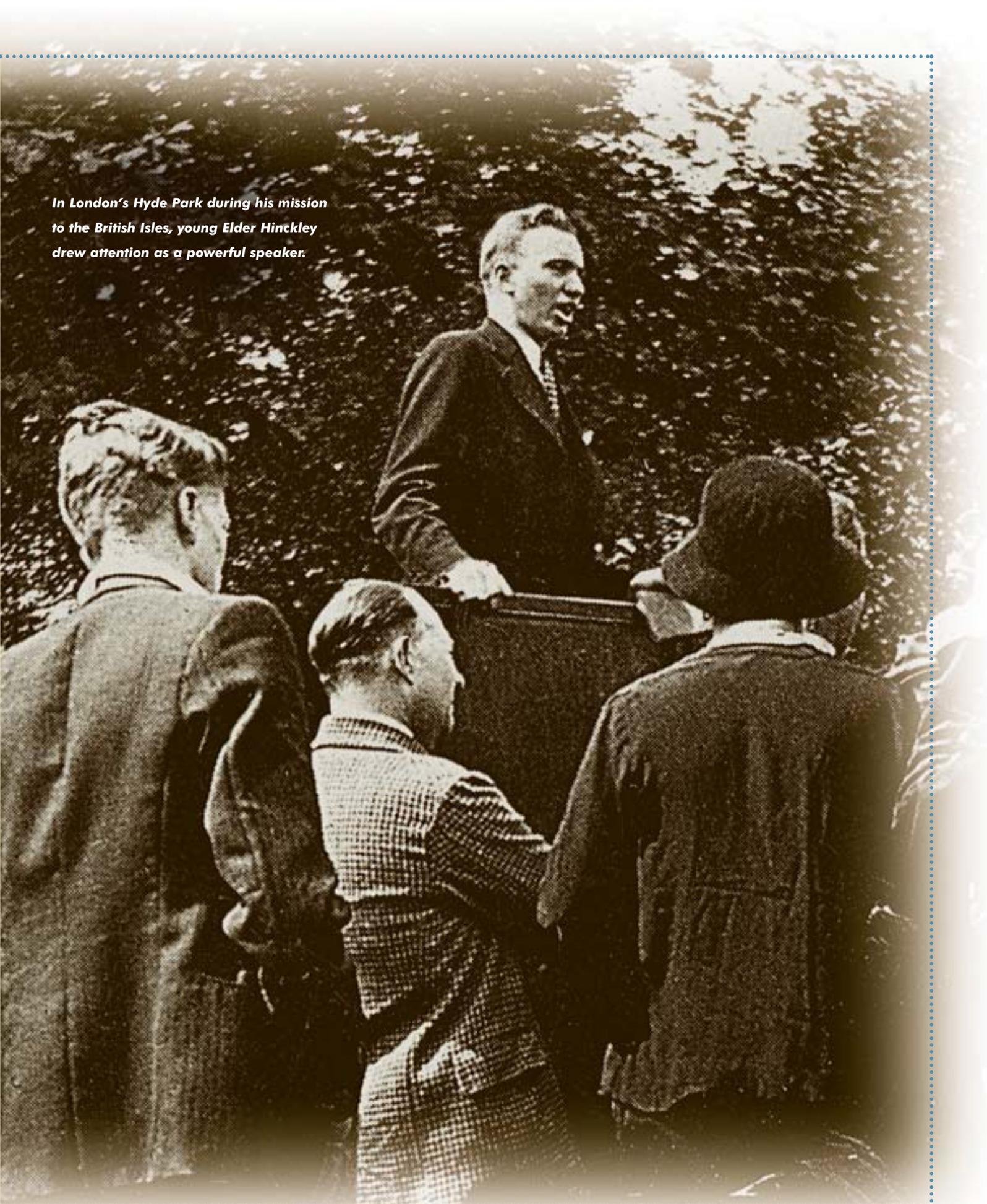
Those words of the Master, followed by my father’s letter, went into my very being. I went into our bedroom and got on my knees and made a pledge to the Lord. I covenanted that I would try to forget myself and lose myself in His service.

That July day in 1933 was my day of decision. A new light came into my life and a new joy into my heart. The fog of England seemed to lift, and I saw the sunlight. I had a rich and wonderful mission experience, for which I shall ever be grateful.

God be thanked for the glorious gospel of His Beloved Son, restored to earth. May we remember that each of us has the privilege and opportunity to make our own declaration of faith, courage, and truth that will help bring to fulfillment the God-given mandate [command] to take the gospel to the world. ●

From “Taking the Gospel to Britain: A Declaration of Vision, Faith, Courage, and Truth,” Ensign, July 1987, 2–7, and “Missionary Journal,” Ensign, July 1987, 8–11.

In London's Hyde Park during his mission to the British Isles, young Elder Hinckley drew attention as a powerful speaker.





What Jesus Sees

BY ALISON PALMER

(Based on a true story)

Jesus walked away from none. He gave his love to ev'ryone (Children's Songbook, 140–41).

Amanda was quiet on the way home from church. When Mom asked her if something was wrong, Amanda started crying and tried to say, “I don’t want to go to church anymore!” Her words came out all wrong, but Mother understood.

Amanda couldn’t hear very well, so the sounds she made when she talked weren’t always correct. Most of the time it didn’t bother her.

But today had been different; her feelings had been hurt. Even now, she could feel the embarrassment making her cheeks red and her ears ring. There was no way around it—she couldn’t go back to church again.

At home, Amanda told Mom what had happened. She had been asked to say the closing prayer in sharing time. She had gotten nervous. She’d spoken too fast and said “Zesus” instead of “Jesus.” As soon as she said it, Amanda knew it had come out wrong; but worse, everyone else seemed to notice too. Many of the children laughed. Some even teased her afterward and called her a baby. They said they’d never heard of “Zesus” before.

“It’s not fair!” Amanda shouted. “They were mean, and I don’t want to go back.”





“It’s tough being different, isn’t it?” Mom asked as she held Amanda close.

“I’m not just different. They said I’m stupid!”

“Let me ask you something, Amanda: Do you love Jesus?”

Amanda nodded yes.

“Do you believe that our church is His true Church?”

Again, Amanda nodded.

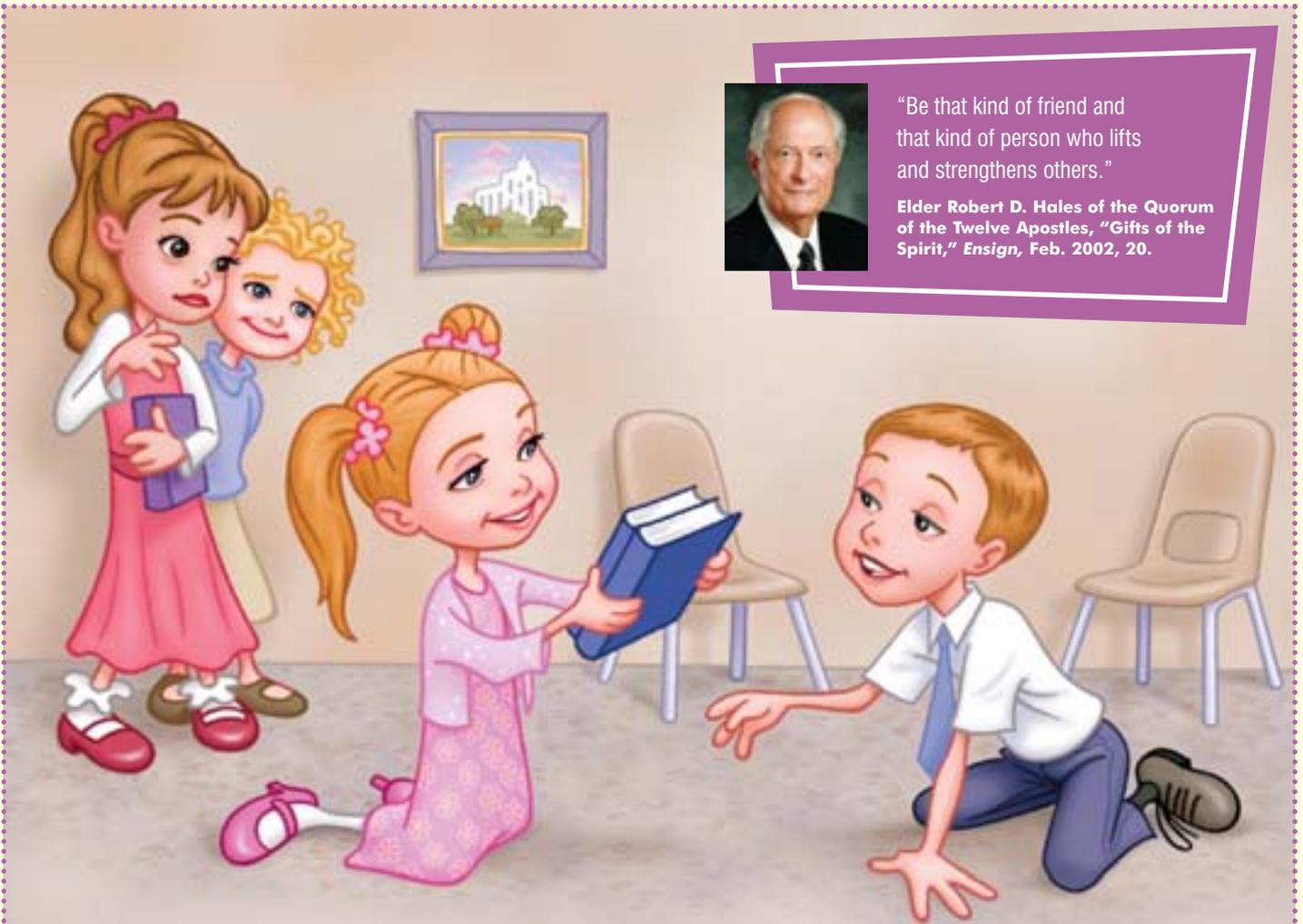
“Do you think Jesus loves you and is happy when you go to His Church?”

Now Amanda wasn’t so sure. “How can it make Jesus happy for me to be laughed at when I go to church?” she asked.

“Jesus doesn’t want you to be unhappy at church, but when you go you learn more about how much He loves you,” Mom said. “You learn how He sees you. Then, you can learn how He sees others.”

Amanda thought about what her mother had said. After she prayed that night, she remembered part of





“Be that kind of friend and that kind of person who lifts and strengthens others.”

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Gifts of the Spirit,” *Ensign*, Feb. 2002, 20.

a verse from 1 Samuel that her dad had taught her: “The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”*

Amanda knew that Jesus didn’t care about things that seemed different to other people. He walked and talked with people whom others teased and didn’t like. Sometimes even His Apostles didn’t understand, but Jesus taught how to love everyone. He was even nice to people who weren’t nice to Him.

“Is Mom right?” Amanda wondered. “Can I learn to see others the way Jesus sees them?”

All week Amanda practiced remembering how special she was to Jesus and Heavenly Father. She looked for people around her who seemed to have a problem. Instead of thinking about the problem, she tried to think of Jesus and what He would see in that person.

Sometimes it was easy. Other times Amanda couldn’t see much, but when she really tried, she got a warm

feeling inside that told her Jesus loved each person. Every time she got that warm feeling she remembered she was loved too.

On Sunday, Amanda went to church with her family. When she saw the children who teased her, she still felt a little angry and hurt. She wasn’t sure if she could find anything that caused them problems, but she wanted to try. As Amanda watched, one boy accidentally tripped and dropped his books. Amanda wanted to join in the laughter of the other children, but suddenly the warm feeling came again. She knew that Jesus loved him and she could too. Amanda handed the boy his scriptures and smiled at him. It was a wonderful feeling.

After church Amanda was quiet again. This time when Mom asked what was wrong, Amanda said, “I was just thinking how good it feels to try to see what Jesus sees.” ●

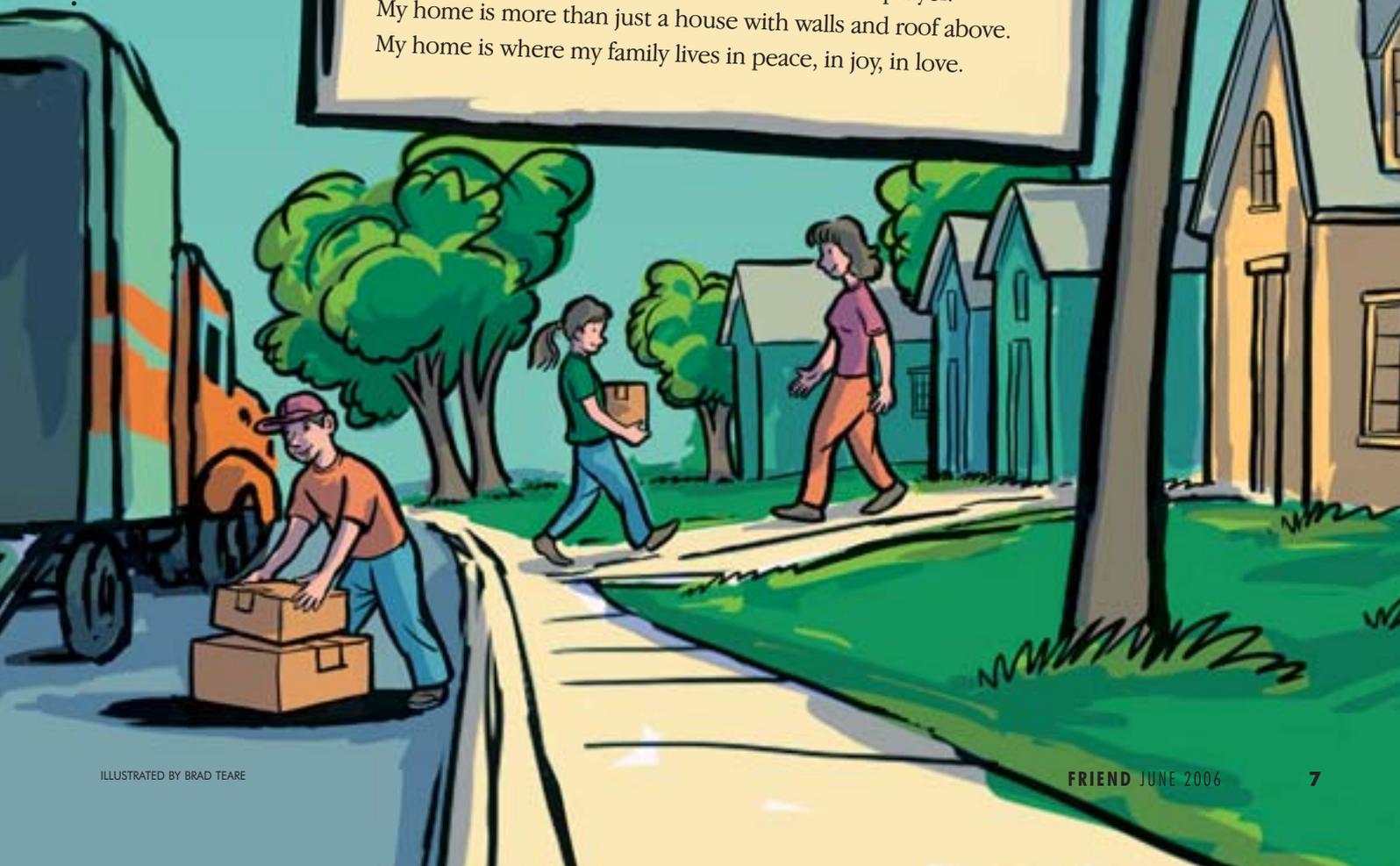
*1 Samuel 16:7.



