

GOD'S KINGDOM

A COLLECTION OF VISIONS

Logan Bailey B





In the Kingdom all the children will have food-Quincee, age 4

Introduction

*"Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure
to give you the Kingdom"*

This book is a collection of visions from the Christadelphian brotherhood. It is the result of *The Kingdom Project* that Wilderness Voice undertook during 2020—a tumultuous year for the whole world because of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused us to reflect deeply on our Hope.

For the most part we have chosen to keep the visions without author, but there are contributions from brothers and sisters, teens, and children from all over the ecclesial world, including New Zealand, Australia, America, Canada, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Kenya, England, Bolivia, Costa Rico, and Wales.

Editing of the submissions is very limited in order to reflect the eclectic sources of the contributions. Therefore, you will see a variation in spelling, presentation of text, typography, and colours. We have made only light edits where typos, grammar, clarity, or where the original text may impede general understanding. We hope that these still reflect the intention of the contributors (our apologies to the author if they do not). Text included in artwork has not been edited.

Our thanks to all those who contributed, and also to those who assisted in organising and compiling the submissions for this project. It has become a lot larger than originally anticipated, which has made it exciting and encouraging in itself.

From the comments received from participants, many have found the exercise very helpful, even cathartic, especially in trying times increased by the pandemic.

We hope this project serves to strengthen your own vision, to make it vivid and real so you see yourself there, too. When you read the stories and view the illustrations, keep in mind that these are personal visions by brothers and sisters, young people, and children at various ages and stages in life. You may not agree with everything that they put forward, and sometimes, while the person may be trying to explain what immortality is like, you'll find hints of viewing the matter through mortal eyes. That's understandable, for how can we truly understand immortality until we experience it. But what we are all trying to do through this exercise is clothe the future with reality and be encouraged thereby.

We encourage all of you to spend the time browsing, reading, and meditating on the things offered in this book, to hold fast to the HOPE we share, and to keep earnestly praying for this day to come. "For yet a little while, he that shall come, will come and will not tarry."

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"



Heritage College Adelaide Students
Year Two



On the edge of the Kingdom

Twice the nation of Israel stood on the edge of the kingdom, poised to enter. One was almost an absolute failure (under Moses); the other was a complete success (under Joshua).

What was the difference?

Both times the nation stood on the border of the land they had witnessed the power of God to save them, to feed them, to teach them, to help them overcome adversity.

One group were unchanged by their experience when they were asked to take hold of their inheritance. They did not believe that God was faithful to do what He said He would do, and this unbelief spawned disobedience.

The other group—who were no less challenged by sin—were changed, and they expressed their faith in simple compliance with the commandments to sanctify themselves and make themselves ready.

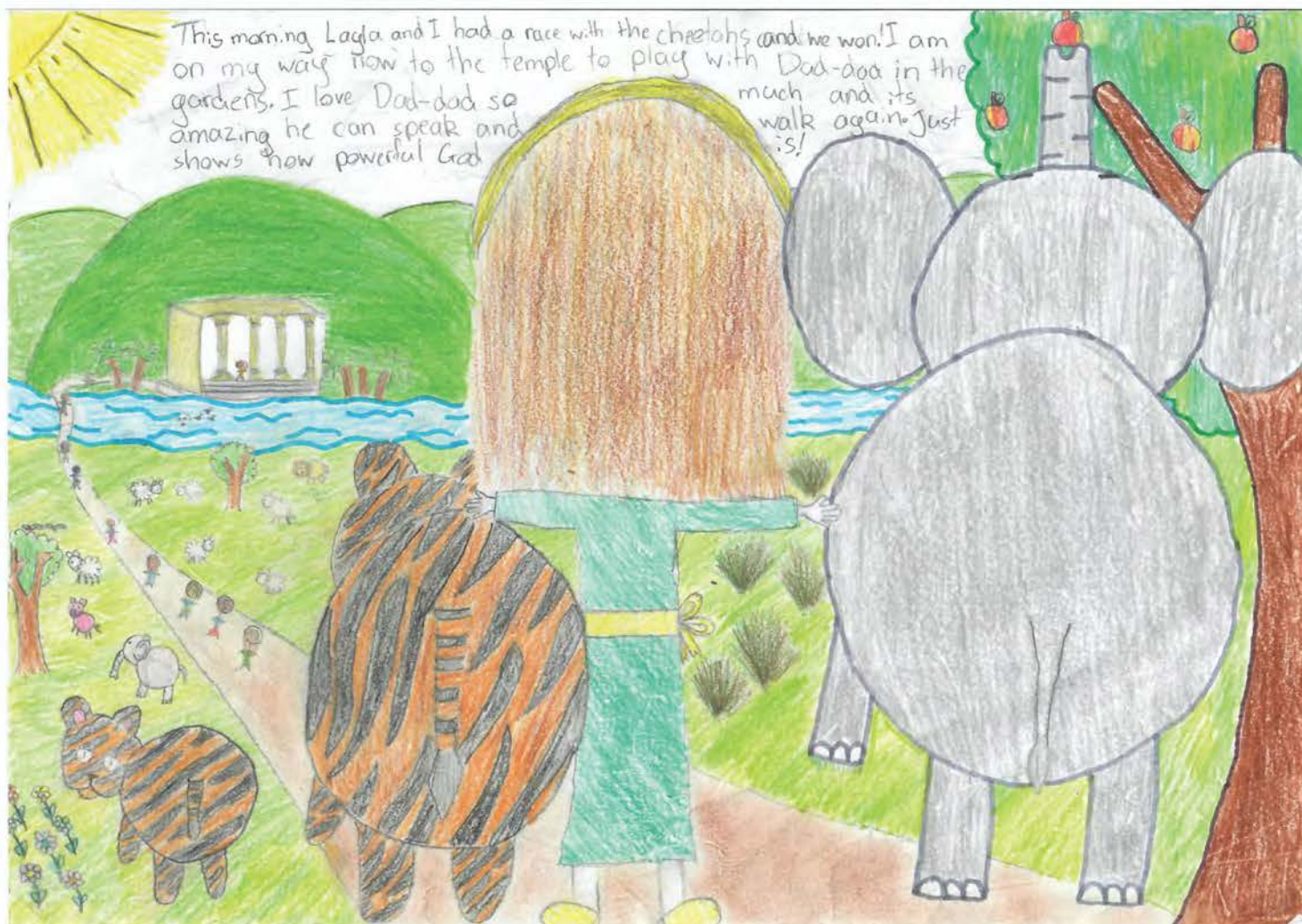
Our response to the work of God in our lives is powerfully impacted by our perspective, both on what God has done, and what we are looking forward to.

As we stand on the edge of the kingdom—on the banks of the Jordan—what do we see? Do we fixate on the flood, watching the swirling turmoil of our life rushing past us as it steadily descends to the Dead Sea? Allowing the roar of the raging waters to discourage us? Fearing the giants and cities walled up to heaven that we see in the way before us?

Or do we lift our eyes above and behold the Promised Land: thinking back and recognising that God has already overthrown giants and cast down walled fortresses in our own lives; looking forward and trusting in God's forgiveness and His power to stop this relentless flow of all life to the Dead Sea—not for us only, but for all men and women from Adam to our own time and beyond?

If this is our perspective, then we are in good company, for we stand alongside Moses and all the faithful who remain with us on this side Jordan, as it were, looking ahead in the full assurance of faith as we await the fulfilment of the promises.

For we know that all these faithful, though commended through their faith, did not receive the promised rest: God has provided something better, something still to come, that they, without us, should not be made perfect. But, with us, in that day, they will.



By Shayah, age 10

SERVICE IN THE KINGDOM AGE, Village Life

It's my favourite time of day. I'm standing on the edge of my village just before sunrise, the slightest hint of light starting to illuminate my surroundings. It's cool and quiet, yet I know that as the first rays of light begin to shine, the air will become awash with the dawn chorus, all the birds making their joy sound forth. Except, of course, for the roosters, who seem to have no concept of time, and make their presence known whenever they want, usually around 4 am.

I contemplate the day ahead of me. There is a ripple of anticipation within my village, with one of the women due to give birth any day now. The woman herself is stoical, quietly getting on with her work each day, her six-year-old daughter by her side. She lost her husband and son during the war, and her unborn child seems like a small miracle—a part of her husband that will continue to live on. It will also be the first new baby in our community. There is an experienced midwife in the next village over, and one of the men will fetch her when the time is right.

There is a rhythm to each day within the village. As the sun rises, the villagers awake and the chorus of birds is broken by the sounds of clattering pots, shuffling feet, and murmurs. The villagers have all been assigned to various work teams and rotate between the different jobs: fishing, foraging, attending to the veggie garden, animal husbandry, working with the vines and fruit trees, building and maintenance. When one shows a particular penchant for a certain job, they are invited to take a permanent place on that team. The children are all part of this work force, contributing as much as they are able before forming into groups for play.

The past six months have been a huge adjustment, as the whole group has had to learn a new way of living. The trauma of the war combined with the loss of everything they ever knew, including most of their friends and family, has meant that many here have struggled. A world without supermarkets, the Internet, and shopping malls is so different to any life they could ever have imagined, and coming to believe in the goodness and rightness of a king who rules over everything has been challenging. In fact, many of my villagers still question whether they can trust the peace that his rule offers. They can't conceive how one man can hold so much power and not abuse it. Trust will come with time and with the consistent demonstration of my king's care and heartfelt love.

Today, my focus will be on two villagers in particular. One of them has been pushing back against every directive, looking to pick a fight with anyone that resists him. The other has been quiet—too quiet—barely talking to anyone, contributing as little as possible. I have just returned from my own nightly campfire with other village leaders where I asked for focused strategies to come alongside these two and draw them out as needed. It has long been my habit to work with my villagers, to guide and, more importantly, to listen. Since being made immortal, I can see them in a way I never could before: I can see their

motivations, their deeper thoughts, the emotions they try to hide. I am still mastering the new skills I have, and thus, each night, I meet with others where we support one another and receive guidance from those more experienced, including the angels. It has been exciting learning how to use these new skills, and I relish being able to move from one place to another in the blink of an eye. I still can't quite believe I'll never again feel tired, overwhelmed, or unable to face another day.

The past few months have been one learning curve after another. I still remember the moment I was granted immortality: the feeling of anticipation giving way to the most blissful feeling, as the spirit moved within me, and a dense heaviness I never even knew I was experiencing dissolved into pure lightness; the elation over no longer having to guard my thoughts or the impulses of my heart, worrying that I might lead myself in the wrong direction; the desire to talk with all those others that were sharing the same experience, and the combination of eagerness and awe at sitting down for a welcoming meal with the king himself, our Lord Jesus Christ. Now **that** feast is one that I don't have words to describe. Yet, as the feasting came to an end, we were each assigned our role of service within this kingdom. I was privileged to be given headship over a village; that same village whose edge I stand at this morning.

There was a lot of learning to do those first few weeks. The full capacity of my brain had been opened to me and, with those others that had also been assigned the role of village headship, I learned what this role would entail, as well as learning more about the fullness of God Almighty's plan, past, present, and future; a plan that I would now always be a part of, reflecting His glory in every word I speak and action I take.

The earth as we once knew it is gone forever. The earthquake that split the Mount of Olives in two triggered quakes around the world that reshaped the earth and reduced what had once been man's pride and joy to rubble. Part of my role is to teach my villagers to embrace a life where they are living from what the land produces. In those early days there were times when so little food was foraged that I, like our Lord once did, had to multiply the food to feed our village. What joy to be able to provide for my people in this way—I realised how much our good God must have rejoiced at providing for us (for me!) in my past life.

As part of establishing our village, I have had to implement a rhythm into my villagers' lives; a rhythm that is centred around honouring what our God has provided, learning what the king expects, and creating times for learning about his ways balanced with practical times of working the land and building homes. What a joy to be here, to be a part of God's plan and purpose in this way, radiating His love to each and every person I come into contact with. There are times in the day when I feel overcome with gratefulness and I lift up my voice in songs of praise, songs that the villagers have all come to know and love and start to sing for themselves. While there is still hardship in these early days, the light of hope has blossomed within most of them. Now let this day begin so we can continue to work together, to the glory of the King.



Jumping for joy to see Jesus

A home-coming story

I was born into a beautiful garden, a botanical paradise beyond your wildest imagination. There were towering avenues of tropical trees, glossy green oversized leaves with all manner of beautiful patterns, exotic flowers hanging down like giant lampshades, fruitful vines, edible ferns, bushes covered in sherbet berries, olive groves and mighty fig trees, carpets of wildflowers growing underfoot, the sweet scent floating for miles on the gentlest breeze. There were shady glades for the heat of the day, crystal-clear pools, and rivers for swimming in, caverns, cliffs, sunshine, waterfalls. Your imagination could not dream up a more perfect place to call home.

Many angels lived here too. We ate with them, played with them, sang with them. And in the cool of the afternoons, we would often come to the centre of the garden to a shady glade, where we communed with our Creator. Not every day, but many. And He would speak words of wisdom to us; words of tenderness, instructing us, guiding us, sharing His great love.

We were at complete peace. We wanted nothing. We had everything. It was very, very good.

But then change came. There was a test, a snake, a failure, nakedness. In that instant we began to experience feelings we had never known before. Shock, humiliation, regret, profound sadness. We were sent away from the garden, banished into exile, fugitives, wanderers. The angels we had known and loved stood barring the entrance to our home wielding swords of fire and turned their faces away from us. Worst of all we had disappointed and betrayed our Creator, the one we loved, our Father.

Like orphans, we stumbled into the wilderness. We fell as our feet caught in thickets, our arms were scratched with thorns, splinters pricked us. We experienced the drenching and misery of icy-cold rain, the heat of the midday sun bearing down on us, leaving sticky tongues, and pounding heads.

And then we produced offspring, two sons, who entered the world to the sound of their mother's pain.

More than anything—more than the comfort of our garden, the beauty, the security—we missed the fellowship. We felt alone. In theory we knew our Father was still there watching over us, but we no longer heard His voice. We longed to please Him but now our minds strayed when we tried to speak.

Our sons grew and, at times, we felt glimpses of those old feelings we took for granted in the garden. We felt immense love for them; we felt satisfaction when we ate fruit wrestled from the ground that we worked. At times, we even experienced contentment.

But one day we came to really understand sorrow and its all-encompassing pain.

Anger and violence came into the very heart of the little home we had tried so hard to create and tore it apart. We lost



both our sons, in a single day. Murder—the ugliest word. And further banishment.

I was named the “Mother of all Living”; a seed was to come, and yet here I was staring into a grave, confronted with the hard ground that we would all eventually lie in. And my own son, my seed, lying in it first.

We began to call on our Father in earnest. We needed to keep our faces turned towards Him, even as we knew our remaining son was heading eastwards further away into exile.

In time, and answering a prayer, another son was granted. Was it the promised one that would lead us back to harmony with our Creator?

Sons and daughters were born. More and more of them and the earth filled. Two distinct groups of people emerged, and they pushed and warred against each other.

The offspring of that banished first son, drifted to and fro, walking up and down until they eventually succumbed to ambush as they meandered down the pathway to Sheol.

The other group sought to build in their hearts a highway leading to Zion. They lived daily with a longing to get back to that dwelling place. The desire was strong, but they were still so far away. They felt the struggle—the pull between ways, the need. They understood that they would never make it back by themselves.

Eventually, a son was born with a star over his head. He set about turning the children’s wandering hearts back to the Father. We loved him. He spoke and we were back in the shady glades, conversing with our Creator once more. His words were gracious, echoing our Father’s. He spoke of truth, forgiveness, mercy, sacrifice. And he spoke of rest. And we believed his words. We knew if we become part of him, he would reconcile us.

And so, we believed. We died. We rose again. We were set free. And we became heirs. We had a place to call ours again.

Homecoming. I see the garden; my Father’s paradise. The entrance is lined with glorious angels, their empty hands are outstretched, and their faces turn towards me. There is recognition, old friends that have been apart a great while. I know them all by name and we rush to each other. So much warmth in our embracing.

And then I see the Son, my saviour. He found me when I was lost. He calmed the restlessness and troubled searching. He healed the breach and has bought me back to the path of life; restored me to a place to dwell in. I love him! “Worthy is the Lamb!”

I am crying tears of joy as he takes my hand and leads me inside. I look up to see the familiar oversized leaves, the hanging vines and flowers, the towering cliffs and clear water. I sniff deeply; that smell, the perfume of Paradise.

I could linger, but the Son is leading me on and my heart is singing to go. I know the path so well, every detail. I’ve walked it a thousand times in my mind since. We slip through the tropical forest and into a leafy glade.

In the middle of the garden stands a beautiful tree covered in fruit, and it is here, under the shady branches that I will finally experience the fellowship I’ve longed for. I will hear that voice I love again. I’ve come to commune with my beloved Creator. My Father, the one that has brought me home again.



1544C
**THE KINGDOM OF
GOD IS LIKE A MERCHANT
SEARCHING FOR FINE PEARLS**



The Day Christ Came — A Kingdom Vision

The world is dark and quiet, we're asleep upon our bed.
Then brightness fills the house, and I lift my weary head.
An angel in the midst, stands tall and pure and strong.
Should I fall before his feet, or break into joyful song?
This long-awaited day, it's hard to believe it's here.
The angel says, "Up, follow me, bring your family, do not fear."
With thudding heart and buzzing mind, he leads us on the way.
My heart is filled with thankfulness, yet I don't know what to say.

I find myself alone, in front of a golden door.
I knock with trembling hand — uncertainty at my core.
But as the door swings open, I see his shining face;
My saviour, King and Master in this very holy place.
Unworthiness overwhelms me as I fall down at his feet,
But he holds his hand out for me as he rises from his seat.
"Fear not my child, I love you, your sins are washed away!
I've called you to the marriage feast, in my Kingdom you shall stay."

I weep with tears of gratitude as he folds his arms around.
I once was dead and now alive, was lost and now I'm found.
His touch releases power, and I begin to sense the change;
I'm filled with peace and joy, yet it somehow still feels strange.
With my body healed and soul made whole, with a strength that was not there.
I look up to see his glorious face and meet eyes that really care.
"You are now a part of me, I've claimed you as mine own."
And he gently took me by the hand and led me to his throne.

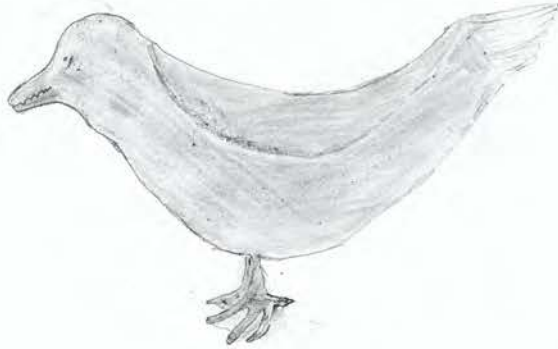
I see again my family, and friends, and strangers, too.
Amazement shines in every face; we can't believe it's true.
The day has come, our Saviour's here, our faith was not in vain;
He's wiped our tears and cleansed our hearts and taken all our pain.
I looked and, lo, the Lamb stood upon the holy Mount.
He gave to all his thirsty saints of his life-giving fount.
And then a song began; a song I'd never heard,
But realised as I listened, that I somehow knew each word.

The praises rise to God on high and to His conquering Son:
Glory, honour, strength be His, He has the victory won.
The Faithful and True, the Word of God, sits in his rightful place.
For us, our trials are left behind, for we have run the race.
Everlasting joy that knows no end, now lives within our heart;
The Kingdom Age is ushered in, and we each have found our part.
Immortal lips, with thankfulness, again begin to sing,
To God above, the God of Love, and to our gracious King.



by Shem, age 7

MATTHEW 6:33 BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE YOURS AS WELL



contribution from Matumaini Childrens Home, Kenya

The Best Day of My Life

I thought yesterday was the most amazing day of my life. And then I got to today, and wow, today is even better than yesterday! I have kept thinking that for the last year. I have thought that it can't get any better than this, and yet every day it does.

Let me go back a bit and explain. I used to be a bit of a hermit. I had a little lifestyle block out in the country off a remote and dusty, dirt road. I kept my own gardens, so I had all the food I needed. There was a crystal-clear river running through my little farm that provided me and all my livestock all the water we needed. I had planted hedges and gardens, daffodils came up in the spring, I had orchards of beautiful fruit, I had created a small lake in the river for swimming and fishing, and had cows, sheep, chickens, and ducks. It was like paradise. It was my own little corner of the world where I could live by myself and enjoy God's creation at its best. My days were spent outside working on my farm, and then I would spend the evenings inside just talking to God and reading His Word; just me and him together. I remember thinking at the time, it doesn't get any better than this.

Then one day I got sick. I mean really sick. For a couple of weeks, I couldn't go outside, and my little piece of paradise started to get overgrown. Life had been better. I prayed and I called out to God, but I didn't get any better. I got worse. After three weeks I must have looked a real mess, but I struggled to a neighbour's house where I collapsed at their door. They called an ambulance. I remember hearing them call it, panicked voices on the phone, feeling myself being carried onto a couch ... and then I died. I think I must have died before the ambulance got there.

Now you are sitting there thinking, "This is a strange story". You're right. It is a strange story. And how can I be telling you a story like this when I have died? And how can each day be better than the last when I already had my best days? Just sit tight, and I'll tell you.

The next thing I know, there's someone calling my name. It was a bit like a voice in a dream. I thought at first it was my neighbour trying to wake me up or that the ambulance had arrived. I opened my eyes and I felt awesome. I stood up and stretched. I don't know where I had been lying, but I discovered myself standing in a graveyard. I wasn't in the neighbour's lounge any more, and they were nowhere around. I didn't think too much of it until I noticed that the gravestone, I was standing in front of had my name on it. "Woe", I thought, "that's me!"

The voice was still there calling my name. I looked around, realising that it was an angel that was calling me. And from the distance, getting closer and louder, I could hear a trumpet call. Suddenly it dawned on me. Here I was standing in a graveyard, looking at my own tombstone, hearing my name called by an angel and hearing the trumpet call of God. I was awake. I had been dead, but now I was standing up alive and well on the resurrection morning! Jesus had come back to the earth and his angel was calling for me! I had prayed for God's kingdom to come, and here it was!

I hadn't noticed him before, but this smiling man in shining white clothes came up to me. He took my hand, and the next thing I knew we were standing before Jesus himself. I had never seen Jesus before, but I could tell it was him. He was (how would I describe this?), beautiful beyond description. He is pure, lovely, awesome beyond belief. In fact, I could use as many words as you like to describe him, and they would all be superfluous because there are no words to describe the majesty and delight in seeing Jesus for the first time. Then he spoke. My heart pounded when he spoke! He spoke to me. He said my name. And I looked up into his face. I saw his smile, his eyes, his love, his joy. And then he grabbed me! Not in a nasty way. He just hugged

me, and I hugged him back. I had never had a hug like that before. Then he said to me, "I am so glad you are here. Well done. You have been good and faithful to me. Are you happy?"

"I am the happiest I have ever been", I answered.

"There's more", he said. Suddenly, I felt my body change. I had been feeling pretty good before, but as Jesus held me in his arms, I felt a new power, a new life, spirit life, surge through me. I was strong; I was invincible. I just wanted to jump and leap and praise Jesus!

"Take a look around you", Jesus said, letting me go, "Share my joy with me!"

I looked around. I had been so focussed on Jesus that I hadn't noticed anything else. There I was, standing on top of a high mountain surrounded by friends and family. I think I mentioned that I was a bit of a hermit. I wasn't really fussed on having people around me. That's why I lived right out in the country all by myself. But now I was free from all those feelings of having too many people around. There was my mum and dad, my brother and sister, loads of people from the meeting and we all had this massive reunion. It was so good to see people again. I even got to see my grandparents and the old aunties and uncles I used to know from my childhood - though not as I knew them. They were young, probably about the same age as me, whatever age that was. And that was a funny thing too. You couldn't tell how old anyone was. Someone might have had a long grey beard, but they didn't seem any older than someone who might have been fifteen. There were hugs and kisses all round, people catching up on years of lost time, and all with new immortal bodies bursting with energy, joy, and the love of Jesus.

We seemed to spend a long time with each other and then the trumpet blew again. We all turned toward Jesus and great tables full of food and drink seemed to just come down from heaven as we watched. Amazing food! Every sort of fruit and vegetable you could wish for, incredible salads, roast meats, wines, drinks of all flavours, breads and desserts. Jesus stood at the head of the top table, gave thanks to God in front of us all, then spread his hands out and said, "Enjoy!" We did! What a feast. And we met so many new people as we wandered around the tables.

I actually got to meet King Hezekiah. You know, the King Hezekiah from the Bible. He had always been one of my favourite Bible heroes. We sat down and ate and talked for ages. You ought to get to meet him. He's such a nice guy, fantastic sense of humour, and so wise at the same time—and really good looking.

Anyway, what a time we had! Oh, and I should mention, you know how you can eat a whole lot of good food and feel pretty full and yuck afterward? Well, immortality is really different. You can eat as much as you like, whatever you like, and you still feel great.

When we had eaten and talked and celebrated with music and dancing, like a wedding but even better, we just sat down and relaxed and started to look around a bit more.

From the top of the mountain, I could see for miles. I'll start at the top. Not far from where we were feasting was a river flowing down the mountain. My river on my little farm was crystal clear, as I think I said before, but this river was like a hundred times better—purer. Planted all the way down the sides of it were fruit trees with the most amazing fruit. I had to walk over there to have a closer look. And the smell of the fruit just made my mouth water. Remember, I had just had a feast! As I got closer, I realised that this was the river of life Ezekiel had described with the trees of life growing on each side of it.

I knew I was allowed. There is no sin when you are immortal. So, I picked a piece of fruit. Wow! The taste, the texture, the juice, and you could feel its energy coursing through your whole body, tingling all over, ready for anything.

Then I looked out further. I could see like I had telescopic eyes. Beaches, hills, mountains, rivers, grasslands, forests. What a world God had created and then re-created. It was all perfect. I thought I had my little farm looking pretty good, but God's new world was so much better.

I'll tell you something else, too. I discovered this a few days later when my brother invited me to the beach. "How are we going to get there?" I asked.

"Shall we run?" he suggested. It looked a long way. I had always been pretty fit, but I had never run that far before. It seemed like a good suggestion, so off we ran. You wouldn't believe this if I told you, but I'll tell you anyway. We ran all the way to the beach in just a few minutes. Faster than a car. Faster than a plane. When I got there, I just rolled round on the beach laughing hard out at how strong, fast, and amazing this immortal body was. When I stopped laughing, my brother and I started singing praise to God. You know, I never knew I could sing like that! I got all the notes for the first time ever! It was awesome to praise God like that with nothing holding me back.

The water looked great for a swim. We decided to jump in and so we did. The water was clear and tropical, there were brightly-coloured fish everywhere: cuttlefish, angel fish, clown fish, neons, snapper, and a whole lot of fish I had never seen before. And I found I could swim with my eyes open under the water and hold my breath for as long as I wanted without running out of air.

"You know", I said to my brother, "if there are fish like this in the sea, then there's got to be tame animals around here somewhere. I remember the Bible says something about the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf all living together, let's go and have a look."

How it happened, I'm still not sure, but suddenly we were transported to a grassy plain. The first thing I saw was a huge giraffe family standing grazing on some trees at the edge of the field. I never realised they were so big until I had seen them close up. Then I noticed a pride of lions lying in the sun nearby, a donkey, some cows, and even a couple of bears all in the same place. None of the animals were frightened of each other. They were all living in peace. That's what the kingdom of God is all about. Peace, joy, happiness, and love. It flows from God to Jesus, to us, to all people and even down to the animals.

I didn't think anything would make me afraid ever again after seeing all the wild animals living so peacefully, but I hadn't counted on cats. I was lost in wonder and praise when a cat walked up to me and rubbed itself against my leg. I hadn't seen or heard it coming, and boy, it made me jump! My brother laughed so hard!

I rolled my eyes and looked up. In the tree above me, a creature was watching me. I didn't recognise it. "What's that?" I asked my brother.

"That's what comes of isolating yourself on a lifestyle block all your life", he answered. "It's a red panda. If you had come to the zoo with us, you would have seen some there". I felt a little embarrassed about my past life, but I had lived for God, and really, I had no regrets.

Can I tell you something else? You know how there is not enough time in the day to do everything you want to do? Well, in the kingdom you don't have to sleep. Nighttime is like

daytime. You never get tired. I haven't needed to go to bed for over a year now. No bedtimes; stay up all night. It's like a really, really good Bible school but even better. Way better. So much better that you wouldn't believe it! It's so good, it's not like a Bible school at all. And, if you are thinking about a Bible School, there are no boring talks!

So here it is. The most amazing day of my life so far. I have been here a year now. I thought I had life pretty good on my little farm. But, compared to the kingdom of God, that was hard work, a worry, boring, drudgery, and totally worthless. There are so many more things I would like to describe to you like the healing of the earth, seeing people learn to respond to God, the fact that I don't have breathing problems or need glasses anymore, that the pain in my hips and knees has completely gone, that my mind is so clear and free to love God, that Jesus is such a great friend, that there is plenty for everyone and always more room for celebration when someone else comes to know Jesus.

I still can't get over how bright and clear the world has become, the peace and happiness of the people, the justice and righteousness of the reign of Jesus. And I have been told that in just less than a thousand years it will get even better still. I can't imagine how but, believe me, every day here is better than the last.

And there is just one last thing I want to tell you before I go. You have got to come. You have got to be in the kingdom of God. Your life now might seem okay, or it might seem really horrible. Whatever it's like, put God first because this future is no dream. Your life now is the dream, the illusion. But the kingdom of God is reality. God wants you here. He loves you so much that He wants you to be part of His family forever in awesomeness. I wish I could tell you more, but if I did you wouldn't believe how good it is. The best thing is just to live for God every day, and when Jesus returns you will be resurrected with me.

May God be with you.

Our Kingdom Vision- looking through a keyhole or window on a scene when Christ has returned



What we will know
We don't know

What we will know

We struggle to understand

What we will be

We're just grasping

What we will preach.

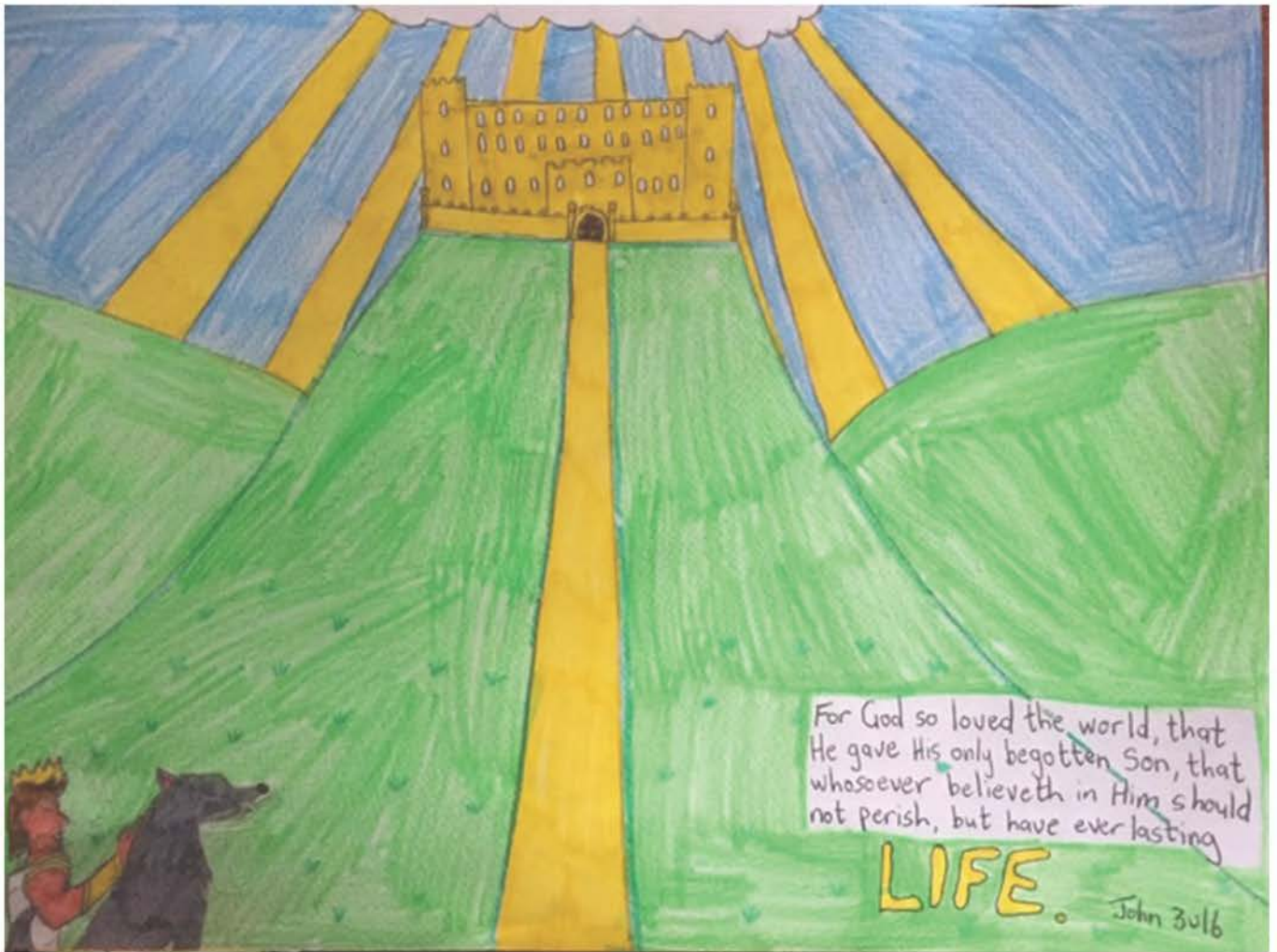
Imagine yourself surrounded by angels,
feeling God's presence and seeing
the face of Jesus. The most loving,
compassionate understanding eyes.

Kindness, gentleness in his ways just
overwhelming you. And you realize, this
is just the start of a new creation.

A start of eternity. Eternity joy.
Eternity happiness. Eternity peace
and being held. And loved and

valued, an eternity of perfection.

A perfect eternity.



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

By Travis, age 11

A KINGDOM PRAYER, based on Psalm 65 and others

I lie floating in a vast sea. The water laps around my face. It is refreshing and cool. I'm on my back and my arms are spread out wide. A giant floating star.

My face is turned upwards, and I can feel the warmth of the sun on me. Cool on my underside, warmth on my topside.

The sea is glossy and smooth; velvety. I slowly flap my arms to send out a wave of ever-increasing ripples. The sea is a myriad of blues, perfectly reflecting the sky above it. The sky is a perfect reflection of the sea below it. They blend into each other so perfectly there is no telling the horizon line. A mirror. I could be floating or flying, it's impossible to tell. It's peaceful. Dreamy. Perfect.

I am full. Full of peace. Full of contentment. Full of great joy. A glimpse of Kingdom feels.

I want to praise Him. My eyes are closed but I lift my heart towards heaven.

"Praise is due to you, O God in Zion"

Zion! The perfection of beauty, the place He seeks to dwell in, the joy of the whole earth. In this place He will set His Son as King and gather His people to Him.

"Blessed is the one you choose."

Choose me LORD! and bring me near to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple.

I am suspended between heaven and earth, still drifting gently in the ocean-sky so blue. My ears are under the water. I can hear the soft plinking of the sea floor.

"O God of our salvation. The hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest sea. You still the roaring of the waves, the tumult of our hearts, so that those that dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe of your signs.

You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy!"

A shout escapes my own lips. Even with my ears under water I can hear it travelling, carrying over still waters, spreading my song. I long for it to fill the earth, for everyone to know the blessings of being in your inner circle.

"You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it.

The river of God is full of water.

You provide corn for them, watering the furrows, softening it with showers, blessing its growth, crowning them with bounty.

There is abundance. Overflowing abundance. Pastures in the wilderness, meadows clothed in flocks, hills gird in joy, valleys decked in corn, mountains dripping in sweet wine.

And shouting—so much shouting and singing together for joy!"

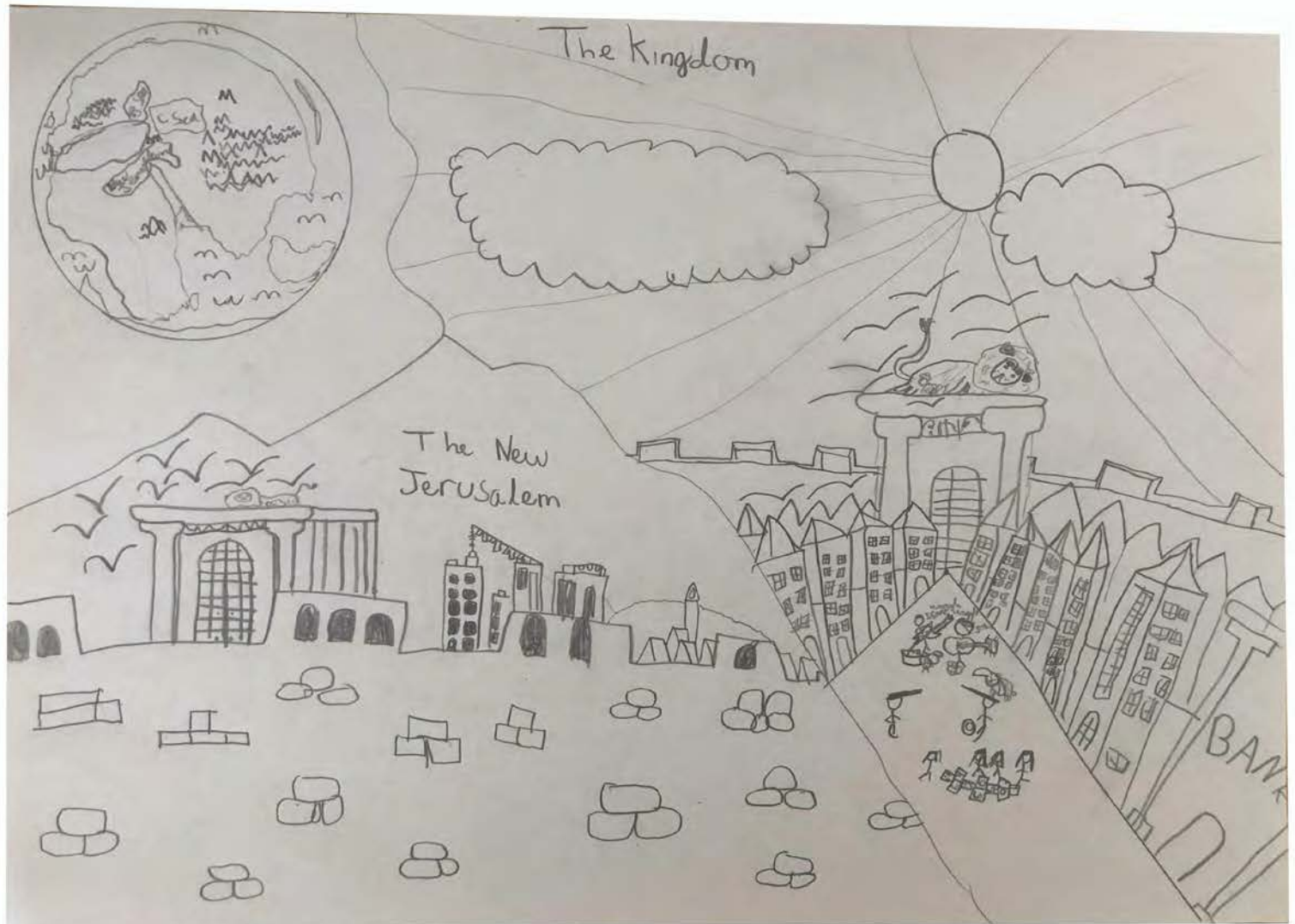
Oh, that that day would come and come quickly! When we all sing to the glory of Your Name. We worship and bring praise to You, seating You on the throne of our praises!

How satisfied will we be when we awake with Your likeness, and feel Your face shining on our face?

I can feel His presence on me now. His gentle sun on my face. His steadfast love holding me, keeping me afloat, and a whisper coming to me through the ripples of the water, "Soon and very soon"



talking to the wild animals



In the top lefthand corner of the picture is an aerial view of the world and Jerusalem is marked in the middle. On the top of the temple is a lion lying down with a lamb. John and his friend are playing instruments in the streets while other children are playing games.

John is 11, he goes to West Birmingham in England

Freedom

I am busy pulling together a meal in the kitchen while my husband washes some dishes for me. The children, after doing a good tidy up, are sitting on the couch together watching an episode of 'Little House on the Prairie'. It looks like it's going to be a normal evening for us.

