

Berry Beary Kind

Book 4

Play Time



*In a very kind town called,
“Berry Beary Town”*

*Lived a very kind Bear called,
“Berry Beary Kind”*

Berry Beary Kind –Book 4

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Lived a very kind Bear called, “Berry Beary Kind”*

***Imagine a place where fun things happen
every day;***

***Where everybody is happy and helping
each other;***

***A place that is safe, pleasant and
welcoming to all;***

***Where everyone is friendly and has what
they need;***

***A place where new and interesting ideas
and solutions can be tried.***

***...Perhaps, if we all do more than imagine,
this dream can become a reality.***



- 1--Safety Camp**
- 2--Playland**
- 3--Fun-Land**
- 4--Rescue Bear**
- 5--Berry Beary Kind and The Tape That Wouldn't Rewind**
- 6--Tree House Adventure**
- 7--Berry Beary Brave and the Boat Ride**
- 8--The Grand Race**
- 9--Family Fun Festival**
- 10--The Big Balloon**
- 11--The Berry Big Birthday Bonanza**
- 12--Tennis and More**

1--Safety Camp

“It’s important to check things out before you jump right into them,” Berry Beary Kind was telling the children, who had gathered to get a lesson on safety. This week end there was a “safety camp” being held, and everyone in the town who wanted to join in could. It would take place on a big open field.

It wasn’t a camp for camping, but rather for learning interesting things during the day. There were tents set up, but the open kind that were as a shelter from the sun or rain.

Each tent had something interesting to learn about, and someone there to instruct its visitors in some aspect of safety. Berry Fervent Firefighter had a tent set up with all kinds of fireman gear, and was ready to tell all who dropped by about fire safety.

There was another tent manned by Berry Beary Fit, teaching how to stay in good working order while doing sports and hiking around.

Berry Beary Brave had his place set up with fishing gear and boat attire, life vests and such. He would teach about boat travel, beach safety, and give swimming tips.

Berry Beary Kind made a special tent, it had hearts on it, and inside he served snacks, and gave away prizes to those who had been the most thoughtful and conscious of the needs and safety of others.

He was teaching that ideas were a good thing—especially ideas to help others. But you needed to also stop to think about it, and makes sure it’s safe for not only yourself, but others too. And it’s helpful to ask others for advice also.

“So what are the first steps to take when you get some new idea?” Berry Beary Kind asked the children. A few of them piped up with some points he’d mentioned to them.

“To pray first.”

“To think about the right time to do it.”

“To imagine what people might be feeling and needing.”

“To go slow enough to notice something that might not be safe.”

“To check things out, to make sure any equipment is working well, and isn’t broken.”

“To ask anyone that might know about it more than you, for good advice or help.”

“To not just do whatever comes into your mind, right that second, but to pause to make sure you won’t regret it, due to an accident, or making things hard for others.”

Berry Beary Kind commended the children for their good listening, and wished them a happy day at the safety camp.

The tent beside Berry Beary Kind’s was the one that Berry Beary Gentle, his mother, had set up. It had toys and play areas. Sometimes the children just came by for fun.

While they played Berry Beary Gentle would talk with them about tips for safe playing, and what kinds of toys weren’t to be played with by their baby brothers or sisters, and how to safely play with different kinds of toys, as well as careful use of arts and crafts tools like pens and scissors. She taught about picking toys up to prevent tripping accidents or even breaking toys. It was a fun and happy place to be.

There was also a huge tent, but it was locked up and covered on all sides. It was to be a surprise later on. Almost no one knew what was in there. So as they waited to find out what was inside, children continued visiting other tents.

Berry Beary Fast, the ambulance driver and Berry Beary Doctor were in one tent, helping to teach what to do in case of an accident, and tips on how to prevent them, too. Health tips to stay free of sickness were also taught.

The children were able to listen to their own heart beating, using Berry Beary Doctor's stethoscope. They got to take their temperature with a special thermometer and see some other medical supplies commonly used.

One area was set up in a large motor home, rather than a tent. This was George, the traffic control and road safety policeman's display and teaching station. He actually lived in it some of the time, during the summer months, in the country side campgrounds.

But he had driven it here, rather than on his usual motorcycle. He'd put up the awning and camping chairs for his visitors now at the safety camp. He demonstrated on a foldout camping table, with toy cars and people, different tips for road safety, both while driving or biking, and while walking as a pedestrian.

The sounds of chicken and sheep were heard coming from the corner of the camp. Children had gone to check it out. There was Farmer Berry giving out fresh berries from his farm, and showing the children some of the animals he'd brought to display.

He taught the children about safety around animals of all kinds, farm animals, pets, when visiting the zoo, or meeting any out in the wild. He told about bees and their job, and safety around them. He instructed the children as to what kinds of creatures to look out for, that weren't safe to have around, and what to do if they spotted any.

Just then the loud sounds of both a helicopter flying low over head, as well as the sirens of a fire engine caught most everyone by surprise. Everyone ran out from their tent stations to see what was going on. It seemed like the large tent was now open and a fire truck was seen driving out of it. Had there been an accident? Was something on fire all of a sudden? The truck wasn't driving fast, however, but slowly going to a spot not too far away.

The firemen jumped out of their pumper truck, all dressed up with their full suits and helmets on. A hose was then sprayed, and the children and all could see just how powerful it was, and how far the water went. It was the fireman team's special surprise demonstration.

They waved and welcomed all who wanted to come and see the truck up close to come on over.

Some also went inside the big tent that displayed other types of fire fighting vehicles, as well as an ambulance. It was great fun for the children to see everything up close, and even get to sit inside many of them.

To everyone's amazement, the helicopter then landed a ways away, but close enough to see it well. As many as wanted to ran over to it, and got to actually sit inside it. It was the rescue helicopter, for helping people in hard-to-get-to places, like mountains, or on water, or places where the road wasn't clear enough for an ambulance to drive.

