

# The Bible Banner



March 2025



## Faithful unto Death...

An American storyteller tells about a man who worked in one of the great forests of the South. His faithful dog had burned to death a few minutes earlier in a great fire that had swept through the forest. The little dog had been left under a tree to guard his master's dinner pail and wouldn't leave it even when the flames roared around him. The worker was brokenhearted when he found the charred remains of his little friend. With tears streaming down his face, he said: *"I always had to be careful what I told him to do, because I knew he would do it."* Likewise, our Master has called us to faithfully *"keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."* Revelation 14:12b Though the fires of persecution may roar around us, *"Jesus Christ...the faithful witness"* says, *"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."* Revelation 1:5, 2:10b

### Homemade Grape-nuts (Little Nuggets Cereal) RECIPE RERUN

2 cups spelt flour and 2 cups whole wheat flour and ½ cup millet flour  
OR

3 ½ cups whole white wheat flour and 1 cup oat flour

Add: 1/3 cup sucanat or coconut sugar

1 tsp salt

2 cups soy or nutmilk (sometimes I replace part of this with water)

1 tsp lemon juice

½ cup olive oil, light

Mix the dry ingredients together, and then add the wet ingredients. Spread batter on a greased or parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F (175°C) for 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool completely. Crumble with fingers to desired consistency. Smaller pieces are much crunchier. Put on two large baking sheets. Bake at 275°F (135°C) stirring every 15 minutes for 60 to 90 minutes or until grape-nuts are dry. Cool, store in a jar. Will keep for several weeks. Yields about 2 quarts. Serve as dry cereal with milk.

Just add some fruit and nuts or seeds, and this creates a good hearty, quick (once it's pre-prepared) breakfast.

This is one of our favorite homemade breakfast cereals.



© Bible Picture Pathways

#### QUOTABLE QUOTES

**"A wife who is 85% faithful to her husband is not faithful at all. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS PART-TIME LOYALTY TO JESUS CHRIST."**

—Vance Havner

#### PROFITABLE TRADITIONS - Cultivate Courtesy

*"My boy," said a father to his son, "treat everybody with politeness, even those who are rude to you; remember, you show courtesy to others, not because they are gentlemen, but because you are one."*

*"Finally, ...love as brethren... be courteous:" 1 Peter 3:8*

At the beginning of the day, hand out five "tokens" to each family member or participant. At any point during the day, if someone is impolite or uncourteous, they lose a token. Remember to say as needed, "please", "thank you," "I'm sorry," "you're welcome," "excuse me" and "Yes, ma'am" or "Yes, sir." See how many tokens you still have at the end of the day or the end of the week. Renew tokens daily or weekly as needed until lessons of courtesy are learned and no tokens are lost.



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## FAITHFUL SERVICE?

Editor's Note and Study to Show Thyself Approved



In his autobiography, John Kenneth Galbraith, a diplomat, economist, and public official, illustrated the faithfulness and devotion of Emily, his family's housekeeper: *"It had been a wearying day, and I asked Emily to hold all telephone calls while I had a nap. Shortly thereafter the phone rang. Lyndon Johnson was calling from the White House.*

*'Get me Ken Galbraith. This is Lyndon Johnson.'*

*'He is sleeping, Mr. President. He said not to disturb him.'*

*'Well, wake him up. I want to talk to him.'*

***'No, Mr. President. I work for him, not you.'***

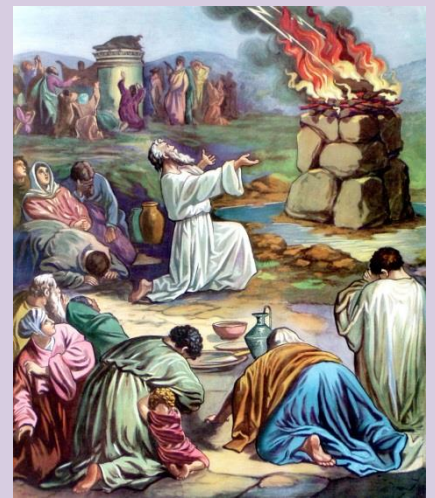
*When I called the President back, he could scarcely control his pleasure. 'Tell that woman I want her here in the White House!'"*