My Home

BY JANE LAMB

My home is not the wood. My home is not the brick.
My home's a loving mother who soothes me when I'm sick.
My home is not the garden, or the place we park the car.
My home's a gentle father who loves us as we are.
My home is not the windows. My home is not the doors.
My home is my big brother who helps me with the chores.
My home is not the chimney or the smoke that billows there.
My home is all my family as we bow our heads in prayer.
My home is more than just a house with walls and roof above.
My home is where my family lives in peace, in joy, in love.



MY BROTHER GARY

And be ye kind one to another
(Ephesians 4:32).

My older brother Gary is a cowboy at heart. Even as a child, he enjoyed rodeos and western movies and always had a horse, which he could saddle and bridle and ride. We lived on a dairy farm near Huntsville, Utah, and Gary did chores alongside the rest of us. Each morning he got up early and fed the cows while I did the milking. He helped with the backbreaking work of haying, and the sweaty, itchy work of threshing. We had a little tractor he learned to drive, and he used it to take hay to the cows. He loved animals and just naturally understood their



**From an interview
with Elder Marlin K.
Jensen of the Quorum
of the Seventy; by
Melvin Leavitt**

needs. We worked hard and ate well and slept soundly.

We had a lot of fun together too. We raced horses and played cowboys. We went swimming in the nearby river and reservoir. Sometimes we rode our horses up into the canyon and camped out. Gary loved his family and the delicious food our mother cooked. He especially enjoyed going to church. After he grew up, he always took his lesson manual, though he couldn't read very well. He finds great joy in the simple things of life—animals, nature, close relatives, and close friends.

My brother Gary is a special person. When he was born, his brain was damaged



by a lack of oxygen, and his mind never grew above the level of a six- or seven-year-old. For over 60 years I watched my parents take care of Gary—helping him brush his teeth, comb his hair, and tie his tie on Sunday. They took him to rodeos and western movies and performed countless acts of love and kindness.

Unfortunately, people aren't always so nice to those who are different. I'm sorry to say that some children were unkind to Gary. They shut him out of their games, called him ugly names, and teased him unmercifully. One time when he was eating an ice-cream cone, another child guided him over to a dog and let it lick the ice cream. Everyone laughed when Gary went back to licking the cone himself.

Gary was a childlike person who turned the other cheek and was quick to forgive. He loved and accepted everybody. I think that aside from my parents, this special brother did more during my childhood to shape my outlook on life than anyone else. I grew up knowing that we should love those who are different and help them reach their potential. Because of Gary, I feel no prejudice toward anyone. I learned that I must not judge people, that I should assume that they are doing

the best they know how, and that if they are going to do any better it will be because we understand and help them. I can't even judge those who tormented him. They just didn't understand.

We are all God's children, but we are all very different. We come with different talents and abilities. Heavenly Father expects us to make allowances for each other and to be kind. In Primary we sing, "If you don't walk as most people do, some people walk away from you, but I won't!"*

If you meet someone who is obviously different, please treat him or her as you'd like to be treated yourself. It hurts to be excluded just because your skin isn't a certain color or you don't play ball well, or you don't wear the right kind of clothes or comb your hair a certain way—or whatever. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love everyone, so let's do the same and be nice to each other. That's what I learned from my brother Gary. ●

**Children's Songbook, 140–41.*

Elder Jensen's older brother Gary worked hard on the family farm driving feed to the animals, tending his younger brother (Elder Jensen), haying, and caring for his horse.



Gary at age 10

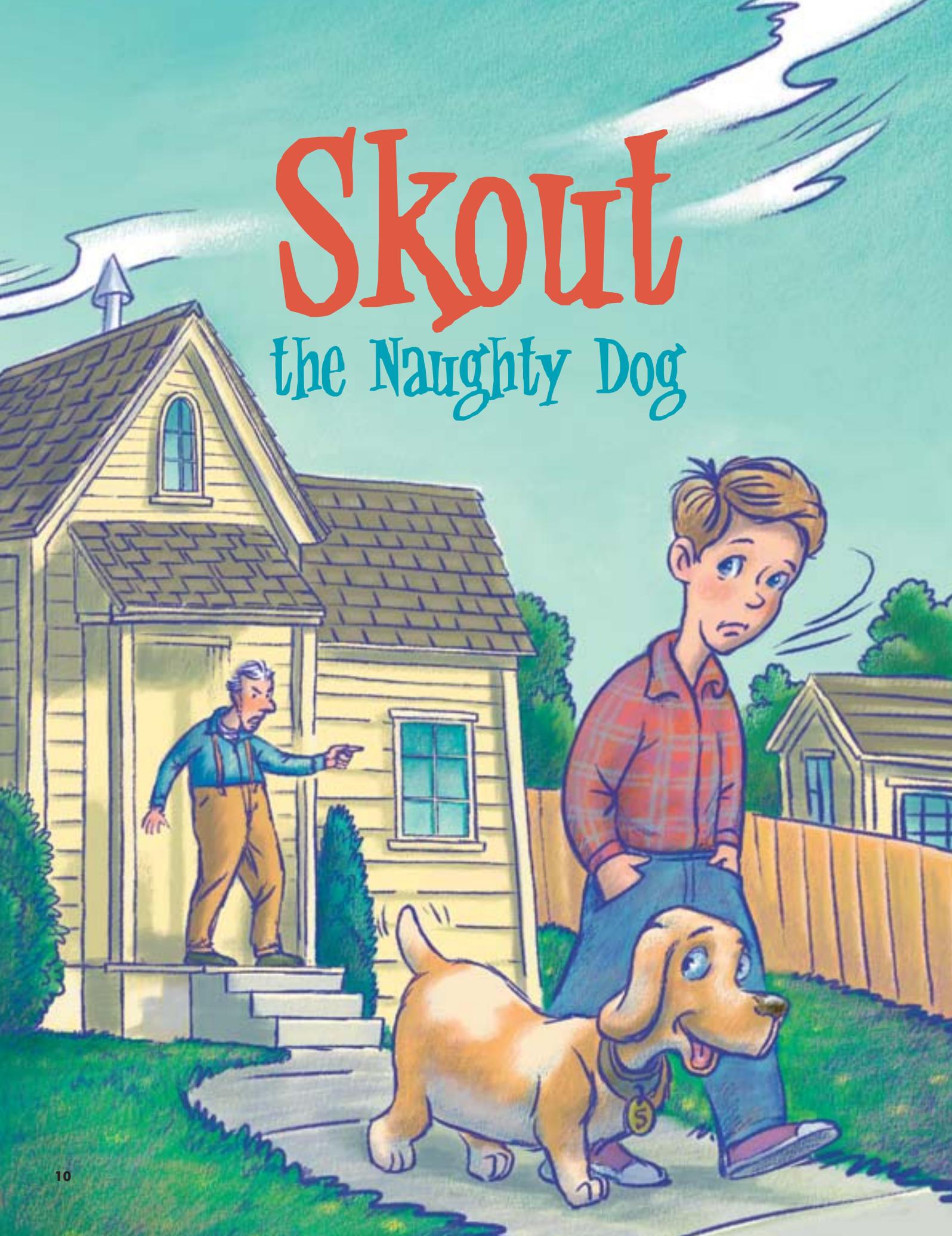


The Jensen family



Skout

the Naughty Dog





BY HEIDI RENOUF BRISCO

(Based on a true story)

He may be trusted because of the integrity of his heart
(D&C 124:20).

Ever since he was little, Jack had wanted a dog. Mom and Dad surprised him with a little tan puppy with big brown eyes and white paws. Jack named his new dog Skout, and soon they became great friends.

Jack worked very hard to take care of Skout and teach him how to be a good dog, but Skout was only a puppy and often made mistakes. One time he chewed up Grandpa's umbrella, and another time he ate the pepperoni pizza and drank the pink soda at a family party.

Skout lived in the backyard behind a locked fence. Soon he learned how to dig a hole under the gate and crawl out onto the street. Every night Jack tried to patch up the spot where Skout escaped, and every night Skout found a new way to get out of the backyard.

One day Jack's mother received a phone call. "Hello, Mrs. Reynolds, this is Mr. Hoolihan, your neighbor. I'm calling because your dog has been getting into my yard every night. He has ruined my new flowers and

destroyed my garden! If that dog comes in my yard again, I'm calling the dogcatcher to take that naughty dog to the pound."

"I am so sorry, Mr. Hoolihan," Jack's mother said. "We'll make sure that this does not happen again."

"It better not, or you can say good-bye to that naughty dog!" Mr. Hoolihan yelled.

The whole family felt terrible. After dinner, Jack and his father gathered some large rocks and bricks and stacked them near the gate to make sure Skout could not dig a hole under it or push it open. Everyone was so worried about Skout that they hardly slept.

The next morning before school, Jack ran into the backyard to check on his dog. He was almost scared to look, but there was Skout happily wagging his tail behind the gate. Jack sighed with relief. "Hi, boy!"

But just as Jack was filling Skout's food bowl, he noticed something—a large chewed-up shoe. Jack had seen this shoe somewhere before, but it was too big to be Dad's. Then Jack remembered—every night after working in his garden, Mr. Hoolihan left his muddy shoes on his front porch. If this was Mr. Hoolihan's



shoe, Skout must have been out again last night.

Jack ran to the front yard and looked across to Mr. Hoolihan's front porch. Sure enough, one shoe was missing. Only Jack knew where the matching shoe was.

Jack was worried. If he told the truth, Mr. Hoolihan would be angry and Skout would be sent away. Jack quickly hid the shoe behind a bush and went inside.

"I knew those rocks would work!" Dad said.

"I am so glad that Skout was a good dog last night," Mom said.

Jack dragged his heavy feet upstairs into his room. He sat on his bed and thought about what to do. Jack knew that telling lies was bad, but this seemed different. Maybe Mr. Hoolihan would think that somebody else

stole the shoe. Maybe no one would ask Jack about it, and then he wouldn't exactly be lying.

He looked around his room for an idea of what to do. He saw his scriptures on his bookshelf, and he saw a photograph of his family on the dresser. He saw his Sunday clothes hanging in his closet, and he saw a picture of the Savior hanging on the wall. The song "I Am a Child of God"* came into his head and he began to hum the tune. Jack's frown melted away. He knew what he had to do—he had to be honest.

Jack explained the truth to his parents, grabbed the shoe from behind the bush, and walked over to Mr. Hoolihan's house. Jack nervously rang the doorbell. Mr. Hoolihan answered the door in his pajamas with an angry look on his face.

"Mr. Hoolihan, I am very sorry, but my dog, Skout, was out again last night. He chewed up your shoe and brought it into our yard." Jack held up the mangled shoe. "I will work to pay for some new shoes for you."

Mr. Hoolihan grabbed the shoe, mumbled something about calling the dogcatcher, and slammed the door. Jack walked home with a few tears in his eyes. He went to the backyard and gave Skout a hug.

After Jack went inside, the doorbell rang. Mr. Hoolihan stood on the porch, dressed and with a little bit of a smile on his face. "Jack, I'm glad that you came and told me the truth. I owe you an apology for reacting so rudely. You can wash my car every Saturday for one month to pay me back for the shoes. And to pay you back for my bad manners, I would like to help you fix your fence so Skout will be safe in your backyard." Jack could hardly speak; all he could do was smile. ●

**Children's Songbook, 2–3.*



"We cannot be less than honest, we cannot be less than true . . . if we are to keep sacred the trust given us."

President Gordon B. Hinckley, "We Believe in Being Honest," *Ensign*, Oct. 1990, 5.

GUESS WHO



1 His birthday is December 3. He grew up in St. George, Utah.

2 He was very obedient growing up. One evening he ran all the way across town to make his 10:00 p.m. curfew.

3 His dream of teaching came true when he was hired as an institute teacher. Because of his friendly manner and powerful testimony, he was often invited to speak at firesides with his wife, Pat.

4 As a young man he played football, basketball, baseball, and ran track. After his mission, he helped his college basketball team win its conference championship.

5 He described his experience serving in the British Mission as “the major spiritual turning point of my life—the beginning of my beginnings.”

6 He is ninth in seniority in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

7 From 2002 to 2004, he served as Area President in Chile, while Elder Dallin H. Oaks served as the Philippines Area

President. It was the first time in decades that members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles lived and presided outside the United States.

8 His three children’s happiest memories from childhood come from the dinner table. They enjoyed talking, laughing, and learning together every night as a family.

9 He served as president of Brigham Young University after Elder Dallin H. Oaks, who is also a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles now.

Read the clues about this member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Then find the answer on page 23. The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are prophets, seers, and revelators and stand as special witnesses of Jesus Christ. They have the responsibility to testify of Him to the whole world.

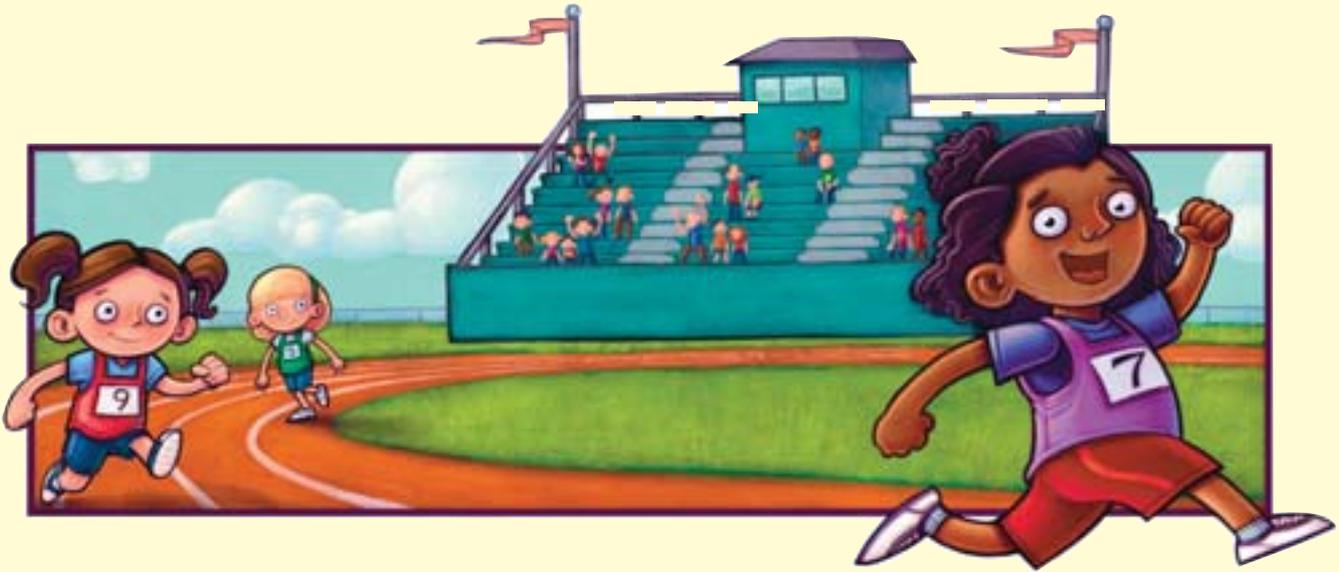
Words of Wisdom:

“I bear personal witness . . . of a personal, living God, who knows our names, hears and answers prayers, and cherishes us eternally as children of His spirit” (“The Grandeur of God,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 72).



