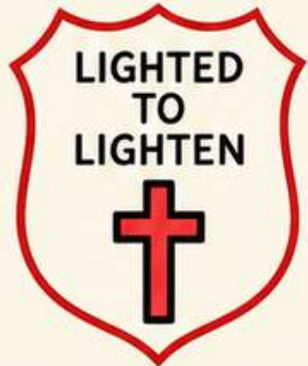


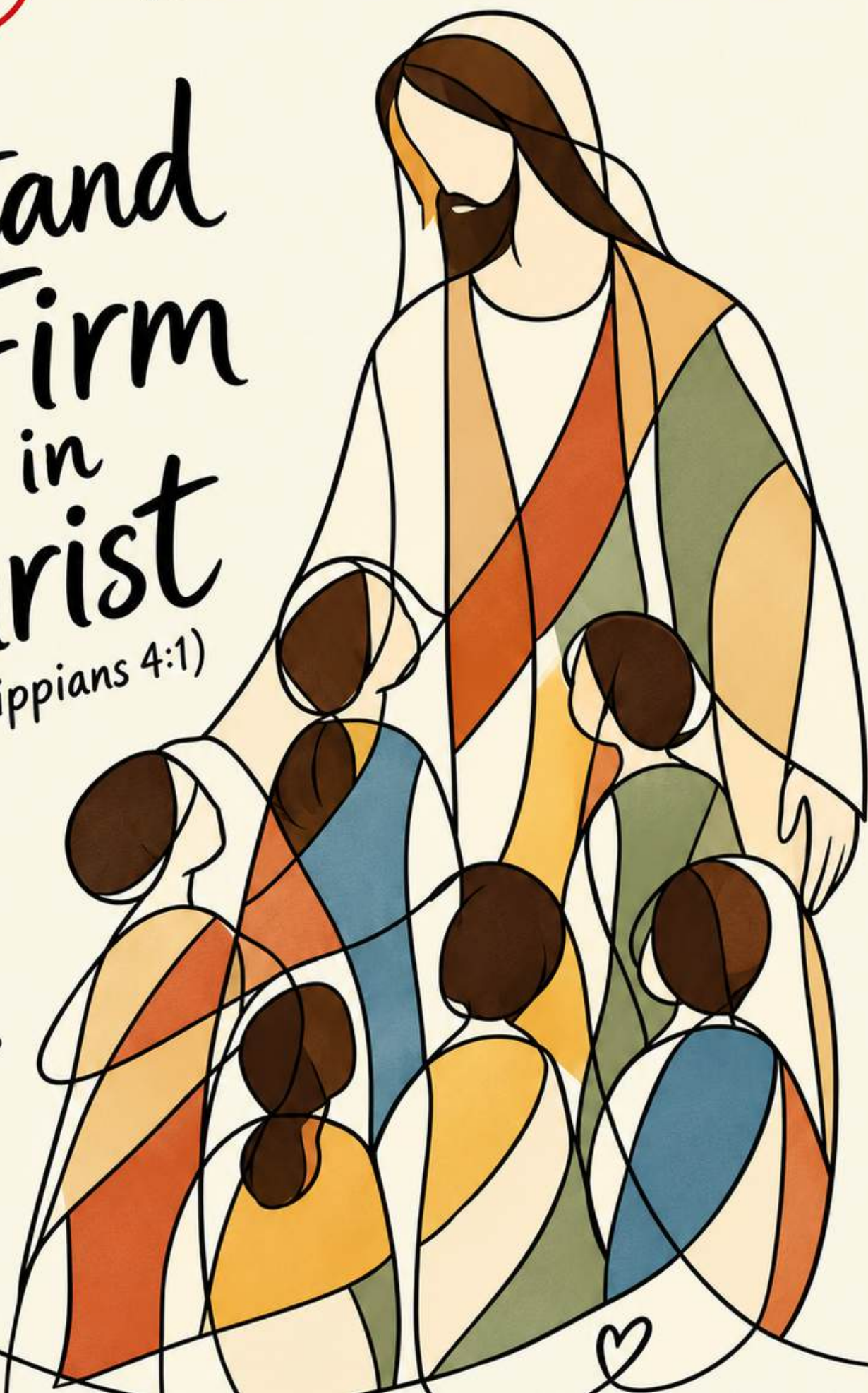


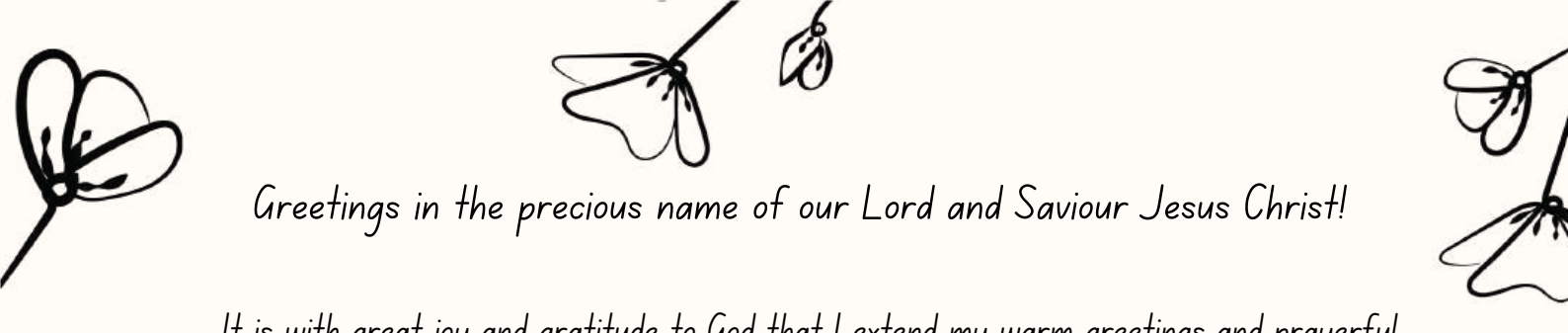
Trinity Mar Thoma Church
Hamilton
Vacation Bible School 2026

Stand Firm in Christ

(Philippians 4:1)

FAITH
FRIENDSHIP
LEARNING
GROWING
TOGETHER





Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy and gratitude to God that I extend my warm greetings and prayerful wishes to everyone associated with the Vacation Bible School 2026 of Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Hamilton.

VBS is a wonderful ministry of the Church through which we nurture young hearts in the Word of God and help children grow in faith, love, and Christian values. This year, we are blessed with the participation of 69 children. Each child is precious in God's sight, and we pray that the lessons learned, friendships formed, and joyful experiences shared during these days will remain in their hearts and strengthen their faith.

As Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

I express my sincere appreciation to Rev. Mathews George, VBS Director, for his spiritual leadership; Mrs. Annamma Eapen, Headmistress, for her dedicated guidance; and Mrs. Sini Mariam George, Convenor, together with the Church Executive Committee members, for their valuable support and commitment.

A special word of thanks goes to our 10 teachers and all the volunteers who have generously shared their time, talents, and love with our children. I also appreciate the parents of our 65 children for their trust, encouragement, and partnership in nurturing them in the Christian faith.

Children are a precious part of the Church today, and it is our shared responsibility to help them know Christ, grow in His Word, and become faithful witnesses in the world. May the seeds of God's Word planted through this VBS continue to grow and bear abundant fruit in their lives.