A knock falls strongly and with purpose upon the door. The sound resonates around our home. I am startled by the knock occurring at this time of the day. My husband is the first to reach the door and, instead of uttering a greeting, his mouth stops silent. I wipe my hands on my apron, following him to the door; there is an unsettled feeling within me. Something was different about that knock. As I approach the door and see what is there, my heart jumps into my throat, butterflies instantly fill my stomach. I stand for a moment paralyzed, unable to believe what I am seeing: a man surrounded by bright light, his hands outstretched towards us. Fear and awe surround me as I become aware that I am standing before one who has been in the presence of our Almighty Father. In silence my husband and I fall together before him not knowing what else to do. And the children—their attention broken from the story—come to see who has come to visit us. "Wow, that's what an angel looks like!" says one of them as the others come and huddle around.

The angel reaches out touching our bowed heads saying, "Do not be afraid. Follow me; it's time to go". After dreaming and wondering about this moment it is hard to believe that I am actually in the presence of one of God's ministering spirits and that I am soon to see the face of my Lord. The overwhelming feeling of awe as a result of seeing this angel leaves me wondering how I am going to face my Lord. The Lord whom I have imagined touching. I have handed so many burdens over to him, and I have longed to look him in the eye. Now it almost seems like too much. How am I going to bear the reality? And yet the gentle, comforting spirit of the angel is such that there is also a sense of knowing that all will be well. I just need to follow the guidance of this glorious being and be led ... just like I've tried to be led each day. Now I truly need to be led into the unknown of each moment ahead.

...

As I prepare to meet my Lord, I am gathered with my family. I look into the eyes of the father and mother that were given to me during my days of probation on the earth. As I hold each one, I say, "Thank you, thank you for all you have done". It is while I am doing this that I hear the familiar sing-song tones of a woman who has inspired me day after day. Her sisters called her a true mother in Israel. I never had the opportunity to sit and ask her questions over a cup of tea about her faith, or to ask for her wisdom and

thoughts on family life. She fell asleep before I knew to ask her questions about these things. As I grew older, I wished I could have had those conversations with her because she had left me with such vivid memories of her service for her Lord. As a small child, I formed memory after memory of being with her while she visited other brothers and sisters to encourage and comfort them. Memories of her delivering meals to those not much older than herself; of strong hands that baked, mended and tended wounds ... and that voice. I've never forgotten that voice. Standing here with my family, I turn around and there she is. Her hair just the same—short, wiry, and clasped to one side with a long silver bobby pin. Nana! Her faith and legacy embedded on my young heart, encouraging me to love and serve. Now she is here waiting next to me to see our Lord. OUR Lord.

...

And then I am before him, my Lord and Master. There is so much about him that, in my life, felt out of reach, like I was trying to understand but just couldn't grasp the reality. I wanted to know him and yet he often felt so far away. Now in his presence I understand my sister, Mary, who wept at his feet and dried his feet with her hair, weeping in realization of how desperately wicked sin really is.... Sin, now finally come into focus in the presence of his reality; realization of how deep his love has been. That each and every day he waited for me while I was busily engaged in the things of life. It is clear to me now what it means to be completely and utterly free from all burdens when, in his presence, there is nothing but an overwhelming awareness of God and His mercy, His kindness, His abundance of goodness. And I long for forgiveness, for the total and absolute freedom of the forgiveness of immortality and a body that no longer craves to make itself the centre of the universe. I always thought I would long to look into his eyes, but, now that I am here, I can only see his feet and taste my own tears. He allows me the space to realize deeply my complete and utter need for him like I've never felt before. With his hand at the base of my neck, he allows me to sob, to pour out the last vestiges of self, and then he says, "Enough, look at me, my daughter". I hear my name on his lips, and I look into his eyes. Those eyes that have seen my innermost being day after day. If only I had known the extent of the love, the care, and his gentleness, many of those worries would never have been. Without words there is an exchange between my Lord and I—a knowing that he understood all my weakness. The struggling, the seeking, the trying, and the failing. The pride and anger, the bitterness towards my own struggling brethren, the doubts—he understood it all. And deep within me there is a knowing that his spirit truly groaned with me those times that I came without words before him and the Father. He takes me into his arms and says, 'Let it all go; now is a time for rejoicing'.

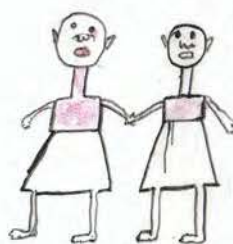
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As my body changes, it is as if scales fall from eyes. My vision clears from a fog I never knew existed. The leaves on trees before me are like I've never seen before, each one throbbing, alive, sustained by the spirit of the Father. But what strikes me most are the angels—the host of Almighty God—radiant, beautiful, and so many of them. My ears, too, are opened, and I can hear sounds and singing like I've never heard before. Within me there is a stillness, but there is also a joy longing to burst forth from within me like the beautiful melody of a bird that can't help but to sing to the dawn. The greatest freedom within, I realize, is a largeness; a space that has no words; a freedom from the self that held me so strongly in bondage with its thoughts and feelings. This self is now just a distant memory of the past, a memory that has been preserved so that I may be able to draw on it to help those who dwell as mortals. I think of those mortals yet to learn the absolute freedom of forgiveness, yet to understand the true depth and mercy of our Lord, yet to understand his desire for them and the jealousy that will be provoked in him in response to their disobedience. As I think of these mortals, I turn to face my angel, a question hovering on my lips...a desire and a longing I held for years as a mortal: The leaves for the healing of the nations, can you show them to me? Can you teach me to use them? Can I please minister for Yahweh to help those still in bondage to the flesh and its weaknesses?

Isla Bailey



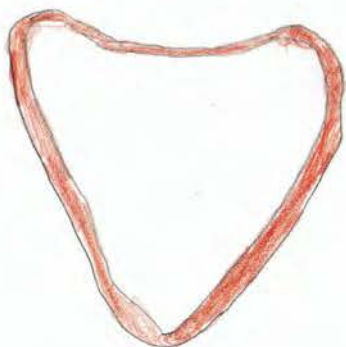
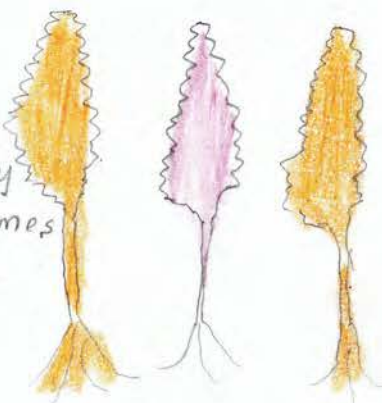
By Isla, age 9



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Psalm 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the
 hills, from whence does my
 help come? My help comes
 from the Lord who made
 heaven and Earth.



contributions from Matumaini Childrens Home, Kenya

DOOR of HOPE

As we move closer to the end of our tour, we are in the valley of Achor. Our guide bends down and exposes a piece of stone with a Hebrew inscription on it, which says in English, "Achan the son of Zimri". Here, our guide informs us, is the grave of a man who, along with his family, was executed and buried because of the sin he committed. The valley we are standing in was named after this incident and became a "door of hope" to all of us in our tour group.

Our tour had commenced many months before and had taken us all around the world. As we stopped at each city, the tour group expanded exponentially to a point where there are literally thousands in our group now.

At the start of our tour, the organiser had spoken to us as we assembled together. We had gone through a daunting selection process. He spoke of the objectives of the tour and then on introducing us to our guide, had handed him a small object about 7 cm in length with a jagged end. Our guide placed it in his top pocket, and it had remained there for the duration of our tour, implying to us that this item meant so much to him.

Having viewed the grave of Achan and been reminded of the circumstances surrounding the incident, our guide then reached into his pocket and withdrew the 7 cm object which was a stick, exposing a name down the side that said "Ephraim". There was a hush over the assembled tour group as our guide opened his Bible and read from Ezekiel 37:15-20. This was no ordinary sight-seeing tour, but, rather, a tour of duty with specially selected participants. Our tour guide, Elijah, said to us, on this our last evening, that tomorrow we were going to see the Lord Jesus Christ, the organiser of our tour. He would have in his hand a matching stick with the word "Judah" engraved on it, and that the two sticks would be joined.

Sleep is the furthest thing from my mind tonight as I contemplate the event that will occur tomorrow when the twelve tribes of Israel will be reunited and they will accept their Messiah, and there will be one king to us all, Jew and Gentile. What a miracle to be part of this amazing tour.



olivet in the kingdom with an elephant, a penguin,
a turtle and some birds

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and
the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the
calf shall lie down with the lion... Isaiah 11:6



Seek Ye First the
Kingdom of God

Matt 6 v33





The Temple, by Tiger Lily, age 6

JOY COMETH

With the serious things we see developing in our world just now, we yearn even more for the Kingdom to come. We know it will be a time of great joy.

Paul, in a spirit of kindness and concern, wanted to reassure the early believers of the reality of the resurrection. His words in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 to 18 must have given them a great sense of reassurance and joy, as they have believers ever since. We are being told that believers who have died before ourselves, if we are still alive at Jesus' coming, will be raised first, and then those who are still alive at his coming ("the quick") will be united with them.

For those of us who have lost loved ones who were believers, these words have continued through the ages to fill us with confidence. At each Breaking of Bread, Jesus' own words in the Gospel of John 6:54, "Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life; AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY," are a cherished promise from our Saviour.

Can we even imagine the time of rejoicing it will be when we are reunited with loved ones we have lost? Also, the privilege of being with God's faithful children of all ages?

We have a hymn that catches the feeling of blessedness:

Joy cometh! Oh, that it were come
To wake the song that now is dumb;
To rouse the mourner, soothe who weep,
And bring again the dead who sleep!

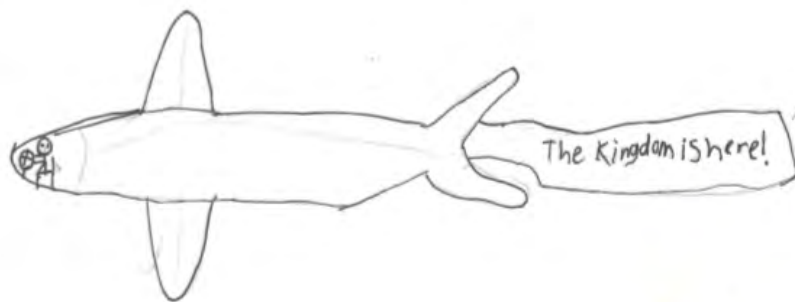
Joy cometh! Sighing, sorrowing one—
Joy cometh! With the rising sun;
Joy—holy, blessed, perfect, pure,
Joy—ever flowing, ever sure!

Joy cometh with the coming day!
Joy danceth on the morning's way,
Joy like a flood of light, shall roll,
And bathe the world from pole to pole!

Joy cometh! For the Lord doth come
To wake the song that now is dumb!
All righteous tongues shall find employ
In songs of everlasting joy.

Written by a sister in America, aged 80

There will be peace
in the
KINGDOM



Who Will Knock on the Door?

We were two weeks into the lock down, and we were safe in our bubble. I was thinking a lot about this being such an extraordinary time, something amazing was going to happen really soon. But how soon?

We celebrated the Passover, and we were "girding up the loins of our minds". I thought we were just ready for Christ our Passover Lamb to come! The world really needs him. I really need him. We want him. Right. Now. Every day we dwelt on these thoughts. We were excited. Let's go, let's leave this land of bondage to sin. Christ will return when all the borders are shut! We will all be taken to the land. Who will notice? We're all in lockdown anyway!

Then, while we were discussing this, there was a very loud thump on the door.
"Knock, knock".

The thoughts that raced through my mind rushed from huge excitement to great apprehension. A sense of relief, yet also a feeling of great panic—no-one comes to the house when we're in lockdown? I wasted no time going to the door—I wanted to know, I wanted to see who has come for me?



Ever since my grandfather fell asleep in the Lord, I've been convinced that it would be him who would come for me. I still feel this way, especially as I told mum this when she was alive and well. And now, I visualise them both risen, five graves apart, discussing what they will do, who they will go to. They will know who to find. Surely, my mum will remember to send grandfather to fetch me.

I often think back to the rosy childhood and adolescent days without stress, sorrow, or sighing. That's what I really need Christ for now. Certainly, the second twenty years are harder than the first. The daily grind, the challenges of parenting, the greyness experienced from grief and loss, the agony of the world, the heaving of the signs of the times—all these things make my prayers more desperate and pleading. "God, what—are—you—waiting—for?"

So, who was it at the door, you may be wondering? Well, it was the veggie lady! As she scuttled away down the path, she called out:

"Sorry I'm so late!"

Sorry *you're* late, I thought. I'm sorry that you're not my grandfather, come to take me and my family to the Promised Land. Very sorry. I thought Christ had returned; I was about to see my grandfather. I'm now unsettled and even more impatient. I picked up the boxes full of fresh veggies and eggs. Printed on all sides:

"Ooooby: Out Of Our Own Back Yards — Keep upright!".

I'm exhorted again! This time, to keep upright. While I wait for the real knock at the door, I need to keep upright in my thoughts and actions. And keep dreaming of the wonderful time to come.



Out of our own back yards, and into the wonderfully fruitful time of the kingdom. I see colours—bright colours—colours perfectly matched. Rainbow clouds in the steel blue sky above, the lush greens of the meadows and mountains, flowers in every colour and scent under the sun, and all the veggies we can imagine. Growing organically—no weeds, no sprays, no pests, bugs, or slugs. Perfection. The warmth of the sun after the early soft refreshing rain, a gentle breeze—only enough to stir the warm air. Sunsets for eternity. And the earth filled with the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. I breathe in deeply. The air is sweet and very slightly moist. I take a moment to reflect on everything the LORD has done for me, and I praise my God from the bottom of my heart. There is now enough of everything to generously go around. The mortals are filled with wholesome nourishing food after we've laboured together in the field. But, wait! We need a new word. We no longer till the ground or labour with a sweaty brow. We can dig, bend, crouch, pull up, reach, pick, and glean to our hearts content. No stiffness, stretched muscles, backache, or soil in our nails! It is all just perfect. I no longer need to think of the parable of the sower everyday while pulling out spiky thistles, hoeing weeds yet again, and watering morning and evening. The parable is complete. The harvest, full. The crop is one-hundred-fold. And this is now all for His pleasure. So, our time in the field is purely pleasurable. And the same when washing the dishes! Our hands don't swell up and wrinkle as we clean up, while we reminisce together on the Lamb on the Throne, and the living fountains of waters!



We continue to hum the majestic tune we sang together when The Lamb stood on Mount Zion:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"

It wasn't just a tune. It was a new rich harmony, with many parts all known and sung with perfect intonation—immortal voices not needing tuning or teaching, and we all knew the words—singing loud and clear. We were all there: the saints of old, the ecclesia of Christ, my family, and me. All together for eternity, the Bride of Christ. I was so thankful to be a part of it. I've never felt so wholesome, cleansed, beautiful, and adorned for the husband of my kingdom dreams. The rhythms and harmonies filled my heart. Joy was bursting from me. It felt like it lasted forever, yet it was over too soon! It stays with me, the new immortal emotions, which, although tender, are also so strong. Full and free, yet minuscule and intricate. The Grand Finale that is never to end!



What an amazing marriage supper that was! The Lamb on the throne. The Bride made ready. The singing of praises. Golden light drenching the faithful as we all sang at the Lamb's great wedding feast. The celebrations complete, it was then time to get to work! We were told what our first tasks would be. Many were called to help build the temple or to work in the surrounding gardens, but our family was sent to help in a school overlooking Lake Galilee. There are hundreds of us teaching the ways of the LORD all day, every day! It is like a perfect Bible School: the mortal children together with the children of the immortals. It is so inspirational. I especially love showing the children how we praise the LORD through singing! Each morning we watch the sunrise over Galilee and sing the songs and psalms that we learnt in previous weeks. Then we return to the kibbutz-style camp and in our help-teams prepare the food for the day. Classes begin at 9 am with prayers all together. And throughout the day, the happy children rotate around the different groups to learn Scriptures, songs, and the life skills now needed: reading, writing, studying, languages, horticulture, small-scale farming, and animal care (in particular sheep, goats, and camels!).

We are thrilled to have Abraham and Sarah-of-old as directors of the school here, and also,



Mary and Martha helping with the serving and teaching. They all share their vastly different experiences with us. We have 'sisters-type-classes' in our lunch breaks, sitting closely together on colourful woven rugs in the shade of the prolific fig tree. These gatherings are so heart-warming as well as eye-opening. Despite being immortal, there is still so much to discuss and learn! I used to think that we'd magically know everything! But we still have a Strong's concordance here, and I really loved showing Sarah-of-old how to use it! She's such a dear old lady, yet her

appearance is fresh and she's so energetic! She told me once how tiring it was to have a baby in her nineties! She had her fair share of sleepless nights, soothing the feverish brow of toddler Isaac. That's another thing that I won't miss! We enjoy foraging, making tinctures, and brewing up our herbs— not that we need them, but our youngsters might! It is delightful to be all together, sharing the skills and experiences from our mortal walks to this glorious kingdom. But we also have authority and expertise, which come with the immortality we are blessed with!

It is such an inspiring experience to immerse oneself in a kingdom vision. Upon returning to reality, here are some lessons I would have wanted to tell my mortal self:

1. Hold on to the spiritually uplifting times, keep the memories of how you feel, and write down any kingdom visions that you have as they come up. Spend quality time thinking about the 'husband of your Kingdom dreams'. Make time for this; it will not naturally fit in to your busy schedule.
2. Memorise Scripture. Keep your mind constantly topped up with the Goodness of God. Being able to recall Scripture is almost the only way you can escape from the rotten situations you will find yourself in (that's most of your mortal life). Internalise God's words until they become your own special language!
3. However ready you think you are, and however much you think you need Christ above all else, pray! Don't miss a day! Even if it is not a knock on the door as such, you will be snatched away to be with the Lord.
4. Keep upright. Share these great things with your friends and family all the time. This needs to be a regular positive experience, in order to keep your vision alive.





By Asha, age 12



MY Kinglom vision

- I want to see Jesus
- I love animals so cant wait to feed, Pat and be with them
- I cant wait to see all the people from the bible and all my friends.

Aria weber
age 10



Heritage College Adelaide Students
Year One



LITTLE CHILDREN

"Let the little children come to me and don't hinder them, for, to such belongs the Kingdom of God."

Whenever I picture this scene in my mind, I am immediately filled with a smile and such warmth. I see a bright sunny day, blue sky, flowers blooming, and leaves gently fluttering in the breeze, and the sound of happy voices. I would love to be there and see those little innocent faces, bright with excitement and anticipation gathering noisily, jostling and wriggling, anxious to draw closer to their great storyteller, Jesus, joyous for another opportunity to be at the Master's feet to listen to another of his story times. "He takes them in his arms and blesses them". As he sits, some are by his side, some sit cross-legged on the grass in front of him looking up excitedly. Others sit on his knees, his arms tucked lovingly around them. His voice quietly settles them... and story time begins.

Nearby, animals graze and rest contentedly in the sunshine. The wolf lies with the lamb, the lion cub and the calf romping together "and a little child shall lead them". A child plays happily with a nest of snakes, and there is an air of peace and happiness.

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in My holy mountain."

And God said, let the waters
bring forth abundantly, the
moving creature that hath life,
and fowl that may fly, above the
earth in the open firmament of
heaven.



"And they will

RISE UP

with

WINGS

like

EAGLES..."

ISA 40:31



INHERITANCE, by Daniel, aged 12

Light is flashing everywhere;
Anticipation is in the air.
People lining up in front of thrones,
Wondering if into a hole they'll be thrown.

Finally, my turn to testify comes,
And I can hardly resist falling like crumbs,
A large figure, unveiled in light,
Comes into view, Oh what might!

Onto his lap he pulls a large book,
And onto the pages his great eyes look.
Without hesitation he searches up my name,
To see if my inheritance I can claim.

When he finds it, he reads aloud,
All my sins, in front of the crowd.
I feel horrible, like my life was finished,
And my inheritance in his Kingdom was less than diminished.

I bow on my face, and begin to weep,
I beg for mercy, I am an insecure heap.
He calls my name again, and I lift my sorrowful head,
I have been forgiven, and my inheritance is mine, he says.



By Shayah, age 5

****WORK, PEACE, RIGHTEOUSNESS****

For many years I think I have had a pretty 'typical' or 'Sunday school' vision of the Kingdom. One that focused on lions and lambs, singing together with the angels in beautiful harmony, and sitting under a grapevine, plucking the grapes, and talking to one of my favourite Bible characters—and, of course, living forever!

WORK

I feel such joy when I think of how we will all work together be able to bring this world back into a state of beauty, balance, and glory to God. I picture waterways being cleaned, no more drought, thirsty lands being nourished by deep springs, barren land being made fertile once more, food being grown in the most uninhabitable areas, food that we never knew existed being made common place once more, gardening being so enjoyable (without the curse of constant weeding), animals living in their rightful homes in peace, all of us living in creation and being so close to our Creator that we can feel and sense so much more than we do now. God's creation has always left me with a sense of peace and closeness to Him, so what a joy it will be to work together with His creation to clean up what we as humans have wrought upon this world.

PEACE

My heart feels full when I think of the starving being fed, the fatherless being given a home, the disabled being healed, the mentally sick having that burden lifted from them, the abused being shown love, children not living in fear, animals being shown only respect and love.

Oh, the peace this will bring! Having children of my own, my heart aches when I think of the suffering some in his world are going through. How amazing it will be to have a righteous ruler who will show mercy and compassion. I picture my family helping families who are still mortal and need rescuing from their own life situations. I imagine preaching to those who are thirsty for the Living Water but had never had the chance to hear and learn. What amazing preaching opportunities there will be!

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Whatever happens, I feel a sense of peace knowing that all will be RIGHT. God is righteous and therefore, why do I need to worry? Whatever happens will happen at the right time and in the right way.

How liberating to be ruled by Christ our king—a righteous ruler, who cares for his people and makes the right decisions. He will be a just judge, loving mercy yet bringing judgement on those who deserve it. Justice will be done once and for all! I look forward to being part of a new system and being ruled over by one whom I truly love. I imagine a sense of oneness with Christ and the ecclesia like nothing we have ever experienced before. No more petty issues! There will be no sin to hold us back—so all we do will be for the honour and glory of God and His Son.

What a hope we have!

I can't think of finer details. There is much about the kingdom that I still have as very murky and unclear in my mind. I don't know where I will be living, how I will get around, how I will live, what will happen just before Christ returns ... but I do have these feelings of peace, righteousness, and purposeful work that direct my vision and, for me, make it real! They make me yearn for that day. Lord, please do not remain away!

I pray to see you there too! Hallelujah!

Zipporah age 9

my kingdom vision

day

hiking up
mountains

Isi 10:31



night



feast

Rev 19:9

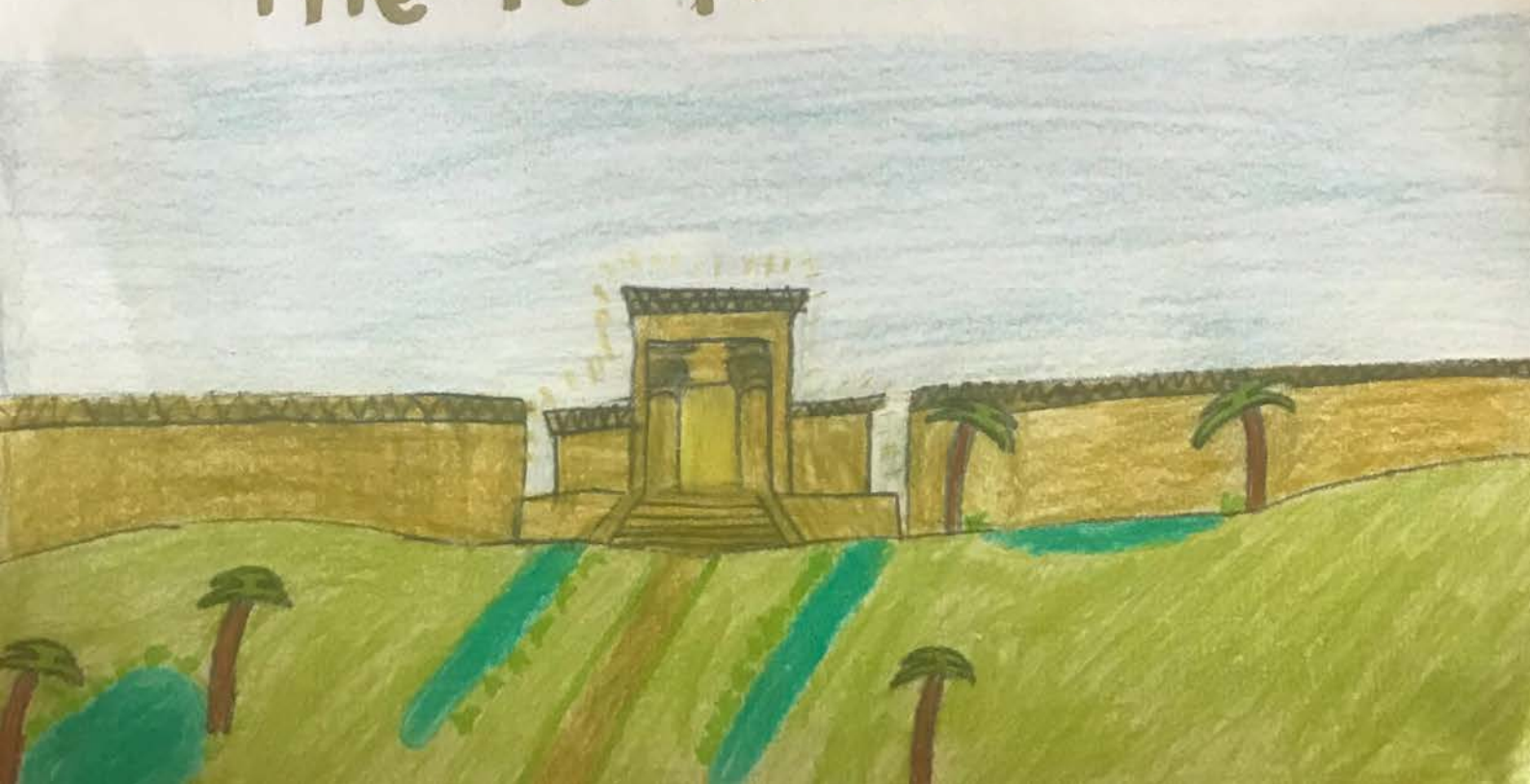


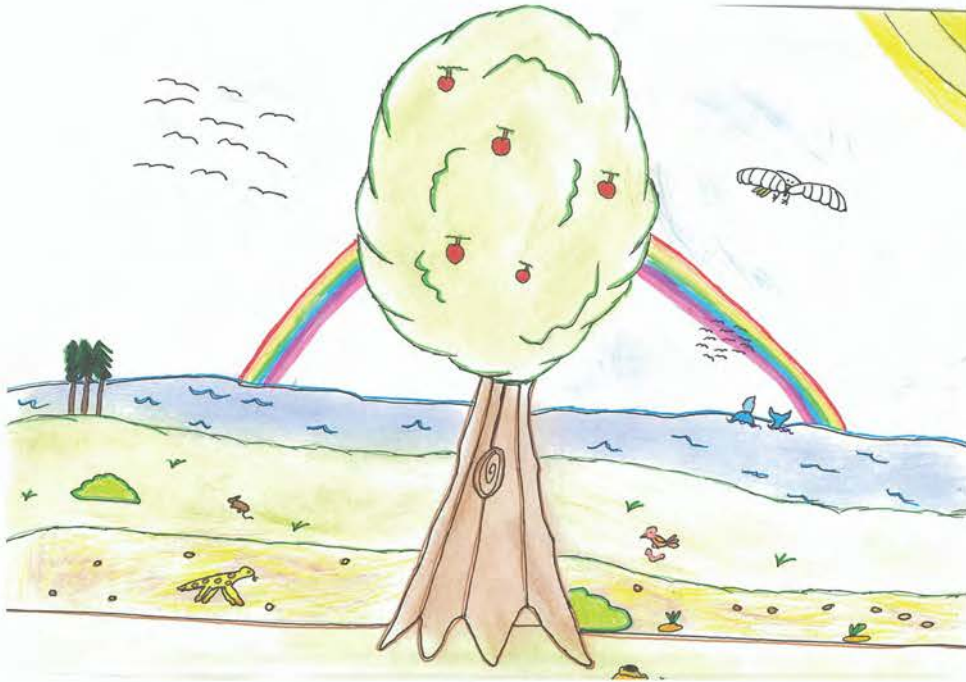
By Zippy, age 9

THE KINGDOM

In the Kingdom I want to see Jesus. He is going to be a good, fair and kind King. He's going to rule in Jerusalem over the whole world. There will be a big Temple made of gold and jewels. I want to help build the temple. I'm looking forward to seeing all the animals be friendly to humans and to other animals. I want to meet Noah and David and lots of other people from the Bible. I'm looking forward to everyone being healed and happy. Everyone will love and serve God and Jesus and will be kind and loving to each other. The earth will be beautiful, like the Garden of Eden.

The Temple of God





GRACE AT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT

I was standing with my baby in my arms and my husband beside me, my family and lots of my close friends, and millions of other people! Some of them I knew, some of them I didn't know, some of them are familiar—I'd seen them around before, maybe from Bible camps, study weeks or Bible schools, I'm not really sure. Some of the people I had met before but not from Christadelphian gatherings. They were people from other religions; people that I never knew I would see, not at the judgement seat of Christ, anyway. I had always wondered what would happen to my friends that "weren't Christadelphian", and standing there, I could see some of them! I was amazed and excited! Were they going to be given the opportunity of eternal life the same as I was? Would they be made immortal along with other faithful Christadelphians? Or, maybe they were there because God had chosen to give them a second chance to learn truth; maybe I would be asked to teach them. Or, maybe I needed teaching more truth, too? I didn't know, but I was so excited to know! I couldn't wait!

The multitude of people was so huge I was in awe at the amount of people that were there. I always knew it would be lots, but actually being there and seeing was amazing. There were so many different kinds of people; people from all nations and all tongues as the Bible had said there would be. There were brothers and sisters who had been brought up as "strict" Christadelphians, and people who were not. "Conservative" and "liberal"—I had always hated those terms as I always believed we were ONE as brothers and sisters in CHRIST! But, standing there looking around it was very easy to see the difference in the appearance of people. Some people were there in their normal daily dress, humbly, patiently waiting to hear what was happening, knowing that they were not worthy of anything but death for all their past sins. Some people were there dressed up, awaiting to meet their King; they had come dressed to meet him in their best clothes. They were also humbly, patiently waiting with the same thoughts going through their minds. There were people there who had been fighting with huge things in their life—people who had made some big mistakes and were still struggling with the consequences of them even now; people who had addiction problems; people who struggled with pride; people who were selfish and rude; people who didn't attend the meeting every Sunday for various reasons; people who struggled to serve; people who had lost their way but were trying to find it again; people who had done selfish things to gain their own pleasure; people who had been openly condemned for their sin and disfellowshipped from their ecclesia; People who did things that no one ever knew about, but they were there too, struggling, trying to keep their broken bits together. Would we all be given eternal life—gifted to us by God's grace?

Among these were people of the Bible; all kinds of faithful people that we have read about in the Bible—especially in Hebrews 11. We didn't know, as we stood there, who each of them was, but we knew that they were not from our age. They looked very different to us. You could tell they were people from the Bible times, and you could see them looking around in amazement at all the people that were now standing here waiting too. They were also here waiting to see what was going to happen next, knowing that their Lord had finally come to take them away....

... Standing there, trying to take everything in, trying to comprehend what was happening around me, someone came and tapped me on the shoulder and with a familiar voice said my name. I turned to see my grandma standing there with open arms, tears running down her face with excitement to see me. She had been raised—raised from the dead! She gasped as she saw I was married, and I had a baby of my own! She was overjoyed and laughing with excitement. She felt well and she knew that her body had been made whole again, which meant her Lord had

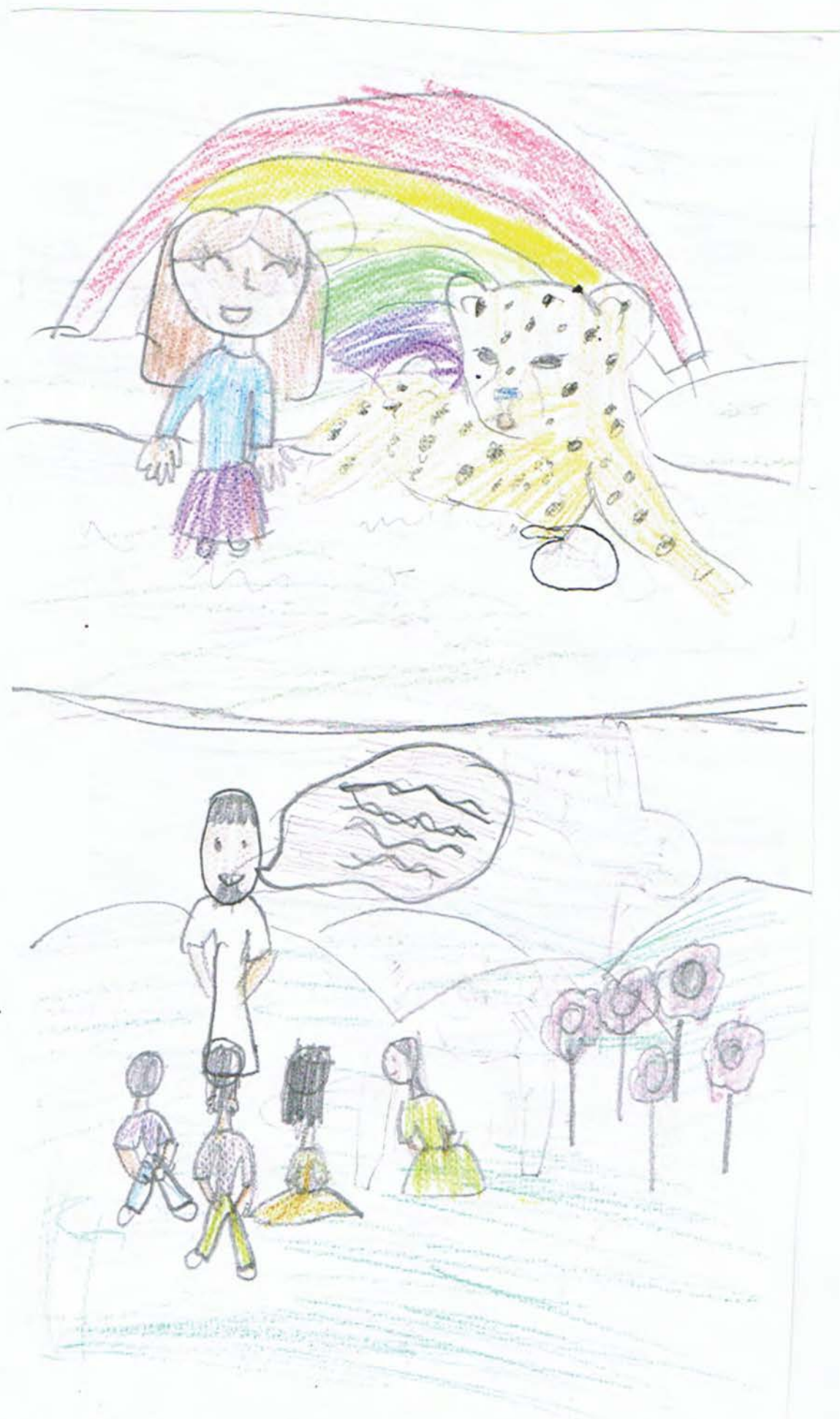
returned. She had been a faithful lady, and an incredible example in my life as I was growing up. She was a lady I always thought, if our time was in the Bible, she would have been mentioned in a chapter like Hebrews 11.

I wondered as I stood there if my sister would soon appear like Grandma just did. I wasn't sure exactly what would happen. She died of leukaemia when she was very young, and my parents always believed that, by the grace of God, we would see her again one day. I had prayed since I was a little girl that I would see her again in the kingdom, now it seemed as though it was very close! Would she still be a little girl, or would she be grown up? Would she even recognise me now? If she was raised as she was, she would only be 6 years old ... she would hardly recognise me now! I didn't know what would happen, but as I stood there with the rest of my family, I was ecstatically excited for what lay ahead. I knew that whatever happened now, it would have to be good. Christ, my Lord and King, the man that once walked on the earth and was tempted by sin just like I am but overcame it, the man that died FOR ME and was RAISED, my mediator between me and God was returning to the earth!

I didn't feel scared, I knew that there was still so much ahead of me now, so many things to happen, but I believed in Jesus Christ and the resurrection and the things concerning the kingdom of God, and I believed that Jesus died for me that I might have life through God's super abounding grace! And, if God has been for me, then, who can be against me now? NOTHING! I am a victor! Was I about to be justified to be glorified? The sin that was always with me, always pulling me away from God, the sin that made my body so unworthy— the biggest burden in my life—was it about to be taken away from me? Was I about to be made whole? Made beautiful, and clean?

The thought of running and not feeling weary, of no more crying, no more tears, no more sorrow, not losing any more family or friends to sickness and death, no more war, no more children being hurt, no more people being innocently accused, no more depression and anxiety. We were about to be judged by a judge that was almighty and powerful, just and right, loving and caring! I wanted to surrender everything, I wanted to be transformed to be glorified, to perfect perfection, to a new creation! I had come so far, and this seemed like just the start—I couldn't wait to run! I couldn't wait to come face to face with my Lord, and so I patiently waited to see what would happen next.

Some of my thoughts of what it might be like when Christ returns and sets up his kingdom, which I cannot wait for and long to be there with all my heart! Hope to see you there too!



By Charis, age 7-a girl with a cheetah and Jesus teaching



By Roza, age 5-her tree in the Kingdom that will have all her favourite fruit on it

RAIN IN CRETE

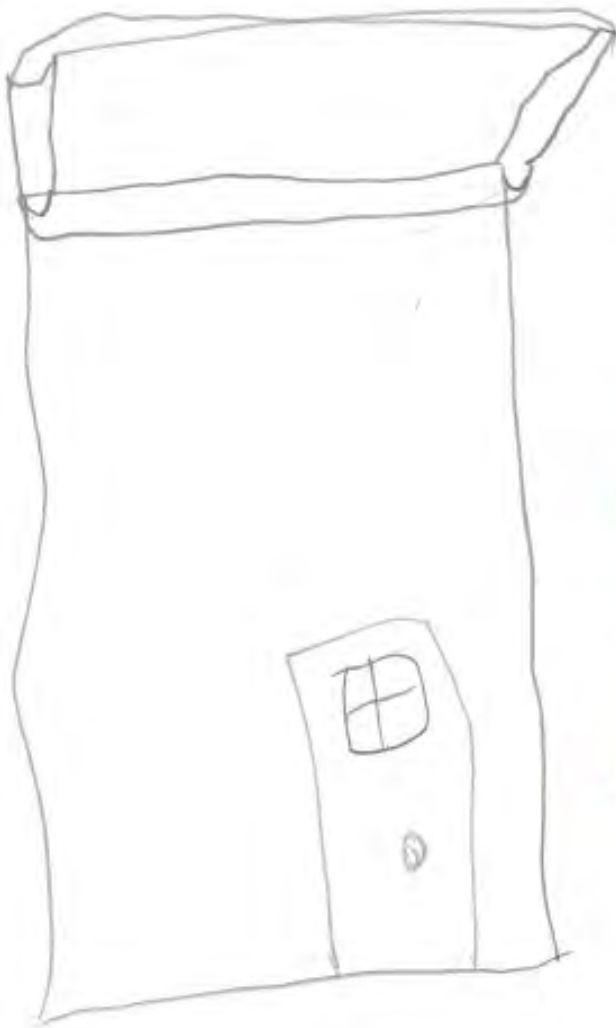
The grapes are looking so juicy this year. It must have been all that rain that fell. Finally, the first year with lots of rain here in Crete.

I'm really glad I have been given the task of overseeing the city of Iraklion, here on the Island of Crete, together with a great team of immortals. It now has been eight years since we have been here in this port city, giving all the pilgrims an option to stay on their journey up to Jerusalem. It is so encouraging seeing the excited expression on most of the people's faces as they anticipate seeing the great temple in Jerusalem. I won't ever forget the excited smiles on those four-year-old twins faces, who were allowed to come on the journey for the first time. Maybe it was all those people coming through Crete and always raving about our wonderful king in Jerusalem that indirectly helped our preaching efforts here with the locals in Crete. Now, after only eight years, it seems like a far majority of the people here have accepted Christ and started visiting Jerusalem every year themselves. This must be why it rained so much this year and a whole variety of foods have grown like never before.

The travellers coming through always appreciate the taste of some fresh fruit and vegetables after having spent days on the water. It has become tradition that they bring some of the fresh fish they caught on the way and that we cook a meal together with all the vegetables that we grow on this little farm near the port here in Crete. Doing a Bible reading after dinner has become part of that tradition, too. We realized one of the favourite chapters that the pilgrims were most astonished at is Isaiah chapter 60. A lot of freshly converted people couldn't believe that all the things that changed the world twenty years ago had been written down in this book for all these years. It definitely is reassuring for everyone to see that the Creator who made the whole earth, this wonderful and marvellous planet, never changes.

