Reflections for Celebrating Together

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says…

SHOUT FOR JOY
TO THE LORD ALL THE EARTH.
WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS;
COME BEFORE HIM WITH JOYFUL SONGS.
KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD.
IT IS HE WHO MADE US, AND WE ARE HIS;
WE ARE HIS PEOPLE,
THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE.
ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKGIVING
AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE;
GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE HIS NAME.
FOR THE LORD IS GOOD AND
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER;
HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.

PSALM 100

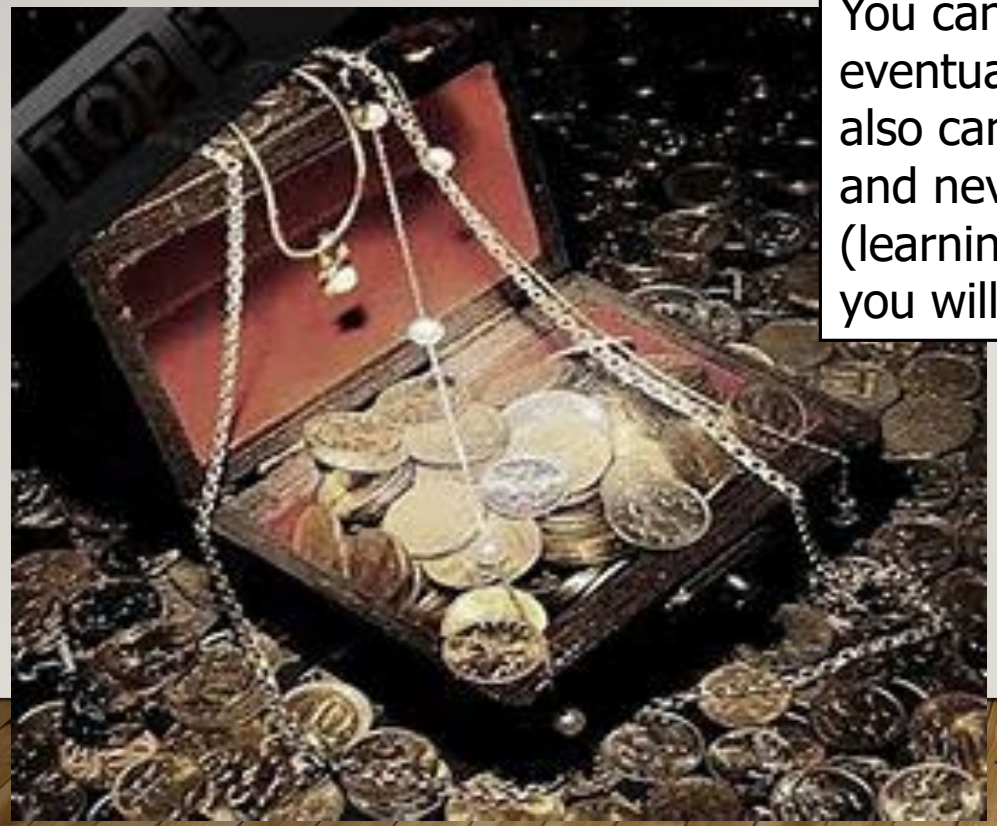
Let's celebrate and give thanks for those children who have nurtured their talents this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says…

How would you search for hidden treasure or a precious metal such as silver or gold? Do you think it would be easy?

You can't expect to be walking through life and eventually just stumble across wisdom. You also can't expect to continually search for it and never find it. If you make wisdom (learning) a priority, the Bible promises that you will find it.



Let's celebrate those children who have searched for wisdom this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says…



'My friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable.' - Philippians 4.8

Some people do not think before they act. They act first and think afterwards. It's like a hand running free with no brain to guide it. Actions, like words, need careful thought, and if our minds control our actions, it is very important that we watch what we put into our minds. We should aim to be wise all the time.

Let's celebrate those children who have been using their minds to focus on good things this week.

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How does a caterpillar transform into a butterfly?

