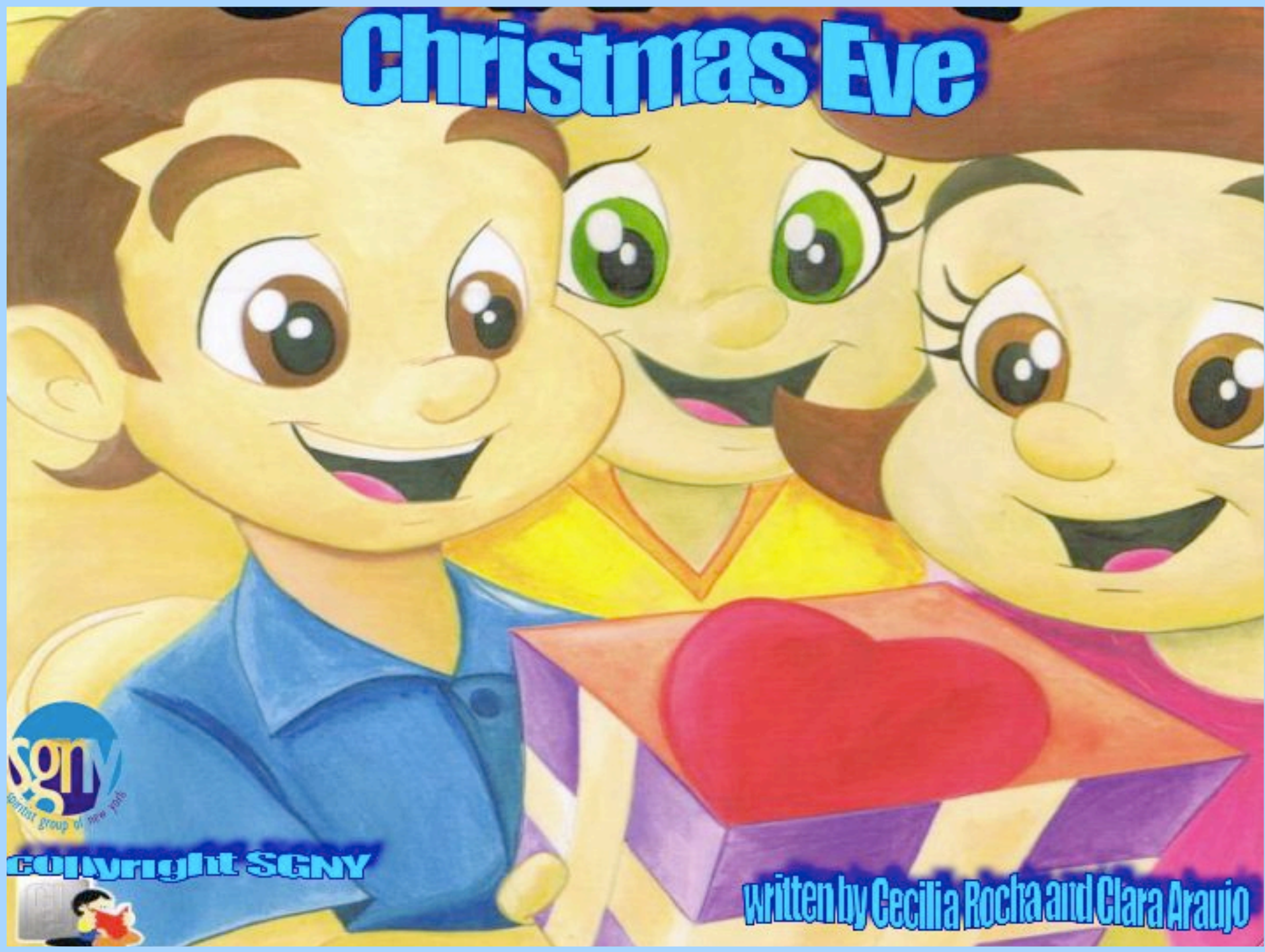


Christmas Eve

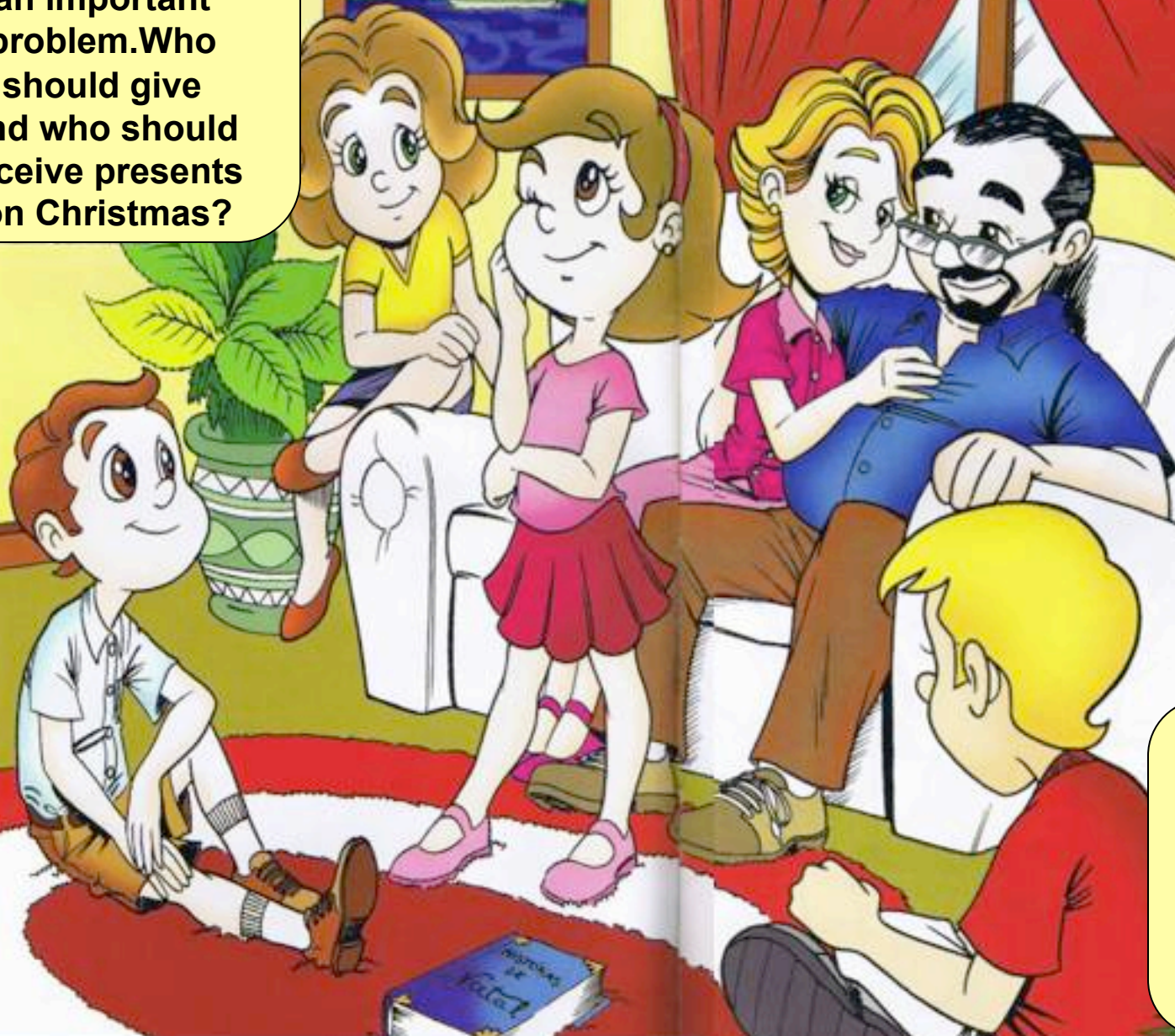


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written by Cecilia Rocha and Clara Araujo



Aline's family is gathered together to solve an important problem. Who should give and who should receive presents on Christmas?



Everyone should get something, no one should be without a present this night! They talked and talked but couldn't reach any conclusions.



Suddenly, Duda had an idea, that he thought was very good! "Tomorrow we will gather again and I will present to you a proposal. You just have to wait."

"What proposal will that be?"
Everyone was asking.

Then, the following day, everyone gathered again next to the Christmas tree. Duda, feeling very important, started by asking a question: "Who's birthday is on December 25th?"

