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THINKING IT THROUGH

BY THOMAS J. SCHELICH

By Faith, We Understand

By faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

What we call the Epistle to the Hebrews is not actually a letter. Rather, it's an address—delivered (most likely) in Rome to an assembled group of Jewish believers in Jesus Christ—that was transcribed and then circulated. As that speaker was rounding toward his finish, he turned to the nature of faith and said, “By faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God.” (11:3)

He did not say “by faith, we believe” or “by faith, we trust.” We do not believe by faith and then understand by intellect. No, by faith, we understand; by faith, we perceive truth.

Faith, by definition, is much more than the recitation or acceptance of a creed. It is certainly not blind adherence to dogma or unwillingness to consider alternatives. To have faith is to understand—to understand our lives, to understand our world, to understand creation, and to understand creation's God so far as His revelation permits.

The address that we call Hebrews was delivered in Greek. Our word *faith* is their word *pistis*, and our word *understand* is their word *noeo*. The speaker picks up the same words the Gospel writers used when they recorded Jesus's words, particularly those written by Mark.

The Gospel of Mark is uniquely written from the perspective of the 12 disciples. In the other three Gospels, we, the readers, stand apart from the action. We receive a prologue in Matthew, Luke, and John so we have no doubt that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah and the Son of God. But, in Mark's account, we are *among* the disciples so that we grow and learn as they did.

One striking aspect of that narrative is how Jesus links their faith (or the lack of it) to their understanding (and the lack of it). “How is it that you have no faith [*pistis*]?” Jesus questions in Mark 4:40. He later asks, “Do you not yet perceive nor understand [*noeo*]? Is your heart still hardened? Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? . . . How is it you do not understand [*noeo*]?” (Mark 8:17, 18, 21)

I recently participated in a conference on biblical apologetics in the age of artificial intelligence. Apologetics is a noble and vital field of study, training our minds to respond to challenges raised against Christianity. But, regardless of the strength of our intellectual arguments, we know God only by faith, and faith is more than knowing the right answers. Faith is understanding.

Jesus said that His disciples did not understand—not because their minds weren't right but because their hearts weren't right.

They did not understand because their hearts were hardened. And

We know God only by faith, and faith is more than knowing the right answers.

we fall short in our Christian lives and ministry if we are content with getting the answers right while failing to ensure our hearts are right so we can understand.

Artificial intelligence is quickly becoming a norm in our culture. Like every significant technological advancement, Christians often respond to it first with fear and then learn to use it to advance the Gospel, as happened with radio, television, and the internet. So it is quickly becoming with AI.

In preparing for the AI conference, I wondered if our challenge as Christians in this 21st century is not so much artificial intelligence as artificial faith. AI can skim the vast body of knowledge and produce a correct answer, but it cannot understand. So, likewise, we cannot be satisfied with an artificial faith—a faith that knows the right answer, a faith that can recite the creed, a faith that can get the doctrine right but fails to open our hearts to the fullness of what life in Jesus Christ can and should be.

May the Lord, by His Spirit, bless our efforts in study, in devotion, in ministry as we advance together in our understanding of Him and His ways. ■

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Vol. 55, No. 2. Christian Missions in Many Lands (ISSN 0744-4052) is published 11 times a year by Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., Belmar, New Jersey. Periodicals postage paid at Belmar, New Jersey, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADDRESS CHANGES, AND ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: Write to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc. (cmml@cmml.us), PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Copyright © CMML. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

COVER PHOTO: Ecuadorian rainforest—©iStockPhoto.com/stockcam



The Daniel Project



4 UNIVERSAL INSIGHTS FROM A JUNGLE PERSPECTIVE

BY DANIEL ROGERS

The Daniel Project, intense biannual Bible-teaching sessions held near Ecuador's jungle, was born as a tribute to the great Old Testament prophet who lived a godly, sacrificial life and left an amazing legacy. The initiative's two main goals—biblical course correction that leads to biblically sound churches—are based on the principles Paul gave to Titus in Titus 1:5: "This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order and appoint elders in every town as I directed you." (ESV)

We invite several leaders from various jungle villages to participate in these sessions. The idea is to offer relevant and practical teaching, touching on the hot points in the Ecuadorian villages.

