

“I’m a Christian!”

By Christina Hoskin
(Based on a true story)

I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ (Mosiah 5:8).

“What is a Christian?” Lisa asked Mom. They were in the car, driving to piano lessons. “What religion is that?”

“A Christian is someone who believes in and follows the teachings of Jesus Christ.” Mom glanced at her. “What’s this about?”

Lisa sighed. “Some kids asked me if I was Christian, and I told them that I was Mormon.”

“*Mormon* is a name some people call our Church members because we believe in the Book of Mormon as well as in the Bible.” Mom smiled at her. “Do you know the full name of our church?”

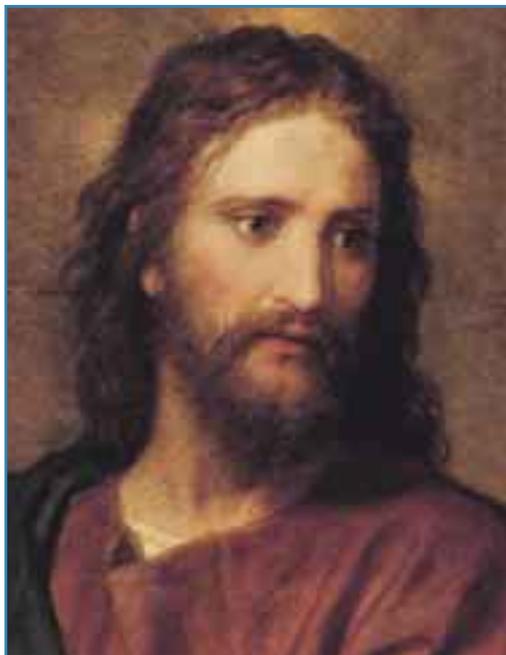
“Yes—it’s The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

“Right! It has Jesus’ name in it because it’s His Church, and we worship Him and obey His commandments. So we are definitely Christians.” Mom patted Lisa’s knee. “But I can think of two quick answers you can use to tell someone about our church.”

“What are they?”

“I know that you’ve already learned most of the Articles of Faith,” Mom said. “Tell me the first one.”

“OK. ‘We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His



Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.’ ”

Mom smiled. “Excellent! Did you listen to what you said? You just told the whole world what Latter-day Saints believe.”

“Yes! I did!” Lisa sat up straight, “We believe in Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.”

“Good. The second way to tell people about our church is even easier. This one is a song.”

“A song?”

“Can you think of a Primary



song about the Savior and the Church?”

“ ‘Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,’ ” Lisa sang, her voice cracking on the high note.

They both laughed.

“Well, that’s a good song,” Mom said. “But I was thinking of ‘The Church of Jesus Christ.’ ”*

“Oh!”

“Let’s sing it together. Listen closely to the words and see if you can hear what we believe. Ready?”

“I belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I know who I am.

I know God’s plan.

I’ll follow him in faith.

I believe in the Savior, Jesus Christ.

I’ll honor his name.

I’ll do what is right;

I’ll follow his light.

His truth I will proclaim.”

Lisa was smiling when they finished singing.

“That *is* easy!”

“If anyone asks you what church you belong to, tell them, ‘I belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.’ ”

“And I’m a Christian!”

“And you’re always going to be one of Jesus’ sunbeams, too!”

* *Children’s Songbook*, page 77.

THE LIVING CHRIST

The Testimony of the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

We offer our testimony of the reality of [Jesus Christ’s] matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth.

He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. . . . He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our pre-mortal existence, [and] the purpose of our life on earth. . . .

We solemnly testify that His life, which is central to all human history, neither began in Bethlehem nor concluded on Calvary [ended on the cross]. He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world.

He rose from the grave to “become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20). . . .



We declare [solemnly] that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth. . . .

We testify that He will someday return to earth. . . . He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords. . . .

We bear testimony, as His duly ordained Apostles—that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.

(*Ensign*, April 2000, pages 2–3.)