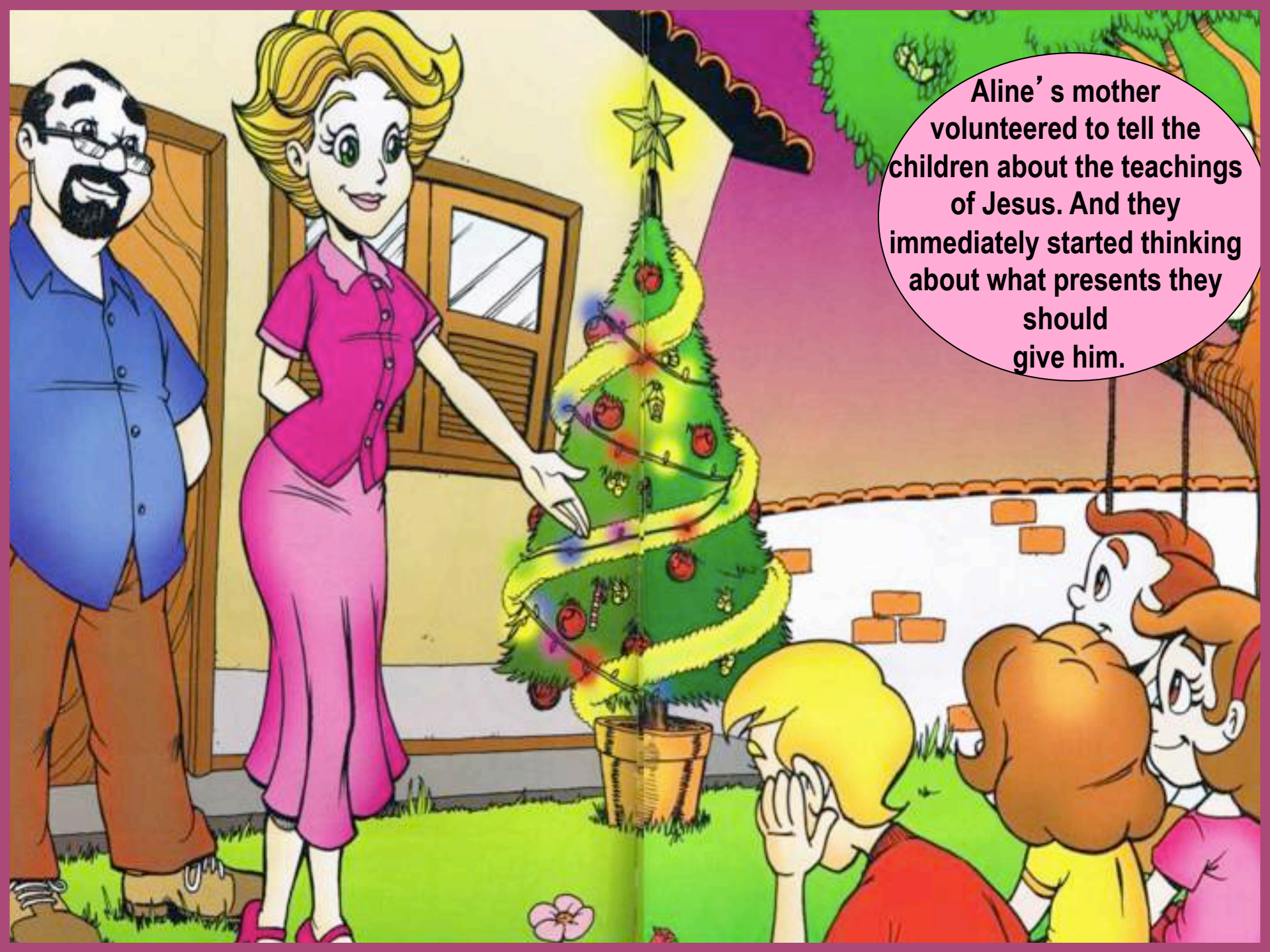


No one answered because it wasn't anyone's birthday that day. "Why then are we going to give presents to each other if it is no one's birthday?"



“Ah, I know!” Aline said. “It’s Jesus’s birthday. People say he was born on Christmas day.”
“Well, not exactly,” said Duda excitedly, “but Christmas is dedicated to Jesus. He is the one we honor this day. So, he should be the one to get presents.”

“Then, what should we give to Jesus?” Everyone asked at the same time.
Duda replied very seriously: “My proposal is that we should study Jesus’s teachings and see what presents may please him more.”

