

Kelly's Prayer

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Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

Kelly and her mom walked up to the church building and looked around. It was beautiful, with palm trees swaying outside. The sign on the building said, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." In three different languages: Malay, Chinese, and English!

Kelly didn't know much about Jesus Christ. And she had never been to church before. Her mom's friend, Liza, went to church here. She had invited Kelly and her mom to come with her.

As they went inside, people smiled and said hello. Everyone was so nice. Kelly and Mom followed Liza upstairs to a big room. Liza said it was called a chapel.

Kelly sat down next to Mom and Liza in a row of chairs, and soon church started. She listened to the music. She liked how it made her feel, even though she didn't know the words.

At the end of the meeting, a woman got up to say a prayer. Kelly looked around as everyone else folded their arms and closed their eyes. She still felt something really good inside. What *was* it? It felt different than anything she had felt before!

As they left the church later, Kelly told Mom about the feeling she'd had during the prayer.



"Well," Mom said, "I didn't feel anything special."

But Kelly kept thinking about how she'd felt at church. She had liked the prayer. And she had liked hearing about Jesus.

"Can the missionaries teach me?" Kelly asked Mom. "I want to learn more."

"If that's what you want to do, that's fine," Mom said. The missionaries taught Kelly how to pray and how to read the scriptures. They taught her about Jesus and how He loves us. Kelly liked what she was learning.

One day the missionaries gave her a special challenge. "Will you try to pray during the week?" asked Elder Parker.

Up until now, Kelly had only prayed with the missionaries. But she wanted to try it on her own. She knew Heavenly Father was always listening, and He wanted to hear from her.

"I'll do it," she promised.

The next day at school was a special one. Kelly was going to sing in a competition! She had learned

a beautiful new Chinese song. Learning all the notes and tones had been hard work! She had practiced and practiced and practiced.

Now that it was time to perform, Kelly was nervous. She pulled out the picture of Jesus she had put in the pocket of her school uniform that morning. She decided to say a prayer, like the missionaries had shown her. "Heavenly Father, please help me let go of my nervousness," she prayed. "In the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

Then Kelly stepped out onto the stage. She stared at the audience and the judges. She thought about the picture of Jesus in her pocket and felt a little bit better. She took a deep breath and started to sing.

She sang all the words just like she'd practiced. As she sang the last note and took a bow, Kelly knew Heavenly Father had heard her prayer and helped her.

With a smile, Kelly walked off the stage. She couldn't wait to tell the missionaries about what happened! She knew she wanted to keep praying every day. ●