It has been amazing to witness all the glory and perfection being restored to this planet once again, just like in the Garden of Eden. Except for now, the earth is full of people praising God.

clean a gutter on a girate





Patience

Joy

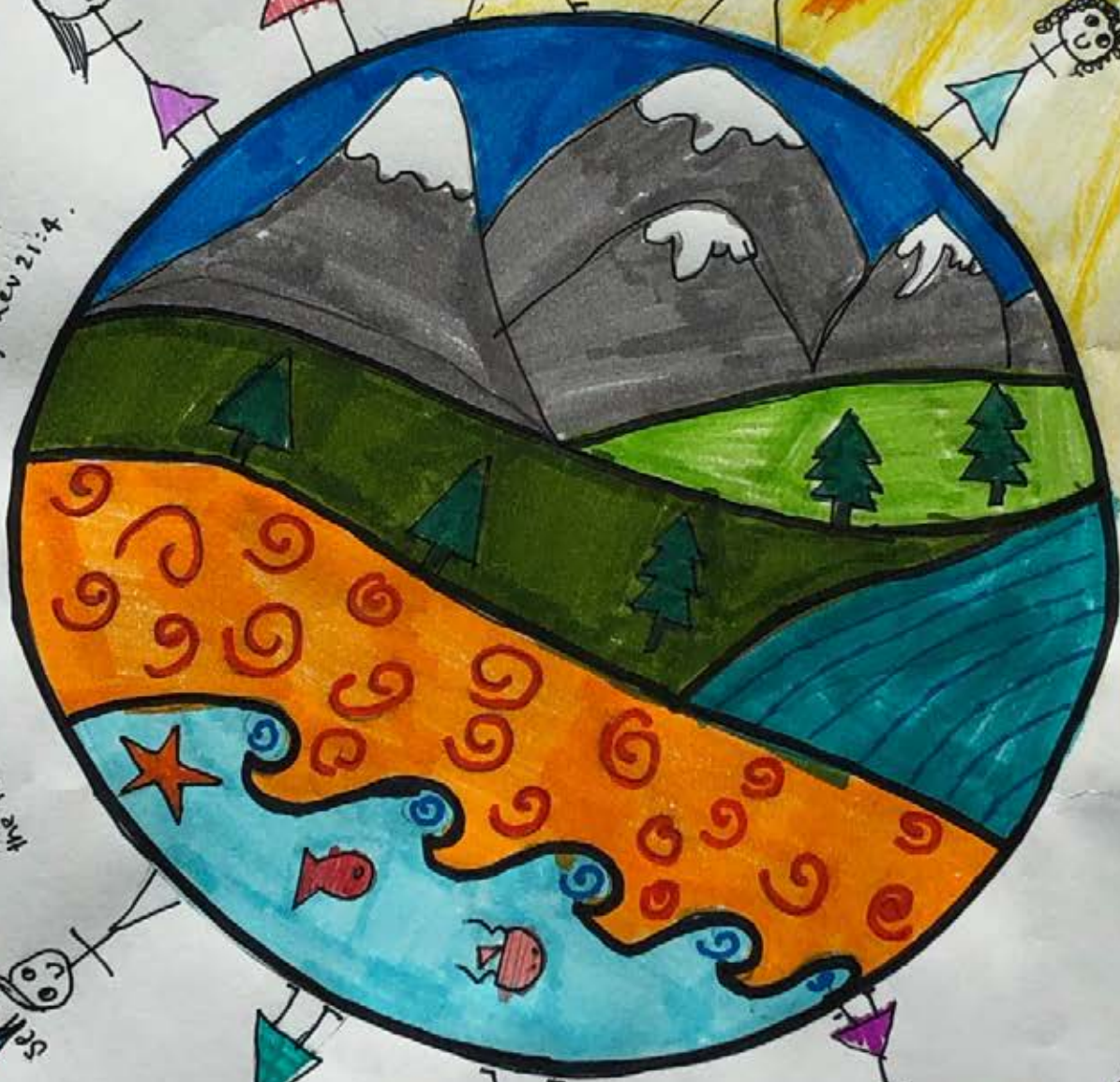
Love

Peace

Kindness

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, or sorrow, or crying, or pain: for the former things are passed away. Rev 21:4.

the tabernacle shall be with them and they shall be his people... Rev 21:3



Gentleness

Faithfulness

Goodness



BY NiuNiu



My
Kingdom
vision

No pain
Children playing
In the streets of
Jerusalem
Able to put
Dangerous animals
No more tears
It will be wonderful



LOVE, GRACE, MERCY

Having read, loved, and believed the Scriptures for my whole life, having learnt about God, my Lord, and the hope of the Kingdom, I can imagine times in our Immortal life to be quite Deja vu. Scriptures coming to life before my eyes, my hope and expectation a reality.

The oppression and the sadness gone, all people living now by Jesus's rule, and me immortal, now one of the many blessed ones giving comfort and instruction in what was my local area in my mortal life. I'm ever so glad now that I had preached the gospel boldly, even though many did not want to hear. So much devastation has come on the earth, that I really had trouble recognizing any of the old way of life from the year 2020.

The mortals and friends who would not listen then, now listen with gladness to know how they should live guided by our Lord's rule.

I often share with the faithful of old, how my life was in 2020 prior to our Lord's return, and tell them how their lives encouraged me.

My Lord Jesus—finally meeting Him!

Will I know Him, His voice, His words, His actions? I do!

He already knows and loves me and has already seen my life's trouble and struggles while I was mortal. He knew me better than I knew myself.

The love, the grace, the mercy—it brings me to my knees in praise!

My children—when mortal, I always pondered how they would be looked after and feel safe, but I see their happy faces as they play with all the immortal's children. I do not have to fear for their safety, for all is harmless in the Temple Mount and on the streets of Jerusalem.

The earth is now full of all the things I longed for and tried so hard to develop: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness and temperance. I now completely understand why I counted the things of my mortal life but dung that I might gain the prize! Nothing in my mortal life compares to my life now!

I hear myself and so many other loved ones and familiar faces break forth into singing:

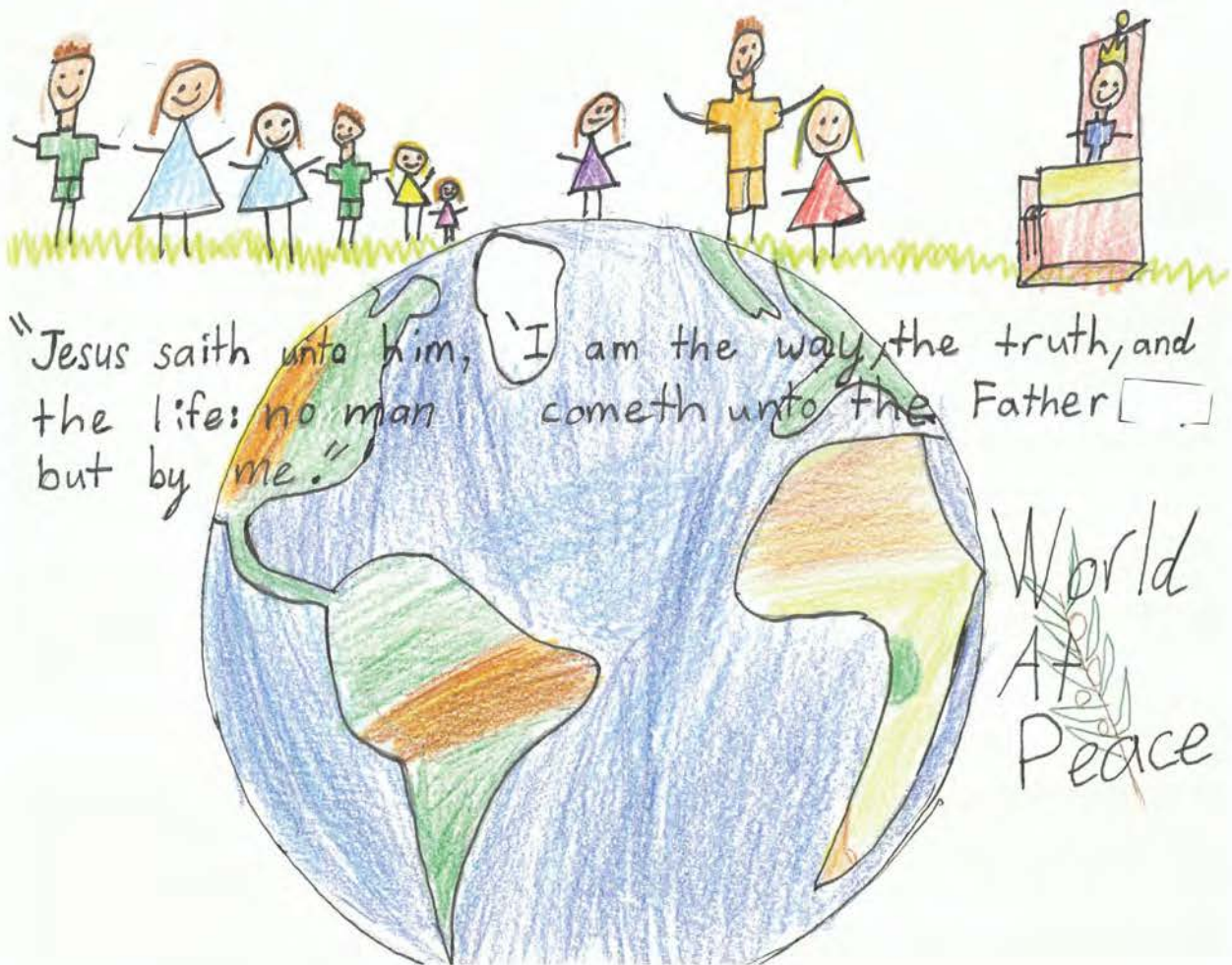
*"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and might
be unto our God for ever and ever Amen."*



By Rilla, age 6

The KINGDOM will be full of LOVE,
 JOY, PEACE, GENTLENESS, FAITH and MEEKNESS;
 There will No Pain, No Suffering,
 The Dead will be Alive, we will be IMMORTAL,
 The Earth will be BEAUTIFUL,
 And the Children will Play Free!
 Call your Friends, your Family,
 Shout with Happiness, "The SAVIOUR is Coming!"
 Jesus will Sit on DAVID'S Throne,
 And we will Know the LORD.

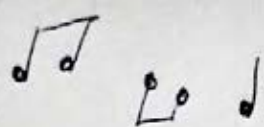
By Isabel Bain



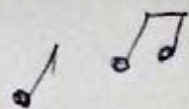
The Kingdom

In the Kingdom I am looking forward to meeting Jesus and asking him what it was like healing people and doing miracles. I also really want to meet Daniel and ask him what it was like in the lions den and if he was scared. I am also really looking forward to having no pain or sorrow. It would also be really cool to see all the animals getting along and not eating each other. It will also be really fun to clean up the world and see it all beautiful again. But most of all it would be awesome to have Jesus as our King! I am really looking forward to being in the Kingdom and living forever!





MY VISION



WHAT IS OUR HOPE

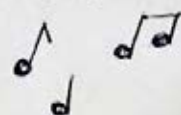


WHAT IS OUR JOY

WHAT IS OUR CROWN OF REJOICING

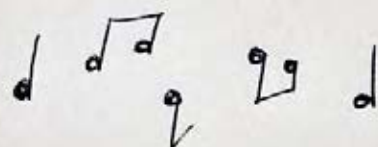
IS IT NOT ME IN THE PRESENCE OF
MY LORD JESUS CHRIST

IS IT NOT ME IN HIS PRESENCE WHEN
HE COMES



IS IT NOT THOSE I LOVE IN THE PRESENCE
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

IS IT NOT THOSE I LOVE IN HIS PRESENCE
WHEN HE COMES.



1 THESS. 2:19.

SO THIS IS MY VISION.

TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
WITH ALL MY LOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
SINGING AND PRAISING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
AND HIS DEAR SON. PERHAPS THOUSANDS
SINGING TOGETHER, AND PRAISING GOD LIKE I/WE
HAVE NEVER HEARD BEFORE.



By Maria, age 12

EPILOGUE

After completing my duties in the Court of Justice at the Holy City, the Spirit transported me northwards. It was a very fast trip as it is when the Spirit moves one. However, I chose to walk for the last part of the distance. At this time of the year the climate of the hills around Mount Hermon is very pleasant and the spring promise of new crops spreads a green velvet carpet over plains and hill slopes. The winter's heavy snowfall has diminished leaving Hermon snowcapped, but the air retains a coolness that is quite bracing.

As I make my way northwards, I feel I am doubly blessed. Though my ministration in the great Temple city is immensely satisfying, and the association with my colleagues stimulating, there is a sense of homecoming when coming to the upper area of Galilee. Here is a kind of a second home in a very special way.

My younger children were not of the age of responsibility when the Lord returned to judge the household and restore the Kingdom to Israel, so they remained in our care until they were older and able to support themselves. Some of the holy ones in the days of their mortality had occasionally felt anxious about their young children, but I never shared this concern. I instinctively perceived from my knowledge of God's revealed purpose, that though there would inevitably be a difference between the immortal ones and those limited by mortality, nothing would be permitted to disturb the sanctity of family life. God's overabounding care of His children, His protectiveness towards Ephraim despite the 'elder' son's repeated disobedience, His almost anxious care over the struggles of His people in latter times, assured me that there was no need for concern. God values the family arrangement. The key reason for His choice of Abraham lay in His knowledge that Abraham had the ability to command his children, and even the wisdom of Solomon was founded in the wise guidance of both his mother and father as the book of Proverbs reveals. God's strong feelings about family continuance in the Law and the 'family psalms'¹ precluded any possibility in my thinking that God would divide the family at the time when the children were coming into the impressionable years leading to maturity.

I was not disappointed. Once the children had completed their training and become independent, they were allotted smallholdings among the tribes of Israel. Two of our boys became co-dwellers in Naphtali but our daughter who actually married an Israelite (she met her husband at college in Shechem), became part of her husband's patrimony in Judah. This is a special joy to me because Judah is situated quite near the holy city and she can come to see me quite often. Years before, in my mortal days, I would have been limited to the use of communication technology and only able to hear her voice by telephone. Now, by the medium of spirit power, I can travel through the fourth dimension to sit at her table and talk with her and watch our grandchildren. When the children get a little older, I will enjoy having them to visit me.

As I make my way up the road, I notice one of Yared's neighbours making good use of the new river. His recently planted vineyard and orchard are growing well on the lush banks and extend up the low hilly slopes. I cross the river and pass a small group of children who are engaged in the patient pursuit of fishing with rods they have made themselves. Their basket already contains two good-sized fish, and they respond with glowing eyes when I admire their catch. They are immediately deferential towards me, recognising my status in

¹ Psalm 127, 128; also, Deuteronomy 6:4-8 etc.

the land and are pleased with my interest. What a future these children have! Their young minds, so impressionable to all that surrounds them, are spared the debilitating effects of mind-stultifying entertainments. Their activities in the open air and their freedom to explore the countryside, helps them grow strong. They are included in the wider family networks, which ensure that their language and conversation skills are developed at an early age. They take an interest in all around them, and are encouraged in personal initiative, while always respecting the experience and wisdom of their elders. My memories of the health and social services of the former life recall the increasing financial and social cost of godless living, which made shipwreck of families and impaired the development of children. Some young people so despaired of the problems facing them that youth suicide became a major concern!

I looked into the eyes of one young lad as he saw I was ready to move on, and heard his customary farewell, "Shalom ishah (notable lady), shalom." What a wonderful word, I thought, for it conveys not only the idea of peace and harmony, but of wholeness. The wholeness of the human spirit is something to be treasured. In the next generation, I envisage that the mind will be so clear of negative memories that the youth will be able to advance in knowledge and the study of the natural sciences which will increase the development of the new age.

When I arrive at the gates of my son's property, my thought transference quickly activates the response of my two grandchildren, and I have scarcely closed the gate behind me, when my ears pick up their laughter and cries as they race down the path to meet me.

"Nanny, Nanny," they cry, "come and see our new little lamb." They throw themselves against me, little warm soft arms outstretched to enfold me in their loving embrace. And then they look past me, "Where is Grandad?"

"He will come a little later," I explain. "Come and show me your little lamb." Holding hands, we skirt the house and move out onto the hillside, dropping down a little over the ridge to see the flock spread across the valley. I can see the tousled head of my son bending over one of his flock in the distance, but for the moment I must be tugged along to see the new firstling of the flock.

"Look at him, he's still wobbly on his feet. He's just little."

"I think we should call him Arphaxad," said Sally. "We could then call the next lamb Barak, and the next one Gershom and go on right through the alphabet."

"We still don't know if he is a boy or a girl," cautioned Hassam.

We watched the lamb nuzzling his mother and her gentle responsive bleats. I thought how this was the best life, the way that God intended the mind of a man be attuned to caring for others. Animal husbandry and agriculture requires working in harmony with nature and the seasons. Nothing can be forced, for one has to accept the course of the year, the seedtime and harvest, and the bringing forth of the young. The shepherds develop the skill of overseeing the flock, checking that all are present, noticing the condition of each animal. There is no need to use the baying unsettling intrusion of dogs that bite and snap in order to force the sheep to "mob together" and be driven to another destination. God's way of shepherding is a wonderful training for working with people. As the sheep trust in their shepherd and look to him as their natural leader, so the wise direction from the leaders of this realm will engender trust and confidence in the subject people. They may

not understand all that needs to be done, but they will trust the shepherd leaders and know that when God is truly honoured, their ultimate interests are served.

I shout and wave to Yared, and see him straighten up, then shade his eyes from the low angle of the morning sun. His call and upraised arm show that he has recognised me, and he picks up his shepherd's crook and begins to climb the slope to greet me.

We will soon go into the house and sit down to eat together and exchange news. At this homecoming, I rather suspect that my daughter-in-law has special news to tell me.

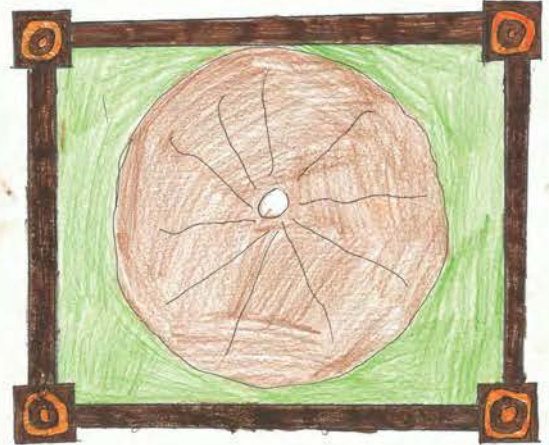
By Beulah Edwards



By Ari, age 12

'SEEK YE FIRST
THE KINGDOM OF
GOD, AND HIS
RIGHT REWARDS'
MATT 6:33

SEEK YE
THE KINGDOM FIRST
OF GOD



My dear fellow travellers,

A vision can sustain us in times of suffering—a hope for the future.

Elijah, in company with similar immortal saints, goes forth to gather God's chosen people from the four corners of the earth (Malachi 4:5).

Although this scenario is in the lead up to the establishment of the Kingdom, it is an aspect of God's purpose that I desire to be involved in, for the love of His people scattered and peeled throughout the ages for their disobedience and disregard for God's covenant, but forever in His heart and mind. To be able to guide, guard, and keep them as they journey home through the wilderness!

Hosea 2:1 4–15

Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably until her and I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope. And she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

Many will be irreligious, and there will be a sense of joy explaining that they are beloved of God for the father's sakes, and that, once again, they will be the head of the nations and not the tail. Their future will far exceed their past in every point (Isaiah 60:1-10). They will never again be rejected and cast out, despised by the world. We shall bring them home to experience true peace and spiritual responsibility, as priests instructing the nations, as God intended, their children joined in marriage to the children of the bride.

The Jewish people excel at rich family life—this aspect will also enrich the nations. 'And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away' (Isaiah 35:10).

The rainbow (as God's covenant) is a beautiful symbol of a multitude of unique facets presented as exquisite colours combining to produce pure light. GOD MANIFESTATION in all its wonder.



swimming with a narwhal

...²⁰ AND THE EARTH SHALL BE FILLED WITH
THE KNOWLEDGE AND TH GLORY OF THE LORD...²¹



THE KINGDOM AGE, a mortal perspective

It was a dry dusty morning in outback Queensland, still early, as Jarred sleepily headed out the front door. He could just see the sun rising over the ridge, casting its hot rays down onto their little village. He could hear someone already up and working; he followed the noise down the street and around the corner. There he saw his brother, Sam, loading the big wagon with all the villagers' goods. As he rounded the corner, the thought struck him that it didn't matter if you were blood relatives anymore. Since Jesus had changed the world, everyone was your brother and sister—your family—and that showed in the way everyone looked out for each other. How things were so different from before.

'Morning Sam', Jarred said as he got closer to the wagon, 'You're up early!' Jarred looked up, a bit surprised to also see someone up so early. 'Hey, Sam. Yep, just trying to get an early start and load up this wagon. It's the trading day today and I'm down to take the villagers' goods to market to sell today'. Jarred looked at everything that was being loaded: fresh-cut beef, cured beef, dried beef, beef bones, just about any type of beef you could think of. As you may have guessed, the people in the village that Sam and Jarred lived in were cattle farmers. 'Don't eat all the jerky on the way brother, we do need some to trade or sell once you get there!' Jarred joked.

As the brothers were chatting, Elle, Jarred's eldest daughter, ran up to them, dressed, and ready for the day ahead. 'How come you are awake already, and does your mother know you are out here?' Jarred asked. Elle nodded and then went on to ask, 'Uncle Sam, when are we leaving for the market? Ebony said it would be early, so I got up extra early and I'm all ready'. Jarred looked up surprised. This was the first he had heard about this. Ebony was Sam's eldest daughter, and the two cousins had concocted this plan together. Jarred looked at Sam and then back at Elle. 'Well, if you have your morning Bible lesson finished, and your mum and dad say so, then I guess you can come along with us today', said Sam. 'Thank you, thank you, thank you!' Elle sang as she jumped up and down on the spot.

Market day was always exciting. Sam and the girls got to see friends that they didn't always see, try new foods that other villages specialise in, and sell their own villagers' produce, and to stock up with different fresh produce from other areas. On top of all this, there were always immortals there, different from the immortals that come each day to teach Sam, Jarred and the rest of their village.

'I hope you get to meet Nehemiah today', Jarred said to his brother. 'He is an amazing man. I just loved hearing his account of his life. What an unbelievably Godly man'.

Elle chimed in, 'Oh, I really hope Esther is there. Hannah has just been teaching us the lesson of Esther this week; it's exciting'. Hannah is one of the immortals that comes daily to the village to teach, heal, and help out with problems they might be having. Hannah wasn't the only one. There were also Joshua, Jed, Abigail, and Gabe.

'Well, if you don't run along and get your morning Bible study done, you won't be able to

go with your cousin to market and see which exciting Bible character you will meet today. Run along!' teased Jarred as Elle ran off home. 'We are leaving in less than an hour', Sam called after her.

As the boys finished loading the wagon and tied everything down securely, they chatted about how life had changed so much. Before Jesus had burst onto the scene a year ago, the brothers had still lived in the same area and were cattle farmers on their father's ranch, running thousands of head of cattle. They had known about a God and the Bible, but that was about the extent of it; it was something that hadn't really taken their interest before. Life back then was so crazy: you were always running. Technology had come so far, but it just seemed to make things busier. There was always one problem or another on the cattle ranch—there was never enough rain, if any. Everyone was too busy in their own lives to think about anyone else, let alone take time out to really care for each other. The kids were all growing up way too fast and it seemed like families did not spend enough quality time together.

'Boy, am I thankful that things have changed,' Sam said. 'Running fewer cattle now, and with the help of a village as well, is so much better. It's enjoyable now. We can take time out to appreciate the little things, and spend time listening and learning with Gabe, or Joshua, or Abigail—whoever it might be that is teaching about Jesus and the Bible on any given day. It still amazes me how we missed all this before. God is so great; I can't imagine a life without Him in it now.'

'I feel the same way,' Jarred added. 'It's not only the powerful lessons and stories we are continuing to learn from the Bible, but it's also God's continued blessing that He gives us. Remember how it rarely used to rain? Now, the rain always comes in its season. We are always looked after and provided for, our children are safe, they can play outside without us having to worry one bit about them, and I don't know how I ever lived before without praying to God. I certainly couldn't live without Him now! Safe journey today, Sam. I'm off to check the cattle. See you tonight. I hope you get to meet Nehemiah!' Jarred continued down the road towards the fields.

Not too long after, the girls could be heard hurrying down the street. It was still fairly early, so they were trying to be quiet—not very successfully. The excitement of what the day was going to bring was just too much for them.

Sam, Elle, and Ebony piled into the front of the wagon and headed out of town. It was about a two-hour journey by horse and cart. Sam was thinking that this was one thing he did miss a little bit about life before, when he'd jump in his car and drive. But, in saying that, he thought, this mode of transport does give you much more time to sit and reflect on all the new things we are learning about: God and His glory and His great plan with the earth. That wasn't so easy to do as I rushed around in my car, he acknowledged.

Today, the journey wasn't as quiet as when Sam did it by himself. Having an extra two eleven-year-old excited girls along for the ride was playful indeed. As their chatter got louder and louder, Sam asked them to just stop for a minute and take in the wonderful creation around them. They looked and spotted the things that took their interest. Ebony

saw a beautiful kookaburra in the tree. Elle spotted a couple of kangaroos lazing by the water hole. The wattles were in bloom and their flowers lit up the trees like fairy lights. Everywhere they looked there was something good to see. After that, Sam asked the girls to share with him some of the memory verses they had been learning in Bible study. Each day, the children met in the village school or meeting hall for a Bible lesson with Hannah. Hannah is one of the immortals that are with their village each day. Quickly, the girls rattle some off:

'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it', says Ebony. Quite a fitting verse for the start of the day, Sam thought.

'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,' says Elle.

'Do you know who said that Elle?' asked Sam. Elle thought for a minute and then said, "Was it Joshua to Israel?' 'Well done, that's it,' commended Sam.

This went on for the rest of the way there, and before anyone knew it the market was just around the corner.

Sam quickly set up all the villagers' goods and got busy swapping and buying things for the village. Fresh fruit and vegetables, flour, sugar, honey, leather, timber work—the list could go on and on. Each village had its specialty and there was always an abundance of everything; no-one missed out. Everything was grown and enjoyed in its right season; it all tasted so much better than before. 'Our God truly is amazing. The more I learn, the more I love everything about the way of God', Sam contemplated.

As trading was ending, it was time to pack up all the new goodies for the village and head to the center where everyone could listen to whichever immortal had come to teach today. The girls were eager to find out, so they ran on ahead.

Sam had just finished tying down the wagon and begun walking towards the crowd when the girls came bursting back towards him. 'There are two immortals here today, Dad,' yelled Ebony. 'A man and a lady', added Elle. 'Well, we better hurry so we don't miss a bit,' Sam said as they quickly made their way to join with everyone else.

As usual, learning from the immortals did not disappoint. Amram and Jochebed told of their amazing faith under trial. Not only did they live when the Israelites were in slavery in Egypt, they then had a baby boy when Pharaoh had decreed that all baby Israelite boys were to be killed. Jochebed had seen something in baby Moses and hid him. Then, with great faith, she made a basket and Miriam, Moses older sister, placed the basket with Moses inside into the Nile river for Pharaoh's daughter to find. Sam just kept thinking of the incredible faith that was required to let these events take place and trust God to do what they couldn't do: save baby Moses. And what a great life Moses went on to live. Yes, he failed at times, but while we are human, we all do, It's about getting back up, putting our whole faith in God, and going to Him for guidance. And what a great leader God made Moses. So many great lessons.

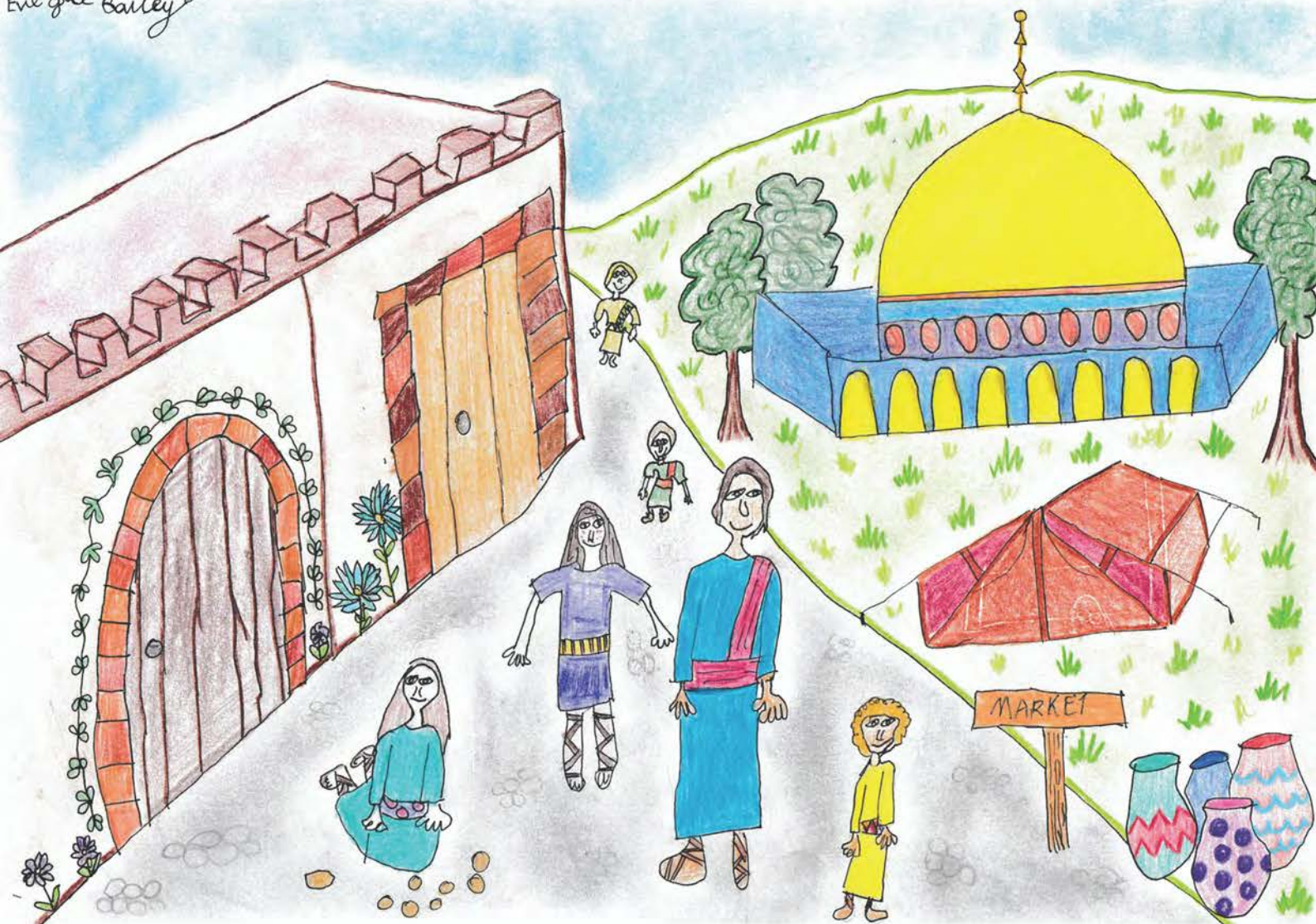
Sam and the girls could not wait to get home and tell everyone else all they had learned today.

As Sam and the girls were getting into the wagon ready for their journey home, Brad, the beekeeper from a nearby village, came up to them. 'Afternoon Sam. Hi girls. Just thought you might be interested; there is a group of us wanting to make the journey to Jerusalem to see the temple. Would you be keen to join us? We thought maybe Jarred might come as well.' Sam could hardly believe his ears. Of course, he would love to go, and Jarred, and their families. He had just never thought it would be possible. But suddenly, a quote popped into his mind: 'With man, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.' Sam was still in his thoughts when Brad said, 'So, what do you think?' Sam was about as excited as the girls were this morning and could hardly get his words out. 'Yes, of course! I'll let the village know.' His mind was still racing with excitement. 'How will we get there?'

'We have been talking with our immortals, and they think we can make it work. We will work out the details later. Just spread the word, get a group together, and we will organise the rest later. Safe journey brother. God be with you all. Oh, and say hi to Jarred for me', Brad said, then ran off to his wagon.

Sam's mind did not stop the whole way home. First, all the lessons from Amram and Jochebed, their lives of faith, and what they said about Moses, then, his conversation with Brad. To be able to go to Jerusalem, see the temple with his own eyes—just amazing! He couldn't wait to tell Emma, his wife, Jarred, and the whole village. Everyone would be so ecstatic. Sam was so deep in his thoughts and with excitement for the future, he didn't even notice that the girls had slept most of the way home. As they rounded the corner, he could see the village lights in the distance. How he longed for the day when he and all those around him will also be immortal. What a day that will be. But for now, a trip to Jerusalem and the temple to see Jesus in all his glory would be the next best thing. How excited the village will be when they hear the news. Our God really is good!

Evie goes Barley



By Evie, age 9



By Isaac, age 6, Chloe, age 4 & Phoebe, age 2

The Patience song

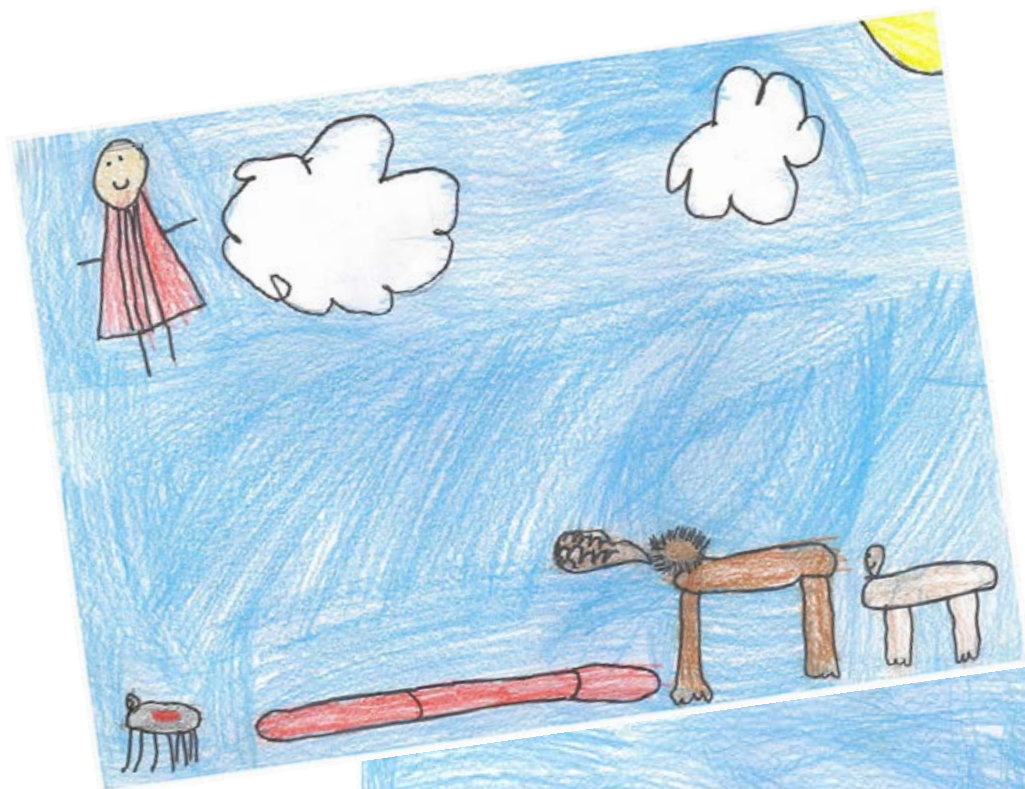
(Sung to the tune of Herby the Snail)

Sometimes we have to wait for things;
Be careful what you say.
We clap our hands and stamp our feet;
We want them right away.
But God wants us to wait for things,
To see if we believe
That Jesus will come back again,
God's Kingdom to receive.

HAVE PATIENCE, HAVE PATIENCE;
DONT BE IN SUCH A HURRY.
WHEN YOU GET IMPATIENT,
YOU ONLY START TO WORRY
REMEMBER, REMEMBER
THAT GOD IS PATIENT, TOO, AND
THINK OF ALL THE TIMES
WHEN OTHERS HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOU!

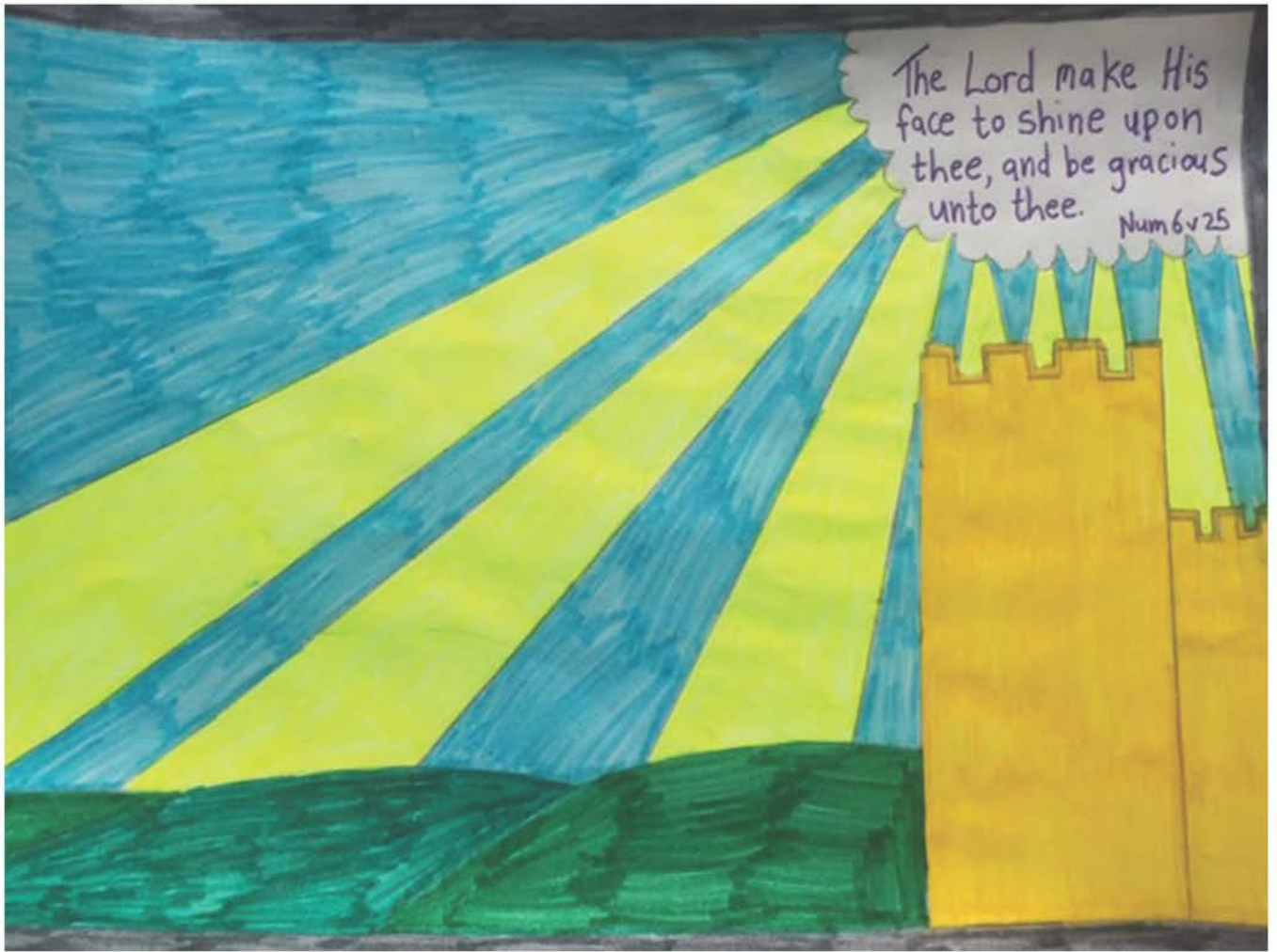
Well, patience is a gift of God
It comes from up above.
It teaches us of being kind
It tells us of His love.
Patience shows us that we should wait
And calmly be aware
That God is in control, and
We should never be scared

HAVE PATIENCE, HAVE PATIENCE
DONT BE IN SUCH A HURRY
WHEN YOU GET IMPATIENT
YOU ONLY START TO WORRY
REMEMBER, REMEMBER
THAT GOD IS PATIENT, TOO, AND
THINK OF ALL THE TIMES WHEN
OTHERS HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOU

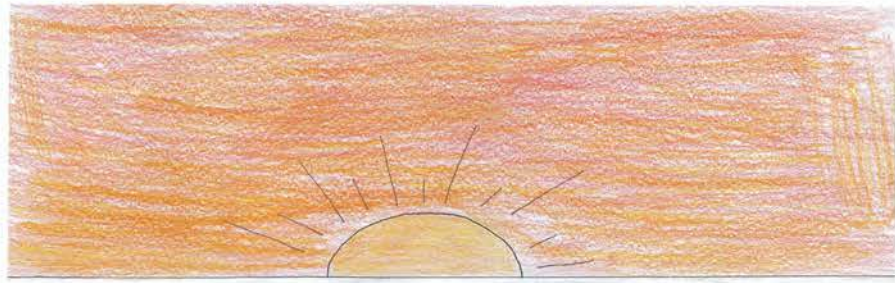


Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year One





By Cooper, age 8



contributions from Heritage College, Adelaide, year 5/6

My Kingdom Vision

The sun is hot, the air sticky with heat, but it doesn't cause me any discomfort. There's a slight breeze stirring the leaves of the carob and olive trees surrounding the kibbutz. Sun flowers and wildflowers line the road leading away from the sandstone buildings behind me. Nearby, a tall, narrow waterfall tumbles from the clay cliffs that line the amphitheater-like gorge. Green trees, vines, and flowers are lush around me. It's paradise.

