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News Magazine



Editorial Staff

Pastor Owen Alston

Brenda Benjamin
Janice Bright
Cindy Brown
Jacqueline Cuavers
Deborah Peniston
Marilyn Phillips
Yvonne Shaw

Graphic Designers

Maria Clausen

Leeanne Gibson

Photographer
Darnell Reynolds

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Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (I John 5:1-4)

Every sane person I've ever met wants to live a good life because we are a product of God's creation which indicates why we desire to live a good life because God is GOOD and anything that came out of God is Good. Genesis 1:31 teaches us that everything that God made was very good. Understanding this truth lets us know why everyone wants to live a good life: we bear the imprint of God's nature. Now the question that comes

to mind is how we live this desired good life.

There are several principles that I will share with you on how to attain this victorious life provided for us through Jesus. First it's of all,

through faith and only



Pastor Owen Alston

through faith in the word of God that you will attain this victory; that is, you must know and act on the word of God. I have learned to go to God's word and whatever the Word says, just do it. Please do not complicate the word of God; just do what it says. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves

(James 1:22). Also, to assist in this principle, please consider the spirit of faith as found in II Corinthians 4:13, And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak. ondly, walking in love is not optional. In our foundational text we see the requirement for love. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments for this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments and His commandments are not burdensome. God's commandment to love one another is not hard, but is simply a choice. Another great reminder to walk in love is found in Ephesians chapter 4:32, And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. I think many believers make the mistake of trying to access the good life without walking in love and end up frustrated. Notice the Word says, "the just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11) and "... faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6). I can assure you that without

making a decision to love everyone, you will always miss the mark. Thirdly, it is without question that whoever is born of God overcomes the world. Knowing that you are born of God is your Faith, and your faith is your victory. Here is what you say with your mouth - "I am born of God because I believe that Jesus is the Christ; therefore, I am an overcomer, and this is the victory - my faith." Establish your confession out of the word of God and hold fast to it. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. He is the minister over our confession in heaven. Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus (Hebrews 3:1). Your confession must always be according to the word of God. Once you have established your confession, hold fast to it. DO NOT allow circumstances to alter your confession. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession (Hebrews 4:14).



Member Spotlight

By Jan Bright

Deacon Oliver Lee Johnson grew up in the church. "My grandfather was a preacher and I went to church every Sunday" with his father George William Johnson, his mother Annie Mae and three sisters in Lynchburg, Virginia. At eighteen, Oliver received Jesus as his Lord and was baptized. He recalls, "It was beautiful at the creek. The Lord put his Spirit in me and He has never left me or forsaken me."

Shortly after he gave his life to the Lord, he joined the army. He did basic training at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri before being sent to Germany. "Half my class went to Viet Nam and half went to Germany." During a stint in the army, Oliver was passing through New Jersey and decided to settle here. He has worked at various facilities in the maintenance department. While he was supervisor at Crestwood Manor, he met a young woman named Jackie who was looking for a job. He hired her and she eventually became his wife. "We connected right away. I am blessed to have her. We've been married eighteen years and it just keeps getting better and better." He is now employed at Children's Specialized Hospital in Toms River.

It was Sister Rose Gamble, now deceased, who invited Oliver to a Harmony service. He soon joined the church and has been coming for twenty-four years. He says of Pastor Owen Alston, "God put me in a church with a man who truly believes in the Lord and trusts in Him." In 2001, Oliver recalls, "I was sitting on the front row behind Pastor Alston and Pastor Luke from Haiti was ministering. He was speaking on bondage. I realized I was in bondage because although I loved people, I couldn't tell them that I loved them because of Jesus. Pastor Luke took me to the altar. When he touched me, I went down and when he touched me again, I went down again. I heard a voice tell me 'You have two choices. Do my will or I'll remove your candlestick.' I knew that was God speaking to me because Pastor Luke has an accent and the voice that spoke to me was plain. I chose to do His will. I am happy to be in the kingdom and happy to serve. I've learned that you have to do what the Holy Spirit tells you or you will find yourself in

