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## Special Rewards

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# SPECIAL REWARDS

by Ken Shroyer

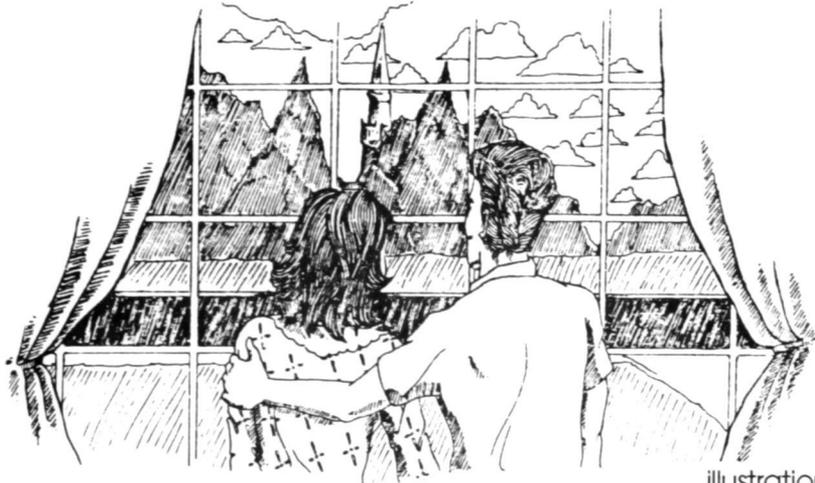


illustration by Brad Snow

Life out West is filled with many remarkable and incredible kinfolks who love and greet others with a smile and open arms. There are special joys—hearing a nephew whistle as he does his farm chores, reading a good book, hearing the chords on the old guitar with aunts, uncles, grandparents, and others gathered around in the Family Room, hugging a young son at bedtime as we tuck him in, kissing a special daughter good morning at breakfast as Mom cooks bacon and scrambles a dozen or so eggs, enjoying the aroma of hot biscuits.

The nice things that God has given our families to enjoy are wonderful on this wide sweep of Western prairie. We look forward to tomorrow when Grandpa and Grandma will come out to tell us more stories and events that took place before they moved to the city.

But some of our joys are blighted by sad things in our universe—getting a letter from cousin Jerry about how tough life is

back East, dropping a line to Aunt Ruby to cheer her up when we know she has been under the weather lately, sending a special note to grandson Tony to encourage him to stay in school and take only a part-time job, encouraging granddaughter Lisa to keep up her church work and attendance and hang in there because things are sure to improve soon.

For sure, our life has its own special rewards as the family gathers at our house on holidays. We have been glancing out the window to see which relative is coming next and note the church steeple reaching for the sky. It seems as if God is telling us, "These are the things money can't buy...these are really special rewards of living here and staying close to our eternal Savior."

*Ken Shroyer* of Weatherford is an active member of Lions International and the PraiSeniors of the First Baptist Church.