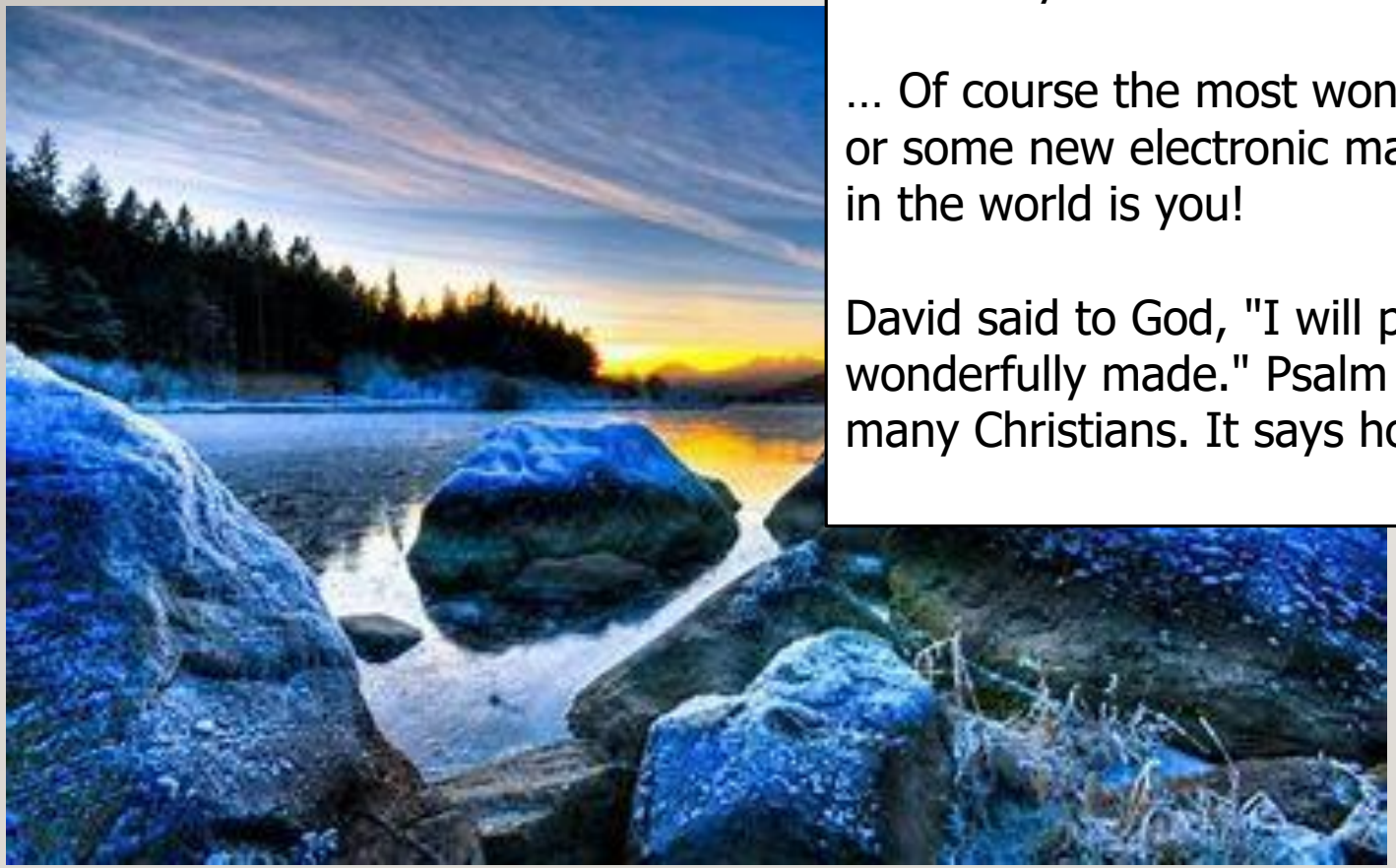
Christians believe God knows how beautiful the caterpillar will become.

The same is true of us as people. Many people believe that God sees what you can become. The Bible teaches how Jesus increased in wisdom as he grew up. Christians believe that God expects you to grow up and change just like Jesus did. You will become wiser and wiser. He expects you to increase in wisdom by learning a lot at school and at home.



Let's celebrate those children who have searched for wisdom this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.



What do you think is the most wonderful thing in the world?

… Of course the most wonderful thing in the world is not a spaceship or some new electronic manmade device. The most wonderful thing in the world is you!

David said to God, "I will praise You; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14 This is an important bible verse for many Christians. It says how wonderful we all are.

Let's celebrate those children who have achieved wonderful things this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

What makes you different from the person sitting next to you?

A lot of our differences are on the inside with our personality or things we like or don't like. We might have a special talent inside us. If we do have a special gift or ability, we should recognise this as a gift.

Many people including Christians believe these gifts come from God. The Bible says 'every good and perfect gift is from above.' (James 1:17)



Let's celebrate those children whose gifts and talents have been recognised this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

I wonder if anyone has ever said 'bless you!'