This housekeeper knew who she served, and would not swerve from obedience to her employer, even for the president of the United States. Christians work for God, and this gives insight into the deeper meaning of the first and second commandments found in Exodus

20:3-5 *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God..."*

In the final showdown of Revelation 17, there are only two groups, those who with their power and strength work for and serve the beast, and those who work for and serve Jesus, the Lamb, faithfully. *"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."* Revelation 17:12-14

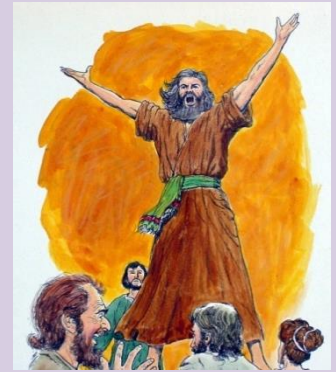
In the book of Malachi, God characterizes this faithful group of people by the term "Elijah," saying, *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."* Malachi 4:5, 6 There are lessons for us today from these stories. *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* 1 Corinthians 10:11 Indeed, *"The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days."* {3SM, pg. 339} During Jesus' first advent, we were given another typology of "Elijah" in the form of John the Baptist. Matthew 17:10-13 tells us, *"And his [Jesus'] disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."*



Note that both Elijah and John the Baptist faithfully restore and rebuild the true worship of Jehovah which has been broken down. *"And Elijah... repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down."* 1 Kings 18:30b Theirs was not some fanciful new light, but instead an asking *"for the old paths, where is the good way,"* and walking therein. (Jeremiah 6:16) Elijah and John the Baptist both called God's people to repentance and challenged them to take a decided stand for God. *"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him..."* 1 Kings 18:21 And *"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* Matthew 3:1, 2

And then there is the part of the story that nobody wants to talk about. Although John and Elijah were both faithfully submitted to God's will and the rules of the heavenly government, both were forced to work without human "church" authority. They were canceled, banned, not recommended, and even persecuted in Israel. In fact, in Elijah's case, God used a widow outside of Israel to sustain him. Jesus said, *"Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow."* Luke 4:24-26 Like the "rules" change when an emergency vehicle needs to drive through, God sometimes finds it necessary to work outside the regular lines to get His important message through because often faithfulness to God does not make advocates of truth popular among men. It is evident that despite the fact that John the Baptist was the son of a priest, he did not preach according to the authority of men, at least not the authority of the scribes and Pharisees. The Bible records, *"And when he [Jesus] was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell*

me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.” Matthew 21:23-27 Despite his lack of authority from men, today, John the Baptist’s work might be called a supporting ministry since many of his converts, such as Andrew (John 1:40), were led to follow Jesus and become part of the Christian church.



There is a reason that John and Elijah both found it necessary to work outside the regular lines. Their sternest rebukes were aimed at the apostatizing leadership of God’s people. We find the scathing rebuke of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:7-10 “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” Sadly, stern rebukes to apostate leadership are necessary because often pride is at the root of the problem. Rebuke is also necessary because “The people will seldom rise higher than their minister... They quiet their consciences, thinking that they may be free to love the things of this life and be indifferent to spiritual things, because their ministers are so.” {Gospel Workers, pg. 342}

But back to Elijah’s faithful rebuke of idolatry. Elijah gave some very pointed rebukes to King Ahab. “And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.” 1 Kings 18:17,18 (The term Baalim used here is plural, meaning it includes more than one false god. Often the male and female form of the god or more was included as noted in 1 Kings 18:19 where both Baal and the prophets of the grove or Astarte/Ashteroth are mentioned.) The direct worship of pagan deities is certainly not dead today as evidenced by the rock-racket “music” industry, hollywood, and the sports world,\* etc. But sometimes the worship of these deities can be more subtle. While Elijah would surely rebuke blatant idolatry, more subtle



forms of idolatry might also be included in his rebuke. Note the four points in the following quotation that are likened to the worship of Baal. “The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet’s day overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal.” {Prophets and Kings, pg. 170} The Elijah message of today will likewise condemn these evils among God’s people. We are called to, “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1

