



“**Sivini** was stunned. ‘**Abel’s** blood calling out to God from the ground,’ he remembers — ‘the **words** pierced my heart.’ He could almost hear the blood of his many victims calling out to God from the earth where he had so brutally slain them. In that defining moment, **Sivini** began to feel something he had never felt before: the possibility of cleansing. The very next Sunday, he walked to the front of the local Christian church to publicly repent of his past.

“He asked for prayer —**He surrendered his life to Jesus Christ** —and in that moment, the **God of forgiveness** and peace **lifted Sivini’s burden of guilt**.

“Everything about **Sivini** is different now. Hatred has turned to love, **by** the miraculous power of **God’s Word!** ‘Even my looks have changed since I accepted Jesus, **Sivini** says joyfully, ‘because now I no longer carry the weight of the guilt of my past. Who but Jesus could do such a wonderful thing?’ Today **Sivini** is committed to the Usarufa Bible translation, ‘turning God’s talk into the Usarufa language so that my people can know the Lord. I want them to find **peace, freedom, and forgiveness** of sin, just like I have.’” —*Wycliffe Associates* every verse, every tongue, every task. (Solicitation letter 2008)

“**But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,** Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his **blood,** we shall be saved from wrath through him.” (Rom 5:8–9) “**Being justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Who God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his **blood** to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believes in Jesus.” (Rom 3:24–26) “**Looking to Jesus** the author and finisher of our **faith,** who for the joy that was set before him endured **the cross,** despising the shame, **is** set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb 12:2) **KJVM**



Apostle Paul, a Religious Jewish Pharisee, was also a Murderer, Forgiven and Cleansed from Sin.

His Testimony. (Acts 22:3–16)

“**I am truly a man** —a Jew, born in Tarsus —in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

“**Though I might** also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a **Pharisee**. Concerning zeal, **persecuting the church;** touching the righteousness, which is in the law, blameless.” (Phil 3:4–5)

“**And I persecuted** this way [Christians, followers of Jesus Christ] to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both **men** and **women**. As also the high priest does bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from who I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound, to Jerusalem, for to be punished.

“**But what things were gain** to me, those I counted loss for Christ—I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ: for who I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but **dung,** that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the **faith** of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by **faith.**” (Phil 3:7–9)

“**And it came to pass,** that, as I made my journey, and came near to Damascus, about noon, suddenly there flashed from heaven a great light round about me. And I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me,

‘Saul, Saul, why persecutes you me?’ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, who you persecute.’ And they that were with me saw indeed the light and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that talked to me. **And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’** And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go to Damascus; and there it shall be told you all things of which are appointed for you to do’ —And one Ananias —said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you, that you should know his will, and see that Just One, and should hear the voice of his mouth. For you will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you stay? Arise, and be baptized, and **wash away your sins, *calling on the name of the Lord.**” (Acts 22:3–16)

Apostle Paul: “Brethren, my heart’s desire, and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. “For they, being **ignorant** of God’s righteousness, and **going about** to establish their own righteousness, have **not submitted** themselves to the righteousness of God. For **Christ** is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that **believes.** For **Moses describes the** righteousness, which is of the law, That the man which does those things shall live by them. But **the** righteousness, which is **of faith** speaks on this wise, ‘Say not in your heart, Who, shall ascend into heaven?’ (That is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, ‘Who shall descend into the deep?’ (That is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) “But what [does] it say? ‘The **word** is near you, even ***in your mouth,** and ***in your heart**’: That is, **the word of faith,** which we **preach;** That if you shall confess ***with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and shall **believe *in your heart** that **God has raised him from the dead,** you will be **saved.** For ***with the heart** man **believes unto** righteousness; And ***with the mouth** confession

[Greek: “**to assent, acknowledge, give thanks.**” Yes, I have been saved!] **unto “STRONGS #G1519: Indicating the point reached or entered.”**

is made **unto salvation.**

[GW – Does not refer to the necessity of a sinner’s prayer.]

