



Discovery

FEBRUARY 2010

**Help
others**

Stories, Puzzles, Jokes, Readers' Response, Serial and more...

Hi There!

Every day, each one of us has the opportunity to help someone else. It might be with a smile, a kind word, or by actually doing something for someone.

The exciting thing is that there could be any number of ways, reasons or people to help and you never know when that opportunity might come.

Have fun looking for those opportunities and enjoy the pleasure that it brings to you!

Have you ever shed a tear when your sister's heart is breaking?

Have you tried to feel his pain, when a brother's hurt and aching?

Have you helped to lift a friend who today is feeling troubled?

Loads are half the weight to bear when the strength to lift is doubled.

Wendy



Making the timeless truths and values of the Bible come alive!

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Able to Help



By Gwenyth Frear

Hi, my name is Ebemelech. At the time of this story, I was living in the king of Israel's court, working as a slave, so I wasn't important at all. I didn't even belong to the people of Israel, so I felt more out of it than ever. One day, the prophet Jeremiah came to the king's court and gave a message from God which the princes didn't like. They went to the king and told him that Jeremiah was frightening the people with these messages from God about punishment for their sin. The king said he couldn't be bothered about it, and they could do what they liked with him.

They thought that if they got rid of God's messenger, they would get rid of God's message. But I knew better than that. God's message would stand just the same. It's the same as trying to get rid of what you look like by throwing the mirror away! I knew that would never work, and neither would this idea of the princes' work. God's message would still stand.

I felt so sorry for Jeremiah. They had arrested him and put him down in a dark pit that had squelchy mud at the bottom of it, and nowhere dry to sit or lay. There was no fresh water to drink and no window for light. I knew he wouldn't last long there and as soon as I heard about it, I went to the king and told him what they had done. I thought the king might not listen to me, but he did, and told me to take thirty

soldiers and get him up out of that place as soon as I could.

I didn't waste any time, and ordered the soldiers to come with me. I went into the store cupboard in the basement first and got some old clothes and rags and took them to the pit that Jeremiah was in. "Can you hear me, Jeremiah?" I said in a loud whisper, "I've got some old rags I'm dropping down to you. Put them under your arms with these ropes on top of them and we'll pull you up. But be quick!" I was afraid the princes might come by any moment and stop us.

We pulled Jeremiah up to safety, and he was allowed to stay in the court of the prison after that. The king and his people were all very afraid of King Nebuchadnezzar's great army that was hovering outside the city, but they still wouldn't listen to God's message that Jeremiah told them.

I was so pleased that I had been able to help Jeremiah get to safety. It just shows that even an unimportant person can help someone else. God looked after both of us during the battle that followed when the king was taken by the enemy. Jeremiah had a special message from God saying that I would be safe because I was trusting in Him. I have always found that God is there when I need Him, and I proved this time that He is my refuge in times of trouble!

Full of Action

Breanna woke up to a persistent beeping sound.

She knew it wasn't her cell phone or alarm clock; but something was beeping, annoyingly. Her eyes darted around the room as she tried to pinpoint the sound. Then she heard one of the draws in the kitchen open then slam shut. Being Boxing Day morning, it was likely to be Cody or James raiding the fridge to have pavlova and cheesecake for breakfast. Ohh, Bree almost gagged at the thought; she was still so full from yesterday. After a second the fridge door slammed shut and the beeping finally stopped.

She reached for the journal that her Mum had given her as part of her present yesterday. It had rough recycled pages and had come with a black ink pen. Wanting to try out the new pen, but not really knowing what to write, she began writing a list of people that she would need to thank for the presents that she had been given.

Boxing Day...that meant there was only six days to go till she was meant to have completed her 'read the New Testament in a year'. And she was only up to 1st John chapter 3! She swapped her journal for her Bible and her coloured pencil to underline any verses that she wanted to remember. She began reading, but was still half thinking about her Christmas presents. She shook her head to try and focus, getting her pencil ready. 'If anyone has material possessions and see's his brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in him?' Her family didn't have a lot of money, but she knew that her Mum and Dad always gave a little bit each week to missionaries. She felt quite good as she thought of that. The next verse read:

'Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.' Bree knew that when it said 'children' it meant all Christians, but she underlined the verse and



tried to carry on reading. But her eyes kept drifting back to the underlined verse. Funny how today's verses would be about possessions, when her Christmas presents were all stacked in a pile on her

desk. She stared at the verse for a minute and a thought crept into her mind. She suddenly closed her Bible with a snap, and flung the sheets off and began to hunt through her desk drawer. "Dear children...let us love with actions" she whispered to herself as she found her wallet and emptied all her money on her bed. Counting it carefully; she had a total of \$47.70.

