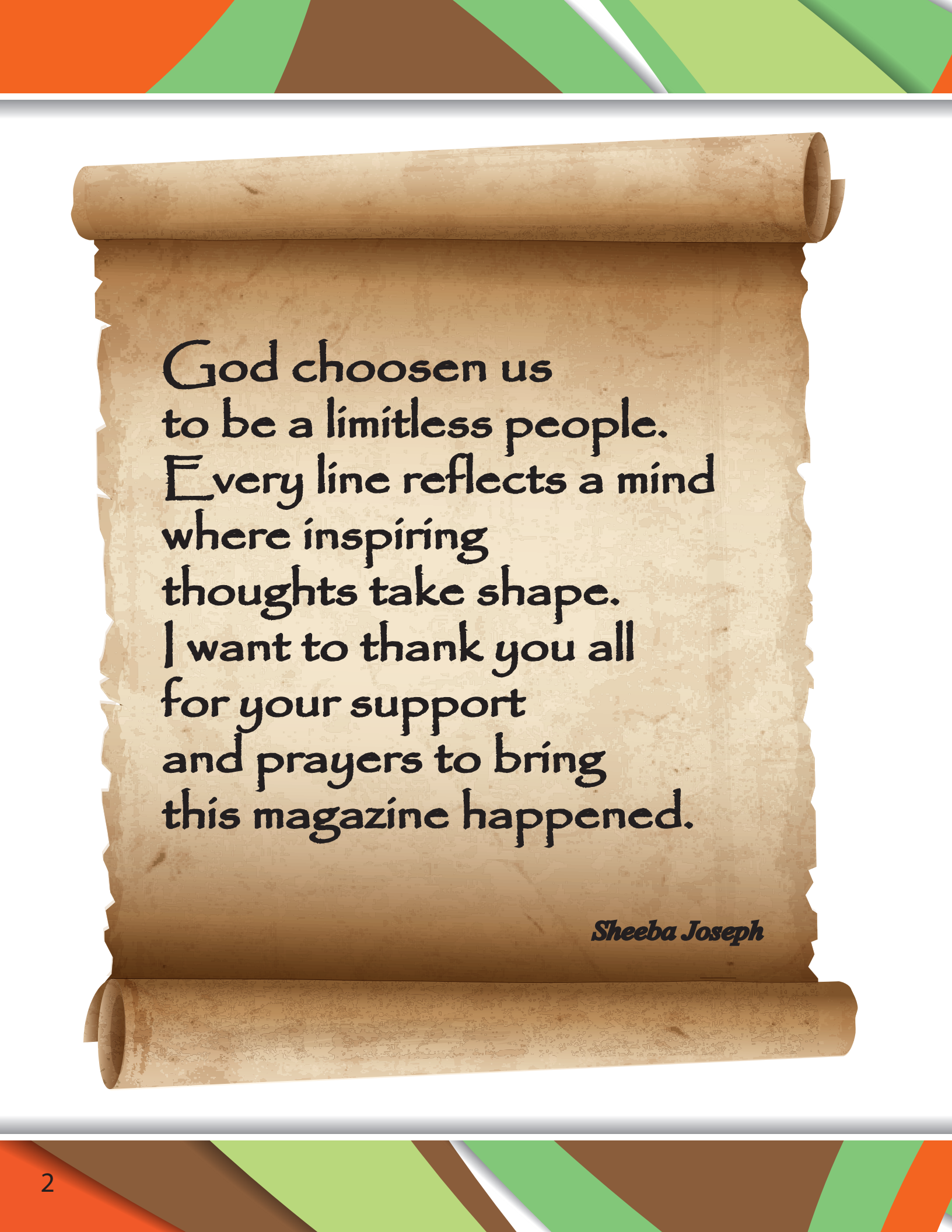


Zion Church

Sunday School Magazine 2015





God choosen us
to be a limitless people.
Every line reflects a mind
where inspiring
thoughts take shape.
I want to thank you all
for your support
and prayers to bring
this magazine happened.

Sheeba Joseph

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom

The reverence of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and discipline,
but fools despise the wisdom and instruction.

