

Ever abiding God

In the year 2010, I and my brother Justin were small and in that age we could not grasp much of what life was. My parents told us that we were leaving the town we had been staying. Only thing we were sad about was that we were going to lose our friends. I don't remember anything beyond that. I didn't have an idea where we were going or why our parents were doing this. One day I saw my daddy in the school. In the evening he told us not to go to Lourdes school from the next day onwards. When we heard this we were very happy. My mother couldn't imagine that we were leaving our house. One morning while we were playing I saw a big truck come to our house. Immediately our pastor and church members came and started packing our things. Daddy alone travelled with that truck. We locked the house and went to the pastor's house. Next day we and the pastor's family travelled by train and reached Nashik. Later Daddy told us that this journey was an answer from God. Many months he had sat in the presence of God and God gave him an opportunity to work for the Bibleless communities. He waited by faith. God answered his prayers!

When we reached Nashik, half year of school was over and no school was ready to give us admission. We were worried but our parents and others prayed. Again our God heard their prayers. St. Francis School accepted our application and we joined that school. After two years we heard that we were leaving that city and travelling to another location. Again we were worried about losing our new friends and the church. When the pastor of the church heard that we were leaving, he also applied for another church and got transferred.

We left the plains and reached the foot hills of Himalaya, in Dehradun. We were happy to see the mountains and the valleys. We liked the



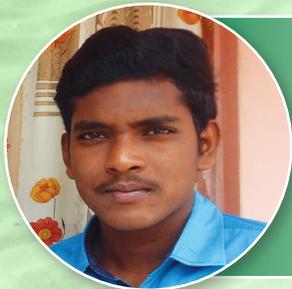
Jerrin Dawny & Justin Dawny

campus. We found good friendship in that place. By the grace of God we both got admission in a prestigious Christian school. When I was in 10th class, my parents told me to go for tuitions so that I could score good marks that year. Every evening I and my friends went for tuition on our cycles.

On August 16, 2012 as usual we travelled by cycle. While we were in the class, it started raining slowly. After the class also there was rain but my friend and I started riding the cycle. That ride was very pleasant because of the cool breeze. After about half the distance there was heavy rain and wind and by then we had reached the highest point of the place. The path we had to ride was very steep. Because of the heavy rain our aim was to somehow reach home. But on the way we had to cross a dry river (Water fills the road only when it rains). We tried to cross the water but we both got washed away with our cycle. My friend was an expert swimmer and he told me to grab the side branch of a tree. I tried but failed desperately. But in my second attempt I could grab it. My bag, spectacles and sandals got washed away. After some time the rain stopped and we came out. I was afraid and was shivering because of the cold wind. Our God saved us.

My day had started with the reading of Proverbs and prayer. Our parents taught us to pray before going anywhere. That day before going for tuition I remember that I had prayed. His





Ebin Joy

God's presence will remove the emptiness of our hearts

It is difficult to find an example in this world to follow. Some could be downright hypocritical and some could have true desire to follow Christ but something holds them back. Some have all the comforts and pleasures but still they feel empty. We know people visit many pilgrimages thinking they will find peace. I read about a man from Andhra Pradesh, along with his son visited almost every pilgrimage in South India. But he couldn't find peace and felt emptiness in his heart. At last finding no way, on foot all the way from Andhra Pradesh he visited a pilgrimage in Tamil Nadu and sacrificed his one and only son there.

People try to fill the emptiness of their hearts with various things and are misled by the evil things of the world. Today's youth are falling in many traps of this world. Our heart is like a vessel which cannot be filled with any wealth, riches or treasures of this world. Only God can fill it. If we look into David's life, he once lost everything in

his life, his son turned against him. Even in that situation he says, "My soul thirsts for You." His heart was longing for God and to be filled by the Divine peace. If we are in such a situation what would be our soul thirsting for? God lives in us by Spirit and we live in Him through obedience. If our heart is really longing for Him, He shall surely come to us. Only with God we can be a complete being, as man is nothing, here today and gone tomorrow.

