



the Friend

MAY • 2005

Friends by Mail



A Prayer for Dad

Our dad is a police officer. A couple of years ago when we lived in Australia, Dad was working at a big convention.



Important people from all over the world were coming. There were lots of protesters, and Dad's job was to protect the people attending the convention. It lasted five days, and it was on the television news all the time because the protesters were angry and causing problems.

Dad worked long hours and was hardly ever home during that time. We watched television as much as possible to find out what was going on. One morning, Mum turned on the TV, and Dad was on the news! The protesters were getting out of control, and the police officers were having a difficult time protecting the people at the meeting. Mum turned off the TV, and we knelt down and said a prayer. We asked Heavenly Father to protect our dad.

When Dad got home that night, he was very tired. We told him we had prayed for him that morning that he would be protected. Dad smiled. He told us that he had been on the front line facing the protesters when the sergeant told him to leave the line and go cover a different area. After he left, several police officers were injured and had to be taken to the hospital. The sergeant had made him leave the front line shortly after we had finished our prayer.

We are children of God. We can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. We know that He hears and answers our prayers.

Jessica and Jaime Zurzolo, ages 11 and 6
Weippe, Idaho



No Problem at All

I have a problem with spelling and reading, but when I read the Bible I have no problem at all. I read it every day. The *Friend* is fun to read, too.

Mackenzie Wright, age 10
Mont Clare, Pennsylvania



Sharing My Faith

One night we talked about the Articles of Faith in family home evening. The next day at school I showed my teacher my new Articles of Faith card. She liked it a lot! She was proud of me for sharing my faith. She told me that her uncle was a member of our church. He went on a mission, and I thought that was really neat. I felt the Holy Ghost.

Chase Stolworthy, age 7
Franklin, Tennessee



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Stories and Features

- IFC Friends by Mail
- 2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: The Lord Provides a Way / President
Gordon B. Hinckley
- 4 Heaven's Power
- 8 Friend to Friend: Spiritual Experiences / Elder James M. Dunn
- 10 The Wiggle Waggles
- 13 Special Witness: Getting to Know Elder Dallin H. Oaks
- 14 Making Friends: Building an Eternal Family / Nolan Anderson of Soda Springs,
Idaho
- 18 Finding the Key
- 24 Willie's Miracle
- 29 Friends in the News
- 30 Summer Reading Fun
- 32 Eternal Service Project
- 36 Our Creative Friends
- 38 Changing Chores
- 42 Trying to Be Like Jesus
- 44 From the Life of President David O. McKay: Beloved Teacher
- 46 Sharing Time: "This Is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!"
- IBC Guide to the *Friend*

For Little Friends

- 20 Bryce's Blessing
- 22 Spring Flowers
- 22 Envelope Gift Basket
- 23 Making Cookies with Mom

Verse

- 7 Thank You, Brother Joseph

Things to Make and Do

- 17 Funstuf
- 27 Funstuf
- 28 Funstuf
- 35 The Church Was Organized

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the friend

A children's magazine published by
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See the Guide to
the *Friend* (inside back
cover) for family home
evening ideas.

HIDDEN CTR RING

This ring shows "CTR"
in American
sign:



As you
look for the sign language
CTR ring hidden in this
issue, think about your
testimony of Joseph Smith.

Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice



The Lord Provides a Way

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY



President Hinckley encourages us to have confidence in the Lord's care.

I recall reading the story of Commander William Robert Anderson, the naval officer who took the submarine *Nautilus* beneath the polar ice from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean, a daring and dangerous feat. The commander carried in his wallet a tattered card that had on it these words: "I believe God will always make a way where there is no way."

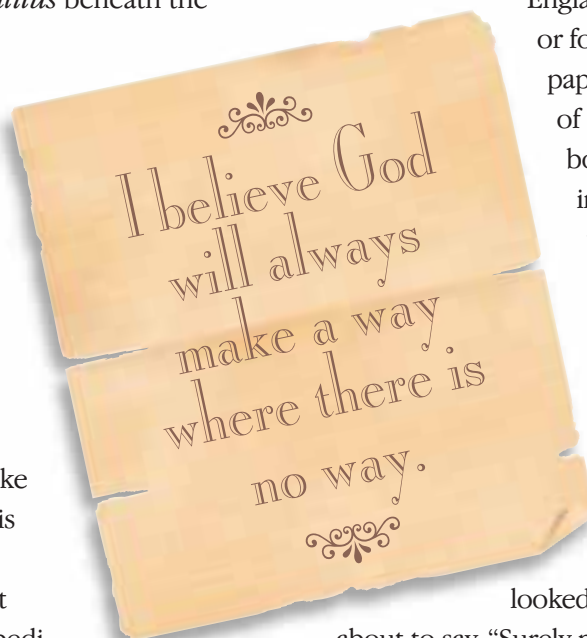
I too believe that if we will walk in obedience to the commandments of God, if we will follow the counsel of the priesthood, He will open a way even

where there appears to be no way.

The assignments given us may be difficult. Years ago I was on a mission in England. One day three or four of the London papers carried reviews of a reprint of an old book, snide and ugly in tone, indicating that the book was a history of the Mormons. [The mission president] said to me, "I want you to go down to the publisher and protest this." I

looked at him and was about to say, "Surely not me." But I meekly said, "Yes, sir."

I was frightened. I went to my room and felt something as I think Moses must have





felt when the Lord asked him to go and see Pharaoh. I offered a prayer. My stomach was churning as I walked. I found the office of the president and presented my card to the receptionist. She took it and went into the inner office and soon returned to say that the president was too busy to see me. I replied that I had come five thousand miles and that I would wait. Finally he invited me in. He was smoking a long cigar with a look that seemed to say, "Don't bother me."

I do not recall what I said after that. Another power seemed to be speaking through me. At first he was defensive. Then he began to soften. He concluded by promising to do something. Within an hour word went

out to every book dealer in England to return the books to the publisher. At great expense he printed and tipped in the front of each volume a statement to the effect that the book was not to be considered as history, but only as fiction, and that no offense was intended against the respected Mormon people.

I came to know that when we try in faith to walk in obedience to the requests of the priesthood, the Lord opens the way, even when there appears to be no way. May we place our trust in our Father in Heaven, to go forth with willing hearts, that we may be worthy of His blessings. ●

From "If Ye Be Willing and Obedient," Ensign, July 1995, 2-5.



Heaven's Power





BY KIMBERLY WEBB

Church Magazines
(Based on an experience from
the author's life)

The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven (D&C 121:36).

This really happened here?" Sharon murmured. The bronze statue showed Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery kneeling before John the Baptist to receive the Aaronic Priesthood.

"We don't know *exactly* where the event happened," Dad said, "but we know that Joseph and Oliver were praying somewhere near the river when John the Baptist appeared. The Melchizedek Priesthood was restored later by Peter, James, and John."

Sharon listened to the Susquehanna River gurgling behind the trees and felt warm sunlight shining on her face. A peaceful, happy feeling swelled inside her. She felt that way a lot lately.

She and her family were traveling with a group visiting some Church history sites. She had felt the Spirit in the Sacred Grove, at the Hill Cumorah, and now here in what was once called Harmony, Pennsylvania.

"I believe what happened here," she thought, "but I have a hard time *imagining* it." The word *priesthood* reminded her of her brother passing the sacrament or Dad giving her a blessing, not angels appearing.

As she climbed back into the car, she took one last glance toward the peaceful river and tried to picture the glorious event that had occurred. But it seemed like too much for her mind to grasp.

A week later, the tour group stayed at a campground with a fun playground. Sharon enjoyed running around after a long day in the car, and she hardly noticed when fireflies started coming out.

"It's getting dark. We should probably go in soon," her friend Emily said. "Come push me on the swing one more time."

Sharon agreed. As Emily gained momentum, Sharon pushed harder. "Faster!" Emily giggled.

Suddenly, Emily's little sister Darcy darted through the darkness—right into Emily's path. Emily's feet rammed into Darcy, and she crumpled to the ground.

Emily leaped from the swing and fell beside her motionless sister. "Darcy! Darcy! Are you OK?"

Darcy didn't respond. She looked like a limp potato sack lying on the ground.

Sharon's heart pumped wildly as she tried not to panic. "Stay here!" she told Emily. "I'll go get help."

Sharon found Emily's dad, and they ran back to the swings. Sharon breathed with relief as Darcy opened her eyes and whimpered. Then Darcy clutched her arm and screamed in pain.

"Emily, please go tell Uncle Steve that we need to give Darcy a blessing," Emily's dad said. He scooped Darcy into his arms and hurried toward their campsite.

Emily grabbed Sharon's arm. "Come with me!"

Sharon swallowed the lump in her throat as they explained to Emily's uncle what had happened. It scared her to see adults acting so worried. The three hurried back to Emily's campsite, Sharon silently praying that Darcy would be OK.

When they stepped inside the dimly lit trailer, Sharon saw Darcy lying calmly on the bed. A familiar, peaceful feeling came over her as Emily's dad whispered in Darcy's ear, "Uncle Steve and I are going to give you a blessing."

Sharon folded her arms and closed her eyes while the men placed their hands on Darcy's head. As she

listened to the reverent words, a warm feeling grew stronger and stronger until she was tempted to open her eyes and peek. It felt as though warm sunlight were filling the room.

She remembered standing on the banks of the Susquehanna River the week before, sunlight shining through the trees. She remembered the bronze statue of John the Baptist, Joseph, and Oliver, and suddenly she understood what had happened there. Though she couldn't see angels, she felt heaven's power streaming into the room.

Her heart burst with joy as tears trickled down her cheeks. The priesthood wasn't just something her brother used in church to pass the sacrament. It wasn't just something that helped her dad say comforting

words whenever he gave her a blessing. It was Heavenly Father's glorious power to lead, bless, serve, and perform miracles—all restored through a humble latter-day prophet.

The sacred places Sharon had visited flashed through her mind, including Carthage Jail, where the Prophet Joseph had been martyred. She cried harder as she realized that Joseph Smith had sacrificed everything so that heaven's power could be on earth today.

Emily's dad said, "Amen," and Sharon opened her eyes. She smiled to see she wasn't the only one wiping away tears. Everyone else had felt the power, too.

The next day as Sharon and her family ate breakfast at the picnic table, Emily walked over to their campsite. "Good morning, Emily," Sharon's mom greeted her. "How's Darcy?" Sharon's dad asked. Sharon had told her parents all about what had happened.

Emily's eyes danced. "My parents took her to the hospital to make sure she was OK, and do you know what the doctor said?"

Sharon shook her head.

"He looked at her arm and said that it was broken, but the X-rays proved him wrong. He said he'd never seen bruising like that without a broken bone, and he couldn't understand why hers wasn't broken." Emily smiled knowingly.

Sharon grinned back, grateful that *she* understood why. It all went back to a miraculous event that had happened on the banks of the Susquehanna River—the day the priesthood was restored. ●



"Although you cannot see the power of the priesthood, you can *feel* it, and you can see the results of it. The priesthood can be a guiding and protecting power in your life."

President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Aaronic Priesthood," *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 30.



Thank You, Brother Joseph

BY CALLIE BUYS

Thank you, Brother Joseph,
For reading in James,
For translating plates,
For suffering pain.

Thank you, Brother Joseph,
For teaching the way,
For preaching the gospel,
For laughter and play.

Thank you, Brother Joseph,
For helping each hour,
For receiving restored
Priesthood power—

Power to hope
And help and heal.
Power to pray
And baptize and seal.

Power to preach
And translate and learn.
Power to teach
Of kingdoms to earn.

Thank you, Brother Joseph.



From an interview with Elder James M. Dunn of the Seventy, currently serving in the South America West Presidency; by Callie Buys



Spiritual Experiences

They shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost (1 Nephi 13:37).

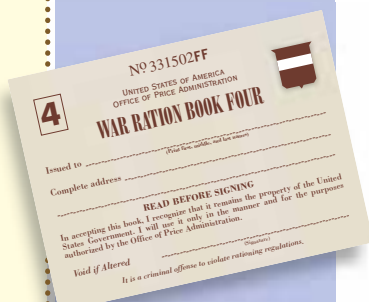
I spent my early childhood in Pocatello, Idaho. The most significant event at that time was World War II. My first memory in life is of being at the train station in Pocatello one night with my mother and three brothers, watching a troop train with my dad onboard pull out of the city.

I felt a powerful sense of loss and sadness.

My dad was away serving in the navy for two years. During that period, my mother was raising four little boys at a time when shoes, tin, gasoline, and anything made of rubber were rationed. Even if you had money, you still needed coupons to buy anything. It was a tough time, yet I think as little boys we didn't really notice any losses, except for our dad.

My parents had five sons and one daughter. I was the third son. My brothers

Ration books were used to buy scarce items during World War II.



and I liked to make up games. We would find dirt piles to play in, catch pollywogs along the ditch banks, and play night games like kick-the-can. I became very attached to my brothers. As we got older, we did many other things together. We built an underground hut, and we often played neighborhood football games.

My oldest brother was a good businessman. He organized his younger brothers into doing all kinds of projects, such as selling ice cream and candy and picking up Christmas trees after Christmas. As children we had a lot of fun thinking up activities to do. And our parents always kept us busy doing jobs and chores. They taught us good principles in our home.

I've been blessed to be around good people my whole life. My parents were very good people in every way. They were outgoing, happy, and positive. Others loved to be around them, including my friends and my brothers' friends. They were great parents, and they encouraged us to do our best. Education was very important to them, as were culture and good manners.