The participants must meet three requirements. First, each one must pay his own travel costs out of the jungle (or his local assembly may help), and then, we cover the bus fare to where the training will take place. Second, after the sessions, each participant must share what he learned with his local village and neighboring villages, with the support and approval of the local assembly. And, third, each participant must find someone willing to travel village to village with him as his "Timothy"—to help and be trained as the two minister together. The guiding principle of these sessions is the "put what remained into order" aspect of Titus 1:5.

In 2025, we invited about 20 men, and 11 made the sacrifice to attend the late-year sessions. One of the topics addressed why believers do not grow and thrive in their Christian walk. I would like to share four of the reasons presented, explain how they were applied to the jungle believers' reality, and hopefully, show how we can apply them to all Christian lives today.

1 A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING THAT OUR SALVATION IS SECURE

Misunderstanding the security of salvation is the great conflict between eternal truth and daily life. Perception and feeling seem to supersede what God says about salvation.

Typically, after evangelization has taken place in a village, many individuals come to a saving knowledge of Christ as their Savior. After, the temptation to return to the old ways and habits of a world-driven culture inevitably arises. These thoughts and pressures try to entice the individuals to doubt the validity of their decision and subsequent change and to believe that because of sin in their lives, they have lost what they had in Christ.

We used *chicha* as an example here. Chicha is a cultural drink that everyone shares at community events and at home as a common beverage. When chicha is allowed to ferment, usually for more than three days, it can become a means of alcoholic intoxication, which is sin. Added to this is the public nature and cultural expectation of drinking chicha. The person who abstains in public can be perceived as offensive, rejecting everything in the community and culture.

So we considered several questions: What is the biblical truth about this topic? How do we avoid such a temptation, and how should we handle believers who have fallen into the sin of drunkenness?



Top: The leaders come from villages sometimes deep in Ecuador's jungle, accessible only on foot. Above right: Chicha is a common beverage in Ecuadorian villages.

Do they lose their salvation? An unfortunate phrase exists in the villages: "They used to be Christians." Is it correct?

First, we taught that there must be a clear understanding of the God centeredness of salvation. While the human is responsible, God saves. Once He saves, His work is permanent. So the individual is either saved and in sin or had never really given his or her life to God in the first place. A believer who sins after conversion does not lose the gift of salvation; he or she loses fellowship and closeness with God until this sin is dealt with.

Second, we addressed how to confront and minimize the temptation. The men in the group gave testimonies regarding what they do to remain part of their society yet not fall into the sin of drunkenness. They said that they only drink chicha if it is "sweet," or fewer than two days old (unfermented). Also, they never drink more than two bowls at any given sitting. Their response was not to completely abstain from chicha but to use controlled moderation.

Lastly, we addressed how to confront a believer who has fallen because of this sin. Of course, we must apply the steps Jesus taught in Matthew 18, but this sin, if it were public, ought to be dealt with publicly. Repentance, discipline, and then restoration are necessary.

Outside of the villages, we must address temptation the same way. We must be biblical in our approach yet not pharisaical. The balance is "in the world but not of the world," as recorded in John 17:14–15—holy yet neighborly, not being more of an offense than necessary but still practicing clear guidelines that shield us from sinning. Temptation is strong, but spiritual awareness and self-control will allow us all to combat its pull.

AN UNCERTAINTY ABOUT OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

In Christ, we are different. Yet many believers see their faith as something they simply add to their present lifestyle rather than what should control every aspect of their life. With this mindset, convenience can easily persuade an individual to do something that is not God centered and can lead to sin.

The illustration for the jungle villages is the cultural and normative practice of going to the shaman for guidance when disease or tragedy arises. The villagers reason that since the shaman provides herbs and incantations that "help," why would you prohibit someone you love from seeking this help? The cultural and communal pressure is extraordinarily strong in this area.

However, what believers must understand is that their identity has changed and they are now "hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1–3) Our loyalty and source of comfort and

guidance are all new. Culture, comfort, tradition, and sense of worth must spring first and foremost from our real identity of being in Christ.

