



Divine New Life Bible School Newsletter

A talent is something that you are instinctually born with that gives you unique skills and abilities. Talent is set apart from knowledge in that it is not a learned behavior, although it can be strengthened and practiced. The Bible tells us that we are all born with distinct talents and gifts that set us apart from each other. When you discover the talents that God has given you and you use them to glorify Him, you will experience a full life! Our loving Lord wants us to feel whole and complete, and it is through talents that we can find our unique calling in life! DNLF Bible school decided to encourage our children by providing them a platform to showcase the talents through a newsletter to proclaim Gods Encountering Moments & Stories to the world.





Message from Pr. Prem Kumar There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." "These are some words from



Message from Headmistress

In His Garden, the blooming flowers! Every garden is beautiful in its own unique way that has flowers with glorious colors and fragrance when....

From the Editor's Desk

GODS ENCOUNTERING MOMENTS & STORIES

Our Mission

The mission of DNLF Bible School is to provide sound Biblical resources to sow the Good News of the Bible leading to Salvation and to encourage spiritual growth of the children to be a future generation Hungry for Christ



Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE:

• There is only one God who exists as three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; all men and women are sinners and because of their sin, they are separated from God.

• Jesus is God's answer to our sin. Jesus came to earth as a man to pay the penalty for our sin by death on the cross and that on the third day He rose again.

• Salvation is a free gift from God for all who receive it through faith and trust in Jesus Christ. By trusting in Christ, we are called to acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior, be baptized, and live a life of repentance. We further believe that as Christians we are to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

• The Bible is God's inspired Word, worthy of our study and application. We have no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible. Jesus, as the Son of God, is the foundation upon which all we teach finds authority and meaning.

• There is but one Church, made up of all those who are personally related to God through His Son Jesus. We encourage the unity of all Christians, and believe that this unity can be achieved when love for Christ is greater than love for man-made traditions. We do not claim to be the only Christians, but strive to be Christians only. Having Christ in common is what makes the church, builds relationships, and strengthens families and communities.

Christ-Centered refers to the Lordship or authority of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and the church is built upon that confession of faith. (Matthew 16:15-18)

Bible-Teaching refers to our belief that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Our teaching finds its authority not in psychology, philosophy, or popular opinion, but in the timeless truth of Scripture. (2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:16)

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3 NLT

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." These are the words of Nelson Mandela, to make us more aware about our children. Many times, we forget about the present life of our children and run worrying about their future. Surely, we need a plan for the future but if we don't care for them today, it will all end in vain.



All of us are working hard to make our children intellect, a person with great personality, top in curricular and extra-curricular activities. This is fine but we should not load them beyond their capacity. But the real question is, whether we are aware of their spiritual nourishment! Are we helping them to be in the right relationship with their creator? How much importance do we give for it? If their physical and intellectual growth is important, Spiritual Nourishment is not equally important, but much more important !

Children learn from us. Let's be example in front of them in everything, especially in prayer and in the meditation of the Word of God. If we give less importance for going to the fellowship, we pass a wrong message to the children. Like manner, if we don't give importance for their bible classes, we teach them unknowingly that it's not necessary. If we are bothered about their academic marks and not bothered about the Bible school marks, we teach them that it's only secondary.

If a child grows up with a strong spiritual nature, surely, he will be strong in his life. He will be bold enough to face the challenges of life. We can't be with our child always, but God can! We can't protect our child always, but God can! Therefore, we should bring up the child with proper spiritual nourishment in the Word of God. May God illuminate their heart to be with Him.

With Love & Blessings In Jesus Name **Ps. Prem Kumar**

MESSAGE FROM HEADMISTRESS



In His Garden....the blooming flowers! Every garden is beautiful in its own unique way that has flowers with glorious colors and fragrance when planted with love and care by our Master Gardener "God Almighty". So is our DNLF Bible School that has around 60 lovely children growing in God's beautiful Garden of love, flourishing for His glory. Praise God for His Faithfulness.

In 2 Corinthians 2:15 the scripture says "For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." Lord Jesus is our guide, our leader, our role model whom we need to seek guidance to bring up our children to spread the fragrance of God's Love to this stinking world.

Every child is different in their character, potential and talents. The maker of heaven and earth knows everyone by name. Each plant is carefully planted and watered because the gardener knows what is best for it. No matter where they are planted but the master desires that His plants should bear good fruits. Our Bible School's ultimate aim is to bring up our children by the spring of living water that comes from Christ alone and be like the blooming flowers in His garden.

Isaiah 58:11 says "The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

Let us join hands together to build up DNLF Bible School like a well-watered garden that grows and bloom, spreading the pleasing aroma of Christ. God Bless You All From Headmistress's desk

Mrs. Anita Mathew DNLF Bible School



Bible School Activities

Summer Holiday Home Work.

For the summer holidays in July-August 2018, the children were given an assignment on Psalm 46. Based on their age groups they could memorize, complete a related coloring page, make a poster, do an exhortation or make wall hangings. The submissions were indeed praiseworthy.



For more pictures please visit our website at dnlf.org

Theme – Bible Super Powers



From 1st Jan 2019 a new weekly theme began for the bible school students – **"Bible Superhero Powers"**. The theme dealt with several powers needed for a Christian to face his battles on this earth. The BS activity team held several skits, games, action songs etc to deepen the understanding of each super power. The kids actively participated and enjoyed while learning. Several competitions such as memory verse recitations, quizzes were also held to revise the topics and kids were rewarded too.

1. Obey your parents

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:20

Synopsis: The children learned that obeying their parents is a superpower and the way to obey is I-C-E i.e Immediately, Cheerfully and Exactly.

Activities: Skit, the obedience song

2. Slow to Anger

Memory Verse: James 1: 19

Synopsis: The children learned that anger can lead to them to sin and hence they should S-T-A i.e Stop, Think and then Act before reacting.

Activities: A video of the Bible School Children informing the reason they become angry and what they do when they become angry, A short talk by Pastor Giftson, Song -Slow to anger

3. All for good

Memory Verse: Roman 8:28

Synopsis: The children learned a wonderful lesson from the life of Joseph. They saw the troubles, temptations and hard work of Joseph. The children witnessed how Joseph never gave up, trusted God and how later, God honored him to be the Prime Minister of Egypt.