I loved Primary. I had 100 percent attendance. In those days we went to Primary on Wednesdays after school. The sisters who led the Primary and taught us songs really stand out in my mind. I've always had a special, warm feeling for those sisters.

They were good to us children.

I love the scriptures; I read them every night. What I love most about them is that they teach us how to live to please God. I can't imagine what society would be like without the scriptures. What we know about how we ought to live comes from the scriptures.

I remember walking home from church alone the day I became a deacon. I didn't know much about the Holy Ghost then, but He bore witness to me as I walked home that I held the holy priesthood and that it was very important. I've never forgotten that.

Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ love you very much. Children are pure and close to Heavenly Father, and you can have incredibly powerful spiritual experiences, just like my experience as a deacon walking down the street. If you will remember these spiritual experiences throughout your lives, they will serve as a very strong foundation for future spiritual growth. ●

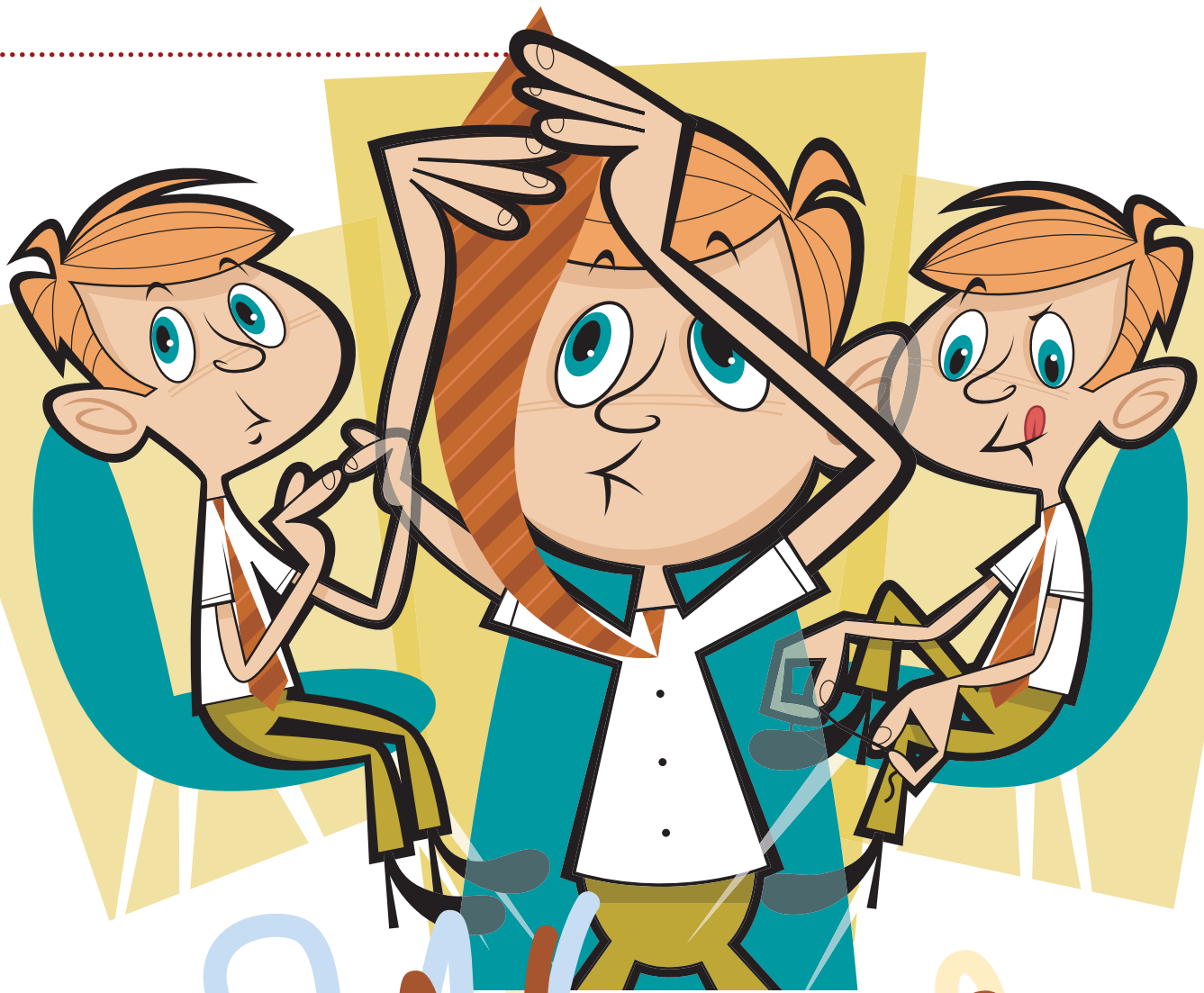
Opposite page: Garry, Billy, Mother (Melba), Jon, Father (Billy), and James in 1945

Left: At age 9 (right) with his brother Jon

Middle: Elder Dunn at age 20

Right: Elder Dunn with the Garcia family, whom he baptized in Montevideo in 1962





The

Wiggle=

BY MARLI WALKER

(Based on an experience of the author's family)

Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary (Leviticus 19:30).

It happened every Sunday in church. No matter how hard Jeremy tried, he always got the wiggle-waggles. He tried very hard to sit still during Primary. He kept his arms folded as long as he could and sang all the Primary songs. Jeremy listened to the lesson in his class and tried to answer questions. But sometimes, even

when he tried his very hardest to sit still, they still came—those bothersome wiggle-waggles!

It usually happened toward the end of Primary and carried on through sacrament meeting. Jeremy would start to fidget, then he'd play with his tie. He'd rattle his papers from Primary, then twist around in his seat. He tried talking to his best friend, Thomas, but Thomas would put a finger to his lips to tell Jeremy to be quiet.



about his new toy dump truck.

“Put your feet down,” his mother cautioned in sacrament meeting.

“Leave your shoes on, son,” his dad told him.

Jeremy tried to sit reverently and quietly. He really did! But he still had those wiggle-waggles every Sunday.

One night at family home evening, Jeremy’s mother brought up the wiggle-waggle problem.

“I try to sit still, Mom. I really do!” Jeremy exclaimed.

“It seems to me that we need to figure out a way to stop those wiggle-waggles from bothering Jeremy,” Dad said thoughtfully. “Let’s all think about it, and maybe we’ll come up with a solution.”

On Sunday morning, just before the family left for church, Jeremy’s mother gave him a piece of paper and a pencil. Then she said, “Jeremy, I want you to write down a sentence about your lesson in

Wagglees

Thomas never seemed to get the wiggle-waggles.

Sometimes Jeremy would untie his shoes. When the wiggle-waggles were really bad, he would slip off his shoes and kick his stocking feet back and forth.

“Sit still, Jeremy,” his Primary teacher whispered to him.

“Shhh, Jeremy, I want to listen to Sister Bernard,” Thomas said quietly when Jeremy tried to tell him

Primary, and a sentence about the talks that you hear in sacrament meeting. Do you think you could do that?”

Jeremy nodded enthusiastically.

“We’ll talk about what you wrote on your paper for family home evening,” his mother added.

All through Primary, Jeremy sat very still. He listened carefully to the talks and scripture and wrote down the scripture reference. Jeremy sang with his best voice



"Reverent behaviors follow reverent attitudes, but it is the attitude of reverence that we need to cultivate [develop] first."

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, " 'Serve God Acceptably with Reverence and Godly Fear,' " *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 70.

during singing time, and even wrote down a verse to one of the Primary songs. Then he wrote a sentence about sharing time. Jeremy didn't talk to Thomas once. During the walk to their class, Thomas commented on how reverent Jeremy was. During his Primary class, Jeremy quietly wrote down a sentence about the lesson. Before he knew it, Primary was over.

"I didn't get the wiggle-waggles once!" Jeremy proudly reported to his parents as they sat down for sacrament meeting.

During the next hour, Jeremy tried very hard to sit quietly. But after a while, he started to feel the wiggle-waggles creeping up on him. He glanced down at his paper and read the words of the Primary song he had written down: "It shouldn't be hard to sit very still and think about Jesus, his cross on the hill, and all that he suffered and did for me; it shouldn't be hard to sit quietly."*

Jeremy thought about the song. That was the secret! He should think about Jesus. Jeremy knew that Jesus would want him to sit quietly and listen.

Jeremy listened as Elder Vasquez, one of the missionaries serving in his ward, related an experience about a 10-year-old girl

who had recently been baptized. He listened when Elder Brown, the other missionary, told the congregation that he was from England and had been on his mission for only three months. As Jeremy listened to the missionaries, he decided that he would like to be a missionary, too.

Jeremy was surprised when the closing hymn was announced. He looked down at his paper and noticed that he hadn't written anything about the missionaries. He had been too busy listening to them! And the wiggle-waggles hadn't bothered him once!

As they were leaving the church after sacrament meeting,

Jeremy's parents told him how happy they were that he'd been so reverent. Jeremy told them how the Primary song had taught him to think about Jesus and what He wanted him to do.

Just then, Sister Harper came up to Jeremy's parents and said, "Jeremy is so quiet! I wish my Kerry would learn how to be quiet and reverent like Jeremy. She gets so wiggly!"

Jeremy's mother winked at him.

"It looks like the wiggle-waggles found someone else to bother," she said.

"Yes." Jeremy smiled and held up his piece of paper. "And I know just what she can do to fix it!" ●

**Children's Songbook, 71.*

Marli Walker is a member of the Spring City Second Ward, Mount Pleasant Utah Stake.





Getting to Know Elder Dallin H. Oaks

To learn more about this member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, choose from the list of words to complete the crossword puzzle.

announcer	Korean	Provo
basketball	mission	Supreme
Chicago	newspapers	sweeping
fishing	Philippines	work
	prayer	

Across

2. When Dallin H. Oaks was eight years old, his father passed away. He learned to _____ hard at a young age to help his widowed mother and brother and sister. He says, "I don't do anything for fun. I just have fun at what I do."

3. Elder Oaks was appointed a judge on the Utah _____ Court.

6. He is well educated and reads three or four _____ a day, along with books and magazines. Sometimes he even reads while waiting at stoplights.

8. He was born in _____, Utah, on August 12, 1932.

9. While announcing a high school _____ game, he was introduced to his first wife, June Dixon. After 46 years of marriage, June passed away. Two years later Elder Oaks married Kristen McCain.

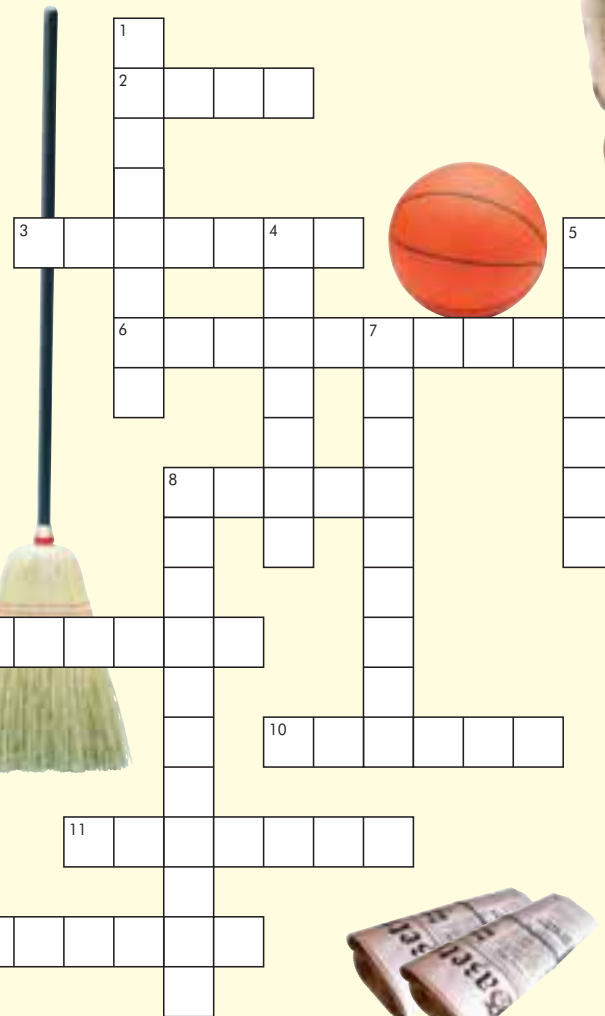
10. He was part of the Utah National Guard at the time of the _____ War.

11. After receiving a degree in accounting, Elder Oaks attended law school in _____.

12. His daughter remembers often going into her parents' room to tell them good-night and finding her father on his knees in _____.

Down

1. Elder Oaks worked at many interesting jobs. His first job was _____ out a radio repair shop.



4. Some of the Church positions he has held include being a member of a stake presidency, stake _____ president, and president of Brigham Young University.

5. He enjoyed spending time with his children, especially going _____.

7. Because of his first job, he later became a radio _____.

8. As an Apostle, he served in the _____ as Area President.

(See *Ensign*, Jun. 1984, 14–19; Oct. 2003, 17.).



Building an Eternal Family

Nolan Anderson
of Soda Springs, Idaho

BY MONICA WEEKS



The town of Soda Springs is named for the natural springs that bubble beneath the ground in this part of southeastern Idaho.

One of the bubbly young residents of Soda Springs is Nolan Anderson, a 10-year-old who lives there with his parents and five brothers.

Nolan is a creative person. He likes to take photos with the family's camera, and his favorite subject in school is art. He says, "I want to be an artist when I grow up." But art isn't his only pursuit—he enjoys sports like bowling and swimming. He also plays sports with his family. One summer his family learned how to play badminton.

