

This Little Light of Mine



Written by Claire Boudreaux Bateman • Illustrated by Katie Norwood Alexander

The background is a textured blue watercolor wash with various shades of blue and white speckles scattered throughout.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

Jeremiah 1:5



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by Claire Boudreaux Bateman

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To God's undeniable light
in David, Drew, and Avery Claire

cbb

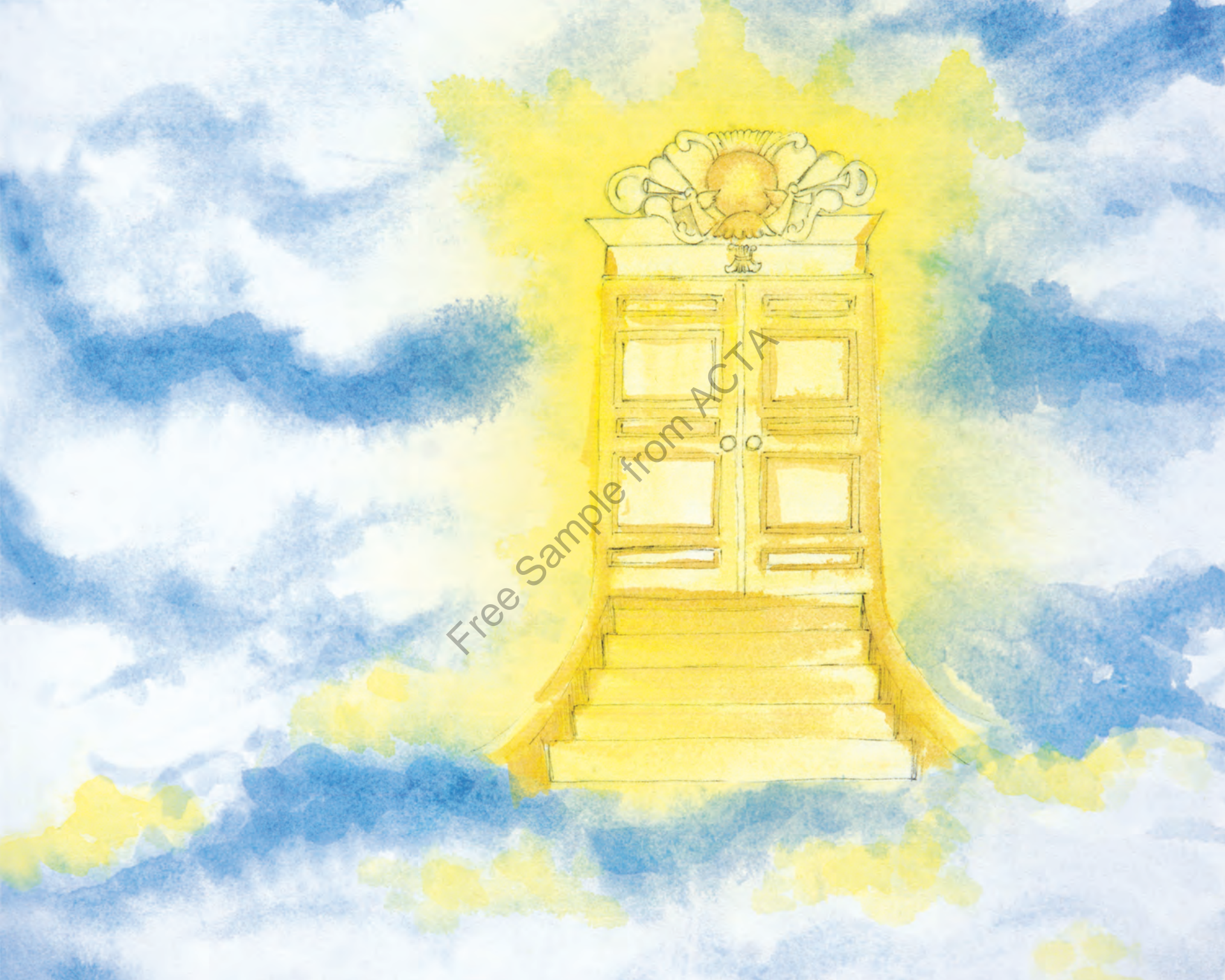
To my sweet boys Christopher, John Christopher,
Barrow, Eli, and Genin,
Your radiant light makes the world a brighter place.
This is for you.

kna



We all come from
a very special place in heaven.

