



MY NEW BACKPACK

Inside this issue:

Devotional	1, 2	My name is Zach and this is a story about my missionary quest through the hills of Oaxaca, Mexico. "Christmas break has started. No school for two weeks. YEAH!" I shouted as I ran inside my home one Friday afternoon. When are we going Christmas shopping? I have a loooong list of my favorite video games and toys that just came out that I REALLY want" I exclaimed to my mom.
Kids Corner	2	"When do we set up the tree? When do we start making the popcorn garland? I want to go to the mall and buy the pretty pink and purple dress I saw for our Christmas party" said my sister, Joy. "Well kids, we have some great news to share with you" answered mom.
Kids Zone	2	
Kids in Christ	3, 4	
My Bible Study	4	

Pastoral Welcome

I am very excited to be your pastor! I cherish every moment I spend getting to know each of you. Every boy and girl is very special to Jesus, your family, to church and to the pastors. I promise to always pray for you, pray with you, listen to you and care for you and your family!

Hugs and love,
Pastor Michéllz

"Dad and I have been thinking about the true meaning of giving and receiving. We have been praying about this for some time and we believe the Holy Spirit has impressed in our hearts to do something different. Rather than see how many presents we get and how much goodies we can eat. We are taking a trip" explained mom. "Oh cool, are we going skiing for the holidays?" asked Joy. "I need my new iPad if we are going on a long trip because I don't want to be bored" I demanded.

Dad came in to the living room from the garage holding two bags. "Here are your presents" he told Joy and me. We were so enthusiastic that we ran, grabbed the bags thinking Christmas had come early. As we opened the bags our excitement turned into confusion. "Backpacks?" we asked.

"We are going on a trip to Mexico to visit the Mixtec Indians" said dad "Many of the Mixtec people live in far-off villages scattered through the hills of Oaxaca, Mexico. We are going to be walking a long way that will take many hours over the hills". "But why are we going there?" I asked. "The Mixtec people have been learning about Jesus through missionary families. We will be helping the missionaries hold an evangelistic program for the Mixtec people" said mom.

Our backpacks were so light that we could lift them with one finger, and they had foam padding on the straps to keep the straps from cutting into our shoulders. "We will pack them with extra clothes, some medicines, small bibles and a few other things that we might need." Mom instructed. "I think I can carry that load easily enough!" I told my parents.



A few days later we flew to Mexico City and our trip to the hills of Oaxaca began. We were driven to the point where we would begin our hike. "Could I carry your pack for you?" asked one of the Christian Indians. "No thanks, I'm fine" I told him. We started off on the long walk. The backpack worked nicely, but the longer we walked the heavier it got. Surely those things I had packed weren't so heavy when I had tried it on at home! On we walked with the hot sun beating on our heads, up one hill and down another. Everyone had loads to carry now, so there was no one to offer to help with my backpack.

I began to be afraid that I would never make it, but after three hours someone came to meet us over the hills with a horse. "Does anyone need help carrying their load? I have a strong horse that is prepared to carry much weight" said the man. This time when offered, I gladly gave up the pack, and my backpack was tied to the horse. I was so tired that it did not matter to me that the padded straps of my new backpack were not being used the way they were meant to be, but were dangling from the horse's saddle.

Story continued on pg. 2

We arrived to the main village. The people gave us a big welcome dinner. We spent those days working alongside the missionary families, studying the bible with the Mixtec people and exchanging stories. The children gave us toys they had made and knitted. We came together on Sabbath for worship. We spent a great time sharing with one another about the love of Jesus. As our trip came to an end, Joy and I felt sad to leave our new friends. "Dad, mom, we felt like part of their family. Zach and I will miss them" said Joy. "This trip was a true blessing to all of us. We experienced a glimpse of what Heaven will be like—one joyful family together with Jesus" said mom with a smile.