It's so different from the first time I saw it. I remember that, though I had loved this place, the heat, desert, rock, and sand had been like a place in limbo ... waiting for this glorious future, which is now here.

Stretching out before me is the lake of Galilee, cliffs and hills surrounding it like a gem in the palm of a hand. The green cool water sparkles in the sunshine.

Not far down the slope to my left is Magdala, but not how it was—there are no billboards, or broken cars, or ruined houses—but newly-built family homes scattered around a central fountain, with gardens, a school, and a worship place.

It was such a special place to go to now.

Around me I see the children playing. The older ones are up at the waterfall with the animals—lions and tigers and elephants, all gentle and quiet. It's so unusual that it doesn't worry me to see it! Life is so different now...

I remembered what had happened to bring me to this moment and place, as if it were yesterday! Such huge changes had occurred in my life. Changes that had been hopes, but now are my realities.

I remember my personal angel appearing after a Summer School Song and Praise evening. Just appearing in the room! Along with everyone else's angels! It was such a crazy feeling to see the room's numbers double in size before our eyes—confirming in an instant what we had known all along: that they were always there beside us.

It was such a precious moment meeting the person who for years had guided and directed me through my trials and decisions—who really cared so much about my salvation. It was such a mixed feeling of uncertainty and newness yet tinged with a knowledge as if I had known this person all my life.

My heart felt as if it had stopped beating for a moment. But then, such excitement grew out of the shock!

We were then taken to Sinai. And I still can't believe it, but, in the end, I was given God's grace—it overwhelmed me! I felt so undeserving ... I still can't believe that He thought I was worthy of that grace.

Oh, the feeling of being made immortal! Even more than the physical and mental changes, I just can't explain how amazing it was to feel so fully part of God's plan—so surrounded by His love! I am so, so blessed.

I had seen Christ at the judgment seat. It was incredible to see him. The man who had made all this possible ... who had saved my life. And though my fear of rejection was there, there was also an overwhelming sense of thankfulness to him. Without him I was nothing!

I see him again year on year when we all go up to the temple—I am always so excited! It is such an incredible time and experience—the sacrifices, the fire for the Truth in everyone, and oh, the singing! Also, the conversations with all the saints ... and, from time to time, with Christ himself.

I always feel unworthy when he cares about my work; when he cares about me! But he takes time to talk to us all. I feel such respect for him, as I should. He is the Son of God and my saviour after all! I also feel, as we all go along, we are starting to feel more and more like a family, as brethren and fellow workers for God.

I wasn't so much part of the battles, although I was part of the March of the Rainbow Angel! I had always imagined the name of this march to be simply a signifying of something, but it was literal as well! The saints marched in white led, instead of by a cloud and fire, but by Christ, and we were covered by a rainbow that moved as we moved—a sign of God's love, still!

Rather than being part of the battle, I was allocated to help with the aftermath. I helped with the nursing of wounded, calming of fears, teaching, and demonstrating the hope that they all now could be a part of.

Through all the horrific battles and damage that Russia caused without care through Egypt and Israel, many innocent lives were changed forever—so many orphans were left. Some friends from my old life and I had teamed together to gather these children, and we brought them here.

One of the other saints, Mary Magdalene, who had heard of my work and vision with the children—and shared it—joined me. It was such an odd feeling to meet people you'd heard about from Scripture! Some exactly as you had imagined them; some very different! I had always identified with Mary for some reason ... and we turned out to be very similar people! She, some of my friends from the old life, and I, were all living here at the Magdala Kibbutz. And, of course, the children! All ages, races, colours—more and more were sent from all over the world as they heard of what we were doing here.

A group of men from my old ecclesia who were builders had come to help us, and we built dormitories, halls, and teaching rooms. Of course, being immortal now, sure makes everything a lot easier! Weariness certainly slows down a project. But it is so special all working together as a team for such a rewarding cause.

People and saints often come to visit us in Magdala and to visit the Children's Home. I've met all sorts, over the last few years.

How incredible have some of those meetings been at the hall in the village of Magdala! Every week there seems to be another saint visiting who is incredible to speak to and learn about their life and spiritual journey. Some of these are from Scripture, but also many other strong and inspiring brethren from down through the ages come, too.

We'll all stay up late into the nights, discussing the past, what we're doing now—and the future! Everything seems to have such purpose.

It is wonderful to hear of the things Christ is putting in place every day throughout the world. Justice! Peace! Equity!

And also, the work of saints in far off places, the teaching and preaching going on all around the world. I like to imagine the world as if it is slowly lighting up, as more and more people come to a knowledge and choose to follow God and His ways!

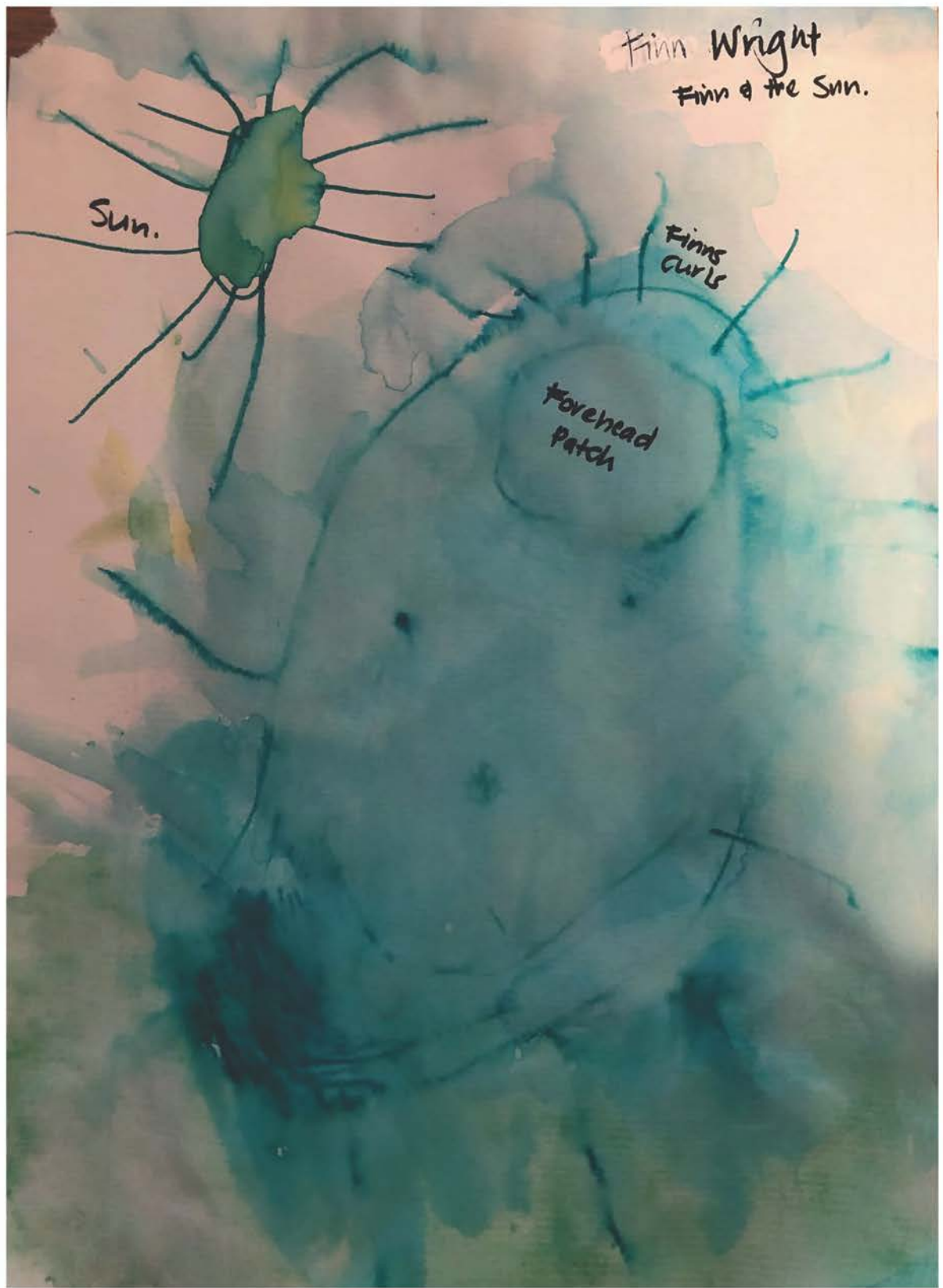
That's what makes the work I am doing here so rewarding and important. All these children who I've come to love, each individual personality and capacity, coming to love God, too. We teach them and show them what incredible things God has done for us all. They come to us scared, alone, confused, and we give them hope and purpose and that peace of God which passes all understanding.

I'm glad we are able to help them prepare for the second judgment so that they, too, can more fully come to manifest God. They can join our special family and live forever with us! Oh, what a future...

We don't know everything that will happen after these thousand years, but who wants to?! One thing is sure: I know it will be good. Because our God is good!

And that is what I look forward to the most! Meeting my Father, My God—

Finally!





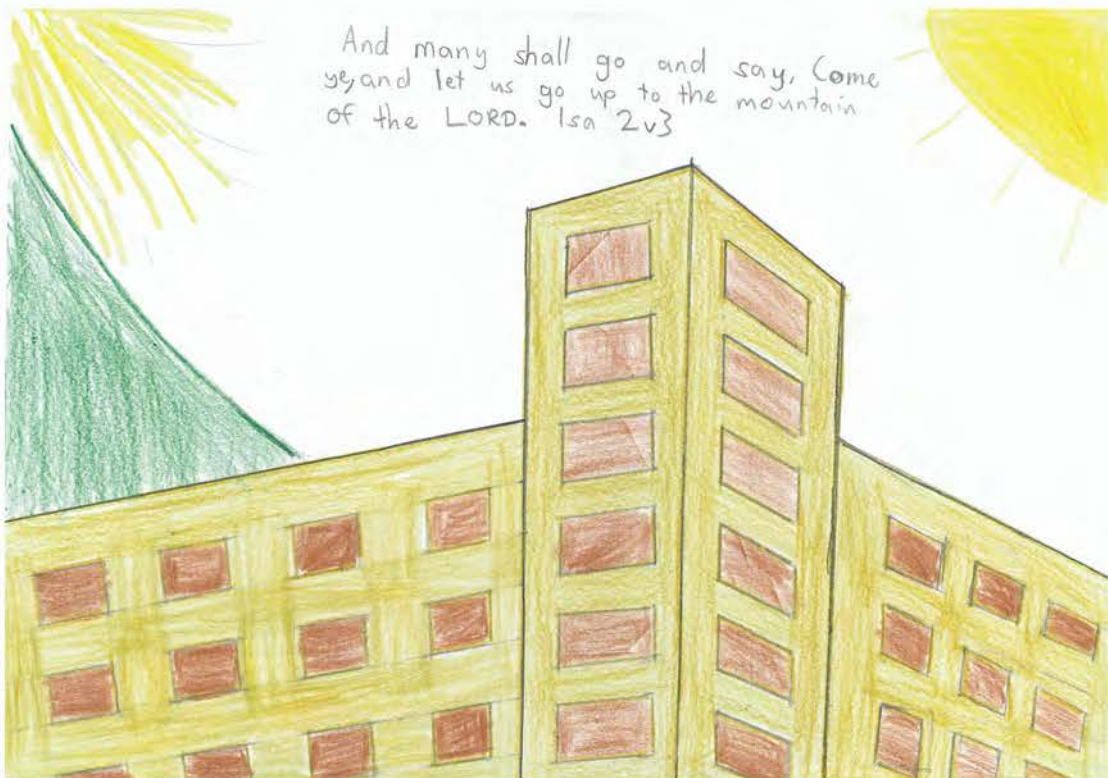
MY DREAM

Many years ago, when I was young, I had a vivid dream. I dreamt that I was flying, soaring like an eagle, catching updrafts. It was the most wonderful feeling. I could see all the beautiful scenes which God has created. I thought, "This is what it will be like in the Kingdom."

We are earthbound creatures in this life, like caterpillars, and God can make us into beautiful butterflies, able to fly in the heavens, doing His bidding. But we have to be committed to loving God in this life, consistently feeding on His Word, and disciplining ourselves to walk in His way, overcoming the enemy within, if we want to be part of it.



By Sarah, age 13



A HIGHWAY TO ZION

Drawn from Psalms 47, 48, 56, 84 and Isaiah 35

The child walked alone in a wasteland. The ground was hard and dusty. Dust clung her to feet, between her toes, covering them in a pasty-brown colour. All so dry.

There was nothing to be seen, no life, no horizon, no speck of green to set her eyes on and give her some relief from the dreariness. As she took each step, she wept. The tears fell down her face and plopped onto the hard ground leaving a trail of dark splodges to mark her endless trudging.

She cried for her loneliness, she cried for the desolation of the earth, for the hard hearts around her. She cried because the journey was hard, and she wanted to give up. She cried because her friends had given up. She cried because she longed for rest. For a dwelling place. To see Zion.

"Zion". She whispered the name aloud. 'The joy of the whole earth! Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine!' God will SHINE.

Her eyes shut as she imagined the city of the great King: entering in through the gates of righteousness, walking about her, counting her towers, examining her embankments, going through her palaces, rejoicing alongside the daughters of Judah. "Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!" She could imagine it all in her mind. Oh, how she longed to be singing for joy in that place, that dwelling place of her God.

She paused. And a voice spoke, "Daughter ... of Zion" Daughter of Zion? She opened her eyes. A man stood in front of her, shining with a radiance she had not seen before. Instantly understanding, she fell to the dusty ground at his feet. But his arm was outstretched to her. "My little child", he spoke again and drew her back to her feet. "You are in the Valley of Baca, the valley of weeping, but look..." In his hands she saw a bottle. "I have kept a record of your wanderings. All your tears are in my bottle." He held it out to her. "Pour it out."

She took it and uncorked the lid. The clear liquid inside poured out onto the parched ground. On and on it poured and she watched as it turned into streams of water, gushing, and flowing over the desert ground. Springs began bubbling up. Pools of water were appearing. She turned about, staring in wonder. The ground was beginning to blossom around her. A velvety green was creeping across the surface of the hardened earth; little green shoots were pushing up, delicate crocuses unfurling their petals, lilies and roses blooming, their luscious scent filling the air.

She felt a new song inside her. Joyfulness was gushing out of her like the springs.

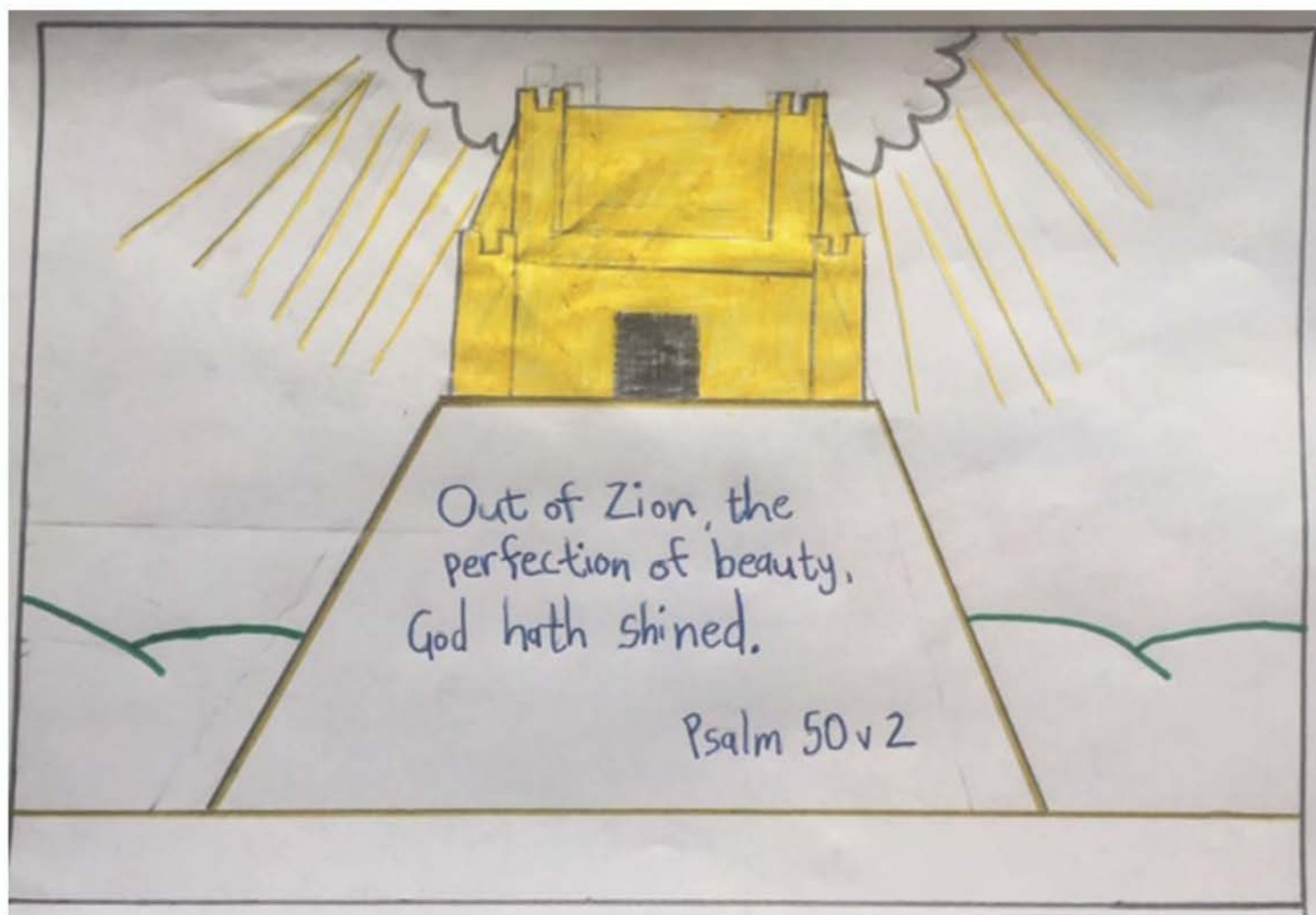
"Sing praises to God! Sing praises!
Sing praises to our King! Sing praises!
For God is King of all the earth, sing praises with a psalm!"

Her mouth was filled with laughter, her tongue with shouts of joy. But it wasn't a lonely voice; instead, the voice of a multitude. She looked around and saw she was surrounded! The ransomed of the LORD! They were coming with singing to Zion! Sorrow and sighing were gone. Everlasting joy was on their heads.

She woke with a start. Oh, it had all been a dream. She lay still. The feeling of intense joy and euphoria was still within her. She looked up on the wall in front of her at the poster she had hung the night before.

"Blessed are those whose strength is in the LORD, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion"

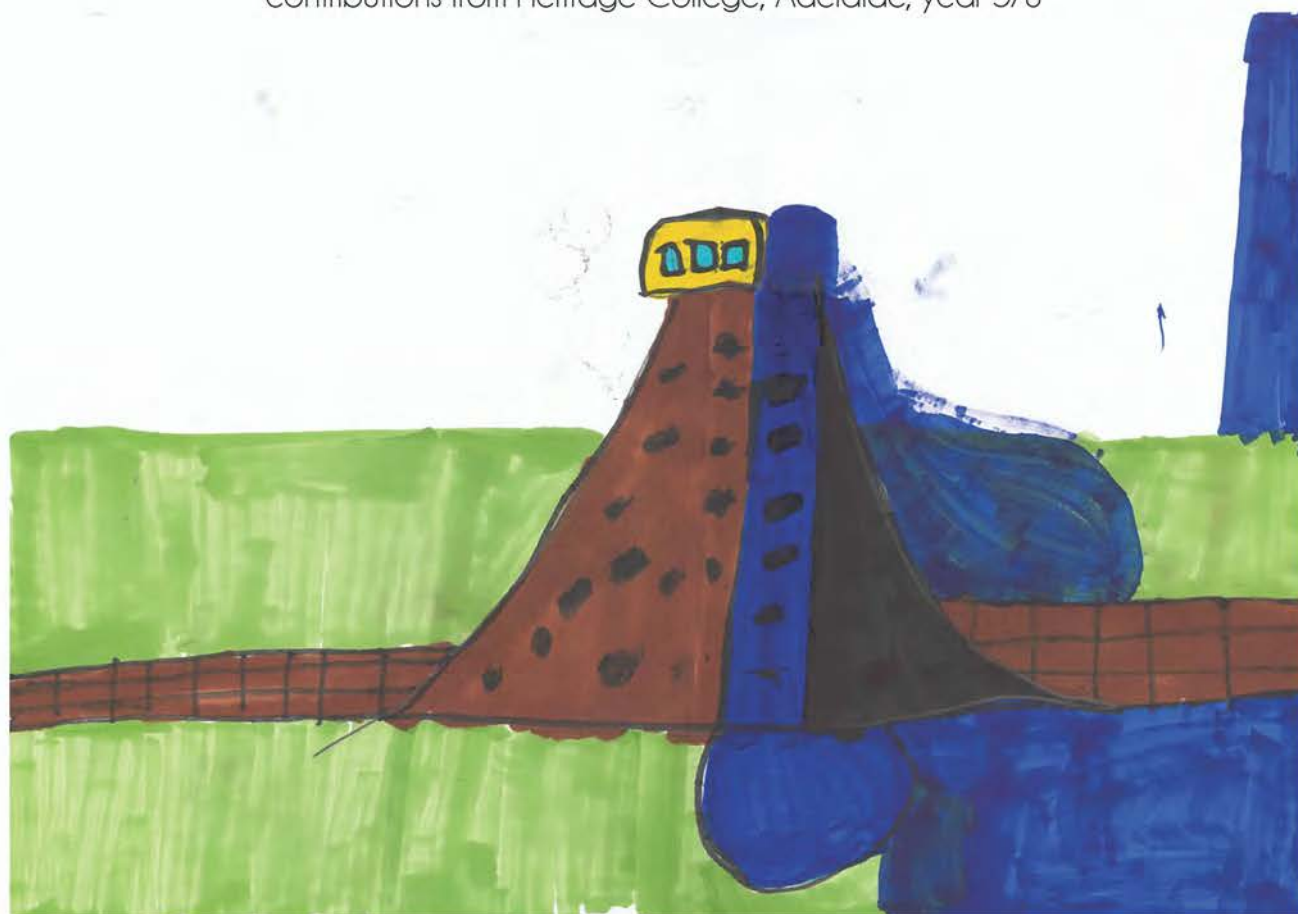
Yes, the way was hard and there would be more tears, but she knew her God was with her every step of the way. He was strengthening her to keep building that highway that lead to Him and to His beautiful dwelling place, Zion.



By Riley, age 10



contributions from Heritage College, Adelaide, year 5/6



Poem of the Marriage Feast

(written to be sung to the tune of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah')

We are joined together here today
To encourage each other on the way,
To a meeting with our Lord and Master;
The wedding which will soon take place
Upon the hills—that lovely place;
The day our Lord will gather us to him, Yah.

Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah

A marriage feast He has prepared
For those He's called and even dared
To be a people who adore and trust Him.
In Israel the promised land
We hope the Lord will take our hand;
Let's help each other make that Hallelujah

Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah

I will prepare a place for you;
Our Father's mansion is our clue.
Soon the Lord will be our groom — Hallelujah.
So, as we journey every day
The hope that binds us on our way,
The marriage feast will start our journey to Yah.

Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah

Truly
as I live all
the EARTH
shall be filled
with the glory
of the Lord

Faith
Love
Joy

happy
kindness

Prayer

Peace



Dear
God



Love
Joy
Peace

Patience

Kindness

Read
the bible



The Kingdom

Let Your
Light shine!

JED 11 years.



By Moriah, age 12

A meditational prayer for the eternal restoration of our barren hearts by Yahweh's living waters—based on **Isaiah 35**

(v1-2) Yahweh, Eternal Healer, this world is a barren wilderness of death. A wasteland. There is nothing of worth or value outside of who You are, and what You have accomplished in our Lord Jesus the Christ.

But where Your living waters flow, this wasteland, and even the wasteland of our fearful hearts, are restored. The desert places, and even the desert place of our human brokenness, can become full of life again, even spring blossoms, rich in an abundance of flowers, colours, and life.

Then, guided and refreshed by your spirit word—in our heart and lives can bring You glory.

(v3-4) This is GOOD NEWS! And with this Good News in our hearts and on our minds, help us O God to reach out to others in these last days and strengthen all those who have tired hands, depressed hearts, weakening faith, confused minds, or angry souls, and help us to encourage those who want to give up, or who have given up.

Help us to speak Your truth, in love, into the hearts of those who are still sick and suffering. Help us to encourage them to 'be strong and fear not'. For, with You, our God, we know that we can—even amidst great sorrow and trial—be strong and not fear. Send our Lord Jesus—to come and save us.

(v5-6) You, O God have power to open closed hearts—let Your light in. You O God have power to open closed eyes—that we might see You. Unstop our deaf ears—to hear Your gentle, calming, inspiring, powerful voice—the truth in your spirit Word. May we experience Your love like we have never experienced it before.

The spiritually lame need Your healing power that by Thy healing power we might have strength to leap like the deer! We need You to loose our lips so that we can sing Your new song. O how we long to let loose and sing Your praises like never before...

(v7) LORD, pour out Your living waters upon the desert places of our hearts, upon any of our family that are dry and thirsty, and upon your ecclesia, and even upon the whole world. Make the parched, thirsty, dry, dusty ground to be satisfied in the refreshing pools of the life-giving waters of Your Word—even by the Lord who was Your Word made flesh. Where once evil roamed, and depression and guilt and shame had its grip, set us free and bring Your eternal peace.

(v8) Open the free and living way in Christ Jesus. Bring our family—Your family, natural and spiritual—together in one, even in Christ Jesus our living head. We desire to walk in Your paths, to stride the way of holiness together with our faithful brothers and sisters. Lead us all and guide us in Thy eternal truth.

(v9-10) Protect us against life's troublesome threats along the way—anything that may cause us to doubt Thy steadfast unfailing love. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil—deliver each of us from our personal doubts and fears that may come upon an otherwise faithful heart. Make us each a vessel for Your love.

Redeem us, and help us to restore any who are lost, sick, and suffering. Just as our Lord Jesus would have touched us and with that one touch—made us whole—send him soon to touch us and make us whole, if it be Thy will.

LORD our hearts' desire, our souls' deepest longing is to be there in that day. To be granted to go up all together as the ransomed of the LORD to Yahweh Shammah, even Thy city. We will hold hands and sing Your praises at the top of our voices ... there will be no more sorrow, no more suffering, no more tears—but everlasting joy—a joy that knows no end and gladness upon gladness!

Even so come Lord Jesus—he who gave his life a ransom for many ... in whose name this prayer is humbly offered. Amen.

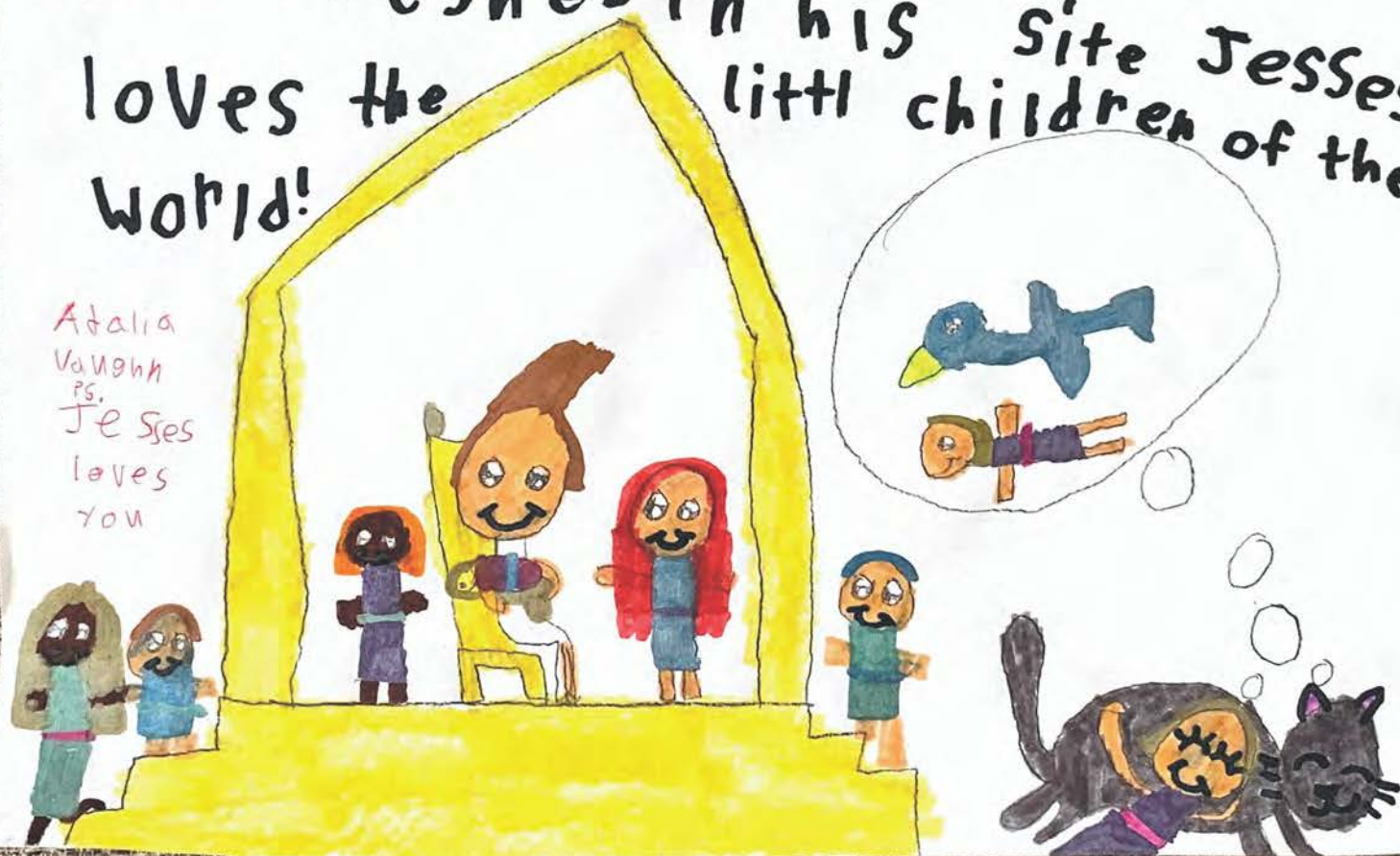


Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year Two



Red and yello Blak and White they
are Preshees in his Site Jesses
loves the littl children of the
World!

Adalia
Vaughn
ps.
Jesse
loves
you



Spanish

La Restauración Final

Cada vez que pienso en el Reino de Dios, pienso en la restauración de Israel, es decir, de la ciudad santa de Jerusalén y del pueblo judío. Al haber tenido la oportunidad de haber practicado el judaísmo, la redención final de Israel es una de las cosas más esperadas, no existe nada más hermoso que ese momento incluso sin siquiera haberlo experimentado todavía. Ahora es aún mas grandioso para mí pensar en ese momento, al tener mi fe completa por la obra de Jesús hace 2000 años.

Cuando pienso en el Reino, me veo entre las multitudes de Israel danzando y celebrando la llegada del tan esperado Mesías, Jesús. Me veo entre las personas llorando de felicidad, subiendo a construir el Templo bajo el liderazgo de Jesús. Veo como todo brilla, como todo reluce. Todo parece oro y diamantes. No hay nada más hermoso para mí que ver a nuestro Redentor en persona y ver al pueblo de Israel redimido. Es el momento que más esperé durante toda mi vida.

No puedo explicar con mis palabras lo que siento al verme allí. Veo a las naciones subiendo junto a Israel a adorar a Dios y a rendir honores al Rey Jesús el Mesías. Veo al mundo restaurado, el aire puro, la vegetación regenerada, veo la perfección inundar la tierra. La alegría se escucha en las calles de Jerusalén en forma de cánticos, de música, de aplausos, de gritos. El sol brilla y la temperatura es ideal.

Me veo entrando al Templo para alabar a Dios junto a todo Israel y a los hermanos de las naciones, junto a los grandes profetas. Me veo entrando mientras me abrazo con Abraham, el personaje que más admiro después de Jesús. Escucho el sonido del shofar que nos llama a todos a rendir culto a nuestro Dios y lloro de la emoción.

Nada en esta vida puede causarme más felicidad que imaginarme estando en el Reino.

English

The Final Restoration

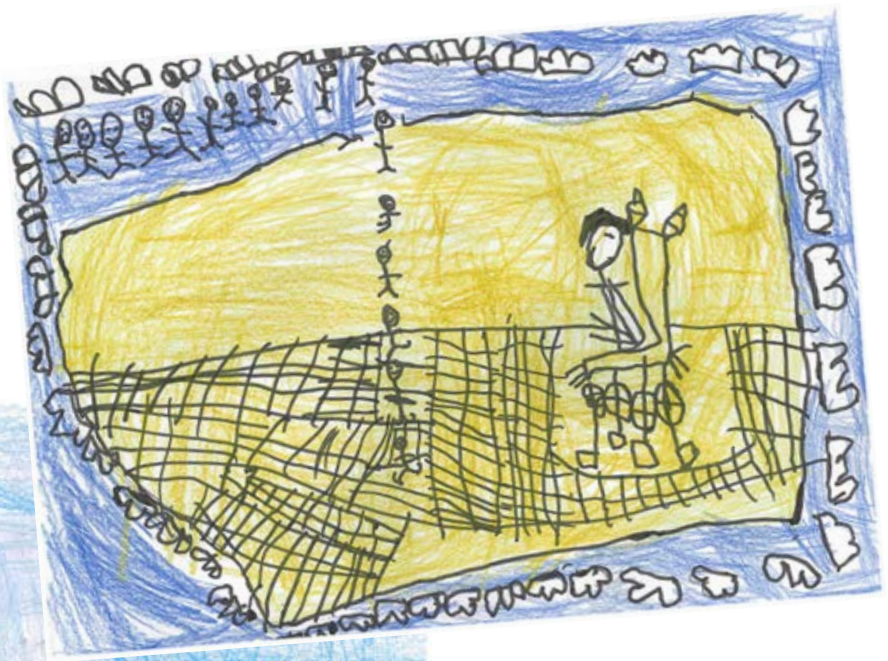
Every time I think of the Kingdom of God, I think of the restoration of Israel. That is, the holy city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. Having had the opportunity to practice Judaism, the final redemption of Israel is one of the things that I hope for the most. There is nothing existing that is more lovely than that moment, even though we haven't even experienced it yet. It is even much greater thinking of that right now for me, because my faith is completed in the work of Jesus more than 2000 years ago.

When I think on the Kingdom, I see the multitudes of Israel dancing, celebrating the return of the long awaited for Messiah, Jesus. I see the people crying for happiness, going up to build the Temple under the leadership of Jesus. I see how everything shines, like it is all gleaming. Everything looks like gold and diamond. There is nothing more beautiful for me than to see our Redeemer in person, and to see all the people of Israel redeemed. It is the moment I have been waiting for all my life.

My words can't explain how I feel to see myself there. I see the nations coming together with Israel to worship God and to lay honours on the King, Jesus the Messiah. I see the world restored, the pure air, the regenerating vegetation, I see perfection cover the earth. The happiness can be heard in the streets of Jerusalem, in the songs, the music, the cheers, the shouts. The sun is shining, the temperature is perfect.

I see myself entering the Temple to worship God along with all of Israel and my brothers and sisters from all nations, along with all the great prophets. I see myself entering whilst I am embracing Abraham, the person I admire most after Jesus. I hear the sound of the shofar that calls us to worship our God and I burst into tears from all the emotion.

Nothing in this life can cause me more happiness than to imagine myself there in the Kingdom.



Heritage College Adelaide Students
Year One

The Kingdom to come

With faith in our Father and hope in our hearts;
we look to the future, to a brand new start.
No longer will man rule, his time will be past,
and a new world order, forever will last.
For, the Father and Son have a master plan;
a plan that's been active since all things began.
And when Jesus returns, the kingdom to build;
then his Father's purpose at last is revealed.
A new king on the throne, both righteous and true;
his judgements will be just, and truth he'll pursue.
He'll be a champion to those trodden down,
and they'll be lifted up, when he wears the crown.
With righteous laws upheld, his reign will bring peace;
the influence of men, will greatly decrease.
For the king won't allow men to oppose him,
and anyone who tries, he will destroy them.
For those who refuse to accept him as king,
despite all the power and glory he brings,
will find there is no place, no future for them;
by their words and actions they will be condemned.
But those who've been seeking his kingdom to come
find their lives filled with joy, when they're welcomed in.
Their lifetime of longing, a vision come true;
as they become part of a life cleansed anew.
They'll be wearing white robes as the faithful saints;
their bodies no longer are weary or faint.
Their previous troubles no longer exist;
minds and bodies transformed – the Father's promise.
They will reign with Jesus as priests and as kings
in a world that's full of the Father's blessings.
They'll help to teach people of the Father's ways
until all His glory the whole earth displays.
Then all people will know that his ways are right,
when the whole world is filled with glorious light.
What wonders and blessings are in store for us,
if we remain faithful and in him we trust.
With our eyes focussed on our king and our Lord;
a place in his kingdom will be our reward.
Be strong and courageous, it won't be that long;
there's no need to worry, to him we belong.
It's our Father's pleasure to have us take part,
in His glorious kingdom He planned from the start.

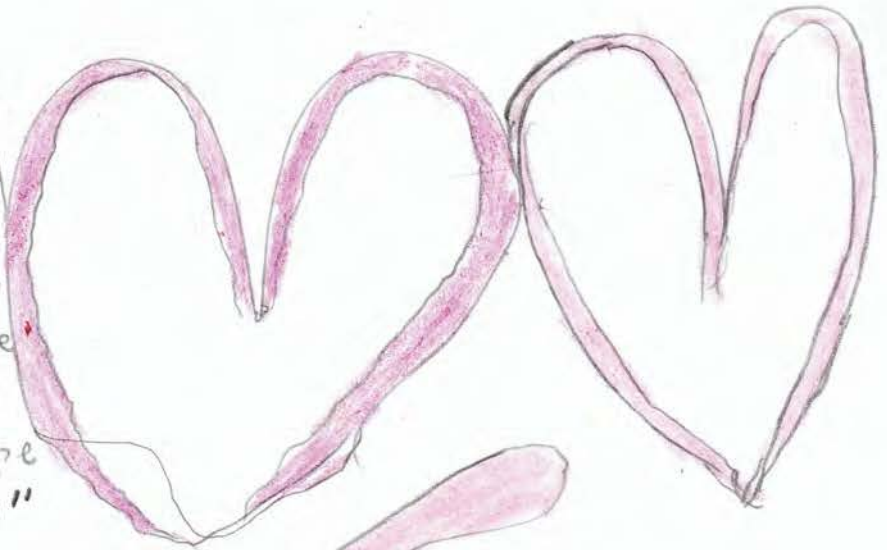


Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year Two



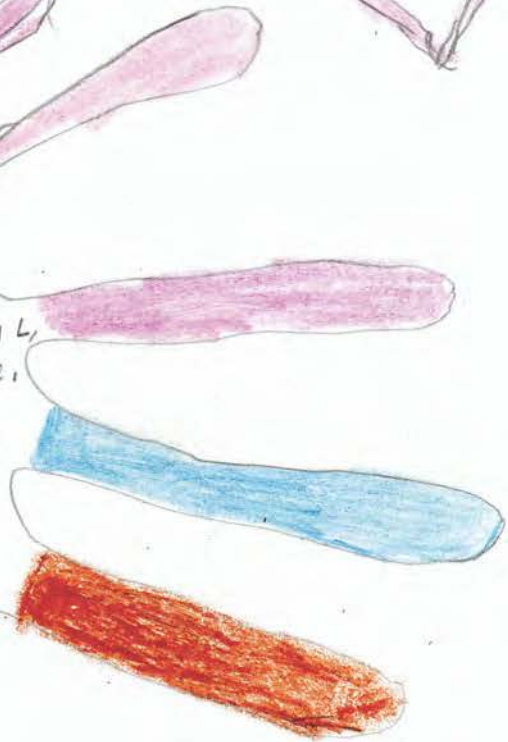
Amos 9:8

Behold the eyes
of the Lord God
are upon the
sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy
it from the surface
to ground, except
that I will not
utterly destroy the
house of Jacob.
"Says the Lord"



Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have
for you, says the Lord, plans
for welfare and not for evil,
to give you future and hope.