But some activities are more of a challenge for Nolan. When he was a baby, he contracted spinal meningitis, a

serious infection that can cause brain damage and paralysis. His illness caused him to have a stroke, and doctors weren't sure if Nolan would be able to walk or talk when he grew older. Fortunately Nolan recovered, but he still has trouble using the right side of his body. He says, "Sometimes when I color and hold the paper with my right hand, it crumples the paper." Sometimes he becomes frustrated, but he is learning to use his right hand more and more.

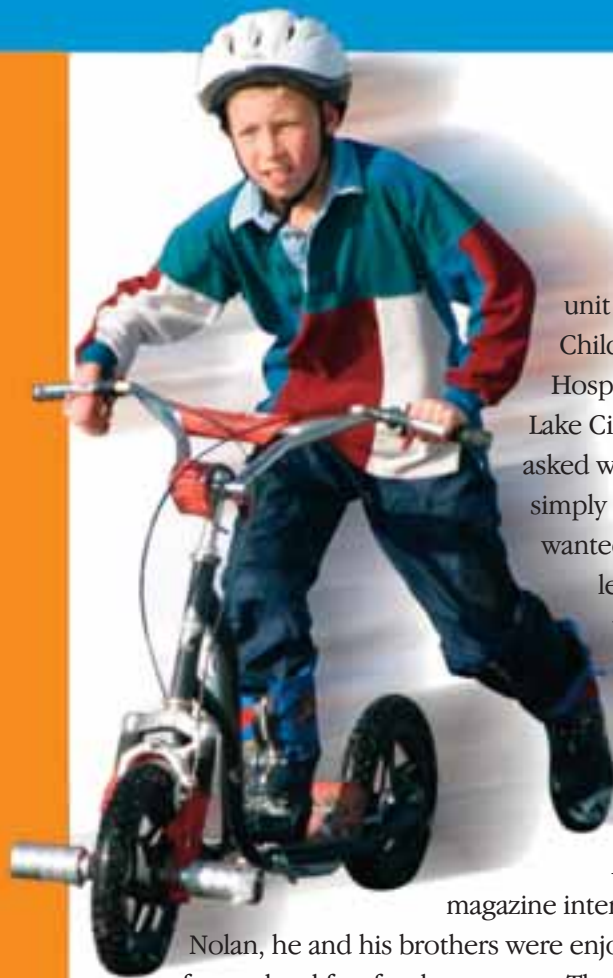
His challenges have helped him to become a more caring person. Nolan likes to play the drums, and he recently received a new drum set. He decided to send

his old drum set to the children in the rehabilitation



Top: Nolan using a bow and arrow

Below: The Anderson family



unit at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City. When asked why, Nolan simply answers, "I wanted them to learn to play the drums."

He is also a caring brother. On the day the *Friend*

magazine interviewed

Nolan, he and his brothers were enjoying lunch from a local fast-food restaurant. The younger

boys all received toys with their meals except for Austin, Nolan's three-year-old brother. When Austin told his mother that he wanted a toy, too, Nolan immediately tossed his toy over to his brother, saying, "Here, you can have mine."

Nolan has also learned to be persistent. Even when activities aren't easy for him, he works hard at them and keeps trying. He has been practicing throwing and hitting a baseball, and is getting quite good at it. During the summer, he ran in a 5K race with his mom and his brother Hayden, 8. They practiced for a few weeks ahead of time. His mom says, "I was expecting to have to urge them along, but they left me in the dust. Nolan walked a little in the middle, but he pushed me the whole way. He ran across the finish line, and we were very proud of him."

Whether competing in races or just spending time at home, Nolan likes to have

fun with his family. One of his favorite activities is to wrestle with his brothers. He says that Andrew, 16, is the best wrestler in the family. Nolan also likes to go on vacations with his family. One of his favorite places to visit is Salt Lake City, he says, "because I get to see the Salt Lake Temple." His favorite thing about the temple is seeing the statue of the angel Moroni on top. Moroni is Nolan's favorite prophet, and he likes to read about him in the Book of Mormon.

Remembering that Jesus loves him helps Nolan to be happy every day. It is clear that Nolan and his family love Jesus, too, as they are striving to serve Him and are working together to build an eternal family. ●

Monica Weeks is a member of the Dimple Dell Park Ward, Sandy Utah Granite View Stake.

Above: Nolan riding his scooter

Right: Nolan loves his baby brother, Isaac.

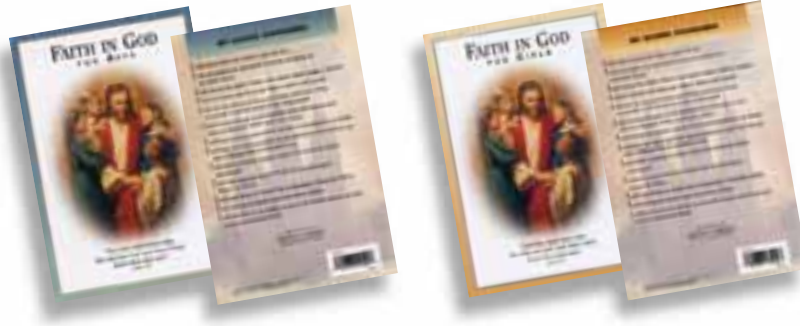
Below: Nolan enjoys playing the drums.



My Gospel Standards

BY CHARLOTTE G. LINDSTROM

Find the words listed forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally in the puzzle. All of the words can be found in My Gospel Standards (see the back cover of the *Faith in God* guidebook).



BAPTISM
BODY
CHOOSE
COVENANT
DRESS
ETERNAL
FAMILY
FOLLOW
FRIENDS
GOOD
HONEST
HONOR
KINDLY
LISTEN
MIND
MODESTLY
MUSIC
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PLAN
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RIGHT
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R	I	G	H	T	W	D	M	O	D	E	S	T	L	Y
P	V	Z	C	L	N	L	B	H	T	A	B	B	A	S
A	G	P	T	H	G	E	I	E	C	H	O	O	S	E
R	K	I	N	D	L	Y	P	S	L	J	C	D	G	R
E	Q	L	A	N	R	E	T	E	T	P	R	Y	E	U
N	B	R	N	F	H	Q	J	V	R	E	M	R	Z	P
T	K	T	E	Q	O	C	M	F	S	Z	N	E	K	F
S	L	W	V	M	J	L	T	S	B	Y	Q	V	T	R
T	D	O	O	G	W	V	L	A	S	L	C	E	H	E
C	R	R	C	I	S	U	M	O	W	I	A	R	O	B
E	O	T	D	V	B	G	U	N	W	M	X	E	N	M
P	N	H	B	A	P	T	I	S	M	A	L	N	E	E
S	O	Y	M	T	E	C	O	L	I	F	R	T	S	M
E	H	P	L	A	N	R	F	P	N	Q	N	L	T	E
R	A	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	D	H	D	Y	X	R

Finding the

BY KAREN McCLUSKY BEALS

(Based on an experience from the author's family)

Therefore, he that lacketh wisdom, let him ask of me, and I will give him liberally and upbraid him not (D&C 42:68).

Andre plopped onto his bed and groaned, “Do I have to read it?” He usually liked reading, but this book was different.

“Next year you will be 12. It’s important to Dad and me that you read the Book of Mormon before you receive the priesthood,” Mom said as she sat next to him.

“I know it’s important. But the Book of Mormon is so hard to understand,” Andre complained.

“What could you do to understand the Book of Mormon better?”

“Wait until I’m older, I guess,” Andre joked.

Mom smiled. “Do you remember what we talked about in family home evening this week?”

“We can pray to Heavenly Father whenever we need Him,” Andre recited. “But how does that help me now? I’m not in trouble.”

“I want you to read something with me,” Mom said as she picked up the scriptures.

“‘If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God . . . and it shall be given him,’”* Andre read.

“If you truly want the key to understanding the scriptures, pray for help. Heavenly Father will listen to and answer your prayers.”

After Mom left the room, Andre read the scripture a couple more times. “I guess it’s worth a try,” he thought. “I really want to understand the Book of Mormon, and I haven’t been able to do it on my own.”

He knelt down and prayed. He could feel the warmth of the Holy Ghost and knew Heavenly Father was happy he was asking for help.

Andre picked up the Book of Mormon and began to

read. Starting out was easy. Andre had read the beginning of 1 Nephi so many times it seemed as if he had almost memorized the chapters about Nephi’s family leaving Jerusalem and the trials they faced.

But as Andre read further, he began to get confused and frustrated. He set down the Book of Mormon and frowned. “I’ll never be able to do this. There is too much to learn.”

Then Andre remembered how Nephi had never given up. Nephi had faith that Heavenly Father would help him. Andre had faith, too. “Heavenly Father can’t help me if I’m not doing my part,” he realized.

Andre began to read the Book of Mormon every day and found ways to help himself understand better. He would read the headings at the beginning of each chapter. They helped him know what the chapter was going to be about. And he discovered that by focusing on only a few verses at a time, and making sure that he understood all the words, it became easier for him to learn. Sometimes he needed to read a chapter many times before he was able to understand it all, but he began to understand and even enjoy what he was reading.

“The Book of Mormon is exciting!” Andre told his dad one day. “Did you know that in 1 Nephi 13, Nephi had a vision of the people coming to America and of Joseph Smith restoring the gospel?”

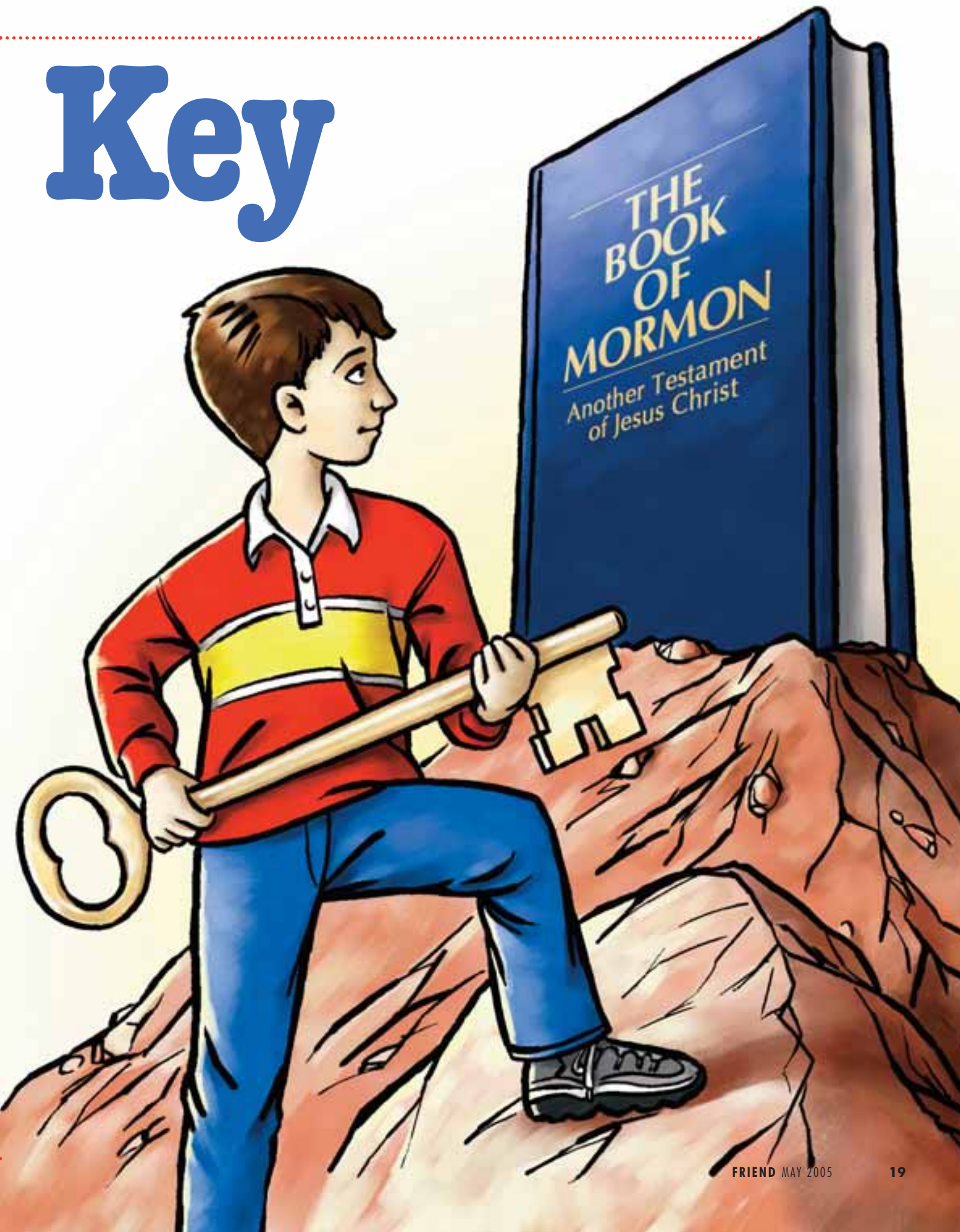
“Amazing,” Dad answered, smiling.

After a few weeks, Andre wasn’t frustrated anymore when he read. The Book of Mormon was still confusing to him sometimes, but he knew that if he was patient and kept trying, Heavenly Father would continue to help him understand. ●

* James 1:5

Karen McClusky Beals is a member of the Signal Butte First Ward, Apache Junction Arizona Stake.