As we traveled back home I began to understand our journey. During the hike the longer I carried the backpack the heavier it got. This made me think about our sinfulness. We carry our sins and as time goes by our sins become heavier and heavier. This world makes sin look attractive, but it is still a heavy load. After a while our "perfect backpacks with all the foam padding" cannot ease the weight of our sins. My backpack was the best that money could buy, but it could not keep my load from being heavy when I carried it for a long time. Jesus tells us to give Him all of our burdens to him, this includes our sins. I am so happy that I can share with Jesus everything with Him including my burdens. "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

Joy and I had so much fun time that we even forgot about our ipads, iPhones, video games, presents and baked goodies. The best memory of our trip was to experience others accept eternal life in Jesus. We learned that the greatest gift is the gift of Jesus in our lives. Jesus came into the world as a baby, lived a perfect life and died the death we deserved because He loves us this much. I can't wait to see where Jesus will take us next year!



The best gifts I gave and I received this year were ...

Dear God, thank you for the Gift of Jesus, who loves me and cares for me, I love Him so much and I give my heart to Him. Amen



JELLYFISH

- * Jellyfish live in the sea and are found in all oceans.
- * They can often be transparent (see-through) or translucent (semi-translucent). Some are nearly invisible to the human eye.
- * Jellyfish are not actually fish.
- * A group of jellyfish is called a 'bloom', 'swarm' or 'smack'.
- * Large blooms can feature over 100000 jellyfish.
- * Most Jellyfish are harmless to humans but stings from some species can be painful or deadly.



MORE FUN FACTS!

- ◇ The heart has specialized cells that produces electricity. These are called pacemaker cells. They produce electricity by quickly changing their electrical charge from positive to negative and back.
- ◇ Scientists have discovered that taste receptors are found all over our bodies not just our tongues.
- ◇ Sound travels 4 times faster in water than it does through air.

DID YOU KNOW...

1. Jesus was born in a manger but the wisemen (Magi) visited Jesus in a house, not a manger. **Luke 2:11**
2. Jesus was a child and not a baby when the wisemen (Magi) presented their gifts to Jesus. **Luke 2:8-11**
3. The Bible doesn't say how many wisemen (Magi) visited Jesus. **Matt. 2:1**
4. The Bible doesn't mention how Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. **Luke 2:4**

- BUTTERFLY**
- * Butterflies are insects.
 - * Their lifecycle is made up of four parts: egg, larva (caterpillars), pupa (chrysalis) and adult.
 - * Their taste receptors are in their feet unlike humans who have most on their tongue.
 - * There are over 20,000 different species of butterflies In the world.
 - * Birdwing butterflies have large, angular wings and fly in a similar way to birds.
 - * Most butterflies feed on nectar from flowers.



GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

**“For there is born to you this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11**



Jesus is Special



TRUE OR FALSE:

In the Bible Jesus is called the firstborn. Matthew 1:25 (KJV) **T or F**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

When God the Father speaks to Jesus, He calls Him "Your throne, (OH GOD, OH SON) is forever and ever;..." Hebrews 1:8

TRUE OR FALSE:

Jesus created our world and everything that is in it. John 1:3 **T or F**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

Jesus says that He can give life to anyone "I am the (LIGHT, RESURRECTION) and the life." John 11:25

TRUE OR FALSE:

Jesus is the only person who can take our sin away from us. John 1:29 **T or F**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

"I am the (DOOR, GATE) If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved," John 10:9

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

*"All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children."
 Isaiah 54:13*



BETHLEHEM
 CAESAR AUGUSTUS
 CENSUS
 DAVID
 DECREE
 FIRSTBORN
 GALILEE

INN
 JOSEPH
 JUDEA
 LINEAGE
 MANGER
 MARY

NAZARETH
 REGISTERED
 ROOM
 SON
 SWADDLING CLOTHS
 WIFE

www.gardengrovesda.com (714) 534-1987
 childrensministry@gardengrovesda.com
 12702 Ninth Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840