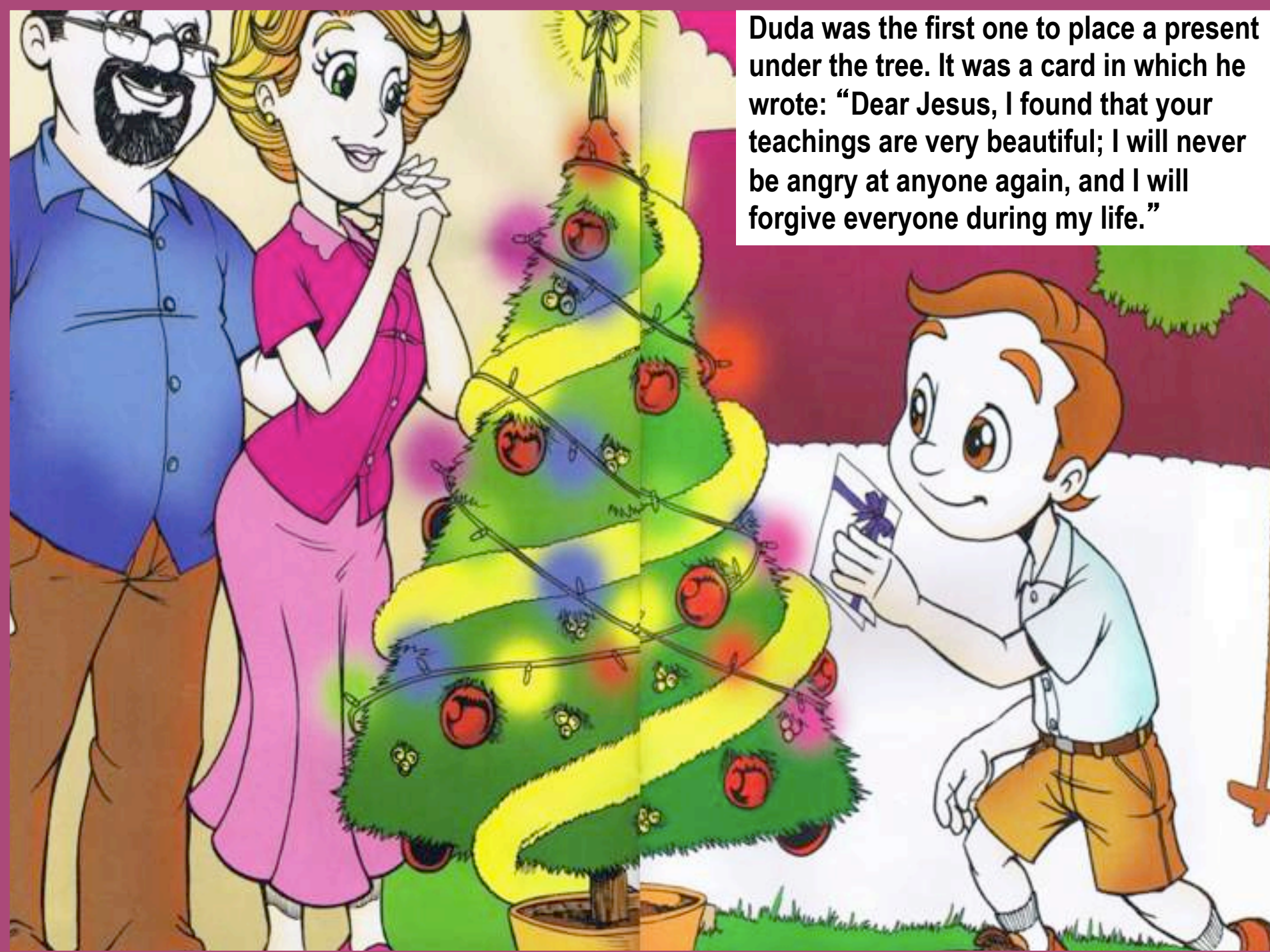


Aline's mother
volunteered to tell the
children about the teachings
of Jesus. And they
immediately started thinking
about what presents they
should
give him.



At the lit up beautiful tree the children started placing their colorful wrapped up presents.

Duda was the first one to place a present under the tree. It was a card in which he wrote: "Dear Jesus, I found that your teachings are very beautiful; I will never be angry at anyone again, and I will forgive everyone during my life."



Aline, very emotionally placed her little present, shaped like a heart and decorated with a blue ribbon, under the tree. In the card she wrote: "Jesus, you are a son of God and because of that we are siblings. But you know a lot more than I do, and you are a lot nicer than I am. So, you are the bigger brother and the teacher of all of us. Happy Birthday, Jesus."