A great day was had by all, and most of all, good tips were learned that would help to make Berry Beary Town an even happier place. As everyone was leaving, there was a sound of an electric guitar, and other instruments being played on speakers throughout the whole camp.

People looked around to try to figure out where it came from. There was one more tent they hadn't spent time in yet, as it looked empty before, but now it had a band getting ready to make some music, led by Berry Merry Song. There were three songs played to end the day.

One song was saying in song all the different tips learned that day from each of the safety displays. The next song was about kindness and being careful for others, and how being thoughtful can prevent many accidents.

The last song was an appreciation song, for the rescue vehicle helpers—the firemen, the ambulance driver and the helicopter driver. Everyone cheered at the end, and clapped for them.

Berry Fervent Firefighter stood up at the end, and held the microphone. All in the camp could hear what he said now. "And remember being careful, showing love, and being watchful, is the best way you can show you appreciate us. If we know you are doing your best to stay safe, it makes us glad to help in those times when you really need us.

"Have a good night!"

“Good night!” chorused everyone, as they waved to the band and the others on the stage, heading home.

“Should we pray for a good walk home?” Jellina asked her family. “Berry Beary Kind said that was one good way to stay safe...”

“Good idea” they agreed, putting into practice something they had learned. And it was a good thing too, as just when they were getting ready to cross the road something seemed to say to them all “wait”.

So they did, thankfully. As right then bicycle sped past, not seeing them in the dim light.

“Perhaps we should have worn light coloured clothes and brought a flashlight, as George told us today. But we didn’t know we’d be home so late. It’s good to have the Lord’s protection!”

2--Playland

“Wee! Woah! Yeah!” the neighbours could hear Berry Beary Kind’s friends saying as they were taking turns jumping and leaping on his trampoline. Even Berry Beary Kind took a turn, but when he did it, it was a very big bounce!

Then the telephone rang. “Yes... oh dear. Really?” The children wondered what was happening. There was a new amazing park and play place being made for children on a nearby hill. It was called, “Playland.” There was going to be a mini cable car for the children to have rides, but it wasn’t finished being built yet.

Jimmy, a little adventurous boy, had tried to get a ride in it. But the motor wasn’t working yet, so it was kind of like a flying fox in a box. It moved him a bit, but now he couldn’t get down. Oh, dear.

“I think we need to load up in our ladder truck, there’s a rescue to be done!” Said Berry Beary Kind to the children.

“Oh, goodie! Can we come also?”

“You’ll first need to check with your parents to see if it’s alright, then

we can load up. There are enough seats in our big pick-up truck that has a ladder.”

Off they drove to help Jimmy.

“Wow! Is this the new park and Playland?” The children said.

See, children weren’t allowed to go in there yet, as it wasn’t built. But Jimmy’s daddy was making the mini cable car, and his son was visiting him there for a lunch picnic.

Berry Beary Kind drove the truck just in position, to a happy and waiting Jimmy, waving at his friends, but a bit embarrassed that he’d done it without asking his daddy.

Up went the ladder, and Beary Berry Kind hooked on a long and strong rope to the “flying fox box” as they called it. Then he walked, and with all the other children helping, they pulled it back to the starting part—the place you get in and out again at the end. Jimmy then got out and thanked them!

He said, “Daddy told me it will be working next week. Perhaps as a celebration you all could come here, and we could have a great time playing and having rides!”

“Yea!” they all said. And it happened!

One week later it was the best park trip they ever had!

They took turns in the now-fixed mini cable car flying fox; they held running races at the track and they played at the playground. They fished in the fishing pond; they swam in the pool; they played ball games and tag; and ended with a picnic in a tree house.

As Berry Beary Kind sat in his house that evening, rocking on his rocking chair he thought of all the fun that was had. He was glad he could help others, and he was glad there were children who were willing to help others too, and play in ways that were fun and safe. It was because of this that they had such fun.

If they all had tried to do as Jimmy had done, or only wanted to have fun for themselves, it wouldn't have been as great a day. But because they were trying to stay safe, and make others happy, it was a grand old day!

3--Fun-Land

Berry Beary Kind got on his quad, with a wagon attached to it. In the wagon were his camping supplies. He was going to stay the night on the large property of his uncle who lived in the forest on a hill.

When he arrived at the house his uncle, Berry Beary Inspired, was sitting on the porch enjoying the view. He was an older Bear who now had several grandchildren.

When Berry Beary Inspired was a young man he met a sweet girl bear called Berry Beary Encouraging. So after being friends for several years they decided to get married. And a cute little baby they had, and called him "Berry Cute Beary".

Then many years passed, and he grew up and also got married, to Berry Nice and they had four little bears. "Beary Fun" "Beary Happy" "Beary Smiley" and "Beary Cuddly". So these were the grandchildren of Berry Beary Inspired.

He likes to write stories for them, and sends them either on email or sometimes in the mail. Today he was glad he had another chance to write. It made him feel happy, like he was taking a visit to each of his grandchildren, through the mail.

Today he was working on a book. He was writing it to give as a Christmas gift to his grandchildren later on in the year. It was called, "Great Adventurers", and was filled with tales of those who had done amazing things, even those who were handicapped in some way, but still tried hard and were able to do things that others didn't think were possible. Here's what he wrote:

Allectran was sitting down—that's all he could do. He didn't have a pair of good working legs. You see, he was crippled and couldn't move around that well. He sat in a wheelchair for some of the day, and on the

couch or his bed. But a lot of the time he was bored and not able to do all the things he saw so many other children doing.

He wanted to hike, to go exploring, to swim in a pool, to jump on a trampoline. But all these things were thought impossible. But instead of sitting around crying to himself he decided to be an inventor.

