

Lighthouse

Issue 6 | Volume 1

January 2023



74TH REPUBLIC DAY

2023 | Faith Makes Things Possible



The Lighthouse e-Magazine was created especially for teenagers and young adults. You'll discover something unique and fascinating in every issue of our magazine.

We provide inspirational messages from experienced people, young testimonials and personal stories, as well as fun activities like Bible puzzles, quizzes, and historical facts. You are always welcome to share your stories and experiences with us.

Email us at lighthousehbi@gmail.com (or) hbiemagazine@gmail.com if you'd like to share your experiences or talents with us.

Articles

- 05** In the Loving Memory of Rev. U. C. Jena
Fulfillment of the Great Commission by Dr. Udaya Chandra Jena
- 07** Journeying to Bethelhem with Hope in the New Year Dr. Jaganathan
- 12** God Gives Good Gifts Sis. Anna Wincent
- 16** Faithful and Fruitful
Grace of Acceptance: The God Who Accepts Mr. Isaac Newton
- 18** Historical Facts
The Story Behind "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Special Events

- 10** Pongal @ HBI
- 13** HBI Republic Day Celebration

09 Bible Puzzle

20 Bible Quiz

11 Positive Affirmations

Fun Activities

Promise Verse

Truly I tell you, if you have *faith*
as small as a *mustard seed*,
you can say to this mountain 'Move from here
to there', and it will move.

Nothing will be *impossible* for you.

-Matthew 17:20



Our Team

Editor-in-Chief: Mr. Dev Daniel
Director: Mr. Thuthi Nesa Raja
Designer and Editor: Ms. Suneera Lincy
Associate Editor: Mr. Isaac Newton

To Send Us Your Life Experiences and Writings:

E-mail: lighthousebi@gmail.com | hbiemagazine@gmail.com
Mail: 86-89, Medavakkam Tank Road, Kilpauk, Chennai, Pin: 600 010. Call: (044) 26421199,26423758
To know about our Bible College Visit: <https://www.hbionline.org> | <https://hbicollege.edu.in>

“FAITH MAKES THINGS POSSIBLE”

Editor's Note

No matter the storm that we face in life, it is often our faith in God that carries us through. Although there may not be a visible sign that our prayers have been answered or that hope is near, we can still have faith and trust in God. We can believe that anything is possible for those who believe in the Lord.

Mark 9:23 says “*All things are possible for one who believes*” further reinforcing the thought that if we have faith in God, then anything can be accomplished. In other words, we can have faith that even if something seems impossible, with the Lord’s help, it can be accomplished. This is especially important to remember in times of uncertainty and difficulty.

It is during the storms of life that our faith in God is tested. However, we must remain resolute and trust in God’s plan. We can take comfort in knowing that although the storm may be raging, ultimately, through the power of faith in the Lord, we can receive the guidance and strength we need to persevere. Our faith in God can make the impossible, possible.

When we hold onto faith, even during the toughest challenges, we are reminded of God’s never-ending love, compassion and grace. Our faith gives us the strength to stand firm and trust that God will see us through each trial we face and remind us of His goodness.

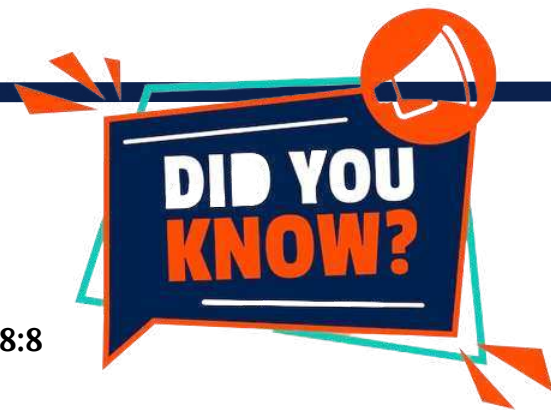
So, when we find ourselves in a storm, let us remember to be steadfast in our faith and trust in the Lord. Let us have faith that He is in control and that He can make all things possible for those who believe.