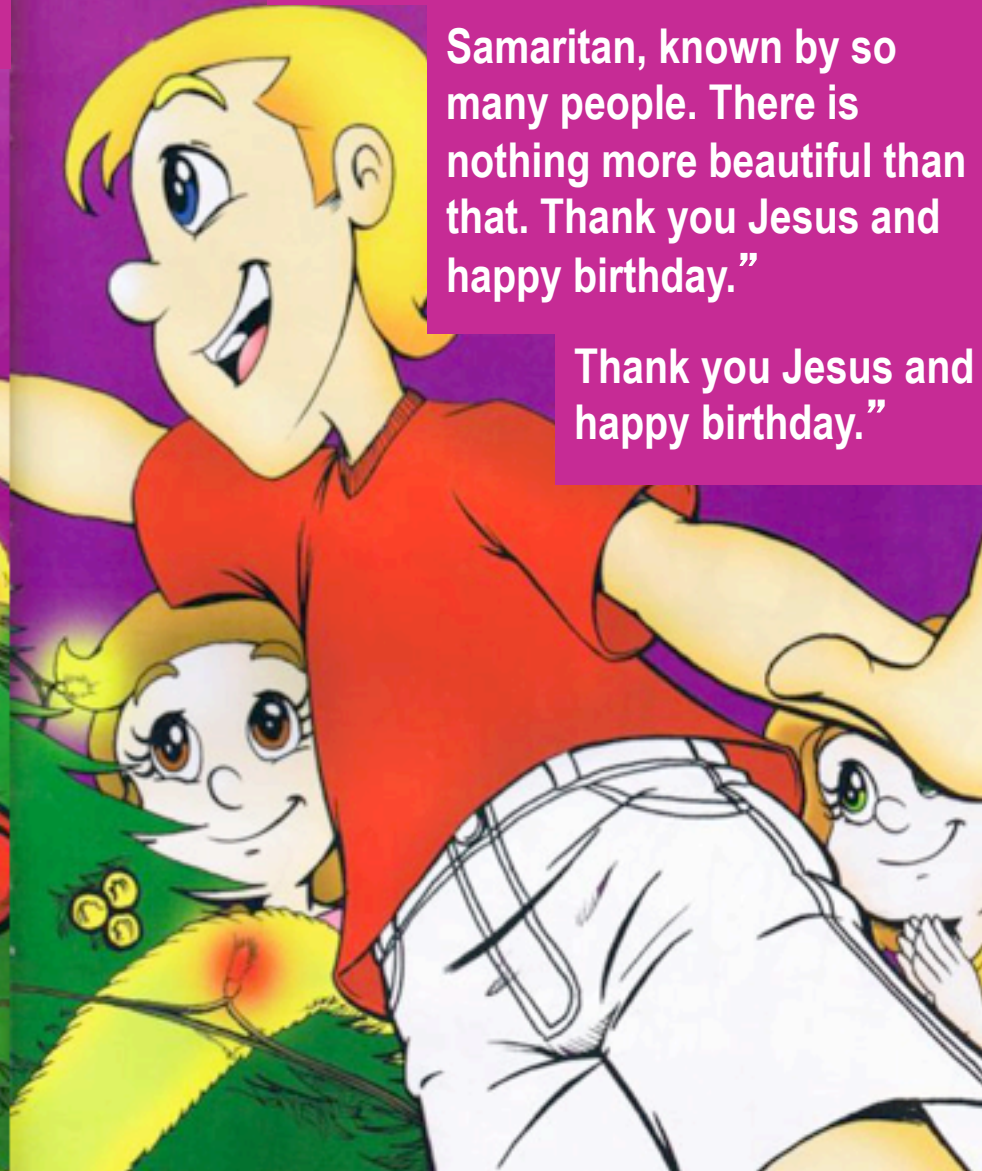
Joca came right after her and placed his gift under the tree, which seemed to be brighter each time.
His present was also a letter; a long letter in which among many things he wrote:



“What beautiful teachings you have said, Jesus! To love our neighbors as ourselves. How beautiful! And what about the story of the Good

Samaritan, known by so many people. There is nothing more beautiful than that. Thank you Jesus and happy birthday.”

Thank you Jesus and happy birthday.”

