

# Tornado SCARE

By Gayle Kinney-Cornelius

(Based on a true story)

*“When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17).*

When Josiah heard about the tornado, he was scared. He kept thinking about pictures he’d seen—pictures of the tornado and pictures of all the damage it caused. In one picture, Josiah saw a little girl in pink rubber boots. She looked about his age and was standing on a heap of rubble that used to be her home. What would happen to her? To all the people who lost their homes?

“You look so sleepy,” Mom said the next morning. “Are you feeling OK?”

Josiah shrugged.

Mom felt his face. “No fever. Should we see how you feel at breakfast? Dad’s making pancakes.”

In the kitchen, Dad stood next to the stove, flipping pancakes. He kept glancing at his phone.

“Lots of damage from the tornado,” he said. “Thousands



ILLUSTRATION BY KASIA DUDZLUK

still don’t have power.”

“I hope they get it back soon,” Mom said. She and Dad kept talking about the tornado. Josiah sat down at the table. He put his head in his hands.

“You OK, bud?” Dad asked.

Josiah looked up. “I’m scared,” he said. “Are we gonna have a tornado? I don’t want our house to blow away.” He started to cry.

Mom sat down and put her arm around Josiah.

“We don’t know if something scary will happen to us, but we can trust Heavenly Father to help us no matter what happens.”

*Scary things were happening all over the world. What could Josiah do?*

“But what about all those people in the tornado?” Josiah said. “Why didn’t Heavenly Father help them?”

“Heavenly Father is helping them,” Dad said. He put a big stack of pancakes on the table. “He won’t stop all bad things from happening, but Heavenly Father always helps His children.”

“How?” Josiah said.

“Well, sometimes He sends little miracles, or helps people feel comfort, or inspires other people to help out.”

Mom nodded. “A lot of times, Heavenly Father helps other people through us.”

“Remember when the Johnsons had a fire and we

invited them to stay with us? You shared your room,” Dad said.

“And you played with the baby so we could help them rebuild their house,” Mom added. “That was a big help. Now the Johnsons are back in their home.”

Josiah smiled. He liked helping the Johnsons. Was that Heavenly Father helping through him?

“And then there was that spaghetti dinner to raise money for the people in the earthquake,” Dad said.

“I helped sweep the floor,” said Josiah.

“Yes, you did,” Dad said.

“What about the people near the tornado?” asked Josiah. “Can we help them?”

“I think Heavenly Father is inspiring you to help. What do you think we could do?” asked Mom.

“Would my birthday money help?” asked Josiah. “I still have it.”

“Yes, it would,” said Mom. “Dad and I have some money we can send too.”

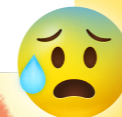
Josiah looked at the pancakes. They looked yummy. “Can I say the prayer?”

“You sure can,” Dad said.

Josiah bowed his head. He thanked Heavenly Father for their food and for always helping His children. Then Josiah prayed for the people hurt by the tornado. He asked to know more ways he and his family could help.

Afterward, Josiah took a big bite of pancakes. There were lots of ways to help! And Josiah felt much better. ●

*The author lives in Vermont, USA.*



## DEALING WITH WORRIES

Sometimes it may seem like there are lots of scary things going on in the world. If you feel worried or scared, here are some things you can do.

- Talk to a trusted adult about your worries.
- Write about your feelings in a journal.
- Take deep breaths, listen to peaceful music, or do something else to help you feel calm.
- Pray to Heavenly Father for peace and comfort.
- Think of small things you can do to help.