trouble." May On 18, Oliver 2003, Lee Johnson ordained was as a deacon at Harmony Ministries. Oliver is very involved in the prison ministry where he and Deacon Mark Worthy



lead the men in song and prayer and share the Gospel. "We tell them that Jesus loves them and that He died to take away their sins. When men are in a situation like that, they need the comfort of the Word." He also serves in the Nursing Home ministry. "We are all ministers of God in our own way. We can't minister without the power of God." Oliver is pleased with the way he is continuing to grow at Harmony. "I took on the commandment to love everyone and God continues to develop me in love. I have always loved people and enjoyed talking with them even before I got saved, but I was not on the level I am now." For Deacon Oliver Johnson, John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another..." is a daily reality. He is also a regular at the monthly Men's Fellowship meeting. Every weekday morning at 6 a.m., he can be found at prayer in the Harmony sanctuary. "The manifest glory of God rests here. I enjoy coming each morning. Praise and worship is what I do."

Oliver's advice to others is "Read the Word and meditate on it. Trust the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows when it's time to act. As long as you are doing God's work, the Holy Spirit will act." In the future, Deacon Oliver would like to travel more with his wife Jackie and revisit Hawaii. "I want to take a cruise one day. God is good. I've tasted the goodness of God. I'm glad to be in His kingdom. I love being in the presence of God."

OUR MISSION TEAM In action

The Mission goad for Harmony Ministry is to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ and to share the Gospel with who ever will hear.



Serve Jersey Shore is a project whereas more than 50 churches and ministries participated in specific projects for more than 24 nonstop hours on August 19th as part of Serve Jersey Shore, a faith-based outreach and community service day in Ocean and Monmouth counties.

The churches funded their own efforts that ranged from two to four hours. Serve Jersey Shore began at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19, and ends at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 20.

The projects included the Jersey Shore Dream Center's annual Serve 24 day in the heart of Asbury Park including dozens of local projects.

Harmony Ministries Church participated by furnishing food clothing and personal hygiene products to Harbour House in Toms River, it was truly a blessing for all involved!





Health Corner:

The Importance of Sleep in Maintaining Health.

I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. Psalm 3:5

Marilyn Phillips

Adequate rest and sleep are fundamental to our well-being and good health throughout our lifespan. It is important to obtain a least seven to eight hours of restful sleep every night. It is God's desire that we maintain adequate sleep, peace, and rest daily. He declares in His Word "In peace, you will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety," (Psalm 4:8). He also states "If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet" (Proverbs 3:24). The Lord is our security and comfort; therefore, when we go to bed, we can sleep without fear or worry. God has provided us with the mechanism of sleep to renew our mind and bodies. Obtaining enough quality sleep is essential for our safety and physical and mental quality of life. During the summer months, as we increase our activities in outdoor fun, barbecues, and family parties we must remember to maintain adequate rest and sleep.

How Critical is a Good Night Sleep?

Restful sleep is as important as eating healthy and exercising. It is incredibly important to maintaining health. Obtaining quality sleep at the right times helps protect our mental and physical health, quality of life, and safety. During sleep our bodies are working to maintain our physical health and support brain function. In teens and children, sleep also promotes growth and development. God knows that proper sleep will sustain our health. He states in His Word "I lay down and slept; I woke

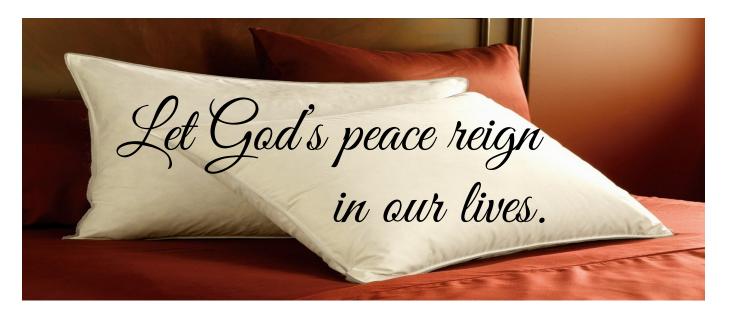


again, for the Lord sustained me" (Psalm 3:5). Good Sleep Improves Productivity and Concentration.