Activities: A skit

4. Work Together as a team

Memory Verse:1 Corinthians 12:27

Synopsis: The children learned that when we become a Christian, we become part of the "body of Christ" – The Church, where each one uses their talents and work together to serve and bless others.

Activities: Team Games

5. Power to Share the Good News

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23

Synopsis: The children learned that one can get Eternal Life only through Jesus and they should share this good news with those who do not know.

Activities: Short Talk, Mission Trip Presentation and Action Song by the Bible Students

6. Power from the word of God

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-67

Synopsis: The children learned that guidance and power should come from the word of God. Sr. Anitha explained different types of believers and their approach to the word of God with a very interesting comparisons to different types of spoons. She also explained that to get a good grip of the word one needs to – Meditate, Memorize, Study, hear and Read the word of God.

Activities : Short Talk, Action Song

Outgoing Students

DNLF Bible School wishes the very best to two of our outgoing students, Tessia Baiju and Milen Thomas, who completed their school education and will continue their studies in India.

Tessia and Milen have been active in the Bible school and has set a good example to their juniors.





The outgoing students receiving their Shield from Pastor Prem Kumar along with Head Mistress, Sr. Anita Mathew and their Class Teacher, Br. Shibu Mathai.



Jungle River Adventure

Ride the Current to God's Perfect Plan!

After the successful Mighty Fortress VBS, the DNLF Kids Ministry Team returned with a One day camp – "Jungle River Adventure". It was held on 29th December 2018 at the Anglican Center premises. The story telling team , the music team, games team, short talks all aimed to help the kids to trust, obey, serve, share, and follow God. The story telling team took the children back to Paul's time showing the encounter he had with Christ and the transformation he went through which changed him from being a rebel to one of the strongest apostle. The songs such as

"I feel the rain.." and the African song "Bayete nkosi" from the most dynamic music team still stand fresh in the hearts of the kids.





Artícles by DNLF Bíble School Children!!!



By Carolyn Johnly

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

BY: NOEL BIJU DANIEL

About the Author:

Mark surnamed John was not among the twelve disciples. It was common for Jews of the period to bear both a surname such as John and a Greco-Roman name such as Mark. He was led to Christ by Peter. Peter addresses Mark as his son in 1 Peter 5:13. He was the cousin of Barnahas, Mark's mother was Mary who was well-known in early church. They had a house in Jerusalem. Mark was from tribe of Levi, Though Paul had refused Barnabas' wish of taking Mark with them in the second missionary journey, Mark later became a fellow-worker of Paul. Apparently Mark the Cousin of Barnabas was with Paul during his First Imprisonment in Rome, during which he wrote the four Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians).

About the Book:

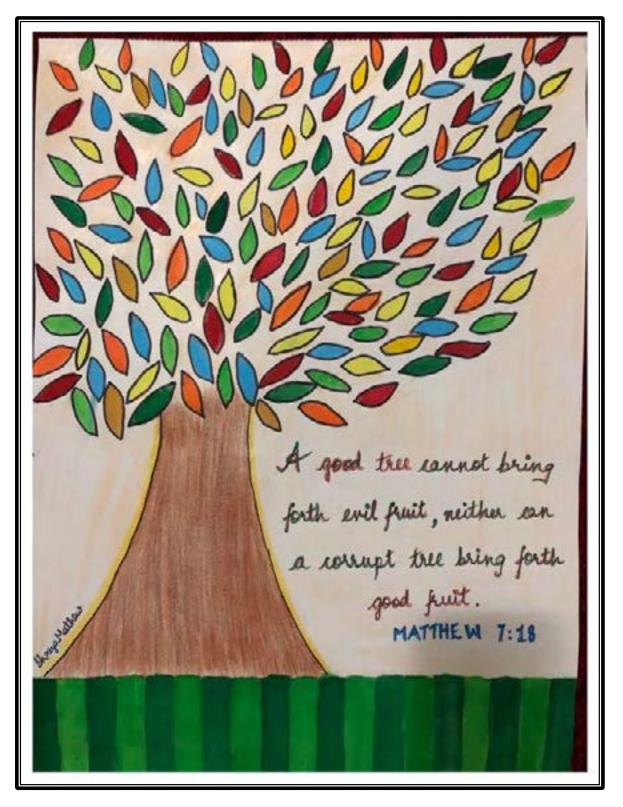
'The Gospel According to Mark' is one of the four canonical gospels and one of the three synoptic gospels. Mark probably dates from 66–70 AD. It was first considered to be a summary of 'The Gospel of Matthew'. But most scholars now regard it be the first Book of Gospel to be written. It is believed that Matthew and Dr. Luke used it as a source for writing their accounts. It does not contain the genealogy of Jesus. It was written to the Gentiles who lived in Rome. The style of writing of Mark is simple and direct. It portrays Jesus as the servant of God.

Uniqueness of Gospel of Mark

- Only Mark mentions about the number of possessed pigs; there are about two thousand. (Mark 5:13).
- Simon of Cyrene's sons are named (Mark 15:21).
- The parable of the growing seed is unique to Mark. (Mark 4:26-29)
- Only Mark mentions Jesus himself to be a carpenter. (Mark 6:3). The parallel verse Matthew 13:55 says 'Isn't he the son of a carpenter.....'. Nor is it mentioned in Luke 4:22.