From the kitchen she heard Cody say, as he put his plate in the sink, "I'm so full!" She briefly wondered how many platefuls of dessert he had just managed to eat; probably about three! Another thought crept into her mind.

Last week her Dad had been talking about poor Christian's in Pakistan who were starving. Those people were part of God's family, therefore her 'brother' and sisters'. How much had he said it cost per month for the Barnabas Fund to send them food parcels? She was sure it had been \$40. But if she gave \$40 of her money she would only have \$7.70 left. She glanced at her pile of presents, thinking carefully. Then with a determined and satisfied smile on her face she set aside \$40 to give away, and put the rest back in her wallet.

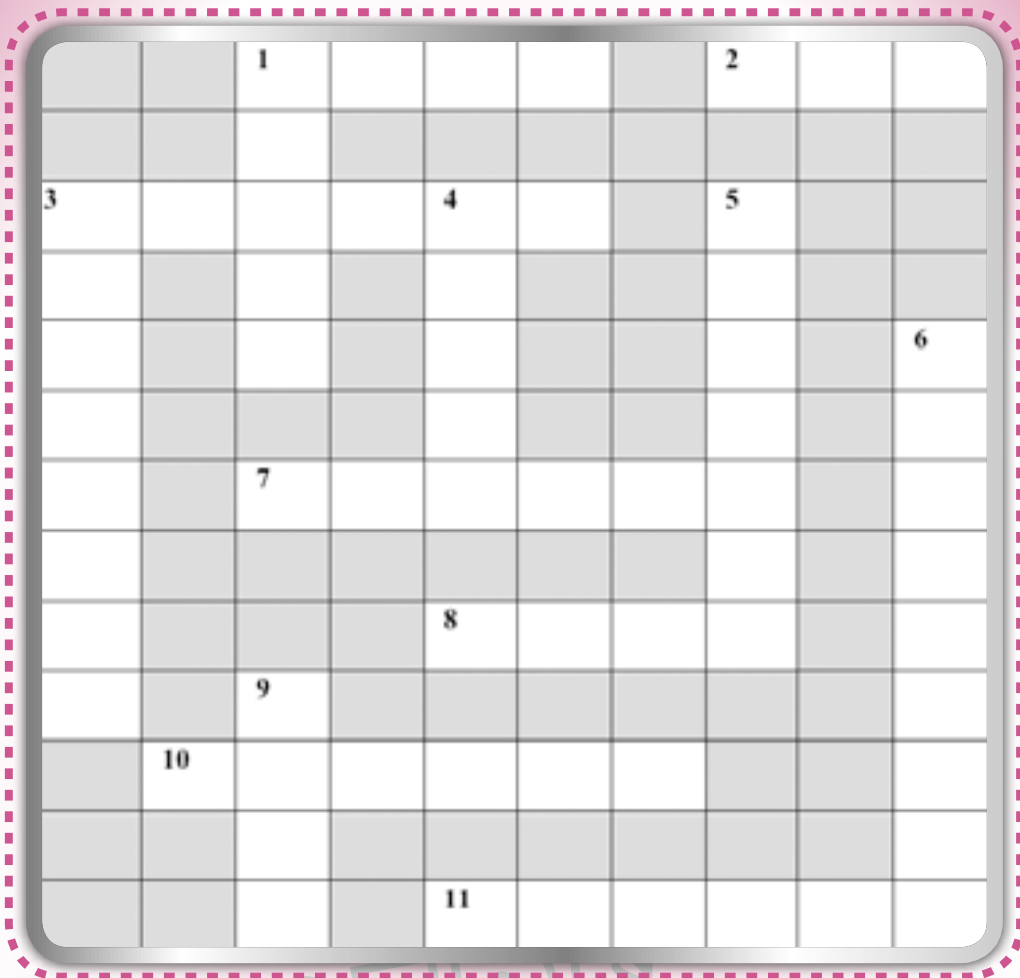
Her heart suddenly felt full; with a good kind of fullness. She hopped back into bed and read over the two verses again. She was amazed at how good it felt to obey God's Word and to help others who are in need... "Let us love with actions".


People who helped others

There are some Bible children and people listed below whom God used to help others. Somehow the things they did have been put alongside the wrong name. Can you draw a line from the name to the correct thing that the person did?