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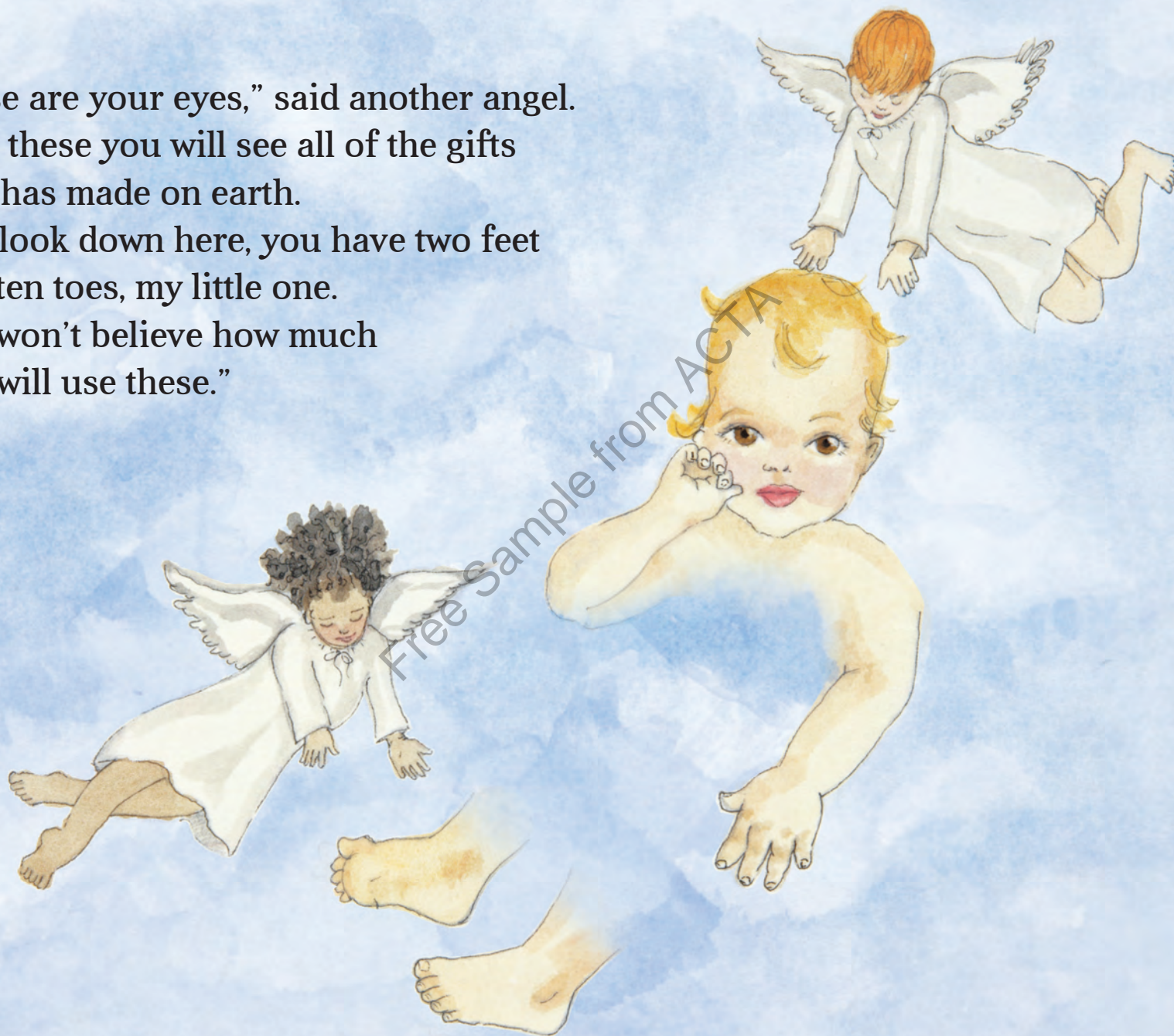




Here, angels tell us about life on earth.