“For the scripture has said, ‘Whosoever **believes** on him shall not be ashamed.’ For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich to all that **call** on him. For whosoever shall **call** on the name of the Lord shall be **saved.**

***“How then shall they call** on him in who they have not **believed?**

And ***how shall they believe** in him of who they have not heard?

And ***how shall they hear** without a preacher?

And ***how shall they preach;** except they be sent? As it is written,

***“How** beautiful are the feet of them that **preach the gospel** of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom 10:1–15) “And when he (Jesus) **saw their faith,** he said to him, ‘Man, your **sins are forgiven** you.’” (Luke 5:20)



Gary Westgerdes

raised Catholic but

Scripturally

Born Again!

“**At the age of seven** I was being taught about heaven

and hell in my second grade Catholic Catechism class. I was

being convicted of my sinfulness and I feared God and the possibility of going to hell. After thinking upon this for a couple of days or weeks our teacher shared with the class, the bible verse:

John 3:16 “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him shall not eternally perish but have everlasting life.*”

With childlike faith I took the verse to heart. [I had never heard or thought of saying a sinner’s or salvation prayer] I believed Jesus died for my forgiveness of sin and to give me eternal life. [Like the scripture says, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17)] The moment I believed, God’s assurance of salvation and the joy of the Holy Spirit’s lifting away of the burden of my sin, filled my heart, I knew I was forgiven! I wanted to obey Jesus, be like him and be nice to others. **Next, around 4 to 6 months, during the summer,** the day before my eighth birthday, my parents were having our home dedicated to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. On that day, a church leader or Priest asked me why I was so happy I told him “Because I’m going to heaven when I die” he stood up, stepped back chuckling and laughed saying, “Oh No! You can never know for sure if you are going to heaven or not until after you are dead, because you can never know for sure if you’ve been good enough or not.” I was in shock! After his visit, I remember looking at four of my brothers and sister running around the house screaming and Mom scolding one and thinking “If you have to be good enough to get to heaven no one in this family is going to make it!” However, my religious upbringing taught that eternal life is something that you must work towards through the Church, with good deeds, sacraments, and devotions. I always hoped the priest or leader was wrong and God’s word was true, but I had nowhere to turn. I was a good kid growing up but after high school, and then during my tour of duty in the Navy aboard the,

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower “IKE” CVN 69,



I began conforming to the world’s pattern. After three years, my rank was moving up, I was having a good time and my daily jogging had me in excellent health. (I had received a few witnesses about Jesus, and took them to heart, but I didn’t really do anything about them, I felt my life was altogether.) I remember telling God “Jogging is what I wanted to do with my life.” That very week I was given a desk job and began having pain in my leg. The pain continued and increased and three weeks later I found myself hospitalized with a blood clot in my lungs which had passed from my leg and through my heart. **With my life at age twenty-three coming so close to death** I began to reconsider my life and its direction. So, after recovering from the clot and being placed on limited duty, I began to think about my sin and my accountability towards God, I wanted to know where I would have gone if I had died. **I started going over to the library to read God’s word** and God began to work on my heart. A friend, at my new duty station, asked, “Are you worried about your leg,” and I said, “No, because I knew God could work things out for the best.” He asked if I was a Christian, and I said, “I did not know,” he then invited me to his church. I went and after the service I went forward to pray and seek God. Afterwards my friend encouraged me to read the Bible. **That week, as I was reading in first John,** this verse hit me hard, “He That Commits Sin is of The Devil.” (1 John 3:8) **I had always thought I was a rather good person,** but suddenly I knew I deserved, and was headed for hell. I was shattered. God had placed his finger on my sin, and I could not deny it. I went back to the library to read 1 John again the next two days, with the same results. I knew my life wasn’t worth living if I was just going to die and end up in hell.