So how can the jungle leaders respond to a believer who, in a moment of weakness, took a sick child to the shaman in hope of healing? They must remind the believer that he or she was raised with Christ, that Satan's power has been defeated in the cross, and that this new identity directs him or her to the real power and security needed. God is in control, He guides the lives of His children, and we can rest in that care.

Outside of the villages, people fall into the trap of falsely separating faith and life because it's comfortable and culturally acceptable. Many fall into what has been labeled as respectable sins: greed, materialism, slander, pride, and so many other conducts contrary to our new identity in Christ. A clear understanding of sin, repentance, and realignment of thinking according to our new identity are key to victory in these areas.

THE VIEW THAT EVERYTHING MODERN IS BETTER

In the villages, people view modern technology as amazing. There is no cell phone coverage in the jungle, but many people walk around with cell phones, either for entertainment through downloaded content or to show status. They see that the outside world religiously carries around cell phones, so why shouldn't they?

Conformity is a strong motivator, especially among the young. Many times, when it comes to technology, believers lack the discernment to understand what is real, what is good, and what is not. How do you engage and correct the thinking that everything modern is better and that what the outside world holds as important is always best?

Once again, much of the solution resides in a clear understanding of who a believer is in Christ. Teaching youth to see technology as a tool and to avoid becoming enslaved to it is important, as is teaching the dangers of technology without excluding it from life.

The subtle sin of secularism can disguise itself as being inclusive, loving, and logical, but it leads to self-centeredness. In the outside world, like in the villages, the enemy tries to make the believer ineffective through busyness and interruption and undermining discipline, meditation, and quietness as important parts of the believer's life.

God is in control, He guides the lives of His children, and we can rest in that care.

of healing? They must remind the believer that he or she was raised with Christ, that Satan's power has been defeated in the cross, and that this new identity directs him or her to



4 A LACK OF FORGIVENESS

Resentment is common among many in the villages. It can arise from personal harm, tribal or communal rivalry, and even political allegiance. Real or perceived hurt that is not handled biblically can lead to a lack of peace, an ineffective spiritual walk, and even physical ailments.

One new form we are seeing is politically motivated resentment. Politicians from outside the community come in and, hoping to procure votes, convince the people that they are victims and have been wronged by the outside world. This can be based on real or perceived wrong, but the result is usually the same. Internalized anger begins to control and enslave.

Whether in the jungle or North America, we as believers tend to justify resentment. We say we deserve to hold a grudge or are the victimized, and by concluding this, we are saying that God has been unfair to us. Colossians 3:13–14 teaches that forgiveness is a virtue we must include in our everyday walk with Christ. Allowing yourself to come to conclusions based on all the facts and maintaining a biblical perspective—holding temporal as less important than eternal—are key to not living in slavery to unforgiveness.

Believers grow and thrive as they align their thinking with Christ and His Word.

CONSTRUCTING HEALTHY CHRISTIAN LIVES

Life in the villages is complex at times and simple at times. Believers grow and thrive as they align their thinking with Christ and His Word. So often, I am reminded that the Christian life is not something passive or a lifestyle that does not have self-discipline as its central focus.

It is the same everywhere. Our reality and what we deal with may be different, but the heart is the same. In Hebrews 12:1–2, the author encourages us to find what sin or weight holds us back and put them aside. He then encourages us to run with perseverance the race that God has placed us in. With intentional and disciplined course correction, we may put what remains into order and then leave a legacy of faithfulness for our Lord. ■



Daniel and Nikki Rogers are commended from Arbor Oaks Bible Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa.



From top (L–R): In late 2025, 11 men participated in the Daniel Project, three of whom are pictured here; For some, the trip out of the jungle involves canoe travel; A bus takes the men to their destination; Believers learn during an intensive teaching session; A village assembly gathers for teaching.

Outreach by Invitation

TEACHING BIBLE LESSONS IN PNG'S MOUNTAIN VILLAGES



For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8)

BY LUKE & LOIS DEJAGER

We minister in the rugged mountains of Papua New Guinea. The Kafe people have survived for hundreds of years there as subsistence farmers, following the teachings and culture of their forefathers while living in fear and spiritual darkness. The Kafe tribe numbers approximately 100,000 people scattered throughout these mountains. Many live in small grass-roof houses.

