

## **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: A Mother's Day Special Surprise**

**(TFATD-41)**

Last year, Mother's day was extra nice. It had some special elements to it that reminded us how close and caring Jesus is. He knew right where we were, and just what we needed.

In the afternoon, for fun we pitched our large tent in the back yard. It was a place to play, have snacks and read books. It would have been too cold at that time of year to actually sleep in it, but it was fun for play time. However, due to some special touches of God's love from Heaven, we actually did sleep in the tent that night. Here's what happened.

For most of the day a lady was visiting to do recording in my husband's studio. The day was sunny and a nice temperature. The children and I, their mother, were able to spend most of the time outside, so as not to disturb the recording. It was such a pleasant day. But even pleasant days were always too cold at night to camp. The weather was heading towards the winter season.

However, that Mother's Day evening the children began to feel in the mood to spend the whole night in the tent. And actually, it seemed important that we did because of their sensitivity to the smell of perfume, which had strongly permeated the air of our house, due to the visiting singer. But maybe we can be glad for the reason that caused us to need to sleep elsewhere, because if that didn't compel us, we might have missed the special treat that it turned to be.

We brought our bedding out to the tent, along with flashlights, storybooks, drinking water and snacks. The tent has sides that roll up with netted walls, allowing us to look at the stars as we went to sleep. But it wasn't just the normal starry sky that we see. For some reason the starry view was what we'd expect to see when out in the countryside without city lights dimming the starry light. That night, and that night only, we saw so many stars, right from our backyard. We saw the Milky Way and special beautiful star formations that are rarely seen by us, unless we are out far in the country.

We brought lots of blankets to make sure we would be warm enough, just sleeping outside in a tent. We expected it to be colder than in the house, but we didn't have anything extra to cover ourselves with besides what we used each night in the house. Then, mysterious, not only did we not get too cold, but we actually felt too warm and took off some of the blankets. We were able to sleep with less blankets than we did in the house. How could that happen? It was very special. Jesus knew what we needed and wanted, and ensured all the needs of the children were met—for fun, for good air to breathe, and for warmth and health.

**Psalm 34:7** The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

## **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Purple Train**

**(TFATD-42)**

The boys had at last earned their prize for music practice. The chart was filled with many stickers, each one representing a time of practicing and music learning. The postman brought the package, and the boys eagerly looked inside. It was a new train to add to their battery operated train set. Fun!

The train tracks were laid, bridges were set up, and all the trains brought together. Everything thing was set for a fun time. Well, most everything. There was only one thing more that would need to be there in order for fun to be had: Love and sharing. Three boys, plus one new train, equals: challenges.

The youngest boy decided that he should be the first one with the train, and the older boys were generous enough to let him, for quite a while. Though of course they would have rather had a turn first, and actually were the ones to earn the reward, they could have turned this opportunity for fun into a sad time. But they made the right choices, and really, there were no shortages of trains. There were plenty to go around.

After a long enough time, it was a chance for the youngest one to learn to share as well. He didn't yet have the maturity to deal with it as graciously, but he got used to the idea after awhile. It was a good opportunity to learn what it means to "take turns."

It's harder for younger ones to be patient, and wait for their turn, as they don't have the experience to know that yes, eventually, it will be their turn. All they can think about is what is happening at that very moment. We try to give each one a chance to learn and grow according to their level of experience and age. Older ones may also want to have something right away, but learning to wait a bit for a toy, when necessary, teaches them a good skill that they will need lots of in life.

Once people pass the younger years of learning to share toys and take turns, they go on to new opportunities to learn the same lesson. Maybe they'll need to wait in line at a bank for an hour, even when they have lots of other things they need to go and do, or wait to make a turn onto a busy highway, where waiting until it's safe will be very important.

So the train time was fun, as well as mixed with challenges of learning to share and take turns. It seemed for a while like that new train was only toy in the house or yard! Funny, isn't it, how fast someone can forget about everything else that they have, when they've got their mind set on just one particular item that they think will give them joy? Was the train always something that helped them to learn about giving and sharing from? No. Why? Well, after about a week, amazingly enough, it was "just a toy". It was no longer the newest sought-after toy. What is the "must have" item today will be the forgotten thing of tomorrow.