Restful sleep assists in brain function. This includes concentration, cognition, performance, productivity. While we are sleeping our brain is preparing for the following day. It's forming new pathways to assist us in remembering information and learning. Sound sleep promotes our learning and problem-solving skills. Sleep also assists us in paying attention and being creative. Our immune system also relies on a proper night rest to stay healthy. Lack of sleep causes a poor immune system which can cause us to be susceptible to infections and have difficulty in fighting even the common cold.

The Effects of Sleep Deprivation.

Fear and worry prevent us from obtaining adequate and sound sleep. If you are sleep deprived, you will have difficulty in concentration. Indi-



who are sleep deficient may have difficulty in solving problems and making decisions, They also have difficulty in controlling their behavior, emotions, and coping with change. Sleep deficiency also has been linked to some mental conditions; for example, depression, risk-taking behavior, and even suicide. Children and teens may lack motivation, get lower grades and become easily stressed. Ongoing sleep deprivation has been linked to kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Lack of sleep also plays a role in human errors linked to tragic accidents. God desires that his children live without fear and worry and obtain restful sleep. His Word states, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand," (Isaiah 41:10. God gives the assurance that He is always with us in every situation of our lives.

Maintaining Peace produces Restful Sleep

Maintaining peace in our minds will assist us in obtaining a restful night sleep. True peace is not obtained not from the absence of conflict or positive thinking, but in trusting and believing God's Word. It's derived from knowing that God is in control of our affairs. We must allow God's peace to control our mind. He declares, "Do not be anxious

about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus "(Phil 4:7). Let God's peace reign in our lives.

As we allow God to guide our path and assist us with our decisions, we will obtain peaceful lives which will help in maintaining restful minds. This peace will ultimately produce sound and restful sleep. God promises in His Word, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverb 3:5-6).

Sleep plays a vital role in good health. It is essential that we guard our heart and mind. His peace creates rest for the body and mind. In Him, we will obtain the rest that will greatly reduce the stress in our lives. Jesus declares, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Let's take hold of God's peace and His provision for peaceful and sound sleep.



Harmony Ministries USA, Inc. Faith Resource Center 401 Chestnut St., Lakehurst, NJ 08733

Christian Book Store

Hours of Operation

Wednesday 9am-10am & 11am-12pm Thursday 6pm-7pm & 8:30pm-9:30pm Saturday 10am-2pm

Sunday 8am-9am& 11:30am-12:30pm Visit us at hmusa.org

Brenda Carter / Vernell Morris 732-597-8177





KAYLA HILL

"My name is Kayla Hill and I graduated from Howell High School. I will be attending Rowan University this fall where I will be majoring in Elementary Education and History. My future plans are to become an elementary school teacher so I can teach and inspire the future leaders of society. "



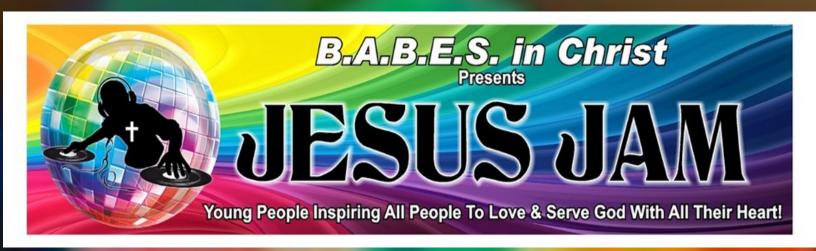
DEJAH ADAMS

"I am attending Johns Hopkins University to further my academic and athletic career. My goal is to major in biology, minor in Spanish, and attend medical school to specialize in oncology. Personally, I have graduated from chasing feelings that are not fulfilling, and now look to only chase God, because he provides all the peace that I could ever want."



CIERRA SIMS

"I'm going to Brookdale Community College. I graduated from Freehold High School. My goals after high school include going to college and completing college. I want to get my masters to become a nurse practitioner. Eventually, one day becoming a doctor of nursing."



AUGUST 12, 2017



A wonderful day UNITED in CHRIST!

The event was produced by B.A.B.E.S. in Christ young adult ministries from various churches across Ocean County. Sponsors include Harmony Ministries, Lakehurst, New Life Christian Center and Sixth Street Baptist Church, Lakewood; and Grace Gospel Church, South Toms River.



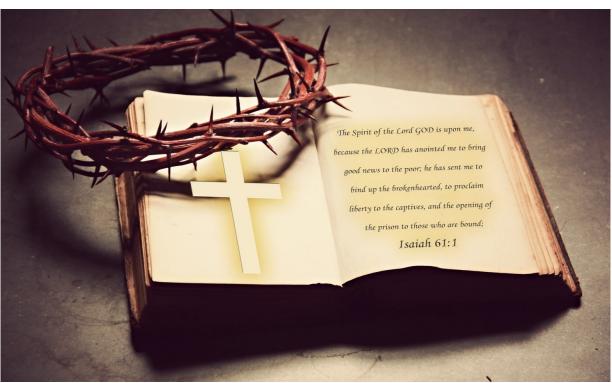
Anyone interested in participating with Jesus Jam 2018 can directly receive further information by emailing the group via this email address, at the BABES young adult's meetings, and by connecting with the group on social media: Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/babesinchrist/ or Facebook at www.facebook.com/babesinchrist2016.



by Cindy T. Brown

Matthew 5:14-16,

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



We can find myriad reasons to avoid serving in God's kingdom ranging anywhere from not having enough time to be involved, to that some people are simply too trifling to deal with, to one's perceived personal inadequacies. Whatever excuse you find for not serving, one thing you can be certain about is that Satan will do his very best to perpetuate the wrong thinking. I was reminded of Jonah as he tried to flee from Nineveh when I recently decided to take a hiatus from writing on the magazine committee; however, the Holy Spirit convicted me and revealed to me that my reasons were nothing more than the adversary trying to dissuade me from being the beacon that God de-

signed me to be. Our God doesn't give up on us despite our groans because He designed the master plan and He knows the outcome of all things.

As Christians we are called by our Father to be ambassadors for Christ so that we may lead others to salvation. *Isaiah 60:1, Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the*

glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Acts 13:47, For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'" This is our calling, and yet we are sometimes hesitant to open our mouths and share the gospel with others around us. Sometimes like Jonah, our hesitancy may stem

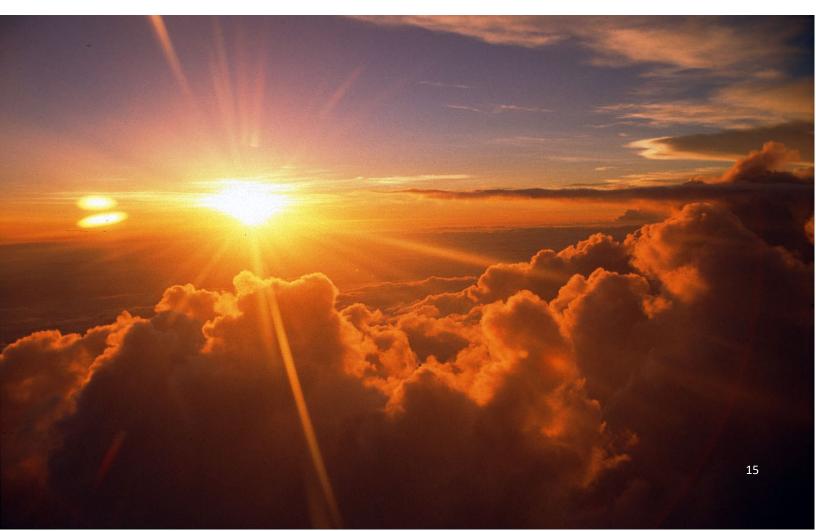
from selfishness because it is easier for us just to let people be the way they are than it is to interact with them. Or, for others it could be a fear of what people might say or think about you or a fear of one's imperfections that is stifling you. However, we should all be emboldened by knowing that the Lord has promised us that He is sufficient to meet all of our needs and that He will never leave us nor forsake us. In fact, when you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you, you can be confident that when you share the gospel with someone, your words are exactly what that particular hearer needs to hear.

Each of us has a purpose in God's kingdom and we must not be shy about fulfilling that role. The adversary always wants us to doubt our authority and our abilities in Christ and to immobilize us with fear because then God's work doesn't get done. Therefore, I encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ to challenge yourself to step out boldly for Christ and to speak up when you have an opportunity to share the gospel with someone. Be assured that you will be blessed by the experience and you will

be a blessing to someone else. This is because when you speak God's words, the angels immediately get to work to ensure that those things you've spoken come to pass (Psalm 103:20).

A good starting place to break out of your comfort zone and develop boldness for Christ may be in the quality of your worship when you are among your church congregation. In God's home, you should certainly feel secure in knowing that you are among other worshippers who also love the Lord as you do and you can let yourself be free to glorify our Father. The more you praise God, the more confident you become in doing so, and the stronger your relationship with Christ becomes. Jesus told us very plainly that, "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven" (Matthew 10:32). So next Sunday, if you aren't already boldly worshipping the Lord, go for it – you'll <u>love</u> it!

~ Wishing You Peace, Joy, and Abounding Love, in Jesus' name! ~



IFILM D REST

by Deborah Peniston

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30 NKJ).

Rest isn't elusive. Jesus said if we come to Him, if we learn from Him, we will find rest. The Amplified version of Matthew 11:28 says, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls." Psalm 34:8 tells us taste and see that the Lord is good. I believe that once you have tasted rest, you will seek it and find it.

I got a glimpse of this rest recently. I went on an eight day Caribbean cruise. This was beyond any vacation I had ever experienced. There was no work, no phone calls, or emails. When at sea, all you saw was water. As the cruise director explained, they lived in a bubble on the ship. For that

cruise, we got to live in that bubble too. There was a relief, an ease from the demands of day to day routines. My soul was refreshed. When I returned home, I longed for that rest. I realized I had never truly experienced rest, but now I had tasted it and it was good. It wasn't just a lazy day on the couch, experiencing sweet sleep at night, or shutting everything down at a decent time at night. Rather, it is a state of mind. As the days passed, I realized I wanted that rest, but my responsibilities took precedence over my days. I felt those days on the ship were like heaven on earth. There was a peace, a serenity there that surpassed all understanding. This is what God desires for us...even now while we still live out our days on earth.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp,

pleasant), and My burden is light and easy Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7 Amplified). to be borne" plified).

have life, and that they may have it more its salvation through Christ. tent with its earthly lot of whatever sort ..." (Hebrews 4:11a Amplified). that is, that peace) which transcends all un- Taste it, seek it, and find rest. derstanding shall garrison and mount

or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and guard over your hearts and minds in Christ

(Matthew 11:29, 30 Am- That's the rest! That's the state of mind He desires for us. That's what He came to give Jesus did say, "I have come that they may us. However, it requires a soul assured of abundantly" (John 10:10b NKJ). This life tells us the promise of entering His rest is He came to give us should not be harsh or still offered today; we must believe to enpressing. That's the yoke of the world. We ter that rest. Don't let the cares or responare to take His yoke which should not be a sibilities of your world, rob you of that rest. burden. In fact, we are told, "Do not fret Saturate yourself with the Word, so you or have any anxiety about anything, but in will have that tranquil state of a soul asevery circumstance and in everything, by sured of its salvation through Christ, reprayer and petition (definite requests), membering that salvation is an allwith thanksgiving, continue to make your encompassing promise with includes rest wants known to God. And God's peace on earth as it is in heaven. "Let us there-(shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul fore be zealous and exert ourselves and assured of its salvation through Christ, and strive diligently to enter that rest (of God, so fearing nothing from God and being con- to know and experience it for ourselves)

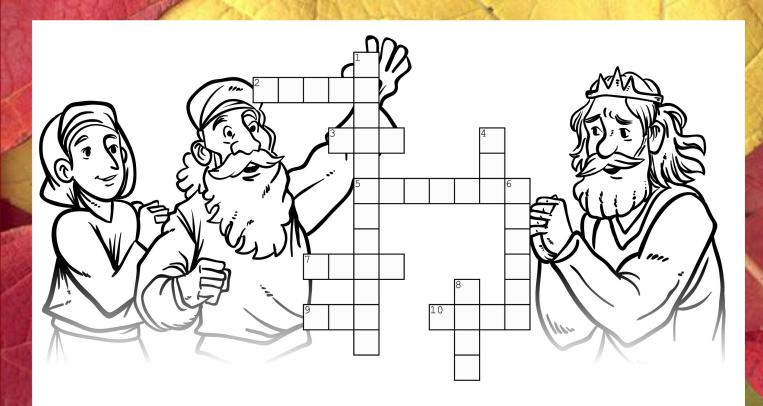
"...we must believe to enter that rest. 99



GAME PAGE

CIVIE THANKS TO THE LORD

2 Chronicles 20



Across

- 2. Jehoshaphat was king of _____
- 3. God defeated the enemy. Not ____ soldier survived.
- **5.** On the way out to battle, the king appointed _____ to lead the army in worship before God, instead of his mighty men.
- "Give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast _____ endures forever."
- **9.** God promised the king and his people that they would ____ the battle.
- **10.** Jehoshaphat called the people to ____ and pray.

Down

- **1.** The King believed God, and lead his people into praise and _____.
- **4.** Jehoshaphat became filled with fear when he found out three armies were about to come against him in ____.
- **6.** Suddenly the _____ of God came upon a man named Jahaziel.
- **8.** God caused the warring armies to fight against ____ other.

"in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"

Read Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1,2 (NIV) and fill in the blanks below to learn the order he used.



be _____"



God said "Let there God called the expanse



God said, "Let the land produce

God called the dry ground "_____ and the gathered waters he called



God said, "Let there be _____ in the expanse of the sky to separate the ____ from the



God said, Let the teem with ____ _____, and let fly above the earth..."



God said, "Let the_____ produce living _____ according to their kinds"

God said, "Let us make ____ in our

"God saw all that he made and it was ______

				Disc	over	the	hid	den '	wor	ds.				
J	E	H	0	5	Н	A	P	Н	A	T	Q	F	5	Y
A	O	T	E	V	X	L	F	Z	X	В	X	R	I	Y
D	A	6	A	F	R	E	D	G	0	T	В	U	N	F
В	D	В	Q	5	M	M	D	U	Z	A	L	J	G	C
K	L	Н	P	R	A	Y	Н	5	D	D	В	L	E	V
M	X	J	W	G	I	J	P	В	X	V	Z	J	R	C
C	A	Н	A	Z	I	E	L	L	Q	A	U	C	5	Q
L	V	Q	0	L	U	Н	X	5	0	D	G	Н	Z	L
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X	0	K	K	D	W	U	V	5	Q	Н	K	F	Z	Z
H	Q	D	L	Q	L	Н	Q	T	F	P	X	P	D	В
I	D	D	F	A	5	T	M	Z	P	P	P	G	C	J