Failures may happen in our lives but never give up. Get back to the track through prayer and meditation. Keep purposing to please Him in everything we do. Keep on striving to be an example for others. God earnestly desires to help us and to fill our hearts with his peaceful presence. He loves to be with us and to strengthen us in every area of our lives. All we need to do is to obey Him and yield ourselves to His will. He is the One who removes the emptiness and fills our hearts with His presence.



presence truly saved us from death. Isaiah 43:2 says He will protect us when we pass through the waters.

Now I am studying BCA and my brother is studying B.Com. When I look back, I realize that it is only His grace that has sustained us thus far. What a mighty God our parents serve. Now my parents are serving the Bibleless communities.

We need only one God. He is able to do everything. When we believe blindly He can do all things.

Growing up as a Missionary's child



Atulya Anna Alexander

My earliest memories of being a missionary's child are in my small home in the state of Orissa. Till date, many of my fondest memories remain in that house.

I won't say being a missionary's child has been easy. It isn't always simple making people understand what my parents really do. Some haven't even heard of "Bible Translators." But God honours those who honour Him. I can testify from my life and my parents' lives. God has blessed me because He has given me good friends wherever I go. He has provided us a good house and a good neighbourhood whenever we move. He has given me a good education.

Being a missionary's child compels a lot of social interaction and changing of schools on a person, and I am grateful for that. Thanks to that, making friends or talking to strangers has never been a problem for me. I am not a prey to

prejudice since I have had the privilege to interact with the lowest of the lowlies and the highest of the highs. The Lord has indeed blessed me with these qualities.

But all of that doesn't omit the fact that there were bad times. Indeed, it is difficult living with absolutely no idea what could change in our country the next day. It is hard not knowing whether your parents will receive their next pay check at times. But even through all of this, God's hand intervenes. Romans 8:28 says, "For all things work together for the good of those who love Him." Everything I needed has been provided, even in grim situations. He has even granted me many of my wants! That is how abundant and faithful He is.

My journey as missionary's child continues. I have many years left to go. Through thick and thin, I know God will see me through. This much I am assured of.

POEM

My All in All

Hannah Joseph



Who's my solace in a time such as this?
Not one in this world, nay:
Though none may understand,
I know He does, before a word I say.

He's the one who leads me on,
And calms the fears inside of me:
He's the one who bids me live,
Coz He's the one carrying me.

The sweetest friend may betray me,
But my Jesus, Oh NEVER!
He's the one who loves me- my friend, my brother,
His place cannot be taken by another.

Oh what an awesome mystery!
The Saviour of the world died for me!
He's my solace-My all in all,
I don't ever need another!

My Testimony



Reshith Joshua

I was born as a miracle baby to my parents because I was born after 6 years of their marriage. I grew up in a good Christian atmosphere. I learnt Biblical truths from home and from Sunday class. But something was lacking in me. I did not believe in the existence of God because I could not see him. One day (21st June 2012), when I was 9 years old, during our family prayer, my mother and grandfather explained to me about the existence of God and the need of accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. That night, I committed my life to Jesus Christ. Since then, I started growing in my personal relationship with God, by praying and reading the Bible everyday. Life was going smooth.

But during the month of May 2013, I had the first attack of pancreatitis. Due to severe stomach pain, I was admitted in the hospital for 3 days. Ordinary pain killers could not alleviate my pain. So heavy doses of pain killers were given through IV during those 3 days. The bad news was that, even though I was hungry, I was not even allowed to drink a drop of water (for 2 days) until my pain subsided. When I was discharged from the hospital, I thought that was the end of that episode. But I had similar attacks many times for almost 3 years. Every time I got the pain, I was admitted in the hospital and went through the same procedure. The doctors who treated me in Mysore and Bangalore made investigations and told that they were not able to find out

the real cause of pancreatitis and so it had to be treated symptomatically i.e. to admit me in the hospital and follow the same procedure, whenever I get pancreatitis pain. My eyes always welled up with tears every time I went to supermarkets, or special occasions, because I had to follow a strict diet regime. Even though the procedure was painful, God's presence was real to me. By His grace, I was able to bear the unbearable pain. He taught me many lessons.