Proverbs 3:1

My son, do not forget
my teachings but let
your heart keep my
commandments.



THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

We have come out of the great tribulation and washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Before the throne of God, we serve Him day and night in His temple; and he who sits on the throne shelters us with his presence. We hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun doesn't strike us, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne is our shepherd, and he guides us to springs of living water, and God wipes away every tear from our eyes.

The day has come, as the LORD declared: He has raised up for David a righteous Branch—a king who reigns and deals wisely, executing justice and righteousness in the Land. Judah is saved, and Israel dwells safely. This is the name by which he is called: 'The LORD our righteousness.'

God's people are willing in the day of His power. He has taken them, one from a city and two from a family, and brought them to Zion. He has given them shepherds after His own heart, who feed them with knowledge and understanding.

God had been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they had gone. But they are now gathered from the nations and assembled out of the countries where they had been scattered and given the land of Israel. The Deliverer has come to Zion and turned away ungodliness from Jacob. The spirit of grace and supplication had been poured out as they looked on him whom they pierced and mourned for him. He has made a covenant with them and taken away their sins.

They have been given one heart, and a new spirit put within them. They walk in His statutes and keep rules and obey them. They are His people, and He is their God.

Jerusalem is called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem. Ten men from the nations of every tongue take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'

Many nations come, saying: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For the law goes out of Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He has dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! All kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

He judges between many peoples and settles disputes for strong nations far away; they beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation no longer lifts up sword against nation, nor do they learn war anymore. Everyone sits under their own vine and fig tree and no-one makes them afraid.

He judges his people with righteousness, and the poor with justice!

The mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! He defends the cause of the poor of the people, giving deliverance to the children of the needy, and crushing the oppressor! The God of heaven has set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed; it will never be left to other people; it shall stand forever!

So, we flourish in his days, and peace abounds till the moon be no more. May his name endure forever, his fame continues as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him; all nations call him blessed!

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; the whole earth is filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

Kingdom Vision - Bro Rob :)

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Year One



Spanish

MI VISIÓN DEL REINO DE DIOS:

Isaías 11:6

"El lobo morará con el cordero, y el leopardo se echará con el cabrito; el becerro, el leoncillo y el animal doméstico andarán juntos, y un niño los conducirá."

La escena del niño andando junto al leoncillo, el becerro y los animales domésticos me ayudan a ver con mucha claridad cómo será el reino de Dios. En nuestro mundo, los niños y los cachorros son celosamente custodiados para evitar el mal.

Sin embargo, la Biblia nos enseña que en el Reino eso no ocurrirá porque nuestro Padre los cuidará y ellos andarán en libertad y sin miedo a morir. Por otro lado, el profeta Daniel al interpretar el sueño de Nabucodonosor revela que el Reino no será jamás destruido, será eterno y terminará con la incertidumbre y las injusticias de los gobiernos humanos, en Daniel 2:44.

Imaginemos por un momento. Un mundo sin miedo, sin incertidumbres ni temores. Un mundo perfecto. Sin injusticia. Controlado por una mente perfecta que tiene el manejo absoluto de todo. Un mundo con un guía perfecto que nos dirá exactamente lo que hay que hacer para no errar y así poder vivir en plenitud con nuestro entorno. Un mundo donde ese guía nos diga cómo hacer para vivir en contacto total con la naturaleza sin arruinarla, sin destruirla para mantenerla eternamente con toda la belleza de la creación de Dios.

Ese guía está en libro de Isaías 48:17. El profeta habla de nuestro Padre y su rol en el Reino. "Así ha dicho Jehová, Redentor tuyo, el Santo de Israel: Yo soy Jehová Dios tuyo, que te enseña provechosamente, que te encamina por el camino que debes seguir."

Entonces, si en el Reino tendremos maestro perfecto enseñando la perfección de su creación, sus hijos esta vez asimilarán esa enseñanza con amor, humildad y con sacrificio, con esfuerzo y el conocimiento será para siempre.

Por último, mientras esperamos que se cumpla la promesa digamos que es posible ver algunos chispazos del reino de Dios en nuestro mundo.

Lo podemos ver en la belleza, las formas y los colores de las flores en primavera. En la paz de un felino durmiendo sobre un almohadón de nuestra casa, en el trino de las aves, en el esplendor de una montaña de un lago o de un bosque. En el aroma de la tierra mojada después de una lluvia tropical o en los peces de colores moviéndose libremente por las aguas transparentes del océano.

En la naturaleza es posible encontrar muchas señales del reino de Dios que aunque se interrumpen muchas veces por el accionar de la violencia creada por el hombre eso no será así para toda la existencia.

Es solo cuestión de tiempo y lo veremos.

Ruben Barboza, Córdoba, Argentina.

English

MY VISION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

Isaiah 11:6

"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the coif and the lion and the fattened coif together; and a little child shall lead them."

That scene of a child walking together with a lion cub, the calf, and the domesticated animals helps me to see with a lot of clarity what it will be like in the Kingdom of God.

In our world, the children and cubs are jealously guarded to keep them from harm's way. Nevertheless, the Bible teaches us that in the Kingdom, this will not happen because our Father will look after them and they will walk in freedom without any fear of dying. Furthermore, Daniel the prophet, when he's interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream, reveals that the Kingdom will not be destroyed, and that it will be eternal, and that all the uncertainty and injustice in human governments will be ended, in Daniel 2:44.

Let us imagine for a moment: A world without fear, without uncertainty or worry. A world that is perfect. Without injustice. Controlled by a perfect mind that has control of absolutely everything. A world that has a perfect guide that will tell us exactly what we have to do to not err and thus be able to live fully with our environment. A world where that guide will tell us what to do so we can live in touch with nature, but without ruining it or destroying it, so that we can maintain it for eternity with all the beauty of God's creation.

That guide is given in the book Isaiah 48:17. The prophet talks of our Father and His role in the Kingdom: "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go."

Therefore, if in the Kingdom we will have a perfect master teaching the perfection of His creation, His children now absorb that teaching with love, humility, sacrifice, and strength, with the knowledge that it will be forever.

Finally, while we wait for the fulfilment of the promise, let's just say that it is possible to see some glimpses of God's Kingdom in our world:

We can see it in: The beauty, the forms, the colours of the flowers in spring. The peacefulness of a cat sleeping on a pillow in our house, in the trill of the birds, in the splendour of a mountain, of a lake, or of a forest. The scent of the wet ground after a tropical rain or in the brightly-coloured fish that move around freely in the crystal-clear waters of the ocean.

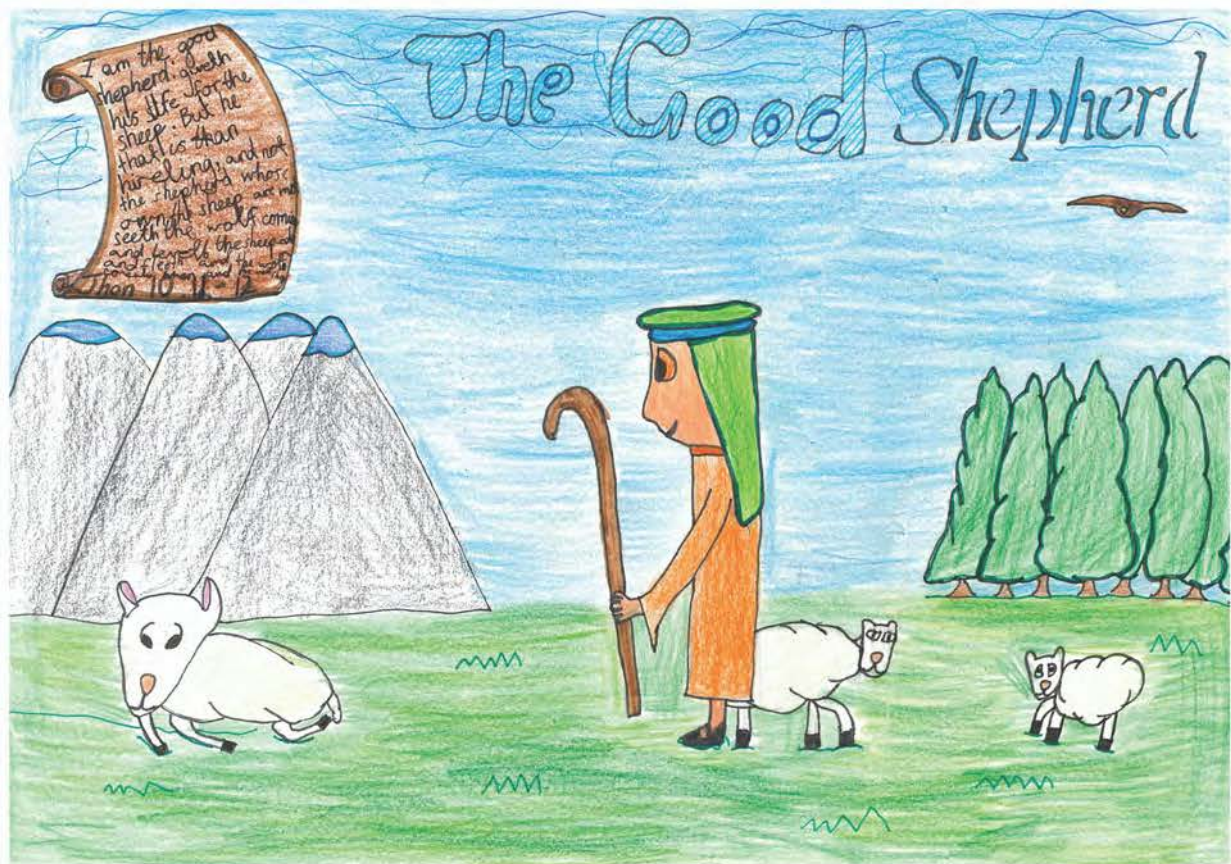
It is possible to find many signs of the Kingdom of God in nature, although they are often interrupted by the violent actions caused by man, this will not be the case for all of existence.

It's only a question of time, and we will see.

Ruben Barboza, Córdoba, Argentina.



By Micah, age 10



It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be lifted up above the hills, and all nations shall flow to it.
Isaiah 2 v 2



For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling place;
Psalm 132 v 13

My Kingdom Vision, by Alexa, aged 11

I am sitting in my house scared.

Thinking about everything that has happened, whether or not this is to do with the kingdom.

Then, a flash of light, a rumble, a shake. Everything around me is moving more than I could ever have imagined. More than a Japan earthquake.

Then another flash of light. Then silence and everything stops. I know that the kingdom has come.

I walk out the front door. Everything has a slight freshness to it. My first stop is towards the hospital.

My walk is quick because I can feel energy. Entering the hospital through the front doors, I walk down the corridors peering in room after room. Nothing but empty beds. The nurses are looking shocked. No patients.

Some of them tell me that they saw a shining light, and a man walking from door to door.

Then I walk out of the hospital feeling peace and quiet again. My next stop is Jerusalem. I walk down a dusty dirt road and finally I see the temple that needs to be rebuilt, and I see the Mount of Olives with a crumbled dirty crack down the middle.

Then I see a man coming towards me. It is Jesus. Now I know how the people in the Bible felt when they met him. Then I see another man coming towards me and Jesus, old but sturdy. He doesn't tell me his name, but I know straight away that he is Moses. I talk to him about all my questions—what it felt like when he couldn't go into the promised land when he was trying so hard to lead the people of Israel. Then I set off down the dusty road to go and find the other people from the Bible that I want to talk to.



1. Mum baking in the kitchen in the Kingdom. She is also singing
2. This is me playing with a big snake.



3. It's me and the lion playing in the Kingdom
- By Oscar, age 4

Shalom

Liberated

Set free from the shackles of mortality,
No longer burdened by sin.

Soaring

Into heavenly places, with wings as eagles.

Clean and pure

A mind at one with the Father and Son,
Like them.

No more regrets from the past,
No more anxiety for the future.

At peace,

Complete,

Forever



Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year Two



AN IMMORTAL BRAIN

Is the Kingdom real? Is it real to you?

We hear talks from people about what it would be like.

For it to be real, it is important to imagine and meditate on the Kingdom.

One aspect that really excites me is thinking about our brains.

What will they be like? How will we think?

We know at the moment we see 'through a glass darkly'—and we can't truly understand life in the Kingdom, or know what God is like.

I teach children with special educational needs who struggle with their behaviour, their thoughts, and understanding school subjects.

However, a few people who have special needs also have special abilities. They have 'super abilities', they are geniuses, or 'savants' (this is a widely accepted medical condition).

They have abilities far superior to most of us in specific areas such as maths, art, sculpting, and music.

To understand what I'm talking about, please watch this clip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbASOcqc1Ss>

Daniel Tammet is a multiple savant who has amazing abilities in maths and languages. He can also clearly articulate his thought processes.

In the clip, he explains how he sees every number as a distinct shape. He can then calculate the solution to a maths question by visualizing the space between two number shapes, giving the answer. It is just a completely different way of thinking.

He can also learn a complex language in a few weeks. Just imagine being able to do that!

Some people like to say we only use 5% of our brains and a genius might use 10%. It is obviously impossible to calculate, but the point is much of the brain has so much untapped potential.

So, if the brain is already able to do this, what could it be capable of doing in the Kingdom? After all, God created something amazing the first time around, and He has had plenty of time to develop something even better.

In the Kingdom, I've often thought I'd like to be amazing at surfing or be able to fly. That would be great. But imagine being a savant. Being a multiple savant. Being highly skilled in different subjects and making connections between those subjects. More than that, imagine that everyone around you also has these amazing abilities. Using them for good. Synergy. What a different world that would be.

And then imagine being a 'spiritual savant'—having new ways of thinking about spiritual things—with no limitations imposed by our mortal understanding. No longer trapped in feelings of guilt or insecurity but having a true understanding of who God really is, to have our eyes opened—the glass becoming crystal clear.

Imagine God being 'all in all'. What does that even mean? We will find out. Visions of the Kingdom are a good thing. They help us when we feel discouraged.

Maybe, in the Kingdom we will look back at our old life and see how worthless so much of it was. Things that we valued more than God. Things that may have even stopped us from entering into the Kingdom.

Don't let this happen.

Don't give up.

Let's keep going.

Don't lose faith.

It will be worth it.

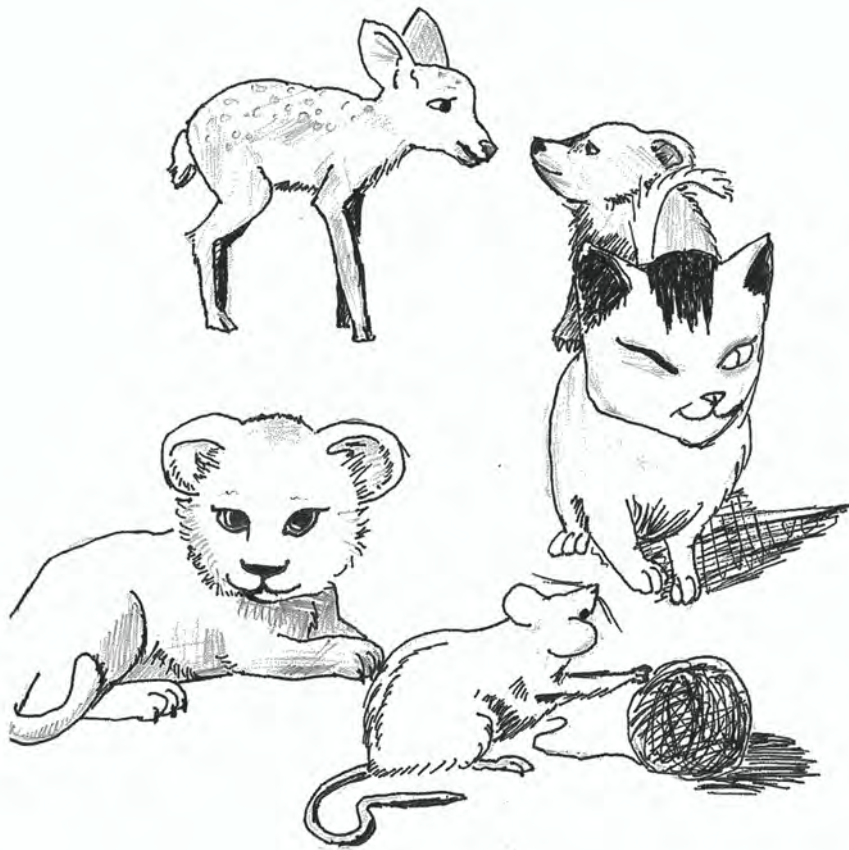
Imagine.



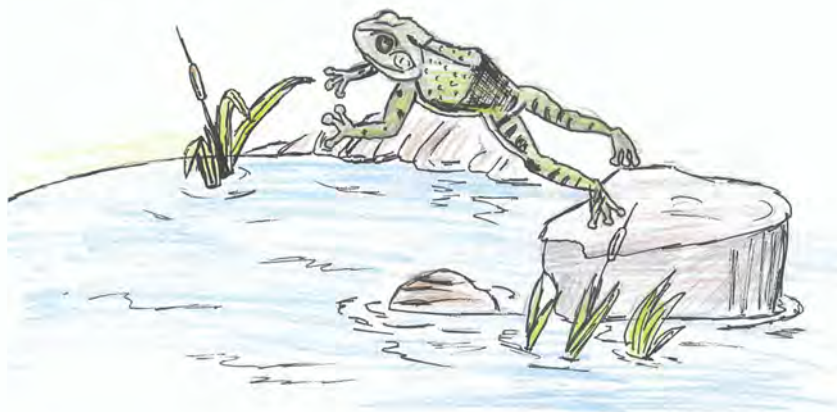
"There shall be a
handful of corn
in the earth
upon the top of
the mountains."

"The wolf and the
lamb shall feed together
and the lion shall eat
straw like the bullock."

"But they shall all sit
under their own
vines and under their
own fig trees."



contributions from Heritage College, Adelaide, year 5/6



"Thy Kingdom Come"

*Some thoughts arising from a discussion at Newton Court Care Home, Mumbles
—September 2020 Sharing together our hope of the kingdom.*

The hope we share of the future kingdom on this earth sets us apart from many other religions.

Our discussion began with one of our favourite passages:

Revelation 21 :31 4

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

It's difficult for us to picture the situation where God is dwelling with men. Thinking about Jesus first helps. He and his Father are one, in the sense that they have the same beliefs and thoughts and ways.

No more pain, or sorrow, no more death. Boundless energy, no more aches and pains, no longer tired.

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

At present, we all grow old and die. In the kingdom, all those frailties will be done away with.

Everything will be very different. We will not recall the former things, nor bring them to mind.

We will be elevated to thinking of heavenly things, not earthly things. No longer burdened with everyday thoughts and the things that weigh us down now. At present, our thinking is from a mortal perspective. In the kingdom, we will continually be doing God's will.

Presently we are bounded by time, which will not be the case when we are immortal. A day is as a thousand years with God.

Regarding the judgement, will it be very quick, or will it take some time? Will it be an angel to whom we give an account of our stewardship? Our sins have been washed away in the waters of baptism, so what things will be recalled?

The present signs of the times suggest that the world stage is shaping up for Christ's imminent return. What a wonderful thing it will be to be alive at his return, to be whisked away.

At that point, will it be someone we recognise who comes to call us away? "The Master has come and calleth for you". And what will our immediate response be?

Will we be able to recognise people? Will we know who Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are? Will Elijah be wearing the original garb that he wore?

Sometimes, angels, when they appeared, had a long white garment on.

We will be distinct individuals—as we are now, but clothed with immortality, changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. It's difficult for us to fully comprehend in our current mortal state, however, sometimes we have occasions where we briefly experience spiritual elevation.

How wonderful it will be to meet characters such as Peter, who so often tried to help Jesus and support him, but he either said it or did it in the wrong way. The way Peter developed and led his life is a wonderful example to us; he overcame those difficulties. The Lord's look towards Peter when he had denied him would have been one of compassion, not a severe one, but sorry for Peter, for what he had done.

"Thy kind and searching glance can scan the very wounds that shame would hide".

Another character that it will be amazing to meet is the apostle Paul, who travelled so much and faced many hardships in his preaching work.

What will it be like to meet the Lord Jesus himself- to see him face to face—our saviour? To hear the words, by God's grace, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord".

A wonderful prospect.

Our role in the kingdom—to go out into the nations to teach them, to persuade them of the Truth. How wonderful it will be that they will want to take hold of him that is a Jew, to go with us because the Lord is with us.

The experience of spiritual uplift, encouragement, and confidence that we presently get from being with our brothers and sisters, for example, during a preaching campaign proclaiming the Truth, will be maintained and so much stronger.

At present, we look through a glass darkly, but then face to face (1 Cor 13:12). All our many questions answered. Present knowledge expanded.

Presently people are lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. But there will be a complete transformation—purity, righteousness, love, holiness, truth, fullness of

joy. Aspects such as evilness, lies and violence will be done away with, a tremendous change.

We will be receiving strength from God to live in a godly way—giving praise to God continually, as the angels in heaven.

Many geographical changes—the desert blossoming, earthquakes changing the topography of the world, the mount of Olives split in two, mount Zion elevated.

Animal relationships changed, dominion over all the animals. The lion eating straw like the ox. Nature in balance. The damage man has caused restored. Creation no longer groaning.

Isaiah 35

... the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing ...

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

How wonderful it will be to be with Christ as he comes into the land with the company of his saints, into Jerusalem.

To be there with Christ as King in Jerusalem. Our names written in the Book of Life.

John 17:21

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.

Jesus will ultimately deliver up the kingdom to the Father, and God will be all and in all—God will dwell with men. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God".

1 John 3:2

We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

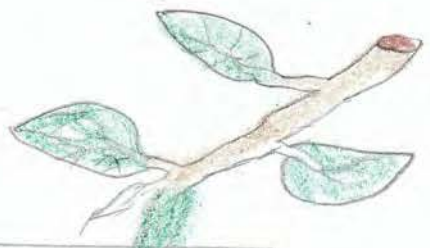


We concluded that it is difficult to clearly visualise what the kingdom will be like, because our hearts and minds at present are limited and restricted, finite. Whereas God's mind is infinite. However, it's been very good for us to open our minds to discuss together and ignite these thoughts within our hearts.

Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.


Psalm 72



By Rosie

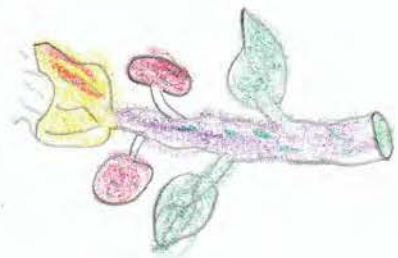
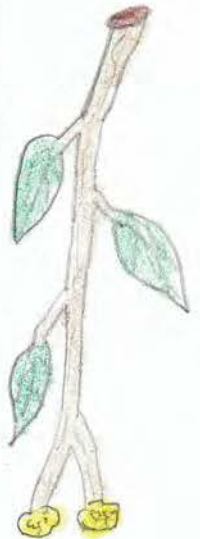


COUNTRY LIVING



"I tell you the truth,
Anyone who doesn't receive the
kingdom of God like a
child will never enter it? Then
he took the children in his
arms and placed his hands on
their heads and blessed them."

⇒ Mark 10:15-16



My Desire

Spanish/Español:

"Estando en el juicio, estará primeramente Jesus", ante su padre y nosotros, abogando por nuestras acciones erradas que cometimos aquí en la tierra; Dios nuevamente en su gran misericordia escuchará su hijo, para perdonar nuestras acciones; nosotros con gran arrepentimiento pediremos a Dios ser verdaderos colaboradores de su hijo para participar junto a él.

En la vida actual, el conocer de su historia, obras y enseñanzas que entregó cuando vino por primera vez; me emociona saber, escuchar y aprender que pasó tantas pruebas y siempre las superó poniendo sus ojos en Dios, sus acontecimientos nos ayuda a levantar nuestra cabeza y enfrentar adversidades que día a día vivimos! ... ¡Conocer y vivir en la creación de Dios cada día! ¡Conocer y aprender su Palabra es una emoción nueva! ¡Es la fuerza que nos empuja! ¡Es una energía pura! ¡Que gratificante es su sabiduría! Si su creación ya es bella, la naturaleza, sus paisajes, el cielo, el universo, sus ríos, lagos y mares, el canto de las aves, el sonido de los árboles, el viento que sopla ... ¿cuanto más bello será el Reino de Dios ... con la venida de su hijo Jesus?

Mi deseo: ser digna de participar en su Reino, junto a su hijo amado.

English:

"There at the judgment will be Jesus first", before his Father and us. There he will be, mediating for our wrong actions that we committed here on this earth. God will again in His great mercy hear His Son, to forgive our actions, and with great repentance we will ask God to be true collaborators with His Son to participate together with Him. In life now, to know of his story, his works, his teachings that he gave when he came for the first time, it excites me to know, hear, and learn that he went through so many trials and always overcome them putting his eyes on God, the events in his life help us lift our heads and confront the adversities that each day we live! ...To know and live in the creation of God each day! To know and learn his Word is a new emotion! It's the strength that drives us! It's a pure energy! How great is His wisdom!

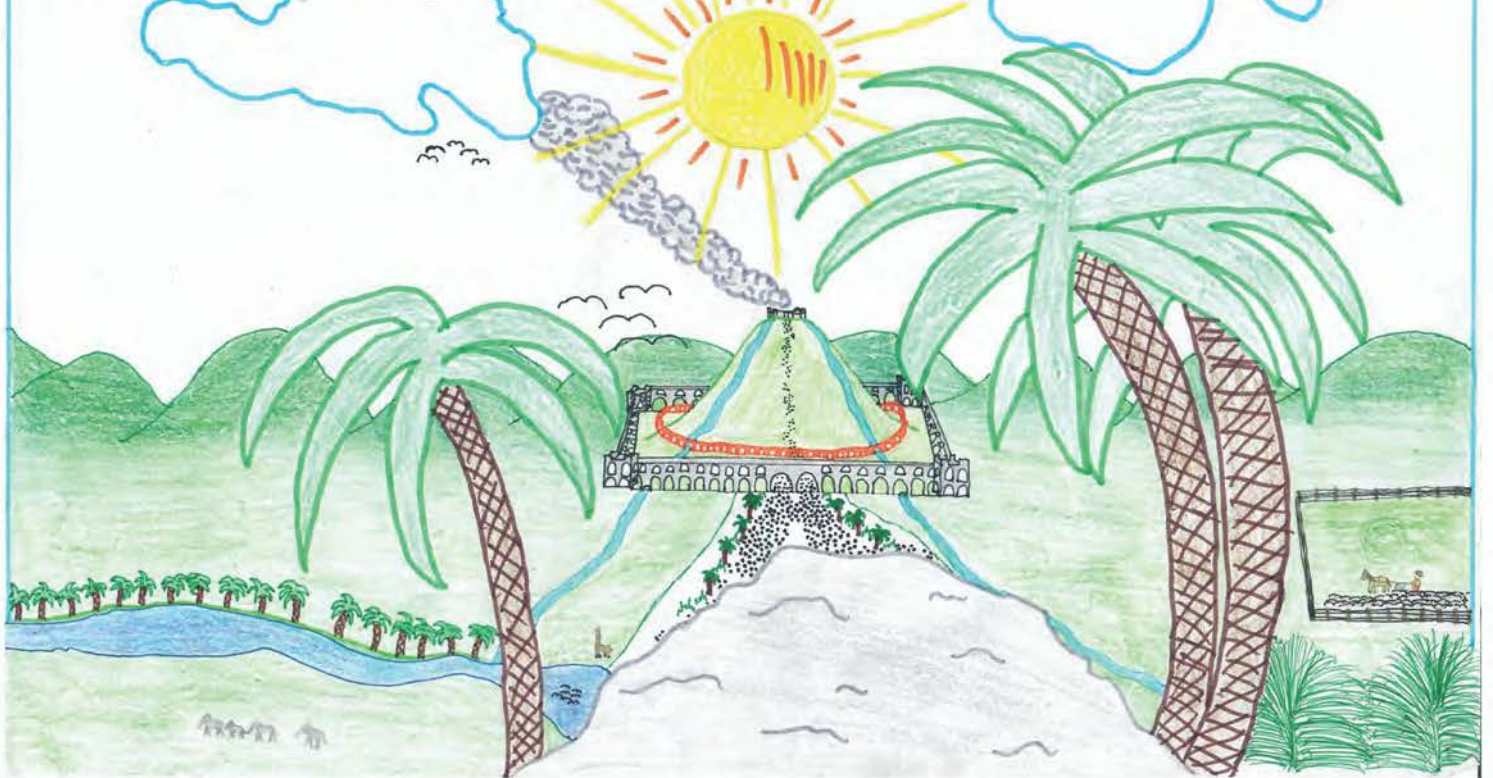
If His creation now is so beautiful, the nature, the landscapes, the sky, the universe, the rivers, lakes, the seas, the birdsong, the sound of the trees, the wind that breathes ... how much more beautiful will the Kingdom of God be ... when Jesus, His Son, returns?

My desire: to be worthy to participate in His Kingdom, together with His beloved Son.

Antonella Rossel
Santiago,
Chile 29 August 2020

Antonella is an interested friend currently under tuition.

I am standing on a high rock near Mt Zion looking at all the people from around the world coming up to the temple to worship. When I look down I can see animals that used to be wild and people working in the fields. This land had once been dry, but it is now lush and green. Earlier in the day my family and I had visited Grandma in the beautiful temple grounds. She was busy teaching people about plants and gardening, so that they can teach the mortals.



By Heidi, age 12



The Early Years

"What if I don't want to be a king or a priest?"

I remember the question vividly. It took me by surprise.

"Well", I replied, "you can always be a doorkeeper."

"I didn't know that the temple has that many doors", and then, after a brief pause he added, "...and I imagine that all the pillars are also taken".

Sixty-five years have passed since that question was asked, and here is the answer.

Although it seems like yesterday, the Lord returned fifty years ago. It is easy now to see why one thousand years has been set aside for this project.

We love the temple, of course, and will make a visit to Jerusalem at every opportunity but we—that is to say our company—work in and around the city of Recife on the Atlantic coast of Brazil. We are kings and priests and doorkeepers, although there are no thrones, no crowns, no robes, no incense, and no doors. We order the life in this place and we bring people to and teach them about their King and Priest: Jesus.

Our company—these groups are called companies as were the divisions and courses that David ordered for the first temple service—has six hundred members. Many of those who were with the Lord at his coming were divided into these companies and sent around the world to do what we do here in Recife. Six hundred may sound like a lot of us, but Recife had a population of around four million when the Lord returned, and the province had about nine million in total. If you think that before the Lord returned it was normal to have two to three doctors for every thousand in the population, then six hundred working with four million is not a lot, even with the advantages of our new nature and not needing to sleep.

As we do, most cities have a twin city or region and a 'sister' company on the other side of the world with which we share resources. Ours is Sydney, Australia, and that is another story. Some may say 'the short straw'. At times, to meet a specific need, we will travel between these two cities working while it is day in each location to help meet a specific need. It can't be an everyday event as surprisingly we do need to rest and have time to process the things we experience.

The travel, however, is not a problem. It takes about five minutes to get from Recife to Sydney with the Atomic Zonal Tuning Sequence (AZOTUS). We call it 'philipping'. Most government travel is by this means. Additionally, representatives from around the world who must go to Jerusalem do so by the 'philip'. It doesn't take long for new things to become commonplace and this innovation in travel is now considered to be quite normal. Those from past centuries were more surprised at the 21st century practice of carrying a small box in the pocket via which people could talk to and see others all around the world, read the entire Bible, listen to and watch anything they wanted than they were with the 'philip'.

Recife was one of three hundred cities on earth that had one million or more inhabitants. Then there was the majority who lived outside of these cities in villages, towns, and smaller cities; all 7.8 billion of them. So, you can see that the task isn't trivial. Those of us who were alive at His

coming were more able to grasp the scale of things as we had already lived in this heavily populated world. Others from earlier times confessed that they were overwhelmed by the world into which they were raised from the dead.

The experience in Recife is broadly typical of what has happened around the world in regions more remote from the events of Armageddon. The impact on countries around Israel and in parts of Europe has required a different approach to the other areas. There are still parts of Europe that are strongly resistant of the new state of the world, and Israel's neighbours are working hard to understand their proximity to the world's new centre and their relationship with Israel. Recife, I would say, is a good example of what is happening in other locations. Certainly, there are differences of approach between countries that were Christian or Moslem, Hindu or secular, but generally the challenges are uniform.

Junior Ribeiro is a resident of Recife who lived through the immediate impact of Armageddon and witnessed what happened here before our company arrived. Junior is now a leader on the Recife Council, and I see him most days. He is faithful in his work and life and, together with his family, looks forward to participating in the full redemption when the time comes. He describes for us what happened in Recife:

I was young, twenty-three years old—and not so interested in what was going on in other parts of the world. I was Catholic every now and then. I believed in God and loved football. I had a son who lived with his mother and her family, which is where I spent most of my time. My work was anything and everything I could do along the beachfront for the tourists. Mainly, I sold day-trip packages.

When war broke out in Israel, things went from normal to chaotic in about one week. Normally, world events didn't impact so directly on Recife, however, this was different. The news from the Middle East was frightening, but even more frightening was when the news stopped. After just one week of dramatic news, the news feed about the war stopped. The same day we heard of dramatic earthquakes and other natural events around the world—there was plenty of news about those—but television just regurgitated the war footage from the last week and online we could find nothing new.

The evening of that day Recife was hit by a tidal surge. It wasn't really a tsunami but was certainly a consequence of an earthquake that we never felt. There were very few casualties, but the city itself would never be the same. The port was all messed up, bridges were made impassable, and services to the city—power and water—were cut. The airport runway remained under five hundred milimetres of water for weeks. Fortunately—as well as destroying many things in the city—the surge populated the rivers and lagoons behind the coast with a teeming mass of fish. Even before we understood what was going on, many in Recife saw this as a blessing from God. We ate fish a lot in the days that followed.

For three days we confronted the clean-up. By then, most mobile phones had run out of battery—the only power was at hospitals and any other location that had generators. During these three days, we learned that what we experienced in Recife was similar to the experiences all around Brazil, and in fact, around the world.

I was surprised that there wasn't more panic. Some looted, and the police and army tried to deal with that in the usual way. Apart from that, the cooperation and will to help was great. By day three the Recife State Government had come together in emergency and was beginning to coordinate efforts. The really unusual thing was how

this crisis became completely a local matter. Other cities had their own problems. It had become difficult to communicate between cities, and news from elsewhere was scarce and at times confusing.

Recife is a tropical city, so there was no hardship from the weather. However, everyone knew that the swamped state of the city could soon lead to disease spreading. Engineers immediately worked on restoring the water and sewerage systems, and hospitals were prioritised with supplies. As day four dawned, things were looking quite bleak.

It was the evening of the fourth day that rumours began to spread about the war in the Middle East. The State Government had received news—we were not exactly sure how—that the war was over. We heard that they had been sent the terms of a new order in a document with the odd name: "The Everlasting Gospel". Now, we all knew what the Gospel was—or so we thought—but this was something new to know. Over the next few days, this document was circulated to the people of Recife by the government who stated that it represented the new terms for their government and authority. The thing that struck a chord with me was the reference to "him that made the earth, the sea, and the fountains of water".

These three things had collided in Recife, and I supposed that the one who made these things could help us out of the situation in which we found ourselves.

It emerged later that the government had received a visit by representatives who had come from Israel. They spelled out in detail the direction in which the world was now going to head, and the responsibilities of governments around the world to the new authority in Jerusalem. When I say, 'in detail', I mean they explained that this was the Kingdom of God and Jesus was the King. There were so many questions about the other details—the practical details—that would follow later.

Fortunately, the government of Recife wisely decided to submit to this new order, which brought with it the assistance that we badly needed. Some areas simply sent the messengers away and said that they would let them know in due course. Others said that they couldn't answer before putting the question to the people. Not a few expressed outrage that their sovereignty was being surrendered, and gave the messengers an ultimatum to be left alone. A few took the messengers hostage and began formulating their own demands before that exercise proved futile.

Some areas had no government and already in such a short time groups had formed factions and were fighting for power. They saw the messengers as rivals and fought back.

It was complex.

The thing that really convinced many areas to work with the messengers and integrate into the new order was the speed with which such a great war was concluded, and the restoration of things had begun. The effect was immediate for those that cooperated, and very soon the decision was seen to be wise and correct. It is a shame that many areas held out and that even now—quite a few years on—there are still pockets of resistance to the King.

It was after the Recife Government had received the messengers so well that our company was

sent. Our immediate task was the clean-up, but what followed and is still happening and still has a long time to go is the biggest clean-up since Noah's flood: health, education, morality, justice, society, housing, art, responsibility, care, agriculture, natural resources, communication, economy. The list goes on.

You can probably imagine what was needed for the clean-up of Recife. We were there to assist in this; to provide the structures and to make sure that it happened in a right and just way that reflected the new order. As I mentioned, there were six hundred of us and we worked in dedicated teams.

Food and health were top of the list. Even within the week following the isolation of Recife, the government had managed to introduce adequate structures, and, in the short term, the immediate needs were generally being met. The fish that Junior mentioned were no coincidence. There was some resistance from troublemakers and people who just couldn't accept what was going on. The criminal gangs that had thrived in so many of Brazil's cities saw this as an opportunity to extend their influence, and they began collecting food and distributing it at the cost of money and allegiance. Local law enforcements tackled a lot of this but did require help from us at times. Sydney is a good example of how this initial stage of the restoration was more complex. There was a sharp distinction in the responses in Sydney: many people, as if by instinct, cooperated with the new order, but an equal number of the fiercely independent-minded Sydney-siders held out, and took years to get rid of their resentment at what had happened and their perception that their freedoms had been removed. Generally, in Sydney a change for good in this group has occurred over time through persuasion and teaching rather than force.

The bigger task, however, not only in Recife but everywhere, was putting together a longer-term plan for provisioning the population. This went hand in hand with housing, as the housing of millions of people in vertical concrete silos is not the objective of the Kingdom.

The complexity of the task doesn't allow for description here, but if you want an idea, think about what it would take to rearrange a city of four million people in a way that reflects the justice, righteousness, and objectives of the Kingdom. We are really still working on this transformation. Recife today bears little resemblance to the city on the day that the Lord returned. Most of the buildings of any great height have been removed, and many people have moved out into the State surrounding Recife and are engaged more often than not in the food industry or construction. Being tropical, the abundance of the land is astounding, and while some food products still come into the city through the port, the State is eighty-five percent self-sufficient in food.

One obvious challenge with this transition was the land and those who owned it. Throughout history landowners generally became upset when others came and took their land. However, it didn't take too long for the genius of the Adapted Jubilee System (AJS) to allow owners to see the mutual benefits of the expanded uses of their land. The AJS is a good example of the dedicated task of a subgroup of our company. There are twelve of us permanently on this project working with 1728 Recife locals divided into twelve area teams. The job is to negotiate landowner sign-up to the AJS, deal with land ownership injustices, maintain the land records, assign land to other teams for use, and manage land that is no longer needed. For example, if the agriculture team sees the need to expand a crop, they seek the land for that expansion through the AJS. It isn't always easy. Sometimes disputes arise and we need to suggest an imposed solution like chopping a building in half, which generally gets the message across to both parties. Then there are those whose concepts of ownership and personal wealth will never

change. They refuse to participate.

You can probably work out the measures needed to change that situation of which there are several ongoing cases, mainly in the more remote regions of the state.

And so, forty-three years into the project, we are looking at a long path ahead to perfect the transformation. Really, we have just got on top of some of the practical issues—the obvious ones. Now comes the hard stuff.

The Arts and Science are tremendous areas of development. Whether the changes that we have introduced are positive or not depends a lot upon the ability of people to understand that, just as the law of gravity is universal and constant on the earth, so are the laws of righteousness. Many have struggled to adapt to the concept that some previous choices and perspectives of life are wrong because they fall outside God's universal law of right. So, just as man had learned in the past that the balance and composition of the air surrounding the earth is critical to a stable and healthy planet and that certain emissions that once had been considered harmless were in fact toxic, so the same principle was being learned on a moral plane. There is a universal moral constant that God Himself has made clear, which ensures the stability and health of the planet. That health and stability is what we are working towards by eliminating the moral emissions that have over the centuries proved toxic and replacing them with ways that harmonise with God's universal laws. It is important to remember that we are not talking about simply cutting off large elements of human life and experience. When emissions from vehicles became a problem on earth before Jesus returned, the solution wasn't to eliminate the motor vehicle. It was to change the motor. The process is one of replacement and the Arts and Science are good areas of activity to illustrate this.