Shalom!

Which Verse is at the Exact Center of the Bible?

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

– **Psalm 118:8**



The Last Word

The book of Revelation contains the very last word in the Bible, which is Amen. Amen refers to "so be it."

When were Verses Added to the Bible?

To make the Bible more readable, chapters and verses were included. The Ben Asher family composed the texts that make up our contemporary Old Testament around the 900s AD. Robert Stephanus also came up with the current New Testament passages. In 1551, he broke the Greek text down into verses.

FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION BY DR. UDAYA CHANDRA JENA

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

- II Timothy 4:7



Udaya Chandra Jena was affectionately referred to as "UC." He was born in Odisha in 1932 to an orthodox family of a different faith. When a Lutheran missionary came to their village in 1958, he was amazed by how enthusiastic and eager UC was to learn. In order to help UC learn to read and write, the missionary stayed with him at his house. UC learned to read and write and went with the missionary on his missionary trips. UC came to the realization that he was a sinner who needed to find forgiveness one day while reading a booklet called "Mukti Marg." He earnestly prayed, seeking the true living God to redeem him and grant him forgiveness for all of his sins.

UC's family wanted him to give up his new faith since they didn't agree with him accepting the living God, but he stood firm in his decision. Therefore, his family disowned him on the streets. He was abandoned by his own family, but he was loved and accepted by God, who delighted him with His presence and care.

He started his ministry in Arpona in 1964, together with his wife, Sudharshini Jena, a dedicated child of the living God. They learned that the people spoke different languages and had different cultural practises. They dwell in mountains and forests and are members of the "Kuvi" tribal group. To get to these people, UC had to walk daily for 15 to 20 kilometres over a period of about 20 days. It was difficult to speak to them initially, but God gave UC the opportunity to start night school for both adults and children. There were about 30 new students, and UC made the most of every opportunity to tell them about the gospel and God's love. The first church started by UC was among the Kuvi people, where 12 people responded to the gospel.

God confirmed UC's call to missionary work among the "Kuvi" people group when UC and his wife were pursuing a theology degree at Junction Theological College in 1971. With a mission to train and disciple the young people of the Kuvi people group, UC started his "New Grace Mission" work in Badalubadi in 1981. Only two families in a district of 535 villages initially accepted the living God. There were no churches among the Kuvils initially, but now there is a congregation

His primary source of motivation was his wife, Mrs. Shubhashani Jena, who unfortunately developed kidney disease and passed away on January 7, 2013. She was regarded as Kuvils spiritual and godly mother, and thousands turned out for her burial.

“
He was penniless but rich in God;
He was discouraged but comforted by God
He was lonely, but in God's company.”



- 7 churches planted in 1981
- 56 more pastors joined the mission.
- 100 churches were planted in 1995.
- 1000+ people have been discipled

Rev. U. C. Jena stated amidst the sad demise of his beloved wife,

“ **Let nothing separate me from the love of Christ, and nothing should hold me back from what I am supposed to accomplish that God anticipates from me.** ”

God significantly used UC for his kingdom work, the great commission of discipling souls, and training a large number of young people to serve in his kingdom. Rev. U. C. Jena served as the State Coordinator of Odisha. In carrying out the great commission, Rev. U. C. Jena toiled devotedly and earnestly. On January 19, 2023, UC passed away after being diagnosed with kidney failure. Working faithfully for 29 years and serving God despite challenges and difficulties is a tremendous task. His life is a great inspiration for all who desire to serve God's kingdom and are willing to accomplish the great commission that God has called them for.

We are grieved by the loss of such a wonderful, dedicated man, and we ask that you keep his bereaved family and congregation in your prayers.