Noel Biju Daniel



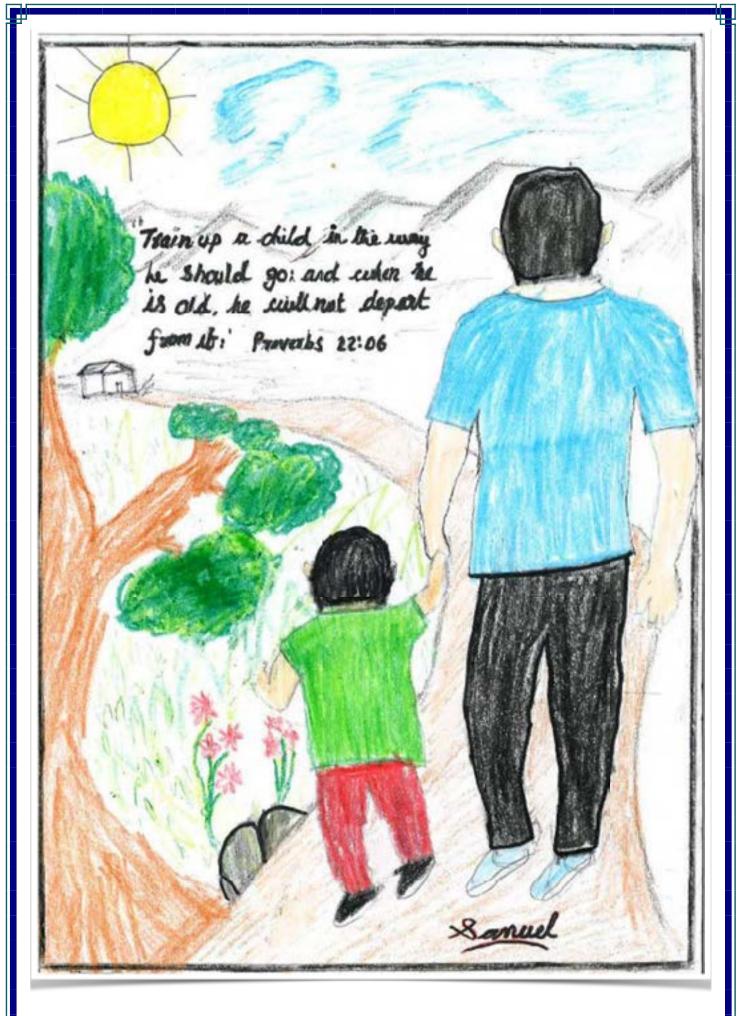


By Shreya Mathew

SALVATION

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMING AND CRUCIFIXION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS WAS TO DIE FOR US, SINNERS, TO SAVE US FROM ETERNAL DEATH. ANYBODY WHO ACCEPTS JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOR WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. WHEN WE LEAVE THIS WORLD, WE CANNOT ATTAIN SALVATION THROUGH ANY OF THE WORLDLY THINGS EXCEPT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. EPHESIANS 2: 8-9 SAYS," FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS LEST ANYONE SHOUD BOAST." TO GAIN SALVATION, WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN JESUS AND DEMONSTRATE THAT FAITH BY OBEYING HIS COMMANDS. WE MUST ALSO HAVE OBEDIENCE TO SHOW THAT OUR FAITH IS ALIVE. WE CAN ALSO LOOSE OUT OUR SALVATION, IF WE DO NOT KEEP EXERCISING OUR FAITH. THAT IS WHY PHILIPPIANS 2:12b SAYS,"KEEP WORKING OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING." IF YOU HAVE FELT THE TUG OF GOD ON YOUR HEART, YOU CAN HAVE THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.

BY HANNAH NINAN



By Samuel K San

A review of the book

Book Name :- "OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE"

Author :- GEORGE VERWER

Review By:- CAROLYN JOHNLY

Out of the comfort zone is written by George Verwer, who is the founder of a Christian Missions organization -Operation Mobilization. At the age of16, he became a Christian and then later within a year about 200 of his classmates became Christians.

This book is written for anyone who is hungry for God and wants to understand better what God is doing and wanting to do across the world.

A grace-awakened approach to missions work:

The author wrote this book to give "a heart's cry for a grace-awakening" in the area of missions work. Through grace we were saved from our sins, when Jesus died on the cross for us. It was a gift that was freely given to us in grace. So why not share it with others? Christ has freed us from legalism, so we can grow and work as he leads us.

We are his witnesses:

God tells us through his word that we are his witnesses. We will receive the power of the Holy Spirit and we will be witnesses to the ends of the earth. The author says "we should start out as witnesses now, regardless of the geography of our situation". Living a life, that is holy, godly and that is filled with love itself is a powerful witness no matter who or what the person is or does. To be a faithful witness also means that we should be bold enough to speak about the lord- his death and resurrection. God can use anyone who loves Jesus. God does not look at a person's wealth or talent to be a missionary or a witness; he looks at a person's heart and his willingness to do his work. We were called to serve one another and we need a constant work of the Holy Spirit in us to do so.

Continued....

We need to be filled again and again with the Holy Spirit. And we also need to recognize the power of prayer. Together with prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit we will be empowered to spread the gospel to everyone.

Mission:

The author has said that there is a population explosion in the world right now. For example Mexico City has a population of about 25million people, India over 1 billion people and China 1.3 billion people. The population explosion in Muslims has also increased, such that soon, one 1 in every 6 people will be Muslims! As the number of non- believers are increasing, they do not know about God and there are very few people to spread the gospel to all these people.

So what are we supposed to do? We should continue in prayer for these people to know about God.

We should be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit and should be good witnesses filled with love and joy. Through our actions the people around us should witness God. We should try our level best to spread the 'Gospel', the good news to everyone, about why Jesus came to this world, the purpose of his death and resurrection, to everyone who does not know him.

END_

By Carolyn Johnly

THE LORD IS MY HEALER

I would like to share a small incident that took place in my life when I was a baby. I was travelling in an aeroplane with my parents. During the journey my parents told me that I was crying a lot. Finally after a long journey we reached home. By evening my parents saw that my ears were bleeding! My parents immediately took me to the hospital. The doctor informed that I had a small crack on my eardrum which was probably caused due to the journey. My parents were worried as I could have become deal because of this. But God was so good to me. He healed me completely and my eardrum did not have the crack anymore. I thank my Lord for healing me completely.

Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. - Psalm 103:2-3

SARAH RACHEL BENSON

The Nature

IF I WERE A DOCTOR....

A few months ago, on July 29, 2018, a few families including mine, had gone for a mission trip to Assam. It was a whole new experience. Our aim was to go to many villages and gather the attention of the people there and preach the word of God. We, kids, did many action songs and skits and the pastor shared the word of God for about 5 minutes. There was also a nurse aunty who came with us to treat the village people. That aunty was working as a nurse in Kerala, but when God spoke to her to go to Assam, she left everything and went there as per God's instruction. God used her mightily over there as there were no clinics or medical facilities over there. Daily a large number of people used to come to her for treatment and she

also visits the sick people to give them medical assistance.