Trying to Be Like Jesus

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



The Real Winner

By Nancy H., Kimberly's mother

Being adopted means having a family that loves you," says nine-year-old Kimberly who was adopted and sealed to our family five years ago. Often adoptive parents think they will teach and guide the adopted child, but in our family Kimberly is the one who often does the teaching.

Kim recently entered two events in a track-and-field competition. She had never raced before but wanted to give it a try. She positioned herself on the track to compete with the 20 or so other girls her age in the 100-meter race. A shot rang out to begin the race and, with hundreds of spectators looking on, Kim started running. I was waiting near the finish line with camera poised to capture her coming down the lane, when I realized that she was in last place. I expected to see a disappointed little girl, but Kim had a



huge smile on her face! When I retrieved her from the group of girls, she blurted out, "Mom, that was so much fun! When's my next race?" She then rushed off to sit with her new friends.

Feeling shocked, but extremely proud of my daughter's positive attitude, I took my place once again at the finish line to see her race in the 50-meter dash. The starter's gun fired again, and I caught sight of Kim's beaming smile as she ran with all her might toward me. As I watched my beautiful daughter cross the finish line, parents around me were jumping up and down, congratulating their own daughters. I stood calmly as a warm, peaceful feeling of gratitude filled my heart. Only I knew how far Kim had come in the years since she came to our

home. She was once a frail, malnourished, and withdrawn child, and now her strength and confidence couldn't be contained. She cried out, "I came in third, Mom!"

I gently replied, "No, Kimmie, you didn't come in third. The winners are over there receiving their awards."

"I meant I came in third to last, and I want to race again!" I hugged her tightly, and we both giggled out loud as we walked off the dusty track. I knew that Kim was the real winner and had been blessed with gifts and talents far greater than speed and agility. How blessed I felt at that moment to be her mother. I can only hope that I will face my challenges and trials in life with a smile on my face and the same positive outlook that Kim showed me that day. I thank Heavenly Father for bringing us together and pray that I can continue to learn from her example.

Kimberly H., age 9, Arizona

I Will Be Honest*

By Matthew B.



During school recess I saw something shiny lying in the gravel and stopped to see what it was. It was a Kennedy half-dollar! I was so excited! I thought of keeping it, but instead I took it to the teacher on duty. She told me to take it to the office, so I gave the coin to our school secretary. She said, “Wow, Matthew!

Thanks for being so honest!” That made me feel really good! She also said that if no one claimed the coin, I could have it back.

I didn’t hear anything else about it until the end of the year. During the last week of school I found out that I had earned a good citizenship award and a prize for turning in the coin. I felt good inside because I had been honest. I also enjoyed the prize, which was a candy bar!

Matthew B., age 7, Kansas

*See My Gospel Standards, *Faith in God* guidebook, back cover.



Standing As a Witness

By Rebecca D.



In my grade school studies we were learning about England. We had presentations about English traditions and culture, so my teacher decided we should have an English tea party. I was the only member of the Church in my class. The teacher said we were going to have real tea. I had a pit in my stomach because the Word of Wisdom has taught me not to drink “hot drinks” interpreted as tea and coffee (see D&C 89:9). When it was time for the tea party, my teacher laid out small cups of tea for each student and asked us to “at least taste a little.” I knew I couldn’t drink the tea. Despite the pressure I felt, I asked the teacher if I could have water instead. I am glad that I followed the Holy Ghost’s reminder to me to stand as a witness of God “at all times and in all things, and in all places” (see Mosiah 18:9), even though it was hard.

*Rebecca D., age 10
North Carolina*

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





The Butter Dish

BY PATRICIA R. JONES

(Based on a true story)

Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee (Genesis 28:22).

Here comes the rest of the family," Athena called to her mother. "They're just in time for your birthday dinner!"

"Please put a vase of flowers on the table and set out the butter dish," Mother said. When Athena set the beautiful etched-glass dish on the kitchen table, the sun's rays shone through it, splashing rainbows across the walls. Mother ran a finger gently over the delicate glass design. Closing her eyes, she relived again the story she had heard so many times.

Twelve-year-old Louisa Bishop gently rocked her baby sister, Emma, in the old, hand-carved rocker. Their mother lay in bed, her face almost as pale as the white pillows. A deadly illness called diphtheria had struck the children of the family, killing three of Louisa's five siblings. Exhausted from overwork and grief, Louisa's mother also became sick. Just when it seemed that happiness would never shine on their world again, little Emma had been born. Louisa, now recovered,

Happy
Birthday

lovingly cared for her baby sister so their mother could rest and get well. Emma adored her big sister in return.

As the years passed, Emma and Louisa became closer and closer friends. By the time Emma was 11 years old, Louisa had married, and her husband had left to serve a mission in England. Emma was delighted to go to Louisa's cabin each day to help out.

One day Emma paused in her sweeping and watched quietly as Louisa emptied the butter out of her sparkling glass butter dish and into a jar. "I hope she isn't doing what I'm afraid she's doing," Emma thought.

Louisa stepped to the washbasin and poured in some clean water from the pitcher. Then she carefully washed the butter dish and laid it on a dish towel to dry. Turning to Emma, she handed her the jar of butter. "Now, Emma dear, I need you to take this to the bishop and pay my tithing."

Emma folded her arms and shook her head. "I won't do it!" she exclaimed. "You need that butter more than the bishop does."

Louisa's mouth drew into a stern line, but her eyes twinkled with amusement. "Emma," she softly scolded, "tithing is a law that must be kept. If I am willing to do a

big thing like letting my husband serve a mission so far away, then surely I can do a small thing like giving up some butter."

Emma wasn't convinced. "But it's a big thing when you have so little."

"Don't worry," Louisa told her with a smile. "I have faith that the Lord will provide."

Emma looked closely and saw that her sister's eyes were glistening with tears.

Louisa truly believed what she was saying!

Emma took the jar of butter and walked out the door without another word, though she still had doubts.

When she returned to Louisa's cabin, Emma



"Always pay your tithing and leave the outcome in the hands of the Lord."

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Earthly Debts, Heavenly Debts," *Ensign*, May 2004, 41.

stopped in the doorway and stared, her mouth wide open. The butter dish was back on the table, and inside was a pound of butter! Emma's eyes asked the question her lips could not—where had the butter come from?

Louisa smiled. "I told you the Lord would provide," she said. She took a clean dish from the cupboard and placed the butter in it. Then she stepped again to the washbasin and filled the bowl with clean water. She washed out the beautiful glass butter dish and lid. But instead of setting them on a dish towel to drip dry, she dried them and handed both to Emma.

"I want you to have these," she said. "And whenever you look at them, I want you to remember that the Lord will always take care of us if we keep His commandments. Remember that, Emma. Tithing comes first."

Emma's eyes misted with tears as she accepted the butter dish.

All her life Emma remembered the lesson she had learned. Each year as her family gathered on her birthday, she told the story again.

After Emma's death, the butter dish was passed down through the family. And everyone who saw the dish heard the story of how Emma learned to always pay her tithing. ●

Adapted from the journal of James Richard Lofthouse, Emma's son.





Flannel Board Sunday Box

You can make a box to use to tell flannel board stories and to hold a collection of Sabbath-day activities.

To make a Sunday Box, you will need glue; crayons; markers; scissors; a ruler; flannel or other fabric; a large box (see photograph below); and drawings, photos, gospel pictures, or stickers (optional).

1. Cut the flannel or other fabric $1/8$ " (3 mm) less

than the length and width of one side of the box; then glue it onto the box (see photograph).

2. Decorate the rest of the box as you like, perhaps with drawings, pictures, illustrations of gospel stories, or photos of your family doing Sunday activities.

3. Fill the box with games, puzzles, picture stories, and other activities provided in the *Friend* or at Primary, or use some you have made. ●



TITHING AROUND THE WORLD

BY CALLIE BUYS

Children from around the world want to pay tithing on the money they have earned. Match the amount of money listed below with the picture of the correct amount of tithing each child should pay. (See answers on page 23.)

1 60 Canadian dollars _____



2 100 New Zealand dollars _____



3 70 Guatemalan Quetzals _____



4 200 South African rands _____



5 600 Swedish Kronors _____



6 2000 Russian rubles _____



I Want to Be a Missionary Now

ANDREW GIBSON OF
FAIRVIEW, PENNSYLVANIA



labels for everything you eat,” he says. “I can’t eat things like birthday cake at parties, just to be safe. My mom brings another treat for me.” He has to carry medicine with him at all times in case he accidentally eats peanuts. But the challenge has helped to strengthen his faith. “Every year before school starts I receive a priesthood blessing, and we pray that I will be safe. I feel like the priesthood blessings have protected me.”

Andrew knows that being a good example is one of the best ways to be a missionary to others. He tries to be an

BY MONICA WEEKS

I want to be a missionary now. I don’t want to wait until I’m grown. . . .”* Andrew Gibson understands the meaning of this Primary song—in fact, he lives it! Andrew, a nine-year-old who lives just outside of Erie, Pennsylvania, is an outgoing boy who likes to share the gospel with people he meets. Right now he is the only member of the Church in his school, so he has many missionary opportunities. He says, “I talk about the Church with my friends. If you tell people about the gospel, or invite your friends to church, you’re being a missionary.”

Andrew is preparing now to serve a mission when he is older. “I am trying to obey the commandments,” he says. “And I’m also trying to save money.” He knows that setting and working toward goals is important. In addition to serving a mission, he wants to attend college and earn a Ph.D. For now, he is working on some short-term goals. In the past year, he has learned the multiplication tables, and he is still working to improve his handwriting.

Andrew faces challenges in life, like a life-threatening peanut allergy. He has to be very careful to not eat any peanuts. “The hard part is that you have to read the

**Children’s Songbook*, 168.

example to his dad, who is not a member of the Church. Andrew and his dad have a lot of fun playing sports and spending time together. Dad, who is also Andrew’s den leader, is helping Andrew work toward his Bear badge in Scouting. One of Andrew’s favorite Scouting activities was going fishing in a parking lot! First the leaders made a “fishing

Opposite page: Andrew enjoys rollerblading with his family. Above: Andrew with his parents and his sister, Rachel. Right: Andrew and Rachel splash around on the shore of Lake Erie.



hole” out of boxes and duct tape, then they taught the boys how to cast fishing poles with bait into the “hole.”

Andrew likes to spend time with his entire family, including his mom and his sisters Rachel and Sarah. The family enjoys outdoor activities like swimming. They also like traveling. One place they like to visit is Presque Isle State Park, located on a nearby peninsula that juts out into Lake Erie. The family likes to rollerblade and bike on the paths that wind along the beaches there.

Living in Pennsylvania puts Andrew’s family close to many of the Church history sites. A few years ago, the family visited the Palmyra New York Temple. While there, the family also visited the Sacred Grove. Andrew

says, “I remember walking around and looking at the trees. I wondered where Joseph was praying when he saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.” His family has also visited the Nauvoo area where he saw Carthage Jail and learned about how the Prophet Joseph was martyred. “It was sad,” he says softly.

Andrew’s testimony has grown in many ways. He says, “I know the Church is true, and that the Book of Mormon is true.” How does he know? “Our family reads the Book of Mormon together every night. I prayed about the Book of Mormon, and I got a happy feeling.” With this strong foundation, Andrew is working hard to be a good missionary now to prepare to serve a mission when he is older. ●



Left: Andrew is happy to be a Scout. Above: Andrew and Rachel enjoy a sunny day at Presque Isle State Park in Pennsylvania.



PLANTING A GARDEN

BY BRITNEY SCHETSELAAR

To help them be prepared, as the prophet has counseled, Jennie and her mother have planted a garden. Jennie is trying to pick the ingredients for fresh salsa, but she is a little confused about Mom's directions. Can you help her? Circle the things she needs to pick and cross out the ones she doesn't. (See answers on this page.)

1. Don't pick anything that begins with the letter "Z."
2. Pick anything with a double "P" in its name.
3. Don't pick anything that rhymes with "bees."
4. This fruit is usually red. Pick three of them.
5. Don't pick anything with a double "T."
6. This vegetable grows underground. Pick one.
7. If it ends with a "Y," don't pick any.

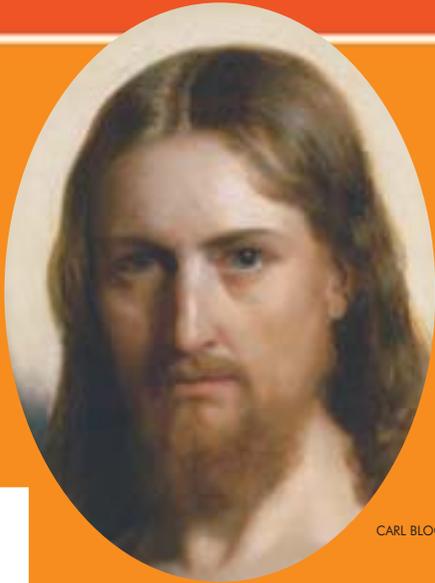
Funstuf Answers *Tribing Around the World*: 1E, 2A, 3E, 4D, 5C, 6B, *Special Witness*: Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, *Planting a Garden*: Circle the green pepper; three tomatoes, and an onion.

The

Articles of Faith



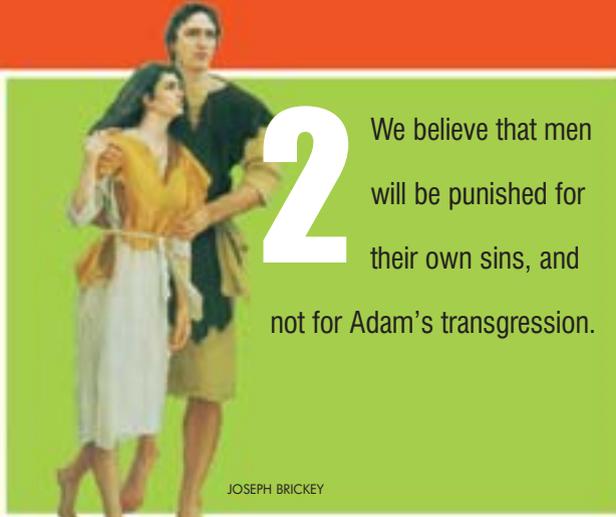
DAN WEGGELAND



CARL BLOCH

1

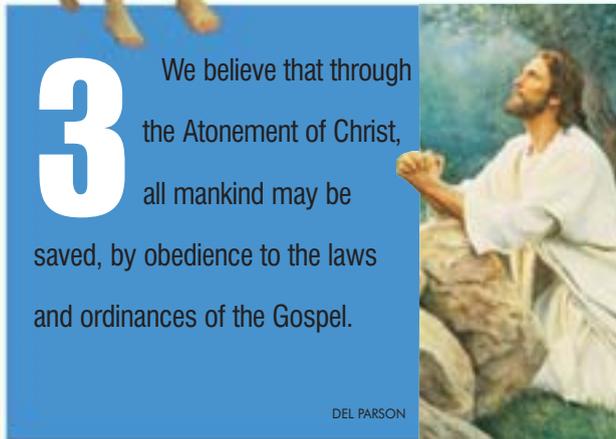
We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.