Remember that, when there is something you really, earnestly want, and feel you just have got to have or you think you'll never be totally happy without it. Once you get it, eventually your heart and mind will move on to "new and better" gadgets. So, in reality, you can have a house filled to the brim with every imaginable item on the market, and still be sitting there wistfully wishing for something else. Odd, don't you think? Well, you'd think it is, unless you realise the secret.

Things come and go, and the feelings they give you also come and go. For a while it might be just what helps to make you feel glad, but time will pass and your heart and mind and body will have new interests and needs. The only things that will always make you glad are the things that never get old or break down, because they aren't made on Earth; they are the things that make you happy and satisfy you on the inside. Things like love and companionship; the joy of doing deeds of kindness for others; reading God's Word and knowing through it how much love He has for you, and that you'll always be special to Him.

So why is it that often times it's the rich, living in abundance, that are sadder than those living with a lot less? Perhaps, more things means more time spent taking care of those things, leaving less time to enjoy life. Perhaps, they fear losing what they've taken so long to gain, so they can't actually fully relax, knowing how temporal the things of Earth are, and it's only a matter of time until something is gone. Perhaps, they have spent so much of their time, thoughts and energies on acquiring more and more things, that they didn't have enough time to cultivate close friendships, and so are feeling rather lonely, without true friends to enjoy it with them. Perhaps, because they've forgotten in their quest for wealth, that it's in giving that we truly gain—joy and rich happiness. And most of all, maybe they haven't take the time, amid all the distractions, to look up to their Creator and to let Him fill their heart with a bit of His Spirit and inspiration, and let Him be in charge of what they do with their wealth.

Less time on one's self and material possessions means more time for true fun, laughter, friends and doing things that count. And in practical terms, less things means less possessions to clean up, fix, organise, replace the broken parts; less to tidy and mend, and instead more time for running and playing outside, or

doing a project that will make the day seem extra fun. Less things means less that distracts us from noticing the important and special people and things around us; less stopping us from finding the secrets to joy—time with Jesus, giving love, and using one’s time on meaningful, fun projects, that benefit us and others.

**Ecclesiastes 4:6** Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Gift Bike**

#### **(TFATD-43)**

My husband had been planning a special birthday gift for our youngest for quite a while. He’d seen some young children using a certain kind of beginner’s bicycle—it’s one that has no pedals, so it’s easier to begin learning to ride on. He discovered where he could get one and when the time was right he ordered it to be delivered to our house.

We were all looking forward to seeing how delighted the little one would be to get his own bike. When we heard the knock of the delivery man on the door we all went out to accept the package.

This bike needed to be assembled, and that made it even more fun. Our young son had a great time helping his daddy to put it together and seeing what it at last made: a bicycle! He was very glad for it, and kept saying how nice it was for the man to bring this to him. “The postman gave me this bike,” he kept saying, thinking how very kind it was for this man, who he never met before, to be the one to give him this special gift.

We just smiled. He was too young to understand the technology behind it that made it actually be from his daddy! If we’d have said, “No, it was your daddy’s gift to you,” he would have thought we were crazy. Didn’t we see the man bring it to him? Nothing would have convinced him that the bike was from anyone else but the man who delivered it to our door.

We were just glad to make him happy, and didn’t fuss about who he thought was to be credited. But of course, after all the planning, time and the cost of this fun gift, I can imagine it would have felt nice for his daddy to hear a “thank you for this bike” —but since the young boy didn’t realise the truth about who really made it come to him, just seeing him smile and have fun learning to ride it was the only form of gratitude his dad would get.

It reminds me of how kind and humble God is. He’s the one planning and working things out. He sends so many gifts our way each day in the form of health, food, protection, sunshine or rain, and nice times with others. Yet so many times, countless times, we probably forget to acknowledge His hand of good in our lives. Perhaps a friend tells us a kind word, and we feel happy inside—but do we realise who might just have whispered that thought to them and encouraged them to speak those uplifting words to us? The invisible God of love is behind so many things that come our way. Even though we don’t see Him with our eyes actually physically handing us things, let’s not be like a simple toddler and only start thanking others—who may be the delivery person of God’s goodness to us—but remember to turn around and thank our loving Heavenly Father, who unseen and unknown to us, had it all planned and set up for us.