I cried out to God about my struggle but did not communicate this to my friend. That following Saturday my friend helped me pick out two or three Christian books. One of the books was by **Larry Tomczak.**

CLAP YOUR HANDS! A Young Catholic Encounters Christ

It shared the simple gospel message that I had always hoped was true back when I was seven. The scriptures shared showed that there is nothing of myself that I can offer to God for my sins. My sins deserve the eternal punishment of a Holy God. But God’s love reached out to me through Jesus Christ. Throughout the week I had acknowledged my sinfulness to God, I then read, “**For by grace** [God’s loving-kindness] **are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God:**

[God’s gift is salvation. Heb 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that **diligently seek** him.” (Through his word Rom 10:17)]

Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph. 2:8–9) I realized then that eternal life is given as a gift to all who believe in Jesus. It was then that God’s mercy, grace, and peace flooded my soul with understanding and forgiveness, I knew that what I was told at age seven, by the Priest or Church leader, was false. My joy returned as my eyes were opened to the truth of God’s Word that salvation was through faith in Jesus and his atoning sacrifice on the cross. I had experienced Emmanuel “**God with us.**” (Matt 1:23; Isa 7:14) **Praise God:** “Now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made near by the **blood** of Christ.” (Eph 2:13)

Gary Westgerdes, was born and raised in Coldwater Ohio

Larry, CLAP YOUR HANDS! © 1973, Sharing the gospel with his dad.

Q. “Why was the Bible written?”

A. “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:13) **Q.** If asked by **God:** “‘Why should I let you into heaven?’ What would you reply?” **Dad:** “Well, I’ve tried to be a good Catholic —lead a decent life and obey the Ten Commandments. I’ve never intentionally missed Mass. I don’t think I’ve been too bad —I’ve been an usher ... and helped out in a lot of parish projects. I’ve always given my Sunday offerings, too!” **Larry:** “Dad, I’ve got some good news for you! Heaven is not something a person earns, or deserves, or works for. According to the Bible, heaven —eternal life —is an absolutely free gift.” **Dad:** “Oh, go on, nothing’s free!” **Larry:** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 6:23) “Enter ye in at the straight gate: For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matt 7:13–14) **Q.** “Well, if only a few find this gift of eternal life, wouldn’t you like to be one of them?” **Dad:** ‘Of course!’ **Larry:** “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom 3:23) **Dad:** “I know that everyone is a sinner.”

Larry: “Well, because man is a sinner, and a sinner can-do no-good thing of himself anyway, it is impossible for him to earn his way into heaven, even if it weren’t free —“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph 2:8–9) **Dad:** “I want to receive this gift of eternal life. What do I do?” **Larry:** “Faith is the key that opens the door to eternal life.” **Q.** “Do you fully understand what the Bible means here by ‘faith’?” **Larry:** “You believe that there is one God; You do well: The devils also believe, and tremble.” (Jas 2:19) **Larry:** “‘We’re talking about ‘saving faith’ and not just an intellectual assent to certain historical facts’ ... ‘When you trust the Lord to take care of our family —that we might call family-faith. When you trust Him to help you pay the bills —that might be called financial-faith ... these things are temporary —they’ll all pass away some day.’ ... ‘But what is saving faith?’ “‘Saving faith is trusting Jesus Christ to save you forever, eternally, no matter what else may

happen —**Larry**: “**I tried** to be a faithful church member. **I tried** to live a decent life. **I tried** to obey the Ten Commandments. **I, I, I, I, I** was really **trying to be my own savior.**’ —**‘I transferred my trust** from myself —from what I could do —**to Jesus Christ** and what He had done already. I accepted His gift of eternal life.” (pgs. 134–137)