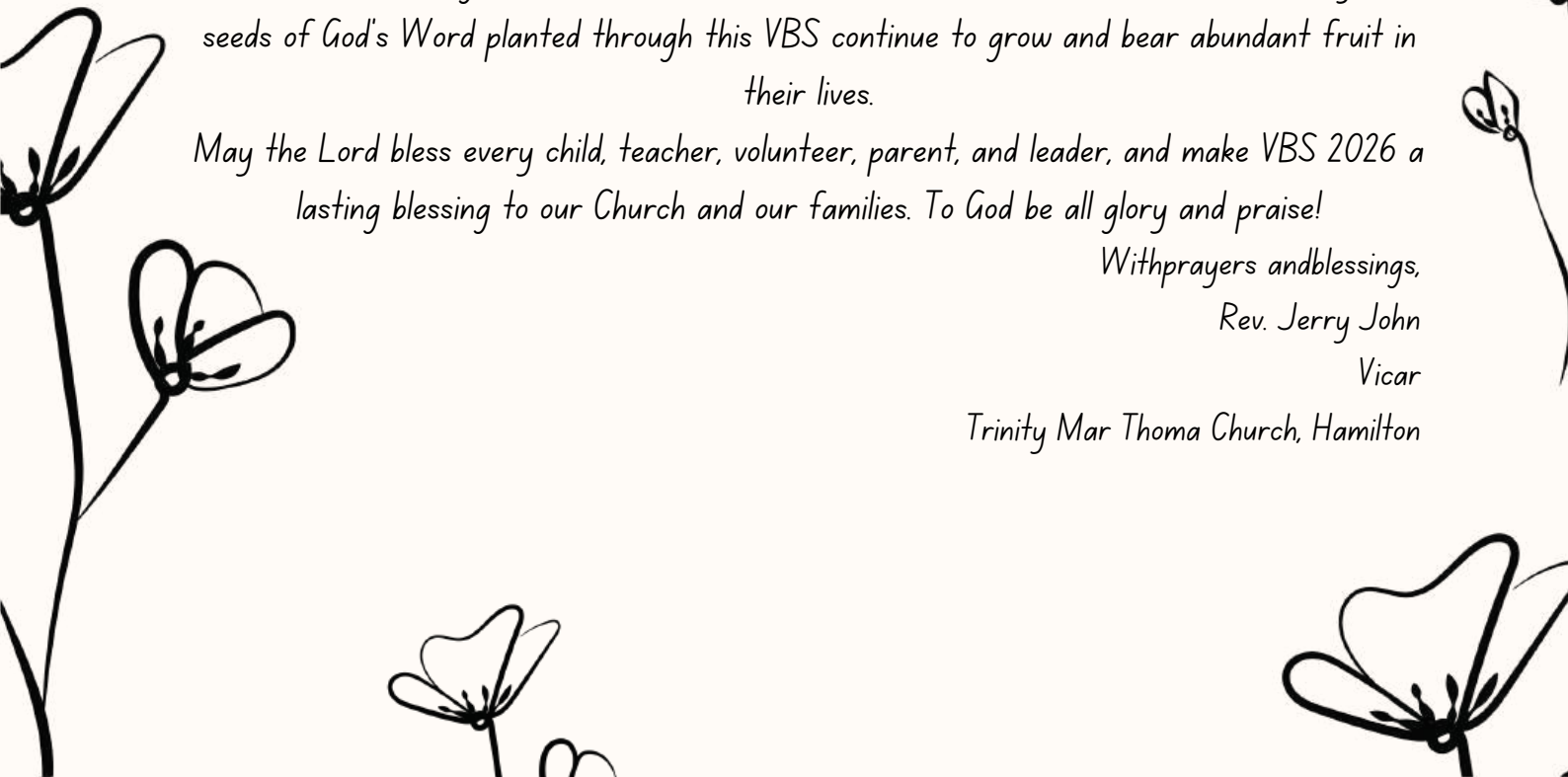
May the Lord bless every child, teacher, volunteer, parent, and leader, and make VBS 2026 a lasting blessing to our Church and our families. To God be all glory and praise!

With prayers and blessings,

Rev. Jerry John

Vicar

Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Hamilton



Standing Firm: A Call Wrapped in Love

One day in college, I was feeling down. A few days had passed and I wasn't feeling any better. As usual, I called my parents and shared my predicament. My father's reaction shocked me:

"You are the one who studied Clinical Psychology. You need to stay strong. Deal with it!"

I was looking for pampering and compassion, so this unexpected order jolted me out of complacency and made me take responsibility. Soon enough, through prayer, Bible reading and some reflective exercises, I came out of that season feeling stronger.

This is not the prescription for everyone. Those who struggle with deeper conditions like depression and chronic anxiety need medical and mental health assistance, and a lot of love. Yet there are moments in life when we are called to take responsibility and stand firm in our faith in the Lord Jesus.

Moses knew such a moment. When God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, he was assured that God would be with him (Exodus 3:12). Later, with Pharaoh's army behind them and the Red Sea in front, Moses, strengthened by God, told the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again" (Exodus 14:13). One person standing firm in the Lord can inspire others to stand firm.

This is the heart of our VBS. As a migrant community in New Zealand, we encourage the children who come to stand firm in the faith of their ancestors, who found Christ as the stronghold of their lives, as David describes God in Psalm 27:1 (NIV).

This year's VBS is founded on the testimony of the architect and builder (ܐܪܚܝܬܘܬܐ

ܐܡܢܝ ܕܡܡܘܬܐ) of our Church, St. Paul. After recounting how God saved him and led

him in ministry, Paul says, "Therefore..." and asks the Philippian church to stand firm in the Lord, just as he did (Phil 4:1). Notice that his exhortation is a call wrapped in love. He addresses them as "my brothers and sisters," "my joy and crown," "my dear friends." Later

Paul restates his testimony: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Phil 4:13). Just look at what Paul accomplished for Christ while standing firm!

Amy L. Sherman reminds us that we are called to be "agents of flourishing." This VBS is a loving invitation to experience the strength of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, the rock on whom we stand, so that when the storms of life come, we may be like the person who built their house on the rock. Richard Foster, in *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, describes prayer as a kind of "holy resistance" to whatever divides us and brings us down.

So come on, dear children! You are part of this resistance movement, so that you may flourish and bear fruit, as Jesus says in John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

Thank you, Jerry Achen and Hamilton Trinity Mar Thoma Sunday School (NZ), for having me as your VBS director this year. I pray that we all grow together in the Lord and flourish for the glory of His name!

Mathews George (Rev.)

PhD Candidate (Theology), University of Auckland | Waipapa Taumata Rao / Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church.