Since there were many other children in the world who could not walk or do these things as well, he wanted to make a play place that was especially set up for those with disabilities. He got out his drawing pad and pencil and got started. He drew pictures of things that could be built or made at this Fun-Land.

There would be a swing that would automatically swing, so they didn't have to use their legs to make it go. There would be an air trampoline, where instead of standing on it, it was stretchy ropes that they held on to and could hang and bounce around.

There would be shallow pools, and they could wear floating vests to keep them up. It could have a machine that made waves, so it was like being at the beach. There could be bumper cars that a wheelchair could fit into, and tables with board games that they could roll their wheelchairs up to and play with others who were visiting Fun-Land.

There could be contests and games made to suit those who couldn't run. They could do the throwing or batting the ball part, and others who could run or walk would help with the other part, or those in a wheelchair could go and roll and get the ball. There could be wheelchair mini-golf, or wheelchair hockey, and so forth.

Alletran worked on his plans every day. He thought, he drew, he read books with ideas. He asked people to help. On and on he did this, without giving up. Sometimes it seemed it was taking too long. He wanted it built and finished right then. But in the end it took years till it was completed.

At long last it was ready to be enjoyed. People came from all over the country to try it out and have fun there. It really was a "Fun-Land". Not only did the children and adults too, have fun with the play places created, but they met new friends and they were an encouragement to each other.

That was the end of that part of the book that he was writing. Berry Beary Kind said “Hi”, and they read the story together. “Hmm. That’s a neat idea your story talks about. Maybe we can give that story to Berry Beary Incredible. He might be able to even make a place like that.”

The two Beary’s talked a bit about it and made plans for a meeting sometime in the near future.

Then it was time to set up camp. Berry Cute Beary, his wife Berry Nice and their children, Beary Fun, Beary Happy, Beary Smiley and Beary Cuddly, would also be coming for this weekend camping fun.

“We better get the tents set up and start a good fire for roasting our dinner—chestnuts!” And so they did. When the children arrived, how thrilled they were to see a camp all set up for their fun at their Grand Berry Beary’s house.

When they were all settled into their tents, after a fun time exploring, and eating dinner around the campfire, they listened to their Grand Beary’s stories as they fell asleep.

“Have a berry good sleep,” said Berry Beary Kind, and so they all did. And the morning was filled with playing and enjoying the great forest.

When the weekend was over, Berry Beary Kind loaded up his wagon again, and drove home. “Good bye, Beary Fun, Beary Happy, Beary Smiley and Beary Cuddly! I’ll see you again some other time! And off he drove, ready to start planning for the Fun-Land!

4--Rescue Bear

It was spring and Berry Beary Kind along with his friend Berry Beary Fit headed off for a good hike up a mountain. They’d thought the trip through, down to the detail.

Everything that would be needed was brought along, and of course, nothing extra. Less weight would help the trip be easier and less tiring.

This wasn't to be just any trip, but it was a map-and-path making exploration trip.

This part of the mountain had rarely been explored. Berry Beary Kind and Berry Beary Fit wanted to see if they could draw maps of the area, and discover the best passes that could be taken by future climbers. They wanted to make things safe and easy.

It was to be a two day trip. The weather was fine, and they camped for the night in a flat forested area. When they awoke, however, it seemed that large and bulging storm clouds were covering the sky.

"We'd best be going, I reckon," Berry Beary Kind suggested. "It looks like it will be a wet one!"

"Yup!" Berry Beary Fit agreed.

After having a little snack, they rolled up their sleeping bags and packed up their small tents.

"But what way should we take? I don't want to be caught in that storm. It's not safe—and could be rather slippery to climb down. I say the sooner we can descend from the mountain the better," Berry Beary Fit said.

"Well, if we go down the same way we came, it might take a lot longer. It took nearly a day to get to where we are now. I'd say we stop for prayer. We need some guidance from Above to plan our trip wisely," Berry Beary Kind suggested.

The two friends prayed and then stopped to listen to what the Lord had to say. His voice came into their hearts and minds, telling them where to walk next.

As soon as they agreed on where to go, after hearing from the Lord, they started to walk—but it was soon to the beat of thunder and the pitter-patter of rain.

Indeed it was a good place to walk, and it wasn't all that far from the town way below. But it was soon evident to them that the way would be too slippery to safely continue.

However, the place they were standing was clearly visible to the town's people below, some of whom wondered how Berry Beary Kind and Berry Beary Fit were faring.

Stopping to pray for a miracle, the two friends felt peace, like good was just around the corner. No sooner had they finished their prayer when the welcome sound of a helicopter was nearing them.

"It's Rescue Bear! God bless him! He knew right where to be right now!" Berry Beary Fit exclaimed.

Soon a rope was lowered and one-by-one the mountain hikers were lifted up into the helicopter. It would have been far too slippery, and a very cold and wet climb to go all the way down on foot in this unexpected storm.

When the helicopter landed at Rescue Bear's house, where he always kept it, the three went into the house for a warm cup of tea and a bowl of soup.

"Thanks so much for coming to get us! The timing was just perfect! What helped you to find us so quickly?" Berry Beary Kind asked.

"Well, I really didn't know where to go, but when I started out I seemed to hear a thought pop into my mind telling me to start looking, right where I did. Sure enough you were there. It was almost as if the whole thing had been planned!" Rescue Bear said.

"I guess it must have been!—By Jesus! It pays to pray and listen. He can guide each one of us to be right where we are needed, to be the biggest help we can be," Berry Beary Fit commented.

"It's like that time when you, Berry Beary Kind helped me," Rescue Bear began to recall.

"That night last year when I was on my way home. I was walking along the foot path that leads out to my house, when all of a sudden I tripped on something and fell down hard. I wasn't hurt bad, but I wasn't sure that I could just get up and keep on going.