Phoebe	Saved her family
Joshua	A King who turned a nation back to God
Slave Girl	Helped her mother-in-law
David	Rescued his people from slavery
Esther	Gave birth to the Saviour of the world
Joseph	Saved an army
Ruth	Saved her master's life
Josiah	Helped feed a large crowd
Rahab	Helped Paul
Boy with lunch	Challenged Israel to follow God
Mary	Saved her race
Moses	Saved many people from starvation

Romans 16:1 & 2, Joshua 24:15, 2 Kings 5:2 & 3, 1 Samuel 17:51 & 52, Esther 4:8, Genesis 41:56 & 57, Ruth 1:16 & 17, 2 Kings 23:21, Joshua 2:12 & 13, John 6:9, Luke 1:31 & 32, Exodus 1:7 - 10



By Janet Fleming 

HELPERS

Clues

Across

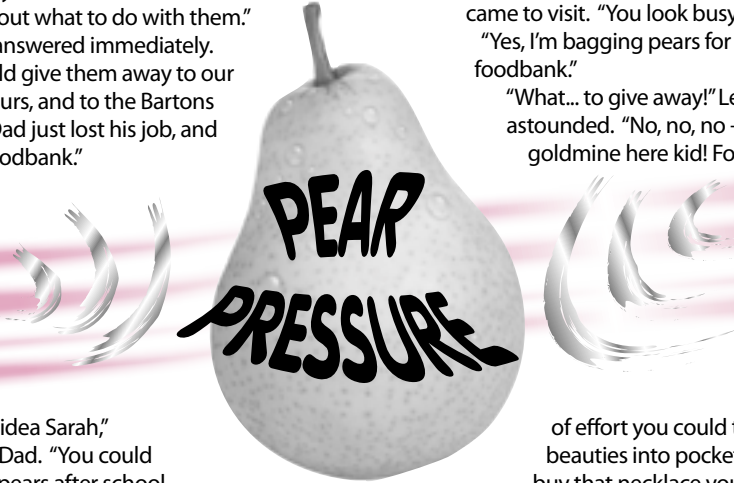
1. She helped Barak win the battle Judges 4:22
2. _____ let Aaron help Moses Exodus 4:14
3. Luke 23:50 - 53 He buried the body of Jesus
7. 2 Kings 4:25 - 26 Elisha's servant
8. He was a servant of Christ Romans 1:1
10. John 12:2 This lady served dinner
11. Acts 9:39 This lady made clothes for widows

Down

1. Our helper Hebrews 4:14 - 16
3. David's friend and helper 1 Samuel 20
4. Gideon's servant Judges 7:10 & 11
5. Judges 3:9 Caleb's younger brother
6. The helpers of Jesus Matthew 10:1
9. This lady worked hard for others Roman 16:6

On a warm Sunday afternoon Sarah and her Dad picked all the ripe pears from the tree in their garden, putting them in large boxes in the shade of the garden shed. As they rested, Sarah's Dad looked at the abundance of pears and said, "That old tree has produced another good crop. Too many for us to use, we'll have to think about what to do with them."

Sarah answered immediately. "We could give them away to our neighbours, and to the Bartons whose Dad just lost his job, and to the foodbank."



"Good idea Sarah," said her Dad. "You could bag the pears after school tomorrow." They stood up and went inside to dinner, pleased with their plan to share the fruit.

The next day Sarah went down to the shed. She was about to start bagging pears when her friend Jenny came through the garden gate. "Hey Sarah, I've got two tickets to see that new band "The Buzzards". You'll have to come now though, so we can get good seats."

"I'd love to, but I've said I'll bag these pears to give away to people in..."

"You must be joking!" Jenny interrupted her. "You'll never get another chance to see this Band!" Sarah agreed and ran inside to tell her Mum where she was going.

The next day Sarah went down to the shed as soon as she came home from school. She had partly filled one bag when her friend Mary arrived and asked her what she was doing. "I'm bagging pears to give away to people in our street," Sarah replied.

"Oh, how un-cool!" Mary exclaimed. "Why don't you get your Mum to do it, that's the sort of thing old people do isn't it? Come with me to the park to watch the guys play football.... Aaron will be there."

Sarah blushed at the thought of seeing Aaron. "Okay, I guess this can wait until I get back. I'll just go inside and put my new jeans on."

It was late when the girls returned from the park, so the pears were left for another day.

On Wednesday Sarah tried again, but had only done two bags when her best friend Leanne came to visit. "You look busy," Leanne said.

"Yes, I'm bagging pears for neighbours and the foodbank."

"What... to give away!" Leanne was astounded. "No, no, no - you're sitting on a goldmine here kid! For the same amount

of effort you could turn these little beauties into pocket money. You could buy that necklace you've been wanting." Sarah thought for a moment. "Yeah, I guess so. Some of our neighbours would be happy to pay for tree-ripened fruit."

"Well, you'll need to draw up a price list, make cards for letter boxes, and a poster for the dairy window." Leanne was enthusiastic. "Come on, we'll go and set it all up on my computer." They hurried away, chattering and planning.

On Thursday, Sarah's Dad found the rotten pears beside the shed. Sarah felt ashamed as she watched him tip them into the compost bin. He turned to her and said, "I'm disappointed that the pears have been wasted, but perhaps you've learned that things can go bad when you let peer pressure affect your decisions."