My Final Step in Catholicism: I struggled quite intensely when trying to decide whether to stay in or leave the Catholic faith; Did I need to pray to Mary plus be a born-again Christian? Et Cetera. After around six weeks, surprisingly, I decided to stay —I went to Mass the next Sunday and the first thing the Priest said was “Don’t worry about reading the book of Revelation because no one can understand it anyway!” —Well, I will tell you what, upon hearing that, unsurprisingly, the Holy Spirit told me, “Gary, now you can leave the Catholic Church.” —I had already read the book of Revelation and verse 1:3 says “Blessed is he who reads and hears the words of this [book] prophecy. I needed that one last step —the confirmation from the Holy Spirit and I have never looked back. **Remember, God does exist and he is a rewarder: “Without faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must **believe** that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that **diligently seek him.**” (Heb 11:6) **Read his word.**

I must have prayed the sinner’s prayer a hundred times — from a newsletter www.lwf.org

“**I was raised in the Church. I knew the stories:** Noah’s ark, Moses, Joseph’s coat of many colors. I believed Jesus died on a cross for my sins. I believed. I don’t remember the date, the music, or the sermon, but oh, to God in heaven do I remember the invitation! Never before, did I hear a man speak with Holy Spirit authority. I was going to HELL. All my good intentions and procrastinations were worthless. It was one of those fire and brimstone Adrian Rodgers messages: “You’re leaving this building one of two ways, **under the blood** of Jesus **or trampling over it.**” My heart was pounding. I got out of that place under heavy conviction. I knew I had to do something. I thought, “I can fix all this. I know what to do. I was raised in church.” ... I need to go to church, get baptized and get married; then everything would be all right. So that’s what I did. I got the marriage license and the baptism certificate to prove it — so I’m good, right? I was clean and I wasn’t going to sin anymore. I will go to church every week and take communion and problem fixed. Yeah, right ... I was trying to live the Christian life. I was trying to do everything to save myself. I even put the rock’n roll down and listened to Christian radio in my car. **Man, I didn’t fix anything. I was getting pounded all day** with Love Worth Finding. I needed Jesus, not baptism; I needed Jesus’ perfect life, not my pathetic attempt at perfection. I quit trying to live the Christian life and started trusting in the Savior’s life. It’s a substitution salvation. He died instead of me. It was a free gift. His righteousness was counted unto me. My uncle gave me some Love Worth Finding messages. I started to study the Bible in a whole new way.” It wasn’t a textbook in college anymore; it was God’s Word. All the Bible stories changed. It wasn’t Noah’s ark anymore, the ark was Jesus saving me from God’s wrath, Moses was Jesus delivering me from bondage, and Joseph accepting his brothers was Jesus accepting me. His death on that cross was my sin debt paid in full. It was hard to understand the free gift. I always felt like I had to earn it. **I must have prayed the sinner’s prayer a hundred times**, sometimes twice in the same message! I surrendered to Jesus; I gave all I knew of me to all I knew of Him.

Cornelius, a devout man, feared God, gave gifts to the needy, always prayed to God, but still needed Jesus.

