



A CHOSEN FRIEND

A Story of Mexico

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

This five-chapter missionary story is based on true accounts of mission work in Mexico. Indian culture, superstition, opposition to and reception of the Gospel are seen through the eyes of Rosa, an Aztec Indian. Location, tribe, language and some cultural differences may be changed so that the story can represent other Indian villages and mission work in some Central and South American countries.

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story continues beyond the picture.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Tortilla: tor-tee'-yuh

¿Cómo está usted?: Koh'-moh ays-tah oos-tayd' (How are you?)

Muy bien, gracias: Mwee byayn' grah-syas (Very well, thank you)

Buenas noches: Bway'-nohz noch-as (Good night)

Señora: se-nyoh'-rä

Petate: pe-tä'-te

Hermana: er-mä'-nä

Hermano: er-mä'-noh

Machete: muh-shet'-e

GLOSSARY

Petate: sleeping mat made of palm used by natives in Central and South America.

Tortilla: a pancake, made of Indian corn mashed and baked on an earthen pan.

Señora: a married lady; same as English "Mrs."

Hermano: brother

Hermana: sister

Machete: cutlass, chopping-knife, cane-knife.

Chapter 1

THE MISSIONARIES' FRIENDS

The aim of the lesson:

1. To introduce the truth that God loves all people
2. To show how people on the mission field sometimes react to and oppose the Gospel

The verse to be memorized:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Rosa trudged along the narrow dirt path under the orange and tangerine trees. The hardened mud felt cool to her feet. She was tired from gathering sticks for the cooking fire. The bundle on her back poked her shoulders with every step.

"María got the easy job today," she grumbled, adjusting the headband that held the burlap around the sticks. "She gets to sit and rub the corn off the cobs. I like to make the corn kernels plop in the basket, too, but María says six-year-olds can't shell corn as fast as ten-year-olds."



Show Illustration #1

Spying an orange along the path, Rosa stooped over and picked up the bright fruit. Her brown fingers quickly peeled the bumpy skin. She licked the sticky,

sweet juice from her hands as she ate. A rustle in the bushes near their hut made Rosa look up.

"Rosa! Rosa, where are you?" a girl's voice called softly. Rosa wiped her hands over her faded red dress. She tugged again at the headband holding the sack of sticks on her back.

"I'm coming, María," Rosa shouted, heading for the village.

A thin girl ran down the path, her shiny black braid swinging behind her back. "Sh! Don't talk loudly, Rosa. Follow me. I want you to hear what our neighbors are telling Mama. Leave the sticks here, behind this bush. We can get them later for the cooking fire."

"What's happened?" Rosa asked and grabbed the skirt of María's dress.

"Nothing—yet, but you'll hear. It's about the missionaries," María whispered as they tiptoed to the back of their hut.