

# Kids' Chronicle

## St. Paul writes to the Philippians

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Dear friends in Philippi, especially the church leaders and lay volunteers:

Timothy and I, followers of Christ with you, pray always that God will provide the grace and peace you need in your daily lives. When you first believed in Christ, God started a good work in you, and he will continue to guide you as you grow as Christians. Your faith will carry you through any trial or difficulty, and you will be more united with each other as you rely on each other for prayer and support.

Unfortunately, you will find people among you who pretend to be Christians, but only do so because of selfish motives or to impress others. Fortunately, there are also those who serve God out of sincere hearts. Either way, Jesus is preached, and that is the most important thing. Let God be the judge of our motives.

Do not be discouraged or afraid of those who lie about you or try to anger you. Stand in your faith and God will bring you through. And in so doing, he will be glorified because you triumphed by your service to him. Being Christians means sharing in both the blessings and the trials of Jesus.

God has sent his spirit to us to comfort and strengthen us, and to give us a bond of compassion with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Strive to be united in



Illustration by Zoe Woodruff

faith, love and fellowship. Do not be proud, but humble. Not selfish, but generous. Care for each other and rely on each other.

Remember the example Jesus set for us. He was the son of God, but he became a man and gave his life for us. He led a life of obedience. Because of this,

God gave Jesus the greatest name of all. The day will come when all of creation, every man and woman, will glorify our Lord Jesus.

Obeys the commands the Lord has given to us. They are for our good and his glory. God will always be with you. Do not complain when difficult times come or other people make your life difficult. Even sinful people can do that. Let your life be like a star in the night sky, visible for countless miles.

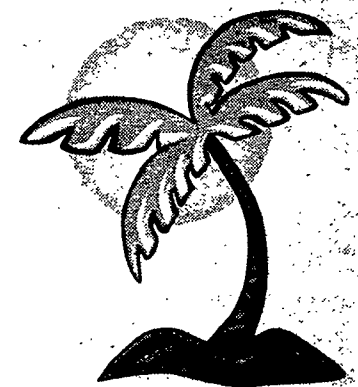
I know that you are capable of succeeding. When I was in your country, you were the only ones who helped me. When I was away and needed help, you had it sent to me. God will honor your faithfulness and generosity. He will provide for your needs by drawing on the riches of heaven and earth through his son who died for us.

May God be with you.  
Love, Paul

### Q&A

#### READ MORE ABOUT IT: Philippians 2

1. Who helped Paul write this letter?
2. What did Paul say about stars?



### Bible Accent

The date palm tree was a familiar part of the landscape of Israel at the time of Jesus. A Roman coin from that time bears an inscription of such a plant.

Palms are able to survive in arid regions because of a long tap root that finds deeply buried water. These sturdy, flexible plants can reach heights of more than 75 feet. They also produce abundant yields of fruit for many seasons.

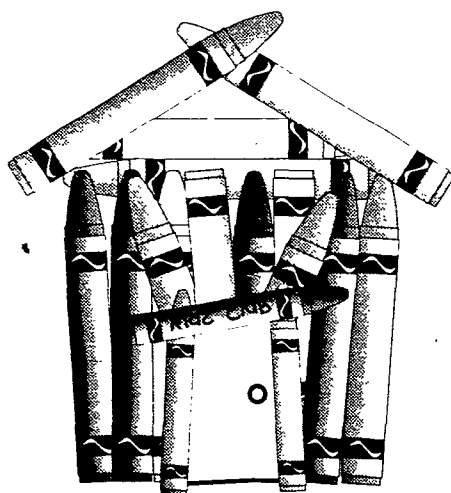
But palm plants are valued for more than their fruit. The leaves are used for thatching roofs and basket making, the wood fibers are used for rope, the seeds are fed to the livestock. In addition, palms were used to decorate the temples.

### St. Roderic

St. Roderic had two brothers. One had become a disciple of the Islamic religion, the other had given up belief in God and followed no religion.

One day St. Roderic tried to break up a fistfight between the two brothers. They stopped fighting with each other, but they beat St. Roderic into near unconsciousness. Then they carried him through the streets saying he wanted to become a Muslim before he died.

St. Roderic was too badly hurt to protest. When he recovered from his injuries and denied his brothers' claims, the Muslim leaders thought he wanted to convert from the Islamic faith to Christianity. So they had him thrown into prison and executed. We honor his martyrdom on March 13.



### Essay

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

**How might the world be different if Jesus had not yet died for our sins?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is March 27, 1997. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was **Karen Weaver**, a sixth-grade student at Mother of Sorrows School, Greece. In response to the question **What can we learn from Abraham's demonstration of faith in God?** she wrote:

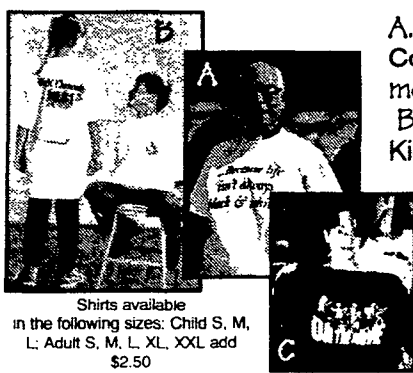
From Abraham's demonstration of faith in God we can learn to do what God asks. If we try to put God first in our daily lives, God will bless us as God blessed Abraham.

That tells me, as a sixth-grader, to believe in God and always do His will even when it is hard.

With a broken heart Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, who was a miracle brought into this world. So children and adults should be able to cope with the daily trials God sends them. That is what I learned from Abraham's faith in God.

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