

# Brothers Forever



By LaNae H. Poulter  
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Zimbabwe.

"I love to see the temple. I'm going there someday,"\* sang Ryan.

"Going there today!" said Ryan's older brother Roy.

Momma folded some clothes and put them in a travel bag. "We'll begin today, but it will take us two days to get to the temple in South Africa," she said.

Ryan and his family had waited a long time to go to the temple. And now it was finally time! They would be gone for a whole week.

"Momma, tell us again about Tawananyasha," Roy said.

Momma smiled at the boys. "Tawananyasha is your older brother. He died when he was only one. But he is still a brother to you, just like Tafadzwa and Tatenda. Papa and I love all five of our sons."

Ryan smiled as he thought of Tawananyasha. It felt good to know that their parents loved them all.

"That's why we're going to the temple," Momma said. "To be sealed together as a family forever!" She zipped up the travel bag. "Now get your things. It is temple time!"

Roy helped Ryan carry their travel bag outside. Papa joined them, carrying a box of food Momma had prepared for the trip. Tafadzwa and Tatenda carried their bags too. Soon the whole family started walking to the church. A bus was waiting for them there to take them to the temple.

Ryan climbed up on the bus and sat next to Roy. Three other families from their ward were also loading the bus. When everyone took their seats, the bus set out on the long drive to the temple.

Ryan and Roy looked out the window. It was the rainy season, so everything looked green and beautiful. They passed fields and roadside stands where people sold tomatoes, bananas, and potatoes. They even saw monkeys on the road! Ryan wondered what

other animals might be hiding in the tall grass and trees.

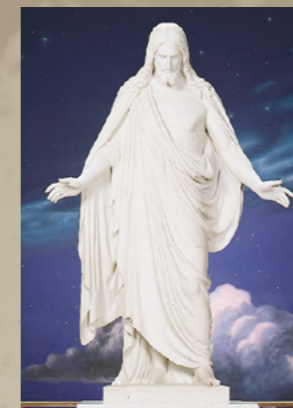
Soon day turned into night, and the bus drove on. It was a long ride, but Ryan and Roy didn't complain. Ryan fell asleep thinking, *It is temple time!*

As they reached the city, everyone on the bus watched out the windows. Who would see the temple first?

"There it is!" Roy said.

Finally, the time came to go inside the temple. "It is temple time!" Roy whispered to Ryan as they walked inside. They changed into white clothes. Then the boys sat in a waiting room with the other children for a while.

Soon a nice temple worker took the children to join their parents. They walked into a room that had a soft table in the center for people to kneel at. It was called an altar.



"Welcome to the sealing room," the worker said at the front of the room. "Today I will use the priesthood to seal each family together forever."

Ryan and Roy watched as the other three families were sealed. Then it was their turn.

Ryan and his brothers knelt with his parents around the altar. The sealer invited one of their friends to represent Tawananyasha. Roy looked at Momma and

Papa as he placed his hands on theirs. He saw tears sliding down Momma's cheeks, but she was smiling big.

When the sealing was over, Ryan gave Momma a hug. "You look like angels," she whispered to her sons.

"It feels like an angel is with us," Roy whispered back. "I have a special feeling in my heart."

"Me too," said Ryan. It felt amazing to be in the temple with his forever family! ●

ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL HOFFMAN-BAYLES

\* Children's Songbook, 95.



Because of the priesthood, we can be with our families forever!