"It was getting dark and it was hard to see. I needed to get home, as I

was bringing the supplies for my wife to cook dinner with. Right then I heard the welcome sound of your quad, and you invited me to hop on. You drove me home in no time at all. That was good timing!”

“I guess we’ve both helped each other out. That’s what makes our town so special! Those living here aren’t just looking after themselves, but most of all, stopping to look around and see who they can lend a hand to, and who they can help,” said Berry Beary Kind.

“Thanks again!” Berry Beary Fit said, as he and Berry Beary Kind started for the door.

“Anytime you need a lift, just let me know!” Rescue Bear said.

“Same here!” Berry Beary Kind offered with a wave.

It felt good to help others, and it felt good to be helped in return as well.

5--Berry Beary Kind and The Tape That Wouldn't Rewind

Berry Beary Kind was sitting in his tree house. His daddy had built it for him when he was still young. But it was big enough for him to still sit in it, though he took up more space than he use to as a bear cub.

He had on his headphones and was listening to his favourite songs. They were cheerful songs, songs about great people who had helped in great ways.

“Oh, this is my favourite!” he thought. “I want to hear that one again,” he said as he pushed the go back arrow button. But nothing happened.

“Hmm, what could be stopping it?” He’d have to check in out later. – As just then there was a call from a scared child.

“Help! I think I’m going to fall!”

Berry Beary Kind looked out of the tree house window and quickly slid down the rope to the ground. He ran over and caught Shelly before

she fell from the high monkey bars at the little playground that was there. He had decided to have a nice place where any children who didn't have very big yards could come with their parents and play.

"Where is your mommy or daddy?" Berry Beary Kind asked.

"Oh, she's over there. But you see my little brother also fell and hurt his knee, so she ran to help him. I guess I shouldn't have tried too tricky of a trick up high when there wasn't someone beside me to help."

"I suppose so," Berry Beary Kind said. And Shelly went over then to her mother, to see if her brother was alright.

"Hmmm, so now, back to that song...are the batteries needing to be charged...? Ah!" he said at last. "So that's the problem!" The button stopped working as it had gotten jammed.

"Guess I pressed it too many times," he said with a laugh.

Back in his little workshop he found just the right little tools and made his player work again. "At last, the song!" And it was funny, because it was a song about rewinding, and getting to do things again. Here's what it said:

You just can't always rewind
To try and do something kind.
If at first you act rough
And do unkind stuff
Time's not like a tape that you play
Chose to do it first the kind way
Cause time passes by
And you will sigh,
Wondering why
You can't go back and rewind

To do it the way that is kind.
Cause they will always rewind
What you do is in their mind
Let them remember the things that are kind!
Always do the things that are kind.

It was a song that he often thought of when others needed him, even when he was tired, or in the middle of doing something that he really enjoyed, and it was hard for him to stop. He went on his way singing the last line of the lively song, "Always do the things that are kind."

"Yes, it's true," he thought. "I can't rewind and do something the right and loving way the first time. And whatever I do, whether kind or not, will be remembered in their mind, maybe even for the rest of their life."

He sat down on a tree stump and said a prayer to have the right and loving reactions that day.

6--Tree House Adventure

Elaine and Patrick were looking at the supplies, picking up some of the boards and bits of wood that had been set aside to build a tree house.

"I miss Daddy so much," Elaine said, a tear nearly beginning to fall.

"If only we had been able to finish this tree house before he had to go..." Patrick added.

Their dad was a good carpenter, and often was called away for larger projects in other parts of the country. Sometimes he was gone for a few weeks, and his children missed him.

"What can we do? We don't know how to build it. It's hard to wait for something we've been needing for so long, while daddy works to build

things for others. I wish he had more time to build with us and for us..." Patrick was having a hard time staying positive about the whole thing.

They could have been happy that they were still safe and sound, their house intact, and that they had all they needed. But it was hard to see things that way now, when only looking at the odds and ends that had sat there for awhile, waiting to become the great tree house they'd hoped for, for so long.

In fact several of the builders, and good workmen had gone as a team to another part of the country on a kindness mission. There had been a big storm, with strong winds, and people desperately needed house repairs as a result.

Their dad, Henry Handy, was one of the first to offer his help. He was kind hearted, though it wasn't easy to leave his family, and knew they would miss him too.

Just then Elaine and Patrick heard a noise that sounded like...yes! It was Berry Beary Kind in his odd fix-it mobile.

It had a small cabin for a driver, and a large area at the back for building, and other supplies, with an attached additional wagon or trailer that it pulled too.

There were lights on all parts that would light up as he drove, telling he was on an important fix-it job. There was a kind of a siren that sounded as well, that was more of a song or tune playing. The lights and siren song would both help to tell people what he was doing, as well as to invite anyone else that wanted to, to drive along with him and lend a helping hand.

In Berry Beary Kind's trailer that was attached to the truck, there was just about every type of tool one could need, along with some cans of paint, rope, and bits of this and that.

He usually kept the truck empty so that he could use it for whatever was needed for the job—like bringing wood, or carrying away cuttings from gardens and trees, or trash and old things to take away, or even bringing large things like a set of swings, or a bench he'd built for a park. Whatever was needed, he used it for.

Today his mission was to surprise the children, who were giving their dad up for awhile to help other children and families who had a big need.

And it wasn't just Berry Beary Kind who showed up. Berry Beary Kind had added a sign to the side of his truck that day, telling just what the job was, so all who wanted to join in and help, would know what it was. "The tree house team" it said.

"Elaine!" exclaimed Patrick, now totally forgetting his sadness. "Look!"

"There's so many people coming here!" Elaine said joyfully.