**Romans 1:20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Jesus Cares**

**(TFATD-44)**

### **Picnic on a Mountain**

We were off to have an evening picnic, and watch the sun setting a top a mountain. We'd prepared our picnic dinner, got all our bikes ready, and off we happily went. The weather was just perfect. Then we got an unexpected turn of events. As we neared the mountain, there was a boom gate over the road, closing it off at that time. A man there said it closes at 6:00, and after that no cars can drive past there. Oh dear! We didn't know about that. He was there, however to let some cars in, as there was an event some people were attending. We backed up and parked off to the side of the road, trying to figure out what to do. Perhaps we could just walk or bike up the road and up the rest of the way to the mountain?

As we were starting to unload our bikes, a lady came out of a nearby house and said that since the boom had just shut then, and it was barely past 6:00, she would let us go in. Yipee! It all worked out in the end. We got back in the car and drove to the white dome buildings. The road really would have been too long to walk or bike on, and too dangerous, as it was windy and had no side path. Jesus knew we were sad to miss our special time there, and that it wouldn't have been safe for us to walk or bike up the road. He knew just where we were and what we were planning on doing right then, and worked out the best for us.

We had a very nice time on the mountain. We hiked up to the top of a little hill, and had our planned picnic while seeing the view of valleys, mountains, and the sun's rays shining in a beautiful way through the clouds as it slowly was setting. We biked in the parking lot, and had fun exploring and looking into the old buildings that used to be used by astronomers, and house a large telescope. We're so glad it worked out.

### **Lost and Found**

(By Liam, 7)

My Lego capsule dropper plane that I really liked was lost. I thought I'd put it somewhere safe and special to find later on a top bookshelf, but for months I could not find it. I looked here, Mummy looked there, and we never found it. I assumed it must have somehow gotten taken apart and was now mixed in with the collection of Lego pieces.

However, to my great joy today I found it! I had woken very early. It was still dark for quite a while. I chose to sit and read a Bible book on my own, rather than playing first. Everything was so quiet. I was feeling a bit lonely because everyone else was sleeping, and the room only had a soft lamp on. I took time with Jesus then, our best Friend.

Later at play time I was putting one of my special cars that I call a "bush basher" in a safe place where I knew it wouldn't get lost so it would be there when I needed to play with it later. As I was putting it in that special place I noticed some Lego where I was putting it. When I tried to pull it, it was hard to pull on because it was tightly stuck on a book. I wondered what it was until I saw the helicopter pads on it and I knew it was my capsule dropper aeroplane. I felt very happy and I tried to get it out as quickly as I could. I had taken time with Jesus and He did something special for me.

### **Rice Cooked**

Mommy put the rice to cook in the rice cooker, but for some reason it wasn't on all the way. It was just on "warm" instead of "cook". Later on she looked in it to serve us rice and saw it wasn't cooked at all and realized that it hadn't been turned on fully. She wished the rice could have been cooked by then. She turned it on, but as soon as it started to boil she was taking care of our little brother in the next room, and someone noticed it didn't smell so good, like there was something burning on it—perhaps some dry rice—and it seemed to be smoking. So it was turned off without the rice being cooked. After a long time mommy

was finally able to check on the rice and saw that it was still off, because it had been turned off as soon as it was boiling. She was about to feel discouraged, but when she opened it, the rice was completely and perfectly cooked—even though it had been on “warm” only for nearly the whole time, and hardly ever was on “cook”. We were so thankful for Jesus’ love to make it cook anyway.

**James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from Above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Controlled Fire**

#### **(TFATD-45)**

One afternoon when we went into our yard we smelled the smoke from a fire. Usually whenever we smell smoke outside, the first thing we do is check what the neighbours are doing, as they have an outdoor burn pit they use sometimes. But on that day, when the smell of burning was real strong, they weren’t burning anything. I wanted to find out what was going on. Quickly we looked then out the front door and there was not only the smell of smoke, but the nearby mountain seemed rather hazy, like there was the presence of lots of smoke, as in the case of a bush fire.