But I would like to point out an often forgotten lesson from the time of Elijah. When Elijah felt all alone, God said, “Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.” 1 Kings 19:18 One of these was Obadiah, whose name literally meant, “serving Jah/Jehovah”. While Elijah was on the run for his life, Obadiah was somehow able to work for Ahab and yet remain true to God. I Kings 18:3,4 records, “And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)” Also, from Obadiah’s mouth we learn that the wrath of Ahab had actually spread the knowledge of Elijah, and presumably also the true God, to other nations. “And he [Obadiah] said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldst deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me? As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.” I Kings 18:9,10 Today, negative advertising is often more effective than positive advertising. It is encouraging to remember it is written, “For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” 2 Corinthians 13:8

In the final days of the third Elijah and his message, as we see a shaking in the church some may have to like Elijah work outside the regular lines, but at the same time some will be used of God to protect his prophets within the “kingdom of Israel.” There may be John the Baptists who have supporting ministries because their message of repentance is too straight to be appreciated by corrupt leadership, but at the same time there may be a Nicodemus or Joseph of Arimathea that finds it possible to do God’s will by sitting on the church council to stem the tide of apostasy coming into God’s church. Sometimes wealth, popularity, or education (think of a lawyer) may make someone harder to marginalize. Wherever God has put us, I pray we may be found faithfully serving God no matter who asks us to do otherwise. For God says, “Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.” Psalm 101:6

\* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvG9QEGOGpC> Minute 12:50-13:15 and again at 16:40-17:40 This is an expose, but we do not necessarily endorse all aspects of this video.

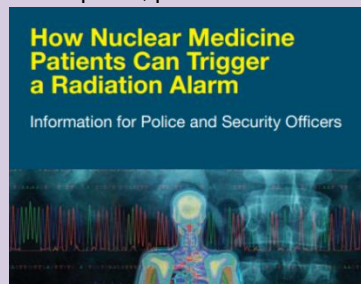


## Pseudo-Science Alert!

True health is founded on the principle of Romans 12:9b *“Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”* If you avoid the bad, but don’t put in good, such as not eating pork or smoking but not eating your leafy greens either, your health will still suffer. Likewise, if you just put in good, but you don’t avoid the bad, like eating vegetables but walking out in front of an oncoming truck, you are still in danger of ill health. In the Bible, God warns those dear to Him {the meaning of Timothy}, *“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”* 1 Timothy 6:20. God says, beware of pseudo-science! The Greek word here for “science falsely so called” literally means “false-named” science/knowledge. One false “science” that is exposed in the Bible is that of evolutionary theory. 2 Peter 3:5 states, *“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old...”* If you think about it you can see how closely evolutionary theory mirrors a fairy tale. One is *“Frog + Princess = Handsome prince.”* This is called “fairy tale.” The other is *“Frog + 10 billion years = Handsome prince.”* This is falsely called “science.” The truth is, true science will always match the word of God, and evolutionary theory does not. But many who do not accept evolutionary theory at its foundation, are accepting it in the form of “science” and particularly that “medical science” which is deduced from evolutionary theory.

I have always been skeptical of some scientific studies, and for years have realized you can usually find a study for or against pretty much anything, depending on who funded the study. During COVID, it became even more obvious that true science was being hidden.

But recently, I ran across two quotations whose severity and source surprised even me. An October 2025 article in the Canadian Veterinary Journal stated, *“It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion, which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as editor of The New England Journal of Medicine.”*<sup>1</sup> This is a quote from Marcia Angell, a member of the faculty of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a former Editor in Chief of The New England Journal of Medicine. The pretext of this quotation from her 2009 article “Drug Companies & Doctors: A Story of Corruption”, published in The New York Review of Books magazine, states, *“...Similar conflicts of interest and biases exist in virtually every field of medicine, particularly those that rely heavily on drugs or devices.”*<sup>2</sup> Sadly, Medi\$ine has become about money, not health! And *“the love of money is the root of all evil”* 1 Timothy 6:10



