

A Gift of Faith Book

8

Part 2



Jesus Loves Us Children

Jesus Loves Us Children

By Charles (5), Liam (7), Mummy Chariane,
and other story contributors

Cover art: Barbara Meinel Jacobs

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—True stories of how Jesus showed His love to children.

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A Balloon

(By Charles, 5)

I was playing with my balloon outside for a few minutes when the wind blew it up in the air and nearly over the fence to the neighbour's yard.

It had gotten caught in a tree, and thankfully, it didn't pop! I called Mummy to help me get it. It wasn't so easy to get, as it was higher than Mummy could reach, and the wind was still blowing.

When we prayed, all of a sudden the balloon blew out of the tree and nearly went all the way over to the neighbour's property, but then a different gush of wind blew it the opposite way and brought it right down to us.

Jesus gave us our balloon when we prayed.



Music Bear

(By Liam, 7)

When I wasn't even one day old yet, a friend of my mother's brought a gift for me. It was a soft teddy bear that had a music box attached to it in a ball.

When the ball is pulled, it pulls a string that winds up the music box. It plays a soft little tune. It is the first, and oldest toy, I have. Then about a year ago, the bear played its last tune.

Mummy said that the bear wasn't able to be turned on again, as something seemed to be broken. I was very sad when I heard that.

Almost a year later I was again reminded that it was broken, and it made me cry.

Then when we prayed, we finally decided that we would open it up to see if we could find out why it wouldn't work.

We didn't want to break it any more than it already was, and to open it up meant we had to take out the stitching on the ball.

We thought it was at least worth trying. Mummy prayed that it would work again.

With a bit of difficulty Mummy was able to get it all open. We got to see what the music box really looked like.

It wouldn't move, and was all jammed. Mummy tried to get it going again with her thumb, but it was very stuck.

And then when she tried one more time, all of a sudden it just started turning and playing the tune, and winding the string up again, like it was meant to. We were so happily surprised. Mummy sewed it up again, and now our bear toy is fixed and works like it always had before. It was as if a friend of ours had returned!



Potatoes

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

We planted three big potatoes in our garden. The potatoes were starting to grow shoots, and we thought it would be fun to see if they would grow into plants. The last time we had planted potatoes they grew into just three tiny little potatoes, the size of marbles.

We didn't know what to expect this time. We prayed that they would grow, as it would be fun to watch! Then, when the time was right we dug in the dirt to see if any potatoes had grown—and we were so surprised to find 11 potatoes!

There was one huge potato, another big one, a few small-sized ones, and several tiny cute ones. It was a great way to start our day.

A Picture

(By Mummy Chariane)

I have a big book with interesting photos and information on what things were like back in the Bible times. There are about 400 pages in the book.

There was this one particular picture the boys wanted to see again about pomegranates. They thought it was very interesting.

The flower of the pomegranate was what a lot of the golden decorations for the tabernacle were shaped like, during the time of Moses.

They wanted to see the picture again, but I didn't know where it was in that book, and it would take a very long time to try to look for it.

So I prayed, "Lord, please help me to find that picture." Then when I opened the book, the picture they wanted to see was on that exact page.



Photo by Fleur Celeste

Food for the Children

(By Mummy Chariane)

At Christmastime, some missionaries wanted to serve a nice meal for children who didn't have much food.

There were 250 children who were orphans, and they were looking forward to getting a good Christmas dinner.

The missionaries prepared lots of food, so that there would be enough for everyone.

However, just the day before the meal was to be served, they were told that many more people and lots of other children wanted to come to the meal as well.



Photo by Fleur Celeste

The missionaries did all they could to bring more food, but there wasn't much time to get a whole lot more together.

They prayed and asked Jesus to make the food enough for everyone.

The next day when they went to serve the food to all the hungry children, they found out that instead of 250 children, there ended up being twice that amount of people.

There were 500 that wanted food.

But, by a miracle, as the missionaries kept serving the food, there was enough food for everyone to eat.

Jesus wanted them all to have a nice meal for Christmas! The children certainly felt Jesus' love on that special day.