Key





Bryce's Blessing

BY ALICE BEESLEY

(Based on an experience of the author's family)

We believe in the gift of . . . healing (Articles of Faith 1:7).

When are we going camping?" four-year-old Bryce asked as he sat at the kitchen counter eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

"In three more days," Mother said.

Bryce frowned. "That's a long time."

Mother nodded. "Well, you can pack some of your toys and help me make cookies so the time will go faster."

"Hurray!" Bryce hopped off the stool and ran to get his army men. Later, as he stirred the cookie dough, he said, "We're going to roast hot dogs and marshmallows and sleep in a tent!"

"We sure are," Mother agreed. Then she mussed his hair. He laughed.

The next morning Bryce slept in later than usual. At the breakfast table, he didn't touch his toast and jam.

"Are you OK?" Mother asked.

"I'm tired," he said.

He climbed off the chair and lay down on the couch with his blanket. Mother put her hand on his forehead.





"You feel warm," she said. "I hope you're not getting sick."

His stomach hurt. "If I get sick, we won't be able to go camping, will we?"

"We'll see," Mother said.

Bryce slept most of the day. When Mother took his temperature, she said it was high. She gave him some syrupy medicine that tasted like cherries.

"What if I'm sick tomorrow?" he asked.

"Hopefully you'll be better by then," she said.

But that night Bryce's temperature rose. He fell asleep and had bad dreams. Waking up scared and thirsty, he went into the kitchen to ask for a drink of water. Then he curled up in the recliner in the family room. Mother held up a cup of water to his lips. The cold liquid cooled his mouth and throat as he sipped it.

"Dad's going to give you a blessing," Mother said in a soft voice.

Bryce smiled faintly. "Good. Then my fever will go away."

His parents smiled at each other. He fell back asleep and woke up in his bed when someone touched his

shoulder lightly.

"We're going to give you a blessing now," Dad said.

One of their home teachers was standing by the bed.

"Are you going to put oil on my head?" Bryce asked. He had seen other family members receive blessings before, and Dad had put oil on their heads.

"Yes." Dad opened a small bottle and put a drop of oil on top of Bryce's head.

As Bryce lay on his bed, Dad and the home teacher placed their hands on his head. They gave him a blessing that the fever would break and he would be able to go camping in the morning. When they were done, Bryce fell back asleep. He woke up to see light shining through the cracks in the window blinds. He jumped out of bed and ran to find his dad in the kitchen.

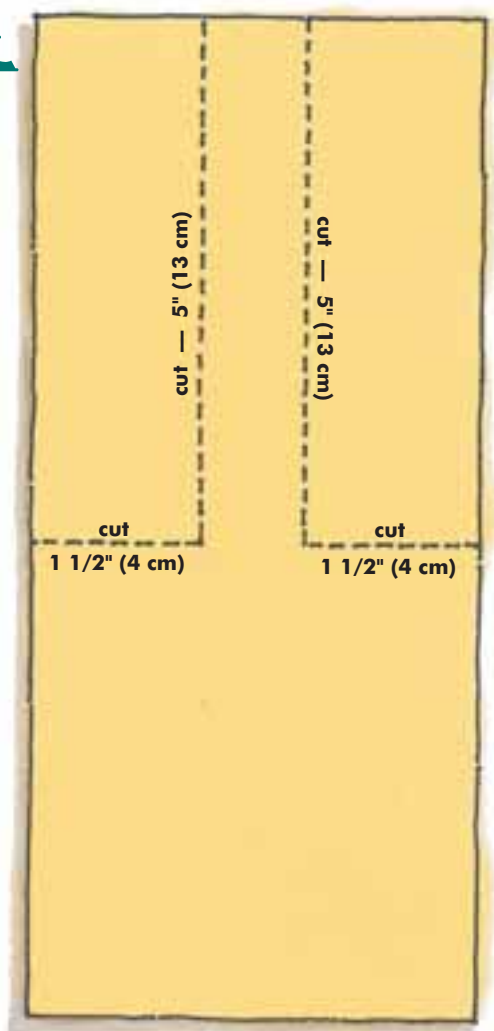
"Am I better?" he asked.

Dad felt Bryce's forehead. "Yes, the fever's gone."

Bryce ran to find Mother in her bedroom. "My fever's gone! The blessing worked," he said.

Mother hugged him. "I'm so glad. You had faith, and Heavenly Father blessed you." ●

Alice Beesley is a member of the River View Fifth Ward, Draper Utah River View Stake.



Envelope Gift Basket

BY JULIE WARDELL

To make a basket, you will need: a 4" x 9 1/2" (10 x 24 cm) white envelope, ruler, pencil, scissors, and colored markers, crayons, or stickers.

1. Seal the envelope.
2. Following the illustration on this page, draw the basket handle on the envelope and cut out.
3. Write a message on the basket such as I Love You Mom!, Happy Birthday, or Thank You. Decorate the basket using markers, crayons, and/or stickers. Then make the "Spring Flowers" on this page and place them in the basket.



Spring Flowers

BY SHERRY TIMBERMAN

To make two flowers, you will need: a pencil, tracing paper, scissors, scraps of colored paper, glue, two 12" (30 cm) chenille sticks (available in craft stores), and tape.

1. Trace the flower, flower center, and leaf patterns onto the tracing paper and cut out.
2. Trace the flower patterns on the colored paper twice and cut out. Then trace four leaves and cut out. Glue the flower centers and leaves in place (see illustration).
3. Wrap a chenille stick around one of your fingers to form it into a coil. Tape or glue one end of the chenille stick to the back of a flower for the stem. Repeat with the other chenille stick. Place the flowers in the "Envelope Gift Basket."



Making Cookies with Mom

BY ROBERT PETERSON

While the children wait for the cookies to cool, help them find hidden in the picture a bell, butterfly, candle, crayon, duck's head, leaf, pear, pocketknife, snail, sock, toothbrush, and watch. Then color the picture.

Willie's Miracle

BY MICHELE H. MIRABILE

(Based on an experience of the author's great-great-grandmother)

Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee (Numbers 12:13).

The ground began to tremble, and a shout went up from the members of the wagon train. "The buffalo are coming!"

Eight-year-old Emily held tightly to her mother's hand as her father jumped to the ground, skillfully guiding their team of oxen into a circle formation with the other wagons. As 40 wagons and three carriages jammed together, Emily looked around for her older sister, Wilhelmina—"Willie" for short. Willie was traveling in the covered wagon ahead of theirs, riding on the spring seat with the driver.

Suddenly, a great herd of buffalo thundered over the hill behind them. Emily cried out and hid her face in her mother's skirts as the fearsome beasts stampeded over the prairie and around the huddled wagon train.

When the dust cleared, Emily heard the wagonmaster calling for help and saw him carrying someone in his arms.

"Willie!" Emily cried. She ran toward her motionless sister and reached for her hand.

Mother spread a quilt on the ground, and the wagonmaster gently lowered Willie onto it. "She's been badly injured," he said. "It looks like she was thrown from the wagon."

Emily stared in horror at the black stripe from a wagon wheel crossing Willie's left shoulder to her right hip. The right side of her face was terribly cut and bruised, where either an ox or a buffalo had stomped on her.

Emily was so frightened that she started to cry. Mother put her arms around Emily as they knelt by Willie's side.

Because Emily and Willie's father was not a member of the Church, other priesthood holders, including their

brothers and uncles, gave Willie a blessing. When they were finished, Willie stirred. Mother put her hand over Willie's face and said, "Don't open your eyes, dear."

"Will she be all right?" Emily whispered.

Mother squeezed her hand while blinking back tears. "If it is Heavenly Father's will."

Suddenly, Emily remembered being taught by the missionaries back home in Delaware. They had said that if she had faith and believed in Heavenly Father, He would hear and answer her prayers.

Running toward a large rock, Emily dropped to her knees and prayed harder than she ever had before.

"Please, Heavenly Father," she said, "make Willie better." A warm, peaceful feeling filled her heart, and she knew Heavenly Father was listening.

By the time Emily rejoined Willie, the company was setting up camp. Since Willie was unable to travel, the whole company

ILLUSTRATED BY GREGG THORKELSON



would remain near Buffalo Creek for a time. “We will trust in the Lord that the weather and our supplies will hold out until Willie gets better,” Mother said.

As the wagon train waited for the smallest sign of improvement in Willie’s condition, they fasted and prayed, and the elders continued to pray for her and bless her.

Emily did what she could to help. She gave Willie water when she was thirsty. She read scriptures to Willie and told her stories. She gathered dried buffalo chips to be used as fuel for fire. Sometimes she helped the doctor gather herbs and roots from the prairie, preparing poultices [medicine] to help treat Willie. And every day, Emily prayed and prayed.

Three weeks later, Emily’s prayers were answered. Willie was well enough to travel! The company continued its westward journey.

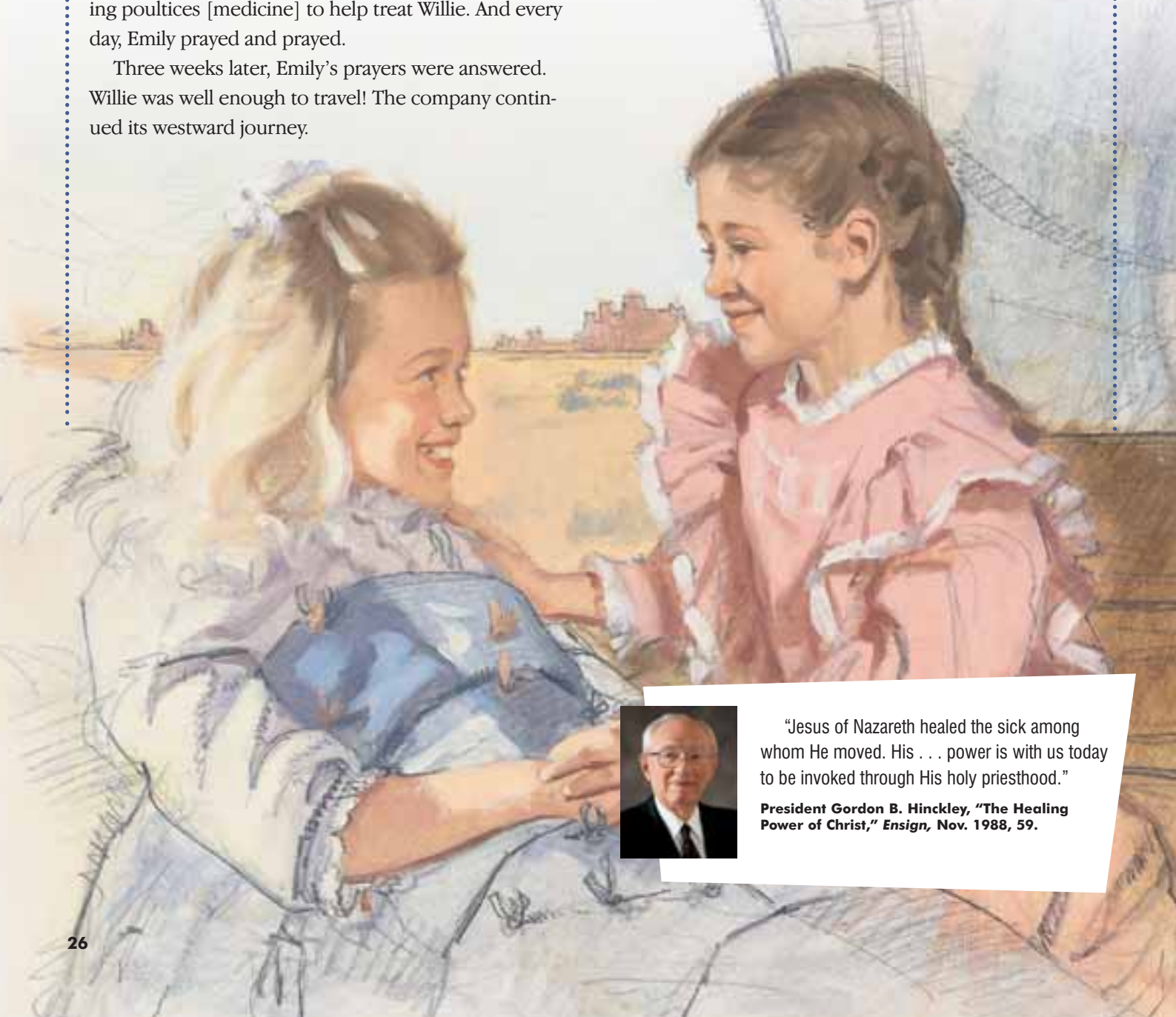
“Oh, Willie,” Emily said as she sat in the back of the wagon with her sister. “I’m so glad Heavenly Father heard my prayers.”

Willie smiled. “I know that faith and prayers made me whole. What would I have done without you?”

Gingerly touching Willie’s brow, Emily said, “Your cuts are healing. Pretty soon you won’t be able to see them at all.” Emily snuggled close to her sister. “You’re a miracle, Willie.”

“So are you, Emily,” Willie said as she kissed her little sister on the cheek. “So are you.” ●

Michele H. Mirabile is a member of the Hillcrest Fifth Ward, American Fork Utah Hillcrest Stake.



“Jesus of Nazareth healed the sick among whom He moved. His . . . power is with us today to be invoked through His holy priesthood.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Healing Power of Christ,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 59.

Who Am I? (A Church History Mystery)

I was with the Prophet Joseph Smith when we were visited by John the Baptist and given the Aaronic Priesthood. I also wrote down some of the Book of Mormon as Joseph translated it. Who am I? See Joseph Smith—History 1:66–69 for help in solving the mystery.