Note that drugs are not the only problem. Angell’s statement also includes “devices.” Even highly questionable diagnostics are being handed out far too frequently. It is of significance that in nuclear medicine, *“90% of the procedures are for diagnosis.”*<sup>3</sup> Radioactive elements are being regularly used in PET scans, etc. So, if we can’t believe the research or rely on the judgment of trusted physicians, what if these diagnostics like X-rays, CT scans, PET scans, etc., are actually causing the rise in cancers we are seeing, since **radiation is cumulative**? Oh, and by the way, in the case of nuclear medicine, some of the radiation can be gotten second hand. Despite the fact that patients are usually told they are safe to be around pregnant women and children after 24 hours, police are briefed that *“Patients can emit radiation several weeks after certain nuclear medicine procedures.”*<sup>4</sup> We had someone tell us that they got questioned at the Canadian border something like a year after their wife received radiation “treatments.” Indeed, it is true that *“Since most portable detectors screen for gamma emissions, patients who’ve had radionuclide treatment could trigger a radiation alarm”*<sup>4</sup> Beware the medical devices, not just the drugs, because it seems telling the actual hazards of these medical diagnostics is not financially helpful to the medical pocketbook.

There is yet another quote, I would like to share. It is from an April 11, 2015 article written in The Lancet, a prestigious medical science journal. It states, *“Much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue. Afflicted by studies with small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses, and flagrant conflicts of interest, together with an obsession for pursuing fashionable trends of dubious importance, science has taken a turn towards darkness... The apparent endemicity of bad research behaviour is alarming. In their quest for telling a compelling story, scientists too often sculpt data to fit their preferred theory of the world. Or they retrofit hypotheses to fit their data... Our love of ‘significance’ pollutes the literature with many a statistical fairy-tale.”*<sup>5</sup>

In a world where that which is falsely named “science” is admitted to be nothing but a fictitious “fairy tale,” our only safe choice is to *“live...by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* Matthew 4:4 We must accept only that which echoes inspiration and matches GOD’S PLAN for health. Because, it is written of Babylon, *“for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries [Greek “pharmakeia”] were all nations deceived.”*

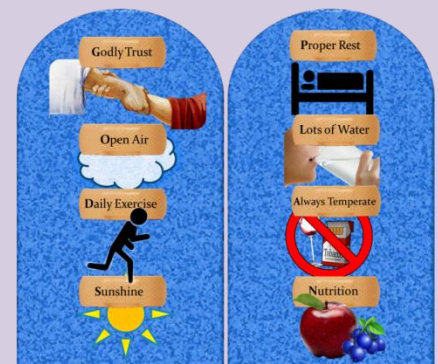
1-- [https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4572812/pdf/cvj\\_10\\_1011.pdf](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4572812/pdf/cvj_10_1011.pdf)

2-- <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2009/01/15/drug-companies-doctors-a-story-of-corruption/?pagination=false>

3-- <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/non-power-nuclear-applications/radioisotopes-research/radioisotopes-in-medicine#:~:text=Over%2010%2C000%20hospitals%20worldwide%20use,scans%20in%20nuclear%20medicine%20worldwide.>

4-- <https://www.radiationready.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Nuclear-Brochure-Final-to-Print-06-21-10.pdf>

5-- <https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736%2815%2960696-1.pdf>



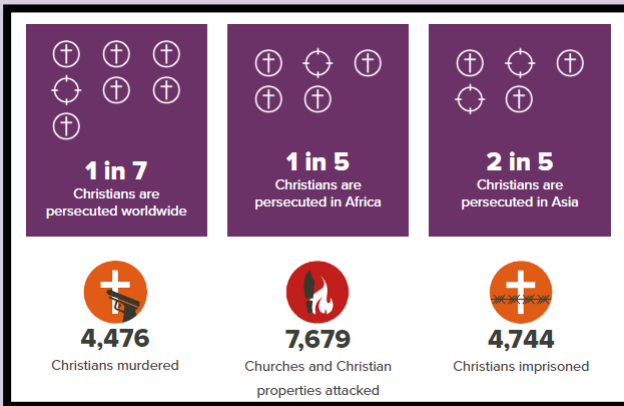


## Modern-day Martyrs

### Prophetic News Notes

*"I know thy works... and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you..." Revelation 2:13*