Nathan Titus



Ryan Jerrin



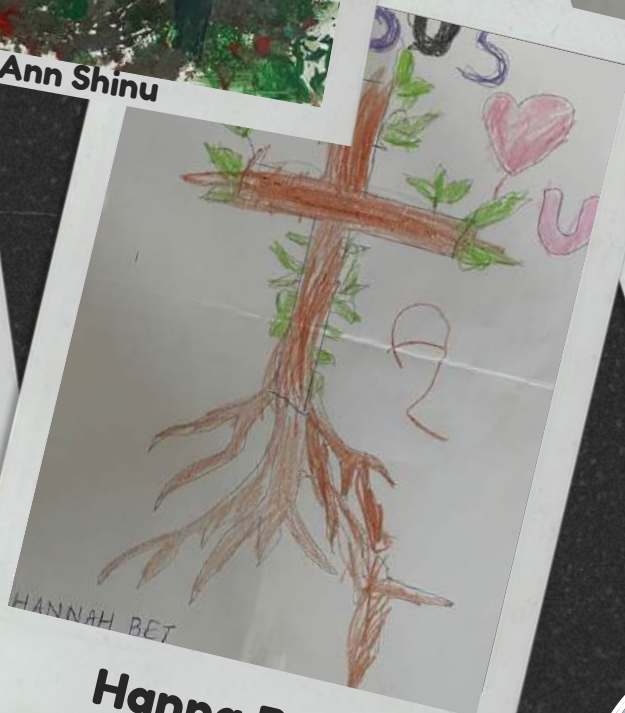
Elvina Celite



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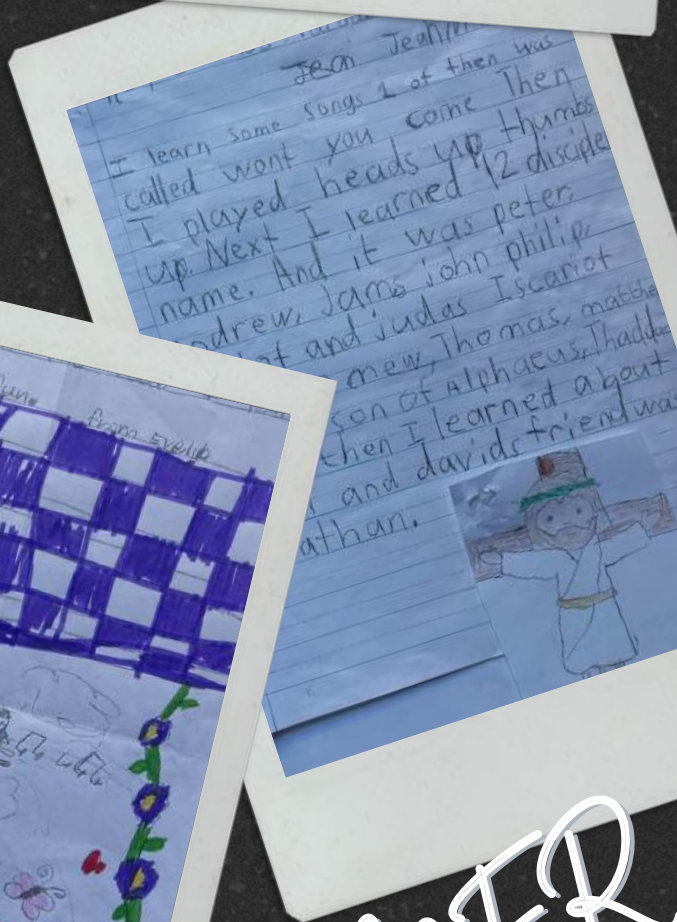
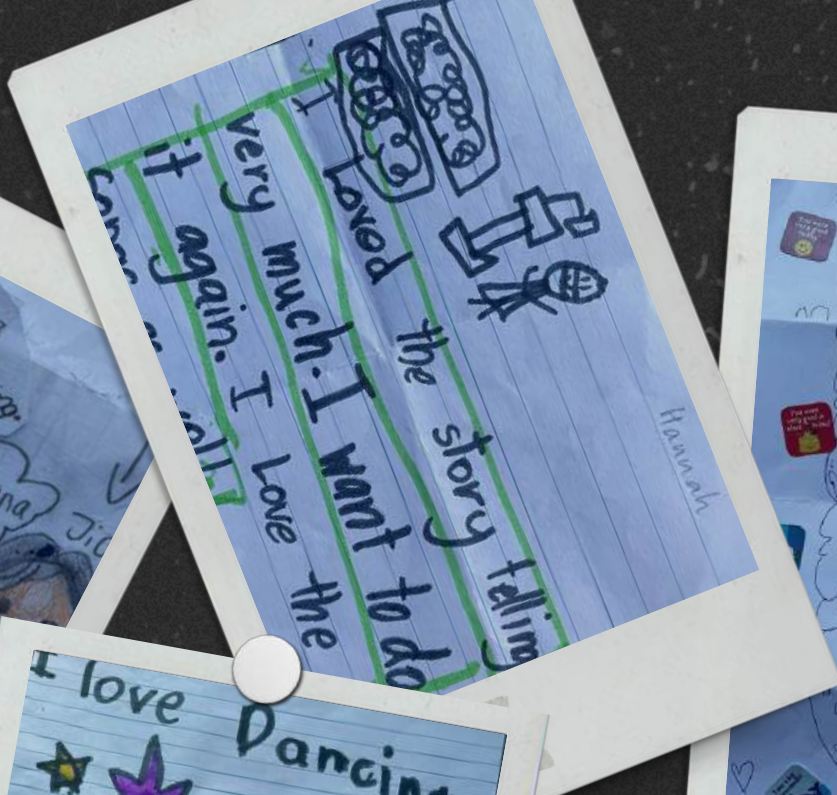
Steve James



Hanna Bet



NURSERY



BEGANNER



EZZA

FAITHFUL
I did some songs and dances and it was fun and the
children of the first day was yellow and you will see
thing there about god and each day there
will be different colours and you will be in
different class maybe your friends will
be in the same class as you. and you
have to trust in god with all your heart
you will have a really fun day.