JOSEPH BRICKEY

2

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.



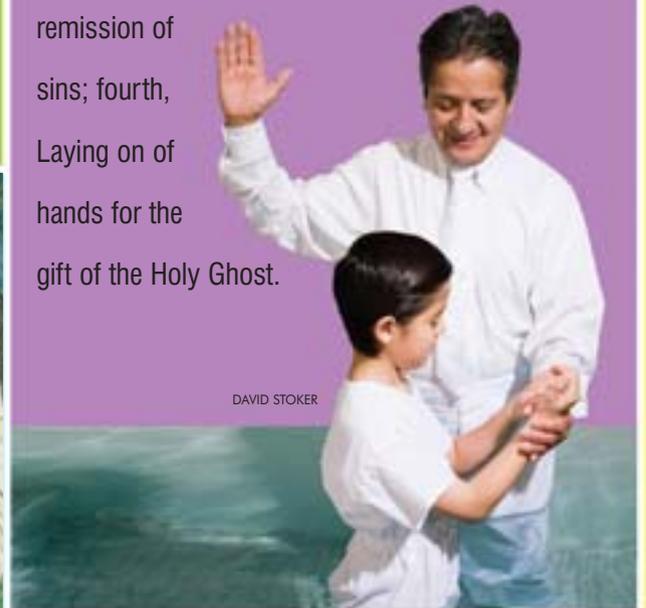
DEL PARSON

3

We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

4

We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.



DAVID STOKER

5

We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who



8

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of



are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

MATT REIER



KELLY LARSON

Mormon to be the word of God.



JED CLARK

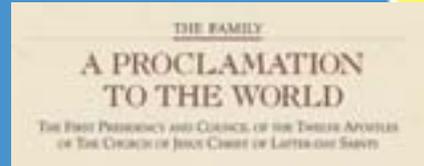
6 We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.

7 We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.



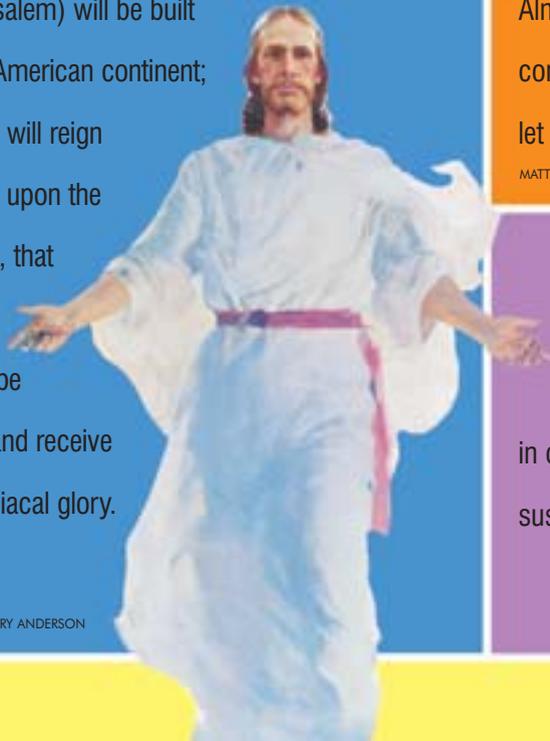
DAVID STOKER

9 We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.



10 We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

HARRY ANDERSON



11 We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

MATT REIER

Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

12 We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.



13 We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed,



we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul— We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

DAVID STOKER

—Joseph Smith

Kitchen Krafts



Enjoy the first weeks of summer by making these picnic snacks. You may want to honor your dad with a picnic lunch in the house or outside.

Chicken-Stuffed Rolls

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing**
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt**
- 1 1/2 teaspoons curry powder**
- 1 1/2 cups cooked, diced chicken**
- 1/2 cup halved grapes (seedless)**
- 1/4 cup diced celery**
- 1/4 cup diced bell pepper**
- 1/4 cup sliced green onion**
- 8 hard rolls**



1. In a large bowl mix the mayonnaise, yogurt, curry powder, chicken, grapes, and chopped vegetables.

2. Arrange rolls on a baking sheet and heat at 325°F (160°C) for 5 minutes or until slightly crispy.

3. Cut a thin slice from the top of each roll and hollow out the inside of the rolls. Fill each roll with salad mixture and replace the roll tops. Refrigerate until serving.

Cracker Snacks

- 24 large wheat crackers**
- 1 small ripe avocado, peeled and mashed**
- 1 small tomato, sliced and halved salt and pepper**
- 12 small slices of cheese**
- 4 tablespoons peanut butter**
- 2 tablespoons honey**
- 1 small banana, sliced**
- 1 tablespoon raisins**



1. Evenly spread mashed avocado on 12 crackers. Top with a piece of tomato, lightly seasoned with salt and pepper, and a slice of cheese.

2. In a small bowl mix peanut butter and honey. Spread evenly on the remaining 12 crackers and top with banana slices and raisins.

Coconut Cranberry Dessert

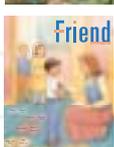
- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 24 full-sized graham crackers)**
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted**
- 1 can (12 ounces/340 g) sweetened condensed milk**
- 1 cup flaked coconut**
- 1 cup dried cranberries**
- 2 cups vanilla chips**
- 1 cup sliced almonds or pecans**



1. Combine graham cracker crumbs and butter. Press into a greased 13" x 9" (33 x 23-cm) pan.

2. Combine remaining ingredients and spread over graham cracker mixture. Bake at 350°F (175°C) for 25 minutes or until the edges are golden brown. Let cool and cut into squares.

Friend SURVEY



We would like to know what you think of the *Friend*. Do you have suggestions or ideas? Let us know!

What parts of the *Friend* do you like best?

- stories
- comics
- games and activities
- pictures and illustrations
- posters
- First Presidency and General Authority messages
- experiences from children my age
- Other: _____

Do you usually read all of the *Friend* or do you skip parts?

- I read it all.
- I read some.

If you skip some, what parts are they?



Check the boxes of the things you usually read.

- Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice
- Special Witness
- Friend to Friend
- From the Life of President Wilford Woodruff
- For Little Friends
- Trying to Be Like Jesus
- Our Creative Friends
- Friends in the News
- Poems
- Stories
- Funstuf
- Posters
- Kitchen Krafts
- Making Friends

What else would you have us include in the *Friend*?

How often do you use the Internet?

- every day
- a couple of times a week
- once a week
- a few times a month
- never

Do you read the *Friend* online?

- all the time
- sometimes
- never

Do you have any other comments or suggestions for the magazine?

About you:

Name _____

Age _____

Ward/Branch _____

Stake/District _____

If you have any more comments, put them on a separate piece of paper. You can mail this survey and all your comments to *Friend* Editorial, Survey, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2430, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America.

Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this survey may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.



Our Creative Friends

Drawings

- 1 Kyle B., age 9, Arizona
- 2 Lauren A., age 6, North Carolina
- 3 Alex R., age 8, Pennsylvania
- 4 Morgan W., age 4, British Columbia, Canada
- 5 Brandon C., age 7, Nevada
- 6 Eva R., age 5, New Jersey
- 7 Logan W., age 7, Hawaii
- 8 Kaitlynn B., age 6, Montana
- 9 Azia B., age 5, Alberta, Canada
- 10 Madeleine B., age 7, New Hampshire
- 11 Zack D., age 6, Tennessee
- 12 Seth G., age 4, Utah
- 13 Natalie B., age 8, Georgia
- 14 Jared C., age 6, Missouri
- 15 Jackson B., age 8, Missouri
- 16 Walker W., age 7, Florida
- 17 Julia U., age 7, Latvia
- 18 Hunter C., age 8, Ohio
- 19 Hunter M., age 9, California
- 20 Jordyn C., age 9, Utah
- 21 Makenna J., age 5, Virginia
- 22 Tiffany S., age 5, Indiana
- 23 Gypsy A., age 6, New Zealand
- 24 Estefania J., age 9, Spain
- 25 Spencer E., age 9, Idaho

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

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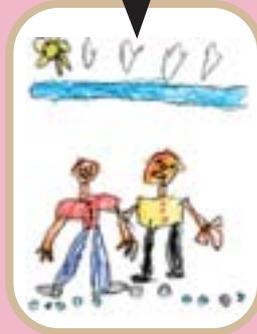
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11



12



16



17



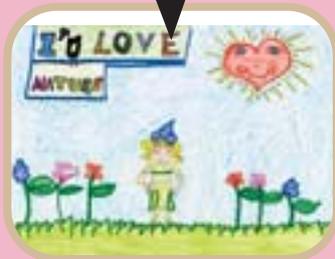
18



23



24



25



Choose the Right

Choose the right
In your neighborhood, church, and school.
When you choose the right,
You're being good, smart, and cool.

When I choose the right,
It gives me a happy feeling.
So I will always choose the right
To keep my Heavenly Father beaming.

Ezra T., age 7, Oregon

Butterflies

Butterflies live freely,
Flapping through the sky.
They love to drink the pollen
They pick up when they fly.

First a crawly caterpillar,
Then a green cocoon,
Finally a butterfly
No bigger than a spoon.

In the summer meadows
Butterflies you see
Pollinating the flowers,
Happy to be free!

Emily W., age 10, Maine

Dad, the Hero

A hero is somebody you look up to and you say,
"Wow!" A hero can also sometimes play sports.
My hero is my dad because whenever I want to
kick and catch the football, I ask him, "Can we
play football?" and he says, "OK." Sometimes when
we play football and he has to go to work, first
we do two kicks with the football, and then I say,
"Bye, Dad." I love my dad because he is my hero.

Chase S., age 5, Utah

A Flower

The Church is like a flower.
Each petal counts for the beauty.
One petal is the temple.
Another is tithing.
One is baptism.
One is the scriptures.
The center is heaven.
All the things we need to do are the petals
Surrounding heaven.
The Church is like a flower.

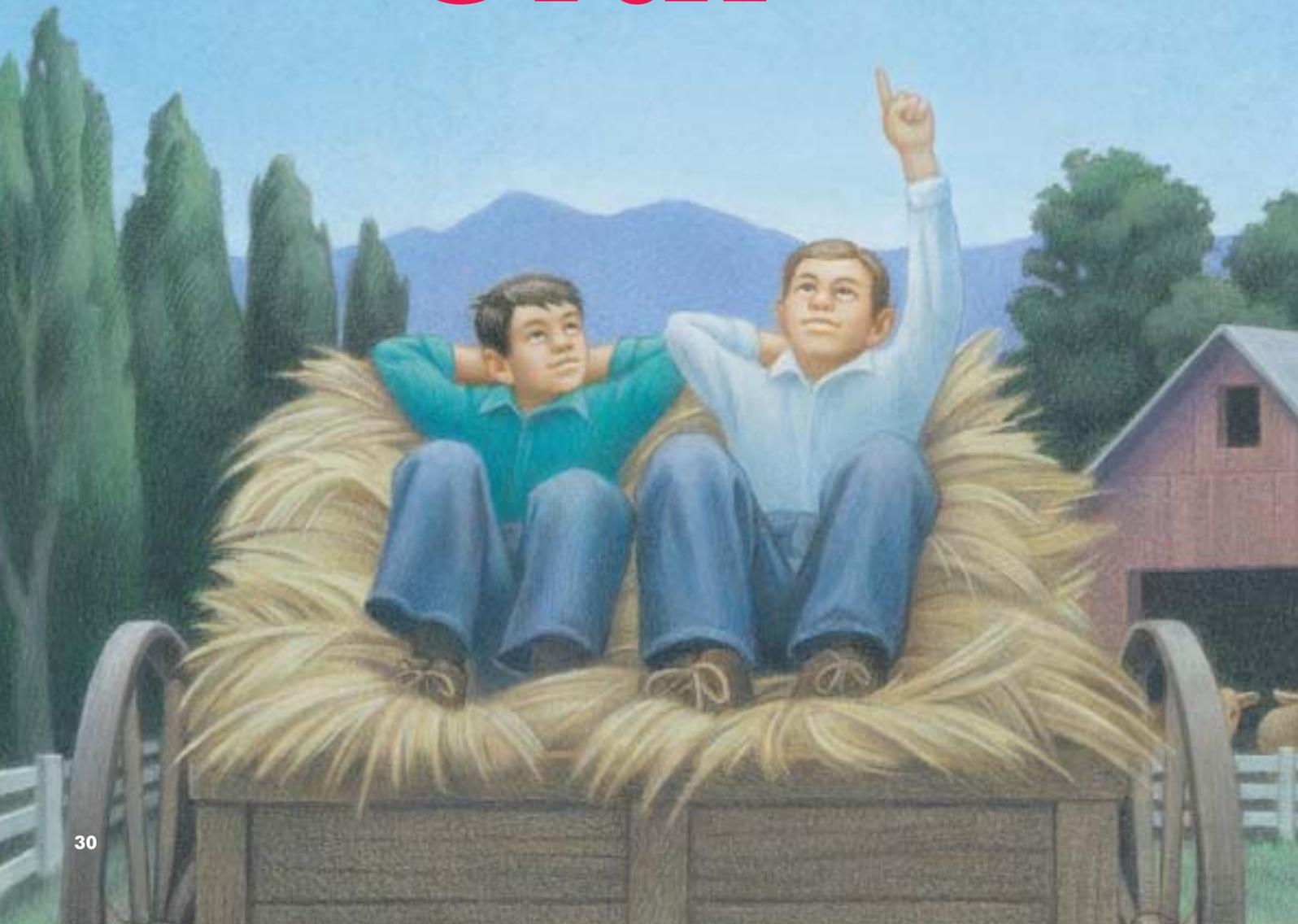
Megan C., age 10, California

Air Is Everywhere

Air is here and there.
Air is everywhere.
Even at night
Air pushes with all its might.
It can push a kite
And give it flight.
We breathe in air
Here and there.
Air is everywhere.

Alyssa S., age 6, New York

The North Star



BY WENDY ELLISON

(Based on a true story*)

He that followeth after righteousness . . . findeth life, righteousness, and honour (Proverbs 21:21).

School's out! School's out!" the bell in the old brick tower seemed to sing. Its familiar chime wasn't just announcing the end of an ordinary day—summer had arrived at last and it was time to put away pencils and close schoolbooks.

Gordon waved good-bye to his classmates and friends. For him, the end of school signaled the beginning of a summer spent miles away from the city on the farm where he could run barefoot in cool grass and wiggle his toes in a calm stream.

The family cottage, with its splendid mountain backdrop, was nestled in a stretch of land rolling with fruit trees and gardens. Cows grazed, horses raced, chickens roamed. The air was clean and fresh. The land held plenty of room to explore and plenty of opportunity to grow.

Bedtime was early because the call to chores came early in the morning when the dew still clung to tender grass and leaves. Farm work was hard work and everyone in the family was expected to do his or her part.

Weeding and watering the garden, gathering eggs, picking fruit, and attending to the chickens and horses went by quickly when everyone helped out. Father saved one chore especially for Gordon and his younger brother, Sherm.

The family cows would be the boys' responsibility alone, and their father taught them how to care for the cows. Learning to tend to Polly and Beth wasn't easy, but the reward was sweet, warm milk that the brothers enjoyed.