The thing that amused and inspired us the most was that, in every village, there were almost 50 to 60 patients who came to see the nurse for treatment. They were calling her a doctor. She was doing a great job there. She managed all of them alone. She listened to their health issues and



cleaned their wounds. With prayer, she gave simple medicines as she was not permitted to write any prescription nor treat any diseases. But God's hand is still working there miraculously.

By seeing all this, I thought that if I were a doctor, I could do more than this for the kingdom of God. My ambition to be a doctor intensified by this mission trip.

-Tabitha Sara Saji



By Evelyn Johnly

BIBLE QUIZ TIME

- 1. How many disciples did Jesus have?
- 2. Who is Jesus?
- 3. How many books are there in the Bible?
- 4. How many books are there in Old Testament and New Testament?
- 5. What gift were brought to baby Jesus?
- 6. Which river was Jesus baptized in?
- 7. What was the first miracle of Jesus?
- 8. Why did Jesus die in the cross?
- 9. Where did Jesus born?
- 10. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?
- 11. How old was Moses when he died?
- 12. How many times did Peter deny Jesus?

Answers:

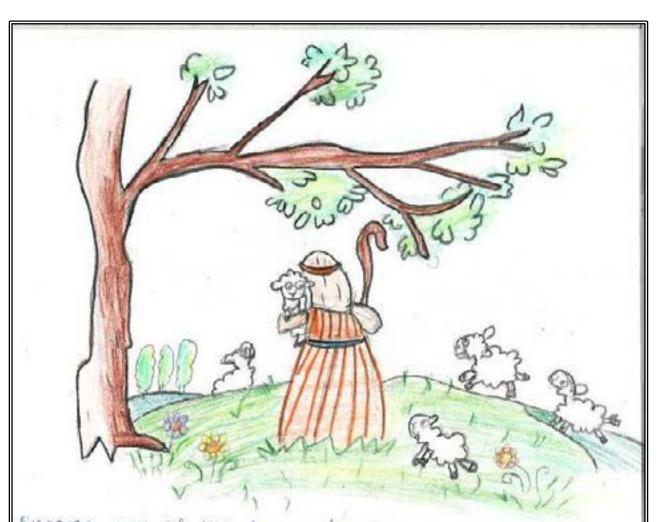
1) 12; 2) The Son of God; 3) 66; 4) 39 Books in Old Testament & 27 Books in New Testament; 5) Gold, Frankincense and myrrh; 6) Jordan river; 7) Turning water in to wine; 8) To save us; 9) Bethlehem; 10.) 100 Years old; 11) 120 Years 12) 3 Times

Prepared by Anna Johnson

POEM

God is Great He is our saviour He loves us He refreshers my soul He died in the cross to save us He is worth to be praised God can do everything He will correct us He is known by the whole world He is the one and only God.

By Anna Johnson

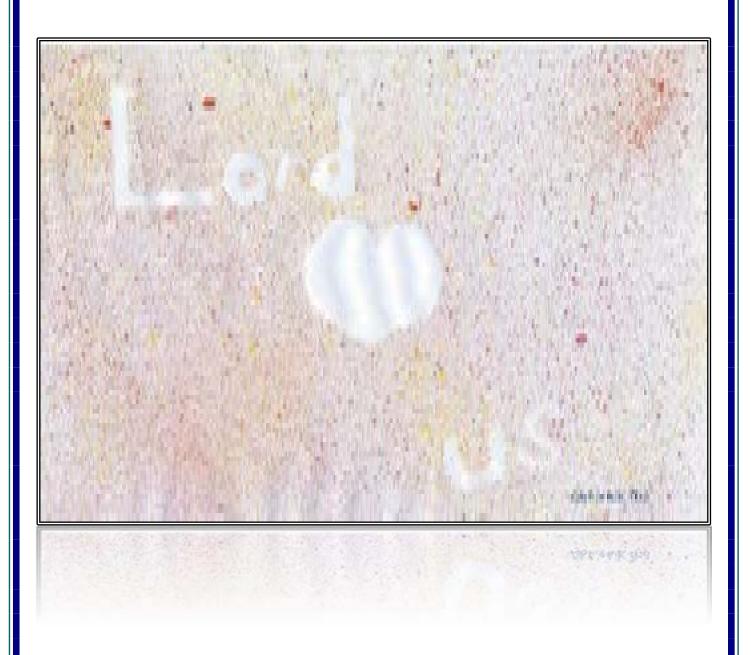


Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses on hem. Does he not leave the minety-nine sheep and go find ne sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he i with he carries the sheep all the way home. Then he can is friends and neighbors and says "Be happy with me becau and my lost sheep "