Matthew 28:19

TO THE NATIONS

Declare His Glory

JOURNEYING TO BETHLEHEM WITH HOPE IN THE NEW YEAR



"With grace, God offers us this New Year. With the spirituality of Ruth, let us enter into it with hope"

Anything that is new catches our attention and fills us with emotions of gladness, appreciation, surprise, and wonder. We are naturally drawn towards it. We might want to have it, if it is a material, or we might want to be a part of it if it is an event.

We begin to reflect on how this new thing would make our lives more comfortable, or think about how the new events might pave the way for a better life. It could be because we are tired of whatever has been going on up to this point because familiarity breeds contempt, whether it is for people, places, things, or events. We desire to move from the past and proceed to something new, and that would be adventurous, entertaining, enriching, and satisfying. It is this desire and thirst for the new that makes our lives more and more progressive, resulting in inventions with variety and differences. With whatever is old, we tend to become uninterested, falling prey to monotony, sluggishness, and mechanical involvement and participation.

Yahweh was so frustrated by this "disinterested," monotonous, and peripheral relationship that he devised the "magic formula of the new." He established a new covenant, giving people a new heart, a new spirit, making everything "new," and finally creating a new heaven and a new earth. **"New"** is so exciting and much more when it comes to "the New Year."

Ruth's Journey from Emptiness in Moab to Fulfillment in Bethlehem: The Jewish New Year festival "Rosh Hashanah" is celebrated during the month of September. This is typically the end of the barley harvest and the start of the wheat harvest and ingathering. It is during this period that Ruth, and her mother-in-law travel to Bethlehem. As we know, Ruth is the daughter in law of her husband, who died in Moab, and so are her two sons, leaving the aged mother-in-law and the young daughter-in-law childless, empty, and frustrated.

Moab is the country east of the Dead Sea, between Ammon and Edom. Traditionally, it was considered an enemy country of Israel. Moab is signified as the place of death as we remember the death of Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, and the deaths of his two sons, viz., Mahlon and Chilion. This is also emptiness. Widowhood, famine, and the impossibility of a future progeny are all indications of emptiness, which could be economical, social, and domestic. Moab is the country east of the Dead Sea, between Ammon and Edom. Traditionally, it was considered an enemy country of Israel. Moab is signified as the place of death as we remember the death of Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, and the deaths of his two sons, viz., Mahlon and Chilion.



This is also emptiness. Widowhood, famine, and the impossibility of a future progeny are all indications of emptiness, which could be economical, social, and domestic. Ruth's story begins in the context of the period of the Judges. The historical period at the time of Judges is marked by political instability, moral decay, sexual misbehavior, idol worship, and fertility cults, all of which arouse the anger of Yahweh. This could be a moral and spiritual vacuum.

Ruth, together with Naomi, moves from this state of emptiness to Bethlehem, which is called the House of Bread. It is interesting to note that Ruth was journeying during the time of barley harvest

(the end of wheat harvest), which is calculated in the current Roman calendar as the month of September, when the New Year festival of Yom Hasshana was celebrated with subsequent celebrations of Succoth, the Feast of Ingathering, etc. So Ruth is moving from death to celebration and from emptiness to fullness, which is indicated by the harvest, the feast of ingathering, etc.

In today's context, where journeys are taken for granted, Ruth's journey is not such an exciting or significant matter to reflect upon. However, in the context of the Judges period, the journey of the two widows without male support from Moab to Bethlehem, a hilly village, is not to be overlooked. Without hope, without trust, or without total faith, this sort of journey is unimaginable. With all the setbacks narrated, what was the mental disposition of Ruth that made her risk a journey into an unknown world? What made this hope and trust possible for Ruth?