"I have Dad," Sarah agreed. "I can certainly see how 'pear' pressure can turn things into compost" she said, as tears fell on her cheeks.

Sarah's Dad smiled and put his arms around his daughter, saying, "You just need to remember what the bible says - 'Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world...but be transformed...then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is..' He held Sarah close and added, "always do what you know God wants you to do, Sarah, and you will become the person God wants you to be."

AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

For years completed

1 Rachel Allen

Jane Anguai
Amy Brunt
Gemma Brunt
Madhvi Devi
Simone Erceg
Kate Hince
Justina Iornenge
Jeromy Kerua
Elaine Lohai
Alisi Naufahu
Gina Nguyen
Lisa Nguyen
Rebekah Sheppard
Magnus Ukpe
Masa Veremaito
Beveline Veremaito
Wayne Wanjiman

2 Yetunde Fagbemi

Rebecca Gielen
Sean Graham
Dawn Hodder
Jina Imbi
Janice Mclvor
Mediatrix Onu
Julia Spurgeon

3 Katie Aldridge

Seth Campbell
Penuel Grace
Venessa Hape
Daniel Shepherd
Rhesa Simmons
Luke Spurgeon
Jonathan Spurgeon

4 Sylvester Agu

Esther Monday

Brooke Ray

Joshua Shepherd
Amber Winters
DJ Winters

5 Osita Anaeto

Kasharni Brown-Keane
Nathan Campbell
Nikechukwu Chris-Madu
Kurt Jaunay

Douglas McInnes
Cameron Prentice
Jill Speake

6 Ruth Aldersley

Daniel Aldersley
Vicki McMillan
Oscar Perks
Frances Wrigley

7 Nkiruka Chukwuka

Prudence Martin
Melody Neleman

8 Richard Emmanuel

Michael Willemse

10 Maxine Holland

Eric Singh

12 Akosita

Waqanimaravu

13 Fiona Blissett

18 Helen Clement

20 Gavin Brookshaw

21 Cathy Gallagher



"We can remember to read these."

BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY

DATE	BOOK	REFERENCE	
1 Tue	Joshua	1:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Wed	Joshua	1:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Thur	Joshua	2:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Fri	Joshua	2:15-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Sat	Joshua	3:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Sun	Joshua	3:7-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Mon	Joshua	4:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Tue	Joshua	4:11-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Wed	Joshua	5:10-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Thu	Joshua	6:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Fri	Joshua	6:12-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Sat	Joshua	6:22-27 and 7:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Sun	Joshua	7:2-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 Mon	Joshua	7:10-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Tue	Joshua	7:16-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Wed	Joshua	8:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Thu	Joshua	8:10-23	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Fri	Joshua	9:1-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 Sat	Joshua	9:16-27	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Sun	Joshua	14:6-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 Mon	Joshua	20:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 Tue	Joshua	23:1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 Wed	Joshua	23:14-16 and 24:14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 Thu	Joshua	24:16-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 Fri	Judges	2:16-23	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 Sat	Luke	6:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
27 Sun	Luke	1:26-35	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 Mon	Luke	2:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/>



Readers' Response

Email: info@biblediscovery.org.nz
or write to us: 888 New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025



"Hey kids - this is YOUR page - so send in (original materials) your favourite joke, one of your own poems or prayers, a letter or a question about being a Christian and it might end up here!!"



The Good Samaritan by Vincent van Gogh

²⁵And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ²⁶He said unto him, What is written in the law? how do you read it? ²⁷And he answering said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself. ²⁸And he said to him, You have answered right: this do, and you shall live.

Jesus then proceeded to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan, indicating that "your neighbour" means a total stranger, or someone that happens to be nearby. Jesus' teaching, however, goes beyond the negative of not doing what you would not like done to themselves, to the positive of actively doing good to another. This formulation, is indicated in the parable of the Good Samaritan, and emphasises the needs for positive action that brings benefit to another, not simply restraining oneself from negative activities that hurt another.

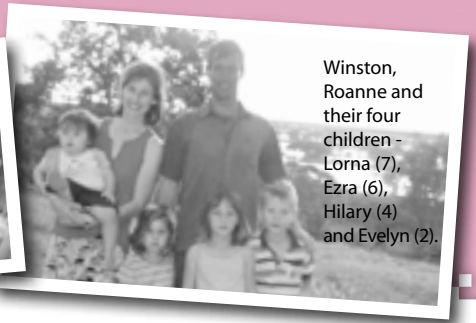
Luke 10:25-28

In other words

Treat others as you want to be treated

Helping others in Zambia

Meet the McEwan family from Hamilton in New Zealand



Winston, Roanne and their four children - Lorna (7), Ezra (6), Hilary (4) and Evelyn (2).