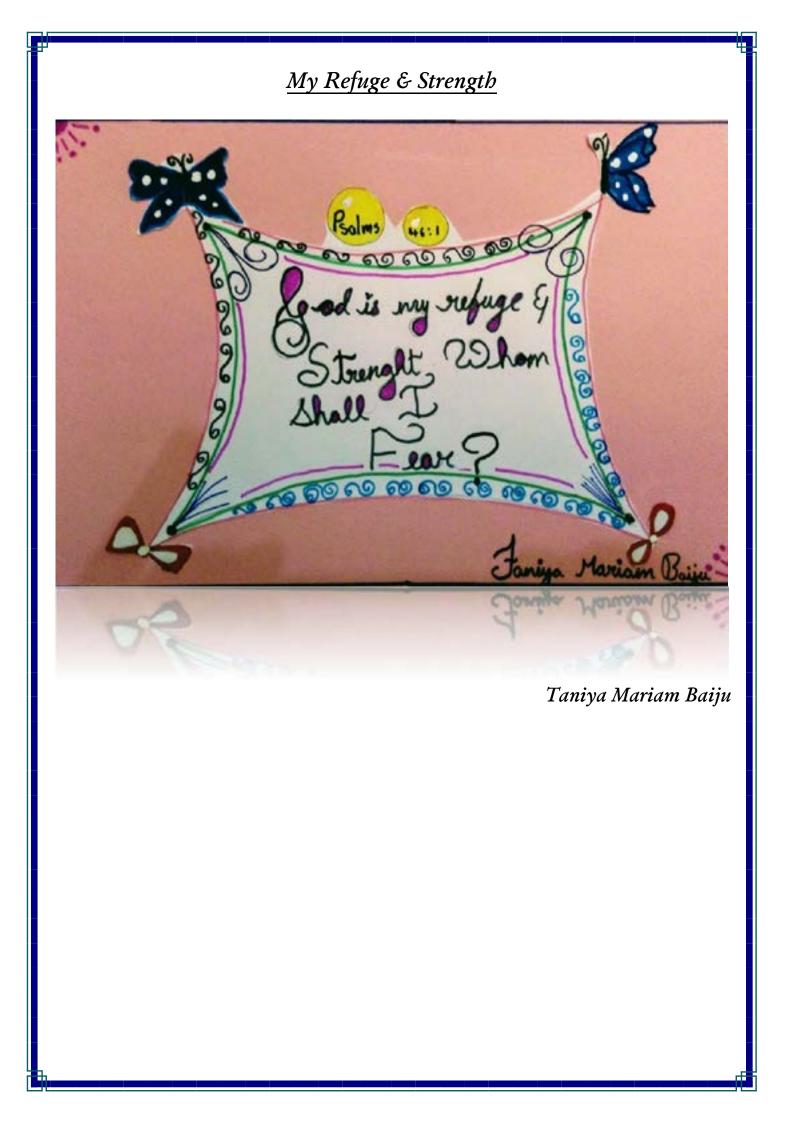
Then Jesus told khat the parable meant: Just like there a big party over the one lost sheep, there will be a big y in heaven over Just one sinner who reports than over in heaven over Just one sinner who reports than over in heaven over Just one sinner who reports than over the people who think they are perfect and don't ne epent.

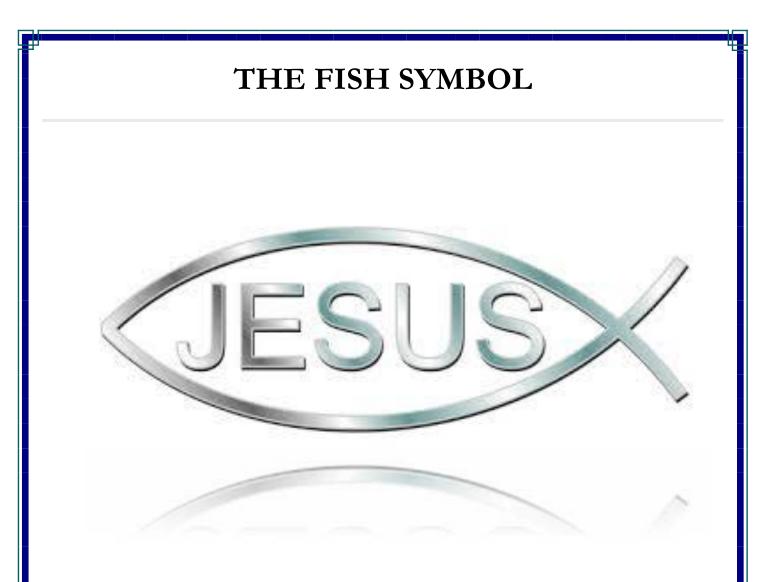
S- PUNTT RA

By S. Punit Raj



By Abhisktha





VERY EARLY THE FISH BECAME A SYMBOL OF CHRISTIANITY. DURING PERSECUTION BY THE ROMANS, CHRISTIANS USED THIS SYMBOL AS A SECRET CODE TO DISCOVER WHETHER OR NOT ANOTHER PERSON WAS A CHRISTIAN. THE LETTERS OF THE GREEK WORD [ICHTHUS] ARE THE SAME AS THE FIRST GREEK OF THE WORDS JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON, AND SAVIOR.

By Mathew Ashly

No the Light that wikness cannot fland e om1: By Tessia Baiju

God's love

No one can describe God's love because he loves us unconditionally .God always want us to come closer to him so that God can show more of his love. In John 3:16 it says 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'. This verse says that he loved us so much that he gave his son to die for our sins. Just like God loved us, we should also learn how to love. We should love everybody in this world because there are people in need for love. So we should share God's love to them and strengthen them. There's a story in the bible which tells about God's love. The story is a parable Jesus told to the people. The name of the story is the Prodigal son which tells a son who ran away from his father with all the wealth of his father. When he finished everything he had, he wanted to come back to his father but he was scared if his father will accept him. But he went to his father's house and his father was so happy to see him and held a Grand feast for him. Jesus told in this parable that the father is God and when the son came back he was glad and showed love and care. God loves us so much that at times when we go away from God, He puts us to tests and troubles in our lives. Not to hurt us but to make us know that God loves us and when we sin God will be sad. So just like God love us we should also love others, treat all people the same and care for each other. There is a verse that says in the bible that 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God John 4:7. There is one more verse which inspired me a lot Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me the life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God ,who loved me and gave himself for me. God shows us so much love, care, kindness. But we too have to show love to God. We have to speak to God everyday. And how do we can do that? Through prayer and reading the bible. Even when we have so many troubles in our lives when we get God's love through the bible it is a great feeling. God not only show love he also takes care of us spiritually, protects us, strengthen us, shows kindness and so much more. There's a verse which says "God has loved you with everlasting love ".We should thank God every day for his everlasting love and kindness and give praise to him. And do the same just as God did. I would like to end my message with a verse Jeremiah 31:3 " The Lord appeared to us in the past saying I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Amen! Thank you and May God bless you all!

By Evelyn Johnly

Bible Riddles

Challenge #1 - Bible Acrostic

The first letter of each answer forms the name of one of the great Jewish feasts.

- That which we are to do without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- The man God knew would command his household after him. (Genesis 18:19)
- 3. A bird God notices as it falls to the ground. (Matthew 10:29)
- 4. A church mentioned in Revelation. (Revelation 3:1)
- The number of times Christ offered up Himself for sin. (Hebrews 7:27)
- That which Jesus calls Himself in John 15:1: "the true_____".
- A man who kissed his brother who had wronged him. (Genesis 33:4)
- 8. The last book in the New Testament.