Most people don't think about Christians dying for their faith in the modern world, but **"Every day, an average of more than 12 Christians are killed for their faith. That's two Christians every hour... murdered because they follow Jesus.** This shocking statistic comes from new research released as part of Open Doors' 2025 World Watch List, the annual report that ranks the 50 places where it's most difficult to live as a Christian.... It's important to note that the Open Doors' research into violence results in total numbers that are lower than the reality—most of World Watch List research depends on direct counting or from trusted indirect sources."



Open Doors also reports that research from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024, states that *"7,679 churches or public Christian properties were attacked or forced to close. 4,744 believers were arrested, imprisoned, detained without trial or sentenced—just because of their faith... And finally, nearly 210,000 followers of Christ were forced to flee their homes. All simply because they claim the name of Christ."*

Perhaps one of the most encouraging stories for those living in persecuted circumstances is that of John the Baptist. He was marginalized, persecuted, imprisoned, and then beheaded, all for sharing the gospel. His words, *"He [Christ] must increase, but I must decrease."* John 3:30 are echoed by the faithful in the land who love

Jesus above everything else. Although God allowed John the Baptist to be beheaded, Christ said, *"Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist."* Matt.11:11 The story of John the Baptist lives on to encourage others, that though they may suffer, they are not forsaken by God. Indeed, *"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon. 'Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.' Philipians 1:29. And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor."*<sup>3</sup>

1-- <https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/stories/12-Christians-killed-for-their-faith-each-day/>

2--Statistics Screenshot <https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/> 3--Desire of Ages, pg. 224



## FIRE!

A mother living in a tenement house went shopping for groceries. While she was in the store, a fire engine raced by. She wondered, "Is the fire engine going to my home?" She had left her baby asleep at home. Forgetting about the groceries, she ran toward home. Her building had fire hoses aimed at it.

It was burning like a matchbox. Rushing to the chief, she cried out, "My baby is up there." He shouted back to her, "It would be suicide for anyone to go up there now; it's too late."

A young fireman standing by volunteered, "Chief, I have a little baby at home, and if my house were on fire, I'd want someone to go up to save my baby. I'll go." The young fireman climbed the stairs; he got the baby, threw her into the rescue net, and just as he did, the house collapsed and he was burned to death.



The scene is 20 years later at a graveside. A 20-year-old woman is sobbing softly.  
 Before her, at the head of this grave, is the statue of a fireman.  
 A man stopping by asks respectfully, "Was that your father?"  
 She replies, "No."  
 "Was that your brother?"  
 "No," she says. "That's the man who died for me."  
 Indeed, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13  
 Jesus died to save you. Are you faithful enough to notice and say thank you?



**Kids' Corner** **God's Amazing Creatures**



The Strelitzia is the genus (group) of five species of flowers, commonly called bird of paradise flower. These flowers are native to South Africa, but you can find them living in other places. They are named for their resemblance or similar look to birds-of-paradise, a group of very beautiful birds found in southeast Asia and parts of Australia. Bird of paradise flowers lack natural insect pollinators like bees. Instead, they are pollinated by sunbirds and blue-faced honeyeaters searching for nectar. The birds sit on or perch and drink from the spathe (the pointed green part below the flower in the picture). The weight of the bird standing on the spathe opens it to release the pollen onto the bird's feet, which is then deposited or put on the spathe of the next flower it visits. Isn't it wonderful how God created each thing so special?

Many boys and girls around the world don't have a Bible in their language. Missionaries are needed to go and translate (write) the Bible into their language. This Bible verse is written in 14 different languages. Can you figure out what it says or what verse it is? To the right are a few hints in Symbolic Universal Notation.



**Aren't you glad somebody took the time to put the Bible in your language?**

ANSWER: The second book of the New Testament, Chapter 4:4+4+4, verse 15