In 1999, we moved into a village and began studying the local language and culture. After learning both, we prepared Bible lessons and taught them in the village for six weeks. Several people trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. After, we desired to disciple the new believers so, eventually, they could reach their people. Over time, a pattern of instruction and discipleship would be established to help them go from village to village teaching God's Word.



Disciples who make disciples

We disciplined two of the newly believing men on how to teach the Bible lessons. In time, they helped Luke teach a neighboring clan that had invited them. Once again, people came out to hear God's Word taught for six weeks, and a number came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, were baptized, and joined the believers in our village.

Working with local believers, we translated lessons on Acts, Romans, Ephesians, and other books of the New Testament. We then taught them to bring new believers to maturity in their Christian walk. After a few years, the men and women were ready to go and have outreaches in neighboring villages. First, they needed invitations. Many believers established contacts through funerals and weddings in our village. When visitors heard God's Word at these community gatherings, they would ask the believers in the village and us missionaries to come to their place.



Peace through faith alone

On one occasion, our village leader's son, who had come to know the Lord, was excited to take us on a survey of his girlfriend's village. After we met with the men of that village and established friendships, they invited us to come and teach God's Word there. Luke and the Bible teachers began to study

Top: At a funeral, Luke preaches from God's Word. **Above left (from top, L-R):** A believer diligently translates Bible lessons; A national believer, one of the first to be disciplined, teaches a lesson; Bible teachers baptize a young woman. **Above right:** Luke talks with a village's leaders.



God's Word daily to prepare. They would teach 70 Bible lessons chronologically and use 100 Bible pictures in these lessons, along with a timeline to help the people remember what they were learning. The people were not clear on who God was, so the teaching would begin at Genesis, providing a foundation for understanding Jesus's death and resurrection.

The day was set for when we would begin teaching. Then, each week, we would start on Sunday evening and finish on Thursday evening. It was wonderful to see the dads, moms, and children come out to hear God's Word. Women from the assembly took the children aside and taught them from God's Word. The children loved coloring the Bible pictures.

As the adults heard the stories of Jesus, God's Word began to challenge their thinking. Teachers asked what they feared and what they were trusting in to have peace. Many realized that they were trusting in their own good works to please the Creator God. While listening to the story of the thief on the cross, they understood that through faith alone, they could have peace. Following the teaching, we were excited to watch people come forward and give testimony of trusting in the Lord Jesus as their Savior.

Prayers for continued fruit

Intertribal conflict has long been a problem in Papua New Guinea. Currently, in some of the villages near us, there is fighting, and people have been killed. Please pray that the violence will stop and that there will be opportunities to visit the villages that have extended invitations.

Pray that young men and women will be ready to be evangelists and take the Gospel to their people. Many people have

been deceived by teaching from false teachers. They mix the beliefs of their forefathers and religion, which we call syncretism.

Despite many people being confused about how to draw near to God, the youth have become more and more interested in reading God's Word. We continue to answer their many questions. When we respond from God's Word, they can tell that we are pointing them to the truth. Pray that the church will continue to grow in spiritual maturity and that believers will be united in sharing the good news of Christ in the many villages around them.

Pray for us as we guide and walk alongside the Kafe believers. Pray that the local church will stand strong upon God's Word and that God will raise up more Bible teachers. Pray that the church will continue to focus on Christ and that God will prepare believers to carry on the work on their own. Pray for more believers and more laborers—"till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13) ■



Luke and Lois DeJager are commended from Bethany Gospel Chapel in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Above (from top, L-R): Luke gets to know people in another village; Kids in the DeJagers' village come out for a children's program; Lois builds friendships in a new village; A believer shares the Gospel; A young woman in the DeJagers' community reads her Bible; Luke and Lois ride an all-terrain vehicle to visit friends.

Ask a Missionary

Missions work around the world is unique—different from what friends and family at home encounter day to day. So, to learn about life on the field while getting to know our missionaries better, we asked them to share their firsthand experience or advice.

QUESTION: What is a spiritual lesson that you learned on the field and would like to share with people back home?