Acts Chapter 10 “There was a certain man in Caesarea called **Cornelius**, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A **devout man**, and one that **feared God** with all his house, which **gave many alms** to the people and **prayed to God always**. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day **an angel** of God coming toward him, and saying to him, ‘**Cornelius.**’ And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, ‘What is it, Lord?’ And he said to him, ‘**Your prayers and your alms are come up for a memorial before God.** And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodges with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the seaside: he shall tell you what you should do.’ And when the **angel** which spoke to **Cornelius** departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; And when he had declared all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa. On the next day, as they went on their journey, and drew near to the city, **Peter** went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they prepared, **he fell into a trance**, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending to him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came **a voice** to him, ‘**Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.**’ But Peter said, ‘Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.’ And **the voice** spoke to him again the second time, ‘**What God has cleansed, you call not that common.**’ This was done three times: and the vessel was received up again to heaven. Now while **Peter** doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from **Cornelius** had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, And called, and asked whether **Simon**, which was surnamed **Peter**, was lodged there. While **Peter** thought on the vision, the Spirit said to him, Behold, three men seek you. Arise therefore, and you get down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. Then **Peter** went down to the men which were sent to him from **Cornelius**; and said, ‘Behold, I am he who ye seek: what is the reason for which ye came?’ And they said, ‘**Cornelius** the centurion, **a just man, and one that fears God**, and of good report among all the nations of the Jews, was warned from God by a **holy angel** to send for you to enter his house, and **to hear words from you.**’ Then called he them in and lodged them. And on the next day **Peter** went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. And the next day they entered Caesarea. And **Cornelius** waited for them and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. And as **Peter** was coming in, **Cornelius** met him, and **fell down at his feet, and worshipped him**. But **Peter** took him up, saying, ‘**Stand up; I myself also am a man.**’ And as he talked with him, he went in, and found that many had come together. And he said to them, ‘Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company or come near one of another nation; but God has shown me that **I should not call any man common** or unclean. Therefore, I came to you without disputing as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore, for what intent ye have sent for me? And **Cornelius** said, ‘Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour **I prayed** in my house, and behold, **a man** stood before me in bright clothing, and said, ‘**Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.** Send therefore, to Joppa, and call to this place **Simon**, whose surname is **Peter**; he is lodged in the house by the seaside, of one **Simon** a tanner: who, when he comes, shall speak to you.’ Immediately therefore, I sent [a letter] to you; and you have done well that you have come. Now therefore, **we are all here** present before God, **to hear** all things that you are commanded of God. Then **Peter** opened his mouth, and said, ‘Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him. **The word** which God sent to the children of Israel, **preaching peace by Jesus Christ:** (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John [the Baptist] preached;

How **God anointed Jesus** of Nazareth with **the Holy Ghost** and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for **God was with him**. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; **Who they *killed** and hanged on a tree: **Him God *raised up** the third day, and showed him openly; Not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after **He *rose** from the dead. And **he commanded us to preach** to the people, and **to testify** that it is **he which was ordained of God** to be the Judge of [the] quick and [the] dead. To him **give all the prophets witness**, that **through his name** whosoever **believes** in him shall receive remission of sins.’ While **Peter**, [was] still speaking these words, the **Holy Ghost** fell on all [of] them which **heard the word**. And they which believed of the circumcision that came with **Peter**, were astonished, because that **On the Gentiles also was poured** out the gift of **the Holy Ghost**. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then answered **Peter**, ‘Can any man forbid water, that **these** should be denied baptism, which **have received the Holy Ghost** as well as we?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the **Lord**. Then asked they him to stay for unnumbered days.” (Acts 10:1–48)
King David: “The **LORD** is my shepherd; I shall not want. **He** makes me lie down in green pastures: **he** leads me beside the still waters. **He** restores my soul: **he** leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for **you** are with me; **your** rod and **your** staff they comfort me. **You** prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies: **you** anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the **LORD** forever.” (Psalm 23:1–6)
Jesus: “Truly, truly, I say to you, He that enters not by the **door** into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber —Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the **door** of the sheep.” (John 10:1, 7)
Jesus: “Come to **me**, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take **my** yoke upon you and learn of **me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For **my** yoke is easy, and **my** burden is light.” (Matt 11:28–30)
“**Pure** religion and **undefiled** before God and the Father is this, ‘To **visit** the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to **keep** himself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)
“**And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, [“And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he **beheld** the serpent of brass, he lived.” (Num 21:9)] even so must the Son of man (Jesus) be lifted up: That whosoever **believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:14–15)
“Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that **believes** that **Jesus is the Son of God?** —And this is the record, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” (1 John 5:5, 11)
“**Beware** lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. **For in him** dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **And** ye are **complete** in him.” (Col 2:9, 10)