We phoned the fire station to see what it was all about. I was sure they probably already knew about it, and they did. There was a controlled fire taking place in a forest not too far away. This means that a fire is lit purposely and guarded well, so that no unplanned-for damage occurs, and only the old dry wood and forest scraps are burned. This is as a precaution and protection against a forest fire. As if the dry grass and old branches aren’t lying around, then there is less fuel to aid a wild fire. In the summer there is fire danger all over, so this was something that the fire department was doing to help prevent a possible huge fire.

So the smoke was nothing to worry about, and thankfully never got out of hand. After all the dry material was burned up, the fire was put out.

A short while later we went on a hike in that forest and could see the burned floor of the forest. The trees all stood fine and tall, but the ground was free of grass and dry sticks, and was rather black from the burning. There were some little green shoots however, peeking up, beginning new growth again. They looked even more bright and cheery when backed with the black and burnt ground.

I was thinking when looking at the blackened ground, how sometimes we might have something seemingly wrong happen in our life. Maybe something is gone or lost, or we have an accident or illness. Maybe we only see the loss and the thing that doesn’t seem right, but maybe we’re actually being kept from something far worse because of it.

Like the time we missed catching a certain bus, we were disappointed, but glad when we found out later that the bus had been filled with many sick people. We missed the bus—and the sickness as well. We drove in our car instead to the place, and had a great day—and the next few weeks too, happy and healthy.

Or like the other day when we were starting to drive home from the park. I often get car sick from the fumes, and so I use a scarf on my face and it helps. It’s not a fun feeling to be car sick, but because I wanted to use my scarf I suddenly realised that it wasn’t in my purse and had been left at the park. We drove back to get it and found there was also a forgotten favourite shirt that one of the boys had also mistakenly left.

If I hadn’t had the tendency to always get sick, and to be in the habit of reaching for my scarf, those things would have been left behind. It was a far away park that was a nature reserve, so we likely wouldn’t have even realised the loss of those items for some time, and when we did it would have been too late to find them again. Then to make it even more special, as we were driving back to the nature reserve park we

got to see some wild emus there too. We'd wanted to see them but hadn't that day. So that was a bonus—all from something that seemed to be a problem: feeling sick. But it worked out for the best in the end.

Maybe the controlled fire can also be compared to needing correction or instruction to steer someone away from doing something that would end up making them and others sad or hurt. It's not always nice to be told not to do something, or to have a time of learning to change the way you're doing something. You want everything to always feel fun and to have people constantly telling you that everything you are doing is great.

The forest did have many good things about it—many great trees, but there were bits here and there that needed to get cleaned out to make it safer and to prevent something worse from happening. Much in the same way, all of us have things that need to be cleared out of the way we do and say things, too. But that's only to protect all the many other wonderful things about us, without the scraps and stubble ruining what good we are trying to do.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Get Your Own Apple**

#### **(TFATD-46)**

Two cockatoos were sitting on the telephone wire. One had a small apple he had picked from the neighbour's apple tree and was trying to eat it. Meanwhile the other cockatoo was scooting closer and closer, trying to get the apple from him. It was hard to eat the apple as with every tiny bite the cockatoo would have to quickly look up again and try to guard his little snack.

It looked so funny in a way, because there were lots of apples available right in the area. The hungry cockatoo without an apple could easily have gotten himself one—perhaps even a bigger and better one—if he had stopped looking at what the other cockatoo was eating and instead looked around. The neighbour's apple tree was right below him, and just a two second flight would have brought him to our full-of-apples tree. But he couldn't even see the many other apples then, as his eyes were full focus on the little apple that the other cockatoo was holding.

I've seen that happen so many times with people too. Have you? Sometimes it seems funny to me. There could be several boxes of toys ready for play, but as soon as someone picks up some little toy to play with, all of a sudden, another child or two think that little thing is just, and only, the thing they must have right then. They feel they can't enjoy their time of play without it. Of course, no one was using it before, or even thought to use it. But as soon as it's seen in action, in someone's hands, it looks like fun and the best thing to have.