Word Bank

JEHOSHAPHAT	LOVE	KING
JUDAH	FAST	WAR
GOD	PRAY	SPIRIT
SINGERS	THANKSGIVING	JAHAZIEL



Send Letters and comments about any article, include your name, address, and email to:

Letters to the Editor

"The Word Made Alive"

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Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.
401 Chestnut Street
Lakehurst, NJ 08733

Selected letters may be edited

*** PRAYER OF SALVATION *** DO YOU KNOW...?

GOD LOVES YOU

JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS

YOU CAN RECEIVE JESUS NOW AND KNOW GOD'S LOVE

The basis of the Prayer of Salvation comes from Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

However, I would like to direct you to Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by Grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Grace is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. Grace is God's unmerited favor and because of God's grace, we receive eternal life and a promise of heaven. Grace is necessary for salvation as we cannot do enough good works or make enough right choices to earn our salvation. The Bible teaches that we are justified by the grace of God (Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7). Justified means declared not guilty. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, all charges against us are dropped and we are free from sin. When God forgives our sins, the record is wiped clean. It is as if we had never sinned.

A preacher once explained grace with this acronym:

God's - Riches - At - Christ's - Expense

PRAY THIS PRAYER OUT LOUD:

Heavenly Father, In Jesus' name I repent of my sins and open my heart to let Jesus come inside of me. Jesus, You are my Lord and Savior. I believe you died for my sins and you were raised from the dead. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Thank you Father, for saving me in Jesus' name. Amen.

If you've prayed this prayer of salvation with true conviction, you are now a follower of Jesus.

Welcome to the family of God! We encourage you now to find a local church where you can be baptized and grow in the knowledge of God through His Word, the Bible.

Answer Keys to Game Pages

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

Across

- 2. Jehoshaphat was king of (Judah)
- 3. God defeated the enemy. Not (One) soldier survived.
- **5.** On the way out to battle, the king appointed **(Singers)** to lead the army in worship before God, instead of his mighty men.
- 7. "Give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast (Love) endures forever."
- **9.** God promised the king and his people that they would **(Win)** the battle.
- 10. Jehoshaphat called the people to (Fast) and pray.

Down

- **1.** The King believed God, and lead his people into praise and **(Thanksgiving)**.
- **4.** Jehoshaphat became filled with fear when he found out three armies were about to come against him in (War).
- **6.** Suddenly the **(Spirit)** of God came upon a man named Jahaziel.
- **8.** God caused the warring armies to fight against **(Each)** other.



God said "Let there be **LIGHT** "



God called the expanse



God said, " Let the land produce VEGETATION "

God called the dry ground "__LAND__' and the gathered waters he called " SEAS "



God said, "Let there
be <u>LIGHTS</u> in the
expanse of the sky
to separate the

<u>DAY</u> from the

<u>NIGHT</u> "



God said, Let the

WATER

teem with LIVING

CREATURES, and let

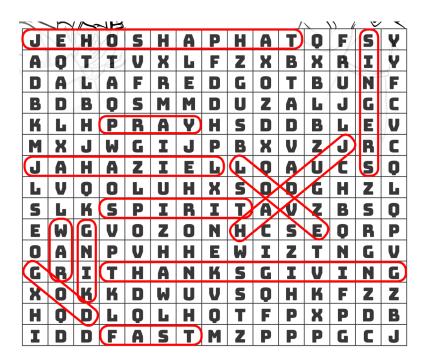
BIRDS

fly above the earth..."



God said," Let
the LAND produce
living CREATURES
according to their
kinds"

God said, "Let us make MANKIND in our IMAGE



[&]quot;God saw all that he made and it was <u>VERY</u> <u>GOOD</u>."