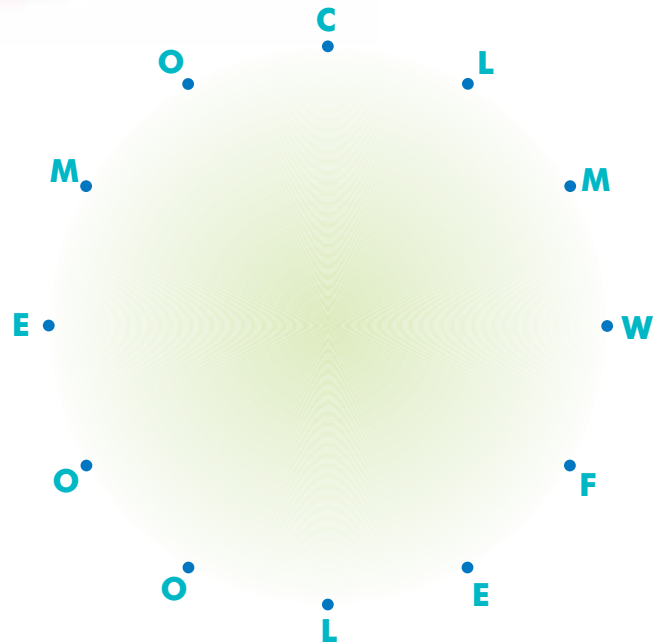


Star Puzzle

BY NEIL S. DICKSON

Begin with the letter C at the top of the circle. Moving counterclockwise, count back five letters, then draw a line from the C to that letter. Write the letter in the first blank below. Repeat the process, drawing lines and writing down the letters, until you have a 12-point star. The letters will spell out an important invitation from the Savior. See answer below.

C _____ .

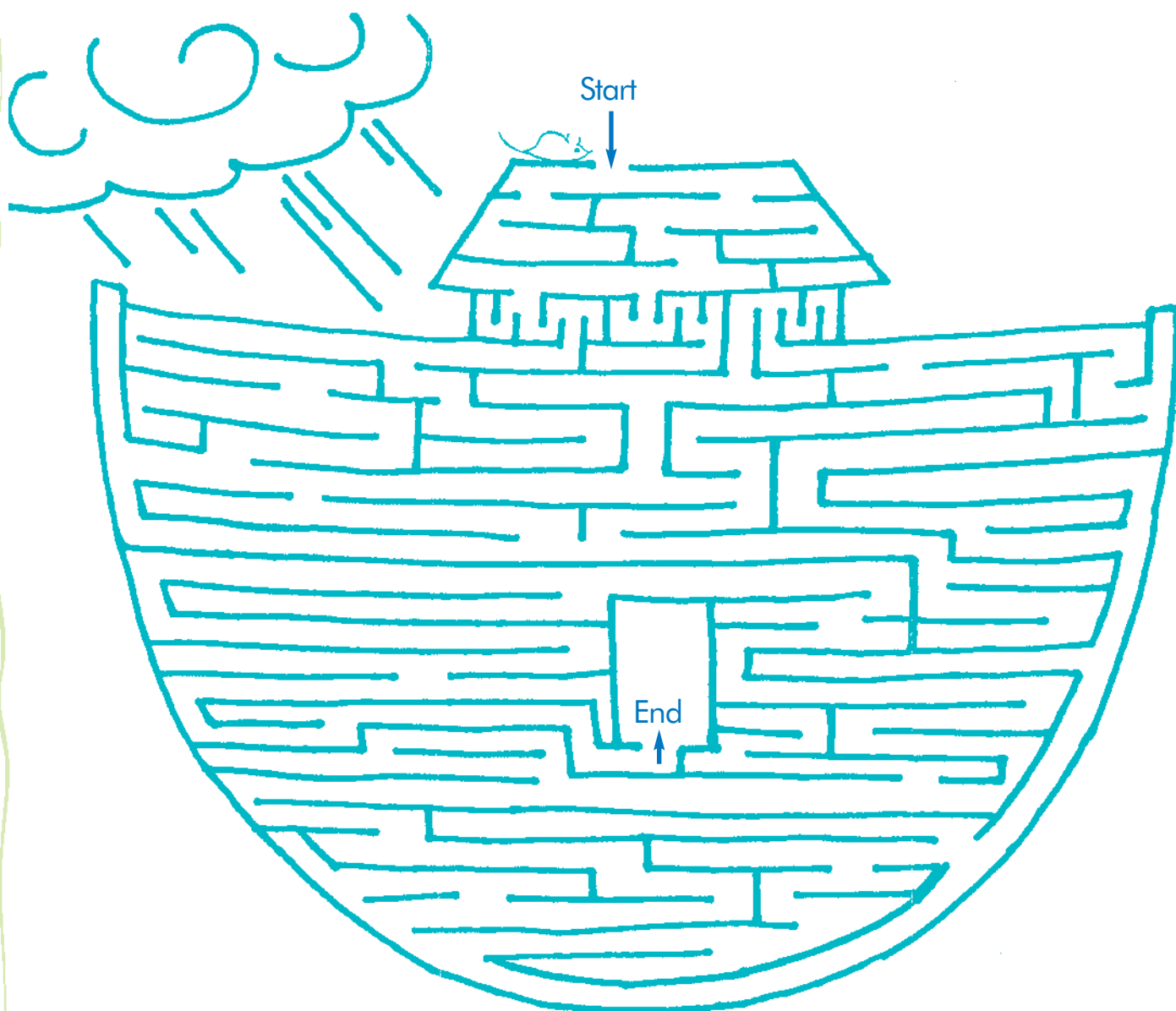


Funstuf Answers
Hidden message: Come follow me.

Noah's Ark Maze

BY TERRI ADAMS

Help the mouse find the door to the ark before the rains come.



Friends in the News



Jordan Thompson, 5, Woodbridge, Virginia, enjoys attending Primary activities and singing Primary songs. Her favorite song is "Picture a Christmas." She has an older brother and sister.



Nathan David McGhie, 6, Moscow, Russia, prays every day for a temple to be built in Russia. He enjoys family home evening and wishes it could be held more often than once a week. He likes to play computer games.



Renae Miles, 10, Salt Lake City, Utah, brings her friends to church each Sunday. She enjoys playing the piano, dancing, listening to music, and being with her friends.



Neil Mayfield, 4, Chicago, Illinois, enjoys writing letters and getting mail. He likes to go to Primary and sit with his friends and help his teacher. He has fun riding his bike, playing games, and reading books.



Halie Rennaker, 10, Darby, Montana, is a peace-maker. She likes to read, dance, shop, and ride horses. She loves to take care of her baby sister.



A happy, energetic boy, **Samuel L. Sanders, 5**, Charlotte, North Carolina, enjoys attending church and visiting his grandparents. He likes to swim, read, and watch TV.



Madisen Wright, 6, Antioch, California, takes good care of her two younger sisters. She likes school and Primary, especially sharing time.



Justin Graham, 8, Safford, Arizona, has fun making people laugh. He has three sisters and one brother. He likes playing with his sister Jaiden, going to Cub Scouts, and playing with friends.



Lena Graetz, 5, Dunkirk, Indiana, enjoys coloring and singing. She likes all the Primary songs, especially the "wiggle" (action) songs.



Jackson Creer, 4, Richland, Washington, built a clubhouse with his dad and uncle. He enjoys seeing fire trucks, wearing basketball jerseys, and reading books with his dad and mom.



Alyssa Johnson, 8, Delta, Utah, is working on her Faith in God Award. Playing soccer, singing, coloring, reading, and riding bikes are her favorite pastimes. She enjoys spending time with her family.



Redford Bassett, 9, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, collects basketball cards. He is a Cub Scout and is working on his Bear rank. He likes to play basketball and roller-blade with his brothers and sisters.



Katie Maree Huang, 5, Newark, Ohio, enjoys listening to other children give talks in Primary. She likes to finger paint, play dress-up, dance, learn to read, and play with her older sister, Marie.



A piano player, **Bryce Mitchell, 11**, Herriman, Utah, is the oldest of three children. He likes to give the family home evening lessons. He enjoys playing with his hamster, Jessie.



Arielle Makela, 7, Brampton, Ontario, Canada, loves her family very much. She is a wonderful girl with a gift for bringing joy to those around her and making people laugh.



Ethan Bradford Hunt, 5, Centennial, Colorado, enjoys singing all the articles of faith songs and "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man." He loves his family and likes to go on vacations with them.



Sarah Hansen, 7, Pflugerville, Texas, likes to play the piano, jump rope, read, and help her mom. Her favorite Primary song is "Love Is Spoken Here."



Joel Deering, 10, Salem, Oregon, moved from Perth, Australia, when he was seven years old. He enjoys spending time with his friends and playing in his school band.



McKenna Cotton, 6, Bedford, Kentucky, likes to read, write, make chocolate chip cookies with her dad, hold her baby brother, and listen to symphony music. She wants to learn to play the violin.



Nathan Mauzy, 4, Douglasville, Georgia, is the oldest of three children. He loves his family and tries to set a good example for his brother and sister. He likes to read, swim, and ride his bike.



Amy Hill, 5, Idaho Falls, Idaho, likes to help her mother make dinner and help her dad make brunch. Her favorite foods are pizza and chicken-on-a-stick. She likes to help her Primary teacher, too.



Ryan Nicholas Green, 7, Morgan Hill, California, enjoys playing games, reading, and playing the violin. He also enjoys riding his bike and scooter. His favorite song is "Families Can Be Together Forever."



Casey Anderson, 6, Essex Junction, Vermont, is kind, generous, and the joy of her family. She likes Primary and enjoys singing "I Am a Child of God." She is looking forward to her baptism.



Dallin Backstrom, 8, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is a good example to his younger brother and sisters. He is the only eight-year-old boy in his Primary. He enjoys the outdoors and likes to learn.

Summer Reading Fun



The Story of the Walnut Tree by Don Staheli, illustrated by Robert T. Barrett

Based on some of President Gordon B. Hinckley's experiences, this story of a "man who loves trees" is certain to inspire children and adults of all ages.



Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer by Robert Byrd

This playful biography celebrates the accomplishments of the great artist and thinker Leonardo da Vinci, with layers of information and colorful drawings that bring Leonardo's accomplishments to life. (Ages 9–12)

The Baby Sister by Tomie dePaola

Tommy is excited about the upcoming arrival of his baby sister. But when the family's plans change and his Nana comes to stay with him instead of his beloved aunt, Tommy isn't sure he likes the new arrangement. Find out how Tommy and Nana find common ground. (Ages 4–8)

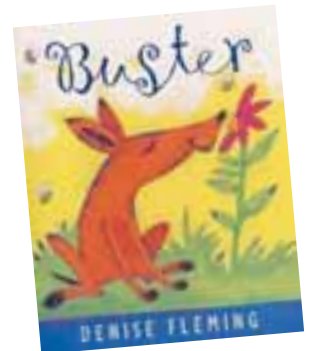


Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza enjoys a comfortable life on her family's ranch in Mexico until a tragedy turns her world upside down. She and her mother are forced to flee to the United States, and Esperanza must find a way to adapt to her difficult circumstances. (Ages 9–12)

Buster by Denise Fleming

Buster is a dog who has everything he could ever want—fancy dishes, a sandbox, good music, and a good owner. But when a cat enters the picture, Buster isn't sure if he will ever be happy again. Will these two pets ever become friends? (Ages 3–6)



Deserts by Nancy F. Castaldo

True or false: Deserts aren't always hot. Gerbils from the pet store are the same as gerbils found in Asian deserts. There are deserts in both Antarctica and California. Find the answers to these and other questions in this activity guide, which illuminates the magic and wonder of lands that are sometimes considered barren and uninteresting. (Ages 6–9)





Family Reading Activities

Act out a story! After reading one of your favorite stories, put together some simple costumes and props and have fun living in the story! You can act out scenes from the book, or make up some of your own.

Record yourself reading some of your favorite stories on a cassette tape. Then give the tape and book to another child as a gift, send a copy to Grandma, or save it for a rainy day of reading at home. You could also call the main branch of your local library to volunteer to record stories on tape for those who are visually impaired.

Write your own story! Choose one of your favorite characters from a book and imagine them in a new situation. Then write it down. Share your stories with your family.

Make a summer book chain! For this activity, you'll need strips of colorful paper and tape or glue. Every time you finish reading a book, write the book's name on one of the pieces of paper and tape or glue it into a link. When you finish the next book, add another link to the chain. By the end of the summer, you could have a chain that stretches across the room (or farther!).

For budding artists: draw your own pictures of the stories you read. They can look like the pictures in the book, or any way you want them to!

Play Book Bingo! Create game cards by drawing a five-by-five-square grid on a piece of paper. In the boxes, write different subject categories—for example, science, history, biography, mystery, and so on. When you read a book in one of the categories, mark off the spot. The first person to mark off five spots in a row wins—and has had the chance to read lots of different kinds of books!

Many local libraries have summer reading programs that offer activities, prizes, etc. Ask your local library if they have one.

For more fun reading ideas, visit the Reading Is Fundamental Web site at www.rif.org/parents.

