



Bill and Rita Johnson



John and Sharon Sanders

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*"Let the children come."*

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## Devotional Thought

by Bill Johnson

### Children in the Temple

Matthew 21:15, 16; Psalm 8

"Don't you hear what they are saying?" The religious leaders demanded of Jesus when He had entered the temple upsetting the tables of the moneychangers and dove sellers. These priests and scribes were upset over Jesus' actions. If He didn't like their form of worship, how could He permit the children to ascribe to Him worship as if He was God?

The children were in the temple crying out that Jesus was the son of David. In this, Jesus saw a fulfilment of Psalm 8. They were exalting Jesus as the One of whom David wrote, "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" In answering the priests, Jesus applied to Himself the words David wrote of God! The priests must have been even more angry by this! They refused to recognize and worship God.

To worship is to bow down. When one bows before the Lord of lords, he is recognizing the exalted position of God. The children were recognizing that Jesus, the son of David was the Messiah, the Lord of all. The children were worshipping God! But can children worship?

Jesus taught that unless one becomes as a child, he cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven. Not only can children worship, but adults must with childlike faith, accept Jesus as the Redeemer! We can learn from children. Children can worship God.

Paul's statement that he was alive without the law (Romans 8:9) indicates that children can worship. Children can exalt God. Their worship is accepted by God. We must obey Jesus' command to His disciples: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

It should not be a strange thing to see children in the house of God exalting Him!



## John's Notes

I am very happy to report that the goals I set for my trip to Romania were all realized. My first goal was to visit

pastors, missionaries and churches who, in the past, have used our *Character Code for Life* curriculum. Without exception, all of them are anxious to get back to regularly using the material. Sadly, most churches are still struggling to get children back as active as they once were pre-Covid. Please remember the churches of Romania as you pray.

Another goal I had was to visit with our former ICP Romanian translator, Liviu Cinciuc, and see if he was available to finish translating the few missing items from Modules 3 and 4 and, hopefully, go on to translate Modules 5 and 6. Praise the Lord, Liviu said, "Yes." His wife, Ramona, agreed to encourage him along. Thanks Ramona! It will be a tremendous blessing to have that project completed.

A third goal was to preach in the language if invited to do so. I was blessed to preach in two of the Lord's churches – Paulisti and Feldioara. I was rusty, but the members graciously said I did a good job.

My final goal was for my daughter Sarah and granddaughter Skye to have a great time traveling with me. It was also a special joy to be with Florin, Lidia and Terra Izdraila, who we count as our family. God is so good

—John Sanders



Special time with Liviu & Ramona Cinciuc



With the Cormos' and Paulisti church family



Preaching at Feldioara, our 1st work -1994



Florin, Lidia & Terra – Our Romanian Family



## God Has Led Jeremiah Abay to Greater Service ... Pastor of Amazing Grace Baptist Church

Having served the Lord as Philippines Project Director for about fifteen years, Jeremiah Abay has been invaluable to the ministry. Rita and I welcomed him to the ministry fifteen years ago as a seminary graduate ready for a life of ministry of the gospel. He has translated and distributed hundreds of thousands of VBS and *Character Code for Life* books, distributed humanitarian aid to countless thousands of children and adults; flood victims, typhoon victims and families shut-in by COVID.



He and his wife, Eleine, worked tirelessly to build the beautiful new building for a home to ICP/His Offspring Ministry. He has led in organizing Amazing Grace Baptist Church, worked tirelessly with so many churches planning annual Bible conferences at which the gospel was preached and these books, supplies and relief goods were distributed. These conferences were attended by up to eight hundred pastors.

Now Jeremiah has felt the leadership of the Lord in submitting his resignation.

In his letter, Jeremiah wrote, "Eleine and I have given much of prayer time, thoughts and considerations to our decision. I am convinced that God is calling me to be a full-time pastor of Amazing Grace Baptist Church, San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines. Furthermore, my physical health is no longer capable to be an effective and productive employee with all the overwhelming responsibilities of ICP Philippines." He concluded the letter with, "I have served ICP with the best intentions and my abilities for over fifteen years now and it has been a wonderful blessing to me and my family. It has been full of growth, learning and understanding. Eleine and I will surely miss the wonderful journey we had in ICP the most. We will be forever grateful for ICP especially the Johnson's family. We truly believe the Lord has better plans for ICP Philippines and myself moving forward from this time. We will continue to pray for ICP and your prayers for my family and my health will be much appreciated."

We will miss him in the work and continue to pray for his health and his work in whatever God leads him. We are now left with the task of finding a replacement for a tireless servant of the Lord.

I had already scheduled two weeks in the Philippines beginning on August 25. During this time, I hope God will guide the right man or men to step forward and become a part of the work. Please join me in prayer for the Abay family and that the Lord might lead me to recognize the person He has for the work.

—Bill Johnson

### VBS 2023 in Philippines

Independent Calvary MBC  
Angeles City, Pampanga,  
Joshua Tuazon, Pastor

Vacation Bible School serves as an important extension of religious education and spiritual development for children during their summer break. It offers a comprehensive program that combines biblical teachings, creative activities, and community engagement to foster a deeper understanding of faith and values.



Through ICP, God provided school supplies for the students.

We had almost 100 students attendees. We minimize it because last time we had 250 attendees.

And all accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Savior.

VBS provides children and youth with a unique and immersive experience centered around faith, fellowship, and fun.



### ICP Curriculum in Philippines

Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
Pastor Edison David

He is using *Lord of Kings* VBS in Sunday school. He reports that children love them and teachers appreciate the lessons very much.