PERU

Nicole Cacho-Hansen



In Peru, I have learned a lot about honoring our elderly parents (Ephesians 6:2–3). The way Peruvians love, honor, and care for aging parents is worthy of imitating. I think of 1 Timothy 5:4 (NIV): “If a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.”

FRANCE

Maureen Crow



Never give up on praying for someone—or something—the Lord has laid on your heart. Sooner or later, the Lord will answer if we persevere!

ZAMBIA

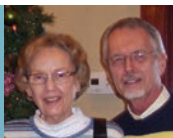
Jeff Speichinger



Trust the Lord daily and acknowledge Him in all things, and He will direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5–6). It’s not easy, but it’s very true!

OTHER OVERSEAS SVC.

Neale & Barbara Goetsch



The Lord continues to remind us of two things: First, He often uses disappointments, difficulties, and even troubles to guide and open up new areas of service (as Paul experienced in Acts 16:6–10). Second, there is no insignificant ministry, even if small and unseen, if our focus remains on the One we are serving (Matthew 25:35–40).

OTHER OVERSEAS SVC.

Mark Swaim



One of the greatest lessons I have learned in ministry is the power of the Word of God to change lives (Hebrews 4:12).

JAPAN (REFOCUSED)

Peter Clift

In Japan, before we became refocused missionaries, one thing we were always thinking was, “Lord, what is the next area of ministry you want us to be involved in? When should we hive off? Under what conditions? Who should be in the leadership of the next hive off? Have we been talking about this with the potential leaders? We are not content with simply carrying on a vigorous assembly work where we now are.”

Portion intentionally left blank.

JAPAN (REFOCUSSED) Robert Longo

God values small things. “For who has despised the day of small things?” (Zechariah 4:10) The late E. Margaret Clarkson says in *Grace Grows Best in Winter*, “Scripture abounds with what I like to call God’s fragments—a host of all-encompassing minutiae which, though fragmentary and seemingly unimportant in themselves, are nonetheless capable of nourishing and sustaining the seeking soul.” In the busy, hectic demands of life, which sometimes can drain us emotionally, being able to read even a Scripture plaque on a wall or desk or recalling a verse we heard years ago can nourish our hearts. Don’t get discouraged, Beloved. Lean hard on the Lord and His Word. “The Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.” (2 Chronicles 30:9; cf. Psalm 57:7, Isaiah 26:3)

CROSS-CULTURAL MIN. Margaret DeHart



My husband and I work with refugees and have heard about the many losses in their journeys. Not long ago, we had our own losses to cope with. We grieve the emptiness we feel at times, although we are grateful for the grace and strength to carry on in our weakness. God spoke to my heart through Isaiah 53:4 (ESV): “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.” He fulfills the promise to give us rest when we take up the easy yoke He offers in Matthew 11:29–30 (NLT): “Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” These truths have become a reality. ■

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS! Visit CMML.us/askamissionary to submit your question—it might be selected for a future issue!



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SCIENCE and GOD'S CREATION

Creatively Engaging Children in Spiritual Truths

BY JOHN MARK NORRIS



I never wanted to work with children. Period. As a young man in my early 20s, I lacked motivation, and I didn't think I had the patience or energy either. However, God had very different and much better plans than my own. It all started when I began serving a handful of boys at my assembly in Wyoming. The Boys' Brigade club met before the Sunday service for a time of crafts, projects, and Scripture lessons.

As a Bible college student, I had been assigned to the Brigade to fulfill the practical Christian ministry requirement of my coursework. Technically, I had volunteered for this specific position. However, I had done so out of dutiful conviction rather than the benevolence of my heart. The school director had made a compelling case for the importance of this ministry and, especially, the need for young men to actively participate.

Despite my initial reluctance, I quickly began to enjoy the Boys' Brigade. The kids were inquisitive and curious, genuinely interested in learning, and I could get them excited about relatively simple things. Over the span of several months, I went from being a duty-bound appointee to a highly motivated kids' ministry enthusiast. Far from being a necessary burden, working with 5- to 12-year-olds became my passion.