“These are your ears,” said one angel. “With them you will hear the beautiful sounds of the world, like birds and water and singing.”

“These are your eyes,” said another angel.
“With these you will see all of the gifts
God has made on earth.
And look down here, you have two feet
and ten toes, my little one.
You won’t believe how much
you will use these.”





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- ☐ Ears
- ☐ Nose
- ☐ Cheeks
- ☐ Eyebrows
- ☐ Forehead

“Okay, let’s see,” the last angel said.

“Eyes, eyelashes? Check.

Eyebrows, elbows, fingers, toes?

Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.

Okay. Good, little one, everything looks fine.”





The angel turned to all of
heaven and announced,
“It’s a girl, and we are ready
to turn on her light.”



The little one found herself waiting...



in a long, long line.




When she made it to the front of the line, she saw God.

“Come to me, little one,” God said. “Let me have a look at you.”







“You see this light?” God asked,
showing her his bright light.

“This light is for you, little one,
and it comes straight from my heart.”





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She knew the light was special
and worried out loud,
“What if I lose the light, God?”



“It’s impossible to lose this light,” God said.

“On your way to earth, you may lose your eyes or your ears.

While you are on earth, you may get sick and lose all of your hair.

But my light will always be with you.”




“What do I do with the light, God?”
she asked.



“This light is made of my love, little one.
You will use it to love others,
and your kindness will lead you
right back to me.
You will recognize the light in people
when they are sweet or forgiving.”



The background is a textured blue watercolor wash. It features various shades of blue, from light and airy to deep, saturated tones. Scattered throughout the composition are numerous small, bright white dots, resembling stars or snowflakes. A diagonal watermark in a light gray font, reading "Free Sample from ACTA", spans across the center of the image.

**“You see, my little one,
I have given the light to everyone.”**





“Everyone?” she asked. “What about people who are different from me?”

“They have all been on my lap,” God answered.

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The little one thought about everything God had said.
She liked it here with him.

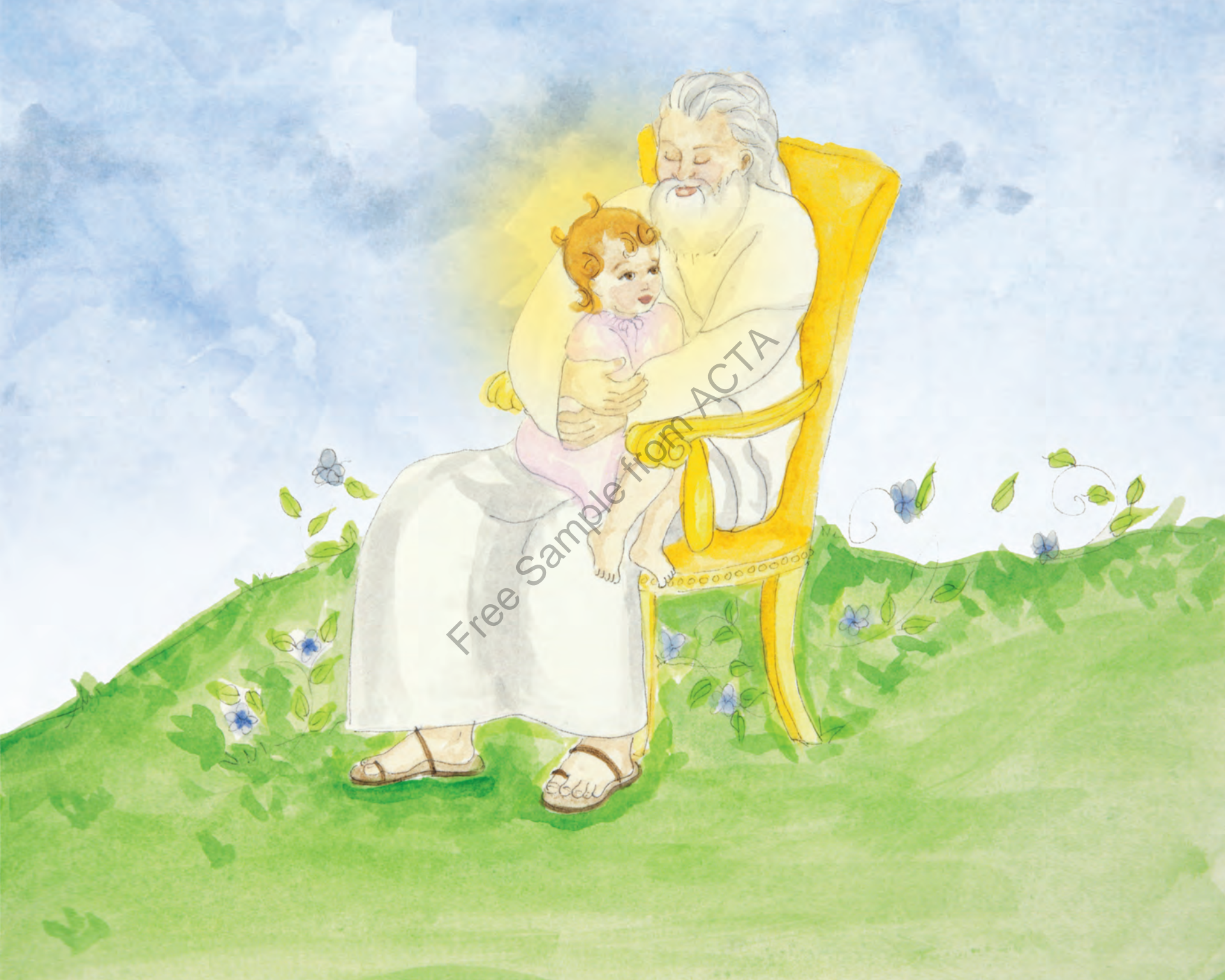
“God?”