Winston is a doctor who specializes in plastic surgery. The family spent 2009 living and working in Zambia. While they were there, I asked them some questions.

Why did you go to Zambia?

We came here to work at some of the mission hospitals. We were here in 2006 and felt the Lord wanted us to come back and relieve doctors who needed to take a break.

In what ways can you help the people there?

Winston has been able to perform many operations on people who would not have had help normally because they are poor and have limited medical care.

God has enabled us to share food and basic needs with those who have so little. Above all, there have been many opportunities to tell the people about the Lord Jesus, and also to encourage Christians here.

How do your living conditions differ from NZ?

Most of the people live in mud brick houses with grass roofs and have no electricity or running water.

We have been privileged to stay in places similar to simple NZ houses. There is no carpet on the floor as it would get too dirty. We sleep under mosquito nets and cook on a wood stove.

In some places we have had electricity for only four hours a day.

Our nearest supermarket is 800 kms away, so we have shopped only twice this year, apart from buying local fruit and vegetables.

How do your children do their schooling?

Our children are home schooled because we have shifted five times this year and the local school in each area has used a different language. The schools have very few resources and facilities. The children get a desk and a chair if they are lucky.

Do they make friends with the local children?

We have certain afternoons each week when the local children come to play. There are no children's playgrounds, but there are many open spaces to explore and trees to climb.

Our children enjoy sharing a box of books and a few toys with them as they don't have any of their own.

Do you have any pets?

Because we have moved so often, it's not possible to have pets. Some of the missionaries have dogs and our children love to play with them.

Is it dangerous living there?

We feel safer here than in NZ because we have been living in bush areas away from the towns. Nearer the cities it is more dangerous. The roads here are very rough, but other than a few ox carts, there aren't many vehicles in these areas. Most people walk everywhere and are very fit.

There are snakes to watch out for and monitor lizards.

What do you do for recreation?

There have been pools at most places where we've stayed and the children love swimming in the afternoons. In some areas we've been able to go for walks by a river. Ezra enjoys riding his friend's bike.

What do you miss about NZ?

Roanne misses drinking clean water from the tap.

Winston would like more time for running and exercising.

Lorna misses ice cream, and Ezra is looking forward to using his cordless drill again. We all miss family and friends.

Can you make a difference to the people's lives there in one year?

We believe we can and we pray that our time has been helpful. God has enabled Winston to help many people with surgery, and because the patients stay on in the hospital, some have become Christians.

In the 12 months, we've been privileged to help the doctors and hospital staff who work here all the time and we've enabled some of them to take a well earned break.

It's always a joy to help others and we seek to show the love of God wherever we happen to be.

The Bible tells us:

"But don't forget to help others and to share your possessions with them. This too is like offering a sacrifice that pleases God."

Hebrews 13:16 (CEV)

By Julia Martin



E	A	C	H	B	R	S
S	P	L	E	H	E	T
X	T	H	E	Z	H	R
R	E	H	T	O	T	O
A	Q	O	I	J	O	N
N	V	O	T	S	R	G
D	S	A	Y	S	B	!

By Janet Fleming 

There is a verse in this wordfind. Start with the shaded 'E' and fill in the spaces below. Finish at the exclamation mark. Words must be in a straight line in any direction. The last letter of each word will touch the first letter of the next word. Letters can be used again in another word.

WORD FIND

If you have difficulty
you can find this verse in Isaiah 41:6

GIVING TO GOD

C	O	R	I	N	T	H	I	A	N	S
O	H	D	H	C	A	E	T	O	N	H
M	I	E	G	E	H	A	S	W	A	O
P	S	C	E	I	X	R	O	T	M	U
U	E	I	Z	R	V	T	A	H	W	L
L	V	D	R	O	F	E	N	I	N	D
S	E	E	G	O	D	U	E	V	I	G
I	N	D	S	E	V	O	L	G	I	I
O	R	U	L	L	I	W	O	V	N	V
N	O	T	K	U	N	D	E	R	Q	E
Y	L	T	N	A	T	C	U	L	E	R


By Janet Fleming 

In this wordfinder you will find words that fit the spaces below. This will give you a verse about giving and the place in the Bible where it is found. You will also find enough words to complete the statement that follows the verse.

Give to others and -----

The Birthday Party

*A modern parable of
the Great Banquet*

By Jennie Chappell 

Madeleine Duke wandered through the rooms of her home and was troubled at what she saw. The report from her doctor played on her mind as she looked at the objects on display, and she decided it was time to act. She went into the dining room and sat for almost an hour, writing invitations to an afternoon tea birthday celebration she was planning to have next Saturday. Later that day she delivered the invitations to letterboxes in the street where she had lived for 40 years.



By the evening of the following day, all the children in Mansfield Street were discussing their invitations to Mrs Duke's party. Most of the children had received a smile or a wave from Mrs Duke over the years, and had responded with a greeting of their own. However, one by one their parents thought up excuses for why the children could not attend the party. There were moans and groans from their offspring, but the truth was that the parents looked down on Mrs Duke, thinking her a scruffy woman with no social standing in the town, living in an outdated cottage, and obviously existing on a widow's benefit. The well known and popular people saw no advantage in letting their children attend the party, so one by one, as word spread, the other parents came to the same conclusion.

Each day, as Madeleine answered the phone calls and read the notes in her letterbox declining the invitations, the disappointment weighed heavily on her heart. However, she soon formulated another plan, and with the help of her pastor and the local school principal, invitations were sent to foster children in homes in the area. All these invitations were accepted.

On the day of the party, Madeleine decorated the garden with hanging paper lanterns, glitter balls, coloured lights, and fluorescent streamers, turning it into a magical wonderland. She then spent the rest of the morning baking sweet treats which she knew the children would like.



Unbeknown to many people, Madeleine had been an award winning pastry cook in her working days, and she thoroughly enjoyed the chance to reproduce her champion cakes and confectionery. Just before the children arrived, Madeleine made sure the displays in the rooms

were arranged to show the items off in the best way. All was ready, and as the children streamed onto the property from cars and vans, Madeleine's eyes moistened just a little with the importance of the occasion.

The garden throbbed all afternoon with the happy sounds of children having fun. The scrumptious food was consumed with great gusto by children and caregivers alike, and everyone enjoyed playing games on the huge expanse of lawn. Madeleine saved the best for last though, and just before the party was due to end, she led

everyone into her home to view the displays.

The adults in the group watched in amazement as the children wandered through a fascinating world of handmade toys and games which filled shelves and cupboards in every room. Dolls of every shape and size sat with knitted animals, alongside beautifully crafted wooden toys and hanging mobiles. Beautifully stitched dressing-up costumes hung from hooks and railings, adding to the picture-book look of the interior. Vibrant colours and imaginative designs delighted the children as they dared to touch the kaleidoscope of treasures on display. As they wandered from room to room, the children all agreed that viewing Mrs Duke's secret world was definitely the highlight of the day.



Madeleine watched them and sighed deeply, a sigh of immense pleasure and contentment. She whispered to the man standing next to her, and was charmed to see the look of surprise on his face. He clapped his hands to get the attention of the children and was quickly surrounded by curious faces. He motioned to the children to sit down in front of him, then he made an announcement.

"Mrs Duke has asked me to say that she would like every one of you to choose two items from the displays - one to keep, and one to give to a friend." The children's faces lit up and their eyes widened, not quite believing what they had heard. The caregiver quickly went on..."so, please don't rush to the cabinets, just move carefully and quietly to choose your gifts." As the children moved away, the man turned to Madeleine with wonder in his eyes. Before he could ask the question, Madeleine explained her fabulous collection.

"My husband was housebound in his latter years and it was his greatest joy to create things from wood. He gave many of the toys away to charities, but with no children of our own, and no family living in this country, there was always a surplus which we stored away. Similarly, I have spent most of my life indulging my passion for needlework and handicrafts, with the same result. My doctor says that this birthday could be my last on this earth, so I wanted to celebrate it in a meaningful way."



The man shook his head in wonder, and mumbled. "Well now, that's amazing. You're a lovely lady, Mrs D. God bless you!" Madeleine smiled, stooping to shake hands and receive hugs from the children who were leaving. They all said thank you, but their eyes said so much more.

Later that night as Madeleine collected up the few remaining items for one final donation to the church charity shop, she realised that although her body was weary from the day's activity, her soul was rejoicing. She went to bed that night acknowledging that her house was now empty, but her heart was full, and her happiness complete.

A Friend in Need

Young Ned sat in the gutter, his kindy-pack in disarray on his back when kind-hearted Mr Boorman walked toward him.

"Hello Ned. What are you doing here?" Mr Boorman asked, plonking himself down into the gutter next to Ned.

"I'm running away from home, but I'm not allowed to cross the road."

"Good on you for obeying your parents," Mr Boorman said. "But it's getting cold and dark. Little boys your age should be tucked up in bed by now."

"Not you too!" Ned steamed.

"What's up?" Mr Boorman asked.

Ned pulled his pack off his back, rummaging through it as if he was looking for something.

"Mum's in one of her mean moods again!" Ned grumbled.

"She made me have a bath just in the middle of an exciting chapter in my book."

"Did she?"

"Yes, and I nearly finished it too."

"Hmmm," Mr Boorman mumbled. "And is that the reason you're sitting here in the gutter?"

"Yeah, well... I wanted possum stew for Tea too."

"Don't tell me Mum cooked sausages and chips instead?"

"How did you guess?" Ned asked.

Mr Boorman rubbed his nose.

"I've got a pretty good sense of smell and the aroma of your dinner smelled rather good."

"I've always wanted to taste possum stew..." Ned mumbled, not really listening to Mr Boorman. "It sounds so exciting."

"And sausages and chips are boring, are they?"

"Yeah."

Ned's hand dived into the side pocket of his back-pack again and pulled out a book.

"Look! These kids are eating possum stew. They cooked it themselves."

"Wow! That's quite an adventure."

"Have you tasted possum stew?" asked Ned.

"A few times."

"What's it taste like?"

"I won't go into detail."

"Please..."

"Tell you what," said Mr Boorman. "I

just caught a possum last night. It's still in the shed. I could cook you up some possum stew right now."

"Really?" Ned beamed.

"Yes, but first go tell your mum where you are and what we're planning to do."

"Thanks Mr Boorman," Ned called over his shoulder as he ran home.

Ned soon returned with his mum.

"Thank you Mr Boorman," Ned's mum said with a twinkle in her eye. "Possum stew is just what Ned always wanted to try."

"You're very welcome Mrs Smale," Mr Boorman smiled.

"And I'm sure Ned will be home soon."

Ned's mum walked home with a smug look on her face while Ned and Mr Boorman walked towards the old shed in the back yard.

"We'll have that possum stew cooked in no time," Mr Boorman chuckled as they entered the lean-to.

Ned squeezed his nostrils.

"What's that terrible smell?" he asked.

"That's your possum stew coming up," Mr Boorman said as he pulled a limp furry thing from a hook.

Ned's mouth quivered.

"Errrr..." he mumbled. "I've just remembered I like sausages and chips after all."

He shot past Mr Boorman and raced home.

"That's alright Ned," called Mr Boorman. "Enjoy your dinner!"

If you've read or heard Jesus' parable about the Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), you might notice a similarity in Mr Boorman's actions. Mr Boorman also went out of his way to help someone in need. Although he acted differently, his actions were very important too. If he'd let a young boy like Ned go into the night alone, Ned could have got into all kinds of trouble. We can all be Mr Boormans or Samaritans by thinking of others more than ourselves and if we don't know what to do, we can ask Jesus there and then. He always has a solution.

Goldilocks and the Bears

By Addy Coles 



You'd think Goldilocks would be too frightened to return to the three bears' cottage in the woods. Following her last hair-raising experience there, I wouldn't blame her.

However, Goldilocks was brave. Rightly or wrongly she hoped the three bears would be cuddly and loveable like her own teddy bears. So she worked out a plan.

After boldly knocking on the front door, she waited patiently. She wasn't going to walk in as if she owned the bears' home this time. Goldilocks had learnt her lesson. Her daring idea, however, almost fell apart when her heart began to race.

"What might Father and Mother Bear think of me after my last visit?"

But Goldilocks stuck to her plan and waited patiently until Father Bear answered the door.

"I'm sorry for entering your home and eating your porridge... and for breaking Baby Bear's chair and sleeping in your beds," she blurted.

Surprisingly, Father Bear smiled broadly. Good breeds good. But Goldilocks hadn't finished.

"Here's my pocket money to fix Baby Bear's chair. I hope it's enough."

"Oh that!" Father Bear laughed. I fixed it myself. It's as good as new again."

"But it's kind of you to offer," Mother Bear joined in.

"Come inside and have some breakfast with us. I've just cooked a big pot of porridge, enough for four."

Goldilocks couldn't believe her ears. How could she refuse that offer? She loved the bears' porridge. It was so much creamier and smoother than any other she'd ever tasted before.

"Thank you. I'd love to," she answered and walked right in, now surrounded by the three bears.

Baby bear looked up at Goldilocks full of admiration.

"I'm so glad you came to visit. I was sad to see you run away last time you were here," he said. "I wanted to play with you. There are no small bears or children here in the forest."

"Then we'll play now," Goldilocks said. "I have all day."

"After breakfast," Mother Bear reminded.

Goldilocks and Baby Bear did as they were told and ate their porridge. After breakfast they ran all over the cottage playing hide-and-seek, tag and imaginary 'horse and carts' with a skipping rope. They ran so hard and fast, they puffed and panted and fell back laughing onto Mother Bear's soft bed. It wasn't nearly as soft as Goldilocks thought at first. Actually, it was so comfortable both Baby bear and Goldilocks fell fast asleep side by side.

The sudden silence alerted Mother Bear and she walked into the bedroom to find the amusing sight.