Perhaps when this happens, and people get too focused on what someone else has found to play with, we could say, "Get your own apple! There are lots around!" It could remind them that they haven't taken notice of the many other things that aren't being used that could be just as much fun—or even more!

I think that's why commercials and advertisements often show items being used and enjoyed by the person posing for the picture or being filmed in an advertisement. When people see others using and having a good time with an item, there's something inside us that makes us feel that we want to have it too. When it's an ad, you know that the company or shop is doing it to make customers want to buy it because they actually want you to have it, and for them to get the payment.

But it's good to realise that real life isn't a store advertisement. When someone has something and it we feel we'd like to have it too, they are not demonstrating how fun it is because they want you to have it; they are not an advertisement. They are living real life and having a moment of fun. So it's best to turn our gaze away and let them just enjoy their bit of fun. Because while we are busy looking at it, wishing for it and wanting to have it right away, we're missing seeing what other great things surround us that might be just as good, if not better for us. Just because it's in someone's hands, or they get to do a certain activity, or they have certain kinds of friends that we wish we had, or opportunities to do something, doesn't mean it is the only fun or great thing around.

Let's remember to look around and "get our own apples", and let others enjoy the ones they finally get to have.

**Hebrews 13:5a** Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Keys in a Locked Closet**

**(TFATD-47)**

Have you ever been in a situation where it really, really seemed impossible? We had something like that the other week.

There is a closet where we keep our dress-up in. We have different types of clothing, hats and accessories. It can be fun for playing make-belief games. It's an old closet and the side that has our dress-up supplies in it doesn't stay shut on its own, so we lock it to keep the door shut. Since we don't want to lose the key we have tied it on to a string that is attached to the inside of the closet. When we want to shut the door we take the key with the string and pull it to the outside of the closet door and lock it shut. It's out of the closet, but still attached by the string to the inside of the closet.

Well, one day someone locked the door of this closet, and then though for some reason that the key was meant to be put back in, and squeezed it through the tiny crack in the closet door. As soon as they did it, they realised that it wasn't supposed to be that way, as that wouldn't work. We had then a locked closet, with its key hanging on a string inside it!

"We'll never be able to ever open it again!" some of the children cried.

I suggested that we pray, as impossible things can work out with prayer. And here's what happened.

After praying, I got an idea. I got some wire and bent it with a little hook at the end and pushed it in the tiny crack of the closet door. Maybe, by some miracle, it would be able to hook on to the string, so I could pull it out. But trying to get it to hook on to the string and pull out a key—and for the big key to be in the right direction to come out of the little crack, seemed to be impossible.

The wire would only go in straight; I couldn't get it to move around side to side to find where the dangling string might be. Yet we kept praying, and trying. And then, all of a sudden, by some miracle, the hook was hooked on to the string and I could pull it out all the way. We got the key back and could open the door. It was a neat feeling, like being able to unlock a door with the key on the side! It was a great feeling to be in a situation that seems completely impossible, then to pray, and within minutes all is well again.

**Hebrews 10:35** Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Rescue Mission**

**(TFATD-48)**

We were playing outside when all of a sudden there was a loud "screech...rumble, rumble, crash!!"

Mummy looked out the front porch to see, and right across our road there had been a bad car crash. A car hadn't turned properly and had skid off the road and crashed into a tree. The driver had been badly hurt and needed help right away. He couldn't move or talk it seemed.

There were several other neighbours coming out of their houses to go and see the accident, so one of them called for help, and the city rescue team was on its way.

Mummy and us children got on our knees in the house to pray desperately for the man in the car, and for help to come soon. It's a good thing that we prayed, as it turned out to be a difficult rescue mission.

Right at the scene of the accident there was all of a sudden a strong man who walked up quickly to the car, and when he seemed to touch the car to get the driver's door open, the all window glass broke off the window. This man then could reach in to help hold the hurt man's head up, against the back of his seat. It seemed it's possible that the driver's neck was injured. Another lady, who lives across from us, was there also helping at the car's window.