PROVERBS 3:5

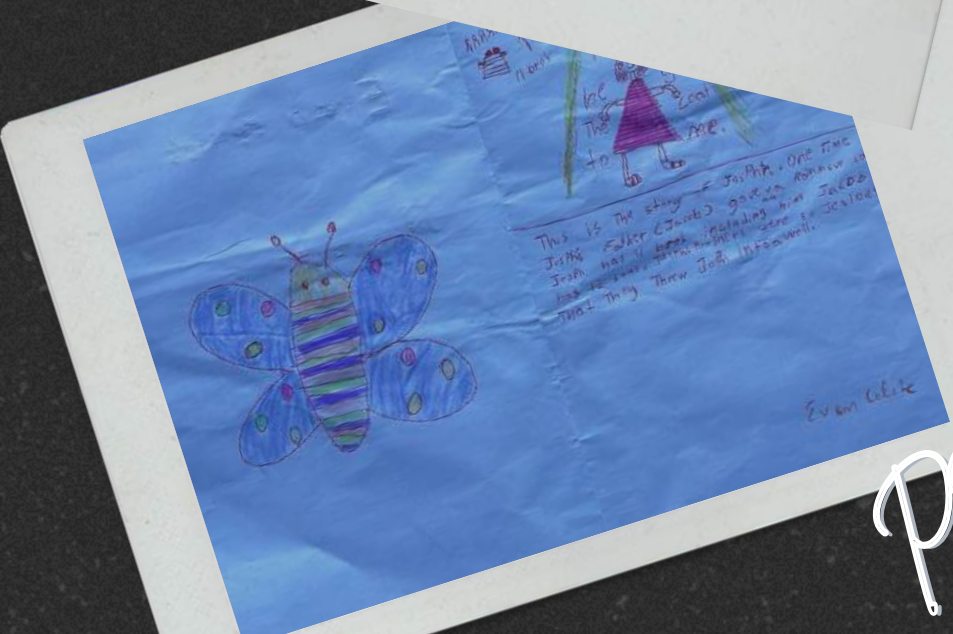
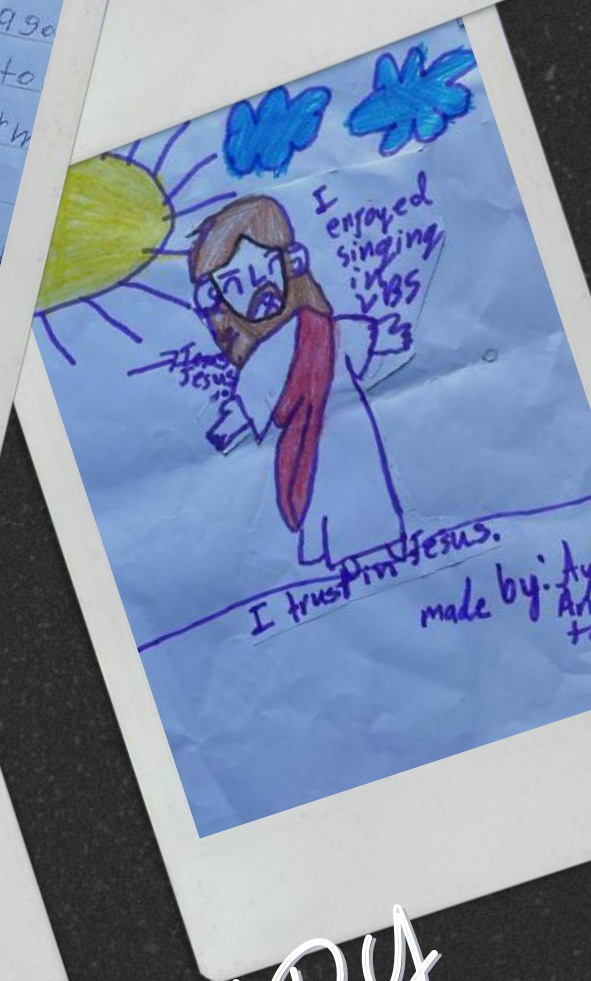
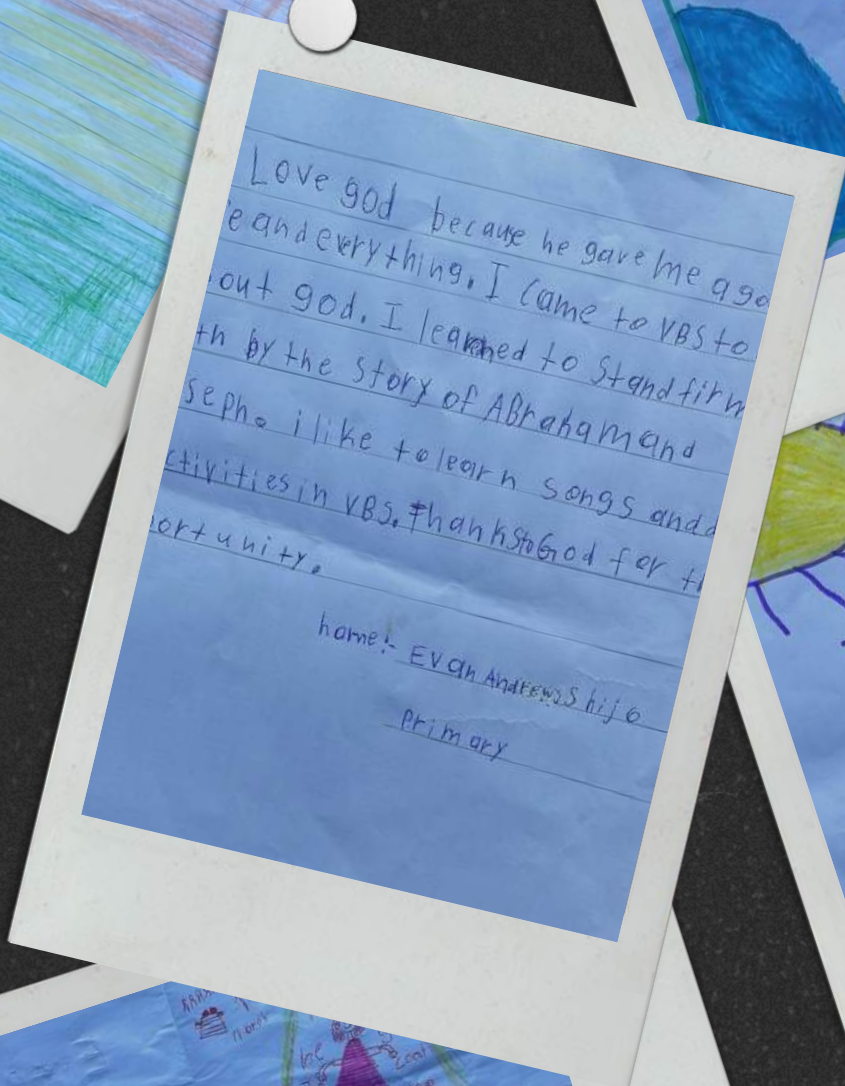
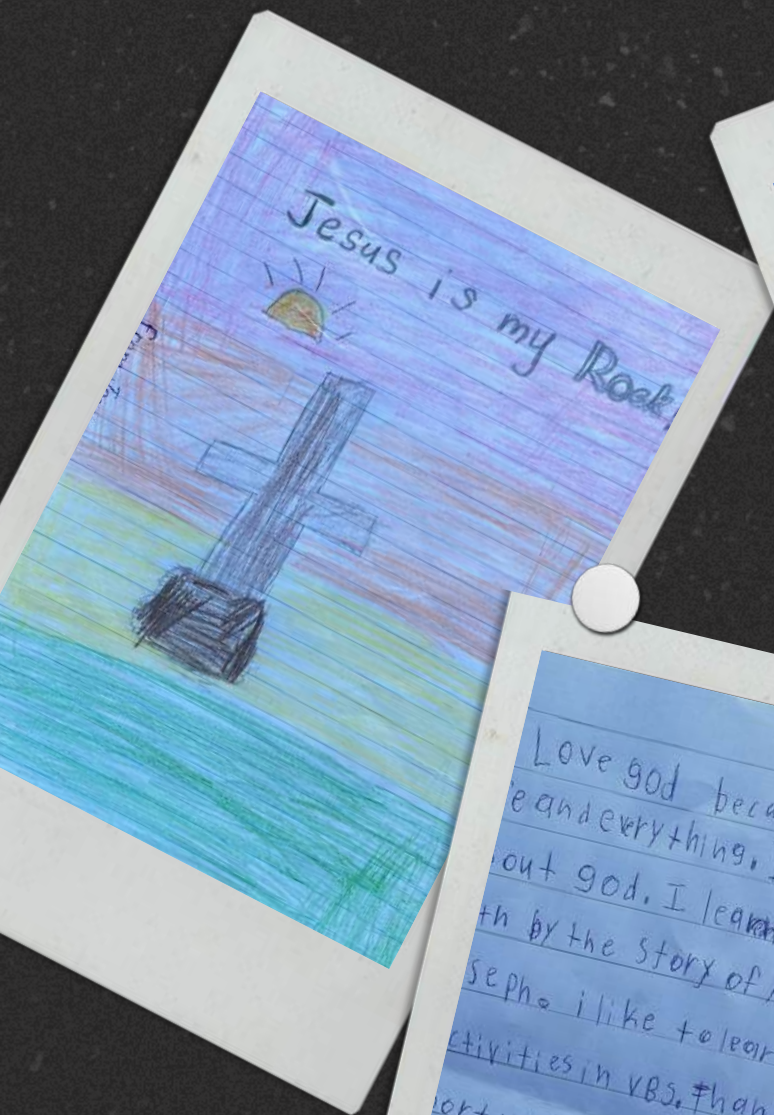
Trust in god with all your heart?



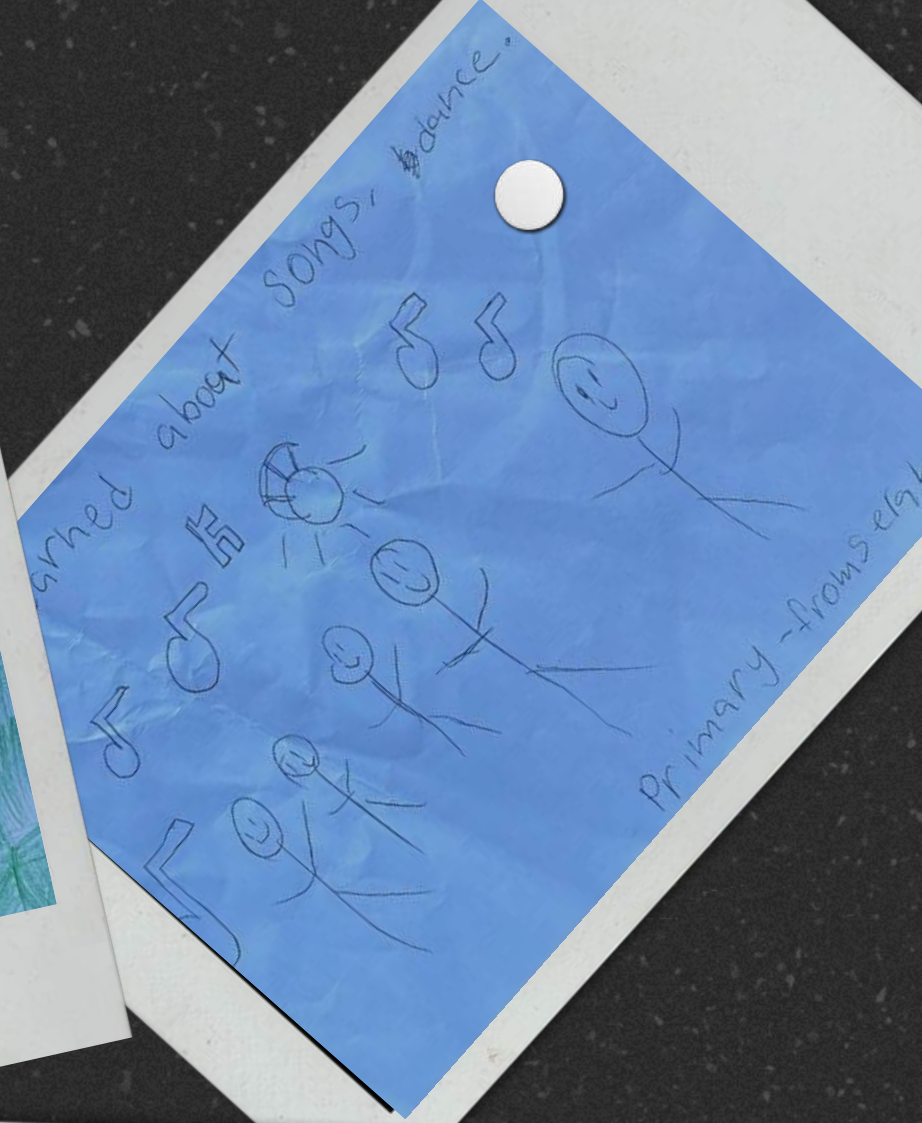
JEAN JEANINE
I learn some songs 1 of them was
called wont you come then
I played heads up thumbs
up. Next I learned 12 disciples
name. And it was peter
Andrew, James John philip
zealot and judas Iscariot
batholomew, Thomas, matthe
James son of alphaeus, Thadde
mon then I learned about
id and david's friend was
athan.