“Yes, little light of mine?”

“How will I remember you?”

God was happy to answer her question.
He knew she was almost ready to go.







“Once a year you will celebrate your trip to earth.
As part of the celebration you will see a light,” he said.
“This will remind you of me.”

Then God explained, “As you grow and love all the people of
the world, you will notice the light gets brighter and brighter.”

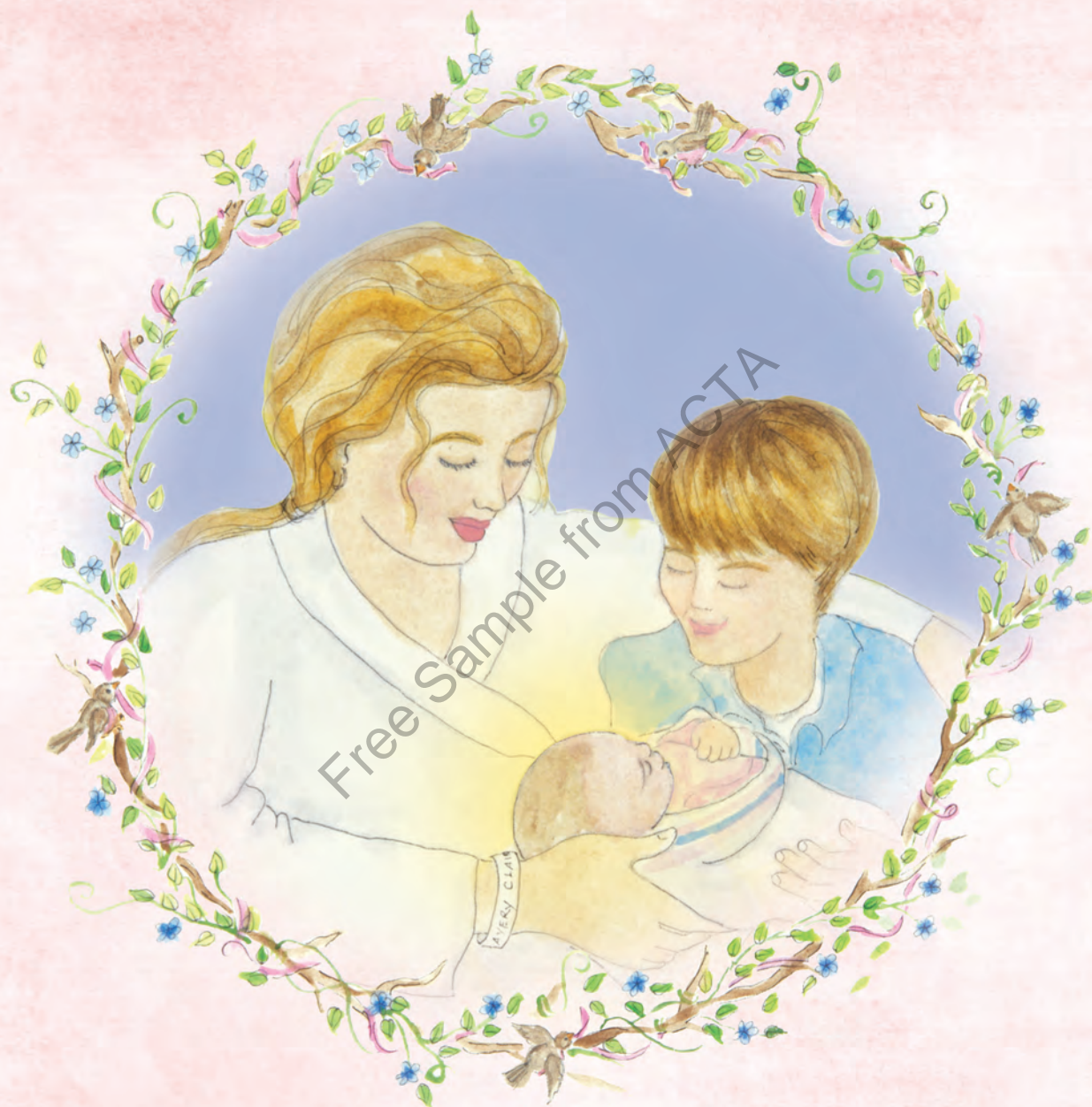
Seeing the cake, God's light, and the happy faces on earth made her so excited she began to float.

"I am on my way, God.

My light will shine for all the world to see."



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“I know it will,” God said,
as his little light made her way to earth.
“I know it will.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Photo by David Humphreys Photography



One of seven children, **Claire Boudreaux Bateman** was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and her Master of Arts from the University of New Orleans.

Claire is passionate about teaching children to understand, cherish, and enjoy the light of God in themselves and others. Currently, she lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with her husband, David, and their two children.

Photo by David Humphreys Photography

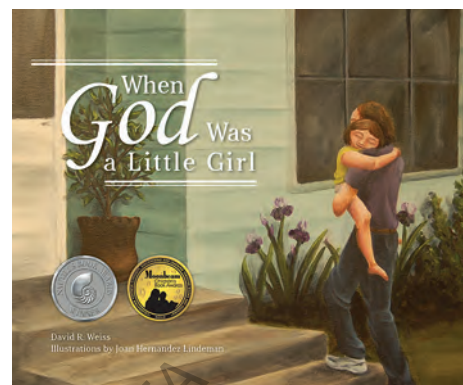


Katie Norwood Alexander is a life-long resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is from a family of artists, including her father, David Norwood, III, long-time editorial cartoonist for the *Baton Rouge Advocate*. Katie has created many projects for family and friends over the years.

In light of her demonstrated ability, it is remarkable that Katie has no formal art training and that *This Little Light of Mine* is her first commercial endeavor. Katie is thankful that her professional debut involves a book about the great love God for all of his children.

Katie is a 1986 graduate of St. Joseph Academy. She attended the University of Mississippi before obtaining her liberal arts degree from Louisiana State University in 1990. Katie resides in Baton Rouge with her husband and their four sons.

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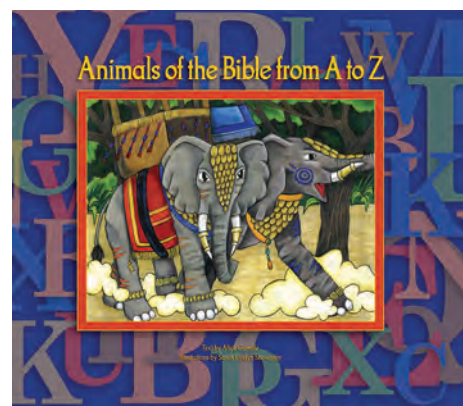
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