A long line of cars had followed Berry Beary Kind that day, and they all were parking along the side of the road, and walking now towards the house.

Elaine and Patrick were looking over their fence to see what was going on. Berry Beary Kind knocked on the door, and Mrs. Handy was there to answer. She was delighted, and invited them all to come in to their back yard and to start to build the long-awaited tree house.

There were so many helpers that day, that it was built in just four hours! And it looked fun, and was strong and safe too.

Elaine and Patrick sat there watching the whole time, not wanting to get in the way of the builders. They just brought them water or snacks every now and then.

"Good bye then!" Berry Beary Kind said, as his team was leaving. "I hope you have fun! Just wait till tomorrow, until the paint is dry, okay?"

"Okay!" the children chorused. "Thanks so much, it's just great!" And they ran in to see what their mother was doing. A sound that seemed like it was the sewing machine was heard. And indeed it was. Mom was sewing the curtains and some cushion covers for the tree house. It was going to be the funnest place to play they thought.

"I know!" said Elaine. "I've thought of a way we could show our appreciation to Berry Beary Kind, and his team of helpers!"

“How’s that?” wondered Patrick, and Mother was eager to hear.

“We could have a tea party celebration in the tree house and outdoor barbeque tomorrow!” Elaine suggested.

“Sounds like a great idea!” they both agreed.

So Mother phoned Berry Beary Kind, and he helped to invite the others and their families.

The next day there was a lot of people in their back yard! Good thing it was pretty big. And the children of those who had come to help, who had also given their dads to help—this time to help Elaine and Patrick—got the reward of playing in the tree house.

They all had a great time! It was fun to help others, and fun to also then be helped as a result.

7--Berry Beary Brave and the Boat Ride

Berry Beary Kind woke from his nap below deck. The waves seemed to be getting rather choppy, and the sun had gone behind a cloud. He was in his friend’s boat, out for a weekend ride.

There was an island a bit off the shore where he and his friend Berry Beary Brave had sailed to and explored a bit. Now they were just floating nearby, resting and enjoying the quietness of the water. However, it now seemed time to head back to the pier, before things got too stormy.

Berry Beary Brave started up the motor, and off they went. It hadn’t been long however when all of a sudden it seemed the boat sputtered to a halt. Did they run out of fuel? Was there something stuck in the propeller? What could this be?

It wasn’t long before they saw the reason. And it was different than either of them would have guessed.

“Help me!” they heard someone calling. The waves, though choppy, just gave them a bumpy ride, nothing more, thankfully. But someone else, who had a much smaller vessel, a tipsy-topsy canoe, had been capsized.

Their boat was upside down, and they were trying to swim in the cold water, desperate for help.

“Throw them the life saver!” Berry Beary Brave yelled out, since Berry Beary Kind was right beside it. He threw it to the struggling swimmer, who was able to grab hold of it, and be tugged on over. Berry Beary Kind helped him aboard.

“And don’t worry about your boat, mister,” said Berry Beary Brave. “I’ve got just the thing we need.” And in no time at all he’d jumped into the water, flipped the boat right side up, and hooked a rope on to it.

Berry Beary Kind helped him get out of the water too now, and offered a blanket to each of the cold and wet folks.

“Now all we need is for our boat to work and to drive. It’ll tug yours along too,” said Berry Beary Brave.

“You mean you didn’t try to stop? Your boat just wouldn’t sail anymore?” asked Ronny, the rescued man.

Berry Beary Kind explained what had happened. They were glad to have been able to help someone, and he was very glad to have been helped.

“You know,” began Berry Beary Brave. “I have a funny feeling that now that we have Ronny safely aboard, that the boat might just be fine. What do you say, shall we say a prayer and give it a try?”

They all agreed.

So after a heartfelt prayer for a safe return to shore, Berry Beary Brave turned the key, and Vrrrooom! It works perfectly. “Wow!” the happy team said, and in no time at all, they made it back to the pier.

“Thanks for being there and for helping me!” Ronny said before leaving.

Berry Beary Kind and Berry Beary Brave look at each other, and then at Ronny. “I guess we all know who to thank!” Berry Beary Kind said.

“You must have been praying, and God chose us to be the answer to your prayer!” Berry Beary Brave added.

Ronny nodded, smiled, waved, and was gratefully on his way, after loading his canoe onto the roof of his van.

8--The Grand Race

Everything was set for the big race. It was a race around the whole area. There were to be different teams, and the race track covered land and sea and air space. Berry Beary Kind made the opening announcements.

“Remember, that speed isn’t what matters most. In the end, those that really win are those who have acted with kindness and consideration for the other players. As well as those who didn’t have an accident and get themselves or others injured. Right?”

Everyone agreed, and then paused for a prayer for the safety of all involved.

Though it was called a “race” it was more just for the fun of it. They weren’t racing against others, but against the clock. This race was held every year.

Throughout the year since the last race, those who chose to be on the different teams for this year’s race had been practicing extra. They were trying to see if they could beat their record from last year. It would take teamwork and carefulness to do it.

The loudspeaker sounded out so that all could hear: “On your marks...Get set...Go!!”

The first team was headed up by Berry Beary Fast and his team of players. Instead of his usual ambulance, he and his team were on bicycles. They were to ride for 5 kilometres, over to the bay. As soon as they arrived, the boating team in three canoes was then to take off.

Eagerly the boating Wonderbears sat in their canoes, waiting to go as soon as possible. They watched for any sign of the biking team to arrive.

The bike team was a little later than expected, as one person had gotten their tire punctured while going. But rather than leave him behind, the whole team decided to do the kind thing, and all stop to help him.

They were prepared for such an incident, and had spare parts and fix-it supplies. And before too long they were on the road again, and arrived at the bay.