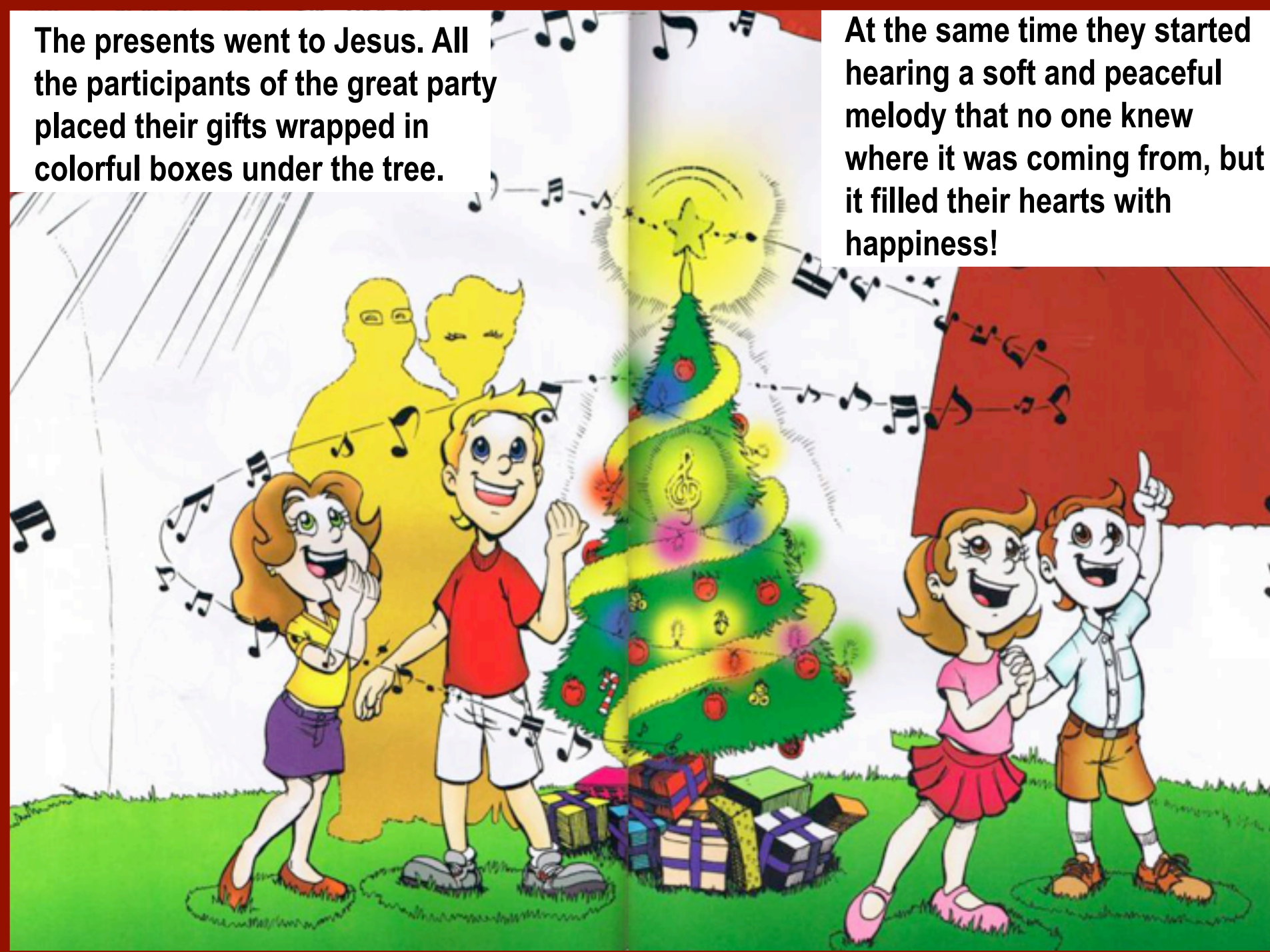


Now, it was time for Dinah to place her present under the tree. It was a letter she wrote on a pink piece of paper. "Jesus," she wrote on her letter, "as I cannot visit you in person I went to visit an elderly and sick man in your name. I was very happy, that is why I am telling you this."



The presents went to Jesus. All the participants of the great party placed their gifts wrapped in colorful boxes under the tree.

At the same time they started hearing a soft and peaceful melody that no one knew where it was coming from, but it filled their hearts with happiness!





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