Challenge #2 - A Word Hunt

You are to hunt for ten words of five letters each and all beginning with the letters *RO*. Each word is described or defined to help you guess it, and you may check your answer by looking for the word in the Bible verse given.

- 1. Large stones. (Jeremiah 4:29)
- 2. Parts of a house. (Matthew 23:6)
- 3. Man of a certain nationality. (Acts 22:29)
- 4. Garments. (Luke 20:46)
- 5. A way to cook meat. (1 Samuel 2:15)
- 6. Parts of a tree. (Mark 11:20)
- 7. To waken. (Genesis 49:9)
- 8. The opposite of smooth. (Isaiah 40:4)
- 9. Kingly. (Esther 5:1)

Shreya Elsa Mathew



Praise be to God in the highest.

<u>Theme verse</u>: **Hebrews 1:2**- "But in these last days he has spoken to us by his son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe".

We can separate this verse into three main parts:

1) But in these last days...... meaning the days in which Jesus is going to come soon. We are in the last days. But if we ask ourselves a question on when did these last days start, we will have to look at the Old Testament that the prophet Joel told that the LORD will pour out his spirit on the humans. It is also said that this spirit that was poured out on the humans took place on the day of Pentecost. Therefore, we can say that the last days started on the Pentecost and will end on the day which God returns.

Do you know how the last days are going to be? We can answer that by the news every day. We hear about floods, droughts, earthquakes and many more. These are all the hints that the LORD gives us on the last days that he is coming soon. We have to be ready.

There is one thing we all can be happy about. God is always with us. He is our salvation. First of all, who is God? We can know this by John 1:1 – "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God, and the word was God". In the same chapter we can refer verse 14 that says – "the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us". He is our Lord JESUS". Colossians 1:14 says "in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins".

2) The second thing we notice is that he said that God speaks with us. How does he do that? How does he talk to us? The bible says that the LORD talks to us by the word. And where is this word? In the bible! Therefore we need to be the people who read the bible every day. Then only we can know about the plans, guidance and the will of God for us.

3) Thirdly, we have to be the ones who praise God. Because he is the heir of all things and had created everything.

He is the heir of everything as in Matthew 11:27 that says "all things have been committed to me by my father".

In Hebrews 11:3 it is written "by faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command". Therefore, it is our duty to praise and worship God.

I would like to conclude with a summary:

First, we are in the last days. So, we should not waste our time. Plan and utilize our time properly. Now is the day of salvation. We have to accept Jesus as our Lord, and preach the good news to everyone.

Second, as in Deuteronomy 4:30 - In the later days we should be the people who return to God and obey him.

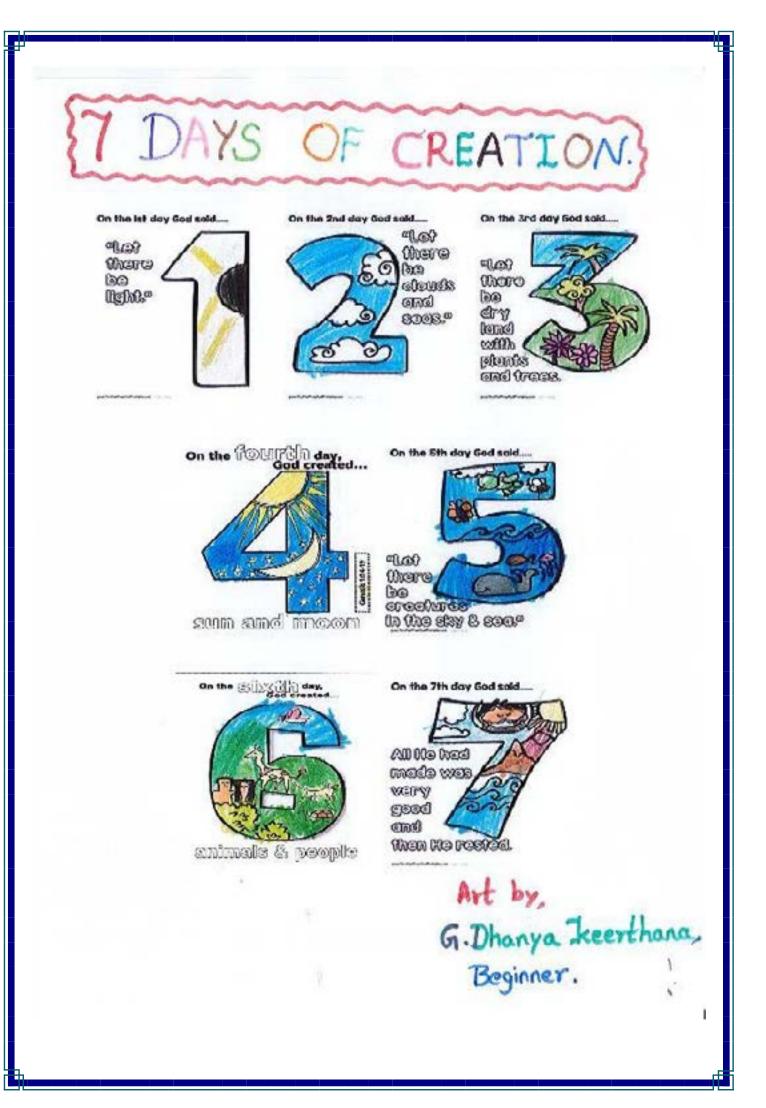
Lastly, since he is the creator, we need to worship God, praise him, pray to him and follow Jesus. Then we will be called the children of God and he will choose us as his heir.

AMEN.

(By Vemu. Pavun, Intermediate, DNLF)



By Aaron Mathews



Back to Jerusalem

Let's travel back to the time when Babylon fell and the Medes and Persians rose under king Cyrus. This is when the Israelites are leaving Babylon. How did they get free? What happened after they reached Jerusalem?

Long before Cyrus was born, Jehovah told Isaiah about Cyrus, king of Persia:(Isaiah 44:28,(a))

"The One saying of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,

And he will completely carry out all my will"

And,(Isaiah 45:1):

"This is what Jehovah says to his anointed one, to Cyrus, Whose right hand I have taken hold of To subdue nations before him, To disarm kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:......"

Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, the king of Persia, and made him proclaim throughout the country (Ezra 1:1-4) that God of Israel is the true God and that the neighbours of the Israelites should give them silver and gold, goods, livestock along with the voluntary offering for the house of the true God, which was in Jerusalem.

Along with the gifts from the neighbours and from the Israelites who are not going back, Cyrus gave the gold utensils which were looted from the temple of God.

After four months, they reach Jerusalem and now they had to rebuild the temple which Nebuchadnezzar looted while taking them captives.

Jerusalem was built in 3 parts under the leadership of 3 different persons; first under Zerubbabel, second under Ezra and last under Nehemiah.

ZERUBBABEL

Zerubbabel was a governor of the Persian Province of Judah (Yehud Medinata) and the grandson of Jehoiachin, next-to-last king of Judah. Zerubbabel led the first

group of Jews, numbering 42,360, who returned from the Babylonian captivity in the first year of Cyrus, King of Persia. The date is generally thought to have been between 538 and 520 BC. Zerubbabel also laid the foundation of the Second Temple in Jerusalem soon after.

Just like Cyrus, Zerubbabel was called for the work of God through prophets like Haggai and Zechariah.

(Hag. 2:23): "On that day, says the Lord of Hosts, I will take you Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, my servant, and wear you like a signet ring; for it is you whom I have chosen. This is the word of the Lord of Hosts" (Zech 4:6–7): "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts. 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel, you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

According to Ezra 3-4, Zerubbabel, together with the high priest Joshua (also called Jeshua) and others, erected an altar for burnt offerings in the seventh month after the return. There, they offered morning and evening sacrifices and kept the Feast of Tabernacles. In the second month of the second year, they together laid the foundation of the Temple. They received an offer of aid by "the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin", but Zerubbabel and Joshua rejected this aid on the grounds that it did not accord with Cyrus' instructions.

After this, the opposition of these "enemies" caused a delay of 17 years. Zerubbabel and Joshua were then aroused to fresh activity by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

"So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God." (Haggai 1:14)

Messianic fervour gripped the prophet as he spoke in God's name to Zerubbabel, promising that not even royal powers like those of Persia could stand against God's power.

New obstacles were encountered in the suspicions of Tattenai, the Persian "governor beyond the river," and an appeal was made to Darius I, who promulgated

a decree authorizing the completion of the work. The Temple was indeed finished and dedicated four years later (Ezra 5-6).

EZRA

Ezra, also called Ezra the Priest in the Book of Ezra, was a Jewish scribe and priest. He returned from Babylonian exile and reintroduced the Torah in Jerusalem **(Ezra 7–10 and Nehemiah 8**). His name may be an abbreviation of עזריהו Azaryahu, "Yah helps".

Many of the returning Hebrews had forgotten God's laws—and were disregarding them in front of the people. They needed to remember the covenant they'd made with God. They needed to remember why they were in their situation: why they had to go to Babylon (which you can read about in Kings and Chronicles), and why they'd been allowed to come back. The temple needed a new foundation, but the people needed to return to the foundations of their faith, too.

Ezra, the scribe, answers the call to teach Israel the ways of God again (Ezra 7:10). Ezra calls attention to Israel's covenant history with the Lord. God had made promises to Israel through Moses:

- If the people obeyed Him, they would enjoy a good land and prosperity.
- If the people disobeyed Him, they would face punishment and exile.

The people disobeyed, and God kept His promise (Ezra 9:7). However, God had made another promise: He would gather Israel back to her land after He had punished her (Dt 30:3).

NEHEMIAH

In the 20th year of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, (445/444 BC), Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king. Learning that the remnant of Jews in Judah was in distress and that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, he asked the king for permission to return and rebuild the city. Artaxerxes sent him to Judah as governor of the province with a mission to rebuild, letters explaining his support for the venture, and provision for timber from the king's forest.

Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about the rebuild and were disturbed at the idea of Israel's welfare. Nehemiah stirred up the hearts of people to help him build the walls. Sanballat and Tobiah along with Geshem the Arab mocked and ridiculed them. To their mockery, Nehemiah replied:

"The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it." (Nehemiah 2:20).

The people were even threatened by their enemies. So some were posted with weapons while others held both tools and weapons. The people were not capable to do this but Jehovah helped them and they completed the wall in just 52 days.

After 12 years as governor, during which he ruled with justice and righteousness, he returned to the king in Susa. After some time in Susa, he returned to Jerusalem, only to find that the people had fallen back into their evil ways. Non-Jews were permitted to conduct business inside Jerusalem on the Sabbath and to keep rooms in the Temple. Greatly angered, he purified the Temple and the priests and Levites and enforced the observance of the law of Moses.

This was not just a summary on the return of Israelites. Do not forget that God will deliver you from the situation you are in. Trust in God and keep his covenants and He will build you up against all odds, even if your friends and family are against you.

AMEN

-Tibin M.

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SHORT STORY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GIFT

Proverb 19:17

When you give to the Poor, It is Like Lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back.

Sam was a very obedient, kind boy but his life was not like how he wished. At his small age itself his father died and his mother was paralyzed and there is no one to take care of him. He had to do all the work in his house by himself he was just 11 years old. He was very poor he only had torn cloths to wear. He went to a school near his house. All these years in his birthday no one gave him any gift or wished him. He was very sad. In his school other children would get lot of gift and candies. A new boy came to his school and often 2 days it was his birthday. Two days went by it was his birthday and nobody wished him. He was about to sleep and he heard knock in the door. He opened the door slowly. That was a new boy who came to his school before 2 days. He had a hand full of gift for Sam. He wished Sam Happy Birthday and gave him cloths, candies, toys and a wonderful Birthday. Sam asked him these many years nobody gave me anything or wishes me then why did you gave me these many gifts. He said to Sam Because I believe in Jesus our savior Jesus taught us to help others. I understand your pain. He gave to Sam a bible and told if you believe and pray to Jesus you will never be sad again. Then onwards Sam always prayed to Jesus and always read bible and he was never sad on his Birthday again.