Humans are created by God in His image, so it is axiomatic that creativity and investigation are an essential part of our nature. There is no endeavour to eliminate these elements of life, but there has been a need to change the engine that drives them forward.

I work on the Arts Council in Recife, but I know that the MMCW (Measure, Mete, Comprehend, Weigh), which is the Science Pod here in Recife, is a thriving and exciting place. The researchers and developers can't stop making new discoveries and putting them to work in everyday life. These are shared around the world. There was the initial barrier in this department created by the inherited maxim in the scientific world: *There is no such thing as an intelligent creator*. Once researchers and scientists realised that rejecting that mantra would no longer hinder their endeavours, they flourished, and the newfound freedom of accepting and understanding that the non-material has a part to play in life has significantly expanded horizons. People still ask questions about the distant past and the mechanisms of the creation. The fossil record is still an area of investigation, but within new parameters.

The full story of the past has not been released to the world yet. There is enough work getting to grips with and understanding the last few thousand years, but now that it is understood that the One who related the events in Genesis knows what He is talking about, science has a very different starting point when it stares at an ancient fibula.

So, to the MJN (Make Joyful Noise), or Arts Council, where I work with 24 colleagues from the company, each with 144 locals under us. Junior is in my group. As I said earlier, creativity can't be eliminated. We don't want to eliminate it. In fact, it is encouraged but with a significantly smaller carbon footprint than it used to have and the ultimate objective of going fully electric—if I may be permitted to continue the metaphor. This is tricky, because the Arts have always gravitated to the fringe and have been seen as a vehicle for dissent and counterculture; a way to

poke at the status quo. The interpretive nature of art means that a simple painting of a butterfly trapped under a book can communicate a sinister message. I mention this because, in the early days of the new order, a well-known Brazilian artist painted a mural in Rio de Janeiro of a huge azure Amazonian butterfly, distressed and trapped under a black leather-bound book. No prizes were issued for guessing what his message was.

The task here wasn't to whitewash the wall. In fact, it is quite a pleasant mural and a vast improvement on what was underneath. The task here, as in every sphere, is to work on changing the interpretation. That artist named the mural, "The Last Page"; it now has the popular name, "Arise With Healing".

Let's be frank, there are times when we simply have to remove public artistic expression. It is sometimes simply bad and wrong. Sometimes it is just a gratuitous expression of unrighteousness. Some artists who have had work removed have made their point by producing works of the most treacly and naïve nature as a sort of anti-statement.

That is fine, and, in fact, some people enjoy them without finding the need to explore their contradictory intent.

There is a tremendous amount of new visual and performance art happening. It isn't all still life and landscapes. Often, it reflects on the trauma of the change in the world, and even more often it communicates the personal struggle some have had in engaging with the new ways. However, increasingly, there is an expression of joy and future vision as artists become less dependent on contradiction to find meaning. Every day more art emerges that describes the Kingdom and elevates the King.

We see the same pattern in music. Brazil has a great musical tradition, which lives on. However, in the early days, music and song was a great vehicle for expressing dissent. One of the most popular songs among the younger generation was called "*Alt-Straight Ahead*" and expressed sentiments like:

*I don't want another mother
I'd rather have the other;
Not gonna clean my room again.*

It sounds better when sung, and even better when sung in Portuguese. Fortunately, the project of the Kingdom has plenty of time, and as everyone has discovered at some stage in their life, you can only live in a messy room for so long before you want it tidied up. There wasn't just one single answer to a song like this. The process of reformation through all avenues of life has now—fifty years on—made this song a quaint oddity of those early days.

One of the big factors in the way the world of music changed was the demise of mass communication through the Internet. So, just as bad ideas could no longer race around the world in seconds, nor could music. Music, once again, became a local art.

The elimination of the vast forum of the Internet was a very important factor in the change. In a way, it collapsed under its own weight as infrastructure failed, however, its demise was encouraged. After some initial withdrawal symptoms, it became clear to all that it was more useful worrying about stuff in your own street than what was going on in someone else's. The transformation was actually quite dramatic over the space of just a year, or so. People began looking straight ahead again when they walked down the road, were no longer expert on everything, and formed opinions through more conventional means. The physical public forum

is once again thriving, and large numbers regularly attend discussions on a vast range of topics. The treasure trove that was the Internet hasn't been lost. The archives are still there and accessible, but just not at every waking moment of every day.

Music has captured the relief at regaining use of the thumbs in the popular song "Offline" that parodies some of the outcomes that internet users remember:

*My thousand friends come running every time I shout
But when they have to pay themselves, I never see them out*

One verse in particular expresses well the absurd way in which communication apps used to mix the important with the trivial until there was no difference:

*I really want to let you know, hey, that's a funny cat
I care I do, but tell me first who on the left is that?
I want to help, if only, yes—three nil at half time
You care enough to tell me, at your house or mine?*

Time would fail me—to quote a phrase—to tell even a fraction of the many and varied stories in the arts around Recife. Imagine, then, if we were to explore the other areas I have mentioned. The big ones of education, law enforcement, worship, transport, health, economics, language. And, then, imagine the stories and experiences right around the globe!

The last two—economics and language—are tasks which serve to reinforce the model for the overall approach to the way forward and, perhaps, a good place to conclude. Both language and currency work in a parallel system, with the new working alongside the old, with the eventual objective of a transition. The universal language that the majority on earth can now speak—or, at least, understand—is the *Pure Tongue* (sometimes also called the *Third Tongue*, as it is third in the line following Ancient and Modern Hebrew.) Portuguese is still used all the time in Recife—the two languages work hand in hand, and probably will continue to do so in the foreseeable future, and, as has always been the case with language, the two contribute to each other. *Shalom* is now the greeting people use when speaking Portuguese, and a *feijoa* is always a *feijoa* in any language. What the Third Tongue does provide is the remedy to the confusion that can exist between languages. The elimination of this confusion is one of the objectives of the Kingdom.

Currency follows the same model. There is still the Brazilian currency, the Real, but, like all currencies now, it is strictly pegged to the Shekel. This provides an economic stability that makes the Gold Standard look precarious. The whole system works very differently from the former days, and is underpinned by what they call the TBP, or True Balance Principle, but you would need to speak with someone from accounts for an explanation. Then again, you might not. There are whole companies that work with the international economy—it turns out that quite a few of us were accountants back in the old world and, surprisingly, eager to continue in this work.

Those things that were strongly antipathetic and hostile to the Kingdom have followed an inevitable path. Everything else has a thousand years or so to adapt, and some facets of life are going to need every year. This has been a tiny insight into just one city on the Atlantic coast of Brazil. The story is diverse and multiple.

It can't be told; it must be lived.



In the Kingdom we will be able to play soccer all day. We can play soccer against David and the mighty men.

By Lukas, age 7



By Gabe Lloyd

A GLIMMER

When I'm asked about my vision of the Kingdom, I hesitate. This is not because I don't have hope, but because I don't think we have the mental tools to understand the depth and breadth of what the Kingdom will be like. I think that Paul, in his vision of the "third heaven", comes some way to talking about that. It is "other-worldly". I think that Paul was not reading the vision he talked about based on his present understanding as a starting point, but rather, he was simply "taken" there. We are told by him, that eyes, ears, and heart can't even begin to understand what God hath prepared for them that love him.

Having said that, we do have small snippets of details that populate my vision. Things like vines and fig trees; lions and lambs; children and snake holes; nations and tools; crops and mountains; all nations and the Jews. These things have to do with the millennium and they're excellent, but then, there is a deeper level. Beyond these, what?

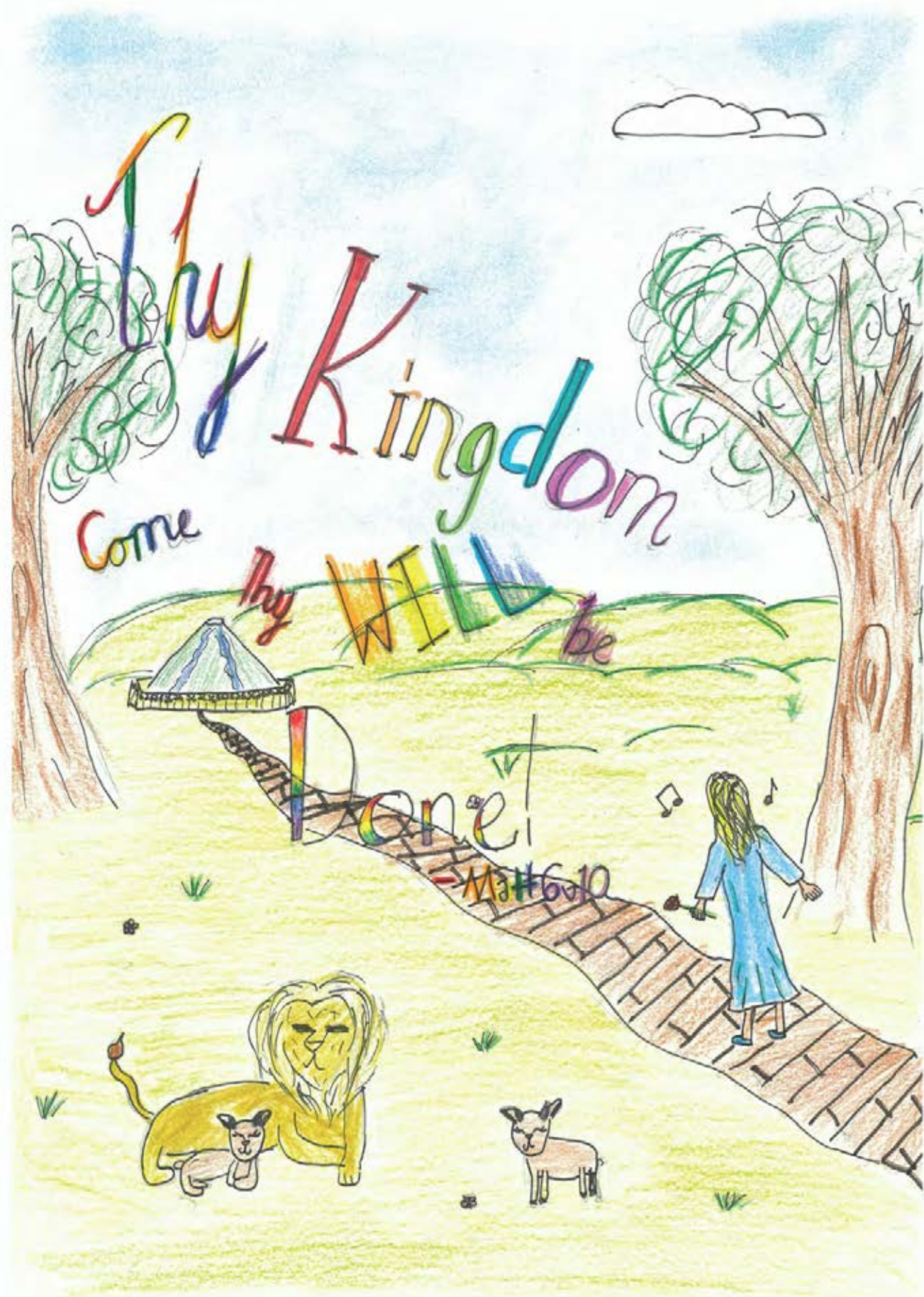
I think that what we experience now are like tiny specks of light that give us a small glimmer of what comes next. What I mean is that our experiences now are a hint of the future.

So, when we share the love of a lifetime together in marriage, or close relationships, this gives us a tiny bead of light of what we will be experiencing in the future, albeit with every other saint, and without hindrance. We will be completely understood and we, ourselves, will understand one other's thoughts and feelings just like we do with those we know intimately. This must be the way God is working with the saints in preparation now. We know that He is the original source of our own emotions, since we are modelled on Him. It is not just relationships. I think that the whole spectrum of our thoughts and feelings will be amplified, when we are no longer held back by mortality.

So, I look forward to being interconnected with every other saint, from any time, with the angels, with Jesus and, ultimately, with God Himself. Don't ask me about the details, but it's my vision.



By Aliyah, age 6, flying in the Kingdom



What does the Bible say?

"Tell us Aunty. What does the Bible say about this new king in Israel?"

I am sitting under a tall tree at the edge of the village with a group of women. They are dressed poorly, their clothes clean, though threadbare from constant use. Small children chasing a grey ball tumble together in the dust nearby, watched by a skinny brown dog lazing in the morning sunshine.

What a joy it is to be able to answer this question—to share the good news of the kingdom and the name of Jesus with these poor villagers. Their lives are full of hardship and ceaseless toil, but that just makes my job all the sweeter.

"Psalm 72", I say, "is a great place to start."

He delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

Those on the margins of society are usually the ones who suffer the most. The widows, the orphans, the disabled, the derelict, the landless. Sometimes their situation is a result of their own poor choices, but sometimes they are just victims of circumstances beyond their control—epidemics, disease, famine, abuse, alcoholism, cheating families, corrupt governments. These women belong to the ranks of those who are considered too needy and require too many resources. Their leaders are more likely to take advantage of them than to provide assistance.

*He has pity on the weak and needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.
He defends the cause of the poor of the people, gives deliverance to the children of the needy, and crushes the oppressor.*

"But Aunty," a thin young woman leans towards me, her voice soft and hesitant. "That is very nice for the poor people in Israel, but what about the poor in India?"

*He will have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
All kings will fall down before him, all nations serve him.*

Her eyes take on a soft glow of appreciation.

"That's all very well", interrupts an old woman sitting opposite. Her careworn face is deeply lined. "The day the government of this country bows down before a foreign king—and a Christian one at that—is the day pigs fly and I am a rich woman, both of which are impossibilities!"

I gaze out at the parched, brown landscape and know that the government's refusal to bow down before the Lord Jesus Christ is the cause of the crop failure this year. It hasn't rained here since he set up his throne in Jerusalem.

"Anyway," she continues. "We don't need any foreign king to rule over us. It's bad enough to have to suffer under our own corrupt politicians and their empty promises without having to import someone else's ruler. We just need another Mahatma Gandhi."

"But they shot him!" counters the woman next to her. "That's the problem with government ministers. In the unusual event that you get an honest one, they don't last—someone assassinates them, or they get sick and die. But they don't last. The rest of the time the politicians are all the same. They're all dishonest liars and only look after themselves. And they're more interested in rich people than in poor people! If you had money, they might listen to you. But we're poor, so we don't have a voice."

"Well it's worse for me", grumbles the old woman. "I'm a widow, so I wouldn't have a man to speak for me even if I were rich."

These women are surely in need of some good news! And Oh, what a privilege to explain to them that King Jesus is immortal, so there is no danger of assassination, that he won't get old and die, and then be succeeded by some second-rate king.

To explain that Jesus is the Son of the only true and living God and is just like his Father in nature and personality, that he is reigning on his Father's behalf and will always do the right thing—especially for the poor widows. He is honest and true and will rule justly and fairly just as God has always done.

To lead them to an understanding of the only God that actually exists—all the multitude of gods they grew up with merely being a figment of men's imaginations and images of all that is worst in man.

To assure them that Jesus' kingdom will certainly grow to fill the whole earth, and even India will be part of it, because the God who promised this ALWAYS keeps his promises, so their government will be forced to yield to the king. Then the rains will return, and their crops will grow.

To show them that they are now living in the most blessed days of earth's history. There is a good and kind king who cares about every single one of His subjects right down to the poorest widow or orphan. He is bringing peace and healing to the whole earth—on the grand scale that means solving poverty, pollution, global warming, curing pandemics, bringing peace to all international borders, and an end to wars. At a personal level, that means healing the sick, wholeness for the disabled—and He promises to wipe away all our tears.

To also show them that he is willing to save them from themselves—from the inner turmoil of hatred, unkindness, fear, bitterness, impatience, unfaithfulness, self-indulgence, and jealousy—and to transform them by the renewing of their minds by his word. And how can he do this when they are so undeserving?

Exodus 34

The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty

Though these women, like all mortals, will be better acquainted with the opposite qualities in themselves and other people—being unmerciful or quick-tempered, keeping hatred or being unfaithful or unforgiving—yet they are called to a new and living way.

To be holy because God is holy.

To produce the spiritual fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control.

To see their eyes grow wide in wonder and realise that the God who made heaven and earth, made them also, and that He loves them and wants them to be part of His plan to fill the earth with the goodness that He is.

Psalm 146

*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
Who keeps faith forever,
Who executes justice for the oppressed and who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free;
The LORD opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the sojourners;
He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!*

THE Infant will Play near the cobras den, and the young child shall
put his hand into the vipers nest.

ISAIAH
11 v 8



THE KINGDOM IS
LIKE A MERCHANT
LOOKING FOR
PEARLS.



But seek ye first
the kingdom of
God, and his
righteousness, and
all these things
shall be added
unto you.



My Kingdom Vision

I have always been of the mind that I don't need to envision the Kingdom in a lot of detail because we don't know what exactly it will be like, or the exact process in which the world we live in now will be developed and changed. With any specific ideas I might have, I don't want there to be room for any kind of disappointment to come into my mind or be felt in my heart. I want to have ideas and understand the goals and visions God laid down for us with His son, but in a more whole and heartfelt way that leaves only room for wonder and amazement, questions, and reflections.

When I imagine myself being changed from mortal into immortal, I imagine my brain being able to now comprehend what living forever really means. I imagine my heart being still alive and beating because the feelings it evokes when we are overcome with emotion are amazing and that feeling is so important. I imagine myself overflowing with joy, wonder, and amazement at even seeing Christ, whole, and walking in front of me. Without these emotions being still evoked in us, we cannot comprehend what the rest of the body changes will be like, but I imagine our senses being a whole lot sharper and clearer. People who had trouble seeing or walking or who had any kind of physical hindrance will be experiencing a remediation.

I will be coming from wherever I am in my life when Christ returns, and that will remain unknown until then. We are going to Jerusalem, and there will be people from all over the world and from times past there with us. I cannot imagine how we are getting there. Is it immediate? A snap of the fingers? A voyage that takes time? The acceptance I will feel for and by these people is something I am really looking forward to; people with their differences, their backgrounds, their everything, all united with the same goal. I imagine these nations flowing to the temple to praise God. I imagine myself just falling to my knees in gratitude and praise, speechless, but with a full heart. I love this verse:

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone"
(Ephesians 2:19-20).

I am excited to see those people who I have lost in my life, especially my grandad who was always such a huge part of my life. I want to see him walking free again, greeting me with the biggest hug, and hearing him call me sweetheart like he would when we saw each other. Seeing again the people we love is one of the most amazing things.

I want to be able to experience being in an environment that is as beautiful and lush as the Garden of Eden was described to be. I would imagine that, when we are called to Jerusalem, the weather will be perfect, there will be plants growing everywhere, and there will be people talking together everywhere. I have never been to Jerusalem and will be seeing a culture and environment that is completely new to me! I want to be able to interact with animals we've always deemed as dangerous—I want to lay down with the lions and swim with the sharks.

When I get the chance to encounter a Bible character, I imagine myself at a loss for words. I imagine seeing someone like Esau and thinking, "Wow, he really was a hairy man", or seeing someone like Esther and thinking, "Wow, she really was a beautiful woman, full of confidence". When I get the chance to encounter Christ, I feel like a

handshake is the go-to, but a hug is in order. I will not know what to say other than, "Thank you"—full of so much gratitude. I imagine these characters in their robes and clothing that we see them depicted within Bible story books or paintings. I've wondered about the languages we all know and speak; how will we understand each other? I imagine that with the changes our bodies will go through that we will be able to have conversations with everyone with ease.

I am in school to become a teacher, and that is something I find passion in doing, but I find it hard to imagine myself as a teacher of the nations when the Kingdom is established. I want to be working with children all my life, surrounded by their enthusiasm, and if this is what I can continue doing, I will love it. I imagine that I will be taught by Christ to better include things such as leadership, guidance, inclusion, empathy, care, kindness, love, selflessness, obedience, humility, meekness, and more in my practice of teaching. There is a verse that I love that reminds me of this: Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"* (Matthew 19:14).

I am also in awe of nature all the time, so, if I can help to restore the earth to how it should be, I will love that, too.

The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

(Zechariah 14:9)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(Colossians 1:13-14)

May the return of Christ and the coming of the Kingdom be soon!

By Eve

In The Kingdom
The Lion And The Lamb Will
Lie Together.?



Our Kingdom Vision- looking through a keyhole or window on a scene when Christ has returned



Changes

Somewhere along the Atlantic Coast of West Africa, I wade through the expansive wetlands long degraded by decades of pollution and destruction. Oil slicks lap around my knees as rafts of plastic bob amongst the mangroves. In the distance, columns of acrid black smoke rise, the remnants of a city, which, like all the cities the world over, is now a dried husk of its former glory—first destroyed by a series of earthquakes, now overrun with desperation and violence. The great earthquakes were not just a local event. They rolled across the face of the earth—the final powerful contraction brought about the birth of a new age.

Amidst the burning ruins, bands of survivors—armed and desperate—roam, scavenge, and pillage what little remains in search of food, water, and fuel, willing and able to kill, their minds clinging to that world that has passed away—a world where people struggled against themselves for power and wealth. But now, an alternative reality has been laid out for the first time, plain for those with eyes to see and ears to hear.

On the outskirts of the city, amongst the marshes and wetlands—long abused, mismanaged, destroyed, and polluted—sits a small village of mud huts; a community set apart from the violence and vanity of former times; a restful, peaceful place of learning and healing. A community of vulnerable people quickly growing in health and spirit.

We have been living along the west African coast for several months. Travelling, teaching, and working to build the world that Christ has returned to rule. Jesus Christ has revealed himself to the world, destroying the armies that came from the north against Israel. Our King has sent us throughout the earth to begin his work of restoring God's garden, and teaching and healing the family He created to live there with Him.

The local people were initially desperate, fearful, hungry, sick, and dying. Those that accepted the intervention that Jesus offered were no longer fearful and continued to learn and gain in health and spirit. Full of optimism and hope as they started to understand what monumental change was occurring, not just within their own community and local environment, but all across the world as the hearts and minds of people were exposed first-hand to the judgement, wisdom, power, and love of the Son of God.

These people are no different than they were before Christ's return, but now, the scales are falling from their eyes to see the goodness and grace that God Almighty presents to them in His Son Jesus, who has revealed himself as King of the Earth. Their understanding and faith grows quickly as the seed of the Gospel is planted, watered, and sprouts towards the light of the world.

In the beginning, these people, like all people on earth without the hope of Christ's return, were forlorn and hopeless as they saw their way of life implode into a vacuum void of compassion, full of darkness, and ruled by chaos, confusion, and destruction. But many responded quickly to the help and the message that was delivered to them. Soon, a robust community of God-fearing people founded on the principles of the gospel had emerged in place of the desolate city that once stood nearby, still overrun by those who clung to the ideals of the former world, unwitting prisoners of their own fleshly passions.

All day every day we talk with those willing to listen while we work, in whichever language they prefer. We talk about what the world was like before and what changes have occurred since Jesus' return. But mostly, we talk about the restoration that is happening and how they can be part of it, both as individuals—by the renewing of their hearts and minds—and as part of the wider healing of the natural world.

Being unconstrained by mortality and the weakness of the flesh, we have the Word of God imprinted on the forefront of our minds, with an answer always ready. Like our king in Jerusalem, we are able to unlock the wisdom and power of the Word of God to change the hearts and minds of people from that of a self-serving beast to that of an obedient Son or Daughter of God.

We are working to ease the suffering of the locals, to expose them to God's will and purpose, and spread the news of Christ's return and the true meaning of the horrific things they have seen and endured.

We teach the gospel while we work. Our work, guided by the Spirit, is to support and accelerate the natural processes to restore the natural environment to its Eden state so that the world's ecosystems might start to heal from the damage imposed from millennia of man's sin. We clear waste from the polluted wetlands. We run a nursery and replant the wetlands, mangroves, and rainforests that have long been degraded or destroyed. We teach sustainable subsistence living; each family has their own garden to tend and the fruit of their labour is abundant. We also prepare the locals for their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship Jesus, the king of the earth.

I first saw Jesus on his judgement seat. He looked like a man, but different. Unbound by mortality, unaffected by sin, and with a measure of wisdom, power, and love I could not conceive. We had a deep and difficult discussion about my life. It was exhaustive, but at the same time fleeting and difficult to describe to a mortal person—as if we were unbound by time. Jesus revealed to me things about me and my view of the world. He opened my eyes, my heart, and my mind—I now understand so much more. But I have found, as I interact with the other saints, my learning is not complete, and I continue to understand more about the God's Truth, His work in the lives of others—past and present—and the beauty of the Gospel, the law, and the fulfilment of prophecy, which continues to play out day-by-day. We share stories and laugh and cry without malice or sadness, we eat bread and drink wine without mortal need or greed, we work tirelessly and perfectly, not out of necessity, but out of desire. Fatigue, illness, pain, procrastination, and anxiety we understand but are no longer subject to. So, we are ably prepared to work with the mortal population with empathy, love, and longsuffering—just as our Lord showed in his first ministry.



Able to pat dangerous Animals. BY Georgia



Kingdom

I am excited to see people in the Bible
and friends and family I have never seen before!
We will have eternal life! ♥♥
I am excited for everything!!!



Developing questions and growing curiosity, from prophetic gems in God's Word.

Our Heavenly Father shares with us some beautiful images—scattered throughout His Word like scriptural gemstones—that give an insight into His coming kingdom on earth. The thing that intrigues me is that, over the years, the questions I have about these verses have changed, the image they present in my mind has altered, and my curiosity about His coming kingdom is also sharper as a result. I have come to see this as a positive thing, a necessary and important consequence of reading, listening to others, meditating, and prayer. Our vision, our hope, and our longing for the future gets stronger, and yet it can never be fully complete or accurate...until one day we are there and will see the realisation of every detail, every gem of prophecy, and so much else alongside it. We now see through a glass darkly, but then we will see face to face. "Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor 13:12).

We can read a verse many times and then suddenly, one day, a new aspect of it, a question, an insight, leaps out at us. Sometimes it is as a result of conversation with a brother or sister, or listening to a Bible address, and we are helped thereby to see a whole new aspect or meaning. We might come to realise a passage has an echo in another part of Scripture, and the context there gives us richer detail or insight. This is a richness we can experience daily, with many parts of Scripture, so we should not be concerned that it also occurs with aspects of the Bible that involve the coming Kingdom. While there are some important cornerstones that we share, such as that God's Kingdom will be on earth, reigned over by His son the Lord Jesus Christ, from Jerusalem, we should not be concerned that there are many details we cannot be dogmatic about. Our personal Kingdom vision ebbs and flows, and will differ in some ways from the brother or sister sitting next to us, yet communicating and reflecting on these together can help and inspire us; we should never stop talking about these things, but rather learn from each other and strive to be always learning. Our vision of the Kingdom is not a fixed, lifeless thing; it cannot be if we are "lively stones". I see it as a continuation of the way we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:2), that our vision of the Kingdom, our questions about it, and our curiosity and longing for it, develop over time, and do not stop doing so until we stop breathing.

To give an example from my own life: I have for some time been fascinated by the verse in Micah 4:4, "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree". I thought it depicted a kingdom where agriculture is simplified, food is not dependent on multi-national companies. We are told elsewhere that they shall not build, and another inhabit, so I put them together: the mortal population have their own house, on their own piece of land, growing their own food. But I have since found that the expression is also found in 1 Kings 4:25 about Solomon's reign: "And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon."

So, the verse is to do with safety and peacefulness, and the context in Micah emphasises this (in verse 3, swords are beaten into plowshares, they are not learning war any more). This is a Kingdom citizen who has been freed from military concerns, as was typified by the Jewish farmers of Solomon's time. But, for me, it also brings questions. For example, is this citizen also to be freed from back-breaking work with weeds and pests that we

would consider normal...is that gone? It was introduced as part of the curse in the Garden of Eden, after all, and he is sitting under the tree, which is a picture of relaxation rather than toil!

Recently, I have become more interested in the last part of the verse: "...and none shall make afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it". Is that still only talking about the farmer having no war to go to? I don't think so. I wonder if it is saying that we can look forward to a time when we and the mortal population will no longer have any fear—about anything. What an incredibly beautiful time that would be to live and experience. In my vision of the Kingdom, God no longer allows people to hurt one another in any kind of violence or steal from one another. That might be what we are used to in the Kingdom of Men, but this will be the Kingdom of God, and His Spirit will be once again evident throughout the earth in a miraculous and completely undeniable way. Christ was able, in the Spirit, to see what men and women thought, what they had done, what they were about to say and do; perhaps, part of our job, or that of the angels, might be to disallow unnecessary mortal harm. Or, perhaps the consequences will be such that they will learn they cannot get away with it.

Our Lord will be the wisest and most compassionate leader the world has ever known. He will come down like rain on the mown grass. His reign will be one of peace and glory—the perfect realisation of the type Solomon imperfectly portrayed in his reign many centuries before (1 Kings 9:3; Isaiah 9:6,7). Yet, we are also told that Christ will rule with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9 and Revelation 2:26).

Even if you believe this rod to be a shepherd's protective rod, in biblical times a shepherd's rod was used to protect the flock from wolves. Psalm 2 shows that the rod is used to break in pieces those who rebel against the Lord Jesus Christ and his Father's Kingdom by trying to take or restore their own worldly power. The rod is not to make fearful those who are trying peacefully to serve the Lord. Just like the times recorded when Christ drove the moneychangers from the temple, or spoke with strong rebuke to the religious rulers, his anger in the Kingdom will, I believe, be for His Heavenly Father's sake. His rod will be against those who are hungry for their own power and glory and who would oppress others to get it, not against those who humbly seek to give God the glory due to Him (see also Psalm 72:4). I think it is likely that this initial rebellion will be short-lived. When God's fury comes up in His face (Ezek 38:18), when He goes forth and fights against those nations "as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zech 14:3), who can stand?

At the end of the thousand years, there could be a great number of people living on the earth, living sustainably. God, in His grace, wants as many to be saved as would come to Him, and I can see no reason why this would change in the Kingdom. When I was thinking about Psalm 72:16, which speaks of the corn growing on the mountaintops, I realised this verse might not only be an indication of a beneficial change in climate, but also a hint of very careful planning, where every space is used to provide food for a huge mortal population who are learning to know and love their Creator.

Another question I have been thinking about recently: Will there be money in the Kingdom? Christ told us we cannot serve both God and mammon. Money was almost pointedly missing in his life and ministry; when used in his teaching, it was from the fish's mouth, or borrowed for a lesson. The love of money is the root of all evil, we are told. How could such a system be a part of God's Kingdom? Is it possible the entire

mortal population of the planet could exist under a kibbutz-like system, where everyone does their own appointed job, and all resources are shared? (See also Isaiah 23:18, a reference to goods shared by Tyre.) The implications are interesting to think about, but, of course, it is impossible to know.

What we can be sure of regarding these and many other questions is that the Lord Jesus Christ will know what is best. He will know what is righteous, what is just, what is peaceful, what is merciful, and everything that is necessary. I have become deeply curious to see how he does it and what he does, and with God's grace I would love to be of use to him in some way as our dear Lord sets up his Father's Kingdom.

In essence, our vision of the Kingdom is alive and being shaped, as we are alive and being shaped by our compassionate Heavenly Father into vessels that will be useful to Him in that day. Our curiosity about the Kingdom is just one aspect that helps guide us towards it, but I believe, it is something He wants us to nurture. We are told that the reward, the crown of righteousness, will be given to "all them also that love his appearing"(2 Tim 4:8). Thinking and talking about the Kingdom can help us to be ready and truly welcome our Lord with every part of our being when he calls us upon his return.

We are given scriptural gems that point forward to the joy and peace that will characterise the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the meantime, we are told to be like children, and I think the essence of this instruction is that we must trust, as children do. Like children, we do not know all the answers, but we trust that our Heavenly Father will provide and care for us. Our personal vision of the Kingdom might not be perfect, or complete, or 100% accurate, but it is crucial that we have one, and often ponder it and allow God to mould it into shape. This is to the end that we each become a temple in which He can dwell, and so eventually be part of the glory of the Lord which will cover the earth.

BY EBONY-ROSE

The Kingdom!



BIBLE



Lots of food!



Children playing in the streets of Jerusalem!



The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpents food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain
Isaiah 65:25

IN THE kInDoM every thing will be GOOD.





YOUR KINGDOM COME

(Sung to the tune of Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen)

VERSE 1

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done,
When all the earth will praise Your Son.
There'll be no sin or war for evermore.
The blind shall see, the deaf shall hear,
The lame shall leap high as the deer.
The dumb shall sing for joy ... in Your Kingdom!
In Your Kingdom! Praise and glory,
In Your Kingdom, Halle-lu-jah.

VERSE 2

O God of Heav'n and earth and sea,
All praise and glory be to Thee.
With earth restored as far as eye can see.
To-ge-ther with the saints of old,
We'll watch the joy and peace unfold.
The lion and the lamb ... feed together.
In Your Kingdom! Praise and glory.
In Your Kingdom. Halle—lu—jah.

A time of peace is coming

Isaiah 11



contribution from Matumaini Childrens Home, Kenya

In the Kingdom people will all have food and water
happiness, faithfulness, faith, trust and mostly Believe
and everyone will be smiling also will have hope
people will be happy to see their family and
friends who they never got to see or meet people
we will all have friends and they will have a loving
life!



TOGETHER
FOR EVER



Vision of the Kingdom 2019

Every evening we did our Readings. Every Sunday we went to the meeting. We travelled to fraternals, Bible schools, and camps where possible. Our faith was so important to us back then, before Jesus came back. We prayed for the Kingdom to come and for the return of Jesus. Sometimes it seemed real; other times just a background kind of thing going on in the normal hum-drum way of life. The year John, my brother, died, it seemed real. That was back in 2011. Then, the next year, in 2012, we were back in the UK for a family visit when Liz's nan suddenly fell asleep whilst we were there. Then mum died in 2014. All those deaths, standing around gravesides; our hope was real, back then. Then life continued again as normal.

Until one cold winter's night, we were around the fire; it was a howling storm outside, a night that no-one should have been about. After we'd done the Readings, we heard a knock on the door. We looked at each other, surprised. I opened the door, and before me was a man I vaguely recognised. As he spoke, I could not immediately put a name to his face—but, as he continued the penny dropped. It was my dad, who I had not seen since I was eight years old. A shiver went down my spine and I went cold all over. I opened my mouth to talk but no words came out. And I finally realised, that Jesus had come back. Finally, after all this time, for real. Then I saw John was also around in the background urging me and my family to come with them to Jerusalem to meet Jesus. I called Liz, got Kauri, and we were off. It seemed like a dream—an exciting one—not sure it was really happening. But it was ...

I met my Lord Jesus—finally! It was so surreal. But then, everything felt surreal. I remember approaching him, falling at His feet before him and just thanking him over and over again for all He had done for me. I think I may have been crying then, too, with excitement and anticipation. Then I felt a hand on my shoulder, and He lifted me to my feet. And He just smiled with such a compassionate smile. Then He put His arm around me and welcomed me as His brother. I didn't feel equal to this title—no, I felt so inadequate, really. But He reassured me, and I felt a great sense of love, peace, and thankfulness. I think I was still crying.

Later on, after my Lord Jesus' judgement, we met with Mum, who could now see properly. Jesus had healed her blindness and she was busy inspecting the flowers, marvelling at their beauty and colour—something she'd not been able to do properly before. She looked at Kauri properly for the first time in so many years and she wept with joy. She was also finally with Dad again, laughing with him in sheer delight. She had so missed him back in mortal times, and now her faithful patience was rewarded.

Looking around, I noticed that everyone else had a smile on their face, beaming for joy, too. Joy reflected in the light of God's glory. I sensed an atmosphere of peace, love, joy, harmony, security, and satisfaction that NOW the divine work was truly underway. We'd read about this so many times in Scripture, but how I so underestimated what this would really feel like. It was wonderful.

John and I were drafted in to help Bezaleel and his team work on building the new temple. We were in charge of the intricate hand-crafted timber work, skills learned back in mortal times, now being put to good use. This temple work took many years—I was

building for the glory of my God, in a temple that all nations came to worship at. This was such a privilege.

When the temple was finished and people came to worship, I met some of those I had read about in Scripture so many times over. It was awesome to see them. They had been sent out to preach throughout earth to convince the mortal population of Jesus' return, and they returned to Jerusalem from time to time to report back to my Lord Jesus.

I met Joseph and felt overawed in his presence. But he was down-to-earth and asked me about my previous trials. I said he had been an inspiration to me back in mortal times, reading about him and what he went through, and so strengthening me, then. I realise now, of course, he was my equal, my brother in Christ, but I am so glad God gave me that Scripture to read back then for my comfort and hope.

I also caught up with Peter and swapped some fishing stories. He promised to take me out on Galilee, although now, of course, it looks a little different after the earthquake. There is nothing like being at peace on a boat and basking in God's awesome creation around you, and especially now that earth has been regenerated, just like new. I asked Peter about the walking on water incident, and he laughed and asked me why I didn't try that one out when we got out on the boat next time.

Kauri—who was still mortal then, but now going to Bible classes up at the Temple—also has a cute pet lion. I remember that this was something I had always dreamed of as a young boy, and now my dream was being played out in Kauri. She loves her lion; it follows her everywhere. I don't think she remembered what lions were like back before Jesus came. They're so tame now. When she finally accepted Jesus, it was there with her, padding around, protective of her, playing with her and some baby lamb from the field down the road.

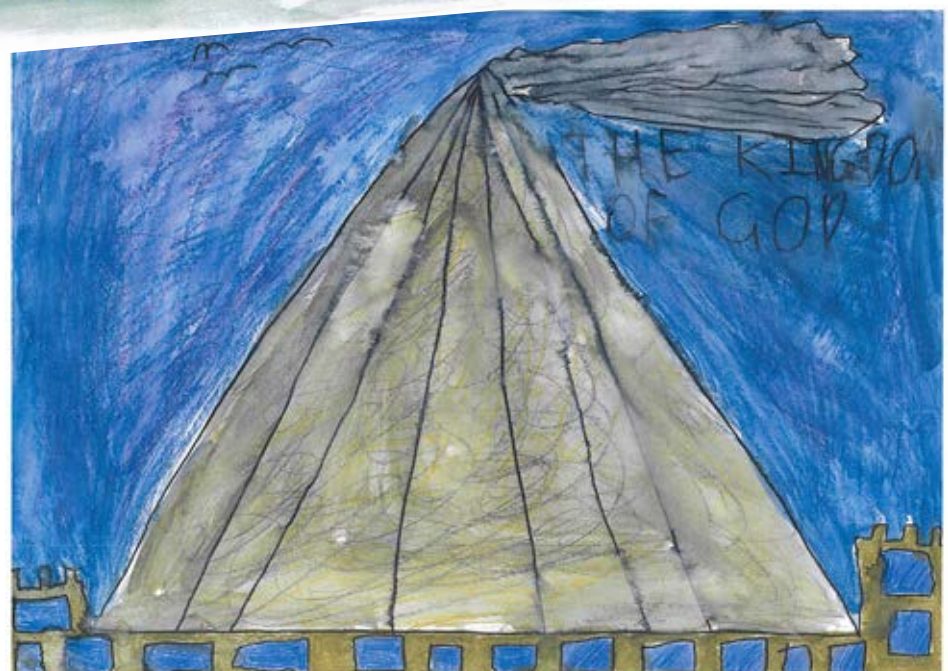
Anyway, I have to go. Liz will be here soon, back from cooking for the Passover, and we have to go to a meeting organised by Noah. He is organising a Bible campaign in what was the USA, back then. Mr Trump is having some difficulty in accepting Jesus as Messiah, and supreme ruler of earth, and cannot see why he has to submit to my Lord Jesus. Anyway, Noah was chosen to lead a team and promote further understanding amongst the general population. After all, he had a lot of experience before the Flood, in preaching. I can't wait to go and help and see what happens— after all, it's not long now till God will reign all in all and our work will be finally done.



By Anna, age 10



Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year Two



"For the LORD himself will descend from heaven with a *SHOUT*, with the voice of an archangel and with the *TRUMPET* of God....." (1 Thess 4:16). "We shall *NOT ALL SLEEP*, but we shall all be *CHANGED*, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last *TRUMPET*. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be *RAISED*....." (1 Cor 15: 15 & 52) ".....And the dead in *CHRIST* will *RISE* first. Then we who are *ALIVE* and remain..." (1 Thess 4:16 & 17) "and *HE* will send his angels with a great sound of a *TRUMPET*, and they will *GATHER TOGETHER HIS ELECT* from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other"

(Matt 24:31)

"...and thus we shall *ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD*" (1 Thess 4:17) "Jesus...will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give him the *THRONE* of his father *DAVID*. And He will reign over the house of Jacob *FOREVER*, and of His kingdom there *WILL BE NO END*" (Luke 1:31-33)

"...with *RIGHTEOUSNESS* He shall judge the poor, and decide with *EQUITY* for the meek of the earth...they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain for the earth shall be *FULL* of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11: 4 & 9) "...the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say 'come, let us go to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; And He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths" (Isaiah 2:2 & 3)

"They shall *BUILD* houses and inhabit them, they shall *PLANT* vineyards and eat their fruit....for as the days of a *TREE*, so shall be the days of my people. They shall not build in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be descendants of the *BLESSED* of the LORD, and their offspring *WITH THEM*" (Isaiah 65:21-23)

SELAH



46

Andly

INTRODUCTION

47

SONG

The Kingdom of God will soon be here,
 The Kingdom of God will soon be here,
 We'll see Abraham and Isaac, Is-ra-el and Joseph,
 For the Kingdom of God will soon be here.