Bookmark

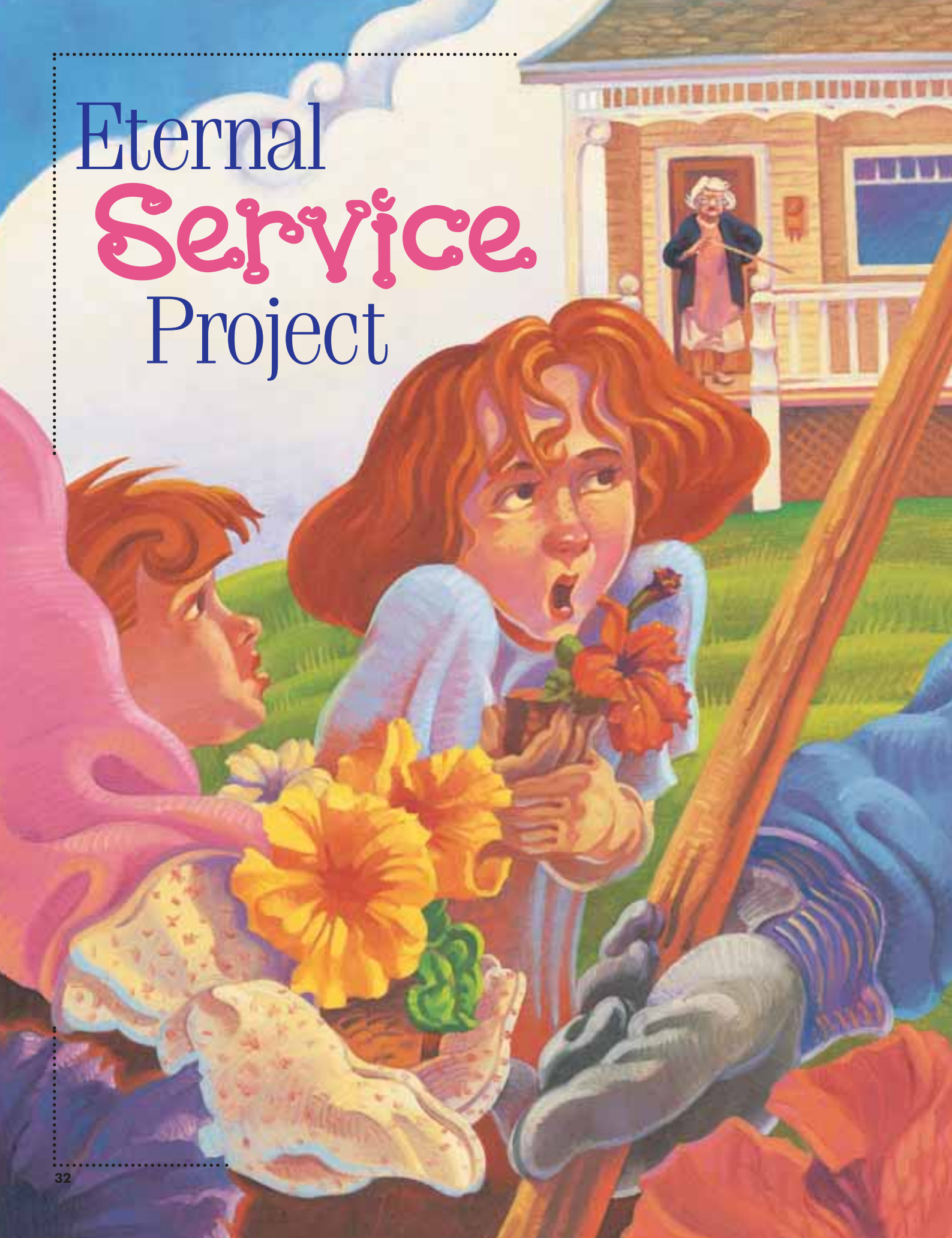
Cut out the bookmark on this page and glue it to heavy paper. Or create your own bookmarks to share with your family.

**“How marvelous
a thing
is a good book!”**

—President Gordon B. Hinckley



Eternal Service Project





BY SHEILA KINDRED

(Based on an experience of the author's family)

Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction

(James 1:27).

Hi, honey." Mom smiled as Keri hopped into the car.
"How was activity day?"
"Terrible," Keri mumbled.

Mom pulled out of the parking lot and headed down the street. "What happened?" she asked.

"We planted flowers in Sister Jackson's front yard."

"That was nice of you."

"Sister Jackson didn't think so. She got mad at us."

"Really? Why?"

"She said that petunias were her favorite flower, and we planted mostly marigolds."

"That's too bad."

"It gets worse. She said we have to come back later and do it right. Mom, we can't spend all of our activity days at her house. We've got other plans. All the girls want to learn how to knit so we can have matching scarves this winter."

Mom patted Keri's knee. "Tell you what—for family home evening we can plant petunias at Sister Jackson's house. How would that be?"

Keri frowned. "All right, but it won't be any fun. She's grumpy and mean and demanding. We'd better have great refreshments so the night won't be a total loss."

The next Monday night Keri, Mom, Dad, and Keri's little brother, Cole, arrived at Sister Jackson's house with a box full of petunias. When Sister Jackson answered the door, she wasn't smiling. "Plant them in the front," she ordered, pointing with her cane. "And not too close together. Petunias need space to grow."

As Keri and her family worked, Sister Jackson came out onto her porch. "You'll need mulch," she said. "I want the fine, red kind—none of that chunky gray stuff. Make sure you get enough." She turned and hobbled

back into the house, letting the screen door slam shut behind her.

"See what I mean?" Keri growled. "She's never satisfied. There's always one more thing to do. This service project is going to go on and on for eternity."

"What's wrong with that?" Mom asked, pulling off her gardening gloves. "The commandment to love our neighbors doesn't have an expiration date. And eternal projects might just bring eternal blessings.

Now, let's go get the mulch while Dad and Cole finish planting the flowers."

But all the way to the store, Keri kept grumbling. "What's wrong with her, anyway? Why can't she be grateful for what we've done? Why does she have to be so critical all the time?"

"I've been thinking about Sister Jackson," Mom said. "She lives alone with no family nearby. She hasn't been able to go to church for months because of her poor health. She must be lonely. Her home teachers and visiting teachers come, but the only time anyone else visits is when there's a service project."

"You mean, she's stretching out this job so we'll keep coming to see her?"

Mom nodded. "I think so."

Keri shook her head in wonder. "Well, if she weren't so grumpy, maybe people would *want* to visit her more often."

"No one likes to always be asking for help," Mom explained. "And no one likes to be seen as a 'project' to be finished and forgotten. Maybe that's what makes her feel grumpy. Perhaps she wants to be viewed as a real person with something to give. Maybe she needs to serve, not just be served."

"How?"

Mom shrugged. "I don't really know. I guess we need to find out more about Sister Jackson."

When they got back from the store, Sister Jackson was sitting on her front porch doing some kind of





handicraft. As Dad and Cole helped lift the large bags of mulch from the back of the car, she squinted at them over her eyeglasses. “I also want that plastic edging around the flowers replaced with brick. You can bring the bricks next week.”

Mom winked at Keri, and Keri rolled her eyes. Then Keri noticed what Sister Jackson was doing. She was knitting! Suddenly Keri knew exactly what to do—if she dared. Wiping her hands on her jeans and saying a little prayer for courage, she stepped toward the porch. “Uh, Sister Jackson,” she said, “do you know how to knit?”

Sister Jackson leaned back in her chair and frowned. “Of course I do, child. Don’t you have eyes?”

“Ah, yes, well, we—that is, the girls who planted the marigolds and I—we’d like to learn how to knit scarves. Do you think you could teach us?”

Sister Jackson’s eyes lit up for just a moment. “But I can’t get out to the church, honey,” she said softly.

“That’s OK. We’ll come here, if that’s all right. It might take us a lot of lessons, though. We’re pretty

slow learners.”

Sister Jackson nodded, and a faint smile crossed her lips. “I guess I could find the time somehow. Get a paper and pencil from my kitchen table, and write down what I tell you to bring. We’ve got to decide on colors and patterns, too. Go on now—it’s right inside the door.”

Keri looked at her mother and grinned. She knew that this was just the beginning of an activity that could go on for a long, long time. Maybe even for eternity. But that was OK with her. ●

Sheila Kindred is a member of the Ames Ward, Ames Iowa Stake.



“May we go the extra mile to include in our lives any who are lonely or down-hearted.”

President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency, “Now Is the Time,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 61.



The Church Was Organized

By the spirit of prophecy and revelation The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith and five other men on April 6, 1830.

Color the picture below that illustrates that great event. You could use this picture in family home evening to talk about the many blessings the Church brings to you and your family.



Our Creative Friends

Mother

Magnificent
Original
Terrific
Humble
Excellent
Radiant

Kayla O'Neal, age 9
Sbongaloo, Louisiana

God Is Great

God is great because
He helps us out.
He answers our prayers
Without a doubt!

Todd Smith, age 6
Lewis Center, Ohio

In the Garden

When I go walking in the garden, I
listen to the leaves rustling in the trees.
I look at all the wonderful things. I taste
all the spring air. I smell all the flowers,
and I touch the beautiful flowers.

Anna Rose Schmidt, age 8
Rexburg, Idaho

Kites

Kites are flying in the sky.
I am flying mine in the sky.
The kite is blowing in the wind.
Every one is different,
So let up your string!

Lauren Voigt, age 7
Charlotte, North Carolina



Ammon Teare, age 6
Roswell, New Mexico



Josh Jackson, age 4
Idaho Falls, Idaho



Michelle Pfeiffer, age 8
Plainfield, Connecticut



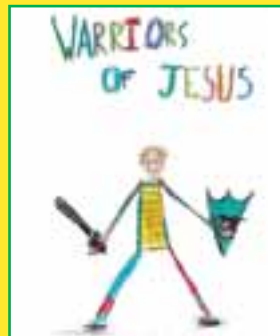
Shelby Hansen, age 9
Ypsilanti, Michigan



Cassandra Hare, age 6
Massapequa Park, New York



Erin Bourne, age 4
Orangeville, Ontario, Canada



Isaak Perez, age 8
Springville, Utah



Mariana del Castillo, age 11
Buenos Aires, Argentina



Adam Anderson, age 9
Greenville, North Carolina



Bridger Jones, age 6
Otto, Wyoming



Riley Baxter, age 6
Meridian, Idaho



Nathan Figueiredo, age 9
Elyria, Ohio

In Bed

Cold night air
leaks through the
empty window
as I lie in bed
only to shiver.

Seth Lockwood Baker, age 11
Castle Rock, Colorado

Mother's Day

I'd like you to meet someone
Who helped me get here
With lots of love and kindness—
It is my mother dear.

I think my mom is special.
I'll bet your mom is, too.
There really is no other
Who has such love for you.

We honor you, our mothers,
This day and all year through
By doing what you teach us
And trying to be true.

We thank our Heavenly Father
As we kneel each morn and night
For the blessed gift of mothers
That makes our lives so bright.

Rachelle Roper, age 9
Oak City, Utah

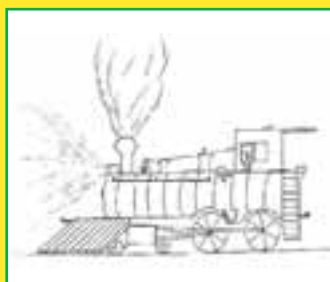
Please send submissions to Our Creative Friends, *Friend* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America. If an adult helps with a child's submission, credit should also be given to him or her. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least 10 months. 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.



Meredith Smith, age 7
Freeland, Michigan



Alexa Downs, age 10
Allen, Texas



Shane Silver, age 11
Hesperus, Colorado



Moné Eppel, age 6
Paris, France



Jackson Martin, age 7
Salem, Utah



Eva Tess Carlock, age 6
Upper Montclair, New Jersey



Wesley Brown, age 8
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Orson Baines, age 5
Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Tiia Hollingsbaus, age 6
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Alie Carter, age 7
Highland, Utah



Kevin Adams, age 7
Agoura, California

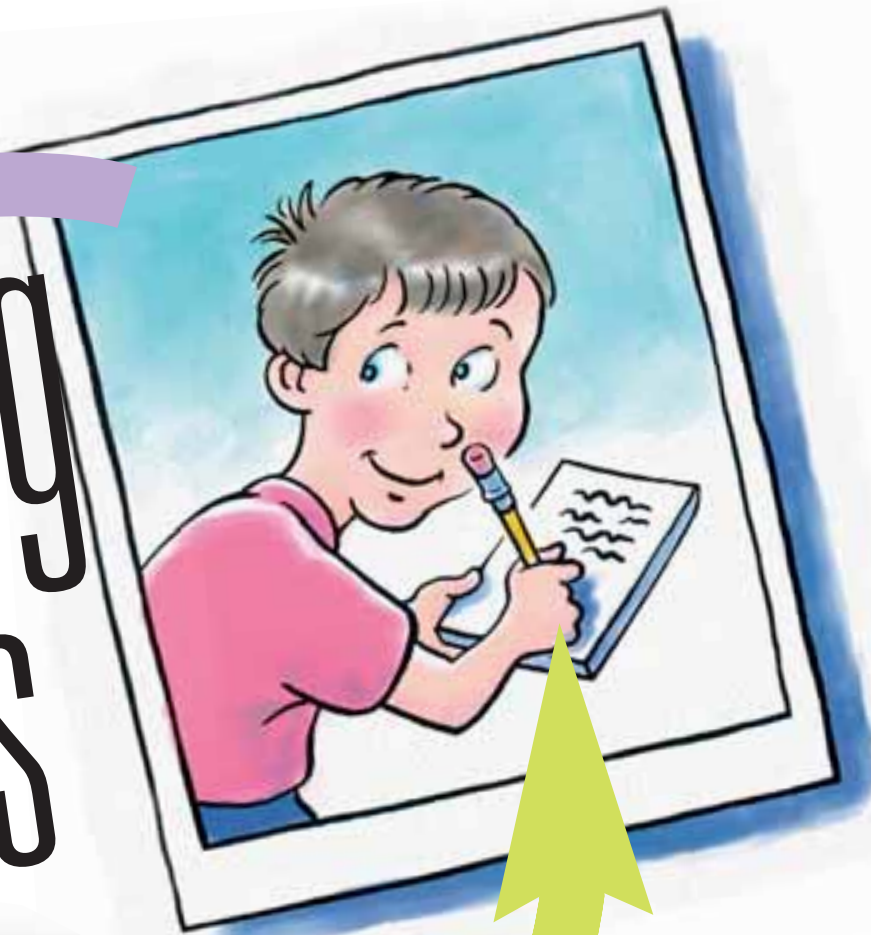


Cassie Paries, age 9
Dalton, Georgia



Robbie Stephenson, age 11
Murray, Kentucky

Changing Chores



BY ELINOR G. HYDE

(Based on an experience from the author's family)

Honour thy father and thy mother
(Exodus 20:12).