An Angel Guides us to the Children

(By Mummy Chariane)

One time I went with some other people to a part of the country that I had never been to before.

We were going to take some clothes, toys, cake and other food supplies to a place that cared for children who didn't have parents to care for them.

We wanted to help and encourage them.

However, we didn't know exactly where the place was, and we drove around for a few hours trying to find it.

We asked directions of whoever was walking on the road, but since everyone told us something different, we couldn't find the place.

We prayed again, with all our hearts, for Jesus to lead us to the right place. A few minutes later we saw someone walking down the road. The driver of the van opened the window to ask him if he knew where the place was.

But before the driver could ask the question, the man told him the way to go. We drove off and followed his directions which led us right to the place with the children.

We knew that he was an angel sent from God to help us. We hadn't even asked him anything, but he told us right away which way to drive.

The children and their caretakers were real pleased to see us at last and received what we had come to share with them. The happy children then ate the cake with smiles on their faces!

Miracle Beds

(By Mummy Chariane)

The children really needed bunk beds, and we didn't have any way to get them or to have them made.

So the children and I would kneel down and pray, nearly every day, for Jesus to do the miracle and help us to get the beds made that we needed. We had the wood already, but we needed a carpenter to make them for us.

Then one day, my friend's husband wrote and offered to come and build them for us, for free! He is a good carpenter. He came over to our house a few times and worked hard making them very well. We now have good strong bunk beds. Jesus did the miracle, and touched this man's heart to help!

The Book

(By Mummy Chariane)

I wanted to have the book “Mary Jones and Her Bible” to read to the children. I prayed for it, as I didn’t know how to get it.

Then, a short while later a friend came to our door with a box of second-hand Bibles for us to send to missionaries. She said that in the box there were a couple of other books for us to read.

I looked to see, and was very happily surprised to find that one of the books was the very one we had prayed for! We enjoyed reading it.

Walking Again

(By Mummy Chariane)

There was an eight-year-old girl who had a bad fall that made her hip not work right.

She didn't feel well at all, and the only way she could get around was with crutches.

The doctors were doing all they could, but nothing was helping to make her better.

Her mother was praying for her and didn't give up having faith. She knew the Lord could heal her daughter, so she just kept praying desperately for her every day.

For two weeks she had special prayer.

One morning at the end of two weeks of praying extra for her daughter, and asking others to pray also, she saw her daughter get up out of bed.

The girl walked over to get a drink of water. She didn't use the crutches.

She said, "Mommy, I'm all better. I can walk now!"

And she was completely healed!

Rosalind

(By Mummy Chariane)

Rosalind was a girl that learned to pray and trust Jesus. One day, all of sudden, her tooth began to hurt very much. She went crying to her mother. Mother tried everything she could, but nothing helped.

Then Rosalind prayed desperately and asked Jesus to heal her. She promised Jesus that if He healed her, she would be His little girl, and would obey Him and do the things that would make Him happy.

Jesus loved Rosalind and was very glad that she loved Him too and wanted to please Him. Jesus answered her prayer.

That very instant her tooth stopped hurting, and she was fine!

Rosalind kept her promise, and tried to make the right decisions and do what Jesus wanted her to do. Later when she was an adult she chose to be a missionary in China.

And just like Jesus answered her prayers and cared for her when she was a young girl, He did many miracles and took good care of her when she was grown up.

Because she'd learned how much Jesus loved her as a child, and had learned to pray, this helped her in her challenging and big job of helping many, many people to come to know about Jesus.

Bird in the Woods

(By Mummy Chariane)

Many years ago, some children were exploring a nearby forest. They were picking pretty, wild flowers. But then they went too far into the woods, and they didn't know how to get back home.

They knew Jesus could take care of them, so they knelt down and prayed for Jesus to help them get back home.

When they opened their eyes, one boy saw a little bird on the ground right beside his hand.

He wanted to pick it up gently. It was so close, and seemed tame and friendly, but as he went to pick it up the bird hopped away a little.

The boy walked a step closer to try to hold it, but the bird hopped ahead a bit more. It kept hopping away or flying a little bit, but never went too far.