The first that flows through this journey is (Hebrew) *hesed*, which means 'loving kindness'. This *hesed* can be seen in all of the living people in the story, beginning with Ruth, who shows loving kindness to her mother-in-law, Naomi, accompanying her and risking sharing her lot, whether it is life or death. It is seen in Boaz, who manifested his loving kindness to redeem the land for Naomi and to marry Ruth in spite of her being a Moabitess and a widow with the responsibility of supporting and maintaining her old mother-in-law, Naomi. This loving kindness is further seen in all the men who were at the gate (4:11), blessing Ruth and Boaz to be like the house of Judah. This loving kindness is also seen in the women who were present at the birth of Obed. They praised God for his restoration and praised Naomi for the gift of Ruth, who meant more to her than seven sons. Starting from Moab, ending in Bethlehem, and continuing her life in Bethlehem, the life-journey of Ruth was filled with the "loving kindness" of both God and humans.

The second element that made the hope of Ruth well-founded was her attachment to Yahweh, the God of Naomi. Ruth confesses, "Your God will be my God" (1:16). Ruth is a Moabite woman. How would she have known Yahweh? Perhaps after marrying Elimelech's son, Ruth would have known more about Yahweh from the faith proclamations of the family of Elimelech. During the Passover festival, the father of the family makes a historical proclamation demonstrating the mighty acts of Yahweh on behalf of the impoverished Hebrew slaves. This has given her hope that Yahweh will come to their aid and end their suffering. This faith in this God of restoration makes her undertake a journey to Bethlehem. The theme of "God's restoration" is repeated once again in 4:15, at the climax of the story.

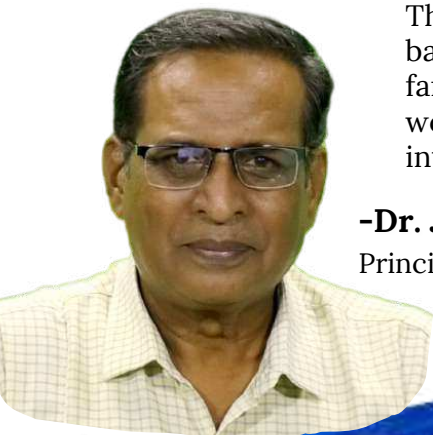
The third theme that flows in the story of Ruth's journey is her attachment to Naomi. In 1:14, we see that while Orpah left Naomi, Ruth clung to her. The word "cling" is the same word used in Gen 2:24, where the husband and wife will cling to each other in an emotional, physical, interpersonal, and reciprocal relationship. The same word is used here of Ruth, who is attached to Naomi, indicating the emotional, empathetic, interpersonal, and reciprocal relationship that existed between Ruth and Naomi. This sort of close and intimate relationship makes our journey possible, however tough and difficult the journey may turn out to be. For her, the support of Naomi, her mother-in-law, is more important than her marital security and pleasures. Boaz praises Ruth's loyalty and morality in refusing to pursue young men, rich or poor (Ruth 3:10). Her moral integrity is a strong foundation for her hope for a better future

We are repeatedly confronted with the theme of "Bethlehem" during the Christmas and New Year's seasons. In almost all the carols, the word 'Bethlehem' appears. At the birth of Jesus, the shepherds said, "Come, let us go to Bethlehem," with the hope of seeing the great thing that had taken place (Lk 2:15).

Our thoughts and meditations on this "Bethlehem" of this world is a symbol and preparation for our journey to eternal Bethlehem (the place of an eternal banquet, eternal bread).

We take our steps to this eternal Bethlehem, once again in another New Year' with deep hope. I hope that this year will be a year of blessings: the blessing of experiencing God's benevolence and goodness, the experience of bringing his benevolence to others, and the experience of receiving this benevolence from others.

This hope should be founded on the loving-kindness of God and men, falling back on God in prayer and contemplation, being attached to the members of our family, members of our church, colleagues, and all men in their struggles and worries, and living at the same time a life of moral integrity.



-Dr. Jaganathan
Principal | Online College HBI & College

“The concluding virtue is good social relationships, which Ruth has established throughout her life journey. Whether in the fields, in the village, or with the neighbors, Ruth and Boaz demonstrate an amicability and social interrelationship that forms the basis for the hope of a better tomorrow”

BIBLE PUZZLE

Can you figure these Bible Characters ?