With the wave of the flag, the man in charge of the boat team's departure gave the signal, and off they sped along the smooth water's surface. Their destination was an island about 300 meters from where they were taking off. At first it was smooth going—until the wind started blowing, and waves began to push against their canoes, making it twice as hard to go forward.

All three canoes were using every bit of their strength to go forward, but it seemed their efforts weren't bringing fast progress.

"Let's pray for the wind's direction to change!" one man said. So they did. It was amazing, but in about a minute they started to feel a change. "I feel like we are being pushed along!" one lady said. "Not only have the wind and waves stopped pushing against us, but it's now making it very easy for us, pushing us in the right direction! I feel we are going faster than ever!"

They ended up making it at just the time the second team had been hoping for, even with the delayed bike team, and the waves and wind.

"How did you make it so fast?" one of the swimmers yelled.

"We prayed! That's all that could have helped us!"

With the next wave of the swimming team's signal man's flag, they dove into the water. The beach they were headed to wasn't that far away from the island they were taking off from. It was just about a 10 minute swim at a good pace. The bobbing heads of the five swimmers could be seen as they zoomed as fast as possible.

“Eight minutes! We made it early!” exclaimed Berry Beary Brave. “Maybe the race will be the best yet. Guess we’ll see.”

Berry Beary Gentle was there, ready with big towels, and a warm drink for them to enjoy. As soon as the swimmers feet had touched the sandy edge of the beach, the next signal man waved the flag to the horse riders. There were ten of them.

They had a long part of the journey. It was one of the funnest parts of the race. It was such a big team as so many people wanted to be able to do this one!

They rode and rode for what seemed like a long while, but it was very enjoyable. At last they reached the stables, where the horses could eat and drink, and the riders could rest and stretch their legs out.

The next part was just for fun. It was the toddler’s part in the race, along with their older brothers or sisters. There were 12 teams of wheelbarrows and “drivers” pushing it along. The little folks would ride in it while the older ones held the handles and pushed.

But they couldn’t leave until the flag man gave the signal. Where was he or she? “We are here!” called out Farmer Berry, who was leading the team of horse riders. “The next team can go now!”

“Huh...what?” A very surprised older man suddenly sat up from a nearby pile of hay. He’d been catching a nap, and didn’t realise so much time had gone by.

“Well, then, let’s get going. Load up all ya folks.”

Those who were riding the horses gave a hand to help the parents and the children get the wheelbarrows ready and off for the short funny part of the race. They all cheered when the goal line was reached.

The children then got to have turns sitting on the horses and some got to feel the horses trot slowly around in the paddock.

The flag man signalled as soon as the wheelbarrows had arrived, and gave the “go ahead” to the team of young people, led by Berry Beary Fit, who were to do some “cross country” running to the next stopping point.

Each runner was in position and the second the signal was given were off to a good and fast start. They had had plenty of time to warm up their muscles, and stretch and get prepared. So when it was time to race they were ready, and wouldn't as easily pull a muscle.

Their destination was to the small airfield, where a twin propeller plane was to take off. The engine could already be heard as the runners neared the spot. Within seconds of arriving, the runners got to see the plane take off and head for the sky.

It was a short flight, and would land in a large field a few kilometres away. Most of the townsfolk were there waiting for the plane to touch down. As soon as it landed the whistle would blow and the time would be noted.

"Hurray!!" everyone cheered. The race was over, and besides some tired participants, everyone had been safe and had done well in looking out for each other.

Everyone was waiting to hear how they did on timing that year. Berry Beary Kind spoke on the mega phone, and news reporters were ready to write it down for the morning's paper the next day so all could hear.

"You all did so well—both those that did the racing, and those that helped them to prepare during the year. We were all a team! Everyone worked together well, and just had fun. And I'm happy to announce that the race this year finished 15 minutes earlier than last year!"

There was a big cheer heard! The hard work of preparing and practicing and being strengthened throughout the year had paid off.

Each participant was rewarded for their efforts with a big fun meal that night. Each family cooked and brought something delicious to eat at a big buffet style meal held at the park. There were large tables filled with all sorts of treats. Berry Merry Song and his band were playing live music to add a joyful atmosphere. A fun time was had by all.

"What a great way to end a great day!" Berry Beary Kind said to those around him, as he sipped his tea. There were enough smiles to show that everyone else felt the same.

9--Family Fun Festival

Berry Beary Kind rose quickly this morning. He freshened up, and grabbed a quick breakfast. In a blink he was off, out the door, with his jacket in hand and the keys to his quad.

Today was the day of “The Children’s Festival” and there was lots of set up to be done before the families started to arrive. There were tables and shades to be set up, trash cans to place around, food to order and put in place, chairs to set up beside the outdoor stage, speakers and sound system to try out, and on went the list.

But something stopped him before he got more than a few steps down the path leading to his garage. “Ooops. I think I’ve just forgotten the most important part of the day.” He walked back and sat down on his porch step.

“Prayer is the only way to make things go well today—and to do it all right. There’s no telling what disaster could happen, if I don’t get God’s help. I sure need it today, that’s for sure!” he chided himself.

After presenting it all to the Lord, he now had a calm heart—instead of worrying that things wouldn’t get done in time. He knew he had the best help possible on its way.

When Berry Beary Kind got to the place he realized he was the only one there. It was chilly in the morning, and hard to wake up early but he had hoped others would be there too.

“Oh, well, I’ve got a Friend helping me anyway—nothing will be too difficult for Him. Together we’re a good team,” he thought, thinking of Jesus, Who he knew was always ready to help. “I’m never really alone,” he remembered.

As the sun continued to rise Berry Beary Kind whistled as he set up each display table, covering them with cloths. He imagined the smiling faces and happy families that would be coming later on. He actually rather enjoyed this fresh morning quiet time alone—just him and Jesus of course.

