## Jess's Party



by Susan Breeding
Illustrated by Beth Hilkemann

How then will they call on him in whom whey have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

Romans 10: 14-15



Once there was a boy named Jess.



He decided to have a party.



It was going to be a great party.
There was going to be cake and balloons and games and music...
and even a pinata.



He wanted to invite the people in the blue house and the green house and the yellow house and the purple house and the white house and the red house.



He asked his friend Steve to help him deliver the invitations.



Steve set out on his bike to deliver the invitations. He gave them to the people in the blue house and the green house and the yellow house.



Then it started to rain.



Steve looked down the street at the purple house and the white house and the red house and saw that the path was now very muddy.



## Steve turned his bike around and went home.



The next day was Jess's party...and it was a wonderful party.



There was cake and balloons and games and music...and even a pinata.



Jess was so excited to see his friends. He was happy that they were having a good time.



But then he noticed something...
Where were his friends from the purple house and the white house and the red house?



## Steve told him about the rain and the muddy paths.



For a moment, Jess looked sad. He liked the people in the purple house and the white house and the red house and wanted them at his party. But how could they come if no one told them?



Suddenly, he had an idea. "It's not too late," he said. "We can invite them now!"



Jess, Steve, and his friends from the blue house and the green house and the yellow house ran down the street.



They shouted to the people in the purple house and the white house and the red house.

"Come, friends, come to the party!
There is still time and there is
room for all."



Soon the house was filled with people enjoying the cake, the balloons, the games...and even the pinata.



Jess looked around the room and saw people from every house—the blue house and the green house and the yellow house and the purple house and the white house and the red house....



## And smiled!