BEGANNER



PRIMARY



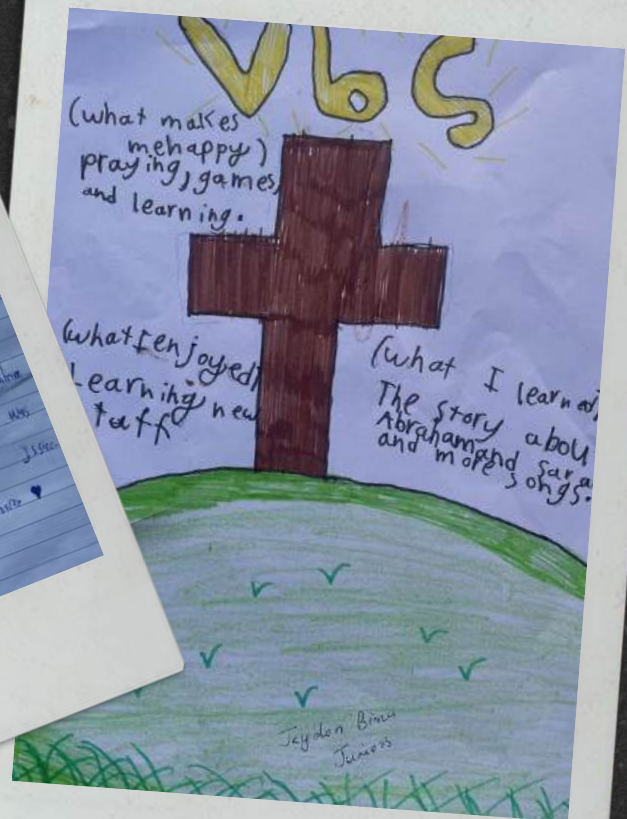
PRIMARY



Story of Abraham

Once upon a time there was a man named Abraham. He lived in a country called Israel. Now Abraham's wife was Sara. So Sara told Abraham about her and he had a new baby. One day something happened. Sara gave birth to a baby. The baby was 75 years old. The babies were Isaac. So this is the story of Abraham.

By John John



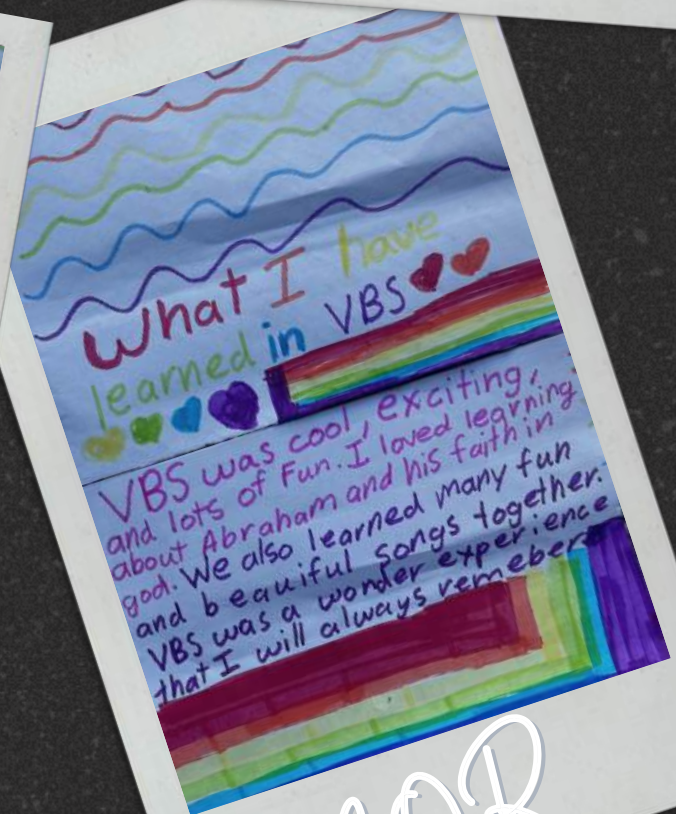
(what makes me happy)
praying, games
and learning.

What I enjoyed
Learning new
stuff

What I learned
The story about
Abraham and more songs.

Jayden Bruce
June 2023

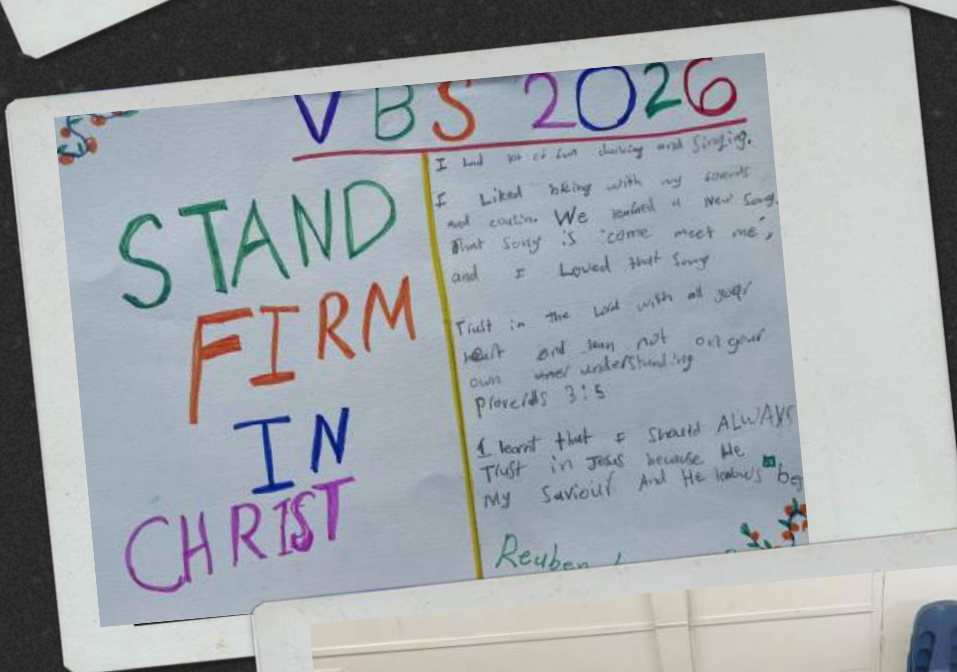
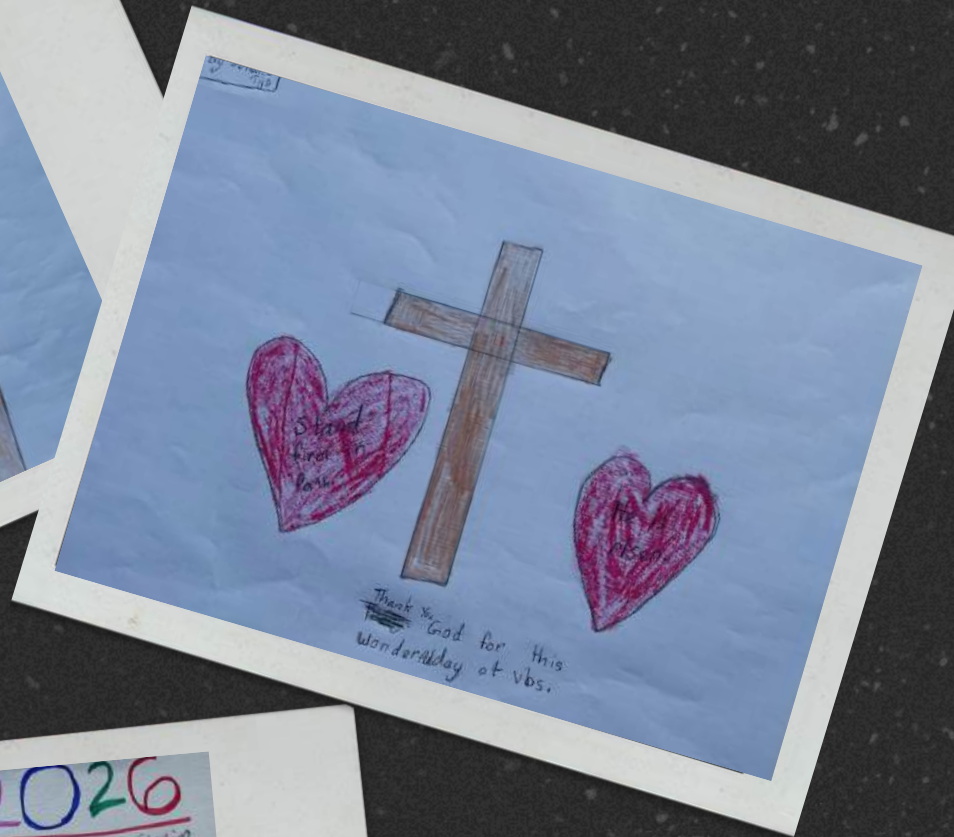
Vbs was amazing,
exciting and fun. I
loved learning about
Abraham and how he
trusted God. We
learned many beautiful
songs and had lots
of fun together. Vbs
was a wonderful
experience filled with
faith and joy.