Soon after we heard the sirens that we knew would be coming. A fire truck was the first to arrive, and several firemen quickly got out to see the situation. With the man badly hurt, it was going to be hard to get him out of the car and safely into an ambulance. The next siren was the ambulance rushing to the rescue.

The men, as well as that helpful strong man, helped to set up road cones and direct traffic around the accident. Cars were still using the other lane, but were driving very slowly past.

We got to see how the firemen team and ambulance team work together to help at a car crash. The ambulance team wouldn't have been able to get the man out of the car unless the firemen and their truck with all kinds of tools were there doing their part.

We thought it would be a quicker job, but for some reason it was going to be a rather tricky ordeal. Soon we heard a third siren, it was a second fire truck, coming from the opposite direction. The first one came from the right, but the second one came from the left. Then all the firemen began to unload and set up things like a few hoses, a generator to power the jaws of life, tool boxes, and many other things. There was the ambulance bed and stretcher rolled out and set up in place for putting the hurt man into the ambulance and taking him to the hospital. Everyone seemed to be discussing what to do and how to do it for quite a while, while they set things up.

Then the fire chief arrived in his car to help oversee and give advice. We then watched as a couple firemen put on masks and got their jaws of life ready to do something to the car. We weren't sure just what.

In the meantime some policemen and policewomen arrived at the scene. We'd heard their sirens, and had expect them to come as well. Later, there was a second police car as well. So at that time there were two fire trucks, a fire chief car, an ambulance, and two police cars. The police were checking it out and spoke to a few people who where there; including the couple who live right next door to us, and who happened to be right at that place, and walked over to see if they could help. Mummy would have tried to help in some way, but there were many others around, so she just stayed at our house with us, helping in the best way she could--supporting through prayer.

By this time, the firemen seemed to have made a decision about what needed to be done, and a couple of men put a type of plastic on the car's back side windows and removed them, so they wouldn't shatter. Then they just cut the whole roof off of the car, using their jaws of life cutters! They picked it up and then set it down on the nearest flat area, that was on someone's front yard and driveway.

The stretcher was moved over closer to the car and very carefully the man was placed on it and carried over to the rolling bed. We noticed then that his neck was injured as a typed of brace and bandage had been put on him before he was even moved. He was then rolled into the ambulance, and



the wheels of the rolling bed folded up. It was a while still before the ambulance drove off, but we imagine he was getting cared for in it then, before driving to the hospital.

Next the roof was placed back on the car, and the firemen carefully put away all their tools before they drove away, along with the fire chief in his car. The last ones to leave the scene were the police. One car left first, but a team of two were there for quite a while, taking photos and seemed to be discussing what they imagined caused the accident. The two that stayed the longest were the first two police who had arrived.

But the rescue mission wasn't over yet. What vehicle do you think we saw next? A flat bed tow truck had arrived to take the smashed, cut and broken car away to the wreckers. It couldn't just be normally towed, with all the broken parts. We watched the back of the truck slant and lower to make a ramp for the car to be pulled up on it with a strong wire or chain. When the car was almost fully on the truck, it needed to have its wheels aligned so it would go on straight. The tow truck driver opened the broken car door and turned the steering wheel to straighten out the wheels, then it could be fully put on the truck.

Seeing the job was complete, the remaining police officers drove off, and a few moments later so did the tow truck. And right as the tow truck was pulling out, then comes the owner of the house that the accident happened right in front of. He waited for the tow truck to leave, and then pulled into his driveway. He paused and saw the marks in the tree and figured out what had happened. We could have told him the whole story if he had asked us, as we didn't miss a minute of this rescue mission. We were on the front porch watching the whole thing. By the time we went inside it was already dinner time.

We learned it's important to drive safely, and that rescue jobs aren't always as fast as they seem to show when it's on a documentary. In real life things are a bit different, more difficult and take more time. So it's better to take more time on the road to drive safely, then time dealing with an accident.

**Psalm 112:7** He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

**Proverbs 3:25a,26a** Be not afraid of sudden fear. For the Lord shall be thy confidence.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: Science Museum**

#### **(TFATD-49)**

We'd gone to see a science presentation at a museum. It was about the moon, rockets, and the space station. The boys were very interested in anything to do with Space. There were very large pictures projected on the wall, and funny demonstrations along with explanations. We enjoyed it and learned a lot.