"Look," she called to Father Bear. "Baby Bear has a real friend."

"A timely arrival for his birthday wish," he whispered.

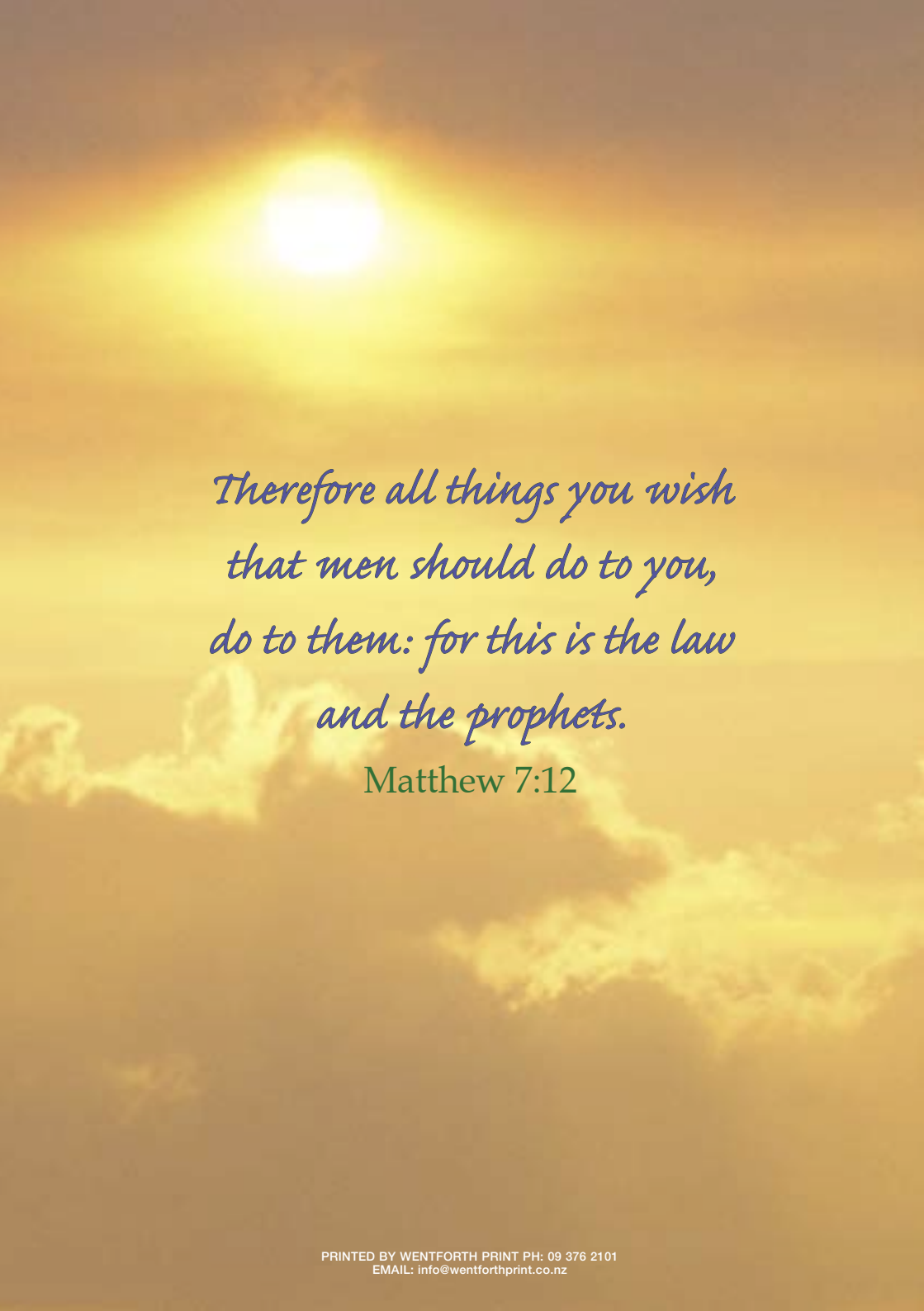
Baby Bear and Goldilocks became best of friends and Goldilocks often returned to the cottage for breakfast and play.

Goldilocks didn't realise the positive effect her actions had on the bear family. She may have been afraid to step out at first, but the bears and Goldilocks ended up very happy, both reaping the benefits of a lasting friendship.

By apologising for past mistakes or forgiving others, you not only help them, but yourself as well. It's the result of another golden rule Jesus taught in Matthew 22:39: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Think about it. Good always comes from this rule, of forgiving and apologising. It might be embarrassing to start with, but it's worth the effort.

Can you think of more ways to help others?



*Therefore all things you wish
that men should do to you,
do to them: for this is the law
and the prophets.*

Matthew 7:12