The milking companions were close in age, and even closer at heart. The two were inseparable in the city and nothing changed that on the farm. When they finished their chores, the warm summer days stretched before them, full of adventure. Drenched in summer sunlight, the brothers and best of friends rode in wagons, played on haystacks, and played tag.

Following their afternoons of adventure, when night had draped its darkness over every corner of the farm, the boys climbed into the old wooden wagon. Lying on their backs, they looked into the shimmering heavens.

Gordon and Sherm gazed earnestly at the millions of stars that filled the clear night sky. They pointed out and identified constellations they had read about in the encyclopedia. Then Gordon traced the outline of the Big Dipper, connecting the dots with his finger. And just off the cup he found the object of his search.

"There it is," he said. Anchored in place, the North Star was always where it was supposed to be. Gordon knew that if a sailor charted his course by it, he could find his way safely home. "I want to be as steady as that star," he thought.

There were many summer days on the farm and many nights sleeping under a blanket of stars. As Gordon grew older, he never forgot the lesson of the North Star.

Today, so many years after that young boy first gazed upward to find his favorite star, millions of people look to him. And true to the wish of his youth, his life reflects the message of the star that held its place in the heavens. As the prophet of God, President Gordon B. Hinckley can always be found helping to guide others safely home, steadfast and anchored as firmly as the North Star. ●

*See also *Ensign*, June 1995, 2–13; May 1989, 65–67.



"[President Gordon B. Hinckley's] constancy, service, and faith . . . are an anchor to us all."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "President Gordon B. Hinckley: Stalwart and Brave He Stands," *Ensign*, June 1995, 13.

BY CALLIE BUYS

(Based on a true story)

Do all things without murmurings and disputings

(Philippians 2:14).

Six-year-old Amber looked around the busy chapel as the people came in. She saw the young men who passed the sacrament smiling as they sat down. Moms and grandmas hugged their neighbors. Dads and grandpas shook people's hands. She also saw her friends from Primary sitting on benches with their moms and dads and brothers and sisters.

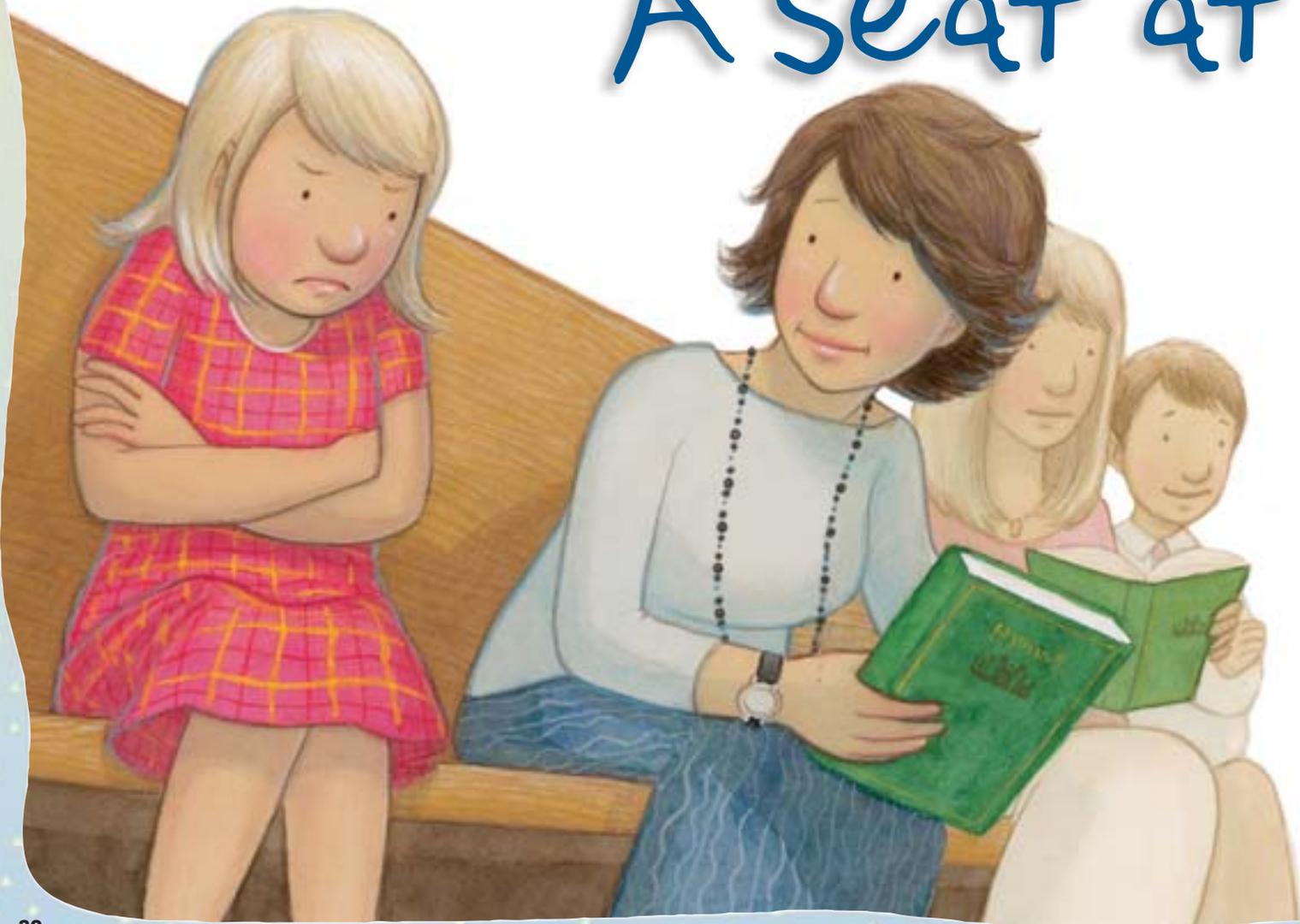
Then Amber looked at her bench. Only her mom, older sister, and brother sat with her. Her dad sat with the bishop at the front of the chapel.

Amber didn't like Dad sitting at the front of the chapel. She knew he sat there because he was called to be the second counselor in the bishopric. But she wanted him to sit next to her so she could snuggle against his arm.

Mom looked at her grumpy face. "What's wrong, Amber?" she asked quietly.

"I don't like Dad sitting in the front," Amber said.

A Seat at





the Front

“Bishop Smith is responsible for all the people in the ward,” Mom explained to her again. “That is a very big job. He needs helpers like Dad and Brother White. They have received a call from Heavenly Father to help the bishop and each person in the ward.”

After sacrament meeting Amber went home with her family. Dad stayed at church for a meeting. When Dad got home, Amber sat on his lap. “I missed you in church,” she said quietly. Dad looked at her carefully. “Well, I’ll see what I can do about that,” he said.

The next Sunday after Primary, Dad was waiting for Amber. Together they walked into the chapel and up the steps. Dad took his place next to Bishop Smith. Dad had told Amber that she could sit with him for a few minutes before the meeting started.

Amber tried to be very reverent. She listened to the soft organ music and watched as all the people sat down in the chapel. She saw white-haired ladies sitting together on a bench. She noticed that some of the families had only a mom, and some had only a dad. And some children came to church with their grandmas and grandpas.

“And the bishop takes care of all these people!” she thought. “He does need help.” Amber knew that she could help the bishop by not being grumpy when Dad sat away from her. “From now on I’m going to be happy!” she thought. Then she looked at Mom and her brother and sister. “They look lonely without me sitting next to them,” she decided.

Amber smiled at Dad and whispered, “See you at home. We’ll be waiting for you.” Then she walked quietly back to her family. ●



Ice-Cream S'mores

8 whole graham crackers

1/3 cup marshmallow crème

1 cup chocolate ice cream, softened

1. Carefully break the graham crackers in half so you have 16 squares.
2. Spread the marshmallow crème on eight graham crackers.
3. Spread a heaping tablespoon of ice cream on the other eight graham crackers, then put on top of the marshmallow crackers.
4. Wrap each s'more with plastic wrap and freeze for three hours.

Makes 8.

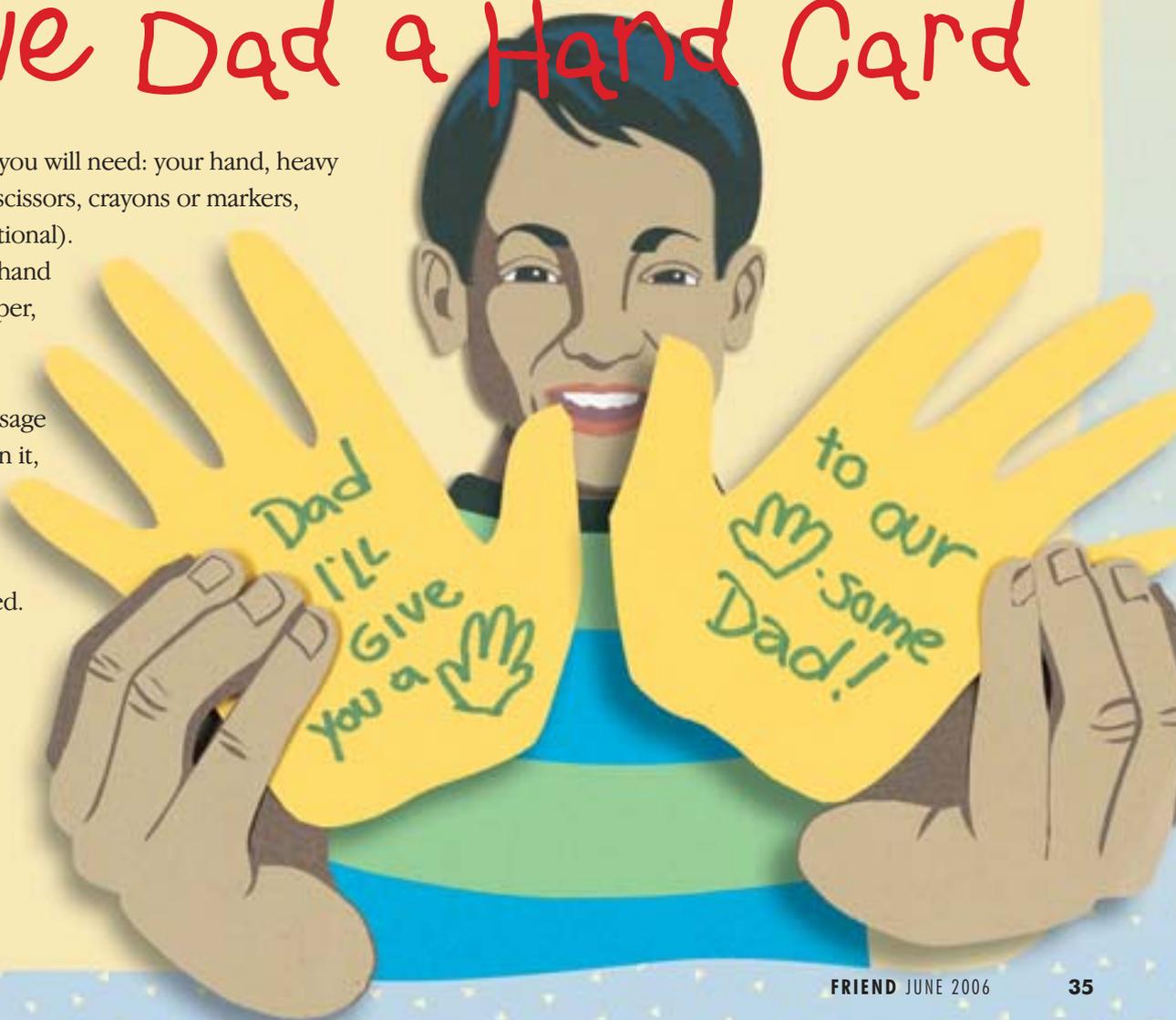


Give Dad a Hand Card

To make a card, you will need: your hand, heavy paper, a pencil, scissors, crayons or markers, and stickers (optional).

1. Place your hand on the heavy paper, trace around it, then cut it out.

2. Print a message on the hand, sign it, and decorate it with crayons or markers, and stickers, if desired.



MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will follow Heavenly Father's plan for me.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will remember my baptismal covenant and listen to the Holy Ghost.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will choose the right. I know I can repent when I make a mistake.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will be honest with Heavenly Father, others, and myself.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will use the names of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ reverently. I will not swear or use crude words.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will do those things on the Sabbath that will help me feel close to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will honor my parents and do my part to strengthen my family.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will keep my mind and body sacred and pure, and I will not partake of things that are harmful to me.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will dress modestly to show respect for Heavenly Father and myself.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will only read and watch things that are pleasing to Heavenly Father.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will only listen to music that is pleasing to Heavenly Father.

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will seek good friends and treat others kindly.

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



MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

I will live now to be worthy to go to the temple and do my part to have an eternal family.

KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS

Therefore, if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you and prosper you (Mosiah 2:22).

BY LINDA MAGLEBY



Daniel and other youth were selected by King Nebuchadnezzar to be taught the language and customs of the land. The king ordered that the youth be fed his meat and wine. Daniel wanted to be obedient to Heavenly Father's commandments, so he asked that he and his friends be allowed to eat healthy foods and drink only water for 10 days. After 10 days Daniel and his friends were healthier than all the other children. Because Daniel and his friends were not afraid to obey Heavenly Father's commandments, they were blessed (see Daniel 1).

While 10-year-old Trace and his friends were watching television, a show came on that Trace knew he should not watch. After a few minutes he felt awful inside. Finally, he had the courage to say, "I can't watch this show." Two of his friends said that they couldn't watch the show either. They changed the channel. Later, Trace's mom told him that the feeling he had was



the Holy Ghost telling him to choose the right. Trace and his friends were blessed with a feeling of peace because they obeyed Heavenly Father's commandments.

Daniel was obedient in ancient times, and like Trace we can be obedient today.

The Holy Ghost will help us know what is right and true. The Holy Ghost will direct us and help us return to Heavenly Father and Jesus. ●

Activity

To make My Gospel Standards cards, remove page 36, paste it on heavy paper, then cut along the dark lines. Try one of these activities.

1. Sit in a circle with your friends or family. As you sing a song or hymn, pass one of the cards around the circle. Stop singing, and have the person holding the card read the standard aloud, then tell how it could help him or her choose the right. Play again.

2. Choose a card to memorize, and try to live that standard for a week. Read it each day, and think about how you can follow that standard. Report your experiences to someone in your family.

Sharing Time Ideas

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

1. Display a poster of the Ten Commandments, or list them on the chalkboard (see Exodus 20:3–17). On 20 pieces of paper write the numbers 1 through 10 twice—one number per paper. Place them in scattered order facedown on the floor. Working in pairs (a younger child with an older child), play a matching game by having the younger child toss a beanbag on a paper. Turn the paper over, and have the older child toss a beanbag on another paper. If that paper matches the first number, remove those papers and have the children recite the commandment out loud and show or tell a way we can keep that commandment. If there is no match, turn both papers back over and give the next pair a turn.

Continue until all of the commandments have been shared. Use a personal experience to explain how you have been blessed by obeying a commandment. Sing “Keep the Commandments” (pp. 146–47).

