

# BAPTIST FEATURES

Children's Page  
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## JIMMY'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE! By: Mattie C. Leatherwood

Jimmy was six years old, but he had a birthday coming soon. This would make him seven! Mother had promised to give him a birthday party and he knew it would bring many surprises. He could hardly wait for the day to come.

Three days before his birthday Jimmy had a fall from his wheel. He broke his leg.

Having to go to bed and stay there was bad enough. But it was not half as bad as having to give up his birthday party. Jimmy could think of nothing else.

"A fellow couldn't have a party while he was in bed, could he Mother?" he asked, at last.

"I'm afraid he would not enjoy one very much," said Mother. "We will just put off the party until you don't have to stay in bed any longer."

"No-o-o," said Jimmy, "it wouldn't be a birthday party if I couldn't have it on my birthday."

Neither of them spoke for a minute. A big tear rolled down Jimmy's cheek.

His smile came back, though, and he said, "I'll just wait until another birthday to have a party. This one, I'll spend with my story-book friends. I'll pick out the ones I want you to read me about--and I can have a birthday cake, can't I?" "You surely can," said Mother, "a cake with seven pink candles."

When Mother went downstairs, later, she telephoned the mothers of Jimmy's friends. She told them about an idea she had for Jimmy's birthday. They thought it was a very fine idea and said they would get to work helping, right away.

So it happened that on the afternoon of Jimmy's birthday, things began to happen. While he was waiting for Mother to come and read to him, Cousin Elizabeth, who was a big girl, came in. She was dressed as Mother Goose.

"Surprise Jimmy!" she cried. "Some of your story-book friends are coming to see you. They will be here any minute. I shall not tell you who they are--you will have to guess who each is."

Mistress Mary was the first to come. She wore a long ruffled dress and had a wreath of flowers in her hair. She carried a basket filled with flowers in her

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arm.

Jack and Jill came next. Jack had a white bandage around his head and he and Jill carried a pail, together.

Mary's little lamb came on wheels, but it followed her in, just as it was supposed to do. And when Little Bo-Peep got there with her long shepherd's crook, she didn't notice anybody until she had looked under the bed, behind the bed, and even under the dresser, trying to find her sheep.

Little Boy Blue had his horn, Jack Horner had his pie. And Tom, the Piper's son, ran into the room and right out again with a very large piggy bank under his arm.

Polly brought her kettle. Simple Simon brought his pail and fishing line. Jack put his candle stick on the floor and jumped over it, the very first thing.

The last of Jimmy's book friends to get there were Old King Cole with his pipe and his bowl, followed by his fiddlers three. The fiddlers couldn't get any music out of their fiddles, but the record which Mother put on the record player did very well in place of the fiddles.

These book friends enjoyed marching about the room and skipping, to the music. They sang Mother Goose rhymes and most of them did stunts.

Jack jumped over the candle stick so well that everybody wanted to try it too.

Simple Simon fished for a whale, all by himself.

Last of all, Jimmy showed his friends the cast the doctor had put on to help his leg get well. Everyone of them had to write or print his name on the white cast, right then and there!

Mother Goose couldn't understand why Humpty Dumpty hadn't come.

"I know he started to the party," she said. "I wonder where he is!"

"Here he is!" said Uncle Ben, coming through the door with Humpty in his arms.

"The walk was too long for him and he sat down on the wall to rest. I happened along just in time to give him a lift."

He sat Humpty on the head board of Jimmy's bed. He sat there only a minute or two, then he had a great fall.

"And all the king's horses  
And all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty  
Together again."

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-3- Jimmy's Birthday Surprise!

That was because he was made of paper, and when he fell his sides burst and the gifts in bright wrappings with which he was filled rolled over Jimmy's bed!

Jimmy had lots of fun opening his gifts. His friends had fun, too, as they watched him, then passed each gift around so all could see it.

Mother brought in the birthday cake with the seven pink candles burning, on a tray.

Everyone crowded near to sing "Happy Birthday" and to make a wish. Then Jimmy blew out the candles and Mother helped him cut the cake. Everybody got a big slice and all the ice cream he could eat.

When it was almost time for the party to break up, in walked Daddy dressed as the pie man. He wore a suit he had borrowed from the baker and carried a tray fastened about his neck with a ribbon. On the tray, instead of pies, there were books--books of stories about nice to-know friends. There was one for each guest.

"Oh, Mother," said Jimmy when the last little friend had gone, "it was the nicest party!"

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## HELPING IS FUN

BY: Mattie C. Leatherwood

I'm glad that children small as I  
Can help sometimes, each day--  
I hang my nightie on the hook,

And put my books away;  
I pick up all my playthings  
When time for play is done,  
And smile while I am doing it,  
For helping folks is fun!

I'm glad there are a lot of things  
I'm big enough to do--  
I can take my daddy's hat  
And bring his papers, too;  
And when my mother calls me  
And wants an errand run,  
I can do it quick as scat,  
For helping her is fun!

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