Send your answers to lighthousebi@gmail.com | hbiemagazine@gmail.com

HBI SPECIAL EVENTS

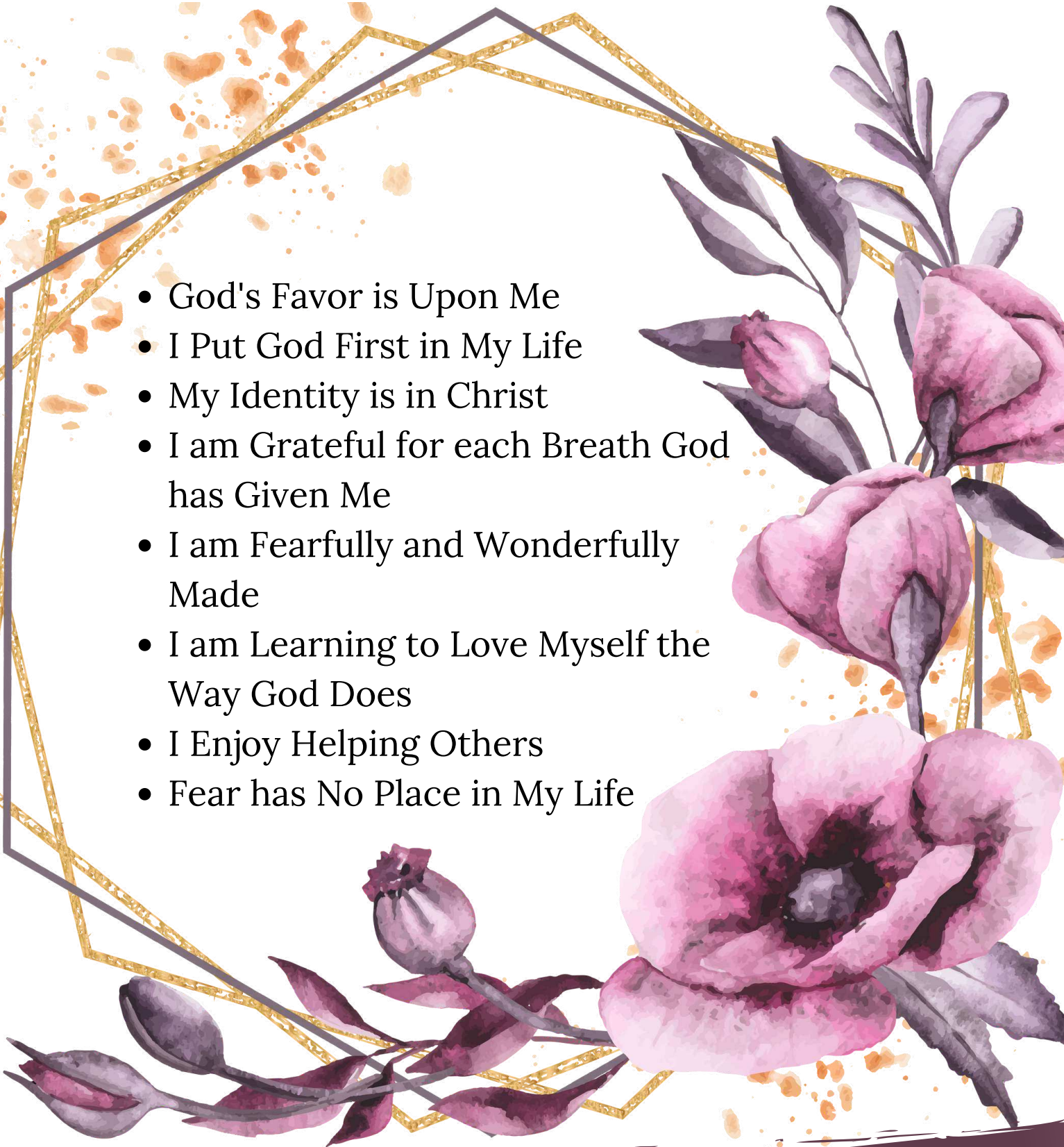


PONGAL @ HBI



Positive Affirmations

- God's Favor is Upon Me
- I Put God First in My Life
- My Identity is in Christ
- I am Grateful for each Breath God has Given Me
- I am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
- I am Learning to Love Myself the Way God Does
- I Enjoy Helping Others
- Fear has No Place in My Life



GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS

-Sis. Anna Wincent



There are seasons in our lives when we are more discouraged than encouraged. It is inevitable that all of us will experience those moments, and it is often in the face of insurmountable grief or negative experiences that this happens.

But Romans 15:5 reminds us that there are three things that God gives to those who believe in Jesus. The first is that God gives endurance. When we begin to grow tired of doing good things or living our lives for God, it is often because we are living with the wrong motivation.

True motivation comes from living for God, not ourselves. It is God who gives us the endurance through the Spirit to make good choices and live for Him.

The second thing God gives us is encouragement. In seasons of discouragement when we feel let down by people, God gives us lasting encouragement. He reminds us that we are loved. He reminds us that we are being transformed. We don't need to strive for approval or acceptance because we're already sons and daughters of God.

The third thing that we can pray for God to give us is unity of mind toward each other. This means that we consider others as Jesus would consider them. Instead of seeing their flaws or mistakes, we see them as people loved and cared for by God. We should work toward unity with each other rather than division.

All three of these things are worthy of spending time in prayer, asking God for endurance, encouragement, and unity with each other. If you're feeling tired and want to quit, ask God for the endurance to continue doing good for those around you.

If you're feeling discouraged and down, ask God for encouragement that only He can give. And above all, ask God for the same heart and mind as Jesus, who brings us together in unity rather than division.