Jesus loved the children very much. Once we read in the bible that
parents brought children to Jesus to his hands on them.

But disciples prohibited them. Jesus told the disciples,
bring the children unto me do not stop them, for such is the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus blessed them. How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed there to according to thy word (Psalms.119:9).

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old,
he will not depart from it (Proverbs.22:6).

We read about Jesus from the Bible. "And the child grew,
and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and grace of God was upon him.

Jesus increased in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man".

The reverence of God among the children brings wisdom and discipline.

Bible study, through the Sunday school creates good character in the children.

The word of God is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple (Psalms.19:7).

The fear of LORD hate evil. Word of God gives us counsel.

Bible says where there is no counsel, the people fall:

but in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs.11:14).

Proverbs.9:10 says wisdom and knowledge of Holy one is understanding.

Study of word of God through the Sunday school classes give
the children wisdom, knowledge and counsel.

I pray that all of our Sunday school students be blessed
and may the Lord Jesus reward all the teachers.

All the best wishes.

Rev Dr Sunny Mathew

How can a young man cleanse his way?

BY giving heed to the word of God”.

The way of the path is where it leads us to our destination. So it is important for us to know which path we are taking and if we have a goal of what needs to happen or if our eyes are focused on where we need to go, only then will we be able to choose the path we need to walk. Psalms 1 talks about a blessed man who does not walk in the counsel of ungodly.

So in order to walk on any kind of path, counsel is needed from somewhere, it could be your own, or could be from friends , parents siblings , pastors , teachers etc.

For a child of God counsel is given to us through the word of God. Not just by reading it but by following it. In proverbs 14:27 It says; The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. When we follow the word as is given, it will lead us to a rich life here on earth and in the world to come.

We are living in a sinful world, in order for ourselves to be kept clean, we need to follow the word and use it to cleanse us from impurities. Just as we use shoes , slippers or sandals to keep our feet from getting dirty when we walk, so is the word of God as a shoe to prevent us from getting our feet dirty in the filth of this world.

Molly Mathew

God's Secret Wisdom

Have you heard of “the bubble boy?” According to Wikipedia, “David Vetter (September 21, 1971 - February 22, 1984) was born with SCID (severe combined immunodeficiency), a hereditary disease which dramatically weakens the immune system. A special sterilized cocoon bed was prepared for David at his birth. A germ-free environment that would be his home for all of his life. He died of SCID complications in 1984 at age 12, after spending approximately \$1.3 million for his care. Scientific study failed to produce a cure for his condition.”

Forty years later, there was another couple who had twin girls, Annabella and Evangelina. Evangelina was born with the same condition as David, SCID. But after forty years, the medical field had developed a cure for this condition, known as stem cell gene therapy. Sick children's blood stem cells were removed from their bone marrow and genetically modified to correct the defect, and then injected back into the child. The body would then begin to develop immunity on its own. Although David could have been completely cured of his disease, lack of knowledge about his condition and treatment led him to his early death. On the other hand, Evangelina is a healthy three year-old girl and she does not have to live in a bubble.

I wanted to tell you this story to help you understand the difference between human wisdom and God's secret wisdom. 1 Corinthians chapter 2 tells us about how God's secret wisdom has been hidden for ages, but now revealed to us by His Spirit. Unlike the changing wisdom of this world that will be out of date when new knowledge emerges, like we saw in the above story, God's wisdom is eternal and it is made known to us by His Spirit. It is not an exploration of truth but rather a revelation of the depths of God. You can't get God's wisdom from school by reading books or relying on world's guesses and opinions. You can only get it from God's word and open communication between your spirit and God's Spirit. It is called being spiritually alive. We have access to everything God's Spirit is doing through Christ since we have the mind of Christ.

When each one of you come to Sunday school week after week, your teacher is communicating God's secret wisdom to you. It is different than human wisdom because God's wisdom is understood only by those who believe in Jesus and His gospel message. Your faith in God qualifies you to know God's thoughts by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:12 (NLT) says, “And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.” Don't you see? God chose you to be His child and put His Spirit in you to reveal His secret wisdom to you. He wants you to know what He is preparing for you in the future and what He has already given you in the present to bring you glory. So, I want to encourage you to be a faithful student of the Bible and grow in your knowledge of God. As you come to Sunday school weekly and participate in the class discussion and ask questions, God is revealing His eternal wisdom to you. Jesus Christ, our Lord has made it all possible for you by being the sacrifice for your sin. 1 Cor. 1:30 (NLT) says, “God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and freed us from sin.”