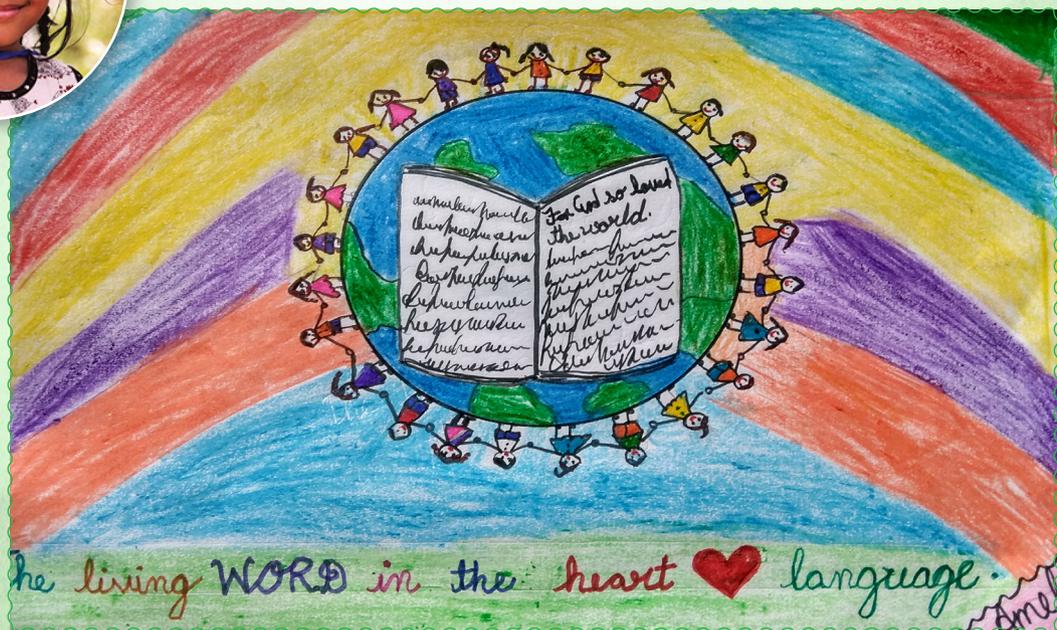
In the year 2016, when I went for my regular eye check-up, the doctor told that the cornea in my eyes were bent. So I had an eye surgery (C3R) done on my right eye. After that, one day, God spoke to me through a dream. He told me that He would heal me from pancreatitis and the eye problem. During the month of October 2016, I was taken to CMC, Vellore for a check-up. After a careful investigation, the doctor was able to find out the cause of pancreatitis and gave medical treatment accordingly. By God's grace, I never had major episodes of pancreatitis till now. In the same way, when we went for an eye check-up recently, we found that the eye sight had become almost normal. I am really grateful to God who has done marvelous things in my life and takes care of me every moment. "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!" Ps. 139: 13-14 (NLT).