WHO IS JESUS

Jesus, Our Creator
Written by Moses, approx. 1445 BC: “In the beginning **God created** the heaven and the earth —And God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’ So, **God created** man in his own image, in the image of **God created** he him; male and female created he them.” (Gen 1:1, 26–27)
Written by Apostle John, approx. 85–90 AD: “In the beginning was the **Word** (Jesus), and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word was God.** **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3 All things were made by him;** and without him was not anything made that was made. **4 In him was life;** and the **life was the light** of men —**10** He was in the world, and **the world was made by him**, and the world knew him not—

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that **believe on his name:** **13** Which were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.** **14** “And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. **15** John [the Baptist] bare witness of him, and cried, saying, ‘This was he of who I speak, He that comes after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. **16** And of his fulness have we all received, and grace for grace.’ **17** For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by **Jesus Christ.**” (John 1:1–4, 10, 12–17)

Jesus, the Prophesied Savior
The Prophet Isaiah 739–681 B.C.):
Isaiah 53 “Who has believed our report? And to who is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: **he has** no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. **He is** despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and **we hid** as it were our faces from him; **he was** despised, and **we esteemed** him not. Surely, **he has** borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet **we did** esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But **he was** wounded for our transgressions, **he was** bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of **our peace** was on him; and with **his stripes we** are healed. “All **we like** sheep have gone astray; **we have turned** everyone to his own way; and **the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

“**He** was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet **he opened** not his mouth: **he is** brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so **he opens** not his mouth. **He was** taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For **he was** cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And **he made** his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because **he had** done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; **he has** put him to grief: when you shall make his soul an offering for sin, **he shall** see his seed, **he shall** prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. **He shall** see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many. For **he shall** bear their iniquities. Therefore, will I divide him a portion with the great, and **he shall** divide the spoil with the strong; because **he has** poured out his soul to death: and **he was** numbered with the transgressors; and **he bare** the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isa. 53:1–12)

Jesus, Our ROCK
"Who is God, save the LORD? And who is a ROCK, save our God." (Psalm 22:23)

“**To show** that the LORD is upright: he is my **ROCK**, and there is no unrighteousness in him." (Psalm 92:15)
"He is the ROCK, his work is perfect: for all his ways are [sound] judgment: A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." (Deut 32:4)
“**Deliver me** in your righteousness and cause me to escape, incline your ear to me, and save me. Be, you my strong habitation, whereto I may continually resort: You have given commandment to save me; for you are my **ROCK** and my fortress.” (Psalm 71:2–3)
“**To you** will I cry, O LORD my **ROCK**; be not silent to me: for fear that, if you be silent to me, I become like them that go down to the pit.” (Psalm 28:1)
“**The LORD** lives and blessed be **my ROCK**; and exalted be the God of the **ROCK** of **my** salvation.” (2 Sam 22:47)
“**The LORD** is **my ROCK**, and **my** fortress, and **my** deliverer; **my** God, **my** strength, in who I will trust." (Psalm 18:2)
"O Come, let **us** sing to the LORD: let **us** make a joyful noise to the **ROCK** of our salvation.

Let **us** come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise to him with song and instruments. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods—O Come, let **us** worship and bow down: let **us** kneel before the LORD our maker. For **he** is our God; and we are the people of **his** pasture, and the sheep of **his** hand.” (Psalm 95:1–3, 6–7)

Jesus, “Whoever comes to **me**, and hears my sayings, and does them, I will show you to who he is like: He is like a man which built a house, and dug deep, and laid the foundation on a **ROCK**: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently on that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded on a **ROCK**.” (Luke 6:47–48)

The Testimony of the Criminal crucified next to Jesus

“THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

“And one of the criminals which were hanged railed on him, saying, ‘If you be Christ, save yourself and us.’ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, seeing you are in the same condemnation? And we [are] indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man has done nothing wrong.’ And he said to Jesus, ‘**Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, **Today** you shall be with me in paradise.’” (Luke 23:38–43)