Then, as all the children started following this bird, to see if they would get to hold it, they saw that the bird had led them all the way out of the woods.

When the bird finally flew off, the children looked up and happily saw that their house was nearby.

Jesus had sent the bird to lead them back to their home.



Photo by: Robin Yamaguchi



Wind Farm Day

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

We went on an excursion to see the big windmills at the wind farm. It was an “Open Day” for anyone to come and see. On that day it was very windy and cold. The windmills were really turning fast.

There was a shuttle bus that would transport people from the little nearby town to the Windmill Farm. We thought the bus was leaving at 10:30 AM, as the lady told Daddy on the phone that it would leave then. However, when we got there we found out that the bus had already left at 10:00, instead!

Since we had been told very clearly on the phone that it would leave at 10:30 AM, we were rather disappointed.

We had looked forward to going on that bus, as it seemed like a fun thing to do.

Then the kind man in charge of the excursion transportation gave us his map that showed the way, and let us drive to the Wind Farm.

The guard at the entrance of the Wind Farm also let us go in. Thank You, Jesus!

When we got there we found out why Jesus didn't work it out for us to go on the bus. It was His love for us not to take that bus.

When we got to the Wind Farm, the bus was there with lots of people. It ended up being a very crowded bus and very smelly inside.

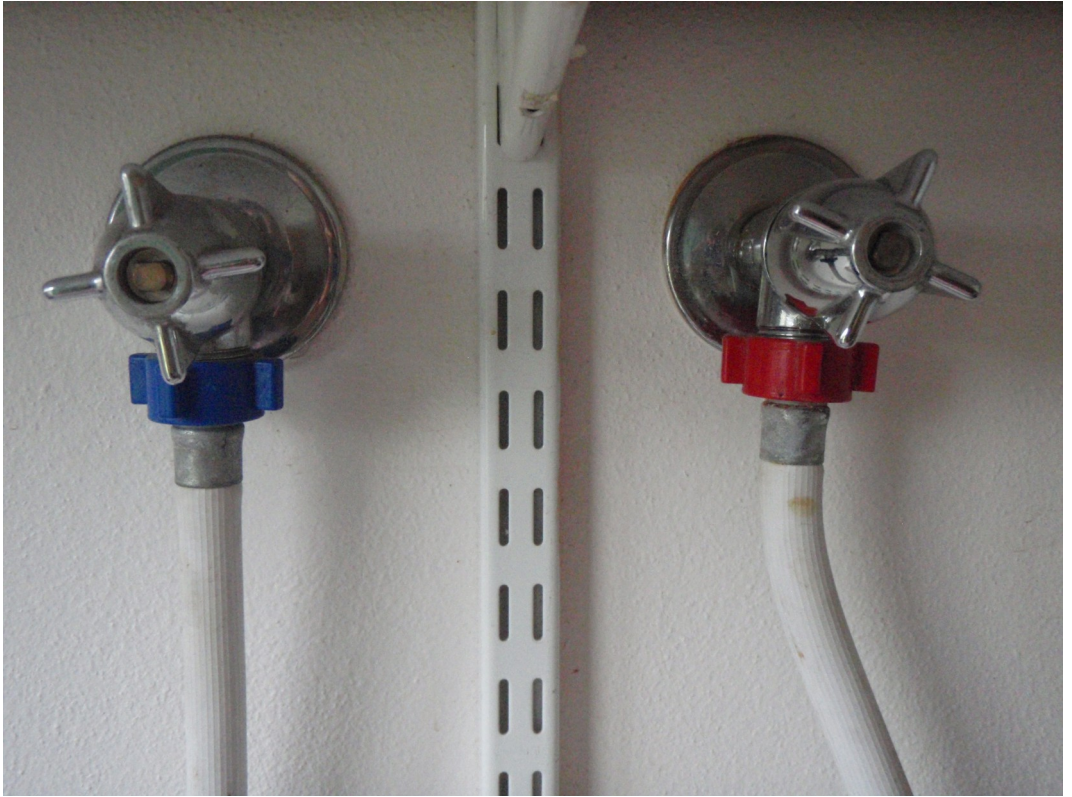
We would have had to stay in it for a few hours, without anything else to do but to sit down, because it was too cold outside in the strong, freezing wind.