Samuel Thomas



Amelia Sachin

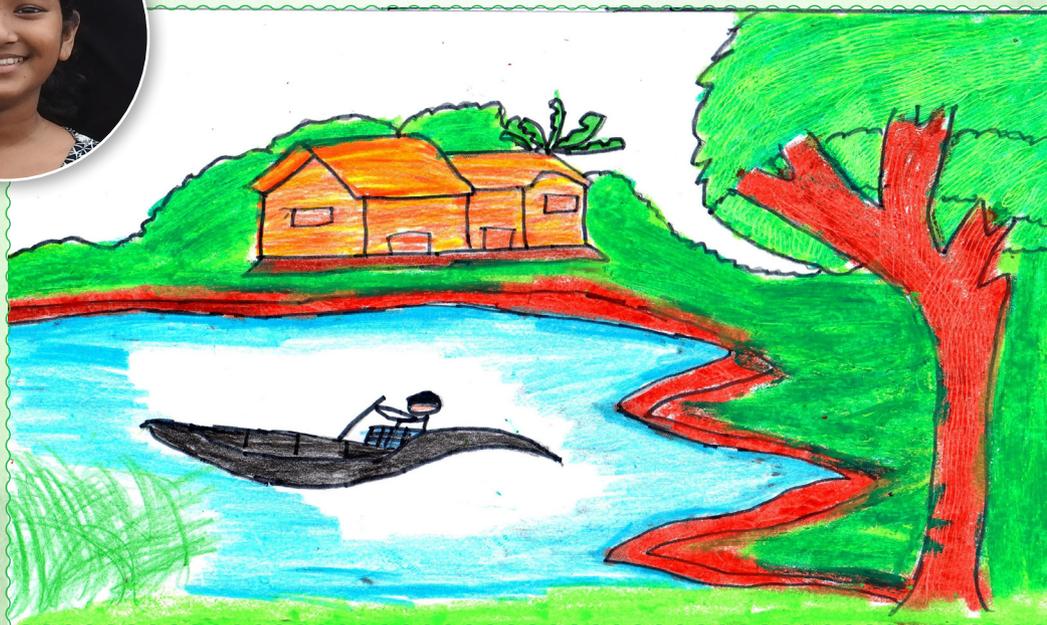




Angel Sara Liju



Feba G. Mathew



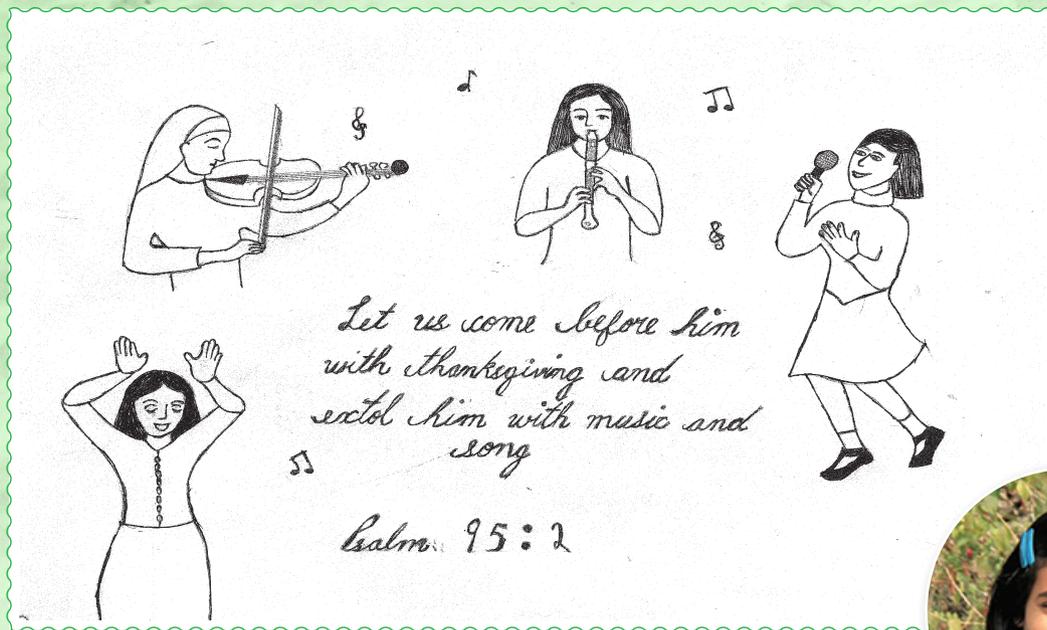


Chris M. Ebenezer



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