HBI Republic Day Celebration

Happy
74th Republic Day







Faithful and Fruitful

Grace of Acceptance: The God Who Accepts

-Mr. Isaac Newton

We hope this session will help you celebrate the acceptance you have from God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit!

Read **Ephesians 1: 7**: *When has someone shown you grace? How did that impact you?*

The Grace of Acceptance in Jesus Christ

Acceptance is the first part of the cycle of grace. We receive acceptance from God in Christ alone.

Read **Ephesians 1: 4-5**:

a) *In this passage, what do we learn about how we were chosen? About God? About us?*

Acceptance by the God of love

God's love for us does not change. Our acceptance is based on who God is, not on who we are or what we do. God's love for us does not change, because Jesus' work is complete and sufficient. Our acceptance is based completely on Jesus Christ.

**We Receive
Acceptance
from God
in Christ
Alone**

The Father can't possibly love his Son any less. So, he cannot love us any less. God delights in the good things we do. He calls us to obey Him. God's Spirit helps us live the holy life we are called to. However, He loves us regardless of what we do or do not do. Our work flows out of grace. Our works do not earn grace.

Thus, we are perfectly secure in God's acceptance. We are loved with perfect love by a perfect God.

Some days, we may not feel God's acceptance. We have confessed our sins. We are walking in the light. Yet, we may feel God is disappointed with us. We may think that if we do more, God will love us more. Yet, remind yourself of the truth.

Read **1 John 3: 1**:

- In this passage, how is God's love described? What is the result?
- What words might you use to further describe God's love? Take time to ponder the Father's love for us in Jesus.
- Think of a time you have experienced the love of God. Reflect on it. What were your emotions? How did your body feel? What do you picture Jesus doing or saying?

Acceptance in the Life of Jesus

Read **Luke 3: 22**, which describes Jesus' baptism.

- What did the Spirit and the Father do and say?
- Why might this have been important at the beginning of Jesus' ministry?