There were also sick children on the bus, and we probably would have gotten sick, had we been on that bus with them. But because we had our car we could leave the Wind Farm when we wanted to, and it gave us time to have another outing to the airport that day.

We saw the airplanes through the window of the airport building. We saw many airport vehicles, planes taxiing, and we saw a pilot, too, behind his window! We saw him open his window for a bit before he flew his plane. We didn't know that the pilot's window could open, so that was interesting.

We were disappointed about the bus at first, but that turned out to be better in the end.

Jesus knows best, and He loves us!



The Washing Machine

(By Liam, 7, and Charles, 5)

Here is an amazing story that happened to the water hose that brings water to our washing machine. The cold water hose leaked lots of water when it was turned on.

So every time it was done filling up the washing machine we had to turn it off. We also had to put a bag on the tap to catch the dripping water.

One morning when Mummy went to turn the machine on, and reached to first turn on the cold water tap that was hooked to the hose, to her surprise it was so, so tight, that she couldn't turn it on.

Mummy tried everything she could to get it to turn on. Finally, she called Daddy to come help, and asked him if he had turned it off extra tightly. But he hadn't. Daddy tried to turn it on too, but he couldn't get it to budge either.

Then, Mummy got the idea to just go ahead and turn the washing machine on and see if the water would come out. And it did!

So the reason we couldn't turn it on, was because it was already on, and was turned on very, very tightly. We were shocked, and amazed!

Jesus had fixed the leaking hose for us in the night, and then turned it on. Jesus had turned it on so tightly that we couldn't even turn the tap off.

The tap wasn't leaking anymore, and it has never leaked like that again. Thank You Jesus!

Our Amazing Vegetable Garden

(By Mummy Chariane)

We grew fresh veggies in our garden last year. We thought a lot of bugs and snails might ruin our lettuce and fresh garden foods. Our yard was full of snails and they were often eating our strawberries.

One kind of lettuce we got was very spicy tasting. It was part of a package we bought so it grew in our garden too, even though we weren't planning to eat it.

Then the most amazing thing happened!



We prayed often for our garden, and then no snails or bugs ate our lettuce or cucumbers, and later stopped eating our strawberries.

But the spicy plant, that we wouldn't eat anyway, got ruined by bugs. Somehow the leaves were filled with lots of holes.

We got to eat plenty of nice fresh lettuce that grew well in our garden. Jesus, the Good Gardener, answered our prayers!

Lost and Found Shoes

(By Liam, 7)

One of my shoes had gotten lost. We looked for it all week and couldn't find it. The next day we wanted to go on an outing and we prayed to find it.

We couldn't go without my tennis shoes. When we opened our door in the morning, there was the shoe!

A friend had found it and put it right outside our door in the night. We got it just in time—right when we needed it for our trip out. Jesus answered so fast!

When I was older, one of my shoes had been put on the top of the car while we were getting in, and forgotten when we drove to a shop to buy new shoes for Daddy and Mummy.

When we arrived at the shop we discovered what had happened, and realised that my shoe was then lost.

We thought it might have fallen on the road, so we looked out the window of the car when we were driving back home again to see if we could spot it, but we didn't.

We prayed for a miracle, as it was my favourite pair of shoes. They were slip-on ones that were easy to put on.

I would never be able to use this special pair of shoes again, if one was lost.



The next day, Daddy had to drive to the same far-away place again, to get his own new shoes changed to a bigger size, as the ones he'd bought didn't fit properly.

When he was driving, he saw my shoe on the side of the road! It was still there from the day before, and was completely fine! He brought it home and I was very happy.

Birthday Treat

(By Brunella)

Martin's birthday was only a week away; he would turn 10 and I wanted to do something special for him.

At the time, we were on a difficult mission field and we didn't have a lot of money, but I knew that the Lord had always done something special for the children on their birthdays, one way or another.

Knowing that Martin particularly liked pizza, I was thinking of organizing a lunch out for him and his brothers at a local pizzeria, but the Lord had something better in mind.