Mini Abraham

Handling negative Peer Pressure in the church.

(Source: Young Teen Teacher Guide- Under Pressure- Jul, 0214)

While we acknowledge and understand the negative peer pressure in the secular world, we are often caught off guard when church leaders, Christian friends, and church members are promoting compromise. Sometime we find ourselves following these, as these are supposed to be good people setting good examples. Isn't true that we don't gossip when non-Christians are around, but we don't have an issue to gossip about Christian friends or church leaders.

Early church too faced this situation. In Gal 2:11-13, you can see that Paul was confronting Peter about his ministry among Gentiles. Peter was under negative pressure and he yielded to the men from Antioch who taught that salvation is available to only those who are circumcised. Peter feared them and withdrew from the Gentiles. This action of Peter was not only wrong but it was also impacting few other leaders in the church. Barnabas too, who was known for his compassion and ministry to Gentiles, followed Peter. Negative peer pressure is all around us. It is important, as true followers of Christ, that we are alert, study his word and don't let error creep into our thinking and behavior. Not everything done by spiritual people are good example to follow. We must be like the Bereans, search the word and guided by Holy Spirit, find the ultimate pattern of living, for God's word is sufficient (2 Peter 1:3).

And finally if there is a calling to confront Christians who give in negative peer pressure, here are few steps to follow. Read Gal 2:11-21

- 1) Pray and don't yield to pressure yourself. [Paul did not follow Peter footsteps. Thank God for that, otherwise we would have never received the good news]
- 2) Measure your own actions and attitudes.
- 3) Confront graciously when necessary
- 4) Reason with those in wrong.

K.C.Rajan

Thoughts on the Future

When I was younger, I always thought I knew what I wanted to do and who I wanted to be. I essentially planned out my life, saying that I'd go to the college X, get a degree Y, and get a steady job at company Z. I solidified my goals so much that I didn't leave any space for flexibility, because I truly believed that my life would go just the way I wanted it to.

Now, as a senior, I realize that I really can't say where I'm going to be after college, let alone the next year. At the start of senior year, I began to question what I was doing. Where did my passion lie? Was I doing what I was doing because I truly wanted to, or was it out of some sort of necessity? I began to understand why so many of my peers were applying undeclared to their schools. At this point in our lives, can we truly know where our passions lie? How do we really know what our future will be like?

The truth is, you really *can't* know what the future holds. James 4:13-15 talks about what our approach to the future should be: "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" Rather than planning out our lives and deciding upon its certainty, we have to rely on God to lead us in the path he wants us to go in. As children of God, we can rest assured that our future is in God's hands and He who created us from the womb knows who we will become. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

So, relax! Always work hard, but let God show you the path you should take. I know the plans I made when I was younger are now invalid as I broaden my perspective on what the future holds.

Ann Rajan

"It is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy"
Bro. David Steindl-rast

Thoughtfulness

happiness

amazing holiday

no better time for rejoicing

Kindness

Spirit of God

great food!

inclosed with love

gi**v**ing joy

lo**v**ing God

Know that God is with you

God is good all the time, give thanks to him.



Hanna Philip

Do the will of God

He will remember your deeds. Malachi 3:16. So a book of remembrance was written before Him. For those who fear the Lord.

Once upon a time there was a city of God's people. They were very special to Him, chosen and separated. They obeyed His commandments and God took care of all their needs and protected them from the enemies. As time passed they slowly went on their own ways, disobeying God and even worshipping idols.

