

Singing the Shadows Away



By Joel B. Randall

A true story from Mexico.

Time for bed," Mamá said with a smile. Logan went into his room. He said his prayers and crawled into bed. Then Mamá read him a story. He slowly closed his eyes. Soon he was asleep.

But Logan had a scary dream. He was alone in a dark place. He saw a big, spiky monster with huge teeth. It growled at him. Then it started running toward him!

Logan tried to run away. But he slipped and fell! The monster got closer and bigger until—

Logan woke up and sat up in bed. He wiped tears from his eyes and saw it was still dark outside.

He wanted to talk to his parents about the dream. But he didn't want to leave his bed. The darkness made him feel like a monster was hiding somewhere. Every shadow looked scary. A dog barking outside sounded like a monster growling.

Logan pulled the sheets up to his nose. He was too afraid to move.

He wanted to fall back to sleep. But each time he closed his eyes, he saw the monster's angry face and sharp teeth. He couldn't stop looking at the scary shadows.

Then he saw a picture on the table by his bed. It was a photo of him, his two brothers, Papá, and Mamá outside the temple in Monterrey, Mexico. They looked so happy.

Suddenly, the words to his favorite Primary song popped into his head. "I love to see the temple," Logan started singing quietly. "I'm going there someday. To feel the Holy Spirit, to listen and to pray."*

While he sang, Logan thought about that day at the temple with his family. He had felt so peaceful. Because of the temple, he could be with his family forever.

Logan couldn't hear the dog barking over the sound of his voice. He closed his eyes and kept singing. "As a child of God, I've learned this truth: A family is forever." He felt a peace in his heart that made him smile. He knew there was no monster.

The room had been dark and scary. But now it was a calm, safe place. Logan leaned back on his pillow and fell peacefully asleep.

When he woke up, it was sunny outside. He got up and looked at the sunshine reflecting off his photo of the temple. He hummed his favorite song as he got ready for church.

Suddenly the words to his favorite Primary song popped into his head.

On the way to church, he told his family about his nightmare and the song he sang. He listened to talks and sang hymns in the chapel. Then it was time to go to Primary.

Logan loved listening to the piano. And now he knew that some songs are powerful enough to make even scary monsters go away.

"Welcome to singing time," said the Primary leader. "What song should we sing first?"

"I know!" said Logan, raising his hand high into the air. "Let's sing 'I Love to See the Temple.'" ●



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CAROLINA FARIAS

*"I Love to See the Temple," *Children's Songbook*, 95.