Nebuchadnezzar II, King of Babylon, reigned 605 BC–562 BC

When humbled by God: “He was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. ‘And at the end of the days I **Nebuchadnezzar** lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me, and I **blessed** the most High, and I **praised and honored** him that lives forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation —Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor **the King of heaven, whose works are all truth**, and his ways true justice: and those that walk in pride he is able to humble.’” (Dan 4:33–34, 37) “John (the Baptist) on seeing **Jesus** says, ‘Behold **the Lamb** of God, which takes away the sin of the world.’” (John 1:29) “A great multitude—cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘**Salvation to our God** which sits on the throne, and to **the Lamb.**’ And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, ‘Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.’ And one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And from where came they?’ And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have **washed their robes**, and made them **white in the blood of the Lamb.**’” (Rev 7:9–14) “Though **your sins** be as **scarlet**, they shall be as **white as snow**.” (Isa 1:18)

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Brochure Scriptures are KJVM using the original Greek and Hebrew:

www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/

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SIVINI was in charge of revenge but
God was in charge of forgiveness.

“Dear Friend ... How long since you last met a killer?

Give me three minutes and I’ll introduce you.”

“His name is **Sivini**, and for years, hatred was his business.

Hatred is a commodity among the tribes of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

One tribe attacks another; people die. Then the other tribe seeks revenge.

Sivini was in charge of revenge. Among the Usarufa people, in the eastern highlands of PNG, he was the legendary fight commander from the village of Moife. Time and time again, he led his team into neighboring areas to carry out revenge killings. You’ve probably never met a man with so much blood on his hands. Somehow, in his many years of fighting, he escaped the slightest injury. His people, young and old, revered him for his almost magical longevity. But today we know God wasn’t sparing **Sivini** for the sake of more dying ... He was sparing **Sivini** for a whole new life —life, and more abundantly —an extraordinary new assignment —that would bring the life-giving Word of God to the Usarufa people and beyond, **It Happened Like This.** The people of Moife grow wheat; for decades they have threshed their wheat by hand. A threshing machine would speed things up. So **Sivini** traveled from Moife to the city of Ukarumpa to arrange transport of the new contraption. But Ukarumpa is also a major Bible translation hub —with 275 translators working out of this center to meet needs throughout the country ... one of the biggest operations of its kind in the world. By God’s perfect timing, a Translators’ Training Course (TTC) was under way that same day. With such urgent demand among the people of PNG for the Scriptures in their many languages, every course is filled to capacity. But at the last minute, one man learned he would be unable to attend; someone would have to go in his place. A friend of **Sivini’s** knew he was in town —grabbed him —told him he could get in —it would be interesting, he promised —and a blood-thirsty tribal leader found himself learning how to translate the Bible into Usarufa! Then, as the group made their way through the tragedy of **Cain murdering Abel**, translating Genesis 4,

[“**Abel** was a keeper of sheep, but **Cain** was a tiller of the ground.]

And in [the] process of time, it came to pass, that **Cain** brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the LORD. And **Abel**, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto **Abel** and to his offering:

[**Abel** offered the innocent life and blood of the lamb.]

But to **Cain** and to his offering he had no respect.

[**Cain** offered a bloodless sacrifice without a death.]

And **Cain** was very angry, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto **Cain**, why are you angry? And why is your countenance fallen? If you do well, *shall* you not be accepted? And if you don’t [do] well, sin lies at the door. And unto you shall be his desire, and you *shall* rule over him. And **Cain** talked with **Abel** his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that **Cain** rose up against **Abel** his brother, and killed him. And the LORD said unto **Cain**, ‘Where is **Abel** your brother?’ And he said, ‘I know not: *Am* I my brother’s keeper?’ And he said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries unto me from the ground. And now *are* you cursed from the earth, which has opened her mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.’” (Gen 4:2–11) **PIC NOT REAL SIVINI.**

www.3keysofheaven.com Jesus’s: death, burial, and resurrection.