Taking my new passion to Mexico

Now, having spent nearly two years as a missionary in Puruándiro, Michoacán, Mexico, I am grateful that God continues to open doors for me to serve children. Currently, much of my work is with kids and youth. I help teach Sunday school, an

outreach class on Saturdays, and youth group. Throughout the year, I generally have several other teaching opportunities at Camp Berea, a family camp several hours away. Also, in 2025, I assisted with a vacation Bible school for the Indigenous Purépecha people in Janitzio, an island town on a freshwater lake. I desire to continue finding more ways to reach these young ones, who are so precious in God's eyes.

I am grateful that God has sovereignly prepared me for this type of work, albeit in an unexpected way. My background in mechanical engineering and my lifelong fascination with science have profoundly influenced the way I go about my classes. Whenever possible, I try to include interesting facts, animal encounters, and science demonstrations. Often, the interesting facts relate to another part of the lesson. They may add more detail to the location or cultural context of a particular Bible story, pertain to a unique animal, or relate to the science demonstration.

For the animal encounters, I typically employ my pets. The collection comprises a pair of Madagascar hissing cockroaches, two species of isopods, a bizarre-looking tailless whip scorpion, and an energetic German shepherd. I include them in classes to help kids better appreciate God's unique and creative design.

Things that go "BANG!"

In the context of my Bible lessons, the science demonstrations serve several purposes. First and foremost, they underscore the truth that God is the Creator. Experimental science works because He created the universe and upholds it in a consistent way. Demonstrations that showcase God's handiwork glorify Him.

Above (L-R): Glowing chemicals create a demonstration of vibrant colors at Camp Berea; John Mark poses in his lab coat during camp; Sometimes, Snubaluli, John Mark's pet tailless whip scorpion, helps drive home a point about God's creation.

Second, these demonstrations keep things interesting and engaging. The reaction from kids over anything that bubbles, changes colors, or goes “BANG!” is truly amazing. There is great entertainment value here, but it is not the ultimate goal. Children have world-class imaginations and have not yet lost their fascination with the little things that God designed. We should help them appreciate these precious and ordinary moments rather than take them for granted.

Finally, some science demonstrations serve as excellent illustrations and object lessons. For example, an iodine clock reaction helps kids better remember the story of Jesus turning water into wine. In this reaction, two colorless, water-like solutions are combined in equal proportions; after a few minutes, the mixture suddenly and dramatically changes to dark blue. Another good option is using iodine and vitamin C to illustrate how Jesus cleanses us from our sin. Just add dissolved vitamin C into water that has been contaminated with a few drops of iodine, and the solution will turn clean and colorless.

Using our gifts and skills

The goal of this article is twofold. First, I hope that, by seeing a snapshot of my ministry, you will pray for me in a more informed way. Please pray that God will work in the kids’ hearts. May the children come to understand their personal need for a Savior and become increasingly fascinated by the person and work of Jesus Christ. Second, this article is a call to action. Across the globe, kids are under Satan’s attack. They desperately need to hear the good news. Let’s be diligent to go above and beyond the minimum in our manner of teaching about the Lord.

Creating classes that are exciting and interesting is a lot of work but well worth it. And pulling off fun demonstrations isn’t incredibly difficult. Anyone can find a wealth of information on the internet, and plenty of safe and easy demonstrations can be accomplished using simple household supplies. However, there are so many other amazing ways to make Bible classes more engaging. Science may not be your thing, so use the gifts and skills that God has granted you to their fullest potential: incorporate dramas, put on puppet shows, dress up as Bible characters, hold your classes outside, or put memory verses to song. Go the extra mile to make lessons exciting and understandable for kids. They are worth the effort.

Above all, point children to the person and work of the Lord Jesus. We want them to be fascinated and captivated by Him! “Jesus said, ‘Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” (Matthew 19:14 LSB) ■

John Mark Norris is commended from Iglesia Bíblica de Cannon Beach in Cannon Beach, Oregon.



From top: Lycopodium powder adds some excitement to the Saturday children’s outreach; John Mark gathers supplies to help create an iodine clock reaction; These teaching supplies illustrate a lesson about the global Flood of Noah’s day; One of John Mark’s favorite parts of performing science demonstrations is the kids’ reactions; John Mark helps run a vacation Bible school in Janitzio.





How Firm a Foundation, You Saints of the Lord

Attributed to Robert Keen

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not! I am with you. O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid.
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless
And sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"