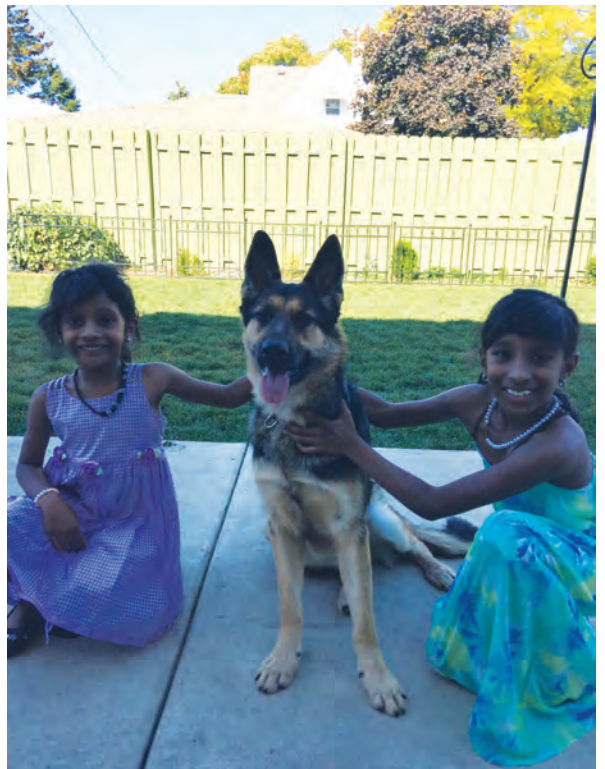
This made God sad and very angry. He brought a mighty army against them and they besieged the city for a long time. The people in the city were really in trouble, starving to death because they were not able to go out and get food. They cried to the king but he could not help because he was very scared of the enemy too. There was a man of God (prophet) who also lived in the city. Instead of repenting before God the king got angry to the prophet saying it was all because of him. God spoke through the prophet saying that they will have plenty of food by the next day which was unbelievable in that situation.

Anyhow there were four beggars (lepers) who lived at the city gate. They said to one another, "Let us go to the enemy camp instead of starving to death. Maybe they will show kindness to us and give us some food." So they started out, and God did a miracle (as God had prompted them to go). He scared the enemy away because they heard the sound of a bigger army coming against them. So they fled for their lives leaving everything they had – food and goods.

When the beggars got there, they found plenty of food, clothes, gold, silver, and other things. They ate well and collected a lot of stuff, but then they felt bad for those who were starving in the city. They informed the gatekeeper. The word got around to the king and he sent them some of his servants to discover that what the beggars had claimed was true! Just as the prophet had said, they had plenty of food the next day, but none of them, including the king, appreciated the beggars for risking their lives going to the enemy camp. But the Lord remembered them as it is recorded in the Bible.

So what you do for the Lord according to His will is written in His book of remembrance. Even if no one appreciates it, don't be discouraged. Flowers blossom even when there is no one around to admire their beauty. Let us continue our good works, and do His will, knowing there is a greater reward in heaven.

Hi my name is Joanna Joseph. Well, I am going to tell you all about my dog "JayZee". She is a "German Shepherd". Now I can't take her home because I moved to "Oak Lawn." We can only have 20lb dogs here. I miss her so much!! Some Sundays after church, I go and visit her. She is at my dad's friend's house. She is a very behaving and loving dog. I think this is much it telling you all about my dog. Thank you! hope you enjoy my story of my dog.!!



God's Love

One of my favorite parables, just because I identify with it so much, is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Except, I don't identify with the younger son. I identify with the older son.

Many people point to the older son and use him as an example of a bitter Christian: someone who is jealous, envious, and angry about his brother's success and restoration in Christ. To some extent, yes, maybe this is part of the message. And perhaps those who feel that message the most are those who have walked in those shoes, or those who identify with the younger son and have felt bitterness from others.

But, what speaks to me the most about the older brother - possibly because I see it in myself so much - is that he feels unloved. The older son might convey this in anger, or in questioning his father, but the root of his actions stems from an insecurity from failing to understand how much his father loves him. *I've been with you all along, but you've never given me special treatment in the way that you are giving it to my brother... Am I unworthy of this/do you love me?*

It's really hard to pray for myself, or to ask God to help me, if I don't understand the extent of His love for me. And no matter the amount of prophetic messages, the sermons, the verses, etc - understanding God's love for me is something that I need to ask God to continually remind me, deep within.

But, the great thing is, God does speak clearly and illustrates this in the parable itself. We see the father say this:

"You are always with me, and everything I have is yours."

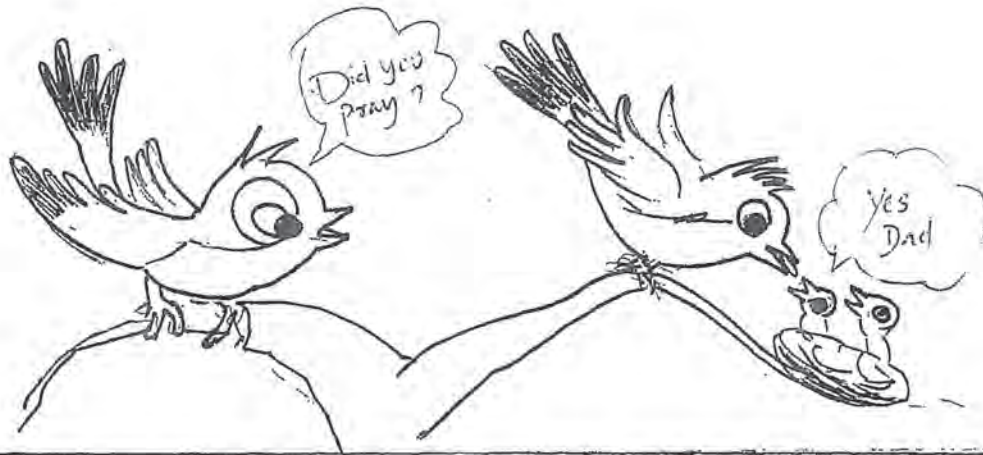
What a promise! To realize that everything God has, He's shared freely with me. I simply need to believe that so that I can ask Him for those things in faith.

Manju George

LIFE (POEM)

Pondering left or right.
Scribes written like a flock of stars.
Grabbing hold of something,
but falling, landing, in amaze Books like a fairy tales,
life as stepping stones.
Rejuvenating power crystallizing like shiny stones -
Saying good bye.
Unknown presence behind bringing chills to the bone.
Fluffy white snow riding on clouds basking beauty.
Twinkling like stars through a thin, welcoming face.
Never let go..... Joining two paths diffing away,
Familiar faces waiting for return water
receding like Sakura blossoms,
sand gravels slipping through my feet.
Time running away from time --- like clear skies
Along the stars foot print imprinted
Tears drifting away on clear bay.
My reach is less than a million miles away.

Tina Mathew



Vinod Daniel

Armor
of
God
!!
☺



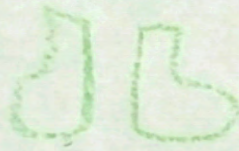
Helmet of
Salvation



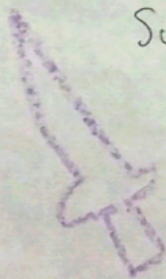
Breastplate of
righteousness



Belt of
truth



Shoes of readiness and the
gospel of peace



Sword of
Spirt



Sheild
of
faith

by zachar & philip !! ☆

Who is our Good Leader

You are a unique individual with grate potentials.

God created you wonderfully with exceptional gifts ,
it is up to us how we use them.

He expects us to follow Him, but He doesn't force that upon us.

Communication with God is very important in our life ,

Need to communicate with our parents,siblings,friends,
coworkers and even our enemies.

We communicate with Him in prayer,

God talks to us through His word (HOLY BIBLE)

Only one person listen to your problems,

only one person can examine you and answer you correctly,

Look around ---- Examine and realize who you are

Yes, you realize the wheels of Grace following you.

Before going to bed you need to examine yourself ,

meditate and realize on the fact how wonderfully

He took care of you through the work of HOLY SPIRIT

You will be like a tree planted by river bearing fruits

(Ezekiel 47-9 and 12)

Concentrate on Him

Fix your goal with Him

Don't carry your burden, give it to Him

His feet will carry you to the road to

success, His words most powerful tool ,

Allow the good Leader to lead you

DON'T FORGET YOU ARE HIS

Sheeba Joseph