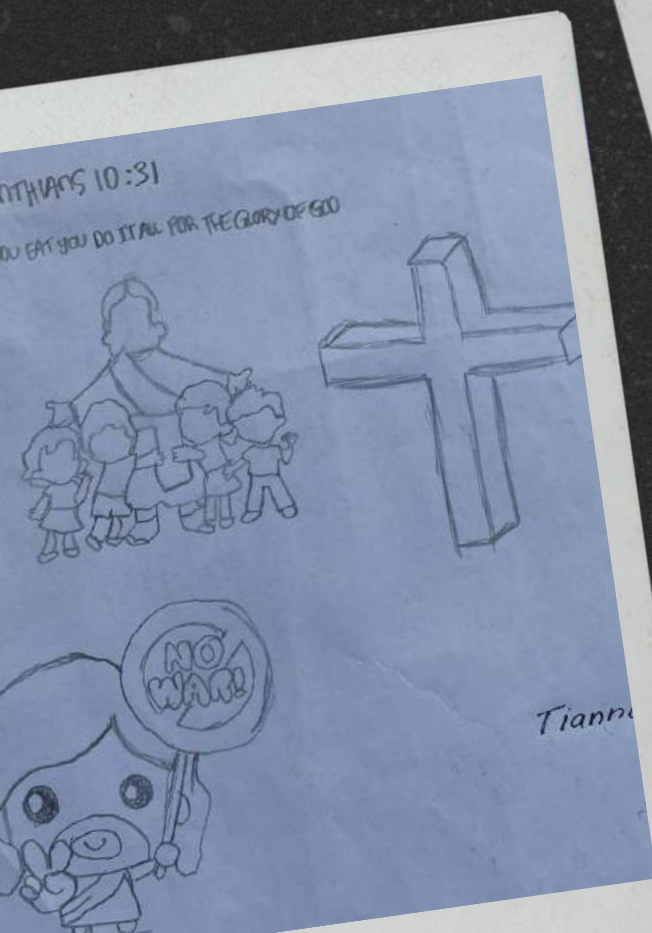
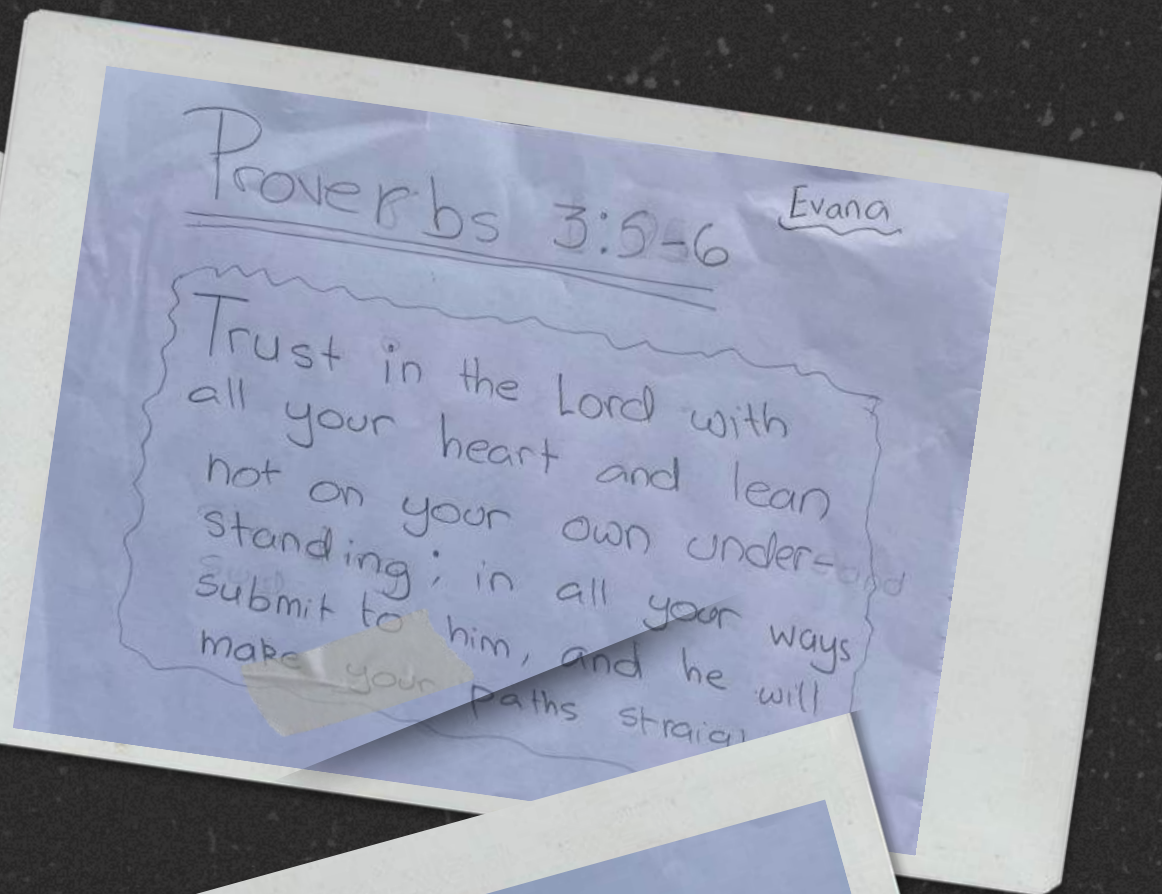
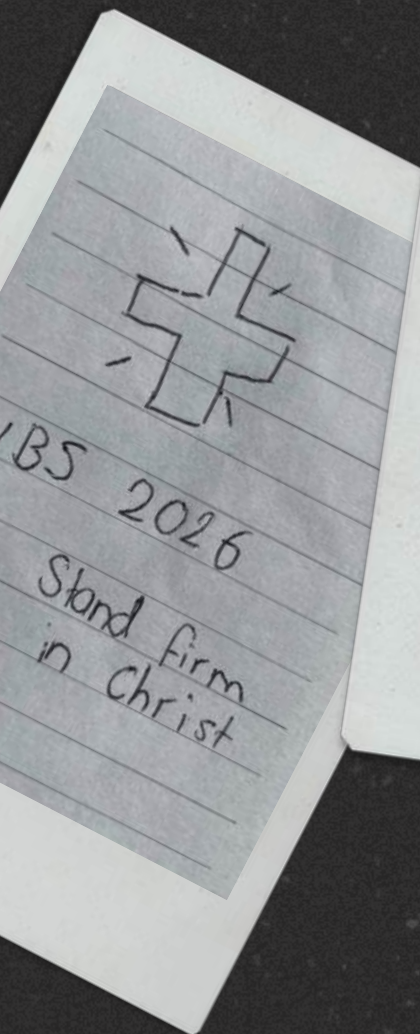
What I have
learned in VBS

VBS was cool, exciting,
and lots of fun. I loved learning
about Abraham and his faith in
God. We also learned many fun
and beautiful songs together.
VBS was a wonderful experience
that I will always remember.