All who trust in God will be there,
 all who trust in God will be there,
 We'll see Moses and Aaron, David and Jonathan,
 All who trust in God will be there.

We need to trust in God's promise to be there,
 We need to trust in God's promise to be there,
 We'll see Gideon and Rahab, Samuel and Enoch,
 We need to trust in God's promise to be there.

If we live Christ like lives we'll be there,
 If we live Christ like lives we'll be there,
 The promise is so keen, no eye has ever seen,
 I'm going to the Kingdom, see you there.



Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year Two



My Kingdom Vision

I'm standing on a hillside looking down over a field with beautiful lush grass, little wildflowers are dotted over the hills, watching children playing, tumbling, running, laughing with no fear. I see my mother and my beautiful daughter sitting side by side with children on their laps. They are laughing at a story one of them is telling. Others come crowding around to hear. Slowly I walk down to be with them, enjoying the feel of the grass beneath my feet; it's not cold, I'm not having to be careful where I walk, and the small rocks don't hurt my feet. I feel like I'm gliding along, weightless, painless. A feeling of complete joy rises up inside me, wholeness, completeness, gratitude.

I look over to see my husband and sons talking with a group of people, organising the planting of an orchard and vineyard, working out the best layout for the land. I see his arm up pointing, describing what they need to do. He's in his element, helping, directing, and assisting those around him. It is so wonderful to see them all so happy, fulfilled in what they are doing, working on the land without the pressures we used to have in our life.

I continue walking down the slope and see a number of other ladies come to join us. One woman, in particular, is amazingly beautiful—she has the most incredible long black hair. But she walks as one without any realisation of her beauty. I have not met her before. She greets my mother and introduces herself as Hadassah. I'm taken back when I realise it is Queen Esther that I have read so much about in the Bible. So beautiful, so serene, so down to earth, happy to sit on the grass with us and laugh with the children.

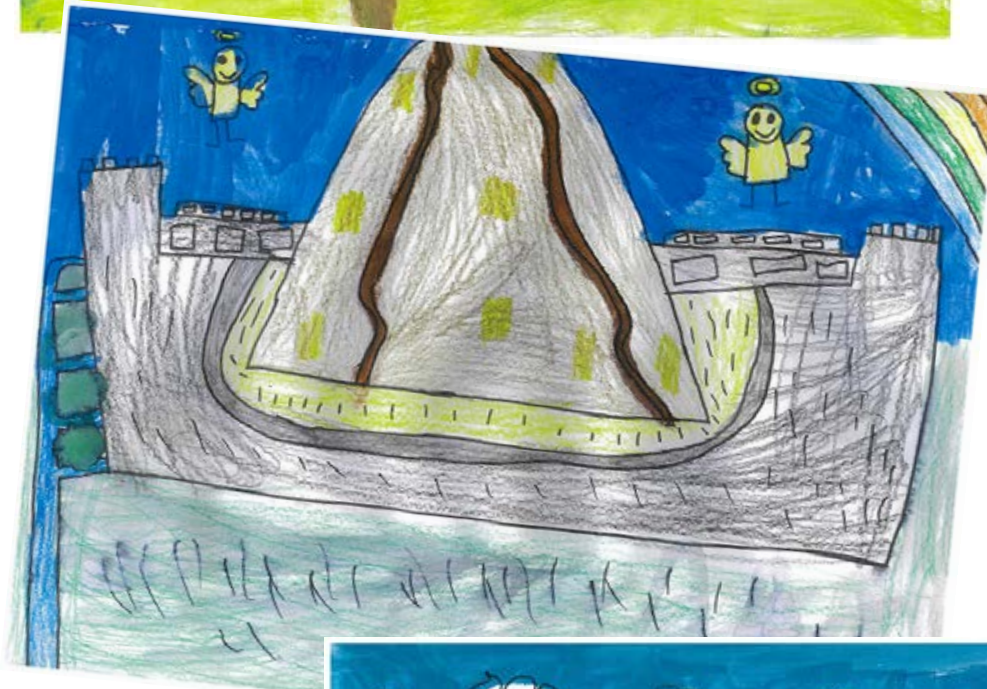
The sun is starting to set, and the children's parents start gathering around to find their little ones. Thinking back to when our children were small, we would never have left them with complete strangers for the day to work. How amazing and wonderful it is to have the knowledge that your children are in the best hands possible, loved, cared for, free, able to experience the most amazing and wonderful gifts our Heavenly Father has given to us all.

As night falls and we gather together to talk, to discuss the day's events, to talk with those from years past to learn more about their walk on this earth, it doesn't cease to amaze me how the bonds of human form have been taken away; no tiredness, soreness, achy muscles and joints from a hard day's work. We can stand or sit for hours on end without any thought.

Days do seem to be gone in the blink of an eye. Together we can look forward to the dawning of another amazing and beautiful day in our Fathers' Kingdom.



Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year Two







Light

My hand reaches out as though I'm groping in the dark, and I touch him. His eyes pierce through me; a burst of light rushes into every dark corner of my mind, of my heart.

His deep penetrating gaze is boring through, I can feel him inside me, revealing all. Of course, he always knew. It's not like it unveils anything new, but, this time I can feel it, this time there's no convenient ignoring, and this time there's no escaping it.

There it is, all laid bare for him to see: the pain and hurt, the highs from my now past life and the oh, so frequent lows. There it is, that heavy, oppressive weight of addiction, dragging me back into the shadows every time I thought I was free from it. There it is, the loss, the fear, the pride that would ruin every good intention.

Everything is out in the open; it's exposed to all.

There's so much shame, so much guilt, I know I've failed so many times. I am not deserving of anything; all I am worth is death. Oh, Lord, now I have seen you, my faith has been completed, it is enough. I need nothing more. I am not worthy to be called by you. I know the price for all that darkness, for the sins that filled my heart.

And yet, all he does is smile, and I am flooded with light, love, and forgiveness. The veil that was over my eyes has been lifted. For the first time in my life, I can see clearly, and I know.

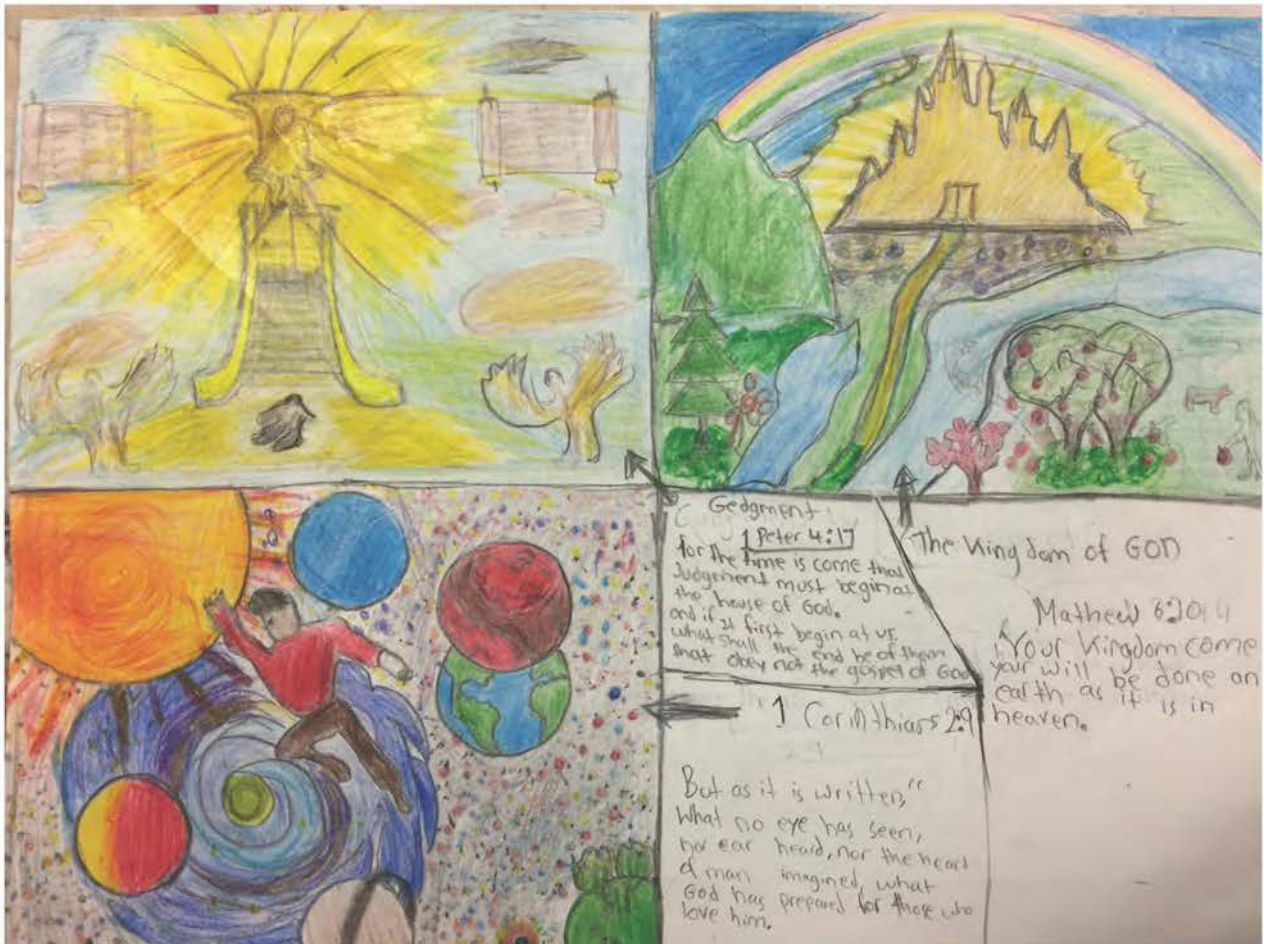
I can't hold it in; tears pour down my face and I crumple, falling at his feet. He bends down, and his arms pick me up, wrapping themselves around me in a gentle embrace. It is then that he calls me by my name. Not that one from my old life. No, he calls me by my true name. A single word; it is the first thing I hear him speak, and the tears keep falling.

Joy. Love. So much thankfulness. I know him.

He walks out with me, his arm around my shoulder, my older brother.

There above the forested hills in the distance is the glistening sun. It's shining down on us, a new day for a new life. It hangs there, bright, golden, warm, and it fills every part of my soul. I let it in, there is no darkness to hide anymore.

I look directly at it, and I know. The sun is here to stay, and it will never set again.





By Sarah

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

The return of Christ will be a relief.

When it does finally happen, I will initially feel shock and surprise. Surely there will be a sense of dread and fear surrounding the finality of judgment. Yet, with our Lord back on the earth again, I will mostly feel on exhilarating wave of relief. The return of Christ will be an end to struggle with a promise of a new beginning as a privileged member of the immortal host.

Currently, I have no righteousness of my own to receive a payment of life. I only have the filthy rags of good intentions, ill-discipline, and habitual sins that I cannot overcome. This is not my triumph, but rather, it is Christ's victory over sin and death. A victory he has promised to share.

I have been adopted into God's family. I am in Christ Jesus. My heart's desire in this current life has been to be conformed to his character and to continue daily on the pathway of discipleship, continually developing and growing the mind of Christ within me and striving to put my faith into action every day.

I trust in God's abundant mercy and grace. God has reserved for me, as one of His sons, a great and wonderful treasure. My Heavenly Father will finish in me what He started. He will take great delight in saving me, in rewarding my faith, and joyfully granting me a place in His kingdom. What a truly magnificent and forgiving Father!

Christ will separate me and shepherd me into his flock of sheep on his right hand. He will shout triumphantly: "Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom of God". Then, God's power will surge within me. The corruptible nature of bondage will wash from me like dirt in a shower. The fog from my mind will be lifted. My eyesight will be sharp and clear. My back will be straight, and I'll stand tall and strong.

A big part of that day, will be to see others who have been in a spiritual battle in their lives, being gifted with eternal life and relief. The oppressed will be given justice, the sorrowful will be given comfort, and the weight of mental burdens will be released. I will see those who have faithfully endured through trial finally rewarded with lasting peace.

In this life, the relationships with our brothers and sister can be strained and inhibited. At times, we can all be held back by our generation gaps, or through our own self-doubt and shyness. Once we are freed from these shackles, we will be able to connect on a deeper level and form stronger bonds. With a newfound confidence, I want to meet with all those faithful saints from every age and forge everlasting connections with them, but especially with the faithful whom I have admired and related to for so many years.

Above all, I want to sit in the presence of the world's new king, Jesus Christ. I desperately want to be near to him, listen to his wisdom, and soak up everything about him. I would love to go with my Lord for a long walk and talk openly and honestly. I imagine talking about all the things of his life and also my life, too. I dearly want him to correct, instruct, and discipline me, and open my eyes to the outworking of God's hand in my life.

Finally, I will be a new man. All the internal battles that I struggle with now will be gone. The war I have with my sin-prone nature, which wears me down, which depresses me, which sucks the life out of me are now lifted. Free from this imprisonment, I will have a pure will to serve God, with a genuine inclination towards righteousness and godliness. It is from that time onwards that I will be satisfied, released from the toils of this life, changed for evermore into the full likeness of Christ.

THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE
AND GIVE THEE

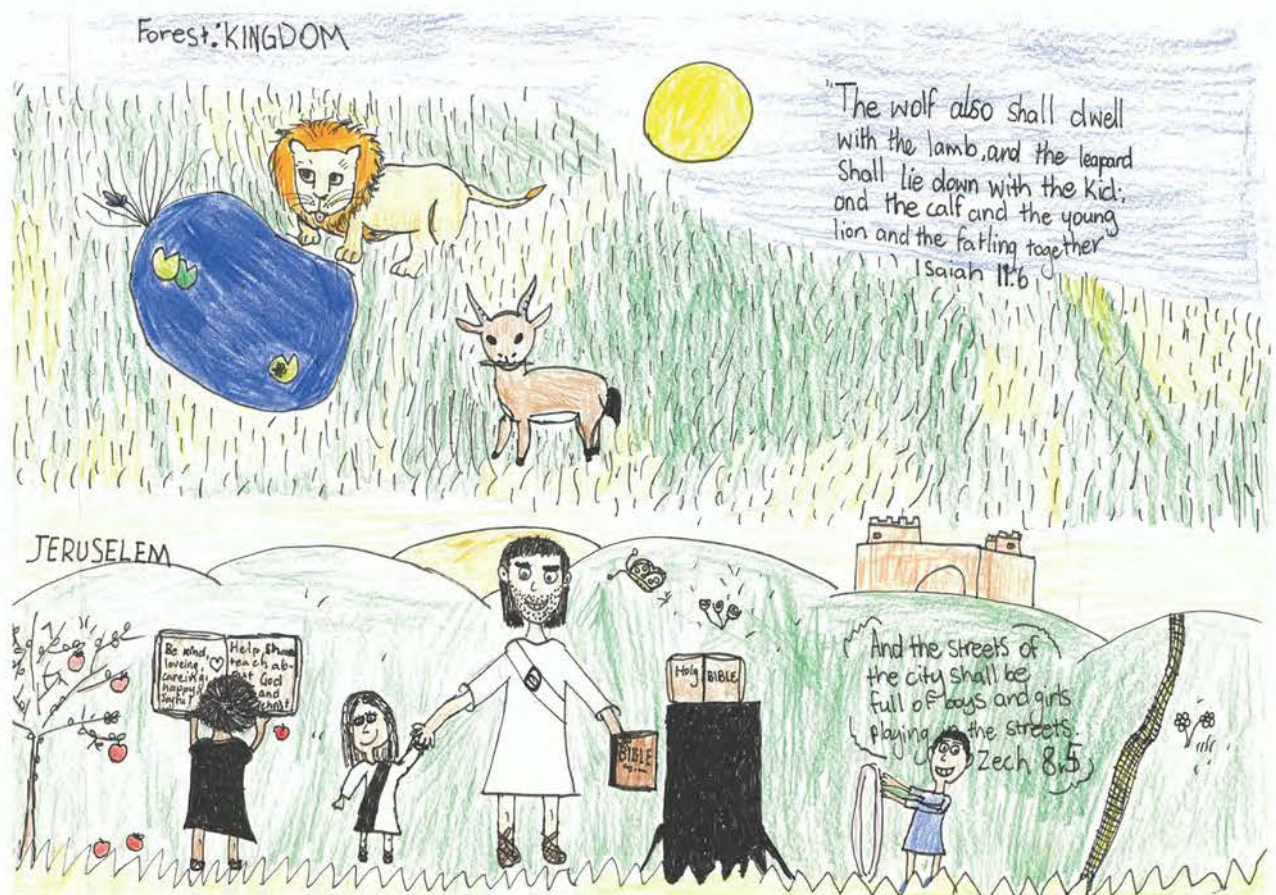
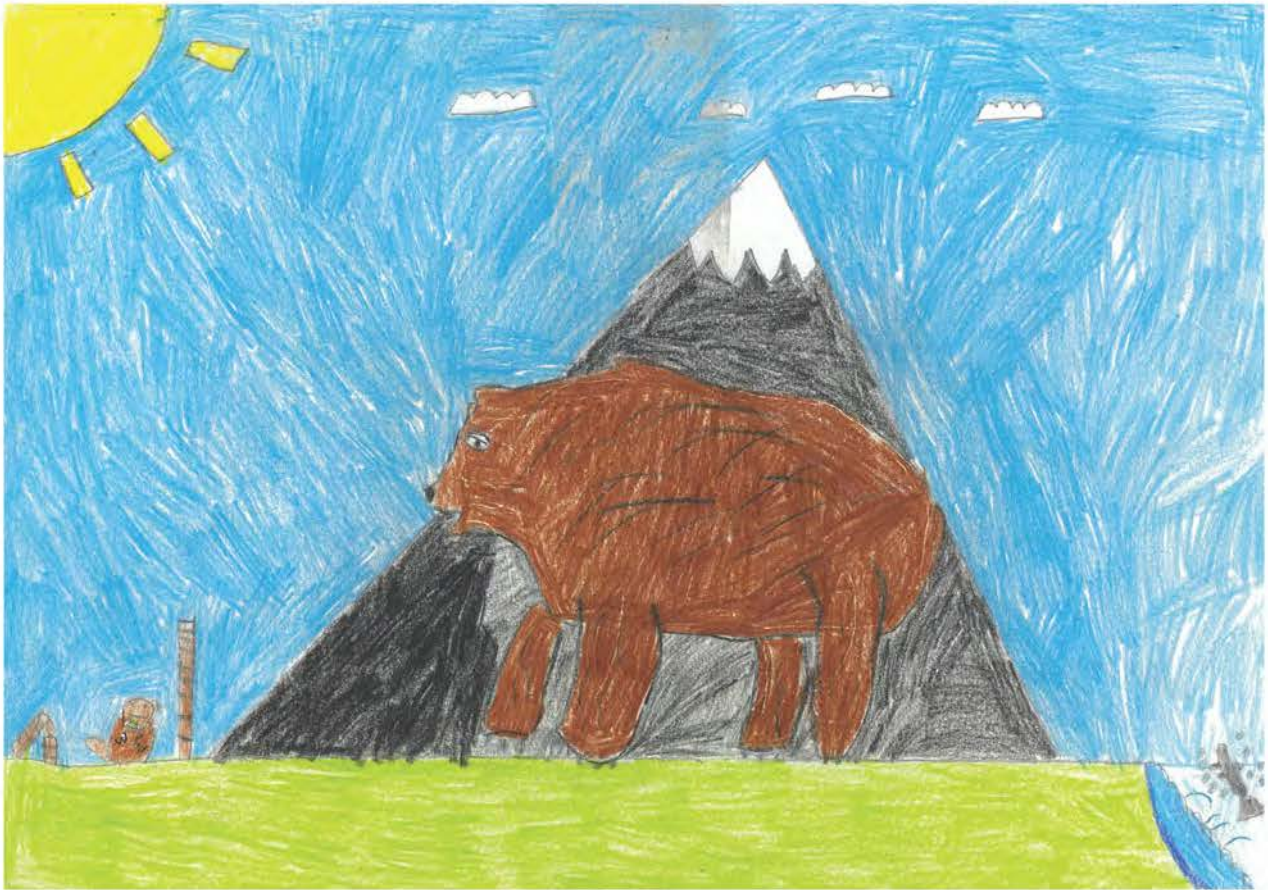
THE MEER SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH AND SHALL
THEMSELVES IN THE ABUNDANCE OF PEACE
INHERITANCE SHALL BE FOR EVER
PS 37

WILL BRING PEACE TO THE PEOPLE...
JUSTICE TO THE POOR OF THE PEOPLE
THE CHILDREN OF THE NEEDY.
PS 72
THE MOUNTAIN
HE WILL BRING
HE WILL SHINE

MERCY AND TRUTH HAVE MET
AND PEACE HAVE KISSED
LOOK DOWN THE LORD
PS 85
TOGETHER RIGHTEOUSNESS
SHALL SHINE
GOOD IS GOOD

PEACE WITH ME THOSE WHO
TAKE ROOT IN WHO
SHALL BLOSSOM AND BUD
PS 127
AND HE SHALL
JACOB HE SHALL
COME HE SHALL

PEACE... YOU SHALL
YOUR GATES
EVERLASTING
LIGHT
IS 60
I WILL ALSO
CALL YOUR NAME
THE LORD WILL BE
YOUR SALVATION AND
MAKE YOUR OFFICERS
PEACE



I AM NOT ALONE

I'm laying here, drowning in my own trials and struggles in life.
Yet another doctor, another concoction of medication to try.
When will it all end! I am all alone in this world of mind!

Another day has passed, another day added to the years lived like this.
The comments, they hurt:
"Have you prayed about it?" I get asked.
Every day! I pray and I pray,
"Father! Please take this away!" I cry.

When will he be here?
When will this end?
Is anyone listening to my prayers?

How I long for that day!
That day where he will be here;
No more sorrow, now more pain.

He is here! Our King is here!
Sunshine, laughter, joy, music, and dancing. It's all around me;
His comforting arms wrap around me;
"Our Father—He heard! He heard every tear, every prayer! Every cry for help."

All around me, all the faithful men and women from the book we read,
Happy, working hard for our Father,
Helping, caring, showing love and kindness.
This! This is what I went through the trials and pain for.

The everlasting joy! Peace is surrounding me!

I am not alone.



Isaac
McKee

WHAT DO I THINK OF?

When I think of the Kingdom, I think about understanding EVERYTHING. No more questions about incidences in the Bible that seem unusual—they will all be answered.

I will be so glad not to have to worry about what I am doing and thinking, as it will always be right—sin will not be rearing its ugly head all the time.

There is no particular person from the Bible I think of when I think of the Kingdom, but I am eager to finally see Jesus and be in God's presence.

Everything to do with gardening and permaculture is what I enjoy doing now and I am so keen to teach the people of the world all about God's creation and how to care for it, and, in doing so, teach them about God. I want so much for the world to be restored to its glory and to be part of that process.



Byayah, age 8



flying in the kingdom by ada, age 4

Subject to vanity, in hope

I got out of bed. I'd had a reasonable night of sleep, but I still felt tired, and achy, too. A small sigh escaped me—another day of opportunity—a blessing! But, another day of vanity. Another day of washing, making dinner, cleaning up mess, imperfect parenting. Another day of experiencing human nature and its constant pull at me; another day of wishing I was better at supporting so many people I knew were in need of help or were suffering, either physically or mentally. I was exhausted trying to keep my own life on track and look after the family I'd been blessed with. And yet, I knew I should be doing so much more to spread the good news I'd been privileged to learn. Why was it always such a struggle to use the opportunities I was given—whether it was finding the right words, waiting for the perfect timing, or just feeling there was so little interest in this world that was so consumed with the 'here and now'? How much longer was it going to be until my hope was realized? Until this daily struggle was over? Surely, I wouldn't be waiting much longer!

Imagine a brand-new day, a morning without clouds...

I was full of unlimited energy, and I felt boundless joy from the depths of my being. God's praises filled my heart as I reflected gratefully that my hope had been finally realized—I was like my Creator! He had been faithful to His promises! I no longer felt any struggle against human nature, and the immense joy I'd experienced on being presented faultless in His presence had not diminished with time.

It had been a sheer and exhilarating pleasure to sing praises and worship God with other glorified saints—no selfish motives or thoughts getting in the way, no limitations with a mere mortal voice, and how mind-blowing the sound had been!

I looked back to my days as a mortal—how insignificant and small they looked now. I marveled that I had ever viewed those struggles as so insurmountable. What was that tiny speck of suffering in contrast to the endless and perfect eternity stretching before me now? I knew the words of Paul to be true—the sufferings of my former existence weren't even worthy to be compared to the amazing glory that was now revealed in me! What a weight had been lifted knowing that so many I loved had had their mortal struggles finally ended, as they, too, had been granted immortality. No more would those emotional and physical infirmities drag them down.

And my children—I could now parent them as a perfect immortal! What a blessing. I often reflected on how the angels must have felt working with me in my mortal days—realizing the joy they must have experienced when they could see the results of their labour and patient guidance being rewarded! And what a world to raise them in!

Finally, God's purpose was being realized on every level, as His word spread from Jerusalem, the first dominion, out to all the world, and people slowly chose to respond to their creator! The creation itself was undergoing an astonishing rejuvenation as the curse of Eden was slowly reversed. The more human nature was eradicated, the more creation responded, as this world was finally realizing the destiny that God had envisioned for it from the very beginning!

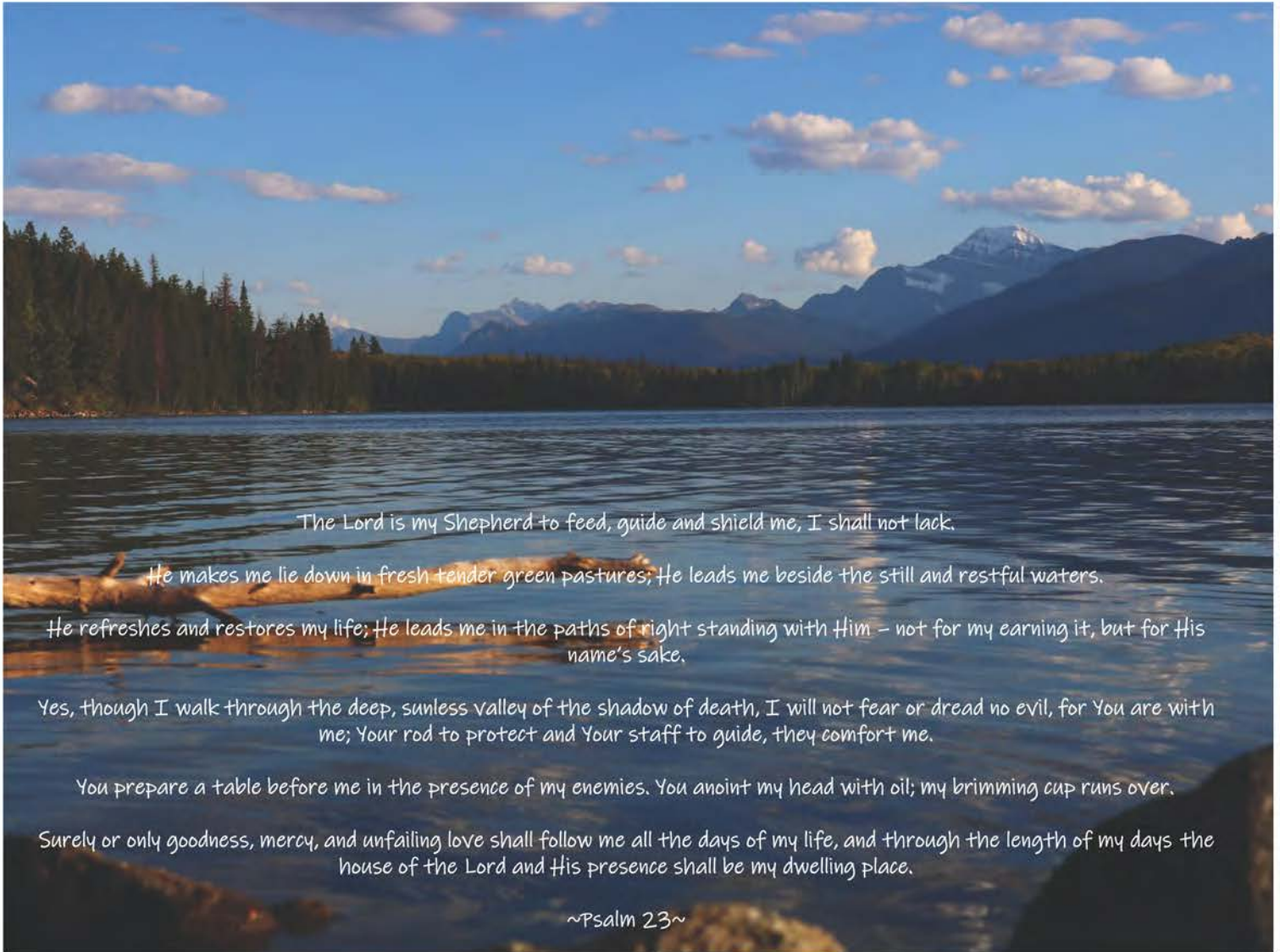
It was completely fulfilling and satisfying to be able to spread the everlasting gospel to so many—finally with every word I wanted to say coming out right, finally with no worry about whether those I spoke to would be able to understand what I was trying to

convey. People were, in general, so much more responsive now, and I had the absolute privilege of being able to prove to them that what I was saying was true! To see an understanding of who God was spread throughout the globe, and to see His character begin to be reflected in the hearts and on the faces of everyone in the world, was an indescribably amazing experience.

The nations had not yet been completely subdued. Unbelievably, some had deliberately chosen, in the face of such amazing power and might and with God's plan offered to them, to fight against Christ and us his saints! But what an honour to fight for God's purpose knowing that this was the only way that, ultimately, this world would be filled with His righteousness, His joy, and His peace! Soon, every tear would disappear—God Himself would wipe them away. There would be no more death, no more pain, no more sorrow or crying, for all these former things would pass away! In fact, these former things would be forgotten altogether, and instead, with all the saints, I would be glad and experience joy forever in what God had created— a new heaven, and a new earth!

My KINGDOM VISION





The Lord is my Shepherd to feed, guide and shield me, I shall not lack.

He makes me lie down in fresh tender green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters.

He refreshes and restores my life; He leads me in the paths of right standing with Him – not for my earning it, but for His name's sake.

Yes, though I walk through the deep, sunless valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod to protect and Your staff to guide, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my brimming cup runs over.

Surely or only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord and His presence shall be my dwelling place.

~Psalm 23~



Eden Larsen, 7, Seattle, USA



The Kingdom is coming soon!
How amazing it will be!
Everyone, everywhere will know God.

King of the earth will be our Messiah.
In peace and righteousness, he will reign;
No more suffering, sorrow, or pain.
Godliness will cover the face of the earth;
Dwelling in light everlasting we'll live.
On Mount Zion, Christ's throne will be.
Majestic will be the Temple of our God.



By Petra, age 9



It's a beautiful sunny day. It's a wild and sheep playing tag.
By Max, age 5

Spanish/Español:

RECORDANDO EL FUTURO:

En mi ciudad, Santiago de Chile, en invierno temprano por la mañana, se registran temperaturas de cero grados, llegando a los -1 y -2, en algunos lugares incluso más bajas, pero muchos días son como hoy, muy fríos en la madrugada, pero cuando el sol comienza a calentar y se comienzan a sentir olores de las comidas por las casas, las voces de los vecinos y de los niños jugando, se encienden las parrillas los fines de semana, esto añadido a que gracias al inmenso amor de mi Dios, estoy bien, tanto de salud y tengo comida para comer, siento una hermosa sensación de mi vida de niño, en casa de mis abuelos, con mis tíos, primos y parientes, todos hablando y riendo, casi en un caos, con olores de carnes a la parrilla, comidas chilenas, pero con una gran sensación de paz, la misma que siento cuando un sábado de invierno, tomo el sol de la mañana. Los aromas siempre me traen a la mente esos días de mi niñez; he de confesar que tuve una muy buena y bonita infancia, buenos padres, buenos amigos y buena familia. Sí, éramos (y somos) gente que se podría calificar como "pobres ", en cuanto al dinero se refiere, pero millonarios en risas y amor.

En días como estos, en que es sábado y no tengo que trabajar, cuando siento que nada es urgente, donde tengo un empleo que me agrada y me siento satisfecho de haber echo mucho, pero lo he realizado todo lo bien que mis capacidades permiten, pienso en cuanto más grande será cuando veamos y vivamos el Reino de Dios instaurado en toda su plenitud, cada cual trabajando en lo suyo con regocijo y una paz más grande de la que hoy siento, cuando nos podamos reunir para compartir, reír y disfrutar de las bendiciones que hoy esperamos, estoy seguro que en esos días nuestro gozo será aún mayor.

Si mi sensación de paz, de satisfacción de haber vivido un día más en un mundo que va camino a su fin, en donde a quienes somos "pobres " en dinero nos gozamos de cosas simples, será a un más glorioso cuando Cristo reine. Ya no soy un muchacho, con los años mi cuerpo imperfecto ha ido agregando una que otra dolencia, nada grave gracias a Dios, pero cuando mi cuerpo sea transformado y ninguna enfermedad me aqueje, caminaré por toda esta tierra que heredaremos (Disculpe la fantasioso o no de mi pensamiento, siempre me imagino caminando con mi perro) y veré como los vestigios de este mundo cruel desaparecer poco a poco. También a mis hermanos en Cristo de los lugares lejanos, de los que hoy sólo veo fotos en nuestras publicaciones y serán mi familia, y reiremos en caos y ese sentir, que es sólo un recuerdo, será una realidad.

Debemos esforzarnos y ser pacientes, no existe nada mejor que esperar el día en que veremos volver a Cristo y veamos es nuestro esperado nuevo amanecer, donde estaremos felices de levantar codo a codo y día tras día la nueva tierra que esperamos. GRACIAS DIOS POR NUESTRA ESPERANZA

Hno. Richard Castillo, Santiago, Chile

English:

REMEMBERING THE FUTURE:

In my city, Santiago, Chile, in winter, early in the morning, temperatures are around 0 degrees. They reach -1 to -2, and in some parts can be even lower. But most days are like today; very cold in the early morning, but when the sun starts to bring forth its heat and one starts to smell the meals in the houses, the voices of neighbours, and the children playing, the grills are fired up on the weekends. This, added to the fact that thanks to the immense love of my God, I'm well, both in terms of health and the food I have to eat, I feel a beautiful feeling from my childhood, in the house of my grandparents, with my uncles and aunties, cousins, and family, all talking, laughing, almost in absolute chaos, the smells of meats on the grill, Chilean food, but with a great feeling of peace. It's the same feeling that I feel when one winter Saturday I enjoy the morning sun. The aromas always bring to mind those days of my childhood, and I should confess I had a very good and beautiful childhood, with good parents, good friends, and good family. Yes, we were (and still are) people that you could class as "poor", at least, when referring to money, but we were millionaires in laughter and love.

On days like these, when it's Saturday, and I don't have to work, when I feel that there is nothing urgent, when I have a job that I enjoy and I feel satisfied to be able to have done a lot, but I have realised all the good that my capabilities have permitted, I think how great it will be when we will see and live the Kingdom of God, established in all its fulness, when each will be working with joy and with a peace greater than the one that I feel today, when we will be able to meet to share, laugh, and enjoy the blessings that, today, we hope for. I am sure that in those days our joy will be so much greater.

If my feeling of peace, of satisfaction of having lived one day more in a world that is heading to its end, where we are viewed as "poor" in money and where we rejoice in the simple things, then it will be so much more glorious when Christ reigns. I am no longer a boy; with the years, my imperfect body has been adding aches and pains (nothing serious, thanks be to God), but when my body is transformed and no sickness afflicts me, I will walk through all this land that we will inherit (excuse the imaginations of my thoughts—I have always thought of walking it with my dog), and I will be able to see how the vestiges of this cruel world are disappearing little by little. And to my brothers and sisters in Christ from faraway places that today I only see in photos in our publications, they will be my family, and we will laugh—in chaos—and that feeling, that is only a memory, will once again become a reality.

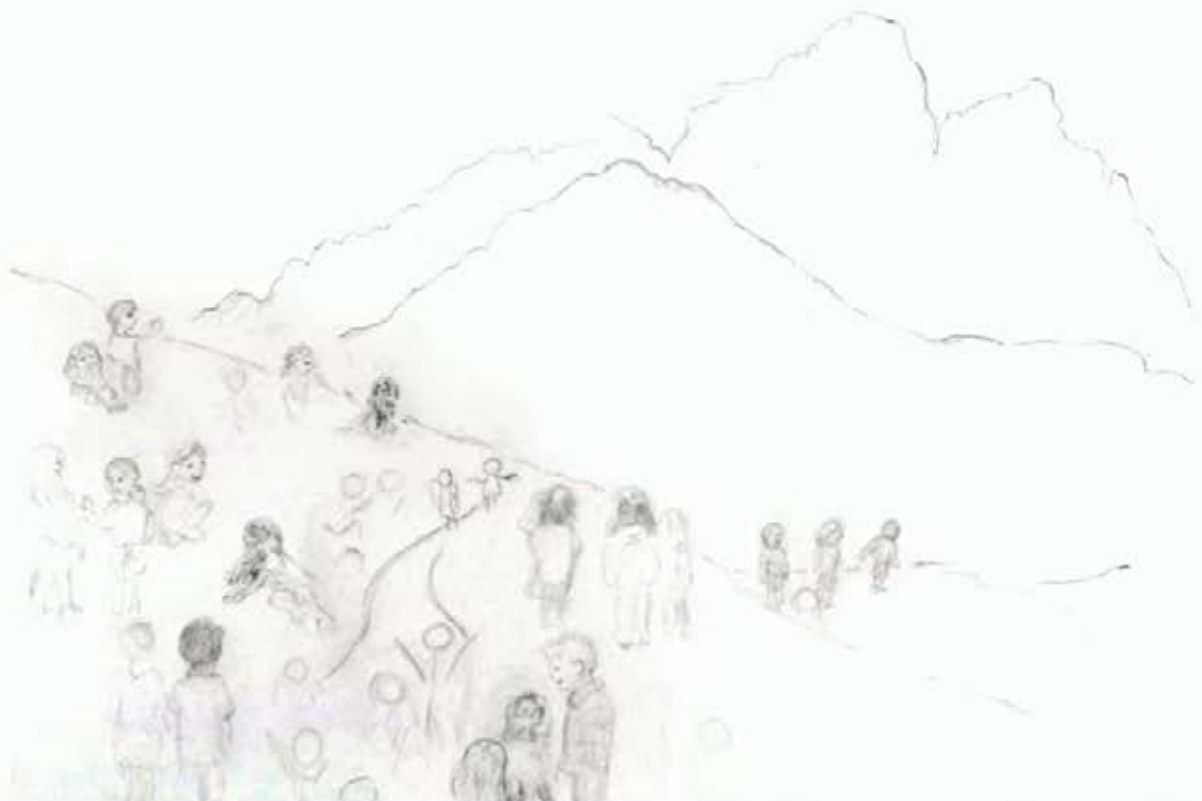
Let us strengthen ourselves and be patient. There is nothing better that exists than the hope of that day when we will see Christ return, and it's our hope for a new dawn, when we will be happy to stand shoulder to shoulder and day to day in the new land that we await. THANK GOD FOR OUR HOPE.

Bro. Richard Castillo, Santiago, Chile

Thy kingdom
come



Thy
will be done



Elia Lloyd



Heritage College student contribution, year 5/6

The Kingdom — My vision

We take over Jerusalem after a devastating war. The impact of a massive earthquake shifting the African/Syrian Rift generates fear and horror. “The Lord arises to terribly shake the earth.”¹ The earth stops! And the voice of the Lord from Zion is commanding, yet compassionate and inviting. “The Redeemer comes to Zion.”² He sets up the government with laws from the ancient laws of God first given to Israel. Initially, he is concerned with the territory of the Kingdom, that area of land promised to Abraham so long ago, from the Euphrates to the Nile. And now, Abraham stands with him.