Taniya Mariam Baiju



DO NOT FRET! STAY UPRIGHT

<u>Psalms 37: 4-5</u>: TAKE DELIGHT IN TH LORD AND HE WILL GIVE THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART.COMMIT YOUR WAYS TO THE LORD, TRUST IN HIM AND HE WILL DO THIS

I would like to explore what Bible says, how it is God's desire to give us the desires of our heart, how trust Him can make marvellous changes.

Life is frustrating, isn't it? That is something all of us can agree with. For children, it could be studies, exam, while parents work, finance and so on.

The best method to feel free and happy is by meditating on the word of God and prayer. But what most people do to get out of frustration is scrolling through the social media or calling a friend, who would give a worldly solution or dump his/her miseries to us.

King David writes the Psalms 37 out of frustration, but at same time he explains the solution for it too. The verse 4 and 5 urges us to

*Delight in our God,

*Commit unto Him

(And most importantly)

★Trust in Him.

Our commitment and belief should not be on man or material things, but towards One, True, Living God. So that when we trust Lord and take delight in Him, His desires will become our and we shall receive the desires of our heart, by it His desires.

Then, as it is written in the 8th verse of Psalms 32 by King David, Lord will instruct and teach us the way we must go and also would counsel us with His loving eyes.

People will never find the right direction to go, until the homework is done, i.e., to PRAY AND TO OBEY.

Therefore, let us delight ourselves and commit fully unto Him remembering that we have a God who has promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

Milen Thomas

the young lion lack And Suffer Hunger. But those Who seek the lord Shall onot lack anygood thing.

By Tessia Baiju

TESTIMONY

I would like to share about God's wonderful works in my life. Below are two incidents that took place in my life. Hope my testimony is a blessing to all who read it.

Gods Protection

Once I was returning home from school. I was in my school bus. As I was looking out of the bus I saw a big truck just beside our bus. The truck started to over speed and it lost control and started shaking. Then it turned and fell to one side. I got so scared seeing the whole incident. At that time, I realised how God protected me because the truck could have fallen to the side where our bus was but it did not. It fell to the other side. God's hand of protection was on us that's why we were safe. I thank God so much for protecting me and all my friends on the bus.

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

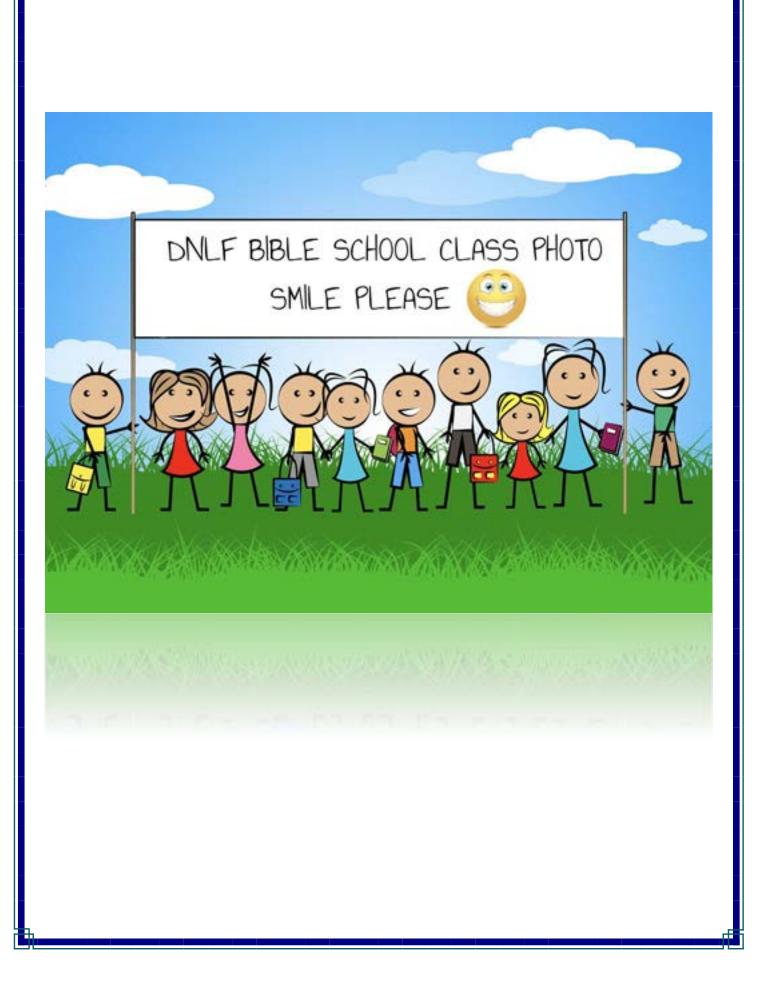
Gods hears our Prayers

When I was in Class 5 my best friend took TC from school and was leaving to India for good. I missed him so much and I didn't want him to go. I was so sad. At night I prayed to Jesus, "Lord don't let my friend go away from me."Then every day and night I prayed about it. Then God answered my prayers!!! His parents changed their mind and he rejoined our same school. I was so excited and waited to see him. But to my disappointment he was put in another division. I prayed again to my Lord for putting him in my same division. And God answered that prayer also. I was so happy and so thankful to God for answering my prayers continuously.

<u>Psalm 65:2</u> O You who hear prayer, To You all men come.

REUBEN MATHEW BENSON

Names Of God IN THE OLD TESTAMENT El Elvon El Shaddai The Most High God Lord Good Almighty hatweeh) Adonail Jehovah Nissi Lord, Jehovah Lord Master Lord my Bannor Johovah-Rash Jehovah Rapha The Lord my shepherd The Lord that heals Jehovah Tisidkonie (Jehovah Shammah) The Lord our nighteness The Lord is there Tehovah Mekoddishkem Lohim The Lord who sanctifies you Gool El Olam Dannah) The ceverlasting God Tealous Jiehovah Schalom Jehovah Tireh The hord is Reace Tipeford will provide Jehovah Sabooth The Lord of hosts



Tiny Tots - Nursery



Beginners



Beginners II



Primary



Sub Juniors I



Sub Juniors II



Juniors I



Juniors II



Intermediate



Seniors