I'm tired of doing all the work around here," Jason complained when Mom asked him to pick up his toys. "I wish I could do what you do."

Mom raised her eyebrows. "You really think you do all the work?"

Jason nodded. It seemed to him that he had more chores than any of his friends.



"All right, Jason," Mom said. "Tomorrow we'll change jobs. I'll do your chores, and you can do mine. I will make a list for you so you won't forget anything."

Jason let out a whoop and quickly sat down to make a list of chores for his mom. He made it as long as possible, leaving a couple of extra spaces in case he thought of some more things later.

1. Pick up all the toys.
2. Make my bed.
3. Take out the garbage.
4. Hang up clean clothes.
5. Put dirty clothes in the clothes hamper.
6. Keep drawers neat.
7. Feed the dog.
8. Clean the cat's litter box.
- 9.
- 10.

"I'll have time to play my new video game and go skateboarding," he thought.



At bedtime, Dad came in to say good-night. "Mom tells me you two have a deal. Are you sure you want to do her chores?"

Jason grinned as he gave Dad a hug. "Oh, I'm sure."

The next morning Dad gently shook Jason awake. "I'm ready for breakfast, and I need you to fix my lunch."

Jason opened one eye. It didn't feel like it was time to get up.

"Remember, you and Mom are changing chores today," Dad said. "Mom always fixes my breakfast and a lunch before I go to work."

Reluctantly Jason arose and went to the kitchen. He was cleaning up an egg that hadn't quite made it to the dish when Dad came in, shaved and ready for work. "Is my food ready? I have to leave."

Jason shook his head.

"I guess I'll pick up something to eat for breakfast and lunch today instead. Do you think it would be fair to take the cost out of your allowance?"

Jason opened his mouth to protest, but Dad gave him a quick kiss and said, "We'll talk about it when I get home."



By now baby Jill and four-year-old Matt were awake, but Mom had turned on the television instead of getting them dressed. Soon Jill began to cry.

"Jason, Jill's hungry," Mom called. "Why don't you feed her a banana and some cereal? I'm hungry, too. Toast sounds good."

Jason couldn't believe this was happening! It didn't seem fair.

"Maybe Matt will set the table," Mom added. "I'll help him get dressed, if that's OK."

Jason remembered all the times he *hadn't* helped unless asked. "Thanks, Mom. Uh, could you maybe watch the toast, too?"

"Sure, Jason, but in a minute. I want to see how this program ends. It's an art show I recorded last week, and I haven't had time to watch it."

Jason frowned. He was about to complain until he remembered how often he insisted on finishing a program before doing what he was asked to do. He burned two more pieces of toast.

"Oh, never mind, Jason," Mom said cheerfully when she came into the kitchen. "Matt and I will have cereal instead. I'll fix his and mine. You feed Jill."

Somehow Jason got Jill fed and dressed. He was about to remind Mom to take out the garbage when he noticed it was already done, and the dog also fed.

When he ran to get his skateboard, Jason was pleased to see how tidy his room was. "Thanks, Mom, for cleaning my room," he called as he opened the door to go out to play.

Mom gently reminded him that he needed to put in a load of laundry. Sure enough, it was on the list. So was vacuuming. He felt tears welling up as he saw his friends Timmy and Peter speed by outside on their bikes. Did Mom really do this much stuff every day?

When the first load of laundry was in the dryer and a





second load in the washer, Mom asked Jason to change Jill's diaper. Then Matt and his friends came running in just long enough to get crackers and drinks of water. They left a mess. It wasn't fair that he had to clean up after someone else! Mom smiled and said, "I'd help, but I just painted my fingernails."

After lunch, Jason put Jill down for a nap, but Matt insisted that he didn't need one. "Why don't you read him a story for quiet time instead?" Mom suggested. That made Jason angry. Would he have no free time all day? He jerked a book off the shelf and began reading grouchily, which made Matt cry.

"Be quiet, Matt, or you'll wake Jill," Jason hissed. Matt cried louder.

Jason sighed. "I'm sorry, Matt. Do you want to play with my new toy truck?" He got out his favorite toys, and the two boys played for the next hour. Jason was surprised at how much fun they had.

Soon Mom asked, "Have you thought of something for supper? Dad will be home soon." Jason was about to suggest going out for hamburgers until he remembered that Dad had eaten out for both breakfast and lunch.

"How about macaroni and cheese?" It was one of the few things he knew how to make.

"Would you mind if I made a salad to go with it?" Mom offered.

"That would be great." Jason was relieved that Mom wasn't going to make him cook all alone. "I didn't know you did so much, Mom," he said as he stirred the macaroni. "Thanks for helping me."

"Well, Jason, how did your day go?" Dad asked when he walked in the door. "Did you enjoy doing Mom's chores?"

"It was OK," Jason said carefully, "but I didn't know Mom worked so hard. I found out that she does lots of things when I'm not here." Jason bit his lip in thought. "I just want to do my own chores and be a kid for now, but maybe I'll be a better kid than I was."

Jason was true to his word. When he felt like complaining, he remembered the day he did Mom's jobs and instead pitched in to lend a hand. The funny thing was, he soon found it was fun to help. ●

Elinor G. Hyde is a member of the Mount Olympus Fifth Ward, Salt Lake Mount Olympus North Stake.



"Those who complain make their own and others' lives miserable. . . . [We should not] judge others until we walk in their shoes for a while."

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, " 'Live in Thanksgiving Daily,' " *Ensign*, Sept. 2001, 8.



Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

World Cup or Church?

By Sun-mi Jin



I love soccer, so when the World Cup came to Seoul in 2002 I was very excited. One day my friends invited me to go with them to one of Korea's matches. I was so



happy. But when I found out the game was on Sunday, I told my friends that I couldn't go with them because I wanted to go to church. I'm glad I can go to church. I know that going to church will help me come closer to Jesus Christ.

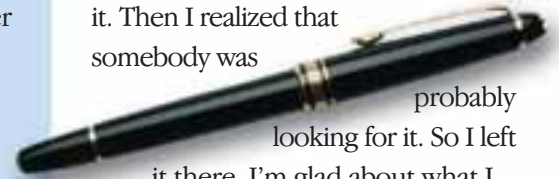
Sun-mi Jin, age 11, is a member of the Sinchon Ward, Seoul Korea North Stake.

The Pen on the Ground

By Karlee Winters



One day I went to the church with my mom because she had a Scout meeting. I saw a pen on the ground and thought about keeping it. Then I realized that somebody was probably looking for it. So I left it there. I'm glad about what I chose to do.



Karlee Winters, age 7, is a member of the Frisco First Ward, Carrollton Texas Stake.

Hand-Me-Down Blessings

By Tiffany Barlow

I was helping my four-year-old daughter, Emma, evaluate her clothing to see what we still needed to buy for school. She looked at the clothes spread all over the floor (most of them hand-me-downs) and said, "Oh, Mom! I have



so many clothes. I am so lucky! Maybe we should give some of them to [Humanitarian Services] so the little child we saw in the

*Ensign** can have some, too!"

My heart was touched because she was not complaining about

hand-me-downs. Instead, she saw that others had less and wanted to help. Emma is an example of the gratitude we all should have for the blessings our Savior has given us. He blesses us, and we should bless others.

Emma Barlow, age 4, is a member of the Mindi Meadows Ward, Riverton Utah Central Stake.

* "Church Sends Aid to Ethiopia," News of the Church, *Ensign*, Jun. 2003, 76-77.

I Will Not Partake of Things That Are Harmful to Me**

By Jordan Wells

I was at my friend's house one morning. He had fixed me breakfast, and he asked me if I wanted coffee. I said that I didn't. He asked me why, and I



said that the Word of Wisdom taught me not to drink it.

Jordan Wells, age 10, is a member of the Delta Ward, Montrose Colorado Stake.



Better Than First Place

By Meghann Nixon

One day at school we were having a limbo contest. To do the limbo, you have to walk under a pole without touching it while bending over backwards. If you touch the pole or the ground, you're out of the game. When I went under the pole, my knee touched the ground. My teacher didn't see what happened, so she asked me if I touched the ground. I knew that if I told the truth I would be out, but I told her that my

knee touched the ground anyway. I was out of the game, but at the end I got the honesty award. My mom said that was better than first place any day.

Meghann Nixon, age 8, is a member of the Oviedo Ward, Lake Mary Florida Stake.



Church Shoes

By Samantha Tilleman with help from her mom

One day I went to the store with my mom. I was wearing my patent leather shoes that I call my "church shoes" because I usually wear them only on Sunday. I was very proud of my shiny shoes. The lady who was helping my mom noticed me wiggling my feet and asked me about my shoes. When I told her they were my church shoes, she asked me which church I attended. I looked at my mom because I wasn't sure I could remember the full name of the Church, and I wanted to make sure I said it right. My mom reminded me of my favorite Primary song. I sang, "I belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (*Children's Songbook*, 77). The lady smiled and told me that was great. I'm glad the song helped me to remember the Church's name.

Samantha Tilleman, age 6, is a member of the Lake Hills Ward, Billings Montana East Stake.



** See My Gospel Standards, *Faith in God* guidebook, back cover.
SOCCER BALL, AND PEN © PHOTODISC, PANCAKES © ARTVILLE



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

Beloved Teacher

As a young Apostle, Elder David O. McKay was also the busy principal of Weber Academy. He worked hard to raise money to build a larger school, taught literature classes, sponsored plays, oversaw the student government, and started the first track and baseball teams.

Go, Weber!

He even started a music program.

Mr. McKay, I was walking on the street and heard music through the open window. You really need a new band leader.

And you're just the man to do it. You're hired!

Elder McKay had little free time. He traveled from Ogden to Salt Lake City for Church meetings after work at least weekly, often nearly missing the train. Sometimes he leaped onto the caboose just in time. He once called to one of the boys in the school who was riding by.

Can you give me a ride to the train station?

Sure, Mr. McKay!

When Elder McKay's busy calling made it necessary for him to retire, he worried because all the money had not yet been raised for a larger building. Then, on his last day of school, he was suddenly called to a meeting in Salt Lake City.

Mr. McKay, we bought you these books by Charles Dickens as a farewell present.

This means so much to me. I'm sorry I can't be here for the last day.

That night when he returned home to attend a reception for school board members, he was surprised to find 300 students and other friends gathered in the study hall.

Surprise!
We're happy to announce that the rest of the money for a larger school building has been donated. Here are checks and letters from some of your friends.

To Elder David O. McKay, a man we love, admire, and respect!

Adapted from My Father, David O. McKay, David Laurence McKay (1989), 36, 41, 52-55.

“This Is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!”

BY MARGARET LIFFERTH

And I have sent forth the fulness of my gospel by the hand of my servant Joseph (D&C 35:17).

When Jesus was on the earth, He taught us what we need to do to be able to return to live with Him again. He showed us how to be baptized. He taught the gospel and asked us to obey His commandments. He organized His Church and ordained Apostles.

After Jesus Christ was crucified, His Apostles led the Church. They taught the people everything that Jesus had taught. But many people did not like them, just as they did not like Jesus. Some of the Apostles were killed because they believed and served Jesus Christ. After the Apostles had died, many gospel truths were lost, and priesthood authority was taken from the earth. This was called the Apostasy. New Testament prophets and apostles knew that the Apostasy would take place (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3). They also testified of the Restoration—that gospel truths and priesthood authority would one day be restored to the earth (see Ephesians 1:10).

Hundreds of years later, 14-year-old Joseph Smith was confused about which church he should join. On a beautiful spring morning, he went to a grove of trees to pray. A pillar of light descended, and Joseph “saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17).



