

SCRIPTURES IN SWAHILI

By Karly Lay

A true story from Australia.

Jared walked into Sunday School and sat down with his classmates. He noticed a boy he didn't recognize come in and sit down a couple chairs away.

Jared's teacher, Brother Trudgen, smiled at the class. "This is Emmanuel," he said. "He and his family just moved to Australia. This is their first Sunday in our ward!"

Jared thought it might be hard to go to a new ward. He would try to be Emmanuel's friend.

Brother Trudgen got out his scriptures. "Let's all turn to 3 Nephi," he said.

Jared opened his scriptures and looked over at Emmanuel. He didn't have any scriptures.

Jared gave him a big smile and leaned over. "Hi, I'm Jared," he said. "Would you like to share scriptures with me?"

Emmanuel smiled back. "Um, I don't know much English," he said. "Sorry."

"What language do you speak?"

"Swahili."

Jared didn't know any Swahili. He and Emmanuel didn't say much for the rest of the class.



ILLUSTRATION BY KETH NEGLEY

That evening at dinner, Jared told his family about Emmanuel.

"He seems really nice," Jared said. "But we can't understand each other very well."

Mum nodded. "Emmanuel and his family are going through a lot right now," she said. "They had to leave their country very suddenly because bad things were happening there. They left everything behind."

Jared frowned. What would it be like to have to leave home tomorrow and move to a whole new country? That would be so hard!

I wish there was something I could do to help Emmanuel, he thought. But what?

Jared couldn't stop thinking about Emmanuel as he got ready for bed. He sat down at his desk with his Book of Mormon and read a few verses. Reading the scriptures always made him feel better. Tonight, they also reminded him that Emmanuel hadn't had any scriptures to read. Jared shut his scriptures and stared at the cover. Then he jumped up from his chair and hurried out into the hallway.

"Mum!" he called. "I think I know how to help Emmanuel!"

The next Sunday, Jared couldn't wait to see Emmanuel. He sat with the other deacons at the front of the chapel and waited with a new

I wish there was something I could do to help, Jared thought.

Book of Mormon in his lap. The missionaries had helped him get this special copy just for Emmanuel.

When Emmanuel entered the chapel with his family, Jared smiled and waved him over. Emmanuel looked confused as he sat down next to Jared. But his eyes widened when Jared handed him the Book of Mormon.

"For me?" Emmanuel asked.

Jared nodded.

Emmanuel's eyes lit up. He flipped through the pages of his new Book of Mormon. "Swahili!" he said. He smiled at Jared and hugged the book to his chest. "Thank you!"

Jared's heart felt warm as he smiled back. He knew he couldn't make everything better for Emmanuel, and they still couldn't talk to each other very well yet. But that was OK. They didn't have to speak the same language to be friends! ●



"Compassion is an attribute of Christ. It is born of love for others and knows no boundaries."

Elder Ian S. Ardern of the Seventy, "Love Thy Neighbour," *Liahona*, Nov. 2023, 24.