2. Use stations to help the children learn the Beatitudes. Begin by telling the story of the Sermon on the Mount. Use GAK 212 (Sermon on the Mount). Divide the children into four groups, and have each group rotate through the stations. At each station have the children become better acquainted with one of the Beatitudes by telling a story using a GAK picture that illustrates a beatitude, discussing how the children can live the teaching, and singing a song that reinforces the principle. Choose beatitudes most applicable for your children. For example, read Matthew 5:6 (“hunger and thirst after righteousness”), show GAK 217 (Woman at the Well), discuss what you can do to follow Jesus Christ, and sing “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus” (pp. 78–79); read Matthew 5:8 (“pure in heart”), show GAK 120 (Enoch and His People Are Taken Up to God), discuss what you can do to keep your minds and bodies pure, and sing “Hum Your Favorite Hymn” (p. 152) or “The Word of Wisdom” (pp. 154–55); read Matthew 5:9 (“peacemakers”), show GAK 311 (The Anti-Nephi-Lehies Burying Their Swords), discuss how you can be a peacemaker in your home or at school, and sing “Kindness Begins with Me” (p. 145). For older children, have the children read about the stories from the scripture references listed on the back of the GAK pictures.

3. Explain that My Gospel Standards help us choose the right and keep Heavenly Father’s commandments. On the chalkboard display the My Gospel Standards poster or list (found on page 36 in this issue or on the back cover of the *Faith in God* guidebook). Write on slips of paper these scripture references containing commandments that match My Gospel Standards: Abraham 3:25, Mosiah 18:10, Mosiah 4:10, Exodus 20:15–16, Exodus 20:7, Exodus 20:8, Exodus 20:12, D&C 89, D&C 42:40–41, Articles of Faith 1:13, D&C 25:12, John 13:34–35, D&C 109:12–13. Ask a child to choose one slip of paper and read the reference. Have all the children look up the scripture. Ask which commandment is contained in the scripture. Have the children in the class of the child who chose the slip of paper match the commandment to a standard. Ask another class how we are blessed when we live the standard. Repeat with each of the slips of paper as time allows. Sing “Dare

to Do Right” (p. 158) or “Keep the Commandments” (pp. 146–47). Testify of the blessings that come from being obedient to Heavenly Father’s commandments.

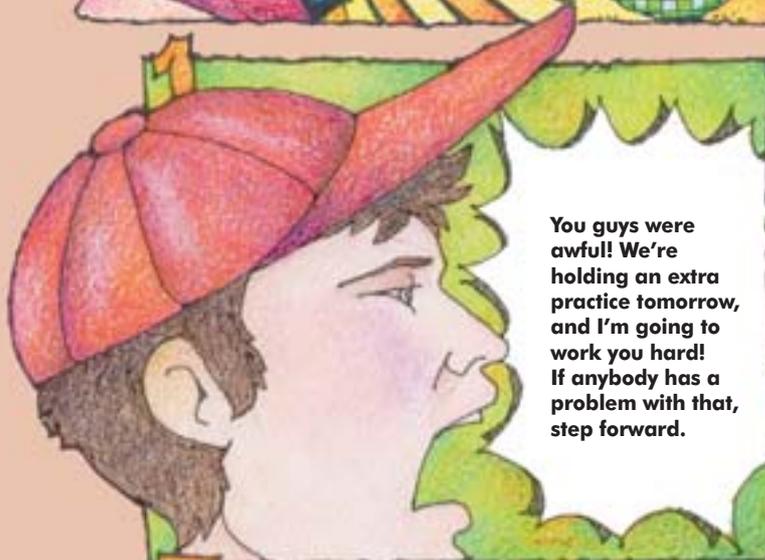
For younger children: Prepare five or six slips of paper with one of My Gospel Standards written on each one. Have a child draw a slip of paper out of a basket and act out how to keep that standard. Have that child lead the other children in acting out the standard as they all sing “Dare to Do Right” (p. 158). Teach the children that My Gospel Standards help us choose the right.

4. Lead a discussion to help the children discover the blessings that are promised if they are faithful. Have older children look up scriptures; younger children can guess the principle from the picture clues. Ask, “What is the principle taught? What are some blessings that come from being faithful to this principle?” Sing a song to reinforce the principle. For example, tithing: Malachi 3:8–12, Primary picture 3-26 (girl with tithing envelope), “I’m Glad to Pay a Tithing” (p. 150); Sabbath day: D&C 59:12–19, Primary picture 3-25 (family going to church), “When I Go to Church” (p. 157). Hand out paper and crayons to the children. Have them fold the paper in half. On one half, have them draw a picture of themselves obeying one of the commandments taught today. On the other half of the page, they can draw one of the promised blessings. Have them include the scripture reference on the drawing. Encourage each child to take the drawing home to share with his or her family in family home evening and to post as a reminder of Heavenly Father’s promises to the obedient.

5. *Song presentation:* “Dearest Children, God Is Near You” (*Hymns*, no. 96). Tell the children to imagine it is a cold, stormy day. Role-play being really cold. Say, “Now we’ve come inside to sit by a glowing fire and nestle in a soft, warm quilt.” Place a warm quilt around a helper. Ask, “Doesn’t that warm you and make you feel better?” Explain that we may have times that feel like a cold, stormy day. We can feel warmer and better during those times if we will remember what this song teaches. Sing the phrase, “Dearest children, God is near you,” and ask, “Doesn’t it warm you to know that?” Sing that part with the children. As you sing the next part, ask the children to listen for what God is doing and when He does it. Sing the next phrase, and pitch lead (indicate the pitch of each note by raising your hand higher or lower) “watching o’er you day and night.” Take responses, review, and have the children sing with you. As you sing the rest of the song, have the children listen to see what delights Heavenly Father (“to own and bless you”), what we must do to receive His blessing (“strive to do what’s right”), and what phrase is repeated (“He will bless you”). Pause after each part to take responses. Review and lead the children in singing by phrases, helping them understand what they are to do to receive His blessings. Testify that Heavenly Father is near them and will bless them.

6. *Friend* references: “If I Choose to Obey, I’ll Be Happy All Day!” Apr. 2004, 28–30; “Spring Cleaning,” Mar. 2004, 2–3; “My Gospel Standards,” Oct. 2004, 24–25; “The Word of Wisdom: A Blessing of Strength,” Feb. 2003, 8–9; “Remember the Sabbath Day,” Nov. 2004, 38–39; “You Are a Child of God,” May 2003, 2–6.

Matt & Mandy

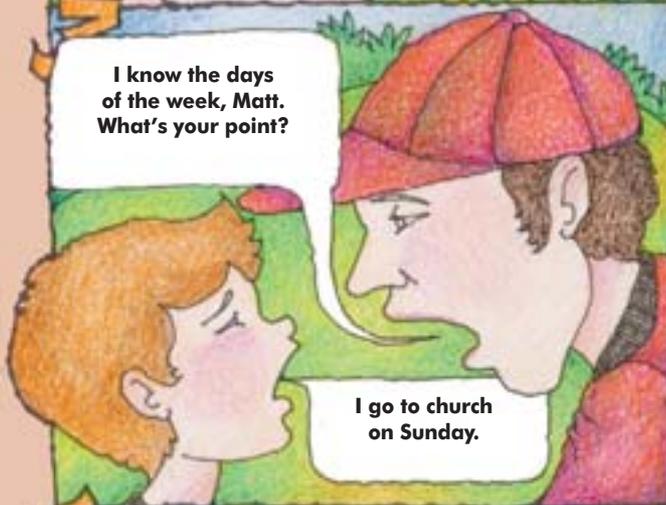


You guys were awful! We're holding an extra practice tomorrow, and I'm going to work you hard! If anybody has a problem with that, step forward.



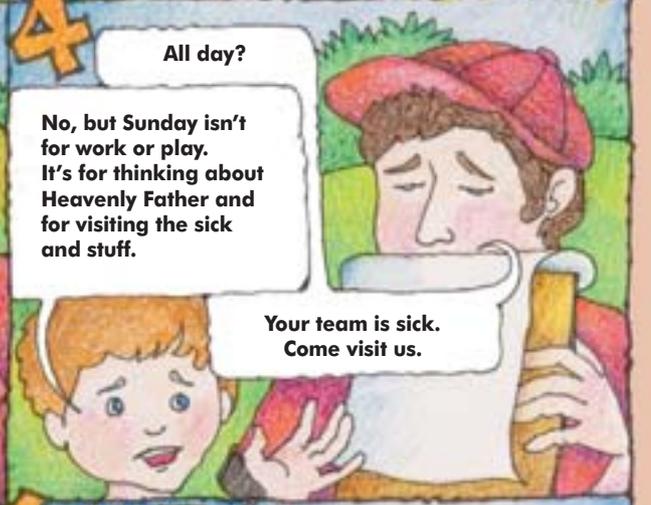
What's your beef, Matt?

Tomorrow's Sunday.



I know the days of the week, Matt. What's your point?

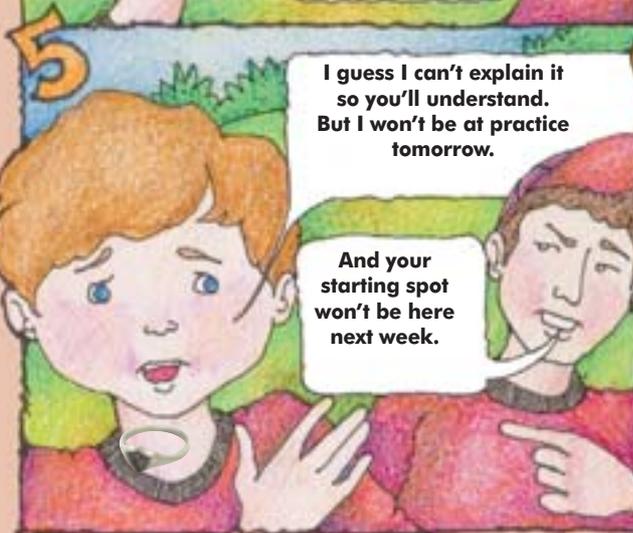
I go to church on Sunday.



All day?

No, but Sunday isn't for work or play. It's for thinking about Heavenly Father and for visiting the sick and stuff.

Your team is sick. Come visit us.



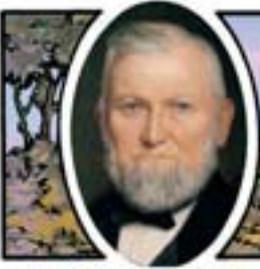
I guess I can't explain it so you'll understand. But I won't be at practice tomorrow.

And your starting spot won't be here next week.



You're quiet, Matt. Is it because you lost?

I'm not sure I did.



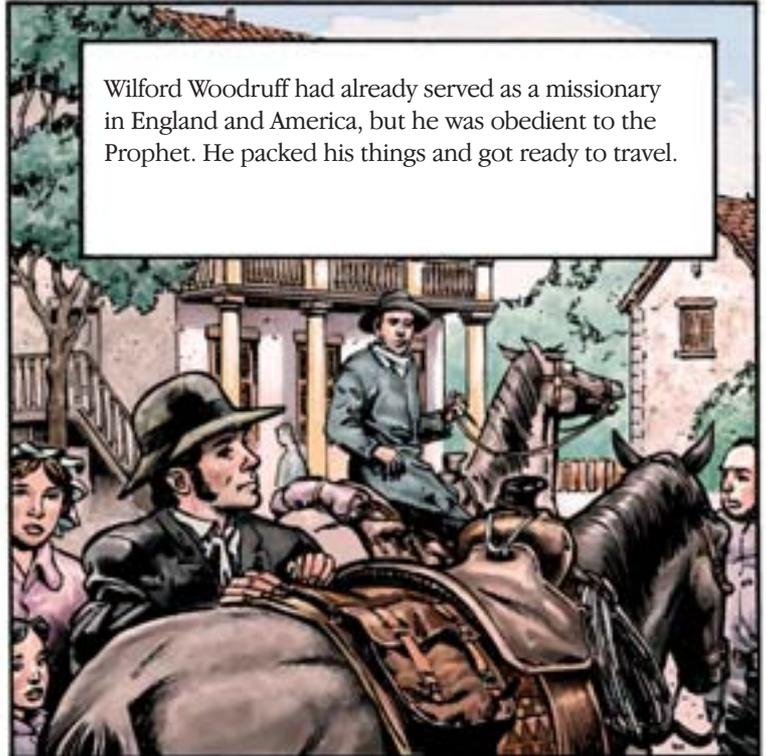
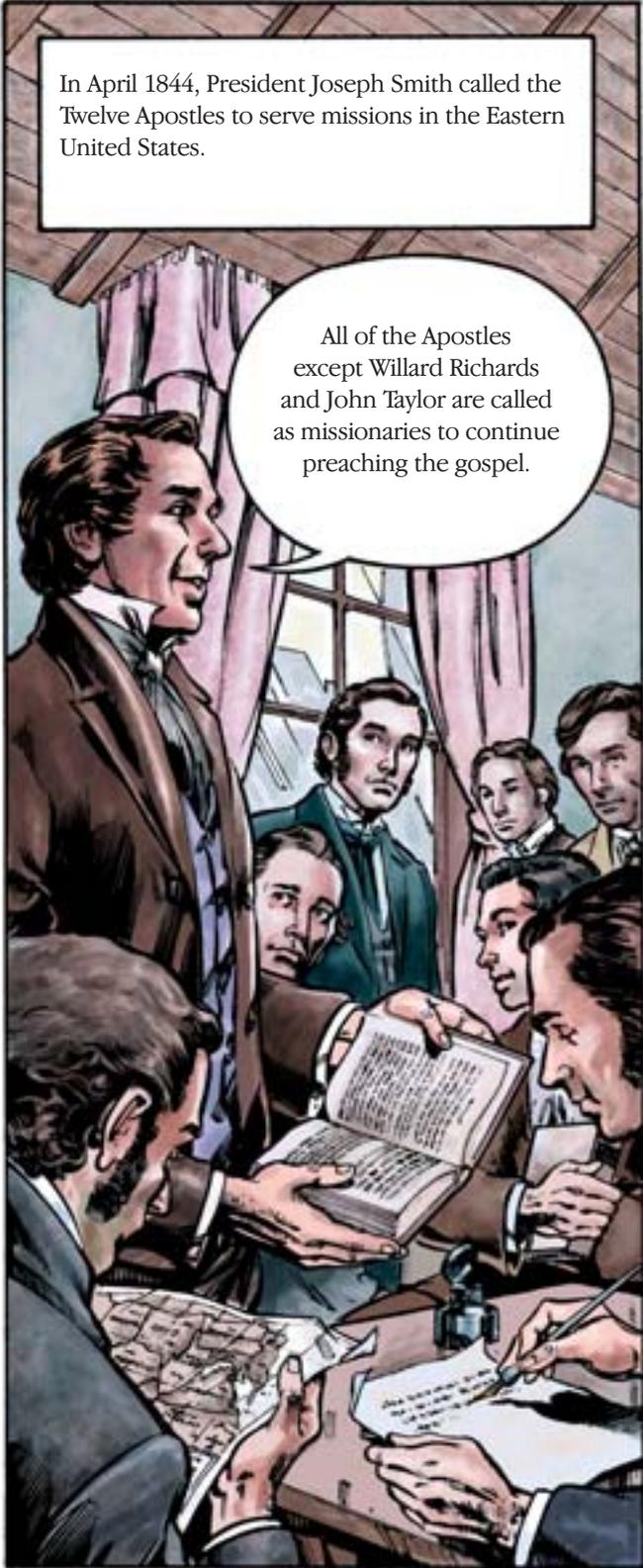
FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

The Martyrdom of the Prophet

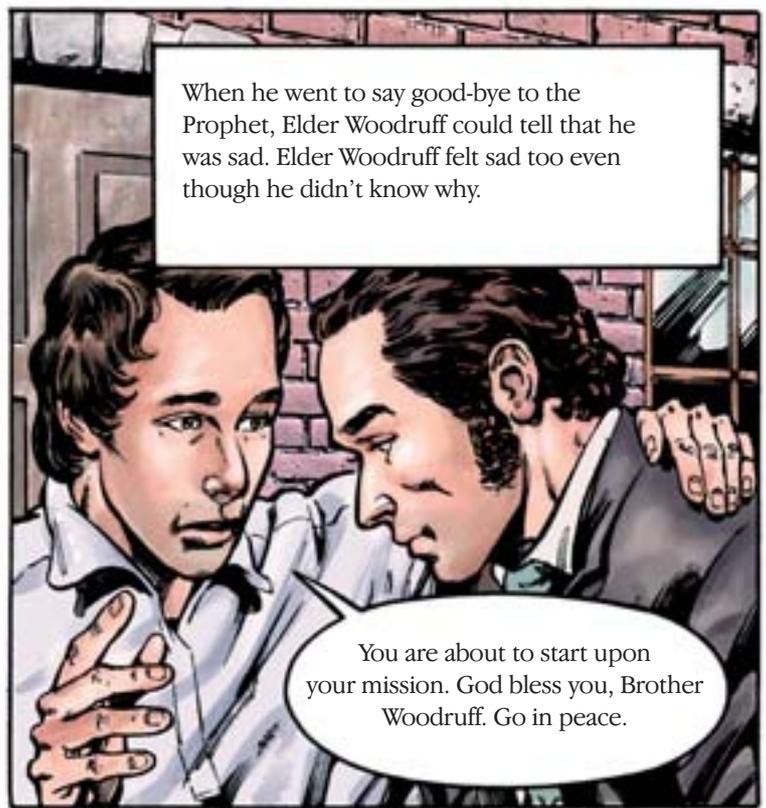


In April 1844, President Joseph Smith called the Twelve Apostles to serve missions in the Eastern United States.