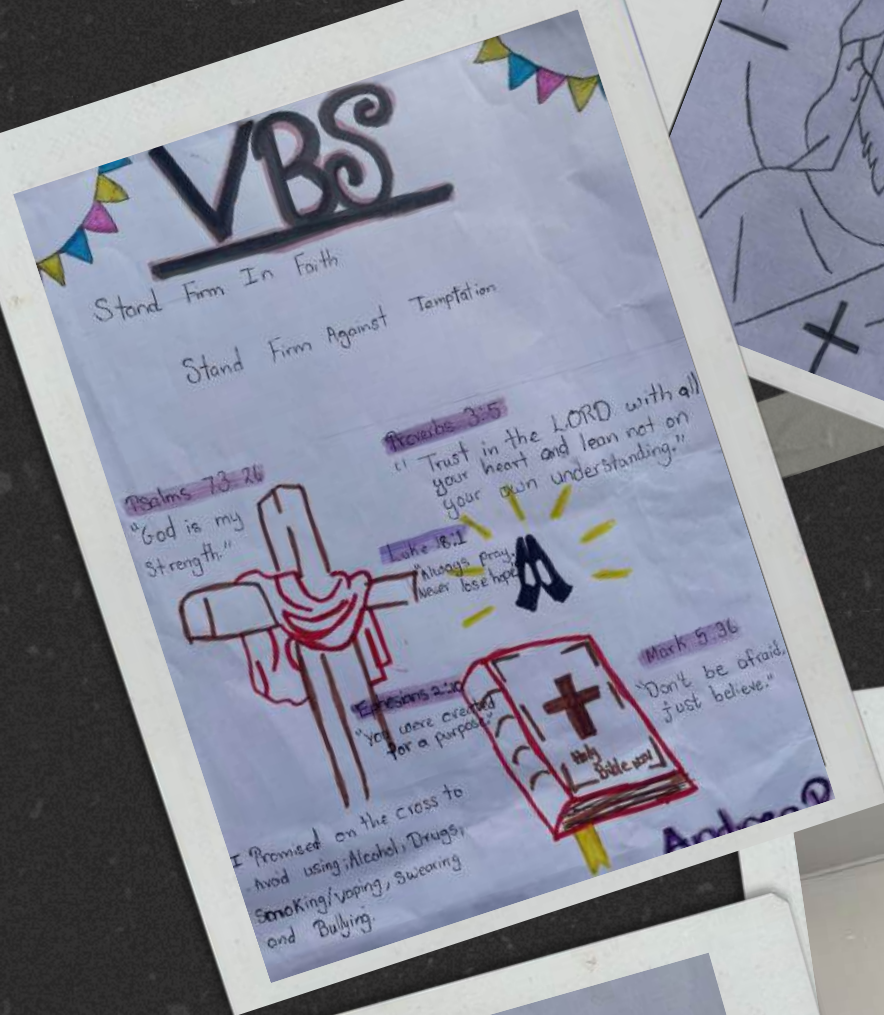
junior



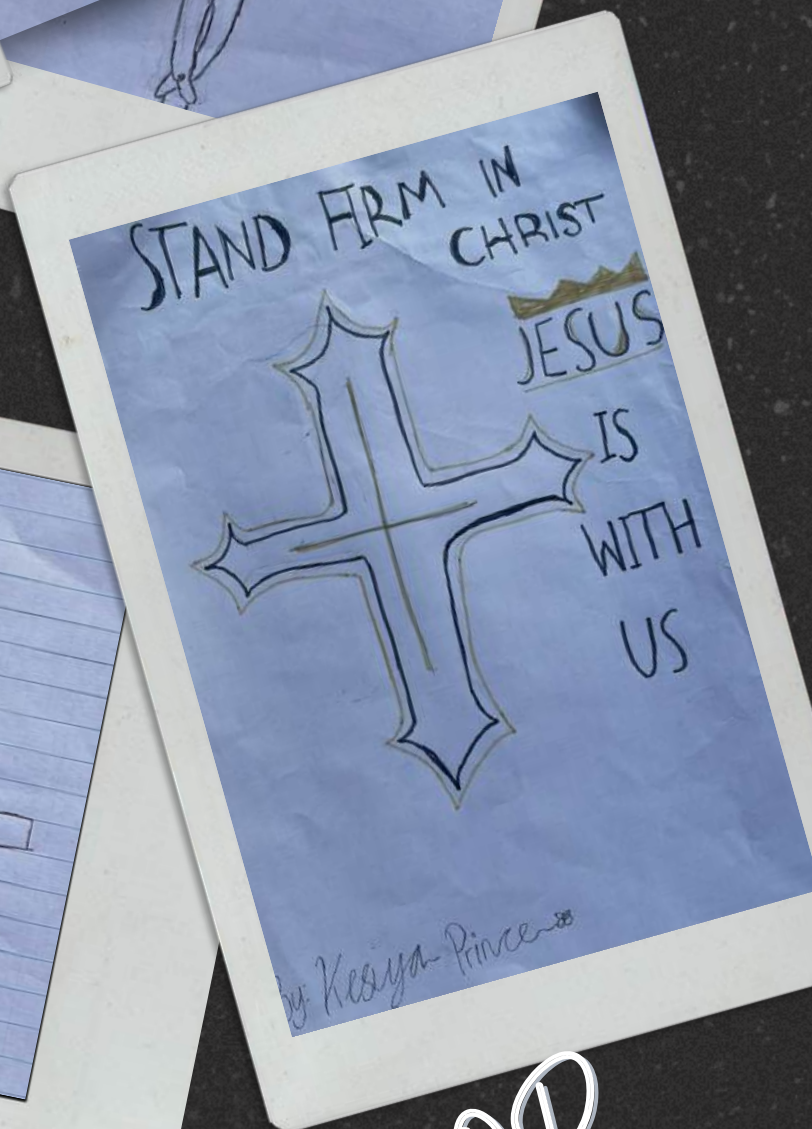
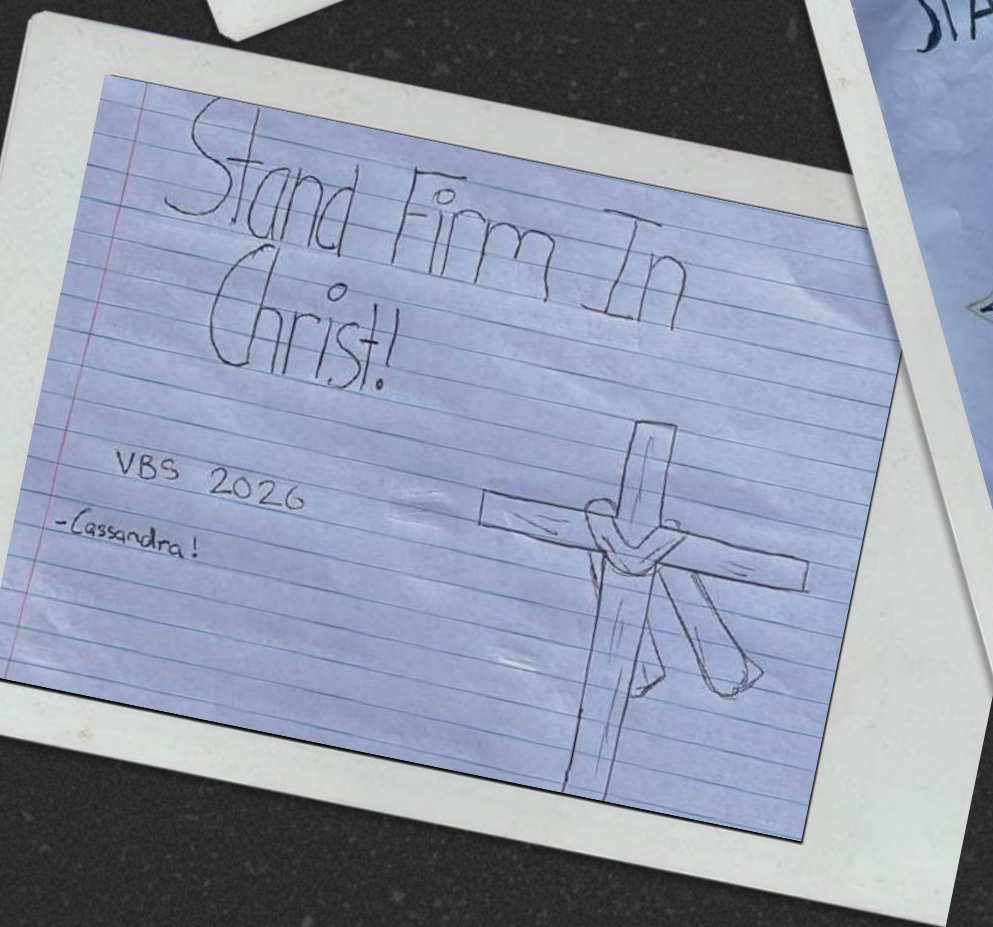
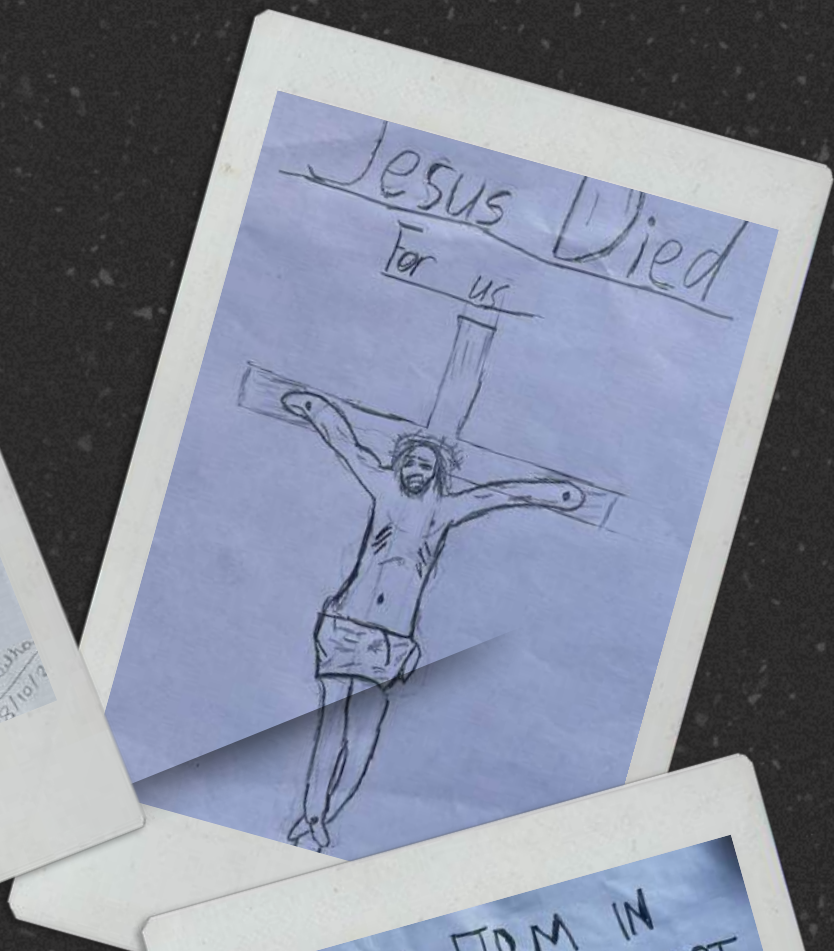
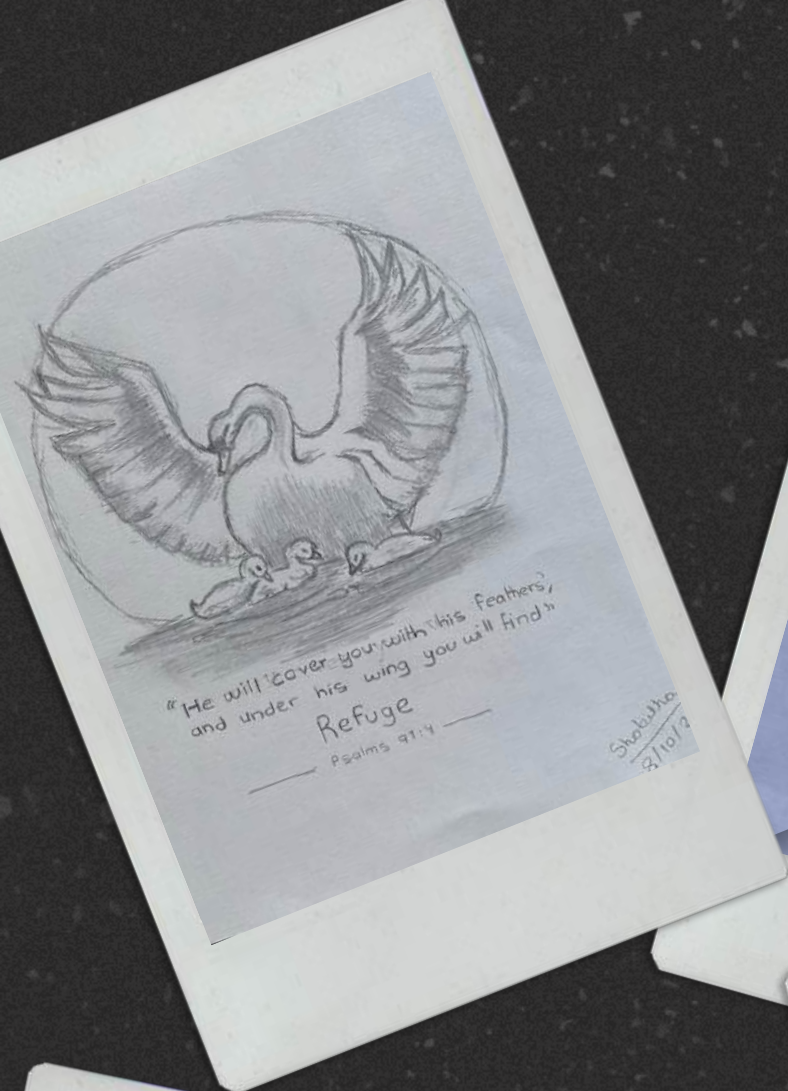
junior



INTERMEDIATE







SENIOR

ARTHUR



I like VBS Because it helped me learn about God and my Faith in a fun way. I enjoy the games, songs, crafts, and spending time with my friends. VBS is always exciting and helps me grow in my faith and I always look forward to it each year

- Shobitha

7/10/26

VBS-Vacation Bible School, This is what

I learned the meaning of stand firm from VBS. The meaning of stand firm is to refuse to change your beliefs. Then in class I learned about The Belt of Truth, The breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes of Peace, The shield of Faith, The Helmet of Salvation, The sword of the spirit and Prayer. Then we sang songs like This I believe and you come. In VBS I played go through the maze blindfolded.



on Lijul Abraham

VBS 2026



SENIOR



DEDICATION DAY





Trinity Mar Thoma Church
Hamilton
Vacation Bible School 2026

His Word
Our Guide
Brighter
Tomorrows
♡

Stand Firm in Christ

(Philippians 4:1)



FOLLOW ME



Bible
Stories



Fun &
Games



Friendship



Grow
in Faith



Kind Hearts
Stronger Together

Together
in His Love
♡