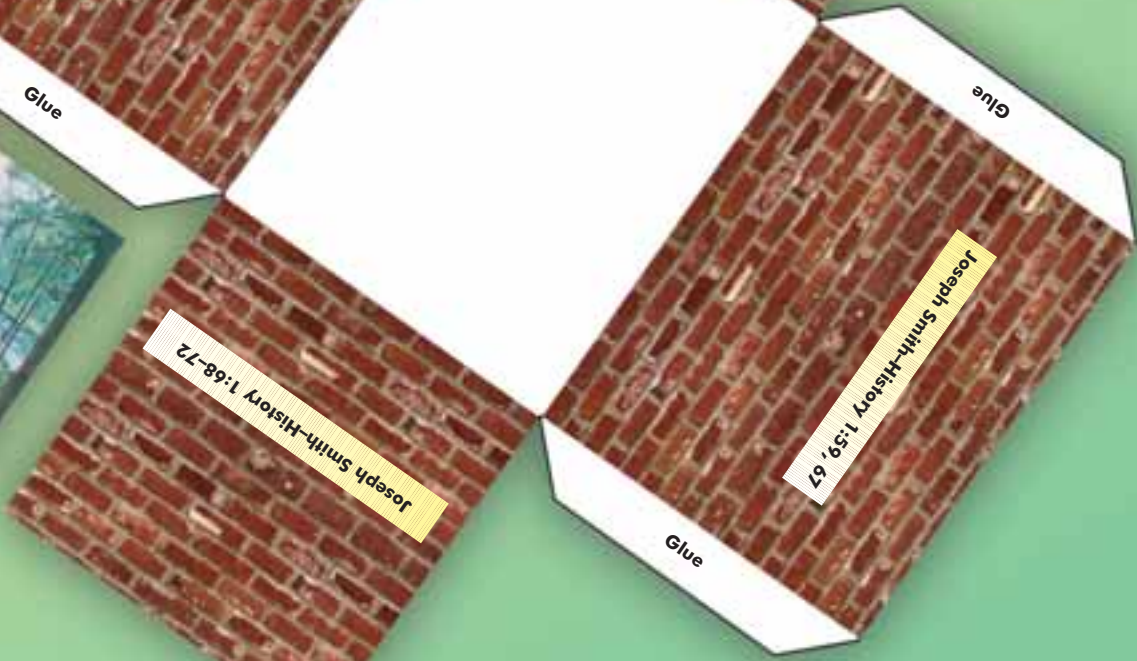
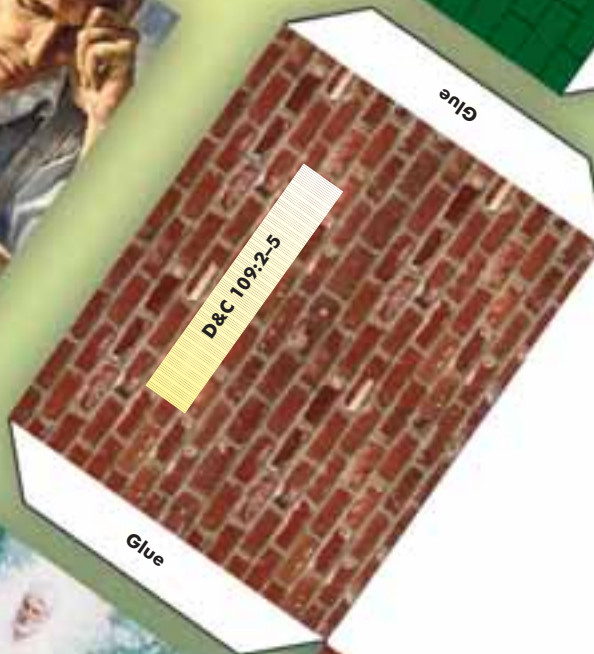
The First Vision, in 1820, was the beginning of the Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ. Gospel truths were restored by revelation and are found in the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. Priesthood power was restored by John the Baptist and the Apostles Peter, James, and John. Joseph Smith was called of God to be the first

latter-day prophet and President of the Church. The Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ is a great blessing to all the people in the world.

President Gordon B. Hinckley has said he hopes each one of us can “simply, quietly” testify of the Restoration. He expressed his gratitude for his testimony of Joseph Smith and the Restoration of the Church when he said, “How grateful I am for the testimony with which God has blessed me of the divine calling of Joseph Smith, of the reality of the First Vision, of the restoration of the priesthood, of the truth of this, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” (*Friend*, Feb. 2003, 2).

Restoration Church

Cut out the church, fold the walls, and glue the tabs in place so the church is standing. Then cut out the pictures. The scriptures on each side of the church tell about one aspect of the Restoration of the Church. Read each scripture and match the event in the scripture to one of the pictures. Then glue each picture to the appropriate side of the church. You may want to use the church as a visual as you learn more about these events during family home evening.



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. Fasten a large sheet of black paper and a large sheet of yellow paper to the wall or chalkboard. On the black paper, post the pictures Boy Jesus in the Temple (GAK 205), John the Baptist Baptizing Jesus (GAK 208), Christ Ordaining the Apostles (GAK 211), Sermon on the Mount (GAK 212), and The Last Supper (GAK 225). Attach the following pictures to the bottoms of six chairs: Joseph Receives the Gold Plates (GAK 406), John the Baptist Conferring the Aaronic Priesthood (GAK 407), Melchizedek Priesthood Restoration (GAK 408), Kirtland Temple (GAK 500), Baptism (GAK 601), and Blessing the Sacrament (GAK 603). Invite an adult ward member to come to Primary dressed in a simple costume representing New Testament times. Ask him or her to tell the story of the organization of the Church in New Testament times while referring to the principles and ordinances depicted by the pictures. Ask the person to bear testimony of Jesus Christ.

Sing "The Sixth Article of Faith" (p. 126). As the New Testament visitor teaches the children about the Church in New Testament times and the Apostasy (see Gospel Principles, chap. 16), remove the pictures one by one. Just as the paper is left black, so was the world left in spiritual darkness. Invite a returned missionary to tell the children about the First Vision and bear testimony of Joseph Smith. Sing "Joseph Smith's First Prayer" (*Hymns*, no. 26) or "The Sacred Grove" (p. 87). Invite the children to find the GAK pictures attached to their chairs. Have them read the story on the back of the picture and decide what principle or ordinance was restored. Post the pictures on the yellow paper. The Restoration, represented by the yellow paper, brought great light into the world. Bear your testimony of the Restoration and sing "The Church of Jesus Christ" (p. 77).

2. Help the children memorize the eighth article of faith by writing each phrase on a wordstrip. As you sing "The Eighth Article of Faith" (p. 127), invite two children to put the wordstrips in order. Repeat the song, removing a wordstrip each time until the children can sing it without seeing the words. Hold up a copy of the Bible and explain that the prophets of the Old and New Testaments teach of Jesus Christ. Hold up a copy of the Book of Mormon and point out that the second part of its title is "Another Testament of Jesus Christ." Why? The prophets in the Book of Mormon also teach us about Jesus Christ.

Play "Who Am I?" by dividing the children into five groups. Select one child from each group. On the back of each of the five children, tape a piece of paper with the name of one of the following prophets and a scripture reference of his testimony. (Nephi—2 Nephi 31:20–21, King Benjamin—Mosiah 3:17, Abinadi—Mosiah 16:13, Samuel the Lamanite—Helaman 14:8, and Moroni—Moroni 10:32). Ask the five children to wait outside the Primary room. Give each of the five groups the name of one of these prophets and let each group decide how to role-play a scene from the prophet's life. Invite the five children back into the room. As each one comes to the front, have the group assigned to the same prophet do the role play. The child tries to guess the prophet and asks yes or no questions until he or she can correctly identify him. After each of the prophets has been identified, let the children find and read that prophet's testimony of Christ from the Book of Mormon. Bear your testimony and teach that missionaries use the Book of Mormon to teach of Jesus Christ. Sing "We'll Bring the World His Truth" (pp. 172–73).

3. Before the children come into the Primary room, post a picture of the Savior (GAK 240) on the wall or chalkboard and cover it with a larger piece of paper. Place the following pictures in a box wrapped as a gift: Baptism (GAK 601), The Gift of the Holy Ghost (GAK 602), Blessing the

Sacrament (GAK 603), Young Couple Going to the Temple (GAK 609), Administering to the Sick (GAK 613), and Baby Blessing (Primary packet 3-21). Then hide the "gift" somewhere in the room. Prepare five or six written questions, such as: What do we call the power of God given to man on earth? Who may receive the priesthood? What are the two orders of priesthood? (Look in the Topical Guide under "Priesthood, Qualifying for" for answers.) On the back of each question, provide a clue that will lead to the next hidden question, with the clue on the last question leading to the gift. (For example, "Look under the table at the front of the room." "Look behind the piano.") Hide the questions, placing the first one under one of the children's chairs.

Tell the children that the Lord has restored a precious gift to the earth and that one of them will be going on a treasure hunt to find out what it is. Have the child who finds the clue under his or her chair read the question out loud. Answer the question together. The child follows the instructions to find the other clues, stopping to answer each of the questions with the rest of the Primary, until the gift is found. Teach that the priesthood is a wonderful gift to us from Heavenly Father. Sing "The Priesthood Is Restored" (p. 89). As you open the gift, explain that it will help us discover some of the ways we are blessed by the priesthood. Hold up each picture and encourage the children to share their experiences with each kind of priesthood ordinance or blessing. Attach the pictures to the paper covering the picture of the Savior. When all of the pictures are attached, ask, "Who is the source of priesthood power? Who makes all these blessings possible?" Take responses, then remove the paper covering the picture of the Savior. Sing "I Feel My Savior's Love" (pp. 74–75). Bear testimony of the blessings of the priesthood.

For younger children: Simplify the questions for the treasure hunt with questions such as: Do you know anyone who holds the priesthood? The bishop holds the priesthood. What does he do for us? Who is the prophet?

4. *Class Presentation:* Review the talks of the First Presidency or Quorum of the Twelve Apostles from the previous general conference, found in the May and November issues of the *Ensign*. Select four or five topics to review with the children. Give music clues by having the pianist play a few measures of a song relating to the principle—for example, "I'm Glad to Pay a Tithing" (p. 150), "The Lord Gave Me a Temple" (p. 153). As the children guess the song and the gospel principle from the music clue, briefly review the talk, show a picture of the speaker, and tell about one of the promised blessings of obeying that principle. Sing the song. Invite the children to write about or draw pictures of one thing they can do to obey the prophet and other Church leaders this month. Sing "Keep the Commandments" (pp. 146–47).

5. *Song Presentation:* To teach the song "The Priesthood Is Restored" (p. 89), have the children close their eyes as they listen to the piano accompaniment. How does the music make them feel? Explain that it is made to sound like trumpets announcing something important. Show the picture Melchizedek Priesthood Restoration (GAK 408) and briefly explain it. Ask the children to listen for what we learn about the priesthood from the words and sing a line of the song. Take responses and sing the line together. Sing the whole song through. Divide the children into four groups and give each group one line to sing. Have each group stand and sing their line of the song while the other children each close their hands into loose fists, put them to their mouths, and softly sing "do-do" (like a trumpet) with the melody. Involve the children as you sing the song again.

6. *Friend references:* "Joseph Smith: Prophet of the Restoration," July 2001, 14; "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Was Organized," Apr. 2001, 24; "The Prophet Speaks for Heavenly Father," Jan. 2001, 14; "The Restoration of the Priesthood," May 2003, 39; "The Book of Mormon," Mar. 2004, 43. These references and others can be found at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.

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 May is "Jesus Christ restored His true Church in the latter days."



Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. Read President Gordon B. Hinckley's message "The Lord Provides a Way" (pages 2–3). Then write the words "I believe God will always make a way where there is no way" on a card that you can keep with you. Discuss difficult situations in which you will need to remember to rely on the Lord's help.

2. What do you know about the priesthood? How may it be used? Read "Heaven's Power" (pages 4–6) or "Bryce's Blessing" (pages 20–21). Finish by reading the poem "Thank You, Brother Joseph" (page 7) to remember why we have priesthood power on earth today.

3. Read "Eternal Service Project" (pages 32–34). How can you and your family brighten someone's day, serve a neighbor, or give someone the opportunity to serve you? Make "Spring Flowers" and an "Envelope Gift Basket" (page 22) for someone and deliver it as a family.



See pages 30–31.

4. President Hinckley has said, "How marvelous a thing is a good book!" (See page 31.) Why do you think reading is important? Have each family member give a short book report on his or her favorite book. Read the "Family Reading Activities" (page 31) and plan to carry out some of them.

5. Read "Changing Chores" (pages 38–41). What does Jason learn? Discuss ways you can better help your family, and make a plan to learn more about what each family member does by helping with or trading chores for the week.



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Topical Index to this Issue of the *Friend*

(FLF) = For Little Friends
(f) = Funstuff
(IFC) = inside front cover
(v) = verse

Book of Mormon 18, 27 (f)
Choose the Right 42

Church History 4, 7 (v), 24, 27 (f), 35, 46

Faith IFC, 2, 20 (FLF)

Family 8, 10, 14, 23 (FLF), 32, 38

Heavenly Father IFC, 2, 8, 46

Holy Ghost IFC, 8

Jesus Christ 8, 10, 14, 27 (f), 42, 46

Joseph Smith 4, 7 (v), 27 (f), 35, 46

Music 10

My Gospel Standards IFC, 2, 8, 14, 17 (f), 42

Prayer IFC, 2, 18, 24

Priesthood 2, 4, 8, 18, 20 (FLF), 24

Primary 8, 10, 17 (f), 32

Prophets 2, 4, 7 (v), 19, 26, 27 (f), 31, 34, 35, 44

Quorum of the Seventy 8

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles 6, 12, 13, 41

Reading IFC, 30

Reverence 10

Sabbath Day 42

Scriptures IFC, 7 (v), 8, 28 (f)

Service 32, 42

Word of Wisdom 43

Work 38

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Key 040204

What's in the *Friend* this month?

page 2

President Hinckley
teaches us to place
our trust in the Lord.



page 4

What does Sharon
learn about the
priesthood?

page 32

Keri discovers something
about her grumpy
neighbor, Sister Jackson.