All of the Apostles except Willard Richards and John Taylor are called as missionaries to continue preaching the gospel.

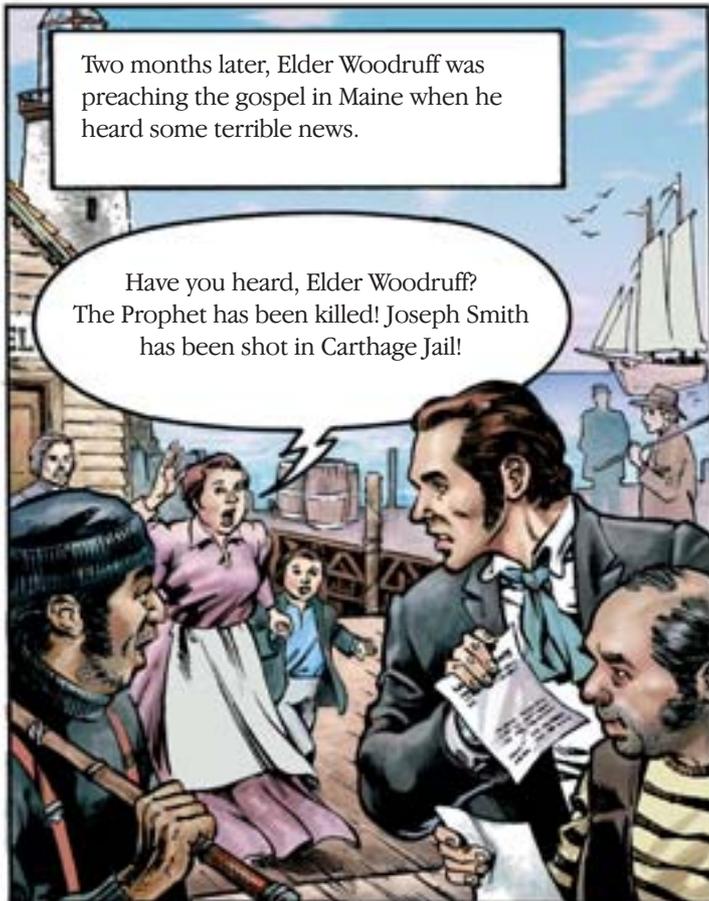


Wilford Woodruff had already served as a missionary in England and America, but he was obedient to the Prophet. He packed his things and got ready to travel.



When he went to say good-bye to the Prophet, Elder Woodruff could tell that he was sad. Elder Woodruff felt sad too even though he didn't know why.

You are about to start upon your mission. God bless you, Brother Woodruff. Go in peace.



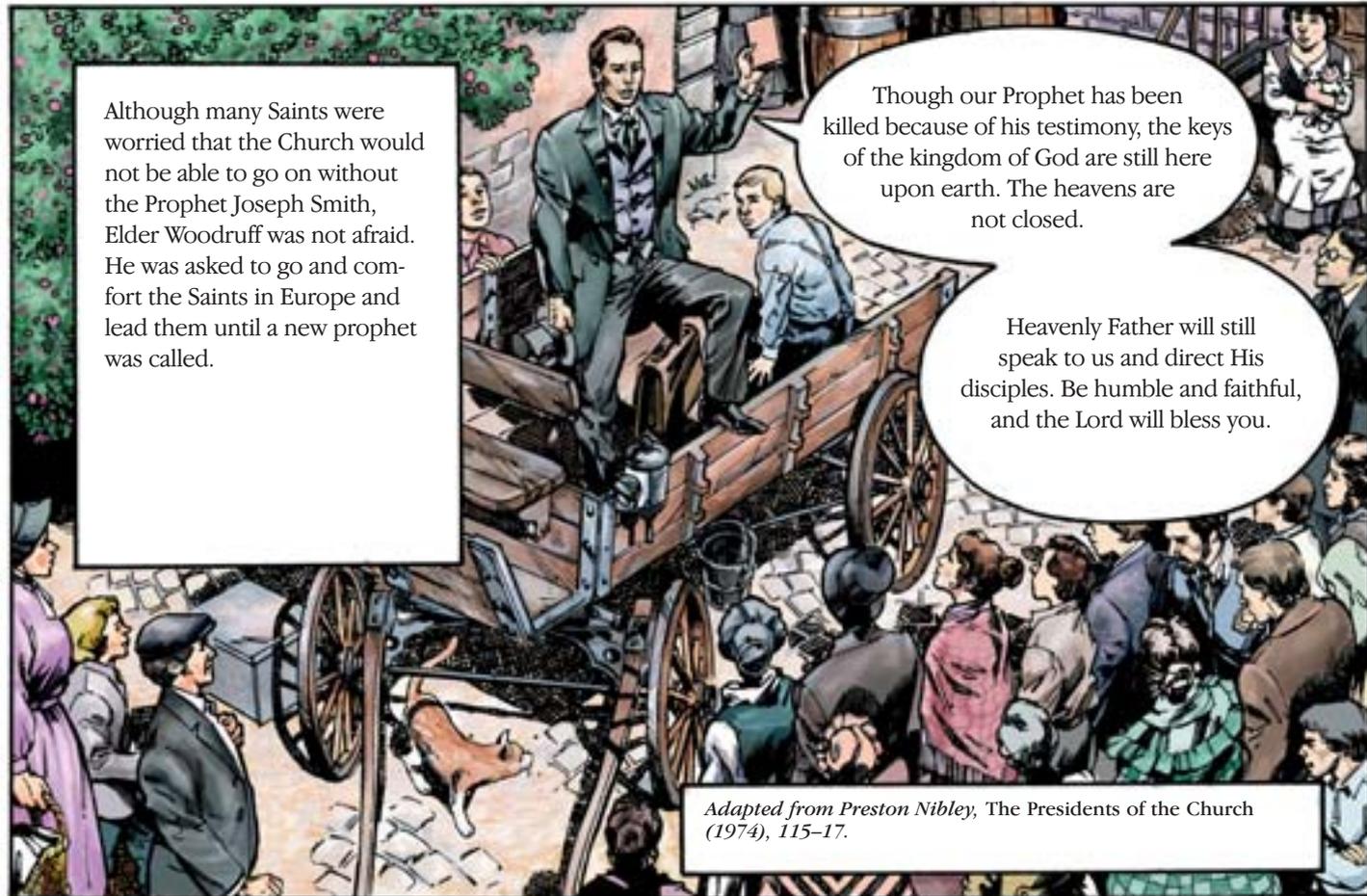
Two months later, Elder Woodruff was preaching the gospel in Maine when he heard some terrible news.

Have you heard, Elder Woodruff? The Prophet has been killed! Joseph Smith has been shot in Carthage Jail!



Elder Woodruff immediately left to meet with the other Apostles in Nauvoo.

Now I know why I was so sad before. That was the last time I would ever see the Prophet Joseph Smith here on earth.



Although many Saints were worried that the Church would not be able to go on without the Prophet Joseph Smith, Elder Woodruff was not afraid. He was asked to go and comfort the Saints in Europe and lead them until a new prophet was called.

Though our Prophet has been killed because of his testimony, the keys of the kingdom of God are still here upon earth. The heavens are not closed.

Heavenly Father will still speak to us and direct His disciples. Be humble and faithful, and the Lord will bless you.

Adapted from Preston Nibley, The Presidents of the Church (1974), 115-17.

They Spoke to Us

As you make the April 2006 general conference a part of your own and your family's life, you might consider using the following ideas for personal study and family home evening. Or you may wish to create your own questions, activities, and discussion ideas. (Page numbers refer to the beginning of the talks in the May 2006 Ensign.)

Search the Words Activity

1. How long ago was President Gordon B. Hinckley sustained as a General Authority? About how many general conference talks has he given? (Clue: Search President Gordon B. Hinckley's talk on p. 81.)
2. The Liahona served two main purposes for Lehi and his family. What were they? (Clue: Search Elder David A. Bednar's talk on p. 28.)
3. There have been many major disasters in the world recently. Where has the Church sent humanitarian aid? (Clue: Search Bishop H. David Burton's talk on p. 8.) Find a world map or a globe, and point out the places he talked about.
4. What are three stepping stones that can help lead us back to Heavenly Father? (Clue: Search Elder H. Bruce Stucki's talk on p. 96.)
5. When an institute building was being remodeled, what old objects did the workers find? (Clue: Search Elder L. Tom Perry's talk on p. 39.)
6. What does Elder Richard G. Scott say is the most exciting thing for a young person or married couple to do? (Search Elder Scott's talk on p. 87.)
7. Who is John Lathrop? What did he do? Who was

one of his descendants? (Clue: Search President James E. Faust's talk on p. 61.)

Quotes and Activities

1. Speaking in the priesthood session of conference, President Gordon B. Hinckley said, "There is no end to the good we can do, to the influence we can have with others. Let us not dwell on the critical or the negative. Let us pray for strength; let us pray for capacity and desire to assist others. Let us radiate the light of the gospel at all times and all places, that the Spirit of the Redeemer may radiate from us." Think of some of the things you can do each day at home, at school, at church, and at play that will show other people that you are a Latter-day Saint, that you follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Write them down. Add to them from time to time. Live them every day.

2. Elder L. Tom Perry reminded us that "when we partake of the sacrament worthily, we remember the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, that He gave up His life and took upon Himself the sins of the world





that we may have the blessing of immortality. We take upon ourselves the name of our Savior and promise to always remember Him and to keep His commandments—that is, to ‘live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God’ (D&C 84:44).” Draw some pictures of the Savior’s life that will remind you of all that He did and does for you. Ask Heavenly Father to help you keep the promises you make when you take the sacrament.

3. Elder Richard G. Hinckley suggested that each of us do the following: “I invite each of you, young or old,” he said, “to [get] a small notebook. . . . Write at the top of the first page the words ‘What my membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints means to me.’ Then briefly list those things that come to mind. Over time, additional thoughts will come, which you can add to your list. Soon you will have a growing booklet that will fill you with gratitude and appreciation for your membership in the Lord’s Church.” Make this activity part of a family home evening, and then share with each other from time to time the things you have written down.

4. “In these perilous times,” said Elder Ronald A. Rasband, “our youth are faced with . . . increased adversity. . . . In the armed forces, particularly in all the navies throughout the world, every seaman understands one phrase that is a clarion

call for immediate help, no matter what he is doing or where he is on the ship. The call is ‘All hands on deck.’ Many a battle at sea has been won or lost by the response to this call.” When the prophet asks us to live the gospel, to honor our parents, to be kind to one another, he is calling to us, “All hands on deck” in the service of the Lord. How do you respond? How do you respond when your parents counsel you? What are you doing to make sure we win the battle?

5. Elder Robert D. Hales spoke about the important principle of agency: “Today I want to convey, in absolutely certain terms, that the adversary [Satan] cannot make us do anything. He does lie at our door, as the scriptures say, and he follows us each day. Every time we go out, every decision we make, we are either choosing to move in his direction or in the direction of our Savior. But the adversary must depart if we tell him to depart. He cannot influence us unless we allow him to do so, and he knows that! The only time he can affect our minds and bodies—our very spirits—is when we *allow* him to do so.” Wear your CTR ring every day. It will remind you to make good choices. At family home evening, teach your family the song “Choose the Right Way” (*Children’s Songbook*, 160–61).

Stories to Read and Share

Are you preparing a talk or lesson? In the conference talks beginning on the pages listed below, you’ll find stories you can tell.

Tongan teacher explains an octopus trap, 18

Joseph Smith instructs Brigham Young in a dream, 28

Vacationers honor the Sabbath, 39

Young Dieter F. Uchtdorf delivers laundry on an ugly bike, 42

Deacons learn of the sacredness of the sacrament, 50

Priest struggles to bless the sacrament, 54

Deacon passes the sacrament from his deathbed, 54

Young Thomas S. Monson has a long interview before receiving the Melchizedek Priesthood, 54

Young man is treated poorly by Church members but is converted later, 58

Joseph Smith forgives W. W. Phelps, 58

Sin is like picking up rocks and carrying them in a bag, 72

Nigerian doctor dreams of his friend speaking to a congregation, 77

Cambodian boy testifies of Christ, 77

Quiet in the Manhattan New York Temple, 90

Young H. Bruce Stucki prays to find a lost arrow, 96

Inexperienced doctor performs brain surgery, 96

Horse bought at auction becomes a champion, 99

Susan W. Tanner apologizes to her mother, 103

Young woman in Romania sets an example for her family, 103

Mary Goble’s frozen feet finally heal, 109

Rollins sisters save the printed pages of early revelations, 111

Young woman’s example helps a family join the Church, 111

Friends in the News



Abby Leigh K., 10, China, likes to play with her cat, Zoe, study Mandarin Chinese, rollerblade, swim, and read. She especially likes to read the Book of Mormon every night before bedtime.



Alpharetta Ward

Primary children of the Alpharetta Ward, Roswell Georgia Stake, enjoyed an activity at the Atlanta Georgia Temple. Brother and Sister O'Brien of the temple presidency met with the children and explained the importance of temples on the earth. Then the children met in the annex building for refreshments and an activity planned by the senior Primary classes. Each child filled out a pedigree chart and some shared ancestor stories. They discovered that one child is related to the Prophet Joseph Smith.