However, in the midst of all the true facts being stated, such as the little amount of dust that is actually on the moon (which surprises scientists who don't know the story of Creation and just how young the moon really is, and thought there should be tons of dust by this time), and the fact that the moon is slowly moving away from the Earth, then there are some untruths said as well. It sounded so odd to have things said that didn't even make logical sense. The speaker added in the theories of evolution, and how old some people like to believe that the moon and the world are.

However, the true facts that he had just stated didn't fit with the untruths! It was almost funny, as they were contradicting points. If the moon is moving away from the Earth at a certain rate every year, then clearly it would have been too close to the Earth if it is as old as he was quoting that it was. The math didn't work, if you took the time to think about it.

The boys know what's right from the Bible and from all the evidence found around the world, and they wondered why this man, who seemed to know a lot, also said things that were clearly not accurate or even

probable. When someone mixes truth and untruth it makes them lose some respect as people don't find them trustworthy.

After the presentation the man said that anyone could fill out a form and make any comments on his presentation. Our oldest boy wanted to be able to tell this man how he felt. He had liked the presentation, but was disappointed in the wrong things also being said—as if they were true, yet clearly not even scientifically possible.

I helped to write out on a form what our son wanted to say, and we turned it in to the information desk to be passed on to the speaker. It was a chance to help tell someone, who maybe didn't know very clearly, how God loved them and created them—and the world. There is abundant proof all over nature, telling that everything has been designed and created.

In the book of Genesis in the Bible it says that the sun and moon and stars would also be for “signs and for seasons, for days and for years.” (Genesis 1:14) So the moon can even be a clock that tells us how old the Earth really is. The scientist that examined the moon rocks that Apolo 14 brought back, said that is was the same age as the Earth, and that's true! The small amount of dust on the moon shows that it hasn't been collecting on it for all that long. The distance that the moon is from the Earth as well as the speed that it is travelling away, shows that if you go back in time, it couldn't have been all that long ago that it was created. It would be just way to close to the Earth. The moon's gravity helps to create the tides of the oceans as it pulls it this way and that. If it was too close to Earth, the gravity would be creating very large and destructive waves. When you realise these facts and many others, you know that the moon is the same age as the Earth—about six thousand years old.

We didn't make a big deal at the time the man was talking, and it was sad that everyone in the room had to hear the untruths. At least we did what we could to write this man a note that we hope helps him find the truth and most of all come to know Jesus and His love, by finding out that the Earth and moon and all creation didn't just evolve—that theory is just not mathematically and scientifically possible. Rather, God made it all and loves each person on Earth, and wants to be near to them, help them, and teach them good things during their time spent on planet Earth.

**Psalm 104:24** O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

### **Thoughts for a Terrific Day: What Do You Really Want?**

#### **(TFATD-50)**

By trying so hard to get what we merely want, sometimes we can miss having what we REALLY want, what we'd rather have.

The boys like to see the car drive off and wave to their daddy when he leaves for work. One day when he was about to drive off I made sure to tell the boys, so they could run out and see. Two of the boys went out, but the youngest one, though he really wanted to watch the car, decided that he had to be wearing a certain type kind of pants first. I tried to get him the fastest pants that I could, so he wouldn't miss watching the car—as daddy couldn't just keep waiting on and on. But he was crying and making a big deal about the colour and style of pants that he wanted.

I would have liked to get him just what he liked, but there weren't any in his drawer that were just the type he had in mind. I reminded him that if he didn't just put on something soon and run out, that he would miss seeing what he wanted to. However, he kept insisting that he get what he wanted. Well, then it happened. Daddy drove off and he missed seeing it, while still in the house making a big fuss about the kind of pants that he wanted. He was very disappointed, but there was nothing anyone could do to help him, as he was too focused on what he wanted.