In the Bible saying 'bless you' is a strong word. When God promises to bless you he is saying 'I am going to make you into everything I ever wanted you to be.' Christians believe it means God is taking every day and every single thing that happened in it to make you stronger, to mend, fix and to change you.

Genesis 22:17 *'I will bless you.'*



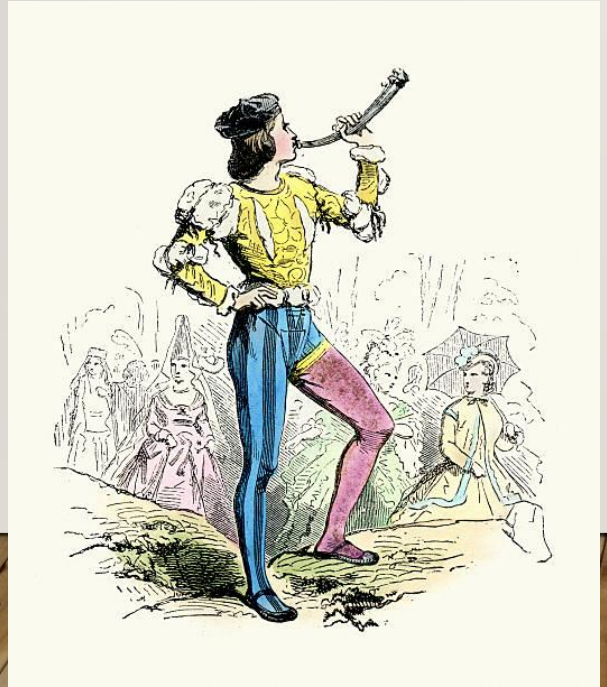
Let's celebrate those children whose gifts and talents have been recognised this week and ask for God's blessing upon them.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

In medieval times you would get your good news by a herald blowing a trumpet.

The Bible calls the stories about Jesus 'Good News' because they are stories about a rescuer. Luke chapter 2 says *'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people the saviour has been born.'*

For Christians the birth of Jesus is wonderful news. What wonderful news do we have today?



Let's celebrate the good news of those children whose gifts and talents have been recognised this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

An acorn is tiny. Looking at it you'd think it wasn't important at all. But from this a mighty oak tree can grow. And from that one oak – a whole forest. A whole forest is inside a single acorn!

The Bible says because of Jesus all the riches of God – all of heaven's resources – all the power in the universe – has come to live inside you.
'You will be strengthened with all God's glorious power.' Colossians 1:11

Christians believe we are connected to God and from him we can take our strength if we need to feel better we can just ask him.



Let's celebrate those children who have shown the riches that lie inside them this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

Who has had a happy week?

What or who has filled up your heart with joy?

In the Bible, God tells people to 'glorify' him. Christians believe this means that he created us not to get joy but to share in it. They believe God knows the thing your heart needs to be happy and wants you to be filled with joy.

1 Corinthians 2:7 '*His secret purpose from the very beginning is to bring us to our full glory*.'



Let's celebrate each other and share in each others joy.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

Did you know no two snowflakes are ever the same?

Christians believe God loves infinite variety. He does not make any two leaves exactly alike. He does not make any two snowflakes exactly alike. And he does not make any two people exactly alike.

You are a special, absolutely unique, one-of a-kind individual. What an amazing thought!



Let's celebrate those special children who have nurtured their unique talents this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says

Psalm 8:3-4 '*When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers. The moon and the stars… what is man that you are mindful of him?*'

God created the universe with just his fingers alone. Like a toy model with his hands alone. Our world and universe is so tiny to God yet he loves each one of us although compared to him we are so insignificant.

What have you created this week?



Let's celebrate those children who have been creative this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 10.*5 'take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.'*

Sometimes bad thoughts just land in our head out of no where and they can be very hard not to listen to especially when we find something challenging. But they are just thoughts and we don't have to listen to them or believe them. The thoughts are not important it is what we do with them that is important. Jesus – when he was tested – didn't listen to such thoughts. He ignored them and sent them away. We need to like Jesus not listen to awful thoughts or believe them.

So let's think positive thoughts about ourselves today and what we can achieve.



Let's celebrate those children who have challenged themselves this week.

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The Bible says 'be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.' 2 Chronicles 15:7.
We can develop resilience in our hearts and mind through practice. If we practice things that are hard, we will get stronger. Eventually we will be able to do harder and harder things.
I wonder… what do you find really hard to do? How could you get stronger?



Let's celebrate those children who have got stronger this week with practice.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says 'treasure these words in your heart and in your soul.' Deuteronomy 11:18. What words from the Bible might these be? 'try harder?' 'Not good enough?' The only thing God wants us to remember is that he loves us. These are the words Jesus died to prove. What words will you treasure today?



Let's celebrate those children who have been using their minds to focus on good things this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

In the Bible -Matthew 19:26 -
Jesus said, "with God all things are possible."

Sometimes it is easy to be discouraged and give up when things are hard. But God is a God of miracles. Not just miracles that happened in the past, but miracles that happen today, all around us. You can always ask God to help. **Giving up entirely is the only way to fail**. Do you agree?

Let's celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering.



Let's celebrate those children who have not given up this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

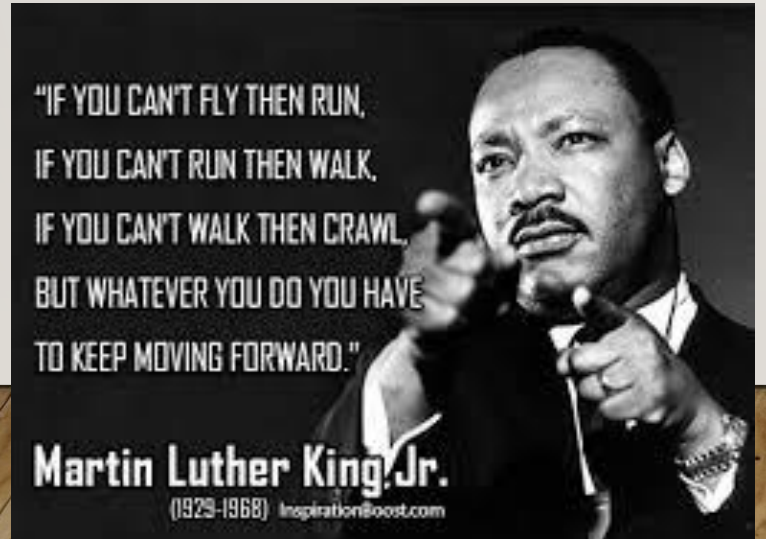
The Bible tells us 'God helped you begin and he will help you until it is finished.' Philippians 1:6
This should help keep us motivated when times get tough. Give us hope. Where have you benefitted from help this week? When have you helped others?



Let's celebrate those children who have been accomplished something this week. May they give us all hope.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

Psalm 37:24 –though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.'
Endurance isn't easy and we may want to give up and make mistakes. This Psalm tells us it is okay to mess up along the way. Endurance isn't about knowing with certainty that each step you take is the right one. Don't worry about doing things perfectly – just keep moving forward.
This verse reminds us of this quote by Martin Luther King Jr.
"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."



Let's celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

In the Old Testament there are promises for those who endure: *'The Lord gives strength to those who are weary... Those who trust the Lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles, soaring up on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired'* (Isaiah 40:29-31).
This reminds us that all human effort has its limits. A Christian knows when it is time to draw on God's strength to keep going. God gives power and strength to those who ask for it.



Let's celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says 'if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.' Romans 8:25

If you've been working hard and you're ready to give up, "be patient" is probably the last thing you want to hear right now. But we have to hope. What do you do to fix that feeling of hopelessness? You carry on with endurance. You persevere. And that perseverance builds the hope you feel you've lost.



Let's celebrate those children who have carried on with endurance this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says in John 3:16 that God so loved the world that he gave up his one and only Son. So whatever has happened this week, however you are feeling right now, always remember that God loves you so much it cannot possibly be measured. His love for you is perfect.



Let's celebrate those children who have been using their minds to focus on good things this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

The Bible says 'God did not love us or choose us for anything in us; it was simply because he loved us.' Deuteronomy 7:7-8

This reminds us that God loves us – just because he does. It is not the same as he loves us because we are kind so if we are not kind he will not love us. He loves us… just because!

Let's celebrate those children who have been using their minds to focus on good things this week.

We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which Christians believe are given to us from God and which are precious to him.

Have you ever been so excited about something you can't stop thinking about it? Do you know what the Bible says? It says that God cannot stop thinking about you! He thinks about you because he loves you – wants to strengthen you and help you. Can you guess how many times he thinks about you?
Psalm 139 says 'How precious are your thoughts about me O God. I can't even count them. They outnumber the grains of sand.

Let's celebrate those children who have been using their minds to focus on good things this week.