Through a series of events we had met a very nice man who owned one of the best restaurants in town and who became touched by our work.

He ended up hosting Martin's birthday lunch as a special treat.

We were not sure what to expect, but we found upon arriving at the restaurant that day, that it was way beyond Martin's dreams!

We were shown to a beautifully arrayed table by one of the waiters. Once seated, Martin looked up and he saw that the portion of ceiling directly above us was decorated with colourful balloons.

Then the meal was served: One, two, three courses were presented to our table, and each one more elaborate than the other.

At the end of the meal, and totally unexpected, a beautifully decorated chocolate cake with sparkling candles arrived!

What a joy to see the excitement on Martin's face! Later, the restaurant's owner told us that he had baked and decorated the cake himself, being a chef. It was something quite special as he didn't do that very often.

It was so encouraging to see to what lengths the Lord will go in order to make one of his little children feel special on their birthday! His love is so wonderful!

The Lost Knife

(By Michelle M.)

This happened to me when I was young. While playing in one of my favourite woods with my brother and his friends, he lent me his treasured new Swiss knife. When I returned from walking to the other side of the leaf-covered woods I was very dismayed to find that I no longer had the knife.

My brother was very disappointed too, as he had waited a long time for it.

So I went looking; although with such a large woods where every tree looked almost the same, and the ground was covered with many leaves, it seemed like it was hopeless.

I continued on, very distraught and with tears in my eyes, for quite some distance when suddenly to my amazement my feet bumped upon the knife under some leaves!

At that moment I felt very strongly how much Jesus loved me.

I knew it was a touch of something impossible and special that I have never forgotten.

Drawing Contest

(By Susan)

We were at a Harley Davidson Bike Club Rally, and as a special activity for the kids, there was a contest where you could make a drawing and write a story, in order to win a prize.

My granddaughter is an amazing artist and quite gifted, yet at times feels insecure about her ability.

She really wanted to draw this picture and win the prize, but was nervous about it.

I told her, “Well, how about if we pray, and if Jesus wants you to win, He will have you win. And if it’s His

will for another child to win, then we can be happy for them, and know that another child needed the encouragement. How does that sound?”

So we prayed, and she drew a picture and submitted it. The Lord was sweet and let her win! It really pays to pray!

Bouncy Balls

(By Mia)

Hi! My name is Mia and I am 8 years old. I want to share a story of when Jesus answered my prayer. Almost all of my brothers and sisters and friends had bouncy balls.

I was waiting for a long time for a few bouncy balls too. I looked on the calendar and I saw that the next day was Christmas.

I wondered if maybe I could get a bouncy ball for Christmas. I prayed almost four times that day that I would get a bouncy ball as a Christmas present.



The next morning we opened our Christmas presents. My first one was a pyjama top and lots more.

I realized that under the Christmas tree there were no more presents and that I didn't get any bouncy ball.

But then a friend came and gave me the last Christmas present.

I was amazed when I opened it to see two bouncy balls. And so I was very happy.

A Red Sweater for Valerie

(By Dina)

Valerie's favourite article of clothing was a red sweater and she had her heart set on wearing it for some photos that were to be taken.

The night before the picture-taking day, Valerie looked everywhere for her red sweater. She couldn't find it anywhere. Then she asked her mum if maybe she had washed it.

By bedtime, however, the favourite sweater could still not be found and it was obvious that she had somehow lost her precious sweater. It was then that Valerie's mum suggested they pray and ask God for help and a solution.

Her daddy was a bus driver, and came home late that day because he worked a late shift. So he missed the conversation at the dinner table about the missing sweater.

When he got off work that evening, another driver handed him a bag of clothing. The other driver had a daughter about the same size as Valerie. When her mummy looked through the bag of clothes, she was amazed. Right there in the bag was a beautiful red sweater that was almost exactly the same as the lost sweater!

The next morning, Valerie couldn't believe her eyes when she woke up and saw the red sweater on the end of her bed. She was so excited! That morning at breakfast, she announced for all to hear, "God sure does answer prayer!"

The End