Jesus had many challenges in his ministry, just like us. Yet, he knew he was loved by his Father.

- Why is it important in ministry that we receive and rest in God's love?
- What does it mean to "rest" in God's love?
- What are some ways you remember God's love, even when things are difficult?

Planting Seeds of Practice

Before the next session, find time with God to reflect on **Psalm 103: 10-18** or **Romans 5: 1-5**.

- When will you do this? Where? If you are doing this individually, ask someone to pray for you. During your time with God, read, reflect, and respond to the text.

Read. Listen to what God is saying in his Word.

- **Reflect:** Read the passage again. Reflect on it. What is God saying to you?
- **Respond:** Read the passage again. Respond to God in some way. Perhaps by prayer, art, song, dance, or writing.

Rooted in the Gospel

Resting in God's love means you are fully assured of God's love for you personally in Jesus. Challenges may come, but his love is your refuge! **Psalm 36:7**

Blessing

“May the Spirit of grace show you the riches of God's love and pour them out into your heart.”



The Story Behind "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"



Elisha Albright Hoffman wrote the stanzas' content, while Anthony Johnson Showalter created the song's melody. Anthony was born in Rockingham County, VA on May 1, 1858. From an early age, he studied music with his father, and he also attended other singing institutes. In an Alabama church, he later established a singing school.

Two letters were waiting for him when he got back to his room one day. His former students who had just lost their wives wrote him letters. In response to their letters Anthony Showalter wrote back with a quote from the Bible,

“ God is thy
refuge, and
underneath are
the everlasting
arms ”

-Deut. 33: 27

In this verse, he made reference to "God's eternal arms." He pondered about this lyric after finishing the letters and had the thought to compose a song on it. He wrote to his friend Elisha Hoffman to let him know that he had the lyrics for the chorus but not the verses. Mr. Hoffman replied with the rest of the verses, and Anthony Showalter quickly finished the melody and composed the music for the well-known hymn "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

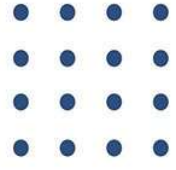
The song was initially released in the same year's "The Glad Evangel for Revival."

The amazing hymn "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" serves as a reminder of how we can have the assurance of God's everlasting love and care. The lyrics are as follows:

What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace
is mine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

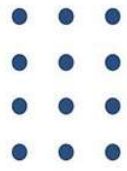
Chorus:

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

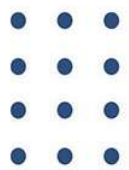


Building God-Class Transformational Leaders

SINCE 1952



APPLY NOW



COME JOIN US!

B. Th *(Online)*
Bachelor of Theology

MABS *(Evening College)*
Master of Arts in Biblical
Studies

M. Div *(Residential)*
Master of Divinity

M. Th *(Residential)*
Master of Theology
Old Testament | New Testament |
Missiology | Pastoral Theology

D. Min *(Blended Learning)*
Doctor of Ministry

Ph. D *(Blended Learning)*
Doctor of Philosophy
New Testament | Inter Cultural
Studies

PG Diploma *(Online)*
Pastoral Counseling &
Biblical Psychology

More information
(91) 044-26421199 | 078459 52827
academic@hbionline.org | dean@hbionline.org
www.hbicollege.edu.in | www.hbionline.org | www.hbicollege.online

*No one can
shut the door when*

God opens it

@awesomedesigns2k16 | @awesomedesigns2k16 | @awesomedesigns2k16



@awesomedesigns

Priyanka Kumbhar

Bible Quiz

Participants can register by
visiting: joinmyquiz.com

Enter this code:
3555 5451

February 16, 2023: Deadline to complete the quiz

Bible Quiz December Winners

Congratulations



Mytube Kinny



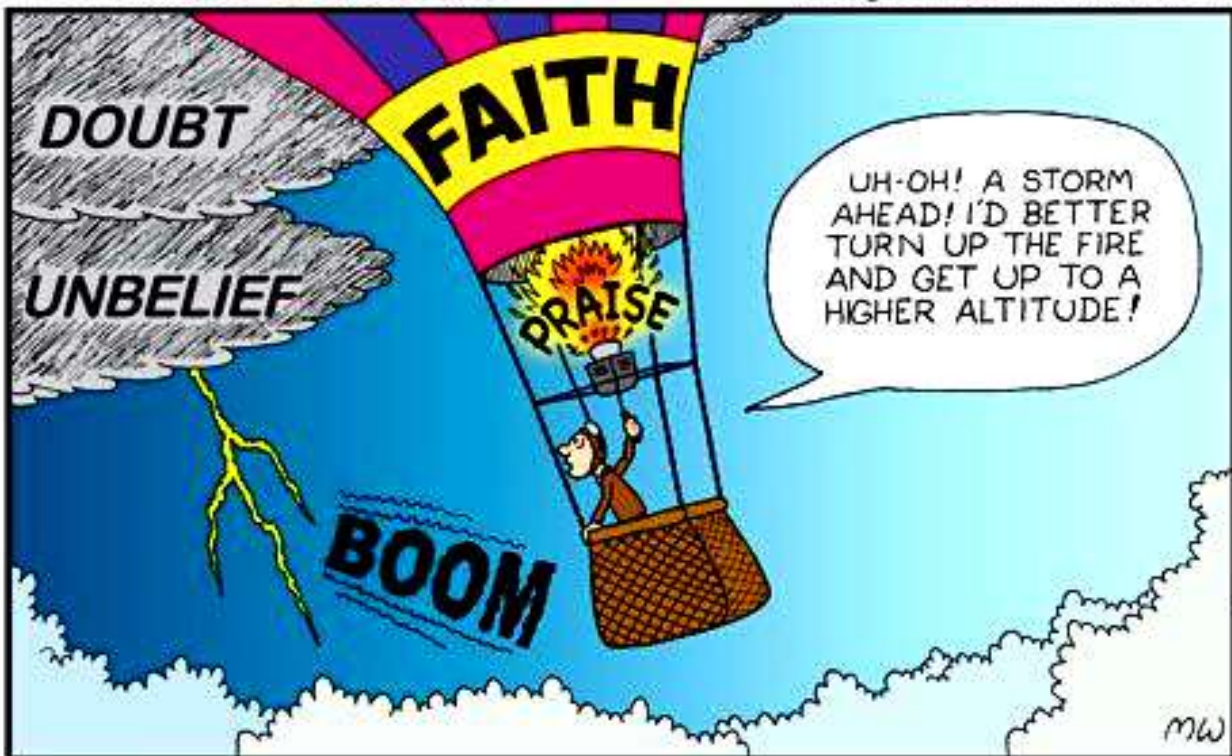
Mrs. Princy



Pr. Victor Kumar

HOT AIR BALLOON

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

- ROMANS 4:20 KJV

Vision

To be a guiding light to direct people to run their race with perseverance without being wavered by the storms or broken by dangerous perilous rocks.



This magazine is published monthly and is FREE of charge to our readers.

Have A Prayer Request? Call Us

We would like to pray for you

Prayer Helplines

Tamil: (+91) 994010 94528

English: (+91) 97105 64318

Telugu: (+91) 98409 40233

Hindi: (+91) 90425 61361



HBI Networking Department

Please contact us if you have any articles of interest for inclusion in this e-magazine or you wish to be involved in it's production and/or distribution.

The images used in this e-magazine belongs to the respective sites from which they were taken. We do not own them.

Follow Us



Instagram



YouTube



Online Education



Facebook



Website



College Website

Our Address:

86-89, Medavakkam Tank Road, Kilpauk, Chennai- 600 010

Call: (044) 26421199, 26423758

Email: lighthousehbi@gmail.com | hbiemagazine@gmail.com