But he wasn't to do it all—the Wonderbears were to make sure of that. After about 20 minutes Berry Beary Kind heard the sound of the Wonderbears special vehicle. "I wonder what they are up to now?" he thought.

The place was soon a busy hive of action. In every corner and spot these helpful bears were at work, making things so very easy for Berry Beary Kind. He felt now that he hardly had to do a thing! In record time it all was completed. There was even spare time to have a chat and cup of tea together with the Wonderbears. They laughed and enjoyed a fun time of friendship, before they each were off to their next kindness act.

When Berry Beary Kind walked back to the festival grounds, he found the others who had promised to be there to help, finally start to show up. And boy, were they shocked to see that it was all done!

"Thanks for coming," Berry Beary Kind said to them all, and then explained about his prayer for the day, and then the Wonderbears showing up. "Instead of rushing around now, why don't you all enjoy a nice breakfast at 'Baker Bear's Breakfast' cafe that's nearby."

They all thought that sounded wonderful! With the strength from a good meal, the helpers could help now at the festival more cheerfully, when the people came—instead of being tired. It was all working out so well.

An hour and a half later, the children began to come. Some used the tables to display their experiments and art projects, others placed baked goods and snacks they'd helped to make.

Some sat and watched the shows being performed in the outdoor theatre. Some families just picnicked and played at the park nearby. But whatever each family chose to do, it seemed all were having fun.

At one point it looked like clouds were going to start a shower. But all Berry Beary Kind had to do was call on his always-there-Friend to take care of it. And after a prayer, the sun poked its head out again, and it was a warm, but not too hot day.

A little girl walked up to Berry Beary Kind and offered him one of her several balloons. "Here's a balloon for you, Berry Beary Kind," she said.

“Thank you,” he said, as he took it, and waved as she was going home now with her family. He was glad they’d put the time and effort into making the festival happen.

With all the smiles he was seeing, it was worth it, even though it was lots of work to plan, talk about, prepare, set up, and now clean up too, once everyone was gone. But the fun would be remember for a long time later.

Once everything was cleaned up, and Berry Beary Kind sat on is favourite chair, eating a warm dinner, he glanced at the news on TV, for what was happening in Berry Beary Town. It showed parts of the festival that had taken place that day. It made him smile once more. It was worth the effort, and he knew the secret to all going so well.

“When prayer is the main ingredient of your day, things turn out well,” he mused. “It only takes a minute or two, but can save you hours of trouble--and add hours of fun to the day!”

10--The Big Balloon

It was the first day of the Autumn festival, and on this day several hot air balloons are sent up. Each one had something special written on the balloon. Berry Beary Kind loaded up his supplies, and with the help of the balloon team, got his blown up and ready to lift.

He was going up with his mother and father. He wanted them to get a good view of the whole town. Up, up, up they went.

“Wow! We can see so far down!” Berry Beary Gentle said.

“There’s the playground near our house,” pointed out Berry Big Beary, his daddy. They were having a nice time—till they heard a call, coming from another balloon, that was coming closer and closer.

“We just don’t have enough fuel! Our balloon is going lower and lower! I guess we’ll have to land! Bye! See you later!” they said, while rapidly descending.

Berry Beary Kind and his parents stopped to pray right then. “I wish I could do more!” he said, “like fly out and catch the balloon and keep it up in the air!”

“Yes,” said Berry Big Beary. “But if we pray, then the Lord will catch them for us. It’s the best we can do. It’ll help more than anything else we wish we could do.”

So they prayed for a safe landing, and for the balloon to have enough hot air till it got to a good landing place.

It was amazing. As soon as they prayed it seemed to change things. The wind started to blow a new direction. Instead of them heading towards the lake, where they might have landed, they were going towards a grassy hill. And thump! They landed!

It knocked them around a bit, but they were all safe, and very happy. They waved up to those looking down with their binoculars to see if they were alright.

“I’d like to learn to be more of a ‘prayer bear’,” Berry Beary Kind said. “It really helps—it can do things that I can’t do, even if I tried with all my might. “

“We do what we can, and then ask the Lord to do the rest. He knows best how to care for situations that we just can’t—and in the best ways too,” added Berry Beary Gentle, giving her son a hug.

They were glad things had worked out so well—like they always do with the Lord’s help.

11--The Berry Big Birthday Bonanza

When Berry Beary Kind woke up he felt something tickling his nose. Huh? He thought. He found a colourful piece of paper hanging down on a string, right in front of his face as he slept.

“What’s this?” It read: “Happy Birthday! From your berry good friends. Have fun on a treasure hunt. You’ll discover treats and fun things.

Here is the first clue.”

“Wow! I nearly forgot, it is my birthday! This is going to be one cool day! I can hardly wait to get started!” But then he stopped himself.

Something was whispering in his heart that there was another Friend he’d forgotten. So he climbed back under his big fluffy warm blanket and, turned to look at his favourite picture of Jesus. He talked to Him about the last year, and thanked Him for taking care of him. Berry Beary Kind thought of all the fun adventures and lessons and helpful jobs he’d done.

“Jesus, I know I couldn’t have had that great year and done anything nice for others, if You hadn’t been with me, and given me the strength and faith and good health and joy and all that I needed.”

Then Berry Beary Kind thanked Jesus for a whole list of things that had happened over the past year. He felt like a very rich man—I mean bear—as there were too many things to even list then that Jesus had done for him.

Then he got quiet to hear anything that His best Friend of all, Jesus, had to say to him on this berry, beary special day. Jesus said: “Because you have chosen to make others happy, before yourself, I and your friends will make you so happy today.”

With his love cup all filled up, he now climbed happily out of bed to begin the day of fun. He put on his bow tie and cap, and his favourite shiny belt. He was ready to eat. But before he cooked he thought to read the clue card. “Look somewhere you don’t usually look before you get your breakfast. Somewhere in the kitchen.”