This wasn't the only time it happened. Another time this boy very much wanted to wear a certain pair of red shoes. He had other shoes that fit him, that he liked and would have been just as comfortable wearing, but he only wanted to wear the red ones on that particular day. Daddy had a little time in his day where he could take the boys out to the park. The older boys got ready quickly and went to the car, but the youngest one was very upset, saying he could only leave with them if he was wearing his red shoes. For some reason, one of the shoes were missing and though we all looked as best as we could, it was nowhere to be seen. Their daddy didn't have all day to wait around, as soon the time would run out and the chance to take the boys out would be past. The older boys didn't want to miss this chance to go to the park and weren't too happy that someone crying about having just a certain pair of shoes would make them miss their chance.

I explained to my young son about focusing on what he REALLY wanted most—to be able to go to the park—rather than on just what he felt right then that he wanted. Did he want to miss the trip to the park? Or did he want to give up a lesser wish, the colour of shoes, and instead get what he wanted more? He had to choose, because in this situation he couldn't have both.

Sometimes it's hard to give up focusing on something of lesser value that we all of a sudden feel we really want. But if we can get our eyes off of it for a moment we'll realise that there is something bigger and better that we would actually rather have, if there was a choice between the two.

For example, maybe you really want to be healthy and strong, and free of sickness and pain. But that takes sometimes giving up things that you might want, but that aren't best for you. It's good then to quickly get your mind on what you most want—good health, and a comfortable body. Changing your focus can help you to give up what you feel on a whim that you want right then.

Or perhaps you are soon to travel to a new country and you want to be able to learn some of the language in advance, but the only time you have to study it each day is the time when others are watching TV. They might keep inviting you to join them, and it might seem rather relaxing to sit there for a long time watching this and that. However, afterwards you realise that it was just a waste of your time and it kept you from learning something you really wanted to know. You feel disappointed that you chose instead to just fill your mind with stuff you really didn't need.

Anyone who has goals they are trying to reach and things they would really enjoy, will face choices and need to make decisions along the way. Some things they want will help them reach their goal, and other things might make it impossible for them to reach their goal or to get what they most want.

Adults who have had unhealthy addictions to things like smoking or drinking too many alcoholic drinks and who are trying to form new habits and happier ways of living have to do this too. They might all of a sudden feel like they want to have it, and want it very much. But if they give in to their sudden cravings or impulses, then they will miss getting what they most want, and will feel very disappointed in themselves for losing sight of their goal. If they keep letting these feelings take them away from their goals they will end up very sick, hurting, and make their family and loved ones sad.

Even something such as catching a flight on an aeroplane to another country takes the same proper focus. When we were moving to Australia, we had to get up in the middle of the night to make it to the airport in time to catch our flight. Of course we felt tired, and would have like to stay in a soft warm bed. But if we parents had just kept on sleeping, our family would have missed going on the aeroplane. It would have left without us. We could have a good sleep nearly every night, but that was the night to travel. So we had to give up what we felt we wanted just at that moment, and instead focus on what we most wanted—to make it onto the plane and have a safe trip.

Maybe some people eat too many sugary foods. This makes them prone to sickness, their face can have poor looking skin, their teeth might hurt and it cost them a lot of money to pay for dental work. They might also be over-weight which makes it hard for their heart to pump well and causes it to hurt or stop working right. When someone offers them chocolates or a donut, they might like to eat it, but if they focus

on their goal of good health, proper weight, and a clear nice-looking face, then they'll say, "no" and perhaps eat a piece of fruit instead.

Children have to learn this too, so when they are grown they have better self-control and can then accomplish the goals that they want to reach for. Even something like cleaning up toys can help children to learn this. They might really like having a nice tidy room to play in, but cleaning up all the mess first is hard. They might feel they really don't want to do it. However, if they instead focus on the goal of how great they'll feel when the room is pleasant-looking, then they can push past the feelings that would stop them from reaching the goal.

It took a few times of missing out on what he really wanted, before my young son finally learned that it worked out better for him to give up what he was wanting in those times that it would work out to have it, and instead choose what he wanted the most. When the situation happened in the future, for him or his brothers, I would remind them to decide and choose what they really wanted. They didn't want to miss out on getting what they most wanted because of suddenly feeling they wanted something else—something that would cause them to not reach the goal of getting something better.

**2 Peter 2:9a** The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations.