

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Jocelynn's world

By Joe Michael Feist
NC News Service

"Jocelynn. Jocce-lynnn."
Jocelynn, who was staring intently out her bedroom window, quickly turned around to see her slightly agitated father standing behind her.

"Are you daydreaming again?" her father asked. His voice was softer now and he was smiling a little, so Jocelynn figured she wasn't really in any trouble.

"I guess I was," Jocelynn admitted. As she stood up, Jocelynn's father saw that she was grasping the large globe he had surprised her with last summer on her ninth birthday.

"Oh, now I see," he said as he sat down on Jocelynn's bed.

"Where were you this time?" Jocelynn laughed. She liked to be teased.

"I was in China," she said, deciding to go along with the game. "There were all sorts of people working out in a rice paddy, standing in water up to our ankles."



"That sounds like hard work," her father said.

"Oh it is," Jocelynn said. "The little rice plants have to be transplanted by hand."

"But I bet they feed you well," her father said, grinning.

"Mmm-mmm, yes. Tons of egg-rolls!" Jocelynn giggled.

Both Jocelynn and her father laughed out loud for a long time. Then her father looked at the globe.

"Why don't you spin it again?"

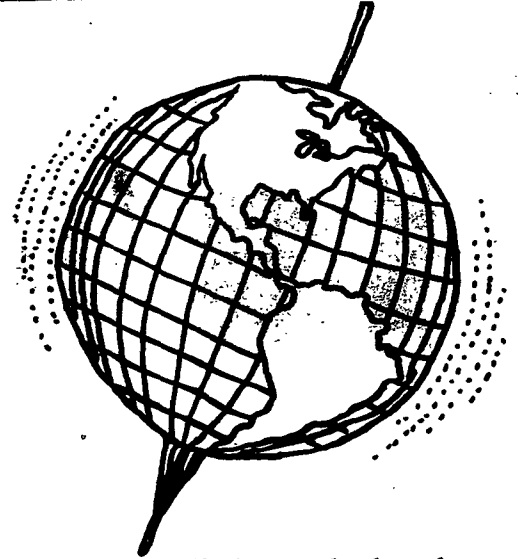
Jocelynn carefully balanced the globe on her lap, closed her eyes and gave the world a mighty shove. She quickly extended a finger and rested it gently on the globe's surface. When it stopped

spinning Jocelynn opened her eyes.

"Kenya," she said thoughtfully. "Kenya? I don't think I know anything about Kenya."

"Well, I guess we know what that means," her father said.

Jocelynn nodded. She would first look up Kenya in her family's encyclopedia, then maybe go to the library to check out a book on Africa.



live in far-off places. She loved stories about children in Holland who wear wooden shoes or Eskimo children who ride in dog sleds. And she would always see herself there — on a mountainside in Central America harvesting coffee beans or shinnying up a palm tree on some South Seas island. There's nothing better than those stories, she thought again, as she reached for her globe.

"Jocelynn. Jocce-lynnn."

She glanced up at her father.

"Someday," he said very quietly. "Someday you'll see it all. But until then, you have to keep up your strength. I think dinner is ready. We're having eggrolls."



There's nothing in the world, Jocelynn thought, that's better than reading about people who

(Feist is associate editor of Faith Today.)

A Rebus for Your Thoughts

A rebus is a puzzle-story with pictures in the place of some words. See if you can figure out this rebus which is taken from this week's children's story.

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HOW ABOUT YOU?

Jocelynn's imagination carries her into the lives of people far away. Why not find a book for your summer reading about children far away. Think about all the ways they are like you, though different from you.

Children's Reading Corner

Sometimes we take the love around us for granted or we miss seeing it at all. It is good to remember that love's power is in the small as well as the larger stories in our lives. In the book "Family Scrapbook," by M.B. Goffstein, there are seven brief and memorable tales of love in a family. Read it. Afterward, talk about some of the ways love is shown around you. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 19 Union Square West, New York, N.Y. 10003. 1978. Hardback, \$5.95.)



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