He looked in every kitchen cupboard, and under the table, and in the freezer. He was just about to give up when he thought to look in the oven.

“Oh wow!” he said. And there was a tray with his breakfast all made, all ready. And on it was a birthday card—plus another clue card. He took this tray to eat on his porch while outside listening to the birds, and reading something from his Bible.

He chose a verse to be the one to think about and do most in the new year. It said: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.”

And he remembered his verse from his last birthday, “Bear ye one another’s burdens.” He tried to do that as often as he could.

The next clue card, that was on his breakfast tray, said to look by something that rings. He thought of the door bell, but just as he was on his way to look there, the phone rang. He answered it.

There was a crying little boy, saying that his favourite kite got stuck in a tree yesterday, and he really wanted to fly it again.

“I’ll be right there, don’t you worry,” he said. Even though it was his birthday, he still wanted to help anyone who might need him. “Hmmm, I think I’ll need a cherry picker for this job,” he thought, and phoned Mr. Perry.

“Sure, you can use my cherry picker this morning. I won’t be using it right now. Just come on over,” said Mr. Perry.

So Beary Berry Kind hopped in his car to drive on over to get the cherry picker. But as he went to turn the steering wheel, his hand touched on something.

“What’s this? A ticket? To what?” It was his next surprise.

A ticket to a concert with a big band and flashing special lights, that were to play some of his favourite songs. And it was to be for that night!

“Ah! So the clue wasn’t on the door bell, it was the phone, cause that can ring! And it was to see if I was going to answer and help someone else. This is getting even more fun!”

He got the cherry picker and got the kite down, and gave it to a very happy boy.

“Here you go, Donny!” said Beary Berry Kind, as he handed it to the boy. “Oh, thank you so much. And my mommy said that it is your birthday, and to give this to you.”

“Really? What is it?” He opened a small box, and in it was a toy car.

“Push the button!” said the boy. And it was a musical car that made the birthday song as it drove! He thanked the boy, and then drove off to

return the cherry picker truck, and then on to his home again.

When he got to his house there was a sign on his door, inviting him to visit the neighbour's house, for a birthday tea party snack. He found out that there wasn't just his neighbour there, but lots of his friends as well! It was like a surprise party.

They all appreciated him, gave him hugs, and shared some gifts with him. They also showed him a video that lots of people had helped to make, telling him thank you for the ways he had helped them. It really touched his heart, and he felt full to overflowing with love!

In the afternoon he went on a fun outing with his mummy and daddy. They took a ride on a glass-bottom boat, and saw the fish and marine life in the sea.

He invited Berry Merry Song, a very good musician to come to the concert at night with him.

He ended his day laughing and happy to use his next year to love and help others!

12--Tennis and More

The court was empty, and looked as good as new too. All the best tennis players in town had made a project of fixing up the town's tennis court. It looked shiny and new, and ready to be used. It was just missing one thing—the players.

"I thought today was supposed to be the first game, and the townsfolk were going to come and watch and cheer. Did I get my dates wrong?" said a puzzled Berry Beary Kind, looking at the date on his watch, and again at the sign hanging there, advertising the event.

"Nope, it says it's for today...I wonder why no one else is here?"

Well, little did he know that a certain team of Wonderbears had been using their summer going around and doing plenty of surprises for folks all around. And today it was his turn to be surprised, in a fun way, real soon.

Those Wonderbears wanted to see that people who did lots for others, were given extra appreciation this season.

Berry Beary Kind was about to leave when he heard what sounded like the noise of a marching band approaching. He turned around to see a grinning band leader Berry Merry Song, leading the song as they marched along.

It was a new song made all about him, and the kind things he'd done to cheer folks up. He sat down to watch and listen. He was very surprised. And as the song continued, people started to come, each team or family bringing something for Berry Beary Kind and giving it to him, singing along with each chorus, and then taking their places in the seats for the tennis match show that was still to come.

The chorus of the song said:

We have a friend,
Who lives in Berry Beary Town
He's the Berry Kindest Bear
There ever is around.
When you need a bit of help
Or something's hard for you
He'll lend a helping hand
And with a smile too.
Oh! He's the Berry Kindest Bear
He's Berry Beary Kind!

The Wonderbears were using every opportunity to surprise folks in ways that would cheer them, and encourage them to keep up the great jobs they were doing, in helping to make the town the happy, kind town that it was. Amazingly enough it had been kept a secret, and Berry Beary Kind hadn't found out that it was his turn this time.

A very happy, smiling, thankful Berry Beary Kind went home that day, with a load full of treasures. Actually he had to ask his friend, Berry Beary Fix-it, who always travelled in his pick-up truck, to bring many of the gifts for him, as it was more than he could carry!

Being the kind hearted, thinking-of-others Bear that he was, when he got home and put his new gifts away, he thought that many of them were "just what he needed" for some projects and jobs that he was in the middle of doing for others.

For example there was a pie, that he wanted to use for the tea party that afternoon, that he'd organized for girls at Miss Elderberry's house—since she couldn't really get around much.

Then there was a new set of baseball items—glove, bat, ball, and hat. He would add these to his "Travellers Tricks" bag, that he brought with him when he travelled to the mountain village, or for game days with the children in his own town.

He was given four boxes of used clothes that were still in good condition. "Here's for my next trip to the mountain village," he thought. He took some of them, as he did need some more clothes, and was thankful for the gift. But the rest he'd give away.

There was a large bag full of arts and craft type of materials. "Hmm, this looks like a load of fun for birthday party activities—and just in time. I have three planned in the next few weeks."

The many gifts he was given made him able to give more to others. And that berry kind thought, made him a berry glad Bear.