Briggs Taggart B., 7, Arizona, has a wonderful testimony of the gospel. He enjoys playing baseball, taking apart old electronics, and eating.



Best friends, **Kaleb and Noé R.,** Ontario, Canada, are three-year-old twins. They adore going to nursery. Both children enjoy music, books, going to the library, and playing with friends. When Noé was sick and stayed in the hospital for a month, Kaleb wanted to bring her a treat each time he visited.

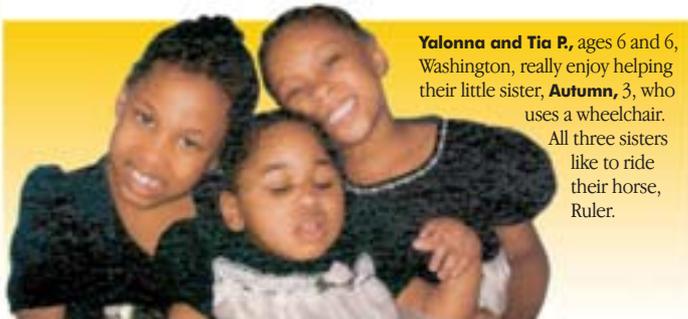


Victoria J., 10, Mexico, likes to sing and dance ballet. She has memorized the thirteen articles of faith and enjoys sharing her testimony of the gospel with others. She has fun with her cat, Cheeto.

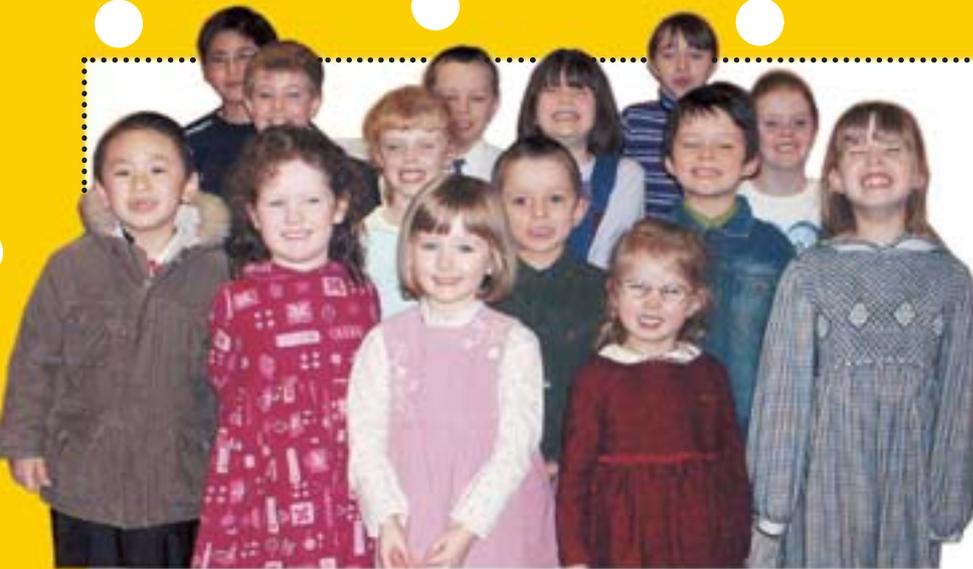


Ponds Park Ward

The Primary children of the Ponds Park Ward, Kaysville Utah South Stake, sang "In Our Lovely Deseret" and a Primary happy birthday song to Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin. Afterwards, they gave him some candy, and he gave each of them a piece of that candy and shook their hands.



Yalonna and Tia P., ages 6 and 6, Washington, really enjoy helping their little sister, **Autumn,** 3, who uses a wheelchair. All three sisters like to ride their horse, Ruler.



Glasgow Ward

During Primary singing time in the Glasgow Ward, Glasgow Scotland Stake, Mateo, age 6, said that he wanted to sing a different song. The music leader told him to come back the next week and tell what song he would like to sing. He chose "Follow the Prophet." The children noticed that there wasn't a verse for President Gordon B. Hinckley so they wrote this verse:
 "Gordon Bitner Hinckley is the one today,
 Teaches us the gospel, teaches us to pray,
 Wants us to be happy, wants us to be good.
 When we come to Prim'ry we're doing what we should."

Isaac and Maria B., ages 7 and 4, Hawaii, celebrated their birthdays together. They requested that school supplies be brought instead of gifts. They received enough supplies, including 500 pencils, to fill three large boxes. They sent the boxes to their dad who was deployed in Afghanistan with the army. He distributed the much-needed supplies to the Afghan children.



Normal Second Ward

For a service activity the Primary children of the Normal Second Ward, Peoria Illinois Stake, collected pajamas and books for local children in need. They also made a family home evening lesson kit and wrote letters to missionaries and people serving in the military from their ward.



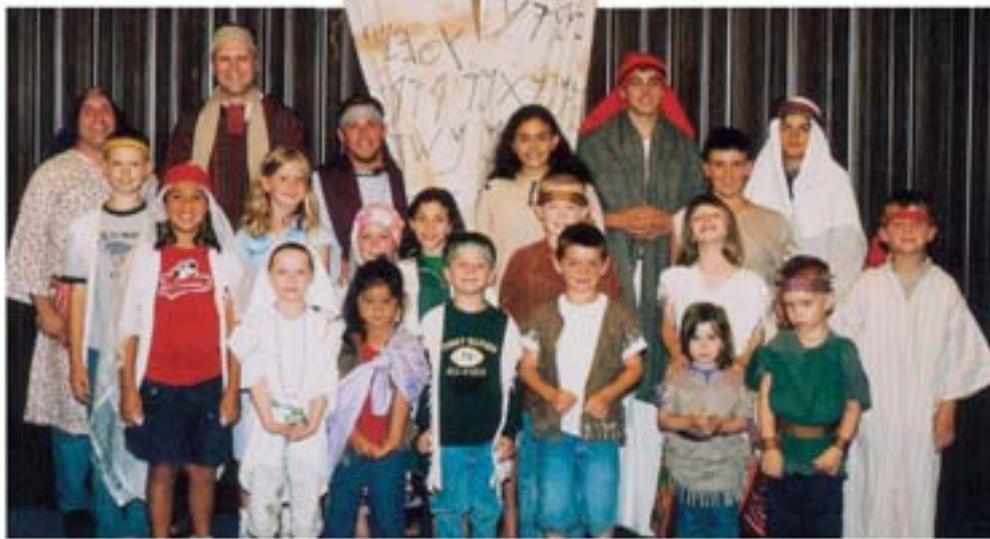
Hannah M., 8, Utah, likes to jump rope, read, play the piano, and bake cookies. She makes creative cards and draws pictures for others. She enjoys going to achievement day activities.



Taylor E., 4, Virginia, is the oldest in his family. He is a good example to his brother, Brock, and sister, Gabrielle. Taylor likes Primary a lot.

Don Avenue Ward

"Book of Mormon Heroes" was the theme of the Primary activity day in the Don Avenue Ward, Stockton California Stake. Each child came dressed like his or her favorite Book of Mormon character. The children moved to different stations to do an activity and learn about Nephi, Captain Moroni, and Samuel the Lamanite.



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

Walk after the holy order of God (Alma 7:22).

WELCOME

to the Aaronic Priesthood and Young Men



A special message to boys soon to turn 12.

BY CHARLES W. DAHLQUIST II
Young Men General President

I'm thrilled to welcome you into the Aaronic Priesthood. What an exciting time in your life! The week before I turned 12 I could hardly wait to be ordained a deacon, and I hope you feel the same way. Let's talk about a few of the things you can look forward to.

To Begin With

Before you turn 12, you will meet with the bishop or branch president to discuss your worthiness and preparation to receive the Aaronic Priesthood. After you turn 12, your name will be presented in sacrament meeting for a sustaining vote. The Aaronic Priesthood will be conferred upon you, and you will be ordained to the office of a deacon. Your family is invited to share this wonderful moment with you.

Aaronic Priesthood

Your experience in the Aaronic Priesthood will include these three things:

brotherhood, instruction, and service. You will work together, learn together, achieve together, and serve together.

Do you feel a little nervous about passing the sacrament for the first time? Please don't worry. Before you are given any assignment, one of your leaders will explain exactly what to do. Someone will be right

there to help you, just as you will help a new deacon in the future.

In priesthood meetings you will learn that the Aaronic Priesthood "holds the keys of the ministering of angels,

and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism . . . for the remission of sins" (D&C 13:1) and that it is the duty of Aaronic Priesthood holders to "invite all to come unto Christ" (D&C 20:59). You will continue learning the principles of the gospel and how to follow the Savior.

The Aaronic Priesthood is a preparatory priesthood. It prepares you for the Melchizedek Priesthood as well as a lifetime of service. You will be involved in serving members of the ward or branch and the





community. Real joy in life comes from serving others. And as you serve, your talents will grow and develop. You might hold positions of leadership. These experiences will help prepare you for missionary service.

Duty to God Award

The First Presidency has said, “We desire all young men to strive to earn the . . . Duty to God Award.”¹ This program helps you grow through setting and achieving worthy goals. You will work with Aaronic Priesthood leaders, your bishop or branch president,

and your mother and father.

Here are a few of the program’s requirements: during your years as an Aaronic Priesthood holder you will do things like read the scriptures daily, prepare a few meals for your family, wash and iron your clothes for a month, and complete the “My Personal Journal” section of your Duty to God booklet.

When you have earned your deacon, teacher, and priest Duty to God certificates, you will be eligible to receive your Duty to God medallion. This is a great achievement, but the real blessing of the program is

While earning your Duty to God Award, you will study the scriptures, prepare meals for your family, and do many other things that help prepare you for the Melchizedek Priesthood, the temple endowment, a mission, marriage, and parenthood.



that it will help prepare you to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and the temple endowment, serve a full-time mission, marry in the temple, and become a faithful husband and father.



General Priesthood Session and More

In addition to the weekly Aaronic Priesthood meetings in your ward or branch, each April and October you will join with priesthood holders all around the world in the priesthood session of general conference. There apostles and prophets will teach you how to do your priesthood duties and become a better person. There will also be firesides and other special activities throughout the year. You are in for a spiritual, intellectual, and social feast.

Mutual

The weekly activity for the Young Men and Young Women organizations is called Mutual. It's an opportunity for the youth of the ward or branch to meet together in a social setting and apply the gospel principles taught in Sunday meetings. As a deacon you'll do things at

Mutual that 12- and 13-year-old boys like to do. How can you be sure? Because you will help choose the activities. As you become a teacher and then a priest, the activities will change to meet your interests. Once a month you will meet with the young women. This will help you learn how to build wholesome relationships with all young women.

Honoring the Priesthood

My patriarchal blessing says, "Honor thy father and thy mother, but above all, honor the priesthood, for it will be your salvation." The same will be true for you. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to follow Jesus Christ, whose priesthood you will soon hold. ●

NOTE

1. First Presidency Letter, Sept. 28, 2001.

Scouting

Scouting is the activity program of the Aaronic Priesthood in the United States and Canada. As an 11-year-old Scout you already know that it's a lot of fun, and it only gets better. You'll go on overnight camping trips. You'll go swimming. You'll go hiking. As you get older, the adventures will grow more challenging and more exciting. You'll learn new skills as you work on merit badges. The First Presidency has said, "We desire all young men to strive to earn the Eagle Scout and Duty to God Awards."



Welcome to the New Era

Turning 12, becoming a deacon, and entering Young Men all bring a new set of responsibilities and opportunities. That's why there's the *New Era* magazine—the Church magazine written for young men just like you. In the *New Era* you'll laugh at the cartoons, love the posters, get great ideas for Scouting and earning your Duty to God Award, and develop your testimony by reading messages from Church leaders and stories about youth around the world striving to live the gospel. The articles and stories talk about issues you and your friends face every day.

Now that you're older, check out what the *New Era* offers especially for you.

Yours truly,
The *New Era* staff

Guide to the Friend



The Guide to the Friend can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. The Primary theme for June is "Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ promise me blessings when I obey the commandments."



Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. Read "Thankful for Missionary Work" (pp. 2–3) by President Gordon B. Hinckley. Study the photo of President Hinckley as a young missionary and his current photo. If possible, look at old photos and current photos of family members. What choices do you think President Hinckley made as a young man that helped him to be a strong leader in the Church today? What choices did faithful family members make that led them to have testimonies today? What choices should you make today in order to build the kind of future you hope for?

2. Write the poem "My Home" (p. 7) on a whiteboard or a large piece of paper. Take turns crossing out words and replacing them with your own details about your family. The words don't need to rhyme. (For example, retain "My home's a gentle father who . . ." and cross out "loves us as we are.")

Write instead something specific your father has done for you.) Express gratitude for each family member and how they make your house feel like home. Finish by singing "Love at Home" (*Hymns*, no. 294).

3. Read "My Brother Gary" (pp. 8–9). Elder Marlin K. Jensen describes his brother's gifts and talents with great admiration. We should see the good in people first, not their differences. If you are tempted to treat someone unkindly,

write a list of their good qualities and remember how loved they are by their families and Heavenly Father. Decide to love that person too by being kind or standing up for him or her.

4. Complete the activity "Planting a Garden" (p. 23). Beforehand, prepare a "garden" of snacks in the kitchen, including ingredients for one of the Kitchen Krafts recipes (p. 26). Provide similar clues to help family members choose the right ingredients for the recipe. Then enjoy making and eating the treat together.

5. Prepare beforehand by having each family member make a "Give Dad a Hand Card" (p. 35). Hand Cards could also be made for other family members. Spend family home evening honoring that family member by presenting the cards and explaining why that family member deserves a "hand."



The *Friend* can be found on the Internet at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.

To subscribe online, go to www.ldscatalog.com.



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Manuscript Submissions

The *Friend* welcomes unsolicited manuscripts but is not responsible for them. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Send manuscripts to *Friend* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2430, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America. Send e-mail to friend@ldschurch.org.

Send children's submissions to *Friend* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2430, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America, in care of the appropriate department—Our Creative Friends, Friends in the News, Friends by Mail, Trying to Be Like Jesus. A written statement by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish the child's submission and photo must be included. Children's submissions will not be returned.

What's in the *Friend* this month?

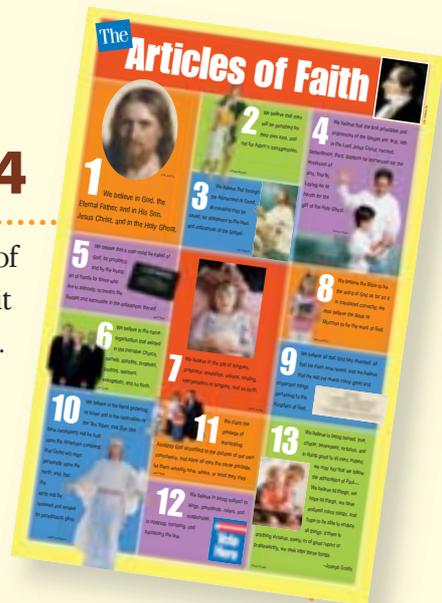


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What advice did President Hinckley's father write to him to encourage him on his mission?

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Remove "The Articles of Faith" poster and hang it in your room.



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Find out what important steps boys take in the Church when they turn 12 years old.