The first session of the government involves the officers sitting with the Lord to organise the rebuilding programme, “building up the old wastes, repairing the waste cities and the desolations”.³ Agriculture will be resumed, the scattered animals gathered in small flocks. This will provide work so “strangers shall stand and feed the flocks ... and be your ploughmen and vinedressers”.⁴

But, “YOU shall be named the priests of Yahweh, men shall call you ministers of our God”.⁵ Once the priests and Levites administered laws and justice, working with and among people. This ancient ‘shepherding’ principle will once again be re-enacted. “Good news will be preached to the meek, binding up the broken hearted, liberating those enslaved, and announce the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God.”⁶ The welfare programme will administer to the true needs of people for God is gracious, long-suffering, compassionate, but He is not a soft touch. The Lord knows that unless His eternal laws are kept, the earth will soon return to its former degradation.

There is something satisfying about manual labour. As houses are built, beam upon beam, stone upon stone, the workers see the progress, and know that their supervisor is available to direct them. Extensive horticultural gardens are planted, not the massive farms of years ago, but of a size for a family to manage. The land will once again have been reorganised into tribal cantons, so that each family has a possession for which they are responsible. No longer will large sections of land be in the control of the wealthy, for the restoration of God’s laws will limit personal wealth. As a result, “the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever” for “my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation and in sure dwellings and in quiet resting places”.⁷ This situation is only possible because the new government in Jerusalem has a king who reigns in righteousness and princes who rule with justice.

¹ Isaiah 2:21

² Isaiah 59:20

³ Isaiah 61:4

⁴ Isaiah 61:5

⁵ Isaiah 61:6

⁶ Isaiah 61:1,2

⁷ Isaiah 32:17,18, v1

The land is at home, resettled, and rested. The new borders involve Egypt and Syria, which means that these countries accept the King in Zion, and so are blessed and work together with Israel.⁸

In his graciousness, for God and His son are ever gracious, the Lord sends his ambassadors to each government of the world. Their aim is not merely to announce there is a new government in Jerusalem, but command the allegiance to “all them that dwell upon the earth, to every nation and kindred, tongue and people, saying, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of his judgment is come and worship him that made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of waters.’”⁹ After the war of Armageddon, nations will still be recovering from the shock of the arrival of Israel's new protector, and each government will have lengthy discussions in their parliaments as to what they will do. But Rome, a Babylon at heart, will not accept any other to reign over them. “These (territories of the Beast) shall make war with the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them.”¹⁰ The answer will be swift: “Babylon falls” and is thrust with violence down into the sea in a massive earthquake.¹¹ All Rome’s grandeur, economy, mercantile trade, and oppressive religion will go, for, despite her magnificence, “in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all that were slain upon the (Roman) earth”.¹²

The remarkable point in these dramatic prophecies is that the triumphant King is portrayed as a “lamb”,¹³ for his primary desire is to have people respond to his gracious offer of salvation. He who created all things, who made the earth for their habitation, now presents himself as their landlord! Where is their response? They have not kept the terms of the lease, in fact, have not even acknowledged him! They have made their own gods, their own system of worship, their own grandeur.

Despite this dramatic fall of Rome, “the great city who reigned over the kings of the (Roman) earth”.¹⁴ Even then, the King in Zion gives a last ditch appeal for people to individually respond to his gracious call: “If any man worship the beast and his image ... the same shall drink of the wrath of God”.¹⁵ So, “come out of her my people that you be not a partaker of her sins and receive not of her plagues”.¹⁶

But some are unrepentant (like Israel of old!) and set themselves to war against the new King. The divine government acts. “Heaven opened and the white horse with its rider who is Faithful and True, judges and makes war in righteousness Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword that he should smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords ... and the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against him, were taken and destroyed.” Europe is turned into a lake of fire.¹⁷

⁸ Isaiah 19:24,25

⁹ Revelation 14:1,6,7

¹⁰ Revelation 17:14

¹¹ Revelation 18:21

¹² Revelation 18:24

¹³ Revelation 14:1; 17:14

¹⁴ Revelation 17:18

¹⁵ Revelation 14:9,10

¹⁶ Revelation 18:4,5

¹⁷ Extracts from Rev. 19:11–21

The horrors of war cause nations to heed the lesson. Many accept the gracious invitation of the King. Churches are gone (generally shaken down), and only the worship of the one true God is permitted. This promises to increase international harmony, all being united by one rule, a theocracy whose laws are God-centred.

And, in this way, many nations shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh and to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths, for the law shall go forth of Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem." The policy of the King will end war, and the resulting economic savings will be spent on an agricultural society where every person has his own land holding and no more fears for his future.¹⁸ "For all will walk everyone in the name of God ... forever."

¹⁸ Micah 4:1–4



Left: Garden of Eden

Front: River

Right: lake

By Sam

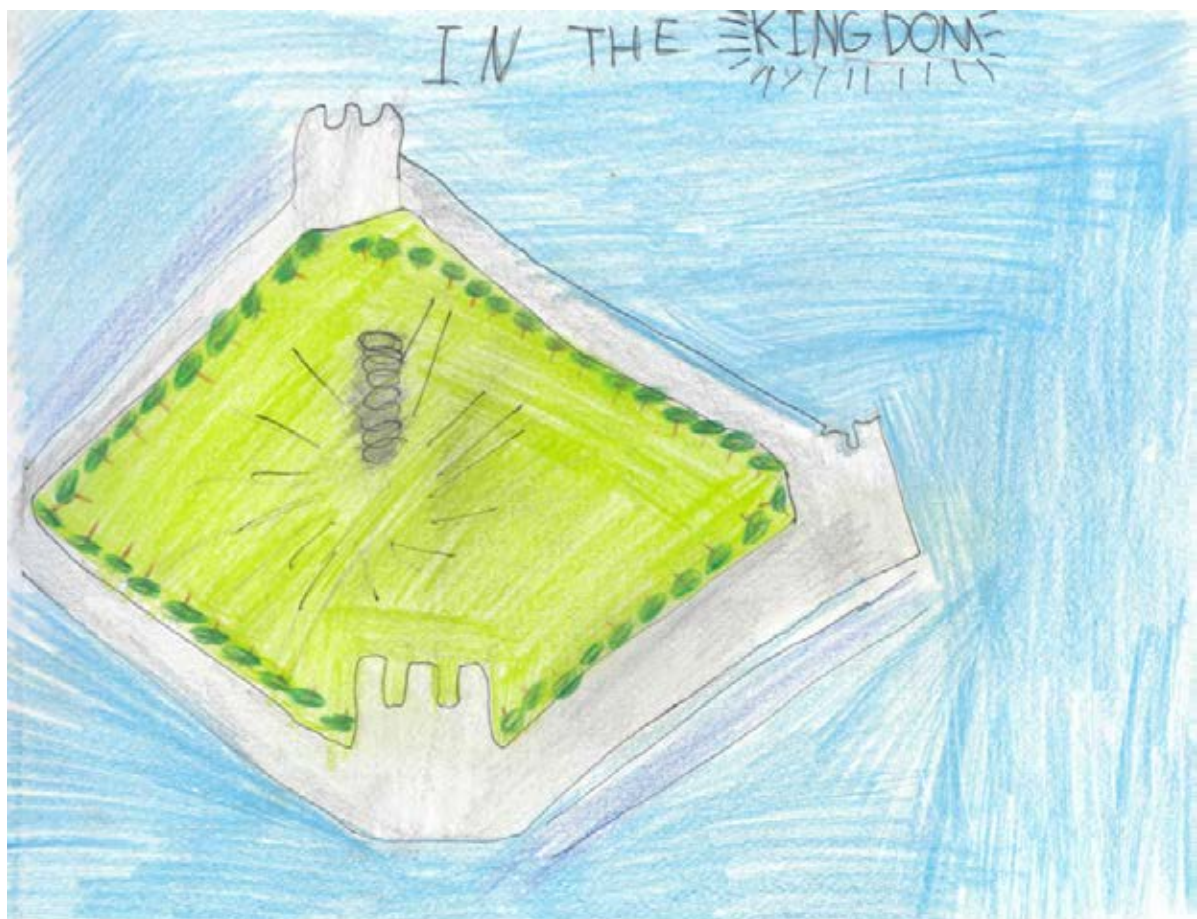
Peace
light
loving
one ruler
~~God~~ Godly worshipping
No more pain and sorrow, Death, crying

What will it be like when receiving your
inheritance in the kingdom?

You will be so happy when you
hear those words of Christ "enter thou
into thy kingdom for I have seen you
believing in my word of the bible"
My feeling is that I will be very happy
with what I've heard from Christ, that I
will share my inheritance with all the
other brethren that will be in the kingdom
with us as well. To worship and believe in
the one true God.

By Cayden





This contribution has been written by an interested friend:

Richard Castro
Santiago de Chile

Spanish/Espanol:

Hola, soy Richard de nacionalidad chilena, vivo en Santiago, una ciudad conmovida por el estallido social, cuyos gobernantes no han estado a la altura de guiar un país y es ahí donde me pregunto que distinto sería si fuera el reino de los cielos y Jesús gobernara toda la tierra como lo dice en la Biblia. Lo describe como un lugar hermoso. Es necesario abrirnos y entender su palabra porque por medio de ella hay un cambio en nuestras vidas que nos da la posibilidad de arrepentirnos de nuestras acciones de limpiar nuestros pecados y que sean perdonados por nuestro DIOS; porque él es misericordioso y piadoso para los que le aman. Solo tú te puedes dar la posibilidad de conocer su reino y no está lejos. Está en medio de ti, no estás solo; él siempre está contigo. Él vive en ti y para hallarlo tienes que abrir tu corazón; permite que entra en ti y una vez adentro estarás en el reino. Podrás conocer personas que también llegaron por ese mismo camino, lleno de dolor, desesperanza, y sobre todo, falta de amor. No tengas duda: él te enseñará a tener FE a creer en lo que no ves, a tener confianza en ti porque con DIOS todo es posible. Sigue la huella de JESÚS porque por medio de él conoceremos el reino; un lugar de grato aroma donde no existe la oscuridad y todo es luz porque él es un ser de luz. Sus ríos son cristalinos y sus valles de intenso verdor y todos somos uno solo, seres de amor vestidos de cálidos colores .

Dile adiós a esa vida carnal entrégate a DIOS y conocerás su ternura.

English:

Hello, I am Richard, from Chile. I live in Santiago, a city shaken by social unrest. Our leaders have not been up to the task of guiding a country, and that is where I ask myself how different it would be if it were the kingdom of heaven and Jesus were to govern all the earth like it says in the Bible. It describes it as a beautiful place. We need to open ourselves and understand His Word, because, through it, there is a change in our lives that gives us the possibility of repentance from our actions, the cleansing of our sins, and the forgiveness we have in our GOD because He is merciful and compassionate to those that love Him. You can have that possibility of knowing His kingdom. It's not far, because it is within you; he lives in you and to find it, you have to open your heart and let it enter within. Once inside you will be in the Kingdom and you will be able to know people that also have been on the same path, filled with pain, hopelessness, and above all, a lack of love. I have no doubt that he will teach you to have FAITH, to believe in what you cannot see, to have trust in yourself because, with GOD, all is possible. Follow the footprint of JESUS, for it is through him that we will know the Kingdom, a place of pleasing aroma, where no darkness exists, and all is light, because He is a being of light. His rivers are crystalline, and his valleys are an intense verdure, and we will all be one, beings in love, dressed in warm colours.

Say goodbye to this carnal life; leave your life to GOD and you will know His affection.





Heritage College
Adelaide Students
Year Two



NATURE IN HARMONY, AS IT WAS IN
THE GARDEN OF EDEN; AND NATIONS AT PEACE

"THE WOLF SHALL DWELL WITH
THE LAMB

THEY SHALL NOT HURT NOR DESTROY
IN ALL MY HOLY MOUNTAINS FOR THE
EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD (YAHWEH) AS
THE WATERS COVER THE SEA"

ISAIAH 11 V 6, V 9 (KJV)

SEE ALSO HABAKKUK 2 V 14

Spanish:

Mi vision del Reino en la Tierra

¿Durante el Reino tendremos memoria de lo que antes fuimos?

Queremos ver a nuestra familia espiritual.

¡Mi visión de cómo será el reino de Dios en la tierra se caracteriza por tener perfección, orden y mucha felicidad! Este reino será dirigido por nada más y nada menos que nuestro señor Jesucristo, el salvador del mundo. Pero no quiero detallar en cosas que nuestros hermanos cristadelfianos ya conocen, y que ya hemos visto en otros estudios bíblicos.

En lo que quiero enfocarme es en algo diferente que considero muy importante a la hora de visualizarnos en el reino de Dios. Es algo que nunca he escuchado en ningún estudio y que quisiera compartir con todos ustedes para que entre todos podamos meditar en ello.

¡Se trata del tipo de conciencia que tendremos!

Esta idea que pienso acerca de la mente que tendrán los santos dentro del reino, me surgió después de haber leído una cita muy interesante en Mateo 22 cuando los saduceos se le acercan a Jesús para tentarle y le comentan que hubo una mujer que tuvo 7 esposos, luego le preguntan con cuál de todos se quedará ella cuando resucite.

Entonces Jesús les responde lo siguiente:

Mateo 22:30: *"Porque en la resurrección ni se casarán ni se darán en casamiento, sino serán como los ángeles de Dios en el cielo."*

Esta enseñanza por parte de Jesús me hizo reflexionar en lo importantes que son algunas personas para nosotros. Existen muchas personas valiosas que llegan a ser parte esencial de nuestra vida, algunos quizás conozcan inclusive a parejas admirables de la iglesia que llevan más de 30 años casados y que cuando su vida finalice, desean con gran gozo poder encontrarse en el reino.

¡De hecho, esto es lo que las escrituras nos llaman a hacer, predicar la palabra para que todos puedan ser parte de ese reino! El simple hecho de pensar que no recordaremos absolutamente nada de lo que vivimos y que las personas importantes en nuestra vida no nos van a generar el más mínimo recuerdo, es algo que muchos versículos me han permitido entender que no es así. Diferencia entre los ángeles y los futuros santos Jesús dijo: *"serán como los ángeles de Dios"*. Esto no quiere decir que seremos exactamente iguales a ellos, simplemente da a entender que dejaremos nuestro cuerpo carnal y seremos igual de perfectos que ellos.

El capítulo de Hebreos nos explica muy claro la diferencia que tienen los ángeles de los humanos.

Veamos: Hebreos 1:5

"Porque ¿a cuál de los ángeles dijo Dios jamás: Mi Hijo eres tú, Yo te he engendrado hoy, y otra vez: Yo seré a él Padre, Y él me será a mí hijo?"

Los ángeles no son considerados hijos de Dios, los únicos que somos considerados así somos los humanos, como también lo fue Jesús. Los ángeles no tienen que luchar por entrar al reino, simplemente están al servicio de los santos como dice la siguiente cita:

Hebreos 1:14

"¿No son todos espíritus ministradores, enviados para servicio a favor de los que serán herederos de la salvación?"

Los ángeles están a nuestro servicio mientras tengamos este cuerpo pecador, pero cuando resucitemos, ya no tendrán necesidad de ayudarnos.

Por lo tanto, hay otro detalle que se puede deducir; ellos no predicarán en el reino, seremos los futuros santos quienes lo hagamos.

¡Nosotros somos los herederos de la salvación, no los ángeles!

Ellos son espíritus ministradores que han ejecutado las órdenes de Dios a través de toda la historia de la biblia y lo siguen haciendo. Nosotros sin embargo, seremos reyes y sacerdotes que predicarán la palabra durante mil años (Apocalipsis 5:10). Así que no debemos confundir nuestra futura condición con los ángeles. Por supuesto que seremos perfectos e incorruptibles porque la palabra nos dice que para poder heredar la vida eterna debemos dejar de tener este cuerpo carnal y pecador (1 Corintios 15:50), no obstante, tendremos cierta diferencia con los ángeles.

Esta principal diferencia considero que es sin duda alguna: ¡Nuestros recuerdos de lo mucho que nos esforzamos por obtener la salvación! La importancia de poder recordar todas las experiencias y aprendizajes que tuvimos mientras fuimos humanos, es algo que nos permitirá disfrutar y saborear esa recompensa tan esperada de estar en el reino.

Por ejemplo, si uno se esfuerza por obtener un trabajo difícil, luego cuando lo obtiene lo logra disfrutar y valorar de manera única al recordar lo mucho que costó llegar ahí. Pero si simplemente nos dan algo sin nosotros habernos esforzado por obtenerlo, no sabríamos el verdadero valor que tiene. Ya sea un puesto laboral, una relación sentimental o cualquier situación que sea importante.

De acuerdo con esto, si nuestra actual vida fuera olvidada de nuestras mentes, entonces no seríamos nosotros quienes estaríamos en el reino, serían unos seres espirituales distintos que empezarían desde cero. ¡LO que nos hace ser nosotros mismos son nuestros recuerdos! Prestemos atención a la siguiente afirmación que hace Jesús:

Lucas 13:28: "Allí será el llanto y el crujir de dientes, cuando veáis a Abraham, a Isaac, a Jacob y a todos los profetas en el reino de Dios, y vosotros estéis excluidos."

Mateo 8:11: "Y os digo que vendrán muchos del oriente y del occidente, y se sentarán con Abraham e Isaac y Jacob en el reino de los cielos."

Se nos recuerda que parte del sufrimiento que tendrán quienes no sean aptos para tan gloriosa entrada al reino, será el ver a los grandes patriarcas y profetas ahí y ellos no poder acompañarlos. Si estas personas podrán reconocer a los patriarcas, con mucha más razón lo harán los santos. Para poder reconocer a los patriarcas, al gran rey David, a Moisés, a Pablo y a todos estos grandes antepasados que tuvimos, es necesario que Dios nos permita recordar todo el estudio que tuvimos en nuestra antigua vida acerca de

ellos y que cuando llegue el momento podamos reconocer su apariencia. Pero, si simplemente seremos santos que no tendrán ningún recuerdo, ¿cómo será posible que reconozcamos a estos grandes profetas?

Algo parecido les promete Jesús a los 12 apóstoles:

Mateo 19:28: "Y Jesús les dijo: De cierto os digo que en la regeneración, cuando el Hija del Hombre se sienta en el trono de su gloria, vosotros que me habéis seguido también os sentaréis sobre doce tronos, para juzgar a las doce tribus de Israel."

Los doce apóstoles se sentarán a juzgar la tierra y de acuerdo al enfoque que he venido haciendo, claro que se podrán reconocer entre ellos mismos. Hay otro punto importante que considero que tendrán los santos cuando Jesús venga a establecer el reino. Y es el hecho de que al resucitar incorruptibles, no seremos afectados por los recuerdos dolorosos o tristes que hayamos vivido en nuestra antigua vida humana. El hecho de que un recuerdo nos ponga tristes es porque nuestro cuerpo sigue siendo carnal y tenemos una mente frágil. Pero cuando seamos convertidos en santos con un cuerpo celestial, nuestra debilidad dejará de existir.

Así que quien se pregunte: "¿Recordaré todas las cosas duras que viví mientras fui humano?".

La respuesta la podemos comparar con los relatos de Pablo cuando recordaba su antigua vida y como inclusive hasta les quitaba la vida a los santos. Pero luego tuvo una fortaleza admirable suministrada por el espíritu santo que no le permitió ser afectado por su pasado, sino más bien vivir en Cristo con mayor fuerza y gozo.

1 Corintios 15:40: "Y hay cuerpos celestiales, y cuerpos terrenales; pero una es la gloria de los celestiales, y otra la de los terrenales."

1 Corintios 15:42-44: "Así también es la resurrección de los muertos. Se siembra en corrupción, resucitará en incorrupción. Se siembra en deshonra, resucitará en gloria; se siembra en debilidad, resucitará en poder. Se siembra cuerpo animal, resucitará cuerpo espiritual. Hay cuerpo animal, y hay cuerpo espiritual."

1 Corintios 15:49: "Y así como hemos traído la imagen del terrenal, traeremos también la imagen del celestial."

Será maravilloso ver nuestras experiencias con una mente espiritual. El poder visualizarlos a todos ustedes mis amigos y hermanos dentro del reino y el poder identificarlos predicando sobre cierto sector de la tierra, es algo que me produce mucho gozo y me llena de fuerzas para estar ahí.

¡Me encantaría poder ver a Moisés o a Pablo predicando la palabra durante el milenio!

¿A ustedes no?

Ver el reino de Dios de esta manera considero que es una forma más eficaz de penetrar en las personas que aún están aprendiendo la palabra y nos preguntan sobre la resurrección o el reino. Pero si solamente les decimos que seremos como ángeles, sería desaparecer muchos detalles importantes que nos caracterizan.

Espero que mi visión del reino les permita aumentar sus ánimos espirituales y les haya

gustado esta forma de ver a los santos dentro del reino prometido por nuestro señor Jesucristo.

Apocalipsis 21:4: *“Enjugará Dios toda lágrima de los ojos de ellos; y ya no habrá muerte, ni habrá más llanto, ni clamor, ni dolor; porque las primeras cosas pasaron.”*

Filipenses 3:21: *“el cual transformará el cuerpo de la humillación nuestra, para que sea semejante al cuerpo de la gloria suya, por el poder con el cual puede también sujetar a sí mismo todas las cosas.”*

Romanos 8:18: *“Pues tengo por cierto que las aflicciones del tiempo presente no son comparables con la gloria venidera que en nosotros ha de manifestarse.”*

Hno. Gabriel Núñez Soto

English:

My vision of the Kingdom on earth

Will we have memory of what happened before when we're in the Kingdom?

We want to see our spiritual family. My vision of how the Kingdom of God on the earth will be is characterised by perfection, order, and much happiness! This Kingdom will be governed by our Lord Jesus Christ, no more or no less, the saviour of the world. But I don't want to say things that our Christadelphian brethren already know, and that we have already seen in other Bible studies.

What I want to focus on is something different, something I consider very important now in this moment when we are visualising the Kingdom of God. It is something I have never before heard in a study, and I would like to share it with you so that between us all, we can meditate on it.

It is about the conscience that we will have!

This idea of the mind that the saints will have in the Kingdom that I think came to me after having read an interesting passage in Matthew 22, when the Sadducees came to Jesus to tempt him, and they talked to him about a woman that had had seven husbands. Afterwards, they asked him, which one out of all of them would remain with her when she is raised.

So, Jesus responded with the following:

Matthew 22:30: *“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”*

This teaching of Jesus made me reflect on how important some people are to us. There are many valuable people that become an essential part of our life, and some may even know of admirable couples in the ecclesia that have been married for over 30 years, and when their lives end, they desire with great joy to be able to be in the Kingdom.

In fact, this is what the Scriptures call us to do: to preach the word so that all people may be a part of that Kingdom!

This simple act of thinking that we will not remember absolutely anything of what we are living and that the people most important in our lives are not going to even bring about the least bit of a memory, is something that many verses have helped me realise will not be the case.

Jesus said of the difference between the angels and the future saints: "they will be like the angels of God".

This does not mean that we will be exactly the same as them, but rather it simply gives us to understand that we will leave our carnal body and will be equally perfect, as they are.

A chapter in Hebrews explains very clearly the difference between the angels and humans. Let's see Hebrews 1:5:

"For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son'?"

The angels are not considered the sons of God. The only ones that are considered that are us, humans, just as Jesus was.

The angels do not have to fight to enter the Kingdom, they are simply in the service of the saints, like the following quote says, Hebrews 1:14:

"Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"

The angels are in our service whilst we are in this body of sin, but when we are resurrected, we will not need their help.

Therefore, there is another detail that we can also deduce: they will not be preaching in the Kingdom; it will be us, the future saints that will do that.

We are the inheritors of salvation, not that angels! They are ministering spirits that have carried out God's orders throughout the history of the Bible and continue to do so. We, on the other hand, are kings and priests that will preach the Word throughout the thousand years (Rev. 5:10).

So, we should not confuse our future condition with that of the angels. Of course, we will be perfect and incorruptible because the Word tells us that to inherit life eternal we need to leave this carnal and sinful body (1 Cor. 15:50). Even so, we will have certain differences to the angels.

This main difference I consider to be without a doubt: Our memories of how hard we worked for salvation!

The importance of being able to remember all the experiences and learnings that we had while we were human is something that will allow us to enjoy and savour that long-awaited reward of being in the Kingdom. For example, if you strive to get a difficult job, then, when you get it, you can enjoy it and value it in a unique way by remembering how

much it took to get there. But if they simply give us something without us having made an effort to obtain it, we would not know its true value, be it a job position, a romantic relationship, or any situation that is important.

Accordingly, if our current life was forgotten, then we would not be the ones who would be in the Kingdom, it would be different spiritual beings that would start from scratch. What makes us ourselves are our memories!

Let's pay attention to the following statement that Jesus makes:

Luke 13:28: "In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out."

Matthew 8:11: "I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."

We are reminded that part of the suffering that those who are not fit for such a glorious entrance to the Kingdom is that they will see the great patriarchs and prophets there and will not be able to accompany them. If these people will be able to recognise the patriarchs, even more so will the saints.

In order to recognize the patriarchs, the great King David, Moses, Paul, and all these great ancestors that we had, it is necessary that God allow us to remember all the study that we had in our old life about them and that when the time comes we can recognize their appearance. But if we are simply saints who will have no memory, how can we possibly recognize these great prophets? Jesus promised something similar to the 12 apostles:

Matthew 19:28: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'"

The twelve apostles will sit to judge the earth and, according to the approach that I have been saying, of course, they will be able to recognize each other. There is another important point that I think the saints will have when Jesus comes to establish the kingdom. It is the fact that by being resurrected incorruptible, we will not be affected by the painful or sad memories that we have lived in our old human life. The fact that a memory makes us sad is because our body is still fleshy, and we have a fragile mind. But when we are made holy with a heavenly body, our weakness will cease to exist.

So, whoever wonders, "Will I remember all the hard things that I experienced while I was human?" can compare the answer with the accounts of Paul when he remembered his old life and how he even took the lives of the saints. But then he had an admirable strength supplied by the holy spirit that did not allow him to be affected by his past, but rather to live in Christ with greater strength and joy.

1 Corinthians 15:40: "There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another."

1 Corinthians 15: 42-44: "So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a

spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body."

There is an animal body, and there is a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:49 "just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven."

It will be wonderful to see our experiences with a spiritual mind. Being able to visualize all of you, my friends and brothers and sisters, within the kingdom, and being able to identify them preaching on a certain sector of the earth is something that gives me great joy and fills me with strength to be there. I would love to see Moses or Paul preaching the Word during the millennium! Wouldn't you?

Seeing the Kingdom of God in this way I consider to be a more effective way of enlightening people who are still learning the Word and asking us about the resurrection or the Kingdom. But if we only tell them that we will be like angels, it would cover many important details.

I hope that my vision of the kingdom allows you to lift your spiritual mood and that you have liked this way of seeing the saints within the Kingdom promised by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21:4: "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Philippians 3:21: "who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Romans 8:18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

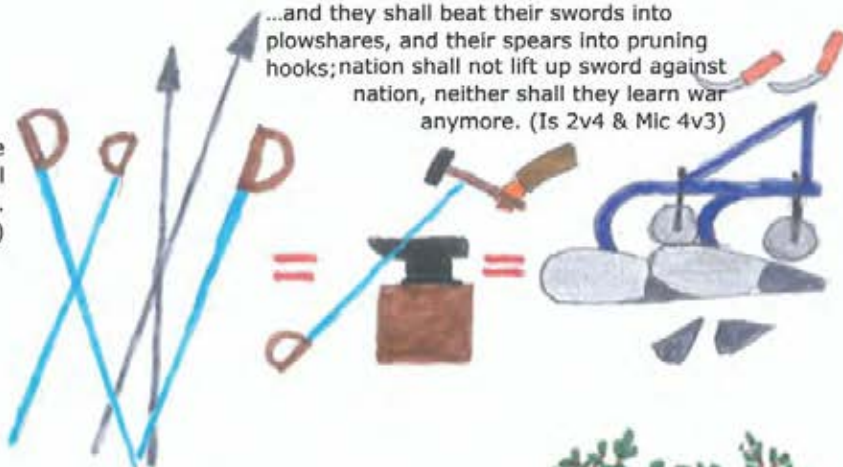
Bro. Gabriel Núñez Soto

Here at Olivet we wanted to get involved so we had an activity one morning where lots of residents came together and discussed their visions of the Kingdom. Quite a few people shared favourite verses etc. It was a really nice morning, an encouragement to those who came I think. After that two residents felt able to communicate their vision in a drawing and one sister chose to use one of the Agape in Action art therapy books to contribute something as well. Please find our contributions below:

There shall be an handful of corn
in the earth upon the top of the
mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like
Lebanon: and they of the city shall
flourish like grass of the earth.
(Psa 72v16)



...and they shall beat their swords into
plowshares, and their spears into pruning
hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against
nation, neither shall they learn war
anymore. (Is 2v4 & Mic 4v3)



But they shall
sit every man
under his vine and
under his fig tree;
and none shall make them
afraid, for the mouth of the
LORD of hosts hath spoken it.
(Mic 4v4 & Zch 3v10)



**"GREAT IS THE
LORD, AND
GREATLY TO
BE PRAISED"**

Psalm 48v1



Heritage College
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It is done

The indescribable prosperity and peace that has resided over the earth for nearly a thousand years has caused a revitalising of interest in God's ways by all peoples of the world (**Isa 2:3**), and a positively contagious energy from the multitude of all those involved in their divine education. From the four corners of the globe there exist families from every single generation of the millennium since the aftermath of Armageddon whom the saints have taught and the Word of God has changed their lives.

I was blessed in hearing a conversation within the home of some mortal brethren reflecting on their family history in tracing the members who had taken on the saving name of Christ for fourteen generations. The conversation was sparked by the baptism of a young sister who asked who had originally brought the blessings of the Truth to their family. The older mortal members shared that the first convert was, in fact, also a young sister, whose story of transformation to the Truth had been relayed by way of example to every member down through the millennial epoch. There was also there an elder (among others) from the immortals who had been involved in teaching the first principles of the oracles of God to every faithful member of their family. Beaming from a quiet corner of the gathering came the finest expression of satisfaction I have ever been blessed to hear. The angel of this new sister—one of the immortalised saints—humbly said, "The heritage of this family that each faithful member has with their heart seen and chosen was in adopting a character greater than their own: the one found in the household of God and His Christ". In classic angelic manifestation, the humility of this mysterious visitor took the focus from off himself to elevate his God and King.

The millennium has still seen bitter-sweet moments. Since my release from bondage to my own sinful nature, I have still beheld all the same struggles in every generation. My own probation has truly illuminated the purpose of the work I have been tasked with in understanding and helping to combat the impulses of sin that still brings loved ones to the grave today.

At this point the family conversation takes a turn to their concerns over a young man (the brother of our new sister) who, for reasons not understood, has separated himself from the family, limiting communication and avoiding private visits preferring companionship with a growing number of discontented people from a mixture of northern countries. This group is not open in their views of the government of Christ, and their secretive behavior and deliberate separation has been a grief of mind to the faithful members of his family. We all know that we are approaching the final epoch, and it seems just such awful timing for anyone to separate themselves from the love of Christ (**Rom 8:35**) and his proven rule of wisdom and righteousness (**Isa 32:1**). There is a resurgence of the ways of the old serpent (**Rev 20:2**), another way of thinking to be exposed that will be allowed to ferment through the deliberate control and wisdom of Christ to be loosed a little season (**Rev 20:3**). The faithful mortals all know the prophecy and most live in expectation of the final judgement to come upon that detestable alternative system of government and false worship that has become so insensible to obvious signs of the times and of the pages of biblical history. The drought of the ages that has come upon these nations for most of the millennium (**Zech 14:7**) has now been lifted and they have secretly exploited the benefits of living on the fringes of Christ's prosperous rule. The old system of Rome and its confederate nations have been stagnant for over 900 years through the iron grip (**Rev 19:15**) of Christ over all enemies

of the Truth, but now have steadily become active again as the great chain (**Rev 20:1**) that has held them in what seemed a bottomless pit has been deliberately loosed (**Rev 20:3**). Why would Christ order such a thing so as to allow these people to experience this prosperity in unrighteousness and rear up their innumerable idols again? Surely, to show the contrast, once and for all, between the depravity of sin at the pinnacle of its unrestrained pride, and the righteousness of the Most High God in condemning sin to death”.

This contrast of the manifestation of Sin’s ways against the righteous character of God is exposing sin for what it truly is on a whole new level. I have seen many within the first few generations of the millennium speedily take hold of the Truth. This has been significantly aided by the open manifestation of miracles, similar to the pouring out of the holy spirit in the book of Acts, but also because of contact between immortals with those still under the bondage of sin and death. As the first few generations of the millennium expired, these visible signs of the power of God through His servants began to lose their impact as those that knew the contrast of a world without miraculous cures and a lifted curse had now fallen asleep in Christ awaiting the second resurrection. The remaining generations I would liken to those born within wilderness wanderings, whose daily experience was filled with visible signs of God’s wisdom and power in the pillar of cloud by day, the pillar of fire by night (**Exo 13:21**), the manna that appeared six days a week (**Ex 16:35**), and the perpetual supply of water from the rock that followed them (**1 Cor 10:14**). The visible efforts of Christ and the immortal saints has now lost its initial effect amongst the remaining mortals who have known no different. The emphasis of our role, therefore, has been more on developing people’s faith in God’s promises rather than on works of the holy spirit, which is often seen as “old hat” and taken for granted by those who seek relief from sin in their lives but who lack faith in the evidence that is not seen (**Heb 11:1**). This has contributed to a widening gulf between these unfaithful and the immortals, who are otherwise accepted as a superior race to be aspired to, with Christ. Because of the decline of open miracles and involvement, these younger generations have also hardened their attitude towards those who submit to Christ. They believe that they can project their own form of rule in opposition to Christ and have been making preparations for a revolt.

Having exploited from the fringes the benefits of a world ruled by Christ, we now behold their preparations for war—a people who have only known peace. These have not only forgotten their history but deliberately deny the signs of the age and are destined to the same fate of those vanquished by Christ and the saints at Armageddon. The ugly, untactful, and clumsy predictability of sin now plays out before us as we behold from the coast and the country north west of Zion, knowing that, this time, we will not lift a finger against their armies.

As they march up to the Holy Land, their ships along the coast, the weather sets in. Thick black storm clouds filled with the wrath of a thousand years are charged with electrifying power of the Almighty. A deluge breaks forth over the approaching host, lightening flashes from droplet to droplet engulfing anything that still dry. But the stoic host continues onward as the landscape around them fills with muddy water that spills into the sea and lap against their ships. The land now resembles a fiery lake (**Rev 20:10,14**), the footmen with their detestable devices of war assemble about the rim. This innumerable host, as the sand of the sea (**Rev 20:8**) roaring and foaming up abominable shame (**Jude 1:13**).

The faithful mortals, who have retreated in refuge to the holy mountain with the immortals, now see the eyes of Christ as it were a flame of fire **(Rev 19:12)**. Our Lord does not even grace this army with a word, nor arise from the holiness of his throne, but, in an instant, in the flicker of his eyelids, the earth's crust beneath the swollen lake rents, a yawning crevasse like a jagged mouth, and all the water from land and sea bursts forth in a tidal wave. The wave engulfs every ship and soldier upon lake and land and with a hydraulic force not experienced since the time of the great flood, the entire army is sucked into the depression. As we behold in awe a final lightshow of fire from heaven streaks suddenly through the blackness of the clouds engulfing every remnant of war and sin existing in the earth. Flames of fire mingled with the wreckage of the stormy waters are now sucked down into oblivion, and with a final shudder the earth closes firmly upon them.

The blackness of the sky begins to dissolve into broken white clouds reviving the air with the finest mist that swiftly evaporates with the heat of the healing sun. Christ now stands, all eyes upon him in heaven and earth. He approaches a table before him furnished with books, and proceeds to open them all one by one **(Rev 20:12)**. What better way to start this new epoch in contrast to the final destruction of sin and death with the final resurrection of the dead. That blessed sound that we have all heard before when we all arose from that same sleep of death now resonates through every living fiber on the earth. The small and the great in the sea and all the covered places of the earth give up their dead **(Rev 20:13)** for a final time.

Leading up to the moments of the last judgement as the remnant of sin and death is about to be consumed, all the faithful, the perfected saints, are gathered in preparation for the concluding declaration of the righteousness of God over sin and death. The last mortal figure now passes before Christ and dissolves before him. The consummation of the mission of Christ is now complete. The earth and all that is therein stands still. The power of sin was death, and now the power of sin is dead. "It is done" declares our Lord **(Rev 21:6)**. And with all the zeal and knowledge of the finality of the victory, a triumphant cheer of praise breaks forth, a strain whose sound sin and death could never hear.

Now we behold our Lord Jesus, with anticipation in his eyes, do what must be the most profound act of any ruler. He takes off his crown and kneels, and before his knees grace the earth a voice from heaven is heard by all, "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men" **(Rev 21:3)**. And all the sky turns bright white and a figure of light coming towards Christ enveloping every living thing now stands before him. The brightness recedes giving clear view to all. We can now with pure hearts behold the face of our most holy God, Yahweh our Father, and the Father of our lord Jesus Christ **(Matt 5:8)**. All know, for the striking resemblance of form **(Heb 1:3)** and mind, for we can all see it through them and in everyone around us. Christ stands and yields up **(1 Cor 15:28)** his scepter and places the crown upon the head of the Highest. We are now all finally united, together in one, and God now all and in all, He Who Will Be is now He Who Is.

The End

and

The New Beginning



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THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

I saw a new Heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and earth had disappeared, and the sea was gone. Then I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, dressed like a bride ready for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "God lives with humans! God will make his home with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There won't be any more death".

There won't be any grief, crying, or pain, because the first things have disappeared.

The one sitting on the throne said, "I am making everything new." He said, "Write this: 'These words are faithful and true.'"

He said to me, "It has happened! I am the A and the Z, the beginning and the end. I will give a drink from the fountain filled with the water of life to anyone who is thirsty. It won't cost anything. Everyone who wins the victory will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my children."

THE NEW JERUSALEM

One of the seven angels who has the seven bowls full of the last seven plagues came to me and said; "Come! I will show you the bride, the wife of the lamb." He carried me by his power away to a large, high mountain. He showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. It had the glory of God. Its light was like a valuable gem, like gray quartz, as clear as crystal. It had a large, high wall with 12 gates. Twelve angels were at the gates. The names of the 12 tribes of Israel were written on the gates. There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. The wall of the city has 12 foundations. The 12 names of the 12 apostles of the lamb were written on them.

The angel who was talking to me had a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its walls. The city was square. It was as wide as it was long. He measured the city with the stick. It was 12,000 stadia long. Its length, width, and height were the same.

He measured its walls. According to human measurement, which the angel was using, it was 144 cubits. Its wall was made of gray quartz. The city was made of pure gold, as clear as glass. The foundations of the city wall were beautifully decorated with all kinds of gems: The first foundation was gray quartz, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth red quartz, the seventh yellow quartz, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth green quartz, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

The 12 gates were 12 pearls. Each gate was made of one pearl. The street of the city was made of pure gold, as clear as glass.

I did not see any temple in it, because the Lord God Almighty and the lamb are its temple. The city doesn't need any sun or moon to give it light because the glory of God gave it light. The lamb was its lamp. The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will be open all day. They will never close because there won't be any night there. They will bring the glory and the wealth of the

nations into the holy city. Nothing unclean, no one who does anything detestable, and no liars will ever enter it. Only those whose names are written in the lamb's Book of Life will enter it.

THE RIVER OF LIFE

The angel showed me a river filled with water of life, as clear as crystal. It was flowing from the throne of God and the lamb. Between the streets of the city and the river there was a tree of life visible from both sides. It produced 12 kinds of fruit. Each month had its own fruit. The leaves of the tree will heal the nations. There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and the lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him and see his face. His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night, and they will not need any light from lamps or the sun because the Lord God will shine on them. They will rule as kings forever and ever.

JESUS IS COMING

He said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord God of the spirits of the prophets has sent his angels to show his servants the things that must happen soon. I'm coming soon! Blessed is the one who follows the words of the prophecy in this book."

I, John, heard and saw these things. When I had heard and seen them, I bowed to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing me these things. He told me, "Don't do that! I am your coworker. I work with your brothers, the prophets, and those who follow the words in this book. Worship God!" Then the angel said to me, "Don't seal up the words of the prophecy in this book because the time is near. Let those who don't have God's approval go without it, and let filthy people continue to be filthy. Let those who have God's approval continue to have it, and let holy people continue to be holy."

"I'm coming soon! I will bring my reward with me to pay all people based on what they have done. Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates of the city."

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give this testimony to you for the ecclesias. I am the root and descendant of David. I am the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let those who hear this say, "Come!" Let those who are thirsty come! Let those who want the water of life take it as a gift.

The one who is testifying to these things says, "Yes, I'm coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! The good will of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen!



Nate
Giordano



"they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my
holy mountain, for the earth shall be
full of the knowledge of the lord. as the waters

cover the sea"

isaiah 11

Why not add your own Kingdom vision...?



THE KINGDOM PROJECT 2020